



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

NEWSLINK

www.egerton.ac.ke

Issue No. 111

17 December 2021

The 44th Graduation

Bolstering Resilient Transformative Higher Education



Egerton Gets New VC and Two Top Managers



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Welcomes all Graduands

OF THE 44TH GRADUATION CEREMONY TO JOIN *the* EGERTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

VISION

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

MISSION

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

MEMBERSHIP AND ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

As the voice for more than 80,000 Egerton Alumni worldwide, the Association strives to keep Alumni informed about the University and the Association affairs.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are as follows:

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

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

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

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Alumni benefits include:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alumni Relations Office
Egerton University
P.O. Box 536 – 20115
Egerton, KENYA
Telephone: +254 51 2113704
Email: alumni.relations@egerton.ac.ke

Editorial	i
Appointment of the 6th Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University	1
Egerton Gets New VC and Two Top Managers	3
Message from the Chancellor	4
Message from the Chairman of Council	5
Office of the Vice-Chancellor	6
Message from the Vice-Chancellor	6
News from Across the University	6
Connecting Youth to Social and Economic Opportunities through the USAID Empowered Youth Programme	9
<i>By Alexander K. Kahi</i>	20
Division of Academic Affairs	22
Egerton University Wins Inter-University Blitz Challenge	43
Nakuru Town Campus College	45
Message from the Principal, NTCC	45
Division of Research and Extension	47
Message from the DVC (R&E)	47
Division of Administration, Planning and Development	51
Message from the DVC (APD)	51
List of Staff Promoted in 2021	52
Ph.D. Graduands	54

Front cover photo: Academic staff march from the Administration Block to the Graduation Square for the 43rd Graduation Ceremony on 18 June 2021

Universities Must Take Best Advantage of Cyberspace

There is no doubt that the most momentous transformation that the world has undergone in recent times has to do with the socio-cultural evolution that is unfolding in what we have come to know as “cyberspace”. In effect, the Internet has created a universe that not only parallels the concrete world that we are used to but that also brings with it altogether new and unprecedented opportunities across all aspects of life. The result, of course, is that it is making amazing contributions to human development – and not just in the developed world but also in developing societies such as ours. Indeed, one can argue, and justifiably so, that cyberspace provides a readily available opportunity by which the developing world could leapfrog into the future and “catch up” with the developed world in terms of economic development in spite of the fact that much of that world has not yet undergone a phase of industrialisation in the traditional sense.

Perhaps the most important advantage that cyberspace has brought with it concerns the opportunities that it provides in terms of job creation. Unlike the traditional job market, cyberspace does not limit the working space to the physical location within which the employer and the employee are located but cuts across all boundaries to incorporate virtually the entire globe. Thus, for example, one could reside in Kenya and yet work for an employer who is headquartered in New York. Moreover, one could do so just as efficiently as if one was physically interacting with the employer in New York on a day-to-day basis.

Most importantly, the opportunities for employment that exist in cyberspace are unprecedented in terms of their possibilities. There is practically nothing that one can do in the concrete world that one cannot do in cyberspace. But there are new and altogether different activities that one can engage in on the Internet that extend the experience of “work” beyond the traditional sphere and that do so in even more exciting ways.

Let us consider, for example, just a small number of job opportunities that the Internet has exposed to us. One can innovatively fabricate a hardware gadget that performs an important function in one type of

Turn to page 4

GRADUATION STATISTICS

Doctorates	17
Masters	53
Bachelors	2,009
Diplomas	103
Total	2,182

[f @egertonunikenya](#) [t @egertonunikenya](#)

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

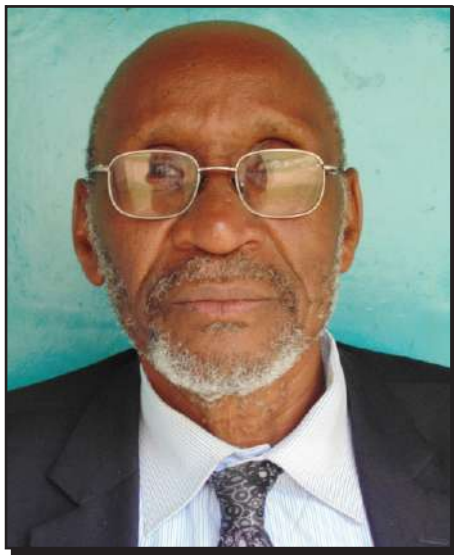
The University's activities and decisions will be guided by the following core values:

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

APPRECIATION

Prominent Egertonians and Former Vice-Chancellors Retire from University Service



*Prof. Ezra K. Maritim
Professor of Educational Psychology and
Vice-Chancellor (2000 - 2005)*

*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya
Professor of Home Economics and
Vice-Chancellor (2016 - 2021)*

**The Chancellor, the Council, the University
Management Board,
and the Egerton University Community
would like to appreciate the great service
that Prof. Maritim and Prof. Mwonya,
who retired in 2021,
rendered to the University over the years
and wish them a happy retirement.**

APPOINTMENT OF THE 6TH VICE-CHANCELLOR OF EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Profile of Prof. Isaac Ongubo Kibwage

Prof. Isaac Ongubo Kibwage is a distinguished Kenyan scholar with an established track record in science and university management. For close to 40 years, he has made immense contribution to the development of knowledge in the field of pharmaceutical chemistry as well as played a prominent part in the growth of the pharmaceutical industry and the higher education sector in Kenya.

Prof. Kibwage was born on 21 August 1954 to Mr Arphaxad Nyatichi and Mrs Susan Buyaki of Bosinange village, South Mugirango. He attended Tinderet Primary School, from where he obtained his Certificate of Primary Education in 1968. He then joined Nduru Secondary School for his O-Level, before proceeding to Kisii School, which he completed in 1974 with the East African Certificate of Education.

Prof. Kibwage received his Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Nairobi (UoN) in 1979, his Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences degree from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, in 1982, and his Ph.D. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the same university in 1985.

He began his teaching career in 1986 in the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UoN., rising to the rank of Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry in 2000. He was Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, UoN, from 1995 to 2004, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, UoN, from 2004 to 2007, and Principal, College of Health Sciences, UoN, from 2007 to 2017. The College of Health Sciences comprised the Schools of Medicine; Pharmacy; Dental Sciences; Nursing Sciences and Public Health; the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases; KAVI-Institute of Clinical Research; and the Centre for HIV/Aids Research and Prevention, each headed by a dean or a director. As Principal, he was the administrative, financial and academic head of the College. He was also responsible for all research activities at the College, ensuring compliance to project objectives and prudent utilisation of resources.

In 2017, Prof. Kibwage was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Development), Egerton University. During his tenure, he presided over a number of significant institutional initiatives. In infrastructural development, he ensured the completion of the Physical Sciences Complex and the Security Control Complex at the main gate of the Njoro Campus. He also oversaw repairs and

renovations of students' halls of residence and the provision of adequate and clean water to staff and students.

In collaboration with both private and public entities, Prof. Kibwage initiated tree planting activities, especially along the University borders, thus boosting the University's efforts in environmental conservation. In planning and development, he completed the review of the 2018-2023 University Strategic Plan as well as oversaw the continued implementation of the Service Delivery Charter and the annual performance contracts. In human resource development, he guided the attraction, training and retention of qualified academic and administrative staff. With regard to University policies, he supervised the development of policies on human capital, workload, post-retirement contract, working environment, waste management and pollution control, endowment fund, income-generating units, alcohol and drug abuse, and HIV-AIDS. And finally, concerning the management of financial resources, he implemented a range of austerity measures to enhance expenditure control and fiscal discipline. Among other things, he revamped operations of Income Generating Units (IGUs), which culminated in the establishment of the Directorate of Income Generating Units.

Prof. Kibwage also served as acting Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University for nine months.

Prof. Kibwage has authored and co-authored over 80 publications in the following thematic areas: Health Systems Education, Radio-pharmacy, Chromatography, Natural Products, Medicinal Plants, Traditional/Complementary Medicine, and Quality Control/Assurance of Medicines. Through these publications he has made significant contributions to his field of study. In addition, he has been Editor, *East and Central African Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*; Editor in Chief, *The Pharmaceutical Journal of Kenya*; Editorial Advisor, *NuPharma*; and Editor, *New African Journal of Medicine*.

Prof. Kibwage has been Member of a number of professional societies, including the following: Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (of which he was also Chairman for six years); Chromatographic Society (UK); American Association for Advancement of the Sciences; National Geographic; New York Academy of Sciences (USA); and Royal Society of Chemistry (UK).

Nationally and internationally, at different times,

Prof. Kibwage has held a wide range of advisory positions as follows: Chairman, Board of Directors, Kisii Teaching and Referral Hospital; Member, Medical and Health Services Providers and Allied Industries Committee, Directorate of Industrial Training, Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development; Member, Nairobi Health Management Board; Member, Board of Directors, Kenyatta National Hospital; Member, Board of Management, Kenya Medical Training Colleges; Member, Board of Directors, School Equipment Production Unit, Ministry of Education; Chairman, Board of Governors, Menyenya High School, Nyamira District; Chairman, Board of Management, National Quality Control Laboratory; Member, National Constitutional Conference, Kenya (2002-2003); Member, Traditional Medicines and Drugs Research Programme Committee, Kenya Medical Research Institute; Member, World Health Organisation Expert Committee on the International Pharmacopoeia and Pharmaceutical Preparations; Assistant Secretary and Executive Member, Board of Trustees, Pharmacy Development Trust; Collaborator, World Health Organisation Programme on “Basic Tests for

Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms”; Consultant, Quality Control of Pharmaceutical Products, Ministry of Health and the Local Industry; Chairman, Committee on Drug Registration (Human Drugs), Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Ministry of Health; Pharmaceutical Expert, Human Drugs Registration and Veterinary Drugs Registration, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Ministry of Health; Member, Steering Committee, Impact (K); Member, Pharmacy and Poisons Board, Government of Kenya; and Assessor of promotions to positions of Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, and Professor at Makerere University and Muhimbili University of Health Sciences.

Prof. Kibwage has impeccable expertise in the pharmaceutical regulatory systems in Kenya and specifically in the quality control and quality assurance of medicines. His exemplary pharmaceutical services earned him the “Head of State Commendation” as well as the title “Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya”.

On 5 October 2021, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, addresses the First-Year students of 2021 at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 13 September 2021

Egerton Gets New VC and Two Top Managers

The Egerton University Council has made three new appointments to top managerial positions of the University that are bound to have a major positive impact on the development of the institution. Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage is the 6th Vice-Chancellor of the University, while Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi is the Registrar (Academic Affairs), and Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo is the Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College. Each one of the three brings in a wealth of administrative and professional experience to the respective job, and the University will be privileged to benefit from this resource.

Vice-Chancellor

(see profile of Prof. Isaac Ongubo Kibwage, page 1)

Registrar (Academic Affairs)

Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi was appointed the Registrar (Academic Affairs) on 16 August 2021. She had been acting in that capacity from 2018 to the time of her current appointment.

Prof. Saidi is an Associate Professor of Horticulture in the Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils (CHS), Faculty of Agriculture. She has over eight years of experience in university administration and over twenty years of experience in academic and research leadership both in the Horticulture and Education sectors.

She joined the Department of CHS as Teaching Assistant in 1996 and is now the Programme Coordinator for the Master of Science in Horticulture Programme. She has expertise in the development, accreditation, and delivery of agri-based curricula, having played a significant role in the review of curricula in the Department to include entrepreneurial skills and climate-smart production components.

Prof. Saidi has taught at Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral levels and has successfully supervised postgraduate students in her area of specialisation. She has published over 30 papers in refereed journals and presented papers in national, regional

“Prof. Saidi is competent in higher education development, accreditation, and delivery of competency-based curricula, especially in the agricultural sector.”

and international conferences.

Prof. Saidi is well-grounded in sustainable crop production systems, including cropping systems, crop environment manipulation, and water and pest management, with a special interest in low-cost sustainable production systems and capacity building among vegetable and fruit growers.

Prof. Saidi is competent in higher education development, accreditation, and delivery of competency-based curricula, especially in the agricultural sector.

Over the past decade, Prof. Saidi has widened her research and consultancy domain to strengthening agri-entrepreneurship and community engagement training, and climate smart agriculture.

She has been involved as a Principal Investigator (PI) and collaborator in a number of research projects funded by various local and international organisations.

Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College

Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo was appointed Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC), on 16 August 2021. Prof. Ogendo is an Associate Professor of Crop Protection (stored products entomology) in the Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils (CHS), Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University. He takes over the helm of NTCC with over twelve years of experience in university administration and over two decades of leadership in participatory action research, outreach,

consultancy, and community service.

Prof. Ogendo is the immediate former Director of Crop Management Research Training Centre (CMRT), having served between May 2019 and August 2021. Previously, he served as Dean, Faculty of Agriculture (October 2014 – October 2018), and Chairman, Department of CHS (January 2009 to October 2014). In addition, he is Coordinator, Egerton University's Mpeketoni Campus in Lamu County (July 2012 – present).

Prof. Ogendo has 45 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and over 70 papers presented in national, regional and international conferences. He has successfully supervised ten postgraduate students in his area of specialisation.

Prof. Ogendo's expertise is in participatory adaptive research and consultancy services with a focus on bio-intensive pest management, enhanced food and nutrition security, and livelihoods in smallholder agriculture. He is currently involved as a Principal Investigator (PI) and collaborator in a number of donor-funded research projects in agronomy

“He takes over the helm of NTCC with over twelve years of experience in university administration and over two decades of leadership in participatory action research, outreach, consultancy, and community service.”

and related disciplines with particular focus on botanical pesticides, climate-change water-related vulnerabilities, neglected crops, and agrobiodiversity.

The Egerton University Community congratulates Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi, and Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo on their appointments and looks forward to the excellence of their service. ■

Be Active Members of the Egerton University Alumni Association



Dr Narendra Raval

It is with great honour and pleasure that I preside over this 44th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University.

Today's event is not only the day that marks the completion of your studies at Egerton University, but also the day we can celebrate your triumph at the end of an

arduous academic journey marked by the serious disruption of Covid-19. You overcame this disruption with dignity, and I am sure you will move with the same grace to the next stage of your lives.

To everyone who provided encouragement, love and support to our graduands along the way, thank you.

Through the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA), you have now become part of the Egerton University Community for life. Be active members of EUAA, and this will help you while you are out there in the world as you help us empower and assist the students who will come after you.

When you are ready to deepen your skills, broaden your horizons, or change careers altogether, Egerton University will still be there and will be with you every step of the way should you decide to come back.

Until then, celebrate your success, be grateful for the support you have had from family and friends, and stay connected. I look forward to hearing news of your success, and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Once again, congratulations, and may there be a success at every turn of your life.

Go forth and conquer the world!

Editorial

Continued from page i

electronic equipment and earn royalties from it through the patenting process. One can create a software programme that performs a specific function on the Internet – such as showing movies or animations, playing games, designing websites, or processing photographic information. Or one can set up one's own podcast on YouTube and, on the basis of its content, earn a reasonably good income through subscription by users to the site or through advertisements on it by companies and other commercial entities.

We bring up these issues in order to draw attention to the critical roles that universities like Egerton can play in spearheading social and economic progress through cyberspace. Together with other institutions of higher learning, universities are well-placed to lead communities in taking advantage of the opportunities available online because they are at the centre of the production and dissemination of the required creative, innovative, inventive, and entrepreneurial skills.

In view of the foregoing, we are pleased to note that here in Kenya we appear to be keenly aware of the realities of cyberspace as well as to be working towards taking full advantage of the opportunities that come with it. As we

report elsewhere in the current issue of the *Newslink*, the government of Kenya is collaborating with the nation's institutions of higher learning, including Egerton University, to ensure that Kenyans, especially the youth, are not left behind in the struggle to bring job opportunities to Kenya through the global market present in cyberspace. It is doing so through the “Ajira Digital Club”, which it is incubating in institutions of higher learning across the country. Through the Club, the government, in conjunction with the country's universities and colleges, is equipping the nation's youth with the skills they need in order for them to benefit fully from the Internet through either self-employment or employment in other institutions. Egerton's Ajira Digital Club was officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, represented by the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ms Maureen Mbaka, on 25 June 2021. We would like to call upon all of us in the University Community to support those efforts in our respective ways. ■

Our Newest Generation of Thinkers Must Provide Ideas and Solutions for the Future



Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario

We have all gathered here on this auspicious occasion to celebrate Egerton University's most recent graduands, and on behalf of the University Council, I would like to congratulate you for reaching this far.

You join the ranks of some extraordinary people, and

you have every reason to be proud of what you have to offer. Graduating is a significant achievement always. However, graduating in 2021 is truly exceptional! That you managed to complete your studies at the time of a pandemic suggests that you are resilient, determined, and you know how to adapt to difficult circumstances. These skills are, in many ways, the skills of our time, so I have the full confidence that you are ready for the journey ahead.

My appreciation goes out to the lecturers, administrators, sponsors, parents, mentors, family and friends who have supported our graduands all the way and contributed to their development and success.

I also encourage our graduands to continue pursuing learning opportunities for the rest of their lives. I further invite you to remain dedicated to your Alma Mater and to contribute to its growth and development in every way you can.

As we move towards recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, we will look to you, our newest generation of thinkers, for your ideas and solutions. We will look to you for your vision of what the world should look like and how it can be improved.

I wish you every success in your future endeavours.
Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022! ■

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Vice-Chancellor*



*Prof. Micah C. Chepchieng
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Affairs)*



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



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



*Prof. Joshua Ogendo
Principal
Nakuru Town Campus College*



*Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi
Registrar
(Academic Affairs)*



*Dr. Thomas K. Serrem
Registrar (Human
Capital and Administration)*



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai
Ag. Director
(Research and Extension)*



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui
University Librarian*



*Mr. Moses Ouma
Finance Officer*

Alumni Our Strongest Influencers



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Vice-Chancellor*

I welcome you all to the 44th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. In this event, our Ph.D. graduands are in attendance as the other graduands follow the proceedings through our virtual platforms.

Today, nonetheless, marks a special day for all of us. You, graduands, have done exemplary work which cannot go unrecognised. I, therefore, take this moment to applaud your

efforts. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Egerton staff and the parents, guardians and sponsors who have been beside you throughout your stay at Egerton University.

As I reflect on the circumstances of the past nearly two years, I am moved by the resilience, integrity, and cooperation of those graduating today. You will always be known as the graduands who persevered and reached this far amid the Covid-19 pandemic. While you may not celebrate in the way you had intended earlier, you will be remembered as those who displayed tenacity. We celebrate each and every one of you.

Many of you are the first in your family to graduate from university; others may have siblings and relatives who are graduates. You now represent the latest generation of Egerton University alumni in your family.

Some of you graduating today endured extraordinary hardship to make it to this point, and you reached this pinnacle because you fixed your gaze on the prize and never gave up. Whatever your journey entailed and wherever it takes you next, you have earned this moment.

I wish you blessings during the festive season.

Thank you, and may God bless you all. ■

The Chancellor, the University Council
and the
University Management Board
wish all staff and students
a Merry Christmas
and
a Prosperous 2022.

Monthly *Digital Newslink* Launched



Prof. Paul Kimurto

On behalf of the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation (DMRM), I take this opportunity to congratulate the 44th Graduation Ceremony graduates. You are now joining the Egerton University Alumni community that is spread across the globe. As Alumni members, you will continue to interact with this Directorate through the Alumni Relations Office. I encourage all of you to join and actively participate in the activities of the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA). Please remain updated on the events happening at your University through our interactive website and social media pages which are managed by this Directorate.

Since the last Graduation Ceremony, held on 18 June 2021, there have been changes in the Directorate.

I was appointed the Director effective 28 June 2021. Since then, we have done quite a bit through the various departments at the Directorate as outlined below:

Alumni Relations Department

The Alumni Relations Coordinator, Dr Hillary Chakava, heads this Department. The mandate of the Department is to establish and maintain a healthy relationship between Egerton University and its former students and

staff for the mutual benefit of all the parties. For this reason, the Alumni Relations Office keeps a database of Egerton Alumni and updates it regularly.

The Department has continued to automate its processes by putting in place mechanisms that allow web-based enlisting and updating of Alumni records. This has enabled more than 1,000 Alumni members to update their records remotely. To strengthen Alumni engagement and outreach activities, the Department launched a new Alumni website which also serves as a complete social media network (AlumNetwork) whereby Egerton Alumni can network and instantly engage, collaborate, interact, and share memories and other moments from their days as students.

We wish to acknowledge some of our Alumni who are giving back to their alma mater either in their individual capacities or through various groups. For instance, members from the class of 1990 have resolved to be raising money towards supporting needy Egerton University students through bursaries every year. On 22 July 2021, representatives of the class presented the initial bursary cheques to the first group of student beneficiaries (see separate story). Other Alumni have been supporting student initiatives through clubs, societies, sports teams, and the various religious and professional associations registered on campus by way of mentorship, resource mobilisation and linkages to industry.

In the recent past, some of our Alumni have either been elected or appointed to serve in various influential capacities both locally and internationally. One notable recent elevation is that of Major General Francis Omondi Ogolla, who was appointed the Vice-Chief of Defense Forces of Kenya in July 2021. He holds a Diploma in Military Science from Egerton University. In June 2021, Mr

Meshack Miyogo was appointed Managing Director of CIC Life Assurance Kenya Limited. He was in the Bachelor of Education (Arts) class of 2003-2007 and was an award winning rugby player in the University team. We wish to commend these two and many other Alumni who have been blessed to serve in different capacities.

We encourage our Alumni to regularly visit the University, especially during their reunion meetings. To this end, we have partnered with the ARC Hotel to give a competitive package to various Alumni groups who wish to tour the University, especially on weekends and public holidays. The package includes a stay at the ARC Hotel, on the Main Campus, nature trails at the Botanical Garden, fun activities at the Lord Egerton Castle, including evening fireside sessions, a game drive to the Lake Nakuru National Park, and a hike to Menengai Crater. While touring the campus, the Alumni may give career and mentorship talks to students as may be arranged by the Dean of Students. Alumni groups interested in this package may get in touch with the Alumni Relations Office to make reservations.

Communication and Marketing Department

The Communication and Marketing Manager, Ms Agnes Mwangi, is in charge of this Department and is assisted by the Webmaster, Mr Peter Kiganda, and Mr Paul Ochieng', who is in charge of the Gift Shop.

The Department's objectives are to enhance internal and external communication, and to market and publicise the University through print, electronic and digital media, to manage the Egerton University website content, and to manage access to information enquiries, requests, feedback, and complaints.

Turn to page 11

All Egerton University Data Now on UEMIS



Dr Patricia Wambugu

I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 44th Graduation of Egerton University on completing their studies successfully. I believe that you will be our ambassadors in the world of work as you demonstrate the quality of knowledge and skills you gained in your specific areas of specialisation.

Quality assurance is one of the drivers for universities to achieve excellence in teaching and learning and also in research. There is need to ensure that the quality of educational programmes in the University meets local and international standards. Egerton University, in its pursuit of becoming a world-class university for the advancement of humanity, has a regulatory framework that mandates and ensures, among others, continuing attention to promoting and attaining quality education and training of the students.

The Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) is tasked with the mandate of initiating and monitoring the internal Academic Quality Assurance procedures and guidelines as provided for in the Egerton University Academic and Research

Quality Assurance Policy as well as other University documents.

DQA carries out Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE) every semester/term. The main aim is to provide feedback on the quality of teaching and learning to the members of the academic/teaching staff for continuous improvement of quality learning. DQA successfully carried out TEE and PIEE for Semester I and II 2020/2021 Academic Year online using Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS) via Academic Records Management System (ARMS).

Examinations are important tools for appraising an individual's knowledge, understanding, and abilities or skills gained after a period of teaching and learning. Examinations are used to establish the extent to which a student/learner has achieved the intended learning outcomes of a course or module. Thus, External Examiners (EEs) are invited to evaluate the examinations conducted for all the programmes every semester and each EE provides a written report. This is to assure quality of examinations and that of the programmes offered in the University. DQA prepares a synthesised summary of all the EE reports with the recommendations for continued quality improvement. The recommendations in the report, once approved by the Senate, are implemented by faculties and departments. To maintain quality, the departments follow up the areas that require improvement from the summary of EE report and ensure that the corrective measures are put in place. In October 2021, DQA successfully completed the analysis of EE reports for Semester II 2019/2020

Academic Year and Semester I 2020/2021 Academic Year and prepared a summary report.

Academic programmes that have undergone a full cycle of implementation are required to undergo self-assessment. Due programmes are identified by Deans of Faculties, in consultation with the Chairpersons of Departments (CoDs) and forwarded to DQA. Selected teams for the identified programmes are appointed by respective CoDs and trained by DQA on how to conduct the self-assessment. At the completion of the self-assessment process, a compiled self-assessment report (SAR) is submitted by the team to the DQA for internal review and follow-up on the recommendations made. DQA successfully conducted virtual training for the identified five teams in July 2021. The teams are in the process of collecting data and preparing the SAR.

In line with the Performance Contract for the Financial Year 2020/2021 signed between the Vice-Chancellor and DQA, the Directorate has planted 12 trees around the office to contribute in rehabilitation of the Njoro River ecosystem in the Mau escarpment in line with the presidential directives of increasing forest cover.

The Directorate continues to monitor the quality of education offered in the University through academic audits and through coordination with the Commission for University Education (CUE) on quality management systems. The Directorate successfully completed uploading Egerton University data from all the departments and units on the University Education Management Information System (UEMIS) in September 2021.

Tree Planting in High Gear at Egerton

Egerton University recently teamed up with other stakeholders in a drive to plant over 10,000 tree seedlings within the Dundori Forest Station to support the Mau Reforestation Project through the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Adopt-A-Forest model. The Green Belt Movement and the French Government, through the French Development Agency, have adopted a block in the forest dubbed the “French Corner” for rehabilitation and restoration. Other stakeholders in the collaboration include the Kenya Defence Forces, Nakuru and Nandi County Governments, the National Environment Complaints Committee (NECC), and National Government Administration Officers.

The event, which took place on 13 October 2021, was graced by the French Ambassador to Kenya and Somalia, Her Excellency Aline Küster-Menager, and the Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr Julius Kamau, who represented the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Hon.

Keriako Tobiko. Egerton University was represented by Dr Hillary Chakava, who is the Alumni Relations Coordinator.

The 1.3 million Euro project is a great partnership opportunity for restoration of critical water towers and forest ecosystems targeting areas in Dundori, North Nandi, and Tinderet forests, which all form part of the expansive Mau Forest Ecosystem.

The event was followed by another important meeting on environmental conservation. On 14 October 2021, the NECC Chairman, Dr Justry Nyaberi, the Committee Secretary, Dr John Chumo, and members of the Hindu Religious and Service Centre, Mr Jayaram Ankala, Mr Nitin Shah and Ms Diva Shah, visited Egerton University and held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage. The agenda of the meeting was to seek ways of partnering in environmental conservation, as embedded in the University's core value of “Passion for environmental conservation”. The

meeting was also attended by the Director, Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Prof. Paul Kimurto, who was the organiser; the Director, International Linkages and Career Services and Njoro River Rehabilitation Project Coordinator, Prof. Charles M'Erimba; and the Dean, Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD), Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi.

The Ministry of Environment has tasked NECC to contribute to the country's target of 10% forest cover by partnering with other organisations in tree planting activities. Egerton University has been identified as one such partner. It was agreed that 10,000 tree seedlings will be planted at the University by the end of November 2021 through the partnership.

The organisers of the tree planting session will buy 10,000 seedlings from the University's nursery at the cost of Ksh20 per seedling, earning FERD Ksh200,000. Through the Chief Conservator of Forests, the University will get an additional supply of indigenous tree seedlings.

It was also agreed that there will be enhanced collaboration between Egerton University and NECC, whereby the University will share its research findings in areas such as the water quality of specified water bodies.

As underscored by the Vice-Chancellor, over the years, the University has engaged with local communities in conserving the Mau Ecosystem and in the rehabilitation of Njoro River. Within the Main Campus, there are two tree nurseries nurtured by staff members, and the University is also at the forefront in ensuring high tree coverage in the campus. As part of Egerton's performance contract with the government, environmental conservation is part of the institution's deliverables.

Egerton University has been supporting the Mau restoration through the annual Mau-Egerton University Cross-Country, whose 8th edition will be held on 5 February 2022. ■



On the 13 October 2021, The Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr Julius Kamau, joined the Coordinator, Alumni Relations Office, Dr Hillary Chakava, and an Egerton University student to plant a tree on behalf of the University at the French Corner in the Dundori Forest Station

First-Year Students Receive Warm Welcome

Life at Egerton University returned to full capacity with the reporting, registration and orientation of the 2021/2022 academic year cohort of students and the arrival of the continuing students.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, extended a warm welcome to the new students through his address, delivered at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 13 September 2021. On behalf of the Chancellor, the University Council, the University Management Board, the Senate, the members of staff, and the senior students, he took the opportunity to congratulate all the First-Years on being admitted to the University, and assured them that the University was happy to receive them.

The Vice-Chancellor drew the attention of the students to the fact that they were fortunate to find themselves in the oldest institution of higher learning in Kenya, an institution with solid traditions that have evolved over time. He further outlined the academic portfolio of the University, which comprises over 100 programmes at the diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate levels, offered at the various Faculties, Institutes, and through the School of Distance Learning (SoDL).

The Vice-Chancellor called upon the new students to take their academic life seriously, which means, in part, to

study hard, exhibit an intellectual curiosity, and observe examination regulations while taking their continuous assessment tests and end-of-semester examinations.

He also urged the new students to desist from substance and alcohol abuse, from counterproductive use of the Internet, and from joining social groups with dubious agenda. Indeed, the students should avoid any activities and behaviour that could potentially hinder their education and prevent the blossoming of their careers in future.

The Vice-Chancellor's address was a culmination of the orientation programme that ran from 7 to 13 September 2021. The programme is an essential and compulsory exercise for all new students. Its primary purpose is to equip and prepare the students with the skills and knowledge they need to negotiate and adjust to the new university environment.

Those who took part and gave valuable advice to the students included the Dean of Students, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC), the Registrar (Academic Affairs), the University Librarian, the Finance Officer, the Deans of Faculties, the Directors, and the Chief Medical Officer.

The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Micah C.

Chepcheng, appealed to the students to make every effort to ensure a 100 per cent completion rate at the University. He emphasised that when students focus, there is nothing to stop them from completing their studies in time.

The Acting DVC (Research and Extension), Professor Bockline Bebe, called upon the students to always project a positive image of the University through academic and social discipline.

The Acting DVC (Administration, Planning and Development), Prof Richard Mulwa, told the students that they had the responsibility to bring honour to their parents, guardians, and sponsors through their work while on campus.

The Principal, NTCC, Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo, urged the First-Year students to make appropriate adjustments to integrate into the Egerton University Community, which is a community of diversity.

The programme was coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students. It was conducted in-person at the Main Campus and at NTCC. The change from last year's virtual orientation was made possible by the improved situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. Over 4,000 First-Year students participated in the exercise.



First-year students of the 2021/2022 academic year during an interdenominational service at the Main Campus, Njoro, on Sunday 12 September 2021.

Ajira Digital Club Launched at Egerton University

On 25 June 2021, the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs, Ms Maureen Mbaka, launched the Egerton University Ajira Digital Club, an initiative of the Ajira Digital Programme. The event took place at the University's Main Campus in Njoro.

The Ajira Digital Club initiative, a project of the Government of Kenya, focuses on creating an environment for work-generation and skills development to meet the demand and supply side of job creation in all higher learning institutions in Kenya.

Since 2016, the Ajira Digital Programme has empowered slightly over one million youths across the country with employable skills that have enabled them to leverage and take advantage of the numerous digital job opportunities available.

“It is indeed a great pleasure to note that this University, having been among the first universities to have their students benefit from the programme, has kept the fire burning in steering the Ajira Digital Programme activities within the campus. It is owing to your continuous and determined efforts that today we are gathered here to witness this Club’s launch”, Ms Mbaka said.

The Egerton University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, noted that the Ajira Digital Club will create the right conditions under which



Standing (left to right): The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, the Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Youth Affairs, Ms Maureen Mbaka, the Chair of the Department of Computer Science, Mr Kimani Njoroge, and the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi, look on as Egerton University students demonstrate how the Ajira Programme works, during the launch of the Ajira Digital Club on 25 June 2021 at the Main Campus

students making their way through institutions of higher learning can acquire the practical skills they need to respond adequately to the challenges of the Digital Age.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that, if handled properly, the Club will certainly help Kenyan students build upon the theoretical concepts they are acquiring in the classroom to become truly independent citizens and workers. Among other things, they will be able

to create avenues for self-employment, job creation, and, more generally, for the positive transformation of society as a whole.

At Egerton University, the Office of the Dean of Students, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science (especially the Department of Computer Science), incubates the Ajira Digital Club.

Read more about the Club at eujira.egerton.ac.ke

Message from Director, DMRM

Continued from page 7

We are enhancing internal and external communication through cost-effective digital platforms that are accessible by the general public. The use of digital communication has rapidly increased over the last few years. Some of the factors that have made this possible are readily available smartphones and internet services. The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated a shift to the digital way of doing things. The need to digitally engage with our

audiences is now more than ever a key ingredient to our success as a Department.

Since July this year, we have produced, published, and distributed the monthly *Digital Newslink* magazine through staff and Alumni emails. The Department also publishes the articles on the University website www.egerton.ac.ke. The *Digital Newslink* magazine highlights activities, achievements, workshops,

trainings, appointments and projects happening in the University.

The Communications and Marketing Department, through its web developers section, has developed a web app that integrates Egerton University's radio station (Egerton Radio) to an online web radio. The radio now streams its broadcast live on the University website through the link www.egerton.ac.ke/radio.

Egerton Scholar among 2021-2022 African Futures Research Leadership Programme Fellows

Dr Mirriam Karwitha Charimbu of Egerton University has made it to the Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) 2021-2022 cohort of African Futures Research Leadership Programme Fellows comprising of 10 outstanding female scholars from AAP's member universities.

Dr Charimbu will participate in the programme through a project dubbed "Evaluating New Tools for Farmers: A Health and Economic Analysis of Redesigned Garden Hoes".

Dr Charimbu is a crop production and protection specialist. She has research interests in crop pest and

disease management, impact of climate change on crop production, and climate smart agricultural production technologies. Dr Charimbu has worked with farmers, farmer groups, and extension service providers to reduce crop losses, increase food availability, and improve farmers' livelihoods.

She hopes that her participation in the programme will enable her to make an impact on the lives of smallholder farmers in Arid and Semi-arid areas of Kenya.

The African Futures Research Leadership, which first began in 2019, is a competitive programme established to help early-career female

researchers from AAP's member institutions to conduct research in fields that align with AAP's six priority areas: agri-

food systems; water, energy, and environment; youth empowerment; education; culture; and health and nutrition. Egerton University is among the 11 AAP African member universities. ■



Dr Mirriam K. Charimbu

Egerton University to Partner with National Defence University of Kenya

The management of the National Defence University of Kenya (NDU-K), based at the Kenya Military Academy in Lanet, Nakuru, paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, on Monday 13 September 2021. The two institutions are hoping to build on their rich history of partnership to forge stronger ties. Egerton University was the first university in Kenya to launch diploma and degree programmes in Military Sciences in 2011. These programmes were offered at the Kenya Military Academy in Lanet and later spread to other military barracks like Embakasi, Langata and Nanyuki, among others. To date, Egerton University still offers these courses at various military barracks in Kenya.

"We are here to discuss how we can use Egerton University as a mentor to support us in linkages and capacity building. We consider your institution as one of our leading partners, and this collaboration will create synergy for the national good", said Lieutenant

General Jonah Mwangi, the NDU-K Vice-Chancellor and head of the delegation.

"We will work closely with key stakeholders in the education ecosystem, including Egerton

University, to ensure high academic standards", he added.

The possible areas of collaboration between Egerton University and NDU-K include post-charter collaboration, joint research, mentorship in teaching

Turn to page 13



Members of the Egerton University Management Board, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (fifth from left), pose for a photograph together with the Management of the National Defence University - Kenya, led by Lieutenant General Jonah Mwangi (sixth from left), after a meeting held on 13 September 2021 at the Main Campus, Njoro

Egerton Participates in Strengthening Urban Resilience in Food and Nutrition Security Project

Egerton University and the University of Nairobi have partnered with the University of Hohenheim (Germany) in the Strengthening Urban Resilience in Food and Nutrition Security (SURE) Project in Kenya. The project, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Germany to the tune of €624,999.94 (roughly Ksh 80 million), runs from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2024 and will be conducted in informal settlements in Nairobi County (Kangemi, Mathare, Kawangware and Kibera).

Speaking during a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, the project's principal investigator, Dr Catherine Kunyanga, said that the project's goal is to strengthen knowledge and resilience systems in the provision of adequate, affordable, and safe nutrition for the health and well-being of urban dwellers, particularly among vulnerable groups who live in the densely populated urban slums of Kenya.

The implementation of the project is structured in the following seven working packages (WPs):

WP1: Resilience Analytics: Status of Food and Nutrition Security among Urban Dwellers;
WP2: Resilience Structures: Food Market Capacity;
WP3: Resilience Agents: Nutrition Education and Communication;
WP4: Resilience Champions: Action

Plan for Food and Nutrition Security;
WP5: Simulation Tool “Nutrition and Health-driven Food Security Policy Generator”;
WP6: Coordination, Communication & Project Management; and
WP7: International Young Scientists Conference. ■



Dr Catherine Kunyanga, a researcher from the University of Nairobi, and Dr Hamid Reza Oskorouchi, a researcher from the University of Hohenheim, Germany, both members of the Strengthening Urban Resilience in Food and Nutrition Security (SURE) project in Kenya, at a project meeting at Egerton University, at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 7 September 2021.

Egerton University to Partner with NDU-K

Continued from page 12

and linkages, capacity building, publications, peer reviews and sharing best practices in terms of quality control and examination management system.

On behalf of Egerton University, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed the partnership, noting that the University will be part and parcel of the success of NDU-K. “As a leading University, we have the capacity to provide training in areas such as academic writing, publications, proposals, and extension materials. In addition, we have qualified academic staff who can offer support in capacity building at your institution”, said Prof. Kibwage.

Present during the meeting from

the Egerton University side were the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Micah C. Chepchieng, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Extension), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Development), Prof. Richard Mulwa, and other members of the University Management Board (UMB).

Present from the NDU-K, apart from the Vice-Chancellor, were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance, Major General Patrick Amogola, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Applied Research and Military Strategic Studies), Major

General Rashid Elmi, the Director (Centre for Security and Strategic Studies), Major General George Owinow, the Director (Academic Affairs), Brigadier Eric Kinuthia, the Director (Applied Research and Military Strategic Studies), Brigadier Juma Mwinyikai, the Director (Examination), Brigadier Elizabeth Omollo, and the Head of Teaching and Curriculum, Colonel (Dr) Charles Imbiakha.

NDU-K received its Charter in May 2021 from the President of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, and will offer courses in Military Science to students from Kenya and other parts of the world. ■

ARC Coffee House Opens at Egerton University

On Thursday 19 August 2021, the Egerton University Investment Company (EUIC) opened a coffee house to the public at the Agricultural Resource Centre (ARC) Hotel at the Njoro Campus.

The launch of the ARC Coffee House is part of an initiative by the Coffee Directorate of Kenya to increase coffee consumption in the country. The coffee house will also provide an opportunity for the EUIC to diversify its business, to improve profitability, and to enhance their brand image.

The coffee house will be using coffee beans sourced in Kenya and distributed by the Coffee Directorate. The ARC Coffee House is the first coffee house launched by the Coffee Directorate at a public university in Kenya.

Present at the opening ceremony were the Secretary-General of Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO), Ambassador Solomon Rutega, Egerton University Council member Ms Esther Wabuge, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Development), Prof. Richard Mulwa (who was representing the Vice-Chancellor), and the Managing Director, Egerton University Investment Company, Prof. Symon Mahungu.

Also present at the launch were staff members from both the University and EUIC as well as students.



The Secretary-General of Inter-African Coffee Organisation, Ambassador Solomon Rutega, together with Egerton University Council Member Ms Esther Wabuge, during the opening of the ARC Coffee House on 19 August 2021

Golden Life Mall Comes Alive as Chandarana Supermarket Opens Doors

Chandarana Food Plus Supermarket at Golden Life Mall in Nakuru opened its doors to customers on 7 October 2021 with His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Nakuru County Dr Eric Korir, Egerton University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, and Chandarana Food Plus Director Mr Anil Thakkar cutting the ribbon.

The supermarket is the anchor tenant at the Golden Life Mall and will take the lion's share of the space available at the mall.

"The mall already has 50% occupancy, and the presence of Chandarana Food Plus supermarket will attract more tenants. This will go a long way in improving the profitability of Golden Life Mall, a project by the Egerton University Retirement Benefits Scheme", said the Vice-Chancellor.

The Deputy Governor welcomed the supermarket's opening, adding that its presence is indicative of Nakuru's



Left to Right: The Director, Chandarana Food Plus Supermarkets, Mr Anil Thakkar, the Vice-Chancellor, Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, and the Deputy Governor, Nakuru County, Dr Eric Korir, open the Chandarana Food Plus Supermarket at the Golden Life Mall, Nakuru, on 7 October, 2021

development as a city. He said the County Government had put in place various infrastructural facilities inside and around Nakuru town to attract many investors. He added that the

coming of well-known companies in the County will create employment opportunities among the youth and enhance Nakuru's image as a premier tourism destination.

Egerton University and Boitekanelo College Launch Exchange Programme

Egerton University's Faculty of Health Sciences, on Friday 23 July 2021, launched the Nutrition and Dietetics Exchange Programme with Botswana's Boitekanelo College. The launch took place as part of the events to mark the Nutrition Awareness Day at the Njoro Campus.

Making remarks on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of International Linkages and Career Services, Prof. Charles M'Erumba, said that a memorandum of understanding between the two institutions was signed in March 2021, paving the way for the launch of the exchange programme.

"The exchange programme will first target undergraduate students and those undertaking the field exchange programme. It will involve joint supervision of the students. Through the collaboration, we can exchange

scientific information needed to address food and nutrition security in Africa", said Prof. M'Erumba.

The Director of Examination and Timetabling, Prof. Gilbert Obwoyere, representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), noted that the partnership with Boitekanelo College meets one of the University's strategic goals of increasing linkages and collaborations. "This collaboration will increase Egerton University's visibility globally, articulate the role of nutrition security, and contribute to overall quality health among the people. The Nutrition and Wellness Day we are celebrating today is a wake-up call to making better nutrition choices", added Prof. Obwoyere.

The Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Brian Lishenga, the Chair of Department of Human Nutrition, Dr Stellamaris Muthoka, lecturers and other staff from the Department of

Human Nutrition attended the event. Others were Dr Hillary Chakava and Ms Agnes Mwangi from the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, and Dr Lilian Nyagaya, who represented the Office of the Dean of Students. Students from Egerton's Faculty of Health Sciences and those from Boitekanelo College also attended the launch.

The Nutrition and Dietetics Exchange Programme attracted 16 students from Boitekanelo College, who were placed in different hospitals in Kenya. These hospitals are the Coast General Teaching & Referral Hospital (5 students), Kenyatta National Hospital (3 students), Kenyatta University Teaching and Referral Hospital (3 students), and Nakuru Level 6 Hospital (5 students). The students rotate in all these hospitals after every four weeks.



The Director, International Linkages and Career Services, Egerton University, Prof. Charles M'Erumba (second from left), cuts a cake to welcome the collaboration between Egerton University and Boitekanelo College, Botswana, during the launch of the Nutrition and Dietetics Exchange Programme on Nutrition Awareness Day at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 23 July 2021

20th Gender Awareness Day Marked

The Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) held the 20th Gender Awareness Day at the Main Campus, Njoro on 18 October 2021. The day's theme was "Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a Covid-19 World." The Chief Guest was Dr Joyce Mutinda, the Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

The event was attended by Egerton University students and staff members led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage. Other guests included Ms Rehema Kiteto, an Alumnus of Egerton University who was recently appointed the Assistant County Commissioner of Bomet County. She is among the youngest women to hold the post in recent times.

In her opening remarks, the Director IWGDS Prof. Rose Odhiambo appreciated the Egerton University Community for adhering to the constitutional two-thirds gender rule, especially in middle-level management positions. She noted that female representation in deanship positions at Egerton University was currently at over 60%.

"Egerton University has done so much in mainstreaming gender in



The Chairperson of the National Gender and Equality Commission, Dr Joyce Mutinda, receives the Egerton University Gender Policy from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, during the 20th Gender Awareness Day held at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 18 October 2021.

academics. For example, the Faculty of Engineering & Technology had a seven per cent female representation when it started. In our 2021 survey, this figure has grown to 23 per cent", said Prof. Odhiambo.

"In STEM subjects, we were at 19 per cent female representation at inception but as we speak, we are nearing 30%. However, we have a low

female representation in management positions, and I believe that under the leadership of Prof. Kibwage, this will be corrected", added the Director IWGDS.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor said that the University had covered considerable ground in ensuring that women, just like men, are promoted to leadership positions but a lot still

Turn to page 17



Egerton University students during the 20th Gender Awareness Day at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 18 October 2021

Egerton Students Receive Bursaries from Alumni Class of 1990

Twenty-five needy students from Egerton University have benefited from bursaries from a group of Alumni who joined Egerton University as students in 1990. The group, known as EU 90 Alma Mater Charity Fund, have incorporated bursaries and mentorship activities in their programmes as a way of giving back to their former University.

The group came together under the running call of making a difference

by contributing resources annually and using the proceeds to support undergraduate students of Egerton University. The bursaries will initially cover accommodation fees for the needy students but will incorporate tuition fees as the Fund grows. Identified students will continue to receive support from the Fund provided they maintain good grades and discipline.

The cheques were presented to the

beneficiaries on 22 July 2021 at Njoro Campus by representatives of the team led by Dr Kuria Wamukuru and Ms Beverly Achieng. The event was witnessed by Ms Lydia Lang'at from the Dean of Students Office and Dr Masaya Chakava from the Alumni Relations Office. Dr Chakava noted that the University welcomes other Alumni groups to support initiatives that enhance the welfare of students as well as mentor them. ■



The Egerton University student beneficiaries of the bursaries donated by the EU 90 Alma Mater Charity Fund at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 22 July 2021

20th Gender Awareness Day

Continued from page 16

remains to be done to achieve gender equality.

"All the supportive data through a 2021 baseline survey indicates that as a university we are on the right path towards achieving gender equality in all our academic, leadership, and research endeavours, though there is still room for improvement", added the Vice-Chancellor.

He called for concerted efforts in dealing with gender-based violence and discrimination within the Egerton University community. He noted that Egerton University had put in place

various policies and strategies to help promote gender equality and women leadership through research and innovation, adding that the ongoing process required collective responsibility from staff and students.

On her part, the Chief Guest congratulated the University for developing the Gender Policy and the Policy and Procedures on Gender Based Violence and Sexual Harassment Prevention. She noted that the two policies are in tandem with the National Gender and Development Policy launched in 2019.

She noted that Kenya was on the right path to fighting gender inequality and gender-based violence, adding that NGEN will ensure that all state agencies adhere to the two-thirds gender rule in leadership positions.

The event, which was held at the Main Campus at the Graduation Square, was also addressed by the Chairperson of the Egerton University Students Association (EUSA), Mr Denis Makau. It was streamed live via the Egerton University YouTube account. Guests were entertained by various student groups. ■

Peer Counsellors Inaugurated

Following an intensive Peer Counsellors training workshop coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students, 100 peer counsellors and four administrative staff members from key service departments – including the Office of the Dean of Students and the Accommodation Department – were inaugurated to begin their work.

The trainees were drawn from all the Faculties of Egerton University in the Main Campus, Njoro, and the Nakuru Town Campus College. The colourful inauguration ceremony was held on 29 July 2021 at the Education Theatre 1 at the Main Campus. The Dean of Students, Prof. D. Odero-Wanga, in her welcoming remarks, said that the peer counsellors were competitively recruited and trained to counsel their fellow students on various issues – such as stress management, abuse of psychoactive substances, relationships, financial and time management, depression, and academic challenges.

The ceremony was presided over by the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Julius K. Kipkemboi. Prof. Kipkemboi noted that peer counselling is an important programme in the University because it is well-placed to provide counselling on peer-to-peer basis to students. He added that the newly trained peer counsellors had been equipped with the necessary skills to enable them to offer



Egerton University officials together with the Peer Counsellors who were inaugurated on 29 July 2021 pose for a photo on the grounds of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies

counselling to fellow students undergoing physical, emotional, psychological, social, spiritual, and mental health challenges while on campus. He said that these issues, if not effectively handled, may result in poor academic performance, low self-esteem, mental illnesses, depression, suicidal tendencies, student unrest, hooliganism, and vandalism of University property.

The training was organised by the Office of the Dean of Students in collaboration with the TAGDev Programme at Egerton university. Prof. Nancy Mungai, the TAGDev

Coordinator, attended the inauguration ceremony. She addressed the peer counsellors and pledged continued support towards the programme.

The training covered various topics, including the following: Basic Counselling Skills; Time Management Techniques; Good Study Habits; Trauma Management; Self-Care; Life Skills; Mental Health Issues; Use and Abuse of Psychoactive Substances; Conflict Management and Resolution; Loss and Grief Process; Stress and Stress Management; Transformative Leadership; and Ethical Issues in Counselling.

The trainees were also addressed by Dr Hillary Chakava, who is the Alumni Relations Coordinator and a former peer counsellor. Dr Chakava challenged the peer counsellors to be alert to emerging mental health issues brought about by excessive and addictive social media use. The training is timely considering the notable increase in cases of depression among students occasioned by the economic hardships brought about by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Also present at the ceremony were the Assistant Deans of Students, Dr Lilian Nyagaya and Dr Samuel Nyamweya; the University Chaplain, Dr Rev. Samuel Nduati; and all the Student Counsellors.



Egerton University students studying Chinese language take a test in the Language Lab. in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Main Campus, Njoro, on 18 July 2021

Egerton Celebrates International Youth Day

Egerton University marked the International Youth Day on 12 August 2021. The theme of the event was "Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health".

A precursor to the event was a two-day International Youth Day Dialogue organised by the United Nations in partnership with Egerton University and other non-governmental organisations from Eastern and Southern Africa. The dialogue, held from 11 to 12 August 2021, focused on getting the youth to take the lead in making nutrition integral to Universal Health Coverage, building food systems that promote a healthy diet and nutrition, and addressing malnutrition effectively in fragile and conflict areas.

Among the key speakers at the dialogue was Dr Lilian Nyagaya, the Assistant Dean of Students at Egerton University. Other speakers were youth who are engaged in food systems and other agricultural innovations from Eastern and Southern Africa. The online dialogue was also attended by the Egerton University Director of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation Prof. Paul Kimurto and the Communication and Marketing



The Assistant Dean of Students, Dr Lilian Nyagaya, addresses students who had gathered at the Graduation Square, Main Campus, Njoro, to mark the International Youth Day on 12 August 2021

Manager, Ms Agnes Mwangi. Students were facilitated to attend the dialogue virtually by the ICT Department, which provided internet coverage and a large screen at the Graduation Square, from where the dialogue was streamed.

The online dialogue was part of a series of activities leading up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit which

was held on 23 September 2021 in New York.

During the event, the Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP) conducted a public sensitisation forum that enlightened students on their rights as youths in Kenya and how to access justice. The event culminated in a tree planting exercise by students and staff at the University water dam next to the Botanic Garden.

As part of celebrating food systems innovations by Egerton University students, the Chairperson of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEEN), Eng. Dr Maati Ondari, led civil engineering students in installing the first eco-friendly dustbin made out of recycled scrap metal collected from Njoro Campus.



The Egerton University Men's football team during the KUSA RIFT Conference championships held at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 16 - 17 October 2021

News from across the University was compiled by Dr Hillary Chakava, Alumni Relations Coordinator, and Ms Agnes Mwangi, Communication and Marketing Manager, Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University

Connecting Youth to Social and Economic Opportunities through the USAID Empowered Youth Programme

By Alexander K. Kahi

Egerton University, in collaboration with Michigan State University (MSU), United States International University-Africa (USIU), National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA-CLUSA), and the National Youth Bunge Association (NYBA), will connect youth to social and economic opportunities through the USAID Empowered Youth Programme. The team brings on board expertise in youth engagement, gender equality, research, community-led development, entrepreneurship, education, innovative technologies, and the workforce needed to execute the programme.

The USAID Empowered Youth Programme presents sustainable approaches of youth empowerment. Despite the billions in resources invested every year towards empowerment of Kenyan youths, young people still face significant rates of unemployment, limited social and economic opportunities, and other challenges surrounding their livelihoods and well-being. This is due to micro and macro-level challenges that render youth empowerment initiatives ineffective.

Appreciating these challenges and acknowledging the strategic role played by youth in development informed the need for interventions targeted at connecting youth to social and economic opportunities. The USAID Empowered Youth Programme is a five-year intervention that targets youth between the ages of 18 and 24 and adolescent girls aged 15-19 as the primary focus of empowerment initiatives. It is a USD15 million

USAID-funded Programme that is being executed in 26 Counties in Kenya. For the first five years, the Programme will focus on youth in six high-touch counties (Isiolo, Kakamega, Kisumu, Nakuru, Kiambu, and Mombasa) but with some activities in the other 20 counties.

The core of the activities of the USAID Empowered Youth Programme and design implementation are co-led, co-owned, and co-managed with youth. Implementation of the Programme started on 27 July 2021, and several activities have already been done, including a kick-off workshop with USAID; preparation of workplans; preparation of Activity, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (AMELP); preparation of Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP), as well as a Grants Manual. USAID, through the USAID Empowered Youth Activity, will provide resources to the tune of USD2.5 million as innovation and research grants to design and test innovations led by youth and youth-serving organisations/networks that empower youth. The Programme was officially launched on 4 November 2021. It has three focal areas which include: Increasing youth economic prospects; Building the capacity of Kenyan Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); and Strengthening youth-serving systems.

Egerton University has a long-standing success in establishing interventions that increase youth economic prospects and build the capacity of HEIs. In collaboration with USIU and NCBA-CLUSA, the University is mandated to strengthen

and increase youth economic prospects by connecting them to relevant, stakeholder-driven, integrated skills training and job placement programmes linked to industry needs in high-growth sectors. It also seeks to offer youth entrepreneurial and business start-up assistance and increased access to financial services.

Through the successful training models employed at the Centre of Excellence for Livestock, Innovation and Business (CoELIB), Egerton University will strengthen the capacity of Kenyan HEIs to link training to youth economic opportunities; develop meaningful collaborative partnerships among key actors in youth development; effectively communicate across institutions; and take collective action to innovate, demonstrate, test, and upscale new or improved ideas and/or practices that address the needs of youth. CoELIB will offer incubation and acceleration of youth-led start-ups and train and mentor youth through their respective units on sustainable business models and best practices. CoELIB's successful African Dairy Academy will expand its scope beyond dairy to the entire Kenya food system by setting up a new African Academy of Agriculture Apprenticeships and Innovation (AAAAI), which will target youth enrolled at HEIs, TVETs, secondary schools, and youth who have left the formal educational system. The goal of AAAAI will be to reach youths directly through apprenticeship placements and indirectly through training in workshops and exhibitions.

CoELIB will host a new Kenya Youth Expert Programme (KYEP) that

will offer students in fields with high growth potential the opportunity to work closely with experienced mentors to create tailored learning experiences followed by short-term placement in domestic or international institutions. To help youth in the sports and in the creative industries tap into their potential, CoELIB will also implement a Talent and Sports Programme that will train them on how to create revenue streams. Gender training and community outreach for adolescent girls and women will be conducted.

To strengthen youth-serving systems, USAID Empowered Youth

will ensure increased investments in youth programmes in select counties; increased partnerships with youth organisations, the private sector, and HEIs that train and support youth; and it will regularly involve the youth in key county-level decisions. For the success and long-term sustainability, the five-year Programme uses a mix of strategic and technical approaches that include a strong collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA) cycle and a Quadruple Helix Innovation Platform (QHIP) to strengthen collaborations among HEIs, the private sector, county governments, and youth networks.

As a result, the Programme hopes to mobilise and meaningfully engage the youth, and the private sector, enhance evidenced scaling up in low-touch counties, increase penetration of Information Communication Technology (ICT), and attain a long-term sustainability through inspiring a culture of learning, continuous improvement, and local ownership.

Prof. Alexander K. Kahi is Professor of Animal Breeding and Genomics, and Director, CoELIB Project, at Egerton University



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Extension), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, and the Head of Section, Governance and Macroeconomics at the European Union's Delegation to Kenya, Mr Alexandre Baron, unveil the first Egerton Law Journal during the 2nd National Legal Aid Conference that was held at Simba Lodge, Naivasha, from 29 November to 4 December 2021. Looking on (left to right): The Dean, Faculty of Law, Dr Ruth A. Aura; Flora Bidali, Acting C.E.O., National Legal Aid Services; Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba, a Constitutional Lawyer; Mr Francis Mwangi, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, U.N.D.P.; Hon. Lady Justice Hellen Wasilwa, Judge of the Employment and Labour Relations Court, Nakuru; and Ms Mary Mugure, Acting C.E.O., Council for Legal Education

Local and International Academic Collaborations on the Upswing



*Prof. Micah C. Chepchiong
Ag. DVC (AA)*

As Egerton University marks its 44th Graduation Ceremony, I wish to congratulate all our graduands for their commendable accomplishment. As the Division of Academic Affairs of the University, we are pleased to see well-equipped individuals being ushered into the world of work to better their lives and to serve humanity using the knowledge and skills attained during their stay in this world-class university.

I also take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the contribution of parents, guardians and well-wishers who have in many ways supported the graduands this far. Their contribution cannot be taken for granted. In the same breath, I wish to recognise our academic staff for their endless support in ensuring that we deliver on quality programmes. This has made our graduates to make a positive difference and exert influence both locally and internationally. As a university, therefore, we have continued to leave an indelible mark in the academic arena.

The Division of Academic Affairs continues to make great strides in the pursuit of academic excellence as well as to provide more opportunities for university education to qualified students. In September 2021, we admitted more than 4,000 first-year students into various academic programmes of the University. We endeavour to provide the required academic leadership in the mobilisation of professional, technical, and infrastructural resources to ensure the realisation of the University's goals and objectives. We also strive at all times to ensure that our students complete their studies on time.

Further, the Division of Academic Affairs has initiated collaborations with local and international learning institutions in addition to the existing ones. I am happy to report that on 24 February 2021, the University, jointly with Boitekanelo College from Botswana, launched collaborative

community outreach programmes in Nutrition and Health. This is in addition to the University's linkage with the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), Luxembourg. In 2021, four students were nominated to participate in the Exchange programmes through the IAESTE. Further, the joint memorandum of understanding with Debre Markos University on 16 February 2021 is an initiative that will go a long way to benefit both our students and staff. Indeed, the contribution from our collaborating institutions cannot be underrated.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed people's life globally in many ways. In the Division of Academic Affairs, we have experienced both the negative and positive sides of it. On the positive side, academic staff have developed e-content for their programmes and migrated it to the e-learning platform. This has increased the number of students on the e-learning platform. In addition, there are more postgraduate students participating in virtual proposal and thesis defenses than during the face-to-face defense in the pre-Covid-19 time. This has greatly benefited the international postgraduate students, who are now able to submit and defend their research work online while in their home countries, thereby saving on travel and other related costs.

On the negative side, undergraduate students' engagement and participation in class has been noted to be lower as compared to face-to-face learning due to varied reasons, ranging from cost of bundles to poor internet connectivity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also had a negative impact on student participation in extra-curricular activities. Our students have not been able to effectively participate in internal and inter-university extra-curricular activities. Such activities, apart from providing university students with platforms to nurture their talents, also help them to release negative energy. However, I am happy to report that our students were able to participate in the Kenya Universities Drama, Film and Music Festival national event that took place on 14-21 October, 2021 at Meru University, and in which 22 universities and 3 colleges participated. In this national event, our students won in 13 out of the 23 items presented at the festival and thus bagged most of the trophies. We continually support sports and all other extra-curricular activities that take students' mind off the routine class work. This ensures that a holistic university experience is achieved. Therefore, as a university, we are determined to strengthen our efforts to continue progressing and to ensure that Covid-19 pandemic will not adversely affect the critical spheres of our student's campus life.

As I conclude, I am happy to once again congratulate the graduands and to welcome them back to the University to pursue their Master's and Doctoral degrees. You are indeed the ideal product of our Philosophy, our Vision, our Mission and our Core values. ■

Fourth National Forum on Food Systems Held at Egerton University

By Nancy W. Mungai

Through the “Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev)”, programme, Egerton University held the 4th National Forum for Universities, TVETs and Industry Players in the Agricultural Sector on 21-22 July 2021. The event was held virtually from the Main Campus, Njoro.

The forum's theme was “Food Systems and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development” and focused on food systems, entrepreneurial growth and development in the agriculture industry.

Speaking at the forum, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Trade, Industrialisation and Enterprise Development, Hon. Betty C. Maina, who was represented by Mr Lawrence Karanja, said that the Ministry is at the forefront of championing locally manufactured goods.

“At least 40% of the government's budget is to be spent on local goods which will encourage youth to engage in entrepreneurship. In addition, the ministry is rolling out an intellectual property awareness campaign which will enhance and protect intellectual property rights through the recently launched Kenya Intellectual Property Authority.” The ministry, said Mr Karanja, intends to work with academia in enterprise development.

While giving his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, said that the University organised this year's National Forum to contribute to the national dialogue as a pre-2021 UN Food Systems Summit and that Egerton University was committed to offering high-quality tertiary education, research, innovation and outreach to promote the requisite transformation of Kenya's food systems.

“The University offers research and

policy support for increased agricultural productivity, value-addition to minimise food losses, diversification of food and feed sources, commercialisation of innovations, youth engagement in agricultural value chains, and tackling agricultural-related challenges”, said the Vice-Chancellor.

The TAGDev Programme Coordinator and Acting Director for Research & Extension, Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, said that the objectives of the national forum were to take stock of the current situation in the agricultural sector in terms of agri-food systems capacities, actors, and policy frameworks. She further stated that this year's forum included conversations on private sector involvement in agri-food systems, emerging food systems, and critical political issues influencing agri-food systems.

“According to a September 2020 update report by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and the Global Network Against Food Crises, about 6.22 million people in Kenya are currently either in a stressed, crisis, or emergency food-insecure situation, while the number of people who cannot access or afford safe, nutritious foods is even higher”, said Prof. Mungai. “This creates the need to engage agricultural stakeholders to discuss key threats and challenges to food systems and the interventions needed to achieve sustainable development.”

Prof. Mungai noted the importance of entrepreneurship as a critical driver to sustainable economic growth and job creation in developed and developing nations. However, entrepreneurs encounter several challenges that hamper their success. These challenges include inadequate entrepreneurial training, small market size, poor financial services, and tight laws and regulations.

“Collaborative approaches are crucial in addressing these challenges, including collaborations between academia, the public, and the private

sector through trade exhibitions which will play a critical role in promoting individual businesses,” Prof. Mungai added.

Ms Lucy Njenga, who represented the Chief Administrative Secretary in charge of Crop Development and Agricultural Research at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, reported that the ministry has come up with a “Youth in Agribusiness Strategy” to streamline challenges experienced by youth who choose to engage in farming for profit.

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Chief Executive Officer, Ms Carol Karuga, reiterated that collaborative approaches between academia and the private sector are crucial in addressing food systems through support for research and the development and commercialisation of research innovations.

The main objective of the 4th National Forum was to enhance collaboration between Egerton University, policymakers, and key industry players for sustainable food systems and entrepreneurial growth and development.

There was also a panel discussion on “Youth Devolution and Agrifood Systems”. Some of the key messages emanating from it were the need to provoke the industry to encourage youth involvement in agriculture and food systems and the need for capacity building for farmers as well as youths because they are receptive of new technologies for improving agri-food systems.

The two-day forum provided a platform for various stakeholders to showcase their innovations through short video clips.

Prof. Nancy W. Mungai is the Acting Director, Research and Extension at Egerton University and Coordinator of the TAGDev Programme ■

Egerton Hosts Leadership and Entrepreneurship Trainings of TAGDev Students

By Nancy W. Mungai

Egerton University, in partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and Gulu University in Uganda, and with the support of the MasterCard Foundation, is implementing a programme entitled “Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev)”. The eight-year programme (2016-2024) provides scholarships to students from across Africa, focusing on training competent and highly skilled African youth, and developing the capacity of African universities to train and nurture graduates with relevant skills effectively. So far, the programme has offered full scholarships to 122 students (55 undergraduates and 67 postgraduates) at Egerton University. The programme has also offered partial support to 59 students at both the undergraduate and the postgraduate levels within the University. Students are drawn from Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The aim of the programme is to transform students into innovative leaders, who will catalyse Africa's growth and development.

The Programme Coordinator, Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, has underscored TAGDev's objectives as those of facilitating students' transition to livelihoods with a special focus on career fairs, internships and entrepreneurship. The programme is piloting a new agricultural education model that focuses on experiential learning, community engagement, and entrepreneurship to produce change

agents in society.

To achieve these objectives, newly recruited students from Egerton University and Gulu University are taken through a joint orientation programme to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills in different areas important for their personal and career transformation. The joint orientation of Cohort Five newly recruited students, which was held on 18-23 October 2021 at the ARC

“The leadership training was an interactive session and focused on the seven habits of highly effective people.”

Hotel in Egerton's Main Campus, Njoro, focused on leadership and entrepreneurship trainings. Seventy-two students participated in the training.

The Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, officially opened the event on 18 October 2021 at the ARC Hotel. The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Extension), Prof. Bockline Bebe, and the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Micah C. Chepchieng, graced the event.

Among the other guests were the following: Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College, Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo; Dean, Faculty of Agriculture,

Prof. Patience Mshenga; Dean, Faculty of Environment and Resources Development, Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi; Director, International Linkages & Career Services, Prof. Charles M'Erumba; Acting Director, Board of Undergraduate Studies & Field Attachment Programmes, Dr Geoffrey Ong'ondo; Acting Director, University Welfare Services, Dr Fr Gerishon K. Njuguna; Deputy Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies, Prof. Samuel Nyalala; COD, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, Prof. Hillary Bett; COD, Department of Dairy and Food Science and Technology, Prof. Mary Omwamba; and COD, Department of Animal Science, Prof. James Ondiek.

In his welcoming remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Kibwage, appreciated the programme for remaining focused on the TAGDev objective of transforming society at the individual, institutional and community levels. He encouraged students to take the orientation training seriously as it lays a good foundation for their academic and career journeys as change agents. The Vice-Chancellor urged them to manage their time well to ensure they complete their postgraduate studies within two years.

The participating students had an opportunity to understand RUFORUM and its mandate as elaborated to them by Dr Sylvanus Mensah, the Recruitment and Training Officer at the RUFORUM secretariat. He noted that RUFORUM is keen to provide a platform that promotes quality graduate training to develop Africa and that the TAGDev programme is anchored in achieving this objective.

The students were enlightened on their roles and responsibilities to encourage them to be focused and to set their goals and priorities right so as to complete their studies within the stipulated timeframe. Prof. Ogendo provided an overview of qualitative and quantitative research methods in agriculture to help them brainstorm on approaches for their research projects.

The leadership training was an interactive session and focused on the seven habits of highly effective people. The seven habits include the following: being proactive; beginning with the end in mind; putting first things first; thinking win-win; seeking first to understand then to be understood; synergising; and sharpening the saw. This allowed them to understand the framework for effectiveness that ensures moving from the dependence to the interdependence level in

intellectual discourse.

The students had an opportunity to assess their paradigms, to be guided on effectiveness principles, and to clearly make their personal mission statements. Concerning time management, they were taken through the time matrix that defines urgent, important, not urgent and not important day-to-day activities.

The entrepreneurship training, which was facilitated by Enterprise Uganda, actively engaged students in business conceptualisation and critical thinking. They were trained on developing entrepreneurial mind-sets, financial literacy and management, and financial independence. They were involved in group work to enhance their critical thinking on coming up with viable business and pitching of the same. Further, they were guided on how to make their investments from the

different sources of income, other than solely being moved by whatever financial temperatures may influence their priorities. They appreciated the pathway to financial independence.

The TAGDev programme at Egerton University acknowledges the partner institutions, namely RUFORUM, the Mastercard Foundation and Gulu University, for their continued support in preparing students as they start their academic journey toward being innovative in providing solutions to the challenges facing agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Prof. Nancy W. Mungai is the Acting Director, Research and Extension at Egerton University and Coordinator of the TAGDev Programme



Left to right seated: Ag. DVC (AA), Prof. Micah C. Chepchieng, Ag. DVC (R&E), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, the Vice-Chancellor, Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, the TAGDev Programme Coordinator, Egerton University, Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, the Training and Recruitment Officer, RUFORUM, Dr Sylvanus Mensah, the Chairman, Department of Animal Science, Prof. James Ondiek, the Director, International Linkages and Career Services, Prof. Charles M'erimba, the Director, Board of Undergraduate Studies & Field Attachment Programmes, Dr Geoffrey Ong'ondo, at Egerton University during the opening of the joint orientation of Cohort Five of TAGDev-supported students on 18 October 2021. Standing are the Cohort Five students from Egerton University and Gulu University.

MA Students in Juba Benefit from Zoom Defences



Prof. Hadija M. Murenga

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences congratulates the graduands in the 44th Graduation and wishes them the very best as they navigate the job market for placement. The Faculty wishes to thank the students for their hard work, discipline and focus, which made the achievement of their academic success possible. We also thank the members of the teaching and support staff for the commitment and exemplary effort they put in to ensure that our students completed their studies successfully. God bless you all.

The Faculty hosted a visiting Carnegie Scholar, Prof. Shadrack Wanjala Nasong'o in July – August 2021. Prof. Nasong'o was involved in a number of activities at the Department of Philosophy, History and Religion (PHR) and the Faculty as a whole. He held meetings with undergraduate students of History and International Studies; conducted a Postgraduate Methodology Workshop attended by both Kenyan and South Sudanese students based in Juba; and gave a public lecture on “Effective Teaching and Learning: Sharing Some Pedagogical Experiences”. What stood out in the lecture were Prof. Nasong'o's experiences in teaching in the context

of general observations on the relationship between students and lecturers. He was able to put his audience in his classroom and in the psychology of his students as they learn and react to his way of teaching. We were left with the question: “How many of us do what Prof Nasong'o does as a Lecturer?” Prof. Nasong'o also emphasised the importance and need for sensitisation of Egerton staff and students on the purpose and importance of lecturers' evaluation by students.

Prof. Nasong'o also assisted the Department of PHR in the development of a curriculum for Master of Arts in International Studies. It is our hope that this programme will give our undergraduate students in the Bachelor of Arts in History and International Studies programme an opportunity to pursue their postgraduate studies in Egerton University.

The Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics has been consistent with its Academic Staff and Postgraduate Students Seminar Series, whose convenor is Prof. Emilia Ilieva. The most recent seminar was held on 2 November 2021 on the topic, “What It Takes to Write a Novel: My Experience with *Independence Day*”. The event celebrated the awarding of the 2021 Nobel Prize for Literature to the Zanzibar-born writer Abdulrazak Gurnah by discussing a novel manuscript authored by Dr Joseph Walunywa. The novel presents a fascinating portrait of Kenyan life in the 1970s through the eyes of four young characters.

On 5 November 2021, the Faculty hosted Dr Duncan Omanga in a zoom meeting for his presentation on “Africa Peace Network and Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa: Call for Application for Grants 2022 from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC)”. Dr Omanga is a Programme Officer for The Africa Peace Network/ Next Generation Social Sciences. This

“The reason why most African students do not get grants is that they lack information and not that they are inept.”

is one of the funding initiatives under the SSRC that targets doctoral students at proposal development, writing and completion stages of their work as well as offers funding opportunities for early career scholars and those already established in their fields through collaborative projects.

In his presentation, Dr Omanga had the following message for our postgraduate students and early career staff: i) Staff and students should create an interest in applying for grants for research. The reason why most African students do not get grants is that they lack information and not that they are inept; ii) Grant writing is an essential part of scholarship. Research is expensive and doctoral studies should ordinarily be funded. Therefore, change of mindset is urgently needed in Africa for doctoral/post-doctoral scholarship vis-à-vis funding; iii) Dr Omanga guaranteed his guidance and support for the interested applicants. It is our hope that some of our students and staff in the Faculty will qualify for the various categories of grants.

The Faculty welcomes two new appointments to its management: Dr Joseph Walunywa, Chairman, Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics; and Dr Joshua O. Ayiamba, Chairman, Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies. ■

Developing Action-Oriented Knowledge for Professional Managers



Dr Henry K. Kombo

On behalf of the staff, students and alumni of the Faculty of Commerce, I extend my sincere congratulations and best of luck to the Faculty's Class of 2021 for your great accomplishment! Graduation is an important milestone and represents a time of hope and excitement. I also offer my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to the family members who have encouraged and supported you all.

The Faculty of Commerce is home to undergraduate and graduate students preparing to lead the business world and foster entrepreneurial growth by completing one of our various academic programmes offered in both the traditional classroom setting and an online format. We offer programmes at Undergraduate, Master's, and Doctoral levels.

The Faculty's dedicated academic staff, with broad expertise in business management, strives to sustain academic excellence in research and teaching. The number of Faculty with Ph.D. qualifications has increased in recent years. In recent academic staff reviews, two members of the Faculty, Prof. Dinah Kipkebut and Prof.

Fredrick Kalui, were promoted to the position of Associate Professor, and four members, Dr Robert Mugo, Dr Robert King'wara, Mr Alex Kubasu, and Mr Felix Obegi, were promoted to the position of Lecturer. This has enhanced the Faculty's capacity to run postgraduate programmes. Through University-organised training in online teaching, the Faculty has enhanced skills on the use of technology in teaching. This has improved online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our undergraduate and graduate programmes foster students' skills in Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Global Business Management, Human Resource Management, Information Systems, Marketing, Operations Management, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Risk and Insurance Management, and Strategic Management. In recent years, the Faculty has experienced increased enrolment in the Ph.D. Business and Management Programme. In curriculum development, the Faculty continually repackages its programmes with input from employers regarding their priority skills and knowledge. In addition, we regularly offer career talks to enable our students to keep up with current trends in theory and practice. Students go through their respective curricula in partnership with the faculty and fellow students. It is our sincere hope that students become highly skilled professionals, capable of utilising the analytical skills obtained through their studies to make contributions in the business world.

The Faculty is striving to enhance exposure of students to trends in the industry by establishing collaborations and linkages with professional bodies,

“The Faculty's dedicated academic staff, with broad expertise in business management, strives to sustain academic excellence in research and teaching.”

industry players, and other universities. The Faculty's students boast a national reputation for success at the annual Capital Markets Authority (CMA) Challenge, the Business Incubation University Challenge, and the Crucible National Students Marketing Competition. In both these competitions, our students have been placed in the top category in recent times.

Congratulations once again to all the students graduating today. The entire Faculty family is proud of you, and we wish you the best as you begin the next phase in your life. We will always take pride in your achievements. Although you are graduating today, you will always be members of the Faculty of Commerce. We encourage you to stay in touch, to join the Egerton University Alumni Association, and to give back by supporting the ongoing efforts to strengthen our great Faculty.

Kenya-Born Global Scientist Highlights Environmental Issues in Seminar



Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi

On behalf of the Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD), I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 44th Graduation Ceremony for a job well done. We at the Faculty are proud that we are contributing our fair share to the pool of students we are currently sending into the world today. Your success is the culmination not only of the efforts you have put into your studies in your individual capacities but also of the support you have received from the University and the community at large.

In recent times, FERD has engaged the community in a number of respects that the world needs to know. Among the most important such occasions was a training Seminar the Faculty hosted and efforts by students from the Faculty to clean up sections of Njoro River. The details are provided below.

Training Seminar

From 30 August to 17 September 2021, the Department of Environmental Science hosted a training seminar during which participants exchanged crucial knowledge on matters relating to the environment. The Department is a National Environment Management

Authority (NEMA)-approved Training Centre, and the participants included university students from Egerton and other universities and other interested parties. They were taken through an intensive three weeks of training that entailed lectures, field practicals, and report writing.

The highlight of the training was a presentation by Dr Assaf Anyamba, a Kenya-born global scientist, on 12 October 2021. The title of his presentation was "Exploiting Earth Observations for Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting."

In the presentation to the Seminar, which was streamed virtually to the participants, Dr Anyamba reviewed the status of remote sensing/ Earth Observations for Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting studies in the world. Those present were taken through how remote sensing satellites provide continuous measurements of the earth and its environment, and how they offer a synoptic monitoring capability.

Satellite measurements have distinct advantages over ground measurements since they can be collected repeatedly and automatically. In the United States, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is the prime agency responsible for developing new remote sensing technologies and remote sensing satellites, collecting earth system science data to study global change, and developing applications to use remotely sensed data. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates a series of weather satellites that collect operational data for weather forecasting and climate prediction.

Examples of simple image classification techniques that associate land use and land cover types with vector habitats, as well as complex statistical models that link satellite-

derived multi-temporal meteorological observations with vector biology and abundance, were presented and well discussed. It was evident in the presentation that scientists are now adopting new remote sensing techniques to study a variety of vector-borne diseases.

Associations between satellite-derived environmental variables such as temperature, humidity, and land cover type and vector density are used to identify and characterise vector habitats. The convergence of factors such as the availability of multi-temporal satellite data and geo-referenced data, collaboration between remote sensing scientists, biologists, and agriculturalists and the availability of sophisticated, statistical geographic information system and image processing algorithms in a desktop environment continues to create a fertile research environment. The use of remote sensing techniques for Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting has evolved significantly over the past 25 years, and this generated a lot of scientific interest among those present in the Seminar.

While the presentation by Dr Anyamba demonstrated the efficacy of remote sensing and other geospatial technologies in Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting, there are, however, several factors that need to be considered for these technologies to be routinely adopted for Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting in Kenya. These include the availability of resources for gathering, processing, and modeling geospatial data, training of personnel on the proper interpretation of results, the cost effectiveness of these surveillance techniques, and the continuous availability of remote sensing data in a timely manner. It should also be emphasised that there is need to understand the depth of

involvement of DRSRS in Agricultural and Vector-borne Disease Forecasting in Kenya as well as to redefine and strengthen their roles.

The training was organised by Prof. F. N. Wegulo and the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi, and was well attended by academic members of staff and post-graduate students in FERD.

The Clean-Up of Njoro River

The Egerton University Environmental Association (EUEA) is a club that focuses on the preservation and rehabilitation of the environment. On 10 July 2021, the Association organised an activity to clean up the banks of Njoro River as well as to sensitise the community around the members of the riverine section on environmental issues. The area covered extended from the Saint Augustine Catholic Church upwards to the Wright Market area, where community sensitisation took place. The members present collected all types of solid



Members of the Egerton University Environmental Association (EUEA) Club during the clean-up of Njoro River on 10 July 2021

waste that would have drained into the river with the rainwater runoff. In addition, they taught the community the importance of solid waste management.

The following members of staff of FERD contributed to the Dean's message: Prof. John M. Mironga, Dr Humphrey Obulinji, and Dr Moses Esilaba.

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EGERTON UNIVERSITY PROGRAMMES

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

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

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

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

DEGREE PROGRAMMES

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

MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

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

DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Master's 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 application.egerton.ac.ke

CIWAB Attracts Funding in Water Management and Curriculum Development



Prof. Japheth O. Onyando

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), I wish to congratulate the graduands of the 44th Graduation Ceremony. As they are today presented with the power to do all that appertains to their respective degrees, we in Engineering look forward to interacting with them as they practice and advance professionally.

The undergraduate numbers we are presenting today are mainly from mop-up cases and do not reflect our usual numbers, which have been on the increasing trend as our programmes continue to attract more students. The Faculty has four departments and offers four undergraduate degree programmes, namely Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Water and Environmental Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Instrumentation and Control Engineering. All our programmes are accredited by the Commission for University Education, and we make a point of updating them regularly as required by the regulator.

The current update of the programmes, which takes into account the input from the Engineers Board of

Kenya, (EBK) is near completion and will soon be submitted to the Commission for University Education (CUE) for their action as required by the regulations. The Faculty also emphasises a great deal on postgraduate studies, and currently there are four Master of Science and five Doctor of Philosophy programmes with local and international students.

The Faculty is pursuing a number of important projects through its Departments as outlined below.

Centre for Integrated Water and Basing Management

The Centre for Integrated Water and Basing Management (CIWAB) was

established in 2017 following the completion of Mau Mara and Serengeti (MaMaSe), which was funded by The Netherlands Embassy. It focuses on improving water security for livelihoods, economic benefits and environmental sustainability. CIWAB is affiliated to the Department of Agricultural Engineering, and it facilitates staff in developing proposals and running the subsequent projects. Through this initiative, the projects outlined below have been attracted.

- Validating Climate Smart Water Harvesting Technologies to Increase Food and Nutrition

Turn to page ...



The Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Japheth O. Onyando, receives electrical equipment worth Ksh2 million donated by GIZ on 15 November 2021. The donation was made possible by Mr Germano Mugambi of the Department of Electrical and Control Engineering, who is currently pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Germany.

Sims on Wheels Bolsters Capacity of Rural Health Facilities



Dr Christine Gathiri

The Faculty of Health Sciences congratulates all graduands in the 44th Graduation of Egerton University on their academic success and wishes them the very best in their onward life journey.

The Faculty staff and students have been involved in various activities in the second half of the year. In July 2021, “Sims on Wheels” (Simulation on Wheels) held their first activity at the Njoro Sub-County Hospital.

Simulation on Wheels is a capacity-building project which aims to improve maternal, neonatal, and basic trauma management in rural health facilities within Nakuru County. It is a partnership involving the Israeli Embassy in Kenya, the Nakuru County Government, Technion University – Israel Institute of Technology, and Egerton University. The team trained health care workers from the Njoro Sub-County Hospital, the Egerton University Medical Department, and New Point Hospital. A total of 25 health care workers were trained and certified.

In the first week of September, we were privileged to be visited by the Chancellor of Egerton University, Dr Narendra Raval. He was accompanied by members of the University Management Board. He met the Principal, the Deans, and the academic and administrative staff of Nakuru Town Campus College. He reiterated that he was available for consultation and that he will continue working with the administration to better the University.

The Egerton University Medical Students Assembly (EUMEDSA) held their 1st Annual General Meeting on 11 September 2021. This meeting was graced by medical doctors from within and without Nakuru. Emphasis was put on how the students can reinvent themselves so as to remain relevant in the competitive job market. The students were also encouraged to get involved in research.

In October 2021, Dr Elizabeth Kibaru, a paediatrician from the Faculty, in collaboration with Dr Nora Switchenko, a neonatologist from the University of Alabama, held a one-day training on Helping Babies Breathe. This was conducted at the Nakuru Level V Hospital. The purpose of this training was to provide knowledge and skills on resuscitation of new-borns to health care workers in the Neonatal Department of the hospital.

The Faculty has just concluded its end-of-year examinations. These examinations are extremely important to our students because they determine who progresses to the following year of study. The final-year students are waiting with bated breath to know their fate before they are released for posting to various hospitals around the country. After the examinations, Dr Ann Kibiru from the Faculty, in collaboration with Ms Jane Ombura and the Psychiatric Disability Organisation, held mental health awareness meetings with these students. This is in preparation for life outside campus.

Finally, once again, we congratulate the graduands of this year's Graduation Ceremony. The learning of these former students was interrupted by difficulties, but they have overcome. We wish them well and God Speed!



The Egerton University Medical Students Assembly had their first Annual General Meeting on 11 September 2021. Among them was their Dean, Dr Brian Lishenga (third from right).

Egerton Law Students Runners-Up in 2021 National Moot-Court Competition



Dr Ruth Adhiambo Aura

Today marks another milestone in the history of Egerton University and that of the Faculty of Law. As the University is holding its 44th Graduation Ceremony, we are happy to present our second group of graduands since our inception as a Faculty.

I congratulate all the people who have made this possible, including our graduands, their parents and guardians, as well as the entire University Fraternity. This day is indeed a product of our concerted efforts and we should all take pride in it.

I wish to inform you that the Faculty of Law relocated from the Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) to the Main Campus, Njoro, and is now housed in the former offices of the Faculty of Science. This is a serene and conducive environment for learning for our students. It has good facilities, and the students are closer to most University amenities as a one-stop shop, unlike before. The Faculty appreciates the University Management for the support that made the transition smooth.

Our embedded legal aid clinic has been moved to the Main Campus, Njoro, and all the services that were offered at the NTCC will now be

offered at the Faculty's new site. The Faculty welcomes any of you who may be in need of legal aid services.

The Faculty of Law hosted the National Moot Court competition for the very first time on 23 September 2021. This event provided a platform for practical learning for students in preparation for their future careers as Advocates. The theme of the competition was "International Law and Division of Matrimonial Property". Eleven universities participated in the competition, represented by 33 teams. The universities that came to face off with our students in the competition were: Embu University, Kenyatta University, Moi University, the University of Nairobi, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Kabarak University, Mount Kenya University, Nazarene University, and Strathmore University. Strathmore University took the first prize, followed by Egerton University. We hope to host another competition next year.

The students of the Faculty of Law

have participated in various competitions, nationally and regionally, which is a demonstration of their ability to apply what they have learnt. In this regard, let me congratulate one of our students, Elvine Aluda, who emerged a winner of the 19th essay competition for East African universities organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Aluda's essay was entitled "International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts". He focused on the challenges in the application of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law to non-state armed groups in conflict. One of his recommendations was the use of dialogue through sustained, coherent, and focused engagement to ensure the compliance of non-state armed groups with international humanitarian law.

I conclude by wishing all our graduands today all the best in their lives.

And to all of us, Merry Christmas and Happy 2022! ■



Egerton Faculty of Law Students, led by Fatma Razik, receive a trophy after emerging Runners-Up in the 2021 National Moot Court Competition that was held on 23 September 2021. The theme of the competition was "Matrimonial Property Rights".

Egerton Scholar Part of Consortium of Researchers Who Won Major Grant



Dr Moses N. Gichuki

Dear graduands, on behalf of the Faculty of Science, I wish to take this opportunity to

congratulate you on your hard work and determination, which has culminated in the great achievement that we are celebrating today. Graduation is an exciting occasion, one that marks the ending of one phase of life and the beginning of another phase; it stimulates warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. In view of the hard work and commitment you have invested in this cause, you truly deserve to celebrate this day. Today, as you receive the powers to read and do all that appertains to your respective degrees and diplomas, you must look to the future with determination in order for you to succeed and aspire for even higher achievements.

Now that you are in possession of what you tirelessly and diligently

worked for, we urge you to go out there and pursue your dreams as good ambassadors of this great institution, which has moulded you over the last few years to be what you are today. I have no doubt that the training you have received has prepared you well to embark on the next phase of your lives.

On our side, we will always put our best foot forward for our students. Since the inception of our Faculty 34 years ago, we have always endeavoured to provide an excellent foundation for our students 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 scholarly

Turn to page 34

Message from the Dean, FET

Continued from page 30

Security in Semi-arid Kenya, funded by the World Bank through KALRO. The duration of the Project is from 2020 to 2023. Five partners are involved with a total cost of Ksh20 million.

- Water in Nexus with Agriculture-funded by Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) of The Netherlands Embassy. The programme focuses on strengthening competencies in climate smart agriculture through curriculum development and training at the undergraduate level. It has four partners and 12 stakeholders from both the public and the private sector.
- Catchment to Tap (C2T), which focuses on IWRM-WASH nexus. It has seven partners and is funded by The Netherlands Embassy at a total cost of Ksh500 million. The Project duration is from 2021 to 2025.

As CIWAB continues to attract funding through proposal development, it also offers short certificate courses annually, targeting practitioners in water and related sectors. The next training took place on 6 - 17 December 2021 and was held online.

The Agricultural Engineering Department

The Department has funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the Higher Education for Postgraduate Training. So far eight students have graduated with the Master of Science degree, while two others have graduated with the Ph.D. degree. Most of them are staff members from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, and the Department is very grateful for the funding. Currently, discussions are going on to extend the support and include two new staff members to do their Ph.D's under the programme.

The Department of Electrical Control Engineering

The Department has doubled its efforts to ensure that the programme builds competencies in the graduates trained in the various areas of Electrical Engineering. Recently, the Department received an offer of Ksh1.2 million worth of equipment from GIZ, for which they are very grateful. This will go a long way in improving the capacity of the Department, which is in conformity with the continuous improvement of engineering programmes and the profession as required by the EBK.

The other two Departments in the Faculty are the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Department of Industrial and Energy Engineering. Both are also making commendable efforts to ensure that their programmes grow and continue attracting students.

publications in forums that are locally and internationally recognised. Apart from equipping our graduands with knowledge, skills and attitudes that have enabled them to be here today, our faculty staff have continued to contribute to knowledge generation through research.

Faculty Offices Relocate to New Physical Science Complex

For over thirty years, the Faculty of Science (especially the Physical Science Departments) has yearned to take occupancy of the state-of-the-art Physical Science Complex, which had remained under construction since 1988. The phased completion of this project enabled the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry to occupy one wing of the building in the year 2012. In January 2016, the Department of Physics followed suit after partial completion of the second phase. In the last financial year, the University Council and Management prioritised the completion of the Mathematics and Computer Science wing, which is host to the Dean's Office and the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science. Though not fully furnished, the expansive Physical science Complex sitting on approximately four acre surface area has adequate space for science laboratories, administrative and staff

offices, five large lecture theatres, and space for a cafeteria.

Faculty of Science Lecturers Elevated as Newly Appointed Staff Report for Duty

The Faculty of Science congratulates twelve members of academic staff on their promotion to higher grades. Prof. Mwaniki S. Ngari of the Department of Chemistry and Prof. Ali S. Islam of the Department of Mathematics were promoted to the grade of Professor in August 2021. Prof. Meshack A. Obonyo of the Department of Biochemistry, Prof. Thomas K. Kinyanjui, and Prof. Joshua K. Kibet, both of the Department of Chemistry, got elevated to the position of Associate Professor. The newly promoted Senior Lecturers are: Dr Japheth M. Muthamia and Dr Charles I. Maina of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr Ronald W. Wanyonyi of the Department of Mathematics and Dr Karori S. Mbutia and Dr Bartholomew N. Ondigo, both of the Department of Biochemistry. Two of our Assistant Lectures, Dr Clarence M. Maikuri and Mr Peter A. Amwoga of the Departments of Biochemistry and Biological Sciences respectively, were successfully reviewed to the grade of Lecturer. These staff promotions have lifted the Faculty of Science quite high in terms of staff establishment per

cadre, and this will definitely result in even better performance of our Departments.

The Departments of Mathematics and Physics are the latest to receive a boost of new staff after the recruitments of Ms Jacqueline Kibet and Mr Kenneth K. Langat (in the area of Actuarial Science) and Dr Duke A. Oeba (Physics). Ms Winnie Odhok was recently deployed to the Faculty of Science from the Faculty of Commerce, and this will certainly improve our service delivery as a Faculty.

In October this year, Prof. Francis G. Ndiritu reported back to the Department of Physics after a five-year tour of duty at Chuka University, where he served in the position of Academic Registrar. The Faculty of Science and the Division of Academic Affairs will definitely benefit from Prof. Ndiritu's rich experience and skills.

PS Ministry of Education Visits the Department of Chemistry

A team from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology was at Egerton University in June to film a documentary on the Biopesticides Project, whose Principal Investigator is Prof. Josphat Matasyoh of the Department of Chemistry. The collaborators are Prof. Isabel Wagara of the Department of Biological Sciences, Prof. Beatrice Were of the University of Eldoret, and Dr Waudo Walyambillah of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. This project, which is funded by the National Research Fund (NRF), aims at developing biopesticides for the control of maize and bean diseases. These biopesticides are expected to be more environmentally friendly and locally produced. The is in conformity with the African Union's Agenda 2063 that encourages African solutions for local problems. The project has been selected by the NRF to showcase the successful contribution of research to food security, which is a major pillar of the Big Four Agenda of the Kenya Government and SDG 2.

On 16 June 2021, the Principal



LWM students conduct proximate analysis of fish feeds from different fish farms at Biological Sciences laboratories at Egerton University

Turn to page 35

Despite Covid-19, LWM Admits Its 9th Cohort

By Nzula Kitaka

In October 2021, the Limnology and Wetlands Management (LWM) programme admitted the 9th student cohort from Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. Nine students were awarded fellowships through a very competitive process which had more than fifty applicants from eight countries vying for the prestigious scholarships from ADA and OKP. Out of the nine, five students are from Kenya, three from Uganda, and one from Zambia. Of these, three are female and six male.

That the Covid-19 pandemic did not diminish the flow of applications for the LWM programme is attributable to the unique nature of the programme, i.e. being multicultural, multi-expertise and practically oriented, coupled with

the excellent partnership between the collaborating institutions, namely Egerton University, BOKU University, and the IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education, The Netherlands.

The selected nine students are currently undertaking their first trimester at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU, Austria. Exchange students from BOKU are also expected to join the programme for various short courses.

The 9th student cohort are expected to arrive in Kenya on 3 February 2022, to start the Kenyan trimester, which will continue until 19 May 2022, after which the students will transit to the Netherlands. The Kenyan trimester comprises five compulsory modules: Lake Ecology, Ecology of Streams and

Rivers, Wetlands for Water Quality, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Fieldtrip on Sustainable Management and Utilisation of Coastal Ecosystems. All these modules are practically oriented, incorporating both laboratory sessions and field work at various aquatic systems in the country.

The Lake Ecology module includes a field excursion to the Rift Valley lakes, including the Naivasha basin lakes, Naivasha, Oloidien and Sonachi, as well as Lake Baringo. The module is offered by limnology experts from Egerton and different learning and research institutions within the country (KMFRI, the Technical University of Kenya, Kisii University, and Embu University) and from the region (Addis

Turn to page 36

Message from the Dean, Faculty of Science

Continued from page 34

Secretary, State Department of University Education and Research, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, together with the CEO of NRF and members of the Board of Trustees of NRF, visited the Department of Chemistry for a discussion on the importance of this Biopesticides Project to the country and the region at large. The discussion took place in the context of the documentary.

Research Funding and Linkages

Prof. Josphat Matasyoh is part of a consortium of researchers, which includes: the Helmholtz Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Braunschweig, Germany; the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria; the Austrian Institute of Technology GMBH, Austria; the

Institute of Microbiology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic; the University of Pretoria, South Africa; and the National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand. The consortium has won a grant from the European Union through the Horizon 2020 programme to conduct research in a collaborative project. The scientific research goal of this project is the search for novel anti-infective natural products to combat multi-resistant pathogens and the development of biocontrol agents as sustainable alternatives to chemical pesticides. The project also involves capacity building through training of researchers from the collaborating institutions.

Currently, there are four researchers from the Czech Republic at Egerton University conducting part of the project experiments. Prof. Matasyoh recently came back from Germany,

where he took part in a kick-off meeting, conference and laboratory experiments as part of the project activities. The total budget for this project is €1,375,400.00, of which €326,600.00, will be spent on Kenyan activities, including training of students and staff in the collaborating institutions. There is already one Ph.D. student visiting Germany.

Covid-19 Mitigation Measures

The Faculty of Science, through the Department of Chemistry, is at the centre of Covid-19 mitigation measures at Egerton University through the production and supply of quality hand sanitisers, which are prepared according to the WHO guidelines. It also produces a high-quality liquid soap detergent.

Ababa University, Ethiopia).

In Ecology of Streams and Rivers, the students acquire knowledge on the ecology and functions and management of lotic systems. In this module, students undertake fieldwork from rivers situated in different geographical locations: Njoro River from the Mau catchment, and River Naro Moru, whose source is in Mount Kenya. The module is facilitated by experts from various institutions, including Egerton University, Machakos University, and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Wetlands Ecology for Water Quality focuses on wetland ecology, functions, ecosystem services and sustainable wise use options for healthy systems, including use of wetlands for wastewater management by both natural systems and constructed wetlands. For knowledge and skills acquisition, the students are guided by several wetland experts from different universities: Egerton, Dar es Salaam, and Makerere in Uganda, as well as professional NGOs. The module comprises fieldwork and excursions to various natural and constructed wetlands and conventional wastewater treatment systems in the country.

As for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the students interact with experts from various learning and research



LWM students conduct water quality analysis at a Biological Sciences Laboratory, Egerton University, Main Campus, Njoro

institutions, such as the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute (KMFRI) and fish farmers. There are several excursions to various Beach Management Units (BMUs) in Lake Victoria, aquaculture research institutes (Sagana, Kigati, and Kisumu) and fish farms in the country (Kamuthanga in Machakos, Green Algae in Sagana, Tigoi in Vihiga). The fieldwork exposes students to various fish production techniques and systems and firsthand experience and

knowledge from the fish farmers, giving the students an opportunity to seek for solutions of some of the aquaculture challenges, such as fish feeds adulteration.

The climax of the Kenyan trimester is a fieldtrip to the Kenya Coast, where students learn about various sustainable uses of coastal ecosystems and resources, management strategies undertaken by various communities, and alternative uses of marine resources for livelihoods.

The Kenyan trimester success is anchored on the tremendous support from the Egerton University Management and the practically oriented approach.

The 8th student cohort completed their third IHE trimester successfully and have proceeded to undertake their research work so as to graduate in May 2022.

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



LWM students conduct water quality measurements at Naro Moru River in Mt. Kenya

28 Egerton Students Undergoing Training in Israel



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

On this 44th Graduation Ceremony, we celebrate the achievements of the graduands and mark a major milestone in the academic cycle both for the graduands and the University. Graduation is the culmination of the efforts made by the graduands, academic staff in departments and the faculties, parents, and other stakeholders, who have contributed to the successful completion of the academic cycle. The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) congratulates all the graduands as they celebrate this momentous occasion.

BUGS/FAP is mandated with the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate programmes. The Board also coordinates and facilitates Field/Industrial Attachment (FA) and Teaching Practice (TP). Therefore, as we plan on and review the curricula, BUGS/FAP interacts with undergraduate students long before they join the university. The Directorate coordinates the departments and faculties in the process of developing new programmes/courses and reviewing the existing curricula to make them better

suited to the needs of students and the market. In that respect, we are currently in the process of reviewing the undergraduate programmes and at the same time shifting focus to start preparations for the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in the University.

In November 2021, 28 Egerton University students left the country for The Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT), Israel. They are among 122 students from Kenya who will participate in the 11-month-long training. The programme provides the selected students with an opportunity to be attached to farms in the Arava region of Israel for five days in a week, as well as to spend one day in class at AICAT. It aims at instilling knowledge and skills in diverse agricultural fields by training students on advanced and sophisticated

agriculture systems in the Arava Region through its philosophy of “learning by doing”. The students were selected from those involved in Farm Attachment in different farms during the 2019-2020 attachment period. This resumption of the programme came as a relief to this 8th cohort of the programme at Egerton University following delays and uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The resumption of the programme also saw the number of slots allocated to the country increased from 100 to 200 students. Egerton University committed to provide 40 students for the programme this year, but this was not achieved as a number of students interested in the programme lacked travel documents and money to pay for the air ticket upfront.



Egerton University students apply for jobs in one of the 27 Chinese companies that exhibited at the second Egerton University Career Day on 24 June 2021. (See the message from the Directors of the Egerton University Confucius Institute).

Postgraduate Learning Adapting to the Covid-19 Era



Prof. Nzula Kitaka

Every time one hears the word “graduation”, one is bound to recall the meaning of the word – the fact that it is an occasion where institutions, apart from celebrating their achievements and success for the most part as a rite of passage, also provide an opportunity for reflection on larger cultural issues. Egerton College – and later Egerton University – has enabled numerous people to walk through their academic journeys over a period of more than eighty years. However, the challenges of the 21st century, especially the Covid-19 pandemic, have affected the normal educational routines. Consequently, the nature of events and festivities associated with many activities, including graduation, were destabilised in 2020, and many institutions are still struggling to get back on track, particularly those in developing countries. Still, the year 2021 signifies a new era whereby people have understood how to achieve their milestone dreams and yet stay safe from Covid-19. And here, the Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) of Egerton University has not been left behind. The Covid-19 pandemic became a wakeup call to shift from normal face-to-face to online procedures, giving postgraduate students a safer chance to walk their academic journey till the end. Thus Covid-19 has become a game changer as well as a platform for transformation to adopt technology for daily survival

and lifestyles.

On behalf of BPGS, I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate all the graduands of the 44th Graduation Ceremony. A special message of congratulations goes to the postgraduate students graduating today for your capability to adapt to technology and to new ways of doing things with ease. In particular, with respect to online submission of documents and defences, you have come out victorious.

This does not by any chance infer that all has been easy. Many of you at one point most probably felt desperate and despondent, as if there was never going to be an end to this journey. But you propelled yourselves forward to the “finish line,” which is being marked by your graduation today, through endurance, determination, dedication and perseverance. Covid was not an obstacle in the path toward your dream. As President Uhuru Kenyatta noted in his speech during the 2021 Mashujaa Day, “An obstacle is what you see when you set your eyes off the goal.” The fact that you are graduating today indicates that you never set off your eyes from your goal. Again, congratulations. Your Success is our pride as the Graduate School.

Innovative problem-oriented solutions and adaptability to change is the key to success for a postgraduate student, and you have proved that you are ready for the world, since the Covid-19 pandemic was neither an obstacle nor an impediment to your success. “The future,” observes President Kenyatta, “is not a destination waiting for us but a destination we create”.

Thus the 44th Graduation Ceremony marks the beginning of your career in the academic world – as a thinker, a problem solver, and a leader. The world will now listen when you give your professional advice. Nelson Mandela noted, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Similarly Mahatma Gandhi observed, “Your future depends on what you do today”; you “must be the change you wish to see in the world”; and “the

end is also a beginning”.

For the ongoing postgraduate students, BPGS will continue to create new diverse approaches to engage and make the processes and procedures more hospitable. However, this can only be achieved if they as postgraduate students play their role as implementers of these processes, especially by registering every semester as required by the University regulations. Registering in ARMs every semester will make it easy for them to be cleared for examination as well as graduation. In the world in which we live today, we all must engage with technology for the procedures to work. I know that this is a new demand – as well as part of the new adaptability to change in this New Era – for postgraduate students, but they must all embrace it as their studentship will be more enjoyable when they do so. BPGS will be there to walk with them as well as to seek for solutions of the challenges they will encounter along the way. The goal of the Graduate School is to support students to ensure that they complete their postgraduate studies on schedule.

For those who would wish to join Egerton University to further their education, you will never regret making that choice. Every day of our interactions with postgraduate students gives us a learning opportunity and the base for the continuous transformation of our processes. Meanwhile, BPGS is guiding the departments to review and realign their postgraduate curricula in order to make them more market-oriented, creative, innovative, and solution-based.

In addition, to ensure quality and global acceptance of Egerton University students' research output, the Graduate School has developed an anti-plagiarism policy which is undergoing evaluation in relation to University procedures, policies, and regulations.

Once Again, congratulations to all of you for your academic achievements. ■

IAESTE-Egerton Chapter Holds Career Day



Prof. Charles M. M'Erimba

On behalf of the staff at the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services (DIL&CS), may I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands of Egerton University for making this day a reality. Kudos to all international students who have successfully completed their degree programmes and are graduating today. It is my pleasure to have interacted with you in the course of your studies in one way or another. My best wishes to all of you as you leave Egerton University to join your families back at home.

My humble request to you is to be good ambassadors of Egerton University wherever you will be. In the same breath, let me thank the Coordinators of the following programmes for supporting your studies here at Egerton University: the Coordinator at Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev); the Coordinator at the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM); the Coordinator at the Limnology and Wetlands Management

(LWM); and the Coordinator at the Refugee Programme run one by Windle Trust (DAFI), among others.

The Directorate is committed to offer quality services to our international students as well as to expand our international network and linkages in line with the University's mandate and core values.

In July this year, in close collaboration with the Directorate, our international student held peaceful elections whereby Mr Emmanuel Ladu was elected as the Chairperson of the Egerton University International Students Association (EUISA). Mr Ladu is currently pursuing the Master of Science degree in Food Nutrition and Dietetics. I encourage the new leadership of EUISA to work closely with the staff at the DIL&CS for the welfare of the entire student community.

Equally, I am very grateful to the outgoing leaders under the able leadership of the former Chairperson, Mr Abdul-Rahman Issah. It was during his tenure that the association organised a successful coastal trip for the students this year. The leadership also witnessed tremendous transformation in terms of students' welfare, in addition to successfully organising and participating in charity work at the St. Nicholas children's home in Nakuru. Mr Abdul is pursuing the Master of Science degree in Agribusiness Management.

Besides their studies, the international students also participated in tree planting activities early this year, as well as in various other functions organised by the Office of the Dean of Students in accordance with their motto, "Different countries, one community".

One of the mandates of DIL&CS is to support students in seeking internships locally and abroad. On 23rd

October 2021, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), Egerton Chapter, held a Career Day at the Physical Science Theatre 3 in the Science Complex, Egerton University. The objective of the event was to sensitise Egerton University students on the opportunities available in and through IAESTE Global to seek internships abroad. The opportunities in question are essentially in technical subjects such as Computer Science, Information Technology, and Engineering. For a student to benefit from the arrangement, he or she has to register with the local IAESTE Egerton University Chapter.

Those who attended the workshop were taken through the application process and the required credentials. The eligibility for nomination, as well as the ways to enhance one's chances, were laid out to them. Mr Amani Wanjau, a former beneficiary of the internship programme, was the Guest Speaker. Mr Amani described his wonderful stay and interactions in Germany during his internship. He shared with the audience on the ways required to adapt, improvise, and overcome challenges in the hosting country. As a beneficiary of the programme, he was very glad to access cutting-edge technology as well as to acquire more skills. His experience was an eye opener to the members present, and their interest in the IAESTE internships was tremendously elevated.

The Directorate wishes to thank Mr Samuel Njoroge, the Chair of IAESTE-Egerton Chapter, and the entire team for organising the event. We are also grateful to the office of the DVC (AA) for the financial support.

CI Unites Kenya and China through Scholarly Collaborations



Prof. Joshua O. Ogwenyo
Director

On this great occasion of the 44th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, and on behalf of the staff and students of the Confucius Institute (CI) at Egerton University, we wish to congratulate all the graduates on your accomplishment, which has enabled

you to taste the joyful fruit of your endeavour. Today you have grown from small saplings into towering trees under the tender care of your teachers, and tomorrow you will become the ridgepoles and beams of the nation and even of the world.

The CI has focused on teaching the Chinese language and culture in spite of the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. On 18 July 2021, it organised the second round of the paper-based HSK/HSKK tests of this year. Ninety-eight per cent of the candidates from Egerton University passed the examinations, with excellent grades. Currently, the Institute is preparing candidates for the last round of HSK/HSKK tests for the year, which were expected to be administered on 5 December 2021. The students who obtain excellent grades in the tests will qualify to apply for next year's Confucius Institute scholarships



Prof. Li Zhenhong
Director

for further studies in China.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Institute has held some interesting online cultural activities, such as the Dragon Boat Festival (14 June 2021), the Mid-Autumn Festival (21 September 2021), and the Chinese National Day (1 October 2021). These cultural activities provided new opportunities for acquisition of new knowledge on Chinese culture and redoubled interest in learning the Chinese language.

Furthermore, on 24 June 2021, the Institute managed to hold the Second Egerton University Career Day, with 27 Chinese companies and more than 300 students attending. More than 30 applicants have already been offered employment opportunities by some of the Chinese companies that participated, and many are waiting to be accepted after their graduation. Besides getting a job, some even have gotten the chance to learn the Chinese language free of charge in the CI The Chinese Embassy in Kenya, the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (China), and Egerton University have reported this exciting event in various media.



Prof. Liu Gaoqiong, a Lecturer at Egerton University, takes Confucius Institute students through a lesson on how to plant trees in a tree planting event in the University's Botanic Garden

Our students are also aware of the need to conserve the environment, and this led to their participation in the annual tree planting day at Egerton University on 31 September 2021, at the Botanic Garden, Egerton University. During the event, in addition to planting trees in an area set aside for the Institute, our students were also sensitised on the need to take care of the environment in order to combat climate change, and urged to help restore the forest cover in the country to avoid global warming. One of our students, Mr Joseph Nguthiru, as a major co-organiser, was privileged to receive the Youth For Climate East Africa award by IGAD and ICPAC, with support from the European Union and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Kenya.

As the first CI featuring agriculture in the world, the Institute has always supported the transfer of appropriate and advanced agricultural technology from China to Kenya and Africa in

general. This has been achieved through innovative channels, including holding a series of Chinese+Agriculture teaching activities, including horticulture, livestock raising, and food crops production, which have broadened the students' horizon in both agricultural knowledge and Chinese language and culture. The Departments of Agricultural Engineering and Crops Horticulture and Soils benefitted from online/virtual seminars on Agricultural Machinery and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, conducted by Nanjing Agricultural University from October to November 2021. The two courses, delivered virtually, have been attended by both the faculty and postgraduate students in those two departments.

On 7-12 November 2021, CI, with the support of Nanjing Agricultural University, organised a Chinese+Greenhouse Vegetable Production Technology Training at the Nakuru Agricultural Training Centre.

The purpose of the course is transferring appropriate and advanced agricultural technologies from China to Kenya. The course was attended by 22 Agricultural extension officers from Nakuru County.

Since its establishment in 2012, the Institute has held 28 trainings and short courses in Kenya and other African countries, and at least 1,000 trainees have benefited from our appropriate and advanced agricultural technology transfer from China to Kenya.

Finally, we wish to report that ten undergraduate students studying at Egerton University have been awarded Chinese Ambassador Scholarships worth US\$1,000.00 per student this year. The Institute, on behalf of the University and the awardees, is very grateful to the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya for this exceptional gesture. ■

In Memoriam



Egerton University
pays tribute to the
Founding
Vice-Chancellor of the
University,
Prof. Richard S. Musangi,
who passed away on
27 August 2021.

Lecturers Trained in On-Line Content Development



Prof. Fred Keraro

I wish to congratulate all the graduands in the 44th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. We at the School of Distance Learning (SoDL) recognise that it is only through dedication and hard work that you have made it this far.

SoDL acquired its name after approval by the University Senate in 2019. Formerly referred to as the College of Open and Distance Learning, SoDL is geared to cater for the distance learning and teaching needs of students and academic staff respectively. It is comprised of three sections, namely: Military Science; School-Based Programmes; and the E-Campus. In this Graduation, students from these sections will be awarded their degrees. As our ambassadors out there, we would like to wish them, together with the entire graduating fraternity, a prosperous life-after-campus in the world of work.

Last year saw Covid-19 lead to the closure of the University for a fairly long period. This is when the provision of online learning became the cornerstone of academic preparation at the University. We in SoDL responded by training lecturers in online content development, e-class management, and assessment. By the same token, students were taught how to navigate the university's e-learning platform. As

the scouts' motto, "To be prepared", goes, the establishment of the E-Campus in 2015 could not have come in more handy in tackling the problem of remote learning. Nothing prepared us more than the five years' experience we had accumulated in online teaching and learning. To this end, I wish to thank the staff of E-Campus for their tireless efforts in making the Covid-19 days bearable, a momentous feat in Egerton University's history.

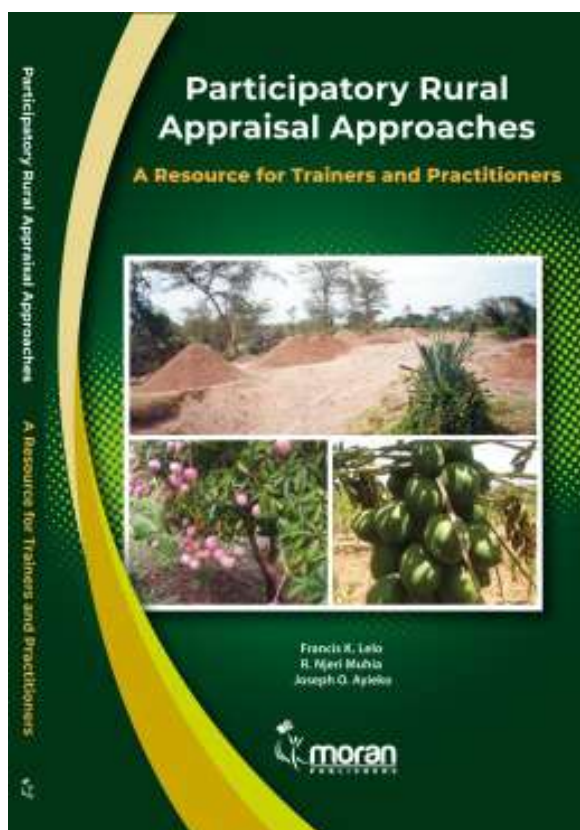
The term of the immediate former Director of the E-Campus, Prof. Ezra K. Maritim, came to an end in July 2021, and he handed the School over to me. Before then I had been a long-serving Coordinator of the Instructional Materials Development Department.

During this year, the E-Campus supported e-content development for "Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to African Development,"

(TAGDEV)-supported Master's programmes, besides assisting with the development of the English language modules for international students, for whom English was not their language of instruction. Furthermore, the E-campus continues to support both learners and tutors on campus – both in online and face-to-face sessions.

One critical challenge facing SoDL is the closure of our Nairobi City Campus. This implies that we have to hire premises that we use as centres for examinations and continuous assessment tests (CATs) in Nairobi to cater for students from far-flung areas such as Lamu and Dadaab. To mitigate this problem, plans are underway to conduct online CATs and examinations. For examinations to be conducted online, plans are underway to purchase modern proctoring software to prevent cheating during examinations.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands.



Egerton University scholars are making considerable contributions to knowledge through publications. Left: A recent publication by Francis K. Lelo, Associate Professor of Environmental Science; Ms R. Njeri Muhia, Lecturer in Economics; and Mr Joseph O. Ayieko formerly of the Faculty of Environmental and Resources Development.

Egerton University Wins Inter-University Blitz Challenge



Prof. D. Odera-Wanga

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all of you granduands for having successfully completed your various academic programmes. Since you joined Egerton University you have developed physically, socially, and mentally. You have also attained a wealth of experiences as well as abilities that will go a long way in shaping your future. On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, I wish

you a future full of opportunities. This Graduation Ceremony marks a new opening in your lives as you enter the job market to serve humanity in your various professional fields.

The mandate of the Office of Dean of students is to develop, nurture, and promote an enabling environment that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. The Office offers services that cater for the general welfare of students and serves as an advocate by assuring that their interests are taken care of in strategic aspects of university operations. The Office of the Dean of Students coordinates counselling, registrations of clubs, public lecturers, financial aid, orientation of first-year students, and students, recreational activities.

Some of the activities that have taken place since July 2021 include the following: the National Drama, Music and Film Festivals, held on 14-23 October 2021 at Meru University; the K U S A Rift Conference Championships, held at the Main

Campus, in Njoro, on 16-17 October 2021; and the Student Leaders Retreat, held in Mombasa from 27 October to 1 November 2021. The details are provided below.

The National Drama, Music and Film Festivals

The theme of the Festival was “Advocating for Social Responsibility through Performing Arts in the Post-Covid-19 Era.” The students did very well on many items presented, as a result of which Egerton was selected to participate in some of the items – such as the modern dance and the English play – in the sixth edition of the Kenya International Theatre Festivals (KITFT) on 2-7 November 2021. The students scooped awards in the following categories: Best Play in English; Best Presentation – Play; Best Original Play; Second Runners-Up, Best Presentation Mashup; Best Scripted Play in Kiswahili; Best Student Director of Kiswahili Play; Best Play in Kiswahili; Best Play for Film; Second Runners-Up, Best Film Overall; Runners-Up, Best Actor; Best



Egerton University Drama Club students perform during the National Drama, Music and Film Festivals Championships held from 14 to 23 October, 2021 at Meru University

Scripted Puppetry; Best Hand Puppetry; Best Stage Performance on Wildlife Conservation; Best Stage Performance on Anti-Corruption; Best Stage Performance on Environment Conservation; Best Stage Performance on Community Mobilisation/Impact Focus; Best Stage Performance on Disability Mainstreaming; Best Stage Performance on Governance and Human Rights; Runners-Up, Twinning Mime; Runners-Up, Best Presentation, Mime; Runners-Up, Modern Dance; Adjudicators' Award, Comedy; Best Presentation, M.D., Twinning Stand-Up Comedy; Best Performing Male Artist in Stage Performance; First Runner-Up, Best Actress, Film; Second Runners-Up, Best Actress, Film; Runners-Up, Best Choreography M.D.; First Runners-Up, Best Cinematography; Best Costume Design; Best Costume, Film; and, finally, Second Runners-Up, Original Film.

KUSA Rift Conference Championships

The University continued its dominance in sport as it trounced seven other teams to win in KUSA Rift Conference Championships, held at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 16-17

October 2021. In soccer, the hosts beat Bomet University College, University of Eldoret, as well as Maasai Mara University, in the semifinals.

The final was a repeat encounter with the University of Eldoret, and the hosts confirmed their status as the champions, thanks to a goal from the captain, Nelson Mandela.

The ladies' soccer final saw the University of Eldoret revenge with a win over the Egerton team, which settled for the First Runners-Up position.

In basketball, both men and women, Egerton reigned supreme, with very emphatic wins all thorough the preliminary stages up to the finals. In the men's competition, Egerton thrashed Moi University 31 to 15. The ladies had to stretch to the whistle as they floored Kabarak University 23 to 17.

On 23 October 2021, Egerton's other teams, including karate, tae kwondo, tennis, table tennis, scrabble and chess, participated as Guests during the Nairobi North Conference games held at Kenyatta University. The Rugby Team ("THE WASPS") are among the top 16 university teams picked for a pilot talent developmental league dubbed "KUZA KIZAZI",

which aims at promoting the game in each of the participating universities and its environs.

The next set of games will be held at Moi University, where Egerton expects its Volleyball Team to continue displaying its prowess as has been the case since 2015.

Despite the pandemic having slowed down sporting activities, Egerton aims to rise and claim its rightful place in sports as it looks forward to scaling greater heights.

Student Leaders Retreat

The Student Leaders Retreat is a vital function for students leaders. This year, the Retreat took place in Mombasa from 27 October to 1 November 2021. During the Retreat, the student leaders evaluated their term in office, identifying their strengths and weaknesses as leaders. They also reflected on the successes and challenges they had so far experienced and made recommendations for the incoming leaders. The Retreat also afforded the leaders an opportunity to tour various sites in the coastal region, such as the Malindi Marine Park, the Likoni ferry, Fort Jesus, Haller Park, and various Indian Ocean beaches, where they enjoyed swimming.



Egerton University Student Association leaders pose for a photograph on the grounds of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies on the last day of a Student Leaders Training Workshop held at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 21-22 June 2021

NTCC to Transform into a Leading Campus College in Business and Health-Related Disciplines



Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo

I take this momentous opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for making the 44th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University a success. This is a milestone event in the lives of all graduands, and we rejoice in your success under the “new normal” occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. We acknowledge the fact that this level of academic achievement is a product of efforts not only by the students

themselves but also by various stakeholders. To this end I wish to gratefully acknowledge the contribution by all staff of Egerton University, parents and guardians, sponsors and well-wishers whose efforts have been fruitful.

Over the past six months since the last graduation, the Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) has witnessed a number of important events and successes worth sharing. First, on 16 August 2021 the University Council appointed me as the Principal, NTCC, to take over from Prof. Daniel Auka, who had occupied the position in an acting capacity. While handing over to the in-coming Principal, Prof. Auka reiterated that the NTCC is strategically located in Nakuru's CBD and is well-placed to exploit the enormous opportunities available. The new Principal envisions transforming the NTCC into an economically viable centre of excellence in academics, research, and community outreach in

the core mandate areas of Commerce and Health Sciences. This will be achieved by ensuring that academic programmes and income-generating units are implemented using appropriate business models.

On 3 September 2021, the Chancellor, Egerton University, Dr Narendra Raval, paid a visitation to the College accompanied by the Chairman of the University Council, Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, and University Management Board members. It was a joyous moment for the first-year students of 2021 to be addressed by the Chancellor, through the Egerton Radio (101.7 FM). In the address to staff and students, the Chancellor reiterated his commitment to a better society and challenged the University to be more visible in offering services to society. The gesture by the Chancellor was highly appreciated by the NTCC fraternity.

During the same period the NTCC received over 800 first-year students enrolled in various degree programmes in the Faculties of Commerce and Health Sciences. All the first-year students underwent a rigorous one-week orientation that equipped them with useful information on how to make their academic journey at Egerton University successful and memorable. The students were addressed by the Principal, who emphasised the value of discipline, personal responsibility, character, and integrity, focus and observance of rules, regulations and the law in shaping the success of a university student. He called upon the students to embark on their academic journey with realistic dreams and believe in them.

In an effort to improve on the security and safety of students at NTCC facilities and hostels within Nakuru's CBD and its environs, a consultative meeting was held on 5 October 2021 at the Principal's



The Nakuru County Director of Medical Services, Dr Benedict Osore, is guided by students from the Department of Human Nutrition to take his weight. He was the Chief Guest at celebrations to mark World Diabetes Day on 14 November 2021, which was organised by Egerton University and the County Government of Nakuru to train members of the Mangu Diabetes Self Help Group on diabetes prevention, treatment, and management through healthy nutrition practices.

Boardroom involving the Principal, Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) leaders, and the Nakuru County National Police Service team led by the County Police Commander, Ms Beatrice Kiraguri. The meeting identified drugs and substance abuse as well as insecurity (cases of students being mugged and attacked in private hostels) as the major challenges faced by NTCC students. In response to the security concerns raised, the County Police Commander has since beefed up security at some of the identified crime hotspots, such as the Milimani area, and promised to participate in University-organised student orientations and consultations with hostel owners. The NTCC commits to strengthen its relationship with the Nakuru City stakeholders and beyond through deliberate inter-parties' engagements.

In August 2021 a number of academic staff in the Faculty of Commerce underwent internal reviews and were promoted. I take this opportunity to heartily congratulate these staff and wish them every success in their respective new roles at the NTCC.

I wish at this point to gratefully thank the former Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), Dr Brian Lishenga, for steadfastly steering the Faculty for two years. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Christine Gathiri for her appointment as Dean, FHS. In the same breath I wish to congratulate Dr Beatrice Omari and Dr Evelyn Ashiono for being appointed Chairpersons of the departments of Medicine and Child Health, respectively.

As I envision transforming NTCC into a leading Campus College in business and health-related disciplines, I intend to create a conducive working environment for academic staff through quality office and working spaces, capacity enhancement in grant sourcing, and scientific writing and merited upward mobility. The Principal commits to hold regular consultations with faculties, all staff and student leaders (EUSA and class representatives) for a better working relationship, service delivery and quality education. For the purpose of



The Chairman of the Egerton University Council, Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario (left), the Chancellor, Dr. Narendra Raval (centre) and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (right) at Egerton Radio premises during the Chancellor's visitation to Nakuru Town Campus College on 3 September 2021.

economic viability and sustainability, the NTCC intends to seek the upgrade of Egerton Radio (101.7FM) from a community to regional radio station with a business orientation. At the same time, plans are underway to set up a mini-business centre at Kokeb grounds comprising an information desk, a cafeteria, and an e-business/printing bureau to serve the Egerton University Community and the general public. Additionally, the NTCC intends to raise student numbers through quality teaching, supervision, and marketing of existing academic programmes.

In October 2021, the Office of the Dean of Students organised the inspection of all hostels (leased and owner-managed) accommodating NTCC students to appraise the quality of services, security, and safety, as well as suitability for occupation by our students. The College is currently in the process of identifying a hostel suitable for hosting both male and female students, particularly FHS students. We wish to reiterate that only hostels meeting the minimum standards with respect to quality of rooms and services, safety, and security will be assigned students in future.

During the period in question, a total of 35 students have benefited from the work study programme. The benefiting students have been assigned

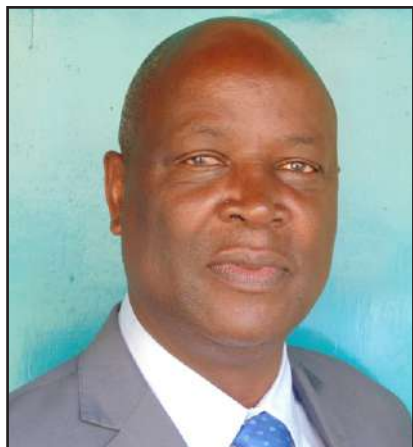
tasks in various sections of the College, where they are expected to gain practical job-related skills. The College also wishes to gratefully thank the Rattansi Education Trust and EUSA for offering bursaries to 29 and 100 students, respectively, at NTCC in 2021.

Finally, I wish to remind all NTCC graduands that you have been given “the power to do all that appertains to your respective diplomas and degrees”, thereby enabling you to constructively define the next stage of your lives. You have boundless options in your immediate future efforts, among them advancing your academic accolades beyond today's achievements at Egerton University and other globally renowned academic institutions. You are also encouraged to competitively bid for jobs, scholarships and self-employment opportunities.

Once again may I offer hearty congratulations and best wishes to all NTCC graduands for their merited academic achievements in their respective careers. The College wishes you a life full of hope, and as such, you should remember to define your own destiny, since your is purely in your hands.

Have a blessed graduation and future Life! ■

Egerton Graduands an Exemplary Resource



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

Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations, our 2021 Graduands! You bring us joy. We are proud to celebrate your graduation. It is a great feat indeed under the duress of the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges emanating from it. I commend your hard work—and smart work. I want to apportion a part of this great feat to the supportive commitment of your parents, guardians, and peers, as well as your lecturers and the University administration. They ensured that you successfully completed your studies despite the unprecedented global crisis.

To us at Egerton University, you are an exemplary human resource with the right mix of competencies: knowledge, skills, attitudes and values matched to global competitiveness. Through your years of study at Egerton, you made new friends, gathered knowledge, developed new skills and discovered new things about yourself. I implore you to take everything that you have learnt and all the skills you acquired and apply them in meaningful and effective ways as you embark on the next long journey ahead of you.

Crises are inevitable and always come when least expected and in unexpected ways. It is during times of crises that we are tested on whether we have enough knowledge to tackle them, whether we have the leadership skills required to handle them, and whether we have friends and colleagues to assist. In addition to having the above, it is your passion and strong will to solve problems that will enable you to be successful. Life is a series of new horizons, new hopes, new

days and changes. Graduation marks the end of one chapter in your life and the start of another. We are living in a world where uncertainty and complexity are the order of the day, and inequalities among people, among generations, and among nations are increasing.

My hope today is that even after graduation you will continue to practise the values acquired from the University. I am full of hope that all of you will become leaders in national unity in many ways, in the different parts of this country, Kenya. My request to you is to help us (Kenyans) understand one another, help us find beauty in our differences, help us listen to one another, and be the catalyst that leads to disempowerment of fear and hate.

You are ambassadors of this great University. This is a role with responsibilities that you have to uphold with commitment to national unity, transparency, accountability, integrity, professionalism and internationalism, in all your endeavours. Let these values be like your finger prints, a proof of where you have been and what you have touched.

The journey of life brings both chances and challenges. In the life ahead, you shall face situations where you will have no relevant expertise, no evidence to rely upon, and where your intellect will not be able to supply the required answers. It is in those times that you will have to learn how to summon courage. Being timid has never gotten anyone anywhere, as echoed in the words of Gwynne Shotwell, “Boldness is the antidote to living with regret.” And when things go wrong, as they sometimes will, when the road you are trudging seems all uphill, rest if you must, but never give up.

Let me stress the importance of opportunities and accepting all that comes with them. Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. Opportunities are about taking action on what is presented to us each and every day. This is emphasised in the words of Ruby Bridges: “Opportunity comes packaged in many boxes and it often shows up with no return address. The sender is history, and she does not accept returns. Once the package is opened, you accept the gift, and you embrace the demands attached to it.” I implore you to grab every opportunity that comes your way.

Let me leave you with the words of Michael Josephson: “Take pride in how far you have come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey.”

Wishing that brighter opportunities come your way and that you achieve success in all of your endeavour.

Hongera!

Plans for the 14th Egerton International Conference in Top Gear



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

On my own behalf and that of the Office of the Director, Research and Extension, I sincerely congratulate all the graduands of this 44th Graduation Ceremony. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and other challenges, the graduands soldiered on and have successfully completed their studies. Congratulations! I also salute all other stakeholders who have contributed directly or indirectly to make this day a reality for our graduands. The Directorate is proud to be associated with our graduands.

The Directorate of Research and Extension aspires to create an enabling environment for research, extension and consultancy services by establishing the necessary policy framework. Policies on Outreach and Extension, Publications, and Consultancy have been reviewed and approved for implementation in 2020/2021. The Research Policy and the Intellectual Property Rights Policy are at an advanced stage of review and approval. Guidelines for Research Data Management and Curation have

been developed and are currently under review.

The Directorate also supports development of short technical courses, dissemination of information through conferences, publications and popular media. Several technical courses and workshops have been developed and offered through various research projects, including a workshop on 25 June 2021 on Research Development and Implementation facilitated by experts from the National Research Fund and Egerton University. Ninety-four academic staff and researchers participated in the workshop, which was held via Zoom. Several project lead conferences were organised, including the 4th National Forum for Agricultural Stakeholders, held on 21 – 22 July 2021, and organised by TAGDev (Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development). Thirteen presentations were made, and over 300 persons participated in the virtual forum. The Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) in collaboration with the Africa Farm Management Association (AFMA) organised the AFMA conference from 21 – 25 November 2021. Similarly, the Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP) organised a conference dubbed 2nd National Legal Aid Conference on Access to Justice on 29 November – 4 December 2021. The Principal Investigator, Limnology and Wetlands Management Project, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, is organising the 2nd General Assembly Africa Uni-net and ERASMUS+ to be held on 7 – 9

February 2022, just to list a few.

Preparations for the 14th Egerton University International Conference are at an advanced stage. Leveraging on the success of the 13th Egerton University International Conference, which was held virtually, the upcoming conference will be blended (both virtual and face-to-face). The Conference draws participants from local and international universities, research institutions, county and national governments, local and international NGOs and private sector organisations. The theme for the upcoming Conference is “Research and Innovations for Resilience in a Changing Environment”. The Conference is a great platform for early career and seasoned researchers to present their research findings through oral presentation, posters, and exhibitions of research outputs, products and innovations.

Let me take this opportunity to invite you all to the 14th Egerton International Conference to be held on 23 – 25 March 2022 and to offer you an opportunity to have a global experience on what researchers are doing in various academic disciplines and in the industry. For more information, visit our Conference website

<https://euconference.egerton.ac.ke/>

Researchers have also participated in dissemination of information via popular media, including Egerton University Radio. Nine researchers have participated in discussions on agribusiness, food security, finance, law, and health topics with a reach of at least 10,000 persons.

Tegemeo Intensifies Its Policy Research, Capacity Building, and Outreach Activities



Prof. Gideon A. Obare

Dear Graduands, it is this time when you can look back and confidently say, “I sowed and now I harvest.” You have gained more friends, and you have expanded your knowledge horizon through your lecturers. Your achievements during your sojourn at Egerton University are worth remembering. At Tegemeo Institute, we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Egerton's Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development continues to undertake policy research, capacity building, and outreach in Kenya and the African region. In partnership with the Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP), South Africa, IFPRI and AGRA, the Institute supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives in implementing the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). Through the Policy Prioritisation through Value Chain (PPVC) Analysis project, deep dive analysis of beef, coffee and aquaculture value chains was conducted to identify policy levers and investments for achieving the ASTGS and the Big Four Agenda targets. The Institute organised three workshops on 2 November and 3 November 2021 to share the deep dive analysis findings. The Principal

Secretary, State Department for Livestock, Mr Harry Kimtai, CBS, opened the workshop on the beef value chain.

The Institute has also been part of the team put together by the Ministry to collect and analyse data and prepare the Kenyan Biennial Review (BR) Report. The BR is a participatory process under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), where each country collects and analyses data, and draws lessons as part of the Mutual Accountability Framework. This data collection and analysis is essential for reporting agricultural progress against critical commitments and promoting learning amongst key stakeholders on the African continent. This BR, now in its third cycle, will culminate in the peer review process in 2022.

In collaboration with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Tegemeo made proposals for the 2022/23 budget in a forum organised by IEA. The proposals have been used to make changes to the estimates contained in the budget policy statement. Every year, the National Treasury releases a calendar for the budget cycle and the budget fora are a key highlight of the budget-making process, aimed at receiving views from organisations, citizens, and lobby groups on what the budget priorities should gravitate towards.

The Institute was involved in capacity-building events such as the data harmonisation workshop organised by the Kenya Climate-Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) in September 2021, focusing on improving the integrity and quality of data collected by the project in 24 counties. KCSAP is a Government of Kenya project supported by the World Bank, and Tegemeo has been supporting the collection of routine M&E data for the project through training county teams on Survey CTO,

facilitating access to the Survey CTO servers, technical backstopping and data quality assurance.

Similarly, on 2 – 4 November 2021, Tegemeo participated in a capacity-building workshop organised by the Kenya-based International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) and the University of California at Davis to train researchers from the East and Southern Africa regions on grant proposal development. Two of the Institute's staff were facilitators at the workshops and trained on research and evaluation, and power and sample size calculation.

At the continental level, Tegemeo participated in the panel at the Pre-Summit Session on Transformation for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems at the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021. Also, staff at the Institute contributed to two chapters in the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2021: “Opportunities for Building Resilience of African Farming Systems”, and “Achieving Resilience in Downstream Agri-Food Systems”.

As a member of the Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI), Tegemeo is involved in a study on the assessment of policies on cross-border trade on agricultural inputs and commodities in the SADC region. This was commissioned by the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA). The study used the Agricultural Innovation Systems Policy Practice Index (AIS-PPI) that was developed by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). A virtual training on the AIS-PPI tool was conducted for 105 participants in September 2021, who were later involved in the assessment of policies on cross-border trade, and findings were presented in a webinar held in October 2021. ■

AICAD Empowers Rural Women in Kilifi

By Josephine A. Ouma

The African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) is an international organisation with its Headquarters located at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). The Kenya Country office is located at Egerton University (Utafiti building). The Institute aims at solving various challenges concerning poverty reduction and development of the African region in sectors such as agriculture, health and environment through capacity building of women and youths in rural, urban and peri-urban areas in accordance with outcomes of needs assessment surveys conducted periodically.

Covid-19 Pandemic Stalls AICAD Programmes and Activities

Just like other organisations, AICAD was not spared by the Covid-19 pandemic, with waves of constant change and uncertainty. Overnight, offices and work stations were closed, movements restricted, curfews imposed and lockdowns initiated in a bid to stop the rampant spread of the virus disease in Kenya. In March 2020, the AICAD Secretariat and its Kenya Country Office had to close and employees started working from home. In addition, pending programme activities had to be called off.

Operations resumed in October 2020. Telecommuting and working in shifts was the new modus operandi. The Zoom virtual collaborative platform was temporarily the backbone of the organisation during the telecommuting period, keeping staff connected through team meetings with the secretariat. This rapid adaptation to technology has helped the AICAD family to remain productive while discharging its mandate. AICAD has

“The major thematic areas covered included: gender and legal awareness; health issues; savings and credit management; crop production; value addition; and entrepreneurship skills.”

been strategic on its modalities to continue with programme implementation while keeping all employees safe. AICAD has implemented some activities during the pandemic with a good measure of success. A case in point is the implementation of grassroots training on community mentoring and rehabilitation in Kelelwa, Baringo. AICAD is considering resuming its normal operations in the New Year with a focus on implementation of more programmes and activities subject to availability of funds.

Empowering Rural Women

Gender equality and rural women's empowerment is central to the AICAD mandate of poverty alleviation. AICAD empowers rural women on all issues that affect their lives, including health, improved food security, business skills and better rural livelihoods through training. Training equips them with skills to pursue new livelihoods and adapt technology to

their needs. Based on the challenges faced by women in several spheres of development, AICAD organised a two weeks non-residential training on Rural Women Empowerment in Kilifi South Sub-county. Kilifi County is one of the poorest counties in Kenya.

A total of twenty participants of mixed age and educational background drawn from four wards of Kilifi South Sub-County were identified for the training. Selection of participants was done during the training needs assessment survey conducted before the training implementation. The training course was conducted from 28 October 2019 to 8 November 2019 at Mtwapa Country Resort in Kilifi County with practical sessions being conducted at the Mtwapa Agricultural Training Centre. The major thematic areas covered included: gender and legal awareness; health issues; savings and credit management; crop production; value addition; and entrepreneurship skills. The resource persons were drawn from a pool of experts from CARE Kenya, the Technical University of Mombasa, and the AIDS Health Foundation. The participants received maximum opportunity for learning through a participatory learning process. Participants felt that the training was designed well with relevant themes. All the participants expressed their appreciation for learning new knowledge and skills.

Prof. Josephine A. Ouma is the Country Director, AICAD-Kenya. She replaced Prof. Alice W. Kamau, who retired from Egerton University. She brings on board a wealth of knowledge gathered over many years of practice and teaching.

You Cannot Climb the Ladder of Success with Your Hands in Your Pockets



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

My heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2021 for reaching this important milestone in your lives. Graduation marks the ultimate stage of the long-drawn efforts you have put into your studies in the last several years. It is not lost on me that this is not what we would have expected or desired for a perfect Graduation Ceremony. But with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic, the call to adapt to evolving situations is ever more urgent. Hence, this third virtual graduation today. May I take this early opportunity to appreciate your resilience and flexibility during this time. You navigated the last part of your studies in this place with grace, and you have come out victorious in the midst of a pandemic.

Graduation time is to a Professor an opportunity to give parting thoughts to students. But for me, I take the line of giving you encouragement and creating perspectives.

First, remembering the good and bad times and people that have made you who you are and gotten you to this moment is a significant perspective to reflect on. These memories should help make you resilient as you face the future. I know some of you have been here a little longer than was expected in this journey. You may be tempted to dwell on the things that didn't happen as per your planned programme due to this paralysing pandemic and other

factors. But I encourage you not to give much thought to that because what doesn't happen should not define us. Remember, it is what we do that defines us. Please don't take all these unfolding circumstances negatively; it should be a testament to the enduring quality of the Egertonian. You all have wonderful memories of your time at Egerton – dwell on and cherish those. Take those memories, the stories of Egerton, with you as you walk out of the gates as a graduate – no longer a student. This constitutes the perspective of the past.

Here is my “Right Now” perspective. You have come to a milestone in your education journey. This far you have come through your determination to succeed. You deployed your different and unique gifts to accomplish this goal; you have navigated the choppy waters of the academic processes and displayed the flexibilities required to succeed. I dare say that you are now ready to face the world outside the gates of Egerton University and play your role as an ambassador of this revered institution.

As a parting shot I have one piece of advice as you enter the new chapter of your life journeys. If you learned anything by going through the University, it should be that there are two types of people in this world. One category is the needy, and the other is those who help the needy. And the funny thing is that you will be in and out of one of those groups throughout your life. The important thing is to recognise which group you are in at any point in time and do something about it. It's that simple. Finally, as you look to the future, remember you can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets. Get out there and do something great!

GOD BLESS YOU.



A view of the Chemistry Wing of the Physical Science Complex at the Main Campus, Njoro

List of Staff Promoted in 2021

GRADE 15 PROFESSOR

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
Prof. Patience Mlongo Mshenga
Dept. of Crops, Horticulture and Soils
Prof. Mwangi A. James Kibe
Prof. Paul Kiprotich Kimurto
Prof. Nancy W. Mungai
Prof. Josephine Achieng' Ouma

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Dept. of Environmental Science
Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi
Prof. George Morara Ogenidi

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dept. of Chemistry
Prof. Ngari Silas Mwaniki
Dept. of Mathematics
Prof. Ali Salim Islam

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Dept. of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology
Prof. Charles Muleke Inyagwa

GRADE 14 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
Prof. Hillary Kiplangat Bett
Dept. of Animal Science
Prof. Mary Kivali Ambula
Prof. Kingori Anthony Macharia
Prof. James Ombiro Ondiek
Dept. of Crops, Horticulture and Soils
Prof. Robert M. Gesimba
Prof. Joyce Jerotich Lelei
Prof. Mariam Mwangi
Prof. Samuel Odeyo Nyalala
Prof. Arnold Mathew Opiyo
Dept. of Dairy, Food Science and Technology
Prof. Patrick Simiyu Muliro
Prof. Mary Omwamba Nyambeki

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dept. of Literature, Languages and Linguistics
Prof. Phylis Jepkemoi Bartoo
Dept. of Economics
Prof. Aquilars M. Kalio
Dept. of Peace, Security and Social Studies
Prof. Erick Kiprono Bor
Prof. Hadija M. Murenga

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Dept. of Accounting, Finance and Management Science
Prof. Fredrick Mukoma Kalu
Dept. of Business Administration
Prof. Dinah Kipkebut Jeruto

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dept. of Chemistry
Prof. Joshua Kiprotich Kibet

Prof. Thomas Kinyanjui

Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Prof. Amos Meshack Obonyo

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Dept. of Geography
Prof. John Momanyi Mironga

GRADE 13 SENIOR LECTURER

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
Dr Mary Wairimu Kiiru Mathenge
Dept. of Animal Science
Dr. Onjoro Paul Anthans
Dr Ngeno Kiplangat
Dr Thomas Kainga Muasya
Dept. of Crops, Horticulture and Soils
Dr Jane Gisemba Nyaanga
Dr Pascal Ojwang Okwiri
Dr Maurice Edwards Oyoo
Dept. of Dairy, Food Science and Technology
Dr Nduko John Masani

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dept. of Literature, Languages and Linguistics
Dr Lucy Njeri Jane
Dr Ali Abdulrahim Hussein Taib
Dept. of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies
Dr Joshua Otieno Ayiemba
Dr Wario Halkano Abdikadir Abdi
Dept. of Peace, Security and Social Studies
Dr Panuel Jason Mwangunde Mwaeke

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dept. of Human Anatomy
Caroline Wangui Ndungu

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dr Stephen Karori Mbutia
Dr Nyangahu Bartholomew Thadeus Ondigo
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Dr Charles Irungu Maina
Dr Japhet Mburugu Muthamia
Dept. of Mathematics
Dr Wanyonyi Ronald Waliaula

GRADE 12 LECTURER

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Dept. of Dairy, Food Science and Technology
Oloo Benard Odhiambo
Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management
Gitau Raphael

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dept. of Literature, Languages and Linguistics
Dr Masaya Hillary Chakava
Dept. of Peace, Security and Social Studies
Samwel Auya

Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Dr David Nderitu

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Dept. of Accounting, Finance and Management Science
Dr Robert Mugo Karungu
Dr Robert Adawo King'wara
Alex Upungu Kubasu
Felix Obegi Mokuwa

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

Dept. Agricultural Education and Extension
Mary Mwihaki Waiganjo

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Dept. of Agricultural Engineering
Korir Meshack Kipruto
Dept. of Industrial and Energy Engineering
Hesborn Rasugu Ayub

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Dept. of Environmental Science
Koech Henry Kiprono
Elizabeth Wangui Muoria
Dept. of Natural Resources
Dr Sosi Benjamin

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Dept. of Medical Physiology
Kipkemboi Dennis Rono
Dept. of Nursing
Kereri Deborah Kemunto
Salome Yahna Oyiela Otwenyo
Dept. of Reproductive Health
Justus Malowa Nondi

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Dr Clarence Maikuri Mangera
Dept. of Biological Sciences
Ayeka Peter Amwoga

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Dept. of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology
Nyaga Samuel Nderitu
Nyakego Philip Onyono
Jesse Kevin Ndungu Thuo
Dept. of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology
Evalyn Wanjiru Mwihia
Dept. of Veterinary Surgery, Theriogenology and Medicine
Wyckliff Ngetich

GRADE 11 TUTORIAL FELLOW

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Dept. of Agricultural Engineering
Peter Mecha
Alele Joseph Odera
Wamalwa Patrick Wafula
Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Cornelius Ngunjiri Ngandu
Dept. Electrical and Control Engineering
Germano Rugendo Mugambi

DIRECTORATE OF INCOME GENERATING UNITS

Message from the Director

Directorate to Focus on Improved University Financial Base



Prof. George Owuor

On behalf of the Directorate of Income Generating Units, I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 44th Graduation Ceremony. The Directorate of Income Generating Units was created in May 2021. It falls under the Division of Administration,

Planning and Development and has the goal of enhancing the University's ability to sustain itself beyond the funding it receives from the government and through research.

The Directorate provides strategic guidance to University departments that generate income through innovations and services. The Income Generating Units (IGUs) include Tatton Farm, the Guilford Dairy Plant, the Gift Shop, the Bookshop, the Egerton University Press, the Knitting and Tailoring Unit, the Catering Department, the Accommodation/Halls Department, the Medical Department, and the Funeral Home.

The Directorate, through updated business plans for each IGU, is at an advanced stage of establishing a minimarket at the main University Gate. This minimarket will provide innovative products and services to the public and act as a one-stop shop for all IGUs to sell Egerton University-

branded products and services, including provision of information about the University programmes.

The Mission of the Directorate is to enhance income streams for quality service provision by the University. Its Vision is "Diversified products and services providing sustained income streams for the University".

The objectives of the Directorate are to: increase income streams for all IGUs by at least five per cent annually; expand innovative products and services for each IGU; improve quality of products and services rendered by all IGUs to meet consumer needs; open at least one additional outlet for IGUs to reach out to more customers after every two years; and advance accountability and knowledge-sharing on Egerton University products and services.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands.

DIRECTORATE OF UNIVERSITY WELFARE SERVICES

Message from the Director

Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Top Priority for Directorate



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

On behalf of the Directorate of University Welfare Services, it is my great pleasure and honour to congratulate all of you on this day of the 44th Graduation of Egerton University. Graduation is a great achievement in your academic lives and the beginning of another life. It is my belief that your long years of study will bear fruit for you and will motivate others who are behind you.

It has been our pleasure as a Directorate to create a conducive living environment in the University to enable you achieve your goals. In

striving to fulfil our mandate of providing quality accommodation facilities, the Accommodation Department achieved 90.1% full capacity at 7,842 students in semester I of the 2021/2022 academic year, despite Covid-19. This is a great milestone, especially since our services have also attracted international students from Botswana and Uganda, thanks to the TAGDev programme that facilitated the renovation of Old Hall block. The support of the University Management also contributed to the improved

service delivery since our students enjoy availability of power and Wi-Fi.

We urge the parents to encourage students to embrace on-campus accommodation which allows for service provision by trained, skilled, professional staff on a 24-hour basis.

We have not been left behind in the Disability Mainstreaming Unit. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) remains our top priority. The Disability Mainstreaming Resource Centre was able to procure three tough rider wheel chairs. Two students were assisted to secure educational funds from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWDs) and one from Nyandarua County. Seven persons were taken to Bahati District Hospital, and four to Nakuru Provincial General Hospital for assessment on various disabilities to enable them get Identification Cards from the NCPWDs. The cards provide avenues to access government services and

opportunities. The Resource Centre is taking care of three totally blind students through transcription services and transport. The Centre also organises for large fonts for five Low Vision students. The Resource Centre has provided crutches to twelve students and a white cane to one student. All these needy cases are booked for rooms that are user friendly and allocated assistants who help them access resources and other services that make their learning easier. The Resource Centre is well-equipped with computers installed with JAWS software and internet for research. Apart from the students, members of staff with disabilities are provided with transport services on campus.

The Catering Department opened two serving points, Smart Cafeteria in "CBD" and Canaan in Tatton. Plans are underway to expand and refurbish the eatery at Tatton so as to meet the demand for a variety of meals. Through the support of the newly created

Directorate of Income Generating Units, the Directorate has plans to have a fast-food cafeteria at the Main Gate. The Smart Cafeteria at the New Dining has become a popular outlet with a provision of kienyeji foods like ugali wimbi, mursik, goat meat, matumbo, and a variety of kienyeji vegetables. After the lifting of the nationwide curfew, normal hours of operations from 8 am up to 9 pm have resumed and will be reviewed upward as need arises.

The Directorate, in collaboration with a group of computer science students, is developing a software system that will help improve the use of M-pesa till services sales by use of POS. This will phase out the use of the old un-serviceable model of cash registers used in the PAYE.

The Directorate has continued to provide various prepaid services to individual students and faith-based groups.

Ph.D. GRADUANDS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



Karani, Charles Gichimu

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agribusiness Management
Thesis Title:
"Behavioural Analysis in Management and Commercialization of Agro-Food Waste among Urban Agro-Producer Households in Kenya"

Supervisors:
Prof. Hillary Kiplangat Bett
Dr Eric Obedy Gido



Benard Odhiambo Oloo

Programme:
Ph.D. in Food Science
Thesis Title:
"Enhancing Quality and Safety of Indigenous Chicken Meat Processing in Kenya"

Supervisors:
Prof. Symon M. Mahungu
Prof. Alexander K. Kahi



Semeni, Mussa Ngozi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agribusiness Management
Thesis Title:
"Analysis of Risk Management Strategies among Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) Smallholder Farmers in Njombe Town Council, Tanzania"

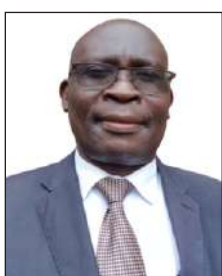
Supervisors:
Prof. Patience M. Mshenga
Dr Isaac Maina Kariuki
Dr Aloyce Shaaban Hepelwa



Wafula, Nobert Wanjala

Programme:
Ph.D. in Food Science
Thesis Title:
"Optimization of Extrusion Cooking for a Protein and Dietary Fibre Rich Instant Flour from a Composite Blend of Rice (*Oryza sativa*), Sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (*L.*) *Moench*] and Bamboo (*Yushania alpina*) Shoots"

Supervisors:
Prof. Mary Nyambeki Omwamba
Prof. Symon M. Mahungu



Ooro, Patrick Awuor

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agronomy
Thesis Title:
"Determination of the Effects of Crop Rotation, Water Harvesting and Soil Fertility Management on Nitrogen and Water Use Efficiency of Wheat in Njoro Sub-County, Kenya"

Supervisors:
Prof. Rhoda Jerop Birech
Dr Joyce Nawire Maling'a



Samuel Muyoma Nato

Programme:
Ph.D. in Food Science
Thesis Title:
"Coliform Contamination of Milk in Smallholder and Pastoral Dairy Value Chains in Kenya and Its Implication on Post-Harvest Losses and Consumer Safety"

Supervisors:
Prof. Joseph W. Matofari
Prof. Bockline O. Bebe
Dr Christian Huelsebusch

FACULTY OF COMMERCE



Leonard Ngero Kiragu

Programme:
Ph.D. in Business Management

Thesis Title:
“Talent Management Practices, Perceived Organisational Support and Retention of Academic Staff in Universities in Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Dinah Kipkebut
Dr Simon Kipchumba



Mundia Caroline Muthoni

Programme:
Ph.D. in Business Management

Thesis Title:
“The Role of Supply Chain Management Practices on Operational Performance of Large Manufacturing Firms in Kenya: A Model Incorporating Supply Chain Strategies and Organizational Characteristics”

Supervisors:
Dr Richard Nyaoga
Prof. Daniel Auka
Prof. Christopher Ngacho

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



Peter Oyier Ogweni

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Education

Thesis Title:
“A Comparative Study of the Effects of Problem-Based Learning, Demonstration Teaching Method and Lecture Teaching Method on Student's Academic Achievement in Secondary School Agriculture, in Ndihiwa Sub-County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Agnes O. Nkurumwa
Prof. Nephth J. Kathuri



Shadrack Kemboi Cheplooi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension

Thesis Title:
“Influence of Indigenous Knowledge-Based Coping Strategies on Household Food Security in Baringo County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Maurice O. Udoto
Dr Justus M. Ombati



Mary Mwhaki Waiganjo

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Education

Thesis Title:
“Relationship between Selected Teacher, Institutional and Curriculum Factors and Teaching Approaches Used by Agriculture Teachers in Public Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Maurice O. Udoto
Dr Patricia W. Wambugu



Rosemary Judith Akoth Odhiambo

Programme:
Ph.D. in Counselling Psychology

Thesis Title:
“Relationship between Selected Socio-Cultural Factors, Level of Marital Stability and Seeking Marital Counselling among Married Fishers in Siaya County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Catherine Mumiukha
Dr George Makori

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



Ogoma, Maurice Ongong'a

Programme:
Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management

Thesis Title:
“Performance Evaluation of Beach Management Units in Lake Turkana Fisheries Co-Management, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Gilbert O. Obwoyere
Dr Bernard K. Kirui



Syomiti Margaret Muteng'e

Programme:
Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management

Thesis Title:
“Evaluation of Cactus (*Opuntia Ficus-Indica*) and *Prosopis Juliflora* as Potential Supplementary Feed Resources for Livestock in Drought-Prone Areas of Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Elias K. Maranga
Prof. Gilbert O. Obwoyere

FACULTY OF SCIENCE



Catherine Nyawira Ngambi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Biochemistry

Thesis Title:
“Differential Transcript and Protein Expression Profiles in *Anopheles gambiae sensu stricto* Mosquito Larvae Exposed to Cadmium Heavy Metal”

Supervisors:
Dr Paul O. Mireji
Prof. Francis N. Wachira
Dr Daniel Masiga



Walter Miding'a Essendi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Medical Parasitology

Thesis Title:
“Epidemiology and Genetic Diversity of Zoonotic *Cryptosporidium Spp.* Isolates in Njoro River Watershed in Nakuru County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Charles Muleke Inyagwa
Dr Elick Onyango Otachi



Mang'are Philip Amuyunzu

Programme:
Ph.D. in Physics

Thesis Title:
“Acoustic Propagation Parameters and Startle Response of African Female *Anopheles gambiae* for Design of a Mosquito Repellent Device”

Supervisors:
Prof. Ndiritu F. Gichuki
Prof. Samwel Rotich
Dr Jacqueline Kubochi Makatiani

“There are no short cuts
to the top of the palm tree.”

— an African proverb



EGERTON

P. O. Box 536-20115
Egerton, Kenya



UNIVERSITY

Tel.: 051 2217989/2113248
www.egerton.ac.ke

Congratulations

TO THE FOURTH CITY IN KENYA

— **NAKURU CITY** —

On behalf of the Egerton University fraternity, I wish to congratulate His Excellency Governor Lee Kinyanjui and the County Government of Nakuru on achieving the status of the fourth city in Kenya, which is a milestone that deserves recognition.

Egerton University, being the only public university in the County, is committed to supporting our new city by producing quality graduates and highly qualified staff, in research and innovations, and through community outreach that enhances Nakuru's economy. We look forward to the establishment of the Lord Egerton Agricity Industrial Park within Egerton University.

We are at the forefront of environmental conservation as part of our core values, which is in tandem with the County's continuous efforts, especially in the conservation of the Mau Ecosystem and the rehabilitation of the Njoro River.

We shall continue with our partnerships with the Office of the Governor of Nakuru County as a world-class university for the advancement of humanity.

Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
VICE-CHANCELLOR

“Transforming Lives through Quality Education”