



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

NEWSLINK

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The 41st Graduation

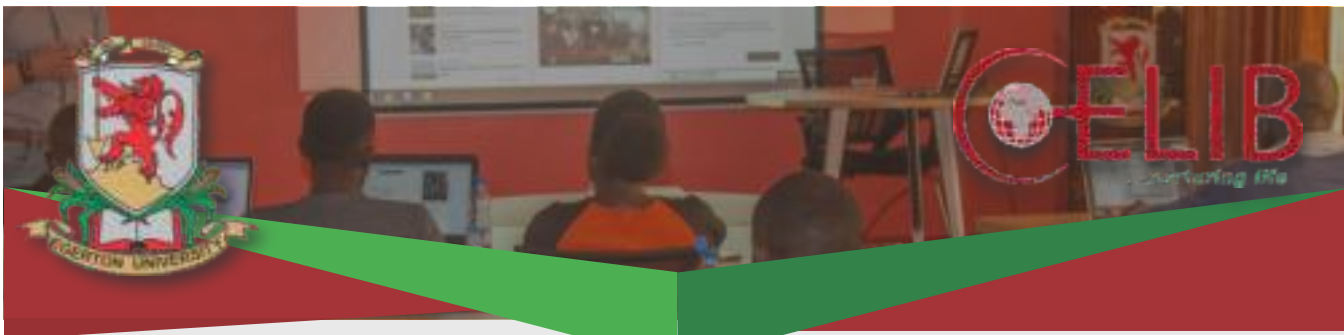
80 Years of Transforming Lives through Quality Education



■ New Chapter for Egerton University as Diaspora Alumni Visit

■ I Was there at the Beginning

■ Busts of Life and Colour



CoELIB Centre builds on existing capacity and fosters innovation and business development. The centre has modern infrastructure, including offices, laboratories, specialized studios, computer rooms and a cafe. CoELIB was established to strengthen business, research and innovation capacities.



CoELIB Centre

Operates six units including:-

- CoELIB Incubar
- CoELIB Advice
- African Dairy Academy
- CoELIB Media
- CoELIB Developers
- CoELIB Kaffe



CoELIB Incubar

CoELIB Incubar rigorously facilitates the growth of ventures into profitable entities through provision of a business enabling environment. It also provides networking platforms by holding events that brings entrepreneurs, public and private sector together.

CoELIB Incubar provides:-

- Support to entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and help them turn their venture into profitable businesses
- Linkages to high profile Investors
- Start-ups with an enabling environment that helps them survive and grow during the early development stages.

CoELIB Advice

CoELIB Advice provides outreach programmes and consultancy services that address challenges that face the society

African Dairy Academy

The African Dairy Academy offers dairy business training and mentorship for dairy farmers, students and other actors working in the industry. It also strengthens the links between the dairy experts and offers opportunities to deliver a more comprehensive service to farmer and industry clients. The Dairy Academy also supports the respective African governments to address knowledge gaps and build on existing capacity and learning.

African Dairy Academy offers:-

- Practical Dairy Training
- Workshops/meetups
- Innovations testing and dissemination to industry
- Knowledge exchange within the dairy industry
- Dairy research and consultancy



CoELIB Media

CoELIB Media provides creative and trusted media services that transform lives and influence national and global development. CoELIB Media envisions a thriving media sector that informs, empowers and is creative and trusted.

CoELIB Media provides:-

- Video production
- Audio production
- Photography
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- Social marketing and Online marketing
- Mentorship in Journalism and Media
- Short courses on media

CoELIB Developers

CoELIB Dev provides highly innovative software applications tailored to the clients' needs that will drive business towards growth.

CoELIB Kaffe

CoELIB Kaffe is a facility for providing drinks, snacks and lunch for staff and guests during trainings and workshops.

Please reach us on: Email: coelib@egerton.ac.ke, Tel: +254 72 957 5471/2 Website: www.coelib.egerton.ac.ke



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Front cover photo: The Vice-Chancellor, Egerton University, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, with the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Amb. Raychelle A. Omamo (centre) and Mr. Sadru Nazarali, the team leader of the visiting Egerton Diaspora Alumni, at the Nairobi Grand Banquette held on 20 August 2019

Vision

A world-class university for the advancement of humanity

Mission

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

Core Values

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

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

Editorial

In the course of the development of any cultural institution that is worth its name, there are invariably sign posts that it leaves behind. The sign posts attest to its most important achievements and the contributions it has made to society.

The 80th anniversary of Egerton University, which we are celebrating this year, is such a sign post. The anniversary caps all the efforts that Egerton has put into establishing itself as the exemplary institution of higher learning that it is recognised to be today.

One way of celebrating this anniversary would be to dig into the University's historical origins. This is critical because there are certain blind spots in the available knowledge about Egerton's past that require our intellectual input. One such lacuna has to do with the way we talk about our pioneering students. All too often, we do not go beyond merely mentioning the number of the students who enrolled into the original farm school. It is as if all that we are interested in is the mere fascination with the fact that Egerton started off with “only three students.” We rarely make any attempt to establish the identities of these three historic figures.

Fortunately, this is no longer the case. As a result of the ongoing research into the history of Egerton University, the University has discovered and made contact with the students in question, and we at the *Newslink* are happy to report that one of them, Paul R. Nixon, is a contributor to the current issue of the magazine.

In addition, the University is in touch with some of the early-generation students of the multi-racial Egerton Agricultural College which came into being in 1961 who are in the diaphora. As we explain in the cover story of the current issue, they took the initiative to hold their 2019 re-union in Kenya and to visit Egerton University.

In the section on “Egerton in the Wider World”, for instance, we have included a story by Mr. Nixon in which he reflects on how his brief study at the Egerton Farm School shaped his professional life as an Engineer and a Research Leader at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Furthermore, we are publishing autobiographical essays by three Egerton alumni from the diaspora – Sadru Nazarali, Shiraz Nasser, and Shiraz Shariff – who attended the Egerton Agricultural College between 1965 and 1976. The three alumni are of particular significance to Egerton because they share a common background in that, as students, they all came from Tanzania and were sponsored by the Aga Khan Department of Education, Tanzania. The implication, of course, is that His Highness the Aga Khan has made a major contribution to the development of Egerton University as well as to the international character that it has come to acquire.

Finally, we are publishing a historic photograph of an early Egerton building being constructed with the participation of students.

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Doctorates	18
Masters	65
Bachelors	2,555
Diplomas	242
Total	2,880



Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev)

Programme at a glance

- ✓ Funded by the Mastercard Foundation through RUFORUM (Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture)
- ✓ Egerton University, Kenya and Gulu University, Uganda are the implementing institutions 2016–2024
- ✓ To train 110 undergraduate and 110 Masters students with ~ 50 % female
- ✓ 3 cohorts, a total of 160 students, have been admitted so far drawn from 14 African countries
- ✓ 4th cohort call to be released in December 2019 for 40 Master's scholarships

TAGDev Deliverables (and progress)

1. Articulated innovative agricultural education training (ongoing)
2. 220 undergraduate and graduate students trained (160 on full scholarship, > 200 partially supported)
3. 12 CARPs supported with additional 40 students trained (4 CARPs, 2 each at Egerton and Gulu universities, additional CARPs in other institutions)
4. 8 Agribusiness Incubation Centers established/Supported (2 centers established, one at Egerton University)
5. At least 24 TVET Institutions engaged (8 TVETs in Kenya)
6. At least 60 university managers trained in institutional leadership (Done by RUFORUM)
7. At least 20 partnerships brokered with industry and universities (4 MOUs finalised in Kenya)
8. At least 20% of the graduates establish own enterprises (First cohort to graduate by December 2019)
9. At least 10,000 farmers reached (At least 3000 reached so far)



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



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



TAGDev Programme partners during students' Joint Orientation Programme (JOP).



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

For more information



<http://www.tagdev.org>



@egertonmastercard
@MCFatEgerton

New Chapter for Egerton University as Diaspora Alumni Visit

By the Newslink Team

One of the most important components of a university community is its alumni. Any examination of the history of an excellent institution of higher learning will reveal that among the reasons it succeeded was the contributions that its alumni made to its evolution. The relationship between a university and its students does not end on the day they graduate. It continues – or should continue – for ever through the university's involvement of them in its activities and plans, and the alumni's input in its growth. For example, the alumni could support the infrastructural and financial welfare of the university.

In the course of its eighty years of existence, Egerton University has produced thousands of graduates who have gone out into the world and constitute its community of alumni. These former students of the University are found in every corner of the globe – not only in Kenya and other African countries but also in Europe, the Americas, and, to a certain extent, Asia. Furthermore, because of the excellent training they received at Egerton, most of them hold important responsibilities in the institutions where they work.

This is particularly so with respect to those alumni who attended Egerton in its early days as a college because of their long experiences in the marketplace.

In recent times Egerton has stepped up its efforts to involve its large number of alumni in its day-to-day activities. The University has gone to great lengths to streamline the operations of the its Alumni Association. In addition, during graduation ceremonies, the University makes a point of inviting outstanding members of the Association to provide guidance to the graduands on their future lives. Similarly, Egerton alumni feature regularly among the speakers at the public forums the University organises. Finally, the University never fails in reminding its graduating students that they should never cut their ties to Egerton on entering the job market. The University aims to rely more forcefully on the wide-ranging expertise that its alumni possess to move to the next level in its quest to fulfil its Vision and Mission.

Egerton University is fortunate because its alumni have shown increasing patriotism and willingness to engage with it more deeply, particularly through hands-on participation in its

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Some of the diaspora alumni (accompanied by family members) and Members of the University Management Board at the Nairobi Grand Banquet held on 20 August 2019 at the Concord Hotel and Suites

Setbacks are Stepping Stones to a Rewarding Future



Dr. Narendra Raval

It is an honour and a privilege to preside over today's Graduation Ceremony, which is a celebration of the efforts you have made to accomplish your academic journey. Egerton University has a foundation of core values that I believe have motivated you to complete your

studies successfully.

The core values of passion for excellence and devotion to duty, team work, innovativeness and creativity, integrity, transparency and accountability will take you far as you progress in your life. You are now about to enter a highly competitive world whereby these values will give you a head-start and will be a guiding light for ever.

I call upon you to join and be active members of the Egerton University Alumni Association. Through the Alumni Association, you will be in a position to encourage, empower and assist current students. The qualifications conferred and awarded to you today should give you the confidence to make meaningful contribution to the life of others.

I urge you to have faith in the knowledge that you have acquired at the University as well as in your capacity to overcome challenges. Never succumb to negative mental attitudes. Rather, use any setbacks that may occasionally occur as stepping stones to a rewarding future.

Thank you, and God bless you all. ■

Diaspora Alumni Visit

Continued from page 1

practical activities. Kenyan universities are currently going through a very trying period in their history, chiefly because of the rapid expansion of higher education versus the limited government resources available to them. The alumni can alleviate this problem through whatever contributions they can make.

There is every indication that Egerton's expansive pool of alumni, wherever they are around the world, is rising to the occasion in this respect. A good example is a visit that a group of alumni from Canada, the US, the UK, and Africa made to the University on 21 August 2019.

The group was made of former students of Egerton College who graduated in the 1960s and 1970s, most of whom have made outstanding achievements in their professional lives, for the most part in industries related to agriculture but also in other areas. Among them, for example, were Mr. Sadru Nazarali, who is currently the President and CEO of TECHNOsource International Inc, Canada (and who coordinated the visit), and Dr. Jack Githae, who is a practitioner of alternative medicine. The visitors were more than fifty in number, including members of the

families of some of the alumni.

The re-union meeting at Egerton was not the first time that the Egerton diaspora was meeting. They had been holding regular meetings outside Kenya over the years, for the most part in North America.

The situation began to change three years ago. At a conference on agriculture held at the University of Iowa, USA, Mr. Nazarali met another Egerton alumnus, Mr. Kenneth Ayuko. The two agreed that it was crucial for Egerton alumni to hold some of their meetings at Egerton University itself. As such, they decided to work together to organise Egertonians around the world to pay a visit to their alma mater soon. The visit to Egerton was the culmination of those efforts.

The objectives of the re-union were not confined to catching up on one another's lives. They incorporated the alumni's concerns about their alma mater in general. To begin with, they were interested in exploring areas of collaboration with Egerton University in agribusiness and facilitating Egerton's market access abroad. And secondly, they wanted to explore modalities of supporting Egerton University's determination to fulfil its mandate through its various

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You Can Scale Higher Heights through Our Competitive Postgraduate Programmes



Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario

We gather here today bolstered by the aspirations of our 2,880 graduands, who have distinguished themselves in their academic journey.

On behalf of the University Council, I would like to congratulate not only those of you who are graduating today – a milestone you have achieved – but also the Egerton staff members, who continually support students at all levels as they undertake their studies.

To those of you who would wish to continue your studies, our Master's and Ph.D. programmes are very competitive, with some receiving support from the World Bank and the Master Card Foundation. As you prepare to scale higher heights in that regard, I would like to urge you to be even more vigilant in delving into the areas of specialisation that you will focus on at those levels.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, our partners, and all other stakeholders, who have always supported us in our journey of “Transforming Lives through Quality Education”.

Next year, on 25–27 March, the University will host the 13th International Conference, whose theme will be “Innovation, Research and Transformation for Sustainable Development”. The Conference, which is an annual event in our calendar, is important to the University because it solidifies our Mission to generate knowledge and to offer exemplary education and training to society for national and global development.

I would like to wish you all the best in your life endeavours. We are proud of your achievements so far, and we would like you to continue on the same path of personal and scholarly development.

God bless you! ■

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya
Vice-Chancellor*



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui
University Librarian*



*Mr. Moses Ouma
Finance Officer*

Life is a Marathon, Not a Sprint



Prof. Rose A. Mwonya

I am happy to welcome everyone to this 41st Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. To the graduands, congratulations on reaching this far! You have come to the end of a long journey and are on the threshold of another stage in your life.

You have completed your programmes successfully, and this is a testament of your resilience, diligence and focus. During your stay on campus, you received immense support from your parents and guardians, our academic, administrative and support staff, and the community neighbouring the University. As students, you have also contributed to the advancement of this University in your respective ways. Without you we cannot achieve our Vision of a world-class university for the advancement of humanity, and our Mission to generate knowledge and offer exemplary education and training to society for national and global development.

Education is of particular importance to growth, change and improvement. Please use the knowledge that you have acquired both in the lecture halls and during co-curricular activities, to continually change your communities for the better. One step at a time, you are bound to make an impact on the society at large. Remember this: Life is a marathon, not a sprint. Just as it took you years to get here it will take time to achieve your most significant goals.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Diaspora Alumni Visit

Continued from page 2

programmes.

The re-union began with the Nairobi Grand Banquet at the Concord Hotel and Suites, Westlands, Nairobi, on 20 August 2019. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the contribution made by the first African Principal of Egerton College, Dr. William Odongo Omamo, to Egerton's development as well as the profound impact he came to have on the alumni's lives and careers.

The Chief Guest was the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Amb. Raychelle A. Omamo, who is also Dr. Omamo's daughter. Egerton University was represented by the Chairman of Council, Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, and Members of the University Management Board.

On the following day, the group toured the Njoro campus and then proceeded to the Egerton Castle, where the Vice-Chancellor hosted a luncheon for them.

During the tour of the Campus the visitors were particularly interested in seeing how the University had expanded over the last fifty or so years, especially the

facilities they were familiar with from their days as students – such as Kennedy Hall and the Old Hall. The experience elicited fond memories among them of the good old days when they used to walk around the Campus, attend lectures, study in the library, or visit neighbourhoods like Nakuru Town.

During the luncheon at the Castle, the alumni concretised their ideas about their contribution to the University in discussions with the Management and other Members of the University Community. The pledges they made included financial support for the rehabilitation of some structures on campus, particularly those related to student life (like halls of residence and dining halls), expansion of linkages between the University and institutions in the diaspora, and the establishment of an Egerton University Alumni Association Foundation, through which bright students with limited financial resources can receive support.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the team for making the unprecedented trip back to their alma mater. She emphasised that the event had opened a new chapter in the relationship between the University and its alumni. ■

Graduands Future Egerton Brand Ambassadors



Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo

On behalf of the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony.

The Directorate has six sections. These are: Communication and Marketing; Resource Mobilisation; Gift Shop; Bookshop; Alumni Relations; and the Director's Office.

Through the Communications and Marketing Department and the Gift Shop, the Directorate has interacted with the Egerton Fraternity in ensuring, among other things, that Egerton University as a brand is protected and promoted. You, today's graduands, will become our Brand Ambassadors as Alumni.

As envisioned in the University's Strategic Plan (2018–2023), our Alumni are among our key stakeholders, and as a Directorate we are at the forefront of fostering meaningful relationships with the Alumni through our Alumni Relations Office.

As part of its resource mobilisation

efforts, the University, through the Division of Research and Extension, has partnered with the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP). KCSAP is a Government of Kenya project, supported by the World Bank, under the State Department for Crops Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation. The project is being implemented in 24 counties located in the medium to high rainfall, semi-arid, and arid areas of Kenya, namely: Baringo, Bomet, Busia, Elgeyo Marakwet,

Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kakamega, Kericho, Kisumu, Laikipia, Lamu, Machakos, Mandera, Marsabit, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Siaya, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Uasin Gishu, Wajir, and West Pokot. The priority value chains of KCSAP are: cassava, green grams, sorghum, millet, pigeon peas, bananas, tomato, potatoes, apiculture, indigenous poultry, dairy, red meat, and aquaculture.

The Egerton University KCSAP draws experts from various units and projects within the University. ■



Egerton University has a well-established tradition of collaborating with other institutions of higher learning on training, research, consultancy, and extension. On 22 October 2019 the Vice-Chancellor, Egerton University, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, and the Executive Vice-President and Provost of Virginia Tech University, USA, Prof. Cyril Clarke, signed a Memorandum of Understanding through which the two institution will collaborate on the following: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Agri-business; Fisheries, Marine and Ocean Research; Engineering and Information Technology; Leadership, Partnership and Resource Building for Institutional and National Development; Place-based STEM Pedagogy; Agricultural Workforce Development (AWfD); and Information Communication Technology (ICT). The event took place at Virginia Tech University.

Academic Staff Trained in Pedagogical Leadership in Africa



Dr. Patricia Wambugu

On behalf of the Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA), I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate all graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony. You have made us proud for having the staying power and determination to get to this point. We believe that not only are you academic achievers but you also have a mark of quality that will distinguish you in the labour market.

DQA has continued to execute its core mandate of ensuring internal and external quality mechanisms in the University. The Directorate does this by conducting surveys such as the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and the Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE) in line with the Commission for University Education (CUE) Universities Standards and Guidelines (2014), PROG/STD/15. This has been further improved by the use of the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS).

DQA uses an online system of collecting data. The data is analysed and the evaluation reports prepared and sent

to individual lecturers/technologists through CoDs/Directors via the corporate email.

Other surveys that DQA has carried out in 2019 include the entry behaviour of the first-year students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. Data was collected using an online questionnaire during the orientation in September 2019 in both the Main Campus in Njoro and Nakuru Town Campus College. The main objective of the survey was to find out the quality of services offered during registration. The findings indicate that the majority of first-year students were satisfied with the services provided by the registration staff and that they were happy to be at Egerton University.

DQA also maintains quality and benchmarking requirements through analysis of reports by External Examiners (EE). DQA prepares a synthesised EE summary report, which is presented to the University Senate. The recommendations of the report, once approved by the Senate, are implemented by faculties and departments.

Academic programmes that have undergone a full cycle of implementation are required to undergo self-assessment. Deans of faculties, in consultation with CoDs, identify programmes that are due for evaluation and forward them to DQA.

The Directorate held a training session on the guidelines for self-assessment of programmes on 25 September 2019 for five teams of the identified programmes for the 2019/2020 Financial Year. The teams have already started carrying out the self-assessment of the programmes.

To ensure participation of stakeholders in matters related to internal

“DQA prepares a synthesised External Examiners summary report, which is presented to the University Senate. The recommendations of the report, once approved by the Senate, are implemented by faculties and departments.”

quality mechanisms, the Director of Quality Assurance addressed the executive of the Egerton University Students Association on Student Leadership and Quality Assurance during a sensitisation workshop held on 24 September 2019.

DQA was also involved in the Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL) training that was held in Nakuru town from 10 to 19 September 2019. The purpose of the training was to equip the teaching staff with knowledge, skills, and experiences in pedagogy; strengthen the talent pool for delivery of PedaL; and broaden the scope of University programmes using PedaL pedagogy.

DQA successfully coordinated the Regular Institutional Quality Audit of Egerton University, which was conducted by CUE from 15 to 17 October 2019. The purpose of the audit was to assess the extent to which the University has continued to uphold the goals and objectives for which it was established as per the University Charter. ■

I Was there at the Beginning

By Paul R. Nixon

Greetings to the Alumni at the Forty-First Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University! Congratulations on the hard work you have done. You have been given the tools; now put them to work.

I'm grateful that Egerton gave me the first tools that headed me in the direction of agriculture, setting my course in life when I was 17 years old, the right time to do it. It started me off on my career of thirty-three years working for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Agricultural Research.

World War II was not yet half over when the Egerton Farm School established a programme for an expected influx of returning white servicemen who would want to get into agriculture once the war came to an end. Participating in that programme was a perfect experience for me. I was born and raised in Kenya and was familiar with the environment but had no knowledge of the details of how crops were grown and livestock managed.

I was one of three young men who were recruited as sort of guinea pigs – a Dane, an Irishman, and a Yank – to help the staff develop a-learn-by-doing agricultural training programme. I hear that there is something like a myth now centred on “The First Three” students with whom the school started.

The three of us trainees were given the use of a new home which was nicely furnished. Perhaps it was intended for an instructor who couldn't be hired because of wartime shortages. The school hired a man as a cook and housekeeper for us. We three had no contact with the younger students at the junior secondary school which was part of the Egerton school-cum-training-farm.

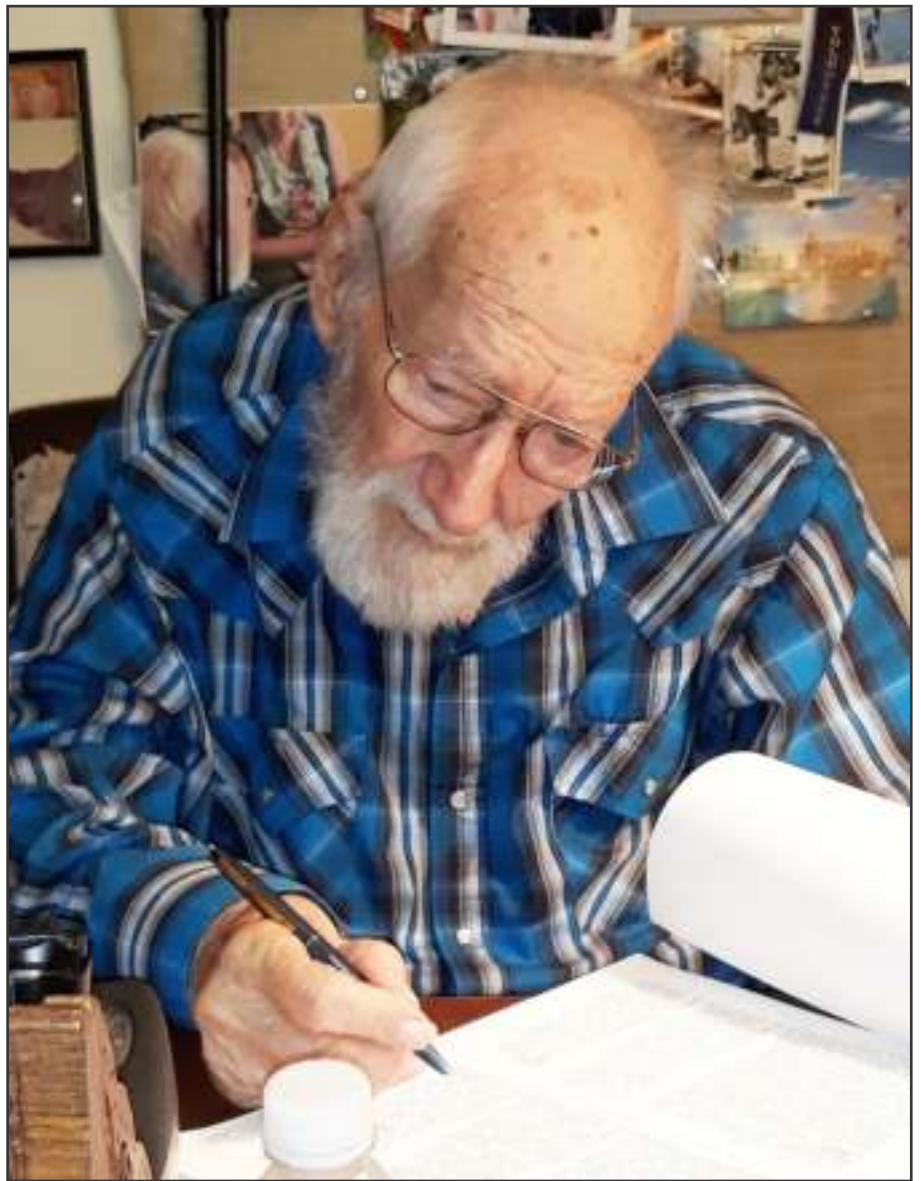
Since a big part of the training was the “doing”, the three of us worked

together on most projects. There were exceptions, like when we took turns at milking. A lot of our time was spent doing manual labour. But we also did “book learning”.

Economics is a vital part of successful farming. We discussed the rotation of crops, and the economics of various crops. We made estimates of

costs of various steps involved in growing and marketing of a crop or livestock. This included dealing with a bank, whether asking for a cash advance or a longer term loan. We had to make proper conversions in various systems of weights and measures.

Another big part was the understanding of the growth processes of



*Mr. Paul R. Nixon peruses a document at his home in Fredericksburg, Texas, USA.
(Photo courtesy of Mr. Nixon)*

plants and animals. We could barely touch the surface of this vast subject. I hope future students of a short course will keep their notes and be prompted to further study. Because of time limitations, we hardly dwelt on subjects like soils and weather, let alone any subjects worthy of Ph.D. dissertations.

My personal interest was in farm implements, particularly the school's Farmall tractor. I enjoyed tinkering with it, supposedly improving the timing of engine performance. We had a new Ford pickup truck to use on the job, and one of the other two trainees ran it off the muddy road into a bank. I think I was the principal's pet because, after that, he said that I was to be the only one to drive it.

I had brought my 3030 Winchester rifle to school with me and used it to kill meat for the table and to scare off game that raided our field crops.

Thinking back, I realise how valuable my six months at Egerton were in shaping my career. My first job was at the Menengai Estates wheat fields. I used what I learned at Egerton in duties such as keeping the threshers on combine harvesters in running order.

Next I went to work for the Kenya Soil Conservation Service (KSCS). Two of my special friends in the KSCS were Onesmus Musyoki, who went on to an outstanding career in soil conservation in Ukambani, and Peter Koinange, the son of a Kikuyu paramount chief. Sometimes on walks during off-duty hours I enjoyed wonderful discussions with these men who were secondary school graduates, which was not common in those days, and we all had a love for the land. They were several years older than I. We often talked about the need for preventing the land's deterioration by erosion from rainfall.

Another one of the people I worked with was a rod man on the surveying team, who was about my age. He and I also had many discussions, with each of us vigorously arguing our point of view. He pointed out the inequities in the treatment of the native people and the

unfairness of settlers' privileges, while I maintained the point of view of some wazungu. I sincerely regret that, as young as I was, I did not have a broader, more balanced understanding at the time.

I was an American citizen by birth, and registered for the draft when I turned 18, but was not called to service until over two and a half years later, when I was working for the KSCS. I worked as a surveyor in the US Army Aviation Engineers battalion, which was building and maintaining airfields in Egypt and Arabia.

At the end of World War II, I went to night school at Brooklyn High School in New York to finish my secondary training, and was accepted to college. Iowa State University was recognised as the premier agricultural training institution, so that's where I went for my Bachelor's degree. After working for the USDA Soil Conservation Service for two years, I returned to Iowa State for a Master's degree in agricultural engineering. Later in my career, I had the opportunity to go to Stanford University for a Master's degree in hydrology.

The first half of my career, which was in California, was in water management engineering, and the last half was in Texas, where I worked in remote sensing using aircraft and satellite data. In California, my principal duties were as leader of a court-ordered multi-agency study of ground water recharge in the Santa Ynez River lower basin. A large reservoir had been built on one side of a mountain range, and a tunnel dug to deliver water to counties on the other side. When I delivered the final report of the study's findings, I had worked myself out of a job.

In Texas, one activity was as Principal Investigator of the Heat Capacity Mapping Mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), using satellite data. Then, during the last several years of my career, I was at the USDA Subtropical Research Labs as research leader, where we were developing

techniques that related to ground, aircraft and satellite information, and their application to soils, climate, and cropping practices and problems. This included developing procedures for the coordinate use of satellite data systems. LANDSAT, NOAA-7, and GOES were state of the art at the time.

I went back to Kenya sixty years after leaving, found a population seven times what it was when I was there, and was pleased to see the changes that had taken place, even sky scrapers in Nairobi. What progress! Of course it also brought problems, starting with a growing population's strain on natural resources.

Compare the Kenya of the old days with today's where it seems everybody is wearing shoes and carrying phones. At our time, in the interior, there were no means of wheeled transport, roads or towns; there were digging sticks instead of jembes, no working for wages, no method of writing or numbering systems, no standard weights or measures, and no calendar. Kenya has come a long way since that period of history.

Now there is technology. Africans have not only grasped but also championed some of the technological innovations. Kenya almost skipped over landline phones and went straight to mobile, for example. All this speaks well for an ambitious people.

There's been such a big step in education. I'm thrilled that Egerton has developed into such an outstanding university, and it is due in large part to an excellent faculty and bright students driven by ambition who decide to come to it.

Egerton University's graduands of 2019 will spearhead Kenya's future. I hope that every one of you, in whatever you do and in whatever venue, will bring benefit to the people of Kenya and beyond, thereby bestowing honour upon Egerton University.

Once upon a Dream

By Sadru Nazarali

My early years bring for me memories of the hard struggle my parents waged to provide a living for our family. We lived in the village of Makuyuni, a tiny station on the railway line from Tanga to Moshi, and our sole possession was a small duka. We had no electricity, no running water, and we had to contend with a hole dug in the ground for a toilet. Our house provided no protection from the heat wave, which caused such a serious infection in my eye that I nearly lost my sight.

With little understanding of our circumstances, one day I asked my Dad: “Why do you always choose the last train on Sunday night for the trip from Tanga to Makuyuni?” “My son”, he said thoughtfully, “this is when the third class ticket is cheapest, as the train is almost empty. This is all we can afford.”

Despite the hardships, my parents dreamt of a different future for their children, and that meant giving them the best education. Spurred by their dream, I completed my Cambridge O-levels

(Grade 12). Moving ahead would have been difficult, but I was fortunate to qualify for an Aga Khan Scholarship. This took me to Egerton College in Kenya, where I enrolled in the class of 1965 to study Agriculture.

The freedom that college brought dazzled me. There I was, playing the guitar and Beatles music, becoming captain of the cricket team, partying in the Junior Common Room, and having fun travelling to Nakuru, Nairobi, and Mombasa. But lo and behold: At the end of my first year, I got the dreadful “Academic Warning”. The writing was on the wall: I could go home without completing college.

It was our new Principal, Dr. William Odongo Omamo, who saved me. One day while walking from lecture room A1 to the Administration Building, I heard a voice from behind: “My boys, have you finished your lectures? What are you going to do next?” He was so welcoming, concerned, and sincere that I became all attention. “You may have all the fun you want, but make sure you study hard. Be



Mr. Sadru Nazarali (left) at a Field Survey practical during his diploma studies at Egerton Agricultural College in 1965-1967 (All photos in the story courtesy of Mr. Nazarali)

careful not to waste your chance to become someone of substance and change your destiny. If I can help you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call on me”, was his advice. I instantly knew that I would never let him – and myself – down.

I concentrated on my studies, always driven ahead by the spirit of seriousness that prevailed at the College, and in the end I not only survived but triumphed. I received my diploma in 1967 at a graduation ceremony honoured by his Excellency President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya.

I was the first graduate of postsecondary education in my family history. My parents felt honoured and were greatly proud of me. But my success was accompanied by amazing responsibilities. The onus was now on me to help my family. I was lucky to get a job with a large farming conglomerate, Karimjee Jivanji Estates, at a tea



Mr. Sadru Nazarali (left) (with Mr. Azim Jaraj, Egerton alumnus, class of 1971-centre) being recognised for his work at the Aga Khan Development Network by His Highness the Aga Khan (right), in Karachi, Pakistan, in 1985

plantation in the Usambara Mountains in Tanzania. I soon qualified to attend the Tea Managers course at the Kericho Tea School, and became an Assistant Manager on the plantation, which had approximately 400 tea-pluckers and 100 field supervisors.

At home in Tanga, with my mother, who was blessed with a green thumb, we went into a seedling plant business as well as a home-based food processing business. Unfortunately, this exciting beginning was suddenly interrupted in a manner that had far-reaching consequences for our family and for the economy of Tanzania.

In late 1970 and 1971, as a consequence of nationalisation, many Asians lost their business assets, farms and plantations, and everything else we possessed. There was a group of Egertonians in Tanzania who had kept in close touch since graduation, and in the spirit of oneness built up over the years, we collectively decided to look for the proverbial greener pastures elsewhere. In the course of twelve months, ten of us landed in Canada, many finding home in Edmonton. Over the next five years we attracted other friends, besides bringing our parents and siblings.

Canada is a country with a strong



Mr. Sadru Nazarali with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada in Edmonton, in September 2019



Mr. Sadru Nazarali, as President of the Canada-Tanzania Business Council, hosts President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania during a Symposium in Toronto, Canada, on May 30 to 1 June 2014 held at the Royal York Hotel.

civil society, respect for democracy, and appreciation for pluralism. It also ensures security of property and business. We started building our new lives there. Over the years, we Egertonians flourished in business, politics, philanthropy, and global citizenship. Our children attended the best schools we could wish for and prospered too.

I have been involved in multiple business ventures, including financial planning, building a chain of retail stores, real estate development, coordinating international recruitment of professionals, and providing advice for other immigrant communities in business and real estate.

I was the first Edmonton Chapter Chair of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), an organisation which provides various types of assistance to the developing world. One of our first activities was to organise a partnership walk in Edmonton in 1985. From an initial number of 145 walkers we have now reached 4,000. These walkers get donation pledges for projects in various countries in Africa and Asia. Our collaborative work with the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, has been recognised by His Highness the

Aga Khan.

I was also instrumental in getting three Ismaili Centers established in Edmonton. I am presently involved in setting up a multigenerational housing for senior citizens near one of the Centres.

The Nazarali family has also been supporting political campaigns in Canada for the last forty years. This has led to close associations with many politicians, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada.

My joy of assisting development in Africa never stops. As President of the Canada-Tanzania Business Council, I was able to host President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania twice in Canada.

Building capacity for the youth has been another focus in my efforts, and I make sure that my generation as a whole takes pride in this endeavour. In this particular initiative, I have sought and found alignments with many similar organisations.

In all I do, I am deeply conscious of how Egerton College has taught me to resolve local issues with global solutions.

My Small Window to the World Opened Wide at Egerton College

By Shiraz Nasser

I was born in August of 1950 and did my primary and secondary schooling in Tanzania, and I completed Cambridge Grade 12 Examinations in 1966, with a First Division Pass. In my isolated small rural town of Dodoma (today, a big bustling town and the new capital of Tanzania), I had heard something about an eminent institution called Egerton Agricultural College in Kenya and fancied myself studying there. My dream became a reality when, with the help of the Aga Khan Department of Education (Tanzania), I secured admission for a three-year Diploma course in Agricultural Engineering at the College and a scholarship to cover the considerable expenses. To this day I have remained boundlessly grateful to my benefactors.

No one in my family knew anything about farming, as I was a town person and my parents were small-time shopkeepers. My parents were third-generation immigrants to Africa. My ancestors migrated from the Indian subcontinent in the late 1800s and early 1900s and established their roots in Tanzania. They worked hard to settle in the new country, facing language and culture barriers.

Arriving at Egerton College, my little closed world literally opened. I got to meet students not only from different towns and cities from across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, but also from many far-away countries of Africa. I loved to interact with them and learn their diverse cultures, histories, geographies, economics, politics, and food.

At the College, I gained a wealth of knowledge about agriculture. I learned from some of the finest lecturers there could possibly be, again from different

parts of the world. My lecturers were Ackland and Ngugi for Agriculture, Orie and Khan for Animal Husbandry, Pupius and Nguyo for Economics, and D'Costa and Mwangale for Soil Chemistry. Among my Agricultural Engineering lecturers were E. B. Collins, J. L. Wagner, C. R. Grafton, and Mr. Candelet (all from the USA). Capable demonstrators like Mr. E. G. Kihurani taught me welding, metalwork, and carpentry, while Mr. N. Reuben made me understand field surveying. Many of these great educators and experts are not alive today, but I am enormously thankful to all of them for having shaped me. I hope their souls are listening!

After joining the College, I felt that I was part of an elite community and had a proud sense of belonging. This identity has not eroded in me with the passing of

time. Without realising it, I was building a character, gaining confidence, and becoming a responsible adult.

During my time (1967–1969) Sir Michael Blundell was the Chairman of the Board of Governors and Dr. W. O. Omamo was our wonderful Principal and the first African Principal of the College. He had a great sense of humour and a larger than life personality.

Students at Egerton College had to study hard in all the three years of their respective programmes and maintain a high Grade Point Average (GPA). Failing to do so got one the dreaded “Academic Warning” and a resit of exams. Approximately 10-15 per cent of students would not return to College at the end of any given teaching semester due to academic under-performance.

I graduated with a Distinction



Mr. Shiraz Nasser receives an award for the Best Student in Agricultural Engineering, as a second-year student, from His Excellency Dr. Milton Obote, President of Uganda, on 29 November 1968, during Egerton College's Graduation Ceremony. (Both photos in the story courtesy of Mr. Nasser)

Diploma in Agricultural Engineering in 1969 and won many academic awards through the three years of my study. I was fortunate to have been selected to sit for the East African Diploma in Agriculture, whose exams were set at Makerere University, Uganda, which I also passed and thus graduated with two diplomas.

I remember all the pomp of graduation ceremonies. Guests of Honour were such personalities as His Excellency Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the President of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. Milton Obote, the President of Uganda, and the Honourable Derek Bryceson, the Minister for Agriculture, Tanzania. My sibling, parents and other family members attended my graduation. That was a great moment for our family.

In hindsight, choosing to study at Egerton College was one of the most wonderful decisions of my life, as besides receiving high quality academic education, the College equipped me with noble values and intangible tools to prepare me for the life ahead.

What do I remember most vividly? I remember sometimes rushing from class to class not to ever be late. I remember many College field trips during our study terms and particularly a major class trip to Uganda to visit the large commercial farm estates, many manufacturing industries, and the Hydro Dam on River Nile.

I loved the newly built sound-proof library: it had great ambiance and lighting, where we could study and access many reference books.

I remember the Junior Common Room (JCR), where we could relax and chill out in the evenings. We would watch popular TV episodes on a black and white television set. We would also watch different movies every Tuesday on a screen through a movie projector for a nominal movie club fee. I remember the College bus picking up and dropping students from campus to Nakuru and vice versa at the beginning and end of the semesters. The bus schedules for students were posted on the notice board close to the entrance of the “C”

Residence Hall. I remember, on weekends, many of us students walking from College Campus to Njoro and then taking a public bus to Nakuru. Sometimes we even hitchhiked and got rides from the College staff.

We appreciated the service of laundry one day a week, and having never to worry about washing and ironing our clothes. I remember the three daily meals served in the famous Kennedy Hall. It was compulsory to wear black gowns for dinner or no food would be served. I was not always impressed by the boiled potatoes and slabs of meat served repetitively for lunch and dinner. Breakfast was my favourite meal. An option of vegetarian food was eventually introduced at the request of Asian students.

I remember the only telephone kiosk outside “C” Hall. It was our sole emergency life-line for communication with our family back home. We had mail delivered on weekdays at noon near “C” Hall and would be looking forward to it. We would walk to the Njoro Post Office to use telegram services (30cts a word) for sending messages to our parents that we had arrived safely or sending festival greetings.

I remember the sombre mood in College in July 1969, when we heard about the assassination of one of the founding fathers of the Kenya nation, Cabinet Minister Hon. Tom Mboya.

After finishing Egerton College, I enrolled at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and got a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture with Honours and won various awards. I was honoured to have my Bachelor's degree conferred to me by President Dr. Julius K. Nyerere.

The degree truly opened a door for me to apply and be successful as a Lecturer in Soil Science at Egerton College, under the Head of Chemistry Department, Mr. A. M. D'Costa. The College secured my Kenya work permit. I enjoyed teaching at the College, where I had once been a student and was now respected as a young lecturer. It gave me great satisfaction. However, my teaching

job did not last long.

The milieu at that time in Tanzania and Uganda was very difficult for people of Asian origin. President Idi Amin had expelled all Asians from Uganda in August of 1972. In Tanzania, many properties belonging to Asians were nationalised by the government, and there was a lot of stress, anxiety and tension amongst the Asian community. Earlier, in 1964, there was a coup in Zanzibar, and many Asian civilians were robbed, women were raped by soldiers, and many were killed and expelled. My parents were very worried about our family's future.

Since I was one of the elder of six siblings, I had to make a big decision for my family. I applied to immigrate to Canada and was granted a landed Immigration Visa. Many Asians started leaving the East African countries for Canada, USA, UK, or Europe for their safety.

Settling, adjusting, and getting a job in a new country was very difficult. My breakthrough came several months after my arrival, in 1974, when I applied for an opening of a topographical field surveying position in a consulting engineering firm, in Toronto. The surveying skills I had acquired at Egerton College in my second year came to my rescue. This was my first job in the new homeland.

I worked for many years in the field, topo-surveying, sometimes in harsh and uncomfortable cold winter weather. I subsequently upgraded myself with many Civil Engineering Design courses at the Ryerson University and finally got my full Ontario Civil Engineering certification credentials.

I worked for 28 years for a renowned consulting engineering firm designing and constructing highways, airports, municipal roads and sewers, and railway tracks, as well as developing industrial sites for major companies like Ford Motors, General Motors, Caterpillar, Honda Motors, Hyundai Motors, Union Carbide, and CNR. I was also involved in Storm Drainage Design work, creating,



Mr. Shiraz Nasser (left) at the Geospatial Information Day in the city of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, on 15 November 2018. The Day is organised by his Department (Geospatial Solutions) to explain to city residents the infrastructure work done at the municipality for their benefit as taxpayers.

estimating, and administrating Design Tender Contract Documents for many infrastructure projects, and in computing volumes of earthworks.

Over the last 17 years, I have been working for the municipality of the City of Mississauga, in the Geospatial Solutions Unit, doing GPS, mapping and preparing contract drawings for capital works for the City.

I met and married my wife Tazim, also born in Tanzania, in Canada. As parents, our great success was raising our daughter Farah, who is today a renowned TV anchor with Global News, Toronto, and raising our son Latif, who currently works for the National Public Radio in USA, as Research Director. Latif's Ph.D. dissertation at Harvard University was on "The Tanganyika Laughter Epidemic". He spent a lot of time at the border towns of Uganda and Tanzania, to research and explore the laughing mystery of the late 1950s.

My most cherished achievement in Toronto was that I received the 30+ Years

Voluntary Service Award by the Ontario Government, Canada, for many small acts of kindness, leadership, and volunteerism in our community in Toronto.

I continue to inspire and motivate young members in our community, and I use my knowledge and long experience to uplift members of the community who are marginalised.

In 2015, I initiated teaming Egerton alumni across different major cities in Canada in walking, raising funds and awareness in the Annual World Partnership Walk, to alleviate global poverty and to raise the quality of life in parts of Africa and South Asia through the Aga Khan Foundation, Canada. The alumni are very supportive of this annual cause.

I was one of the founders and a co-chair of the first Grand North American Egerton Alumni Reunion (Classes of 1961 to 1974) in Toronto in 2005, which was attended by over 115 alumni and their spouses from all over Canada and

the USA. Subsequently, reunions in Vancouver – the Alaska Cruise reunion (2014), the Calgary Stampede reunion (2016), and the Aga Khan Garden-Edmonton reunion (2018) – were organised by other enthusiastic Egerton alumni leads, uniting the supportive alumni base. Earlier mini reunions of Egerton alumni were held for classes of 1961 and 1962 in the USA and Brazil.

The August 2019 Egerton alumni Legacy Safari Reunion was glorious. The visit was meant to celebrate and honour the late Dr. W. O. Omamo and the Gilani family at a Grand Banquet in Nairobi in the presence of the Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Hon. Amb. Raychelle A. Omamo, and the Omamo family, to meet other Kenyan alumni, and to visit the Egerton University, Njoro. We were returning to Egerton University, having been away for some 50+ years. We came from Canada, USA, and the UK. The University received us with amazing kindness and hospitality. We had arrived home. ■

From Egerton Students Union Vice-President to Presiding Officer in the Government of Alberta

By Shiraz Shariff

A good number of years ago, in 1973, I received a bursary from the Aga Khan Department of Education (Tanzania) to study Dairy Technology at Egerton College, as it was then known. I recall tracking from Moshi to Nakuru with Naushad Jan Mohamed, who had also received a bursary to study Agricultural Engineering and would thus be my college mate. Upon reaching Nakuru we looked for Mr. Alibhai Gilani. We had a confidence-building letter of introduction to him from his contact in Moshi. Mr. Gilani arranged to have his son take us to the college. I remember being dropped off just outside the Kennedy Hall, which would become our meal centre for the next three years. Everybody called it the Mess. We donned a gown every time we went to it for dinner. The greenery of Njoro with its crisp evening chill and fresh air was instantly welcoming.

I had heard numerous stories of Egerton College: of how it had begun as an agricultural school for children of colonial farmers; how, in 1961, the college had opened its doors to students of colour; and how elitist it had been in the colonial-era treatment of its students. Every evening the students left their shoes outside their room to have them polished for next morning and dropped their dirty clothes in a bag to have them washed and ironed. None of these privileges existed in 1973. However, the pristine environment and pride in upkeep were evident. I was assigned a corner room at Old Hall and marvelled at the flowers and green shrubs growing outside my window. The magical atmosphere

inspired me to write a few poems.

By 1973 the College had built a reputation for itself throughout Africa, and there were students from all over the continent in its various programmes. I came across and interacted with students from Nigeria, Botswana, and Tanzania, all of whom were in the Dairy Technology



Mr. Shiraz Shariff (left), Vice-President of the Egerton Students Union, together with the Union's President, Mr. U.A. Salau (centre), and Treasurer Moez Fazal, during the 1974–1975 academic year (Both photos in the story courtesy of Mr. Shariff)

programme with me. The Guildford Institute of Dairy Technology was established with funds from overseas donors. We even had professors from Denmark (Mr. Hanson) and India (Mr. Bhanumurti) on the faculty along with Kenyans such as Dr. Peter Shalo, who was the Chairman of the Department of Dairy Technology.

By 1974 I had become quite involved with student advocacy and successfully ran for the position of Vice-President of the Egerton Students Union (ESU). Mr. U. A. Salau of Nigeria was elected as President, and Mr. Moez Fazal of Tanzania was elected as Treasurer. We put in a lot of effort to develop the Junior Common Room (JCR), a recreational centre for students and a party place with a lounge for entertainment. ESU made profits from the JCR



Mr. Shiraz Shariff as Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Government of Alberta, Canada, where he served between 1995 and 2008

canteen, and the money was used for celebrating year-end events and Christmas parties. It was at such functions that the students were able to socialise and make friends.

Upon graduation in 1976 with a Diploma in Dairy Technology, I made applications to the agricultural faculties of the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, the University of Iowa in the USA, and the University of Guelph in Canada. It felt great to be admitted to all three universities. This success was a confirmation of the recognition Egerton College had achieved on the international academic stage. I accepted the University of Guelph because of the scholarship I was offered. However, I ended up doing my undergraduate and graduate studies in Social Work at the University of Calgary.

Calgary is a city at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada, which is home to my family. In 1995 I ran in a by-election for public office as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the Government of Alberta and served for four successful terms from 1995 to 2008. At the beginning of each term the MLAs elected from among themselves three Presiding Officers – the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Chair of Committees. For two of my terms I was also elected by my peers as Deputy Chair of Committees. It did not take me long to realise that the skills I had built as Vice-President of ESU had prepared me well for the leadership role I assumed in Alberta.

During my days as an MLA I worked on projects of Good Governance in various parts of the world, and especially in South Africa, which had just dismantled the apartheid establishment. Alberta had twinned with the Province of Mpumalanga, formerly Central Transvaal of South Africa, and I worked on building capacity in the senior bureaucracy of that province. We had identified ten departments to which we provided mentors and training at the University of Alberta. President Thabo Mbeki acknowledged to me the positive impact our mentorship programme was having on the new cadre in the Mpumalanga government.

When in August of 2019, after 46 years for me and 58 years for the first interracial class, some of us alumni had a reunion at Njoro, I was deeply moved to re-live the memories of my youth, all of which were invigorating and a source of pride. The University was a most generous host. We are grateful to it as we also pay tribute to the memory of Dr. William Odongo Omamo, the first African Principal of the College which has given to the world thousands of agricultural practitioners.

My Journey from the Lecture Hall to Biovision

By David Mulama Amudavi

“I would like you to bring that cap home”, my father whispered to me as he guided me to a spot from which I could best follow the graduation ceremony at the University of Nairobi in 1984. I was one of my dad's ten children, and, with the foresight he possessed regarding the power of education, he wanted all of us to do well in school. Soon, I became the subject of his particular encouragement as he had discerned an academic interest and thirst for knowledge in me. Today I am what I am because of his vision for me. My father's words sank deep into my

sterling performance as the best O-level candidate at Kakamega High School. Those days Kakamega High was renowned for its great football team, the Green Commandos, who still play today. I marvelled at the wonders they performed on the field, but mostly focused on my academic assignments.

The day my dad took me to Alliance is etched in my memory. This was the school I had longed to join ever since I had scored 3 A's in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Examinations – the school that would make me “strong to

coaching, mentorship and guidance by Egerton dons, including the late Prof. Wycliffe Ong'ondo, Prof. Joash Kibett, Prof. Nephath Kathuri, and Prof. Christopher Onyango. When time came for teaching practice, I went to Moi High School, Kabarak, together with my colleague, the late Dr. Mary Chepkite Lopokoiyit. As for my field attachment, it was in Nyandarua County, where I shared a room with two other students, one of whom is now a high school principal and the other a senior agricultural economist in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Going through various courses of my programme, referred to as AGED, shaped my professional future. We would be up at 4am, dressed in aprons and gumboots, to start Livestock Procedures, which we called Livestock Duties. Dealing with poultry, sheep, goats, and milking dairy cows manually and with the use of machines made me appreciate the value of hands-on experience. I was thrilled to learn to drive and operate a farm tractor under the direction of Prof. Godfrey Ngunjiri and his team in Agricultural Engineering. Prof. Louis Mumera taught us to keep time. If you came to his class late, he would stop teaching until you, the unpardonable wrongdoer, left the room. This instilled in me a great sense of discipline.

Life on campus was exciting and generally free of trouble. The Higher Education Loans Board allowance we were given, the famous “boom”, was sufficient to meet all our basic needs. The food was excellent. We used to have a wonderful breakfast with quality tea, bread, sausages, and fruits. A sense of community developed among us as we shared our delicious meals.

On completion of my undergraduate studies, I had the option of teaching Agriculture and Biology in a high school or joining agricultural



Dr. David Mulama Amudavi (right) with Biovision Farmer Communication Programme Advisory Board Chair, Mr. John Njoroge of the Kenya Institute of Organic Farming visit one of the Biovision outreach projects in Kirinyaga County, on 14 December 2017. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Amudavi)

consciousness. The more I thought about them the more I was convinced that nothing could stop me from making them a reality. Sadly, my father did not live long enough to experience the pride of my having acquired three “caps” – from Kenya, Australia, and North America.

That momentous graduation took place just before I joined Alliance High School for my A-level following a

serve”.

I completed my studies at Alliance and gladly accepted my second choice for my higher education (the first had been medicine) – that of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and Extension at Egerton University. This turned out to be a great bi-professional programme in agriculture and education that saw me benefit from the great

extension with the Ministry of Agriculture or a related institution. I chose teaching, and in June 1990 the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) posted me to Lumakanda Girls in Western Kenya. However, as graduation approached, I was both surprised and proud to be offered the position of Teaching Assistant in my Department of Agricultural Education and Extension. This was on account of the first class honours degree I had obtained and the strong grade in the dreaded Grade Point Aggregate (GPA) system. By 1 October 1990 I was back at Egerton as a “TA”. Transiting from a student to a university academic staff member so quickly inspired me beyond measure, and I could see myself becoming a professor one day! I was now “material” for staff development. I did not disappoint.

Within one year, I was awarded a scholarship from Australia's Equity and Merit Scholarship Scheme (EMSS). I joined Melbourne University for a Master's programme, which I successfully completed. In addition, it was while at Melbourne that I met the young woman who would become my wife.

In 1994, I returned to Egerton and continued teaching my favourite subjects – Agricultural Extension, Rural Sociology, Technical Report Writing, and Communication Skills.

Within three years, I became a lecturer.

Teaching with a Master's degree at the University was not good enough for me, nor did the University encourage it. I had always wanted to study either in the United States or Europe for my doctorate. My strong academic background, established by Egerton University and buttressed by Melbourne University, saw me land a Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship in 2001 to pursue a doctorate in Adult and Extension Education with minors in Developmental Sociology and Natural Resource Management (NRM) at Cornell University, USA. I obtained my Ph.D. degree and returned to Egerton

University in 2005.

Soon after, in July 2006, I undertook a two-year postdoctoral fellowship with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), under their project “Creating Smallholder-Led Growth through 'Push-Pull' Technologies in Eastern Africa”. As part of my work on this project, I supervised two Ph.D. and five Master's students.

The postdoctoral opportunity triggered a life-changing turn in my career. I was suddenly faced with a dilemma: Should I continue teaching or should I join ICIPE as a senior scientist? If I settled for ICIPE, I would coordinate a Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) and start a new organisation around it. After considerable thought, I left teaching. I have not regretted my decision.

In 2011, I started the Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) based at ICIPE, in Kasarani, Nairobi. As the Executive Director I oversee the running of all its programmes in Kenya and Africa. The organisation runs an FCP, to promote food security, economic growth, and environmental stability. It disseminates information and knowledge to farmers through multiple channels, which include Infonet-Biovision (a web-based knowledge platform); The Organic Farmer Magazine; The Organic Farmer Radio (TOF Radio), which airs agricultural news on KBC and some vernacular stations; Mkulima Mbunifu, a farmers' magazine for Tanzania; and outreach programmes with farmer resource centres in 13 counties in Kenya. We put effort into facilitating the sharing of information, knowledge, and experiences from farmer-to-farmer, and experts-to-farmers and vice-versa.

Through my organisation I coordinate the African Union-supported Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative implemented in nine countries in Africa (i.e. Benin, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda). The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream EOA into national agricultural production

systems by 2025 to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets, and sustainable development in Africa. I also oversee the Secretariat of the Continental Steering Committee providing oversight to the continental initiative on behalf of the African Union Commission. I coordinate the Knowledge Centre on Organic Agriculture in Africa for the Eastern Africa region currently covering Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The goal of the project is to ensure knowledge hubs are successfully introduced as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture in West, East, and Southern Africa.

I have alliances in promoting genuine sustainable agriculture that go beyond Africa. In this regard I was elected member of the World Board of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) – International Organics. The 10-member team is charged with overseeing and supporting IFOAM's work in growing the global organic marketplace, communicating the benefits of organic agriculture, training organic leaders, and facilitating capacity-building for organic farmers.

Though currently working at the interface of research, practice, and policy, I continue to connect with academia through supervision of graduate students and undertaking of the role of an external examiner for Ph.D. and Master's theses from various universities in East Africa.

I will forever be indebted to Egerton University for my versatility, disposition, strength, and resilience to serve in many capacities while working with farmers, researchers, practitioners, academics, policymakers, and development partners not only in Kenya but also across our great continent and the globe.

Long live Egerton University!

Beyond the “Ivory Tower”: My Experience as a County Executive

By Catherine Kitetu

A telephone call I received on 14 May of 2013 was to mark the trajectory of my professional life from the known path of being a lecturer to the unknown path of working in the Government for the next five years. The call, from a total stranger, simply told me to prepare for an interview at the headquarters of the Nakuru County offices.

I had some misgivings about whether to attend the said interview, although I had somewhat hesitantly put in an application earlier. My misgivings were based on the fact that scholars do not engage much with government and politics. Career means a single rigid profession, right? Was I about to betray years of effort in scholarship by doing something different?

But then again, the state of affairs whereby the university is perceived as aloof from society and government to be what they call an ivory tower bothered me. I was saddened by the fact that many theses and dissertations lie on university shelves and are not given practical application.

And so, with the encouragement of my spouse, who explained that the County Government was a different establishment from the old *Kanjo* famed for its fights in the chambers (this was another source of my misgivings), I opted to venture out.

At the interview I looked at the faces of all the people I was meeting and noted that I did not know any. There was no way I would have met them before, since my operations had been within the university throughout my career. Of course there was a time I was contracted to adjudicate some essay writing competition by primary school children, where they wrote on how to save the environment. It had been funded and hosted by the Nakuru Municipality and the foundation of the Nobel laureate, the late Prof. Wangari Maathai. Beyond this little input, however, I had had no other engagement with the Municipal Government – and even on that competition day, after I had finished my duty of presenting the results and names of the winners, I had not waited

to shake the hand of that famous Nobel laureate, as she had been kept engaged by politicians till late.

The interview went well, and I was told I was one of the chosen few. However, I received no communication, and my name did not appear on the list of those who were presented at the County Assembly for verification. The Speaker of the Assembly noted this anomaly of missing names and put in questions to the Governor to explain. After much talk – and even court cases in that new Government – the names left out were finally listed for vetting in November, six months later.

I received another call to attend the vetting at the County Assembly – set for 15 November 2013.

My misgivings about this position were now heightened – because of all that acrimony and politics that was now noised between the Executive and the Assembly. The whole idea of vetting was new to me as a scholar. Whether vetting achieves anything, seeing everything is so politicised, is a debate to engage in separately.

My name was put in the newspaper regarding the vetting, and I received many

calls of encouragement from friends who had read the same.

On the set date I went for the vetting. I met, for the first time, the other four new members whose names had also been left out of the initial list. We all did well in the vetting, and the swearing into office was done on 20 November.

I met the Governor for the first time on that day. The ceremony was quite another new thing to me. Members to be sworn in came with hordes of their villagers to support and do ululations. Being the scholar I am, it had not occurred to me as something necessary to have supporters present. Additionally, my home village is far from Nakuru.

On hind thought I should have asked members of my church to come, since all that ululation was a political statement.

Immediately after being sworn in we were sent for training on how to be state officers.

There are two arms of the County Government: the Executive and the Assembly. The Executive has two tiers of workers: the civil servants and the state workers. State workers are the mind behind the programmes and policies of



Prof. Catherine Kitetu during the swearing in of the new Nakuru County enforcement officers (Photo courtesy of Prof. Kitetu)

government. The state officers leave office at the next election or earlier if the Governor steps down. This was the downside of these positions in that they have no security of tenure. The civil servants, specifically the Chief Officers, are the hands-on workers and the signatories for the ministries/departments, and in the County they are on contract.

Having fulfilled all the requirements, I got into office. It was a completely different ball game. There were many challenges for me as a university don who was used to clear timetables, time lines, and schedules.

The position of County Executive posed challenges which ranged from the politics to being new and unknown – I knew nobody literally. In the Ministry of Education the needs were many, from children needing school fees, to small children going to school hungry, to dilapidated classrooms, and to street children, among other needs. In the Public Service Management Ministry, where I was transferred to after a year, there were challenges of the human resource kind. I was required to bring harmony between the workers of the defunct municipality and the new workers of the County.

It was also the responsibility of my ministry to deal with the public, and I dealt with all emerging issues, from floods to angry/hungry *mwanaanchi*, to riots – name it.

My academic certificates and the technical aspects of my area of study and teaching, i.e. Languages and Linguistics and its inherent theories, were now put to the test outside academics.

The soft skills within this discipline, which I honed in my postgraduate studies and which I practised in the appointments at Egerton University, came to my aid. The reading/writing and analytical skills helped me to quickly read and understand the Constitution and the Schedules of the new entities called Counties.

As a County Executive, I quickly set out to write Regulations. I wrote six.

Regulations are different from Policies in that they have the effect of law and are made to get people to comply and follow specific practices. Regulations made were, for example, the Bursaries Regulations, Sports Fund Regulations, Polytechnics Regulations, the Nakuru

Players Theatre Regulations, and the Integrity Document signed by state officers and senior civil servants, among others.

Communication skills, interpersonal skills, pro-activeness and independent work skills came in handy in dealing with issues of writing and speech making, the dress code, dealing with workers and people from different backgrounds and ethnicities, the educated and the uneducated, conducting myself in different environments, writing cabinet memoranda (official documents presented to the cabinet requiring joint decision), and much more.

What was my take-away from working at the County Government? Were my initial concerns of the university being an ivory tower founded?

I realised that quite a few academicians had ventured into government and industry. I was not a lone wolf as I feared. Also, Egerton University was pursuing various programmes in conjunction with the County – like the Mau Cross Country. But there was still more that the University could do for it to make its presence felt.

The problem was that the two entities did not participate collaboratively in programmes taking place on either side even when they were publicised. The County budget open to citizen participation was one key area where the University could engage with the County Government on development projects proposed but never did. In terms of research, the County Government hardly consulted academicians, and neither did the academicians expose their research findings to the Government.

I salute the Egerton Management team, who came to have an audience and discussions with the County Governor during my tenure; however there was little follow-up on the issues discussed.

I reported back to Egerton at the end of my term grateful for all that I had learnt at the Government. My IQ and EQ were truly sharpened. Every day as County Executive I dealt with varied issues and persons. There were no days that were similar in matters needing attention. Indeed the government and the university are two different entities with different mandates. The focus of the government is

on programmes on the ground, such as building roads, schools, hospitals, water facilities, and so forth, while that of the university is teaching/training and research.

The government receives trained staff from the universities, but, depending on their levels, they are retrained in various courses, such as supervisory, managerial, and leadership positions at the Kenya School of Government.

Fortunately, all those years of university training put me in good stead to handle the demands of work of various kinds in government. The postgraduate level courses I had taken, in particular, gave me an added advantage. Higher-level degrees normally put one through tough rigours of thinking. Doing a dissertation is no child's play. From getting the problem of research, to collection and sorting of data, to the writing and presentation of the thesis and articles for publication – all these give one unique skills and abilities, which enable one to survive in different professions.

The skills available at the postgraduate level – such as taking initiative, presenting information to large audiences, negotiation, designing practical solutions, and even project management – are invaluable.

I survived the politics and everything else found in a County Government Executive, and I did well, largely because of the training and work experience I had accumulated at Egerton, where, as a member of staff, I had also trained on ISO certification practices.

Finally, therefore, I am persuaded that I did not betray the years of effort in scholarship into doing something different and unrelated. I believe I utilised my potential in the most positive way. I relied upon the skills I had learnt in my alma mater – the University of Nairobi, the University of East Anglia (UK), and Lancaster University (UK) – as well as in my employment at Egerton University. I thank the University not only for affording me the ground from which I have practised my training but also for showing me that I have what it takes. I also thank Egerton for giving me the leave of absence for the job in government.

We are One Strong Army of Achievers



Prof. Alexander K. Kahi

Once again, we assemble as one strong army of achievers in this journey of the acquisition of an education. This particular race was not necessarily cut out for the swift, and neither was the battle only for the strong nor the favour exclusively for the skilful. We witnessed students who endured through it all with just some little faith, determination and an illuminating dream to come through to the other end as masters of their craft. It is for this reason that we grace this occasion with pomp, colour, joy, and deep reflection over the far we have all come. The race has been tiring, rough, and outright challenging, but we emerged victorious! If this is not enough to call for a celebration, then I do not know what is.

On behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, I am honoured to congratulate you on your graduation. You have made a mark for yourselves, the forthcoming generations, and everybody who vested hope, faith and optimism in you. From the diploma to the doctorate graduates, you are all living through a very defining moment in your lives. Congratulations!

Dear graduates, as you are awarded with diplomas and conferred with Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees in different disciplines, we would like you to know that we are truly honoured to share in this celebration with you. We, without fail, appreciate the effort put into your work not only

by your lecturers but also by all other support systems within Egerton University. They had an irreplaceable role in moulding professionals out of you. This was a role they took with a warm heart and worked on till completion.

We also take pride in the input of the parents, guardians and everyone else who helped in creating the fine individuals we are celebrating today. Your input has been very instrumental. Without all your collective effort, it goes without saying that this celebration would have been unattainable.

In order to continue refining our graduates into individuals befitting the professional market, the Division of Academic Affairs has, through the years, put in place platforms that empower our students. We have continued to vouch for and oversee the timely administration of quality education. The numbers do not lie. Egerton University ranks among the top institutions of higher learning in Kenya and beyond for offering quality education. We have in the past produced, and we continue to produce, professional individuals, who compete favourably in the fields they enter into. We often get positive feedback from employers and leaders in the industry that the workforce we present to the world is of good quality.

As the times change, with policies regarding education taking shape, we are also proud to share that the Division is on track towards the development of competence-based curricula (see story on page 22). Egerton University has been at the forefront in this regard since 2017. The world is diversifying in various aspects, including the professional field. We are moving with this change by imparting in our students first-class education. This competence-based education brings forth individuals who are ready to get integrated into the professional world.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that a great number of students come from all over the world to advance their postgraduate studies with us. This is because the education we offer is top of the line. We offer an array of competitive courses, which avail our students with the technical knowhow that they convey to the outside world.

Concerned with holistic growth, we encourage student participation in extra-curricular activities, among them clubs, societies, charitable endeavours, and sports. It is pleasing to say that they have always flown our flag high, because, evidently, the acumen we nurture in them has determined their winning

ways. We have also created platforms for the breeding of an entrepreneurial spirit in the students, especially by allowing more of them to run businesses on campus. This works to empower the students both financially and entrepreneurially.

In the field of service delivery, we have developed an application that assists the students, staff, alumni, and guests to gain access to information and essential services offered by the University (see story on page 25). This has set precedence for the incorporation of technology in everything we deal with.

As far as technological advancements are concerned, we have also streamlined fee payment services – through the M-Pesa platform – thereby improving efficiency in service delivery.

The graduation application process has also been made paperless. We have also switched our identification cards to a more tech-savvy smart card, one that uniquely identifies a student and doubles as an ATM card through which the students can access and manage their finances.

Through the years we have always gone to the far-flung regions of our country to motivate the young students in primary schools and secondary schools to join university, more so Egerton University. We believe that by doing so we give them a reason for looking forward to a greater future.

Parallel to that, we have hosted professionals like the Educational Management Society of Kenya (EMSK) and other educational enthusiasts, who have equipped us with the necessary skills to impart the best kind of education our students need.

We have also worked with several development partners in providing scholarships and grants to our students. This

goes to show how much effort we are putting into streamlining the students' stay with us.

“You don't have to be a genius or a visionary to be successful”, Michael Dell, founder and CEO of Dell Technologies, once said. “You just need a framework and a dream.” Many great people who came before and after him have lived by this principle, and it worked well for them. They held onto their dreams and the little hope they had that everything would turn in their favour when the world became cold, dark, and unforgiving. But how good can things get for us? We are at an advantage because, added to the framework and dreams we all hold dear today, we have academic capabilities to top them up. We boast of the knowhow on the ability to integrate all these aspects in order to become successful.

In conclusion, I wish to leave you with the assurance that there are chances that you will stumble on something of value when you least expect it. I never heard of anyone ever stumbling on anything while sitting down. It is for this reason that I urge you to keep the walk, because the journey has just but begun. Maintain the effort, ask more questions, and create opportunities in the world, where they are few and far-between. Be good ambassadors of this great institution, and make the best of the little things we have imparted in you. Inscribe it in your soul that what lies behind you and what lies before you are tiny matters compared to what lies within you!

I once again congratulate you for the far you have travelled to be feted today. You have a whole world in front of you to conquer!

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EGERTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

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

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

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

MASTER PROGRAMMES

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

DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Master Degree in related field

NJORO (MAIN CAMPUS)

NAKURU TOWN CAMPUS COLLEGE

E-CAMPUS

For further information on specific programmes and their requirements,
kindly visit the University website www.egerton.ac.ke or application.egerton.ac.ke

Egerton at Forefront of Competence-Based Education

By Patricia Wambugu and Alexander K. Kahi

The educational system in Kenya has changed to competence-based education (CBE). Universities have about six years, with the allowance of curriculum approval stages, to be ready to operationalise it at the university level.

Egerton University has already started to train staff on CBE. The third training for Deans and Directors, and the equipping of CBE champions, was held in the Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business (CoELIB) on 22–26 October 2019. This activity was carried out by the Directorate of Quality Assurance and supported by the Division of Academic Affairs and CoELIB through its networks of international CBE experts.

The first two trainings, conducted in 2017 and 2018, aimed at the understanding of CBE and its main features – as well as coming up with the core competences for Egerton University graduates. An Egerton University graduate should be a communicator, who has a message that s/he effectively delivers to a target audience to produce desired outcomes; an entrepreneur, who is innovative, resilient, self-motivated, and willing to take risks, and who possesses legal, financial and technological literacy to deliver services for social-economic development; an ethically responsible person, who has the ability to recognise, interpret and act according to the set principles and values of an institution in an inclusive way; and a subject expert, who has content and contextual knowledge, research skills, the ability and motivation to stay up to date, and is authoritative and technologically savvy in the discipline.

Evidence from prior training indicates that most courses at the University already contain knowledge, skills, and formations of attitude, but that these should be made more pronounced. CBE requires close collaboration with the labour market, and the University is up to date with what the labour market demands and with the wishes of Egerton University graduates. The demands and wishes in question should be reflected in the competence-based curriculum framework that was to be developed in the

third training.

The third training initially focused on the operational definition of the core competences and on describing the performance indicators for each and every level of study at Egerton University. The need to come up with the type of competence-based assessment that would be most appropriate for the Egerton University context was discussed. Particular focus was given to problem-based learning and assessment. The participants were trained on the integration of the competences in a programme and the constructive alignment of the learning outcomes, learning activities, and the assessments.

Participants defined the four competences of an Egerton University graduate in such a way that the champions used the definitions as a starting point for the drafting of the competence-based curriculum framework.

The last two days of the training were committed to the champions developing the curriculum framework and the action plan. In the curriculum framework, each competence was defined and the performance indicators developed as follows: Competence: Definition, Performance Indicators, at the Foundation level (Year 1); at the Developing level (Year 2); at the Proficiency level (Year 3); and at the Expert level (Year 4).

The framework will be rolled out in the training of all the lecturers, and it is hoped that each will be able to achieve the following objectives: 1) to explain the purpose of competence-based education and the main features; 2) to indicate the required core competences for graduates from their department/faculty and describe performance indicators for each stage or year of the education programme for the four competences; 3) to define learning outcomes that include knowledge, skills, and attitude; and 4) to draft a competence-based assignments/assessments that correspond with the Egerton University leavers' profile and competences.

Dr. Patricia Wambugu is the Director of Quality Assurance at Egerton University; Prof. Alexander K. Kahi is the DVC (AA). ■

Bursts of Life and Colour

By Andanje Sarowiwa

Sitting in a commuter vehicle that morning bound for Nakuru, I pondered over how colourful campus life would be. I randomly spotted a subconscious smile from all the illumination in my imagination. I harboured thoughts of how I would attend a single class in a week and spend the rest of the days wooing girls and having the time of my life.

At that time, in 2015, those of us who were joining campus had all these twisted fantasies of how relaxed campus life was. At least that was what we had heard from people we had come across or knew from our own beliefs.

I entertained images of how I would grow a full beard by my second year and pull all the damsels in my direction with my gait and aura. I had dreams of how I would walk out the other side with a First Class Honours degree and an enviable suave to show for it. How all these would happen in a single time frame, I didn't care to know! All I had in my possession were dreams, Ksh.2,500.00 in my pocket, and a suitcase. Nothing would stop me.

As it turned out, expectations and reality did not sit at the same table.

I am one of those guys who was handed self-responsibility at quite a tender age. I did a lot of things on my own, thanks to a religious mom who guided us by the cane. Coming all the way to a new town all on my own was the least of my worries. I was now free to explore the world, if only I could make it there on time. I was anxious.

Expectations vs. Reality

Egerton University was harsh to me during my initial days. For starters, the weather on campus was unforgiving sometimes. Due to this,

I was hit head-on by hell-bent malaria the very day I landed for admission. Mind you, I was by myself. I literally slept through a shiver on my first night after a long day of dragging my suitcase through excruciatingly long queues and neatly trimmed grass lawns.

Secondly, I didn't know anything about life outside class prior to my arrival. The little money I thought would buy the universe was slowly gobbled up by supplies and utensils. By then the school had cooking units called kitchenettes, with electric coils where we could cook a two-day meal, so it meant I had to buy foodstuff and what have you. I was down to Ksh.500.00 in a snap.

The kitchenettes turned out to be many a student's closest friend through their stay in school. The ones who had a heavier pocket lived outside school, so cooking was the last of their problems. The small room always spit people to the verandahs outside in wait for the guy in line to get done preparing their corn meal (*ugali*) and silver cyprinid (*omena*). This was the cheapest protein we could afford besides eggs. Anyone who cooked beef was given a guard of honor on their way out of the kitchenette. Those who made fish were knighted, while those who touched chicken were worshiped. We were living on a bare minimum in order to survive the next day and the day after that. I remember running dry on the little money I had and called home for a refill only to be shell-shocked by a “don't they give you food in school?” for a reply. In that moment, I knew that things were not what I thought they were.

About-face

I lived through the harsh times anyway. I got used to seven mathematical units in a semester,

being called a “fresher”, and having my heart broken into so many fragments I could barely patch it together anymore. I remember meeting the lady who broke my little heart for the first time along the school's walkways after the ordeal. I often wished the ground beneath me would break open and gobble me. I was on another level of resentment but that – like the many other challenges that came my way – passed on with the times.

Change is something we can't live without as human beings. When and how we adapt to it makes all the difference in the fulfilment of life. The dynamic shift of life from teachers breathing down your neck back in high school to a more relaxed environment on campus – where the conviction of missing class was so loud – came with its toll. This change inflicted culture shocks of variable degrees on students. Missing class to do non-beneficial stuff like drinking booze and tethering around girls' hostels was commonplace. So easy was it that you didn't meet any conflict of interests in your thought process while doing so.

It was very easy to drop the ball.

For me, it was a challenge to keep a straight mind for academia, especially when I was unsure of what I was going to eat that night – whether I would pass that continuous assessment test that ripped the senses out of my head earlier that day or whether or not I could wish away the idea of being broke and having exactly nothing I could do about it. I was often a step away from giving up but somehow I found the strength in me to push back that temptation. I saw it wise to keep myself preoccupied with other things so as not to sink in the ocean of my own thoughts.

I found refuge in music and writing. I sang so much and wrote so much I often woke up to multiple feelings of me being

the second Jackson Biko or a sturdier version of Brian McKnight. On other occasions I was awash with the idea of being a renowned statistician, throwing numbers at people's faces like nobody's business. IPSOS hadn't seen me coming! Since my admission to Egerton University to undertake a major in statistics, I had lived to serve tea to so many ideas about the future I would have loved to own that I often get lost in them every time I entertained them. I saw this as a sign of something good. It meant that Egerton University availed a platform for me to explore my widths and depths. So broad were these platforms that I often got spoilt for choice. The talent space was expansive and allowed everyone to express themselves as wildly as they could. You could toss a pebble to the sky and it could sure land on a man or woman of art of any form.

The Beauty of Friendship

Through the journey of life, we meet people who turn out to be blessings in their coming in. Some are a blessing in their departure. You don't want to be the second kind.

In so many ways, the former made my time on campus painfully short: the friends I shared a rickety bed with waiting for a humble portion of rice to cook over an equally rickety stove, as well as the ones with whom I shared a much-needed laugh when the world around us wanted us to drown in tears really made life worthy of living.

I remember one particular instance when my roommate and I were locked out of the room with our third roommate who sought to have the time of his life with his lady friend. Another friend of ours was also having it rough with his roommates blocks away, and so the three of us joined two of our mutual friends who shared a house for the night. On that day, the five of us shared a pot of fried rice and a bed. However, that was not the end. We shared more and more nights on that same bed until one day, it finally gave up

and caved in with us on it. The floor became the new bed with half a foot of the wooden frame standing guard around us. But that never deterred us. We slept anyway, as peaceful as ever.

Miracles

Sometimes luck works in our favour. Sometimes resolve does. Sometimes both luck and resolve do the trick. Well, other times, it is nothing short of a miracle. One fine afternoon, when the blue sky, spotted with clouds, tucked behind the bluish horizon, I got a call to proceed to the bank and have my fee balance cleared out. Tuition had been a huge problem for me through the years, so, to have that problem resolved was a miracle. I had this huge fee balance in surplus of Ksh.27,000.00 that was a dead end for me because things at home were not working out yet I had to clear the amount in order to sit exams. Having someone do that for me – pay my fees – was incredible. The fact that this someone did not know me closely yet still went ahead to save me was what moved me beyond measure. It wasn't the last time it happened. I visited the miracle-maker again when I hit rock bottom, and he repeated the miracle without hesitation. Through that period of scarcity, I couldn't count the number of students who had to halt their studies because they did not have any means to pay their tuition. Yet here I was getting help for nothing in return. To this day, I believe meeting Prof. Alexander K. Kahi, the Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), was nothing short of a miracle. I gained even more reason to have faith in humanity. I often wonder how much chivalry one could carry in their chest and still walk straight?

Writing Back Home

Before long, I was in my fourth year and counting days to completion. Having met so many people and been through so many challenges, situations and lessons, I got

to appreciate the fact that everything happens in the fullness of time and for just the right reasons. I also learnt that university isn't just a place to gain academic knowledge but also a place to complete one's self in other areas of life. The periods of want taught me to appreciate everything small I get in life. I also learnt to find deep value in friendship. My friends had my back whenever I hang to faith and hope by my fingernails.

I came to terms with the fact that most people really don't give a hoot about anything unless it's beneficial to them. In the end, I just had to rely on myself sometimes. The value of the uniqueness of each human relationship was something I also put in my bag of discoveries. Everybody is different in personality. So how I treated each of them would have to be unique to them – the science or art of handling people is not something to brush off easily if your aim is to seek to forge sustainable relationships in the world out there.

I found a home around Egerton University. The mathematics was good, in fact perfect, the air was always fresh and welcoming, and the people with whom I shared this home, the ones who helped keep it warm, will forever have a place in my mind and soul.

“Imagine jumping out of a skydiving plane and discovering your parachute doesn't work”, someone might ask. “What memories would flash before you? Now imagine the parachute opened. How differently would you act when you landed?” In all honesty, I would change nothing if I started all over again – because my four years around Egerton University have been nothing less than bursts of life and colour.

Mr. Andanje Sarowiwa was a B.Sc. Statistics student at Egerton University in 2015-2019. ■

All in the Palm of Your Hand

By Wesley Kijedi and Alexander K. Kahi

Egerton University leads in innovating service delivery. For example, the University has developed a mobile application – the Egerton App – to help students, staff, alumni, stakeholders, and guests gain access to information and the essential services offered on campus. The application, developed by the Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business (CoELIB), is designed to meet the need for efficient service delivery.

Through the platform, users can easily navigate their way to the lecture halls, offices, hostels, the University's health facility, cafeterias, and sports facilities, which are updated with real-time images. They can also log on to

student, staff and e-campus portals. The application has a news update feature that avails notices, news, memos, and any other necessary communication at the convenience of their mobile phones. In case of security and health emergencies, there are options of respective hotline numbers.

For new students, details regarding their transportation, their smart card application process, and other introductory activities like library registration and accommodation facilitation are provided.

The application has a “downloads” feature that facilitates the download of documents like student timetables, fee structures, the *Student Handbook*, and

graduation lists.

One can further explore the Egerton App by downloading it on the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

The development of this App is part of the Performance Contract commitment between Egerton University and the Government of Kenya.

Mr. Wesley Kijedi was a B.Sc. (Computer Science) student at Egerton University in 2015-2019 and is currently a Software Developer at CoELIB; Prof. Alexander K. Kahi is the DVC (AA).



Egerton University's Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies does not confine its training of its students to the classroom. More often than not it engages the community on issues relating to gender relations. One method by which it does so is the Annual Gender Awareness Day. On 9 October 2019 the Institute conducted community-empowerment activities in Nakuru Town, including a procession from Railways to Maasai Market, Entertainment by Egerton University students, exhibition, and speeches by Egerton University staff and invited guests.

FoA Postgraduate Students Funded by International Sponsors



Prof. Abdul Faraj

Another graduation day has come, and it is time to celebrate. On behalf of the staff and students in the Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), may I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands on their accomplishments. You have done a good job, which has enabled you to graduate from the various programmes we offer. It is due to your determination and confidence that you have been able to reach this far. CONGRATULATIONS!

I would also like to thank and congratulate the parents, guardians, and sponsors, as well as the various organisations that have supported the graduands throughout their stay at Egerton University.

FoA continues to fulfil its mandate as a Centre of Excellence in Agriculture and to get support from a number of sponsors. Recently, the Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), which is based in South Africa and has an office in Kenya, through the

LDC Foundation, offered two fully funded M.Sc. scholarships to bright but disadvantaged students in the Faculty. The LDC Foundation aims to promote projects in sustainable agriculture, food security, and self-sufficiency, particularly through education and direct support to small-scale farmers in developing countries.

The other major faculty-wide projects continue to perform well, and, in many cases, are exceeding their targets. Through the CESAAM and TAGDev Projects we have admitted new students for B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D., including students from other African countries.

The Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA) held a workshop from 29 September to 2 October 2019 at the ARC Hotel, Egerton University, for mainstreaming Agricultural Qualifications into the KNQA and creating a Credit Accumulation and Transfer System. When this programme is implemented it will assist individuals in the agricultural sector to advance their education from certificate to Ph.D. smoothly.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), under the project “Youth Researching Youth: Competitive Fellowships for Young African Scholars Researching Youth Engagement in Rural Economic Activities in Africa”, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), offered two of our young scholars, Dickson O. Okello and Hilda Too of AGE C / A G B M

Department, six-month (June – December 2019) appointments as Research Fellows. The same organisation, IITA, has offered two postgraduate students, Francis Gichuho and Peter Biama of DAFTECH, Department appointments, as Graduate Research Fellows for 12 and 31 months, respectively.

FoA students, through the Faculty of Agriculture Students Association (FASA) and their Congress Representative, have continued to market our programmes and the University as a whole through a number of activities. Recently, on 17–18 October, they held an Agricultural Exhibition Week at the main campus with the support of TAGDev and the Nakuru County Government through the County Executive for Agriculture. The Exhibition culminated in the competitions for Miss and Mr. Agriculture 2019, which were won by Damian Otunga and Branham Otieno, respectively.

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

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

CODESRIA CEO visits FASS, Delivers Public Lecture



Dr. Phylis Bartoo

Good morning, and welcome to all parents, spouses, grandparents, siblings, and friends of our 2019 graduands. Thank you for coming to share the joy and accomplishments and for helping make this day special and memorable for each one of the graduands. You have also given them support, both moral and financial, during those challenging but rewarding years at the University. For this, I thank you too.

On behalf of the academic staff of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) I extend my sincere congratulations to the graduands. You have been exceptional representatives of FASS, and I am proud of you. It has been an honour to bear witness to your growth and to build memorable relationships with you. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as worthy ambassadors for Egerton University by building upon your reputation for excellence and transforming humanity. We placed you in

outstanding educational programmes designed to meet diverse demands of the world. Definitely your life trajectories from here on will bear the mark of excellence. The many hours of study and dedication you put into your studies have paid dividends, and you are now ready to receive the rewards of your labour, with the skills and attributes at hand which will guide you in managing the complex world beyond the University.

I encourage you to not only give back to FASS by supporting its activities, programmes, and scholarships but to also keep us updated on the many achievements you will make in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements. Keep reframing your lives in a determination to make it in the competitive world.

Dr. Godwin Murunga, the CEO of the Council for Development of Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA), visited FASS on 23 October 2019 and gave a lecture on “Networking in Social Sciences in Africa” in contested terrains of knowledge. He encouraged members to build and strengthen inter-Africa networks to enable better collaboration within the continent and thus increase the international presence of African scholars.

In enhancing the inter-African partnership, FASS, in collaboration with South Sudan representatives, held a workshop to develop a curriculum in Master of Arts in Strategic Security Management. The workshop had representation down to the grassroots

level. The envisaged programme is an attempt to train key professionals in the security sector.

FASS students, led by Benard Kimani, the student Project Coordinator in the Faculty, and Majid Epur George, the FASS Congressman, organised a community service project in Naivasha from 1 to 4 October 2019. The general objective of the community service was environmental conservation and the building of resilient cities and communities to achieve sustainable development. The activities included a project sustainability workshop facilitated by the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Culture and Social Services. The workshop involved the community, student volunteers, and other stakeholders, who discussed the role of the community in environmental conservation and in the development of the blue economy. The students visited the Naivasha Safe House Rescue Centre and the Naivasha Strong Towers where they presented donations and offered domestic service to the homes.

In partnership with the National Environmental Management Authority, the students planted more than 300 trees in Milimani and Unity primary schools. Close to 5000 seedlings will be planted by the students in the next four years to addresses climate change.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation, and best wishes for your future. Go out and make the world a better place.

Academic Staff Trained in E-Learning



Dr. Henry K. Kombo

Graduation is a special day for all of us here today. It is the culmination of tireless efforts by the graduands as well as the positive outcome of considerable sacrifice on the part of parents, guardians, and friends concerned. For us at the Faculty of Commerce, the seed planted during orientation has borne fruits!

On behalf of the Faculty staff, I wish to take this opportunity to extend our warm greetings and congratulations to all graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony. It is indeed a major success in your academic development, one that brings with it great joy for us today, and we are pleased to join you and your family in celebrating it. Academic achievement is not only a personal effort on the part of the student but also a reflection of the persistent support from those closest to them. We cannot take this for granted, and we thank God for it.

The fact that some graduands have landed on good jobs even before they graduated is an indication of the competitiveness of Egerton University

graduates in the labour market. We wish those who are yet to get jobs the best of luck. It is our hope that our graduands will utilise their wealth of skills and the expertise inculcated in them during their training at Egerton to make valuable contributions to nation-building.

The Faculty has also embarked on vigorous and mandatory academic counselling for the weaker students (who fail between 4-6 units), which has helped minimise the number of students being discontinued on academic grounds. On placement, the Faculty has been organising public lectures, which were facilitated by potential employers and professionals.

The Faculty academic staff have been participating in various e-learning trainings and workshops organised by the

University from time to time, in line with the University's efforts to embrace and integrate technology in all we do.

In short, we are here to make a difference. We value the close ties with our graduates and business leaders. We intend to keep working to help our current and future students to advance in their careers and achieve their goals for we are determined to invent and reinvent ourselves as academics living in a dynamic world.

As we wish you God's blessings in your future endeavours, we also welcome you to the Faculty of Commerce.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.



Two CESAAM-sponsored students, Ms. Euginia Gakuru (left) and Ms. Khumoetsile Octavia, explain to Ms. Ruth Charo (Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank) the innovations and products developed at the Centre by students. The event took place during a Technical and Advisory Meeting of ACE II Centres of Excellence held on 14 May 2019.

Faculty Determined to Achieve Technological Advancement



Prof. Japheth O. Onyando

The 41st Graduation Ceremony is being celebrated today, and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology hereby presents its graduands with great pride. The graduands have undergone skill-based training involving three industrial sessions of eight weeks each whereby the students undertake hands-on activities informed by their professional knowledge. The skills acquired are in all the engineering fields, thereby making them versatile in the engineering industry and diversifying their chances of engineering practice.

Each of the four departments continues to attract more students, with the numbers increasing in every intake. This academic year the number of registered Year 1 students in the Faculty is 172 as compared to 151 in the last academic year.

The Faculty has embarked on an ambitious programme to partner with the public and the private sector specifically for the purpose of acquiring equipment at the cost of about KShs 50 million.

We also intend to get an entrepreneur in the engineering industry to enter into an agreement with us. The Industrial and Energy Engineering Department has revived their Bachelor of Industrial Technology (BIT) programme and declared to the Kenya University and

Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) a capacity of 100. The same programme is expected to attract self-sponsored students, which will generate income for the Department and will go a long way in leveraging financial resources for equipment acquisition.

The Faculty is also open to a Corporate Social Responsibility arrangement with the industry and to donations of equipment from engineering firms. Discussions are also going on through the National Engineering Deans Forum to negotiate with the Ministry of Education for Egerton to be given priority under the envisaged African Development Bank programme for equipment to strengthen training in engineering in public universities. We expect that through these initiatives, the gaps for accreditation of the three engineering programmes by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) will be filled, and, with adequate staffing, accreditation is expected sooner than later.

Agricultural Engineering, on the other hand, is very vibrant at both the undergraduate and the postgraduate levels. In a span of five years the Department has graduated 2 Ph.D. and 8 M.Sc. students under the sponsorship of the African Development Bank. Twelve more are still in the pipeline under the same programme. Most of the graduates are staff members in the Department, with a few from other national universities. Two of the M.Sc. graduates have won scholarships to pursue Ph.D Degrees in China in Agricultural Engineering and are expected back in four years' time.

The Department also hosts a number of postgraduate students from the region, namely Rwanda, Malawi, South Sudan, and Mozambique, sponsored by various organisations. These students carry out research in various fields. Olivier Ndayitegeye from Rwanda, is focusing on exploring adaptation of the banana crop in semi-arid environments through deficit

irrigation. This research, which is sponsored by Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD), is at an advanced stage, as evidenced by the growth parameters and checked by the controls.

Deficit irrigation is a technology that ensures water saving in irrigated agriculture without compromising yields. It is part of the technologies to be used in the upcoming Technology Innovation Management and Practice (TIMPs) projects implemented through the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO). The Department successfully bid for this project in a consortium with KALRO under the topic of scaling up water harvesting technologies in Baringo, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, and Machakos for improvement of water security as a pre-condition for food security.

Another project in the same series is validating uptake of improved cook stoves in Baringo, West Pokot, and Taita Taveta targeting promotion of green energy as part of measures for adaptation to climate change.

These projects, along with others nationally, are funded by the World Bank and will be implemented in the next two years. It is envisaged that when completed they will contribute to the fulfilment of the national development programmes and hence profile Egerton University as fulfilling its role in contributing to the achievement of national and global development goals.

In the second half of this year, the Faculty lost two outstanding members of staff – Prof Godfrey Ngunjiri of Agricultural Engineering, and Eng. Edward Muchiri of Civil Engineering. On behalf of the Faculty I wish to pay tribute to the two scholars and express our condolence to their families, relatives and friends.

Department Strengthens Technological Capacities among Communities

By Raphael Muli Wambua

The Department of Agricultural Engineering has benefited in the recent staff promotions. Prof. Daudi M. Nyaanga and Prof. Benedict M. Mutua were promoted from Associate Professor to Professor positions. The former is actively involved in training and research in the University while the latter is on leave of absence at Kibabii University serving as a DVC (Planning, Partnerships, Research and Innovation).

Staff in the Department are participating in a project called “Development and Evaluation of a Direct Current Solar Electric Pressure Cooker Unit: A Case Study of Mogotio and Mbaruk”, which is being implemented in the Sustainable Community Development Service (SCODE). The grant for the research project was given by Loughborough

University and was funded by the Government of the United Kingdom acting through the Department for International Development (DFID).

The Department has established a Centre for Integrated Water and Basin Management (CiWaB). This centre focuses on four 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. In 2019 the project has facilitated training for different professionals in modelling and simulation for optimisation of machine systems and processes.

The Department has also been involved in conducting the project “Strengthening Capacities for Agricultural Education Research and Adoption in Kenya (SCARA)”. The objective of the project is to increase the adoption rates of water for food at farm level, to enhance the effective participation of youth in agriculture, to address water and food security, and to facilitate networking between relevant sectors and ICT for agriculture (ICT4Ag). Through this project, farmers and youth have been trained at different stages. For example, the project conducted an international symposium on 27–28 September 2019.

In general the project has made key strides in training farmers and youth for improvement in agriculture and water for food initiatives.



Agriculture Engineering students in a practical on the Njoro Campus

Dr. Raphael Muli Wambua is the COD, Agricultural Engineering Department, Egerton University. ■

FERD to Partner with Nanjing Agricultural University on Wildlife and Urban Geography



Prof. Elias Maranga

On my own behalf and that of the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources Development (FERD), I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate our graduands. The certificates, diplomas, and degrees that will be awarded to you in this 41st Graduation Ceremony are a reflection of hard work and commitment to succeed. As you find your niche in the world of work, I wish to urge you to continue to shine. I am confident that the skills and knowledge you have acquired at Egerton will greatly assist you in making significant contributions in service-provision and in the development of humanity. FERD is greatly honoured to be associated with you as a partner of the academic community in Egerton University and will continue to offer exemplary services in research, teaching, and consultancy.

Outlined below are some of the developments we have undertaken in the Faculty in recent times.

FERD Hosts International Scholars

Prof. Wei Wu, the Head of Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Nanjing Agricultural University, China, visited

Egerton on 10–22 June 2019.

Prof. Wei Wu's interactions with the Geography Department resulted in an understanding for collaborative research as well as staff and student exchange programmes that will soon be formalised through a memorandum of understanding. Potential areas of engagement include: Wildlife and Forestry, Environmental Pollution, and Transport and Urban Geography. Two graduates from the Department of Geography have joined Nanjing University to pursue further degrees in Urban and Regional Planning.

FERD continues to attract international students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Seven international students from Africa are pursuing studies in Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management under the MasterCard programme.

The Department of Geography is currently hosting a Fulbright Fellow – Ms. Faye Ricker, who is a Ph.D. student at South Florida University, USA. During her affiliation with the Department of Geography, between August 2019 and May 2020, Ms. Ricker will undertake research on the nexus between women, energy, and environment in the Naivasha area under the supervision of our faculty. Ms. Ricker will also assist in teaching and in the development of a Bachelor of Science Curriculum in Geology in the Department of Geography.

FERD Greening the Brown and Enhancing Carbon Credits

FERD is consistently involved in making footprints in the restoration of degraded wetlands and terrestrial ecosystems and in the establishment of plant germ-plasm for research through partnerships with other

stakeholders. On 27 June 2019, the Faculty shepherded an ambitious project of tree planting along a 10-metre strip spanning the entire Egerton University land facility boundary.

This initiative involved Egerton's top management, the Deans of Faculties, members of staff, and the students. FERD provided seedlings, advisory services, and important recommendations on the suitable plant materials for tree cover enhancement.

FERD has embarked on a community environmental conservation engagement with the participation of the Nakuru Rotarians; the Nakuru County Government; the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources; the Kenya Forest Service; the Kenya Commercial Bank; and other stakeholders. The initial meeting between the Faculty and the stakeholders took place on 8 October 2019.

FERD Secures Scholarship Awards

Mr. Stephen Mwangi, a staff member in the Department of Geography, is the proud recipient of a full scholarship financed by the Italian Agency for International Cooperation. Mwangi will study for an M.Sc. in Geo-informatics Engineering in Politecnico di Milano in Italy.

In addition, two M.Sc. students and one Ph.D. student pursuing Environmental Science programmes in FERD have benefited from research funds accruing from collaborative research projects coordinated by staff in the Faculty and supported by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation through UNESCO-MAB PROG.

Let Go of Your Fear; Chart Your Own Course



Dr. Ruth Adhiambo Aura

I am delighted to join the entire Egerton fraternity, as well as parents, guardians, and sponsors in celebrating our graduands today as they receive their different academic accolades. The happiness with which their faces shine is a testimony that theirs has been one great journey which was well travelled. I congratulate and celebrate you!

It is an accepted fact that a dynamic and socially relevant legal education lays the foundation for the quality of lawyering, which in turn gives a boost to the judicial process. As a young law school, we aim at providing professionally sound and socially relevant legal education. The Egerton University School of Law has set its sight on contributing to the much-desired quality legal education.

It is for this reason that our Faculty has just partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Amkeni Wakenya to provide legal aid services in Nakuru County. This project is aimed at facilitating enhanced access to justice by the marginalised and the poor in Nakuru County. Key among

the project's target groups are women, children, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV-AIDS.

Instructively, this project aims to remove barriers for access to justice by the above target groups, to empower the community to have the capacity to refer cases of human rights violations as well as to build the capacity of communal justice systems to operate effectively and efficiently within the County. This is one of the greatest scores that the Faculty has recorded not just in the last six months but since its inception a few years ago. The project is barely a month old and shall be implemented in six sub counties: Bahati, Nakuru Town West, Naivasha, Molo, Rongai, and Subukia. The project is vital to the Faculty in two ways. Firstly, it is intended to enable the Faculty to meet the requirement of the provision of legal aid which is one of the mandates bestowed upon institutions offering Legal Studies in the country. Secondly, it strengthens the Human Rights approach to our programme.

It is noteworthy that before this grant the Faculty had initiated collaborations with three institutions offering legal aid in the County (Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance, Wakili Mashinani, and the National Legal Aid Services Nakuru Office) as a way of building our students towards becoming legal experts with a keen lens on Human Rights.

Our pioneer class successfully underwent Judicial Attachment – a mandatory procedure for Law students in the country. This lasted for six weeks between the months of May and June this year. A total of 84 students were involved in this exercise and were spread in 17 courts all over the country. Placement of the judicial attachment is done by the

Judiciary itself. But to make our programme unique we guided students in conducting legal research on issues prevalent in the regions they were placed in.

Over time, our students have continued to exhibit high academic standards, even as we continue to take shape in legal studies as an institution. To this end, one of our students, Lydia Wambui, was named the Best Female Orator in a preliminary round in a debate on legal issues organised by the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) at Kabarak University Law School in September this year.

In another forum, the Scholars Festival – 2019, organised by the Pioneer International University in October, a group of eight students who represented us at the festival were named the 4th Best Team. All these achievements are a testimony that our programme is beautifully taking shape and is destined for greater things in the future and we can't wait to graduate our first cohort.

With this, I wish to once more congratulate the graduands today and wish them all the best as they embark on a different course in their lives. It is said that courage is not the absence of fear but the willingness to act for what is right regardless of the consequences. It is not the chances we take that we regret but rather the chances we do not take. You must let go of your fears and be ready to charter your own paths so that those who come after you will have an example to follow. It is now up to you to decide without apology, to commit to the journey and not to the outcome.

May God keep guiding you!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2020! ■

Thirty-Two Years of Sustained Knowledge-Production



Dr. Moses N. Gichuki

Dear Graduands, the Faculty of Science takes this opportunity to congratulate you on the great achievements you have made and which we are celebrating today. These achievements are the culmination of years of hard work and determination on your part. Graduation is an exciting moment, which marks both an ending and a beginning. It reminds you of a past you can always be proud of, and it sets the stage for the formulation of big

dreams for the future. It is satisfying that you truly deserve to be celebrated. Today, as you get the powers to read and do all that appertains to your respective degrees or diplomas, you can begin making plans for even higher achievements. The training we have given you has prepared you well to embark on the next phase of your life. We will continue offering you support in various forms and whenever you need it.

Since the inception of our Faculty 32 years ago, we have always endeavoured to provide our students 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 the knowledge, skills and attitudes that have enabled them to be here today, our faculty have continued to contribute to knowledge-generation through research.

In addition, the Faculty continues to

run an international M.Sc. programme in Limnology and Wetlands Management together with BOKU University in Vienna, Austria, and the UNESCO-IHE, Institute in the Delft, the Netherlands, whereby students take four months in each institution to complete their course work, followed by research projects in any of the three institutions. We also continue to host collaborators in research who periodically come for visits and also give seminar talks on their research findings.

The Department of Chemistry, on 9 October 2019, hosted Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Spiteller from the Institute of Environmental Research (INFU), Chair of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, Technical University Dortmund, Germany. The visiting Professor gave a seminar talk on chemical crosstalk between plants and microorganisms: *Camptothecin* and *maytansine* as an example.

Congratulations once again to you all, and best wishes as you embark on the next phase of your professional development or further studies.

Happy Graduation Day! ■

First Beneficiaries of RCV and LWM Fellowship on Graduation List

By Nzula Kitaka

The Rotary Club of Vienna (RCV) Fellowship Programme started as an exchange programme targeting Eastern Africa students, particularly Kenyans, to study short courses related to Aquatic Ecology and Aquatic Ecosystem and Environmental management in the University of Life Sciences and Natural Resources (BOKU), Vienna, Austria, in 2013.

The exchange idea was good, but the impact was not significant, since only a few students were being sponsored to

go abroad, thereby spending disproportionately large funds.

After two years of implementation, the programme was reexamined. The same amount of resources could be shared among many more needy students to undertake programmes offered locally, such as the Master's in Limnology programme at Egerton University, which is one of the best in the region in terms of hands-on skills, expertise, and capacity development.

Prof. Nzula Kitaka (the RVC and

the Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) Kenyan Coordinator), Mag. Gerold Winkler (the LWM Austrian Coordinator), and Mr. Florian Demmer, the RCV Fellowship Education Counsellor and programme Partner), took up the new idea with the aim of benefiting more bright and needy students while at the same time building capacity for Kenya and other East African countries.

The specific objectives of the RCV Fellowship Programme is to enhance the

know-how and practical skills of young Eastern African water professionals so that they can (1) carry-out relevant research and management activities more effectively, (2) contribute to the development and implementation of evidence-based policies in Eastern Africa, and (3) mobilise societal and financial resources to improve the management of environmental assets to the benefit of the Eastern African people.

Currently the RCV has supported over 16 students. Three of them are pursuing their Ph.D. degrees in Austria and the Netherlands, and one of them, Dr. Zipporah Gichana, has already graduated from BOKU. Dr Gichana is an alumnus of the LWM Kenyan Trimester short courses and the RCV short courses undertaken in BOKU in the year 2014.

Originally the fellowship programme targeted very bright post-graduate students from humble backgrounds who could not afford to pay their tuition fees or finance their subsequent research. However, in the year 2017, Ms. Mesret Endale Tadesa was given a full RCV fellowship to pursue her Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering at Egerton.

The fellowship programme has had tremendous impact on mentorship, especially with respect to research theses that seek to address societal problems. In addition, the programme helps ensure a high completion rate for Master's students in the Limnology Programme at Egerton.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS to the first graduands of the fellowship, who are participating in today's Graduation Ceremony. They are Ms. Elizabeth Ngesa, Mr. Hassan Saeed Kariunga, and Ms. Callen Aera.

Outlined below are testimonials from some of the beneficiaries.

Ms. Elizabeth Ngesa, M.Sc. Limnology Graduand

My journey as an M.Sc. student at Egerton University began when I applied for the RCV fellowship and started my studies in January 2016. My studies could not have

been a success without the financial support I was lucky to get from the fellowship.

The fellowship both paid my school fees and funded my research, which produced two publications.

Because I come from a humble background, while I had always wanted to obtain a Master's degree it had appeared impossible due to lack of financial support.

Throughout my M.Sc. studies, I was privileged to have Prof. Nzula Kitaka as my mentor. I am grateful to her not only because of the opportunity she gave me to pursue my Master's degree but also because of the belief she had in me and how she developed me into a strong person.

Additionally, I have acquired skills that will enable me enhance my career,

I would also like to thank Mr. Florian Demmer for offering me the scholarship that paved the way to what has been a life-changing experience.

also with the international fraternity.

I have achieved all this through God's guidance and the leadership of Prof. Nzula Kitaka, the coordinator of both the LWM and the RCV programmes.

I am now in possession of career-oriented skills, which I am willing to further through research and self-employment.

In sha Allah! I appreciate and thank the RCV for selecting me as one of their beneficiaries of the fellowship at Egerton.

Callen Nyaboke Aera, M.Sc. Limnology Graduand

Subsequent to my admission to Egerton as an undergraduate student it was always my dream to climb the academic ladder further through the University. Thus, following the attainment of my undergraduate degree, pursuing the Master's degree became the next rung in my dream.

No words could possibly express



Dr. Geoffrey O. Ong'ondo (left) with postgraduate students during a fish pathology experiment in Lab B15 in May 2019

Mr. Hassan Saeed Kariunga, M.Sc. Limnology Graduand

Iam greatly excited that my Masters education, which once seemed almost impossible, has been fulfilled through the RCV fellowship. It has been a long but fulfilling experience, one that has offered me an opportunity to interact not only with my local colleagues but

how happy I was when I was informed that I had been given an opportunity to pursue the Masters degree in Limnology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Egerton.

I was thrilled to have the tuition and research funding and support by the RCV. The close guidance provided by Prof. Nzula Kitaka as my Supervisor put

all the resources and amenities I required at disposal. As a result I obtained my degree within the stipulated duration. Since then my life has followed a positive curve, and I am growing professionally.

My sincere gratitude to the RCV fraternity for the invaluable support and academic empowerment that they availed me.

Mr. Paul Ekwar, M.Sc. Limnology Continuing Student

Receiving the RCV scholarship was one of the most exciting moments I have ever experienced in my life!

I had always dreamed about being a water quality expert. As such it was a blessing to be part of the selected few who received the scholarship.

The opportunity to pursue the M.Sc. degree in Limnology at Egerton has empowered me in many respects. I can now enable my community to acquire access to safe and quality water and can enhance the ecological life of the community in general.

As I work my way through the programme, I find that my day-to-day experiences, both in class, during field work, and in practicals, are not only providing me with important learning opportunities but also changing my world-view considerably.

The fellowship has proved to be a



Staff members of Egerton University and RCV Scholarship fellows in Njoro River collecting samples in March 2015

dream opener and a life-changing experience – with the profound mentorship of Prof. Nzula Kitaka.

The fellowship has also played a key role in expanding my network of colleagues – through learning and interacting with people, both students and professional experts, from diverse cultures.

Mr. Allan Kiptanui Kimisto, M.Sc. Limnology Continuing Student

By paying for my school fees, the RCV programme has accorded me the opportunity to acquire a

Master's degree in Limnology at Egerton University, which is contributing to my journey towards the workforce, where I hope to become a contributing member of society.

This scholarship has turned out to be a source of hope and pride for my family and motivation to the people in my community. Every time I go home, I see the pride in my mother's eyes. I now believe that “you can do anything if you put your mind to it.”

My journey in Limnology has been made smooth by the RCV scholarship coordinator, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, who has not only been like a mother to me but has also been a mentor and a role model. She has always insisted on smart work and critical thinking in solving limnological issues.

I am grateful to my RCV Fellowship Counsellor, Mr. Florian Demmer, as well as to the entire RCV for brightening my path to a great future. I will continue to do my best and to make RCV proud.



RCV Scholarship fellows and other LWM Students sampling in Donosoyiet Wetland in Kericho

Prof. Nzula Kitaka teaches in the Department of Biological Sciences and is the Director of the Board of Postgraduate Studies at Egerton University.

1,291 Students on Teaching Practice May-August 2019



Prof. Nancy W. Mungai

Today is a great day. We are here to celebrate a very important occasion – the achievements of the graduands of the 41th Graduation Ceremony. Graduation is a crucial activity in an academic life. It is an important occasion both for the graduands and the University at large. It showcases the effort made by each candidate in their study. At the same time, it highlights the contributions of the academic staff and the departments to the successful completion of the academic cycle. The Directorate of the Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is proud to be associated with the occasion. We congratulate all the graduands gathered here today.

BUGS/FAP is mandated with the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate degree and diploma curricula. The Board also coordinates and facilitates field/industrial attachment (FA) and teaching practice (TP).

BUGS interacts with undergraduate

students long before they enter the classroom for the first time, as they select their programmes of study and also during industrial/field attachment.

In the Farm Attachment Programme (FAP), students are attached to farms where they work with the farmers and are expected to make meaningful gains in implementing relevant projects and activities on the farm, just like they would do if they were attached to organisations.

The feedback we have received from the students in this regard emphasised the need for reliable, unbiased sources of agricultural information to farmers. This was key in encouraging BUGS to come up with the Farm UP Connect (farmup.egerton.ac.ke), an online platform that will be beneficial not only to the farmers but also to other stakeholders in agriculture.

The platform is hosted on the University website under the Division of Research and Extension and currently has content on production and marketing issues for maize, potato, dairy, poultry, and a few other selected cross-cutting issues.

In the months of August and September 2019, BUGS Board meetings were held, whose main agenda was to discuss some new and reviewed programmes from faculties.

A total of 1,291 students went for teaching practice during the May-August 2019 session, while another 2,594 students went for field and farm attachment between July and September 2019.

Egerton University has partnered with Arava International Agricultural

“BUGS appreciates all the schools and organisations that have hosted Egerton University students on Teaching Practice or Field Attachment.”

Training Centre (AICAT) in Israel to provide hands-on skills for students undertaking agriculture-related sciences. The 11-month programme provides selected students with an opportunity to be attached to farms and farmer organisations in the Arava region of Israel for five days a week.

The 2019–2020 cohort (the seventh) started in August 2019 and comprised 100 students drawn from Egerton University, the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), the National Irrigation Board (NIB), and the Kenya water Institute (KEWI). They included 23 Egerton University students, who are in different locations in Israel. Most of the students are involved in field work or in the packing factories, usually within each farm or group of farms. They will complete the internship programme in June 2020.

BUGS appreciates all the schools and organisations that have hosted Egerton University students on Teaching Practice or Field Attachment. We look forward to continued cooperation for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

My Decision to Resume School Paid Dividends

By Benard Kipng'etich Sang

I am one of the graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. My academic story is not exactly a common one. It started way back in 2013 when I decided to go back to school at the age of 39, after staying away from any reading material for 18 years.

I joined Form Three, term two, in a remote day school in Bomet County. I first sat for my KCSE in 1995, scoring a disappointing mean grade of D+ (plus). This grade saw me employed as a tea plucker at Kipkebe Ltd, a flowers sprayer at Finlay's, a gardener at Kipkebe Ltd, a cook, and even a night watchman at Finlay's Tea Solutions, Saosa.

It was at Finlay's that my decision to go back to school cropped up and gradually took shape in my mind. The night watchman' job had been difficult all along, but when my immediate boss wronged me by not confirming me as a

permanent employee when my turn came, choosing a relative instead, I resolved that I would never be subjected to such treatment again. After all, I had a home and all it took to shape my life.

I requested for a vacancy at St. Joseph's Secondary School, Mabwaita. Even at my advanced age, I was admitted to the school, into Form Three. There were many discouraging comments from my family, relatives, friends, and neighbours. "Keep that money to educate your kids!"; "Do business, don't waste time!"; "Dad, you're going to sit with young people?"; "Don't shame us, you got D+ at Kaplong Boys', this time round it will be an E." But the lack of faith in me which these words conveyed did not kill my thirst to pursue education once again.

At the end of term two of Form Three, I had scored a C- (minus) and was contented. Term three marked a great

difference when I scored a promising B- (minus). The whole of Form Four I never scored anything less than a B (plain). When the KCSE results were announced, I had topped in a class of 41 students by getting a mean grade of B (plain).

My well-deserved success led to my selection to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science in the Faculty of Agriculture in the prestigious Egerton University as a full-time government-sponsored student.

While at the University, I was always a serious student and read extensively even when a unit proved challenging. I never failed in any subject, but could get a D when it got tough.

I thank God I am graduating today at the age of 45 with a Second Class Honours, Upper Division, degree of 65 marks. I feel a deep sense of fulfilment and urge others to follow my example.



Egerton University reaches out to potential undergraduate students: Celestine Rono of Egerton University gives secondary school students career advice at the Rift Valley Career Fair at the Rift Valley Sports Club, Nakuru, on 21 September 2019.

Egerton Has 3,200 Enrolled Postgraduate Students



Prof. Nzula Kitaka

It is that time of the year when we come together as the Egerton University Community to reflect, appreciate, and celebrate our academic achievements as an institution, staff, students, parents, and guardians. On behalf of the Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS), I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for your immense achievements. I am sure you have grown not only academically, but also socially in line with the Egerton University Vision and Mission.

I would like to extend special heartfelt congratulation to all the postgraduate students graduating today. As the Director BPGS, I am proud to have walked with you on this journey, which was oftentimes challenging and sometimes very scary – to the point of almost giving up. The postgraduate degree is a proof of your perseverance, determination, personal effort, and hard work. Believing in oneself is a springboard for achieving the impossible. Eliud Kipchoge, who believed that “No Human is Limited”, made history as the fastest human being in the world. Be the Kipchoge of your life and define your personal development accordingly.

Today it is no secret that the number of people with postgraduate degrees has grown tremendously, although many of them still imagine utopian futures. The world today is faced with many emerging societal challenges, and we are certain that the general knowledge you possess, coupled with the specific skills you have acquired while at Egerton, has prepared you to come up with global-scale innovative solutions that you can use to transform societies and lives and to make the world more hospitable to humanity. Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of “Be the Change You Want to See in the World” applies to you.

As the Graduate School, we have come a long way since 1990, when we were established, and particularly since 1996, when we successfully graduated the first doctorate student (out of the first three enrolled Ph.D. students), who majored in Applied Mathematics.

Currently Egerton has more than 3,200 enrolled postgraduate students in eight faculties, with a majority of them being in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Our intake of international students has increased tremendously in recent times. Currently, we have students from Sudan, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, and Ethiopia. They are helping shape Egerton as a centre of excellency in postgraduate training in the region.

This growth is due to innovative programmes the university has initiated in collaboration with a number of associations. Among them are those under the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM), the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev), the Joint Master's Degree Programme in Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM), the College of

Open and Distance Learning (CODL), the Collaborative Masters in Agriculture and Applied Economics (CMAAE), and the Government of Kenya/African Development Bank Higher Education Support Trust (GoK/ AfDP/HEST) scholarship fund.

The 41st Graduation Ceremony marks the beginning of your career in the world as a thinker, a problem solver, and a leader. The world will now listen when you give your contributions in scientific forums, publications, non-academic articles, or advisories.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours as you embark upon your future dream career.

The Graduate School has continued to put in place measures to ensure compliance with the appropriate postgraduate standards. Among them are the University Statutes, and the Commission for University Education (CUE) Standards and Guidelines of 2014 (particularly those relating to supervision, thesis/project examination, and clearing of students for graduation).

Currently we are in communication with the newly established Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA) on any relevant matters relating to postgraduate training.

I wish to thank everyone for your support and patience as we continue putting measures in place to enhance quality and innovative research and to improve completion rates.

Special thanks to all postgraduate students, supervisors, examiners, BPGS Board Members and the Graduate School secretariat for continuing to walk together in this journey. You have shown a powerful example of teamwork.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY EGERTON UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

M. Sc. in Soil Sciences
M.Sc. in Animal Breeding and Genetics
M.Sc. in Agribusiness Management
M.Sc. in Agricultural and Applied Economics
M.Sc. in Agricultural Economic
M.Sc. in Agri-Enterprise Development
M.Sc. in Agricultural Information and Communication Management
M.Sc. in Agronomy
M.Sc. in Animal Nutrition
M.Sc. in Animal Physiology
M.Sc. in Crop Protection
M.Sc. in Dryland Agro-Pastoral Systems
M.Sc. in Dryland Farming
M.Sc. in Dryland Integrated Land Management Systems
M.Sc. in Dryland Resources Management
M.Sc. in Food Science
M.Sc. in Horticulture
M.Sc. in Livestock Production Systems
M.Sc. in Plant Breeding
M.Sc. in Plant Pathology
Ph.D. in Agribusiness Management
Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering
Ph.D. in Agronomy
Ph.D. in Animal Science
Ph.D. in Crop Protection
Ph.D. in Dryland Agriculture and Resource Management
Ph.D. in Food Science
Ph.D. in Horticulture
Ph.D. in Plant Breeding
Ph.D. in Plant Pathology
Ph.D. in Soil Science
Doctor of Philosophy in Dryland Resources Management

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Postgraduate Diploma in Probation Practice and Correctional Studies
M.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice
M.A. in Applied Linguistics
M.A. in Economics
M.A. in English Language and Linguistics
M.A. in History
M.A. in Kiswahili
M.A. in Literature

M.A. in Sociology
M.A. Security Management
Master of information Science
Master of Information Systems
Master of Journalism and Mass Communication
Master of Knowledge Management
Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics
Ph.D. in Economics
Ph.D. in English Language and Linguistics
Ph.D. in Geography
Ph.D. in History
Ph.D. in Kiswahili
Ph.D. in Literature
Ph.D. in Religious Studies
Ph.D. in Sociology

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Master of Business Administration
Master of Human Resource Management
Ph.D. in Business and Management

FACULTY OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY STUDIES

M.A. Guidance and Counselling
M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction
M.Ed. Educational Foundations
M.Ed. Educational Management
M.Ed. Guidance and Counselling
M.Ed. Science Education
M.Sc. Agricultural Education
M.Sc. Agricultural Extension
M.Sc. Community Studies and Extension
Master of Research and Public Policy
Masters in Measurement and Evaluation
Ph.D. Agricultural and Rural Innovation
Ph.D. Agricultural Education
Ph.D. Agricultural Extension
Ph.D. Community Studies and Extension
Ph.D. Counselling Psychology
Ph.D. Curriculum and Instruction
Ph.D. Educational Foundations
Ph.D. Educational Management
Ph.D. Guidance and Counselling
Ph.D. Mathematics Education
Ph.D. Science Education
Ph.D. Educational Psychology

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering

M.Sc. in Engineering Systems and Management
M.Sc. in Soil and Water Engineering
M.Sc. in Water Resources and Environmental Management
Masters of Agricultural Engineering

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental and Social Sciences Research Methods
Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental and Sustainable Development
M. A. in Urban Management
M.A./M.Sc. in Geography
M.Sc. in Environmental and Occupational Health
M.Sc. in Environmental Science
M.Sc. in Natural Resources and Peace
M.Sc. in Natural Resources Management
Ph.D. in Environmental and Occupational Health
Ph.D. in Environmental Science
Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management
Ph.D. in Urban Management
Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Peace

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

M.Sc. in Nutritional Sciences
Nursing Diploma – Kenya Registered Community Health (In-service)
Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Joint Degree Master Programme in

Limnology and Wetland Management
M.Sc. in Applied Mathematics
M.Sc. in Biochemistry
M.Sc. in Chemistry
M.Sc. in Limnology
M.Sc. in Medical Parasitology
M.Sc. in Physics
M.Sc. in Plant Biotechnology
M.Sc. in Pure Mathematics
M.Sc. in Statistics
Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics
Ph.D. in Biochemistry
Ph.D. in Chemistry
Ph.D. in Limnology
Ph.D. in Medical Parasitology
Ph.D. in Physics
Ph.D. in Plant Biotechnology
Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics
Ph.D. in Statistics

INSTITUTE OF WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Postgraduate Diploma in Gender, Poverty and Development
M.A. in Gender, Women and Development Studies
Ph.D. in Gender, Women and Development Studies

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Long Walk To Freedom a Learning Inspiration for All



Prof. Ezra Maritim

Throughout human history, education as a process of knowledge and skills acquisition has neither been confined to one mode of learning or delivery nor to one type of setting. Indeed, its content and delivery has always been dependent on the stage of civilisation and the level of technological development. In this context, the evolution of distance learning has been intertwined with human history. Today, besides being a mode of delivery, distance learning is both a philosophy of learning and an emerging discipline. The new concept of Competence-Based Education being introduced in the country is rooted in the long established distance learning philosophy and lifelong learning—the learner-centred learning.

Long Walk to Freedom is the autobiography of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. Besides recounting Mandela's life from childhood, the book epitomises the place and the success of distance learning in changing individuals and societies. The story portrays Nelson Mandela's courageous political and educational travel through hardship in order to achieve the ultimate goal of regaining the

freedom of human dignity. He saw both politics and education as the weapons for bestowing dignity. Without freedom, in whatever form or shade, people are dehumanised. Since the decolonisation of the African continent in early 1960s, African governments have been calling for freedom from ignorance, poverty, and diseases, among other freedoms. These calls are anchored on the provision of education through both conventional and distance modes. At the time of Mandela's incarceration, the conventional mode of learning was not available for prisoners.

For Nelson Mandela, the prison, where he spent more than a quarter of a century, provided him with an opportunity to learn and educate his enemies, the prison warders: “We believed that all men, even prison service warders were capable of change.” As a tool for change, Mandela saw and embraced education as a powerful weapon that we can individually and collectively use to conquer or bring change in ourselves and in the world we live in.

The harsh prison conditions, devoid of minimum learning facilities such as desks and chairs, did not kill his spirit and passion to learn through the distance mode provided by the University of London. At some stage he was provided with a stand-up desk that jutted out from the wall at about chest-level. The two problems with this type of desk were: after a tedious day at the quarry, Mandela had no energy to read and do his assignments standing up; and the desk was sloped so steeply that the books fell off.

As distance learners and policy-makers, there are several lessons we can learn from Mandela's autobiography. First, success in distance learning is possible under any conditions, provided the learner has resilience and passion.

Second, in this era of e-learning, we are fortunate that study materials no longer arrive late from the educational provider, as was the case with Nelson Mandela's correspondence learning. Third, learning can take place anywhere. Fourth, the conditions under which distance learners learn are challenging, and, hence, every distance learner must learn to manage his or her own time, assignments, and online class sessions. Fifth, e-learning is good news for digital natives, but at its initial stage it poses certain threats to digital immigrant students. Self-motivation is therefore an e-learning essential requirement, and entering the e-learning arena without this is disastrous for success.

The emerging policy risk to the distance mode is overregulation. The current policy on management and delivery of distance learning is moving towards conventionalisation of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) best practices. This policy restricts the concept of “openness” in admission criteria and suffocates flexibility in the pace of learning. Prior and experiential learning, which indeed is going to be the core of Competence-Based Education, is being phased out in lieu of formal qualifications, such as the grade of C+ achieved at pre-university examinations like KCSE. Today, those who learn through such avenues as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) are not certificated or awarded grades, but they acquire knowledge and skills. We need to separate programme admission criteria to cater for different streams of learners – those who want to learn for leisure, for post retirement engagements, and for formal employment.

Bravo to today's distance learners for following and championing the footsteps of Mandela.

Networking a Must for Success in the Job Market



Dr. Charles Recha

Congratulations to all graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. This is an opportunity for you to reflect on how far you have come from your pre-school days. As a Directorate, we are very proud of your achievement. This graduation marks a transition in your career – from a student to a graduate.

Egerton University has prepared you for the job market. The Directorate would like to walk along with you from this time onwards. We want to link the skills you have acquired to the market. You are encouraged to leave your contacts and qualifications with us to enable us secure internships or jobs for you as they may arise through our office.

We further encourage you to give us feedback on your academic experience at Egerton. This will go a long way in helping us review and improve the academic programmes, and subsequently scale-up the competitiveness of Egerton University – your alma mater.

As you leave Egerton for the job market, be our faithful ambassadors. This should be reflected in your adherence to the University's Core Values of social fairness,

professionalism, internationalism, and passion for excellence.

To our international students, coming to Kenya and Egerton University was a sacrifice that took you away from your home. You had to be separated from your family, friends, climate, food, language, and many other comforts. The Directorate trusts this sacrifice was not in vain. We are very proud of you. You are part of our world-class credentials. We hope that the Directorate's advisory and welfare services helped you acclimatise to Egerton University and Kenya in general.

As a Directorate, we shall continue to promote career opportunities at Egerton to both local and international partners. We are confident that fostering internationalism and networking with the industry will increase the market success of our graduates. It is our aspiration to leave a piece of Egerton University in every corporate and developmental entity worldwide.

Since the last graduation, the Directorate has taken a number of steps forward that we consider to be milestones. On 5–6 September 2019, we co-organised the 5th CAC Africa Summit in collaboration with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Sub-Council of Chemical Industry, People's Republic of China, at the Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi.

From February to October 2019, the Directorate promoted career opportunities by participating in 16 career fairs through which it reached out to hundreds of schools across the country.

Finally, from June to September 2019, the Directorate midwived two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), one between Egerton and Mogadishu University, and the other between Egerton and Northeast Forest University, Harbin, China.



Egerton University students with representatives of the 25 Chinese companies that participated the Chinese Career Day held at Egerton University on 7 June 2019 at the Njoro Campus

Service Delivery Charter Works for International Students

By Stephen Aurice Wekoye

I joined Egerton University from Uganda in May 2016 to pursue the Ph.D. degree in Environmental and Occupation Health.

Egerton University was a home away from home. With a cool and very clean environment – under trees with fresh air – the University has been true to its motto of “Transforming Lives through Quality Education” in its determination to develop Kenya and the world beyond.

Egerton University is truly international in character, with academic

programmes and students from sub-Saharan Africa and beyond living harmoniously together.

I liked the timelines in the Citizen's Service Delivery Charter, as well as the quality management systems put in place. These made me complete my studies on schedule – in a record three years for my Ph.D. degree!

I am indebted to my Supervisors, Prof. Wilkister Moturi and Dr. Stanley Makindi, as well as to the entire Faculty of Environment and Resources Development, for the professionalism,

dedication to duty, and timeliness.

To all the staff in the libraries, the Halls, and the Finance Department, your warmth and hospitality was truly African.

I enjoyed ugali and sarget during my stay, but I was not comfortable with the asbestos roofs. It is my prayer that next time I visit my beloved alma mater the asbestos roofs will be no more.

Long live Egerton University!

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Message from the University Librarian

Cambridge University Press and ITOCA Train Academic Staff on New Trends in Scholarly Publishing



Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for their great achievement. Their successful completion of their various diploma and degree programmes has culminated in this momentous occasion of the 41st Graduation Ceremony of Egerton

University. I urge them to continue using the lifelong learning skills they gained at the University so that they can live fulfilling lives in future.

The Library has continued to grow in leaps and bounds in terms of information resources as well as diversified relevant information services to satisfy the information needs of our users. We have remained focused in our mission to provide the information and knowledge required by the teaching staff, researchers, and students in their academic pursuits.

In its endeavour to ensure that the Library users utilise the acquired information resources effectively to excel in their academic and research activities, the Library has continued to partner with key stakeholders to impart relevant skills to all users and Library staff. In line with this, in the year 2019 we

had two workshops, an author training workshop and a design thinking workshop.

Author Training Workshop

The workshop was organised by the Cambridge University Press and the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) and was held on 27 September 2019. The participants, who included students, lecturers, and researchers drawn from various Departments, were taken through the process of publishing in scholarly and peer-reviewed academic journals. Peer-reviewed publishing stops sub-standard and poorly done articles from reaching publication since the reviewers are experts in their field and are up-to-date with the latest developments. The participants were encouraged to embrace open access publishing to enhance

publicity and wider dissemination of the knowledge they create.

Open access publishing also helps to overcome price barriers that prevent students and other researchers from getting access to research data they need.

Additionally, the training showed participants how to access the over 300,000 electronic information resources (books and journals) that the Library has subscribed to.

Design Thinking Workshop

On 16 August 2019, ten Library staff participated in a workshop that was organised by the Kenya Library Association (KLA) in partnership with the Kenya Information Professionals for Change (KIPC) at Mount Kenya University, Nakuru Campus. The theme of the workshop was “The Changing Roles of Information Professionals in the Digital Era”. The main areas covered included strategic management, data management, human-

centred design thinking, data mining, and data warehousing in libraries and information centres. The skills learnt are critical in ensuring the Library Information Science (LIS) professionals play their roles in an effective and efficient manner. Human-centred design thinking empowers library staff to design products, services and systems which address the changing needs of Library clients.

Acquisition of Anti-Plagiarism Software

As we are all aware, plagiarism has become a cancer that is killing research and academic efforts in academic and research institutions today. Plagiarism, the act of an author falsely presenting someone else's content as his or her own, is considered one of the worst academic wrongs to be committed by any researcher. To curb this negative practice and ensure the integrity of academic

research and scholarly output the Library has acquired Turnitin, an anti-plagiarism software. The software will be used to ensure that all academic writing that are availed to the research community globally through the University's Institutional Repository are free from instances of plagiarism and therefore safeguard the integrity of the University as a world-class university for the advancement of humanity.

The work that will be subjected to anti-plagiarism checks will include research proposals, theses, project reports, journal articles submitted for publication, research reports, or any other work that has been written and submitted for assessment, academic qualification, or publication. The academic fraternity will benefit since the use of the software will improve the quality of their research output. Plans are now underway to train the students and staff on how to make use of the software.



A trainer takes participants through a session during the workshop organised by the Kenya Library Association and the Kenya Information Professionals for Change at Mount Kenya University, Nakuru Campus, on 16 August 2019.

Student Leaders Receive High-Level Training from KEMI



Prof. D. Odero-Wanga

I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate today's graduands for their exemplary achievements in various disciplines. At the Office of the Dean of Students we are committed to serving all our undergraduate and postgraduate students as fully as we can. 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 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, registration of clubs, public lectures, financial aid, the orientation of first-year students, and recreational activities.

Since the last graduation in June 2019, the Office of the Dean of Students has undertaken many activities in its determination to advance the interests of students within its mandate.

The 93rd National Music Festivals

were held in Nakuru County at Kabarak University on 3–15 August 2019. The theme of the Festival was “Enhancing National Unity, Cohesion, and Integration through the Kenya Music Festival.”

During the Festival the University scooped the First Position in “Class 661: Special Composition”, “Class 694: Arrangement of African Gospel”, “Class 670: Special Composition”, and “Class 1038M: Special Composition”. They also scooped Second Position in “Class 668: Special Composition”, “Class 691: Zilizopendwa”, and “Class 624: Arrangement for Mixed Voices”. They scooped Third Position in “Class 627: Sponsored Set Piece” and “Class 1116M: Kiswahili Choral Verse”.

The orientation of the first-year students took place from 3 to 11 September 2019. Representatives from the key offices that deal with student issues addressed the students during the period. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, had a talk with them on 10 September 2019.

The Student Leaders' training took

place at the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI), Nairobi, on 22–27 September 2019. The topics discussed included the following: Tendering Processes among the Youth; Student Leadership and Integrity; Leadership Skills for Student Leaders; Student Finance Issues and Challenges; Finance Management; the Role of HELB in Financing Students in Universities; National Cohesion and Integration for Conflict Management; and Academic Structure of the University and Student Leadership involvement.

Finally, the KUPAA National Drama and Film Festival Patrons' Workshop took place at the Maasai Mara University on 1–5 October 2019. The objective of the workshop was twofold. First, it sought to train university performing arts patrons and students on the newly introduced genres in the festival. And secondly, it set out to create a platform for networking and collaboration between participants and the universities present.



A scene in a play presented by Egerton University students at a past national competition

Directorate to Explore New Possibilities in Timetabling Process



Prof. Julius Kipkemboi

Over the last six years the Directorate of Examination and Timetabling has achieved great milestones under the leadership of the out-going Director of Examination and Timetabling, Dr. P. K. Migwi.

While handing over to the in-coming Director, on 23 October 2019, Dr. Migwi highlighted the achievements during his tenure, especially the restoration of confidence in the processing and administration of University examinations, the revision of the rules and regulations for invigilation, and the acquisition and refurbishment of the new University examination office.

The incoming Director, Prof. Julius Kipkemboi, is now focusing on building on this foundation to continue improving the Directorate through new initiatives, such as the use of timetabling software.

The objective of any timetabling process is to place each course at a time (or set of times) in a manner that does not conflict with the time(s) assigned to other unit(s) required by the students attending it. This is often a challenge in manually-generated timetabling processes. Software generated timetables can ease the optimisation of many competing

objectives: student conflicts, lecturer requirements, space constraints, and service teaching, among others. This will contribute to better and appropriate pedagogical spread of class times across the week.

In manual systems, it becomes considerably more difficult to deal with combinations of courses requiring different time placements. The availability of adequate lecture halls, location, and other infrastructural-related constraints – such resources required to offer instruction, like LCD projectors – can further complicate the timetabling process.

Other common challenges, which often create difficulty in manual timetabling, include clashing examinations, occurrences of back-to-back examinations, or overload in the number of examinations in a day. There is, therefore, a need for a system that will generate fully optimised timetables by combining and evaluating several objectives and constraints according to the needs and aspirations of the University, lecture/tutorial/laboratory sessions requirements, teaching spaces, and individual student class requests.

Automation of the timetabling process is the way to go as this will not only contribute to improved client services but also to institutional efficiency.

Plans spearheaded by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Alexander K. Kahi, are underway to pursue migration from the manual process to a software-based comprehensive scheduling system that supports the development of teaching and examination timetables. This will not only enable the Directorate of Examination and Timetabling to overcome the complexities involved in timetabling processes but will also ease

the management of changes to timetables, promote the efficient sharing of lecture halls, and streamline the scheduling of students to individual classes.

The proposed software-based system will be interfaced with an existing student information system that will also minimise unit conflicts across the teaching and examination schedule. Student course conflicts can be minimised based on either accurate data on student course demands through pre-registration modules in the Academic Records Management System (ARMS), curriculum details, historical patterns, or a combination of these data and other desired relationships between classes to produce a solution.

Going forward, therefore, the Directorate is seeking to put in place a timetabling process that will be able to define the relationships between components of courses with multiple types of instruction (such as lectures, laboratories, seminars, and tutorials, among other competence-based educational approaches which require inclusion of co-curricular activities) with coordinated efforts that are required to meet the diverse needs by various Faculties and Directorates.

Apart from timetabling, other priority areas in the in-tray of the new Director include working closely with the University Management to improve the status of lecture halls and furniture. The success of this endeavour will, however, require support by all stakeholders, namely the University Management, faculty, staff, and students.

On behalf of the Directorate staff, I wish to convey our very best wishes to all the graduands of the 41st Graduation Ceremony. May you all have successful careers.

Work-Study Programme Launched at NTCC



Prof. Lena Nakhone-Wati

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands, their parents and guardians, and their well-wishers during this 41st Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. This is a great milestone in your life, and it makes all of us proud of your success.

The Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) has recorded a number of successes since June this year that I wish to highlight.

To start with, we launched the students' work-study programme with a total of 28 students benefiting from the programme. The students have been placed in various sections of the Campus. The programme not only helps the beneficiaries financially but also gives them an opportunity to be introduced to various practical skills that are necessary in the work environment.

In September NTCC received a total of 402 new students, who underwent a one-week orientation. During the orientation we equipped them with key information to make their learning process at Egerton University a success.

The office of the Assistant Dean of Students inspected all leased and privately-owned hostels to ensure their security and suitability for our students. It is only those hostels that were given a clean bill of health that were assigned students for accommodation services.

As part of leadership empowerment, Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) leaders from NTCC joined their colleagues from the rest of the University at the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) for a training that was held between 22 and 27 September 2019.

In August 2019, the Council for Legal Education (CLE) visited the Faculty of Law for their annual cum mid-term review. The Faculty was able to address all the issues raised by the Council. In addition, the Faculty has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Amkeni Wakenya, to offer legal aid in Nakuru County. This will go a long way in strengthening the programme. I congratulate the Faculty leadership and staff for this achievement.

I wish at this point to thank the outgoing Dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Samson Obure, for steering the Faculty well during the period he was in office. I congratulate Dr. Brian Lishenga for his election to the office. I request the Faculty to accord him maximum support.

At the Faculty of Commerce, Dr. Amos Ayuo was appointed the new Chair, Department of Business and Administration (BA). He takes over from Dr. Simon Kipchumba, who has proceeded on a leave of absence as Registrar

(Administration) at Kabarak University. I congratulate Dr. Kipchumba on his appointment and ask the staff at the Department to fully support Dr. Ayuo.

For the second year running, NTCC successfully hosted the Gender Awareness Day together with the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS). This was held on 9 October 2019 at the Maasai Market in Nakuru and drew a lot of public attention and participation.

Finally, I want to thank the Chair of the University Council, Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario, for visiting NTCC on 19 September 2019. During his visit, the Chair had a fruitful discussion with the Principal, Deans, Departmental Chairs, and staff of NTCC. A number of issues were raised during the meeting, key among them being how to continue supporting and marketing the programmes at the Campus in order to raise student numbers. The Chair promised his support not just in this but also in capacity building of staff so that they can effectively serve our clients.

In conclusion, I wish to once again congratulate you, the graduands, and invite you to consider Egerton University as your preferred choice for further studies.

I wish you God's blessings in your future endeavours.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Your Passion Will Lead You to Your Purpose



Prof. Alfred C. Kibor

Acting DVC (R&E)

Graduation is a time of celebration and reflection, and I wish that the graduands consider it a step towards a greater future. The Graduation Ceremony symbolises the transformation of young students into dynamic persons equipped with necessary knowledge and skills.

I wish to assure the graduands that the academic staff have worked hard to ensure that they are empowered with the right knowledge and skills required to create a better future for themselves and their families. You have all it takes to be transformative leaders with the ability to change the environment of this great nation and the world at large. Your education is the ticket to bring the desired change.

We at the Division of Research and Extension are glad to share and celebrate with the graduands on this great accomplishment in life. Congratulations on completing your studies and participating in this Graduation Ceremony. This success would not have been realised without the cooperation of the students, the commitment of the university staff, and the support of the guardians, who sacrificed a lot to give these graduands one of life's

best gift – university education.

Hard work is not over when you graduate. Graduation is a springboard to new battle fields of life. As you step out into the highly competitive world, keep in mind that you are the ambassadors of Egerton University.

I urge you to work hard in all that you find to do, ensuring that you add some degree of innovativeness and creativity to whatever you do at all times. Identify a mentor that you can learn from in order for you to grow.

I cannot be blind to the challenges affecting the youth out there, including drug abuse and the desire for instant wealth. I would like to persuade you not to engage in the vices that other young people are falling prey to. Get yourself some noble source of income, not being shy of humble beginnings, and you shall surely succeed. “Instant wealth” is just a short-lived delusion that frustrates in the end. In the words of Oprah Winfrey, “Forget about the fast lane. If you really want to fly, just harness your power to your passion, honour your calling and have confidence in yourself.”

Remember that there is no need to compete with one's peers since you are running different races. In the words of Steve Jobs, “Your time is limited, don't waste it living someone else's life.” Follow your passion and it shall lead you to your purpose. You have a lot of unexploited potential within you. Whatever you imagine, you can achieve it, whatever you dream, you can become it.

To use the words of Charles Swindoll, “You have all it takes to face the challenges that will come your way. Your attitude towards these challenges makes all the difference, as life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it.” It is paramount that you appreciate that the world is dynamic – and I would advise that if you can't embrace change at least give it a hug once in a while. In all that you do, remain true to the values cherished at the University.

Once more congratulations to the graduands. Take pride in how far you have come and have faith in how far you can go. Go out there, soar, and make us proud. ■

Tablet Compression Machine will do Wonders

By Philip K. Bett

Research at Egerton University will take a new turn following the purchase of a tablet compression machine and accessories. Speaking during the official handover and commissioning of the equipment, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Extension), Prof. Alfred C. Kibor, said that the equipment has come at an opportune time when plans are in high gear to introduce natural products for commercialisation.

The equipment was purchased by the Essential Oils Tablet Formulation Project using funds from the Egerton University Innovation Grant. The Principal Investigator, Dr. Philip K. Bett, informed the audience that the main objective of the project is to contribute to food and income security of small-holder farmers through innovative application

of essential oils-based tablet fumigant for stored product insect pest management. He further reported that the equipment was versatile and will also be used in pharmaceutical research, food science, and nutrition, among other applications. The collaborating researchers in the project are Prof. Joshua Ogendo and Prof. Josphat Matasyoh, who are renowned researchers in pesticidal plant technologies. Ms. Ann Kiplagat is the Project Technical Assistant.

The DVC thanked the research team for the hard work and dedication in carrying out research and for purchasing equipment that is easy to use and maintain.

Dr. Philip K. Bett is a Lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences

ANNOUNCEMENT

Egerton University invites participants to the 13th International Conference

THEME: Innovation, Research and Transformation for Sustainable Development

SUB-THEMES:

1. Food Security
2. Natural Resources and Climate Change
3. Health and Sanitation
4. Housing and Infrastructure
5. Science and Technology
6. Manufacturing and Agro-Processing
7. Governance and Security
8. Education Reforms
9. History, Literature and Culture
10. Sino-African Relations: Prospects and Potentialities

Dates: 25-27 March 2020
Venue: Egerton University

Contacts:
Division of Research and Extension
Email: research@egerton.ac.ke;
Telephone: +254 708489256/ +254775015385



Dr. Musa Njue, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Engineering explains to the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Hon. Simon K. Chelugui, the innovations exhibited at the Egerton stand during the Nakuru Agricultural Society of Kenya Show held on 1–7 July 2019

Egerton Maintains Its Excellency in Agricultural Shows and Exhibitions



Prof. Symon M. Mahungu

As the premier agricultural institution in Kenya, Egerton University has a tradition of participating in agriculture-related shows and exhibitions. In keeping with this tradition, on 1–7 July 2019 the University participated in the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Nakuru National Show and Exhibition held at the Nakuru Show Grounds.

The University Management supports the shows and exhibitions in many ways, particularly by availing resources – both human and financial – to the Division of Research and Extension for the purpose. The support has enabled the Division to coordinate the shows and exhibitions consistently for quite some time now.

At this year's Nakuru Show, the University competed in the following categories: 1) agro-processing; 2) innovation and invention; 3) theme interpretation; 4) research and development; and 5) youth empowerment and capacity building.

The report by the University Industry Liaison Officer, Prof. Symon M. Mahungu (who also doubles as Chairman of Shows and Exhibitions), indicates that Egerton won in three categories as follows: 1) the best university stand; 2) the best stand in research and development; and 3) the best stand in youth activities empowerment and capacity-

building.

For the livestock section, Egerton won a number of awards, key among them being the following: 1) Champion Guernsey; and 2) Reserve Champion Guernsey.

The University faculties, directorates and sections that exhibited included the following: Admissions; Agro-Science Park; Nakuru Town Campus College; Faculty of Agriculture; Faculty of Science; Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery; Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business (CoELIB); Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture & Agribusiness Management (CESAAM);

Department; Disability Mainstreaming; and Tatton Agriculture Park (TAP).

The 2019 Nakuru ASK Show was formally opened by Hon. Simon K. Chelugui, the Cabinet Secretary for Water and Sanitation, as the Chief Guest. He toured the Egerton stand accompanied by the Acting DVC (R&E), Prof. Alfred C. Kibor.

The University used the opportunity availed to it by the show to market its innovations and community outreach activities. The innovations presented included the following: 1) snapping finger millet; 2) finger millet that matures in 75 days instead of 180 days; 3) high-yielding beans; 4) sugar reduced JAM



The Cabinet Secretary, Water and Sanitation, Hon. Simon K. Chelugui, presents the award for Best Stand in Research and Development to Egerton University at the 2019 Nakuru Agricultural Society of Kenya Show. The Acting DVC (R&E), Prof. Alfred C. Kibor (centre), the University Industry Liaison Officer, Prof. Symon M. Mahungu (left), and Senior Technologist (Department of Electrical and Control Engineering) Mr. Luke Toroitich are receiving the trophy on behalf of the University.

Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev); Faculty of Engineering and Technology; Faculty of Education and Community Studies; Faculty of Health Sciences; Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation; Agriculture Resources Centre (ARC); Medical

and non-syneresis JAM; 5) mushroom sausages; 6) INTELLIGENT/SMART Brooder/Incubator for 7 different bird species; 7) solar milk cooler; 8) safety sensitive chaffer cutter; 9) mechanical grain winnower and sorter; 10) mechanical sorghum thresher that polishes and sorts; and 11) successful incubated business start-ups. ■

Ever-Expanding Extension Work at DRTEC



Prof. George M. Ogendi

Today is an important day in the life of our graduating students. Congratulations to you all! In the last one year, the Egerton University staff based at the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC), Chemeron, have played a significant role in advancing the extension mandate of the University. The collaboration between the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) and DRTEC as Strategic Partners for the Lake Bogoria Landscape under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) phase VI round of development grants has impacted positively on biodiversity conservation as well as livelihood improvement in Baringo. The DRTEC staff led by their director held several community development proposal write-shops that enabled Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Baringo write successful proposals, most of which attracted funding of between two and five million shillings each. Twenty-three CSOs were successful in their Global Environment Facility-Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) applications. A Baringo County launch for the GEF-SGP for the grantees was held on 10 September 2019, and was graced by H. E. Hon. Stanley Kiptis, Governor of Baringo County, Ms. Nancy Chege, the SGP Country Programme leader, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, led by Ms. Agnes Yobterik, among others. The extension work by Egerton University was recognised and appreciated by all speakers at the event. It was through the efforts of Egerton University staff that CSOs operating within the Lake Bogoria Landscape attracted over 70 million

shillings.

DRTEC has been host to many activities which have largely benefitted the local community including local Community Based Organisations (CBOs), learning institutions, and individuals. Upon commissioning of the new borehole in February 2019, the staff at the DRTEC have reestablished the tree nursery that now boasts of over 10,000 tree and fruit seedlings most of which are ready for transplanting. The tree nursery forms part of a learning tour exposing learners to the DRTEC to a variety of tree species that are good for dryland rehabilitation. Several tree species are being raised at the nursery, e.g. neem tree, umbrella, paper flower, cassod tree, Golden Duranta, papaya, and passion fruit, among others. Many schools have also had a chance to visit the Centre and learn more on dryland natural resources, rehabilitation of degraded rangelands, and biodiversity conservation. The Centre provides study opportunities for students whose interests are in dryland ecology, geology, climate change, pasture management and livestock production,



Students from Sabor Secondary School hold a Kenyan Sand Boa snake at the Chemeron Snake Park during a past visit by the school to the Egerton University Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre.



Left to right: The DVC (APD), Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage; the Finance Officer, Mr. Moses Ouma; the Legal Officer, Ms. Janet Bii; and staff members from the Egerton University Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre, Chemeron, plant a tree on the grounds of the facility on 24 October 2019.

ornithology, and herpetology. The establishment of an artificial geology gallery to showcase some of the different types of rocks that have been collected within the DRTEC and the adjacent environs is currently underway.

The DRTEC Nature Park continues to be an attraction for students and teachers, mostly from the Baringo County learning institutions. An Aloe garden has been established in the lower side of the Park in addition to the existing Botanic Garden that has over 100 plant species fully labeled including the corresponding botanic, common, and local names. Within the Park, one will also be exposed to Guinea fowls, rodents (mice and rabbits) as well as crocodiles and monitor lizards (Savannah and Nile monitor lizards). Documentation of the bird species found in and around Chemeron is currently ongoing.

Rangeland reseeding using buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) and Masai love grass (*Eragrostis superba*) has shown tremendous potential for enhancing livestock production within the semi-arid lands of Baringo and beyond.

The technology is currently being upscaled at several sites by engaging communities keen on pasture establishment and management; these include Lokasacha at Sandai and Nooseiya at Salabani within South-Baringo. Using the GEF/SGP funds and with the technical support from DRTEC, Egerton University, Nooseiya CBO and the Lokasacha CBO have so far established over 50 and 70 acres of grass pastures, respectively. The two CBOs intend to bulk the grass seed and expand their acreage as well as bale and sell the harvested grass to livestock keepers, thereby enhancing local livelihoods. The technology is fast gaining acceptance among the locals whose livestock are normally affected by harsh droughts that are characteristic of the arid and semi-arid lands of Sub-Saharan Africa. To cushion pastoralists against such extremes of weather, it is time that the county and national government agencies as well as other stakeholders join hands in upscaling these pasture technologies thereby increased resilience.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands!

Halls of Residence Renovated, IGUs Streamlined



Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage

I am delighted to join the rest of the University fraternity in congratulating this year's graduands today. It is my belief that you have genuinely toiled over the years and earned the honour you are about to be bequeathed with. This may look like the end of an academic journey to some of you, but in reality, for most of you, it is just the beginning of another exciting journey ahead. You have earned your various skills, from which the society looks forward to tapping for development.

Leaders in today's business and industry underscore the need for graduates to be prepared with soft and essential skills. Some of the skills expected of a graduate are, to name but a few: knowing how to learn, analytical skills, listening and communication, problem-solving, creative thinking, interpersonal skills, team work, organisational effectiveness, and leadership. I trust that you have garnered some of these skills during your studies here at Egerton University.

As you have witnessed over your stay in Egerton University over the years, amidst different constraints the University has continued to support academic programmes by attracting, training and retaining qualified academic staff, conducting regular academic staff reviews and recruiting Graduate Assistants where necessary. During the last one year, 8 staff members have been recruited to teach in different programmes and 19 were promoted to higher scales of service. We are also implementing a range of austerity measures to enhance expenditure control and fiscal discipline.

The staff have also been re-tooled in tandem with

emerging trends in teaching and learning through facilitation to attend thematic conferences, workshops, and other collaborative activities within and outside the country.

The Division endeavours to spearhead activities aimed at making the Halls of Residence clean and safe for students' habitation. Repairs and renovation activities have been carried out when necessary. These are activities that happen all year round with the sole purpose of improving the living and learning environment for students. The Catering Unit is endeavouring to improve the quality of meals offered to students and staff

To support the capitation given by the Government, the University is in the process of revamping operations of Income Generating Units (IGUs). These units have developed Business Plans that are in various stages of approval, after which all will be required to operate as going concerns. The units' Business Plans highlight ways in which their provisions can be converted to profitable ventures. All these are aimed at enhancing revenue generation to support University operations.

Deforestation, degradation of forests, desertification, as well as global warming, are some of the major threats to sustainable development that continue to negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. Kenya's forest cover is estimated to be about 7.4 per cent of the total land area, which is a far cry from the recommended global minimum of 10 per cent. It is against this background that Egerton University has begun tree planting activities, especially along its borders, in collaboration with both private and public entities. This will go a long way in providing a clean environment to the University and the neighbouring community.

The Division of Administration, Planning and Development endeavours to ensure provision of adequate and clean water to staff and students. This is done through regular and timely repairs of broken pipes and sanitation measures around water pans, including regular clearing of plant growths around the pans and removal of planktons and other pollutants.

To further improve the security of staff and students, plans are underway to install a security communication system, to increase CCTV coverage in strategic locations, and to construct a perimeter wall around the water pans.

Once again, congratulations on your achievements. Make your communities and the society at large proud.

May God bless you!

Staff Appointed and Promoted in 2019

APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Department Electrical and Control Engineering

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Nicondemus Abungu Odera

Department of Industrial and Energy Engineering

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Mourine Chepnge'no

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Department of Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Boniface Mwanzia Kavoi

George Otianga Owiti

Department of Veterinary Public Health, Pharmacology and

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Jackson Nyarongi Ombui

Joshua Orungo Onono

Ames Mucunu Mbaria

Department of Veterinary Surgery, Theriogeniology &

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

John Muthee Kaunga

PROMOTIONS

GRADE 15

PROFESSOR

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Agricultural Engineering

Prof. M. Daudi Nyaanga

Prof. Benedict Mwavu Mutua

GRADE 13

SENIOR LECTURERS

FACULTY OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Economics

Symon Kibet Kiprop

Department of Philosophy, History and Religion

Boaz Kariuki Onyancha

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Department of Applied Community Development Studies

Lydia Nkatha Kinuthia

Nancy O. Openda

Susan Muthoni Kamuru

Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Management

Flora Fedha Mukhwana

Joel Kipkemoi Ng'eno

GRADE 12

LECTURERS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Department of Animal Science

Joel Onyango Khobondo

FACULTY OF ART AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics

Raphael Mwaura Gacheiya

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Management

Pauline Wanjiru Githaiga

Department of Psychology, Counselling and Education Foundation

Jane Njeri Gacohi

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Agricultural Engineering

Samwel Nyakach

Department of Electrical and Control Engineering

Lilian Livutse Amuhaya

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department of Chemistry

John Onyango Abura Adongo

Department of Physics

Kallen Mulilo Nalyanya

Tabitha Awuor Amollo

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Department of Natural Resources

Isaiah Clement Lenachuru

The Chancellor,
the Egerton University Council
and the University Management Board

wish all staff members and students
a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2020

EGERTON



UNIVERSITY

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Transforming Lives through Quality Education

STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 – 2023



The current Strategic Plan of Egerton University was launched by the Chief Administrative Secretary and Principal Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Prof. Collette A. Suda, on 14 June 2019 on the Njoro Campus.



“The Division of Administration Planning and Development endeavours to spearhead activities aimed at making the Halls of” Residence clean and safe for students' habitation.” Two Residents of the Old Hall hostel, located on the Njoro Campus of Egerton University, walk along a verandah of the building on 23 October 2019. The hostel accommodates first-year B.Sc. and M.Sc. TAGDev-sponsored students. The Hall was renovated with the support of TAGDev in 2019.

DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Message from the Director

2019–2020 Egerton University Performance Contract Vetted



Dr. Elizabeth Kamau

The Directorate of Planning and Development (DPD) takes this opportunity to congratulate all graduands on this important day. Today's Graduation Ceremony is a culmination of your hard work, discipline and self-sacrifice – virtues that you should uphold continuously. My advice to you is that you always plan for all the activities you would like to carry out in future. A plan

will give direction to the actions you want to take in your life.

The DPD was founded in April 2009. The Directorate's primary objective is to catalyse the transformation of Egerton University to be among the leading universities in the world. The University, in its first Strategic Plan, developed in 2009–2015, set for itself the ambitious agenda of realising its Vision of a world-class university for the advancement of humanity.

The Directorate monitors the implementation of the University's strategic objectives by cascading the current Strategic Plan (2018–2023) and the Citizens' Service Delivery Charter to University units through the Performance Contracting System and Operational Plans.

The mandate of the Directorate includes the preparation of the Annual University Performance Contracts, the

development of the University Strategic and Operational Plans, the monitoring of capital projects, the preparation of the University Citizens' Service Delivery Charter, and the collection of corporate data from the three University divisions for analysis and decision making.

The Directorate also prepares and delivers reports that are required by government ministries and agencies on a quarterly and annual basis for the purpose of performance contracts monitoring.

In the 2018–2019 financial year, the Directorate has managed to put in place the Revised Egerton University Strategic Plan for 2018–2023. In addition, it has been involved in performance contract negotiations with the Ministry of Education. And, finally, it has vetted the performance contract for the 2019-2020 financial year with the Performance Contracting Management Office (PCMO) in the Office of the President. ■

DUWS and Private Landlords Set Standards for Off-Campus Students Accommodation



Prof. Rose Odhiambo

On behalf of the Directorate of University Welfare Services (DUWS), it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the graduating students of the 41st

Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. Your graduation is a great achievement in your lives. It will pay dividends with time and motivate others whom you engage with in the future. It is our sincere belief that the long hours of hard work you spent to gain academic experience and practical skills at Egerton will prove to be a significant pool of knowledge for wise decision-making and meaningful creativity on your part in the future.

Significant changes are expected with the decision by the University Council to allocate business premises within Njoro Campus to bonafide students of Egerton University. The decision was made in order to ease and increase efficiency in monitoring the trade of goods within the campus. The vetting, award, and managing of student

business premises will be done on recommendation of the Egerton University Students' Business Engagement Committee (EUSBEC) and as outlined within the newly developed Students' Business Premises Policy.

The DUWS and the Dean of Students (DOS) offices held a meeting of students and staff in Kilimo Hall in early July 2019 to sensitise everyone on the dangerous effects of sexual promiscuity, alcohol over-consumption, and drug abuse. There was a session on dangers and control/coping strategies of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

In the course of the year 2018–2019, there was an increased demand for meals by incoming first-year students. To cope with the large number of students and eating habits of our clients, the Catering Department has extended the hours of



A wide variety of meals is available at affordable prices at the Kennedy Cafeteria, Njoro Campus. Payment can be made online, making it easy to manage small change.

operation to 10:30 pm. The Department resorted to centralised cooking to ensure uniformity in terms of quality and pricing between the staff and student cafeterias.

To ease the long queues during meal hours, the Simba wing of the Mess was opened for student customers' use.

We have also introduced an Mpesa till number at all the counters – as well as a pay bill number for off-counter payment. A good number of our students and customers use the pre-paid services.

The Persons with Disability Mainstreaming Unit (DMU) has received six new students. Two students have visual impairments, three have physical impairments, and one is in a wheel chair.

On 21 September 2019, staff and students from DMU took part in a hike at Mt. Longonot organised by the Kenya Society for the Blind. This is an annual event that seeks to create awareness on the use of the white cane for the visually impaired. All are encouraged to get to

know them, welcome them, and support them in every way possible.

The Accommodation Department has attracted 86 per cent of all registered students, compared to only 56 per cent for last year. On-campus accommodation plays the function of bringing out the best in students, especially academic pursuits, as it satisfies both the physical and the psychological need to attain their primary purpose in the University. Students are encouraged to reside on campus due to its proximity to facilities such as libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, sports grounds, Wi-Fi connections, and security points.

We are also hosting international students from all over Africa through the project Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev). The third cohort of the students is residing in the Old Hall hostel, which was renovated with support funds from

the TAGDev project channeled through RUFORUM by the MasterCard Foundation.

Through a collaborative initiative, the DUWS held meetings on 5 September 2019 with private landlords to set standards for off-campus student accommodation. Similarly, on 16 September 2019, the Directorate held another meeting to set community policing and social safeguards that will enhance peaceful co-existence among members of the University Community.

Administration police officers posted to Egerton have effectively created a sense of security and order at the main gate for workers and residents operating within and without the University Campus.

Our best wishes and blessing to you and your loved ones. May the peace of God abide with you as you continually work hard towards your own prosperity and the prosperity of our country.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

Message from the Chief Medical Officer

Department Determined to Keep Infectious Diseases at Bay



*Dr. Geoffrey Wahome
Acting Chief Medical Officer*

The Medical Department joins other departments and faculties in celebrating and congratulating the graduands for the great effort and hard work they put into their studies – as well as the successful completion of their studies in their various disciplines. CONGRATULATIONS!

Public health is the approach to medicine that is concerned with the health of the community as a whole. The mission of public health is to "fulfil society's interest in assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy". Its responsibilities include ensuring an adequate local public health infrastructure, promoting healthy

communities and healthy behaviours, preventing the spread of communicable diseases, protecting against environmental health hazards, and preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Despite the various challenges faced by the Department, we have been able to provide a good number of services to our clients and patients that have been highly successful.

The control we have gained over infectious diseases has resulted from clean water and improved sanitation. Infections such as typhoid, transmitted by contaminated water and food, have been reduced dramatically. This has been achieved through various means:

improved sanitation and inspection of the food premises and the food handlers within the University and the surrounding food outlets; quarterly water analysis (which is carried out at the Government Laboratory in Nairobi); food handler's medical checkups (which are undertaken at our laboratory); and improved sanitation (which is carried out within the various campuses by our public health officers).

Furthermore, infections like cholera have been kept away from the institution due to the professional work carried out by the various sections within the Department. The same has been the case with respect to antimicrobial therapy, which has been greatly improved.

Family planning is another public health issue that the Department has had to confront. Access to family planning and contraceptive services has altered the social and economic roles of women. It has provided many health benefits – such as smaller family size and longer intervals between the birth of children; increased opportunities for preconception counselling and screening; and fewer infant, child, and maternal mortality rates due to use of barrier contraceptives to prevent pregnancy and transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus and other STDs.

The facility offers various types of contraceptives at affordable prices for both staff and students, ranging from hormonal pills implants, IUCDs, and condoms, both for females and males.

Safer and healthier foods have been achieved by decreased microbial contamination and increase in nutritional content, through our nutrition education – a daily clinical provision of the Department.

Identification of essential micronutrients and available foods and food-fortification programmes has reduced major nutritional deficiencies and under-nutrition through nutritional

counselling and supplementation, although over-nutrition still remains a challenge in our community.

De-worming and micronutrient supplementation are carried out, both at the Mother Child Clinics (MCH) and at the nutrition office, on a routine basis. Our MCH dispenses the vaccines stipulated by the Ministry of Health.

Preventable diseases (such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough) are still a threat. However, vaccination, which is done at the MCH, has resulted in the control of infections like pneumonia, measles, tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, and rotavirus.

We monitor the growth of infants of up to age 59 months, to assess their growth, which in turn helps to prevent malnutrition.

Malezi Bora (a nutrition programme in the Ministry of Health) activities are held twice a year – in May and October – to deliver a specific health package, which includes child immunisation, vitamin A supplementation, and de-worming of

children aged between six months and 59 months.

In line with Malezi Bora, a maternal, neonatal and child health 100-day Rapid Result Initiative, was held between 16 and 26 August.

This year, the nutrition section in the facility undertook vitamin A supplementation and de-worming in the Early Childhood Development Centres around the University. It did so in conjunction with the Njoro Health Centre. The aim was to boost the immune system and protect clients from illness, particularly infants and children. One of the targets of the project was to sustain the achievement of 62 per cent coverage for Vitamin A supplementation achieved in the first round of Malazi Bora activities.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome back Dr. Ann Njoki, a medical officer at our facility, for successively completing her studies in Paediatric Medicine.



“Public health is the approach to medicine that is concerned with the health of the community as a whole”. Early Childhood Development pupils being supplemented Vitamin A by a nutritionist during the Malezi Bora Week.



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT

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From the Desk of the Lead Scientist of CESAAM



Prof. George Owuor

The Africa Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) is one of 24 World Bank-funded Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) II in Africa which is hosted at Egerton University, Kenya. CESAAM focuses on capacity-building at the postgraduate level in sustainable agriculture and agribusiness along crop and livestock value chains. The Centre is anchored on agri-innovations, agri-enterprise development, value addition, climate smart agriculture, and technology transfer as key ingredients in addressing food security in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme

(CAADP). The Centre is currently supporting over 200 Master's and Ph.D. students drawn from 11 countries in Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Lesotho, South Sudan, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, and Swaziland, with 48 per cent female representation. The supported programmes range from Agribusiness/Agricultural and Applied Economics Management to Animal Sciences, Crop Sciences (including Biotechnology), Food Sciences & Dairy Technology, Agricultural Engineering, and Agricultural Extension (including Rural Innovation Systems).

CESAAM Activities include: support to Ph.D. and M.Sc. training, industry internships, programme development, support for students and staff exchange, short courses to retool industry and faculty, joint international innovation forums and international conferences, summer schools for graduate students, support for joint multidisciplinary research including publication, product development, student innovation through agri-enterprise groups, and community outreach through the CESAAM Knowledge Centre in partnership with the Nation Media Seeds of Gold Platform.

CESAAM Partners include: **International Partners** such as Virginia Tech University-USA, Nanjing Agricultural University-China, University of Edinburgh-UK, University of Cologne-Germany, and Louisiana University-USA; **Regional University Partners** such as Pwani University-Kenya, JOUST-Kenya, University of Rwanda, University of Burundi, University of Juba-South Sudan, Gulu University-Uganda, University of Namibia, University of Swaziland, Haramaya University-Ethiopia; and **Private Sector Partners** such as Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Green Forest, The Hive International, Nestle Foods, and CARD; and **International Research Organisation partners:** BeCA-ILRI, CIMMYT, ICIPE, and CIP, among others



CESAAM High-end Lab & Exchange in China & USA



CESAAM Industry Internship Opportunities



CESAAM Seminars by Visiting Scientists



CESAAM Innovation & Product Development

Students Attachment Opportunities at Egerton University Investment Company Ngongogeri Farm



High-End Dairy & Commercial Crop Farming at Ngongogeri Agribusiness Farm

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FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



Emily Cherono Kilel

Programme:
Ph.D. Food Science
Thesis Title:
Optimisation of Brewing, Processing Conditions and their Effects on the Chemical and the Sensory Quality of Purple-Leafed Kenyan Tea
Supervisors:
Prof. A. K. Faraj
Dr. J. K. Wanyoko
Dr. P. Ngoda



Vedaste Ndungutse

Programme:
Ph.D. Food Science
Thesis Title:
Chemical Qualities of Selected Potato (*Solanum tuberosum L.*) Cultivars and their Suitability for Products Diversification in Rwanda
Supervisors:
Prof. A. K. Faraj
Dr. P. Ngoda
Dr. H. Vasamthakaalam



Chantal Ingabire

Programme:
Ph.D. Agricultural Economics
Thesis Title:
Market Participation and its Effect on Employment and Food Access within Households of Smallholder Women Farmers in Rwanda
Supervisors:
Prof. Patience Mshenga
Dr. J. K. Langat
Dr. E. A. Birachi



Rebecca Jerop

Programme:
Ph.D. Agricultural Economics
Thesis Title:
Role of Agricultural Innovations on Productivity and Commercialisation of Underutilised Cereals: The Case of Finger among Smallholder Farmers in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. George Owuor
Prof. Patience Mshenga
Prof. Paul Kimurto



Louis Hortensius Mwamlima

Programme:
Ph.D. Agronomy
Thesis Title:
Effects of Soil Moisture Regimes, Planting Density and Intercropping on Growth and Yield of Selected Soybean Cultivars in Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. J. Ouma
Prof. E. Cheruiyot

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Xavier Francis Ichani

Programme:
Ph.D. History
Thesis Title:
Kenya Defence Forces Operations and Militarisation of Internal Disputes, 1963–2013
Supervisors:
Prof. Reuben Matheka
Dr. H. Wario

FACULTY OF COMMERCE



Monica Wanjiru Muiru

Programme:
Ph.D. Business and Management
Thesis Title:
Foreign Exchange Risk Hedging Techniques, Firm Specific Factors, Corporate Governance and Financial Performance of Listed Firms in Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. L. K. Kibet
Dr. S. E. Kisaka
Dr. F. Kalui



Rael Chepkurgat

Programme:
Ph.D. Business and Management
Thesis Title:
Strategic Leadership Organisation Change and Organisational Performance in Kenyan Universities
Supervisors:
Prof. Daniel Auka
Dr. Dinah Kipkebut

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



Jane Wangari Ngure

Programme:
Ph.D. Counselling Psychology
Thesis Title:
Effects of Selected Institutional Factors and Counseling Interventions on Substance use among Students in Public and Private Universities in Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Micah Chepcheng
Dr. B. E. Omulema



Muriithi Waweru

Programme:
Ph.D. Counselling Psychology
Thesis Title:
Relationship between Selected Rehabilitation Factors and Recovering Alcoholics Competencies in Central and Nairobi Regions in Kenya
Supervisors:
Dr. Catherine Mumiukha
Dr. Owen Ngumi



David Gachiu Ngatia

Programme:
Ph.D. Science Education
Thesis Title:
Effects of Interactive Multimedia Simulations Advance Organiser Teaching Approach on Students' Achievements and Motivation to Learn Secondary School Physics in Laikipia County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. J. M. Changeiywo
Dr. P. W. Wambugu



Roselyn Jepkosgei Chebii

Programme:
Ph.D. Science Education
Thesis Title:
Effects of Cooperative E-Learning Approach on Students' Achievement and Attitude towards Chemistry in Secondary Schools in Koibatek Sub-County, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Samuel W. Wachanga
Dr. Z. Anditi

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



Alfred Owino Odongo

Programme:
Ph.D. Environmental and Occupational Health
Thesis Title:
Assessment of Occupational Exposure to Lead and Associated Health Risks among the Informal Sector Automobile Artisans in Nakuru Town
Supervisors:
Prof. Wilkister Moturi
Dr. M. Obonyo



Stephen Aurice Wekoye

Programme:
Ph.D. Environmental and Occupational Health
Thesis Title:
Occupational Safety and Health Status in the Informal Non-Food Manufacturing Sector in Kampala City, Uganda
Supervisors:
Prof. Wilkister Moturi
Dr. Stanley Makindi



Elizabeth Wangui Muoria

Programme:
Ph.D. Environmental Science
Thesis Title:
Impact of Urban Population Dynamic on Household Access to Water and Sanitation in Urban Nakuru, Kenya
Supervisors:
Prof. Wilkister Moturi
Dr. G. W. Eshiamwata



Zachary Mainuri

Programme:
Ph.D. Geography
Thesis Title:
Effects of Land Use Practices on Soil and Water Quality in the Middle River Njoro Sub – Watershed Kenya
Supervisors:
Dr. J. Mironga
Prof. S. Mwonga

FACULTY OF SCIENCE



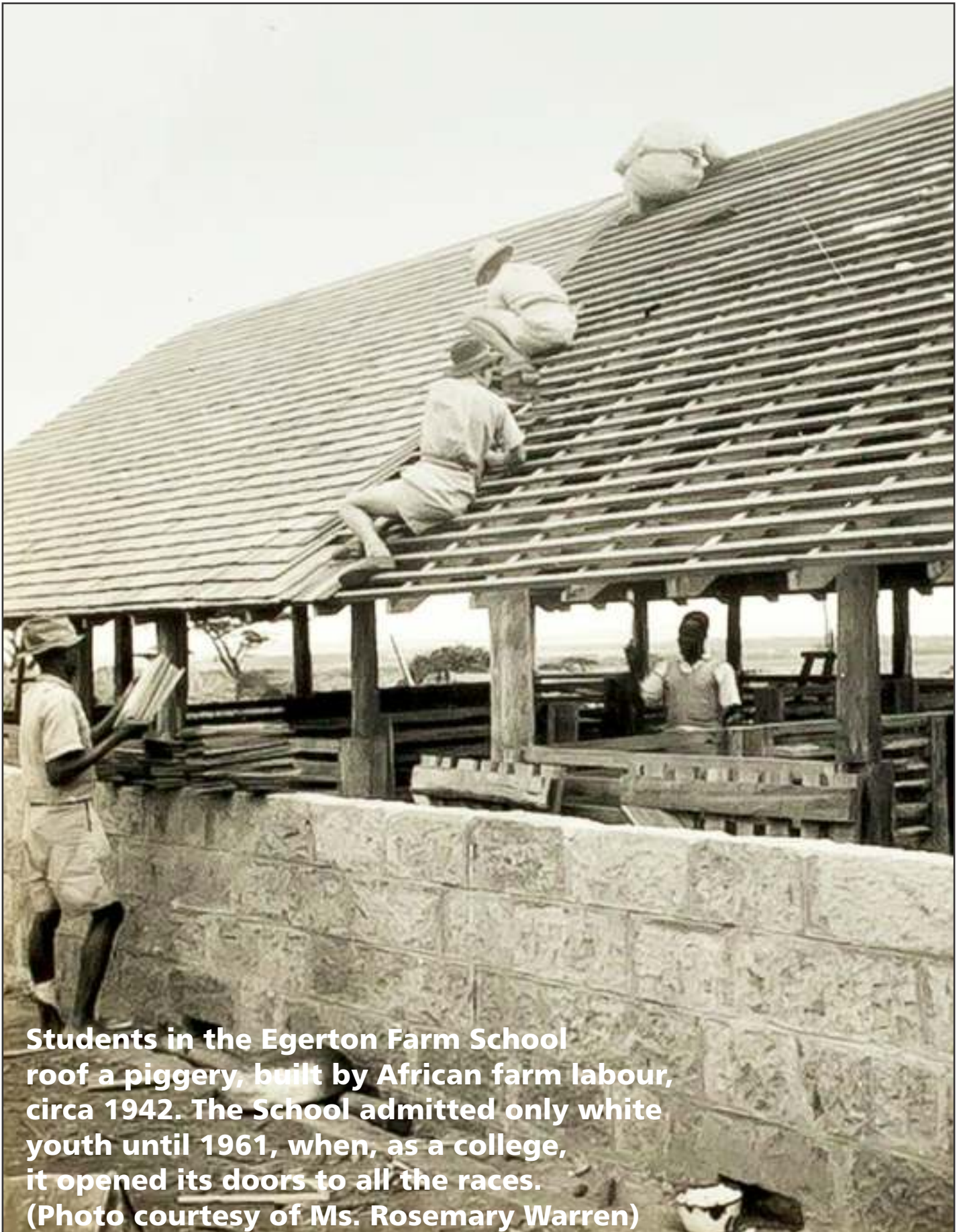
Dennis Kipngeno Chichir

Programme:
Ph.D. Chemistry
Thesis Title:
Screening and Characterisation of Some Anticancer Compounds from *Salicaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae* and *Solanaceae* Families
Supervisors:
Prof. Josiah Omolo
Prof. P. K. Cheplogoi



Esther Wanjiru Kinuthia

Programme:
Ph.D. Chemistry
Thesis Title:
Antimicrobial Activity and Phytochemical Studies of Selected Medicinal Plants from Kenya
Supervisors:
Dr. E. Mwangi
Prof. P. K. Cheplogoi



Students in the Egerton Farm School roof a piggery, built by African farm labour, circa 1942. The School admitted only white youth until 1961, when, as a college, it opened its doors to all the races. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Rosemary Warren)

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