



# NEWSLINK

*Graduation Special*

www.egerton.ac.ke

Issue No. 105

June 2018

## Egerton University at the Centre of The Big 4 Agenda

The 38<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony

Egerton University is part of a major collaborative effort that brings together the Government with leading universities in the country in an effort to jumpstart The Big 4 Agenda in a wide range of critical areas. On 30 April 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation led by the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, signed a collaborative framework with the Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of four public universities. The framework marked the culmination point of a meeting that the Cabinet Secretaries (CSs) and Principal Secretaries (PSs) in the Agriculture & Irrigation, and Water & Sanitation

ministries, had held with the VCs of Egerton University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Moi University, and the University of Nairobi, on 15 and 16 January 2018, at which the foundation for the collaboration had been laid and a Project Steering Committee formed.

The framework outlines the modalities for technical cooperation and research in the implementation of the food and nutrition security projects prioritised in The Big 4 Agenda. The joint activities identified are in the following broad areas: agriculture and

*Turn to page 2*

### Vision

A world class University for the advancement of humanity

### Mission

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

### Core Values

The University's activities and decisions will be guided by the following core values:  
National unity,  
Internationalism,  
Passion for excellence,  
Professionalism,  
Devotion to duty, Integrity, transparency and accountability, and  
Social fairness



Left to right: Prof. Isaac Kosgey, VC, Moi University; Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, VC, Egerton University; Prof. Henry Mutoro, DVC AA, University of Nairobi; Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Irrigation; Prof. Hamadi Boga, Principal Secretary for Agriculture and Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation; and Prof. Mable Imbuga, VC, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, during the signing of the MoU on Food and National Security on 30 April 2018

### Graduation Statistics

Doctorates	7
Masters	47
Bachelors	1270
Diplomas	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>1533</b>

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



*Prof. Shem O. Wandiga*

**I**t is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 38th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University.

This is one of the greatest moments in your life and I must appreciate all of you who have deserved to experience it. You made the right decision in choosing Egerton University's competitive academic programmes, and you have crowned this choice with success as you completed them.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you. As graduates, you join a large pool of alumni who preceded you. To have come this far has been a momentous journey for you graduands as well as for your parents and guardians. As you now enter the highly competitive job market, please apply the skills, knowledge and abilities that you have acquired while at Egerton

University accordingly.

The country needs young people with an entrepreneurial mindset. This is an attitude and approach to thinking that actively seeks out change, rather than waiting to adapt to change. It is a mindset that embraces critical questioning, innovation, service and continuous improvement. Through this mindset, you can find sustainable solutions to the many challenges facing our country and the world.

Once again, congratulations on your remarkable achievement being celebrated today.

Thank you and God bless you all!

## The Big 4 Agenda

*Continued from page 1*

irrigation; governance, capacity building, and skills upgrading; extension services; technology development and transfer; sharing of facilities; technical cooperation; review of legislation, regulations and policies; knowledge development; and monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The Government is undertaking to transform Kenya through The Big 4 Agenda initiatives as follows: (i) increase manufacturing to 15 per cent of the GDP; (ii) commit to 100 per cent food and nutrition security; (iii) achieve 100 per cent affordable health care, and (iv) ensure affordable housing through the implementation of the one million homes programme.

It was within the context of the 100 per cent food and nutritional security agenda that the Government decided to partner with the four public universities to ensure all the irrigation schemes in Kenya are operating at optimal capacity. The CSs in charge of the two ministries undertook to enter into collaboration with the four public universities in order to tap into their diverse expertise in the areas of water

storage (dams and hydrology), agricultural production, and cost and risk assessment of the ways in which Kenya can rapidly optimise irrigated agriculture at minimal cost.

Among the schemes for collaborative effort are the Galana-Kulalu Food Security Project, Public Irrigation Schemes, and Agriculturally Productive Lands.

The universities, the state departments, and the relevant state agencies established Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) with clear terms of reference, work plans and budgets. Six TWGs were formed with one of them, the Project Management Team (PMT), responsible for overall coordination.

Since its inception, the PMT has facilitated technical field visits and TWG meetings in Nairobi and elsewhere. In addition, the PMT is coordinating the following activities: the preparation of a roadmap for the commercialisation of the 20,000-acre Galana-Kulalu land; the review of the current land-lease issues and the drafting of relevant recommendations;

and the assessment of the prospective use of the High Grand Falls (HGF) Dam and of the current irrigation status across the country.

According to the National Water Master Plan (2030), Kenya's irrigation potential is estimated at 1,913 million acres (765,575 hectares) when all the water available in the country is put into consideration. Out of this potential, 484,000 acres (188,000 hectares) have been developed, translating into some 25 per cent. Thus there is urgent need to enhance the utilisation of water resources for irrigation purposes. The Vision 2030 has already laid the foundation for the development of 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) annually. Among other things, the collaborative framework is driven by the determination on the part of the partners to fulfil that responsibility.

Egerton's VC, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, is optimistic that with its rich heritage in agriculture, Egerton University will effectively contribute to The Big 4 Agenda.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



*Dr. Ben Chumo*

**C**ongratulations to the graduands of June, 2018. Graduation is a chance to celebrate hard work and significant achievement and to look forward to what lies ahead. Today's celebration marks another milestone in the continuous progress of Egerton University as we witness the 38th Graduation where 1,533 individuals

are due to graduate. Graduates, your success is impressive, but you have not realised this success on your own. You have been supported by parents, guardians, and by the Egerton University faculty, staff and other students.

The Council on its part has been allocating financial resources every year towards scholarships for Masters Students. This supplements other scholarship programmes such as the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management funded by the World Bank, Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to African growth funded by the Master Card Foundation, and the African Development Bank projects. I want to take this opportunity to thank our donors, partners and all other stakeholders who have always supported us in this journey of achieving our Vision and Mission.

Egerton University strives to provide the necessary infrastructure and environment to ensure quality university education. As an institution of higher learning, we continue to develop mutual partnerships with local and international stakeholders. The University together with Loughborough University, UK, will be co-hosting the 41st Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) International Conference from 9 to 13 July 2018 at Njoro Campus. The WEDC International Conference is a comprehensive learning event, which provides continued professional development for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector professionals.

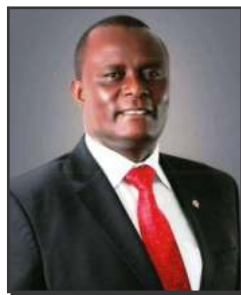
I would like to wish you all the best in your life endeavours. We are proud of your achievement so far, and want you to continue on the same path of personal and scholarly development.

Thank you and God bless you!

## Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya  
Vice-Chancellor*



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



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



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



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



*Prof. S. F. Owido  
Registrar (AA)*



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



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



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui  
University Librarian*



*Mr. Moses Ouma  
Finance Officer*

# OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

## Message from the Vice-Chancellor



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonya*

**I**t is my pleasure, on behalf of the Egerton University Community, to welcome you all to this 38th Graduation Ceremony.

I would like to congratulate all the graduands for completing your studies successfully. This is a remarkable achievement. Having earned the right to be called Egerton University graduates means that you have demonstrated the commitment, creativity and talent you need to succeed in your chosen field of study.

Graduation is a significant step in your education and the entire Egerton Fraternity wishes you the very best at this glorious moment of your life. I encourage you to make the best of your qualifications through your contribution to your chosen profession and the community.

Over the course of your studies, you have developed lifelong friendships

and networks. You have also become a valued member of our vibrant Egerton Community. I invite you to continue your relationship with the University through the Egerton University Alumni Association, to which you belong.

Congratulations once again on successfully completing your programmes. Be proud of what you have worked to achieve, and remember those who have supported you to reach this end. I wish you every success as you enter this next exciting stage of your life and career, and hope that you stay connected with Egerton University in the years to come.



*Junior women participants in the starting position of the 5th Mau-Egerton University Cross Country championships held on 10 February 2018*



# OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

## DIRECTORATE OF MARKETING AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

### Message from the Director



*Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo*

**C**ongratulations to the graduands. As is always the case with respect to the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, we undertook many activities in the service of the University this year. Among them are the following.

#### **President Uhuru Kenyatta Doctoral Scholarships Programme Launched**

President Uhuru Kenyatta presided over the launch of The Aspire to the Zenith: President Uhuru Kenyatta Doctoral Scholarships Programme on 12 March 2018. The scholarships programme will benefit at least 100 Kenyans and is co-ordinated by the Directorate of Confucius Institute at Egerton University, Njoro. The programme is sponsored by the Chinese government.

President Kenyatta presented the scholarship awards to the first 18 beneficiaries at the event held at State House in Nairobi. He said that the scholarship was a culmination of the cordial relations between Kenya and China that had blossomed for centuries. The scholarship programme will offer 60 Kenyans direct admission into Ph.D. training in agriculture and engineering, while another 40 will join master's degree studies. Present during the event were China's Ambassador to Kenya Liu Xianfa, Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed, Egerton's

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Rose A. Mwonya and Confucius Institute Director at Egerton, Prof. Mohamed Abdille.

#### **Fifth Edition of Mau – Egerton University Cross Country Held**

For the fifth consecutive year, Egerton University held the Mau-Egerton University Cross Country, whose main objectives are to create environmental awareness and raise funds for the rehabilitation of the Njoro River and Mau Ecosystem.

The annual event was held on Saturday 10 February 2018 and was graced by Brand Ambassadors David Rudisha and Faith Kipyegon. The cross-country event was organised in partnership with Athletics Kenya and sponsored by key corporates that included Kenya Commercial Bank, who pledged Ksh. 2 million, and APA Insurance, who pledged Ksh. 250,000.

Once again, congratulations to you all.



*David Rudisha, the two-time 800m World Champion and the Brand Ambassador of the Mau-Egerton Cross Country (right), participating in the 5th Mau-Egerton championships on 10 February 2018. With him are Dr. Erick Korir, Deputy Governor, Nakuru County, and Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, VC, Egerton University.*



# OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

## DIRECTORATE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE

### Message from the Director



*Dr. Patricia Wambugu*

**T**he Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) takes this opportunity to congratulate all graduands on this important day. This is a culmination of your hard work, discipline and self-sacrifice - virtues

that you should uphold continuously. DQA envisions to be a centre of excellence in the creation and cultivation of a culture of continuous quality improvement in the University.

DQA routinely conducts Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE) in line with the Commission for University Education (CUE) Universities Standards and Guidelines (2014), PROG/STD/15 that require every Lecturer/Technologist to be evaluated at least once in an academic year. The DVC (AA)'s office, in conjunction with DQA, is launching the new Teaching Effectiveness Management System (TIEMS) whereby the evaluation will be done online, saving time as opposed to the manual system. TIEMS piloting is ongoing.

The Directorate targets to improve the University's quality of education index by coordinating self-assessment of academic programmes. This will also ensure compliance with CUE University Standards and Guidelines (2014) (PROG/STD/20). Teams from various departments who will undertake the evaluation have been trained and the evaluation is ongoing.

The Directorate has so far carried out three audits of academic procedures and processes in the 2017/2018 academic year for enhancement of quality. In addition, DQA is currently preparing a summary report of the 2016/2017 academic year External Examiners' reports. This assures the maintenance of high standards of examinations in the University and serves as a means of benchmarking with the standards of other academic institutions.



*The offices of the Directorate of Quality Assurance, Njoro Campus*

# DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)



*Prof. Alexander K. Kahi*

The 38th Graduation Ceremony marks a milestone for this great University. We continue to scale the heights of academic excellence and, in so doing, to show our commitment to the advancement of humanity. The fact that we are ranked highly in the country and beyond shows great improvement and a strong commitment to our Vision, Mission, Mandate, Core Values and Philosophy.

We continue to improve, increase and equip our facilities. The recent completion of the Science Complex will boost our delivery and place us at par with international institutions. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and the Faculty of Law, though relatively recent in establishment, have continued to attract students. The addition of these two faculties enriches our diversity and confirms our stature as a great academic destination.

The Division of Academic Affairs has focused on its Vision of providing support in teaching and research, and its Mission to provide this teaching and research at the highest quality level so

that our students can thereafter contribute the knowledge acquired to the community around them and beyond. The Division is home to 10 faculties, and it also boasts of Libraries in all of our campuses, an Institute, a College of Open and Distant Learning, several directorates, and the Dean of Students office.

The Division of has made its accessibility to the ongoing students and potential clients a priority. We are cognizant of the fact that with the evolution of the internet, human interaction the world over has been eased. In every part of the world, the society is keen on how fast things can be done and how conveniently this can be achieved.

It is on this basis that we have innovatively eased the interaction with our students through E-resources, an E-campus that is in charge of E-learning, and a student portal. Through the E-campus, students have access to course material in a learning management system supported by online module facilitators. Through an integrated information management system platform we are able to keep track of our students, who are in turn able to access academic services from the convenience of their smart phones. Our staff and students can also access E-resources from our E-library and hence keep abreast of current issues in the world of academia.

We also continue to play an important host and link to several postgraduate scholarships programmes. We have gone beyond the traditional way of doing things, and we are keen on giving our students a different learning experience. Our University also continues to attract a great population of students within and beyond our borders, confirming our popularity in

the country, the region and beyond.

We also give our students an opportunity to explore academics beyond our borders through partnerships, linkages and collaborations. These associations breed scholarships which our continuing and alumni benefit from. Egerton University has therefore become a platform on which several scholarships have been launched in collaboration with different institutions. For instance, through the World-Bank funded African Centres of Excellence (ACEs), Egerton University, which hosts the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM), offers competitive M.Sc. and Ph.D. scholarships.

Egerton University believes in producing job creators to spur economic development in Kenya and the region. We are establishing a multi-sectoral innovation and business centre. This centre is in the forefront of incubating innovations and business ideas from our continuing students, alumni, and the community. I would like to encourage you to take advantage of this initiative to influence national and global development.

We have taken a forward stride in vouching for success, and this has earned Egerton University a mark as a leading institution of higher learning in Kenya and beyond. Putting so much at stake has come with its numerous benefits, primarily of having continually generated groups of professionals that are well equipped for the outside world. We always receive positive reports indicating that our alumni are making it into reputable institutions the world over, breaking

*Turn to page 8*



# DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

*Continued from page 7*

records, and taking centre stage in spearheading innovation and entrepreneurship. This calls for celebration.

It is with great pride that we are ushering you into the world to conquer it and to make a name for yourselves. My parting gift to you is a simple principle of life, i.e. that “ideas can be sold where merchandise cannot”. It is one thing to be schooled yet an entirely different thing to be educated. Schooling stops you at selling merchandise, while an education takes you beyond this. It takes you to selling hope and change, both of which the world desperately needs. Remember the words of the former USA President

Barrack Obama: “Change will not come if we wait for that other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”.

Use your education to convert obstacles into stepping stones. It takes a prepared mind to be able to see an opportunity when everybody else sees pitch darkness. Remember that as you start from the bottom of every endeavour, you need to keep your head high enough for opportunity to see you. With the correct state of mind and preparedness, not only will you make a name for yourself but for your country, your University, your family and everything you stand for.

I am proud to congratulate you and remind you to be good ambassadors to your innate callings. Mirror to the world what we see in you as your families, friends, and teachers, and above all, what you see of yourself. May God bless you and the work of your hands and may He make you forever successful and allow you to enjoy the sweat of your brow. You are a product of all we stand for. We expect the best from you.

It is now my humble duty to present you to our country, to the region, and to the world. Go and make us proud.



*His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta presides over the launch of The Aspire to the Zenith: President Uhuru Kenyatta Doctoral Scholarships Programme on 12 March 2018. With him are Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Irrigation (to his left); Hon. Amina Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology; and Prof. Rose A. Mwonnya, VC, Egerton University (addressing the participants).*



# DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## THE ISO SECRETARIAT

### Message from the Coordinator



*Prof. Kennedy N. Ondimu*

On behalf of the ISO Secretariat, it gives me pleasure to join the Egerton University Community in celebrating this great occasion that marks an important milestone in a scholar's life cycle.

As we all know, ISO is an acronym for the International Organisation for Standardisation. The organisation has developed standards that offer practical tools that enable organisations to make guaranteed positive contributions to the world we live in. The ISO Secretariat at Egerton University has the sole responsibility of overseeing the successful implementation of three standards at the University, namely: ISO 9001 Quality Management System; ISO 14001 on Environmental Management System and; and ISO 2200 on Food Safety System. It is important to note that Egerton University is among the few institutions of higher learning in the region that have implemented all the above three standards.

During this occasion, it is important to remind ourselves about the benefits of implementing standards at Egerton. The University was certified on ISO 9001: 2008 in 2009. The successful implementation of ISO 9001: 2008 since then has enabled the University

to streamline its operations in all spheres, including academic, research and administration. This has consequently led to efficiency in our services and improved the quality of our products. Market surveys have revealed that Egerton products in the academic and research spheres are well received.

In 2013, the University defined and launched an Environmental Management System (EMS) based on the ISO 14001:2004 standards. The launch and implementation of ISO 14001 was driven by the University's desire to take a proactive approach to managing environmental issues. Through ISO 14001, the University developed a framework for sustainable environmental management practices that will enable us to better manage the impact of our activities on the environment and at the same time demonstrate sound environmental management practices. It is important to note that it is through this initiative that the University community continues to play a key role in the rehabilitation of the Mau Ecosystem and Njoro River, just to name a few community activities that the University has a stake in.

In the long run, the implementation of ISO 14001 will enable the Egerton community and alumni to save on water, energy and other resources. We therefore encourage all our graduates to continue being our environmental ambassadors wherever they go. Although certification of conformity to the standard is not a requirement of ISO 14001, the University intends to apply for certification in the next financial year.

Egerton University has established, documented, implemented and maintained a Food Safety Management System (FSMS) since 2009, when it was certified. The FSMS arose from the need by the University to demonstrate its ability to control food safety hazards in order to ensure

that food is safe at the time of human consumption.

The implementation of ISO 22000 at our Guilford Dairy Institute has led to many benefits. For instance, the standard has helped to create a culture of quality consciousness at all levels of yoghurt production. Consequently, Egerton University has over time delivered high-quality yoghurt, to the satisfaction of our customers. Students who have gone through the Dairy Institute have proven to be of high calibre and with the required competencies.

To enable efficient implementation of the above standards, the University has sponsored a number of its staff to undergo training as Internal Auditors and Lead Auditors in respective standards. So far, the Quality Management System has trained nine Lead Auditors and 70 Internal Auditors. The Environmental Management System has trained 22 Internal Auditors and 9 Lead Auditors. Finally, the Food Safety Management Systems has trained 18 Auditors. Consequently, the University is now endowed with a well-trained human capital required for the establishment, implementation and continual improvement of the respective ISO standards.

In the next University Strategic Plan, the ISO Secretariat proposes to expand its mandate so as to offer training programmes and technical assistance to organisations in the private and public sectors intending to develop and implement the same standards.

Ladies and gentlemen, it would not be an overstatement for one to conclude that Egerton University is on the right track towards becoming a world-class university for the advancement of humanity. At ISO Secretariat, it gives us great pleasure to be associated with this achievement. Viva Egerton!

## Message from the Dean



*Prof. Joshua Ondura Ogenido*

On behalf of myself and the entire Faculty of Agriculture (FOA) fraternity, I heartily congratulate all the graduands of the 38th Graduation Ceremony being celebrated today for their commendable academic accomplishment. We are indeed proud of what you have done during your study time in the FOA and unreservedly wish all of you the best as you begin your next phase of life. In earning a Diploma or Degree, you have finally gained useful academic and social experiences that provide a very strong career foundation and problem-solving competencies for future endeavours. As you enter the job market and the ever-growing pool of alumni, your valued contribution towards the continued improvement of FOA's curricula for enhanced practical-orientation and student-centeredness is welcome.

As we celebrate your academic exploits and passage into the ever-growing alumni and collaborative networks, I wish to share with you some of the major Faculty scholarly and curricula development initiatives of great significance to future students and society. Of interest is the special focus on the empowerment of youth through agri-enterprise development and incubation for improved livelihoods and economic prosperity. Towards this effort, Prof. Patience Mshenga has done FOA proud by competitively winning a RUFORUM grant to implement a project titled

“Empowering Kenyan Youth through Agrienterprise Incubation for Improved Livelihoods and Economic Development (AGLEAD)” for the next three years.

Secondly, the Faculty is at an advanced stage of entering into a tripartite collaboration with the County Government of Nakuru and East African Breweries Ltd (EABL) to implement a MasterCard Foundation (MCF)-supported CARP Plus Project titled “Cassava Value Chain Upgrading for Secure Food, Nutrition and Resilience of Smallholder Farmers in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Nakuru County.” The CARP Plus project, led by Prof. Richard Mulwa, is aimed at developing the cassava value chain and cassava-based beer, animal feed formulations and other industrial products.

Thirdly, an international multi-institutional collaboration involving Egerton University, the Natural Resources Institute (UK), the Nelson Mandela-African Institute of Science and Technology (Tanzania), and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi) has won a BBSRC-GCRF Sustainable Agriculture for Sub-Saharan African grant to implement a project titled “Natural Pest Regulation on Orphan Crop Legumes in Africa (NaPROCLA)” for the next three years. The above-mentioned and other projects in the Faculty have strong capacity-building components for students, staff and agricultural value chain actors. A total of 25, 50 and 12 scholarships will be awarded to Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral students during the 2018/2019 academic year.

In a recent joint forum, two World Bank-supported centres of excellence, CESAAM (Kenya) and CREATES (Tanzania), successfully developed 10 new short courses to be mounted regionally by Egerton University (Kenya) and NM-AIST (Tanzania), starting June 2018. The short courses (modules) to be offered include Agricultural Value Chain

Development (AVCD), Business Plan Development, Conservation Agriculture, Postharvest Handling of Durable Agricultural Products (PHH-DAP), Postharvest Handling of Perishable Horticultural Produce (PHH-PHP), Sericulture, Apiculture, Dairy Cattle Production (DCP), Animal Feed Formulation (AFF) and Food Processing and Preservation. The farming community is advised to take advantage of these courses to enhance their capacities and venture into commercially viable agribusinesses.

FOA has continued to forge and strengthen new and existing public-private partnerships for specialty guided excellence in agriculture, agrotourism and university-industry exchanges (staff and students). These initiatives have special spin-off benefits in the areas of student-led extension services (through farmer level attachment/internships), job placement, staff exchange and sharing of facilities for Research for Development (R4D). To this end, the Faculty has forged a strong collaboration with Yara EA Limited that assures several fresh FOA graduands (diploma and degree) of securing internship and job placement. Courtesy of CESAAM and CARP Plus projects, the Faculty now has mutually beneficial memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with EABL, Community Action for Rural Development (CARD) and Syngenta Foundation, among other organisations, for the benefit of students, staff and society in general.

The Faculty remains pivotal in making significant contribution towards the realisation of the University's Vision of being a “World Class University for the Advancement of Humanity” through scholarship and leadership in agricultural training, research, innovation and agri-business. In the past six months, the Faculty engaged the farming community and stakeholders through dissemination and translation of a number of proven agricultural technologies and products to the target end users. These include

*Turn to page 13*



# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

## Message from the Dean



*Dr. Phylis J. Bartoo*

**T**oday, 15 June 2018, you are graduating. From the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), this is a special day to celebrate. Your graduation is like a kaleidoscope. When you reflect back on the experiences you have

undergone in the lead-up to this Ceremony, you are likely to conclude that you have undergone many transformations, some of which are positive and some of which are less so. But you survived! More likely than not, not everyone did it, but you are here. You beat the odds, and, hence, you should be grateful for your achievements, and you should celebrate.

You were not alone in the journey. You had back-up from your families, who paid fees and took care of your upkeep. The same was the case with respect to your fellow students and the entire University fraternity, who walked the journey with you in various roles. That gives you an excellent idea about the world out there. Teamwork is a very critical skill in life.

To navigate the journey from here you have to be good. There are more challenging issues out there that will test you in innumerable ways. I am confident that you have acquired sufficient skills and competencies and that you are “well baked.” Few people change the world. Be one of those few. After all you are graduates of Egerton University, which is another name for excellence.

This year, FASS is graduating its first home-grown Kiswahili Doctorate candidate, all of whose degrees, from Undergraduate through Masters to Ph.D., were derived from Egerton. He is Mr. Raphael Gacheiya, and in the accompanying story he reflects on his unique experience in that respect.

## Egerton University has been my favourite! A positive journey!

By Raphael Gacheiya

**M**y first contact with the University dates back to 1998, when I was admitted by the then Joint Admissions Board (JAB) as an undergraduate student. Due to the serene environment and my keen interest in the field of Kiswahili and Sociology, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) offered the ideal environment for the pursuit of my studies. Little did I know that my academic journey had just taken off. FASS was, has been, and is still my home.

After the four years of undergraduate study crowned with a First Class Honours degree and completely satisfied with my stay, I decided to return and further advance my

Kiswahili studies, registering in 2003 for an M.A. Kiswahili by thesis. As I progressed with my studies I appreciated the fact that the courses and classes were mostly interactive and not purely theoretical, with opportunities for written essay assignments, educational trips and conferences.

This experience made me realise that at the undergraduate level, the emphasis is more on research skills and that it is all about getting the core basics of knowledge. The postgraduate level is more independent: you do independent research projects and, more often than not, you let your passion come out. In my opinion, it is crucial to have both, because when you are an undergraduate

student you learn what you are interested in, and then, at postgraduate level, you undertake research independently every day, primarily by engaging in writing and critical reading.

This experience and discovery was very tempting, and in 2011, after a brief stint working, I came back to Egerton for my Ph.D. in Kiswahili. On registering, I spoke to my lecturers in my department, who were very supportive and gave me good advice. I settled for an analysis of language use among adolescents. In time we built a good academic relationship with my supervisors. Out of their knowledge in the field, they assisted me in fine-tuning the topic to a researchable

*Turn to page 12*

## A positive journey!

*Continued from page 11*

endeavour entitled “Peo na Mikakati ya Kimazungumzo katika Uumbaji wa Ujinsia Miongoni mwa Wazulufu nchini Kenya” (“Frames and Discursive Strategies in the Construction of Sexuality among Kenya's School-going Adolescents”). The findings from the research are well-articulated in Kiswahili and readily available at the University's Graduate School.

The advice I would offer to prospective postgraduate students is that they should start thinking about their dissertation topics early, beginning with identifying their topics, developing a keen interest in them, undertaking preliminary reading on them, and establishing a good working relationship with their supervisors.

As importantly, managing one's time with respect to the on-going research is crucial. For example, if you wander away from the work for a month at the beginning of the semester you will, more likely than not, miss three-to-four weeks that could have been used for crucial studying.

Generally my experience both as an undergraduate and postgraduate student has been positive. The challenges I encountered occurred mostly outside of the academic programme. The University's broad academic curriculum and high-quality education, as well the serene, multi-cultural environment of its Njoro Campus, are ideal for serious academic work.



*Raphael Gacheiya*

## Department of LLL Spearheads Mapping of African Languages

While there exists a large and growing body of scholarly work on African languages, there is very little writing on the languages that examines them from the point of view of the “cultural experts” themselves – that is, the members of Africa's linguistic communities who derive their primary expertise on the languages from their practical experiences as day-to-day speakers of the languages.

Since 2017, the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (LLL) has been developing a project that seeks to undertake research on all African languages in an attempt to fill that intellectual gap. The project seeks to replicate on the African continent a similar project that was undertaken in

India over the last ten or so years under the direction of Prof. Ganesh Davy of Baroda University.

On 27-28 February 2018 the Department organised a seminar that brought together scholars from Egerton and other Kenyan universities, such as Moi and Kenyatta, to incubate the project. In attendance was Prof. Davy, who travelled all the way from India specifically to participate in the seminar.

The aim of the project is to map all African languages on the basis of the views of the respective cultural experts. The information will consist of the cultural knowledge of the communities as encapsulated in key

linguistic concepts, such as their grammar and their phonological origins.

The project will cover all African languages, including the languages of East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa, and Northern Africa. The work will take seven years to complete, and the end result will be five series of volumes on African languages, together with accompanying indexes. It will be headquartered in a “Continental Project Coordinating Office” to be housed in LLL and will have “Regional Coordinating Offices” and teams in each African region. The coordinator of the project is Dr. Dishon G. Kweya.



# FACULTY OF COMMERCE

## Message from the Dean



*Prof. D. O. Auka*

**A**s we celebrate the 38th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, the Faculty of Commerce is pleased to congratulate all the graduands for successfully completing their training in various disciplines. Their success is the outcome of hard work and focused determination. Further, I extend my gratitude to all members of the Faculty who have worked diligently to empower the graduands with the necessary skills required in the job market.

The fact that some graduands have already landed good jobs even before they graduate is an indication of the competitiveness of Egerton University graduates in the labour market. We wish those who are yet to get jobs the best of luck and encourage them to also venture into self-employment. It is our hope that graduands will utilise the wealth of skills and expertise inculcated in them during their training at Egerton to make valuable contributions to nation-building and making the world a better place.

The Faculty houses two departments (The Department of Business Administration and the Department of Accounting, Finance and Management Science) that offer great opportunity for students to acquire superior

knowledge, attitudes and skills in various disciplines of business from the Diploma to the Doctorate levels. The key programmes include the following: Bachelor of Commerce with options in Procurement, Insurance, Finance, Marketing, Operations and Human Resources; Diploma; and Bachelors in Business Management, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Human Resource Management, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management; and Master of Business Administration and Human Resource Management. The Faculty also offers doctoral programmes in Business and Management. All programmes are offered through client flexible modes under regular (day), part-time (evening/weekends) or e-learning modes.

The Faculty has also embarked on vigorous and mandatory academic counselling for the weaker students to minimise the number of students being discontinued on academic grounds. On placement, the Faculty has been organising public lectures which are facilitated by potential employers and professionals. Career programme placement has yielded in some

students getting jobs as soon as they complete their studies.

The Faculty academic staff have been participating in various e-learning training workshops organised by the University from time to time in line with Faculty efforts to embrace and integrate technology in education. Most of the academic staff have and are still participating in development and evaluation of e-programmes in conjunction with the relevant Directorate.

In addition, the Faculty values close ties with its Alumni and business leaders to ensure creation of a positive work culture. We intend to keep working smarter to help our current and future students to advance in their careers and achieve their goals for we are determined to invent and reinvent ourselves as academics living in a dynamic world.

As you go out, we strongly urge you to be our good ambassadors, establish professional networks and linkages and keep in touch with the Faculty for consultation and career opportunities.

Thank you and God bless you.

## Message from the Dean, Agriculture

*Continued from page 10*

the sustainable intensification of maize-legume-based conservation agriculture (SIMLESA) for increased crop productivity and economic empowerment of smallholder farmers through management of witchweed (*Striga hermonthica*), cereal stem borers and improved soil fertility. During the same period, the Faculty availed new improved crop varieties suited for the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) in Kenya. In addition, FOA came up with enriched animal feeds, feed mixers, a portable sorghum sheller and a variety of value-added products. As you graduate, you are

called upon to complete the loop to ensure deserving farmers benefit from emerging technologies and products.

As I conclude, may I recognise you as proud recipients of “the power to do all that appertains to your respective diplomas and degrees” and assert that you have attained the requisite competency to positively and meaningfully contribute to agricultural transformation in our society.

Have a blessed graduation and future life.

## Message from the Dean



*Dr. Maurice O. Udoto*

**O**n behalf of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS), I take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate all graduates on your accomplishments. We are proud of you for having the staying power and determination to get to this point. You are our brand ambassadors for the quality of educators, extension and community development professionals that Egerton University produces. May I encourage you to keep up the fighting

spirit to become professionals of repute in the organisations you will soon be joining.

We have journeyed with you since you joined the Faculty and we have seen you grow socially and academically to become constructive and productive scholars. We have walked with you in class, practical examination, field attachment and teaching practice, and indeed we are satisfied that we are giving the best to our beloved country Kenya and the world. You have the knowledge, experience, skills, attitude, competencies and above all, values that will guide you to greater social and professional heights.

As you join the world of work, build on your good foundation at Egerton University. Be mindful of your alma mater, bring positive change wherever you go, support constructive endeavours in society and build a network of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences for productive citizenry.

Whatever station of work you will find yourself at, try and learn something

that will make you a better person. Always give it your all irrespective of the task. Yes, you will meet challenges out there, use them as learning points, they will teach you valuable lessons in life and make you a better person. Treat every opportunity as a learning point. Use these opportunities to prepare yourself for better days ahead. We have done our part, we have laid the foundation upon which you can now scale the heights. There are many opportunities for success out there, but they only happen to those who are properly prepared to notice and seize them. The education, experience and exposure the Faculty accorded you were meant to make you a global citizen. Use these assets for the advancement of humanity and betterment of society in accordance with our Vision.

“If you can't do something great, do something small in a great way” – anonymous

I wish you a prosperous future.

## FEDCOS and FASS Partner with the Rift Valley Reading Association

**E**gerton University, and in particular the Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS) and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), have partnered with the Rift Valley Reading Association (RVRA) to lay a strong foundation for bright and needy primary school children in the neighbourhood of the University. This has been made possible through the establishment of LitClubs in 10 primary schools. The mission of this formation is to advocate for literacy and promote a reading culture among Kenyan youth.

The goal of the project is to empower primary school children by encouraging them to explore their communities and environments, participate in positive activities and tell their stories. This is cultivated by taking the pupils through a two-year mentorship programme aimed at developing seven strengths: Friendship, Belonging, Kindness, Curiosity, Confidence, Courage, and Hope.

The schools participating in the project are Kilimo, Egerton, Mwigito, Tengecha, Ndege, Subuku, Njuguni,

Cheptoroi, Ngongogeri, and Utafiti. Each of the participating schools has a LitClub comprising 15 children, aged between 9 and 12 years. Each club meets for a two-hour session each week in their respective schools under the leadership of a mentor, who is a lecturer at Egerton University and a member of RVRA. The participating schools have appointed contact teachers to work with the University mentors.

To further develop a reading culture in schools in Njoro Sub-Country, RVRA

*Turn to page 15*



## Partnering with RVRA

*Continued from page 14*

will conduct a teachers' workshop to be hosted by the FERD on 25 June 2018. The theme of the workshop is "Harnessing the Diversity of Active Language Teaching and Learning".

The workshop targets English and Kiswahili teachers of Standard Four to Eight. The topics to be covered are

Teaching of Grammar, Enjoying of Poetry-Children's Compositions and Performances, and Composition Writing and Scoring for KCPE

One accomplishment in 2018 of the RVRA – through the LitClubs in partnership with FEDCOS, FASS and the Njoro Sub-County Education

Office – is the establishment of the Njoro Community Library in Njoro town ("kwa Chief"). The library is well stocked with books for primary and junior secondary students and will serve as a great resource centre for pupils during weekends and holidays.

## The Power of Teamwork: The Story of Mr. Paul\*

“Journey” is a great word for the path that Mr. Paul walked to arrive at his Diploma in Agricultural Education and Extension (AGED) in the Department of Agricultural Education and Extension, FEDCOS. Life threw many challenges, doubts and tragedies at him along the way but despite all he made it through. Please join us in celebrating his amazing success story. We hope that his story will inspire you to accomplish even what seems impossible.

Mr. Paul joined the Department in 2009 and in the course of his studies he developed a psychiatric problem. The problem drew the attention of the AGED Department, Medical Department, and Counselling Department. This psychiatric condition derailed him from completing his studies in good time. His classmates left him behind, having graduated. When his condition worsened, he had to defer his studies, for he could not sustain the classroom environment. After one year or so, he resumed his studies. He was disillusioned and disoriented but he managed to scrape through.

After coursework, Mr. Paul had one major hurdle to deal with. This was teaching practice. This is where the Department came in and made a decision to go out of its way to assist Mr. Paul. He could not handle a school environment. No school could accept him. He was unkempt and badly groomed. So members made contributions both financially and materially to improve Mr. Paul's image. Mr. Paul was also taken through guidance and counselling at the Department and encouraged to behave in a socially acceptable manner.

Then Mr. Paul had to undertake micro-teaching. Since he was off the teaching practice season, his lecturers became his students. He did a number of micro-teaching sessions, his performance was critiqued until the members felt he was ready to manage a class on his own. The next step was to secure a teaching practice school. A nearby school was found so that he could be monitored closely. The school in question was Ndege Secondary School in Njoro Township. The Principal, Madam Magaki, who was briefed about Mr. Paul's condition, accepted to work with him and assist in all ways she could. She prepared her staff to cooperate. Mr. Paul was offered all the help he needed. His best help was himself. He was always punctual; he did his best in all ways. Mr. Paul effectively taught the assigned subjects, agriculture and biology, without fail. He also taught mathematics, which was over and above what he was required to do. Students loved him. The Principal praised him in her report, saying that Mr. Paul was respectful and took advice seriously; he was open and when he needed something, he asked for it. Both the Principal and the lecturers in the Department continued to be by Mr. Paul's side, financially and otherwise. Mr. Paul was assessed several times to ensure he was prepared well for the teaching profession. The lecturers never demanded payment for Mr. Paul's teaching practice assessment. They are proud of being part of Mr. Paul's success.

We thank God for graduand Mr. Paul.

\*Not the student's real name

# FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

## Message from the Dean



*Prof. Japheth O. Onyando*

**M**ay I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands who are receiving their diplomas and degrees on this important occasion in the University calendar.

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) has made major milestones towards accrediting three of its programmes by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK). These are Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Control Engineering, and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. The other programme in the Faculty is Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering which is already accredited by the Board.

The accreditation of Engineering Programmes is a legal requirement, as stated in the Engineers Act 2011. The conditions for accreditation include, but are not limited to, having an approved programme by the Board, physical facilities and equipment, and adequate staff.

Upon review of the submissions made towards the end of last year, the Board found that both Civil and Environmental Engineering, as well as Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering programmes, were sufficient and cover the required thematic areas adequately. Therefore, for these programmes, the relevant departments are working on defining the remedial courses for their graduates, so that classes can commence once accreditation is granted by the Board.

On staffing, we are filling the gap by hiring Adjunct Professors for all the three departments. In addition, in order to ensure that we close the staffing issue in the near future, we are continuously recruiting registered

*Turn to page 21*

# FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

## Message from the Dean



*Prof. Gilbert O. Obwoyere*

**T**he Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD) is a multi-disciplinary, dynamic, client and research-oriented facility, dedicated to training human capital and conducting research in all aspects of natural resource, environmental management, and socio-economic development. The Faculty offers strong teaching,

research, and outreach programmes leading to Certificate, Diploma, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Natural Resources Management, Environmental Science, Geography, Ecotourism and Hospitality Management, Dryland Resources Management, and Integrated Forest Resources Management.

The programmes in FERD emphasise “hands-on” experience to equip students with practical research skills for mitigating and/or solving both local and global environmental problems. Students are required to take core and elective courses but specialise in any of the Faculty thematic areas. Several new programmes are proposed in order to meet the needs and challenges of the society and the job market.

For over 15 years now FERD has consistently dedicated itself to the

conservation and protection of the environment in the Greater Rift Valley region. Our motivation is that we have the responsibility and ability to take the lead as stewards of the Earth in moving towards a sustainable and restorative society that respects health, wholeness, balance, and diversity.

The Dean of the Faculty and the staff at FERD wish to take this opportune time to congratulate all the graduands in the various programmes in the Faculty for completing their studies thus making a great achievement in their academic journey. Our advice to them is to live to the true word of being stewards of the environment and remember at all times that we have borrowed the goods and services that we enjoy during our lifetime from our great grandchildren and hence we are indebted to them. As you venture into the world be bold, firm, and diligent in the use of resources for restorative development.



## FERD Steps up Riverine Conservation

Egerton University, through the Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD), has been rehabilitating the Mau Catchment for a decade now, by, among other activities, planting trees at Sururu area. In addition, in the year 2012, the University committed itself to rehabilitate and conserve the Njoro River, which emanates from the same catchment. Njoro River has been degraded by the neighbouring community, which has encroached on its riverbanks as well as the catchment area. It is the major source of water for Lake Nakuru and a shared resource by the community of Narok and Nakuru counties.

The University has been rehabilitating the river through planting of riparian

tree seedlings, clearing of dump sites, controlling dumping of wastes and water quality monitoring. Other activities include support for community-based initiatives such as establishment of tree nurseries, construction of watering troughs, community training on environment, involvement of primary school pupils in rehabilitation and community sensitisations through the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK).

On 12 January 2018, the University held a stakeholders' workshop on rehabilitation that was attended by more than 100 participants drawn from various organisations – such as APA Insurance, KCB, KALRO, Medihealth, and AAR. The event was graced by H. E. Lee Kinyanjui, the Governor of

Nakuru County. The climax was an athletic event, “Run for Mau”, which was conducted on 10 February 2018 and brought together stakeholders from across the board for the common purpose of conserving the larger Mau Catchment. Two community sensitisation workshops were also held between February and April this year.

The University marked the World Water Day on 2 March 2018 at Ndarugu Primary School, Njoro, where more than 1,500 tree seedlings were planted. The event was organised by the County Government of Nakuru. In addition, between March and May 2018, the University planted close to 5,000 tree seedlings along the Njoro River.

## Bountiful Harvest at FERD with Five Associate Professors at a Go

FERD is in a celebratory mood following the promotion of five Senior Lecturers to Associate Professors in May 2018. These are: Gilbert O. Obwoyere, Wilkister N. Moturi, Paul M. Makenzi, George M. Ogendi, and Elias K. Maranga. This achievement has boosted the capacity of the Faculty in the delivery of its core mandate, i.e. teaching, research, and extension. The mentorship programme at the Faculty will also be enhanced with this cadre of staff. The Dean's Office wishes to congratulate the five as they take on their new and challenging responsibilities in the University.

### Short Courses

The Faculty endeavours to provide high-end skills to professionals in the spheres of development. At the Department of Natural Resources, we offer a one-year certificate course in Ecotourism and Hospitality to early career secondary school leavers interested in a highly dynamic hospitality industry. The Department

of Geography offers a highly competitive practical oriented Geographic Information System (GIS) certificate course targeting practitioners in almost all fields. GIS has emerged as an important tool in

research and planning in the contemporary society. The Department remains keen on up-scaling the training in GIS to our staff, students and other practitioners. We

*Turn to page 33*



*Prof. Charles M'Erimba, the Coordinator, Njoro River Rehabilitation Project (in white shirt and gumboots), leads KCB Egerton Branch staff in rehabilitating part of the Njoro River that runs through the Botanic Garden on 5 May 2018*

## Message from the Dean



*Dr. S. O. Obure*

On behalf of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), I would like to congratulate all the graduands for their academic achievement, which has led to this special day. Their triumph is the outcome of their hard work and that of staff of the Faculty, despite the major challenge of industrial unrest of university staff, doctors and nurses, which delayed their completion of studies.

The FHS is proud to be associated with our graduands and alumni. This is mainly derived from the never-ending pursuit and commitment to the provision of quality higher education and scientific undertakings. We are convinced that the hands-on orientation of our academic programmes and research acquaintance provide sufficient foundation to measure up to the expectations in the labour market.

To ensure that FHS remains competitive, new initiatives are being pursued aimed at providing the best curricula that equip learners with unsurpassed quality education. In particular, the Faculty has embarked on simulation-based training to enhance the students' clinical skills. In view of this, the Faculty has attracted

funding from Rotary International and Laerdal grants to use simulation-based training to enhance maternal and neonatal outcome (EMNOC) in Nakuru County by training healthcare workers and students on helping newborn babies breathe, continuous positive airway pressure (cpap), and maternal and neonatal emergency.

In addition, FHS has three memoranda of understanding with Tel Aviv University, Utah University and Friends of Naivasha to build and expand the Faculty's capacity in simulation-based training and help in setting up a state of the art regional simulation centre. We also have a

collaboration with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) "Making it Happen Programme" that aims at increasing the capacity of pre-service training institutions to provide quality skills and drills in EMNOC training. So far, the Faculty has received EMNOC training equipment. Members from the Faculty have also undergone a trainer of trainers EMNOC course and the first batch of sixth-year students have undergone a one-week basic EMNOC training.

Once again, I congratulate our graduands today. May God bless you all in your future endeavours.

## Department of Surgery in Collaboration with International Scholars on Trauma Course

On 26-27 January 2018 the Department of Surgery conducted a course in Trauma Evaluation and Management (TEAM) for the sixth-year students who have just completed their MBChB programme. The aim of the course was to introduce the concepts of trauma assessment and management to medical students during their clinical years. The core content was adopted from a course developed by the

American College of Surgeons (ACS) Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS). The course was organised by Prof. Jana MacLeod of Kenyatta University's Department of Surgery and Dr. Petter Tonseth, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology from the University of British Columbia, Canada, in collaboration with Egerton's Department of Surgery.

*Turn to page 19*



*Dr. Petter Tonseth, a Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology from the University of British Columbia, Canada, teaches a class during the course in Trauma Evaluation and Management with sixth-year Egerton MBChB students on 26-27 January 2018*



## FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

### Department of Surgery

*Continued from page 18*

The students were taken through the basics of trauma management by facilitators from the Department of Surgery together with the visiting faculty. They later conducted practical sessions on the management of common trauma cases and the

interpretation of x-rays, CT scans and ultra-sound for trauma. The students benefited immensely from the two-day event. One student commented as follows: "The team training was comprehensive and insightful. I learned a lot from the practical

sessions, and I really appreciate the whole experience." Another observed: "It is a very useful training for medical students. . . I hope it continues." This programme is likely to be an annual event.

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

### Message from the Dean



*Prof. Julius Kipkemboi*

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

On behalf of the Faculty staff, I wish to take this opportunity to extend our warm greetings and congratulations to all graduands of the 38th Graduation Ceremony. It is indeed a major success in your academic development, one that brings with it great joy for us today, and we are pleased to join you and your family in celebrating it. Academic achievement is not only a personal effort on the part of the student but also a reflection of the persistent support from those closest to them. We cannot take this for granted,

and we thank God for it.

We are proud of you, and we hope you are equally proud of us. As you join our alumni, it is our hope that the training and mentorship that you have received during your study period has fully equipped you with knowledge, skills and attitude that will enable you to go out into the world and make a difference. We trust that you have been transformed and prepared for the job market, and as you leave here we hope that you are infused with the desire and determination to achieve and to succeed wherever you will find yourselves.

As we mark this milestone in our development as a faculty, I would like to assure the University Community that we will continue to offer quality education through our 31 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. We will continue to review our programmes and to bring on board more of them in response to the dynamic nature of science and technology. As a faculty we will always endeavour to put our best foot forward for our students, as well as to provide the best transformative education and training a university can offer.

In the last Graduation the pioneer Bachelor of Science in Statistics class graduated. Among the graduands were 15 male and 13 female students. The coveted first class honours had three graduands, all of whom were women! The persistent belief that women

cannot excel in Mathematics was negated! As a quality assurance measure, the Faculty, through the Department of Mathematics and in conjunction with the University Directorate for Quality Assurance, has embarked on a self-assessment exercise for the programme, whereby different stakeholders will be involved.

At the same time, the inaugural Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science class is currently in its final semester, and the students concerned are expected to graduate during the next congregation. This will increase the number of our programmes that have gone through a full cycle.

Not only have our staff continued to execute our core mandate through dissemination of knowledge through teaching but they have also been generating new knowledge through research. The Faculty is currently implementing a number of NRF-funded projects, among other collaborative initiatives. They include eight postgraduate projects and four multi-disciplinary projects that are being led by Prof. J. Matasyoh, Prof. J. Kipkemboi, Dr. M. Obonyo and Dr. S. Abwao. One of them consists of a Wireless Sensor Network, a collaborative project on environmental monitoring of aquatic ecosystems based on innovative, real-time wireless sensor technology.

*Turn to page 20*

## Message from the Dean, Faculty of Science

*Continued from page 19*

The partners in the project are drawn from diverse scientific backgrounds, such as aquatic sciences, physics and sensor technologies, and information and communication technology. Some are from Egerton and some are from other institutions. Those from Egerton are drawn from the departments of Computer Science; Biological Sciences; Physics; and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT). The external partners include the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Education Network (KENET), and Moi University.

The project will set up wireless sensor infrastructure as well as a database to go with it. The data generated will be used to guide policy decisions on aquatic resource management. The aim is twofold: first, to achieve fast, high frequency, real time, and cost-effective data collection for aquatic ecosystem monitoring infrastructure on the basis of emerging ICT technology; and, second, to contribute significantly to developments in

human and infrastructural capacity for wireless sensor technology in Kenya.

As a faculty, we have also continued, through participation in Kenya Science and Engineering Fairs (KSEF), to reach out to potential science students in our determination to inspire them to study harder. For example, from 23 to 25 March, we were able to reach 612 students from 166 schools in fourteen counties in the Rift Valley region who participated in this year's fair. Among other things, we communicated to them and their teachers important information about science and other programmes offered at Egerton University. Furthermore, on behalf of the University, we presented trophies for the best categories in Mathematical Science; Computer Science; Biology and Biotechnology; Physics; Chemistry; Environmental Science and Management; Agriculture; Food Technology and Home Economics; Engineering, Energy and Transportation; and Technology and

Applied Technology. Finally, we distributed Faculty and University programme brochures to the public through the County Secretariat of the KSEF and County officials present. At the request of KSEF, one of our staff members, Dr. Ronald Rop, was a regional Chief Judge for the fair.

As you join our alumni out there, we would like to wish you the very best. We hope that you will make a difference in the larger society, that you will continue to uphold our institutional core values, and, in general, that you will be good ambassadors of your alma mater. Remember to never stop trying and to never stop learning. You are always welcome back to pursue further education with us. May great opportunities come your way, and may you achieve success in all of them.

Together we can always make things better. God bless you.

## International Masters Programme Enters Its Sixth Year

Last year, in October, the Faculty of Science's Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) Programme received its sixth cohort of students. This year, the Faculty, through the Department of Biological Sciences, received 20 students from 10 countries: Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Nicaragua, Bangladesh, Austria, Nepal, Germany, and Romania. Of the students, 13 are enrolled in the Joint Masters in LWM programme and two in the Master of Science in Limnology programme, while five (who come from Boku) are taking short courses/modules relevant to their studies in Applied Limnology while also touring East Africa.

Traditionally, the students pursuing the LWM programme are enrolled into the programme through admission procedures conducted jointly by the three partner institutions, namely BOKU (Vienna), Egerton (Kenya), and IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education (The Netherlands). The first trimester of the programme, which ended in January 2018, took place in Boku. Subsequently, at the beginning of February 2018, the students travelled to Egerton. They were part of the group of students who actively participated in the Mau-Egerton Cross-Country this year.

Their Kenyan trimester programme

commenced well. Their first module was in Lake Ecology. It consisted of lectures by different experts in the field of limnology, hydrology, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and nutrient dynamics. In addition, the students travelled to different fresh and salty water bodies in the Great Rift Valley. The module concluded with an excursion to the coastal towns of Mombasa and Watamu, an opportunity for the international students to have a touristic experience of Kenya from an academic perspective.

The Stream and River Ecology Module places emphasis on the ecology and life

*Turn to page 21*



## International Masters Programme

*Continued from page 20*

in running waters. The study sites for the module consisted of the Njoro and Naromoru rivers. In the Wetlands for Water Quality Module, the students worked in different systems, including a natural wetland in Kericho and a constructed wetland on James Finlay's floriculture farm.

Fisheries and Aquaculture entails extensive fieldwork and excursions. The students interact with farmers practising different levels of fish farming – from subsistence to high commercial levels. Practical training is conducted in top government aquaculture and fisheries research institutions, including the National Aquaculture Research and Training Centre in Sagana and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute in Kisumu.

Following their completion of the programme, the students can graduate in any of the three partner institutions within the same timeframe.



*Some of the students who visited the James Finlay floriculture farm in February 2018 under Egerton University's Limnology and Wetland Management Programme*

In today's Graduation, the Faculty is presenting one student from the Joint Masters Programme: Ms. Dorothy Khasisi Lukhabi. As is the case with

respect to her colleagues in Boku and IHE-Delft, she has completed her work within the scheduled period of 18 months.

## Message from the Dean, Engineering

*Continued from page 16*

Engineers with post-graduate qualifications.

With respect to Electrical Engineering in particular, we will hire more graduate assistants and have Adjunct Professors mentor them to ensure staff adequacy in the short run.

On physical facilities, the Faculty is now working on an initiative to mobilise resources through market-driven programmes and professional service provision. The programmes include Bachelor of Industrial Technology, Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Diploma in Agricultural Engineering, Bachelor of Technology in Irrigation Systems and Management, Bachelor of Technology in Civil Engineering, and Diploma in Civil Engineering.

The programmes will improve the competencies of practicing Engineers and Technicians in order to accelerate the process of industrialization. This, together with the recent KUCCPS admission (whereby three of the four Engineering departments achieved or surpassed their declared capacities), informed further development and expansion of the programmes.

The Faculty is increasingly getting involved in Engineering assignments, the most recent one being the design and supervision of the planned CESAAM Complex and the Ahero Foot Bridge.

In addition, our departments are working with various partners to train personnel in a number of Engineering services. For example, the

Department of Industrial and Energy Engineering is currently engaged in Energy audit together with Eenovators, an international Energy Audit Company.

Under the supervision of the professional Engineers in the Faculty, including the Adjunct Professors, staff members will find opportunities to undertake projects leading to their registration as Professional Engineers even as students will be registering upon graduation as Graduate Engineers. Thus, for prospective skilled engineering professionals and academicians alike, FET Egerton is the place to be if their dreams are to be fulfilled.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands for their well-deserved achievements.

## Message from the Director



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai*

**G**raduation is here again, and we celebrate the achievements of the graduands of this 38th Graduation Ceremony. Graduation is an important milestone in academic life both for the graduands and the University as it sums up the effort invested by each candidate in their study and that of the academic staff and departments that have facilitated successful completion of the academic cycle. As a Directorate we are proud to be associated with the graduands today, especially those who are graduating from our various undergraduate programmes.

The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is responsible for the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate degree and diploma curricula. The Board also coordinates and facilitates field/industrial attachment (FA) and teaching practice (TP). As such, BUGS interacts with undergraduate students long before they set into class, as the students select their programmes of study and also during industrial/field attachment.

In the Farm Attachment Programme

(FAP), students are attached on farms where they work with the farmers and are expected to make meaningful gains in implementing relevant projects and activities on the farm just like they would do if attached in organisations. Feedback from the students emphasised the need for reliable, unbiased sources of agricultural information to farmers. This was key in motivating BUGS to come with the Farm Up Connect (farmup.egerton.ac.ke), an online platform that will be beneficial not only to the farmers but to other stakeholders in agriculture as well. The platform is hosted on the University website under the Division of Research and Extension and currently has content on production and marketing issues for maize, potato, dairy, poultry and a few other selected cross-cutting issues. In May 2018, 1366 students proceeded on TP.

Egerton University has partnered with Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT) in Israel to provide hands-on skills for students

undertaking agricultural related sciences. The 11-month programme provides selected students with an opportunity to be attached to farms and farmer organisations in the Arava region of Israel for five days in a week, and one day training at the AICAT Centre.

The 2016-2017 cohort (the fourth cohort) started in August 2017 and comprises of 100 students drawn mainly from Egerton University, the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), the National Irrigation Board (NIB) and the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI). They include 31 Egerton University students who are currently in nine locations in Israel. Most of the students are involved in field work or in the packing factories, usually within each farm or group of farms. They will complete the internship programme in June 2018. The fifth cohort of 40 students is currently in progress and is expected to report in Israel at the end of June.



*Members of the Egerton Drama Club stage one of their presentations during the National Drama Festivals held at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, Nairobi, on 5-14 April 2018*



# COLLEGE OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

## Message from the Director



*Prof. Ezra Maritim*

Upon admission to a university, one looks forward to a graduation day like the one we are witnessing today. Indeed, graduation is the most historical and symbolic part of the University experience and parents, guardians, relatives, spouses, sponsors, lecturers and the University administrators are delighted to share this special moment and day with the graduands. The College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL) congratulates all graduands on their academic success and those who contributed to this success.

On an important occasion like this 38th Graduation Ceremony, we may reflect on the thoughts and educational philosophy of two great African statesmen: the late Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (Madiba) and the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere. On the occasion of his receipt of an honorary degree from the University of South Africa in 1994, Mandela described education as “the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Thinking like Mandela, Mwalimu Nyerere, also during his receipt of an honorary degree from the Open University of Tanzania in 1997, was disturbed by those who see education as a way to escape poverty. “If education is a tool, you do not run away with a weapon that you have been given but rather you use it to fight,” he said. In this context, Mwalimu Nyerere saw education as a weapon for liberation and fighting poverty.

To the graduands of the 38th Graduation Ceremony, Egerton University has equipped you with a quality and sustainable weapon which these two great statesmen of Africa advocated for. As you are certified today as Egerton University graduates,

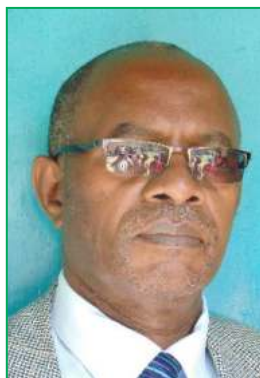
CODL encourages you to continue learning in order for you to accomplish two things: (1) to think big on what matters to you and your country, and (2) to conquer big and challenging things. The anchorage of these two things that will make you a better person tomorrow than you are today is engagement in lifelong learning that is provided through CODL. This is the only way of sustaining the strength of your weapons.

CODL is now spearheading education and training in South Sudan through blended modes of delivery. This landmark development adds to the vibrancy of Egerton University's contribution to regional integration in the context of our vision of transforming lives through quality education.

The Directorate also hosted students from the University of Wisconsin (UW OSHKOSH) and the Pacific University, USA, between 10 and 24 January 2018. The students were on an annual Internationalisation Exchange Programme courtesy of a previously signed MoU.

## DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND PROGRAMMES

### Message from the Director



*Dr. J. N. Wolukau*

It must be a very proud moment for all of you! Chasing a dream requires your efforts and passion which you exemplified during your days on campus. Hard work isn't over when you graduate; it's just a break as you enter new battlefields of life. We have given you tips on the ammunition you require for the next chapter of your lives, the power to read and do what appertains...! You have long youthful years ahead of you: Use them wisely,

do something significant with that knowledge to make a better world; do not wish to rewind the clock at some point in your future. Be good ambassadors of Egerton University, be proud of Egerton, and carry the good name out there. Tell others the good things about us that you know.

As the Directorate of International Linkages and Programmes, we are honoured to be associated with and to

*Turn to page 24*

# DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND PROGRAMMES

## Message from the Director, DILP

*Continued from page 23*

provide services to International Students. Thank you for believing in us, in our services, for your diligent studies, and for the international character you have given to this University. But I also want to ask something of you: As you prepare to leave Egerton University and return to your countries to join the economic development 'value chain', ask other potential students to come. We will give them the best we can as we did to you.

From the staff at the Directorate, at this important milestone in your life, congratulations and best wishes for your continuing success!

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

The Directorate boasts of influencing (through top quality services) yearly enhanced admission of International Students from various countries since its inception in 2010. With synergy from other stakeholders (e.g. CESAAM and the MasterCard Foundation), there has been a tremendous improvement in exchange programmes for both staff and students in Agriculture, Limnology and Wetland Management, and other

courses as well, from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mali, Burundi, and lately from Zambia and Ghana, on full-time study.

Recently signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) include Egerton University and University of Mogadishu, and CCPIT CHEM Sub-council of Chemical Industry, China, on CAC Africa Summit (Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University). Prof. Aonover Tarhule, the Binghamton University, New York, Vice-Provost visited the University on 13 March 2018 to explore areas of collaboration. An MoU is being developed to collaborate in accelerated M.Sc. degrees in Systems Science and

Industrial Engineering (SSIE) and Data Analytics. The Director of St. Mary's Mang'ula Polytechnic Kilombero, Morogoro, Tanzania, visited the Directorate between 11 and 14 May 2018 for discussions on academic collaboration for capacity building for their staff in Agriculture and Agricultural Engineering. The collaboration will also permit inter-faculty exchange of students and scholars.

The Directorate also hosted students from the University of Wisconsin (UW OSHKOSH) and the Pacific University, USA, between 10 and 24 January 2018. The students were on an annual Internationalisation Exchange Programme.



*Students from the University of Wisconsin (UW OSHKOSH) and the Pacific University, USA, on one of their study tours during their annual Internationalisation Exchange Programme under the Directorate of International Programmes and Linkages from 10 to 24 January 2018*



# DIRECTORATE OF EXAMINATION AND TIMETABLING

## Message from the Director



*Dr. P. K. Migwi*

Today marks an auspicious occasion for our graduating students as they celebrate this major milestone in their academic life in the University. In this regard, the Directorate of Examination and Timetabling wishes to heartily congratulate all our students for the hard work they have put in their studies. The Directorate falls under the Division of Academic Affairs and plays a critical role in the academic life of students in the University. It is charged with a number of responsibilities, the two major ones being: to ensure that teaching and learning takes place in a conducive and friendly environment, and that University examinations are processed and administered in a way that is credible and inspires confidence among all stakeholders. The Directorate prepares the University Academic Calendar for Senate for approval and also ensures that teaching and examination timetables are prepared on time. The Directorate in consultation with the Office of the Registrar Academic Affairs is also charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all University examinations are moderated.

Moderation involves processes which assure high quality assessment practices, including external benchmarking,

Moderation is done internally and externally for both undergraduate and postgraduate assessment. It is an internal control activity carried out at the Department level by a small team of senior staff members focused in particular areas of specialisation to ensure that assessment activities meet the required standards. External Examiners on the other hand are recruited in a rigorous vetting process. This pool consists of professionals in the same areas of specialisation drawn from the academia, research and industry. Their role is to ensure consistency, comparability and fairness of professional judgments about the levels demonstrated by students.

Moderation essentially operates at two levels: at the assessment setting stage when the examination is being prepared and after marking and processing of the final results. The aim of moderating examinations before students are asked to sit for them is to address any ambiguities, vagueness, depth of coverage, time allocation etc as these are some of the issues which might cause concern to students and

hinder them from achieving their level best when being evaluated.

After marking the External Examiners look at the whole marking process to see if it was done professionally and fairly. The External Examiner's main role is to audit/validate the whole examination process from setting through marking to final grading to ensure fairness, accuracy and consistency in the evaluation process.

For the postgraduate programmes, the mandatory involvement of at least one External Examiner in marking of Masters and Ph.D. theses and the requirement for the personal presence of the examiner during a Doctorate thesis defense is a further testimony of rigorous moderation in the evaluation process at that level.

A thorough and credible examination and moderation process at all levels does not come cheaply. The University has found itself committing significant financial resources for this important exercise. Overtime, the University has continued to support this important process wholeheartedly by ensuring that the terms of engagement of External Examiners are improved significantly and in commensuration with the assignment.



*Students preparing for forthcoming examinations at the University Library*

# OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

## Message from the Dean



*Prof. D. Odero-Wanga*

**M**ay I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for having successfully completed their various academic programmes. Since you joined Egerton University, you have grown physically, socially and mentally. You have also achieved a wealth of experiences as well as competencies that will go a long way in shaping your future. On behalf of the Dean of Student's (DOS) office, I wish you a future full of opportunities. This Graduation Ceremony marks a new beginning in your lives as you enter the vibrant job market to serve mankind in your various fields.

The DOS office coordinates all the activities relating to student affairs. The services offered in this department include: Counselling, Registration of Clubs, Career Advice, Public Lectures, Financial Aid, Orientation of first year students, Recreational Activities, among others. The mandate of the DOS office also includes developing, nurturing and promoting an enabling environment that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. It offers services that cater for

the general welfare of students and serves as an advocate for students by assuring that the interests of students are served in the strategic aspects of University operations.

The sections under DOS are: Chaplaincy section; Counselling section; Games Sports and Recreation; and Student Leadership Development Programme. The Chaplaincy provides an environment for free interaction of religious groups, which include the Protestant, Catholic, and SDA Christian denominations, and Islam. The mission of the Chaplaincy is to organise, coordinate and offer spiritual services in the University, as well as to serve and act as a link between the University administration and the faith community.

The main mission of the Counselling section is to assist students in the development of skills for establishing and maintaining effective and rewarding personal and social relationships in the formulation and accomplishment of their educational and career plans, in addition to facilitating student self-understanding and self-acceptance.

The University has a well-established Sports and Games section manned by highly qualified and adequate personnel in all the Campuses. The University supports 23 games and sporting disciplines and several leisure and recreation pursuits that go a long way in nurturing talent for possible placement and employability and that also provide alternative social avenues for growth and development in diverse sporting fields.

Listed below are some of the recent activities that have taken place under

the DOS office since the beginning of the current year:

- A Students Union of Egerton University (SUEU) leaders training took place on 14–19 January 2018 at the Kenya School of Government, Baringo.
- An Alcohol & Drug Abuse Training was held on 3 February 2018 at Theatre 2 in main Campus.
- A SUEU congress training took place on 6 February 2018 at ARC Hotel.
- Students Counsellors' and Peer Counsellors did case conferencing on 8 February 2018 at the Guest Wing in the Upper Mess.
- The Egerton Drama Club participated in Regional Drama Festivals held at Laikipia University from 16–18 March 2018. Egerton won in the category of best presentations and was second runners up in the Mime, Comedy, English play, Modern dance, Choral verse and Solo verse categories.
- The Egerton Drama Club also took part in the National Drama Festivals held on 5–14 April 2018 at the Presbyterian University of East Africa, Nairobi.
- A SUEU leaders training took place on 14–19 January 2018 at the Kenya School of Government, Baringo.
- An Alcohol & Drug Abuse Training was held on 3 February 2018 at Theatre 2 in main Campus.
- A SUEU congress training took place on 6 February 2018 at ARC Hotel.
- Students Counsellors' with peer counsellors did case conferencing on 8 February 2018 at the Guest Wing in the Upper Mess.



## Message from the Principal



*Prof. Lenah Nakhone-Wati*

I take this opportunity to express my most sincere congratulations to all our graduands. Your accomplishment is a significant achievement, one which would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of your parents, guardians, spouses, friends and sponsors, who sit proudly in our audience today.

Graduation is not an end in itself; it is instead a part of the larger journey of life; a celebration of achievement and the commencement of a transition to a different chapter in your lives as young, productive and responsible adults. Let your future spur you to greater heights.

I must hasten to congratulate members of the academic and support staff of the University, who worked tirelessly with these graduands to help them complete their studies and make this occasion a success. There have been challenges, but you have ensured that the graduands are ready today to take their rightful place in Kenya and the world.

The Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) was established for the purpose of providing alternative education opportunities through the privately sponsored programmes. The College used to admit Government-sponsored students for Bachelor of Commerce only. Over time the College has expanded and now admits Government-sponsored students for Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Bachelor of Arts (Communication and Media), Bachelor of Criminology and Security Studies, Bachelor of Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Bachelor of Enterprise and Small Business Management, and Bachelor of Laws. There are three fully-fledged Faculties that include the Faculty of Commerce, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Faculty of Law. The College also offers programmes in six more Faculties based at the main campus at Njoro.

The College has launched three new academic programmes: Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication, Diploma in Criminology and Security Studies, and Diploma in Public Relations and Mass Communication. These were scheduled to admit students for the May 2018 intake. The Faculty of Law is in the process of developing Diploma, Masters and Ph.D. programmes to supplement the current Bachelor of Law Programme. The College is also in the process of starting a course in Chinese language that will enhance our students' ability to enrol into Chinese universities and colleges for further studies.

The Faculty of Health Sciences continues to expand its intake on a

yearly basis, with more students graduating. Recently, on 8 May 2018, medical students participated in a Ceremony whereby the graduating class of doctors, clinical officers and nurses took their Hippocratic Oath. The entrance of these new doctors, clinical officers and nurses into the market comes at a time when the country is facing acute shortage of medical practitioners.

Our Communications and Media Programme students took part in the second season of the Investigative Journalism competition and emerged amongst the best performers. We hope to perform even better in the third season.

Besides academic matters, the College students also participate in extra-curricular activities. They successfully participated in tournaments at Maasai Mara University and Moi University and scooped trophies.

I wish to thank the University Management Board for their continued support in ensuring that despite the recent hiccups in teaching, NTCC successfully implements its programmes in a safe environment.

To all of you, I wish you the best of luck as you depart from Egerton University. I hope you leave from here with a deep appreciation of your time at the University and a strong commitment to put your education, energy, and enthusiasm to good use to make this a better world for the next generation.

# NAIROBI CITY CAMPUS

## Message from the Director



*Dr. Lydia Kimuthia  
Acting Director*

**G**raduation is a momentous step in your education, and as we celebrate the 38th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, I wish to congratulate all the graduands, especially those from Nairobi City Campus. You have made a significant achievement by making the shift from a student to a graduate of Egerton University. This shift is indeed a source of pride and confidence for you as an individual and as a member of the society. You have not only gained academic qualifications but have also developed lifetime friendships and networks. When you enrolled at the Campus, you had dreams and expectations. As you graduate today, I would urge you to continue writing the beautiful stories of your life and make an impact among the people you interact with.

To the parents, guardians, spouses, family members and supporters who relinquished so much to give these graduands university education, I extend my hand of congratulations to you all. I wish also to thank the entire

Nairobi City Campus fraternity for their effort, hard work and discipline that culminated in the successful completion of the programmes by the graduands.

The Campus provides opportunities for leadership and creativity aimed at enhancing and strengthening the students' various capacities.

The graduands are from Economics and Statistics, Criminology and Security Studies, Gender and Development Studies, Education Arts, and Commerce programmes from diploma to postgraduate level. The Campus provides opportunities for leadership and creativity aimed at enhancing and strengthening the students' various capacities. As a campus, we are honoured to have a female chairperson of the Students Union, marking history in the whole of Egerton University student leadership. The students are encouraged to be innovative, gaining work-related skills through the work-study programme. Student engagement is encouraged through formation of new clubs and association with the existing Football Club and Drama Club spearheaded by the Dean of Students Office.



*Nairobi City Campus students participate in the International Open Access Week in October 2017*



# DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

## Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Extension)



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

I sincerely congratulate all the graduands, for indeed you came, worked hard, and conquered the many challenges you faced in your academic journey. Graduation marks a new beginning and offers a ticket to your next destination.

In addition, I recognise the role played by your lecturers, parents, peers, and guardians in moulding you into the person you are today. Egerton University has provided you with the foundation you need to build yourself, to develop a fulfilling career and to realise your full potential, and it is now up to you to face the world confidently.

As you step out into a new world, it is incumbent upon you to have an open mind, learn as much as you can and

adapt to the new environment. Take pride in whatever you find to do, and remember that your future depends on it. Pursue your work with dedication and passion, so that you can contribute solutions to the many challenges facing society. In your line of duty, seek to be kind to those around you and to respect everyone, especially the less fortunate. Be creative and imaginative, as imagination is one of the keys to living life at new levels.

Let me emphasise this by using the words of the famous scientist Albert Einstein: “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.” In other words, you should have an open mind all the time, to enable you to gather new knowledge and ideas, so that you can serve yourself and humanity better.

Further, Margaret Heffernan once said: “For good ideas and true innovation you need human interaction, argument and debate.” To put it differently, one should always bear in mind that life is not really about competition with those around you but that each one of you is running their own race in order to accomplish their mission on earth.

This is attainable when you find your authentic self, simply put by Kristin Hannah as: “Finding your passion isn't just about careers and money; it's about finding your authentic self. The one you've buried beneath other people's needs.” The challenge is that you can get anything you want to have but you have to have the faith behind your ideas!

Once again congratulations and best wishes.



*His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta meets the participants in the 64th World Ploughing Contest at the Ngongogeri Farm on 1 December 2017*

## Chemeron Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre

### Message from the Director



*Prof. George M. Ogendi*



*Ostriches in the Nature Park of Egerton's Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre located at Chemeron in Baringo County*

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC), Chemeron, to congratulate all graduands of the 38th Graduation Ceremony for this milestone achievement. The journey has been long, winding and sometimes slippery; but in the end you have emerged victorious! We applaud you and acknowledge the sacrifices that you made over the years coupled with discipline and determination and culminating in today's celebration. We are confident that the knowledge and skills you have received during your training at Egerton University will enable you to touch many lives in various parts of our country. Welcome aboard, and let's join hands and utilise the acquired knowledge and skills in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as Kenya's Vision 2030.

The DRTEC is an interdisciplinary research and coordination centre for Egerton University and is rooted within the Strategic Plan of the University. It focuses mainly on applied dryland research as a contribution to the national efforts of enhancing livelihoods and improving

food security in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya. The DRTEC coordinates the implementation and scientific steering of dryland research projects related to agriculture, horticulture, soil and water conservation, livestock keeping, bee keeping, rangeland management, climate change, and ecotourism, among others. The Centre also offers internship and field attachment placement for young people from various tertiary training institutions.

In the last two years, a Nature Park has been established at the Centre that houses a Botanic Garden and a number of caged animals. Among them are crocodiles, six species of snakes (vipers, speckled sand snake, red-beaked, house snakes, Kenyan sand-boa, and pythons), four species of tortoises (leopard, pancake, hinge-back and marsh terrapins), guinea fowls, rabbits, rats, and two species of lizards (Nile monitors and Savanna monitors). The latest additions to the Nature Park are ostriches and the establishment of an Aloe Garden. The Nature Park has been established for enhancing tourism and conservation education and research on wildlife

resources found in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

We are happy to report that the results of a four-year rangeland rehabilitation and restoration programme through afforestation and rangeland reseeding at the DRTEC are impressive. This project was geared towards rehabilitating and restoring the area that had experienced land degradation attributable to overgrazing, soil erosion and thus reduced range condition. Seedlings of five tree species, namely Neem, Jatropha, Kassod tree, Leuceana, and the Flamboyant tree, as well as seeds of Buffel grass, were planted within the ten-acre enclosures at the Centre. From these field trials, it is evident that rangeland enclosures can significantly improve on not only vegetation cover but also the amount of forage available to the livestock. Further, it has been demonstrated that Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), and Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), Leuceana (*Leuceanaleucocephala*), and Kassod tree (*Senna siamea*) have a huge potential for rangeland reseeding and afforestation programmes in the ASALs of Kenya.



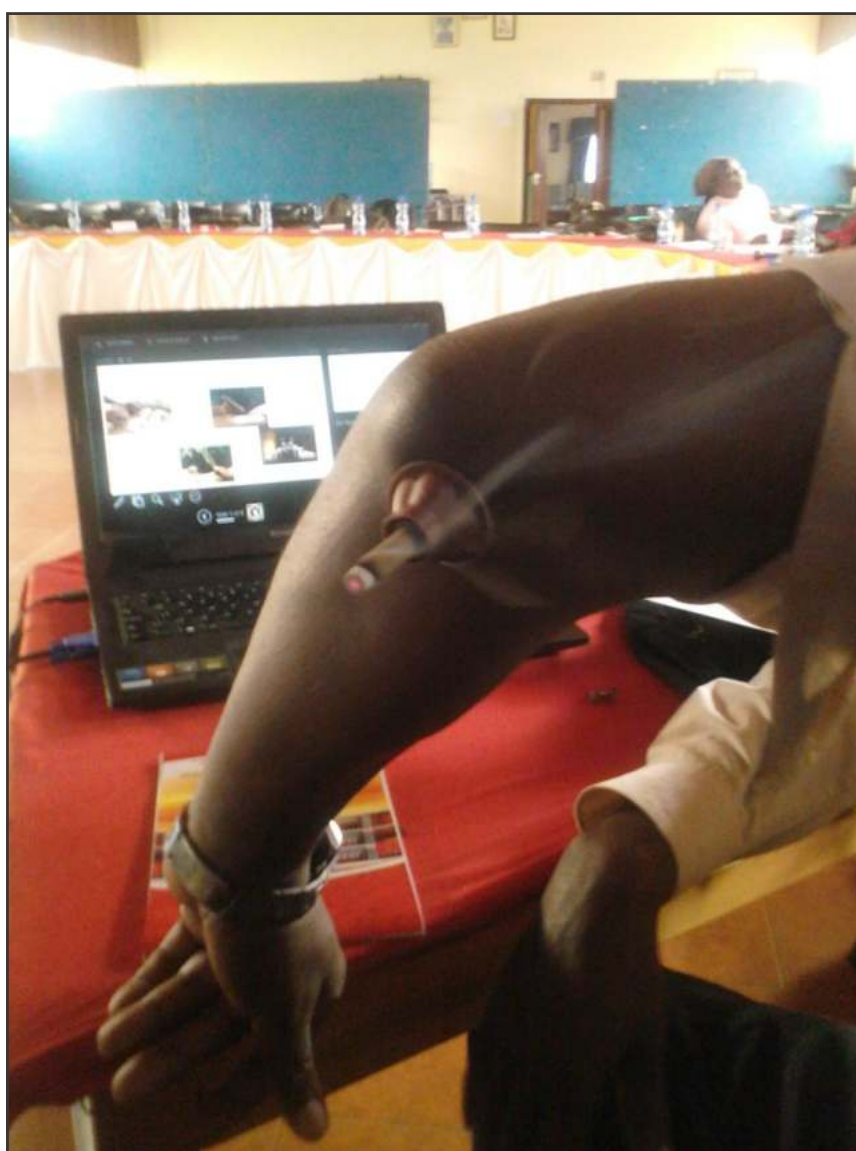
## Egerton Collaborates with Confucius Institute on Medicinal Plants

Egerton University, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute at the University, held a workshop on safe methods of utilising medicinal plants from 2 to 5 May 2018 at St. Mary's Pastoral Centre, Nakuru. The University and the Confucius Institute have been holding training workshops for the natural medicine practitioners since 2014. The practitioners are invited from different counties in Kenya. This year they were drawn from Nakuru, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Bungoma, Embu and Kajiado counties. The trainers include Egerton University researchers and practising Chinese doctors.

One of the new treatment methods covered this year was moxibustion which is very effective in treating rheumatoid arthritis. The treatment combines traditional Chinese medical moxibustion and modern technology. It is an improvement from the earlier form of moxibustion. In this practice part of the body to be treated is identified (acupoint). The moxa is lit up using a matchbox or candle and then placed on the part of the body to be treated (acupoint). It is left to burn for about 10-15 minutes after which the moxa extinguishes and cools off. The ash is collected and the base of the moxa removed from the acupoint. People treated during this workshop have reported great relief on their painful joints and bones.

This treatment is simple and affordable to many people since it uses a common multipurpose herb called mugwort which is a sparsely pubescent perennial herb with pinnate or bipinnate leaves and numerous small paniculate flowers.

The species is found in many parts of the world including Europe, Asia, America, and many African countries. It is one of the plants that have been introduced and conserved in the Egerton University Botanic Garden.



*A demonstration of the use of the improved moxibustion during the workshop on safe methods of utilising medicinal plants organised by Egerton University, in collaboration with the Confucius Institute at Egerton University, held from 2 to 5 May 2018 at St. Mary's Pastoral Centre, Nakuru, for people from various counties*

## Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning and Development)



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage*

**A**s we celebrate this 38th Graduation Ceremony at Egerton University, the Division of Administration, Planning and Development is pleased to congratulate all the graduands for successfully completing their training in the various degree programmes. The Division firmly believes that the devotion to excellence that you have demonstrated will be transferred to the society. Egerton University has, over the decades, served the country and, indeed, the world with distinction in the area of human capital development. We continue to be true to our mantra of Transforming Lives through Quality Education.

A number of learner-centred projects are ongoing within the University. Among them are the following: the modern security control point at the main gate, which will boost the safety and security of students and staff within the University precincts; the Physical Sciences Complex; and the

modern library currently under construction, which will improve our students' learning environment considerably.

The University also plans to increase sports and recreational facilities for students. This will help mould students into all round productive members of the society.

With the good feedback we get from employers, many of you will find employment opportunities. Some of you will also create employment.

The Division is also working closely with all faculties to sustain the improved webometric ranking of the University by increasing our online presence through populating and updating various links and pages on the University website with relevant and informative content. This has resulted in increased traffic to our website not only by staff and students but also by persons in the country and beyond seeking academic, research, collaborative and partnership opportunities. This strong digital footprint has helped secure the confidence of our students, staff and partners.

The review and development of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan is near completion. This will help the University focus its resources on target areas that support its core business as well as contribute to the realisation of the government's agenda of improving food security, affordable healthcare, manufacturing and housing.

Egerton University has given you a strong foundation with which to begin your careers as you join the corporate world. With the good feedback we get from employers, many of you will find employment opportunities. Some of you will also create employment. Be development-conscious and always strive to make a positive impact in society. Participate in whatever way you can in community initiatives and the national development agenda. Remember: education does not stop after you graduate. Learning is a continuous process. There is no instant success anywhere in the world. People who believe in instant success breed a generation of people who are thirsty for immediate relief and effortless profit. For Africa to be globally competitive there is need to emphasise creativity, innovation and good governance.

The Division of Administration, Planning and Development works to ensure the learning environment and student facilities are conducive for students' holistic growth. This Graduation Ceremony today is a culmination of your dedication and hard work over the years in Egerton. We once again join the rest of the University fraternity in congratulating you on your achievement.



## DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Message from the Director



Prof. B. N. Githua

As we come together to celebrate the 38th Graduation Ceremony and honour the graduands on this special occasion, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate them on behalf of myself and that of the entire Directorate of Planning and

Development for their hard work and commitment to their studies.

The Directorate's primary objective is to catalyse the transformation of Egerton University to be among the leading universities in the world. The Directorate facilitates the proper utilisation of human and non-human resources by cascading the Egerton University Strategic Plans and the Citizen Service Delivery Charter to University units through the performance contract system.

The mandate of the Directorate includes preparing University Performance Contracts; participating in the development of University Strategic and Operational Plans; facilitating submission of reports on capital projects to the Government; preparing University Service Charters; and collecting performance contract evaluation data from the three University Divisions for analysis and decision-making.

The following were the

Directorate's achievements in the FY 2017/2018:

- Internal Performance Contract Evaluation for all University units;
- Preparation of the FY 2017/2018 Performance Contract and submission of quarterly reports to the Government of Kenya Ministries/Agencies;
- Revision of University Service Delivery Charter and translating it from English to Kiswahili and Braille form;
- Participation in the review and development of the Egerton University Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan will be operational from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.

May God bless you all and offer boundless opportunities for you in future.

### Bountiful Harvest at FERD

*Continued from page 17*

seek to achieve this by rolling out training in January and July every year. This will eventually strengthen the capacity of the Egerton University Community and of practitioners in Kenya and beyond in planning and environmental management. The Department of Environmental Science similarly offers a two-week National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)-accredited Environmental and Social Impact Assessment certificate course in January, May, and August of every year. This course is tailor-made for different levels of graduates.

### FERD Scales Its International Credentials in Scholarship and Collaborations

Palgrave McMillan, an International

Publisher, has awarded the Department of Geography a lead role in a book writing project. Six members of the Department will contribute to various chapters in a book titled Urban Development Planning in Africa. The award came hot on the heels of a literature review and writing workshop held on 22 March 2018. The workshop's aim was to prepare participating members on the book writing exercise. The book will be based on a comprehensive synthesis of existing evidence on African experiences in urban development planning. The book will be off the press by the end of 2019. Prof. Francis Wegulo of Geography Department and Dr. Meleckidzedek Khayesi, a

Technical Officer at the World Health Organisation, Geneva, are the editors. FERD is geared towards delivering this book in the next few months. Elsewhere, Dr. Charles Recha was awarded a three-month CV Raman Visiting Fellowship at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India, for the period March-May 2018. Dr. Recha previously studied at the School of Environmental Sciences, JNU. Together with his host, Prof. A.P. Dimri, they are undertaking research on droughts of Eastern Kenya. The Indian Government-sponsored fellowship is expected to lead a renewed approach to drought research and teaching, high-end publications, and networking.

## EGERTON UNIVERSITY WELFARE SERVICES

### Message from the Director



*Prof. Rose Odhiambo*

**O**n behalf of the Directorate of University Welfare Services (DUWS), I would like to congratulate the graduands for the successful completion of their studies at Egerton University. Despite the numerous challenges you must have encountered during your studies, you have been found worthy to be granted the various degrees and diplomas. This is a great achievement because the special document that certifies your education and skills level will not only become a source of inspiration to others but will also be a constant source of reference whenever you seek employment and promotion. Despite some difficult memories you may have, your feelings at the time of graduation must be entirely positive as you will soon find that the experience you went through at Egerton will usefully guide you in the decision you will have to make in future. You will

remember your relationships; the environment in class, the living quarters and neighbourhood; moments when you were ill and moments of exhilaration and joy; times and circumstances when you felt weak and times when you were strong; and people who ignored you and others who became companions and friends. In all this, and despite the shortage of resources at our disposal, never forget that we in the University and the Directorate had your best interests at heart.

In our effort to improve University welfare services for students, employees, clients and visitors, the DUWS has achieved the milestones outlined below in the current fiscal year.

The Catering Department provided catering services for some 450 participants during the Run for the Mau Marathon held in February 2018. The Department has started providing special diets to customers on one-day prior notice terms or on request. Mara and Simba restaurants are now providing buffet regularly to meet the needs of staff, students and visitors. Ready-made boiled githeri is available to students too at a minimal fee. This will save them meal-time preparation as well as save on electric energy costs in kitchenettes.

Students who fall into the category of Persons with Disability (PWD) are being given priority in allocated

accommodation in the Halls of Residence. Those in need are also being provided with prosthetic limbs to ease movement around campus, while ablution facilities have been installed in rooms accommodating them. An embosser that converts/transcribes Braille into printed English is already operational. The PWD Department's Service Charter has also been written in Braille. The PWD Department has received a new coordinator in the person of Dr. Josephine Khaemba from the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. She took over from Mr. C. C. Cheruiyot, who is proceeding on retirement and after serving with great dedication for the wellbeing of PWD.

The Halls of Residence have twenty-six types of hostels, which provide a high number of occupancy options for students. The residency options are made up of single, double, triple, quadruple, pentagon and hexagon occupancy, charged at variable costs. Microwaves and fridges have been installed in one select hostel (River View), which is accommodating foreign students. Over 480 pieces of mattresses have been re-bound for use in the different halls.

In conclusion, we wish you all the best that life has to offer to the deserving, and we hope to hear of your wellbeing in future from the various places in which you will be residing.

God bless you.



## We Celebrate Our Ph.D. Graduands this Season



**Florence Achieng' Opondo**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Agribusiness & Management)

**Faculty:** AGRICULTURE

**Thesis Title:**  
Evaluation of Cassava Commercialisation among Smallholder Farmers and Its Effect on Household Income: A Case of Siaya and Kilifi Counties

**Supervisors:** Prof. George Owuor  
Prof. Patience Mshenga



**Elizabeth Wanjiru Wambugu**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (NARE)

**Faculty:** FERD

**Thesis Title:**  
Value of Ecosystem Services and Socio-Economic Factors that Enhance Community Participation in Forest Management in Aberdare Forest, Kenya

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



**Raphael Mwaura Gacheiya**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Kiswahili)

**Faculty:** FASS

**Thesis Title:**  
Peo na Mikakati ya Kimazungumzo Katika Umbaji wa Ujinsia Miongoni mwa Wazulufu Nchini Kenya

**Supervisors:** Prof. Furaha Chai  
Prof. Catherine Kitetu



**Amon Mwangi Karanja**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Geography)

**Faculty:** FERD

**Thesis Title:**  
Effects of Drought on Household Livelihoods and Adaptation Strategies in Laikipia West Sub-County, Kenya

**Supervisors:** Prof. Kennedy N. Ondimu  
Dr. Charles W. Recha



**Amos Odalo Ayuo**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Business & Management)

**Faculty:** COMMERCE

**Thesis Title:**  
Effect of Entrepreneurship Education on Intention of Engineering Students in Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutions in Kenya

**Supervisors:** Prof. Peter B. Kibas  
Prof. Daniel Auka



**Richard Ochieng'**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Geography)

**Faculty:** FERD

**Thesis Title:**  
Use of Seasonal Climate Forecast and Drought Effects on Livestock Assets in Baringo County, Kenya

**Supervisors:** Dr. Charles Recha  
Prof. Bockline O. Bebe



**Noah Murumba Kiveu**

**Programme:** Ph.D. (Business & Management)

**Faculty:** FEDCOS

**Thesis Title:**  
Teachers' Perceptions of the Relationship between Parental Support and Learners' Characteristics, and Internal Efficiency of Public Secondary Schools in Bungoma County, Kenya

**Supervisors:** Prof. Anthony K. Sang  
Prof. Fred U. Ngesa

The  
**NEWSLINK**  
Your primary source of  
information on  
Egerton University!

### Egerton's Symbolically Captivating Gate to Open Soon



**E**gerton University is currently in the concluding stages of the construction of its ultra-modern main gate and associated facilities at the Njoro Campus (see photograph above). The gate consists of the following components: a Central Piece, which comprises a Guard House, a Control Room, and a Watch Tower; a top that crowns the Central Piece and is held up by posts on a circular base; wings on either side of the Central Piece overarching the entrance and exit points of the gate; entrance and exit gates; reception offices, security offices, and a minimart; and a dual carriageway and walkways which stretch for about 100 metres into the University.

The design of the gate and its associated facilities is conceptualised to represent the University in terms of its Vision, Mission, and Core Values. Egerton is a leader in agricultural training, research, and extension, which has positioned itself to contribute considerably to the development of the agricultural sector. The Central Piece represents a tree stem, while the wings stand in for the leaves, which collectively symbolise the niche that the University has carved out for itself in agriculture and the environment.

Besides improving the economy through contributions to agriculture, Egerton recognises the strategic role of research, science and technology, innovation, and community outreach in national development. The structure of the gate underscores the University's commitment to science and technology through the complexity inherent in the forms of the stem and the canopies of leaves.

Once completed, the gate ensemble will also include security features, such as vehicular and pedestrian scanners and CCTV cameras, which will further enhance the importance the University attaches to the development of problem-solving technologies.

The top piece represents the graduation cap, which, within the context of the academy, embodies, perhaps more than any other object, the achievements of a scholar.

The colouring that will be used on the gate and the associated facilities will, in general, be derived from the University's brand colours and will merge with the environment, thereby underscoring Egerton's dedication to the conservation of the environment.

The construction of the gate is expected to be completed soon.

*The Graduation Special Issue of the Egerton Newslink is published by Egerton University.*

**Editorial Team:** Prof. Emilia Ilieva, Dr. Joseph Walunywa, Mr. Hillary Chakava, and Ms. Agnes Mwangi

**Design & Layout:** Ms. Roselyne Wamalwa and Mr. Stephen Thuku