



# THE Flashlight

MAGAZINE



*A Publication of the University of Embu*

## FIRST UNIVERSITY OF EMBU CHANCELLOR INSTALLED



Prof. Paul Musili Wambua installed as the First Chancellor of the University of Embu at a colourful Ceremony held at the University Sports ground on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

# **Fundamental** Statements

## **Our Vision**

A dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research  
for service to humanity.

## **Our Mission**

To generate, advance and disseminate knowledge through  
training, research and innovation for the development of  
humanity.

## **Philosophy**

Enhancing human capacity for societal  
development.

## **Our Core Values**

Integrity

Innovativeness

Professionalism

Customer focus

Teamwork

*Fundamental Statements*



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# Editors' Desk

UoEm Quarterly  
MAGAZINE

The second issue of **The Flashlight** Magazine highlights the key events that happened at the University of Embu in the second semester of the academic year 2016/2017. The semester has seen a lot of developments in different areas. This issue of the magazine features key events at the University from the time it was awarded Charter becoming a fully-fledged Public University and all the news and key highlights that happened at the University from January 2017 to April 2017. The highlights are featured and captured by different sections of the University and key personnel mandated with the responsibility of Publicity and Marketing of the University.

As editors, we are proud to be associated with this informative magazine of the University of Embu. Our hope is that our students would in future be encouraged to contribute entertaining and creative artistic articles focusing on their life at the University of Embu, either from an autobiographical perspective or artistic fictional presentation. We also encourage puzzles, jokes, teasing

games, cartoons and different genres of animation. Members of staff are also encouraged to contribute creative and informative works. The editors have spared a section for culture and entertainment but can only publish creative and quality works.

Apart from setting the pace as the ambassador of the UoEm, **The Flashlight** magazine is the main forum for highlighting various activities at the University. Some of the highlights are on academics, research and extension, planning and development initiatives, corporate social responsibility, students' affairs, and linkages.

The Editorial Board welcomes constructive contribution from all stakeholders to make the subsequent issues better. We wish to invite our partners from different sections and areas to support the Magazine in terms of making it a platform for advertising, sharing information and research. The Magazine is published on semester basis and made accessible to all stakeholders through the print and online version.



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### PUBLISHED BY

Office of the Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Embu

### PRINTED BY

Print Maxim

The online magazine can be accessed at the University website <http://embuni.ac.ke/>

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## Office of the Vice-Chancellor

The goal of the University of Embu is to provide quality education in the fields of Agriculture, Science, Business studies, Education, among others, at the same time produce skilled professionals with high standards of moral values.

**Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru,**  
Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the second issue of The Flashlight Magazine. I wish to congratulate the Editorial team for its determined efforts in bringing out this magazine. I appreciate the outstanding progress of the University over the last few years and wish for further accomplishments on its onward journey of excellence in education.

The goal of the University of Embu is to provide quality education in the fields of Agriculture, Science, Business studies, Education among others, at the same time produce skilled professionals with high standards of moral values. The University is committed to providing all the components necessary to make it an educational institution of international standing; befitting infrastructure, a congenial environment, well equipped laboratories and highly qualified & experienced faculty members.

Our University is particularly keen on developing research and training opportunities so that graduates

and faculty members can leave a lasting impression nationally and internationally. Most importantly, we value our role in nurturing, developing and inspiring young minds. The objective is to create a healthy academic atmosphere and develop it as a centre of excellence.

Education is a process which contributes in building the socio-economic infrastructure of a country, we feel proud to act as contributors to this social transformation. In order to accomplish our vision and mission, we are prepared to put as much effort as possible towards the betterment of academia in Kenya. It is encouraging to look at the potential bright and successful careers of our students, which will subsequently benefit the society.

As we look to the future, one thing is certain. Knowledge will always be a key resource that is sought after, not only in Kenya, but around the world.

Our challenge is to help generate ideas that will benefit the society, and to educate and train students to work in fields where they will be valued both for specialized knowledge, and also for their ability to research, communicate and solve problems.

To meet these challenges, we are determined to build on the existing alliances and collaborative partnerships that the University has established so far with business organizations, the government and other research and private institutions.

It is equally important that we keep close to our wider communities of interest within Embu, nationally and internationally. This will help us sustain the relevance of our academic programmes and the continued excellence of our teaching, learning and research platforms.

## Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Administration & Finance)

**Prof. Eucharía Kenya,**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PAF)  
University of Embu



The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning, Administration and Finance) provides enabling support through planning and allocation of financial and physical resources to enhance customer-focused service throughout the University. The office has successfully accomplished three major activities after the Award of Charter. These activities include approval of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Hostel Project feasibility study, completion of Guest House, and Office Block project.

The feasibility study for University of Embu PPP Hostel Project was approved by the PPP Committee

of the Government. This project is proposed on a build-operate-transfer model that will allow the investors to run the facilities for a period to recoup their investment.

The construction of the University Guest House project has been completed. The Guest House will operate as a commercial unit of the University and its purpose is to provide excellent and modern accommodation to University Guests especially visiting Lecturers, Researchers, and other important personalities visiting the University. It has comfortable and affordable rooms.

The construction of the University Office Block will expand the much desired office space within the University. The Office Block will provide adequate and appropriate office facilities to Sectional Heads in the Academic Division and their support staff.

It will be the hub of academic activities being situated near the Learning Centre, providing easy access for students to interact with teaching members of staff.



The year 2017 promises to be a memorable year for the Division responsible for the implementation of Academic, Research and Extension programmes at the University of Embu. The first signal that the year was going to be memorable was the release of results of the 2016 KCSE examinations at the end of 2016.

From the released results, there was a substantial reduction in the number of students who qualified to join universities directly. With student enrolment figures at universities set to drop, the Division, through the different schools has put in place strategies/mechanisms to ensure the steady growth in student numbers experienced by the University in its first three years of existence is not affected. One of the key strategies is to revise existing programmes and introduce market driven academic programmes while ensuring the continual improvement of services offered across academic departments.

As the institutions of higher learning grapple with the imminent challenge of reduced student numbers, there has also been a rising concern over the quality of education offered by higher learning institutions. Indeed some sections of the public are openly questioning the commitment of universities to offering quality higher education as well as ensuring the integrity of university education in general.

Changes in the education landscape coupled with the rising demand for greater transparency and accountability in the provision of higher education, means that universities must ensure that the necessary quality control measures are put in place to assure the students, the public and all stakeholders, of the commitment to offering quality programmes and that the learning environment is conducive for learning and other scholarly activities.

At the University of Embu, the Academics Division through the Directorate of Academic Quality



## Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension)

**PROF. KIPLAGAT KOTUT**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARE)  
University of Embu

Assurance has an elaborate system for ensuring that all aspects of teaching, administration of examinations and student progression to graduation adheres to the standards and guidelines set by the Commission for University Education (CUE) and other regulatory agencies.

The Division recently hosted a number of quality assurance teams that visited the University to evaluate adherence to various quality standards. In December 2016, a quality inspection team from CUE visited the University to assess the quality of Academic Programmes being offered during the school holidays. In January 2017, another quality inspection team focusing on all Kenyan Universities/University Colleges accredited/recognized by CUE also visited the University to assess adherence to the standards and guidelines issued by the Commission. From the audit, the University of Embu emerged as one of the twelve universities that have so far complied with admission requirements.

In addition, through the initiative of the School of Nursing and School of

Business and Economics, the University has also received quality inspection visits from the Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) and the Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB). In both instances, the University was evaluated positively.

The Division is also committed to supporting research activities through the Directorate of Research and Extension by ensuring adequate laboratory space and equipment for both students and staff as well as facilitation of staff research through research grants and financial support to attend conferences for academic staff. Plans are underway to train academic staff on writing award winning research grant proposals.

Through the office of the Dean of Students and Directorate of Academic and Student Services and in collaboration with the current student government, the Division continues to ensure that students' welfare is safeguarded. This has been realized through ensuring adequacy of recreation opportunities and encouraging participation in co-curricular activities.



## University of Embu Chancellor Installed

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, the Chancellor, University of Embu, during the award of Charter and Installation of the Chancellor Ceremony held at the University Sports ground on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

**P**rof. Paul Musili Wambua was installed as the first Chancellor of the University of Embu (UoEm) at a colourful Ceremony held at the University Sports ground on November 26, 2016. The ceremony was also to celebrate the award of Charter to the University.

Prof. Wambua was appointed as the Chancellor by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence forces following the award of Charter to the University. Previously, the University was a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi since its establishment in 2011.

Speaking during the event, the Chancellor thanked the President for appointing him to the position and promised to do his best to grow the University to even greater heights.

*"At a personal level, this is indeed a great moment. At no time did I imagine being appointed Vice-Chancellor of a University leave alone a Chancellor. The appointment came to me as a pleasant surprise. I want to assure you that I have formally accepted the appointment by H.E the President to serve because education is indeed the greatest gift we can bequeath our future generations. I therefore feel privileged to have been given a chance to lead this young institution through the journey of achieving its full potential". He said.*

In his speech, the Chancellor said that the competition for self-sponsored students in the market is likely to change dramatically in the years ahead especially because the government has now started to sponsor students to private universities. He further noted that this competition required the University of Embu to adapt effectively to the changes that were taking place in the higher education sector.

*"We must seek to become relevant in society if we are to survive and prosper. It requires us to more precisely define the type of persons we seek to welcome into our family of students. The persons admitted to our University should be talented people who value an academic education which is informed by relevant research conducted by professionals. Our students must also be people who want more than just a degree. They must be people who want preparation for leadership; as an academically excellent credential".*  
Said Prof. Wambua

The Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi congratulated Prof. Wambua on his appointment and assured him of the full support of the University Council. She specifically thanked the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the Management team for steering the University from inception up to the award of Charter.

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# University of Embu Partners with The Standard Group Ltd



Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, (second right) is handed the MoU by Mr. Francis Munywoki, (second left), Managing Director, Print Operations, The Standard Group Ltd after the signing ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 in the University. Looking on are Prof. Daniel Mugendi (left), Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu and Dr. Margaret M. Gikuhi (right), Chairperson of Council.

On December 15, 2016, the University of Embu and The Standard Group Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in an effort to promote visibility and publicity for the University, as well as highlight the achievements that the University has recorded so far. This agreement will present the young institution with an opportunity to share its vision with the public. The signing ceremony between the University and The Standard Group Ltd. took place at the University's main campus, in Embu.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, Chancellor, University of Embu and Mr. Francis Munywoki, Managing Director, Print Operations, Standard Group. It was witnessed by Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu and Mr. Charles Kimathi, Director, Corporate Affairs, Standard Group.

Building onto its existing collaborations, the new partnership will present the University of Embu with an opportunity for

media coverage of major events in Standard Group's media platforms. The University will also have the opportunity to publish research content on the different media platforms.

The Standard Group shall provide live TV coverage for the University's key events, as well as feature events for student intakes, graduation announcements and corporate branding across the media platforms, under terms agreed upon by both parties.

*Continued on Page 8*

### Chancellor Installed

*"I would like, especially, to thank the staff, the alumni and the students for overseeing the University from its infant stage through times of great challenges, change and growth, through to attainment of the fully-fledged University status; and doing so in a way that has left it much stronger and a better institution. It is because of your hardwork and exemplary leadership that we are gathered here today to savor the fruits of our labour".* Dr. Margaret Gikuhi.

The Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, welcomed Prof. Musili to the University family and assured him of commitment and support from the University Management, Staff and Students. Prof. Mugendi termed the day as a great day of tremendous joy and thanksgiving.



Prof. Paul Musili Wambua handed the University's Charter by the Chairperson of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi during the Installation of Chancellor and Charter Award Ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.

*"Let me assure you that the Charter given to us is not in vain. We are up to the task and we remain steadfast in our commitment to quality and excellence for the good of our University, our staff, our students and our society".* Prof. Mugendi emphasized.

Many friends of the University attended the event including: the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi, Chancellor, Rongo University, Prof. Mohamed Elmi, Vice-Chancellors of several Universities; among them, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi of South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Prof. Erastus Njoka of Chuka University, Prof. Julius Nyabundi of Maseno University, Prof. Francis Mathooko of Machakos University and many others. Other high-profile guests included: Embu County leaders among them; the Governor of Embu County, H.E Martin Wambora, the Deputy Governor H.E. Dorothy Nditi, the Senator, Embu County, Hon. Lenny Kivuti, MPs, County MCAs and the religious fraternity from Embu County.

### University of Embu partners with The Standard Group Ltd

Continued from Page 7

*"We are a small Institution with a huge potential. With this partnership, we are confident that in the next 5 years, we will register tremendous success and be identified as the University making a difference in terms of enhancing the standard of living."*

Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, Chancellor, University of Embu.

With this partnership, the Standard Group Ltd continues to expand its collaboration portfolio, while creating a sustainable relationship

with the University of Embu. Expert knowledge and opinions shall be shared between the two parties, presenting a potential benefit of learning opportunities for both parties.

*"We are excited about the heritage of the University of Embu. The potential to develop is enormous! We are keen to*

*witness the transformation as we work together to showcase your hard work, success and progress, not just to this region, but the country at large."*

Mr. Francis Munywoki, Managing Director, Print Operations, The Standard Group Ltd.





# University of Embu Takes Initiatives to Provide Clean Energy and Save on Electricity Costs



UoEm senior members of staff and Solar Power & Infrastructure (SPI) representatives after a consultative meeting on Solar Energy held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the University main campus.

The University of Embu (UoEm) plans to produce its own solar power electricity to save on electricity costs and eventually earn income. The Chancellor, Professor Musili Wambua revealed that the University targets to produce 1.5 megawatts of power, which is adequate for the University's internal needs, with the intention to increase to 2 megawatts in the future and eventually sell the surplus to the national grid. However, the current energy bills of the University and consumption levels will be studied to determine the solar power that can be produced.

*"We pay a monthly power bill of Ksh 500,000 which is bound to rise to Ksh 1 million as the University grows in student population. After a few years, we will earn income from sale of electricity while saving on power bills,"* said Prof. Wambua during a meeting with the University Management and consultants from Solar Power & Infrastructure (SPI) held at the University main campus on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

Over the past decade, electricity prices have been rising and the cost of energy is expected to continue to increase over time. Volatile prices set on the utility market can make it difficult for the University to plan and budget for the future. A clear way to take control of energy costs is to go the autonomous route by installing solar to generate own power. As of 2016, solar is the cheapest resource of energy in the world. It is therefore pertinent that the University leverage on this lucrative business opportunity, whilst sustaining the needs of the institution.

The solar power system is designed to yield maximum solar energy for each project. It is designed to last and is easy to

maintain. The system is designed to work together with the national grid, with the aim to offset consumption and tremendously reduce the cost of energy from the grid or from generators.

Solar powered Institutions can improve sustainable brand image and also help enrollment. For many students in the modern era, especially in liberal urban environments, the prospect of going to a University that is seen as being sustainable and eco-conscious can be a distinguishing factor. Studies show that thousands of students seek out schools that will be the best environment to study sustainable practices, which makes solar-powered universities a very attractive option.

The sustainability movement has taken off in a major way, and once UoEm takes up this cost-saving initiative, it will offer an edge for students trying to decide between Universities of outstanding appeal. Additionally, universities are associated with innovation and thus, having the newest, most carbon conscious and efficient form of energy will certainly affirm credibility for UoEm as a truly progressive Institution.

The University intends to partner with the best global supplier of solar power panels and inverters, guaranteed to provide the best solution for services offered. A technical committee has been established and is currently working on the feasibility studies of financing the project, through a partner.

## Scientific Equipment from Seeding Labs

The University of Embu is one of the 16 universities selected to receive research and teaching equipment through Seeding Labs' Instrumental Access programme



The donated lab equipment by Seeding Labs being offloaded at the University on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, University of Embu (UoEm) received a shipment of lab equipment from Seeding Labs' Instrumental Access programme. UoEm received a container with nearly 6 tons of lab equipment and supplies that will support teaching and research in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Seeding Labs, a US-based NGO supported by USAID's Global Development Lab, chose 16 outstanding university departments in 11 countries for the 2016 Instrumental Access programme after a rigorous application process. Universities then selected items from Seeding Labs' inventory to meet their individual teaching

and research needs. Instrumental Access equipment advances cutting-edge research, expands training opportunities for students, and enhances the infrastructure that is critical to a thriving scientific community.

Each shipment contains equipment donated to Seeding Labs from US-based research institutes and corporations in the life sciences, biotechnology, higher education, and manufacturing sectors; 24 donors contributed equipment to UoEm's shipment.

The Department of Biological Sciences will use the donated equipment to establish on-site

teaching labs for both undergraduate and graduate students. This will eventually benefit more than 700 undergraduate and postgraduate students per year.

The University also plans to use the enhanced research capacity to build new collaborations in the region and eventually establish a Center of Excellence in natural product discovery from microorganisms.

*"The Equipment donation enormously enhances our capability to offer practical hands-on training in the life sciences, a capacity that lacks in most of the Kenyan Universities,"* said Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, Ag. Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics, Research Extension at the University of Embu.

*"Being a young institution, we have a golden chance to break new ground and introduce modernized courses that are responsive to the market needs. Access to adequate equipment will greatly help us in delivering quality education to our students as we prepare them for the job market or careers in academia,"* said Dr. Romano Mwirichia, Director, Research and Extension at the University of Embu.

*"Despite the abundance of scientific talent around the world, lack of equipment is a simple but widespread barrier that can prevent talent from being expressed at its fullest. We are excited that our partnership with the University of Embu will allow students to receive hands-on scientific education and will give researchers additional capacity to pursue scientific solutions to issues facing Kenya and beyond,"* said Nina Dudnik, PhD, Seeding Labs' founder and CEO.



# University of Embu is CUE Quality Audit Compliant



**Commission for University Education (CUE) officials and UoEm staff during the Quality Audit Inspection on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017 at the University main campus.**

The Commission for University Education (CUE) conducted a quality audit at the University of Embu (UoEm) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. The Audit was conducted to establish the extent to which universities were complying with the Universities Act 2012 and the Universities Standards and Guidelines 2014; and to assure the public and other stakeholders that quality University Education is taking place in Kenyan universities.

Other areas of concern included universities offering programmes not approved by the commission, abuse of the 'Executive' degree programmes and lack of adherence to the admission criteria as well as abuse of the Credit Accumulative and Transfer Systems (CATS).

The results of the Audit were later released to the Vice-Chancellor's and Chairs of University Councils at a meeting held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

The report by CUE Quality Audit established that the UoEm is one of the few universities in the country that was fully complying with the laws, University Regulations and Quality Standards. The University also had no issues with academic programmes offered and admission requirements.

This positive outcome reflects well on the University Management and acts as an encouragement to UoEm's, academic staff and students, to continue adhering to quality standards for the betterment of the institution.

## STUDENT TEACHERS CONDUCT TRAINING

The Department of Education and Social Sciences organized training on Code of Conduct for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who were approximately 300 in number. These students will be placed in different secondary schools within the region for Teaching Practice.

It was felt necessary for them to learn a few pointers on how to conduct themselves and be the best teachers to the students they have to take care of and develop. A guest speaker was invited from Siakago Boys High School

to help create a better teacher out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. It was noted that 95% of the students had already been placed in schools. The remaining 5 % were to be placed in various schools. Some of the key things mentioned by the speaker were: how to conduct oneself as a teacher to a student in cases of examination irregularities, building self esteem of students by praising them for good performance, maintaining progress reports as a teacher which evaluates teaching of various courses assigned to you, being a guide and counselor to the students, learning how to avoid creating tension with students and always maintaining school code of conduct.

The students were offered a question and answer session for interactive purposes.



# What Works When it Comes to Workers



Mr. Isaac B. D. Ominde  
Human Resource Manager

The Human Resource (HR) Department has grown over the last four years and is now able to manage all HR functions at the University. The core mandate of the Department is to help the University achieve its strategic mission, while ensuring employees are engaged and motivated to positively contribute to the success of the University.

Currently the University has a workforce of 275 employees comprising of 80 teaching and 195 non-teaching members of staff. The following are some of the major achievements and projections of the HR Department:

- i. Development of a comprehensive Human Resource Policies and Procedures Manual which summarizes policies and administrative procedures for all HR matters at the University. The purpose of this manual is to act as a guide to ensure that Human Resource matters are handled in a consistent and equitable manner throughout the University. This manual is available on the University's website and on the staff portal – HR Documents
- ii. Establishment of a fully functional registry to manage both personnel and general records. Plans are underway to adopt technology including electronic filing as a means to cut costs and improve internal efficiencies in records management. Training in electronic filing is ongoing as part of the preparedness towards information security.
- iii. Creation of a staff portal on the University website where staff can access HR information and download required forms. Plans are at an advanced stage to automate staff requests such as leave administration. The ultimate aim is to streamline processes and encourage the use of technology by eliminating forms, automating manual processes and implementing online applications for jobs.
- iv. Establishment of a robust and all-inclusive performance management system complete with rewards and sanctions mechanisms.
- v. Establishment of a Training Committee to coordinate staff training and development programmes.
- vi. Development and implementation of a self-assessment promotion criterion for both teaching and non-teaching staff to enhance fairness in evaluation of staff for promotion.
- vii. Development of a Scheme of Service for all cadres of staff at the University. The Scheme of Service will allow members of staff to advance in their job hierarchy from time to time and this will serve as a motivating factor for staff when they have an opportunity to advance within their establishment from the lowest to the highest attainable grade.

**The HR Department also helps in recruitment by providing well-defined job descriptions and specifications with clear duties and responsibilities at all levels within the career structure.**



# Developing all-rounded Learners

The Office of the Dean of Students has continued to provide support to students and expose them to a myriad of activities to nurture an all rounded learning experience.



**Dr. Mark Otieno**  
Dean of Students

During the Celebration of the award of Charter, the Department mobilized students to fully embrace the elevation of the University from a constituent college to a fully-fledged status. This was done through a student-led road show held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 from the University grounds to Embu town. The road show attracted about 1,000 students and turned out to be a good publicity event for the University. Apart from providing entertainment for guests during the installation of the Chancellor and celebration of the award of Charter, the University Management treated students to a Charter night entertainment event to appreciate the role the students played in the University's transition.

On 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, the HIV/AIDS Prevention Committee in conjunction with the Office of the Dean of Students organized a successful World AIDS Day celebrations held at the University's Students' Mess. During the event, students and staff were sensitized on ways to prevent and stay safe from contracting HIV/AIDS and encouraged to visit the Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) stand to know their HIV status.

Some of the brief highlights of activities organized by the Department in the second semester of the 2016/2017 academic year include: the orientation of new students (January 2017 intake); sensitization of students on investing with Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) and financial education. The idea was to train students on how to earn extra cash trading stock and making smart choices when investing.

Other activities that have taken place during the second semester include: a student training on first aid, peer counseling and personal branding for the 4th year graduating class. We look forward to keeping you posted with new developments on the next edition of the Flashlight Magazine.



Students take part in a roadshow celebrating the award of Charter held on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 in Embu.



Some of the students during World AIDS Day celebrations held at the University on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.



University of Embu students observe as a St. John Ambulance First Aid Trainer demonstrates how to administer Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during a First Aid training held at the University Charter Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

## Towards Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision



**Prof. Nancy Budambula**  
Director,  
Postgraduate Studies



**A section of UoEm's academic staff following the proceedings of the Postgraduate Supervision Workshop held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 at the University Charter Hall.**

A one-day workshop on effective postgraduate supervision, mentorship and objective examination was held at the University of Embu (UoEm) on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. The workshop brought together eight external supervisors and fifty-one academic staff members. It was facilitated by Prof. Christopher Shisanya, a professor of agroclimatology from Kenyatta University.

In his opening remarks, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the Ag. Vice-Chancellor of UoEm noted that worldwide most of University research is done by postgraduate students. The postgraduate students generate most of the publications and innovations in universities. Postgraduate research output in turn contributes to global ranking of universities. The Vice-Chancellor further observed that the ranking of UoEm would improve when the quality of postgraduate students and subsequent research output improves. "Good supervision is required to produce high quality postgraduate students", he noted.

It is ideal to increase the ratio of postgraduate students to undergraduate students. Even as the University expands postgraduate education, there is need to improve quality and restore the glory of university postgraduate research. Poorly supervised postgraduate students in turn make poor supervisors. In an effort to break the vicious cycle of poor supervision, UoEm has put in place a series of intervention measures.

The workshop was thus the first of such measures. The Vice-Chancellor promised that other measures would follow in due course.

In the run up to the workshop a number of interesting questions were posed by the participants including: How do you attract students as a supervisor? How much guidance should you give to a student during proposal, thesis and manuscript preparation and publication? What is the acceptable conduct and contact between supervisor and student? Who sets the boundaries? How does one mark a thesis? How do you mentor a postgraduate student? When does mentorship start and end?

In an effort to address the emerging questions, Prof. Shisanya emphasized that the mentor's responsibilities extends beyond helping students learn how to research and write. A good relationship between a graduate student and an academic supervisor enhances the learning experience, gives a sense of satisfaction to both participants, enhances the development of research skills as well as shapes career trajectories of both the student and the supervisor.

It was noted that supervision is a major challenge to academic staff due to little training of the faculty member and mismatched expectations.

**"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."**

**-Mark Twain**





Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, welcomes an official from the Commission for University Education (CUE) when the team visited the University for a Quality Audit Inspection on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017.



Hon. Sicily Kariuki, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, signing the visitor's book in the Vice-Chancellor's Office on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, when she visited the University.



University of Embu Staff during the Job Analysis Training conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) & Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.



Fire Marshals training conducted by St. John Ambulance Officials on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, for staff and students.



Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, Chancellor, University of Embu officially opens the New University Charter Hall after the installation ceremony held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2016.



Officials from Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB) inspecting e-Books in the University Library on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.





Participants following the proceedings during the Sensitization Forum for Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the University Charter Hall.



University of Embu members of staff during the Team Building held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016 at Green Hills Hotel, Nyeri.



Mr. Francis Munywoki, Managing Director, Print Operations, The Standard Group Ltd (left), Prof. Musili Wambua, Chancellor, UoEm, signing an MoU. Looking on (right) Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.



Lotengan Kelvin Esinyen, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc. student at UoEm, takes Prof. Micheni Ntiba, PS, State Department of Fisheries and H.E the Governor of Embu, Hon. Martin Wambora through a presentation on security software development at the Eastern Kenya ASK Show on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2017.



University of Embu students casting their votes during the Student Council elections held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in the University Charter Hall.



Ms. Stella Marigu Njiru being sworn in as the Vice-Chairperson during the University of Embu Student Elections on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the VC's Square.



# Pictorial

## *Infrastructure* in the **University**



The new Administration Block



The upcoming Ultra-Modern Library



The newly completed Office Block



The newly completed University Herbarium



The newly completed Animal House



The newly completed University Guest House

# Combating HIV/AIDS in the University Community

THE  
END  
OF  
AIDS  
BEGINS  
WITH  
ME

During the World AIDS Day celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016, HIV educators from the government sector carried out condom use and disposal sensitization at the University of Embu (UoEm).

Universities and other institutions of higher learning are generally populated by young people in the 17-24 age bracket.

Though data on the impact of HIV in universities remains scanty, the national data, indicates that the age bracket in universities is highly vulnerable to HIV infection.

UoEm has moved to combat the spread of HIV in the University community by mainstreaming HIV/

AIDS related issues. The UoEm Management has put in place a HIV&AIDS Prevention Committee that coordinates matters related to prevention of HIV/AIDS in the University community. The Committee recognizes that education is key in preventing new infections and is likely to encourage a more respectful, open-minded attitude towards HIV/AIDS.

The HIV&AIDS Prevention Committee therefore provides information and sensitizes students and staff on HIV/AIDS prevention strategies from time to time.

The Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework 2014/2015-2018/2019

(KASF) 'Strategic Direction 1' aims at reducing new HIV infections. Consistent and proper use of condoms has been shown to reduce the risk of getting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections by more than 90%. In line with national priorities, the HIV&AIDS Committee periodically organizes for sensitization on consistent, correct use and proper disposal of condoms.





## University of Embu at the Eastern Kenya Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Show



**Ms. Victoria Nyaga, Assistant Librarian, University of Embu, receives a trophy from Prof. Micheni Ntiba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, for the Best Stand during the Eastern Kenya ASK Show held from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at Njukiri Showground, Embu**

The University of Embu (UoEm) has been participating in the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) show since its inception. This year's ASK Show ran from 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with the theme of *'Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade'*. The University was represented by six divisions: the Library, Mathematics, Computing and Information Technology Department [MCIT], School of Agriculture, School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) and the Health Unit.

The University had an admissions desk tent at the show where visitors were informed about the academic programmes offered and made enquiries about the Institution. Each visitor received a copy of the first edition of the *Flashlight Magazine* as well as an academic brochure. The Library desk presented different reports, and displayed a variety of books.

The MCIT department from the School of Pure and Applied Sciences was represented by two third year students. Douglas Owiye presented a Mkulima Farm Management System. The idea behind this system is to provide farmers with farming tips such as planting seasons or the different types of seeds depending on the farmer's geographical location. Kelvin Lotengan's project was on how to find lost identification and travelling documents such as ID cards and passports. He labeled this project the ID 254 system.

SPAS also presented a project on adaptive agriculture using banana stems. This was presented by Mr. Simon Mukono, a Lab technologist at UoEm. His project was based on

alternative means of farming especially in cases where space is limited.

The School of Agriculture presented two projects: a french beans project and a liquid fertilizer project. The main idea behind the french bean project was it being highly resistant to disease and will be the first of its kind in the region. The organic liquid fertilizer was presented by two second year students from the School of Agriculture. Tobias Ouma and Violet Chanzu illustrated how to locally produce the liquid fertilizer which is cost effective in comparison to other fertilizers.

The Health Unit exhibition was on combating micronutrients malnutrition using locally available foods. Visitors also got their blood pressure and blood sugar levels examined.

The University was judged on six categories:

1. The best stand in innovation.
2. The participants' interpretation of the theme.
3. The best project for community development.
4. The research advancements of the exhibitions.
5. Technological advancements and communication systems.
6. Best stand of institutions of higher learning.

The University was ranked first in research and development and best stand for the category of Institutions of higher learning. In the category of development of advanced technology, the University was ranked second.

# Christmas Gift for Embu Prison Inmates

"Visiting the Prison is not only humane but also biblical and the University and the community in general is willing to help the reformed inmates once they complete their terms to integrate back into the society."

*Prof. Daniel Mugendi,  
Ag. Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Embu*



**Mr. Charles Mutembei, Officer in Charge, Embu GK Prison (centre), receives foodstuff from the University of Embu Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi when he visited the inmates.**

On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016, the University of Embu, as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity, made a surprise visit to the Embu GK Prison and donated various foodstuff as a special Christmas gift to the over 1600 inmates. The foodstuff was presented to the jubilant inmates by the University delegation led by the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru.

The plan was mooted during the last sitting of the University Management Board for the year 2016. The decision to visit the prison was proposed and agreed upon. The approval prompted the Corporate Affairs desk to embark on sourcing for the foodstuff ranging from bags of rice, sacks of potatoes, loaves of bread, crates of soda and bars of soap, sufficient for each inmate and the Wardens.

The arrival at the Prison located at Majimbo area, Embu Kiritiri route, was greeted with anticipation as neither the wardens nor the inmates had the slightest idea what the convoy of the University vehicles had for them. The University team was received by the Officer in Charge, Mr. Charles Mutembei and a host of other senior officials of the Prison and ushered in for a courtesy call in his office.

In his remarks during the visit, Prof. Daniel Mugendi noted that the University and the Prison had a very cordial relationship cultivated by the support the University receives from the prisoners. He observed that visiting the Prison was not only humane but also biblical and that the University and the community in general are willing to welcome the reformed inmates once they complete their terms, to help them integrate back into

the society.

In his address during the visit, the Officer in Charge, Mr. Charles Mutembei applauded the University of Embu's initiative in donating the foodstuff noting that the gesture by the University would be engraved in the annals of history of the Prison.

He reiterated the support of the Prison Department in the activities of the University and thanked the Management for their unprecedented effort in visiting the Prison.

This CSR act by the University is amongst numerous others that the University has undertaken, including a visit to the Jomo Kenyatta Children's Home, Embu Children's Home, among others.



# Performance Contract for the Financial Year 2016/2017 Cascaded



Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu (seated right) signing the cascaded Performance Contract with Mr. Alex Kang'ethe, ICT Director (seated centre). Looking on is Dr. Mburugu Kirema Nkanata, Director, Performance Contracting & ISO Certification.

The University of Embu negotiated its Performance Contract for the financial year 2016/2017 with the Ministry of Education on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The Performance Contract was later vetted by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy, Head of Public Service, Division of Performance Contracting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. As a result of this, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi held a meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at which the University Management and all Heads of Departments/Sections signed the cascaded Performance Contract, for implementation.

Prof. Mugendi urged the target owners to fast-track their intervention, indicating that there was a short period of time remaining to implement the Performance Contract. He pointed out that since the mid-year evaluation is scheduled for April, there was urgent need

for the target owners to compile evidence for the targets that had already been implemented. "There is need to strive to maintain excellent scores by ensuring we over achieve on our targets." He said. It was also made known that all reports should be prepared and submitted in a timely manner, to avoid delays and ensure deadlines were met.

Some of the areas that the target owners were urged to achieve targets on included, but not limited to: Student Admission in Science Academic Programmes, Research Grants to the University, Research Publications, Industry Linkages, Development of Infrastructure, Review Academic Programmes, Community Economic Empowerment, Youth Internships/industrial Attachments/Apprenticeships and Minimum 30% of all procurement budget dedicated to youth, women and Persons With Disability; among others.

The Vice-Chancellor mentioned that sensitizations in the University should be taken seriously, planned properly and well in advance. He advised Committees to invite experts from agencies in charge of the targets so as to enlighten the University on the implementation of the Performance contracts.

The cascaded Performance Contract, was signed between the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mugendi, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics, Research and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Planning, Administration and Finance, Prof. Eucharika Kenya who then signed with their designated Heads of Departments, Sections and Schools respectively. The successful implementation of the targets will steer the University of Embu in the right direction to become the leading University of choice.

“There is need to maintain excellent scores by ensuring we over achieve on our targets.”

Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru

# UESA CONSTITUTION REVIEW & 2017 STUDENT ELECTIONS



University of Embu Students casting their votes during the 2017 Student Leaders Voting exercise on 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017.

The Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was signed into law by the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, in December 2016. Following this enactment, the University of Embu appointed a nine-member committee to review and align the then Embu University College Students' Association (EUCSA) constitution to the Universities (Amendment) Act 2016 – particularly section 41 of No. 42 on student elections.

The Committee wrote a new Constitution which spells out the criteria for ensuring regional as well as gender balance in the student elections.

Even before the new law came into effect, the University had begun reviewing the EUCSA constitution to reflect the changed status of the University following the award of Charter on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.

The change in the Universities Act triggered the realignment of the existing Constitution as well as opening an opportunity to review the whole EUCSA Constitution.

The University Management approved the new UESA constitution on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. Following this approval, the Electoral Commission declared all positions in the Student Council vacant and planned for students' elections for 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Some of the key amendments made to the EUCSA Constitution include the following:

- i. Adoption of UESA (University of Embu Students' Association) as the name of the student association to replace EUCSA.
- ii. Inclusion of UESA mission, vision and core values in the constitution.
- iii. Revision of positions in the Student Council in line with the Universities (Amendment) Act 2016.
- iv. Definition of roles and responsibilities of the Student Council members.
- v. Direction that elections should be held in the second semester and follow the guidelines provided by the Universities (Amendment) Act 2016.
- vi. Appointment of an Electoral Commission by the Vice-Chancellor should take place at least three weeks before the end of the first semester.
- vii. The Electoral Commission shall provide guidelines on how the elections of both the Student Council members and the Electoral College delegates will be conducted.
- viii. Inclusion of a vote of no confidence for violating oath of office.





UoEm students applause as the newly elected UESA Chairman, Mr. Dancan Othuon (inset) takes the oath of office on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.



Student elections are one of the most important student activities in the Academic Calendar of the University of Embu. For the Academic Year 2016/2017, students went to the polls on 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017. The Students election period was marked by brightly coloured posters and banners displayed throughout the University grounds, social media saturated with campaign propaganda and creative memos. Social places were filled with enthusiastic candidates frantically trying to engage with students across campus.

Seven positions for the Student Council and twelve for the school representatives were up for grabs. The elections attracted eighty five aspirants who competed directly for the students votes of in the campaigns.

The University of Embu administration is committed to ensuring that; all eligible students compete and vote in these elections, student leaders have a strong mandate to represent students at the highest levels of university governance and that the students' Association is most democratic, representative, and effective in student representation. In the just concluded elections, students seemed to adhere to the "if you don't vote, you can't complain" motto; since they turned up in large numbers to vote-in their representatives.

The University put in place the University of Embu Student Association Electoral Commission (UESAEC) comprising of members of staff and student representatives and mandated to oversee the elections. The commissioners worked tirelessly to deliver free, fair and transparent elections. To boost the efficiency and credibility of the

electoral process, the Commission invited observers from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The observers were present throughout the voting process and till late when the tallying process ended and winners for the various positions declared. The IEBC officials declared the electoral process peaceful, free, fair and transparent.

The electoral process was however not without challenges owing to the amendment of the Universities Act, 2012 that changed the way student elections are conducted. This was challenged at the High Court by student leaders and a subsequent court order issued suspending the operation of section 18(1)(C), 18(1)(D) and 18(1)(E) of the Universities (Amendment) Act, 2016. However, the University, in consultation with the student leaders was quick to ensure that the students' constitution and electoral process remained compliant to the laws of Kenya.

The elections were concluded at 12:45 am with Mr. Duncan Othuon being declared Chairperson, University of Embu student's council. Ms. Stella Marigu Njiru won the Vice-Chairpersons post. The elections recorded fair competition and representation. Ms Githu Valentine Njeri, vying for the Special Needs Representative post garnered 1,787 votes, the highest number of votes recorded for one candidate.

The new Student Council was sworn in and took oath of office on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in the presence of Mr. Joe Kathungu, an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. The Council will serve for the Academic Year 2017/2018.



# "Your Vote, Your Voice"



Hon. Sicily Kariuki, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs sensitizes students on voter registration on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the University main campus.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, Hon. Sicily Kariuki, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs paid a courtesy call at the University of Embu in a bid to sensitize the University of Embu students to register to vote in anticipation of the forthcoming general election.

"Registering as a voter is your right to have a voice in good governance. It is your civic responsibility," she said, speaking to the students at the Vice-Chancellor's Square.

The Cabinet Secretary, accompanied by Embu County Commissioner, Ms. Esther Maina, had been on a tour of Embu County, spearheading the voter registration exercise. She stated that they were targeting a 65% turn out. She further encouraged the students to register at the University and get the chance to vote in their area of choice within the country.

University of Embu was chosen as a registration Station due to the high population of staff and students that has continued to increase gradually over the years. The Cabinet Secretary was keen on this growth and congratulated the University for the Achievements made so far. "Any support you think we can grant, we would be happy to do so." She said. The voter registration exercise that took place countrywide was an effort of the Independent

Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to register a target of more than 6 million new voters.

Hon. Sicily Kariuki thanked the University Management for the co-operation and hospitality they had offered the IEBC clerks and requested them to continue offering support as required, in order to reach all the students and others in their area of residence.



**"REGISTERING**

**as a voter is your  
right to have a voice  
in good governance.**

**It is your civic  
RESPONSIBILITY."**

*Hon. Sicily Kariuki*





## THE ONE Shilling Fund



One shilling Fund is basically a funds drive that is based on the principle of brotherhood and sisterhood, where comrades, University staff or a member of management contributes any amount from as low as one shilling to support and save a dream of a comrade. Following the rise of needy student cases within the University the Student Council saw it important to have a common pool where students who cannot meet some of their basic needs can get help. Some of which includes upkeep, rent issues, school fees, hospital bills and bereavement. Basically, it deals with the day-to-day challenges and shortcomings of students' life within the campus.

The fund first began as a student's club in September 2016 under the leadership of Ms. Zeinab Ali, the then Gender and Special Needs Secretary. But after a while the need to make it a University fund reached the Student Council. The Student council then decided that it would be a University wide fund after consultation with the Dean of Students and the University Management.

On Saturday, 4th February 2017, the fund was launched to the students after it was presented to the university staff and Management the previous week during the VC's tea at the VC's square. The launching ceremony was spearheaded by UESA under the leadership of the student president Mr. Suleiman Naibei.

The fund's operation depends on donation boxes situated at various hotspots within the University. The Donation boxes bear the writings;

**“DONATION BOX”**

and under it, the fund's slogan;

**“DONATE A SHILLING, SAVE A DREAM”.**

In addition any donations from other well-wishers and sponsors in form of cheques or any other forms

of donations are highly welcome through the office of the Dean of Students.

The donation boxes are emptied every first Monday of every month. In the process of emptying the boxes, the following people are present, Special Needs Secretary (UESA), Treasurer, (UESA), Head of Finance and the Dean of Students, who are the members of the Financial Aid committee. Funds collected from the donation boxes are counted in the presence of the above members and taken to the cash office for deposition to the Needy Student's Kitty.

The fund is looking for other willing stakeholders and sponsors to increase funding so as to assist as many students as possible. The fund also urges all students to actively contribute to the fund as a way of securing their future and the future of our beloved comrades.



“Tell a comrade to tell a comrade, our future, our concern”



## Dean School of Education & Social Sciences Visits University of Toronto

Dr. Madrine King'endo (With green scarf), Dean School of Education & Social Sciences, while at a women leadership class when she visited University of Toronto from 17<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

The Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences had a nine day visit to University of Toronto from 17<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2017. The main purpose of the visit was to collaborate with the University of Toronto in establishing the Institute of Child Studies (ICS) at University of Embu (UoEm). Some of the colleagues introduced to the Dean were: Mr. Richard Messina – Principal, Dr. Eric Jackman – Institute of Child Studies, Dr. Ann Lopez – Professor, Department of Leadership in Higher and Adult Education and Professor Njoki Wane – Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Social Justice Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

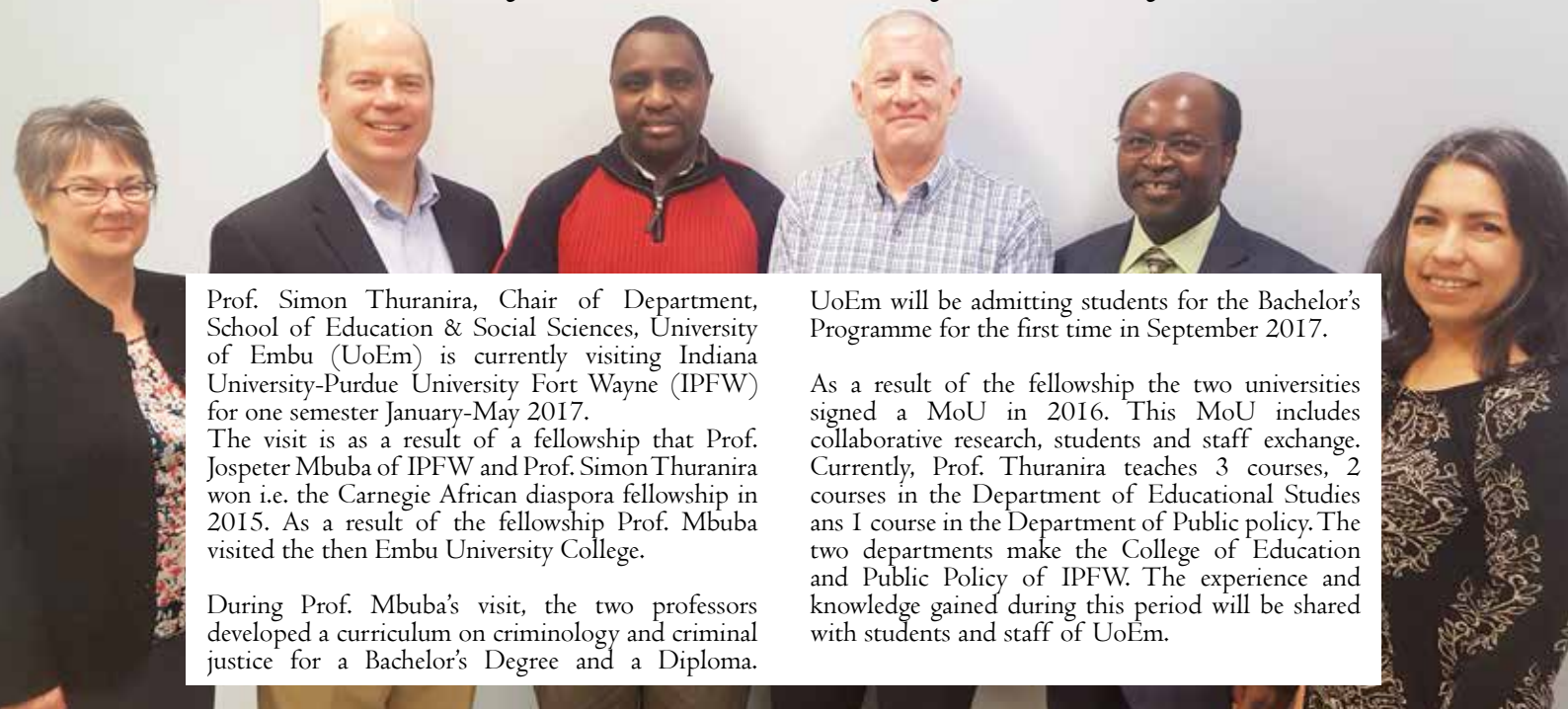
The events included a meeting with the Dean, Faculty of Education, to discuss the establishment of the Institute of Child Studies. The visit also included learning more about the Institute and its structures. Of great importance was meeting

the brains behind the establishment of the Institute i.e. the management, professors for the curriculum and the children. The Dean was able to talk to the children and interact with them.

University of Toronto values the growth and development of children. Other events that took place during the visit included the welcome visit to Ontario Institute for Studies in Education specifically to the Psychology Department to view the programmes and find out how teachers are trained on assessment and monitoring for the Institute of Child Studies.

The final event was a visit to the Institute where alumni of ICS are placed. It was agreed that the University of Toronto will visit the University of Embu and assist to establish the Institute of Child Studies at UoEm.

## Prof. Simon Thurania at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW)



Prof. Simon Thurania, Chair of Department, School of Education & Social Sciences, University of Embu (UoEm) is currently visiting Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) for one semester January-May 2017. The visit is as a result of a fellowship that Prof. Jospeter Mbuba of IPFW and Prof. Simon Thurania won i.e. the Carnegie African diaspora fellowship in 2015. As a result of the fellowship Prof. Mbuba visited the then Embu University College.

During Prof. Mbuba's visit, the two professors developed a curriculum on criminology and criminal justice for a Bachelor's Degree and a Diploma.

UoEm will be admitting students for the Bachelor's Programme for the first time in September 2017.

As a result of the fellowship the two universities signed a MoU in 2016. This MoU includes collaborative research, students and staff exchange. Currently, Prof. Thurania teaches 3 courses, 2 courses in the Department of Educational Studies and 1 course in the Department of Public Policy. The two departments make the College of Education and Public Policy of IPFW. The experience and knowledge gained during this period will be shared with students and staff of UoEm.

(left to right) Prof. Terri Swim, Associate Dean, College of Education and Public Policy, Prof. James Burg, Dean College of Education and Public Policy, Prof. Simon Thurania, Visiting Professor at the College of Education and Public Policy, Prof. Brian Fife, Chair Department of Public Policy, Prof. Jospeter Mbuba, Professor Department of Public Policy, Prof. Isabel Nunez, Chair Department of Educational Studies, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, United States.



# Former Council Members Farewell Dinner



**(left)** Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu and **(right)** Dr. Margaret Gikuihi, Chairperson of Council, University of Embu, handing Prof. Horace Ochanda, a former Council Member, and his wife a memento during the Farewell dinner held on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 at a City Hotel.

The third University Council and Management organized a farewell dinner to appreciate former Council Members of the University of Embu.

These were Mr. Bashir Bachani who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Council, Mr. Alphan Munene who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Council, Prof. Margaret Hutchinson who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Council, Dr. John Onseti who served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council, Mr. Kiema Mwandia who served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council, Mr. Evans

Atambo who served in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and briefly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council and Prof. Horace Ochanda who served as the senate representative, University of Nairobi. The occasion was also graced by the spouses of the former Council members.

The Chairperson of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi commended the former members for setting the pace and laying a good foundation in which the University is anchored. She also

commended the current members for fitting in the shoes of the former members to ensure that their vision to have the University elevated to greater heights is achieved. The fulfilment of this was the award of Charter for full-fledged University status on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The former members were honoured with mementos to commemorate their outstanding service to the University. On their part, the former members were proud to be associated with the University and expressed their profound gratitude and appreciation to the University Council and Management for finding time in their busy schedules to express appreciation for their service to the University.

The event was held at a City hotel, and the Council pledged to make it one of their practices.

**“I have offered  
my service to  
many institutions  
but none has  
appreciated my  
service in such a  
special way.”**

*Mr. Kiema Mwandia*



Students during the Peer Counselling Training conducted between 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in the University.

## Counselling Fellow Comrades

Students everywhere encounter an incredible amount of pressure throughout their college years. Colleges and universities offer a considerable range of services and programming to address varieties of stress. Peer Counselling Training (PECT) is a welfare service aimed at enabling students go through the pressures of college life with minimum undesirable outcome.

It is in this light that every year the University of Embu trains students peer counsellors to maintain a peer counsellor student ratio of 1:40, including refresher training for already trained peer counsellors. This academic year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> PECT training was organized by the office of the Dean of Students and conducted between 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The theme was of the training was dubbed '*Change to Change*'.

The training was officially opened by Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics, Research & Extension, who emphasized that during the four years students are in the University, they are packaged through training to become successful persons in future, the pressure from different circumstances notwithstanding.

Among the areas tackled were; overview of counselling & peer counselling, self-awareness & personal growth, being a peer counsellor, dynamics of personality & young adults' life skills, planning for peer counselling and foundations of counselling. The counselling process, basic counselling skills, approaches to peer counselling, behaviour change, counselling skills, ethical issues in peer counselling and counselling issues were also presented.

The expectation is that the peer counsellors should be able to reach out to their fellow students and offer counselling support to enhance their learning experience at the University.





# UoEm Staff Teambuilding



University of Embu Staff during a Team Building exercise on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016.

Team-building activities can help develop trust among employees. Trust is a critical component to business, especially when teamwork is required on a daily basis to achieve objectives and grow companies. Depending on the varied personalities of employees, unnecessary conflicts and disputes might arise. Team-building activities can play an important role in easing conflicts between co-workers by allowing employees to bond with one another and become more accustomed to each other's personalities.

To ease conflicts, team-building activities are used to allow co-workers to get to know one another on a personal level. Through team-building activities, employees can learn how to better communicate with one another because they probably will be faced with activities that need to be solved as a group.

On December 21, 2016, all the members of staff of the University of Embu gathered at the serene Green Hills Hotel situated in Nyeri. The aura was particularly distinctive on this day; it was a crisp, calm atmosphere and everyone seemed to be in a good mood, looking forward to spend the day involved in engaging activities and relaxing after a full year of hard work. Besides, it was the last day of work and the University was closing for the Christmas holiday after that.

The day began with the registration exercise, as members of staff simultaneously enjoyed the breakfast delicacies served at the lavish Green Hills hotel restaurant. Shortly after, there was a sit-down interactive session coordinated by a facilitator, Mr. Fredrick Kimathi, who gave a very detailed and interesting presentation on the role of

teamwork in personal and organizational development. He kept the members engaged and ensured that he related his examples to people's everyday work and personal life experiences, making it easier for the members to comprehend the great importance of working as a team, for the betterment of the University.

Staff members then proceeded to the Hotel's field for outdoor activities that revolved around the day's theme; *Teamwork*. This session was facilitated by Masai Africa Safaris representatives, who pride themselves in having a streamlined planning process that ensures the team building adventure is well-suited to the participants.

After the warm up, members were grouped into various teams, and competed against one another. The exercises were fun and interactive; all the games tested unity, building trust, progression, bonding, planning, communication, conflict resolution and problem solving of the staff members. Some of the games included singing patriotic songs and racing with feet tied together, wrestling and tug-of-war among others.

**Team building  
getaways boost the  
employees' morale,  
improve teamwork and  
increase organization  
performance.**

"Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results".





Participants register for the Sensitization Forum for Youth, Women & Persons with Disability held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at the University Charter Hall.

# Sensitization Forum for Youth, Women & Persons with Disability

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 the University of Embu held a sensitization forum for youth, women and persons with disability to share with them information on how to participate in business opportunities at the University. The Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi officially opened the much anticipated forum, thanking all those who took time-off their busy schedules to attend the forum. He also commended the organisers of the forum for adhering to the Government's directive to empower the youth, women and persons with disability economically.

*"We are looking forward to developing a fruitful partnership after this. We want to encourage as many of you as possible to establish ventures that will help you grow economically. We are willing to provide answers to any questions about government policy on procurement,"* Prof. Mugendi said. He encouraged the participants to form networks for improvement where applicable. He emphasized that the University of Embu would continue providing equal opportunities and open interaction for youth, women and persons with disability.

Such forums have in the past helped the youth, women and persons with disability to participate in open tenders where they compete fairly with everyone. Prof. Mugendi

warned the participants to be wary of conmen who ask for money upfront and in turn guarantee jobs. He emphasized that the University of Embu is a corruption-free zone that does not condone bribes or canvassing of any kind. When participating, everyone is treated equally; the process is strict and transparent, payment is done promptly upon delivery of goods and services and after proper inspection and acceptance.

The University's Senior Procurement Officer, Mrs. Purity Chege explained how the University awards tenders and the requirements needed for each type of job, including the required documents for the same.

The forum concluded with an interactive Q&A session among the different speakers of the day and the participants. It was clear that the forum was a success as majority of the participants left more knowledgeable and ready to apply what they had learnt. The way forward for the University is to continue hosting such informative sensitization forums to inform the public and create awareness, whilst promoting integrity for the University.





Participants after attending the Agri-Biotech Forum in the University of Embu Charter Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

## UoEm Hosts a Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology

On 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the University of Embu (UoEm), in collaboration with the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and the International Service for Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA AfriCenter) hosted a forum on Agricultural Biotechnology at the University of Embu Charter Hall. The theme of the forum, *"Demystifying Agricultural Biotechnology Through Active Engagement of Academia,"* aimed at bringing together academia individuals, farmers, youth groups, students and scientists to discuss the various aspects of GM (Genetically Modified) Technology.

The Chief Guest of the forum, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, University of Embu's Chancellor, mentioned that the forum was a testimony that the University and its partners are committed to ensure that information on new innovations in Agricultural Biotechnology is widely disseminated for the benefit of the society.

The development of bio-technology in Kenya is still in its early stages. However, regulations to control it have been established but in the process caused an emotionally charged debate. This has been the case since the government introduced a ban on Genetically Modified foods in 2012. Prof. Musili said that this ban was not justified and that the move was not based on facts. He called for meaningful discussions and exchange of information on GMOs as a means to make appropriate decisions on the matter as substantive research continues to be carried out by relevant scholars and scientists. *"To ensure food security, we need to look at new options afforded by modern science; technologies that are beneficial to farmers*

*and acceptable to consumers. Bio-technology stands out and farmers are able to utilize limited resources to maintain high level production"*, said Prof. Musili. He encouraged farmers to do away with the myths associated with GMOs, saying that the National Biosafety Authority (NBSA) has set up mechanisms to ensure all products in the market are safe for consumption. NBSA official, Mr. Josphat Muchiri backed this information saying that their organization indeed ensures all foods in the market are safe for human consumption.

Prof. Musili said agricultural bio-technology has led to increased crop production with use of limited resources and without use of pesticides, thus deemed environmentally friendly. He highlighted the serious challenges of food security currently faced in Kenya, due to climate change, global warming, change in rainfall patterns and dwindling water levels in dams, rivers and lakes. *"GM technology once fully embraced, will enable the country to produce enough food for its citizens,"* he said. Dr. Richard Oduor from Kenyatta University supported this ideology while giving his presentation on GM technology during the forum.

Other key speakers in the forum included Dr. Faith Ngunyi from ISAAA who gave a presentation on the current global status of GM technology and Dr. Paul Nthakanio from University of Embu who spoke about the Human capacity Training in Kenya for GM technology.

Some of the institutions that participated included Chuka University, Meru University of Science and Technology, Kenya Methodist University (KEMU) and South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU).

# BASIC TIPS COMPUTER USER\$



**Did you know:**  
YOU CAN EASILY LEARN  
HOW TO **OPERATE** YOUR  
**COMPUTER** TO AVOID  
THE LOSS OF IMPORTANT  
DATA IN **5 MINUTES?**

Here is the answer.

1. Shut down the right way
2. Know where your official documents are saved

You **SHOULD NOT** save files in **C:** drive or **C: Programme Files**.

3. Install all software to the default location
4. Don't mess with IT
5. Get rid of trial programmes

**1** Go to control panel through **Start Menu**, and click on the **add or Remove Programmes icon**. In both **Windows Vista & Windows Seven** it will be called **Programmes and Features**.

**2** Select the software you wish to **uninstall** and click the **remove** option. In **Windows Vista** and **Windows Seven**, click on the **programme** and then move up to the top to press the **uninstall** link.

**3** After you click the remove button, a **prompt** will pop up which will ask you to **confirm** whether you really want to **uninstall** the **software** or **not** and so you can ultimately **remove** the **programme**.

**4** Don't Mess With it  
**Do Not** change default settings. "If it is not broken, don't fix it." People touch things they are not supposed to and cause problems. Most of the time if you just use your computer, and not fiddle with its settings, then your computer will run smoothly and without problems.

**5** Get Rid Of Trial Programmes  
Go to **Control Panel** through **Start Menu**, and click on the **"Add or Remove Programmes"** icon. In **Windows Vista** and **Windows Seven** it will be called **"Programmes and Features"**.

**6. Take some lessons**  
Complete a computer basics course.

**7. Take computer maintenance seriously**  
Learn how to perform computer maintenance and stick to a schedule. There are also some free programmes in the Freeware that will help you keep your computer running smoothly.

**8. If you need antivirus - GET IT NOW!**  
Buy an Antivirus programme if you plan to be on the internet.

**9. Keep updated**  
Perform regular updates.

**10. Backup or Risk Losing Files**  
Always backup your files.





# UNIVERSITY OF EMBU

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFERED

**WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY OF EMBU FOR QUALITY EDUCATION  
OFFERED IN A SERENE ENVIRONMENT.**

Applications are invited from qualified applicants for the following programmes:

### UNDERGRADUATE

1. Bachelor of Education (Arts)
2. Bachelor of Education (Science)
3. Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Security Studies
4. Bachelor of Library and Information Science
5. Bachelor of Economics
6. Bachelor of Purchasing and Supplies Management
7. Bachelor of Economics and Statistics
8. Bachelor of Commerce
9. Bachelor of Science in Finance
10. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Upgrading Programme)
11. Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
12. Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Development
13. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
14. Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Education & Extension
15. Bachelor of Science in Water Resource Management
16. Bachelor of Science in Management of Agro-Ecosystems and Environment
17. Bachelor of Science in Horticulture
18. Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management
19. Bachelor of Science in Range Management
20. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Biotechnology
21. Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Production
22. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics
23. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science
24. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
25. Bachelor of Science in Physics
26. Bachelor of Science in Analytical Chemistry
27. Bachelor of Science in Industrial Chemistry
28. Bachelor of Science in Statistics
29. Bachelor of Science (BSc.)
30. Bachelor of Science in Biology
31. Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Biotechnology
32. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation and Natural Resource
33. Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry
34. Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

4. Master of Science in Agricultural Resource Management
5. Master of Science in Agroforestry
6. Master of Science in Crop Protection
7. Master of Science in Biotechnology and Plant Breeding
8. Master of Science in Agronomy
9. Master of Science in Horticulture
10. Master of Science in Soil Science
11. Master of Science in Range Management
12. Master of Science in Land & water Management
13. Master of Science in Agro Ecosystems Management
14. Master of Science in Microbiology
15. Master of Science in Plant Ecology
16. Master of Science in Genetics
17. Master of Science in Entomology
18. Master of Science in Chemistry

### Ph.D

1. Ph.D in Educational Administration and Planning
2. Ph.D in Business Administration
3. Ph.D in Crop Protection, Genetics and Plant Breeding or Agricultural Resource Management
4. Ph.D in Physics, Entomology, Plant Ecology, Fisheries, Genetics, Microbiology or Parasitology

### DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE

1. Diploma in Crop Protection
2. Diploma in Project Management
3. Diploma in Business Management
4. Diploma/Certificate in Purchasing & Supplies
5. Certificate in Computer & Portable Devices Repair & Maintenance

### KASNEB PROFESSIONAL COURSE

1. Certified Public Accountants (CPA Part 1 Section 1 & 2)  
Certified Public Accountants (CPA Part 2 Section 3 & 4)  
Certified Public Accountants (CPA Part 3 Section 5 & 6)
2. Accounting Technicians Diploma level I, II & III

### MASTERS

1. Master of Education
2. Master of Arts in Linguistics
3. Master of Business Administration



### ENQUIRIES

For Further Information, Please Contact: OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC, RESEARCH & EXTENSION), UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
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## About **The University of Embu**

The University of Embu is a Public University established under the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012 and chartered on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The University located in Embu, currently has five Schools and ten Departments. The objective of the University is to play a leading role in enhancing development in human capacity through research, education and training, as well as expansion of opportunities for higher education and research in various fields.

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