



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

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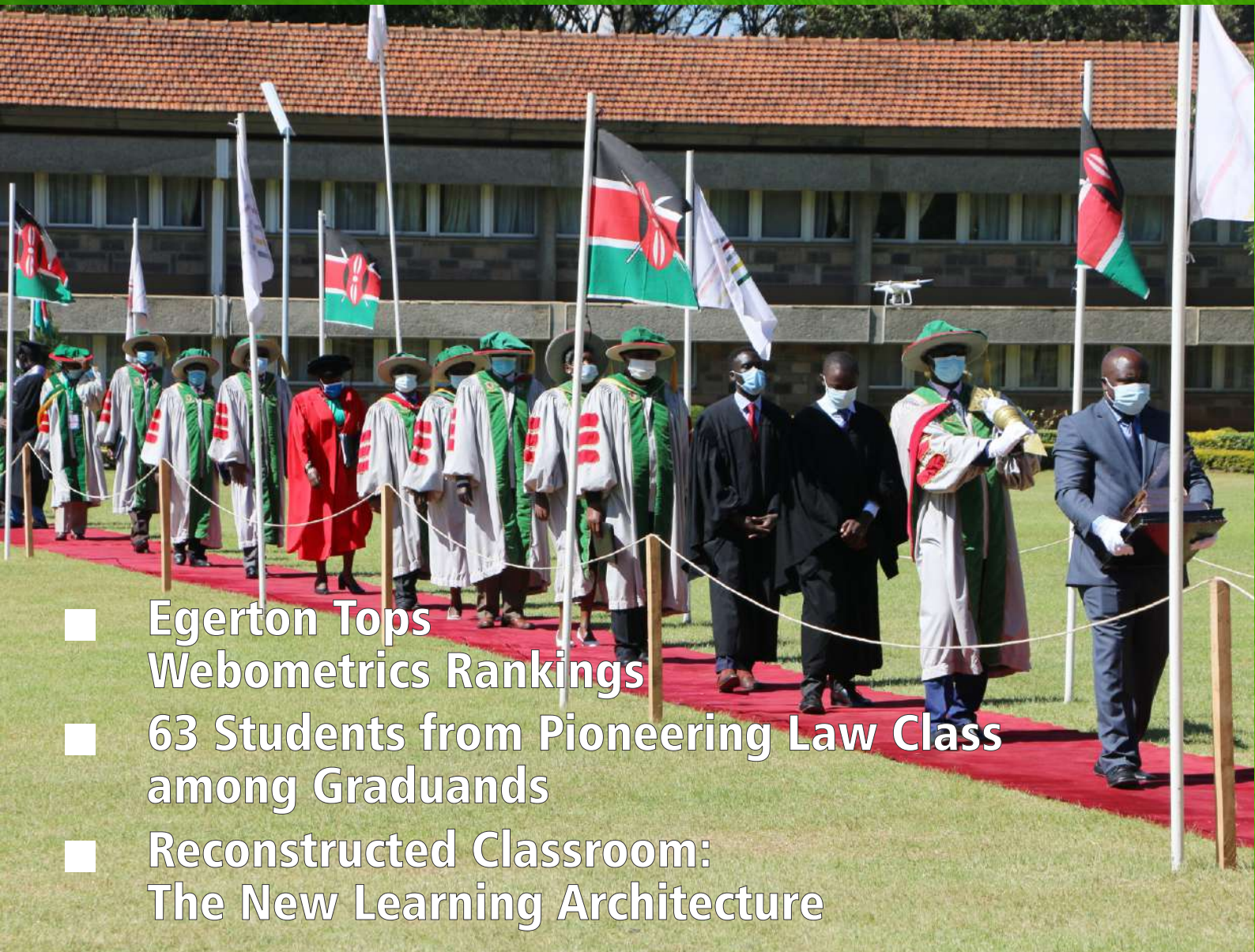
Issue No. 110

18 June 2021

The 43rd Graduation

Celebrating Education and Training

Resilience Today for Tomorrow's Challenges



- Egerton Tops Webometrics Rankings
- 63 Students from Pioneering Law Class among Graduands
- Reconstructed Classroom: The New Learning Architecture



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Welcomes all Graduands

OF THE 43RD GRADUATION CEREMONY TO JOIN
the

EGERTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) was founded in 1984 by former students of Egerton College. The Association serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas amongst members, staff, and students of Egerton University. It promotes the image and integrity of the University and engages the Alumni and other stakeholders in the physical development of the University.

VISION

To create and sustain a network of connected alumni who call others to action in support of Egerton University.

MISSION

The contribution of alumni to society represents the true value of any institution of higher learning. EUAA Alumni are present in all sectors of the economy and spread all over the world. They constitute a vast wealth of knowledge, experience, influence, and resources. They have a common bond – Egerton University. They can be of great value to one another. The Association endeavours to unleash this potential to the benefit of its members, the University, and the greater community, by cultivating life-long relationships, motivating participation, and creating opportunities for a continuous connection with the University, its Alumni, and the community.

MEMBERSHIP AND ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

Membership in EUAA is the gateway for Egerton Alumni involvement in the affairs of the University. It is a commitment that Members make to support the University and each other. The Association aggressively works towards increasing the number of Alumni Life Members and strives to offer valuable benefits and services to attract and retain alumni as Members. The Association recognises students as alumni in residence and therefore supports current students and works to improve the quality of the students' experience at the University.

The Association is open to the following as stipulated in its Constitution:

- Egerton University graduates;
- Egerton academic and administrative staff;
- Individuals and organizations interested in the development of Egerton University as a premier institution of higher learning ("friends of Egerton").

The Association focuses its efforts in ways that reach the largest concentrations of Alumni by actively engaging in programmes such as continuing education, career networking, student recruitment, and fund raising.

COMMUNICATIONS

As the voice for more than 50,000 Egerton Alumni worldwide, the Association strives to keep Alumni informed about the University and the Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are as follows:

- Ordinary Membership : Ksh1,000.00
- Associate Membership : Ksh1,500.00
- Life Membership : Ksh7,500.00
- Corporate Membership : Ksh15,000.00

While Ordinary Membership and Associate Membership is paid annually, Life Membership and Corporate Membership fee is paid once.

Membership fees may be directly deposited in the Association's account at the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) account: EUAA No. 1139956078.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Alumni benefits include:

- Networking opportunities for professional development;
- Certificate of Membership and University Alumni badge (LAPEL);
- Access to discounted Alumni-branded items;
- Participation in the governance of the University and of the Alumni Association;
- Regular updates through Alumni newsletters, SMSs, emails, telephone, and social media;
- Recognition through Distinguished Leadership Awards.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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P.O. Box 536 – 20115
Egerton, KENYA
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Email: alumni.relations@egerton.ac.ke

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Front cover photo: Lecturers leave the Administration Block, Main Campus, Njoro, in a procession on their way to the Graduation Square for the 42nd Virtual Graduation Ceremony on 31 July 2020.

GRADUATION STATISTICS	
Doctorates	23
Masters	83
Bachelors	1,977
Diplomas	95
Total	2,178

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

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Alumni Fly Egerton University Flag High

The 43rd Graduation of Egerton University is the long-awaited event at which we can acknowledge with pride that the hard work, sacrifice, and resilience of our students have paid off. The Ceremony itself is a moment to celebrate high academic achievement with unreserved joy. It is also a moment to reflect on what has made this achievement possible.

There are several things that determine what makes a university capable of producing quality graduates. One is the quality of its programmes. Another is a highly qualified academic staff, as well as competent administrative, technical and support staff. A third one is the high quality and impact of the research and extension work undertaken at the university. In all these three areas, Egerton University is well endowed.

What is less frequently spoken about, but is a major way to measure the potential for academic achievement in a university is the impact of its alumni at the national and the global stage. It is this aspect that has come into prominence in the past one year to demonstrate the value of Egerton University.

Egerton University Alumni have continued to fly the flag of the University high by virtue of their appointment to high-profile offices and various professional achievements.

Thus, through Alumni engagement activities, Egerton Alumni have supported various initiatives at the University, especially those that benefit students. A good example is Dr Roselyn Marandu-Kareithi, who graduated from Egerton University in 1992. She recently launched the JASIRI Talent Investor Programme. This initiative represents a fully funded one-year fellowship that will guide participants to venture creation, starting from idea generation, to validation, prototyping, and market entry. As an Alumnus, she was keen to enlist Egerton University current and former students and gave them a chance to go through the rigorous interviews. The result is that they are now Jasiri Fellows. This is a commendable intervention.

Other Alumni have secured key appointments in government and the private sector, both locally and abroad.

In 2020, Mr William Amwayi, who is a Principal Quality Assurance Officer at the Kenya Bureau of Standards, became Secretary to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC) Presidents' Committee, where he offers technical support. Mr Amwayi graduated from Egerton University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Production in 2007.

In December 2020, Prof. Theophilus Mwendwa Mutui took over as the Managing Director of the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS). Prof. Mutui graduated from Egerton University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture (First Class Honours).

Dr Fred Okoth Otieno was appointed the Deputy Director for Enforcement and Consumer Protection at the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority of Kenya (Epra) in February 2021. Dr Otieno holds a Bachelor of Education (Arts) degree (2006) from Egerton University. He was also the first graduate from Egerton's Master of Arts Programme in Security Management in 2015.

In May 2021, Justice William Ouko was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya. Justice Ouko graduated from Egerton University in

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CESAAM Vision: An excellence centre in agri-innovations, agri-entrepreneurship, climate smart agriculture, research, training and technology transfer for sustainable development

CESAAM Mission: To provide highly trained human capacity to agri-innovative products, services and sustainable solutions that address the challenge of food insecurity and persistent hunger in Africa

CESAAM exhibits a wide range of products during a visit by the Director of University Education, Ministry of Education, Mr Darius Mogaka Ogutu, and World Bank officials on 28 April 2021 at Egerton University, Njoro.



CESAAM agribusines entrepreneurs exhibit their products



CESAAM showcase their products at the Agro-Science Park



World Bank representatives and Ministry officials pose for a photograph with the Vice-Chancellor

CESAAM KEY SUCCESSES IN NUMBERS

240	35	177	1,543,918 USD	15	104
Graduate students sponsored (168 M.Sc. 72 Ph.D.) 52% female, from 11 countries	Exchange fellowships to China, USA, UK & Sub-Saharan Africa	Peer-reviewed journal articles published between July 2017 and May 2021	Externally generated/attracted funds from research projects and course fees	4 industry, 6 regional & 5 international partners	Internship and research attachment for graduate students supported
398	7	21	190	11	81%
Stakeholders, farmers and students enrolled in short term skill-based courses	Youth-led extension forums and 4-K Club revival initiatives	Accredited Programmes M.Sc. and Ph.D.	Research grants awarded to graduate students and faculty	Virtual engagement forums in the wake of Covid-19	Overall achievements as per verification results

CESAAM UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Activity	Dates	Purpose
Thesis dissemination workshop	June 2021	CESAAM graduates and faculty share their research findings with stakeholders, farmers from whom they collected data, extension, and industry
International conference in partnership with African Farm Management Association	Nov 2021	
Retooling workshop on audit compliance and governance issues	June 2021	University finance/Audit/UMB staff trained on new audit compliance issues/governance. Funded in partnership with USAID.
Econometric modelling and biometric short course	June 2021	A training designed for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in Egerton and other ACEs. Funded in partnership with USAID.
Employers consultative forum (Mombasa and Malindi fruit processors)	July 2021	A private sector engagement forum on employability of graduates, internship opportunities, and innovation platforms
Graduate students tracer study	July 2021	A survey of Egerton University M.Sc. and Ph.D. graduates to assess impact and obtain feedback on programmes offered by the University
Sustainable agriculture short course	July 2021	A training designed for farmers
Cow signals and animal nutrition short course	August 2021	A training for farmers and feed industry in Kenya

A World of Possibilities Lies ahead of You



Dr Narendra Raval

I feel honoured as I preside over this 43rd Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. It is noteworthy that we are here at the Graduation Square, but without the usual sea of humanity. Those days now seem to be gone, or at least gone temporarily. We have to appreciate our current circumstances and adapt to the need to conduct ceremonies on a virtual platform. We must embrace the technological advances that we have made. We are indeed fortunate that our graduands are able to celebrate their great day from their diverse locations.

Many of you wished to be here with friends and family wearing the graduation regalia. The Covid-19 pandemic has

made this impossible, but it has also taught us a new way of doing things. It has disrupted our lives, but not our imagination and our thinking. As we mourn dear ones whom we have lost due to this pandemic, and as we celebrate their lives, let us please remind ourselves not to tire of following the guidelines set by the Ministry of Health. Our discipline will keep the enemy at bay, and together we shall emerge victorious in the end.

As we laud your achievements, graduands, do not abandon the idea of advancing your knowledge, particularly with regard to research and innovation. These are the major enabling factors that lead to the growth and development that every nation aspires to. In today's competitive world, you are called upon not to look for employment but to seek ways to create jobs that are interesting and meaningful.

As I have reminded you before, necessity is the mother of invention. So recognise the many needs our society has and to invent ways of meeting those needs and improving people's lives. This will only be possible if you truly believe in yourselves and if you learn from the challenges you encounter.

Your graduation day opens the door to the world of possibilities and new realms in life. Take advantage of these possibilities, trusting in what you learnt in your academic and social life at Egerton University.

Once again, continue pursuing higher education, and more doors will open for you.

Thank you and God bless you! ■

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Alumni Fly Egerton Flag

2016 with a Master's degree in Criminology and Security Studies.

Finally, we recognise one of our prospective graduands, Rachel Ngina, who has been making a mark as a volunteer in Turkana County where she has been training farmers on drip irrigation. While studying at Egerton University, she undertook internship in Israel on an exchange programme, and she has been using the skills she acquired to promote food sufficiency among the marginalised Turkana community of Kenya. Her volunteer work has been widely acclaimed in mainstream and social media in Kenya and beyond. Through her efforts, farmers in the Lobur, Kibish, Lodwar, Maisa, Katangon, and Nariakotome parts of

Turkana County have been fully equipped with skills in production of food for their needs from nursery establishment, land preparation, transplanting, pest control, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. Ms Ngina will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management degree.

These appointments and professional engagements by Egerton Alumni are a testimony that Egerton produces graduates who are top professionals.

Therefore, be assured, graduands, of your worth and your prospects for the future.

Bon Voyage, and *Hongera sana*, graduands, from the entire University, and the *Newslink* team, in particular! ■

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Think Deeply and on a Large Scale!



Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario

This 43rd Graduation Ceremony is a colourful, happy day! We have gathered here today to celebrate 2,178 graduands. Apart from the graduands, we also honour our academic, administrative and support staff. They have made sure that you have what it takes to graduate from the first week of orientation to your last assignment on

campus. Now you can move on to the next level. Egerton University has groomed you and sharpened you to achieve every conceivable success.

Today's celebration has also been made possible by your parents and guardians. They have stood by you and supported and guided you from your pre-school years all the way to university, shaping and moulding you in every aspect of your human person – spiritual, psychological, emotional, physical, and professional.

We are living at a time of a pandemic, which has led to the loss of life, loss of livelihoods, and the general disruption of economic activities and the shrinking of the economy. But this state of affairs should not dash your hopes. Instead, it should make you think more deeply and on a larger scale. You must be able to see possibilities that you may not have noticed before. This is because difficulties make us stronger and better. Transform the current challenges and any challenges you may meet in future into new opportunities in life.

I wish you all the best as you enter into the professional world and as you become a valuable and productive member of the society.

Congratulations! ■



The Chief Registrar of the Judiciary of Kenya, Ms. Ann Amadi, makes a presentation at First National Legal Aid Conference held in December 2020 at the Sentrim, Elementaita, Kenya. The conference was organised by the Faculty of Law, Egerton University.

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Ag. Vice-Chancellor*



*Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Affairs)*



*Prof. Richard Mulwa
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Administration, Planning & Development)*



*Prof. Bockline O. Bebe
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research & Extension)*



*Prof. Daniel Auka
Ag. Principal
Nakuru Town Campus College*



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



*Dr Thomas K. Serrem
Registrar (HCA)*



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai
Ag. Director (R&E)*



*Ms Janegrace Kinyanjui
University Librarian*



*Mr Moses Ouma
Finance Officer*



The
NEWSLINK
*For everything you
need to know about*
Egerton University

Congratulations

to all
the Graduands
of the
**43rd Graduation Ceremony
at Egerton University!**

Alumni Our Strongest Influencers



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Ag. Vice-Chancellor*

Today's graduation ceremony is a testimony to the graduands' individual devotion to work and their determination to succeed. Your success is a personal accomplishment, but it is also the result of the family support you received in the course of your studies and the competence and dedication to duty demonstrated by your lecturers.

As we all know, there is a global pandemic that has

tested human endurance to the limit. It has resulted in losses and restrictions of various kinds. That you have made it this far in spite of it makes your graduation even more significant. Accomplishing your academic work during a harsh time is especially worth celebrating.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, this 43rd Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University is taking place on a virtual platform. The ceremony is being streamed live on our social media accounts and also on our website www.egerton.ac.ke. We have come a long way in embracing digital technology as we strive to live up to our Vision of a world class university for the advancement of humanity. In January 2021, we won the number 2 position in Kenya in the Webometrics ranking of universities the world over. Our goal is to be the leading university in Kenya and East Africa as well.

Graduands, you are now entering a new stage in your life. You are also becoming Egerton University alumni. The alumni are one of our strongest influencers. They tell others about Egerton University and help us reach greater heights of excellence. I urge you to join the ranks of the Egerton University Alumni Association and serve in it with distinction, loyalty, and generosity.

Once again, congratulations on your achievement! We are sharing the joy of this special day with you. ■



The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, presents a CESAAM cake to the Director of University Education at The Ministry of Education, Mr Darius Mogaka Ogutu. On the right is the Vice-Chancellor of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Prof. Stephen G. Agong.

New and Interactive Website Enhances Egerton's Presence in the World



Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo

On behalf of the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation (DMRM), I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony. It hasn't been an easy endeavour, particularly with the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Directorate has three departments, i.e. Marketing and Communication, Alumni Relations, and Resource Mobilisation. Over the past one year, the Directorate has made

key achievements in line with the Vision and Mission of Egerton University.

Last year, we launched a new and interactive University website. We also developed an e-Profile system and created accounts for each staff member to log in remotely, update and manage their web profiles. We have been uploading and updating announcements and notices on the e-Noticeboards, publishing University-related news, and communicating to staff promptly through mass emails.

The Directorate has also made strides in increasing alumni participation in the University's development. We have established an Alumni website and created an Alumni Mailing List and active social media platforms specifically for alumni interaction. We are in the process of developing an annual Alumni Engagement Plan.

We produced Egerton University branded calendars for 2021 and have been marketing the University capacities through the new website as part of resource mobilisation efforts. We are also at the forefront in

managing access to information enquiries, requests, feedback and complaints.

Digital marketing and communication present lots of opportunities for cost-efficient and effective communication to our stakeholders. With the changing demographics and rapid technological advances, it has become necessary to engage with students, prospective students and the public through digital platforms. Emerging technologies in video editing, photography and desktop publishing present opportunities to improve on our delivery.

I wish to thank the staff of DMRM for their hard work, persistence, and dedication in carrying out their duties. I also acknowledge the support we have received from other Divisions, Departments, Sections and Units, and I look forward to our continued collaboration and cooperation.

To the graduands, congratulations on your achievement! The Egerton University Alumni Association welcomes you.

Egerton University Excels at URAP

By Agnes Mwangi

Egerton University has topped in University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) system. Egerton was ranked at number 2 in Kenya and number 1,945 in the world in the 2020 – 2021 period. The ranking of the top 3,000 world universities is based on academic

quality. Publications constitute the basis of the ranking methodology. Both quality and quantity of publications and international research collaborations are used as indicators.

Egerton's performance is particularly significant because the URAP ranking is different from the

Webometrics ranking, where the University also excelled.

Ms Agnes Mwangi is the Communication and Marketing Manager, Egerton University.

University Launches Newly Designed Website

By Peter Kiganda

In July 2020, Egerton University's Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation (DMRM) rolled out a revamped University website. The website is fully responsive and compatible with all browsers and mobile devices and it offers an enhanced user experience. It is part of the University's ongoing efforts to improve access to information to its current and prospective students, staff, and members of the public. The website is also a vital marketing and communication tool as it is a primary channel through which users can learn about the University.

The website's development was inspired by the need to have a user-friendly one-stop site, with streamlined navigation and increased functionality. This development aims at improving accessibility and ensuring that the entire website is compliant with new global web development standards and technologies. It represents the culmination of in-house efforts in 2019 by a web strategy task force that involved broad consultations with DMRM and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) staff members. With this improvement, communicating to staff, students, and the public has become cost-efficient. The University has saved money that it would have spent in advertising through mainstream media.

The revamped website contributed to Egerton's improved rankings in

Kenya, Africa, and the world in the January 2021 Webometrics ranking.

What's on the New Website?

The new website has an elegant design with intuitive and consistent site-wide navigation to help the user find his/her way around with ease. The site also contains a powerful search function to browse the information and resources.

The website has sections for students and staff, alumni, and community partners. In addition, the alumni and members of staff can log into the website for additional content. Here, they can also edit or update their e-Profiles. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners and the general public can keep up to date on the latest information, news and upcoming events available on the website.

The content of the site purposes to meet the needs of both external and internal audiences. The site incorporates new audience (specific sections) aimed at current students, prospective students, alumni, faculties, and staff members. These act as starting blocks into the site's main content as well as to other University sites. The navigational structure and various tools are there to serve the users better. Visual elements situate each page within the overall navigation scheme, making it easy to find the page again. A "Search" box now appears directly on the home page and in some audience

sections. In addition, the site embraces the most current web technologies, including advanced cascading style sheets and XML and XSLT programming languages. The website is built on a powerful content management system, which improves the ease of keeping Web content up-to-date.

Feedback

A preview of the new site for the University community began immediately after the launch in 2020. Since then, many viewers have responded with reactions and suggestions. While the web team could not provide individual responses to every item, it has reviewed and considered all feedback received.

What Next?

DMRM will continue developing and improving the website, including adding new applications and content that will offer our visitors all the information they need regarding what it is like to study, work, research and collaborate with Egerton University. Our visitors, staff and students are encouraged to explore the new website at www.egerton.ac.ke. The old University website will remain online at a new address (archive.egerton.ac.ke) until the University permanently phases it out.

Mr Peter Kiganda is the Egerton University Webmaster.

Egerton University Comes Tops in Latest Webometrics Ranking

By Josiah Ouma Omolo

Egerton University has again topped the charts in Kenya, Africa, and the world in the January 2021 Webometrics ranking. This assessment scored universities on "Impact", "Openness", and "Excellence". Egerton ranked number

2 in Kenya and number 37 in Africa.

The "Ranking Web" or "Webometrics", which is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institutions, represents an independent, objective, free, and open scientific exercise for providing reliable,

multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world every six months.

In the January 2021 ranking, Egerton University was assessed as the best university in Kenya and the 5th in

Africa in the area of Impact. The Impact aspect measures academic web presence, open access initiatives, and the transfer of scientific and cultural knowledge generated by the universities to society. Egerton's high score in this respect demonstrates the University's ability to harness its digital devices, thereby seamlessly propagating quality education to the people. This improved ranking comes at a time when the world of academia is working to adapt to the inevitable

incorporation of technology in the delivery of education. The move to the revamped University website is only but the beginning of our journey to sealing our top position cross-categorically.

According to Webometrics, "Webometrics ranking correlates well with the quality of education provided and academic prestige, but other non-academic variables need to be taken into account." We take cognizance of all these variables.

Ranking highly as a university in Webometrics motivates us to consolidate the processes of change in academia, increase our scholars' commitment, and progressively set up needed long-term academic strategies.

Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo is the Director of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation at Egerton University.

University Prepares for Future Webometrics Rankings

By Agnes Mwangi

In the latest Webometrics ranking (January 2021 edition), the University ranked number 1,887 worldwide (out of over 30,000 higher education institutions), number 37 in Africa, and number 2 in Kenya. Despite this impressive performance, there is plenty of room for improvement. Our primary target is to ensure that Egerton University ranks among the top 1,500 universities worldwide. To achieve this, DMRM has undertaken such key activities as the training of academic

staff on creating an interactive staff profile on the University website.

The exercise that started on 16 April 2021 involved training the academicians on how to update their personal details, list of publications, postgraduate supervision, key projects, conferences, and invited presentations, among other parameters. Staff also learned how to link their publications, presentations, and postgraduate supervision to the University website. The links created could either be

inlinks (internal links) or outlinks (external links).

Inlinks are links that point from one page on a domain to a different page on the same domain. For example, a staff member has the opportunity to link a thesis uploaded on the Library Repository to his or her profile on the University website. Outlinks, on the other hand, serve to direct visitors from our website to other sites on the internet. This happens, for example, when a staff member links a publication from an external journal to his or her profile on the University website.

Both links are core components of the mechanism by means of which search engines discover and rank a website's content. However, outlinks are more valuable to search engines such as Google, Google Scholar and Microsoft Academia. The more the reputable websites to which we link our site are, the greater our credibility as a source of academic information is. External links are also harder to manipulate, so they are one of the best ways for search engines to determine the popularity and relevance of our website.



Certificate of merit issued to Egerton University for being ranked second position in the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP) system (see story on page 5)

Ms Agnes Mwangi is the Communication and Marketing Manager, Egerton University.

I am Confident I am Driving the President's Agenda in My Own Way

By Jared Buoga

My desire to follow my passion in Natural Sciences began at a tender age. This was exhibited in my excellent performance in the sciences and geography, coupled with practical engagement in nature-oriented field activities, exhibitions, presentations, and studies. In Maseno School, where I did my secondary education, I dominated Science Congress competitions all the way to the national stage. These inspired me to pursue natural resources management. In 2002, I was admitted to Egerton University to study Natural Resources Management. Egerton University shaped my life and worldview about conservation and management of natural resources.

I joined the Youth Wildlife and

Environmental Movement (YWEM) Egerton Chapter in my first year. When elections came for the YWEM leadership in October 2002, I vied for the post of Deputy Director and won. During the tenure of our new team, we revamped the movement. I led in organising the annual Youth Environment Symposium (YES), where we invited high-profile guests from UNEP, Government Agencies, and Departments to speak to members.

I coordinated and rallied students to participate in the Annual Egerton University Conservation Week. The event brought together several stakeholders in efforts to conserve the Mau Forest. It gave me a chance to interact with many dignitaries across the globe. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ezra Maritim, was very supportive of

the programme and exposed us to numerous partners, both in the private sector and the academia. When I was later elected as the Director of YWEM, it became the norm that the VC would rely on our input when planning and executing environmental and natural resources management activities in the University.

I led the student team to the Annual East African Environment Network (EAEN) Conference for four consecutive years, among other notable events and activities. I also led the most comprehensive tree name tagging ever done in the University.

Community Work

My aspiration to reach out to many youths and prospective students to join Natural Science courses inspired me to



Mr Jared Buoga receives his Master's degree certificate at ITC - the University of Twente, The Netherlands, in March 2015. Looking on are officials of the university

“Egerton University shaped my life and worldview about conservation and management of natural resources.”

register a community organisation in my home District (Siaya) in 2003, while I was a second-year student. Thus, in April 2003, Tembea Youth Centre for Sustainable Development (Tembea) was established. The organisation would be my employer for seven years after my graduation from Egerton University in 2007. It played a significant role in incubating and nurturing my skills and innovations towards conservation. Whereas I was an ardent natural resources management student, my first experience and interaction with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) came when I learnt about the GIS Day during the long holidays of May – December 2004.

As the Director of my young organisation, I was invited by Ugunja Community Resource Centre (UCRC) to a meeting to coordinate and host the November 2004 GIS Day. I took a lot of interest in the application during the period. We were led by one illustrious woman called M'Lis FLin from Australia who had come to volunteer with UCRC at the time. She inspired me to follow the dream of applying GIS and RS in Natural Resources Management.

I realised that GIS was very

instrumental in the course I was studying at the University. In January 2005 when we resumed our studies, I was burning with passion to share with my student colleagues and our faculty dean, Prof. Francis Lelo, about GIS. I impressed upon the Dean the importance of GIS and RS for our class and our course. I shared with him the CDs with demos showing how to manipulate geographical data and its application in natural resources management. In short, we needed a unit on GIS and RS to be included in our curriculum.

Unfortunately, our cohort did not succeed to get the unit taught to us. But I am happy to report that out of the pressure and efforts, subsequent cohorts benefited. However, at a personal level, I became a private student of Prof. Japheth O. Onyando, who took me through the basics of geoinformation science and earth observations. It is Prof. Onyando and later Mr Samuel Akeyo Ojode who taught us photogrammetry where I first heard about the ITC's Faculty of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observations in the Netherlands.

NUFFIC Scholarship

My first attempt to join the ITC Faculty of Geoinformation Science was in 2009. I made two other subsequent unsuccessful attempts and gave up. However, in October 2012, a ray of hope beamed at the end of the tunnel. I successfully won a NUFFIC scholarship for a Certificate International Short Course in Adaptive Management for Natural Resources Management: Supporting Decentralised Forest and Nature Management for Rural Development under the auspices of the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), Wageningen University of Research (Netherlands) and Kwame Nkrumah

University of Science and Technology (KNUST), in Ghana.

During the course, I shared my scholarship application frustrations with the Course Director – Dr Nico Rozemeijer, a jovial fellow. He encouraged me to try again and gave me some insights. The NUFFIC had just opened the system for applications running through to 15 March 2013. This time, I was placed on a provisional list of prospective scholarship recipients. I was so excited when a confirmation came in July 2013 that I had been selected. This was a shot in the arm, two successive scholarships from NUFFIC!

Life at ITC, the Netherlands, was such a wonder. A rigorous academic programme, lovely people, delicious food, people riding cycles of all shapes and forms, a host of international students, seasoned lecturers and professors from all Ivy League Universities and Institutions – adorned in a cocktail of characters and personalities – lovely, humble, compassionate, enthusiastic and strict in the same measure.

Upon my return in March 2015, my desire was to put my professional skills into practice. I must appreciate and acknowledge the effort that the Dutch Embassy in Kenya has made to enhance the careers of its NUFFIC recipients alumni network.

Professionally, I have had the honour to support, as a consultant, European Union-funded projects in the rangelands under various organisations in the region and across Africa. I serve in school boards and offer my professional services through Leaf Magnet Research and Development Ltd. I currently serve as a Regional Delivery Director, President's Delivery Unit in the Executive Office of the President of Kenya.

Staff Trained on Virtual Self-Assessment of Programmes



Dr Patricia Wambugu

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) to congratulate the graduands of the 43rd Graduation of Egerton University for completing their studies successfully. I believe that you will be our ambassadors in the world of work as you demonstrate the high quality of knowledge and skills you gained in your specific areas of specialisation. I urge you to make learning a lifelong practice and to always remember that it is important to remain a learner.

This year DQA conducted online Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) for Semester I of the 2019/2020 academic year through the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS). The management system has been successfully embedded in the Academic Records Management System (ARMS) of the University. The TEE process is meant to ensure continued improvement of

internal quality assurance mechanisms of teaching and learning.

DQA also maintains quality in benchmarking through analysis of External Examiners' (EE) reports by preparing a synthesised summary report for quality improvement. The recommendations of the External Examiners, once approved by the Senate, are implemented by Faculties and Departments. To maintain quality, the Departments follow up the areas that require improvement by ensuring corrective action is put in place.

Academic programmes that have undergone a full cycle of implementation are required to undergo self-assessments. Deans of Faculties, in consultation with Chairs of Departments, identify programmes that are due for evaluation and forward them to DQA. Selected teams from the respective Departments are trained on the process of carrying out the self-assessment. A compiled self-assessment report is submitted to DQA for internal review and follow-up on the recommendations made for quality improvement.

To ensure continuity of the evaluation process during this challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, DQA carried out a virtual training in March 2021 on how to conduct the self-assessment of the programmes virtually. This was done for 11 Teams from various Departments in the University; 6 teams for programmes targeted for the 2020/2021 financial year; and 5 teams

“The Directorate continues to monitor the quality of education offered in the University through academic audits.”

for the 2021/2022 financial year. The process is ongoing.

The Directorate continues to monitor the quality of education offered in the University through academic audits. Further, the Commission for University Education (CUE) has developed a Management Information System to enhance data collection processes in real time to ease data collection for universities. In line with this, DQA has successfully collected and compiled Egerton University's data from all Departments and Units. The data sets have been uploaded in CUE's University Education Management Information System (UEMIS) portal and will be submitted after review and approval.

In order to improve the Webometrics ranking of Egerton University, all DQA staff have successfully updated their profiles in the University website.

Egerton University Widens Its Doors to International Linkages and Collaborations



*Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi
Ag. DVC (AA)*

The 43rd Egerton University Graduation marks a major milestone for our institution and is indeed a reason for celebration. I take this chance, on behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, to congratulate all our graduands on their great achievement. I also wish to thank the outgoing DVC (AA), Prof. Alexander K. Kahi, for shaping and scaling the heights of the Division of Academic Affairs.

I wish to acknowledge the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery for presenting graduands for the first time. Undoubtedly, this is a momentous achievement.

May I recognise our academic staff for their endless support in ensuring that we deliver on our divisional mandate and realise our institutional Vision and Mission despite interruptions in the University Academic Calendar.

The Division strives to excel in its mandate of providing quality education and contributing to knowledge and skills through excellence in teaching, research and academic-related services. This is despite the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has threatened nearly every aspect of academic activities. We continue to develop alternative modes of delivering our academic programmes and to review our standards to ensure that the quality of education is not compromised. The use of technology is no longer an alternative, but an inevitable way

of doing business, including education. We pride in a robust E-Campus that has ensured teaching and learning continue uninterrupted during and after Covid-19. Even before the pandemic, the Division of Academic Affairs had planned to deliver most of our programmes through e-learning, and this will remain on our agenda for delivery. The University has also negotiated with Internet service providers for subsidised internet bundles to facilitate our students and staff to access online teaching and learning. I wish to assure all our students that we remain committed to quality teaching and we will continue to put in place adaptive strategies that will ensure the University meets its commitment as a world-class university.

Quality teaching and learning is the core of our business through continuous development and review of academic standards. Consequently, Egerton University continues to soar high, both locally and internationally. Once again the University topped the charts in Kenya, Africa, and globally in the January 2021 Webometrics ranking that scored universities on “Impact”, “Openness”, and “Excellence”. We have an enviable research portfolio with our faculty staff coming up with quality research products that have contributed to national and global development. The Division has also been in the forefront in sharing knowledge and expertise as we continue to seek answers to the socio-economic issues affecting the nation and the world. Further, we continue fostering partnerships, networks and collaborations so that our students benefit from academics here and beyond our borders.

In April 2021 the Faculty of Health Sciences enrolled with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) to allow our graduates register for United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) or be recognised for training entry by the General Medical Council, UK. Further, in October 2020 the University joined the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) to expand international opportunities for our students. We will continue to open our doors to linkages and collaborations as envisaged in our Strategic Plan and Core Values.

The goal of education is not only to increase the amount

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FoA Set to Enhance University-Industry Linkages and Agripreneurship



Prof. Patience M. Mshenga

On this great occasion of the 43rd Egerton University Graduation, on behalf of staff and students of the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA), I congratulate all of you graduands on your remarkable achievement. It is your hard work, diligence and resilience that have enabled you to come to a successful completion of your studies. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate parents, guardians, sponsors and the various organisations that supported you throughout your stay at Egerton University.

The past year was one with challenges such as the disruption of physical learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the loss of our esteemed Dean, Prof. Abdul Faraj. You were however, able to rise above these challenges and for that I salute you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Arnold Opiyo, our former Associate Dean, who stepped in to offer leadership at the Faculty upon the demise of our Dean. This leadership has enabled us to get to this point. My sincere appreciation goes to the Faculty members for electing me as the first female Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture since its inception.

FOA has continued to further its mandate of attracting funding and accomplishing Egerton University's Vision through hosting major faculty-wide projects. The Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business (CoELIB) has forged strong partnerships with the private sector in Kenya and with regional and international institutions such as MDF Training and Consultancy, which is a Netherlands-based company, and the University of Juba. Recently, on 2 – 12

May 2021, CoELIB hosted these two organisations during a research and curriculum development workshop for the University of Juba.

The Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev) programme has continued to support African students who are academically bright yet economically disadvantaged and/or marginalised from the mainstream of society. Currently, TAGDev has 95 fully supported students drawn from Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe in session. The recruitment of cohort 5 students is in progress and the selected students are expected to join in the next academic year. The programme is also planning for its 4th National Forum for Universities, TVETs and other Agricultural Industry Players that will take place in June 2021.

The Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management

Message from the DVC (AA)

Continued from page 11

of knowledge one has but also to create men and women who are capable of doing new things. With the development of e-learning methods and constant technology innovations, today's students have far more study options, including online short courses and Coursera. I encourage you to take advantage of these after your graduation. This will not only nurture an environment for lifelong learning but will open

more opportunities for you. In addition, postgraduate studies would be a chance for you to improve your skills towards your dream career path. The doors of Egerton University remain open for you.

Finally, I wish all graduands well in your future endeavours! Let your experience at Egerton University help you to make the right choices in life!

(CESAAM) has kicked off its research grant initiative to foster academic staff research activities by awarding three faculty members from the disciplines of Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Engineering, and Crops Horticultural and Soils with a research grant of KSh1.2 million each. The Centre is also currently participating in the Global Opportunity Initiative in collaboration with Virginia Tech University, USA, in which it is sponsoring Egerton University faculty members to participate in the training. The training aims to foster networking and the writing of fundable proposals.

Additionally, CESAAM is also planning to hold its first dissemination workshop in June 2021 in which its graduates will share their research findings with stakeholders.

FOA has also brought on board three new inter-regional projects on Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE). These are: Strengthening Agri-Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Training in East, West and North Africa (AgriENGAGE); Collaborative Action for Scaling Agri-Entrepreneurship and Industry Engagement in Food and Agribusiness Training in Sub-Saharan

Africa (AgriSCALE); and Problem-based-learning Bio-economy Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building Programme in Africa (PBL-BioAfrica).

Finally, to the graduands, as you leave campus life and venture into your professional career, I assure you that you have received unmatched world class education that not only gives you what it takes to make a competitive bid for a job but also the skills and knowledge required to make you a job creator. I wish you all the best in your endeavours and may God's guidance and blessings be with you! ■

Egerton Scholar Awarded Multiple Grants

By Dickson Okello, Fahad Luttah Juma and Victor Kilui

Prof. Patience M. Mshenga of the Faculty of Agriculture is the Principal Investigator in three award-winning projects: Strengthening Agri-Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Training in East, West and North Africa (AgriENGAGE); Collaborative Action for Scaling Agri-Entrepreneurship and Industry Engagement in Food and Agribusiness Training in Sub-Saharan Africa (AgriSCALE); and Problem-based-learning Bio-economy Entrepreneurship and Capacity Building Programme in Africa (PBL-BioAfrica).

The AgriENGAGE and AgriSCALE projects are co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union as part the Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE). CBHE projects aim at improving the administration of Partner Countries' higher education, develop leadership and innovation

capabilities, promote internationalisation, and modernise education systems. At the same time, the projects promote regional and interregional cooperation. PBL-BioAfrica is funded by the Higher Education Institutions Institutional Cooperation Instrument (HEI ICI), which supports cooperation projects between higher education institutions (HEIs) in Finland and the developing world.

The goal of the AgriENGAGE project is to strengthen HEIs, to provide excellent training programmes in Agripreneurship and Community Engagement responsive to evolving labour market demands to stimulate agricultural transformation and enhanced agricultural sector competitiveness. Key activities of the project include: establishing and institutionalising an agrienterprise fund scheme, setting up an agribusiness incubation centre and organising

entrepreneurship competitions. The project will also review or develop curriculum for agripreneurship and community engagement depending on institutional needs that will be identified through an institutional capacity mapping survey, develop course modules that will enable effective training and engagement of youth in business, including through on-line platforms, and train academic staff and education facilitators in African HEIs in case study development and pedagogy/delivery methods. Summer schools, business clinics, farm/industrial attachments and roundtable discussions will also be organised by the project.

AgriSCALE aims to create a new entrepreneurship learning ecosystem, which is based on problem based learning (PBL) principles of student-centred and competence-based education, collaboration and networking with industry and societal

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Scholar Awarded Multiple Grants

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partners, and sharing knowledge through a community of practice. The project plans to achieve its objectives through: PBL curricula development workshops in which findings from a PBL survey will clarify the curricula and training objectives for each partner, revision or development of new curricula for African partners, student field challenges where Sub-Saharan students and European students work together in field teams to collect data and develop innovative solutions to the real-life cases, and PBL pedagogy workshops that will concentrate on pedagogical skills development for PBL method and discussing case studies.

PBL-BioAfrica is a collaborative project for strengthening the capacity in bio-economy HEIs in Kenya and Zambia. The focus is in developing PBL methods in bio-economy education, and utilising open distance learning (ODL) formats and open education resources (OER) in order to reach large numbers of students in partner HEIs. Students and graduates will be equipped with work-life relevant and entrepreneurial skills. Close collaboration with the industrial sector is central in providing students with real-life learning cases. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) will be introduced as the guiding principle in business development. In addition,

recognising the role and potential of women in agriculture will improve both equality and economic development. Another objective of PBL-BioAfrica is to strengthen the networks among HEIs nationally and internationally, as well as with the industrial sector. A network-based learning ecosystem will be established for developing bio-entrepreneurship education in the long term.

Mr Dickson Okello is the Administrator, AgriSCALE; Mr Fahad Luttah Juma is the Administrator, AgriENGAGE; Mr Victor Kilui is the Administrator, PBL-BioAfrica.

TAGDev Trains a New Generation of Agleaders

By Nancy W. Mungai

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-year (2016–2024) programme is supported by the Mastercard Foundation to train the next generation of Agleaders for rural community transformation. The programme focuses on experiential learning, community engagement and entrepreneurship, and supports students who are bright but economically disadvantaged or come from conflict regions in Africa to train them as change agents in agriculture.

The TAGDev programme objectives are to: 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; Strengthen agribusiness/entrepreneurship at two universities and selected TVET institutions; and Scale the new model for agricultural education to other agricultural universities and TVET institutions; and Increase collaboration and mutual learning among institutions and agencies implementing and influencing innovative tertiary agricultural education for rural transformation in Africa.

The programme aims at providing 220 scholarships to undergraduate and Master’s students by the year 2024. So far, at Egerton University, 95 students,

drawn from 14 African countries, have benefited from full scholarships. An additional 59 students have benefited from research and tuition fee support. Recruitment of 15 Master’s students for the 2021/2022 academic year is in progress. The programme offers comprehensive scholarships to students, mentorship programmes, and trainings to ensure an all-round graduate at the end of the process.

During the 43rd Graduation of Egerton University, 29 TAGDev-supported students are graduating both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The programme takes pride in them and congratulates them on their achievement.

Prof. Nancy W. Mungai is the Project Coordinator of TAGDev at Egerton University.

CESAAM Zeroes in on Food Security

By George Owuor

Welcome to the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM)! The Centre is funded by the World Bank in collaboration with the Kenya Government, and supports students, faculty and partners across Africa through building their capacity for quality teaching and innovative research. In its efforts, the Centre has partnered with peer and top global universities, the industry and farming community actors. The Centre is anchored at the Faculty of Agriculture and focuses on agri-innovations, agri-entrepreneurship, climate smart agriculture, research, training and technology transfer for sustainable development.

The main goal of the project is to address food insecurity, one of Kenya's Big 4 AGENDA and perhaps the most cited African challenge.

The objectives of the Centre are: Capacity development along the Agricultural Value Chain in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, especially for the fragile and post-conflict states; Undertaking innovative research, including use of biotechnology and climate smart agriculture, for increased crop and livestock productivity; Enhancing the capacity of Egerton University's Agro-Science Park to assist partner universities establish a similar model for incubation of technological innovations; Developing evidence-based agricultural policy briefs; and disseminating best practices through Agricultural Knowledge Centres in Egerton and partner universities.

The Centre has over 200 graduate students from 11 countries in Africa,

namely Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Key Achievements

CESAAM has supported a total of 240 graduate students from 11 countries in Africa (168 M.Sc., 72 Ph.D.), of whom 52 percent are female. From this group 14 Master's and 3 Ph.D. students have successfully completed their studies. In enhancing exposure to the international environment, the Centre has supported 35 students and staff to exchange experience in China, USA, UK and Sub-Saharan Africa for a period of one to four months. This has provided the exchange fellows with the opportunity to work with top institutions and researchers around the globe.

Out of the research work at the Centre and through regional and international collaboration, a total of 190 research projects have been supported, resulting in 204 publications in internationally peer-reviewed journals.

As an avenue to improving industry and community skills through short courses, the Centre has trained a total of 398 stakeholders made up of farmers, students, extension workers and industry representatives. The short courses available on demand at the Centre are Animal Feed Formulation, Conservation Agriculture, Data Analysis, Food Safety and Quality Management, Apiculture, Agribusiness Value Chain Development and Management, and Business Plan Development. The Centre has also organised short courses in Governance and Leadership for university management staff.

At community and youth level, 7 Youth-led extension forums and 4-K Club revival initiatives have been carried out. For industry engagement, a total of 104 internships and research attachments for graduate students have been supported at 4 institutions, namely the Hive Kenya Limited, ICIPE, Community Action for Rural Development (CARD), and the Feed Industry.

The industry engagement also includes support for innovation products. So far, a total of 4 products have been supported and some are undergoing commercialisation, namely aflatoxin reduced peanut for dry land farmers/ industry, sugarless jam for diabetics, sorghum with low gluten for bread suitable for diabetics, and fabrication of farm machinery, including winnowing machines and maize shelling machine.

As we continue supporting capacity building, research and community engagement, the CESAAM project takes this opportunity to congratulate all graduands and wish them success in their future life.

Prof. George Owuor, a Lecturer at Egerton University, is the Director of CESAAM.

Wise Saying:

“Proverbs are the palm oil with which words are eaten.”

– Chinua Achebe

MA Students in Juba Benefit from Zoom Defences



Dr Hadija M. Murenga

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences staff and students, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands of our 43rd Graduation Ceremony. It has been a long journey from when you were admitted to Egerton University and embarked on your studies to this day. For the graduands from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: a BIG Congratulation! You fitted in well in the four Departments that make up the Faculty, i.e. the Department of Economics, the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, the Department of Peace, Security and Social Sciences, and the Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies.

As we come together (physically and virtually) to celebrate your achievements, we must remember the achievements and challenges that you have experienced during your studies. These include deep friendships, comradeship, the fun of campus life, as well as such virtues as hard work and your determination to overcome the

many setbacks you encountered as you kept your eyes on the prize. Some of you stumbled and fell academically but still picked yourselves up and moved on driven by your single-minded desire to see this day. All this is behind you now. You are all winners. A big recognition goes to your parents, guardians, and sponsors for selflessly ensuring that you completed your studies.

We encourage you to navigate the job market with your heads held high and demonstrate to your potential employers why they should hire you. We have confidence in the fact that you are well prepared for the challenges of the job market. We wish you all the best as you enter the world of work and nation-building. God bless you all!

Online Teaching and Zoom Defences for Postgraduate Students

FASS has carried on with academic activities despite the disruptions of the University academic calendar due to closures occasioned by the Covid-19 surges. We have continued with classes through e-learning, online teaching, consultations, WhatsApp and other media platforms; and with proposal and theses defences via Zoom. Worth noting is the fact that our MA Security Management students based in Juba, South Sudan, have also benefited from the Zoom defences. We are slowly but surely embracing this method as the “new normal”. Some of the Juba students have already successfully presented their proposals. Many more are scheduled to make their presentations soon. This confirms our determination as a Faculty to surmount all obstacles so that the academic life of staff and students continues.

A New Programme at the Department of Peace, Security and Social Studies

In January 2021 the Department of Peace, Security and Social Studies launched a Diploma in Criminology and Security Studies. The launch of this programme was informed by a rising market demand for that kind of qualification both in Kenya and the region. This is also a potential feeder programme for the Bachelor of Arts (Criminology and Security Studies) programme for those who desire to go for further studies after Diploma. We appeal to Egerton staff, students, alumni, parents, guardians and sponsors to help spread the word to potential students who have interest in career in security.

A Forthcoming Visit

On 30 May – 3 August 2021, the Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies (PHR) will host a Carnegie Fellow, Prof. Shadrack Wanjala Nasong'o. This is not Prof. Nasong'o's first visit to Egerton University. He gave a public lecture at FASS on 23 July 2019, titled “In the Shadow of the Natural Sciences: Humanities in Crisis or the Crisis of the Humanities” as a CODESRIA Fellow and Visiting Professor of International Relations. PHR, the Faculty, and the University are excited to host him again for the fellowship.

One of the major activities of the fellowship will be to support PHR and the Faculty in developing a programme in International Studies and Diplomacy. For the past six years, the Department has run a very successful undergraduate programme in History and International Studies, but there has

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BA Is Both Challenging and Exciting

By Charity M. Makau

I was admitted to Egerton University at Njoro to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2016. The opportunity allowed me to study three disciplines, and I settled for Economics, Mathematics and Sociology. In the third year I dropped Mathematics and concentrated on the other two disciplines, which I had found both exciting and intriguing. Even before I enrolled for the programme, my father gave me a book titled *Economics: A Very Short Introduction*, which helped me learn a few things about the discipline and why there are differences among economies in the world.

In the course of lectures and through private study, I came to appreciate the disciplines I chose for my degree programme. I came to learn that Economics is mainly about the choices people make concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services. Most learning activities in the discipline, therefore, involved analysing data on these processes. On the other hand, the study of Sociology involved analysis of issues such as change and development, deviancy, feminism, and gender.

Contrary to the misplaced views some people have concerning the Bachelor of Arts degree programme, I

found it both challenging and exciting. The courses I took not only helped me understand society better but also equipped me with skills and values that should help me in future endeavours. I am confident that the experience I gained through the BA curriculum, as well as the opportunity to study for CPA and other packages, will serve me well in the field of work or further studies.

In many ways, the academic activities involved team work and the forging of friendships that may last a lifetime. Similarly, interacting with people from diverse cultures and other backgrounds over the four years I was at Egerton University broadened my view of society and life generally. It was a truly enriching experience, which will not only leave me with fond memories of Egerton University but will also serve as a worthy foundation on which to build a future.

My story would not be complete without a comment on the campus itself. The rural nature of Njoro and its well-endowed physical environment accorded us the perfect setting in which to pursue our various programmes. But the peace was on several occasions disrupted by unscheduled closures caused by strikes by either students or staff. However, the greatest disruption was from March 2020 when the



Ms Charity M. Makau

Government of Kenya announced various measures aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19. Among the measures was the closure of learning institutions and the transition to online classes for learners at various levels. At Egerton University, online studies had mainly been confined to the E-Campus before that time and so the rest of us had challenges adjusting to what was a new mode. Accessing the e-learning platform was difficult for many students for a variety of reasons. For some, access to an internet-enabled laptop or a smartphone was barely possible. In other cases, the major hindrances were the lack of sources of electric power and internet bundles. Even when one had the necessary accessories, there was no assurance that one would log in successfully and stay connected till the end of the session. However, lecturers did their best to keep learning going through strategies like sharing lecture notes and keeping consultation channels open.

Despite the difficulties of e-learning, and those created by the Covid-19 pandemic generally, we eventually did our final examinations in December 2020. As we graduate today, we look back at our sojourn at Egerton University with gratitude. We are grateful to all those who made this phase of our lives as stimulating as it was despite the academic and other challenges life thrust our way. ■

Message from the Dean

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been a sense of incompleteness without a postgraduate programme for students intending to further their studies. Therefore, the fellowship could not have come at a more opportune time. In addition, there is high expectation that the Fellow will discuss best practices in teaching International Studies and Diplomacy and assist in

strengthening research methodologies, epistemologies and pedagogies among teaching staff and postgraduate students in the Faculty as a whole. It is anticipated that Prof. Nasong'o will also help to forge collaboration and linkages with Rhodes College in Memphis, USA, where he is Professor of International Studies. ■

Prepare to Train Students with CBC in Mind



Prof. Joseph Mworira Wamutitu

The Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS) takes great pride in presenting the highest number of students for the 43rd Graduation Ceremony. The Faculty has four departments, i.e. Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Management (CIEM), Agriculture Education and Extension (AGED), Psychology, Counselling and Educational Foundations (PSYCOEDFO), and Applied Community and Development Studies (ACDS). Each Department has highly qualified academic and technical staff, who play a key role in imparting knowledge and sharpening learners during training towards the achievement of Kenya's Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and the Big Four Agenda of the Government of Kenya. The FEDCOS academic programmes are engineered to generate, develop and share knowledge for efficient and effective management of the educational sector, training, research and outreach. That we are succeeding in this is demonstrated by our students'

outstanding performance during Field Attachment and Teaching Practice. As a Faculty, we believe we are giving the best to Kenya and the entire world.

Graduation is a special day for all of us as it is a culmination of tireless efforts by the graduands as well as a realisation of considerable sacrifice on the part of parents, guardians and all the stakeholders concerned. On behalf of the staff of FEDCOS and on my own behalf, I congratulate all the graduands and wish them success in their future careers. The intensive training you have gone through has equipped you with knowledge, skills, and attitudes that make you the best leaders in tackling Kenya's challenges. I strongly believe that you have the potential to transform humanity and improve lives.

Graduands, dare to dream even when your power is turned off. You do know that candles burn, don't you? Overcome moments when faith seems like an empty concept and trust like a scam. Always walk the tight rope of trying and succeeding; do not succumb to despondency. Even before the clouds have dispersed, reflect on how much you have grown. Hold tight to your dreams because this is the only way to mould a legacy that history will not ignore. As you join the world of work, remember our slogan "Students First". Make your slogan "Kenya First". Give yourself fully to serving our nation, putting the words of our National Anthem into practice.

Embrace the Change

The launch of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), the Competency-Based Education Technical (CBET), and the Competency-Based Assessment (CBA), as well as the Covid-19 pandemic have presented an

opportunity for universities involved in Pre-Service Teacher Education to re-think and re-design the Bachelor of Education programme. Teacher education is critical to the attainment of the SDGs, particularly SDG4. The design of the current Initial Teacher Education (ITE) at the university level has by and large remained the same despite the numerous changes that have taken place in Basic Education from the 7-4-2-3 to the 8-8-4 system. The 21st Century teachers require a set of pedagogies that are aligned to the new education system which was implemented in 2017 with the first cohort being in Grade Five. By simple calculation, this first group will join university in 2029. Are we ready as individuals and as an institution to receive the CBC learners? We have about eight years to prepare.

A Training of Trainers for Teacher Education and Management in Kenya (TOTEMK) project is in place. The aim is to train university lecturers on how to train the teacher trainees who will handle the CBC learners at secondary school level and prepare the university lecturers in handling learners under the CBC system. The first phase of the initiative began in April 2021 with a three-day intensive training after which the trainees will have a 10-week distance assignment. Egerton University is represented in the project by three faculty members drawn from FEDCOS. They will disseminate the knowledge acquired to others within and beyond the institution. In the words of Buckminster Fuller, "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete". ■

Faculty Wins Partnership Supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK



Prof. Japheth O. Onyando

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology in this 43rd Graduation Ceremony is presenting candidates from both the undergraduate and the postgraduate level to be conferred with degrees in four main areas of the engineering disciplines. Congratulations to all the graduands!

As a Faculty we are proud of our graduates because they are preferred in the job market. This is because our teaching incorporates an extensive practical component comprising three industrial attachments that sharpen the skills of our students. Annually the Faculty declares an undergraduate capacity of 150 places. Currently, the total student population is 879. At the postgraduate level we attract students locally and internationally, mainly from Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

A number of activities are going on in the departments. For example, in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, staff are actively engaged in research in a number of projects. The projects include Adaptation of Water

Harvesting Technologies for Increased Food Production in ASALs, targeting Baringo, Kajiado, Machakos and Taita Taveta Counties; and Validation of Improved Biomass Cook Stoves in Baringo and West Pokot Counties, both sponsored by the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO). The Department is also collaborating with Virginia Tech in USA on the Global Opportunities Initiative project with focus on building partnerships, leadership skills, and creating opportunities globally for staff and students. Another project sponsored by the Orange Knowledge Programme focuses on capacity building in Technologies for Water Smart and Climate Smart in nexus with agriculture, which targets TVET institutions.

The Department of Industrial and Energy Engineering (IEEN) successfully wrote a proposal that won a partnership for collaboration between Egerton University and Moi University supported by the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK). This was an open call under the framework of the Higher Education Partnership for Sub-Saharan Africa (HEPSSA) Phase III Programme which is intended to enhance Industry-Academia collaboration as well as to develop innovative methods in Engineering Education. This initiative is supported by the University of Highlands and Islands, UK; University of Leeds, UK; Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA); the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK); Rivatex East Africa Limited (REAL); Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK);

Busitema University, Uganda; Murang'a University of Technology; Egerton University; and Technical University of Mombasa (TUM). The kick-off meeting for the programme was held on 4 – 5 February 2021 in Nakuru with discussions focusing on “Delivery of Engineering Academic Programmes in the Wake of the Covid-19 pandemic”. The Faculty will use this opportunity to strengthen its linkage with the industry and also establish bilateral collaborations with institutions in the consortium.

The Department of Electrical and Control Engineering (ECEN) has been exploring opportunities for collaboration with the Kenya Space Agency (KSA) to host a Research Chair on Microsatellite Technology Development, “Nanosatellite Development”. The Department made a presentation on the same on 28 September 2020 where both staff and students participated. In addition, the Department participated in the space sector stakeholder workshop organised by KSA held in Nairobi on 24 – 25 February 2021. The workshop focused on Earth Observation and Applications, and Space Engineering, Space Science and Space Law and identified challenges hampering space development in Kenya. These will be used to inform the development of programmes in the Department so as to respond to market needs. Other areas of collaboration being explored by the Departments are through the Industry Academia Platform (IAP), the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), KenGen, and Scode.

The Department of Civil and

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Department Builds Complex to Address Water Issues

By Raphael M. Wambua

The Department of Agricultural Engineering has been facilitating its staff members and students in a number of ways. For example, to address the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, staff members have been conducting on-line student training. They have been developing e-learning materials for both undergraduate and postgraduate students that can be used to conduct long-distance classes.

In addition, academic staff members have been undergoing training in career development as well as carrying out research in a wide range of focuses. For example, the Department has been facilitating training and research in the use of e-resources, data management, and the engineering profession.

Five staff members from the Department have secured career growth programmes at the level of the Doctor of Philosophy degree and are progressing well. Furthermore, some staff members are participating in the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) for Validation of Mechanized soil and water conservation in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), as well as in bioenergy research along agricultural value chains.

The Department has established a Centre for Integrated Water and Basin Management (CiWaB) that focuses on the following key pillars of the water sector: water governance; catchment protection and rehabilitation; value-added water resources data; economic water use and investments; and water use efficiency and livelihood diversification.

There are 25 students in the Department who are pursuing postgraduate degrees, including Ph.D. and M.Sc. Some of the students have secured scholarships from the Centre

of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM).

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering presents a number of undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Department for graduation during today's 43rd Graduation Ceremony.

Dr Raphael M. Wambua is the Chair of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Egerton University.



AGEN staff participate in KCSAP mechanised soil and water conservation

Message from the Dean

Continued from page 20

Environmental Engineering has a standing collaboration with the Kenya Meteorological Department which has ensured sustenance of recording of metrological data from the weather station in the Faculty. The station is one of the best nationally and has records of metrological data since 1955,

especially rainfall data. The data is being used in research and practice in collaboration with the Kenya Meteorological Department, Nakuru County, in detection of climate change occurrence and downscaling weather data for early warning at local level. Postgraduate students from the Faculty

and others are also using the data to calibrate near real time livestream meteosat data from GEONETCAST for land use change studies and watershed management, among others.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Message from the Dean

Egerton University Now Enrolled with ECFMG



Dr Brian Lishenga

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Science I take this opportunity to congratulate all the granduands of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony. Your graduation is the culmination of the hard work you put

into your studies as well as the contribution of your parents, guardians, and well wishers, as well as the input of your lecturers and administrative and support staff. I also take this opportunity to thank them all.

Since our last graduation, a great deal has happened in the Faculty of Health Sciences. However, let me for now single out the development that has impacted most directly on the welfare of our medical graduates.

On 23 April 2021 the Faculty of Health Sciences enrolled with the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).

The enrolment will allow the University to authenticate the credentials of medical graduates who seek to join postgraduate residency programmes in the USA, the United

Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and other countries around the world.

It has been the wish of our graduates to be able to register for the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) or be recognised for training entry by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. This is now going to be possible.

ECFMG is a world leader in promoting quality health care. It serves physicians, members of the medical education and regulatory communities, health care consumers, and researchers in medical education and in the medical industry. Their website: www.ecfm.org.

Once again congratulations to the graduands!

FACULTY OF LAW

Message from the Dean

63 Students from Pioneering Law Class among Today's Graduands



Dr Ruth Adhiambo Aura

I am happy to be part of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, and I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands, parents, and other stakeholders on this achievement.

For the Faculty of Law, this ceremony is a double victory since we are celebrating the achievements of our pioneer class for the Bachelor of Laws (LLB). A total of 63 students from our faculty are graduating today, closing the journey that started in June 2016

with our first intake. Among the 63 are 35 women and 28 men. They have successfully transitioned their studies to the Kenya School of Law.

As a Faculty, we are proud to be associated with this class as a litmus test of our capacity to provide hands-on legal education in the country. Their stint here has given us lessons from the successes and challenges we encountered that we intend to use to strengthen the programme.

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The most outstanding thing about this group is that we involved them in legal aid activities through the Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP). FOLLAP's aim is to facilitate access to justice by the most vulnerable members of our communities using students under the guidance of Faculty staff and advocates drawn from the *Pro Bono* Scheme. This project exposed our pioneer students to the real legal world they intend to join. We instilled in them the spirit of community service by showing them why and how to offer pro-bono services as legal practitioners to deserving parties.

We are confident today to present to the world the Egerton Vision of “a world-class university for the advancement of humanity” through legal professionals who will have the interest of the communities they serve at heart. We congratulate them in a special way and wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Besides this, I feel delighted to inform you that our legal aid project established in 2019 under the auspices of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Amkeni Wakenya* Project is progressing well. We have been privileged to get further support from the donors to run the second phase of the project as part of practical programme delivery to our students.

We undertake to continue offering legal assistance to vulnerable community members in Nakuru County as we continue with practical training of our ongoing students. Our aim is to induct more students in the project with more emphasis on research and publication.

To this end I wish to inform you that as we concluded the first year of the project, we successfully organised the First National Legal Aid conference on the theme “Strengthening Access to Justice through Legal Aid” in the

second week of December 2020. This conference attracted scholars from the legal fraternity, legal practitioners, social service providers, the Judiciary, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, Civil Society, and development partners, among others. The conference was sponsored by the European Union and the UNDP *Amkeni Wakenya* Project. We deliberated on the successes and challenges of the provision of legal aid in the country. Due to the success of the conference there is a proposal to host a similar event in 2021.

In summary, the last five years have tested and proven our capacity to provide legal studies in Kenya. As we present our first products today, we resolve to continue bettering ourselves so as to improve on our services in the coming days.

I thank you all!



Participants in the First National Legal Aid Conference held in December 2020 at the Sentrim Elementaita, Kenya.

Department of Chemistry at Forefront of Fight against Covid-19 on Campus



Dr Moses N. Gichuki

Dear Graduands of the 43rd Graduates: On behalf of the Faculty of Science staff, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your graduation. Your great achievement that we are celebrating today is a culmination of your hard work, discipline and determination. Graduation is an exciting moment which marks both an ending and a beginning; it gives warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. Looking back to memories of hard work and commitment to this course, you truly deserve to be celebrated. Today, as you get the powers to read

and do all that appertains to your respective degrees, you have to look to the future with great desire and determination to succeed and reach for even higher achievements.

Now that you have gotten hold of what you tirelessly and diligently worked for, we urge you to go out there and pursue your dreams. Without a doubt the training you have received during your study period has prepared you well to embark on the next phase of your life and be great ambassadors of this great institution. On our side as a faculty we will always put our best foot forward for our students.

Since the inception of the Faculty of Science 34 years ago we have always endeavoured to provide our learners with an excellent foundation in line with the institutional Vision, Mission and Core Values. We remain committed to quality teaching, creation and application of knowledge through pure and applied research and dissemination of new knowledge through scholarly publications in forums that are locally and internationally recognised. Besides equipping graduands with knowledge, skills and attitudes that have enabled them to be here today, our faculty staff have continued to contribute to

knowledge-generation through research.

Right from the onset of the novel Covid-19 situation in our country and globally, the Department of Chemistry has continued to provide protection against the virus to the various units in the University by way of availing well packaged sanitiser for use by staff and students. The Department has also enhanced its production of the high quality liquid soap.

During this period, the Faculty has remained focused and innovative in as far as teaching and research is concerned. Our teaching and technical staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that we reach our students for online classes. This enabled us to complete part of the final semester for the students graduating today, and going forward we are determined to ensure that nothing inhibits our generation and delivery of knowledge.

Our members of staff continue to pursue further studies, and so far we have a sizeable number of them on studies locally and abroad. Others have resumed work after successful completion of Ph.D. studies, and we look forward to growing the Faculty through their newly-acquired knowledge and skills.

Finally, dear graduands, as you plan your way forward from this point, please remember that the Faculty of Science has a lot to offer you in terms of postgraduate programmes and collaborations. Please liaise with your mentors in the departments for further information and guidance regarding the various progression paths in your academic and career journey. Best wishes as you join our other graduates in serving our beloved country using the knowledge and skills imparted to you.

Happy Graduation Day!



Students under training in Microscopy at a Laboratory at the Faculty of Science, Egerton University

Despite Covid-19, the LWM Programme Continues to Thrive

By Nzula Kitaka

The Limnology and Wetlands Management Programme (LWM) is part of the Education and Research Hub for the Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems in East Africa (AQUAHUB) project. The main objective of the project is to enhance the facilities and capacity at Egerton University and other African partner institutions (Addis Ababa University and Bahir Dar University, both in Ethiopia) through training. The wider context of training in LWM is in line with Strategic Development Goal (SDG) 6 and SDG 3 on clean water and

environment and good health, positioning LWM as a regional flagship programme in Eastern Africa coupled with the establishment of South-South and North-South collaboration and networks.

In the long term LWM targets the intervention logic of Theory of Change (TOC) with the alumni influencing sustainable management of aquatic ecosystems and their resources in Eastern Africa coupled with improved livelihood.

The Master's in Limnology and Wetlands Management (LWM) degree

is jointly offered by Egerton University, Kenya, The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU, Austria and IHE-Delft, The Netherlands.

Since its inception in 2012, the programme has trained 80 young water professionals on the wise and sustainable use of aquatic resources within the region and beyond with a 100% completion rate.

The programme involves a rotational system whereby students begin their first trimester in October in BOKU, Austria, and then move to



The Ag. DVC (R&E), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, and the late Prof. S.T. Kariuki's family members plant a tree in the garden in his memory. Egerton University staff and members of the community also participated in the tree planting ceremony. Prof. S. T. Kabuitu Kariuki, who passed away in November 2020, was a staff member in the Department of Biological Sciences and the founder of the Botanic Garden, located on the Main Campus of Egerton University. The Botanic Garden serves as a biodiversity conservation centre, a research and training facility, and a recreational centre.



Students enrolled into the LWM programme collect samples for their research during field work at River Njoro in March 2021

Egerton University in February for the second trimester, which runs for four months. This is followed by the third and the last trimester in IHE, Delft, which starts in June. The final phase of the project involves the writing of a Master's thesis.

The students are expected to develop a Master's research proposal, to undertake the research, and to present a thesis for examination in one of the partner institutions. Given the stringent deadlines of the programme, learners must complete their studies and graduate within 18 months, during which they enjoy a scholarship supported mainly by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP), and, in special circumstances, the Erasmus Mundus Fellowship Programme (EMFP).

LWM was not spared by the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, which rocked the world at large. The first Covid-19 wave in Kenya began to affect the programme as the 2019/2021 cohort were undertaking their second trimester in Kenya.

Although the pandemic came with

several challenges, including restrictions on movement, LWM shifted swiftly to online learning. Consequently, five students out of eight conducted their research and thesis phase at Egerton University and are graduating today. They are Mr Ali Makame, Ms Lorine Omondi, and Ms Dorcas Mutei from Kenya; and Ms Mary Florence Nantonngo and Ms Harriet Okomo from Uganda.

To the students: You have shown resilience and adaptability. On our behalf and on behalf of our partners, CONGRATULATIONS!

Similarly, congratulations to Mr Daniel Mwangi and Ms Christine Nyangaya Owino, the 3rd cohort of the Rotary Club of Vienna fellowship recipients graduating today. I hope that this journey has been a life-changing experience for you.

The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed LWM into a more adaptive programme, which has continued to offer quality training despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, with lectures given by professionals from Egerton University, Kenya; The University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;

Makerere University, Uganda; University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and government institutions such as the Marine and Fisheries Institute.

The wide experience of the resource persons has ensured that students have been acquiring the necessary skills and new knowledge using innovative ways of material delivery. This milestone achievement of the 2020/2021 group of students has demonstrated the resilient nature of the programme and of its participants, motivating us to advertise for the 2020/2022 intake despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

Currently the programme has nine students from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda under blended learning (both fieldwork and lectures) under strict adaptive prevention measures to Covid-19.

The students have completed the Kenyan trimester and are on transit to IHE, Delft for the third trimester. The lesson learnt is that Covid-19 is a game-changer and requires an adaptive management approach to overcome the challenges that come with it.

Lastly, I wish to encourage the young water scientists from the region who seek to quench their academic thirst to apply for this great opportunity and become part of the 2021/2023 cohort. They should visit the following website for the information they need:

<https://boku.ac.at/en/wau/ihg/master-programme/international-joint-master-in-limnology-wetland-management>.

The programme will endeavour to provide quality training. Again, congratulations to this year's LWM graduands at Egerton University and those graduating from partner institutions!

Prof. Nzula Kitaka teaches in the Department of Biological Sciences and is the Coordinator of the LWM Programme at Egerton University.

BUGS/FAP Adjusts to Covid-19 through Virtual Interactions



*Dr Geoffrey O. Ong'ondo
Ag. Director*

Today we celebrate the achievements of the graduands of this 43rd Graduation Ceremony. Graduation is a major milestone in the academic cycle, both for the graduands and the University. It is the culmination of the effort made by each candidate in their studies and by the academic staff in their departments and faculties. The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is happy to be associated with the graduands as they celebrate this momentous occasion today, and we congratulate them all.

BUGS/FAP is mandated with the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate programmes. The Board also coordinates and facilitates field/industrial attachment (FA) and teaching practice (TP). Therefore, BUGS/FAP interacts with undergraduate students long before

they set foot in class, as the Directorate coordinates the departments and faculties in the process of developing new programmes/courses and reviewing the existing curricula to make them better suited to the needs of students and the market.

The Directorate has continuously improved on the Farm Attachment Programme (FAP), whereby students are attached in farms and work with the farmers to make meaningful gains in implementing relevant projects and activities in collaboration with the farmer.

Feedback from the students emphasised the need for reliable, unbiased sources of agricultural information to farmers. The database of the farmers and other organisations participating in the programme has been updated and reviewed in the past 6 months with the assistance of the Faculty of Agriculture and facilitation from the TAGDev project. However, the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the planned attachment period for this year (May-August 2021) as the University calendar was revised following closure of learning institutions in March 2021.

Through BUGS/FAP, Egerton University has continued to partner with Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT) in Israel to provide hands-on skills for students undertaking agricultural related programmes. The 11-months 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 to spend one day in class at AICAT. Most of the students are involved in field work and different agricultural activities usually within each farm or group of farms.

The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the programme and so far the 2019-2020 cohort (the seventh cohort), which includes 25 Egerton University students who were to complete the internship programme in June 2020, have been in different locations in Israel since August 2019. BUGS/FAP is keenly following the situation to ensure resumption of the programme as soon as possible.

In line with the “new normal”, BUGS/FAP has embraced virtual meetings to ensure the scheduled reviews of programmes are not delayed. On 26 October 2020, on 17 March 2021, and on 23 March 2021, the Board held meetings to discuss and review curricula from various Faculties. The Board also held a Field Attachment Coordinators' virtual meeting on 22 March 2021 to plan for a Field attachment exercise that had been originally scheduled to commence in May 2021.

Finally, teaching practice took place between January and March 2021, during which a total of 1,151 students successfully completed their teaching practice in various schools.

Covid-19 a Game Changer for Postgraduate Studies



Prof. Nzula Kitaka

It is that time again when Egerton University graduands celebrate their achievements with newly acquired Diplomas and Degrees. On behalf of the Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) I celebrate ALL of you during this 43rd Graduation Ceremony for your focus and determination.

Helen Keller once noted that “the highest result of education is tolerance”. Moreover, I believe that you were all driven by Malcolm X’s observation that “education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”. You are ALL winners, which calls for a celebratory mood, since graduation is not only a symbol of success and a milestone for the graduands but also an institutional and societal achievement. The knowledge and skills you have obtained from Egerton University should serve as a springboard from which to take the next step in your life. As B.B. King once said, “the beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you”.

A special congratulatory message goes to all postgraduate students graduating today. As the Director of BPGS, I am honoured to have walked with you in this eventful and

sometimes uncertain journey, which became even more uncertain in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the fact that you are graduating today marks the benchmark of your success and a true indicator of your drive, perseverance, determination, resilience and, above all else, your dream. As Anatole France once observed, “to accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan but also believe.”

Egerton University has prepared you to go out into the world and face the expectations and challenges ahead of you. The world today has become a global village, which requires radical shifts, open mindedness, innovativeness, and solution-oriented actions that have no boundaries in order for you to make a difference and make the world more hospitable in line with Egerton’s Vision of a world-class university for the advancement of humanity.

For the doctorate degree graduands, as I noted in a previous Graduation Ceremony, today’s ceremony marks the beginning of your career, as a thinker, a problem solver, and a leader, implying that whatever you say from today on will be listened to very keenly. For the Master’s students, a slip road to access the academic and professional superhighway has been opened for you, and with the skills and knowledge you have acquired from Egerton University, the END is your BEGINNING. Once Again CONGRATULATIONS for your achievements!

Since the year 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has been a wake-up call and a “Game Changer” to many, demanding for new ways of doing things. From 2020 to date BPGS has continued to develop new approaches and supporting documents to make

learning easier. The regulations and procedures of online processing of proposals, projects, and theses developed and approved by the Senate in May 2020 have ensured that our postgraduate students have continued with their academic activities. In particular, this became an advantage during the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, whereby most students continued with their submission of documents, including defenses, despite the lockdown.

In addition, BPGS is finalising the first *Postgraduate Handbook*, which was approved by the Senate in April 2021, to give further guidance to students on procedures and expectations.

We are now preparing the Plagiarism Policy, which will be presented to the Senate for discussion and approval soon. This policy will contribute considerably to our determination to close all loopholes relating to plagiarism at all levels of the University in respect of both classwork and research, and we are proud to note that BPGS again has been the driver behind it.

Lastly, I would wish to thank ALL the BPGS Members together with the Deputy Director, Dr Samuel Nyalala, who sacrificed and came to the office, even when everyone else was working from home, to ensure that students’ progress and the postgraduate guidelines were followed. This is ascertained by many students completing their studies on time and the quality of projects and theses being submitted to the Graduate School and to the University Library.

A special appreciation to ALL the supervisors for their tireless efforts in guiding the students to completion of their studies. (See photograph of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony Ph.D. graduands on page 53).

AGRO-SCIENCE PARK AT EGERTON UNIVERSITY

The Agro-Science Park (AgroPark) is a Directorate under the Division of Research and Extension at Egerton University. The strategic role of the Agropark is to promote innovations, products and services to be commercialised to link the University with the industry for their uptake.

Upcoming Lord Egerton Agri-City Industrial Park

- As the expansion of the AgroPark, the Lord Egerton Agri-City Industrial Park was initiated in 2019 following a request to the University by the Nakuru County Government and the National Government through the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development.
- The Lord Egerton Agri-City Industrial Park will be an addition to the other two industrial parks in Kenya, one in Naivasha and the other in Ahero. These three parks double as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZA). The proposed Park will occupy 200 acres within the Ngongonger farm.

Expansion and Upscaling New Varieties in Turkana County

Through funding from Dutch-based IKEA Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the AgroPark team initiated the Refugee Groundnut Agricultural Value Chains for Economic Self-Reliance (Raves) project in Turkana County. New groundnut varieties will be introduced and processed at INSTA Foods Ltd, Chandaria Industries, to supply multi-nutrient deficient kids and mothers in refugee camps in the County.



Egerton Groundnut 1 (EUGN-1)
(Mwangaza)
Brown large size seeded



Egerton Groundnut 1 (EUGN-1)
(Mwangaza)
Red medium size seeded

In Memoriam

Egerton University pays tribute to five distinguished lecturers, researchers, colleagues, and friends who passed away in 2020 – 2021:

Prof. Samwel W. Wachanga

Prof. S. T. Kabuitu Kariuki

Prof. Abdul K. Faraj

Ms Marion G. K. Anakalo

Prof. John Gowland Mwangi

We also pay tribute to 4 administrative and technical staff, 3 support staff, and 11 students, who passed away during the same period.

Egerton University In Collaboration to Form IAESTE-Kenya



Prof. Charles M. M'Erimba

The 43rd Egerton University Graduation Ceremony is here with us. We thank God for the far He has taken us as a University.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has made it impossible for the celebrations to be made face to face, it is a fact that this will not stop you graduands from receiving your degree and diploma certificates. Mine is to wish all of you the best in life as you venture out there into the world. Be good ambassadors of Egerton University and exploit every opportunity that comes your way.

Although it might appear difficult at the beginning serving without formal pay, it would be encouraging to take voluntary activities that will shape your career and keep you engaged. For those who will get an opportunity to come back to further their education, feel free to do so. For those who might be lucky to secure employment outside Kenya, be good ambassadors and lift the name of Egerton University high. As the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, we are proud of all of you.

At the Directorate we facilitate and sustain linkages between our university and other universities or similar institutions outside Kenya, in addition to providing advisory services to international students and staff at the University. The Directorate also facilitates the processing of international students' applications and enrollment as well as the promotion and marketing of the academic programmes of the University globally. Other functions of the Directorate include facilitating access to welfare services to international students and staff and assisting students in industrial placements on completion of their studies for internships with prospective employers.

In a bid to assist our students to source for internships/attachments

abroad, Egerton University joined the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) in October 2020. The IAETE platform will be accessed through the IAESTE-Kenya, Egerton University Local Committee under the Directorate.

IAESTE-Kenya, Egerton University has joined hands with Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT), Murang'a University (MU), and Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) to form IAESTE Kenya. We look forward to collapsing our collaborating status and jointly working with sister institutions in advancing the IAESTE agenda and expanding opportunities for our students. ■



Ms Rachael Ngina (in the middle), an Egerton University student pursuing the Bachelor of Science degree in Agri-business Management, has been making a mark in Turkana County, where she has been training farmers to acquire skills in the production of food using drip irrigation. (Photo courtesy: Rachael Ngina)

Institute Unites Kenya and China through Wide-Ranging Scholarly Collaborations



Prof. Joshua O. Ogwenyo
Director

We feel honoured to congratulate the graduands of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University for the successful completion of your studies under the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The past year was hard for everybody, but despite the hardship, you have managed to achieve your goal. Therefore, this Graduation Ceremony shall be a special moment of your life, which will endow you with enduring pride and joy. The future path is unpredictable and long, but we believe you are capable of overcoming whichever challenges will come your way with courage and perseverance from now on.

The Confucius Institute (CI) at Egerton University was set up with the joint efforts of Egerton University in Kenya and Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU) in China. As the first Confucius Institute featuring

agriculture in the world, the Institute has focused on teaching the Chinese language and culture and transference of appropriate and advanced agricultural technologies from China to Kenya and other African nations ever since its establishment in 2012, through training and short courses. Because of its excellent work, this Institute stands out among the other 61 Confucius Institutes and 48 Confucius Classrooms in 46 African countries. For this reason, on 16 December 2020, Prof. Joshua O. Ogwenyo, the Kenyan Director, was invited to be one of the seven keynote speakers during the Virtual African Confucius Institute Forum to share the experience of running the Institute.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2020 the CI at Egerton University recorded the following achievements:

- On the recommendation of the CI, five Egerton University staff members and students were awarded China Scholarship Council (CSC) scholarships to pursue Doctor of Philosophy studies at Nanjing Agricultural University, China. Another six Egerton students won CI scholarships for further studies in relevant universities in China for one year or four years. Ten students studying at Egerton were also awarded Chinese Ambassador Scholarships worth US\$1,000.00 per student.
- In 2020, through the CI, Egerton University received two batches of



Prof. Li Zhenhong
Director

precautionary material donated by NAU and the Jiangsu Pengfei Group Co. Ltd. China, which helped Egerton University to fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, and which has deepened the exchange and friendship between the two institutions and two countries.

- On 18 January 2021, the CI took the lead in the four CIs in Kenya to start face-to-face teaching. Meanwhile, it also organised paper-based HSK/HSKK tests on 20 March, which enable students to win the qualifications to apply for this year's CI scholarships for further studies in China. All the candidates from Egerton University passed the examinations.
- In February this year, the institute brought forth innovative ideas by holding two online cultural activities together with the

students from NAU and Nanjing Medical University (NMU) in China. NAU students showed the CI students around the Chinese Agricultural Civilisation Museum online, while NMU students led the CI students to “visit” the Confucius Temple in Nanjing. The two online activities promoted the understanding and friendship between the students of Kenya and China.

- On 10 February 2021, the CI at Egerton University held a garden party in the compound of the Institute office to celebrate the Chinese New Year—the Spring Festival. CI students and teachers

sang and danced to both Kenyan and Chinese traditional songs, while experiencing Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting, appreciating the Chinese tea ceremony, and tasting Chinese food. Following their acquisition of new knowledge on Chinese culture during the party, the students exhibited more interest in learning Chinese language.

- On 16 March 2021, the CI held video conference for a board meeting during which Prof. Chen Fadi, President of NAU; Prof. Richard Mulwa, Acting DVC, Administration, Planning, & Development, Egerton University;

and other Board Members were briefed on the CI activities for the year 2020 and a 2021 work plan was approved. The Board meeting also put forward the plans for organising research activities and training in the Belt & Road Crop Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Laboratory, as well as for developmental activities of the Agro-Science Park at Egerton University. The video conference elevated the cooperation between the two institutions to a higher level.



The former Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, receives Covid-19 precautionary materials donated by the NAU and the Jiangsu Pengfei Group in 2020

Institute Hosts Anti-FGM Training Workshop



*Prof. Rose Odhiambo
Ag. Director*

It is such a pleasure to share in the intensity of emotions with our graduating students, who are closing the brightest chapter of their fascinating life's story at Egerton University at this 43rd Graduation Ceremony. We marvel, celebrate and honour your accomplishments at the Institute of Women, Gender and

Development Studies (IWGDS) over the last four years. We recognise the struggles you may have gone through these four years but appreciate the fact that you were able to surmount them effectively to the end. We acknowledge that you are leaving the University when the world is dealing with enormous economic and health-related challenges, including the Covid-19 pandemic, but this situation could also offer great opportunities for you to address these challenges.

As a technologically savvy generation, the quality of education that you have gained will enable you to fit effectively within the fast-globalising world by contributing to applied research, educating the communities, and developing functioning social networks. Being part of a global generation, Kenya's technological advancements are set to benefit immensely from your new and dizzying dimensions of knowledge. We

envisage that your contribution will result in equitable solutions to health, agriculture, environmental and educational concerns not only in Kenya but also across the globe, thus catalysing communities' socio-economic growth.

We believe that, armed with the skills and knowledge you have attained, you are confident and eager to tackle the next phase of your lives, whatever that might be, whether you choose to proceed with your higher-level education at Master's and eventually Ph.D. level or head straight to the workforce. Whichever direction you take, we guarantee that Kenya and the world will realise tangible changes because of the academic gains you made during your stay in the University. These tangible outcomes will be determined by how you follow your individual dream and imagination as distilled by the Egerton University environment.

As we celebrate your academic accomplishments, we, the IWGDS family, are happy to highlight some of the main activities that your contribution helped us achieve during your stay at the University. First, there was the Gender Awareness Day, which was celebrated on 17 October 2020.

Secondly, there was an Anti-FGM training workshop, which was held on the 6 February 2021 in Education Theatre II. The event remains perhaps the single most memorable student-focused activity to date, and for which the Institute will forever be thankful to you for your participation and generous resourcefulness. Among other things, the workshop demonstrated your innate capabilities to fund-raise,



An Egerton University student from the Kingdom of Eswatini entertains guests during the 42nd Graduation Ceremony

organise, and facilitate public events that are beneficial not only to the University fraternity but also to the neighbouring communities.

Lastly, there was the International Women's Day celebration, which was held on 8 March 2021 and which would also not have been successful without your unreserved participation.

These activities solidified and demonstrated that not only are you academic giants but also leaders in community outreach activities.

We want to challenge you to continue with your quest for knowledge and to strive to discover other unique ways through which to contribute to our societal advancement.

The next life steps may look bleak, but we believe that with the determination you have displayed you will surely find a productive footing in the society. We urge you to remain strong change agents among the global young generation, whom professional opportunities and explorations may take to the furthest reaches of the world and beyond. ■

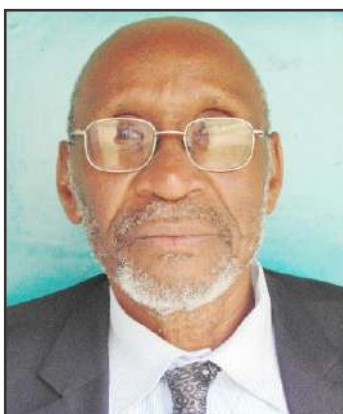


Egerton University students participate in an Anti-FGM workshop on the theme "Diversifying Advocacy Against FGM through Young People" held on 6 February 2021 in Education Theatre II, Egerton University

SCHOOL OF DISTANCE LEARNING

Message from the Director

Reconstructed Classroom: The New Learning Architecture



Prof. Ezra Maritim

The world has gone through four industrial revolutions: the first was the coal age; the second the electricity age; the third the electronics age; and the fourth the internet age or the age that is now being referred to as Internet of Things (IoT).

Each industrial age transformed the socio-economic activities and hence the lives of the people. Unfortunately, the African continent was not an active participant and beneficiary in the first, the second, and the third industrial revolutions. Invariably, at the onset of the 21st Century, the World Bank asked

one challenging question: "Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?"

While the Bank answered this question in the affirmative, one wonders why the World Bank focused on Africa. Two trajectories seem to emerge: first, in the past centuries, there were low North-South technology transfers; and second, the fact is that Africa entered the 21st Century as one of the poorest continents and hence it is expected to catch up during this fourth industrial revolution through maximisation of the

use of digital technology in all sectors, including, but not limited to, business and education.

With respect to the educational sector, the question is: “Have African universities moved to the fourth industrial revolution?” Simply put, what do we do in our classrooms that reflects the fourth industrial revolution?

The fourth industrial revolution classroom architecture is no longer that of the earlier industrial ages. The readiness and the activities of this Internet of Things era has several manifestations, including the delivery of teaching and learning. The new classroom architecture is multifaceted and includes the utility of several platforms to achieve successful delivery of learning, namely: video conferencing such as Zoom, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams; e-modules; Learning Management System; YouTube; and WhatsApp. These are the faces of the fourth industrial revolution.

From a sociological point of view, a norm is an expectation or a rule that can only be broken under special circumstances without sanctions or penalties being imposed. In the past one year, educational institutions have gone through a significant transformation in the way of teaching and learning. The institutions were forced by the Covid-19 pandemic to intermittently break learning and the teaching norms that have been in practice for centuries.

The familiar learning territory was shattered. Learners and tutors moved from in-person learning and teaching to the online learning environment. This movement involved a number of changes, including breaking of the traditional learning norms, reconceptualisation of the classroom, and development of new skills and dispositions for learning and teaching.

While our universities have

adopted a new teaching and learning architecture, benefits and full utilisation of this architecture are yet to be realised. In this new learning architecture, learners and tutors have encountered both bright and dark spots. The bright spot is embracing the flipped classroom methodology. The dark spots, identified by the first-time online learners in a survey carried out by the School of Distance Learning in January 2021, were basically extrinsic barriers. They included the following: a digital divide – a situation whereby the learners came from diversified backgrounds with respect to location or place of residence and family socio-economic status impairing their accessibility and affordability to internet; poor or unreliable power and internet network connectivity; technological adaptation – technology comes with a culture that tutors are yet to adapt with respect to the provision of feedback to learners on assignments; access to technology-involved barriers arising from inability to own a laptop, tablet or a smartphone; inadequate training and preparation whereby students were using a computer for the first time; isolation and lack of peer/group interaction on problem solving; lack of appropriate software for solving mathematical and

chemistry problems; assignment of family chores and responsibilities consumed learning time during the day; and interruption of concentration by such platforms as Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

The only intrinsic barrier identified by the students that inhibited them from effective participation in online learning is low familiarity with this mode. This is the need for more exposure to online practices and experiences.

In buttressing the University to be more attuned to the activities of the fourth industrial revolution, the School of Distance Learning has ensured that staff and the students are facilitated on technology-enhanced learning through the development of new skills and dispositions for teaching and learning. The restructured classroom, anchored on the use of ICT in teaching and learning, will be a familiar learning territory as the learners build confidence, acquire more experience, and develop positive attitudes to assimilate and accommodate its benefits for now and in the future.

Bravo to the tutors and the students for having taken the challenges of swimming through the new learning architecture.

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'S PROGRAMMES

Bachelor's 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's Degree in related field

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Egerton University Wins Inter-University Blitz Challenge



Prof. D. Odera-Wanga

On behalf of the Dean of Students office, I am glad to extend my sincere congratulations to all graduands for their commitment and hard work during their academic journey at Egerton University. Let me also thank the parents, guardians and sponsors for the support they gave to the graduands and ensured that they completed their training in various disciplines despite the hard economic times and difficulties occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To the graduands, it is now your turn to make use of the competencies and skills you have acquired to make valuable contribution to your communities and the entire nation. At the Dean of Students office, we are committed to serving all undergraduate and postgraduate students. We endeavour to assist our students to develop their physical, psychological, social, spiritual and leadership skills as part of our quality objectives.

The mandate of the Office of Dean of Students 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 serves 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, public lecturers, financial aid, orientation of First Year students and recreational activities.

Some of the activities that have taken place since July 2020 include the following: training of class representatives; students psychological debriefing due to Covid-19 pandemic; Covid-19 sensitization; and inter year championship.

Training of Class Representatives

The class representatives training was a full day event done on 11 February

2021, with the following topics covered: leadership skills for Student Leaders; academic Advisory: Policies and procedures concerning Students, Covid-19 sensitisation for students; national cohesion and integration; conflict management; students: finance issues and challenges; and signs of Alcohol, Drug Substance abuse and referral among students

Students Psychological Debriefing on Covid-19

The aim of the psychological debriefing exercise was to provide emotional and psychological support to students in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The idea was to prevent the development of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and other negative consequences among students.

Covid-19 Sensitization

A seven day sensitisation was done to encourage students to adhere to

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Ms Peninah Kilinge the captain of Egerton University's Women Karate Team, takes participants through a warm-up during the Inter-Year Championships on 20 Feb 2021

Egerton University Students Excel Globally

By the Newslink Team

In 2020 two Egerton University students, Mr Gregory Kipchirchir and Ms Jane Mwendu Mwanzia, excelled locally and internationally in the President's Award – Kenya.

Gregory, a third-year Bachelor of Agribusiness Management student, was selected to represent the President's Award–Kenya at the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

For his voluntary service to the community, Gregory had introduced an initiative of teaching other young people in his neighbourhood on best agricultural practices. This was aimed at not only equipping them with skills but also keeping them busy with something impactful, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, when students were out of school. He has continued with his activities throughout the pandemic.

Gregory has been improving his skill in vegetable production as part of fulfilling the requirements of the skills section of the Award.

Gregory was among four participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's

International Award, the others being from Canada, the Czech Republic, and Indonesia. The four were honoured by the Royal Family for their outstanding work during the 2020 International Youth Day.

Gregory's story has been made public to over eight million people who follow social media platforms of the Royal Family. His story has been featured internationally on BBC and locally on KTN, NTV and the print media.

The President's Award – Kenya is a programme for young people aged between 14 and 25 and is aimed at equipping them with skills to make them ready for the world. Egerton University has embraced the programme and has empowered hundreds of students over time.

For her part, Jane, a second-year Bachelor of Education student, was identified to speak at the Global Award Fellows Dinner. The dinner is an annual event held in honour of World Fellows (WF) for their continued support of the award globally.



Top: Ms Jane Mwendu Mwanzia who was identified to speak at the President's Award Global Fellows Dinner

Below: Mr Gregory Kipchirchir who was selected to represent the President's Award–Kenya at the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

Message from the Director

Continued from page 35

Ministry of Health guidelines on Covid-19 as well as guidelines developed by the University to direct their behaviours and actions while on campus.

Inter-Year Championships

Inter-Year Championships were held on 17-20 February 2021. Covid-19 protocols were in place at all the venues as each year-group rose to the occasion.

In the men's soccer, finalists Third-Years and Second-Years battled it out. The same scenario played out in the women's finals. Netball saw Second-Years triumph, while First-Years emerged victorious in the women's Badminton duel after Melissa Dorothy's outstanding performance. The chess event was dominated by the Third-Years.

Inter-University Blitz Challenge

The Egerton Chess Club has been exemplarily participating in virtual competitions and emerging top from a pool of over 20 universities in a championship dubbed Inter-University Blitz Challenge. This was due to the hard work of the Captain, Mr Eric Ngechu Gitau.

Covid-19 Lessons for Coping With the Present While Adapting to the Future



Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi

Dear graduands: on behalf of the staff of the Directorate of Examination and Timetabling, may I take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to you all on this special occasion of your graduation. Indeed, you deserve to get more powers to read and do all that appertains to your respective educational qualifications. Today you graduate in unprecedented times and contexts. The fact that you are not here physically to celebrate with colleagues should not limit your thinking but inspire you to know that challenges create opportunities.

We all have to adjust to the “new normal”, as a directorate, the Covid-19 pandemic has shaped us in immeasurable ways; however we have been able to surmount the challenges therein. In fact “new” is now our “norm” at the Directorate, since the academic calendar keeps changing.

The 15 March 2020 presidential directive that suspended physical learning seems to have been a turning point, which we did not realise immediately. Today you would be here celebrating your well-deserved

achievements with your families and friends, yet you can't do that!

For the first time the University has been witnessing unusually empty lecture halls for a larger part of 2020, not because of the normal end of the academic calendar schedule or the unprecedented unrest occasioning the Senate to declare closure of the University but because of suspension of learning occasioned by an unusual health conundrum. We had to quickly prepare to comply with the public health recommendation on social and physical distancing. Little did we know that one year down the line we would still be living with the potential uncertainties of lockdowns.

Today none of us is confident that curriculum implementation through

the traditional face-to-face lectures will not face challenges. Every activity scheduled over the last and the current academic year has had its share of interruptions. This has occasioned several revisions of the academic calendar and coming up with innovative solutions to ensure continuity of learning. For the first time we have had to schedule classes without allocating venues. “Virtual classroom” is now a term we cannot ignore in timetabling. In fact, this could be the invisible solution to the recent challenge of inadequate lecture halls.

The greatest lesson we have learnt is that higher education requires flexible pathways. Michaela Martin, a UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning researcher, avers



Mr William Amwayi (centre), an Alumnus of Egerton University who graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Production, became Secretary to the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC) Presidents' Committee in 2020. Engineer Eddy Njoroge (right) is President of ISO, while Mr Sergio Mujica (left) is Secretary General of ISO. They were attending an ISO Consumer Policy meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2019.

that “flexibility enhances the resilience of education systems”. The more flexible the learning pathways are, the more likely systems are able to cope with emerging challenges. Flexible and blended learning is the most plausible option with the possibility of scheduling timed assessments as we explore technological solutions to other coursework requirements. With a good balance of synchronous and asynchronous learning we can optimise on time and both physical and virtual space. Making the learning process to take place “anytime, anywhere” is the way to go.

What is perhaps important to keep in mind is that the success of blending face-to-face and virtual learning

depends on all the key players. Not only does this require investing in infrastructural resources at institutional and individual levels but also commitment at a personal level. As is the case with the traditional learning, we have to accept that quality learning can also take place through virtual education.

The Directorate of Examination and Timetabling endeavours to work together with other units in the University to contribute to learning continuity during the pandemic and the transformation of the educational landscape beyond Covid-19. But this can only succeed if we all have the shared vision of managing the institutional and individual transition.

Otherwise, the perceived open doors will remain closed.

Certainly this pandemic has not only created new experiences but also unbundled opportunities beyond classrooms. We should all use these experiences to learn and adapt to challenges as they emerge.

As you graduate and ultimately change your status to become Alumni of this great institution, go out there and don't forget to “keep up” with the new normal. Open your minds to the outside world. Remember to always keep safe and follow the laid-down public health protocols as long as the pandemic is still here with us.

God bless! ■

NAKURU TOWN CAMPUS COLLEGE

Message from the Principal

Faculty of Health Sciences Promotes Community Health Care Services



*Prof. Daniel O. Auka
Ag. Principal*

I am pleased to join all of you today in marking the 43rd Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University.

I wish to congratulate the graduands today. Whether you are with us here physically, or joining us virtually, I feel overwhelmed by your presence. Your success today is part of

our story of resilience and hope. Congratulations to you, your parents, guardians, and well-wishers.

This is the second graduation that the University is holding under the Covid-19 pandemic; a pandemic that has pushed humanity to its limits. Although the challenge still persists, we remain strong in our resolve to counter it and emerge victorious each day.

Today's graduation is very special for Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) since we are presenting our first class of graduands for the Bachelor of Laws (LLB). The programme began in 2016, and with today's graduation we can officially say that it is now fully tried and tested. In a special way I congratulate the best student in the Faculty, Emmanuel Munene. He becomes the first to open the roll of Egerton's Best Lawyer.

At the start of April this year, our

Faculty of Health Sciences partnered with the County Government of Nakuru, the Beyond Zero Programme, and Technion-Israel Institute of Technology from Israel in a project called “Simulation on Wheels Programme” aimed at promoting community health care services in the County. Through the project our staff at the Faculty of Health Sciences will train County Health Volunteers (CHV) on how to offer services in the communities in order to boost the fight against Covid-19. The partnership was made possible through the Embassy of Israel in Kenya.

This project adds to another community service project that was started by the Faculty of Law on offering legal aid to the vulnerable members of the community in the County. The project, popularly known as the Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP), is in its second year after



Communication and Media students in the renovated Egerton Radio studio in 2021

inception. It is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Amkeni Wakenya* Project.

The two projects are a testimony that as an institution we have the interest of the community at heart, just as we say in our Vision: A world-class university for the advancement of humanity. This is part of the University's core mandate of community outreach.

With respect to the Faculty of Commerce, I wish to report that the Faculty has fully relocated from the Bawani building to the NTCC main administration building. In the coming months we shall embark on setting up prefab structures at the University grounds formerly known as Kokeb Restaurant and thus stop renting space at the Loncom building. The move is part of a larger plan of ceding rented space for the campus in order to cut our operational costs and optimise on the available resources as we improve on our services.

I also wish to report on our electronic media studio that we have completed the first phase of its refurbishment. We have acquired state of the art broadcasting equipment and expanded our reach to some areas in Nakuru town. With this we hope to

expand the University's Communication and Media programme as we use the radio for information, fundraising, and community extension

purposes.

Before I finish, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of NTCC's former Principal, Prof. Lenah Nakhone-Wati, who steered the campus for the last decade, propelling it to the heights at which it is today. Through her stewardship, the campus grew steadily, and for this we shall forever be indebted to her. On behalf of the entire NTCC fraternity and on my own behalf, I wish her all the best in her current and future endeavours.

Once again, I congratulate you, the graduands. I appeal to you to consider coming back to NTCC and to Egerton University to further your studies. As you step out, I ask you to be our brand ambassadors wherever you go through the services you offer to communities. I pray that the world welcomes you with all of its finest gifts.



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You Are the People Who Will Rebuild the Post-Pandemic World



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

My Esteemed Egerton Graduands, I Congratulate you for a milestone in your academic journey. It has been a learning journey full of experiences in your education. Our value proposition to you was delivery of quality education that fosters a transformed life. At the tail end in the four years or so long journey, Covid-19 disrupted our traditional education delivery style. This necessitated going virtual, and a change in what we teach, how we teach and what we learn. In the midst of this, you, your parents and guardians, and the lecturers sacrificed heavily to ensure that you still acquired quality knowledge with which you could continue in that pathway to transforming lives: yours, ours, and of the others in this world.

With the milestone you have recorded and celebrated, now proceed to figure out who you are, which Richard Grant simply puts as, “The value of identity is that so often with it comes purpose”. No one else defines you but yourself. What other people think of you is never as important as what you think of yourself. You are not defined by what you lost in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic or by the challenges that you will encounter along your growth pathway, but by how you respond to them. We are all aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a big impact on how we live, how we operate, and even on the economy at large, but this should not deter your course. With the pandemic, the world has changed and you are the people who will innovate how to

rebuild it.

I believe that the quality education that you received at Egerton University has exposed you to what the world has to offer and to the possibilities open to you. Achieving your dreams after college requires more than qualifications. Open up to change, bravely try something new, and create a pathway where there appears to be none. Pursue every ambition as far as you can dream.

Let me emphasise this by using the words of John B. Gough: “If you want to succeed in the world you must make your own opportunities as you go on. You can commit no greater folly than to sit by the roadside until someone comes along and invites you to ride with him to wealth or influence.”

Let me close with the words of Tom Brokaw: “You are educated. Your certification is on your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to a good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.” The world is you, us, and everybody else.

My prayer is that Egerton University remains a place you will often want to come back to, whether in memory or in person. Congratulations once again to each one of you, and all the best in all your life endeavours. ■



Mr Reuben C. Kiptoon shows Maji Moto Women Group Members the ideal species for rangeland rehabilitation at the Egerton University Chemeron DRTEC

Egerton Annual Research Conference Goes Virtual



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai
Ag. Director (R&E)*

On behalf of the office of the Director of Research and Extension, I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate all the graduands of this 43rd Graduation Ceremony. Your hard work, discipline and patience have brought you this far, and we are proud of you. The efforts and support of your parents, guardians and lecturers are much appreciated. As you receive the power to read and to do all that appertains to your discipline of training, a world of opportunities awaits you. These opportunities are accessible to the proactive, creative, and open-minded individuals among you. I believe you all have received the necessary skills to grant you success in your next phase of life. Remember, research is key in your search for the next steps in your life.

The Division of Research and Extension's core functions include coordination and development of relevant policy documents in the following core areas: research, extension services, consultancy services, short courses, technical courses, information dissemination,

documentation, and publication. To ensure the Division delivers on its core functions, various committees, headed by the DVC (R&E), Director (R&E), the Deputy Director (R&E), and other experts from within Egerton University, oversee the implementation of these functions.

Research Overview

Currently the Division is overseeing the administration of 108 research projects and consultancies which are both internally and externally fund, with a cumulative value of Kshs 2.1 billion. Over 350 researchers and their students are involved in these projects. Fifty percent of the researchers are Egerton University staff and students. Female researchers are principal investigators in 28% of these projects.

Achievements for the Period 2020-2021

Through online platforms, training, meetings, and service delivery in the Division have progressed with minimal disruption despite the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Researchers have been encouraged to use online facilities to communicate with the Division to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

The achievements of the Division since our last Graduation Ceremony are as outlined below.

International Conference

The Egerton University Virtual International Conference was held on 24 – 26 November 2020. This was the 13th International Conference that the University has organised hosted by the Division of Research & Extension. During the conference, 137 papers

were presented either orally or as posters. The conference attracted over 750 attendees drawn from local and international universities, research institutions, county and national governments, local and international NGOs, and private sector organisations. Participants from 32 countries interacted with the conference website. The top 11 countries represented at the conference were Canada, China, Ghana, France, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Rwanda, USA, UK and Uganda, among others. The theme of the conference was “Innovation, Research and Transformation for Sustainable Development”. Underlying this theme is the acknowledgment that Science, Technology, and Innovation are major drivers and enablers of social and economic transformation. The application of knowledge and innovation is necessary for attaining sustainable economic growth and competitiveness. Presentations were made under six sub-themes, namely; Natural Resources and Climate Change; Food Security; Geopolitics and Governance; Health, Science and Technology; History, Literature and Culture; and Education and Change.

Training

Various training activities were conducted by the Division in the last one year. To begin with, 20 members of staff and postgraduate students participated in the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) Training in December 2020.

To increase the number of research projects, early career researchers and postgraduate students

received virtual training on scientific communication and publishing, which included proposal writing. The most recent training was conducted on 23 – 25 February 2021 in collaboration with the Training Centre in Communication and TAGDev Programme. Seventy-seven staff and students participated in this training.

A one-day training on Kenya Research Information Management Systems (KRIS) was held on 17 February 2021. Nineteen researchers from Egerton University were trained. Egerton researchers also participated in the National Research Fund (NRF) capacity building workshop held at Maasai Mara University on 23 – 25 March 2021. The training covered wide topics in research management, including innovations and commercialisation, resource mobilisation, and scientific writing and publishing.

Other activities

The Directorate conducts regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of

research projects in the University. This year's M&E session was held virtually on 8 April and 19 April 2021. The purpose of conducting M&E is to assess adherence to donor expectations, achievement of research objectives, and documentation of key outputs and outcomes. It also provides an opportunity to address any implementation challenges encountered during research.

The Division also supports innovations from students and staff through training and facilitates extension services to communities. Community extension outreach is a core function under the Deputy Director, Outreach and Extension. There are various ongoing outreach programmes where the communities involved have benefited from the technical knowledge of the experts involved from Egerton University.

During the 2020/2021 Financial Year, staff from Egerton University successfully bade for five consultancies. In order to enhance the chances of success of the various bids

for consultancy from Egerton University, the Division offers support to the bidders by forming teams of experts to respond to the calls, issuing letters of support for the bidders and offering financial support where necessary. Members of staff and postgraduate students are trained on consultancy services every year in an effort to enrich their consultancy skills. The support offered has proven to be very helpful to Egerton University experts.

Among our upcoming activities is an interactive workshop with researchers which will be held in June 2021. The workshop will address service delivery, procurement and finance, and general research management. The 14th Egerton University International Conference is proposed to take place on 23 – 25 March 2022. Finally, partnership discussions with various institutions and stakeholders are ongoing and will be unveiled soon.

DRYLAND RESEARCH TRAINING AND ECOTOURISM CENTRE

Message from the Director

DRTEC Enhances Biodiversity Conservation in the Lake Bogoria Landscape



Prof. George M. Ogendi

I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC) staff and myself to congratulate the graduands of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony upon this achievement! With the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, it is worth celebrating this milestone in your academic journey. Graduands, we applaud and celebrate you! We join your parents, friends, and significant others in recognising this

accomplishment, bearing in mind the many sacrifices that you have made this far. We are confident that you will put to use the skills and knowledge you have acquired in transforming livelihoods and conserving the environment in whichever part of the country or globe you will be.

DRTEC's role in transforming lives through extension and community engagement has not been easy during this Covid-19 pandemic. Most of the planned activities had to be



Members of the Maji Moto Women Group package value-added Cenchrus ciliaris grass fields at their project site at Marigat, Baringo South

cancelled or scaled down so as to adhere to the World Health Organisation containment measures. We had to invent new ways of carrying on with community extension, including the use of social media platforms, video conferencing facilities and mainstream media which farmers and other stakeholders have come to accept and appreciate.

During this pandemic era, agro-pastoralist and climate-smart agricultural groups in Baringo South, which are funded by the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP), made significant impacts in enhancing their livelihoods and conserving their environment. This was made possible with the support of the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN). For the past three years, KOAN and DRTEC have been strategic partners in spearheading livelihoods improvement and biodiversity conservation within the Lake Bogoria Landscape. Using knowledge and skills acquired during trainings conducted at the Chemeron DRTEC, the farmers established over one thousand acres of pasture fields using Buffel grass, *Cenchrus ciliaris*. This pasture grass is now branded the “Saviour and Gold” of Baringo owing to its growth patterns, drought tolerance, and high productivity. The farmers have proceeded to do value addition to the harvested grass through baling and mixing it with other nutritious plants and supplements. The value-added pasture has been shown to

enhance livestock production and it safeguards against losses during extended dry periods characteristic of this semi-arid lands of Baringo.

These pasture and livestock production activities have seen a significant and active participation and engagement of women, youth and persons living with disabilities. The participation of these groups, which had been marginalised from such economic activities in the past, has brought about an increase in household incomes as well as conserved the environment.

In partnership with Seeds Savers Network, DRTEC staff have in the last one year trained over 200 farmers on climate-smart agriculture, specifically focusing on tree nursery establishment, agroforestry, and production of indigenous vegetables (spider plant, amaranths, and black nightshade) and cereals (finger millet and sorghum). Using GEF/SGP funds, the farmer groups have established two-acre demonstration plots, bulking, and storage centres within the Lake Bogoria Landscape. Widespread adoption of the aforementioned pasture and climate-smart agriculture technologies will lead to improved livelihoods and enhanced biodiversity conservation.



Goats graze in a pasture field established by the Maji Moto Women Group in Mogotio, Baringo County

Council and UMB Visit Chemeron DRTEC

By George M. Ogendi

On 21 May 2021, the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC) hosted the Egerton University Council and the University Management Board (UMB). This was a rare opportunity for the DRTEC staff that saw the visitors get exposed to the infrastructure and facilities as well as the various activities that take place at the Centre. The visiting team toured the Chemeron DRTEC tree nursery, hostels, livestock units, the apiary, and the nature park that houses the botanic garden, the tortoise park, the crocodile park, the aloe garden, the lizard park, and the snake park.

The visitors interacted with the Chemeron staff and offered various pieces of advice on how to efficiently deliver on the University's key mandate relating to research and extension. The Council and UMB members planted various dryland tree species in commemoration of their visit as well as to mark the World Bee Day, which was celebrated on 20 May 2021. They also launched a beekeeping project funded by the Council which involves the Queen Bee Technology that will be implemented by DRTEC and the Agro-Science Park. Through this project, beehive colonisation and honey production in Kenya will be enhanced.



The Chairman of the Egerton University Council, Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario, addresses Members of the Council, UMB and DRTEC staff on water storage and conservation during a visit to the Centre on 21 May 2021

Among the key challenges facing beekeepers in the country is the low colonisation of beehives which the University intends to solve using this Queen Bee Technology. The project will also include the construction of a modern bee-house that will accommodate 100 hives.

The Council and UMB members were shown the various tree species (*Leuceana leucocephala*, *Azadiracta indica*, *Senna siamea*, and *Delonix regia*) and grass species (*Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Enteropogon macrostachyus* and *Eragrostis superba*) being used for

rangeland rehabilitation at Chemeron. They learnt that uptake of these tree and grass technologies by communities within Baringo has already taken place, and that there is considerable progress especially with the establishment of pastures and tree nurseries under enclosure conditions. The said pasture technology has found wider acceptance owing to the prevailing climatic conditions and the local community's cultural attachment to goats and cattle, hence the increased demand for pastures during the dry period.

The Council pledged to mobilise their personal resources and those from well-wishers to complete the construction of the snake park located at the DRTEC nature park. Completion of the snake park will enable the University to operationalise the nature park and thus enhance education and research opportunities for students, researchers, and other stakeholders. Finally, the Council and UMB pledged to support the construction of an elevated tank and water kiosk to enable the surrounding community access clean and reliable water from DRTEC.

Dr John N. Ondari (Member of the Egerton University Council) plants a Flamboyant tree at DRTEC during a visit by the Council and the UMB to the Centre on 21 May 2021. Looking on are some Members of the Council and the UMB.



Prof. George M. Ogendi is the Director, DRTEC, Egerton University.

Egerton Staff and Students Plant 5,000 Trees

By Charles M'Erimba

Trees and grass belts along water bodies, commonly referred to as riparian corridors or simply vegetated buffer strips, are important in stabilising streambanks, buffering of pollutants entering a stream from runoff, controlling erosion, and providing habitat and nutrient input into the stream. They also contribute to the balance of oxygen, nutrients, and sediment, besides providing habitat and food for fauna. It is due to these filtration functions that streams, and rivers are sometimes referred to as “kidneys of the earth”.

Climate change, coupled with rapid population growth, is likely to stress water reserves in Kenya. Kenya's Vision 2030 spells out the mechanisms of conserving all the water catchments in Kenya. Egerton University is mandated under Vision 2030 to conserve Njoro River, which emanates from Eastern Mau, one of the critical water catchments in Kenya. With the



Members of staff from Egerton University's Division of Research and Extension and the Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development plant trees along the Njoro River near the Egerton University Main Gate on 11 May 2021

onset of long rains and in an effort to conserve this water catchment, the Division of Research and Extension together with members of staff from the Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development and the Directorate of International Linkages

and Career Services, took part in a tree planting activity along the Njoro River on 11 May 2021. This is an annual activity and the target for 2021 was to plant 5000 tree seedlings along the river.

Njoro River is one of the main rivers that contribute water to Lake Nakuru National Park, which is home to thousands of flamingoes, wild animals, and diverse tree species. Close to 600,000 people depend on this river for drinking water as a source of livelihood. We call upon other stakeholders, notably the Kenya Wildlife Services and the Nakuru County Government, to plant more trees on the lower sections of this river to prevent loss of soils through erosion and maintain the water quality for the wildlife within the Nakuru National Park.



Mr Paul Chek, the Chief Technologist in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology (in blue overcoat), takes AGEN 375 students through a lesson on profile leveling as a tool for soil and water management on the grounds of Egerton University, Njoro on 11 March 2021

Prof. Charles M'Erimba is the Coordinator, Njoro River Rehabilitation Project.

Tegemeo Institute Lands Strategic Research Partnerships

By *Miltone Ayieko*

Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University, is a leading provider of evidence and knowledge for accountability and learning, to catalyse agricultural and rural sector transformation. The Institute's research is organised around five thematic areas: transformation of the agricultural sector for inclusive growth and development; enhancing rural service delivery in a devolved and dynamic institutional setting; building resilience in the context of climate change; unlocking the potential for regional integration for trade and food security; and provision of Measurement, Learning and Evaluation (MLE) services.

During the 2020/2021 period, the Institute partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives to support three World Bank-funded projects. These projects are the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP), the National Agricultural Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP), and the National Value Chain Support Programme (E-Voucher), which are being implemented across all Kenyan rural counties. Specifically, the Institute supported the operationalisation of the respective projects' Monitoring and Evaluation strategies, capacity building for project staff and implementation of the projects' baseline surveys.

Staff at Tegemeo Institute held consultative meetings with governors of five counties (Kisumu, Kisii, Kakamega, Vihiga, and Makeni) regarding the County Functional Analysis studies which will be conducted by the Institute. This follows the successful completion of a study by the Institute on *Functional Analysis for Kenya's Agricultural Sector at the National and Intergovernmental Levels*.

Further, Tegemeo partnered with

the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Michigan State University (MSU), and the Overseas Development Institute's Chronic Poverty Advisory Network to analyse the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated policy responses on food systems, national and global food and nutrition security, poverty and development. These analyses are useful in advancing policy-relevant and evidence-based insights on actions to counter the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and how to develop effective preparedness for managing future pandemics.

Tegemeo, partnering in a consortium with MSU and Purdue University (USA), was recently awarded a grant by USDA/USAID for a three-year project to support the agencies' work in Kenya and the East African region through applied research and analysis. Tegemeo is the lead African Institution and will host the project office in addition to implementing the project activities.

In yet another significant development, Tegemeo was awarded two grants by USAID's Feed the Future Advancing Local Leadership and Innovation Networks (ALL-IN) initiative. This is a collaboration between the International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) and the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Markets, Risk and Resilience at the University of California at Davis, USA. ALL-IN advances the host country's leadership in defining and implementing research projects and deepening host-country networks. Out of the more than 125 proposals that were submitted, Tegemeo Institute is one of the only two institutions that received funding for two projects under

the ALL-IN initiative. One of the grants supports an Impact Study of Digital Agro-Weather Advisories on Productivity and Resilience in Farming and Pastoral Communities of Kenya. The project partners are KCSAP's national and county coordinating units, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Kenya Meteorological Department (MED), and Virginia Tech University, USA.

The second grant supports a study on Willingness to Pay for Soil Testing and Impact of Soil Test Information on Demand for Soil Acidity Management Technologies on Smallholder Farms in Kenya. This research will be undertaken in partnership with MSU and service providers involved in soil testing and distribution of lime products.

The Institute is also partnering with Mathematica in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded evaluation of AGRA's PIATA (Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa) programme. Tegemeo will be coordinating data collection and will also lead in evaluating the policy and state capability thematic area of the evaluation. In addition, the Institute is collaborating with ReNAPRI, Alliance for African Partnership (AAP), and MSU in a consortium to advance conversations about how to increase fertilizer use and soil health in Africa.

Finally, the Institute continues to provide useful evidence to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives that is informing debate and reforms in the coffee, tea, beef and aquaculture value chains.

Dr Millitone Ayieko is the Director, Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University.

AICAD Trains Kakamega Bodaboda Riders

By Joseph Mwenda

The African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) is a not-for-profit organisation which seeks to link knowledge to application. The AICAD – Kenya country office is domiciled at Egerton University’s Division of Research and Extension. Recently, AICAD conducted a baseline survey which sought to understand the gap that exists between the knowledge of traffic rules and their application amongst bodaboda riders in Kakamega Central, Kakamega County. The findings indicated that most of the riders have no formal riding training since they are self-taught. Other findings indicated that most of them do not use the rider’s and passengers protective gears. This exposes them to diseases like pneumonia, TB and the like. Hygiene and sanitation are also not keenly observed by the riders. Moreover, although most are in some form of self-help groups, they have not been trained on basic book-keeping procedures.

These findings prompted AICAD to action, leading them to train 50 riders from Kakamega Central on the issues identified by the survey. The five-day training was conducted in March 2021. The riders were trained on health, personal hygiene and communicable

and non-communicable diseases. They were also trained on road safety, customer care, road use and signage, basic first aid, costing, savings and investment.

From the trainings, it was evident that there is need to train more riders on similar issues since the gap between knowledge and its application was wanting. It is imperative for the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to go beyond a day’s sensitisation and focus more on in-depth training for as many riders as possible countrywide. In partnership

with like-minded institutions, organisations, government agencies, ministries, and county governments, among others, NTSA can come up with a comprehensive curriculum. The synergy will also help the riders to harness the support they may need from a one-stop shop. A well-trained rider is a safe and resourceful rider.

Mr Joseph Mwenda is the Assistant Country Director, AICAD, and is based at Egerton University.



Trainers from AICAD use the simulation method to take boda boda riders through a session on traffic safety

Egerton Launches Queen Bee Rearing Technology

By Paul Kimurto, Bockline O. Bebe and Joel Masobo

Egerton University, through the support of the University Council, has launched a Bee Research and Demonstration Unit (BRDU) at the Agro-Science Park and the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC). The Agro-Science Park will be used as the queen bee multiplication site, while

DRTEC will be used as the upscaling site for farmers in arid and semi-arid lands before expanding it to Mpeketoni Research Station in the future.

The project was launched by Members of the University Council, led by Mr Joshua N. Otieno, to commemorate the World Bee Day marked annually on 20 May. Mr

Otieno is also the Chair of the Planning Committee of the Council. One of the key components of the BRDU is the Queen Bee Rearing Technology (QBRT) which involves the process of developing a new queen as the choice of the beekeeper rather than the choice of the bees themselves. Currently, due to very few colonies, hive colonisation



Egerton University marked the World Bee Day on 20 May 2021 by launching an innovative technology for rearing queen bees to increase quality honey production and pollination services

is between 20 – 50%, which is too low. This is because there are few queen bees available to lay the workers and drones which constitute 99 per cent of the bee colony.

The QBRT therefore aims to contribute to increased honey production by increasing honey-bee colonies through innovative queen rearing technologies. This will increase the number of young queen bees per colony, hence raising the number of eggs laid to 1,000 – 2,000 per day. This is because the queen bee has a life expectancy of 4 – 5 years, after which her laying capacity reduces drastically, which in turn hinders the attainment of the projected 60,000 bees per colony. The QBRT will therefore enable beekeepers to get more queens from the Agro–Science Park, which will be used to head small new colonies (or nucleus colonies) hence increasing the number of colonies and hives owned by farmers. In addition, this will replace old queens with younger ones and reduce the swarming impulse as well as exchange failing queens with vigorous ones to prevent a failed colony. Large

scale queen rearing is central to the process of royal jelly production. The technology requires the use of a moveable comb or a moveable frame hive so that the hive components can be moved in the way the beekeeper wishes to rear the new queens.

Role of Bees in the Ecosystem

A bee colony is composed of queens, which lay eggs and produce pheromones to keep the colony together, drones, which are the male honeybees that develop from unfertilised eggs and which mate the queen, and the workers, which constitute 95 per cent of the colony. Workers are the smallest in size, and they develop from fertilized eggs.

Honeybees are critical for the provision of ecosystem services like insect pollination, which maintains wild plant communities and global agricultural production. Insect pollinators, through their mutualistic relationships with plants, are crucial for the reproductive success of several plant species in the natural environment. Roughly, 35 per cent of

global crops, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other plants that provide food, fibre, drugs, and fuel for humans, are dependent on insect pollinators for reproduction. Economically, insect-pollinated crops have an annual worth of about \$14.6 billion, of which \$2-3 billion is contributed by wild bees. In addition, pollinators provide indirect benefits in the form of livestock forage such as alfalfa and clover. Pollinators also contribute to aesthetics, recreational values, and cultural activities, and help maintain ecosystem integrity. The project, which will use the modern Langstroth hives, will help to increase honey production in Kenya from the current 25,000 metric tons by bridging the deficit of 13,000 metric tons of honey per year.

Prof. Paul Kimurto and Prof. Bockline O. Bebe are researchers in the Faculty of Agriculture; Mr Joel Masobo is an Egerton University staff member and a bee keeper

Egerton Has Adequate Covid-19 Isolation Facilities



*Prof. Richard Mulwa
Ag. DVC (APD)*

The 43rd Graduation Ceremony is yet another great occasion when we celebrate our achievements and significant success in our contribution to society. On behalf of the Division of Administration, Planning and Development, I wish to congratulate all graduands for their efforts, discipline, sacrifice and hard work that have enabled them to succeed in their academic pursuits. The graduands have clearly demonstrated devotion to excellence which will further transform lives in our society.

Today's graduation comes at a time when the nation of Kenya is hopefully emerging from the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and our economy is on a tough test. Kenya confirmed its first case of Covid-19 on 13 March 2020 and the cases have continued to rise and spread across the country. Egerton University has been compelled to close twice in observance of Presidential directives to control further spread of the virus. Despite the difficult time we face, the Division has continued to support the University's Vision of a world-class university for the advancement of humanity.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Health Services and the Nakuru County Government, the Division has constructed hand-washing facilities in all University entry/exit points and within all buildings, including lecture halls, hostels, offices, and other public areas.

Covid-19 posters have been placed strategically to remind people to wear face masks properly, wash or sanitise their hands regularly, keep the required social distance, and use their elbow while coughing. Thermo guns have been placed at specific entrances and assembly points for temperature screening.

The Division has also ensured that there are adequate isolation and quarantine areas to be used in case some members of the University community test positive for Covid-19. The isolation facilities, which are regularly fumigated, have enough personnel manning them. On 26 February 2021, the Njoro Sub-county Covid-19 Response Team led a community sensitisation tour to our Medical Department. To reduce the risk of infection, a number of Egerton University staff and students were vaccinated against the Covid-19 pandemic in line with Ministry of Health protocols.

The Division has constantly worked with community leaders to address mutual challenges that affect both the community and the University. For instance, the Njoro River Rehabilitation Project has helped plant thousands of tree seedlings along the river to improve water security and ecosystem sustainability. There also have been several meetings with landlords around the University to improve the status of hostels for our non-resident students.

We were able to renovate some lecture halls, hostels, and staff offices to improve on provision of services. This has also improved the appearance of our buildings and reduced the number of asbestos roofing materials which, in the long-term, will be entirely replaced.

Our Income Generating Units (IGUs) are working tirelessly to re-brand their products and services for better competitiveness in the market. The Division supports these useful ideas which will boost the financial base of the University and ensure proper management of resources.

I wish to thank all our stakeholders for every step they have taken in supporting Egerton University's Mission. We take cognizance of ideas and activities that are geared towards transforming lives within our set-up to enable the University to have a greater influence in national and global development.

Renovated Ruwenzori Hostel Now Popular among Students



*Fr Dr Gerishon K. Njuguna
Ag. Director (DUWS)*

On behalf of the Directorate of University Welfare Services (DUWS), I join the entire University fraternity in congratulating all the graduands of the 43rd Graduation Ceremony on this important day. This graduation marks the beginning of a new chapter in your academic life after your hard work, self-sacrifice, resilience, and discipline. The toil was not in vain. This is a great achievement. May you conquer and subdue the world with the knowledge you have acquired in your training.

The DUWS has always endeavoured to create a good living and working environment for the students and the staff. In this regard we have in the recent past engaged private hostel owners, the local administrators, and the neighbouring community, in finding solutions to the issues that affect our students and staff.

We have had challenges brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. This Directorate, together with the Dean of Students Office, held a sensitisation

session for both students and the community in and outside the University on the importance of observing the Ministry of Health protocols in order to curb the spread of the disease. In conjunction with the sub-county administrators and public health officers, the Directorate has held various consultative meetings to discuss matters pertaining to the handling of Covid-19 cases inside and around the University, where some of our students reside. For the purposes of attaining social distancing, we have decongested our hostels and encouraged private hostel owners to do the same.

Alcohol and drug abuse has become another big concern. This negatively affects the good learning and working environment. The Directorate is involved in continuous discussions with community leaders and other relevant government agencies to find a lasting solution to this problem. As a Directorate, we continue to advise and conscientise our students and staff on the dangers of the same. In this respect, on 9 December 2020, the Directorate held a training workshop on alcohol, drug and substance abuse, whereby staff and their dependants were trained on the cause, effects, and the mitigation of the same.

Regarding accommodation, we are striving to preserve student welfare and social life with minimal disruptions despite the pandemic. This is done by maintaining student facilities through renovation of dilapidated hostels, decongestion in rooms to ensure social distancing,

prioritising security of students, ensuring availability of repair materials, and providing high-density mattresses, curtains, comfortable beds, and lockable rooms, among others.

The prefabricated Ruwenzori Hostel recently received a facelift. In the past, many students did not like the Ruwenzori blocks. Today, this hostel is the choice of many students because the capacity was reduced to two per room. To ensure fairness in allocating hostel rooms, students are encouraged to book rooms online in advance.

Once again congratulations to our graduands! May the good Lord bless and guide you in the next phase of your professional development.



A corridor in one of the renovated Ruwenzori blocks

An Egerton University Alumnus' Kenya-Australia Connection



In 1959, Mr Michael Chartres (top picture, second from right, standing), a British citizen, graduated from the Egerton Agricultural College with a Diploma in Agriculture. Following his graduation, Mr Chartres worked as Livestock Manager for Kipipiri Ltd until 1962, when he relocated to New Zealand. Later, he moved to Australia, where he worked as a researcher in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture. Subsequently, he worked in various agricultural research and marketing companies until 1970. For the next seven years he was Rural Officer under the Commonwealth Development Bank. During the same period, he acquired a Diploma in Valuation from the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University). He went on to establish and run a successful private property valuation and arbitration business in Perth until 2002, when he retired. Interestingly, Mr Chartres' daughter, Ms Alison Chartres (bottom picture, centre), served as the Australian High Commissioner to Kenya from 2017 to 2020. During the period, she took time off to visit the places where her father had lived, studied and worked. On 9 October 2020 she paid a private visit to Egerton University, her father's Alma Mater. She was hosted by Prof. Emilia Ilieva and Prof. Reuben Matheka (also in the picture). The two Egerton University lecturers have been undertaking research on the history of Egerton University and will prepare the final manuscript for publication by the end of this year. (Top photo: Courtesy Mr Michael Chartres; Bottom photo: Courtesy Mr Robert Sirotko).

Egerton University Vaccinates against Covid-19

By Agnes Mwangi

On Wednesday 24 March 2021, Egerton University commenced the Covid-19 vaccination, first targeting staff members and students from the Faculty of Health Sciences and frontline health workers.

The vaccination uses a digital immunisation records platform that pre-registers those getting the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine and notifies them when they are due for the second dose.

The vaccination, which targets all staff members, is being done in phases. The first phase targeted over 100 staff members. Ms Mary Njuguna, an Expanded Programme Immunisation (EPI) Nurse at Egerton University, said that the Covid-19 vaccination will be an important additional measure to help stop the spread of the pandemic. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce the chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available.



The Deputy Chief Nursing Officer of Egerton University, Ms Roselyne Odhiambo vaccinates against Covid-19 on Ms Mary Njuguna, an EPI nurse at Egerton University

Due to the global shortage of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, the vaccination programme did not proceed according to the initial schedule. However, it resumed in the second week of June 2021.

Ms Agnes Mwangi is the Communication and Marketing Manager, Egerton University.

University Audits Facilities to Enhance Access by PWDs

By Josephine Khaemba

The Disability Mainstreaming Unit (DMU) of Egerton University is mandated to advance the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) within the University. To carry out this mandate successfully, DMU regularly presents people with suspected disabilities to health facilities for assessment and proper diagnosis. This enables those confirmed to have disabilities to receive National Council for People with Disabilities (NCPWD) identification cards in order to access disability friendly services.

Over the last one year, DMU has

taken four people to the Nakuru Level Five Provincial General Hospital and another three to Bahati District Hospital for assessment on various disabilities. Out of these, three people were confirmed to have disabilities and were recommended to apply for the NCPWD identification cards.

Between November and December 2020, the DMU carried out accessibility audits of hand-washing points for staff and students at the Njoro and Nakuru town campuses to enhance inclusivity and a friendly environment for all persons, including PWDs. The Unit also conducted an

accessibility audit of the CESAAM building that is still under construction to enhance compliance. This was informed by a design philosophy that promotes inclusivity in all projects undertaken at the University. Finally, the DMU assisted one student with disability to get financial assistance from the NCPWD.

Dr Josephine Khaemba is the Coordinator at the Disability Mainstreaming Unit, Egerton University.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

**Kibet, Noah**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics

Thesis Title:
Smallholder French Bean Farmers Global-GAP Standards Risk Attitudes and Their Effects on Welfare in Kirinyaga County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Gideon A. Obare
Prof. Job K. Lagat

**Mwabonimana, Marie - Françoise**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Assessing Prevalence, Biosecurity Measures and Lost Carcass-Value Associated with Porcine Cysticercosis along Pork Value Chain in Western Kenya

Supervisors:
Prof. Bockline Omedo Bebe
Dr Anthony Macharia King'ori
Prof. Charles Muleke Inyagwa

**Mwaura, Simon Nganga**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics

Thesis Title:
Impact of Water Collective Action on Household Welfare in Kenya: the Case of The Upper Ewaso Ngiro North Catchment Area

Supervisors:
Dr Isaac Maina Kariuki
Dr Symon Kiprop
Dr Augustus Sammy Muluvi

**Nyabinwa, Pascal**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Assessing Prevalence of Endometritis and Associated Influence on Performance of Smallholder Zero-Grazed Dairy Cows in Gasabo District of Rwanda

Supervisors:
Prof. Bockline Omedo Bebe
Dr Claire d' Andre Hirwa
Dr Olivier Basole Kashongwe

**Okello, Dickson Otieno**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agribusiness Management

Thesis Title:
Impact of Agripreneurial Orientations on Resilience and Performance of Dairy Agripreneurs in Murang'a County, Kenya: The Mediating Effect of Agribusiness Support Services

Supervisors:
Prof. George Owuor
Prof. Catherine Larochelle
Dr Edith Gathungu

**Odero-Waitituh, Jane Atieno**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Reduction of Anti-Nutritive Compounds in Ground Mature Prosopis juliflora Pods in Rabbit Diets Using Fermentation Technology

Supervisors:
Dr Anthony M. King'ori
Dr Mary K. Ambula
Prof. Joseph W. Matofari

**Wambua, John Mulwa**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics

Thesis Title:
Analysis of Factors Influencing Productivity and Extent of Smallholder Commercialization of Green Grams and Pigeon Peas in Machakos County, Kenya

Supervisors:
Prof. Margaret Ngigi
Dr Lutta Muhammad

**Habimana, Richard**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Genetic Diversity, Growth Performance, Newcastle Disease Resistance and Response to Selection of Indigenous Chicken in Rwanda

Supervisors:
Dr Tobias Otieno Keno
Dr Kiplangat Ngeno

**Gore, Dominic Lado Marino**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Reproductive Performance and Genetic Response to Selection of Dairy Goats in Kenya Following Incorporation of Reproductive Technologies and Genomic Selection

Supervisors:
Dr Thomas K. Muasya
Dr Tobias O. Okeno
Dr Jane N. Mburu

**Mutimawurugo, Marie Chantal**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Horticulture

Thesis Title:
Efficacy of Plant Extracts for Management of Potato Bacterial Wilt (*Ralstonia Solanacearum* Smith) in Rwanda

Supervisors:
Prof. Joshua O. Ongweno
Prof. Nyokabi I. Wagara
Dr Muhinyuza J. Baptiste

**Mwesigwa, Robert**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Effects of Dietary Inclusion of Dried Goat Rumen Contents on Performance of Broiler and Layer Chickens

Supervisors:
Dr Perminus Karubiu Migwi
Dr Anthony Macharia King'ori
Dr Paul Athans Onjoro

**Otieno, Peter Caleb**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
Biosolids from Wastewater Treatment Pond as a Potting Substrate for Greenhouse Tomato (*Solanum Lycopersicum* L.) Production

Supervisors:
Dr Samuel Nyalala
Dr Joseph N. Wolukau

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



Karaya, Rebecca Njoki

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Rural Innovation Studies
Thesis Title:
The Role of Social Learning in Linking Knowledge and Practice for Rehabilitation of Degraded Drylands in Njemps Flats, Baringo County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Christopher A. Onyango
Prof. George Ogendi



Ogot, Wilson Addero

Programme:
Ph.D. in Educational Psychology
Thesis Title:
Students' Academic Interaction, Self-Esteem and Achievement Relationships in Public Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Micah Chepcheng
Prof. Mary Kariuki



Margaret Jepkemboi Ayub

Programme:
Ph.D. in Educational Foundations
Thesis Title:
Selected Factors Influencing Educational Participation of Student Mothers in Public Secondary Schools in Baringo
Supervisors:
Prof. Micah C. Chepcheng
Prof. Thomas K. Ronoh
Prof. Teresa Njonge



Thuo, Caroline Muthoni

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension
Thesis Title:
Participatory Technology Development and Dissemination Processes in Relation to Acceptance of Improved Sugar Cane Varieties among Small-Scale Farmers in Kakamega County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Dr Justus Ombati
Dr Agnes Nkurumwa



Ouma Matilda Auma

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Rural Innovations Studies
Thesis Title:
Assessing the Uptake of System of Rice Intensification Practices Through an Innovation Platform in Oluch Irrigation Scheme, Rangwe Sub County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Christopher A. Onyango
Dr Justus M. Ombati

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



Barasa, Henry Masinde

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering
Thesis Title:
Optimisation of Biogas Production Using Some Process Parameters in a Fixed Dome Laboratory Bioreactor
Supervisors:
Prof. Daudi Nyaanga
Dr Musa Njue
Prof. Joseph Matofari



Lateiro, Salvador De Sousa

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering
Thesis Title:
Assessment of Temporal Trend-Dynamics of Water Flow and Sediment Flux for Chókwè Irrigation Scheme in Gaza Province, Mozambique
Supervisors:
Prof. Dr.-Ing Benedict M. Mutua
Dr (Eng) James M. Raude
Dr Raphael M. Wambua



Ndayitegeye, Olivier

Programme:
Ph.D. in Water Resources and Environmental Management
Thesis Title:
Evaluation of Deficit Irrigation and Irrigation Intervals on Banana Water Use Efficiency in Kisii, Kenya
Supervisors:
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Programme:
Ph.D. in Geography
Thesis Title:
Household Access to Public Primary Healthcare Facilities in Nakuru Town - Kenya
Supervisors:
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Programme:
Ph.D. in Geography
Thesis Title:
Effects of Rainfall Variability and Households' Adaptation on Livelihood Vulnerability in Kitui South Sub-County, Kenya
Supervisors:
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FACULTY OF SCIENCE



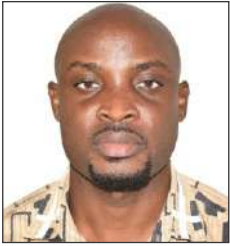
Chore, Judith Kavulani

Programme:
Ph.D. in Biochemistry
Thesis Title:
Biochemical Changes and Microbial Profiles Affecting Quality and Vase Life of Cut Gladioli (*Gladiolus grandiflorus* L. 'Fado') Following Pulsing and Cold Wet Storage
Supervisors:
Dr Karori Mbuthia S.
Dr Mariam Mwangi

Wise Saying:
"The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism."

- Wole Soyinka

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Egerton University, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), and Gulu University in Uganda are implementing a programme entitled “**Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa’s Growth and Development (TAGDev)**”. This eight-year (2016-2024) programme is supported by the Mastercard Foundation to train the next generation of Agleaders for rural community transformation. The programme focuses on experiential learning, community engagement and entrepreneurship.

TAGDev Pillars



TAGDev representatives during community engagement activities



TAGDev Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and Mastercard representatives being taken through research innovations



TAGDev cohort 1 students showcase their entrepreneurial innovations

Upcoming Events

- 1 Recruitment of cohort 5 students
- 2 Fourth National Forum
- 3 Establishment of a business and community incubation hub
- 4 Enhancement of community outreach

For more information, visit:



<http://www.tagdev.org>



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