



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

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Issue No. 113

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The 46th Graduation

Excellent and Relevant Education in an Ever-Changing World



- Egerton Wins Proposal Funding Worth KSh146 Million
- KCB Donates KSh2 Million towards Run for Mau
- New Tatton Bean Variety Undergoes Seed Multiplication



EGERTON UNIVERSITY

Welcomes all Graduands

OF THE 46TH 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 University 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 fee 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
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Front cover photo: The Chairman of Council, Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario (8th from right), accompanied by Members of the University Council, including the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (9th from right), pose for a photograph with Ph.D. granduands, during the 45th Graduation Ceremony held on 29 July 2022

GRADUATION STATISTICS	
Doctorates	8
Masters	26
Bachelors	1,203
Diplomas	50
Total	1,287

Enhancing Writing among Egerton University Students: The Way Forward

The 46th Graduation Ceremony is special because, in addition to sending so many graduates into the world, the University Community is also celebrating five of the best writers from among our undergraduate students. The students in question emerged as the winners of the 2022 Egerton University Chancellor's Essay Writing Competition, which took place from September to November 2022. The idea of the Competition originated with the Chancellor of the University, Dr Narendra Raval, who also generously offered to be the sponsor. The winners of the Competition will be awarded monetary prizes as follows: Position One: KSh50,000; Position Two: KSh40,000; Position Three: KSh30,000; Position Four: KSh20,000; and Position Five: KSh10,000. The Competition, on the topic “International Migration”, was conducted by staff in the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics on behalf of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

In sponsoring the Competition, the Chancellor was underscoring the need to enhance the writing skills of the University student body to the required levels. Indeed the role of writing as a skill in the life of a citizen, whether in the work place or in life in general, cannot be underestimated. In the twenty-first century, the ability to read and write well constitutes a critical component of literacy, and without literacy one cannot properly negotiate one's way through the world today.

Currently, writing is taught to Egerton University students primarily within the context of a number of programmes in the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, namely Communication Skills (which cuts across the student body as a common core course); Literature; English; Kiswahili; and Communication & Media. While these programmes arguably go a long way in equipping the students with the required skills, there is no doubt that much more can be done in this regard, especially beyond the walls of the class room.

On 28 April 2022, Amb. Dr Hukka Wario, who is also the Chairman of the University Council as well as a renowned author, conducted a very successful writing workshop for the University's students and staff. It is our view that, in the future, similar events should be organised by the University periodically to build upon what is now emerging as a tradition. Among other things, workshops, training sessions, and lectures should be held frequently during which writing experts, drawn either from within the University or from outside, share their knowledge and practical skills about writing with the entire student body. Such exposure will help sensitise our students to the fact that writing can only be effectively developed through constant practice.

Vision

A world-class university for the advancement of humanity

Mission

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

Core Values

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

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

EGERTON UNIVERSITY INVITES YOU TO APPLY FOR PROGRAMMES
AT ITS CAMPUSES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 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 Open and Distance Learning (SoDL)

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"

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The True Measure of Success Is How Much You Have Given Back to Society



Dr Narendra Raval

Congratulations graduands! As you take this momentous step into the future, I encourage you to think about how you can give back to the society that has supported you throughout your academic journey. Remember that the skills and knowledge you have gained at Egerton University

should be used to make a positive impact on your community. I challenge you to use your talents to make the world a better place for all. Whether it be through volunteering, mentoring, or starting your own business, find ways to use your education to make a difference. Remember, the true measure of success is not just how much you have achieved, but also how much you have given back. Congratulations again and all the best in your future endeavours!

As you embark on this new journey, I want to remind you that you have the ability to achieve great things. Believe in yourself and your abilities, and don't be afraid to take risks and pursue your passions. Remember that you have come this far, and you have the determination and drive to continue pushing forward because you are a fighter. The road ahead may not always be easy, but with hard work and perseverance, you can overcome any obstacle and reach your goals. I encourage you to stay focused on

your aspirations, and to never give up on your dreams. You have the potential to make a real difference in the world, so go out there and make it happen.

I also want to encourage you to stay connected with your fellow alumni by joining the Egerton University Alumni Association. The Association is a great way to network and stay connected with your peers, as well as to give back to the University community. I also urge you to consider running for elective leadership roles within the Association. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your leadership skills. Not only will you be able to contribute to the Association, but you will also be able to connect with like-minded individuals and make a positive impact on the life of the University. Remember that the strength of the Association lies in the active participation of its members, so I appeal to you to get involved and make your voice heard. ■

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

Education Empowers You to Make a Positive Impact on the World



Amb. Dr Luka Hukka Wario

Dear Graduands, as you prepare to receive your certificates and open the next chapter of your lives, I would like to take this opportunity to salute you all. Today marks a significant milestone in your journey,

and I am proud of all that you have accomplished.

As you enter this new chapter, I urge you to keep in mind the importance of education to growth and development. As the famous philosopher, Confucius, once said, "Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace." Education is the key to unlocking your potential, to building a better future for yourself and for society.

Similarly, the world leader and former president of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, firmly believed that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Education empowers you to think critically, to solve problems, and to make a positive impact on the world. It opens doors and creates opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable to you.

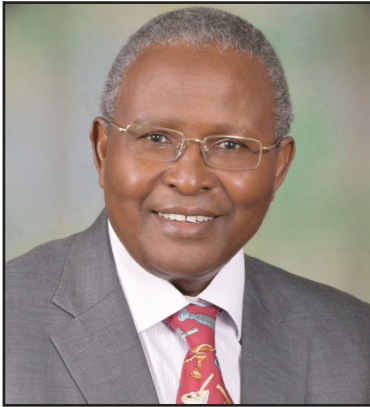
As you move forward in life, I urge

you to continue to seek out new knowledge and new experiences. According to the American author Mark Twain, "The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." Education is a lifelong pursuit, and the more you learn, the more you will be able to achieve.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the 1,287 graduands graduating today. You have achieved something truly remarkable, and you have earned the right to be proud of your accomplishments. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours, and I urge you to continue to seek out new knowledge and new experiences.

Congratulations again, and best of luck in all your future endeavours.

Use the Skills Acquired to Make a Positive Difference in the World



Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage

As we gather today to celebrate your achievements, I wish to take this opportunity to express my pride and joy for your accomplishments. The 46th Graduation Ceremony marks a milestone in your

academic journey, and it is an honour for the University to hold this event.

As you embark on the next phase of your lives, I want to remind you of the skills and knowledge that you have gained during your time at Egerton University. You have not only acquired theoretical knowledge in your respective fields, but you have also developed practical skills that will be valuable in your future careers. Some of these skills include: critical thinking and problem-solving; communication and teamwork; leadership and responsibility; adaptability and resilience; and cultural and social awareness.

I also want to take a moment to recognise and appreciate the role that the faculties and staff have played in making this Graduation a possibility. They have been dedicated to your

success from the very beginning, providing you with the knowledge and skills you need to excel, and supporting you through every step of your academic journey. Their hard work and dedication have been instrumental in your success, and we are truly grateful for their contributions.

As you proceed with your lives, I encourage you to continue to strive for excellence and to make a positive difference in the world. Be confident that the skills and knowledge that you have gained at Egerton will serve you well in the future, and know that you have the support and encouragement of your faculty and staff.

Congratulations on your graduation, and the best of luck in your future endeavours!

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage
Vice-Chancellor*



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



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



*Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo
Principal
Nakuru City Campus College*



*Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi
Registrar
(Academic Affairs)*



*Maureen A. Ngala
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*

Hand-Washing Facility Funded by Bayer East Africa Launched



Prof. Paul Kimurto

On behalf of the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation (DMRM), I wish to congratulate all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony for their hard work, which has seen them reach this far. The Directorate houses the Alumni Department, where you will now belong. I encourage you to become Life Members of the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) and to actively take part in Alumni activities.

The Directorate was created in 2009, but it was formerly known as the Directorate of Institutional Advancement (DIA). It is designed to be the prime agent in mobilising support for University activities from donors, philanthropic organisations, friends, corporations, government policy makers, alumni, media and Egerton University Council Members. The functions of the Directorate are to develop strategies and identify prospects for mobilisation of resources for the advancement of the University; develop strategies for publicity and branding of the University; monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of University marketing interventions; advocate on behalf of and enhance the

marketing of the University locally and internationally through website content delivery and global rankings; and provide guidelines for maximisation of income and cost-cutting interventions by the University. Through the interventions put in place by DMRM, Egerton University has been consistently ranked among the top three universities in Kenya and below position 1800 globally for the last five years.

To increase University visibility and student enrolment, as well as to enhance relationships with external stakeholders, the Directorate has undertaken a number of strategic activities. One of them is the development and implementation of the parents' portal, which we hope will enable parents and guardians to be constantly updated on the academic performance, fee payment status, and class attendance of their children.

The second undertaking by DMRM is the taking up of the coordination of schools and colleges academic tours to the University. Visiting institutions are now directed to the DMRM as the first entry point where they are given an overview about the University, some history of the University, and the academic programmes offered, before they are released to proceed with their tours. During the last quarter of 2022, 48 secondary schools and institutions toured the Main Campus in Njoro, which translated to over 2000 students visiting the University.

The Directorate, in collaboration with Deans and Directors, the Registrar (Academic Affairs), and the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, has been participating in Career Fairs and Exhibitions as a key intervention to increase enrolment in our programmes.

In the last quarter of 2022, we jointly marketed the University in more than eight Career Exhibitions across Kenya.

In line with our strategy to strengthen University-Industry linkages, the University initiated and completed the construction of a Hand-Washing Facility at the Njoro Campus that was fully funded by Bayer East Africa with technical support from the Kenya Water for Health Organisation (KWAHO) at a cost of KSh.4 million. Bayer East Africa is one of our major industry partners and employs many Egerton University graduates in the agricultural, agro-chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The hand-washing facility is located near Kilimo Hall.

As part of our resource mobilisation strategies, the University's visibility and enhancing industry-university partnerships, the Directorate recently participated in several fundraising, research, and stakeholders meetings with a number of students and staff. These include the United Arab Emirates Trade Mission to Kenya and Agribusiness and Trade Panel Discussion led by Prof. Paul Kimurto; the Ukama Ustawi Project during the Kenya National Policy Dialogue at Kempinski Hotel in November 2022 led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage; and the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Workshop, among others. We also participated in the Nairobi Innovation Week in collaboration with the Directorate of Research and Extension led by Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, where several students from CESAAM, TAGDev, Agropark, and Dairy Science exhibited their innovations. During the event, Mr Joseph Nguthiru, a student from the Faculty of Engineering and

Technology, won the best manufacturing innovation award for his innovation in fabricating biodegradable seedling polybags using water hyacinth (see separate story).

The Directorate also participated in the Research to Commercialisation (R2C) Kenya Innovation Agency Conference, where newly released groundnut varieties (Mwangaza and Ndovu) from the Agro-Science Park, led by Prof. Paul Kimurto, won the best innovations in the agricultural sector. The Agro-Science Park has been registered as a member of the International Association of Science Parks, African Division.

The Department of Resource Mobilisation, headed by Mr Moses Ouma, has laid out several strategies for resource mobilisation. These include the review of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy, which has recently been approved by the University Council. Others are the development of several donor-funded proposals on food security, product development, and student infrastructure, as well as facilities that support teaching, learning and healthy living within the campus.

Alumni Relations Department

The Alumni Relations Department is headed by Dr Masaya H. Chakava who is assisted by Ms Fridah Murugi. The University has lately placed alumni at the core of its activities. Alumni are now regularly informed of the developments in their alma mater through constant communication via digital platforms. The University's Alumni database is regularly updated to include those previously not captured. The University Council has particularly been very keen on receiving quarterly reports on the status of Alumni engagement activities and the regularity with which the Alumni database is updated.

On 26 November 2022, the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) held its AGM during which a new Executive Board was elected. The AGM was held at the



Egerton University students wash their hands at the hand-washing facility donated by Bayer East Africa during the launch of the facility on 27 January 2023 at the Main Campus, next to Kilimo Hall.

Milele Resort in Nakuru City and was attended by more than 200 EUAA members. Mr. Richard K. Rop was elected as the new Chair of EUAA in a tight contest. He will lead the Association for the next five years. Others elected were Dr Stella Wabwoba (Vice-Chair), Ms Rachel Litei (Organising Secretary), Dr Kuria Wamukuru (Secretary), and Ms Ann Tenya (Treasurer). The new Board officially took over office during a handover ceremony held on 21 January 2023 at the Milele Resort.

The Alumni Office presented the Egerton University Employability Strategy Framework to the Finance and General Purpose Committee of the Council on 19 January 2023. Suggestions from the Committee are being incorporated in the Framework. The revised Framework will be presented to the full Council for adoption. This Framework outlines various strategies that the University intends to utilise in delivering curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities in order to make its graduates employable locally and abroad. The Framework was developed with technical support from the Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) and

the South African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE).

Through the Alumni Office, a number of Egerton University graduates have recently secured paid internships in various parts of the world. For instance, in January 2023, Mr Samuel Karanja and Ms Eunice Murugi Ndwiga, both from the Faculty of Agriculture, reported for an 18-month paid internship programme in Denmark under the Glorbit Internship Programme initiative. Two other Egerton graduates are processing their travel documents and will soon report to Denmark to commence their internship. Three other recent graduates will also be travelling to Sweden on a similar programme.

To expose final year students to local and international career opportunities, the Alumni Office, in conjunction with the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, has planned a career mentorship day in March 2023 where the final-year students will be sensitised on the Kenya Airlift Programme, in addition to other career and study opportunities available abroad.

Start-Up by Egerton Students Wins Best Manufacturing Innovation Prize

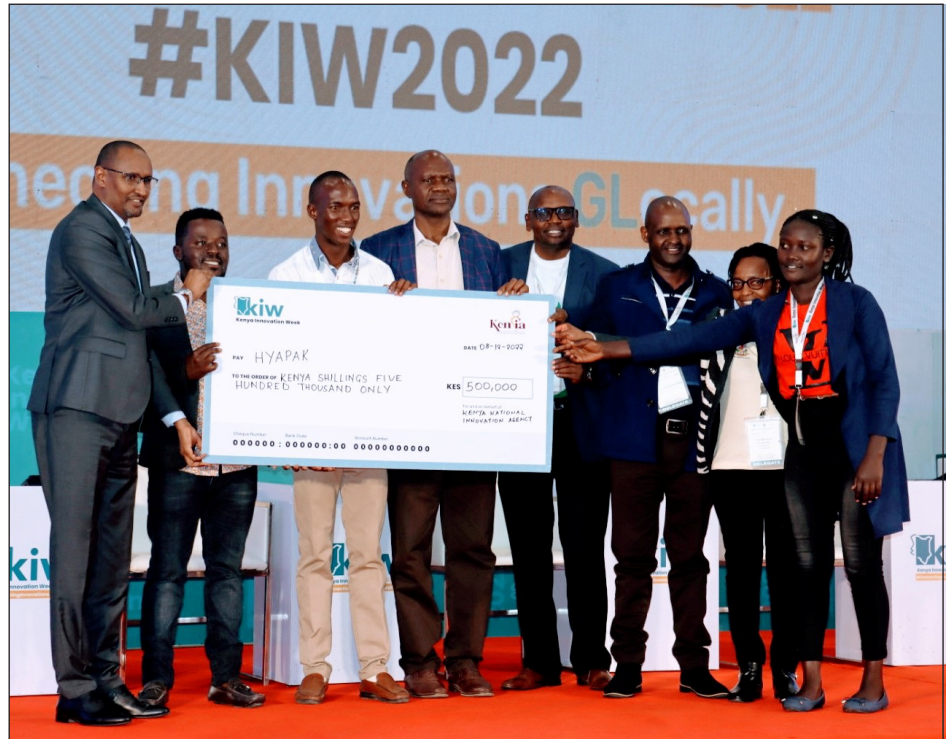
By Musa Kurian

Egerton University recently showcased innovations by its researchers during the Kenya Innovation Week (KIW), which was held from 5-8 December 2022 at the Sarit Expo Centre in Nairobi. The theme for the 2022 innovation week was “Innovation for Transformation and Impact in the Society”. Among the innovations presented by Egerton University were various seed varieties produced at the Agro-Science Park. The seeds are a product of extensive research initiatives conducted to produce high-yielding, drought, and disease-resistant crop varieties. The popular Chelalang' bean variety was on high demand at the Egerton stand and was totally sold out. Those who visited the Egerton stand requested for more seeds to be availed in their regions. Among the many visitors to our stand were Egerton University Alumni now working in different public and private sectors.

The Agro-Science Park at Egerton University is one of the frameworks put in place by the University to support innovations and boost relations between academia and industry so as to grow Income Generating Units (IGUs) through partnerships and collaborations. The current Director of Agro-Science Park is Prof. Paul Kimurto, who is also the Director of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation at Egerton University.

Also on display at the Expo were the market-driven academic programmes offered at Egerton University. The University currently has over 52 academic departments that offer a wide range of programmes from diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate levels.

During the award ceremony, a student-led start-up dubbed HyaPak was awarded KSh.500,000 for being the best manufacturing innovation featured at the event. HyaPak is an innovation that manufactures bio-degradable paper that is an



The Principal Secretary, State Department of Youth Affairs, Captain (Rtd) Ismail Maalim (Left), awards the winning innovation to the Egerton University team led by the Director, Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, who is also Director, Egerton Agro-Science Park, Professor Paul Kimurto (4th Right). Mr Joseph Nguthiru (third left), one of the winning students, is seen receiving the winning cheque.

environmentally friendly alternative to single use plastic bags. The HyaPak innovation uses water hyacinth which is the world's most stubborn aquatic weed. The students behind this innovation are Mr Joseph Nguthiru, Mr Charles Kinyua, and Mr Pascal Nabiswa, all from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at Egerton University. Though the HyaPak project has just passed the prototype stage, the innovation attracted several prospective investors during the KIW, who are keen to seek a possible partnership with the innovators and the University to set up a factory for mass production.

Apart from exhibition of innovations by participants, the KIW also involved a start-up summit and a commercialisation summit which ran concurrently. Presenters at the start-up summit urged universities to leverage on public-private partnerships to

enable them to create more jobs and share knowledge and industry best practice. This will enable them to be more innovative in the courses and curricula they offer to be market driven.

At the commercialisation summit, the role of universities in the dissemination of education versus the need for them to become entrepreneurial was explored. It was thus emphasised that universities should offer their students an entrepreneurship course and a communication skills unit before they graduate. These skills will help to enhance their readiness for the world of work.

Mr Musa Kurian is a Communication Officer at the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University.

KCB Donates KSh2,000,000 toward the 8th Mau-Egerton University Cross Country

By Musa Kurian

This year Egerton University has received a boost of KSh2 million from Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) toward sponsorship for the 8th Mau-Egerton University Cross-Country, which will be held on 25 February 2023. The Cross Country was officially launched on 20 January 2023 at the Agricultural Resources Centre (ARC) Hotel within Njoro Campus during an event attended by sponsors, key partners, and the Brand Ambassador of the event. The Brand Ambassador of the 8th edition is the world renowned international athlete Ms Faith Chepng'etich.

The main objective of the Mau-Egerton University Cross Country dubbed Run for the Mau is to raise awareness about the degradation of the Mau Complex and source for funds for the rehabilitating the water tower. Decades of environmental degradation

in the Mau Complex has led to decline in the water quality and quantity thereby compromising local economies and livelihoods. Egerton University is committed to the rehabilitation of the Mau ecosystem through events such as Run for the Mau.

The cheque was received by Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, the Vice Chancellor of Egerton University. Expressing his happiness after receiving the cheque, Prof. Kibwage noted that the University was committed towards working with stakeholders to improve the human habitat.

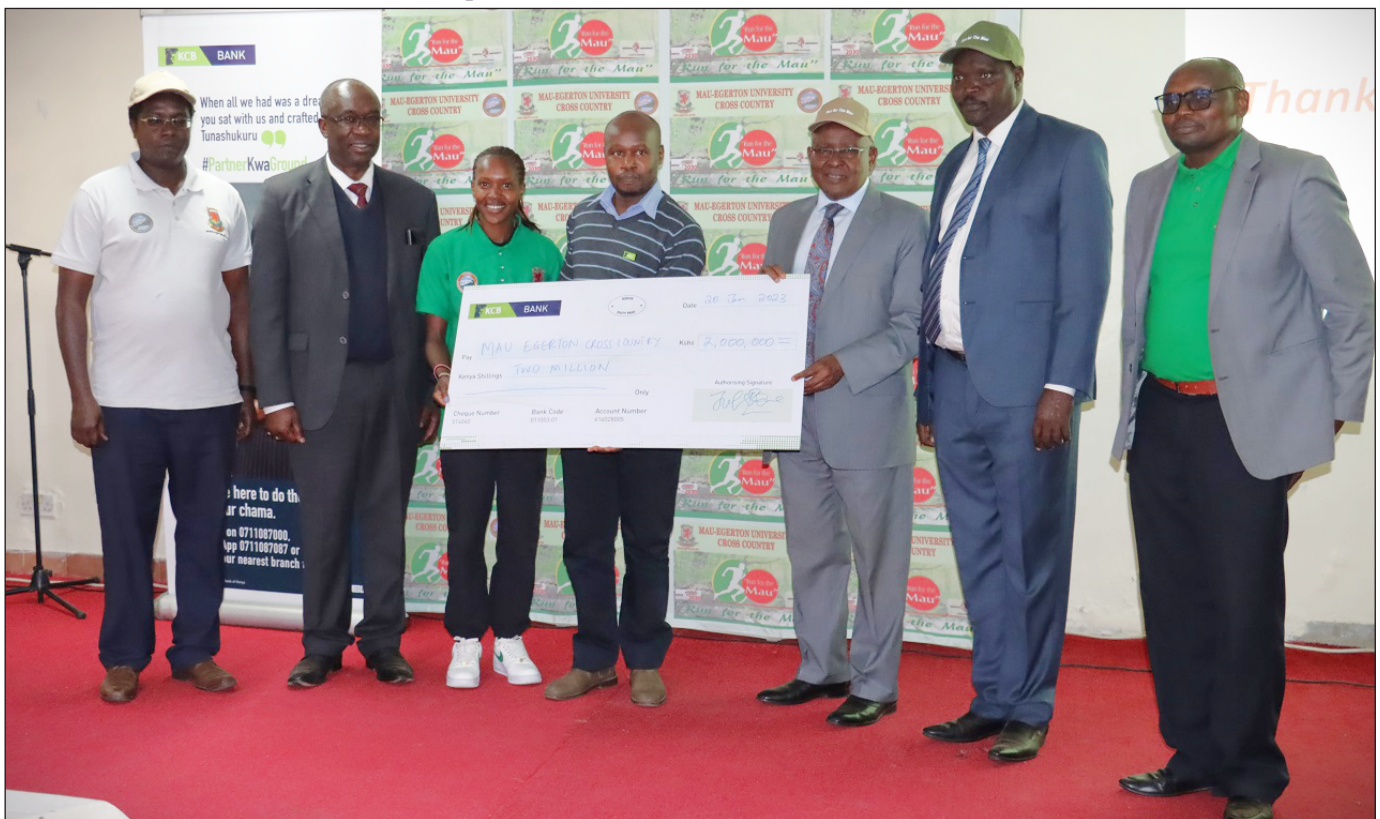
The Vice-Chancellor and the Brand Ambassador, together with the other partners, had earlier planted trees outside the University Senior Common Room to mark the launch of the 8th Edition of the Cross-Country.

Apart from KCB, the other key partners who attended the launch and

are sponsoring the Cross-Country include the Nakuru County Government, which was represented at the launch by Dr Nelson Maara, who is the County Executive Committee Member in charge of Water, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources. He presented a donation of 2,000 seedlings of indigenous trees from the County Government.

Other partners who attended were the Narok County Government, the Bomet County Government, Athletics Kenya, and Kenya Forest Service, among others. A total of KSh.2.45 million was pledged to support the event. The Kenya Wildlife Services pledged to donate KSh.100,000 worth of tree seedlings.

You can register for the 8th Mau-Egerton University Cross-Country through the following link <https://crosscountry.egerton.ac.ke/take-part>



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage (3rd right), receives a cheque of Ksh2 Million from the KCB Bank Regional Sales Manager, Great Rift Region, Mr John Paul, on 20 January 2023 at the Main Campus. KCB Bank is the principal sponsor of the 8th Edition of the Egerton-Mau Cross Country Championship. The Brand Ambassador of the event, the celebrated World and Olympic 1,500 Metre Champion Ms Faith Chepng'etich (3rd left), attended the event.

New DQA Boardroom Set to Enhance Quality Assurance Processes



Dr Patricia Wambugu

Congratulations to all of our graduands of the 46th Graduation! As the Director of Quality Assurance, I am thrilled to see the hard work and dedication that has led to this momentous occasion. Your achievements are a testament to your commitment to excellence and your ability to overcome any challenges that came your way. I wish you all the best as you embark on your next journey, and I am confident that you will continue to make a positive impact in transforming the world.

In order to enhance students' perceptions of the teaching effectiveness index, the Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) upholds the commitment made by the University Council of improving the quality of education through improvement of the Quality of Education Index. In this regard, the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE) and Practical Instruction Effectiveness Evaluation (PIEE) are conducted by DQA each semester. The objective of the evaluation is to provide feedback and recommendations for implementation on the quality of teaching and learning to the members of the

academic/teaching staff for continuous improvement in quality teaching. DQA successfully conducted the online TEE and PIEE in August 2022 for Semesters I and II of the 2021/2022 academic year using the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS) domiciled in Academic Records Management System (ARMS). The evaluation registered 86.2% response rate.

The responsibility for developing and managing internal Academic Quality Assurance procedures in the University falls under the purview of the DQA. In this regard, the Directorate coordinates the self-assessment of all academic programmes that have completed the full cycle of implementation. Deans of faculties in consultation with Chairpersons of Departments (CoDs) identify the due programmes and forward them to DQA. Various teams selected to conduct the self-assessment during 2022/2023 were trained by DQA on how to carry out a self-assessment in November 2022. Further, the self-assessment of the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology programme was successfully completed and the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) submitted to DQA in December 2022 for internal review and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations provided.

Examinations are important tools for assessing a student's knowledge, comprehension, talents, or skills developed through instruction and learning. The effectiveness of the learning objectives of courses is assessed through examinations. In order to assess the examinations administered for all programmes each semester, External Examiners (EEs) are invited for moderation and each EE is required to submit a written report.

“ DQA successfully conducted the online TEE and PIEE in August 2022 for Semesters I and II of the 2021/2022 academic year using the Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation Management System (TEEMS) domiciled in Academic Records Management System (ARMS).

This is carried out to ensure the quality of the programmes and examinations the University offers. DQA compiles and analyses the EE reports to produce a summary report with recommendations. The recommendations are then implemented at Faculty and Departmental levels after approval of the University Management Board (UMB) for continuous quality improvement.

We are happy to announce the completion of DQA boardroom. The boardroom was professionally designed to accommodate the unique requirements of DQA and will be utilised to facilitate meetings, presentations, trainings and conferences pertaining monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of academic quality in the University.

Again, congratulations to you all and best wishes as you begin the next phase of your career development.

Secretariat Working on Implementing Relevant ISO Standards



Prof. Paul M. Makenzi

On behalf of staff in the Secretariat for ISO Standards, Egerton University, I wish all the graduands God's blessings in your endeavours.

ISO standards are a set of internationally recognised standards meant to guide organisations through provision of a framework for implementing and maintaining effective management systems, in order to improve the overall performance and meet the needs of their customers/clients and other stakeholders.

The Egerton University ISO Secretariat is mandated to coordinate the implementation of ISO standards at the University.

The University, in its 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, committed to the recertification of ISO Standards whose periods had expired, the certification of all the other relevant ISO Standards, and the insurance of their effective implementation.

The ISO standards that the Secretariat is currently focusing on include ISO 9001:2015; ISO 14001:2015; ISO 22000:2005; and ISO 27000:2013.

ISO 9001:2015 is a standard for quality management systems (QMS). This standard is based on a process approach, focusing on the processes that

ensure provision of quality services, rather than on the products and services themselves. This approach helps organizations to identify and manage the risks that are associated with their processes, and to improve the overall effectiveness of their management systems.

ISO 14001:2015 is a standard for environmental management systems (EMS). It provides organisations with a set of requirements for implementing and maintaining an environmental management system. This approach helps organisations to identify and manage the risks that are associated with their environmental management processes, and to improve the overall effectiveness of their ecosystem.

ISO 22000:2005, known as the Food Safety Management System (FSMS), is an international standard for food safety management. It provides a framework for managing food safety risks throughout the entire food supply chain, from raw materials to finished products. The standard is designed to help organisations effectively identify and control food safety hazards, and to ensure that products are safe for consumption.

ISO 27000:2013, known as the Information Security Management System (ISMS), is an international standard for information security management. It provides a framework for managing information security risks and ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. The standard is designed to help organisations effectively identify and control information security hazards, and to ensure that information assets are protected.

The standard is based on the ISO/IEC 27001:2013, which is the international standard that specifies the requirements for an ISMS. The ISMS provides a systematic approach to managing sensitive company information so that it remains secure. It

includes a risk assessment process and a set of security controls, including policies and procedures, that organisations can implement to protect their information assets. The standard also includes requirements for management commitment, continual improvement, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

All the above-mentioned ISO standards are based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle, which is a structured method for continuous improvement. Organisations are required to plan their management systems, implement them, monitor and measure their performance, and take action to improve them. To achieve certification to any of the standards, an organisation must demonstrate that its management system meets the requirements of the respective standard and that it is effectively implemented and maintained.

The Secretariat for ISO standards at Egerton University is responsible for ensuring that the University is in compliance with these standards and that the management systems that have been implemented are effective. The office is responsible for conducting regular audits of the University's management systems to ensure that they meet the requirements of the standards, and for providing training and support to University staff to help them understand and implement the standards.

Over the years, the University has made significant strides in achieving certification in all the above-mentioned ISO standards, most of which are at advanced stages of achieving the coveted certification by KEBS. Currently, the Secretariat is working on reviving operations around ISO 9001:2015 QMS that will lead to certification.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands.

Egerton University Supports Presidential Initiative to Plant 15 Billion Trees

By Musa Kurian

Egerton University has committed to support the Presidential initiative that seeks to plant 15 billion trees through innovative approaches like that of HyaPak. HyaPak is a B2B start-up by Egerton University students that transforms water hyacinth into biodegradable seedling pots that are an alternative to conventional single use disposable plastic seedling wrappers (see separate story). The HyaPak seedling pots were showcased when President Dr William Samoei Ruto launched the planting of trees for climate change at Kona Baridi, Ngong Hills in Kajiado County on 21

December 2023.

The President used the occasion to officially launch the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign, which targets to achieve a 30% national tree cover from the current 12.13% by 2032. The campaign is christened Mission15B #JazaMiti.

Speaking at the event, the President noted that it was now time for intentional placement of environmental conservation at the centre of Kenya's socio-economic transformation agenda. He added that Kenya was on course to achieving a cleaner and safer environment for everyone but cautioned that this

required unity of purpose and collective action.

The President, accompanied by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, the Principal Secretary for Forestry, Mr Ephantus Kimotho and the Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change, Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno, visited the Egerton University stand. They were received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, and other senior University members of staff. The Egerton team later joined the President in a tree-planting exercise under the Mission15B #JazaMiti initiative. ■



The President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, tours the Egerton stand during the launch of the National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign at Kona Baridi, Ngong Hills, Kajiado County, on 21 December 2023. The stand featured the biodegradable seedling wrappers christened “HyaPak” invented by Egerton University Students Joseph Nguthiru, Charles Kinyua, and Pascal Nabiswa.

Egerton University Hosts U.S. Undergraduate Students in Highly Successful REU-REEU Fellows Programme

By Joshua O. Ogendo

For the past three years Egerton University and Bowie State University (BSU), USA, have enjoyed a mutually beneficial collaboration in areas of joint research and student exchanges. During the period under review, the Programme Director, Prof. Anne Osano (BSU), and the Programme Coordinator, Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo, successfully implemented the Global Research and Extension Experience for US undergraduate students, courtesy of funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF-REU) and the United States Department of Agriculture through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA: REEU). The REU-REEU Fellows Programme 2022 supported 13 undergraduate students drawn from eight US universities, who underwent an 8-week (6 June to 31 July 2022) research and extension mentorship programme. This is a unique mentorship model, in which 1-2 undergraduate students (Mentees) are

attached to Mentor Professors in the Departments of Crops, Horticulture and Soils, Biological Sciences, and Agricultural Education and Extension. The REU-REEU 2022 Programme received a total of USD 56,355.00 (KSh6.39 Million) from NSF and USDA.

The REU-REEU Fellows were hosted by particular professors in their on-going research and extension projects.

The NSF-REU Fellows were attached to their projects and Mentors as follows: (i) Sorghum Project: Climate Smart Approaches for Promotion and Adoption of Sorghum for ASALs of Kenya (2 students mentored by Prof. Erick Cheruiyot, assisted by a Master's student); (ii) Indigenous Vegetable Project: A focus on Cassava (1 student mentored by Prof. Richard Mulwa); (iii) Rhizobium Project: Nitrogen Fixation in Lablab (1 student mentored by Prof. Nancy W. Mungai); (iv) Finger Millet Project: Analysis of Multi-Environment

Adaptation and Its Effect on Nutrient Profiles and Blending With Legumes of Diverse Finger Millet Genotypes (*Eleusine coracana* L. Gaertn) (2 students mentored by Prof. Paul K. Kimurto, assisted by his Ph.D. student); and (v) Diversity of Endophytes in Kenyan Forgotten Food Crops (2 students mentored by Dr Joseph J. Mafurah, assisted by a Master's student).

Similarly, the USDA NIFA-REEU Fellows were hosted as follows; (i) Napier Grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) Health, Agronomy and Utilisation (2 students mentored by Dr Evans O. Obura); (ii) Efficiency of Domestic Fish Farming Technology for African Catfish (2 students mentored by Dr Elick O. Otachi); (iii) Agricultural Extension Experiential Learning Activities in Kenya (1 student mentored by Dr Maurice Ongalo Udoto, assisted by a Ph.D. student); and (iv) Virtual Activity: Plant Metabolomics Virtual Workshops on HPTLC, LC-MS, NMR Spectroscopy



A group photo of undergraduate students and staff from Bowie State University (USA) and Egerton University staff and students during the launch of the 2022 Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates (REEU) at the Main Campus, Njoro, on 8 June 2022

and Endophytes (by USA Professors).

As part of the global research and extension experience for the REU-REEU Fellows, an 8-week activity plan was implemented with the following key elements covered: a Research Forum, where every alternate Thursday every REU-REEU Fellow presented individual research agenda and a progress report; Professional Development facilitated by relevant Egerton University and BSU faculty in areas of Proposal and Scientific Writing, Ethics in Science, Presentation Techniques and Plant Metabolomics Virtual workshops delivered by US Professors on HPTLC, LC-MS, NMR Spectroscopy and Endophytes; and Research Field and Laboratory Visits which were organised as part of professional development to the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KEMFRI), the International

Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE); and farmers' fields.

In addition to the aforementioned academic/professional visits, educational-cum-cultural excursions were organised during weekends to the Maasai Mara National Reserve, Lake Baringo, Nairobi National Park, the Lord Egerton Castle, and the Childrens' Orphanage in Nakuru.

At the end of the REU-REEU 2022 Fellows Programme, each Mentee produced and presented the following four key outputs/products: a quality poster; a quality research paper (publishable in a peer-reviewed scientific journal); a power point presentation during a symposium; and a programme survey.

Upon return to the USA, all the 13 REU-REEU Fellows presented their research outputs at the Bowie State University Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) Virtual Symposium, held on 4-5 August 2022.

It is interesting to note that one

Fellow, Mr Max Sahi, has had his paper, entitled "Growing Food in the Desert: Sorghum and the Importance of Salt Tolerance," accepted for presentation at NCUR 2023 at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on April 13-15 2023. His co-authors are Erick Cheruiyot, Nelly Chebet, Anne Osano, and Joshua Ogendo.

The successful implementation of the Egerton University-Bowie State University model exchange programme on Global Research and Extension Experience for US undergraduate students provides a good reference point for benchmarking, and redesigning of curricula for academic and research excellence. Egerton University is looking forward to hosting the 3rd cohort of REU-REEU Fellows in line coming summer (5-31 June 2023).

Joshua O. Ogendo is the Principal of Egerton University's Nakuru City Campus and teaches courses in Crop Protection (Stored Products Entomology) at the University.

High-Flying Egerton Wasps Declared Mental Health Awareness Champions

By Leon Nyang

The Egerton University, Rugby Team, popularly known as Egerton Wasps, is enjoying a good run in the ongoing Varsity League, which is being played nationally to champion for mental health awareness within institutions of higher learning. The team has proved to be the favourite to both the crowds and the sponsors, having won all their group matches, including a final classic home game against Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) team that drew the largest fan base in the tournament. The Wasps beat JKUAT 31-3.

Prior to this, on 8 October 2022, the team had hammered the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DEKUT) 45-6, and KCA University 29-13 on 15 October 2022. These victories have sent the team through to the quarter final stage, where they will play against the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) in March 2023. Due to their impressive performances in the game, the Egerton Wasps were made the champions for mental health in the Varsity Rugby Programme.

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The Egerton University Rugby Team, The Wasps, after winning their game against Dedan Kimathi University of Technology on 15 October 2022 at the Egerton University Sports Pavilion

Egerton and the Italian Cultural Institute Host a Co-Lecture at the University

By Musa Kurian

African food is a rich and diverse part of our continent's cultural heritage. From the savoury stews of West Africa to the spicy curries of East Africa, indigenous African food has been enjoyed for generations. However, in recent years, the popularity of fast food and global cuisines has threatened the survival of many traditional African dishes.

In an effort to preserve and promote the African food heritage, Egerton University, through the African Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) and the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute at the Embassy of Italy, Nairobi, hosted a co-lecture on Monday 23 January 2023, at the ARC Hotel. The event was organised as a blended meeting, whereby physical participation was by invitation, while virtual participation

was open to others within and outside Kenya.

The theme of the co-lecture was “Heritage and Utilisation of Indigenous African Foods”. It was delivered by Prof. Michele Filippo Fontefrancesco of the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy and Dr Stellamaris Muthoka of Egerton University. The co-lecture event aimed to promote the importance of traditional agricultural and culinary products and their utilisation in ways consistent with Slow Food International's commitment to “prevent the disappearance of local food cultures and traditions, counteract the rise of fast life and combat peoples' dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from and how our food choices affect the world around us”.

Prior to the lecture, the speakers paid a courtesy call on the Vice-

Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, and were hosted by the Deputy Vice-chancellor (Academic Affairs), Prof. Bernard O. Aduda.

In her presentation, “Enhancing the Utilisation of Indigenous Foods in Kenya”, Dr Muthoka discussed the need for people to understand and appreciate the cultural and historical significance of indigenous African foods. She emphasised the need for a resurgence of indigenous food cultures, which would lead to an increase in the utilisation of these foods, not just in Kenya but throughout Africa. She pointed out that this will not only help preserve the African food heritage but will also create new opportunities for food entrepreneurs and provide a source of livelihood for local farmers.

On his part, Prof. Fontefrancesco focused on “Revisiting the African Agriculture and Cuisines: The Role of Food Heritage in the Growing Food Sector in Kenya”. He pointed out that by highlighting the unique flavours and ingredients of African cuisine, food entrepreneurs can create new and exciting dishes that can compete with global cuisines. He added that by promoting African cuisine, the food sector can become more sustainable, as local ingredients will be used instead of imported ones.

The co-lecture was a great success in that it helped to highlight the importance of preserving the African food heritage and the role it can play in the growth of the food sector. It also encouraged people to think about the food they consume.

Mr Musa Kurian is a Communication Officer at the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, Egerton University.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) (third from right), Prof. Bernard Aduda, has a light moment with participants in the co-lecture held at Egerton University, Main Campus, by Egerton and the Italian Cultural Institute on 23 January 2023. With him are Prof. Michele Filippo Fontefrancesco of the University of Gastronomic Sciences, Italy (third from left), and Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo, Principal Nakuru City Campus College

EUSA Representative to Join the EUAA Board

By Dennis Odero

The Egerton University Student Association (EUSA) is a body that brings together the student fraternity from all the campuses of the University. The leadership of EUSA is made up of the Students' Governing Council (SGC), the Students' Parliament, the Students' Congress and the Class Representatives. The Association represents the entire student body in important University governance structures, key among them being the University Senate. One of the defining mandates of EUSA is to escalate the issues affecting students to the University Management. The leadership is also mandated to promote students' talents and build capacities of students in all aspects of their lives at the University, including clubs and societies, sports, creative arts, and career mentorship. EUSA also supports needy students through the EUSA Bursary Fund and the Meal Voucher Programme.

In executing its mandate, EUSA works closely with key offices like the Office of the Dean of Students, academic deans, student counsellors, the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, the Alumni Office, and the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services, among others.

In November 2022, the EUSA leaders attended the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) Annual General Meeting, where, through the EUSA Chair, they requested EUAA to consider renovating the swimming pool at the Njoro Campus, which has been closed for some time. They also requested EUAA to incorporate one of the EUSA leaders into the EUAA Executive Board. In response, the EUAA AGM approved both requests. This means that students will have an opportunity to engage closely with Alumni through EUAA, and this will strengthen student mentorship initiatives.

During the current academic year, the EUSA leadership has so far organised various activities and trainings that were meant to improve the social and academic wellbeing of students. One such training was organised on 21 October 2022 in collaboration with Old Mutual and Faulu Bank on financial management and literacy. The students were trained on how to save money and the different investment channels available to comrades. The students who underwent the training, which was held at the Main Campus, were awarded certificates of participation by the organisers.

The EUSA office and the Office of the Dean of Students, in conjunction with the Shika Rada Initiative, hosted a drug and mental health awareness weekend challenge from 12-13 November 2022 at the Sports Pavilion at the Main Campus. The event was sponsored by Coca-Cola and Elite Sounds Limited. A host of Kenyan top gospel musicians graced the event through their electrifying performances. The musicians included Daddy Owen, Size8, Timeless Noel, Shorti Baba, Ocampo, Didiman, DJ Mo, Kush Tracy and Jabidee. Through their performances and talks, the artists urged students to shun using drugs since this is likely to ruin their lives.

On 15 November 2022, during the FIFA World Cup, EUSA and Coca-Cola organised a live World Cup Football match experience at the Sports Pavilion in Njoro Campus. The match was between Uruguay and Ghana. This provided a fantastic experience to students who are football lovers to relieve the academic pressure as the end semester exams were approaching.

Other events that were organised by EUSA include a girl talk session for female students to air out the issues that affect them, which was held on 24 September 2022 and was coordinated by the EUSA Director for Gender and

Co-Curricular Activities, Ms Susan Wambui. In addition, EUSA sent representative to various other functions, among them the 8 November 2022 Women in Leadership Conference at Kabarak University and the Kenya University Student Organisation (KUSO) National Conference held on 18 January 2023 at Ufungamano House in Nairobi.

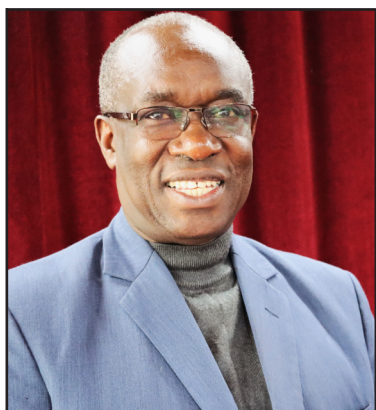
In sports, the Egerton University rugby team has continued to register excellent performances by winning major games and tournaments (see separate story).

Another success sports story has been the Egerton Premier League. The unique league comprises of 18 student football teams that compete in the "Premier League" and the lower "Championship League". Teams in the Premier League that accumulate the lowest points at the end of the season are usually relegated to the Championship League. Likewise, teams in the Championship League that accumulate the highest points at the end of the season are usually promoted to the Premier League. The games, which are normally played during weekends, have kept most of the male students not only entertained but also away from drugs. This competition has many talents that, if well nurtured, have a huge potential.

Finally, the EUSA Chairperson represented Egerton University students at the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting held on 12-16 December 2022 at the Harare International Conference Centre, Zimbabwe. The theme of the Conference was "Strengthening Africa's Agri-food Systems in the Post Covid-19 Era-Opportunities and Challenges".

Mr Odero is the Chairperson of Egerton University Students Association

Our Graduands are Ready to Generate Knowledge for National Development



Prof. Benard O. Aduda
DVC (AA)

A graduation ceremony is normally the culmination of academic activities over a period of time that varies for different programmes – diplomas and degrees. The 46th Graduation Ceremony is no different. On behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, I take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduands, who have worked hard to get to this important milestone in pursuit of higher education. This is a day of great personal significance to you, but it is also an important occasion for your families, relatives, friends, and our University. Just like you, all of us are proud because your success is also our success.

Allow me to extend my congratulations to your families, friends, and everyone who has had the privilege of supporting you through this journey. We sincerely appreciate them.

The workforce in the Academic Division has done a tremendous job. Being the focal point of our existence, we have strived to ensure that our work is top-notch. Our training exemplifies our Mandate, Mission, Vision and Philosophy. Therefore our graduands are armed with exemplary education and are ready to generate knowledge for national development. This is the reason for the graduation theme “Excellent and Relevant Education in an Ever-changing World”.

The 46th Egerton University Graduation offers us an opportunity to look at our score card and assess ourselves. We reflect what we have achieved in this current era where funding is minimal and thinking is no longer limited to the traditional comfort zone of inside the box. As we celebrate this Graduation Ceremony, allow me to take count of some of the key achievements by the Division of Academic Affairs.

In terms of new enrolments, we registered 3,263

students (inclusive of 1,195 female students in science and engineering programmes) in the 2022/2023 academic year, many amongst them having transferred to our institution from their original placement. This is an indication of the standing of Egerton University in the country. I wish to assure our students of timely completion of their studies.

In addition to the normal course of study, we have strengthened students' participation in extra-curricula activities through the office of the Dean of Students. During this calendar year alone, our students have won several trophies in National Sports and Games, and Music and Cultural Festival competitions. This platform gives our students the chance to explore their passions and to discover their interests beyond academics, leading to an all-rounded graduate.

The importance of research and research dissemination in our institution cannot be overstated. The University has put in place structures that encourage members of staff and students to be involved in research and innovations. I am happy to note that besides increased scientific publications, our academic staff have competitively won various research grants running into several million shillings. This shows how keen we are on research, in disseminating and sharing knowledge.

Providing education as 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. During the year, the University signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with several institutions, such as Oslo New University College, Norway. The MoUs are aimed at strengthening partnerships by promoting academic exchanges, exchange visits by staff and students, and research collaborations to seek solutions to the challenges affecting the society here and beyond.

The world is ever-changing and full of challenges, but there are also opportunities. The socio-economic challenges facing Kenya are enormous, but so are the resources. We are confident that you, our graduands, will be able to withstand whatever challenges may come your way because you have been adequately prepared and because you possess the inherent capacity to move the country's development agenda forward towards attaining Vision 2030.

I wish you all the best and success in your future endeavours. We welcome you to register with our Alumni Office to become members of our Alumni Association in order to give back to the institution.

God bless you, and God bless Egerton University.

Represent Egerton University in the Best Way Possible



Prof. Hadija M. Murenga

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Congregation. May today's events mark a very successful journey for your career placement and other good things to come in your lives. Always represent Egerton University in the best way possible.

A special congratulatory shout-out goes to the graduands from FASS. You have eventually come to the end of your undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with a smile on your faces. Thank you for focusing on your studies to the end.

I wish to thank the lecturers and the non-teaching staff members of the Faculty for their continuous support to our students, their hard work, and their commitment to duty. That is how we always do it.

I also thank and congratulate the parents and guardians of our graduands for a job well done. You worked very hard to ensure that the graduands' fees were paid up and that they were comfortable while in school, despite the challenging economic times currently being experienced by many Kenyans.

The Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (L.L.L.), by virtue of the fact that it hosts the University's writing programmes, plays the central role in equipping Egerton University students with the required

writing skills. The Department offers COMS 111: Communication Skills, the common core course that introduces every Egerton first-year student to writing. Furthermore, Egerton students who pursue the Bachelor of Education (Arts) and the Bachelor of Arts programmes are exposed to a wide range of approaches to writing through the Department's other programmes – including Literature, English, Kiswahili, Communication & Media, and Library & Information Science.

In recent times, the Department has been building on the structures that are already in place in so far as writing is concerned to do even more for Egerton students through extra-curricular avenues. This year, the Chancellor of the University, Dr Narendra Raval, sponsored a brilliantly conceived idea – that of an essay writing competition – and the Department was mandated to host it.

“The 2022 Egerton University Chancellor's Essay Writing Competition”, which was open to all Egerton undergraduate students, was on the topic “International Migration”, with the sub-themes covering practically every aspect of the migration of peoples across geographical and cultural boundaries.

The Competition was designed such that the participants had to adhere to stringent rules and regulations regarding writing as a process and as an object. The idea was to sensitise Egerton University students to the power and value of writing as effectively as possible within a very intellectually demanding but highly exciting context.

The Competition generated keen attention throughout the University Community. A total of 213 candidates, drawn from all the faculties, registered to participate. The submitted essays were subjected to an evaluation by a Panel of Judges from the Department of L. L. L. Nineteen essays were shortlisted for the final assessment, and the five winners were drawn from them. The members of the Panel were Dr Joseph Walunywa (Chair), Prof. Emilia Ilieva, Prof. Fugich Wako, Dr Dishon Kweya, and Dr Masaya H. Chakava.

The prizes to be won are as follows: Position One: KSh50,000; Position Two: KSh40,000; Position Three: KShs 30,000; Position Four: KSh20,000; and Position Five: KSh10,000.

Congratulations once again to the graduands.



Egerton University students perform a musical composition during the Egerton University Alumni Association Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2022 at the Milele Resort, Nakuru City

Do Not Be Busy Looking for Success – Work for It!



Dr Richard B. Nyaoga

It is my privilege as the Dean to say thank you to the students, parents, and staff of the Faculty of Commerce who have made it possible for these four years to be everything that we are celebrating today. On behalf of the Faculty of Commerce, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our graduating class of the 46th Graduation Ceremony. Looking back, you will notice that you have gone through a very long and winding path, which has led you to this moment. As your trainers, we know that you have overcome various challenges to forge that path and qualify as a graduand today. We are proud to have given you a solid training relevant to your areas of specialisation.

Over the years, the Faculty of

Commerce has continued to attract large numbers of students to its programmes. The Faculty admits both Government and Self-Sponsored students in Diploma, Bachelor's, and Postgraduate programmes in the full-time, part-time, and evening modes. It has highly qualified and dedicated members of teaching and support staff. Our programmes foster students' skills in Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Global Business Management, Human Resource Management, Information Systems, Marketing, Operations Management, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, Risk and Insurance Management, and Strategic Management.

The Faculty endeavours to discharge to the market highly qualified, self-driven and competent graduates who can address the challenges facing the business industry for the realisation of socio-economic development, the Kenya Vision 2030, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Our graduates are empowered with proven knowledge and skills in Commerce, Procurement and Supply Chain Management, and Entrepreneurship and are ready to complete the mission of their training in taking a lead in the business world by fostering entrepreneurial growth.

University education is something you complete; life is something you experience. Do not think only in terms of your grades. Success is defined in many

more ways. Your grading will come from your own internal sense of decency, input and output in your undertakings. You are competent to serve and inform the society about business in terms of needs, openings, and challenges.

This is the time for us to celebrate and honour your achievements. As you move forward into your careers and life-long journeys, remember that your path continues, nothing will be impossible to accomplish, and that you can do great things by utilising the knowledge you have acquired and putting God ahead in everything in your life!

To the class of February 2023: You are graduating at a time when the world is dealing with vast challenges, but also at a time when the opportunities created by those challenges have never been greater. As a family we are confident that armed with the skills and knowledge you have gained, you will be able to face the next phase of life, whatever it might be. Be bold, be courageous, do your best!

Graduands, remember that you will forever remain part of the Faculty of Commerce and the Egerton University Community.

Lastly, I leave you with a quotation by Henry David Thoreau: "Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it." As you graduate today the Faculty wishes you God's favour in all your future endeavours. Congratulations once again, our February 2023 graduating class! ■

Wasps Mental Health Awareness Champions

Continued from page

Apart from the Varsity League, the team has also resumed playing the Nationwide Rugby League and has already played three games against Kitale RFC, winning 44-5, Kitale Polytechnic, winning 34-3, and Moi University, losing 12-5. The Wasps have four more games to play before the playoffs.

The team also played at the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Rift Sevens Championship on 28 January 2023, as well as at Kabarak University, where they maintained a perfect score line against every opponent to win the finals and book a slot at the national KUSA Games, scheduled for 25-26 February 2023 in Meru.

Away from the field, the team recently held a team-building session in conjunction with the Anglican Church of Kenya around Egerton University. Together with youths from the church, the Wasps helped to build the foundation of the wall that will fence the whole church ground.

The Egerton University Administration played a significant role not only in financing the team but also in uplifting its spirit.

Mr Leon Nyang is a student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and is the Student Coach of the Egerton Wasps rugby team. ■

Student-Led Environmental Conservation Initiatives on the Rise



Prof. Wilkister N. Moturi

On behalf of the Faculty of Environment and Resources Development (FERD), I wish to congratulate all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony for their achievement. We at FERD are proud to be associated with your success and happy to release you to a world full of opportunities. Use the knowledge and skills we have equipped you with to grab the opportunities.

I wish to appreciate your parents, guardians, lecturers, support staff, and fellow students at Egerton University for their different roles, which culminated in your success today.

A number of activities have taken place in FERD since the last Graduation. To begin with, three researchers from Sorbonne University, Paris, France, visited the University and they were engaged in various activities. These activities included a seminar presentation to staff and students on “sedimentology and stratigraphy in fluvial systems as an example of the sedimentological approach and field survey”. The researchers also took part in a sensitisation workshop on the opportunities that exist for staff and students of Egerton University under the existing MoU with Sorbonne University. Finally, they led a discussion on the modalities for utilisation of the recently

awarded grants by the PAMOJA and ERASMUS+ Programmes.

Another key activity that took place in FERD was the representation of the Faculty at the 12th Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Regional Conference held at Kenyatta University on 28-30 November 2022. FERD is the host of the Mau Ecosystem Complex RCE.

An RCE is a collection of organisations in a particular region that are committed to the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Dean of FERD, who is the current Coordinator of the Mau Ecosystem Complex RCE, presented a paper at the Conference, whose theme was “Role of African RCEs in Climate Action”. The title of the Dean's presentation was “Engaging and Empowering the Youth and Children as Champions for Climate Action in the RCE Mau Ecosystem Complex”.

Two grants were won by FERD faculty members. These were the Erasmus+ Programme for Learning Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff and the Pamoja Hubert Curien Partnership.

Students of the faculty were also engaged in various activities under the guidance of their patrons. With support from TAGDev, the students hosted a

youth summit at the Njoro Campus on the theme “The Role of Youth in Promoting Green Economy, Green Energy and Building of Resilient Farming Communities”. Some students also attended the Kenyatta University Green Hub education simulation on COP27. COP27 refers to the 27th Conference of Parties which was held in Egypt on 6-18 November 2022. It brought together countries from around the world to increase ambition, implement existing goals, and strengthen commitments for combating climate change. As a way of helping residents of Nakuru City to understand the key issues of COP27, FERD students were hosted on Egerton Radio where they spoke on the topic “Unpacking COP27: Gains and Losses for Africa.”

FERD students also took part in a series of other environmental conservation initiatives. These included donation of seedlings, cleanup and environmental education for the Biston community around Egerton University, tree planting within the Mau ecosystem, and school visits for environmental conservation mentorship to schools in Njoro and Naivasha towns.. The Geography Club hosted a GIS and remote sensing sensitisation seminar. ■



The Faculty of Environment and Resources Development building located on the Main Campus, Njoro

Department Rolls out Training Activities for Communities



Prof. Japheth O. Onyando

On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), I wish to congratulate all graduands of this 46th Graduation Ceremony. The Faculty is proud to celebrate this auspicious occasion with all of them because they worked so hard to reach this stage. We assure all graduands that our graduates remain popular in the job market because our teaching incorporates an extensive practical component that has three industrial attachment postings. This ensures that the students acquire the requisite skills to make them employable.

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology has four departments, namely the Department of Agricultural Engineering, the Department of Industrial and Energy Engineering, the Department of Electrical and Control Engineering, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The Faculty also hosts the Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (CIWAB).

The Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management, coordinated by Eng. Prof Japheth Onyando, has since its establishment in 2017 been involved in supporting proposal writing in FET. Consequently it has been able to attract projects, with the current ones being Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) - Water Nexus,

Catch to Tap (C2T), African Development Bank AfDB/HE, and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) - Water Harvesting TIMPS. Under the OKP project, the department of Agricultural Engineering will receive equipment worth KSh3 million in February 2023.

In December 2021, under the C2T project, about 70 participants were trained with support from the World WaterNet. Participants were drawn from the Water Resources Authority, and the training focused on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Climate Change, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Information Technology (IT) skills in data handling. These trainings are essential in enhancing the capacity of the trainees and their performance at their places of work. The same will be repeated this year, and participants from water-related institutions are encouraged to apply. Each course costs KSh40,000 per person for two weeks, and it is certified.

An upcoming course on tractor operation and maintenance,

coordinated by CIWAB, begins on 15 February 2023 and ends on 3 March 2023. This will be implemented by Hello Tractors and supported by the United States Agency for International Development – Kenya Investment Mechanism (USAID-KIM). The training costs KSh.64,000 and aims at producing competent tractor operators with high ethical standards. The training was conceptualised after it emerged that farm machinery are usually run down by unqualified operators, resulting in a life span of two years instead of the design period of 15 years. A reconnaissance survey indicated that most farm machineries are lying idle in sheds for the same reason. It is envisaged that this will be unlocked through the training. The department of Agricultural Engineering, which hosts the trainings, plans to train 10,000 operators in the next five years and strategies are currently being developed to realise this target.

Once again, congratulations to the graduands of the 46th Graduation Congregation!



The Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA) held an Annual General Meeting on 26 November 2022 during which members elected a new Executive Board. In the above photo the outgoing EUAA Chairman, Prof. Isaac Kosgey, (third from left) hands over to the incoming Chairman Mr Richard K. Rop (second from right front row) during a handing-over ceremony held on 21 January 2023, at the Milele Resort, Nakuru City. Other who were elected are Dr Stella Wabwoba (Vice-Chair), Ms Rachael Litei (Organising Secretary), Dr Kuria Wamukuru (Secretary)(left), and Ms Anne Tenya (Treasurer) (second from right back row).

FHS Records 100% Graduate Transition to Internship



Dr Samson Obure

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) joins the graduands, parents, guardians, lecturers and technical staff of Egerton University in celebrating the crowning moment of the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony. You have earned your crown and you deserve to celebrate the hard work you have invested. Those graduating from FHS will take various oaths as demanded by their professions. I urge them to always stand by the words of those oaths and serve humanity with love.

The Faculty of Health Sciences, staff, and students were involved in various activities in 2022 that resulted in tremendous growth of the students and the Faculty as a whole. First-year nursing students currently in Njoro had the opportunity to practise what they have been learning in their classes. Every week, they attended practical sessions in the Skills Lab at Nakuru City Campus College (NCCC), where they also got to gain experience through various simulation activities. These experiences have helped to prepare them for the practical clinical sessions as they progress from the pre-clinical to the clinical phase and will ensure that they are actively involved in management of patients at the Nakuru County Teaching

and Referral Hospital (NCTRH).

The students have also been engaged actively in research. In the current academic year, two groups of students have been involved in research activities within communities and also the hospital facilities. These activities have been overseen by Dr Ronald Omenge and the Department of Community Health.

Research in medicine is important as it helps to form decisions and create evidence-based medical practices in the management of patients and conditions. Research also helps diversify and create more opportunities for students and healthcare workers (HCWs). In this vein, three fifth-year medical students presented research papers at various conferences within the academic year, which was a great achievement for the students and the FHS.

The students have also been involved in community outreaches, where they have taken part in management and treatment of citizens within the community. One such activity was carried out at London Estate, Nakuru County, and another at Lubao Centre, Kakamega County, where our students actively participated. These opportunities not only prepare the students for their future but also train the students to give back to the community.

The Human Nutrition Department is in collaboration with Boitekanelo College from Botswana for the second year running. This Department has received Nutrition students from the College, and we ensure that they get exposed to the various sections of nutrition such as Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), Community Nutrition (CN), and Food Service Systems Management (FSSM). The students will be involved in various hospitals and communities, where they will interact with the nutritionists as well as the lecturers from the Department of Human Nutrition, so as to grow academically and learn key skills.

The Clinical Medicine Students

Association (CLIMSA) held a successful handing-over ceremony, whereby outgoing officials of the Association handed over to the incoming team. This was done at the FHS Complex in Njoro Campus.

The Faculty has been working in conjunction with the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) on The Simulation-On-Wheels Project, which is a collaborative project between Technion University, Israel, and Egerton University. The FET and FHS are working toward improving the mannequins used in clinical simulation. This is a very vital improvement as it will help HCWs gauge if their efforts during resuscitation are optimal, and if not, where they can improve or optimise.

The team from the two faculties has also been involved in training of HCWs from Bahati Sub-County on maternal and neonatal resuscitation. This training was carried out on 2 to 4 August 2022 at the Bahati Sub-County Hospital. The training revealed an urgent need for a simulation centre within the region that can be used for simulation training of the HCWs, students, and the general public. Based on this realisation, the Simulation-On-Wheels team, ELSMED, and the Israeli Government, in collaboration with the County Government of NAKURU and the NCTRH, are planning to set up a simulation centre at the NCTRH. This is not only bound to grow the County hospital but will also be used to prepare students prior to joining the clinical years.

In conclusion, the FHS is proud to note that there has been a 100% transition of our graduates to internship in their different dockets. We are not only grateful to our faculty members, the patients, and staff of NCTRH, but also to our students for their dedication and hard work that has led to the success of the Faculty.

As we graduate more students, we wish them God speed as they move into the next phase of their lives.

Egerton Pioneers Training of End FGM Content for Final-Year Health Students

By Alice Maranga-Ondieki

Over 200 Million Women and girls alive today have undergone FGM. Yet FGM has no health benefits for girls and women and is a violation of their rights. Many factors contribute to the prevalence of the problem, but in every society in which it occurs it is a manifestation of entrenched gender inequality.

Here in Kenya, around 4 million, or one in five women and girls, have been subjected to FGM. In some communities, the number rises to as high as 94 percent of girls and women.

Studies have shown that antenatal care, which offers an opportunity for prevention of obstetric complications and better pregnancy outcomes among women who have undergone FGM, is underutilised, putting into question the healthcare professionals' preparedness to deal with women with complications of FGM.

The mainstreaming of end FGM content into the curricular of Health Training Programmes is key in ensuring that trainees are well prepared to respond appropriately – and to handle professionally – women with complications of FGM once they qualify from healthcare institutions. Last year, in an attempt to shed more light on the problem, Egerton University lecturers participated in a consultative meeting organised by the University of Nairobi's Africa Coordinating Centre for Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (ACCAF). In addition, on 9-11 November 2022, the lecturers attended a Facilitators' training workshop on the same matter.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows: To provide a brief introduction of end FGM interventions implemented by ACCAF within the

wider-ALM project; to conduct training of facilitators on end FGM using standardised content; to introduce facilitators to the end FGM content package that will support training of health trainees across universities; to build consensus on the mechanisms of implementing end FGM content across the health training programmes; to build consensus on support to be provided during implementation of end FGM content among health programmes; and to determine the monitoring and evaluation required during the end FGM content implementation

Following the consensus among the Western Block of Universities to include FGM content in trainees' curricula, Egerton University has become the First university in the Block to train its final-year students on end FGM. In this respect, the Faculty of Health Sciences is in the process of mainstreaming EFGM content in the training curricula.

The following Facilitators participated in the training and organisation of Egerton University's training sessions: Stella Kulei (Egerton University ACCAF REP: Coordination); Alice K. Maranga-Ondieki (Organisation and Implementation); Dr Ronald Obwoye (Mainstreaming EFGM Content in Curricula); Salome Otenyo (Operations and Logistics); and Mr. Khol (Kabaraka University-Training Support). The Faculty of Health Sciences also appreciates the input it received from Dr Samuel Kimani, Prof. Ndavi, Dr Chesang, and Ms Vera Asubila, all from the University of Nairobi.

During the workshop, the University received goodwill from the ACCAF team, which also provided

materials for training and certificates for the trainees.

The total number of the final-year students and staff who were trained was 91 (56 from MBChB, 20 from Nursing, 14 from Clinical Medicine, and 1 staff member).

The following passage consists of a testimony from Dr Joan K. Kailiti, (MBChB, Egerton University, Class of 2022) about the benefits of the training.

My training experience on FGM was more than just insightful. I can rightly say that it was eye-opening.

For the longest time, I have seen and heard a lot on FGM, but, really, nothing definitive that touched base with me on how I as a healthcare worker could be involved in the fight against FGM. It is a menace that robs the woman of a priceless gift in the name of a right of passage that has gone on for a long time but whose narrative should honestly change.

Prior to the training, I lacked knowledge on important aspects such as the types of FGM and defibulation that are practiced, which are paramount to learn as a healthcare worker. Furthermore, following my new understanding of the role of myths in such practices, I am now able to allay my patients' fears through counselling, especially because I can counter their pain with factual knowledge.

I look forward to practising the knowledge and skills I have learnt and, more so, to influencing policy on assessment and management of women of reproductive age.

Thank you, ACCAF!

Ms Alice Maranga-Ondieki is a Lecturer in the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, Egerton University.

Egerton Student Named Best Male Oralist in Moot Court Competition



Dr Ruth Adhiambo Aura

Today we present our third group of graduands since the Faculty of Law was launched in 2016. This gives me and the whole faculty team joy since it is another milestone in our contribution to the achievement of the University's dream of transforming lives through quality education.

The Faculty of Law presents 38 graduands today. I wish to congratulate them as well as all the other graduands for this achievement. I also extend the same to their parents, guardians, and well-wishers, including Egerton University staff, who made this possible.

Since 2019, the Faculty has continued impacting the lives of the residents of Nakuru County through our Legal Aid Project in many ways. In May 2022 we were part of the stakeholders who joined the Judiciary in launching the Small Claims Court and the Court Annexed Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) suit in Nakuru. These will help in accelerating access to justice to the communities we serve in the county.

Egerton University made history by hosting the first Bar examination outside Nairobi in March 2022 under the leadership of the Council of Legal Education. Given its integrity in managing examination, the University hosted a second phase of the Bar

examination in October 2022.

We held our second Moot Court Competition under the theme "Access to Justice and Democracy for Persons with Disabilities" on 28 - 29 September 2022. A total of eight universities joined us in taking part in the competition. Egerton University emerged second after the University of Nairobi. One of our students, Michael Kulundu, was named the best Male Oralist in the competition.

The universities that took part are as follows: Kisii University, Mount Kenya University, Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), United States International University (USIU), Riara University, University of Nairobi, and Moi University.

We also held the Third National Conference on Access to Justice on 14 - 19 November 2022 on the theme "Access to Justice during Electioneering Periods in Africa in the 21st Century". This conference provided a platform for stakeholders in the justice sector to deliberate on issues of access to justice. It brought on board policy makers, academia, judiciary, duty bearers, advocates, human rights defenders, civil society

organisations, and development partners. I wish to thank all the participants who took time to present their papers as well as everyone else who played any other role at the Conference. The Faculty launched its volume 2 of the Egerton Law Journal during this Conference.

In a special way, I thank our partners – the European Union (EU); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Amkeni Wakenya – for the financial and technical support they gave to run the Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP). I also thank the University management for the unwavering support that has helped the Faculty implement its Vision and Mission.

The Faculty of Law will continue to play its role in ensuring that the University meets its goals. We shall continue supporting our students through mentorship to help them realise their valid dreams. We shall also continue offering community service through provision of legal aid to the residents of Nakuru County in line with our curriculum, which is anchored on human rights.

I wish all the graduands all the best in the life ahead.



On 28-29 November 2022, Egerton University hosted the Second FOLLAP National Moot Competition among Kenyan Law Schools, during which Egerton emerged Number Two. In the photo above, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Dr Ruth Adhiambo Aura (left), poses with Dr Maxwell Miyawa (right) and the student winners: Mr Michael Kulundu (centre); Ms Wendy Moraa (second from left, holding certificate), and Ms Wendy Wanjira (second from right).

Department Brings Together World Scholars in Discussions on Nanotechnology



Dr Moses N. Gichuki

It is a privilege to be the first group to have a physical Graduation since the pandemic. As we celebrate your academic milestone, kindly take a moment to reflect on where you are coming from before you embark on the new journey ahead. You have been equipped with the knowledge, skills, abilities, and values to enable you to navigate in the industry. As you embark on your next journey in life, ensure that you take advantage of the career opportunities that life will present to you and serve diligently. We take cognizant of the relentless effort of the Faculty of Science lecturers and staff, who worked to ensure you completed this phase of your academic journey.

In an effort to contribute to technological advancements in the world today, which is fuelled by nanotechnology, Dr T. Amollo, the Chair of the Department of Physics and the Leader of the Materials Physics Group, organised a materials science workshop on 10–11 2022 to advance nanotechnology research in Egerton University. The workshop was sponsored by the Future Africa Research Leadership Fellowship Programme (FAR-LeaF), in which the

organiser is a research fellow.

The workshop focused on materials for energy conversion and storage, information technology, environmental conservation, and radiation detection. The get-together was officially opened by Prof. Bernard O. Aduda, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) and a member of the Department of Physics, and was closed by Dr Moses Gichuki, the Dean, Faculty of Science. Themed "The Synchrotron Radiation Source BESSY II – Research Options for the International Science Community", the workshop aimed at fostering access to BESSY II.

The guest speaker for the workshop, Dr Antje Vollmer, is the current Facility Speaker for BESSY II, Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie HZB, Berlin, Germany. Currently, there is neither a synchrotron facility in Africa nor are there many African users of BESSY II.

The guest speaker highlighted the energy security and sustainability that comes with solar energy resource, observing that "in 60 minutes, the sun delivers the energy the whole world needs in one year". Dr Amollo highlighted the recent developments in nanomaterials for solar energy conversion, and indicated that "materials and device engineering are central to high-performance solar cells, and this is where nanotechnology comes in handy".

Dr Duke Oeba, an expert on Electronics and Instrumentation Physics, highlighted the use of nanomaterials in radiation detection applications.

Additionally, participants were trained on how to write successful proposals for beamtime at BESSY II, the evaluation process, and the criteria for evaluation. Both onsite and remote

experimentation are possible at BESSY II.

The workshop opened various opportunities for the materials physics researchers and masters' students. All group members will travel to Berlin in June 2023 to spend time at Bessy II for knowledge exchange and networking. Mr Robert Ngure will be participating in the Photon School and Summer Student Programme in April 2023, at HZB. Further, two of the students were offered internship opportunities at HZB. The costs of these activities are covered by HZB.

A Biophysics virtual conference also took place on 28 October 2022 and saw polished scientists give talks about the current physics innovations in the field of medicine. Ms. Anne Thirika, a staff member and Ph.D. student in the Department, won the Biophysical society (BPS) mini-grant to host a virtual networking conference under the theme "Biophysics: The Future of Health Interventions."

Among the presenters for the day were Prof. Trevor Forsyth of Lund University, and Director, LINXS Institute for Advanced Neutron and X-ray Science, Lund, Sweden. Prof. Sir Tom Blundell from the University of Cambridge Infectious Diseases Institute, UK, gave a presentation on structure-guided drug discovery. And Prof. Anthony Watts, DSc (Oxf), President-Elect (2021-2024), International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB), University of Oxford, UK, had a very informative presentation on what biophysics has done for us.

In a fellowship for brilliant but needy students at Egerton University, the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme offered sponsorship for two female Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Physics students.

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The Year 2022 through the Eyes of the Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) Egerton Office

By Nzula Kitaka

In 2022, the Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) Programme had a busy schedule relating to the LWM Kenyan trimester 2022, which brought together 17 students from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Austria. The students are currently undertaking their research projects in the Netherlands, Austria, and Kenya. During the same year, eight more students from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria, and Guatemala joined the programme and are currently undertaking their first trimester in BOKU, which began in September 2022. The students are expected at Egerton in May 2023, where they will be joined by Aquatic Ecosystems and Environmental Management (AEEM) students from Ethiopia, Applied Limnology students from BOKU, and Limnology Students from Egerton.

On 13 October 2022, in my capacity as the LWM coordinator, I was honoured as the first African and youngest person to be awarded the title "Ehrenbürgerin, Honorary Citizen of BOKU" in the last 150 years, for her special contribution to the University of Natural Resources and life Sciences, Vienna, through BOKU's longest partnerships and cooperations.

On 17-19 October 2022, Egerton

University, through the LWM Egerton Office, hosted the Second Africa-UniNet General Assembly and Erasmus + Programme Seminar with more than 130 participants drawn from 75 institutions in 20 different countries. The Austria-African Research Network, popularly known as the Africa-UniNet, is a collaboration between African and Austrian universities with the sole purpose of knowledge-sharing through research

partnership. Currently, the Africa-UniNet consortium consists of 68 members comprising of universities and research institutions of which 42 are from Africa and 26 from Austria.

Despite being one of the LWM Coordinators, I was elected the Vice-President of the Africa-UniNet consortium in 2019 in Vienna and re-elected in the same capacity during the 2nd General Assembly at Egerton for the

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Egerton Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Isaac O. Kibwage, addressing the delegates during the Africa-UniNet Assembly which was held on 17-19 October 2022 at Egerton University

Department Hosts Nano Technology Workshop

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The students, namely Ms Janet Njoroge and Ms Mercy Chebwogen, are currently in the first semester of year one and second semester of year two of their studies, respectively. The two ladies are specialising in nuclear physics.

Dr Oeba was also awarded research funds by UNESCO-TWAS. This has come in handy to cater for tuition and

research fees for two needy students, namely Ms Marion Kerubo and Mr Cephas Odhiambo, who are pursuing the M.Sc. degree in Physics. Both are currently in the first semester of their studies and will specialise in material science in accordance with the funded project.

It is worth noting that Mr Odhiambo and Ms Njoroge were

admitted in September 2021 and commenced studies but had to defer them due to lack of tuition fees. Both resorted to do menial jobs while keeping their dreams of pursuing M.Sc. studies alive. This is an encouragement to others not to lose focus despite the challenges experienced.

UNESCO-TWAS to Fund Dr Duke Oeba under the Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators (SG-NAPI)

Dr. Duke Oeba of Egerton University's Physics Department has been selected for funding and his project awarded by the Selection Committee under the Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators (SG-NAPI). This research grant will financially support a scientific project that Dr. Oeba is

currently undertaking, thanks to the generous contribution of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The project focuses on Synthesis and Characterisation of Materials for Solar Cell Applications

The grant contract duration is 24 months, starting in January 2023 and ending in December 2024. The grant will cater for two Master's students

worth of laboratory equipment and consumables, mobility for international exchange in South Africa, conference presentations, and open-access publications.

The project will be implemented in the Egerton University's Physics Department in collaboration with the University of South Africa. ■

2022 through LWM Office

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next three years. The Assembly attracted high profile persons, both from Africa and Austria, and was the first Africa-UniNet meeting to be held in Africa. Those in attendance included the Austrian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr Peter Christian Fellner, the former Austrian Minister for Education, Science and Research (who is currently the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences), Prof. Heinz Georg Albert Faßmann, the Managing Director of Austria's Agency for Education Internationalisation (OeAD), Mr Jacob Calice, and several Vice-Chancellors/Presidents and Deputy Vice-Chancellors/Presidents of universities, among other dignitaries.

Thus, during this period, Egerton University became a pioneer in hosting the Africa-UniNet General Assembly in Africa. The delegates got the opportunity to tour the University, where they visited various research labs and other facilities, thereby opening up the University for new partnerships. The participants, who included Egerton University researchers, took advantage of the Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminars, where they were exposed to funding opportunities.

The assembly provided an opportunity for establishing new research partnerships, while also strengthening the already existing institutional collaborations. During the meeting new members were introduced

and welcomed to the consortium, and their representatives got an opportunity to interact, share profiles and research interests, and deliberate on the technicalities and experiences of international and inter-institutional research collaborations. The success of the Assembly set the bar high for most of the African member institutions, with most of the delegates appreciating the high-level of hospitality, organisation, and coordination provided by Egerton University.

The LWM office closed the year in December 2022 by organising a dinner at Fairview Hotel, Nairobi, where students sponsored under the Rotary Club of Vienna (RCV) met their sponsor, Mr. Florian Demmer, and his wife, Florence, during their visit to Kenya. The Rotary Club of Vienna Fellowship (RCV) is a full/partial fellowship offered to needy students from humble backgrounds. The fellowship started in 2014 and was originally aimed at sponsoring students pursuing the Master of Science degree in Limnology at Egerton University. So far, 14 M.Sc. in Limnology students have benefitted from the fellowship.

Subsequently, I as the RCV Coordinator, negotiated for the extension of the fellowship to cover bright and needy undergraduate students. Four undergraduate students from the faculties of Engineering, Agriculture, and Education and

Community Development have since benefited from the fellowship. The students, who are at different levels of their academic studies, expressed their joy in having secured the fellowship to enable them to complete their studies and thanked the Coordinators for initiating the programme as well as Mr. Florian Demmer (the RCV Fellowship Counselor) for accepting to support the students in this life-changing mission.

Mr Florian interacted with each of the students, consistently encouraging them to be creative and innovative and reminding them about his willingness to mentor and partner with any of them who could come up with a good business idea. The students were thrilled to have had a chance to work with a businessman who was so successful globally yet who was so humble and easy to interact with. Quite a few tears of joy were shed during the final dinner. The Coordinators congratulated the students and advised them that their future was in their hands since Mr Florian and RCV had given them an opportunity to fly like eagles.

Professor Nzula Kitaka teaches courses in Aquatic/Water Science at Egerton University and is a former Director of the Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) at the University from July 2016 to July 2022. She is the Coordinator of the Limnology and Wetland Management Programme at the University.

1,600 Students Proceed on Field Attachment and Teaching Practice



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

The Board of Undergraduate Studies & Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is proud to be associated with the graduands in this 46th Graduation

Ceremony of Egerton University. Graduation marks the culmination of the effort made by each graduand in their studies and the support of their respective faculty; it signals the successful completion of the academic cycle. We congratulate all the graduands for achieving this milestone in their academic journey

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

Over 1,600 students proceeded on FA and TP on 9 January 2023 to gain

hands-on experience in the market place. Among them are 112 students attached to various farms across the country.

Egerton University has been partnering with the Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT) from June 2016 in enhancing hands-on skills for students undertaking agricultural related sciences. This 11-month programme provides selected students with an opportunity to be attached to farms and farmer organisations in the Arava region of Israel for five days in a week, and one day of training at the AICAT itself. The 2022/2023 cohort, consisting of 40 students, reported in Israel in early September 2022 and are currently distributed among various farms in the region. (See a separate testimony by one of the beneficiaries.)

Learning by Doing

By Elvis Omondi

I consider myself fortunate to have benefited from training at the Arava International Agricultural Training Centre (AICAT). AICAT's goal is to impart in students professional, theoretical, and practical knowhow and skills in advanced agricultural studies, based on the concept of “Learning by Doing”. The programme takes place in the Arava region in the south of Israel, in the desert. Agriculture in the Arava region is the apex of modern and sophisticated agriculture in Israel, using modern high technologies in the most inhospitable conditions of the desert.

The agricultural internship and training in the Arava region has changed my mindset on agriculture, and I now believe that knowledge can

be passed over even to those who haven't been to this desert in Israel. Based on my experience in Israel, no arid area in Kenya can match the desert since it has poor agro-ecological conditions that hardly favour any agricultural practice. The area receives an annual rainfall of about 30mm, and the temperatures reach 40°C. The water harvested from the boreholes, about 1,500 metres deep, is too salty even to be used in the drip irrigation channels. However, a stay in either the Moshavim (cooperative farmers' village) or the Kibbutzim (collective community, traditionally agrarian) soon reveals the magic in agricultural production that takes place in this desert. Different types of crops and animals produce impressive yields just with a little

improvement through plant breeding and good livestock production technology. The effort of the farmers in the Negev Desert has transformed that region into an agricultural icon in the world. The farmers produce what is consumed locally in the Israeli markets and export the surplus.

I have learnt that what you are passionate in doing is what counts. As a First Class Honours graduate, I harboured thoughts of working in an office after graduating. However, this opportunity to visit Israel through the Kenya-Israel Government cooperation and the collaboration between Egerton University and AICAT has changed my worldview

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Ph.D. GRADUANDS

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

**Zemenu Kerie Terefe**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Food Science

Thesis Title:
“Development of Protein Enriched Maize – Cassava
Leaf Composite Extruded Instant Porridge Flour”

Supervisors:
Prof. Mary Omwamba
Dr John M. Nduko
Prof. Abdul K. Faraj (posthumous)

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**Charles Chepkewel Kapkwang**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering

Thesis Title:
“Seasonal Effect of Climate Variability on Soil Moisture
and Biomass Production: A Case Study of Maasai Mara
Rangeland and Naivasha Cropland Ecosystems, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Eng. Prof. Japheth Onyando
Dr Peter M. Kundu
Dr Johannes C. B. Hoedges

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**James Ngelenzi Munywoki**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Horticulture

Thesis Title:
“Integrated Approach to Nematode (*Meloidogyne Spp*)
Management and Carbon Dioxide Enrichment for Field
Grown Tomato (*Solanum Lycopersicum L.*)”

Supervisors:
Prof. Mwanarusi Saidi
Prof. Joshua O. Ogweni

**Melvin Atieno Ouma**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Kiswahili

Thesis Title:
“Mikakati ya Usemi Katika Uwasilishaji wa Matatizo ya
Afya ya Uzazi Miongoni mwa Wanaume Katika Kliniki
ya Afya ya Uzazi, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Prof. Catherine Kitetu
Prof. Furaha Chai

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY STUDIES

**Viola Cherotich Kirui**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension

Thesis Title:
“Influence of Technology-Related Factors on Usage of e-
Extension Services among Smallholder Farmers in
Nakuru County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Agnes Oywaya-Nkurumwa
Dr Justus M. Ombati

**Daniel Kandagor Chepyegon**

Programme:
Ph.D. in English Language and Linguistics

Thesis Title:
“Morpho-phonosyntactic Analysis of Tense and Aspect
Marking in Samor of Baringo County, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Josephine Khaemba
Prof. Phyllis Bartoo

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

**Nancy Waitherero Chege**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Agricultural and Rural Innovations

Thesis Title:
“Digital Knowledge Pack Integration into Field
Attachment Programme and its Effect on Farm
Experiential Learning among Egerton University
Students, Kenya”

Supervisors:
Dr Justus M. Ombati
Prof. Nancy Mungai

**Caroline Jephchirchir Kosgei**

Programme:
Ph.D. in Biochemistry

Thesis Title:
“Antibacterial Activity of Chrysanthemum
Cinerariaefolium (Pyrethrum) Secondary Metabolites
and Green Synthesised Silver Nanoparticles”

Supervisors:
Prof. Josphat Matasyoh
Prof. Meshack Obonyo

Learning by Doing

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drastically. This internship and training is an excellent experience which is worth reproducing in Kenya. The programme has taught me community leadership and mentorship, and changed my way of thinking from a

traditional way to innovative thinking out of the box. In addition, the training at AICAT has equipped me with theoretical and practical tools crucial for contributing to food safety and security; and the possibility of

establishing model farms and agribusiness.

Elvis Omondi studied for the Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture, at Egerton University.

University-Wide Mental Health Seminar Raises Awareness Among the Youth



Prof. Charles M. M'Erimba

The 46th Graduation Ceremony is unique in the sense that it is the first graduation to be conducted physically since Covid-19 hit Kenya in March 2020. It is an event that will be celebrating the products of Egerton University who have managed to meet all the requirements for the awards of diplomas and conferment of degrees. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands, both local and international, who will be graduating today. The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet. Congratulations to all of you!

The mandate of the Directorate of International Linkages and Career Services is to facilitate and sustain linkages between the University and other universities or similar institutions outside Kenya, in addition to providing advisory services to international students and staff at the University. The Directorate also facilitates the processing of international students' applications and enrolment as well as the promoting and marketing of academic programmes of the University globally. Other functions of the Directorate include facilitating access to welfare services by international students and staff and assisting students in exchange programmes and internships abroad with prospective employers. The Directorate, in partnership with GULI (Growing Up

and Liking it Initiative) and the Psychiatric Disability Organisation of Kenya (PDO-Kenya), held a mental health seminar on 21 January 2023 for more than 300 students drawn from all the 11 faculties and the Office of the Dean of Students at the Physical Science Complex Theatre III.

The first presentation was on the role of GULI in supporting Egerton University students with lived mental health experience. GULI is a student organisation registered by the Dean of Students whose patron is the Director of International Linkages and Career Services. The organisation was created out of the need to address student mental health issues within Egerton University. It is run by a 7-member board under former Egerton University Students Association leader Calvin Omwega as the chairperson. GULI promotes mental health well-being in society by raising awareness of mental health among young people through advocacy to stop the stigmatisation and, ultimately, to reform people's mentality. The organisation also provides affordable access to professional mental health services through links with a wide array of partners. The organisation utilises social media in awareness campaigns through content creation. It also incorporates the deaf through Kenyan Sign Language and environmental protection through planting of trees and riverine clean-up.

The second presentation was delivered by a representative from the PDO-Kenya. During the training, the participants were taken through topics such as the common mental health conditions like dealing with depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, and substance use disorders. PDO-Kenya is a user-led community-based mental health organisation from Nakuru, Kenya. It was formed and is run by mental health lived experience experts and clinicians. They run a person-centred mental health care model that combines technological innovation and community-based psychosocial support. They train and

“ GULI promotes mental health well-being in society by raising awareness of mental health among young people through advocacy to stop the stigmatisation and, ultimately, to reform people's mentality”.

deploy a network of peers who are the trusted sources of lay services and referrals. They can instantly refer patients to specialists through telepsychiatry, enabling underserved communities to access affordable, high-quality services. The goal is to ensure that every person going through distress can access help and recover in dignity to lead a productive and fulfilling life, their social status notwithstanding. They physically made available their wellbeing lounge, which is a mobile therapy clinic in the form of a van. It is also fitted with wi-fi and video-conferencing materials to aid in telepsychiatry. They illustrated how GULI uses this to ease their referrals to PDO. The Directorate takes this opportunity to thank the Centre Leader, CESAAM, Prof. George Owuor, and his team for supporting this training financially.

Finally, in a bid to assist the students to source for internships/attachments abroad, the Directorate, in partnership with the CoELIB Project, organised for a one-day workshop held on 1 October 2022 to sensitise the students on the available internship opportunities abroad through the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE).

Congratulations once again to the graduands!

Confucius Institute Continues to Deepen Collaborations between Kenya and China



Prof. Li Yutao
Director

On this 46th 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 to the graduating class. 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.

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 the past one year, the CI has organised HSK/HSKK tests three times, and nearly 100% of the candidates from the CI at Egerton University passed the exams. Students with excellent grades are normally considered for award of Confucius Institute scholarships and Chinese Government scholarships. During the last year, four students were awarded the International Chinese Language Teachers Scholarship. This gave them the opportunity to enroll in top universities in China to pursue further

education.

On 15 September 2022, His Excellency the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya visited Egerton University. During the visit, the Institute organised the “Ask the Ambassador” event as well as the presentation of Chinese Ambassador's Scholarships to ten successful students of Egerton University. Egerton students had an opportunity to experience a face-to-face interaction with the Ambassador.

On 8 July 2022, Kenyan and Chinese students held discussions on ecological conservation across the two nations, indicating the emerging community of shared futures for mankind.

Students from the CI achieved outstanding results in the 2022 Chinese Bridge Competition. During the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival, students shared recipes and cooked Kenyan and Chinese foods. All these activities provided new opportunities for better understanding of the different cultures.

The CI at Egerton University joined the People's Republic of China in celebrating the Spring Festival on 19 January 2023. The students prepared a Chinese delicacy, “Chonzi”, which is a common dish during the festival and shared it with the guests and other students. However, the climax of the celebration was a calligraphy competition (writing of Chinese characters) among the students after which the best students were rewarded by the Institute.

Being the first agricultural CI in the world, the Institute has always supported the transfer of appropriate and advanced agricultural technology from China to Kenya and Africa in general. On 18 October 2022, the Institute launched the “Demonstration Village for China-Africa Agricultural Development and Poverty Reduction” by unveiling the plate in Matangi Tisa



Prof. Joshua O. Ogweni
Director

Village, in Bahati Sub-County, Nakuru County. The demonstration village will act as a centre for showing appropriate and more advanced technologies transferred from China to Kenya.

Currently, the CI is sourcing for funding from international organisations through joint proposals with Nanjing Agricultural University. If successful, the funds will be used for technology transfer and to assist in building research platforms such as the Kenya-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, as well as the Agro-Science Innovation Park. These facilities will enhance research collaborations on agriculture and biotechnology between the two nations.

To support the key mandate of 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. These included horticulture, livestock production, and agricultural machinery, which have broadened the students' horizon in both the agricultural knowledge and Chinese language and culture. The CI also organised several agricultural training

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Institute Determined to Ensure Gender Equity and Inclusivity at Egerton



Dr Josephine Obonyo

On behalf of the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDs) fraternity, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands for successfully completing another important chapter in your lives. Let us be reminded that learning is an unending experience and that sharing our knowledge and putting it to proper use is a much bigger achievement than acquiring it. I urge you to utilise the knowledge you have achieved in an innovative and productive manner, not only for your own personal development but also for the development of our great nation.

The Gender Institute is committed to its mandate of mainstreaming gender in our great institution. We endeavour to ensure that gender equity is practised and applied in all aspects of the University. Part of this mandate is to ensure that both female and male students are able to effectively participate in all the activities of the University as well as to successfully complete their education. This is so given the fact that female students oftentimes face challenges that specifically apply to them, which may

limit their chance to complete their studies. One such challenge applies to student mothers. There are many a time when such students are at a crossroads, whereby they must choose between staying at home to nurse their young ones and continuing with the studies.

For those who live with their babies outside campus (they are not accommodated within campus), they are often torn between attending classes and nursing the babies. The Institute, for this reason, established a Student Mothers Programme in 2014 with funding from the Women Peace Link. The objective of the programme was to strengthen the information capacity of student mothers; as follows: to mentor young mothers, to inculcate in them the fullness of being a student of Egerton University; to eliminate the stigma of being a lesser being due to having a child and bolster their self-esteem; to reduce the rate of abortion by organising open forums with the rest of the student fraternity to educate them on parenthood and the value of life; to offer a platform for interaction, experience-sharing, and an opportunity to excel in all fields; and to create a conducive environment for student mothers to be able to prosper and achieve their academic goals.

Most importantly, the programme established a day care centre to enable such students to leave their children under the care of a nanny and attend classes. This is done at a small monthly or daily fee, which mainly goes into paying the baby minders and for the upkeep of the Centre. It is, however, unfortunate that a majority of the student mothers can barely afford these services and many opt to either defer studies, skip classes altogether, or, in desperate cases, attend the classes with their babies.

Towards this end, the Institute is

currently engaged in discussions with the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) (which is a pioneer organisation on matters of Gender Based Violence in Kenya) that should lead to partnerships with like-minded organisations with the aim of providing free services for these students and improving the facility.

In orders to fulfil this objective, the Institute recently took the final-year Diploma and Bachelors students for an academic field visit to the GVRC Nairobi to expose them to the practical aspects of the theories they have learnt in class. The students also visited the pioneer Gender Desk in Kenya based at the Kilimani police station to understand its origin, functions, successes, challenges and mitigation measures in handling sensitive cases relating to sexual and gender-based violence.

The Institute is determined to deliver on its mandate of making Egerton University a gender equity and inclusive community free from gender-based violence and sexual harassment, whereby all students and staff feel safe and secure.

The Institute continues to host the Gender League every Thursday evening during what is dubbed "The Coffee Hour". Members of the Gender League are both male and female from all the departments of the University. They meet to discuss social issues affecting them in their day-to-day life in the University. The league meetings are often facilitated by specialists from different areas, who give talks on related topics.

The Gender League members also conduct primary and secondary school visits across the country to mentor students under the League Mentorship Programme.

Post-Covid Learning Challenges Require New Thinking



Prof. Fred Keraro

It is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University.

The online education landscape in Kenya is being shaped by a number of forces – external and internal. Externally, these forces are dictated by the internationalisation and modernisation of an education that seeks to break the barriers imposed by geographical boundaries as well as those brought about by classroom walls. Internally, the appointment of the Presidential Working Party on Education Reform late last year is paving the way for the establishment of the National Open University of Kenya (NOUK). Part of the work of the taskforce is to recommend a framework of operationalising the NOUK and a framework on Open, Distance and E-learning (ODEL).

In recognition of these forces, the School of Distance Learning (SoDL) at Egerton University is making contributions to the taskforce in respect of the NOUK and the ODEL framework. While the momentum for adoption of online engagements in the University appears to fade compared to the Covid-19 days during 2020-2022 academic year, e-learning still provides the much-needed alternative to face-to-face education and training. Thus, the University is deliberate about offering our programmes online. This is being done through active collaboration with

other players in the online learning industry.

Last year, the University's E-Campus, with support from the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to African Development (TAGDev) programme, conducted three virtual e-learning trainings for regular students in the Faculties of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, and Education and Community Studies respectively. Another collaboration during the last one year was with the PBL - BioAfrica project (<https://www.pbl-bioafrica.net/>) that is housed in the Faculty of Agriculture. This is a collaborative project for strengthening the capacity in bio-economy Higher Education Institutions in Kenya and Zambia facilitated by Aalto and HAMK universities in Finland. The focus of the project is in developing problem-based learning (PBL) methods in bio-economy education and utilising Open Distance Learning (ODL) formats and Open Education Resources (OER) in order to reach a large number of students. Currently, five nominees from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, namely Dr William Orora, Dr Pauline Githaiga, Dr Simon W. Mwangi, Dr Judith Kinya, and Dr David Wesonga are participating in a Trainer-of-Trainers (ToT) training focusing on PBL ODEL models.

In addition, this year, SoDL is taking part in yet another Erasmus+ grant application call: (<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-2/capacity-building-higher-education>). Our application, together with other partner universities from Sweden, Norway, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, among others, is dubbed "Transformative inclusive higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa for sustainable development" (TIHESSA). The hallmark of this joint application is the launching of a doctoral course on digital transformation for Ph.D. students. We are happy to share this invitation with Ph.D. students at Egerton University.

The registration remains open until 15 February 2023 (<https://lms.idocos.eu/login/signup.php>).

Egerton University is part of the 29 public universities participating in the Skills for Prosperity Kenya (S4PKe) programme. S4PKe is a 30-month UK Government Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)-funded programme to help increase capacity for inclusive economic growth in Kenya. The programme consortium includes the Open University, UK, the International Labour Organisation, and the Leonard Cheshire Foundation. On 24 January 2023, a graduation ceremony was held for successful participants, who were awarded a certificate in "Online Education for Universities". Mr Makini Getuno (learner support), Mr Kimani Njoroge, Mr Mark Wambugu, Mr Shadrack Sendeu, Ms Faith Genga (ICT staff at the E-Campus) and I, in my capacity as the Director SoDL, were among those who were awarded the certificates. The others are the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Dr Richard Bitange Nyaoga, and Mr Eliud Ongowo from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Lastly, a collaboration of Egerton University with the International Institute for Online Education (IIOE) is ongoing. This collaboration is facilitated by UNESCO through the International Commission for Higher Educational Institutions based in China. Eight universities in Africa are involved in this collaboration, whose focus is on digital transformation pedagogy training. Egerton University has 10 nominees from STEM faculties participating in an online course named "Transforming Online Pedagogy for Effective Delivery in Higher Educational Institutions". It is my hope that these collaborations will positively impact our online delivery methodology and, in turn, create employment opportunities for our graduates.

Let me conclude by once again congratulating the graduands of the 46th Graduation Congregation for a job well done. ■

Egerton Scoops Awards in National Drama Festivals



Dr Japhet Mburugu Muthamia

On behalf of the Office of the Dean of Students, I am pleased to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduands for their commitment and hard work during

their academic journey at Egerton University. You have achieved a wealth of experiences as well as abilities that will go a long way in shaping your future.

At the Office of the Dean of Students, we are committed to serving all students in all areas that facilitate their smooth learning. We endeavour to assist our students to develop physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually, as well as to hone their leadership skills as part of our quality objectives.

The mandate of the Office of the Dean of Students is to develop, nurture, and promote an enabling environment, one that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. The

Office offers services that cater for the general welfare of students and serves as an advocate by assuring that their interests are served in strategic aspects of University operations. Furthermore, the office coordinates counselling, registration of clubs, public lectures, financial aid, orientation of first-year students, and students' recreational activities etc.

Some of the activities that have taken place since July 2022 include the National Drama Festivals, the Drug and Mental Health Awareness Weekend, and Peer Counsellors' Training.

National Drama Festival

The above Festival took place on 4-13 October 2022 at the Jaramogi Oginga

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CI Deepens Kenya-China Collaborations

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programmes. These included an international short course on rice production technologies, which was held on 31 March 2022 and was attended by over 20 participants who included government officials, scholars, agricultural machinery manufacturers, and managers. This seminar was held with the objective of identifying appropriate machinery for 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 9-11 May 2022. The course was attended by over 60 participants from China, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia, who shared widely on the need to apply appropriate machinery in rice production. The seminar was useful in promoting academic exchange in the field of agricultural mechanisation with a view to increasing the crop yield through application of new technologies to

guarantee food security and enhance livelihoods in Africa.

The course provided a wonderful academic opportunity for interaction between scholars, researchers, machinery manufacturers, and government officials. It also accorded a platform for the introduction of appropriate machinery to reduce drudgery and increase rice production in the horn of Africa through collaborative research platforms and agricultural training opportunities to contribute to the development of agriculture in Kenya and Africa.

Academic staff from the CI at Egerton University also attended courses on smart agriculture held on 26 June, 8 August, and 20 December 2022. The courses were organised by The Belt and Road International Institute of Smart Agriculture Industrial Science & Technology Innovation (ISAI). ISAI is led by Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), a major partner of Egerton University. Its main focus is to

coordinate Chinese partners and international partners from the Belt and Road Initiative countries in enhancing smart agriculture, industrial, and science and technology innovation. The CI at Egerton University will benefit from the academic exchanges and cooperation through science communication and outreach, mutual mobility of graduate students and early career scholars, and technology transfer-related to smart agriculture.

In conclusion, since its establishment in 2012, the Institute has held more than 30 trainings and short courses in Kenya and other African countries, and at least 1,100 trainees have benefited from the CI's appropriate and advanced agricultural technologies from China. In the recent past, the CI at Egerton University has played a vital role in building up the friendship between the two nations, and we hope that the relationship will last.

Egerton Scoops Awards

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Odinga University of Science and Technology. Mr Justin Omwoyo, the Assistant Dean of Students, led the delegation from Egerton University, which staged a total of nine items.

A performance of the English Play titled *Outcast* won the Best Item on Governance and Leadership and the Best Item on Climate Change Mitigation. The Luo Play titled *Momo Mawoyo* won the Best Item on Inclusion of People Living with Disabilities and the Best Item in an Indigenous Language. In the Film Category awards, Egerton University won the Best Animation Film, the Best Documentary Film and the Best Silent Film, while in the Radio Theatre Awards Egerton scooped the Best Radio Documentary and the Best Radio Commercial.

Drug and Mental Health Awareness Weekend Challenge

The office of the Dean of Students and Egerton University Students

Association (EUSA), in conjunction with the Shika Rada Initiative, carried out a Drug and Mental Health Awareness Weekend Challenge on 12 - 13 November 2022 at the Sports Pavilion at the Main Campus in Njoro.

The event was graced by various performances from famous gospel musicians, who included Ocampo, Didiman, Daddy Owen, Jabidii, Size 8 and DJ Mo. Some of the musicians were recovering addicts and were able to talk to the students on the dangers of involving themselves in alcohol and drug abuse and trafficking. Since then, the Office of the Dean of Students has witnessed a positive response from the students concerning drug abuse.

Peer Counsellors Training

The Peer Counsellors training took place from 21 October to 3 November, 2022, at the Main Campus. Peer counsellors are students who are competitively recruited and trained by the University to guide and counsel

their fellow peers on psychosocial issues that affect them.

Peer counsellors play a key role in the University by assisting fellow students to improve their insights and self-understanding, to manage their feelings and tensions, to cope with crises, to learn how to resolve problems and make informed decisions that affect their lives, and to successfully navigate the challenges encountered during their psychological, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual well-being and development.

The training was sponsored by CESSAM, the Egerton University Investment Company, the Faculty of Law, and the Office of the Dean of students. The inauguration ceremony held on 3 November 2022 was presided over by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Bernard O. Aduda, and attended by Prof. Nancy W. Mungai (TAGDev Coordinator), and Dr Japhet M. Muthamia (Dean of



As section of Egerton University students enjoy the performances presented during the Shika Rada Drug and Mental Health Awareness Weekend Challenge held at the Main Campus on 12 - 13 November 2022

NCCC Steps-Up Infrastructural Development at Kokeb Grounds



Prof. Joshua O. Ogendero

On behalf of staff and students of Nakuru City Campus College (NCCC), I heartily take this opportunity to salute and congratulate all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University for their merited achievements. Graduation is a proud moment in the life of a graduand and is often associated with feelings of excitement, pride, and anticipation of what the future portends for one. As an event in one's life, graduation certainly closes the door on an era and signifies the successful completion of an academic endeavour culminating in a ceremony in which a graduand is handed his/her hard-earned diploma or degree. Graduation is a source of pleasure and fulfillment in the lives of the graduands, parents, and guardians, as well as key stakeholders of the University. The contributions towards the milestones being celebrated today by the Egerton University Community, parents, guardians, sponsors, and society at large, are herein acknowledged.

In a special way, the NCCC family appreciates the graduands for their hard work, and stellar performance and wishes them a bright future ahead. We

congratulate you on one of your greatest achievements to date. Your dedication to the successful completion of your degree is proof you can achieve anything. We are grateful that you allowed us to be part of your academic journey and, as usual, we wish you the best. We therefore look forward to hearing of your future successes and accomplishments.

Since the last graduation on 29 July 2022, the Nakuru City Campus College (NCCC) has reorganised the use of rented spaces at the Egerton University building near Bontana Hotel, and I am happy to report that the LONCOM building, which was hosting Faculty of Commerce lectures, was vacated and handed over to its owner in December 2022. Despite the biting financial situation the University currently faces, it has been supporting infrastructural development at the Kokeb grounds within Nakuru City with the aim of easing the burden of running the College's academic programmes and operations in rented spaces. As reported in the previous *Newslink* magazine, the construction of three lecture halls with collapsible partitions at the Kokeb grounds has progressed well and the contractor is expected to hand over the building to the University by the end of February 2023.

Additionally, the University is accelerating the renovation works and conversion of the existing physical facilities at Kokeb grounds into four lecture halls and erecting a perimeter wall to secure the grounds. It is expected that upon completion of the new and renovated buildings at the grounds, the seven lecture halls with a seating capacity of 700 students will fully support the teaching requirements by the Faculties of Commerce and Health Sciences.

Beginning from July 2023, the University is expected to vacate 60 percent of the rented spaces at the Egerton University building and relocate all the teaching to the Kokeb grounds. This move promises to provide a conducive learning and working environment for both staff and students. This will save the University the rent fees, which can be used for other operational activities.

In an effort to further improve the teaching and operational facilities at NCCC, renovation works at the block where the Faculty of Commerce is domiciled are at an advanced stage. During the same period, renovation of seats used by academic staff at the Egerton University building was also undertaken.

I wish to further reiterate that the University remains committed to establishing 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. The support by the University Management Board and the Council is highly appreciated.

NCCC takes this opportunity to share a significant achievement by the University. On 27 July 2022, I was elected the President of the International Society of Pesticidal Plants (ISPP) during the 3rd International Conference on Pesticidal Plants (ICPP 3) held at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire on 24-29 July 2022. Besides me, the other ISPP Governing Council members elected were Dr Felicia Johnson (FHBU, Cote D'Ivoire), Honorary Secretary; Prof. Steven R.

Belmain (University of Greenwich, UK), Honorary Treasurer; and Dr Dejan Prvulovic (University of Novi Sad, Serbia), Conference Secretary of ICPP4.

Egerton University was also a beneficiary of the ISPP elections as Dr Philip K. Bett of the Department of Biological Sciences was elected as the Country Representative, Kenya, and will have the privilege of serving in the ISPP Governing Council. The ISPP, which was conceived and started during the ICPP2 held at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in February 2017, currently has attracted membership from three continents, namely Africa, Europe and South America. Thus the young organisation has a good potential of being embraced globally.

The next ICPP conference (ICPP4) will be hosted by Serbia in 2026. The ISPP provides Egerton University with a rich pool of expertise and institutions with which to forge strategic and mutually beneficial collaborations and partnerships globally.

Besides academics, our NCCC students also participate in extra curricula activities that help improve on their other talents and physical wellbeing. The students participated in several intra- and inter-institutional

sporting events, including College and University-level internal competitions and in the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) 2022 football games held at Moi University, where they emerged winners. They also participated in volleyball and hockey tournaments held at the University of Eldoret, where they were ranked number three overall.

To assure the quality of academic programmes, the University has maintained an active memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the County Government of Nakuru 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. Given the fact that the RVPGH is increasingly becoming overwhelmed by the rising number of students, the University has already initiated negotiations with the new County Government aimed at reviewing the MOU to expand the scope of the Egerton University – County Government of Nakuru 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.

On students who are financially challenged, the NCCC has partnered with the Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) and the Rattansi Education Trust, who extended bursaries to a total of 66 undergraduate students. Egerton University also supported a number of students through its work-study programmes, in which the beneficiaries are assisted with their upkeep. Further, following their elections, the NCCC student leaders were trained to equip them leadership and management skills.

I wish to gratefully thank Dr Christine Gathiri, the immediate former Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, for selfless and steadfast leadership and for steering the Faculty for a period of 14 months. As Dr Gthiri transitions to the next phase in life, the entire NCCC fraternity wishes her well.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Samson O. Obure on his appointment as the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Faculty is requested to accord Dr Obure all the necessary support to enable him realise his goals for the Faculty in line with the University's Vision.

In the same breath, I wish to congratulate the following staff members for their appointments as Chairpersons of Departments: Dr Abner Nasio Abner (Surgery); Mr David K. Njeru (Clinical Medicine); and Dr Kennedy O. Gogo (Internal Medicine). Staff in these departments are requested to fully support their new CODs.

Finally, to the graduands, you have come from far, worked hard, and achieved your goal. On behalf of NCCC, I wish you every success in your endeavours, and I urge you to be great ambassadors of Egerton University. Remember, as Minor Myers, Jr. observes, “Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good”.

Have a blessed Graduation and future life.



Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo, President of the International Society of Pesticidal Plants (ISPP) (third from left), joins ICPP3 participants for a group photo at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire, during the 3rd ISPP Annual General Meeting held on 24-29 July 2022.

Egerton Wins Funding for Eight Proposals Worth Ksh146 Million



*Prof. Nancy W. Mungai
Ag. Director*

Today is a special day whereby we celebrate the 2023 graduands. Graduation is a time of celebration and reflection. To get to where you are, it has taken a lot of discipline, sacrifice, and hard work. This success would not have been realised without your cooperation as a student, in addition to the commitment of the University staff and the guardians who sacrificed a lot to offer you a good education. You sure are the best. The experiences and training that you have gone through at Egerton University have equipped you to face whatever challenges that life may throw your way.

Hard work is not over when you graduate; graduation is just but a springboard to new ventures. As you step out to the highly competitive world out there, keep in mind that you are the ambassadors of Egerton University. I urge you to work hard in all that you find to do, adding some degree of creativity and innovativeness. In the words of Theodore Levitt, “creativity is thinking up new things, innovativeness is doing

new things”. Innovativeness is what you need to solve the challenges the world is facing. There is always a way to do things better, find it. You have a lot of potential within you.

As you move on to the next phase of life, I encourage you to embrace the mistakes that you will make along the way and learn from them. You will need to accept that you won't always make the right decisions, as well as to understand that failure is not the opposite of success, but is part of success. In the words of Denis Waitley, “failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing”. When you fall, get up, dust yourself, and move on. Do not fail to take risks.

As we celebrate this journey, it is important to highlight the contributions of the Directorate of Research and Extension to the successful completion of the academic cycle. On 17-19 October 2022, Egerton University hosted the 2nd Africa-UniNet General Assembly and Erasmus+ Cooperation Seminar at the Physical Sciences Complex, Njoro Campus. The event had delegates of diverse disciplines and drawn from a broad spectrum of institutions from Austria and 19 African countries. The objective of the event was to discuss scientific and institutional questions as well as possibilities for further cooperation.

In addition, the University participated in the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 12 - 16 December 2022 at the Harare International Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe. The theme of the

AGM was “Strengthening Africa's Agri-food Systems in the Post Covid-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges”.

Similarly, in a bid to increase its research outputs, the Directorate participated in the 2022 Kenya Innovation Week held on 6-8 December 2022 at the Sarit Expo Centre, Nairobi. This event was organised by the Kenya Innovation Agency (KeNIA) with the aim of providing a platform for displaying different innovations, linking different innovators with investors, and launching of the Kenya Innovation Outlook 2022 Guidelines. The University took the opportunity to display innovations by its researchers and students and sought for ways to commercialise its research products. During the event, Mr Joseph Nguthiru, a student from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, was awarded for the best innovation. The innovation is on using water hyacinth to produce biodegradable seedling bags.

The Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev) Project has been organising extension activities through the Egerton Radio Kilimo Bora programmes aired on Saturday evenings since May 2022. Undergraduate and postgraduate students, with the support of faculty members, have been empowering farmers on various best animal husbandry and agronomic practices in different value chains.

Furthermore, Egerton University, through the Faculty of Law

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CoELIB Targeting 100,000 Youths for Socio-Economic Development

By Alexander K. Kahi

Egerton University, through the CoELIB Project, continues to nurture life by connecting the youth through social and economic opportunities. The programme recently conducted a labour market assessment (LMA) to provide insights into the sector-specific economic opportunities for the youth in Kisumu, Isiolo, Kakamega, Nakuru, Kiambu, and Mombasa Counties. More than 29,000 youth are set to receive community-level entrepreneurship, life skills, work readiness, and financial access training for wage and self-employment this fiscal year. Several early-stage youth-run businesses within the high-growth sectors identified by the LMA are under incubation within the counties.

In line with the LMA, the project is also working with Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions to provide tailor-made

market-driven programmes in collaboration with the private sector. CoELIB also supports resource mobilisation, grantsmanship, and networking interventions with the private sector for workplace and workforce development programmes.

The Project is also working with 22 undergraduate and post-graduate students in four Dutch and two Kenyan universities to systematically reduce post-harvest losses and the related food quality issues in the avocado and dairy value chains in Meru, Nandi, Bungoma, and Kiambu Counties. The universities apply a living lab approach, bringing applied research to the chain partners. This approach covers in-depth studies, action research in living labs, research uptake, and stakeholder engagement.

By bringing together stakeholders

from the private sector, national and county governments, higher education institutions, and communities, the project envisions creating avenues for socio-economic development for more than 100,000 youths in over 26 counties in the next few years. CoELIB co-implements, co-designs, and co-evaluates all its interventions with the youth by placing them at the centre of all its activities and ensuring that they drive the conversation.

Alexander K. Kahi is a Professor of Animal Breeding and Genomics in the Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University, and Director, Centre of Excellence for Livestock Innovation and Business Project (CoELIB), Egerton University.

Egerton Wins KSh.146 Million

Continued from page 35

Legal Aid Project (FOLLAP), hosted the National Moot Court Competition on 28-29 November 2022 at the Faculty of Law, Egerton University. FOLLAP also organised and coordinated a National Legal Aid Conference on access to Justice on 14-19 November, 2022 at Simba Lodge in Naivasha.

The World Bank African Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) has been providing community outreach to farmers in Marsabit and Isiolo Counties to develop coping strategies that will help farmers from these marginalised communities to respond to drought and secure long-term food security through boosting their

agricultural productivity to improve livelihoods. CESAAM is also conducting various trainings for local farmers such as feed formulation, poultry farming, and vegetable farming.

In an effort to enhance capacity-building activities to improve the quality of postgraduate training and research, CESAAM also organised a three-day workshop in September 2022 on development of guidelines for graduate student supervision.

Between July and December 2022, the University submitted 33 grant proposals valued at over KSh753.5 Million and has received funding for eight proposals valued at KSh146 Million. We thank all the

funding agencies for this period, who included OeAD-GmbH, UNESCO-TWAS, The Nature Conservancy, Innovate UK, National Research Fund (NRF), DANIDA Fellowship Centre, AIRTEA, and the Israeli Government. A majority of these grants have a student training component. Funding for continuing projects from various funding agencies, including the Mastercard Foundation, USAID, RUFORUM, and the World Bank, is acknowledged.

Once more, congratulations to the graduands. Be proud and stand tall!
God bless!

TAGDev Sponsors Training of Staff and Students to Enhance Post-Graduate Completion Rates

By Joyce J. Lelei

In recent times, there has been a rapid increase in doctoral enrolments at African universities. To ensure quality in post-graduate training and well trained graduates, supervisors need to enhance their knowledge and skills in supervision. The result will be that graduates will become “knowledge workers,” who will contribute to improvement in the economy of the African continent.

From October 2019 to March 2020, the TAGDev (Transforming African Universities to meaningfully contribute to growth and development) programme of Egerton University financially supported the participation of seven doctoral supervisors in a training course for supervisors of doctoral candidates at African universities. The course was offered online by the Centre for Research on Evaluation Science and Technology (CREST), under the leadership of Prof. Jan Botha.

Following their training, the CREST alumni of Egerton University

have been sharing the knowledge and skills they gained from the course. They have also been promoting networking by offering an online short course on training on supervision of postgraduate students. The six-month course commenced in October 2022 and was developed by the CREST alumni.

The course is supported financially by TAGDev and is offered free of charge to the participants, who include sixty students and supervisors from Kenya and a few other African countries, including Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. The trainers include the CREST alumni, the Director of the Board of Postgraduate Studies of Egerton University, and the Director Research and Extension, also of Egerton University.

In an effort to promote networking and enhance capacities, additional trainers are sourced from Maseno University.

The training aligns to the

Sustainable Development Goal Number 4 (SDG 4), which aims “to ensure quality education by 2030”. The CREST held a networking event in Stellenbosch University in November 2022. I attended the event on behalf of Egerton University alongside twenty other CREST alumni from African Universities.

Among other things, the event helped participants and course presenters to network as well as stimulated research on doctoral supervision, including planning of specific research projects.

It is important to note that scholarship on doctoral supervision is rather low in our region in comparison to other continents. There is a need for remedial measures in this regard.

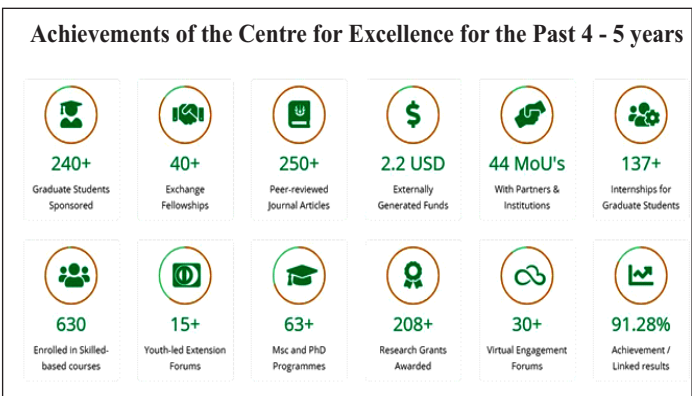
Joyce J. Lelei is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Crops, Horticulture and Soils

CESAAM Stepping up Recruitment of Female Students

By George Owuor

On behalf of the World Bank-Funded Centre of Excellence at Egerton University, I take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands (including the 31 from the Centre) during this 46th Graduation Ceremony. As you all pass this important stage in your career and transition into serving the society, I encourage you not only to take serious stock of your hurdles but also to humble yourself. The expectations about you are immense. However, your innovative ideas should be your pillar to success, despite the changing landscapes in the labour market. In this respect, I urge you to take advantage of the small niches you possess to contribute further to your life in particular and to the development of society in general.

As a Centre of Excellence, CESAAM continues to support our students to rise to even higher levels of achievement. In addition, up to 12 countries in the region



have benefited from the Centre in one way or another, as outlined in the accompanying figure.

CESSAM is particularly committed to ensuring

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Life-Transforming Experience for Egerton University Students as they Participate in the RUFORUM AGM Held in Harare, Zimbabwe

By Nancy W. Mungai

On 10-16 December 2022, the TAGDev Programme at Egerton University supported 105 students (49 undergraduates and 56 postgraduates) and eight staff members, led by the Vice-Chancellor, to attend the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting, held in Harare, Zimbabwe. The conference brought together different stakeholders in the academic and agricultural sector from across Africa. The 2022 AGM was organised under the theme “Strengthening Africa's Agri-Food Systems in the Post-Covid-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges”.

The event provided an opportunity for the students to have an experience of attending an international event because, for most of them, it was their first time to travel outside Kenya. The students were able to attend high-level meetings and engage in conversations on issues regarding agriculture, higher education, science, technology, innovation, and industrialisation in

Africa.

The AGM was also a platform for students and staff to forge new partnerships, to network, and to discuss emerging issues, as well as share lessons and establish the potential to adopt best practices across the 163 RUFORUM member universities from 38 African countries.

The students underwent several training sessions on the following topics: proposal development and scientific writing; research design and data analysis using R-programming; insects in Africa (uncovering the potential practice and science); digital technologies for teaching; research and learning; and entrepreneurship training.

The students also appreciated the opportunity to present their research findings during the scientific sessions of the AGM. Students with innovative ideas were able to showcase their innovations to the participants through exhibitions and discussions. One

student, who specialises in milk value addition, received the Young Innovators' Award for his contribution in the milk value chain through his enterprise called Comrades Dairy. The students learnt a great deal, as well as established wider networks in their areas of specialisation.

The key message from the AGM was that higher education in Africa needs to focus on innovative teaching, research, community services, entrepreneurship, and industrialisation, in order for Africa to achieve sustainable development. Education must deliver people from poverty by embracing innovation and industrialisation, and the key factor consists of empowering the youth.

Prof. Nancy W. Mungai is the TAGDev Programme Coordinator, the Ag. Director, Research and Extension and Professor of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University

CESAAM Recruiting More Female Students

Continued from page 37

retention and completion of female students, particularly those pursuing doctoral studies. In recent times the Centre has taken important steps toward improving recruitment of women, including supporting incoming students with various financial aid measures, prioritising accommodation for women, and implementing other efforts specifically focused on supporting mothers of small children. As a result, the Centre has enrolled and retained 125 female students, who currently constitute 52 per cent of the total student body of 240.

The students come from different nationalities,

including Kenya, Rwanda, The Kingdom of Eswatini, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Ethiopia, and Malawi. For more information on the Centre, the reader may want to visit the following website: www.cesaam.egerton.ac.ke.

Prof. George Owuor is the Director IGU's and African Centre of Excellence and Agri-Business Management (CESAAM), Egerton University

New Tatton Bean Variety Undergoes Seed Multiplication

By Hillary Chelal

The Agro-Science Park (AgroPark) is a Kenya Vision 2030 Flagship project whose aim is to move science, technology and innovation (STI) from the lab to the marketplace, where communities can better utilise the knowledge. The overall mandate of AgroPark is the promotion of innovations, products, and services to be commercialised, and, thereafter, link the University with industry for uptake of these products. Some of the innovative products developed recently and currently under commercialisation include the chickpeas and three bean varieties known as Chelalang, Tasha, and Ciankui. A fourth bean variety known as Tatton is currently undergoing seed multiplication.

Chickpeas Varieties

The chickpeas (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is a highly nutritious pulse crop used in preparation of different cuisines. It provides sufficient sources of proteins to vegetarians and those who cannot afford animal protein. It also contains vitamins and soluble fibres which help to reduce calorie intake. Chickpeas also contain minerals like potassium and magnesium, which prevent heart diseases and high blood pressure.

At the AgroPark Seed Unit, two varieties of chickpeas are bred: the creamy-white (Kabuli) and the brown one (Desi). Both of them are high yielders and drought tolerant, making them ideal for arid and semi-arid areas where they have been found to produce reasonable yields during low rainfall seasons. These two varieties are beneficial to the soils as they replenish nitrogen, making them ideal for rotational farming. The varieties also have a larger root mass and longer primary and lateral roots, making them less susceptible to drought. The varieties are resistant to common diseases like ascochyta blight and fusarium wilt, thereby reducing the number of sprays and chemical residues in food. AgroPark is currently promoting this crop to farmers along Kerio Valley regions through contractual farming.

Egerton Bean Varieties

The AgroPark Seed Unit continues to come up with bean varieties that are oriented to market needs through breeding and improving of local varieties. To foster intensified application of STI in the agro-value chain development, the Park developed three bean varieties, namely Chelalang, Tasha, and Ciankui. These varieties are already in the market. The Tatton bean variety, which was released recently, passed through the National Performance Trial in the year 2022, and the seed multiplication process is ongoing.

These bean varieties are high yielders, with high iron

and zinc contents, are adapted to designated agro-ecological zones, have a good taste, and they cook quickly, hence saving on fuel. They are also self-stripping, hence easy to harvest, thresh, and clean, thereby adding lots of biomass to the soil. The beans are also determinate, therefore they can easily be intercropped.

AgroPark conducts joint extension services to increase agricultural productivity of the bean varieties and build resilience to adverse climate risks among the pastoral communities of Kenya. AgroPark has also been conducting farm clinics and farm visits in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), and the World Bank's Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project in Laikipia and Nyeri Counties. ■



Mr Hillary Chelal, a Research Assistant at Egerton University's Agro-Science Innovation Centre, displays a sample of the chickpea varieties developed at the AgroPark Seed Unit. These varieties are drought tolerant and produce reasonable yields even during minimal and short rainfall.

Be Egerton University's Ambassadors Extraordinaire



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

Congratulations to all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony. Today we celebrate your journey of determination. All the lessons you have learnt – both in and outside of class – the books you read, the essays you wrote, the “transnighiting” you did for the next day’s tests, the relationships you began, both ended and mended, and all of the delightful and dreadful experiences that you have had throughout your tenure at Egerton University have led up to this day. Your hard work has finally paid off, and I

believe you are ready for the next big step in the journey of life. And, wherever the next chapters in your life stories may take you, make sure the journey includes joy.

As I reflect on this graduation, my mind is thrown into visions of activists – environmentalists, entrepreneurs, artists, mathematicians, scientists, athletes, commercial farmers, political leaders, and so much more among members of this graduating cohort. We have individuals here who are able to come together to do more than they could ever do apart. I take note that all of you have grown and developed as individuals and collectively through your experiences here at Egerton. Take advantage of that collegiate experience and be the ambassadors extraordinaire for Egerton out there as you display the knowledge crafts we have passed to you.

As you get out there, remember that some failure could be inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case, you fail by default. Can you imagine a life lived so cautiously that you have “failed in life by default”? This

certainly is not for the Egertonian. So take risks. Set goals. Take the detours that inevitably pop up and learn from them. As Kenyans you are living in a country that is building up a great democratic society – a place where you can worship as you wish, gather where you want, and pursue any dream and opportunity that you happen upon regardless of your gender, race, or your age.

As you go forth into nation-building, don't forget the friends you have made and those that you will make along the way. True friendship is a treasure. Continue to care – care about yourself, care for your family, care for your friends and, above all, care about the world in which God has placed you. Our clarion call at Egerton for this year is to ensure we rebuild our environment by planting and growing trees. I invite you to join us whenever you will be to plant and grow a tree – we need the shade to cure the effects of rising atmospheric temperatures. Trees are our natural air conditioners.

Again congratulations to you all on your academic achievements and may God bless you.



The Chemistry Wing of the Science Block Complex located on the Main Campus, Njoro

DIRECTORATE OF INCOME GENERATING UNITS

Message from the Director

Service Delivery by IGUs Improving Steadily



Prof. George Owuor

On behalf of the Directorate of Income Generating Units (IGU), I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands of the 46th Graduation Ceremony for their achievement. As you graduate, may you ensure that you embrace self-

actualisation in all spheres of your lives going forward, including job creation, as part of your contribution to the sustainable development of Kenya and wherever else you may serve.

The Directorate of IGU has recorded progressive growth in all Income Generating Units in the University. It is my pleasure to report that all the Units have developed business models and plans, which will make it possible to supplement teaching materials for the betterment of the students as the main customers. This is in addition to the Directorate developing a business plan for the Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) to enable them to effectively utilise the facilities allocated to them for the socio-economic growth of all students.

Service delivery by IGUs such as the University Catering Service, Egerton Press, Tatton Demonstration

Farm, and the Medical Department, among others, has started improving as a result of the implementation of the business plans and training of key staff. In October 2022, the Directorate conducted training for all managers of IGUs on entrepreneurship and service delivery. These efforts have seen a remarkable turn-around, which has resulted in diversity in products and growth in incomes for Quarters 1 and 2 of the financial year 2022/2023.

Finally, as the IGUs move into the 3rd and 4th quarters of the financial year 2022/23, enhanced trading between the units involving farm produce such as fresh vegetables, milk, meat, and bread, among others, is expected to reduce dependence from external suppliers, whose products are sometimes costly and of low quality.

Congratulations once again to the graduating students of the 46th Graduation Ceremony ■



On 13 October 2022, Prof Nzula Kitaka, the Limnology and Water Management Coordinator at Egerton University, was awarded the title "Ehrenbürgerin Honorary Citizen BOKU". This was in recognition for her special contribution to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, through her partnerships and cooperation. She is the first African to receive this title as well as the youngest person to be ever awarded such a title in the last 150 years (see story on page 23).



In Memoriam

Egerton University pays tribute to the following scholars and support staff who served the University with distinction, who passed away between October 2022 and January 2023



Judith Chelangat Sawe
Lecturer in the Department of Clinical Medicine and Surgery



Nixon Njau Mwangi
Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, History and Religious Studies



Stella Jepkoech Kulei
Lecturer in the Department of Nursing



Vivian C. Chumo
Copy Typist in the Department of Human Anatomy



Catherine Kirigo Ogaja
Executive Secretary in the Office of the Registrar
Human Capital and Administration





The
NEWSLINK
for everything you need to know about
Egerton University

Congratulations
to all the Graduands of
the 46th Graduation of
Egerton University!

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EGERTON UNIVERSITY



"Transforming Lives through Quality Education"



8th Mau-Egerton University Cross-Country THEME:

Run for Mau Water Tower Rehabilitation and Restoration

Brand Ambassadors




Registration Here: <https://crosscountry.egerton.ac.ke/take-part>

25th
February,
2023


RACE CATEGORIES

- 10Km Senior (Men/Women),
- 8Km Junior Men,
- 6Km Junior Women,
- 4Km Egerton staff(Women/Men),
- 10Km University students (Men/Women)
- 10Km Egerton students (Women/Men)
- 2Km Community >55yrs (Men/Women)
- 2Km Egerton Staff> 55yrs (Men/Women)
- 10Km Uniformed Forces (Men/Women)
- 4Km upper primary school (Girls/Boys)



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