



EGERTON UNIVERSITY NEWSLINK

www.egerton.ac.ke

Issue No. 112

29 July 2022

The 45th Graduation **A University Education** **for Development**



**Egerton University Students Shine in
TotalEnergies Startupper of the Year Challenge**



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Welcomes all Graduands

OF THE 45TH GRADUATION CEREMONY TO JOIN
the

EGERTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

VISION

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

MISSION

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

MEMBERSHIP AND ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

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

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are as follows:

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

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

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

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Alumni benefits include:

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Editorial i

Egerton University Students Shine in the TotalEnergies Startupper of the Year Challenge 1

Message from the Chancellor 2

Message from the Chairman of Council 3

Office of the Vice-Chancellor 4

Message for the Vice-Chancellor 4

News from Across the University 9

Prof. Bernard O. Aduda Takes Over as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) 9

By Newslink Team 9

Division of Academic Affairs 13

Message from DVC (AA) 13

Nakuru Town Campus College 35

Message from the Principal, NTCC 35

Division of Research and Extension 37

Message from the DVC (R&E) 37

Division of Administration, Planning and Development 41

Message from the DVC (APD) 41

Front cover photo: Ph.D. graduands pose for a photograph with the Chancellor of Egerton University, Dr. Narendra Raval (centre, in green gown), the Vice-Chancellor (centre left, in red), and the Governor of Nakuru County, H.E. Lee Kinyanjui (centre right, in black), during the 44th Graduation Ceremony at the Graduation Square, Main Campus, Njoro on 17 December 2021

GRADUATION STATISTICS	
Doctorates	17
Masters	67
Bachelors	2,148
Diplomas	90
Total	2,322

Egerton University Must Leverage on School Visits to Attract Students

In recent times, Egerton University has witnessed an increasing number of primary schools and secondary schools from across the country choosing to bring their students to the University on tours. For instance, since April 2022, Karima Girls High School from Kiambu County, Ukwala Secondary School from Siaya County, Koelel High School from Nakuru County, and Kebirigo Boys High School from Nyamira County have visited the University. In total, we have received visits from some 80 schools during the period.

The visits from the schools are primarily educational tours. The schools are attracted to Egerton by a number of factors: the University's highly marketable academic programmes; the diversity in the products and services the University markets to the outside world; the unique features of the University, including farm machinery, the Agro-science Park, the Tatton Demonstration Unit, the Botanic Garden, the fish farm, the poultry farm, the piggery, the llamas, the Egerton Radio, and the moot court hosted by the Faculty of Law; and the opportunities the University offers high school students to pursue their academic aspirations beyond secondary school. In return, the University utilises the opportunity to market itself to potential students throughout the country.

It is also worth mentioning that the visits are rewarding to the University in other equally important ways. For example, 50 per cent of the payment that the schools are charged for the visits is deposited into a University endowment fund, which is used to support needy students. Also, besides the gate charges, the students and their teachers use University facilities, such as the hostels and the mess, for which they pay separately – in addition to the money they spend on University products like yoghurt, seeds, and merchandise like calendars and books.

This development in the relationship between the University and the rest of the world is commendable and requires the support of all of us. Unlike in the past, high school students have more freedom to choose the universities they would like to study at, whether public or private. This has had the effect of increasing competition among universities for the available students. As such, the University cannot just sit back and wait for students to be allocated to it. Rather, it must go out of its way to locate students wherever they are and ensure that they make Egerton University their first choice for study.

Vision

A world-class university for the advancement of humanity

Mission

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

Core Values

The University's activities and decisions will be guided by the following core values:
National unity and social fairness; Integrity, transparency and accountability; Professionalism; Internationalism; Passion for excellence and devotion to duty; Team work; Passion for environmental conservation; Innovativeness and creativity

EGERTON



UNIVERSITY

www.egerton.ac.ke

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

EGERTON UNIVERSITY INVITES YOU TO APPLY FOR PROGRAMMES
AT ITS CAMPUSES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2022 INTAKE

| MAIN CAMPUS IN NJORO | NAKURU TOWN CAMPUS COLLEGE | E-CAMPUS |

IN THE FOLLOWING FACULTIES

- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Commerce
- Faculty of Education and Community Studies
- Faculty of Engineering and Technology
- Faculty of Environment and Resources Development
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
- Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies
- School of Distance Learning (E-Learning)

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES:	Minimum Mean Grade C- (Minus) in KCSE or its equivalent
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES:	Minimum Mean Grade C+(Plus) in KCSE or its equivalent
MASTERS PROGRAMMES:	Bachelor's Degree in a related field with at least Second Class (Upper Division) or Second Class (Lower Division) with two years relevant working experience
DOCTORATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES:	Masters Degree in related field

APPLY NOW!!

For further information on specific programmes and their requirements, please visit us on
www.egerton.ac.ke or <https://application.egerton.ac.ke>

"Transforming Lives through Quality Education"

Egerton University Students Shine in the TotalEnergies Startupper of the Year Challenge

The most important challenge facing Africa is arguably the absence of the innovative and entrepreneurial skills required to enable the continent to compete effectively on the international stage through appropriate technologies. In order to achieve this objective, Africa must undergo a paradigm shift whereby much of its economic activities revolve around industrial production. This is because without the ability to retrieve financial resources from the international market through locally produced goods and services that are of irresistible demand beyond its borders, African societies will be hard put to negotiate the transition to “development”.

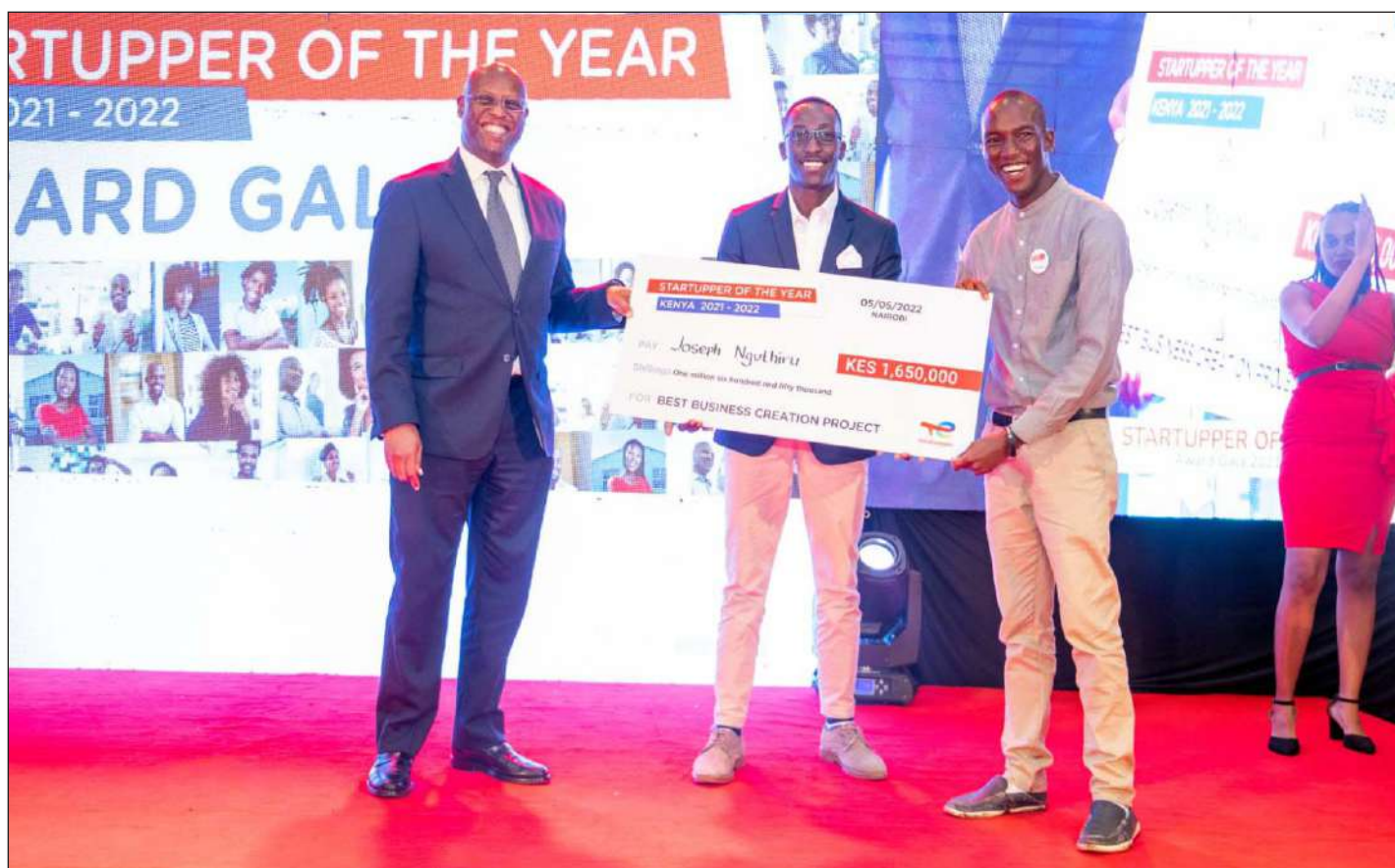
In the struggle to enable Africa to industrialise, a number of organisations have come up with interesting ideas that are designed to egg the continent forward. The most noteworthy ones are those that are involving young people on the continent in the production of technologies that are innovative enough to provide solutions to prevailing socio-economic problems through competitive processes. One

such organisation is TotalEnergies. The company hosts a competition called the Startupper of the Year Challenge, which is open to all African countries. The purpose of the competition is to inspire young thinkers and entrepreneurs to develop innovative products in light of the prevailing technological challenges. The company rewards exemplary innovators in the following categories: Best Business Creation Project; Best Startup under Three Years Old; and Best Female Entrepreneur.

The competition proceeds through two stages. In the first stage, participants compete at the national level in their respective countries. From this category, three national winners, one startup from each category, are identified and given substantial monetary awards. Subsequently, the three winners compete at the pan-African level against their peers from other African countries in what is termed “the TotalEnergies African Finals.”

This year, on 5 May, two Egerton University students,

Turn to page 2



Mr Joseph Nguthiru (right) and Mr Charles Kinyua (centre) receive the prize for the Best Business Creation Project category from the TotalEnergies Startupper for the Year Challenge on 5 May 2022

We Have Prepared You to Be Leaders of Our Society



Dr Narendra Raval

Congratulations to our newest Alumni, the graduands of the 45th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. You have accomplished a lot, and I am indeed proud of your achievements. You have rightfully earned your academic certificate, be it a Diploma, a Bachelors, a Masters or a Ph.D. degree. Your newly acquired education will serve you well in your endeavours.

What you are celebrating today, as impressive as it may be, was not a sole accomplishment. You were supported by the Egerton University staff, fellow students, your family, and your friends. Some of you received support through scholarships by organisations such as the World Bank and the Mastercard Foundation. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge them all for their assistance.

Egerton University is a world-class university for the advancement of humanity, and our mission is to generate knowledge and offer exemplary education and training to society for national and global development.

In line with its Vision and Mission, the University has prepared today's graduands to be leaders in our society. We are committed to offering quality education. Whatever your career aspirations may be, I believe we have imparted in you the necessary skills to manoeuvre the next steps of your lives.

Finally, you are now our alumni. Take advantage of the opportunities available to actively engage as members of our Alumni Community.

I extend my very best wishes and warmest congratulations to you all.

God bless you all.

Continued from page 2

TotalEnergies Startupper

Joseph Nguthiru and Charles Kinyua, both from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, won First Prize in the Best Business Creation Project category at the national level and were awarded Ksh1,650,000. Subsequently, in June 2022, at the Finals an international jury evaluated the projects of the national winners whereby the two students emerged among the top ten.

The name of the winning project is Hyapak. It is designed to convert water hyacinth into products that can serve as biodegradable alternatives to single-use plastic products. It is noteworthy that the hyacinth plant is a menace on a number of lakes in Kenya, including Lake Victoria and Lake Naivasha. That the plant can be harvested and transformed into useful products is, therefore, a major step forward in so far as development is concerned.

As part of their recognition, the students are guaranteed “personalised coaching and a media campaign to give their project visibility”.

Previously, on 18 October 2021, the two students had presented the Hyapak project at another competition, the East Africa Youth for Climate Africa Award, which is hosted by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and had won the East African Youth for Climate Africa Award.

Similarly, on 4 March 2022, they had presented the project to the World Engineering Day Hackathon, a “competition designed to encourage participants to apply their knowledge, creativity and skills towards solving a problem through a piece of software (like an application that addresses the problem) for business or an organisation.” In this case they had emerged second runners up.

The two students have attracted considerable nationwide attention in the media as result of their remarkable accomplishment. They have been featured in the print media, including the *Daily Nation* and *The Standard*. In addition, they have been featured prominently on billboards erected in major towns across the country. ■

We Appreciate the Unwavering Commitment of the Graduands



Amb. Dr. Luka Hukka Wario

To the congregants present here and those watching virtually from across the country, region and the world: Welcome to the 45th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University! Thank you for coming together to celebrate the achievements of the class of 2022.

On behalf of the University Council, I would like to

take this opportunity to appreciate the unwavering commitment of the two thousand three hundred and twenty-two (2322) graduands who are here with us today, physically and virtually.

Regardless of your field of study and education level, I believe you have what it takes to enrich the lives of those around you. We are a leading institution of higher learning in the region because of your academic contributions, dedication and desire to continuously learn, unlearn and relearn. You have been invaluable to our staff.

Now that you are Egertonians, I am confident that as you embark on the next phase of your journey you will continue making us proud. I encourage you to not only give back to the University by supporting activities, programmes and scholarships but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and your personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements.

I sincerely hope that you've enjoyed your time at Egerton University, and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish after this graduation.

Thank you and once again congratulations. ■

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Vice-Chancellor*



*Prof. Benard O. Aduda
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Affairs)*



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



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



*Prof. Joshua O. Oendo
Principal
Nakuru Town Campus College*



*Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi
Registrar
(Academic Affairs)*



*Stella Kereto
Ag. Registrar (Human
Capital and Administration)*



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



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui
University Librarian*



*Mr. Charles K. Wanjohi
Ag. Finance Officer*

Let Indomitable Will Be Your Strength



Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage

On behalf of the Egerton University Management Board, the University Senate, staff and students, I wish to congratulate the graduands of the July 2022 Graduation. Completing your studies successfully is a remarkable achievement for you and for the University as well. Your parents, guardians and sponsors made sacrifices to see you through your studies.

I wish to convey my appreciation to them. This day is marked with a lot of celebration and excitement from you the graduands. However, even as you celebrate, please note that today is also the beginning of a journey that will chart the course of your life. What you do with the certificate you will receive today will determine your future.

Our academic staff have equipped you with the skills and abilities to make meaningful contributions to your community and the country. You already have what it takes to achieve your dreams. Please grab every opportunity that comes your way, do not sit and wait for jobs. Make sure in all you do you are making a difference and contributing to humanity.

All graduands will become members of the Egerton University Alumni Association. Continue connecting with us and mentoring continuing students. We will still call upon you to participate in events, and engage you in the marketing of our programmes.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: “Success does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.” By being here today, you have demonstrated the indomitable will to achieve your goals. There is more to do and more to achieve.

Thank you and God bless you! ■



The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Development, Hon. Peter Munya, visits the Egerton University stand at the Agricultural Society of Kenya Show on 1 July 2022

DMRM Expands Fundraising Initiatives



Prof. Paul Kimurto

The Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilization (DMRM) takes this opportunity to congratulate those graduating during the 45th Graduation Ceremony. I commend them for their notable achievement.

The Directorate is comprised of the Alumni Relations Department headed by the Alumni Relations Coordinator (ARC), Dr Hillary Chakava, the Communication and Marketing Department headed by the Communication & Marketing Manager, Ms Agnes Mwangi, the Resource Mobilisation Department headed by Mr Moses Ouma, and the Gift Shop whose in-charge is Mr Paul Ochieng'.

Over the past year, the Directorate has laid out and implemented several strategies aimed at boosting the University overall goal of increasing incomes through fundraising initiatives as outlined below.

Appointment of the University Endowment Fund Local Organising Committee (LOC)

In order to raise resources to support needy students within the University, the Vice Chancellor appointed an Alumni Local Organising Committee (LOC) in March 2022 to help mobilise Egerton University Alumni to hold a fundraising later in the year to boost the University Endowment Fund. The main goal of the Endowment Fund is to support needy students through scholarships, bursaries and social support.

The LOC members appointed included Mr Kenneth Ayuko who is a member of the Egerton Global Alumni (1960s group) as the LOC Chairman, Prof. Paul Kimurto (DMRM), Dr Kuria Wamukuru (Faculty of Education and Community Studies), Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Director, Board of

Postgraduate Studies), Dr Miriam Charimbu (Faculty of Agriculture), Mr Moses Kiogora (Egerton University Alumni Association), Ms Sally Kiproti (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), Dr Hillary Chakava (Alumni Relations Coordinator), and Dr Japhet Muthamia (Dean of Students).

The University is also in the process of appointing Faculty Alumni Champions to support the LOC in this endeavour. The Committee's main task is to mobilise and register University alumni internally, nationally and globally to support the initiative; engage with the EU-Alumni Board to achieve the objective through the Alumni Office under the DMRM; develop a strategy to raise the targeted amount of money for the University Endowment Fund; develop proposals to be submitted to Donors targeting support towards specific agreed projects and to assist the EUAA Board in reviewing the Alumni Strategic Plan. All alumni are called upon to support this noble endeavour once called upon later in the year.

Newly Developed Parents/Guardian Portal

DMRM, in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar (Academic Affairs) and ICT Department, is finalizing the development of a parents'/guardian portal. The portal, which is similar to the students' portal, will be an opportunity for parents/guardians to track students' academic progress and financial status. This will contribute to reducing instances where some students mislead or cheat their parents/guardians about their academic status and the fee payment. The portal will therefore help parents and guardians to jointly monitor the students together with the University. The Portal will have information on transcripts, resits, disciplinary cases and fee payment, as well as contact details for Deans and Academic Directors. The parents/guardian portal will be first used by the 2022/2023 First Year students who are reporting in August 2022. For the continuing students, the DMRM, ICT, Registrar (A A) and Deans of Faculties/Directorates will work together to register them in the portal.

Increasing Enrolment through Career Fairs and Exhibitions

From the beginning of the year, the Directorate has been actively marketing University programmes at locally organised career fairs, school visits and various exhibitions. On 11 February 2022, we participated in the Molo Sub-County Career Day at Molo Secondary School. The event was attended by more than 2000 KCSE candidates in

various schools in Molo Sub-County, Nakuru County. The Director (DMRM), Prof Kimurto, Dr Chakava (ARC) and Dr Vitu Mwangi, a Lecturer in FASS addressed the students. The team informed the KCSE candidates about the programmes offered at Egerton University, why Egerton is a world-class university and Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) cut-off points for each degree programme.

We also participated in the 2022 Kilimo Biashara Expo organised by Itrade Events and Poise Business Consulting Limited in partnership with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO). The exhibition was an opportunity for us to market our programmes and innovations. We received the best University Award at the conclusion of the exhibition.

Egerton University was among four universities and ten TVETs exhibiting their programmes and offering career guidance to prospective students, their parents, and their guardians at the 6th Annual Universities, Polytechnics, Institutes and Colleges Admission Day on 27 May 2022 at Homa Bay County. The Registrar (AA), Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi, and the Director of International Linkages and Career Services, Prof. Charles M'Erimba, led the Egerton team at the fair. Professor M'Erimba gave a detailed presentation about the University and potential career paths, while Prof. Saidi advised students on cut-off points for various courses. The University also participated in the Nation Media Group Career Fair and Education Expo at the Kisumu School from 15-16 July 2022. The Fair also marked the International Youth Skills Day whose theme for 2022 was "Transforming Youth Skills for the Future". The University was represented by Dr Hillary Chakava (ARO).

Compared to the 2020-2021 KCSE candidate intake, these efforts are expected to increase the University enrolment by between 15-25% and increase Capitation by 20-25% in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Egerton University Ranked among the Top Universities in Kenya

The Webometric Rankings of World Universities ranked Egerton University at position three after the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University, which were ranked first and second position respectively in the January 2022 rankings. The Webometric rankings assess universities in impact, openness and excellence parameters.

The impact category ranks universities on the basis of their academic presence (journals linked to the University website), which constitutes 50%. The openness category looks at the number of citations from authors, which accounts for 10%. Egerton University had 8,535 citations in the Webometric rankings. The excellence category looks at the number of papers among the top 10% most cited. The

next Webometric Rankings will be published on 28 July 2022.

Alumni Engagement Activities

In order to streamline fundraising and Alumni activities, staff from the Directorate and some board members of the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA), toured alumni departments at the United States International University (USIU), Strathmore University, and the University of Nairobi in January 2022. The aim of the benchmarking tour was to learn best practices on alumni engagement activities. Among the useful best practices learnt from the tour include the staff and students giving programmes for needy students, the functions of Faculty Alumni Champions, designing alumni-branded merchandise for selling, and alumni fundraising and mobilisation strategies, among others. Some of these are being considered for implementation at Egerton University.

ON 26 March 2022, the EUAA celebrated the relaunch of its Nakuru Chapter at a colourful ceremony held at Milele Resort in Nakuru City. The Chief Guest during the relaunch was Prof. James Tuitok, who is a former Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University and currently a Commissioner with the National Land Commission. Prof. Tuitok challenged EUAA to outline clear responsibilities and benefits of both the ordinary and life members in order to encourage them to be active and paid up. The guests were also addressed by Prof. Isaac Kosgey (EUAA Chairman), Prof. Bernard Aduda (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, who represented the Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Bockline Bebe (Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Extension), Prof. Joshua Ogendo (Principal, Nakuru Town Campus College), and Prof. Paul Kimurto (Director, DMRM), among others.

Expanding Communication and Outreach through Digital Platforms

The Communication and Marketing Department continues to take advantage of the digital space by producing the *Digital Newslink* magazines. The Department has published various articles from Divisions, Faculties, Directorates, and Departments with some focusing on research-related projects. Some of the articles have been featured in this publication.

Restructuring of School Visits at Egerton University

Egerton University has had various schools (secondary and primary) visiting the University as a way of enhancing their learning. Some 80 schools visited Egerton University in the period between April to July 2022.

The Directorate has been working with the staff and student guides from different Faculties to ensure that the

Turn to page 7

Conference on International Internship and Traineeship Opportunities Held

By Masaya Hillary Chakava

On 16th July 2022, Egerton University hosted a conference to sensitize final year students and alumni on traineeship and internship opportunities available in Denmark and other Nordic countries, especially for students pursuing studies in the Agriculture field. The conference was organised by the Egerton Alumni Relations Office, the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, and the Dean of Students Office. The external conference facilitators were Glorbit Access Link Limited (Kenya, Uganda & USA) and Bixter Training Limited (Denmark). Among the presenters at the conference were Dr Stephen Kinara (Chief Executive Officer, Glorbit Access Link, USA), Emmanuel Majanga (Glorbit Access Link, Uganda) and Lily Kozyreva (Bixter Training Limited, Denmark).

More than 200 Egerton University students and alumni attended the conference either in person at ARC Hotel or virtually. After the conference, students interested in the Programmes were encouraged to apply. The Alumni



*Mr Dennis Odero
the current Chairman of EUSA*



*Mr Josphat Ekuam
the former Director of Academics,
EUSA*

Relations Office will work with Academic Departments to recommend qualifying students. Successful applicants will be placed on paid internships to work for up to 18 months on farms in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany and the Netherlands. The programme aims at encouraging skills transfer for young Kenyan graduates in the areas of horticulture, poultry farming, pig farming, dairy farming, green house farming, and hospitality.

Egerton University was represented at the conference by Dr Hillary Chakava and Ms Fridah

Murugi from the Alumni Relations Office, while Benson Muriithi represented the Dean of Students Office. The leaders of the Egerton University Students Association (EUSA), led by their Chairman, Mr Dennis Odero, also attended the conference.

Dr Hillary M. Chakava is the Alumni Relations Coordinator, Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University.

DMRM Fundraising

Continued from page 6

visiting guests get equipped with credible and quality information about the University. The guests make a brief stopp-over at DMRM for a briefing on the tour, the products available, career alignment and professional progression and the programmes offered at Egerton University. The areas of interest are DMRM, the Admissions Office; Tatton Agriculture Park, Agro Science Park (Fish Farm), Departments of Dairy and Food Science and Technology; Animal Science; Civil & Environmental Engineering

(Weather Technology); Veterinary, Medicine & Surgery; Agricultural Engineering; Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Water and Sewerage; Crops, Horticulture and Soils; Biogas Plant; and the Botanic Garden. There are plans to include other areas of interest like the Moot Court, and the Egerton Radio, among others.

Directorate Determined to Produce High-Quality Graduates through Quality Assurance



Dr Patricia Wambugu

As Egerton University marks its 45th Graduation Ceremony, I wish to congratulate all our graduands for this great accomplishment. As you exhibit the calibre of knowledge and abilities you have acquired in your specific fields, I am confident that you will serve as our ambassadors in the world of work.

One of the forces pushing Universities to succeed in both teaching/learning and research is the pressure to produce high quality graduates and to remain competitive globally. It is important to make sure that the university's educational offerings match both national and international standards. Egerton University has a regulatory framework that mandates and ensures, among other things, ongoing attention to promoting and accomplishing high-quality education and training of the graduates as part of its goal of becoming a world-class University for the advancement of humanity.

The Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) is mandated with the responsibility of establishing and overseeing internal Academic Quality Assurance procedures in the

University. The Directorate ensures that all the programmes that have gone through the full cycle of implementation are evaluated through self-assessment. Deans of Faculties identify such programmes and forward them to DQA in consultation with Chairpersons of Departments (CoDs). Selected teams for the indicated programmes are trained on how to carry out the self-assessment exercise. The team submits a Self-Assessment Report (SAR) to DQA for internal review and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations provided. In the last quarter, the self-assessment report for the MSc/MA in Geography was successfully received by DQA. Other teams are still collecting data and compiling their self-assessment reports.

Examinations are crucial instruments for evaluating a student's knowledge, understanding, talents, or skills acquired during teaching and learning. Examinations are used to determine the achievement of course learning outcomes. To evaluate the examinations administered for all programmes each semester, external examiners (EEs) are invited, and each EE submits a written report. This is done to guarantee acceptable examination standards and improve the programmes offered by the University. All of the EE's reports are compiled into a synopsis by DQA along with suggestions for ongoing quality improvement. The report's recommendations are implemented by Faculties and Departments after approval by the Senate. To maintain quality and ensure that the required corrective actions are implemented, Deans update the Senate on the implementation status. DQA has already received the EE reports and it's in the process of preparing a summary report on Semesters II of 2020–2021

“Examinations are crucial instruments for evaluating a student's knowledge, understanding, talents, or skills acquired during teaching and learning.”

and Semester I of 2021–2022 academic years.

Every semester, DQA conducts the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and the Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE). The major goal is to give academic staff members feedback on the quality of instruction and learning for continuous improvement. The TEE and PIEE for Semesters I and II of the 2021–2022 Academic Year were completed using the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS) which is embedded in the Academic Records Management System (ARMS).

The Directorate continues to monitor the quality of education offered in the University through academic audits. In June 2022, the Directorate completed an audit of six online courses embedded in the Learning Management System's (LMS). The goal of the audit was to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of courses delivered online.

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

Happy graduation Day!!

Prof. Bernard O. Aduda Takes Over as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)

By the Newslink Team

The year 2022 began on a positive note with the appointment of a new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs). Prof. Bernard O. Aduda brings to Egerton a wealth of knowledge in university teaching and management that dates back to the early 1990s and that is derived from experiences in a wide-range of universities and professional organizations around the world.

Prof. Aduda is a Professor of Physics of Materials. He received his Bachelor of Education (Physics and Mathematics) degree from the University of Nairobi (UoN) in 1984; his Master of Science (Physics) degree from UoN in 1987; and his Ph.D. (Materials Science) degree from the Imperial College London, University of London, UK in 1991.

In addition to his undergraduate and postgraduate studies, he has benefitted from various postdoctoral trainings. In 1993-1995 and 1999 he was at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics; in 1999, at Uppsala University (International Science Program; in 2002-2003, at the Imperial College; and in 2007, at Princeton University, USA.

He has taught at the University of Nairobi as a Graduate Assistant (1985-1988); a Tutorial Fellow (1988-1992); a Lecturer (1992-1994); a Senior Lecturer (1994-1999); an Associate Professor (1999-2005); and a Professor since 2005.

As an academic, he has supervised to completion 10 Ph.D. and 17 M.Sc. students. In addition, he has published over 60 papers in peer-reviewed

journals as well as participated in over forty local and international conferences, both as a presenter and as a facilitator. He has published two monographs used in teaching undergraduate physics units. He is also a Reviewer for a number of international journals.

Prof. Aduda has held a wide range of administrative responsibilities. He was Chairman of Department, Department of Physics, UoN (2003-2007); Associate Dean, Kenya Science Campus, UoN (2007-2011); and Principal, College of Biological and Physical Science, UoN (2011-2021).

In addition, he has served as Member of Council, the Kenya Polytechnic University College (2009-2013); Member of Council, the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) (2010 - 2013); Honorary Treasurer, the Network of the African Academy of Sciences (NASAC) (2013 -2019); and Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS).

In the course of his long career in the academy, Prof. Aduda has made scholarly contributions to knowledge in Physics of Materials through membership in a wide range of national and international professional organizations. Among others, he is a founder member of MSSEESA - a regional Eastern and Southern Africa Network for Scientists working on Materials Science and Solar Energy, and served as the Chief Coordinator of that network (2018-2020).

In recognition of his excellency in scholarship, Prof. Aduda has received many awards, including the following:



*Prof. Benard O. Aduda
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)*

Trophy in recognition of a presentation at the Young Speakers Meeting organized by the Institute of Ceramics, South-East Branch, U.K. (1990.); First prize in the category of “Industrial Relevance” for a presentation based on the Ph.D. research work at the Materials Department's Postgraduate Research Day (1991), Imperial College of Science and Technology and Medicine; and Certificate of Recognition (Category: Diligent Academic and Administrative Leadership), College of Biological and Physical Science, on Outstanding Work performance during the year 2006.

Prof. Aduda has networked widely - internationally, regionally and locally. In the course of so doing, he has attracted research funding of over KSh220 million. Some of these grants were used to fund state-of-the-art equipment and scholarships for staff and postgraduate students in the Department of Physics, UoN.

Prof. Aduda became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of Egerton University on 1 February 2022. ■

Egerton University and Nakuru County Government Expand Collaboration

By Agnes Mwangi

On 12 March 2022, the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, led a delegation from the University to the Office of the Nakuru County Governor, H.E. Lee Kinyanjui, for a courtesy call. Among the pertinent issues discussed were collaborations between Egerton University and Nakuru County Government in the rehabilitation of the Mau Ecosystem and Njoro River, upgrading roads within Njoro Campus, the elevation of Lord Egerton Castle to a historical site and crafting partnerships with hospitals in Nakuru County in healthcare research, innovation, farmers' training, extension and outreach.

The VC thanked the Governor for gracing the 44th Graduation Ceremony held on 17 December 2021 during which the Governor was the chief guest. This was the first Graduation Ceremony to be attended by the Governor since he took office in 2017. On his part, the Governor acknowledged the VC's invitation to grace the 45th Graduation Ceremony in July 2022 and promised to attend.

Prof. Kibwage noted that the visit presented a great opportunity to discuss pertinent issues facing the University and propose solutions as well as strengthen the collaborations between the County Government and the University. Among the issues discussed was the upgrading of roads within the main campus and resolving land disputes between Egerton University and the neighbouring communities at the Lord Egerton Castle in Ngata.

The Governor was also appraised on the proposed East African Centre of Excellence in Health Education and Training (CEHET). Egerton University had forged collaborations with three other universities within the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) to

establish CEHET in Kenya together with the Kenya-UK Health Alliance (KUKHA). Since the University will host some of the programmes, the VC requested the Governor to partner with the University in establishing the training facility either at Njoro or at the Nakuru Level Five Hospital. The estimated funding towards the project was Ksh2 billion. Prof. Kibwage also appealed for collaboration with hospitals in Nakuru County in research and training to address the rising cases of respiratory diseases both in Kenya and also in Nakuru County. Since Nakuru is the leading County in flower and horticultural production in Kenya, a lot of chemicals used by flower farm-workers could be contributing to the high number of respiratory diseases.

The Governor lamented the underfunding of public universities,

adding that the current financial model applied by the National Government was a deterrent to the development of the institutions. He promised to support the University in championing for increased funding.

"Food and nutrition security is one of the Big 4 Agenda of the current government. However, we cannot adequately address food security issues without corresponding funding to universities such as Egerton," said the Governor. He challenged the VC and the University experts to pass knowledge on best farming practices to communities living within the environs of the University, such as Njoro and Ngata to help them realise higher farm-productivity and improved family incomes. The VC took the challenge and promised the governor to engage

Turn to page 12



The Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (seated left foreground), and Members of the University Management Board when they paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Nakuru County, H.E. Lee Kinyanjui (seated right foreground) on 12 March 2022. Also present was the Deputy Governor of Nakuru County, Dr Erick Korir (second from right).

Egerton University Wins Big Bid in Science

By Agnes Mwangi

In May 2022, Egerton University won the bid to host the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) Regional Research Centre (RRC). This is the first such centre to be established in Africa and the second in the world after the one in China.

The ICGEB Board of Governors, in its 28th Session held on 17-18 May 2022, in Trieste, Italy, endorsed the Kenyan proposal to host the ICGEB - RRC at Egerton University. The decision was a culmination of a competitive process coordinated by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI).

It is a big honour for Egerton University to host the ICGEB -RRC. This is a centre that will be strengthening research skills, knowledge and capacities of the scientific community while pursuing specific objectives for research, training, and technology transfer to industry. Further, the ICGEB-RRC will collaborate with institutions from member countries in the region in scientific research and mentorship of smaller Universities in Kenya. Hosting the ICGEB-RRC brings additional advantages, including promoting development and job creation beyond the hosting country, Kenya, because it is an international research centre.

The ICGEB-RRC at Egerton University will specialise in six scientific areas: (i) Molecular plant pathology and entomology; (ii) Genetic biofortification; (iii) Molecular plant breeding; (iv) Development of molecular diagnostic tools and their applications; (v) Bioprospecting for biopesticides and bioactive compounds; and (vi) Food safety.

During the 22nd session of the ICGEB Board of Governors held in Cape Town in 2016, it was decided to explore the interest of member countries in establishing ICGEB-RRC in Africa. Subsequently, during the Annual General Meeting in December

2020, the ICGEB Board resolved that Kenya was to host the RRC within its territory. The Director-General NACOSTI was tasked to steer the process of competitively identifying the institution to host the RRC.

In February 2021, the Director General of NACOSTI invited Egerton University to respond to an Expression of Interest to host the ICGEB-RRC in Kenya. The University, through the Division of Research and Extension, responded to the Call. The Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Extension), appointed a technical team to develop a proposal in response to the call, which was submitted to NACOSTI in March 2021. The proposal development team members were Prof. Josiah Omolo (Institutional Principal Investigator), Prof. James Owuoche, Prof. Liu Gaoxiong, Dr Miriam Charimbu, Dr John Nduko, Dr Joseph Mafurah, Dr Pascal Okwiri, Dr Elijah Lelmen, Dr Kiplagat Ngeno, Dr Joel Khobondo and Dr Stephen Indieka.

The University received a positive feedback in May 2021 that culminated to a site inspection at the Njoro Campus on 3 February 2022. An International

Review Team (IRT) of scientists from ICGEB, led by Dr Lawrence Banks and Prof. Walter Oyawa, visited Egerton University for a site inspection. The IRT was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage. They also met the University Management, the proposal development team, students, stakeholders, and the University community.

In a letter dated 7 March 2022, the Director-General of NACOSTI informed the Vice-Chancellor that Egerton University had been unanimously selected to host the RRC from three institutions that were inspected. The inspection team was impressed by the commitment demonstrated by the University Management and synergies between faculty members. It was observed that the Project Team for the proposed RRC displayed a clear understanding and coherence of the concept of the RRC.

Ms Agnes Mwangi is the Communication and Marketing Manager, Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University



Prof. Josiah Omolo (left) of the Faculty of Science, Egerton University, who led the team that applied for and won the bid to host the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Regional Research Centre at Egerton University, with Dr Lawrence Banks (right), who led the International Review Team of scientists from ICGEB to Egerton on a site inspection on 3 February 2022

Scientists Targeting Innovative Products to Promote Sorghum

By Erick Cheruiyot

Sorghum bread has excited bread consumers in Nakuru town following the introduction of the product in the market. The bread is baked using composite flour of sorghum and wheat at some ideal ratios. It is not just any sorghum but some special cultivar developed and evaluated at Egerton University by a team of scientists led by Prof. Erick Cheruiyot. It is a product of a concept developed by the team and supported by the then Kenya Agricultural and Agribusiness Project (KAPAP), financed by the World Bank in 2011. When KAPAP project ended, five sorghum lines had been identified as good for baking and one of them was submitted to KEPHIS for the National performance trial. It is the same line, EUS 130 that has been used to market sorghum baked food products. Through the support of the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) at Egerton University, the introduction and marketing of sorghum baked food products have been made possible. The flour from EUS 130 with a given ratio of wheat flour can produce bread, buns, scones, chapatti and mandazi. Bread is currently available in Woolmatt Supermarket in Nakuru city and soon will extend to other bakeries.

Sorghum is one of the climate-smart crops due to its resilience to low soil moisture which is now a frequent occurrence due to climate change. The team of Scientist from Egerton University have been working on strategies to promote sorghum for food and nutrition security. The team has targeted sorghum for both domestic and industrial needs. So far, sorghum varieties under Egerton name have been

released for various uses: they are EUSH1 for malting and brewing, EUSS 10 and EUSS 11 for ethanol extraction and EUS 130 for baked food products. The team in collaboration with scientists from KALRO is currently working on a 'Super-Feed' fodder sorghum whose attributes are high energy with sugar-rich stalk, less lignin for improved digestibility and staying green characteristics.

Erick Cheruiyot is Professor of Agronomy, Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University



A variety of loaves of bread produced from a special cultivar developed and evaluated at Egerton University

Continued from page 10

Egerton-Nakuru County Collaboration

more with these farmers and the community.

The Nakuru Governor further said that he would seek to enhance linkages that will connect more farmers to researchers, leverage the University as a tourism destination and kick-start the gazettement process of Lord Egerton Castle as a historic site. This is because Nakuru County had been recognised as World Heritage Site for tourism and culture.

The Governor also pledged that the County Government would support

and participate in the upcoming 8th Edition of the Mau Run in February 2023. The Mau Run is held annually to support the rehabilitation of the Mau Ecosystem and the Njoro River. He also promised to support the upgrade of roads within the main campus, Ngongongeri Farm and the Kenyatta Campus.

The VC was accompanied by Prof. Bockline Bebe (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Extension), Prof. Richard Mulwa (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration,

Planning and Development), Prof. Joshua Ogendo (Principal Nakuru Town Campus College), Prof. Nancy Mungai (Ag. Director, Research and Extension), and Prof. Paul Kimurto (Director and Marketing, Resource Mobilisation and Agro-science Park).

Ms Agnes Mwangi is the Communication and Marketing Manager, Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University

A Call to Advance with a Sense of Purpose



*Prof. Benard O. Aduda
DVC (AA)*

It is a momentous time for our University as we celebrate the 45th graduation ceremony. On behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, I take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduands who have toiled hard to reach this important milestone in pursuit of higher education, knowledge and skills that form the foundation of your journey ahead. We are confident that you are equipped with excellent academic skills and competencies, character and integrity that will make you people of distinction in whatever field you choose to make contribution to in society. This achievement, however, is not the end of learning. Continue in the path of self-discovery, and learning. Consequently, advance in your chosen path with a renewed sense of purpose.

Graduation is a significant moment in your lives and for your families, friends, and everyone else who has had the privilege of nurturing and supporting you. We sincerely thank your parents, guardians and sponsors for the support given to you in pursuit of your studies to completion.

In the past year, the University, and mainly the Academic Division, has been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the attendant uncertainties. These have had serious implications on the overall implementation of the academic calendar and the transition times of our students in the various stages of academic progression. Yet, despite all these interruptions, we were able to re-align our activities and complete the academic journey as required. The culmination of these efforts by both members of staff and students is our 45th Graduation Ceremony. May I also take this opportunity

to thank the entire staff for their endless support in ensuring that we deliver on this mandate.

This being my inaugural graduation at Egerton University, I wish to thank the Government of Kenya and the University Council for according me the chance to serve this premier institution in the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs). I promise to discharge my duties diligently towards achieving the Vision of the University of a world-class university for the advancement of humanity, being guided by the core values of social fairness, and professionalism, devotion to duty, passion for excellence, integrity, transparency and accountability. Together with other staff, we will continue putting emphasis on the creation of a conducive environment for academic excellence and shaping our programmes towards the needs of the modern world.

As we celebrate the 45th Graduation Ceremony, allow me to take stock of some of the key achievements by the Division of Academic Affairs. In terms of new enrolments we exceeded the target of 4,500 by registering 5,904 students in the 2020/2021 academic year. This include 1,195 female students in science and engineering programmes. However, the biggest challenge has been to increase the completion rate of our undergraduates to more than 80 percent annually. As we forge ahead, this quest will occupy our minds as we put in place strategies, e.g., enhancing efficiencies in our academic processes, discipline, and effective mentorship of students, that will ensure our students complete their studies on time, besides having memorable experiences at the University.

Furthermore, we will strive to ensure that our graduates are creative, innovative and solution-driven in line with industry requirements. In this regard, I want to mention and celebrate a few examples: 1) Two final-year students in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology emerged third in the World Engineering Day Hackathon. The duo's project, dubbed Hyapak, focused on transforming water hyacinth into an economically beneficial resource for communities; 2) From the Faculty of Health Sciences three club members were honoured to present research abstracts at the 49th Annual Kenya Medical Association Scientific Conference hosted in Eldoret; and 3) Students of the Faculty of Science emerged the first runners up against 263 teams in the 2021 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Kenya Inter University Strategic Business Leadership (SBL) challenge held in February 2022. The challenge required the

teams to play a strategic planning advisory role to an NGO which was considering expanding its remit to include long-term water supply solutions, engage the services of a marketing agency as well as adopt cloud and mobile technology. These successes give me the confidence to exhort our already well-trained graduates to go out and apply the knowledge and skills already attained to empower and develop our wider society and our economy in line with the theme of this 45th Graduation Ceremony – “A University Education for Development”.

However, the education envisioned in our current theme cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires establishing strategic partnerships and collaboration with partners, and this has remained one of our goals. The Division continues to extend its collaborations and linkages both locally and internationally. During the year, the University signed memoranda of understanding with Samara State University

of Economics (Samara, Russia) and Lovely Professional University (India). In these partnerships, we host students from the collaborating institutions, and reciprocally our students also are hosted. For example, from 6 June to 31 July 2022 the University hosted 14 undergraduate students from various universities in the USA under the Egerton University-Bowie State University collaboration on global research and extension experience. These mutual agreements seek to strengthen our academic programmes and develop joint faculty and student capacities as we seek solutions to the challenges affecting the society here and beyond.

I conclude by again beseeching our graduands to go out and be participants in positively transforming our country and global community. We welcome you to our Alumni Association in order for you to give back to the institution.

I wish you all the best and success in your future endeavours. God bless you, God bless Egerton University. ■



On 28 April 2022 the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics hosted a Workshop on writing which was attended by representative students and staff members from all the Faculties of the University. The Workshop was conducted by Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario (standing, centre), a renowned scholar and writer, who is also the Chair of the Egerton University Council. The theme of the Workshop was “Unity in the Paragraph”.

FOA Boosts International Linkages and Youth Self-Employment



Prof. Patience M. Mshenga

I feel privileged to extend a warm invitation to all parents, guardians and friends to join us in celebrating the academic achievements of our 45th graduating class. I wish to thank you for your support during their time at the University. I sincerely congratulate all the graduands on behalf of the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA). It has been our delight to see you grow and develop academically. You are now prepared to reap the benefits of your labour since you have the knowledge, skills and competencies that will help you navigate the complex world.

In the last six months, FOA has persisted in being a trailblazer in forging international linkages and advocating for youth self-employment for the good of the University and especially the students. The Collaborative Action for Scaling Agri-Entrepreneurship and Industry Engagement in Food and Agribusiness Training in Sub-Saharan Africa (AgriSCALE) successfully hosted the first international student challenge in the University from 28 March – 8 April 2022. The challenge, themed “Promoting Water Hyacinth Biofuel Production and Consumption”, incorporated student participants from

Egerton University, Aalto University and Häme University of Applied Sciences in Finland.

The Strengthening Agri-Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Training in East, West and North Africa (AgriENGAGE) project conducted its first summer school in Morocco from 4-15 July 2022. The summer school was hosted by Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. The participants were drawn from 10 universities: Egerton University and Pwani University (Kenya), Gulu University and Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda), UM6P and IAV (Morocco), University of Abomey Calavy and National University of Agriculture (Benin), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Pavia (Italy). The Regional Universities For Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) also participated. The participants were trained on Agripreneurship and Community Engagement. The students are now sharing what they learnt during the summer school with other students as well as applying the skills and knowledge in their own Agrienterprises and Community Engagement initiatives.

The Faculty has further enhanced its collaboration with the Israel Embassy and Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT) by supporting students for an 11-month internship programme in the Arava region of Israel. The main focus of the programme is to impart professional, theoretical and practical know-how and skills in advanced agricultural studies, based on the “Learning by Doing” model.

The Empowering Kenyan Youth through Agrienterprise Incubation for Improved Livelihoods and Economic Development (AGLEAD) Incubation Hub has made further progress in the field of promoting youth self-

employment. One of its student enterprises, Desktop Lunches, successfully built its first franchise restaurant opposite the Egerton University gate. The franchise promises to be one of many to come as the enterprise was also awarded a lease to operate another restaurant in Nakuru City.

The Egerton University-Bowie State University REU-REEU Programme 2022 for US Undergraduate Students on Global Research and Extension Experience in Kenya is currently supporting 14 undergraduate students recruited from 8 universities across the United States of America. During the 8 weeks at Egerton University, the students are being hosted by the Mentors/Professors from the departments of Crops Horticulture and Soils, Agriculture Education and Extension, and Biological Sciences. The mentorship will expose the students to: Ethics in Science, Scientific Writing and Seminars, Design and Preparation of Posters, Life Competency Workshops, and Graduate Opportunities in Africa.

The Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) hosted a team from Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, USA. The purpose of the visit was to explore an extended collaboration between VT and CESAAM, Egerton University. The joint activities included tours and visits with non-academic actors in Nakuru and Kampala, faculty-to-faculty discussions and discussions on future collaborations.

To the graduands, best wishes for the future and once more, congratulations on your graduation! I have no doubt that you will continue to represent Egerton University as worthy ambassadors. ■

TAGDev Supports 181 Bright Students

By Nancy Mungai

As the Programme Coordinator for Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to African Growth and Development (TAGDev) programme, I congratulate all the graduands who made it to the graduation list of the 45th Graduation Ceremony. Thirty-six (36) of the graduands have been supported through the TAGDev programme; 28 undergraduates (18 males and 10 females), seven masters (five males and two females) and one female PhD graduand. The TAGDev programme is anchored on three pillars, namely; experiential learning, community engagement and entrepreneurship, which are aimed at bringing transformation at the individual, institutional and community levels. The programme has supported 181 bright students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds but with a passion for agricultural transformation.

TAGDev's Impact through Community Engagement and Radio Programme

To enhance community outreach and experiential learning, the TAGDev programme trained 30 undergraduate and postgraduate students (10 males and 20 females) to equip them with skills necessary for initiating community engagement, fundamental principles of adult learning and designing experiential learning programmes. These skills are key in providing extension services and engaging the community, therefore, achieving the programme's objective of community transformation. To enhance the dissemination of information to farmers by the students on important topics along the agriculture value chain and environment conservation, the programme has organised nine radio shows termed 'Kilimo Bora' aired on Egerton Radio station every Saturday

between 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. The programme will end in April 2023.

TAGDev Students Excel in Leadership and Innovation

Forty-eight TAGDev-supported students (20 males and 28 females) are currently holding various leadership positions. To mention a few, the current Chairman of Egerton University Students Association (EUSA), Mr Dennis Otero, and the Postgraduate Congress, Miss Judith Engurat, are TAGDev-supported students. This indicates transformation at both the individual and the institutional level. Four TAGDev-supported students teamed up to form the 4-Pillar Give Back Project. This student-driven initiative is tailored towards promoting agripreneurship among rural farmers, enhancing youth community engagement and promoting social responsibility towards a sustainable agricultural community.

Two other TAGDev students developed an outreach app dubbed "Myfarmer" that links farmers to agricultural services. The students were selected among top ten innovators out of 300 applicants to participate in the Start Hub Africa Boot Camp held from 28 March to 2 April 2022 at Strathmore University, where they pitched their business idea.

Finally, another TAGDev-supported student known as Edmond Nfor received the Gold Standard of the President's Award Scheme for young people for his participation in community engagements through the Duke of Edinburgh sponsored Scheme. The award ceremony was held at Statehouse Nairobi on 13 May 2022.

TAGDev Supports Student Enterprises

The TAGDev programme has been supporting students' enterprises as a way of promoting innovations. Some of the enterprises supported recently

include Plotus Technology which has diversified its products and has innovated a Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) tool kit for grade 4 to grade 6 pupils which contains crotchets, crayons, sim rippers, ruler and protractor, to meet the needs of the CBC curriculum. The enterprise has 11 employees (two females and nine males).

A second supported enterprise is the Efarm App, which is a farm management application for dairy farmers developed by students. The App has gained popularity among dairy smallholder farmers. It has 162 new farmers while 422 others are continuing to benefit from the services offered by the App. Efarm App has three employees (two females and one male).

A third TAGDev-supported enterprise is the Dolcester Company, which deals with peanut butter, peanut cookies and peanut roasted products. The company, which recently acquired a Kenya Bureau of Standards certificate for its products, has employed three people (one female and two males).

Finally, another TAGDev-supported students' enterprise by the name Comrades Dairy and Food Enterprises was selected as a beneficiary of the Kenya Climate Innovation Centre Hub that is supporting small and medium enterprises that are developing innovations to address the challenges of climate change and youth employment in Kenya. Comrades Dairy and Food Enterprises is in the process of constructing a manufacturing plant a few kilometres from the University.

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

TAGDev-Supported Graduands of the 45th Graduation



Daniel Musyoka
Master of Science
Agri-enterprise Development



Felix Satognon
Master of Science
in Soil Science



Gad Sambrumo
Master of Science in
Agri-enterprise Development



Joseph Odhiambo
Master of Community
Development Studies



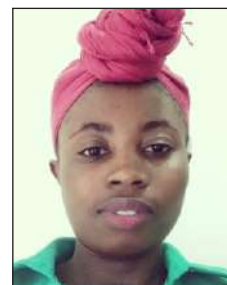
Leila Akinyi Ndalilo
Master of Science
in Horticulture



Jackline Atieno Omondi
Master of Science in
Natural Resource Management



Richard Kenana
Master of Science in
Animal Science



Uwamariya Masca
Master of Science in
Agricultural Extension



The PS for State Department for University Education and Research, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (right) plants a tree during a Steering Committee of the African Centres of Excellence at Egerton University's Main Campus in Njoro on 4 February 2022, with him is the Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (left) and the Director of the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, Prof. George Owuor (centre)

FASS Hosts Notable Scholars



Prof. Hadija M. Murenga

Hallo Graduands. On behalf of the members of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), I salute you all on this 45th Graduation Ceremony. It is with a lot of excitement that FASS joins you in celebrating your success. You are a very special lot. You are special in the sense that you faced a number of challenges but still remained focused on completing your studies. The challenges you encountered included a students' strike, staff strikes and the disruptions to the academic calendar occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. We appreciate you for your resilience and congratulate you on this important occasion. On behalf of members of the Faculty, I wish you a successful career life.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the academic staff of the Faculty for their commitment to duty that ensured that the graduands completed their studies. I also thank the support staff at the Faculty for their tireless effort in serving the students and ensuring they are as comfortable as they can while in campus.

The Faculty has engaged in the following activities since January 2022:

Wolkswagon Foundation Humanities Workshop

This workshop took place on 29 March 2022 and was facilitated by Prof.

Sebastian Lecocq from Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. Prof. Lecocq presented a paper titled "Towards a Social Cultural History of Civil Aviation in Africa" which he wrote in collaboration with Prof. Dmitri Van den Berseleaar of the University at Leipzig. Prof. Lecocq is also an expert in project evaluation and a specialist of Sahel and Muslim communities. He works in collaboration with Dr Halkano Wario (Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies, Egerton University) and Falizia Abdi. As research partners, Dr Wario, Abdi and Prof. Lecocq, among others, are working on a public policy on countering violent extremism in Africa.

During the workshop, Dr Wario presented briefly on a project he and his team are working on under Wolkswagon Foundation on countering violent extremism.

FASS Receives Books and Journals from BIEA

On 25 May 2022, FASS hosted four representatives of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA) who visited Njoro Campus to donate books and journals and to also popularise the Institute's activities in Egerton University. BIEA has been conducting and supporting innovative research in the humanities and social sciences across Africa since 1960. Besides promoting research and disseminating the findings through book publications, BIEA has also established two top-notch journals: *Azania* and *Journal of Eastern African Studies* (JEAS). It is this scholarly output that the guests from BIEA sought to share with Egertonians.

The BIEA team consisted of Mr Jimmy Maranga (the Institute's librarian), Dr Fred Nasubo and Dr Kennedy Gitu (postdoctoral research fellows) and Mr Jimmy Maina (a doctoral student). They were received by Prof. Hadijah Murenga (Dean FASS), Dr Joshua Ayiemba (Chairman, Peace, History and Religion Department) and other FASS staff.

The book donation constitutes a

valuable resource for both postgraduate students and academic staff at Egerton University. This is particularly the case with JEAS, which is multidisciplinary and covers themes beyond the traditional humanities and social sciences such as epidemics, pandemics and epizootics; citizens and science; knowing the environment; and technologies of politics.

Elaborating on their mission, the BIEA team welcomed Egerton University students and staff to participate in the Institute's programmes such as the Graduate Forum (held twice a month), the Annual Graduate Conference, and Graduate Attachment programme. These forums, it was noted, serve as training grounds for budding scholars while faculty members serve as guest-speakers and panellists. The team also urged Egertonians to apply for the various forms of research funding offered by the Institute and to also patronise its well-resourced library.

FASS Hosts Seminar by University of Pretoria Scholar

On 23 March 2022, FASS had the honour to host Prof. Lize Kriel from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She had been invited as a keynote speaker during the 14th Biennial Egerton University International Conference which was held between 23 and 25 March, 2022.

Prof Kriel is a rated Professor of Visual Arts (Art History). She is the current Chair of Visual Arts Department and the Deputy Head of the School of the Arts at the University of Pretoria where she teaches Visual Cultural Studies. She has vast research experience in history, history of books, arts and organic intellectual traditions in Africa. Her presentation at the FASS Boardroom was titled 'Past(ssed?) Encounters, Visual(ised) and Digital(ised): On Archiving Colonial Knowledge'. The presentation was attended by academic staff and students from all the faculties of Egerton University.

FEDCOS Strengthens Capacity of Teacher Education and Institutional Management in Kenya



Prof. Joseph Mworio Wamutitu

Education and training are a great engine for socio-economic transformation. The Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS) offers quality education and training of competent professionals who can become the principal vehicles for the socio-economic transformation of Kenya. FEDCOS has four departments: Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Management (CIEM); Agriculture Education and Extension (AGED); Psychology, Counselling and Educational Foundations (PSYCOEDFO); and Applied Community and Development Studies (ACDS). Each department has highly qualified academic and technical staff who play a key role in imparting knowledge and sharpening learners during training. While re-aligning its curricula to Vision 2030 and the Kenya Constitution 2010, FEDCOS is prioritising its activities and programmes in terms of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC), flexible education pathways, national learning assessment system and national values, national cohesion, as well as citizenship education.

The current challenges in education in Kenya call for an urgent development of a comprehensive training of trainers programme to empower lecturers, teacher trainers and their students to deliver the changes that have been made in the existing basic school curricula (CBC), within the Basic Education Curriculum Framework (BECF), towards student-centered inquiry-based approaches and modern learning environments. In preparation for this, FEDCOS is collaborating with other organisations to ensure quality delivery of services. Some of these include the Partnership of African Social Governance and Research (PASGR) and the Training of Trainers for Teacher Education and Management in Kenya (TOTEMK). PASGR has worked with the Faculty in the area of Pedagogical Leadership Training which has resulted in the development a Master of Research and Public Policy (MRPP) programme and a Postgraduate Diploma in Pedagogy for academic staff which will be launched soon. The Faculty is working with the TOTEMK project, which is an initiative by 5 institutions, i.e., the University of Nairobi, Pwani University, Strathmore University, University of Helsinki, and Laurea University, together with other government partners. Its target is to strengthen the capacity of teacher education and institutional management in Kenya and get more teachers for the labour market who are competent to deliver the CBC in the Kenyan schools. Currently nine of FEDCOS' academic staff have completed their TOTEMK training. Additionally, a number of staff in the Faculty are working with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in the development of CBC curriculum for junior and senior

“While re-aligning its curricula to Vision 2030 and the Kenya Constitution 2010, FEDCOS is prioritising its activities and programmes in terms of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC)”

school.

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

To our graduands, as you leave Egerton University, it is our expectation as FEDCOS that we have prepared you adequately to become valuable citizens. Take your place in the society and continue improving yourselves. Rebrand yourselves always.

To my colleagues at FEDCOS, let us continue providing quality sustainable programmes, training and consultancies nationally and in the region. ■

Mainstreaming the Youth as Agents of Environmental Conservation and Peaceful Co-existence



Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD), to congratulate all the graduands of the 45th Graduation Ceremony for reaching this far. At FERD, we are proud to be associated with your success and happy to release you into a world of huge possibilities and opportunities. I urge you to make use of the knowledge and skills we have equipped you with to grab the available opportunities. Your future is bright.

I wish to appreciate all those who have contributed to your success in one way or another, including your parents, guardians, lecturers, and the support staff at Egerton University.

During the last two quarters of the financial year ending June, 2022, students in the FERD participated in various activities that helped raise awareness not only about environmental conservation but also about the importance of peaceful co-existence, especially during the electioneering period. This is a manifestation of how the innovativeness and intellect of young

people can be used for the good of humanity. Four of these activities are reported here below.

Egerton University Environmental Week

The Egerton University Environment Week took place on 23-27 May 2022. Through FERD student leaders Evans Murei (Congress FERD), Margaret Njeri Gathoni (Treasurer Egerton University Students Association) and Nyamira Enock (outgoing Postgraduate Congress), the University fraternity was mobilised to participate in the week-long event, which was sponsored by TAGDEV and Kenya Forest Service. During the week, various conservation activities were conducted, the climax being on 27 May 2022 when mentorship on good environmental stewardship and tree planting were conducted in selected nearby schools.

World Environmental Day Celebrations

Two activities were undertaken to commemorate World Environment Day celebrations. These were executed by the Egerton University Environmental Association, whose patron is the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi. The Chairman of the Club is Dominic Mulinge, a student from Environmental Science Department. The activities included clean-up and tree planting at Njoro Town and its vicinity as well as tree planting at Menengai Forest.

With the cooperation of the Njoro Sub-County Environment officers, the students embarked on clean-up and awareness creation as they interacted with the public. They later planted 70

Turn to page 22

“The objectives of the event were to highlight the importance of youth in conserving the environment and creating awareness on maintaining peace during and after the 2022 General Election in Kenya. A total of 1,000 tree seedlings were planted in Milimani High School, Naivasha.”



Pupils from Ndarugu Primary School, Njoro, and students from Egerton University plant trees on the School compound on 24 May 2022. The event was part of the Egerton University Environmental Week (23-27 May 2022).

Build Your Careers with Confidence



Dr Moses N. Gichuki

On behalf of the entire Faculty of Science fraternity, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the 2017 graduating class. We know that you have exceptionally overcome and risen over the extraordinary circumstances to forge the path and arrive today as graduates.

I am certain, as you look back, you will see that there is a long and winding path that has led you to this moment. This is a time for all of us to celebrate and honor your accomplishments.

Please take this opportunity to reflect upon the time you devoted to your studies and your interactions with your colleagues and faculty members and make the most of opportunities to build a better future.

As you embark on building your careers, I encourage you to embrace resilience as you chart your professional lives.

The following are some of the activities that have taken place at the Faculty of Science since the 44th Graduation:

Egerton First Runner's Up in the ACCA Inter University Challenge
The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) organised an

Inter University Strategic Business Leader (SBL) Challenge Kenya which was launched in September 2021. Egerton University students registered for the challenge to compete against 263 teams, under the team name "The Incredibles" composed of four students and two mentors.

The contest had four tasks split into three stages which required the teams to play a strategic planning advisory role to a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). Team Incredibles performed well in the first and second rounds and secured a position to participate in the final round. The Finals and Awards Presentation Ceremony was held on 25 February 2022 at Villa Rosa Kempinski, in

received internship/mentorship placements. Joan Muchiri is serving a one-year internship position at British American Tobacco (BAT) since May 2022. Knight Frank Kenya, on the other hand, engaged Sharon Cheptoo in June 2022 while Jermain Nyatta's internship offer is to commence in August 2022.

Participating in the SBL Challenge offered Egerton University the opportunity to develop university-industry partnerships. ACCA in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, with TAGDEV's support,



From Left: Patrick Kuria, (Partner, PKF Kenya LLP) Bonface Muhindi, Joan Muchiri, Charles M. Ringera (FCCA - CEO & Board Sec HELB, Chief Guest), Jermain Nyatta, Sharon Cheptoo, & Steve Obuogo (Head of ACCA Kenya & Tanzania) during the award of a gift hamper to Team Incredibles on 15 February 2022 at The Villa Rosa Kempinski, Nairobi

Nairobi.

Team Incredibles emerged first runners up and were awarded smart phones, a trophy, certificates, ACCA gift hampers and mentorship/internship opportunities with ACCA affiliate companies.

Three of the students have since

organised a career and professional development support talk to Egerton University students held on Wednesday 25 May 2022. Over 150 students from various Faculties participated and were equipped with global insights about the profession.

Launch of Optical Spectroscopy Laboratory at Chemistry Department

An optical spectroscopy laboratory was officially launched by the Dean, Faculty of Science at the Chemistry Department in the Physical Science Complex on 25 April 2022. The launch was the culmination of the generous support of laboratory equipment and IT support equipment from the Centre for International Migration and Development, a joint cooperation of the GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency. Dr John O. Adongo, who is a lecturer at the Chemistry Department was instrumental in developing the proposal that attracted funds for the equipment support.

The optical spectroscopy lab focuses on training and equipping chemistry students with practical spectroscopic knowledge, skills and competencies that find useful applications in quantitative analytical chemistry. Such skills are important in preparing future chemists to work in national quality control labs, bureaus of standards, pharmaceuticals, petroleum industries, oil industries among others. The laboratory also compliments research projects that postgraduate students are involved in within the Department. The recent acquisition of a modern state-of-the-art advanced K9000 UV-VIS double beam spectrophotometer, a modern IT workstation and advanced graphing and analytical software will go a long

way towards mentoring upcoming students in analytical chemistry.

Computers Science Students Showcase Their Innovations at the ASK Show

During this year's Nakuru ASK Show held from 29 June to 3 July, 2022, fourth year Computer Science students had the opportunity to showcase their outstanding software applications.

Among these was the Pet Healthcare Management System (Pet State App). The App automates pet

healthcare management and remotely links pet owners with veterinary doctors.

The other software application showcased was the Agricultural Produce Courier Services System (Farm Beba Beba App) which aims at enhancing efficiency in courier services for farm produce. The App seeks to link farmers with the nearest reliable boda boda transporter of farm produce.



From Left: JoyMary Kirongo and Ian Nditi students from the Faculty of Science, Egerton University demonstrating the use of their Pet State App to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Extension), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, during the ASK Nakuru Show on 29 June 2022

trees at the Njoro Sub-County Hospital grounds. In the afternoon hours, they split into two groups and went for environmental awareness creation at Njoro Boys and Njoro Girls High Schools.

The World Environment Day celebrations for Nakuru County were hosted at the Menengai Forest. The students were included in the programme of the day whereby they presented a poem and gave a talk on

why it is important for young people to be champions of conserving our mother nature. They joined other participants and invited guests to plant trees at the venue.

Trees for Peace Event in Naivasha on 18 June, 2022

The activity was undertaken by Egerton University Environmental Association. The objectives of the event were to highlight the importance

of youth in conserving the environment and creating awareness on maintaining peace during and after the 2022 General Election in Kenya. A total of 1,000 tree seedlings were planted in Milimani High School, Naivasha. Afterwards, the students held a brainstorming session on how youth can be better agents of peace and environmental conservation in their

Life-Changing Fellowships for Needy and Bright Students at Egerton University

By Nzula Kitaka

The Rotary Club of Vienna (RCV) has been sponsoring bright students from humble economic backgrounds in Egerton University's Department of Biological Sciences and the University at large, under the leadership of Prof. Nzula Kitaka of Egerton University and Mr Florian Demmer, who doubles as the fellowship chancellor. Originally, the fellowship focused on covering tuition and research funds for two students pursuing the Master of Science degree in Limnology every year since 2015. But because of an increase in the number of needy students at the undergraduate level, the Egerton Coordinator (Prof. Kitaka), had to negotiate for inclusion of some of the students in the fellowship programme. Consequently, two of the undergraduate students who benefited from the RCV fellowship are graduating today. They are Ms Maseret Tadesse Endale from Marsabit County, who is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Water and Environmental Engineering, and Ms Serah Mwende Mutua from Makueni County, is graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agribusiness Management. I am grateful to Mr Florian Demmer for approving my request to incorporate the concerned undergraduate student in the programme.

In the 2022/2023 academic year, the RCV has awarded fellowships to three more students, including two postgraduate students who are pursuing the Master of Science degree in Limnology and are currently in their first semester (Ms Elizabeth Nyauchi from Pap-Onditi, Kisumu, and Mr Kelvin Kariuki Muli from Chuka, Meru) and one undergraduate student, Ms Harriet Leah Jacob from Tana River County, who is pursuing the Bachelor of Education Science degree.

It is noteworthy that Ms Harriet Leah Jacob was supposed to begin her studies in September 2021 but differed due to financial challenges, which was brought to our attention. Harriet will be starting her studies in August/September 2022.

To date the Rotary Club of Vienna has awarded fellowships to 17 students (14 Masters and 3 undergraduate) from across the country. Below are testimonials from the first undergraduate students under RCV fellowship to make it to the graduation list.

Mesret Endale Tadesa (BSc. Water and Environmental Engineering) – Faculty of Engineering and Technology

I was determined to acquire quality education but financial problems had been the biggest challenge. Having deferred my studies in 2015, I never thought that I would be able to get the university education that I always desired. I was on

the verge of deferring my studies for the second time in 2016 when I met Prof. Kitaka and my life took a different course.

Thank you RCV for considering to sponsor me through my five-year academic journey at Egerton University to study the Bachelor of Science in Water and Environmental Engineering degree. I was supported in school fees, books, stipend and hostel fees. These made my life on campus smooth, and I had the opportunity to concentrate more on my studies.

Without the RCV scholarship I would not have been the person I am today, i.e. a Water and Environmental Engineer. I am very grateful to Florian Demmer, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, and all the people who helped me to secure this prestigious scholarship. It is through this scholarship that I got to be the change maker in my society by practicing water engineering.

I will take up the challenge and impact the lives of the underprivileged in our society as a form of gratitude to RCV.

Thank you!

Ms. Serah Mwende Mutua (BSc Agribusiness Management) - Faculty of Agriculture

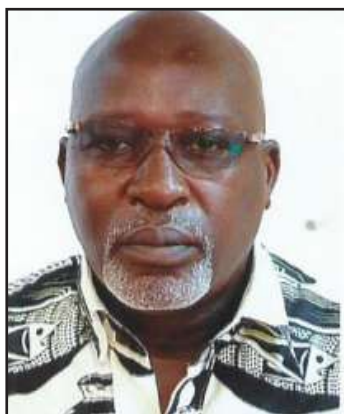
My journey as an undergraduate student at Egerton University began in August 2017. My studies could not have been successful without the financial support I got from the RCV. The scholarship came when my academic journey seemed impossible and I was almost giving up on my studies. No words could express how happy I was when I was informed that I was one of the beneficiaries of this great opportunity. It was a golden chance in my life, and I will forever be grateful.

The RCV scholarship has turned what was only a dream to me into a reality. It has been an exciting moment in my life, and my academic journey has been made smooth by the scholarship Coordinator, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, who has not only been a mentor and a role model but also a mother to me. I am grateful to her for the belief she had in me and the support she gave me throughout my academic journey. Through her guidance and encouragement, she has developed me into a strong person and taught me to face every situation with courage. I am grateful that the RCV has made me a better person today.

Thank you for the scholarship, it has been a life transforming experience for which I will forever be grateful.

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

Faculty Engaged in International Research Project in Aquatic Resources



*Dr Caleb Oburu Orenge
Ag. Dean*

As we celebrate the 45th Graduation, the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (FVMS) is also celebrating its tenth year since it was hived out from its mother faculty, the Faculty of Agriculture, and transformed into a full and stand-alone faculty in August 2012.

Upon its inauguration, the Faculty mounted the programmes of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and surgery (BVMS) and Bachelor of Science in Animal Health management (B.Sc. ANHEM), in addition to the Diploma in Animal health programme. It was during the University's 37th congregation for the conferment of degrees and award of diplomas that the faculty produced its first batch of 25 Bachelor of Science and 39 Diploma in Animal Health graduates respectively.

In 2015, the Faculty received its first batch of 19 students for the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS) programme, and on 18 June 2019, at the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, 11 of them graduated as the first batch of BVMS graduates from the Faculty. In the meantime, the

numbers of BVMS students admitted in the Faculty have been rising steadily, albeit at a slow pace due to limitations in the requisite facilities, from the initial number of 19 to the current figure of close to 70.

During the current 45th Graduation Ceremony, the Faculty is presenting the second batch of BVMS graduands, who total 19 in number, implying that, so far, it will have contributed a total of 38 graduates from the programme and several hundred graduates in general to the country's pool of veterinary surgeons and animal health practitioners.

The Faculty has young scientists, and, although they are few in number, we are happy that the University Management Board and the University Council are keen in recruiting and retaining more staff members in order to move the Faculty to the next level. Currently four Faculty members are at advanced stages of completing their Ph.D. degrees. Dr M.L. Kisipan and Dr J.K. Thuo, both from the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology (VAPH), are registered in the University of Copenhagen and have published three articles in peer reviewed journals from their research work. Recently, they participated in an international conference in Marseille, France.

Similarly, Dr W. Ngetich from the Department of Veterinary Surgery, Theriogenology and Medicine (VSTM) is registered in the Department of Clinical Studies at the University of Nairobi, while Dr E.W. Mwihi of the department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology (VPMP) is in the process of submitting her Ph.D. thesis while awaiting defense at Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU).

The Faculty is currently undertaking a collaborative research project entitled "Enhanced Capacity for Aquatic Resources in East and South Africa (ECARESA)" in collaboration with the following universities: NMBU and the University of Nairobi; the University of Dares Salaam's Institute of Marine Science (IMS) and Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Tanzania; Makerere University (MU) in Uganda; University of Zambia (UNZA) in Zambia; Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi; and Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique. The project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED). Its goal is to strengthen education and research capacity in aquatic and environmental health in Sub-Saharan Africa. It intends to achieve this through training of human resources at the Masters, the Ph.D., and the postdoctoral levels while generating information to fill knowledge gaps in aquatic sciences. Capacity building in these fields is required to ensure an expanded, qualified workforce in institutions with solid research capabilities, which can educate and train competent resource persons, who will meet tomorrow's development challenges related to production of quality high-value protein in the aquatic environment.

Currently, one post-doctoral fellow and one Master of Science student from Egerton are being supported by the on-going project. The ECARESA project is the second one on capacity building in aquatic resources funded by

Turn to page 25

BUGS/FAP Ensures University Programmes Aligned to Market Needs



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

The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is proud to be associated with the graduands, and congratulates them on the important academic milestone that graduation represents. Graduation is the ultimate measure of a student's success and a significant event in the

University's academic calendar. It is also a celebration of the academic staff and the academic departments who have successfully completed the academic cycle for the graduating cohorts.

The Directorate has continually ensured that undergraduate programmes offered at the University are competitive and aligned to market needs. The programmes have various forms of field/industrial attachment components, including the Farm Attachment Programme (FAP), which had over 110 students attached on farms for 8 weeks between April and June 2022. In addition, the regular 8-week attachment programme had over 1,500 students attached in industries and other firms. A further 650 students were involved in teaching practice in various secondary schools for a period of one term. The feedback received from these engagements with industry and other stakeholders is critical in the review and development of new curricula.

The University has continued to

partner with Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT) in Israel to provide hands-on skills for students undertaking agriculturally 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. This year, the recruitment team from AICAT, led by the Director, visited the University to orient prospective students and also conduct interviews. This led to the selection of 43 students who will form the 9th cohort (some of whom are among those graduating today). They are currently being processed for the training that starts in August 2022. We are delighted with the increase in the slots for interns from Egerton University to 50 students. However, there are difficulties in meeting this quota as many students selected for the programme fail to acquire the travel documents (passports) on time, while others fail to raise funds for the air ticket. These are difficulties we must overcome in the future.

Continued from page 24

Aquatic Research Project

NORAD/NORHED following the first project, Capacity Building for Training and Research in Aquatic and Environmental Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (TRAHESA), which saw one doctoral student, Dr. E.W. Mwihi from Egerton supported.

Finally, I wish to congratulate all those graduating from the Faculty and wish you well in your future life, and God's blessings, as you further scale the heights of your career and as you actualise and implement the famous proclamation, "I now give you the powers to read and do all that appertains to your degree."



Mr Harrison Mwangi, a Technical Assistant in the Department of Veterinary Surgery, Theriogeniology and Medicine, Egerton University, demonstrates how to use a livestock injection needle during the ASK Nakuru Show in the Egerton stand on 1 July 2022

A Bird's Eye's View of Success



Prof. Nzula Kitaka

Today is one of those days when even the birds flying in the sky, perching on a tree or skipping on the ground can feel the mood of success and achievement of Egerton University across the country and beyond its boundaries. Graduation is a symbol of success and an occasion whose spirit of celebration supersedes the challenges that graduands may have faced in the course of their studies. However, for universities, apart from celebrating the award of Diplomas and conferment of Degrees, graduation provides an opportunity for reflection and serves as a basis for institutional re-engineering.

Egerton University has not escaped the challenges facing universities in the 21st Century, but the innovative approaches we have adopted to overcome them have been the pillar of our success. The Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) is honoured to have walked with the postgraduate students during the eventful and sometimes uncertain journey they have travelled, especially during the Covid -19 pandemic. Swift measures and aligned regulations became the new norm for institutional survival. On behalf of BPGS, I celebrate all the graduands of the 45th Graduation Ceremony for your focus and determination. A special

message of congratulations goes to the postgraduate graduands for your endurance and unwavering desire to achieve your goals. The fact that you are graduating today indicates that you never set your eyes off from your goal, no matter what the circumstances were. Again, congratulations! Your success is our pride as BPGS. Today marks the beginning of your career journey or provides a slip road to the superhighway for your next destination. Pat yourself on the back and celebrate yourself from wherever you are across the globe.

Graduation is equivalent to crossing the line in a race or to the rite of passage practised by many African cultures. It symbolises your readiness to conquer the world. Egerton University has provided you with the necessary skills and knowledge to be leaders, solution providers and more so academic thinkers.

Having interacted with many of you for the last six years, has taught me to be patient, open-minded and a swift thinker, as well as to be firm in decision-making, taking into consideration personal and institutional expectations, and societal dynamics. Thank you for your own patience, understanding and the support you gave me as the Director BPGS, and for helping me and the Graduate School Team to make your postgraduate studies attainable and less stressful while at Egerton University. Sometimes you may have felt that decisions made were too harsh or inconsiderate. However, the role of BPGS is to protect everyone's Intellectual Property Right (IPR), including those of students and supervisors, and to align all academic activities to the University's and regulatory bodies' regulations. As Helen Keller has noted, "The highest result of education is tolerance". You have all shown to have embraced such tolerance.

“Graduation is equivalent to crossing the line in a race or to the rite of passage practised by many African cultures.”

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Graduate School Team for working tirelessly beyond their required office time and to have used their full potential to engage everyone so as to minimise delays in the graduation of students. Special thanks to the Board Members for ensuring the University regulations are adhered to, across the faculties. Congratulations to Prof. Samuel Nyalala for having been appointed for a second term as the BPGS Deputy Director. Your keenness about the quality of projects and theses produced in the various faculties of the University is unquestionable. Every postgraduate graduand today knows the difference between the various referencing styles and all other aspects of thesis writing.

Anatole France has rightfully noted that “True education is the ability to discern the difference between what you know and what you don't know”. Similarly, Nelson Mandela has alerted us that “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. Be guided by these wise pronouncements!

Ph.D. GRADUANDS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE



Ayabagabo, Jean De Dieu

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
“Supplementation of Napier with Legume and Feed Additives for Sustainable Dairy Production in Smallholder Farms in Rwanda”

Supervisors:
Dr Perminus Karubiu Migwi
Dr Paul Athans Onjoro



Korir Geoffrey Kipngeno

Programme:
Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

Thesis Title:
“Teachers' and Learners' Perceptions on the Effectiveness of Field-Based Study Approach in Teaching of History and Government in Secondary Schools in Kericho County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Thomas K. Ronoh
Dr Patricia W. Wambugu



Fred Kemboi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Animal Science

Thesis Title:
“Performance of Growing Goats Fed Rhodes Grass Hay Supplemented With Kenyan Indigenous Browsers Mixed With Tannin Binders”

Supervisors:
Prof. James O. Ondiek
Prof. Antony King'ori
Dr Paul Athans Onjoro



Obare Mellen Monchari

Programme:
Ph.D. in Educational Management

Thesis Title:
“Influence of Selected Factors on the Quality of Public Youth Polytechnic Graduates in Kisii County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Mwangi Ndirangu
Prof. Joseph M. Wamutitu



Mercy Nasimiyu Wamalwa

Programme:
Ph.D. in Plant Breeding

Thesis Title:
“Host Plant Resistance in Wheat (*Triticum Aestivum* L.) Genotypes to Stripe Rust (*Puccinia Striiformis* Westend. F. Sp. *Tritici* Eriks) and Race Analysis in Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. James O. Owuochi
Dr Lesley Boyd
Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo



Kereto Stella Jeptepkeny

Programme:
Ph.D. in Educational Management

Thesis Title:
“Perceptions of University Managers on the Influence of Organisational Structures on Quality of Institutional Management in Public and Private Universities in Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Mwangi Ndirangu
Prof. Anthony Sang



Ndungi Faith Ngundi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Food Science

Thesis Title:
“Development of Acid Casein Enriched, Stabilised and Thickened Yoghurt Using *Musa Acuminata* (Green Banana) and *Ensete Ventricosum* (Bulla) Flours”

Supervisors:
Prof. Hillary Kiplangat Bett
Dr Eric Obedy Gido



Muring'u Paul Ndung'u

Programme:
Ph.D. in Counselling Psychology

Thesis Title:
“Influence of Selected Stress Coping Strategies and Gender Differences on the Psychological Wellbeing of Life Sentenced Inmates in Maximum Security Prisons in Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Mary Kariuki
Prof. Teresa Njonge

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES



Kereto Josephat Kariuki

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension

Thesis Title:
“Enhancing Integration of Livestock Protection ITK with Information from Extension Service Providers among the Maasai of Loita Ward of Narok County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Agnes Oywaya-Nkurumwa
Dr James Obara



Beatrice Chepkoech Tui

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Rural Innovations Studies

Thesis Title:
“Strengthening Innovation Capacity of Smallholder Dairy Farmers to Address Seasonal Fodder Scarcity and Low Market Participation in Mosop Sub-county of Nandi County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Christopher Onyango
Prof. Bockline O. Bebe
Dr Evelyn Kiptot

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY



Wainaina Patrick Mbuthia

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agribusiness Management

Thesis Title:
“Mathematical Models for Predicting Solar Radiation and Capacity of Solar Driven Refrigeration System for Milk Cooling”

Supervisors:
Dr Musa R. Njue
Prof. Michael Okoth
Dr George Owino



Atalitsa Caren Navalía

Programme:
Ph.D. in Environmental Science

Thesis Title:
“Ecological and Socio-Economic Effects of Brick Making: A Case Study of Sironga Wetland, Nyamira South Sub-County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. George Morara Ogendi
Prof. John Momanyi Mirona (Posthumous)

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



Okeyo Michael Mairura

Programme:
Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management

Thesis Title:
“Effects of Pests and Diseases Associated with Flowering Phenology on Seed Quality of the Red Pod Terminalia (Terminalia Brownii Fresen 1837) in Selected Drylands of Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Gilbert O. Obwoyere
Dr Dickson L. Makanjji
Dr Jane W. Njuguna



Were Hezron Saka

Programme:
Ph.D. in Pure Mathematics

Thesis Title:
“Structures of Selected Classes of Five Radical Zero Completely Primary Finite Rings”

Supervisors:
Dr Moses Ndiritu Gichuki
Prof. Maurice Owino Oduor
Prof. Kewamoi Chesire Sogomo



Ndalilo Leila Akinyi

Programme:
Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management

Thesis Title:
“Land Use Induced Transformations on Forest Structure, Tree Species Diversity and Household Livelihoods in River Lumi Riparian Ecosystem, Taita Taveta County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Elias K. Maranga
Dr Bernard K. Kirui



Nthiwa Janiffer Mwende

Programme:
Ph.D. in Statistics

Thesis Title:
“Nonparametric Model Calibration Estimation of Finite Population Total in Complex Survey”

Supervisors:
Prof. Ali Salim Islam
Dr Pius Kihara



Prof. James K. Tuitoek, a former Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University (second from right), together with Prof. Isaac Kosgey, the Chairman of the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) and the current Vice-Chancellor of Moi University (far left), Ms Stella Kereto, the Ag Registrar Human Capital and Administration, Egerton University (second from left), and Dr. Kuria Wamukuru, the Chair of the EUAA Nakuru Chapter (right) cut a cake to celebrate the re-launch of the EUAA Nakuru Chapter on 26 March 2022 at the Milele Resort, Nakuru

DIL&CS Holds Workshop on Application and Procedures of Obtaining a Student Pass



Prof. Charles M. M'Erimba

On behalf of myself and the entire staff at the Directorate of International Linkages & Career Services (DIL&CS), I wish to convey my congratulatory message to all international students who are graduating today. It is a fact that studying in a foreign country away from home is not easy and requires determination and self-discipline. Dealing with culture shock is by itself a barrier that can easily discourage many international students from coping with their studies in a foreign environment. Another challenge is coping with the immigration regulations of the host country, which could be different from those of one's own country.

It is for these and many other reasons that the DIL&CS was established to facilitate foreign students' study with ease at Egerton University. The acquisition of a valid Students Pass by foreign students is one of the requirements by the Kenyan Immigration laws. Because of the challenges faced during the application, the DIL&CS, in collaboration with TAGDev (Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Development), organized for a one-day sensitization workshop for Egerton University staff and students on 18th February 2022. The training entailed

procedures for immigration, application of certificates of good conduct and recognition, and equating of academic qualifications. The workshop was facilitated by the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA), and the Immigration Department.

Speaking during the opening session, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University, Prof. Bernard O. Aduda, noted that Egerton University, in her Vision as a world class University, is always moving ahead, championing good governance as an institution. He commended the organisers of the workshop, saying that the event was timely. He noted that one of the parameters for the international status of a university for world web ranking is the number of international students in that university. He said that the workshop would create the correct linkages by providing more commonalities for future engagement. Education, he pointed out, is a way to create trade relations. He urged the Egerton University staff to handle the University's international students with

care and the Immigration facilitator to expedite the issuance of passes within the law for security reasons. He underscored the challenges of equating certificates and fraud as an enemy the world over and requested prompt attention to them.

During the workshop, some of the emerging issues concerned the need for students to register with their embassies or consular offices within reach in order to ensure their assistance during their stay at Egerton University or in case of emergencies. Similarly, there was the need for international students to familiarise themselves with the Kenya police clearance procedures, whereby the authenticity of documents from the mother country must be handled well by the facilitator from DCI. Furthermore, most of the prospective students were not aware of the procedures of registering using the e-citizen portal for online services in conjunction with the assistance they needed from the University to facilitate timely application of student passes. The Commission for University Education (CUE) has the sole mandate under the law to equate foreign certificates and qualifications.



Mr Chrispinus Kandawala, a student from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Egerton University, demonstrates the use of weather station to visiting high school students on 22 July 2022 at the Main Campus, Njoro

CI Unites Kenya and China through Scholarly Collaborations



Prof. Joshua O. Ogwenio
Director

On this 45th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, and on behalf of the staff and students of the Confucius Institute (CI) at Egerton University, we would like to say Congratulations, Class of 2022. You have accomplished great things just by being at Egerton University, and we are confident that you are going to accomplish even more. Good luck to each and every one of you – and Godspeed.

We also take this special occasion to welcome Prof. Li Yutao, the new Chinese Director of the Institute at Egerton University, who is from Nanjing Agricultural University, China. He is a Board Member of the China Biogas Association, a Member of the Expert Group for Agricultural Mechanization in Jiangsu, a Board Member of the Jiangsu Bioenergy Association, and a Member of ASABE in the United States of America. He specialises in Agricultural Engineering, and his research interests include biomass processing technology and equipment. He has been a visiting scholar in University of California Davis, USA, and has published 40 papers, of which 23 are in SCI journals. He has also won three patents.

The CI has been focusing on Chinese language teaching, cultural exchange, and transfer of appropriate agricultural technology from China to Kenya. This collaboration is like a bridge linking the Kenyan people and the Chinese people. In spite of the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the CI has persisted in teaching Chinese language and culture in Egerton and has organised HSK/HSKK tests five times during the past one year, and 98.5% of the candidates from the Institute have passed the exams. Students with excellent grades are normally considered for the award of the Confucius Institute Scholarship and the Chinese Government Scholarship. During their fourth year, students were awarded the International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship, which gave them the opportunity to enter top Chinese Universities to pursue their further education.

The CI has opened a door for exchange of Kenyan and Chinese cultures. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Institute held many wonderful cultural activities in the course of the year. On 8 July 2022, for example, Kenyan and Chinese students shared ideas on ecological conservation, indicating a Community of Shared Future for Mankind. Besides, students from the Institute achieved good results in this year's Chinese Bridge Competition. During the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, students shared the process of cooking Kenyan and Chinese foods. All of the cultural activities provided new opportunities for the students to understand the culture of each other better.

As the first CI with agricultural characteristics in the world, the Institute has always supported the transfer of appropriate and advanced



Prof. Li Yutao
Director

agricultural technology from China to Kenya and Africa in general. We are assisting in building research platforms such as the Kenya-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, and the Agro-Science Park. These facilities have prompted research collaborations on agriculture and biotechnology between the two nations.

To support the key mandate of the transfer of appropriate and advanced agricultural technology from China to Kenya and Africa in general, the Institute held a series of Chinese+ Agriculture teaching activities during the year, including horticulture, livestock raising, and agricultural machinery, which have broadened the students' horizon in both the agricultural knowledge and Chinese language and culture. On 31 March 2022, the CI organised several agricultural training activities, among them the international short course on rice production technologies, which was attended by over 20 participants, including government officials, scholars, agricultural machinery manufacturers, and managers. The seminar was held with the objective of identifying appropriate machinery for

Turn to page 31

University Gender Policy Reviewed



Dr. Josephine Obonyo

As we celebrate the 45th Graduation of Egerton University, we at the Institute of Women, Gender and Development sincerely congratulate the graduands for successfully completing the long journey of studies.

We appreciate the hard work and long hours you have put together with your lecturers despite the many challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, to come this far, and we thank God for enabling you to do so.

We believe that the knowledge and skills you have gained so far will usher you into the next level of your life. Be our shining candles out there. Put to work the dense knowledge, skills, and competencies Egerton University has invested in you by impacting society sustainably. Be part of the Kenya Vision 2030 and the UN 2030 Goals by solving society's problems through empowering communities based on your training.

As the University releases you into a rapidly changing world, one characterised by unprecedented situations, such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic, among others, my hope is that you will find your space to explore your full potential, informed by the knowledge and skills you have acquired at Egerton University. We at the Institute will actively continue creating and disseminating new knowledge and experiences through research and application. We will seek to strengthen our collaborations and partnerships as well as to initiate new ones with like-minded institutions to learn and also strengthen the Institute's capacity.

Despite the limitations imposed by the covid-19 pandemic, the Institute had the opportunity to accomplish a number of activities in the year 2022. The most important ones are outlined below.

- The University Gender Policy; and the Policy on and Procedures for Gender Based Violence and Sexual Harassment Prevention, which is at the management level, were reviewed successfully.
- Our Student's League meets every Thursdays with their Patron, Dr. Lilian Chesikaw, and a resource person whereby they deliberate on social issues affecting them as university students. This has brought about positive effects on their social behavior.

Finally, to our graduands, as we release you today back into the wider society, I urge you keep the Egerton University fire burning by transforming lives through your work, through the values we have inculcated in you. We wish you the very best, and God bless you all.

CI Unites Kenya and China through Scholarly Collaborations

Continued from page 30

rice production to reduce drudgery and increase production.

As a follow-up on the seminar, another short course on "Agricultural Mechanisation in African Countries" was held on the 9-11 May 2022. The course was attended by over 60 participants from China, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. The participants consulted widely on the application of appropriate machinery on rice production with a view to prompting academic exchange on

agricultural mechanisation, to increasing the crop yield through the application of new technologies to guarantee food security, and to enhancing livelihood in Africa. The course provided a wonderful academic feast for interaction between scholars, researchers, machinery manufacturers, and government officials. Equally importantly, it provided a platform for the introduction of appropriate machinery intended to reduce drudgery and increase rice production in the

Horn of Africa, for the most part through collaborative research platforms and agricultural training opportunities meant to contribute considerably to the development of the agricultural sector in Kenya in particular and Africa in general.

Similarly, on 26 June 2022, the academic staff of the CI at Egerton attended a course on Smart Agriculture. The course was organised by The Belt and Road International

Turn to page 33

Post-Covid Learning Challenges Require New Thinking



Prof. Fred Keraro

I wish to congratulate all graduands in the 45th Congregation of Egerton University. In particular, I wish to recognise those who are graduating today having followed the distance learning, school-based, and e-learning modes of study that are offered through our Departments of Military Science, School-Based Programmes, and the E-Campus, respectively. While it is convenient, contrary to common belief, distance learning requires a great deal of dedication and personal commitment on the part of the learner. Unlike regular programmes with fixed schedules throughout the semester, the distance learner needs to plan their own study schedules while attending to work or family commitments. Sometimes, this puts great strain on learners to the extent that they would require counselling beyond the regular academic support. In recognising this need, the School of Distance Learning (SoDL) has established learner support services to assist learners to achieve a balance between study, on the one hand, and other commitments, on the

other.

The E-Campus has had a cordial working relationship with the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev) programme over the last few years. In that period, the E-Campus has assisted the TAGDev programme in the development of the online English Language Modules and the training of academic staff in content development. In October 2021, the TAGDev coordinating committee and the University Management Board (UMB) held a meeting at Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), Naivasha. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the University Management on the progress of the TAGDev programme and its associated projects and discuss the areas that the programme requires support from the UMB. At this meeting, SoDL, as one of the recipients of support from TAGDev, was represented by Prof. Fred Keraro and Mr Daniel Makini.

One of the recommendations of the meeting was to enhance e-learning through the training of students on e-learning, among others. In executing this recommendation, the E-Campus has planned three virtual e-learning trainings in July and August 2022 for regular students in the Faculties of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, and Education and Community Studies, respectively. The students will receive training on password protection of their accounts, orientation to the e-learning platform (<https://www.elearning.egerton.ac.ke/>) features and navigation, course

structure (topic and topic activities) and netiquette, among others. We hope to organise future trainings for students in the other faculties, schools and directorates in the University.

SoDL is taking part in the Erasmus+ grant application call: 2022 Erasmus+ Call Capacity Building in Higher Education. Our application is dubbed "Transformative Inclusive Higher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable development" (TIHESSA). There are 12 TIHESSA partners – Egerton University, Makerere University, University of Nairobi, University of the Western Cape, University of South Africa (UNISA), National University of Science & Technology (Zimbabwe), and Zimbabwe Open University. The other partners are University of Bergen (Norway), Stockholm University (Sweden), KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), International Association of Universities, and Nordic Insight. The Vision for TIHESSA is that of a house for a brighter innovative future; a house powering transformative inclusive higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) for sustainable development. It aims to build a strong North-South-South partnership contributing to the Green Deal (including climate change, environment, and energy); Inclusive Digital Transformation – for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Human Rights; Sustainable Growth and Jobs, Innovation, and Good Governance; and Migration and Mobility: in particular to support recognition of degrees and credentials in the region, and contribute to a regional credit

transfer system to enable intra-regional connectivity and building a regional higher education area. The TIHESSA partnership will: build a coherent, flexible network and hubs of initiatives/activities which together fuel the strategic vision for a brighter innovative future; utilise all four aspects of the “knowledge square”: education, research, innovation, and service to society; develop cooperation

with the public and the private sector where relevant; build on the autonomy of each partner and academic freedom; and focus on doctoral education initially, and when relevant and mature, extend to other levels of higher education and address mutual capacity building as well as specific capacity building for SSA. As we await the results of this application in August

2022, we are already working together with TIHESSA partners to realise our goals. In this regard, we shall be inviting applications/nominations to a joint online course in Project Management starting in September 2022. The details of this course will be shared with the Graduate School, Egerton University.

CI Unites Kenya and China through Scholarly Collaborations

Continued from page 31

Institute of Smart Agriculture Industrial Science & Technology Innovation (ISAI.) It is led by Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), a major partner to Egerton University, in coordinating Chinese partners and international partners from the Belt and Road Initiative countries on smart agriculture industrial science & technology innovation.

The CI at Egerton University, as a

partner, will benefit from the academic exchanges and cooperation, the science communication and outreach programmes involves, the mutual mobility of graduate students and early career scholars, and the transfer of technology related to smart agriculture which will come with it.

In conclusion, since its establishment in 2012, the CI at Egerton has held more than 30 trainings

and short courses in Kenya and other African countries. Furthermore, at least 1,100 trainees have benefited from the CI's appropriate and advanced technologies from China. Most importantly, the Institute has played a vital role in building the friendship between the two nations, and we hope the friendship lasts forever.



The Faculty of Agriculture and Confucius Institute have established a vibrant relationship over the last ten years. In the above photo, students from the Faculty attend a lesson in a course that arose from the collaboration

Students Elect New Delegates, Congresses and Governing Council



Dr Japhet Mburugu Muthamia

I hereby take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands on your long-awaited graduation. During your stay with us, the Dean of Students Office has been a part of your life—from the first day you reported when we took you through the First Year Orientation to today as we release you to go forth and accomplish your purposes in life.

The mandate of the Dean of Students is to develop, nurture and promote an enabling environment that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. We accomplish this by offering services that cater for the general welfare of students through designing and implementing programmes and activities that assist students to develop their physical, psychological, social, spiritual and leadership capabilities.

In fulfilling the mandate above, the Office of Dean of Students has undertaken the following activities since the 44th graduation:

EUSA Elections 2022

The Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) elections were held on the 26 April 2022 when student delegates and congresses (faculty and halls) were elected and on 28 April 2022 when the Student Governing Council (SGC) was elected to represent students

in Njoro and Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC). As we usher in a new era of student leadership, we acknowledge the outgoing leaders for their exemplary work and wish them well in their future endeavours. Our new team of student leaders were sworn in on 16 June 2022 and they were subsequently trained on leadership skills from 27 to 29 June 2022 at the Kenya Education Management Institute (K.E.M.I.). The leaders were trained in aspects of the University's managerial and administrative structure, leadership skills as well as their roles and duties as specified by the EUSA constitution. We welcome the new leaders and look forward to partnering with them to better students' lives and development.

Students Take Part in Dialogue on Averting Post-Election Violence and Hate Speech

On 8 June 2022, Egerton University was host to a delegation from the Nakuru County Government and Youth Bila Noma (a non-governmental organization) under the Young Cities Programme of the Institute for Strategic

Dialogue (ISD). The purpose of the visit was to inspire dialogue on the dangers of post-election violence, hate speech, and ethnic polarisation in institutions of higher learning. A movie titled “Zedi” by Skynet Theatres Productions on the effects of post-election violence on the youth and a song titled “Kenya Moja” urging unity and shunning of tribalism were presented to the students and staff. Thereafter, there was an interactive session led by representatives from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Youth Bila Noma, National Police Service (Njoro), Dean of Students Office and the Njoro Assistant County Commissioner.

It took years of great dedication and discipline to get you here today. On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, we are proud of you and we pray for God to bless and enrich you for the rest of your lives. I beseech you to uphold the highest integrity and to be good citizens of the world as we indeed are an institution that provides quality education for the advancement of humanity.



Ms Mwangi Velter Wanjiru (right) takes Oath of Office on 16 June 2022 following her election as the Vice-Chair of EUSA. The Oath was administered by the University Legal Officer, Ms Janet Bii.

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



Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo

On behalf of the entire Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) and myself, I take this joyous opportunity to join all the graduands of the 45th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University in celebrating their merited achievements. What is being celebrated today is a source of pleasure and marks a major milestone in the lives of the graduands, their parents and guardians, and key stakeholders of the University. As we congratulate the graduands on their meritorious achievements, we must acknowledge in a special way the contributions by the Egerton University community, parents and guardians, sponsors, and the society at large in making this happen. May all be blessed abundantly!

Since the last graduation in December 2021, NTCC has engaged in numerous activities and events that contribute towards “Transforming Lives through Quality Education” that are worth amplifying today. First, I wish to reiterate my commitment to assuring the delivery of quality academic programmes through an accelerated process of reducing the occupation of rented spaces. Through

the support of the University Management and the University Council, NTCC is at an advanced stage of converting the existing physical facilities at Kokeb grounds into four lecture halls with a seating capacity of 400. Additionally, a contractor has been on site since 4 July 2022 to construct additional three lecture halls with collapsible partitions in the next eight months. Once completed, the University will cede the LONCOM building which is currently hosting the Faculty of Commerce lecture rooms and also consider reducing the rented space at the University building near Bontana Hotel. At an opportune time in the medium-term, the University will establish an ultra-modern business hub, expected to house a restaurant, and an e-business and financial agency service point (FASP) at the Kokeb grounds, with a view to offering quality service to staff, students, Nakuru City residents and visitors.

Since the last graduation, the NTCC has successfully negotiated and signed strategic partnerships aimed at securing quality accommodation, access to health facilities for practicals and offering internship opportunities. In an effort to ensure that students in the Faculty of Commerce and the Faculty of Health Sciences access quality and secure accommodation, the NTCC successfully negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Egerton University and the Anglican Church of Kenya, ACK-Diocese of Nakuru (St. Christopher's Church). The EGU-ACK MOU gives Egerton University students (both male and female) preferential treatment with respect to securing accommodation at the ACK

hostels in Milimani area, Nakuru City.

Egerton University signed a Collaboration Agreement with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) for the purpose of offering practicum opportunities, under the MCK “Internship and Industrial Attachment Programme”, to students pursuing communication and media curricula in Kenyan colleges and universities. During the period February-April 2022, the Egerton Radio hosted eleven interns and five attachees, drawn from six universities, three TVET colleges and one national polytechnic. The MCK's support to the interns is highly appreciated. On 18 February 2022, the newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Bernard O. Aduda, visited the NTCC where he had an opportunity to meet the MCK supported interns hosted by the Egerton Radio. In his address, Prof. Aduda urged the interns and attachees to utilise their time at Egerton University to nurture their professional capabilities and increase their attractiveness to employers.

The quality of academic programmes delivered by faculties to students is largely dependent on the quality of staff (academic and technical), physical facilities (lecture halls, laboratories) and state-of-the-art resources. To conform to internal quality assurance and regulatory requirements, Egerton University has an active MOU with the County Government of Nakuru (CGN) vide the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital (RVPGH), Nakuru, to enable staff and students of the Faculty of Health Sciences access quality medical/clinical skills and training offered by various medical personnel

and specialists at the RVPGH. Due to the increase in student numbers, the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) is at an advanced stage of negotiations with the CGN to expand the scope of the EGU-CGN collaboration to include other quality health facilities in Nakuru City and its environs. This is meant to ease pressure caused by increasing student numbers on the RVPGH.

NTCC is delighted to host the Egerton Node which is envisaged as the Centre of Excellence in Respiratory Diseases in the Kenya–United Kingdom Health Alliance (KUKHA) initiative amongst other Kenyan universities in the Lake Region Economic Block. This initiative is anchored in an MOU between four Kenyan Universities, namely Kisii University (KUKHA Hub), Maseno University, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, and Egerton University, and two renowned UK institutions, the University of Manchester and Christine's Hospital. The KUKHA initiative is aimed at creating Centres of Excellence in Health Care Education and Training in association with the Ministry of Health. The Egerton Node will offer referral services in respiratory diseases and related ailments at national, regional and global levels.

During the 2020/2021 academic year, the NTCC through the Dean of Students Office offered 33 students bursaries valued at Kshs100,000, courtesy of the Rattansi Education Trust. Additionally, a total of 20 NTCC students benefited from the University's work-study programme. The beneficiaries were assigned tasks in various sections of the College and were expected to gain practical job-related skills. The College also wishes to thank the Rattansi Education Trust and Egerton University for their continued support to needy students.

I wish to thank Dr Henry Kombo, the immediate former Dean, Faculty of Commerce, for his steadfast leadership and for steering the Faculty for two

consecutive terms (2018-2022). As Dr Kombo transitions to the next phase in his life, the entire NTCC fraternity wishes him well.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Richard Bitange Nyaoga for his appointment as Dean, Faculty of Commerce. The Faculty is requested to accord Dr Nyaoga all the necessary support to enable him realise his vision for the Faculty in line with the University vision. In the same breath, I wish to congratulate Dr Elizabeth Jananga and Dr Ronald O. Omenge for being appointed Chairpersons for the Departments of Child Health and Community Health, respectively, in the FHS. Staff are requested to fully support their new CODs. With respect to staff development, the following four academic staff in FHS were promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer in their respective specialities: Dr S. Nyamweya, Dr F. Kalande, Dr R. O. Omenge, and Dr N. Abner. In the Faculty of Commerce, Dr A. Ayuo was promoted to Senior Lecturer. During the same period, three academic staff, namely Dr E. Jananga, Dr D. Rono and Ms C. W. Ndungu were promoted to Lecturer position. We heartily congratulate all members of NTCC who received merited promotions in their respective professional fields.

The year 2022 is a memorable one for the NTCC fraternity. The International Renaissance Centre Ltd (IRC), in its Women in Leadership Newsletter Special Edition for March 2022, honoured Ms Ruth Mwihaki Kamau, the Executive Secretary in the Office of the Principal, NTCC, among top 100 women celebrated in the month of March 2022. Ruth has been recognised by the IRC as a professional Secretary, Tutor, Mentor, Landlady, an Investor, an Integrity Assurance Officer and a devout Christian. She has selflessly served Egerton University for over 30 years during which time she has played a key role in the founding of a Secretarial Training Centre within the University where she mentored and nurtured many professional Secretaries

“ the NTCC has successfully negotiated and signed strategic partnerships aimed at securing quality accommodation, access to health facilities for practicals and

in the University and across the 47 counties in Kenya. Ruth has used her profession and leadership skills to uplift fellow Secretaries and other women/men in the community and the church.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind all NTCC graduands that today, the Chancellor will give you “the power to do all that appertains to your respective diplomas and degrees”. This proclamation immediately confers on you the power to constructively define the next course to focus on moving forward with your lives. It also presents you with boundless options in your immediate future worth considering, among them advancing your academic accolades beyond today's achievements at Egerton University and other globally renowned academic institutions. Additionally, each one of you is encouraged to competitively bid for job, scholarship and self-employment opportunities that come your way.

Once again, may I offer hearty congratulations and best wishes to all NTCC graduands for their well-deserved academic achievements. May you all enjoy a life full of hope and remember to define your own destiny since “your destiny is purely in your hands”. Have a blessed Graduation and future life!

Follow Your Passion and It Will Lead You to Your Purpose



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

Congratulations to the graduating class. A Graduation Ceremony is always a momentous occasion. It is the culmination of years of hard work, the actualisation of goals, and the acknowledgement of successes achieved. So, it is only fitting that we celebrate the road that we have all travelled along together these last few years.

At the Division of Research and Extension, we salute you all for having worked hard and smart to be where you are today. You took the final steps of your academic journey during a global pandemic, one of the most confounding crises that mankind has ever faced, to complete your studies successfully. I believe this experience makes you resilient as you strive to achieve what many others have found unattainable in the uncertain circumstances. Therefore, today, you have reached a tremendous personal milestone. You are about to enter the most challenging

yet most thrilling period of your lives. I hope that each one of you takes pride and joy in this success and aims to soar to even greater heights.

I urge you to continue with scholarly work and to use your award to contribute positively to the community. As we acquire education, we raise the standards of our lives and the lives of all around us. This way, we contribute to the advancement of humanity, our university's Vision. And Nora Roberts has said it loudly: "If you don't go after what you want, you will never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you will always be in the same place". May you always keep learning, growing, and realising the best in yourself. Ensure that every action you undertake is grounded in ethically sound convictions and expressed in service to humanity. As we release you into the labour market, just remember, you can't succeed in life without ceaseless. You

need to work smart, to get your hands *dirty*, and to initiate and bring a positive change to yourselves and to humanity. Accept responsibility for your life and know that it is you who will get you where you want to go; no one else. Follow your passion and it will lead you to your purpose.

I wish you every success in your future endeavours, as you step out in confidence to distinguish yourselves as alumni of our great Egerton University. I also invite all family and friends of our graduating students from all over to join us in celebrating the achievements of these students. Finally, on behalf of the Division of Research and Extension, I want to offer you our best wishes for good health, happiness, and success in your future undertakings. Be the change that you wish to see going forward. And, remember, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt.



Egerton University students exhibit their products during a function organised by the University to mark the visit by Kenya National Innovation Agency to the University to promote the institutional commercialisation support programme on 5 April 2022

Agro-science Park Develops New Bean Varieties and Supports Student Innovation

By Paul Kimurto

The Agro-Science Park (AgroPark) has continued to promote innovations and products which have been commercialised and to link the University to the Industry for the uptake of these products. These innovations include diverse and nutritious varieties of beans (Chalalang, Tasha, and Ciankui). The AgroPark also developed a new high-yielding red-mottled variety called EU-Light Tan Bean which will be commercialised through the East Africa Seed Company Ltd (Seed-Co). Among the notable and highly market-demanded varieties are the two new varieties of groundnuts popularly known as Njugu Karanga, namely Egerton groundnut 1 (EUGN-1 or Ndovu) and Egerton groundnut 2 (EUGN-2 or Mwangaza) that are being commercialised through FAO-IKEA Foundation funding in Turkana County as nutrient-dense food for refugees in Turkana County. These varieties have also been taken up and produced in Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo, Taita Taveta, Homabay and by other processors, including Chandaria INSTA FOOD Industries, Greenforest Ltd, Uphill Blue Band processing company and several SMES dealing with Butternut and roasting of groundnuts which have been relying on imports from Malawi and Uganda. Prof. Paul Kimurto, Dr Miriam Charimbu, Dr Maureen Cheserek, Prof. Richard Mulwa, Mr Bernard Towet, Dr Faith Obonyo and several students have been involved in the projects, which include Kenya Climate Smart Projects (KCSAP), FAO-IKEA Foundation funded, and USAID Feed the Future. The team has been working closely with ICRISAT to enhance seed systems, promoting nutritional value and food safety, including Aflatoxin monitoring in the counties. (A related

story was published in Business Daily <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/economy/un-eyes-groundnuts-to-cut-refugees-relief-food-reliance-3386138#>)

Supporting students in innovation endeavours

The AgroPark recently also supported student entrepreneurs from various faculties to develop several prototypes with the potential of being patented through the Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI) through the African Alliance Partnership (AAP) programme in collaboration with Dr Susan Wyche of Michigan State University, USA, and Dr Miriam Karwitha of the Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils, Egerton University. The students' projects included innovations on the Queen Bee artificial production; a smart dust system for water management; a solar drying technology for reducing food losses; a bird scaring technology for reducing bird yield losses in rice production systems; and a water harvesting technology to reduce water scarcity at Egerton University. The five projects involved 24 students from the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Education and Community Studies, and Arts and Social Sciences. Two groups (the Queen Bee and the waste management group) presented their innovations during the Konza City Innovation Conference and were ranked among best initial start-up prototypes. The innovations need further development and incubation at the Agropark. The DVC (AA), Prof. Bernard O. Aduda, and the DVC (R&E), Prof. Bockline O. Bebe, participated in the joint evaluation of the projects by the Egerton and MSU

teams. The DVC (R&E) promised to source additional funding to support the students in joint collaboration with the respective departments.

In implementing the Vision 2030 Agenda, the Lord Egerton Agricity Agro-industrial Park, into which the AgroPark will develop, has been incorporated in the recently Cabinet-approved Large Commercialisation Initiatives (LCI), which will be realised through the Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives, where the AgroPark will be developed to become investor ready. This is in line with Flagship 4 of the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS 2019-2029), which seeks to implement large-scale agricultural commercialisation by making available underutilised land held by the State with support from the Rockefeller Foundation. The key activities to be undertaken on the 200-acre approved land for the Agricity Agro-industrial Park will be developing plans, getting land geo-referenced, conducting land survey to cadastre standards, determining land suitability for the LCI and land use management orders to meet the LCI. Once this is done, the AgroPark will support the University endeavours in research, University-Industry linkages and innovation thus increasing the University visibility and creating new business opportunities for students in fulfilling the Vision 2030 objectives.

Prof. Paul Kimurto is the Director of the Agro-Science Park. He is also a Professor a Crop Physiology/Breeding as well as the Director, Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation.

DRTEC Participates in the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought Event



Prof. George Ogendi

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC) at Chemeron, to congratulate all graduands of the 45th Graduation Ceremony for their achievement. This academic journey has never been easy; it is long and punctuated with setbacks and challenges. Despite all these, you have emerged victorious! We applaud you and acknowledge the sacrifice, discipline and determination that have culminated in today's celebration. As the DRTEC, we are confident that the knowledge and skills you have received during your training at Egerton University will enable you to transform many lives globally. Your contribution is key to the attainment of both Kenya's Vision 2030 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Kenya commemorated this year's World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) on 17 June 2022 at Eldume Primary School in Baringo County. The theme for 2022

was "Rising up from Drought Together". The occasion was graced by the Cabinet Secretary (CS) in charge of Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko, the Principal Secretary in the same Ministry, Dr Chris Kiptoo, the Director General of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Mr Mamo B. Mamo, the Governor of Baringo County, Hon. Stanley Kiptis, and the Member of Parliament for Baringo South Constituency, Hon. Charles Kamuren, among others. The WDCDD is an annual global event meant to raise public awareness with respect to efforts being made by various stakeholders in combating desertification at all levels and in all regions. It is a day to sensitise the general public that Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) is achievable through strong and engaged communities, committed government support, public participation, and provision of local solutions to local land degradation problems. During the WDCDD, the global community is reminded to treat land as an indispensable and limited resource that is central to production, and thus prioritise its health for maximum benefits for human and environmental wellbeing.

The CS highlighted the negative effects of *Prosopis juliflora*, locally known as Mathenge, on the local livelihoods, particularly on agropastoralism, beekeeping and human health. In spite of this challenge, the CS assured the public that his ministry and other government and research institutions have come up with various strategies to deal with the

Prosopis menace. These include the utilisation of *Prosopis* in charcoal production, using pods in livestock feed formulations and in beekeeping.

Egerton University was represented at the event by DRTEC staff led by Prof. George M. Ogendi. The DRTEC team show-cased two innovations that have been shared with the local communities in South Baringo for the last 10 years towards combating desertification. These dryland rehabilitation innovations include buffel grass (a pasture species taxonomically known as *Cenchrus ciliaris*) and four tree species (*Azadirachta indica*, *Leuceana leucocephala*, *Delonix regia*, and *Senna siamea*). Through extension work, DRTEC has introduced these land rehabilitation innovations to the local communities of South Baringo. Huge milestones have been achieved, especially in the adoption of buffel grass, amongst the local Ilchamus and Endorois agropastoralist community based organisations (CBOs) through the financial support of the Small Grants Programme under the Global Environment Facility. Having worked with over 30 CBOs within Baringo County that are involved in livestock production, crop production, wildlife conservation, beekeeping, water resource management and catchment protection, the uptake of the two dryland rehabilitation innovations has been phenomenal and worth investing in for further upscaling to other regions of the country. In the last one decade, various stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental management sectors have undergone training on tree

nursery establishment and management, climate-smart agriculture, natural resource management, and management of conflicts arising from the use of resources at the DRTEC.

Climate Smart Livestock Production Training Conducted

Over 60 agropastoralists belonging to various youth and women groups from Baringo County attended a five-day training on 20-24 June 2022 at the Chemeron DRTEC on the theme “Climate Smart Crop and Livestock Production in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands”. This training was facilitated by Egerton University staff together with

those from the State Department of Livestock, the State Department of Crop Development and Seed-Savers Network. The participants were trained on various climate-smart agricultural production technologies, seed bulking, harvesting and preservation, branding and marketing, value addition, natural resources governance, and rehabilitation of degraded ASALs using buffel grass and *Azadirachta indica*, *Leuceana leucocephala*, *Delonix regia* and *Senna siamea* tree species.

With the increasing intensity and frequency of droughts, coupled with the rising human population particularly in the fragile Arid and

Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), there is need to invest sufficient financial resources in technologies and innovations that will alleviate the pain of agropastoralists arising from climate change and land degradation. We therefore wish to appeal to the county governments, the national government and development partners to support the upscaling of the aforementioned dryland rehabilitation innovations to curb desertification and land degradation in the ASALs of Kenya.



Mr Reuben Chepyegon of DRTEC (in red T-shirt) shows Mr Paul Kiptai (in uniform) the area Chief of Ewalel-Soi Location, Baringo County, the different tree innovations used for dryland rehabilitation during the commemoration of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought at Eldume Primary School in Baringo County on 17 June 2022. Looking on is Prof. George M. Ogendi (right), Director, DRTEC, Egerton University.

What Have You Discovered?



Prof. Richard Mulwa

Ag. DVC (APD)

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2022 on this auspicious graduation day. You have done it; the hard work you put in has finally paid off and we are gathered here to usher you to the next big step of life beyond college. This is a day for you to reflect on your collective journey through Egerton University, and my one word to describe this journey for the class that joined us in 2017 is “Unprecedented”.

Unprecedented was your journey here because no class went through this institution with the experiences you have had. Remember being normalised into the Covid-19 situations! No class had gone through that. You went through two closures, had to endure the scares of the likelihood of quarantines when you reported back, you attended masked classes and on many occasions did your learning online. These are the adjustments you had to make

to survive. I am glad you have reached here. As Meryl Streep told some graduands somewhere, “This graduation may feel normal to you because of completing school but really there is no normal to it”. It is the culmination of a journey of discovery.

As you graduate today my thematic question to you is “What have you discovered?” You have been taught and you have researched on many issues as you journeyed through this University. Have you discovered anything? Have you learned how to think? Learning how to think really means learning how to exercise some control over how and what you think. It means being conscious and aware enough to choose what you pay attention to and to choose how you construct meaning from your experiences. I believe as you traversed the expanse of Egerton University you went through life with more than just passion for a change in your status; you will need a strategy going forward. My advice is that you do not just continue with your passion, but you emerge with a strategy. Not just awareness of issues, but action towards them. As you get out there, forget about the hashtags and venture into reality.

I believe Egerton University has prepared you adequately for adaptation to the world of work. By work I mean anything that God places in your hands to do. Do not sit on your laurels to wait; go for opportunities as they arise. And one thing to note, when you enter a work arena remember that you cannot do it alone. Make sure to be a team player with people who have your back. Tap the experience of those who have gone ahead of you and never forget your Alma Mater.

For the class of 2022, my prayer is that you find fulfilment in life from the abundance of knowledge and experiences gathered at Egerton University.

Again, congratulations for your achievement, and God Bless you all.

DIRECTORATE OF INCOME GENERATING UNITS

Directorate of Income Generating Units Achieving Its Mandate

By George Owuor

The Directorate of Income Generating Units (IGU) is pleased to report that the central coordination point for all units is now fully operational with a fully-fledged accounting section that processes payments all the way to cheque printing. The Director of IGU has also been introduced as a signatory among other signatories to help fast-track processes at the IGU. The outcome of these staff and operational changes has seen IGUs operations improve significantly.

The Minimarket at the University Gate

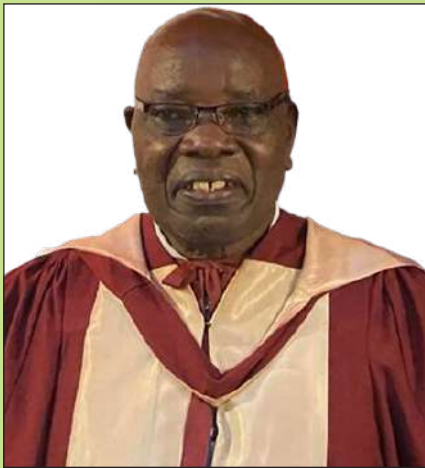
has picked up with monthly sales of Ksh200,000 on average. The period saw overall net incomes from IGUs grow to Ksh70.4 million inclusive of Halls. Apart from Catering, Press, Gift Shop, and TAP, all other units returned positive gains. The annual performance for 2021/2022 shows a stable growth in Estates, Dairy, Chemeron, Knitting & Tailoring, Medical, and Funeral Home. The next steps are to address some of the efficiency bottlenecks and decision-making challenges in some of the IGUs that are still behind in progress, such as lack of dedicated staff

specialised in crop production to address weaknesses in the area. In addition, there is the need to reexamine the business case for catering to separate the mainstream catering activity in terms of cost efficiency and installation of security systems. These adjustments are expected to immediately revamp a few of the IGUs that are yet to return positive gains.

George Owuor is Director, Income Generating Units and Associate Professor of Agribusiness at Egerton University.

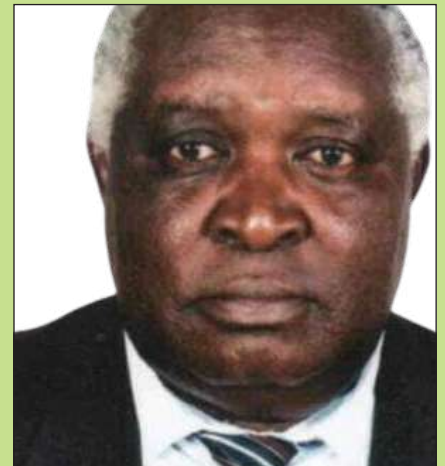
In Memoriam

Egerton University pays tribute to the following scholars who served the University with distinction, who passed away in 2022:



Peter L. Shalo
Professor of Food Science and Biotechnology

Aggrey M. Sindabi
Professor of Counselling Psychology



John M. Mironga
Associate Professor of Biogeography



The
NEWSLINK
 for everything you need to know about
 Egerton University

Congratulations
 to all the Graduands of
 the 45th Graduation of
 Egerton University!

The Graduation Special Issue of the Egerton Newslink is published by Egerton University. Telephone +254-51-2113700/01, E-mail dmrm@egerton.ac.ke

Editorial Team: Emilia Ilieva (Professor of Literature), Joseph Walunywa (Senior Lecturer in Literature and Chairman, Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics) and Hillary Chakava (Lecturer in Communication and Media)

Production Coordinator: Agnes Mwangi (Communication and Marketing Manager)

Design & Layout: Roselyne Wamalwa (Graphic Designer)



“Transforming Lives through Quality Education”