



# THE Flashlight

MAGAZINE



***A Publication of the University of Embu***

## **Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru Appointed University of Embu 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chancellor**



# Fundamental Statements

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

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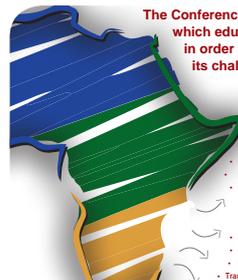


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- CONFERENCE**
- Decolonizing
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  - Transforma

## The future is in our hands

In this issue of the Flashlight magazine, we feature several history-making events that have taken place in the University in the recent past and which will forever remain embedded in the University books of history. These include the inaugural Chancellor's State of the University Address, the appointment of Prof. Daniel Mugendi as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chancellor, the 1<sup>st</sup> University Open Day, the 1<sup>st</sup> Graduation Ceremony since the award of Charter and the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Decolonizing Education.

With all the appointments, meetings, deadlines, assignments, reports, crowded time-tables and the usual University routines, it is easy to get caught up and fail to notice these major milestones in the University and the impact they have on the future of the University.

We are proud of all our accomplishments since the establishment of the University, in 2012 as the Embu University College, a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi which in 2016 was awarded its Charter and changed its name to the University of Embu (UoEm.)

The developments we have witnessed in the last 6 years are phenomenal for a young institution like UoEm but we are even more excited about what is yet to come. As we move forward, it is imperative that we anticipate and prepare for the challenges we are likely to face tomorrow. We need to look forward to the future not just by preparing for it, but also by influencing its course so that the future comes without surprises. The gains we have made in the past feed directly to the ongoing 2018 – 2028 Strategic Planning process which is almost complete and the final Plan is scheduled to be launched later this year.

The big question is; what is your individual contribution towards making a great future a reality? It is our responsibility, from the Chancellor, to the Council, the Management, Staff, Students and all stakeholders to fully dedicate ourselves in making the best contribution towards building on the present status of the University in order to shape the future of the University as a successful and dynamic epicenter of excellence in training and research for service to humanity and also serve the best interests of all citizens.

The Editorial Committee of the Flashlight magazine takes this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Daniel Mugendi on his appointment as the first Vice-Chancellor of UoEm. We also recognise and congratulate Prof. Kiplagat Kotut and Prof. Eucharia Kenya on their appointment as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Academic, Research and Extension; and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance, respectively. We wish you all the best as you steer the University to greater heights of development.

Enjoy reading this issue!!



**Ms. Margaret Otolo,**  
Registrar,  
Vice-Chancellor's Office



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# 1<sup>st</sup> University of Embu Vice-Chancellor Appointed



**Prof. Daniel M. Njiru, Ph.D**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

**P**rof. Daniel Mugendi has been appointed the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The appointment was done by the former Cabinet Secretary of Education Dr. Fred Matiang'i. Prof. Mugendi went through a very competitive recruitment and vetting process to merit the appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu.

Prof. Mugendi has been serving as an acting Vice-Chancellor at UoEm following the award of the charter on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 by his Excellency President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta.

Previously, Prof. Mugendi was the founding Principal of the former Embu University College, the precursor of the University of Embu, where he served as the Principal from 2012.

During his tenure as the Principal and the acting Vice-Chancellor the University has recorded tremendous growth in all sectors:

The student population has risen from 123 in 2012 to over 5,500. The University also has witnessed infrastructural development with completion of the imposing Administration Block and the magnificent Library Building.

The period has also witnessed the increase in number of programmes as well as the human resource.

Prof. Mugendi is a seasoned university manager and brings a wealth of experience to the University of Embu having previously been the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance, Planning and Development) at Kenyatta University. He is also a full professor, a renowned scholar, researcher, consultant and Higher Education Leader. He has made significant contributions in the area of Agro-Ecosystems research and management as well as the development of University education in Kenya.

**The Flashlight Magazine** takes this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor on his appointment and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

**Congratulations Prof. Mugendi.**

## Profile of Pioneer VC

**P**rof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru is a renowned scholar, researcher and consultant. He has made significant contributions in the area of agro-ecosystems research and management as well as the development of University education in Kenya.

Currently, Prof. Mugendi is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu. He also holds the following positions; Chairman of the Board of Directors, Cyttonn Investments Management Limited, the Chairman, Board of Management, Kirege Secondary School, Chuka, Tharaka Nithi County and a Lead Expert for Environmental Impact Assessment/Audit.

He began his professional and academic career as a researcher with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) before moving to Kenyatta University (KU) where he rose through the ranks of academic and professional leadership. He has previously served as the Chairman of the Department of Environmental Foundations - Kenyatta University, Dean of the School of Environmental Studies and Human Sciences - Kenyatta University and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance, Planning and Development) at Kenyatta University.

He has participated in and also conducted groundbreaking research focusing on agriculture, forestry and environmental policy and sustainability. In addition, he has worked extensively with communities, national and international partners in his area of expertise and also in higher education Leadership.

As a scholar of international repute, Professor Mugendi has authored Twenty Three (23) books and Sixty Two (62) chapters in books in addition to publishing many scholarly articles and research papers in his field in both national and international peer-reviewed journals.

Prof. Mugendi continues to lecture, supervise postgraduate students and conduct research in Forestry, Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. He is also involved in professional consultancy services to various governmental and non-governmental organizations both in Kenya and internationally.

## Cover Story

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# Deputy Vice-Chancellors Appointed

Cabinet Secretary appoints UoEm Deputy Vice-Chancellors



**PROF. KIPLAGAT KOTUT, Ph.D**

DVC (Academics Research & Extension)

**P**rof Kiplagat Kotut has been appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics Research & Extension (ARE) of the University of Embu with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. He was the founding Deputy Principal (ARE) in the former Embu University College since 2012.

Upon the award of charter in 2016 the Deputy Principal was elevated to acting DVC (ARE) for the University of Embu. Prof. Kotut went through very a competitive recruitment and vetting process to become appointed the substantive DVC (ARE).

**The Flashlight Magazine** takes this opportunity to congratulate the DVC (ARE) on his appointment and wish him all the best.

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**PROF. EUCHARIA KENYA, Ph.D**

DVC (Planning, Administration & Finance)

**P**rof. Eucharia Kenya has been appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning, Administration & Finance (PAF) University of Embu with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. She was the founding Deputy Principal (PAF) in the former Embu University College since 2012.

Upon the award of charter in 2016 the Deputy Principal was elevated to acting DVC (PAF) for the University of Embu. Prof. Kenya went through a very competitive recruitment and vetting process to be appointed the substantive DVC (PAF).

**The Flashlight Magazine** takes this opportunity to congratulate the DVC (PAF) on her appointment and wish her the best.

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# Office of The Vice-Chancellor

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**PROF. DANIEL MUGENDI NJIRU, Ph.D**  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu

I would like to echo the words of an African leader and visionary, Dr. Koffi Annan, who said that knowledge is power, information is liberating and education is the premise of progress in every society. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the fourth issue of the **Flashlight Magazine**. First and foremost I would like to recognize the efforts of the Editorial Board in its determination and fortitude in pursuing editorial excellence and bringing out the magazine. Kudos!

It's been a remarkable year filled with achievements, milestones and uncertainty in the education sector but we have been able to forge forward in aligning ourselves with our vision of being a global leader and an epicentre of excellence in training and research. Our goal is to be the leading University in providing quality education and at the same time graduate out skilled professionals with high standards of moral values.

It is in pursuit of excellence that the University has adopted the best practices in the management and institutionalization of systems, checks and balances. We are in the process of transitioning from ISO 9001:2008 QMS to ISO 9001:2015 and ISMS based on 27001:2013 standards.

The Certification is just but the beginning of a long journey towards quality service provision. I urge the members of Management and all staff to consolidate these gains in order for the University to realise its vision of being an epicentre of excellence in training and research.

It's gratifying to be part of the team

contributing to the milestone the Institution has been able to realize since receiving the Charter. The University has made significant strides in the area of research and extension. Since July 2017, the Division has managed to attract research grants amounting to more than sixty-three million Kenya Shillings. In addition, members of staff have continued to make scholarly contributions through publications in peer reviewed international journals.

We have been able to cultivate

**"I would like to echo the words of an African leader and visionary, Dr. Koffi Annan, who said that knowledge is power, information is liberating and education is the premise of progress in every society."**

collaborative partners in an effort to foster cordial relations with various stakeholders. Excellence is potential carved into a more perfect state through vision and sheer hard work. It therefore gives me much pleasure as our students display exemplary performance in the national and global arena. The students have showed outstanding performance such as being recognized in Kartasi Essay writing competition, Miss Air Kenya 2018 and excelling at the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of KUSA National Games and finally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of CULFEST with the theme being Celebrating Talent and Promoting Cultural Diversity.

As part of the University's growth strategy, the Institution through the various Schools, is actively involved in developing a variety of market-driven programmes, ranging from certificate to doctorate level in line with stakeholder needs. The University is committed in graduating future leaders who are fit for the job market and ready for absorptions without much retraining.

The University Management is fully committed to collaborating and forging forward with staff and students to ensure that we not only generate and disseminate knowledge but we also improve sustainability, welfare and well being of the community around us and by engaging in activities of mutual benefit such as town clean-up and tree planting.

The Management is also committed to deploying the necessary resources for infrastructure development to mach the growth in student numbers; and also to use the available resources prudently.

Lastly I want to salute the University fraternity for remaining steadfast in the pursuit of excellence in all aspects. It's equally important that we sustain the relevance of our academic programmes and continuous improvement of our teaching, learning and research programmes.

**Thank you.**



**PROF. EUCHARIA KENYA, Ph.D**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PAF),  
University of Embu

## Office of The Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Planning, Administration & Finance (PAF)

# Maintaining Focus Towards a World-Class University

University of Embu Embraces Public  
Private Partnership for Infrastructure development

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The population of students in Universities in Kenya has grown from 571 students in 1963 that enrolled in University College Nairobi (currently the University of Nairobi) to 443,783 students in 2017. University of Embu started with 124 students in April 2013, a number that has grown to 5,500 in 2017. This growth in University Education occurred after the government of Kenya (GoK) delinked University admission from bed capacity in higher learning institutions. In spite of this growth the National Government goal is to provide "globally competitive quality education, training and research for sustainable development" as envisioned in Kenya Vision 2030.

The Government, in its effort to provide infrastructure that matches growth in several sectors of the economy, initiated the Kenya Infrastructure Finance and Public-Private Partnership Project (IFPPP) supported by World Bank. Among the projects targeted is the students

hostel accommodation in public universities. The University of Embu is one of three public universities that has benefited in the first phase of this project.

#### The PPP students hostel accommodation

The growth of students' numbers at the University of Embu has brought the need to expand hostel accommodation. The PPP project, based on a needs analysis conducted during the feasibility study will provide the following:

1. Hostel accommodation with bed-capacity of 4,000 (3,500 for undergraduate students and 500 for postgraduate students). The rooms will be equipped with beds, wardrobes and study tables.
2. Laundry and Kitchenettes
3. Shops and salons
4. Modern and spacious kitchen and mess areas

The project is at procurement stage and has attracted both national and international consortia willing to invest to make the project a reality.

Student admission to public universities in Kenya is tied to the universities' capacity to absorb new students, influenced primarily by teaching space.

### KENYA'S PPP POLICY FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING PARAMETERS:

1. Providing a context for PPPs in Kenya and outlining the potential goals and benefits of the PPP framework;
2. Providing the foundation for: the establishment of institutions to drive the PPP agenda; the mobilisation of international and domestic private sector investments; and the support that will be provided by GoK to PPP projects; and
3. Providing a clear and transparent process for PPP project development in Kenya.

# Office of The Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Academics, Research and Extension (ARE)



**PROF. KIPLAGAT KOTUT, Ph.D**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARE),  
University of Embu

## Creating an Intellectual Hub

**A**lthough the 2017/2018 Academic Year began with some uncertainties occasioned by the heightened political activities in the Country, Academic, Research & Extension Division reported very significant achievements. A notable achievement was the holding of the second graduation ceremony on 15th September 2017 in which two hundred and seventy eight graduands from various schools were awarded certificates and diplomas and conferred with bachelors and master degrees of the University of Embu.

This marked the first conferment of degrees by the University after the award of Charter. The first graduation ceremony was by the University of Nairobi. Although the number of graduands appears to be modest, it signifies progress from the previous graduation ceremony and we expect future graduation ceremonies to release a significantly higher number of graduates to the market as the University continues on a trajectory of exponential growth.

At the beginning of September 2017, the University welcomed first year students admitted through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS) and self-sponsorship. Keeping with the trend observed in previous years, an impressive number of new students were enrolled. A record one thousand five hundred and forty three (1,543) new students registered, representing a turnout ratio (ratio of enrolled to admitted students) of 98.5%. Another telling statistic was that one hundred and nine KUCCPS students transferred into the University while only fifty one transferred out. This is a clear demonstration of the increasing popularity of

our University programmes as well as a vote of confidence in the quality of the academic programmes offered. The Division plans to build on these gains through the development and aggressive marketing of market-driven programmes in the coming years.

The University has also made significant strides in the area of research and extension. Since July 2017, the Division has managed to attract research grants amounting to more than sixty three million Kenya Shillings. In addition, members of staff have continued to make scholarly contributions through publications in peer reviewed international journals. To buttress on these gains and to boost the scientific output of the University, the Division has launched capacity building programmes for academic members of staff on issues such as patenting, grant writing and copyright. This is informed by the University's commitment to generation and dissemination of high quality research findings for the benefit of the community and the country at large.

In an effort to foster cordial relations with various stakeholders and demystify the operations of universities in Kenya, the Division coordinated the first University of Embu Open Day in December 2017. Stakeholders including parents, guardians, suppliers and the County Government were given an opportunity to interact with members of the University Community including Management and lecturers with a view to ensuring a shared vision on the direction of the University. The occasion was a success and we expect to make it an annual event.

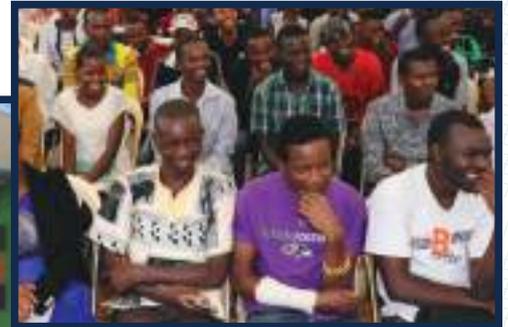
Student welfare remains one of the key pillars of the Division. Through the office of the Dean of Students, various co-curricular events aimed

at complementing academic programmes and bringing about holistic learning were organized. These include regular mentorship programmes, training workshops in diverse areas such as security alertness, prevention and dealing with fire outbreaks among others. The University also staged the second University of Embu Cultural Festival (CULFEST) in February 2018. Another notable event with regard to students' activities is the University of Embu Students Association (UESA) elections that were held in March 2018. In addition and in recognition of the importance of ICT competence at the University and more importantly in the world of work, the University has introduced a proficiency certificate in ICT. The programme, which is available for both staff and students, seeks to among others give UoEm students a competitive edge in the job market. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this programme that has been specifically designed to fit into the University calendar for their benefit.

In conclusion, as part of the University's growth strategy, the Division through the various schools is actively involved in developing a variety of market-driven programmes ranging from certificate to doctorate level in line with stakeholder needs. I would therefore like to invite all parents/guardians and potential students to find time and sample our diverse programme menu and purpose to pursue a programme of their choice or recommend one to a potential student.

Our serene learning environment and unique approach to learning shall be a worthwhile experience.

## The Chancellor's Inaugural State of The University of Embu Address



Prof. Paul Musili Wambua MCI Arb, the University of Embu's Chancellor addresses University Staff and Students during the inaugural state of the University Address on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

**A**nd finally, the 'D' day was here! Prof. Paul Musili Wambua MCI Arb, the University of Embu's Chancellor was visiting the University on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 to deliver **"the inaugural state of the University Address and later interact separately with key groups of stakeholders: the students and staff. The main audience would include the students, staff, university management, the university council and key leaders in Embu County."**

When the time came for the address, the Vice-Chancellor; the vision-carrier of the

University of Embu profiled the man of the day to the congregation. Wow! What a rich profile! One could tell from the applause by the audience that the students were greatly inspired - there was no doubt this was a mentor, a motivator to our future leaders! During the address, the Chancellor shared his vision and strategic direction for the University. He presented his scorecard in terms of attainments, achievements made and challenges faced so far and his plans to propel the University into the future. The Chancellor's engagement with the County leadership, the students and staff was first-rate and memorable. The Chancellor

was focused yet humble, Soft spoken yet firm, factual yet balanced, objective yet humorous and above all, unique! He had beaten the odds by breaking the tradition of a ceremonial chancellor to a hands-on chancellor. He promised to hold such an event annually.

What a memorable day this was – Isn't this what the University of Embu needs? Well done Mr. Chancellor, Sir –Prof. Paul Musili Wambua! Your interaction with all spelt the University of Embu's motto clearly **'Knowledge Transforms'**, God bless you! God bless the University of Embu!

# The Chancellor's State of the University Address -Abridged Version

First let me take this early opportunity to thank the Chairperson of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi and the members of Council for the wonderful work you have done to steer this University from its humble beginnings to the point where it is today.

Secondly, I thank the acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi and the University Management for your commitment and focus in growing the University from a small institution of 123 students to the current population of over 5000 students. It takes both personal and team effort to achieve this sort of feat in just under 5 years of existence. Congratulations for a job well done.

Next, I must say that I am proud of our students, faculty, and staff. We have shown the world that despite the challenges that we may have faced along the way, it is possible to pioneer and build a University from Scratch through working together, listening to, and learning from one another and focusing on the objectives that bind us together. I thank you all for that.

This is the First University of Embu - State of the University Address - where we meet to talk about our University, the enhanced opportunities which lie ahead for us and also discuss how we can enhance our efforts more collaboratively for the betterment of the University. We will work together to make this event an annual activity in the University calendar so that we can take stock of our achievements and chart the way forward.

Today, I certainly have much to cover with you. Our road map for the discussion will include:

1. Re-affirming our mission and purpose;
2. Reviewing our current status and achievements;
3. Surveying the external landscape and the Challenges we face; and
4. Focusing with precision on our mission as we forge ahead into the next 5 years of service.

The last four years have been filled with many achievements for our institution. Allow me now to highlight some of the major achievements that have been recorded by

the University.

- We have continued to significantly invest in our physical infrastructure to meet current demands as well as planned growth. This past year saw a record number of infrastructure projects come to completion with more planned for the years ahead. Some of the major infrastructural developments are:
- Construction of two major facilities that are deemed to change the image of this University, these are the Administration Building and the phase one of the New Library.
- New academic facilities such as the library, science laboratories and computer labs.
- New students' welfare facilities such as playgrounds, hostels, recreation centre and shopping centre.
- Our student population rose to 5,459 in September 2017 when we received a record 1500 new students from Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). It is worth noting that more and more students are now selecting UoEm as their first Choice University.
- Recruitment of highly qualified and experienced staff currently totaling to 323.
- Our faculty and students continued to productively publish their works in the leading publications across multiple disciplines with creative activity contributed in some of the most prestigious conferences and seminars around the world. As a result, the University ranking among global Universities has gradually improved, although much more needs to be done.
- On the research front, the University has continued to do very well. Our staff are engaged in major research initiatives which have attracted research and equipment grants. During the Financial Year 2016/2017, the University received Ksh. 63,525,403 from the National Research Fund (NRF) and research funding worth 38, 288 US Dollars from other partners for various research

projects to be undertaken by our staff. On behalf of the University community, I thank the National Research Fund and all our partners for the research grants that they have awarded to the University.

- Establishment of Chancellor's Award and Postgraduate Scholarships and Graduate Assistantship positions for the best students every year. Currently, over 20 graduates have benefitted from this programme.

As we move forward into our next phase, and in light of these important challenges, there is no doubt that we need to work extremely hard as we surge forward into our next era of development. Some of the key areas of focus shall include:

1. Resource mobilization and sustainability;
2. Infrastructure Development;
3. Increase in students enrollment;
4. Recruitment of more staff;
5. Enhancing the research portfolio; and
6. Introduction of more market-driven programmes.

We can attain our goals if we are bound together by our common values and aspirations.

I ask each one of you to join me on this journey as we elevate the University of Embu to a world leader in research and education. We are indeed privileged to be in the position we are in, in the history of our Nation. I want to thank you all for the strong commitment you've made to this University. I am honored to work with you.

Let us continue working together, through a commitment to scholarship and discovery, to solve the challenges, and to reach new heights, and to change the world, as we strive to build a World-Class University on the slopes of Mt. Kenya, at Embu, the Land of Opportunities.

**Thank you for your attention.**

**Long live Kenya, Long Live the University of Embu."**



Dean of School of Nursing, Ms. Jostine Mutinda, conducts the VC on a tour of the Nursing Skills Lab at UoEm.

## B.Sc Nursing Programme Launched

**M**ay I take this opportunity to welcome you to the University of Embu, School of Nursing. Our school admits Direct entry nursing students as well as those upgrading from Diploma to Degree level. We also have a programme in Bachelor of Science in Community Health.

The Bachelor of Science Programme in Nursing is designed to prepare a nurse generalist who exercises leadership in the prevention of illness and promotion of health as a member of the community and professional nursing and as an agent of change who helps to bring about modifications of nursing practice to meet emerging health needs.

The rapid growth and dynamic nature of medicine and nursing demands that nurses acquire and develop capacity for independent clinical judgment, creative and critical thinking. Informed clients, technological advances and health care challenges that include emerging and re-emerging diseases. impact of population growth, environmental degradation and climate change will require a critical mass of nurses prepared at undergraduate and post graduate levels to mitigate these challenges.

Communities the world over are faced with many health challenges that with appropriate knowledge and technology, could be solved at community level. This calls for community health workers who have the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies to enable them create a linkage between the community and the formal health sector. To address this need, the University has commenced a programme in Bachelor of Science in Community Health.

The School of Nursing with the support of the University is aiming at working hard to prevent communicable diseases which have become a global menace especially in low income countries. A non-communicable disease (NCD) is a medical condition or disease that

is not caused by infectious agents. Non-communicable diseases also known as chronic diseases are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioral factors.

Each chronic disease has a unique set of predisposing factors to its development though most of them are multifactorial. However, lifestyle has been noted to contribute a lot to the development of NCDs. With the shift towards Westernized lifestyle, developing countries are likely to be worst affected by these diseases. Diet and exercise are the major determinant factors for development or control of the conditions.

Unhealthy diets and a lack of physical activity which has become a common behavior may show up in people as raised blood pressure, increased blood glucose, elevated blood lipids and obesity. These are referred to as metabolic risk factors that can lead to cardiovascular disease, the leading NCD in terms of premature deaths.

The School of Nursing plans to adopt a multidisciplinary approach in addressing the problem in the County and the Country. This will be done in collaboration with the School of Agriculture and that of Social Sciences. The School of Agriculture will address dietary related interventions while the school of Social Sciences will be instrumental in advocating for lifestyle changes.

Preventive health has been shown to reduce both morbidity and mortality rates. Training of more community health officers will go a long way to enhance preventive health hence reducing the cost of treatment and decongesting hospitals. It is expected that both the BSc. Community health and Nursing students will play a major role in implementing strategies to prevent Non- Communicable diseases through health education.



**Dr. Justine M. Nyaga, Ph.D**  
Chairman, Department of  
Biological Sciences

## Biological Sciences Department: Training Top Notch Leaders and Researchers



**Mrs. Brenda  
Apiyo, Biological  
Science  
Technician with  
2<sup>nd</sup> year students  
through a  
Microbiology  
Lab session.**

The Department of Biological Sciences is one of the three Departments in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Embu. The Department offers Bachelor's Degrees in Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Environmental Conservation & Natural resources and Master's courses in Plant Ecology, Applied Microbiology, Entomology, Applied Parasitology, Hydrobiology, Genetics as well as Ph.D studies in a variety of research areas. The Department has seen significant growth in the past few years and currently has an undergraduate population of about 600 students with postgraduate population of 30 students. The department has a dedicated academic and technical staff with expertise in diverse areas.

Since its inception in 2013, the Department of Biological Sciences has seen a considerable number of undergraduate and postgraduate students conferred with various degrees. Most notably, our student-centred approach to learning is geared towards ensuring that our graduates emerge with high level of practical and problem-solving skills to ensure they become well rounded graduates, who will not only be technically adept but also disciplined and morally sound, with the ability to become future leaders in their chosen fields.

With the vision of being the regional leader in Biological Sciences training, research and innovation, the Department has endeavored to attract and retain the best qualified, dedicated and able staff while keeping itself well equipped and relevant to the changing job market in major thematic areas of Ecology, Genetics, Microbiology, Entomology, Parasitology, Zoological Sciences, Plant Sciences, Environmental

Sciences and Biotechnology. Besides, current research interests of staff members includes: Agri-biotechnology, Bioprospecting for novel microorganisms from the environment, Microbial genetics and genomics, Bacterial Systematics, Metagenomics, Microbial ecology, Plant genetic diversity, Biodiversity of selected model groups of phytoplankton, Exploration of microalgae for biofuel production, Nematology and Crop Protection, Climate change and bio-adaptation.

Besides engaging and retaining qualified academic staff, the Department aims to enhance its teaching and research capacity by encouraging and facilitating qualified graduates to join postgraduate studies. Through these initiatives, the Department currently has one Graduate Assistant and five Masters Students sponsored by the University for MSc. training. We hope that the Department will continue to grow in student and staff numbers, in physical facilities as well as academic programmes. This will enable the Department to continue pursuing high quality standards in teaching and learning in an efficient and effective manner.

To bolster our capacity to teach and equip students with appropriate knowledge and skills, the Department has three adequately equipped laboratories, a plant herbarium and an animal house.

To this end, the department welcomes everyone keen to advance their knowledge in Biological Sciences through learning, research and development.

## MCIT Department: ICT Programmes Gain Popularity Among Students



**Dr. David M. Mugo, Ph.D**  
Chairman, Mathematics, Computing  
and Information Technology



**Dr. David Muchangi Mugo, Chairman, Mathematics, Computing and Information Technology giving his opening remarks during the MCIT students sensitization on software development.**

I take this opportunity to welcome you to one of the fastest growing Academic Departments in the University of Embu. The Department of MCIT has continued to grow in leaps and bounds from the time it was carved off from Physical Sciences. The Department has witnessed a steady growth in the number of teaching staff, academic programmes and students' population. From the initial population of about 200 students, the Department currently boasts of a population of over 450 students spread across the three academic programmes namely: Bachelor of Science in Statistics, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Bachelor of Science in Information Technology.

Further, we have enrolled a number of students both in the Master's Programmes as well as in the Ph.D programmes. Additionally, the Department is servicing mathematics and computing courses to over 2,000 students spread across all the schools in the University. In total, the Department is running the following Programmes both at the undergraduate level as well as the post-graduate level.

### **Undergraduate Programmes**

BSc. in Computer Science, BSc. in Information Technology, BSc. in Statistics, Diploma in information Technology and Certificate in Computer & Portable Devices Repair & Maintenance.

### **Postgraduate Programmes**

Ph.D in Computer Science, Ph.D in Information Systems, MSc. in Statistics, MSc. in Applied Mathematics, MSc. in Pure Mathematics and MSc. in Computer Science.

The Department is committed to giving our students, not only excellent teaching services but also exposure to scientific thinking and innovation that will form a firm foundation to their lifelong learning. Our graduates will fit in the industry in multiple and diverse sectors where statistical, computing and information technology application is needed.

The current programmes will also form a firm foundation for advanced levels in research as well as in praxis. Since our courses are application oriented, we strive to incorporate practical sessions and multiple teaching case studies in the learning. The University has

also invested heavily in modern infrastructure such as Computer Laboratories, High Speed Internet connectivity, electronic and multimedia equipment such as overhead projectors among others. These are all commendable efforts to support teaching and learning.

In the near future, the Department is planning to launch the following new programmes:  
Bachelor of Science in Financial Mathematics,  
Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering,  
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with IT,  
Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Sciences, Ph.D in Statistics, Ph.D in Applied Mathematics, Ph.D in Pure Mathematics, Ph.D in Information Technology.

The Department with the support of University Management also plans to expand the existing infrastructure to include a Computer Hardware Laboratory and a specialized modern Computer Laboratory for Computing & Information Technology.

In addition, the Department is working hard to establish linkages and collaborations with industrial partners to bridge the existing gap between the delivered curricula and the industrial practices. Through this, we shall be assured of offering quality and market driven training to our students. Our vision is that the University of Embu students shall be the most sought after both in the local as well as the international job market. It is my hope that the disciplines of mathematics and computing, which are core in innovations and entrepreneurship, will position the University in new ways and participate in the National dialogues around the themes of Kenya being a globally competitive and prosperous Nation with a high quality of life by 2030.



## Reaching Out to Peers: Students Peer Counsellors Training Conducted



Mr. Henry Atuma, University of Embu counsellor during a students Peer Counsellors training that was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the University.

Universities all over the world provide an opportunity to students in the advancement of their careers. However, despite that opportunity, the students are used to their home environment and are faced with a new environment which can be overwhelming and intimidating at the same time. Students have unexplained fears and expectations about university life and education; unfamiliar schedules; transition from high school which can be a stressful social and psychological event, personal adjustment and culture shock. The students find autonomy away from parents and known teachers in high school challenging particularly when they are to make independent decisions all by themselves.

It is on this basis that the University of Embu has continued to train students peer counsellors to offer support to their peers. The students can be helped by sharing their issues with fellow students whom they can identify with. The training whose theme was **"Reach out to a Peer"** was organized by

the Dean of Students which was conducted between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The training of 70 new peer counsellors was intended to maintain the 1:40 peer counsellor to student ratio because there is continued growth of numbers in student enrollment in each academic year.

The training was officially opened by Dr. Mark Otieno, the Dean of Students (DoS) on behalf of University Management. It was emphasized that the students who have been trained have been bestowed with a huge responsibility in reaching out to their peers. The training equally equipped them with life skills, a component that will help one in life even after completion of university education.

The following areas were covered during the training: overview of counselling and peer counselling, self-awareness, foundations of counselling, counselling process, basic counselling skills, approaches to peer counselling, behaviour change, ethical issues in peer counselling, how to identify one who may need help. Students

were taken through practical sessions which enabled them to have skills in handling peer counsellors among others. In the past one year, the peer counsellors have been of assistance to the students as they helped them at personal level before referral to the Student's Counsellor.

It is expected that the peer counsellors will reach out to their colleagues to help them enhance their learning and cope with psychosocial issues affecting them at the University. While supporting their peers, the peer counsellors will be faced with challenges, dilemmas and limitations in their practice. However, the peer counsellors have an opportunity to mitigate these by way of referral to the university Students Counsellor. The peer counsellors are also given an opportunity to attend supervision and personal therapy sessions as individuals or in groups as may be arranged by the Student's Counsellor in consultation with the peer counsellors.

## Pastoral Counseling: Helping Colleagues & Comrades to Cope



**Rev. Dr. Mary K. Nkari Ph.D**  
Coordinator Chaplaincy Services

In the last quarter, a number of cases sought for pastoral counsel, guidance and prayers. It is hoped that we shall continue to be of help to as many as would seek for pastoral services. God is always concerned about the welfare of His people. He does not reject anyone, nor does he close his eye to any of our needs.



“He has a beautiful plan for all of us; a plan to do us good, to give us a future and a hope”

(Jeremiah 29: 11) .

### STUDENTS MENTORSHIP (SOCIAL)

The University of Embu Chaplaincy partnered with the University of Embu Students Association (UESA) in planning a mentorship talk, held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 from 10.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. in Charter Hall. Ms. Lucy Nyaga, a psychiatric nurse at the Embu Level Five Hospital. The topics covered were: sex, sexuality and drug and substance use and abuse.

The session was officially commissioned by Dr. Mark Otieno, the Dean of Students. Members of the Chaplaincy Committee present were: Rev. Dr. Mary Nkari-Coordinator Chaplaincy, Dr. Milca Nyaga, Ms. Fridah Karani, Mr. Henry Atuma and Mr. Dancan Othuon, the UESA Chairman.

About 350 students attended the event. It was indeed exciting to see students actively engage the facilitator in a range of questions.

### STUDENTS MENTORSHIP (ACADEMIC)

The Christian Union requested Rev. Dr. Mary Nkari to teach on academic excellence. The event took place on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.40 p.m. in Chatter Hall. About 980 students turned up for the teaching.

The topic was covered under the following sub topics: Definition of academic excellence, how to excel in academics and importance of academic excellence. It was an exciting lesson for the students. Some of those who did not make it to the service requested for the notes.

## UESA Tour of Pwani University



**Dr. Mark Otieno, Ph.D**  
Dean of Students

University of Embu student leaders during a recent benchmarking tour of Pwani University On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017.

The Office of the Dean of Students has achieved many milestones since September 2017. Apart from supporting and meeting students' welfare needs, the department has continued to find opportunities that would benefit students' growth while still at the University and even beyond.

In realization of the role of benchmarking as an important tool in quality assurance, the University sent its student leaders on a benchmarking tour of Pwani University on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2017. From the tour, student leaders were able to gauge their performance, and exchange ideas with a view to improving service delivery at the University of Embu.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018, a team from Care International Kenya trained over 500 students on youth employability skills focusing on four areas: work, people, money and entrepreneurship. After this training, the organization sampled 30 students and trained them on

business skills with a view of developing their entrepreneurial skills. The follow-up training took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018.

The Department has also mobilized students to participate in various activities of the University including the 2<sup>nd</sup> Graduation ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, Open Day held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, the Chancellor's State of the University address held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, Culfest held from 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, Vice-Chancellor's Celebratory Luncheon held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, tree planting drive held on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 among other events.

The Department has great activities planned for the remainder of the second semester, including training students on *beyond your degree* for the graduating class, first aid, Embu Town clean up, thanks giving and induction of the newly elected student council.



**Ms. Liz Murugi**  
Head of Admissions

## Pre-registration for New Students Introduced



**Mr. Josiah Mwaruvie engage potential clients on Admission requirements.**

To increase efficiency of registration of students during reporting, the University has introduced a pre-registration exercise. This activity is aimed at reducing the congestion commonly experienced on the reporting date. The first of this was conducted between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – one week before the actual date of reporting.

The Admissions Office is charged with the responsibility of processing applications for admissions, registration of new and continuing students, creating, updating and managing students' records. The Admissions office also oversees orientation of new students joining the University of Embu (UoEm). The orientation process aims at acquainting and familiarizing new students with the exciting opportunities that the University offers and also allows them to meet their respective Deans and Chairs of Departments.

The Admissions office is also tasked with marketing the University's programmes. The office provides relevant information to clients in a timely and satisfactory manner to help them make informed decisions on relevant and competitive programmes of study. UoEm offers a wide range of competitive and market-driven programmes which are domiciled in five Schools, namely; School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, School of Agriculture, School of Business and Economics and School of Nursing. The University has over 60 programmes offered at Doctorate, Masters, Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate levels. Over 5,000 students are currently enrolled to these programmes.

The University has continued to record tremendous growth in

terms of student enrollment. During the 2017/2018 Academic Year the University registered a 10% increase in student enrollment. Due to quality teaching and students' services, the University attracts government sponsored students seeking to transfer to the University of Embu from other Universities.

2017/2018 Academic Year saw a 68% increase in the number of inter university transfer requests to join the University of Embu as compared to the 2016/2017 Academic Year.

As a University, our clients, the students, are of utmost importance. It is through interacting with them that we are able to identify opportunities for improvement so as to continue meeting and exceeding their expectations. Through the clients' feedback, we also determine programmes which are market-driven for implementation.

Our focus is to ensure that the University of Embu remains the University of choice. We invite you to come and study with the best. New admission of students takes place in January, May and September of every year for regular programmes and April, August and December of every year for School Based Programmes.

Students who took advantage of this opportunity were able to register efficiently and the University plans to continue innovating more efficient ways in future intakes.

All admission enquiries can be made through the email: **admissions@embuni.ac.ke** or telephone number **0706528878**

## Reflections of Outgoing Student Leader



**Dancan Othuon**  
Chairman, UESA (2017/2018)



The in-coming and outgoing UESA Officials after the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected 2018 Officials on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

discussions outside the lecture halls on the serene and beautiful University environment.

In close collaboration with the University Management, UESA government has been able to negotiate increment of sports allowances by 80% and even pushed for more sporting facilities, construction of an additional basketball court, fencing and lighting of the sports field, in progress. Other milestones include designing student's association website [www.uesa.embuni.ac.ke](http://www.uesa.embuni.ac.ke) and Facebook page to facilitate communication and information among students.

UESA government would like to thank the University Management, student leaders and the students in general for their great support and May God bless the incoming government throughout. Let us embrace peace and dialogue because it is the only way that development is realised and people are able to express their ideas. We appeal to the incoming government to build on these gains.

University of Embu Students Association (UESA) Government of 2017/2018 assumed office on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. It has not been easy but with the support from the University Management, students and the dedication of the elected leaders, the Students' Government has been able to reach this far.

The Students' Government has also pushed for increases in the number of academic trips in all departments and through this, most of the students have been able to acquire practical skills in their different areas of study. UESA Government has closely monitored lecturers' class attendance in close collaboration with the Deans of Schools and Chairs of Departments to improve the quality of academic programmes.

In the Catering Department, the Student Government has negotiated with management on ways of improving the quality and quantity of food in the student mess, lengthen service hours, addition of more chairs and even increase the service points. In addition, we were able to negotiate for additional eating outlets at the Learning Centre and the extension of the Student Centre kitchen. On students' welfare, the Students' Government negotiated for the introduction of free meal cards at the mess to cater for needy students. Funds to support this initiative will be from the **"One Shilling Foundation,"** a kitty that was founded by one of the students, Miss. Zeinab Mcheni.

The Government has also been able to negotiate with the University Management the introduction of study shades that ensure that students get some place to hold their

### IN BRIEF

On students' welfare, the students' government has fostered the introduction of free meal cards at the students' mess to cater for needy students. Funds to support this initiative will be from the **"One Shilling Foundation,"** a kitty that was founded by one of the students, Miss. Zeinab Mcheni.



**Nathaniel Saul**  
Chairman

## New Student Leaders Elected to Office

The University held student elections on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 under the new Act of Parliament; the University's (Amendment) Act 2016. As opposed to previous years where students were free to choose their leaders by voting for them directly, the new Act prescribes a delegate system where each Department elects three delegates who later form an electoral college that elects the Students' Council at a delegates conference.

The change in the voting system affected voter turn-out as most students found the new system less exciting as their will to elect their leaders would not be expressed directly but through delegates. Nonetheless, the campaign period was marked by brightly coloured posters and banners displayed throughout the University grounds, social media saturated with campaign propaganda and creative memes. Social places were filled with enthusiastic candidates frantically trying to engage with students across campus.

As per the new Act, seven positions were open for competition.

These were; Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary General, Treasurer, Male Representative, Female Representative and Special Needs Representative.

On the election day, students voted for delegates from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm followed by vote counting immediately after polling stations were closed. A total of 29 delegates representing 11 departments were declared winners and proceeded to the delegates' conference to elect the Students' Council.

The voting of the Students Council by the delegates was peaceful, free and fair. The winners were announced at 10:00 pm with Mr. Nathaniel Saul being declared Chairperson of University of Embu Student's council and Ms. Stella Njiru, the Vice-Chairperson. The new Students' council was sworn in and took the oath of office on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 in the presence of Ms. Anne Ndegwa, the University of Embu Legal Officer. The Council will serve for the Academic year 2018/2019.



**Stella N. Marigu**  
Vice-Chairperson



**Kemboi K. Gilbert**  
Secretary General



**Gabriel Wanderi**  
Treasurer



**Wahinya P. Wanjiru**  
Female Representative



**Elijah Kigacha**  
Male Representative



**Nalisi D. Nicole**  
Special Needs Representative

## Message from the UESA Chairman

It is my utmost pleasure and honour, to be granted the stewardship of this venerable Institution's student association. I am grateful for the trust that the University of Embu comrades bestowed upon me, Mr. Dancan Othuon who has done a great job for the UESA, and the University of Embu. The outgoing council did their best and, indeed they are an inspiration, a challenge and an avenue for us the incoming team to continue with the great works they began.

I am certain that the 2018/2019 council, will do much better because I have faith in them. This is a historic moment that will go down the annals of history that through the election of 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 that stories are singular but destinies are shared. With all the opportunities and challenges that come with leadership, I am of the belief that for this journey to be smooth, we need to walk together.

Through this election, we heeded to the national clarion call that we are one nation by going against the ghost and malcontents of ethnicity, which is the true spirit of the word 'University'. The Latin were not out of place in their classical language when they said *E Pluribus Unum* (out of many, we are one) and neither our African fore

fathers were not wrong when they emphasized on the key value in our African culture, UBUNTU (communism) through the famous Zulu saying, "**Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu**" (a person is a person through persons). The success of a person is through the coming together of many people in unity and common goal. Together as a University we shall be able to fulfill our University philosophy, vision, mission and core values through unity and brotherhood.

As a council, we will do our best. The struggle towards becoming a world class university is inherent in us to pursue true happiness for all and liberate our society and the nation at large of ignorance in education, thence our slogan, "**A luta continua, vitória é certa**" (The struggle continues, victory is certain).

**I look forward to working with you all.**

**Thank you and God bless UESA, University of Embu and the Republic of Kenya.**

**Nathaniel Saul** - Chairman, UESA 2018-2019

## UoEm Holds Second Careers Day

The University of Embu held its second Career Day on Saturday March 10, 2018. The theme of this year's Career Day was **"Developing your Career Pathway."**

Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic, Research & Extension) gives a speech during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Career Day event held at the University.

The Career day provided high school students with information on the academic programmes offered at the University, as well as prospects for various careers.

The event also provided students with opportunities to understand their areas of strengths and to motivate them to overcome their areas of weakness. A total of 896 secondary school students drawn from 10 Sub-County, 4 Counties, and 5 extra County secondary schools attended the event.

The staff that accompanied the students ranged from school principals, deputy principals, curriculum masters, heads of departments, career masters, and teachers. The students visited the various school stands where they interacted with Deans of Schools and Chairpersons of Departments.

The students also got an opportunity to interact with a group of professionals comprising of Arch. Mugure Njendu – an Architect and Director of Gitutho Architects & Planners, Hope Mwinzi – a journalist and CEO of RH Media & Lifestyle Company, Joan

Wandegi – a communications specialist and an agricultural consultant, Dr. Christine Murungi – an obstetrician/gynaecologist, Dr. Angela Githua – a medical doctor and a Major in the Kenya Defence Forces, Mr. Steve Karechio – ICT Manager at Centum Investment Company Limited, Ms. Christine Ng'ang'a – Projects financial advisor, Managing Director of Strategia Advisors Ltd, Irene Githua – CEO of Digital360, and Mr. Zachary Mukundi – a motivational speaker and Director of Achievers College of Professionals.

The professionals shared their life experiences and gave students tips on how to succeed in various careers. The students asked many questions relating to requirements for various careers as well as entry requirements for various degree programmes. Some of the questions that would not be answered during the career day would be addressed through feedback to respective schools in due course. During the event, the students were also entertained by a number of entertainment groups including E-Spark Crew and Travelling Theatre. The Vice-Chancellor In

a speech read on his behalf by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension), encouraged the students to be courageous, to be committed to their chosen careers and not to be afraid to venture into unknown territories.

The teachers who accompanied the students also used the opportunity to learn about the programmes in the University that were of interest to them, including those programmes offered during the school holidays.



High School Students during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Career Day held in the University.

## University of Embu Shining Stars

The University of Embu is an institution that is founded on principles that are focused on helping students to excel in all aspects of their lives. Apart from academic excellence and intellectual empowerment the University is dedicated to the growth and success of the students' talents. This year's shining stars that have gone and done incredibly well at the national scene include **Miss. Wahu Kariuki** and **Miss Joanne Faith Maina**, to name but a few.

**Miss. Wahu Kariuki** is a recipient of an award from the Kartasi Essay writing competition in 2017. She entered a nationwide competition held by Kartasi Industries Limited and emerged first position in the whole country. It was a humbling experience being recognized for her talent. In her own words, **"it was like God's way of confirming that I should be writing."** Miss. Kariuki is a 4<sup>th</sup> year Bachelor of Education student specializing in English and Literature. She is a student in the School of Education and Social Sciences.

**"I owe everything to God,"** Wahu says. That is her simplest and humble way of summing up her accomplishments. Like so many people she talks about a point in time when she was unaware of her abilities. Walking around thinking that she did not have a talent, she always underplayed the magnitude of her gift. But when she decided to explore what her writing could do, doors started opening. **"My skill in writing started working for me and tremendous opportunities began sprouting when I decided to work to improve my talent,"** she says, **"I came to discover that I was gifted in a very impactful way. Through my writing I encourage people, I relate**

**with people when they are going through difficult times."**

Her drive being is in the belief that, when life is hard on someone, they want someone who understands what they are going through. She started a blog

(wahukariukit.wordpress.com) and this has been her haven. Through she discusses life, her journey, her and her humanity. Her transition from naive, easy-going, to a woman living a life worthy of the calling she from Christ. **"Through encouragement and support of friends and family and also my lecturers, the late Dr. Michael Oyoo Weche and Dr. Cyrus Ngumo, I grew,"** she says when asked about her development as a writer.

Her advice is simple and concise, **"For many people like me, you don't get to discover what you are good at till you are grown. You might be stuck knowing you are not good at anything at all, and I believe all of us were given some talents by God. These talents are directly linked to the purpose we were put on earth to achieve. Keep trying different things and you'll come across what you excel in eventually. And for your talent and purpose to come to manifestation you need a support system, people who actually who would want to see you succeed. Put God first and you will be established."**



**M**iss. Joanne Faith Maina is a Microbiology student in the school of Pure and Applied Sciences at the University of Embu. She grew up watching models doing big and great things for their society. Since childhood, she wanted to emulate the likes of Cecelia Mwangi (Miss. Kenya 2005, Ahadi Kenya Trust, and Project Ambassador for Anti-Jigger campaign).

**"I always knew that I wanted to make a difference in people's lives but I just didn't know how."** She explains, when asked about her choice in role modelling.

She grew up skinny and people always teased her that she looked like a model. Now 20 years later her stars aligned and she has emerged a star in modeling.

Over the years she uninhibitedly immersed herself into the modeling industry, trying her luck in various competitions.

**"My first break came when I won the title Miss Charity Embu (2011). This win not only put me on the map as a model but also helped me**

**tag at the heartstrings of the people who were still reluctant to offer me support in this field."**

Her parents advised her to study first and model later. Her efforts and dedication to her title brought them on board. Overcoming her own reservation in terms of being inexperienced was a huge challenge for her. Being a model also requires a lot of investment in terms of money and time and as a student, this has been difficult to achieve. **"My greatest lesson is that failure is part of success, I haven't always won but I always got up to try again. I contested to be Miss University of Embu (2016) and I emerged first runners up. Chase your dreams, get up and follow your passion as you advance and show the world you really want this and you get people to believe in your dream,"** she advised.



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## University of Embu Shining Stars

Continued from pg 19



**Bridget Muthoni**  
B.Ed 2nd year Student



**Bridget Muthoni-B. Ed (Arts)** during a workshop from March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 that took place in Westlands, Kenya, sponsored by International Youth Alliance for Family Planning.

My life history has been a difficult one until last year. I have been brought up in a humble background by my grandmother. I'm a child from a single mother who struggled to make ends meet since she did not have a job. I started hustling since I was young to support my siblings and my grandmother in meeting our basic needs. I used to be sent home due to lack of fees and this became worse while I was in high school since I spent most of the time at home due to lack of fees. My life has been rough. Even when I was joining campus, there were no funds, therefore a fundraising (Harambee) was held for my school fees. I also assist my parents in raising my siblings' fees and support my grandmother.

My world exploration started last year when the Kenya Scout Association (KSA) chose me to take a trip to Iceland over the April holiday, 2017. Later on around June the same year, I participated in an online survey about radicalization and emerged amongst the three people who were to represent Kenya to train on Global Citizenship and radicalization.

The workshop took place in Ha-long City in Vietnam from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 sponsored by Out of Box International Organization in collaboration with Erasmus+ projects. After getting back to Kenya, my colleagues and I implemented the project in Uganda from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017. Later we visited the United Kingdom (UK) for the remaining part of December holiday. Due to many challenges, I quit working with the organization.

Early this year (2018) Empowering Evidence-Driven Advocacy Researchers (EEDA) invited me to take part in a survey in February about family planning and youth friendly services. After the EEDA research persons analyzed their data, I was selected to attend a workshop from March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 that took place in Westlands, Kenya, sponsored by International Youth Alliance for Family Planning (IYAFFP). The workshop was about how we can empower youth and to make sure that young people know their rights to access family planning (FP) and youth friendly services (YFS). The workshop was led by Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and IYAFFP. After the research, funding was carried by Empowering Evidence-Driven Advocacy Researchers (EEDA) on three counties: Embu, Narok and Nairobi. The reason I choose

three counties is because Narok has the highest cases of pregnancy, Embu has the lowest and Nairobi is the most forgotten county when it comes to youth matters and teen pregnancy. We were taught on advocacy work, how to empower the youth to know their rights, to access FP and YFS services. The main objective in the advocacy work is to sensitize MCAs of Nairobi County on the importance of FP in order for them to allocate budget line for the same and to know the way YFS centres are available, and if not to request the County Government to come up with YFS centres and employ service provider who are youth friendly in order to access FP services. Later after analyzing the data from Nairobi County we will map the work on Embu and Narok counties.

Traveling and different projects that I have worked on have enlightened me and I have learnt innovative ideas like how to become a good advocate to empower my fellow youth. I have gotten business ideas that will help me in future. I have also interacted with a few prominent people and by the end of advocacy work, I will have interacted with more, therefore creating a base for my upcoming project that I want to achieve. The projects have also built up my economic base.

I encourage my fellow youth to be open minded and not to wholly depend on their parents and instead to find honourable ways for survival. As it is said "Rome wasn't built in one day", but with hardwork discipline and determination one will succeed in whatever they do. I will also encourage young people at the University to be enterprising so as to create a more job opportunities for others to avoid competing for the few opportunities offered by the government or private sectors. This will create better world for us to live in. Social network should not only be for leisure and chatting but also for people to network. For ladies, don't be lured by material things for survival, but just be firm, focused, disciplined and believe in being independent, and you will succeed. Young people have mindsets that there are no job opportunities which is actually a misconception; a there are jobs for the open minded people! It doesn't matter where you come from but with focus and determination one can always make it.

**By Bridget Muthoni A B.Ed 2<sup>nd</sup> year Student.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> University of Embu Open Day Held



**Dr. Peter Rugano, Ph.D**  
Chairman, Open Day



University of Embu Physical Science student demonstrates an experiment to the Vice-Chancellor and parents during the first Open Day.

**T**he University of Embu held its first Open Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The main objective of the event was to showcase the University to stakeholders, parents, guardians and members of the community who were invited to the event that started at 9.00 a.m.

The Open Day, was attended by over 1000 stakeholders. It was conceived as a day that the University would open its doors for stakeholders to behold its activities as they interact freely with students, staff and management.

In his address to the stakeholders, the Vice-Chancellor highlighted the steps the University is taking towards easing the strain on infrastructure in the campus especially with the rapid growth in student population. He further urged all parents and guardians to take a more active role in the education of their sons and daughters.

He reiterated the commitment to partner with parents and guardians to ensure that there is value for the time students spend at the University. Student leaders were given an opportunity to explain their experiences as students at the University.

Thereafter, the visitors were given a chance to interact with the Deans of various Schools where they could raise specific concerns and get clarifications.

All Departments at the University exhibited a selection of their teaching and learning resources, as well as the innovations developed within the University. Students in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences (SPAS) set up exciting demonstrations that showcased their ability to use their knowledge and the equipment in the laboratories to solve day to day problems that affect the society. Prospective teachers in the School of Education and Social Sciences brought some of the best teaching and

learning resources they developed as they prepared for teaching practice. They also had demonstrations of their acquired fluency in the Japanese language.

The School of Nursing offered visitors free checkup for blood pressure, sugar levels and body mass index. The School of Agriculture showcased modern farm processes and displayed innovations in modern ways of doing hydroponic farming, constituting animal feeds, cage poultry farming and yoghurt production. Also on display were mobile apps created at the University that would help farmers to connect to service providers, as well as easier ways to replace lost documents. Student creativity was displayed through very captivating presentations in the Charter Hall where innovative projects such as knitting, drawing and shoe making were showcased alongside a display of the University's sporting accolades.

Very positive feedback was obtained from the visiting stakeholders. Most of them congratulated the Management for sharing with them the activities taking place at the University. A few concerns were raised about students' results and accounts. Those affected were informed that each student gets a result slip for every semester examination. Plans are underway to have the Open Day as an annual event.

Prof. Daniel Mugendi, University of Embu Vice-Chancellor admires embroidery done by students, during the Open Day.



ranking  
**UoEm** Keeps on  
 Improving in  
**Universities’  
 Rankings, Since 2015**

**T**he Website & e-Repository Section is on course towards propelling this great University into a top-rated world-class academic institution. Since the year 2012, the section has been strategizing to make this dream a reality. The first step towards becoming a top-rated global centre of academic excellence, where great minds are nurtured and produced, was made immediately after operations started in the year 2012, then operating as a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi. The first goal was to lay clear strategies aimed at propelling the University into a world-class academic centre, which made the Institution meet the threshold of Webometrics ranking, leading to first ranking of 63/63 in January 2015. The Webometrics ranking is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institution and is aimed at promoting academic web presence and supporting the Open Access Initiative. The ranking considers the following four parameters: Openness, Impact, Presence and Excellence. Webometrics releases results twice every year, January and July. The data used in ranking is collected a month before the actual release.

In July 2015, the University improved the performance to 59/63 based on various strategies that were formulated and actualized. We therefore strongly re-evaluated ourselves, particularly interrogating and changing strategies to focus more on research output through publications on the digital repository and establishing and increasing strong and relevant partnerships with industries and other institutions.

As demonstrated by the table below, we are very happy to note that the journey towards the top remains unstoppable.

MONTH/YEAR	POSITION IN THE COUNTRY
July 2015	59/65
Jan 2016	31/67
July 2016	36/123
Jan 2017	36/123
July 2017	39/123
Jan 2018	30/123

To continuously sustain our momentum to the top, we have employed a number of strategies. First, we continue establishing more external collaborations and linkages to improve our performance on impact indicator. Secondly, we have continuously encouraged our staff to ensure that all their publications are published in high impact journals and deposited in the repository when they become published. We shall also ensure that our digital repository and University Website are constantly updated and secured to continuously conform to informational demands in the era we live in today. By continuously increasing our research output while implementing these and other strategies, University of Embu is the Institution to watch.

# Kauli ya Mwanafunzi

**Na Kiulio K. Douglas - E221/12431/2015**

**N**doto ya kila mwanafunzi katika shule ya upili aghalabu huwa kufaulu katika mitihani yake na kujiunga na chuo kikuu, sio bora chuo kikuu bali chuo kikuu bora. Hii ni kwa sababu wengi huamini katika vyuo vikuu ndiko kulikofichwa ufunguo wa maisha ya keshoye yanayoweza kupigiwa mfano.

Mawazo yangu hayakuwa tofauti na yale ya wanafunzi wenzangu. Nilijua, tena kwa uhakika mkuu, kwamba nilikuwa na uwezo wa kufaulu vyema na kupata nafasi ya kuikwea ngazi nyingine ya kielimu. Langu lilikuwa ni kusubiri kwa hamu na ghamu baada ya kuufanya mtihani wa kidato cha nne, ambao nilihisi moyoni mwangu kuwa ningeupasi kwa alama za juu. Nilijawa na mawazo chungu nzima juu ya chuo kikuu ambacho ningejiunga nacho.

Ama kweli Mola hamwachi mja wake. Dua yangu ya kujiendela katika somo la Kiswahili ilionekana kutimia nilipopata barua ya kujiunga na Chuo Kikuu cha Embu! Nilikuwa nimesikia sifa za chuo hiki kwa muda na hii ilikuwa nafasi yangu rasmi ya kupata uhalisia wa kila jambo bila kuhadithiwa na mtu yeyote. Tarehe 31/08/2015 ilikuwa siku ya ndovu kumla mwanawe kwani ndiyo siku niliyofunganya virago vyangu na kuleleka chuoni.

Nilipowasili humu nilishuhudia hali na mambo ambayo hayakuwa ya kawaida. Kila kitu kilikuwa kimeandaliwa kwa njia ya kupigiwa mfano. Nilishuhudia ushirikiano wa hali ya juu kutoka kwa kila mshikadau, si kwa wanafunzi na viongozi wao, si kwa wahadhiri na wanafunzi wao, si kwa uongozi wa chuo na wafanyikazi. Kwa hakika, hiyo ilikuwa ishara kuwa nilikuwa nimefika mahali nilipostahili kuwa.

Kilichonipa moyo zaidi ni kuwepo kwa miundo msingi na vifaa vya kuvutia. Hata ingawa sikuyatamani sana masomo ya sayansi, nilipendezwa mno na maabara kubwa na za kisasa zilizoshughulikiwa vilivyo. Aidha, nilivutiwa na maktaba ya kutamanisha iliyosheheni vitabu vinavyotosheleza mahitaji ya wanafunzi na wahadhiri wao katika taaluma mbalimbali. Pia nilijionea maabara za masomo yanayohusiana na teknolojia ya habari na mawasiliano ambazo zimelengwa kuwasaidia wanafunzi kufanya utafiti wao kwa kina.

Hali ya utulivu na jinsi shughuli za masomo zinavyotiliwa maanani na kutiliwa mkazo hapa na kila mshikadau ni jambo la kutia moyo. Ama kwa kweli, kila mwanafunzi amehakikishiwa msaada wowote atakouhitaji wakati wowote. Hili linamhakikishia kila mwanafunzi kuwa hakuna kizuizi chochote kinachoweza kumvurugia ndoto yake. Ushirikiano wa hali ya juu unaopatikana kati ya wanafunzi na washikadau wengine umechangia pakubwa kuhakikisha kuwa nidhamu miongoni mwa wanafunzi inadumishwa wakati wote.

Wahadhiri katika chuo hiki wanajitolea mhanga kuhakikisha kuwa masomo yanaendelezwa kwa kuzingatia mbinu za kisasa, tena bila kukatizwa kiholela. Kujitolea huku kunawahakikishia wanafunzi kuwa maslahi yao yanashughulikiwa vilivyo na hawana haja yoyote ya kujutia kuwa sehemu ya jamii kubwa ya chuo hiki. Chuo Kikuu cha Embu hoyee!

## University Library Moves to New Building



**Mr. James M. Njue**  
Head of Library and Information  
Services



2014



2015



2018

**G**rowth has defined the University of Embu since its founding more than four years ago, and nothing illustrates this better than the UoEm Library. Since its beginnings as a small collection of books in a college library building, the University library has grown exponentially in the number and quality of its holdings, forging an international reputation along the way.

That growth manifested itself in another way in April 2018 when library and its extensive collections moved into ultra modern building, just in time for the start of the May – September 2018 trimester.

With more than 20,000 volumes, UoEm is among the top libraries in Kenya. The new Library, includes more room for discussions, a dedicated special collections area, increased space for small-group study, and breakout rooms for larger groups. It also features an

80-seat lecture hall and 1,000 square feet of adjacent open reading space. Upgraded technology abounds, and staff workspace is arranged to encourage higher standards of research and engagement.

It's a mistake to view libraries as just warehouses for books. They do have lots of books and students can go there to use them; but libraries are also places where you have highly trained staff who care very much about helping patrons do their work. The University of Embu Library has acquired a reputation as a great resource centre.

This bright, glass enclosed UoEm library employs design that is both functional and attractive, while embracing many modern features that help the library run more smoothly and efficiently as well. The new library will soon be equipped with self-service check-in kiosks which allow books to be checked in without the assistance of

library staff.

Billed as a “**library concept center**” rather than a traditional library, this library takes information retrieval to a new level. Patrons have access not only to traditional books but to audio books and games. The new modern library is full of all the normal resources found in libraries like books, DVDs, CDs, and magazines but with one big difference. The library thus, attempts to bring together technological resources with a comfortable and warm environment.

The website <http://www.embuni.ac.ke> for the library is extensive with services for live online homework help, a variety of e-books and audio books, online assistance and a sleek modern design at its present location.

Welcome to the University of Embu Library.



# Tree Planting Activity in Njukiri Forest

“This will be a great step towards ensuring both urban and rural areas of Kenya, become environmental centres of excellence.”

-Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Keriako Tobiko

In the spirit of Corporate Social Investment, the University of Embu joined the rest of Kenya and the World in the effort towards increasing forest cover to combat climate change and environmental degradation.

According to the World Meteorological Organization’s (WMO) 2017 Statement of the State of the Climate, 23.3 million persons were displaced by weather-related disasters. This was partly associated with poor forestry management and carbon emissions around the world. According to the National Forest Policy of 2015, Kenya was at 6.99% forest cover. Recently this year, Mr. Keriako Tobiko, the Environment and Forestry Cabinet Secretary (CS), stated that Kenya stands at 7.2% forest cover, which is still below the 10% stipulated by the United Nations. Thus, the Government is keen to ensure a minimum of 250 million trees are planted to realize its target of between 13 and 15% forest cover, by the year 2022.

The University of Embu, in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and the

Njukiri Community Forest Association (CFA), of Embu County, successfully conducted a tree planting exercise on 24th March, 2018.

The University staff and students, 330 in total, voluntarily joined hands with KFS and the Njukiri CFA, in planting a total of 5,000 tree seedlings provided by the Kenya Forest Service, Embu Conservancy. This was in recognition that environment and forests protection is a shared responsibility that all must tirelessly pursue. This will be a great step towards ensuring both urban and rural areas of Kenya, become environmental centres of excellence, as envisaged by the Environment and Forestry CS, Mr. Tobiko.

Mr. Tobiko, launched a National Tree Planting exercise in March, 2018, at Ngong’ Forest reserve. The aim, during this exercise, was to plant 10,000 trees, as part of the target 250 million trees by the year 2022. The CS, committed himself to spearheading a continuous campaign to ensure forests are conserved.

To achieve the national target of 250

million trees and increase forest cover to between 13% and 15% by 2022, it is expected that each County should plant at least 1 million trees per year. As such, Kenyans of all walks of life, were encouraged to join hands in planting as many trees as possible, in the effort to have sustained adoption of tree planting and nurturing culture. This will not only seek to achieve the 13 to 15% forest cover but also to reverse environmental degradation.

As such, the University of Embu is not left behind in this noble cause. It is committed to ensuring that Kenya does not become prone to drought, famine and diseases due to loss of our forest cover. With the Njukiri tree planting exercise, the University contributed in planting the targeted 1 million trees, for Embu County. This was just one of a series of tree planting activities that the University has and will continue to be engaged in.



Dr. Fredrick Njoka, Dean School of Agriculture, planting the first tree to mark the launch of the tree planting exercise in Njukiri Forest.



Staff and students planting trees at Njukiri Forest.

## Integrity and Thankfulness Key to Success – Clerics



**University of Embu clergies, Management Staff and Students during the Thanksgiving Service held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at the University Charter Hall.**

The University of Embu organizes two major ecumenical services aimed at building a cohesive and integrated fraternity. These are the interfaith Service, at the beginning of each academic year, and the Thanksgiving Service at the end of each academic year. Other ecumenical services may be organized as deemed necessary from time

to time.

On Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the University held its annual Thanksgiving Service to celebrate and mark the remarkable end of 2017/2018 academic year. The **theme** of the service was **The Power of a Thankful Heart**. The service brought together staff and students from different religious and denominational backgrounds to worship

together as a family. The message on thanksgiving was delivered by an Adventist clergy, Pastor Paul Marita Mageto. Speaking during the occasion, Sheikh Bamkuu Mzee Ali, the Imam of Embu Jamia Mosque emphasized on upholding ethical values and integrity in society.

## Chama cha Kiswahili Chazinduliwa Chuoni

Wanafunzi wa Kiswahili wana jambo la kujifaharisha nalo baada ya kuanzisha Chama cha Kiswahili Chuo Kikuu cha Embu (CHAKIE).

Ndoto ya kuanzishwa kwa chama hiki ilianza tarehe 17/02/2018 baada ya kundi la wanafunzi wa mwaka wa tatu wakiongozwa na Abony Hyce Brenda na Nyawa Joseph kuhudhuria kongamano la Chama cha Wanafunzi wa Kiswahili wa Vyuo Vikuu vya Afrika Mashariki (CHAWAKAMA) lililofanyika katika Chuo Kikuu cha Kenyatta.

Wanafunzi hao waliwasilisha makala waliyoita 'Nafasi ya Muziki katika Ukuaji wa Kiswahili' na kuvutia hadhira iliyoshiriki, akiwemo mwandishi maarufu Prof. Wallah bin Wallah, ambaye aliahidi kuwatembelea humu chuoni. Washiriki wote walituzwa vyeti vya ushiriki na Chuo Kikuu cha Embu kikapata cheti cha utambuzi kwa kuwafadhili wanafunzi waliohudhuria.

Chama hiki kimesajiliwa chuoni na kinaongozwa na katiba ambayo imetayarishwa na wanachama wote. Viongozi wake wa wakati huu ni Abony Brenda Hyce (Mwenyekiti), Okoth Victor Saoko (Naibu Mwenyekiti), Nyawa Joseph Mwamumbo (Katibu Mkuu), Bridget Wanjeri (Naibu Katibu Mkuu) na Lenairoshi Samwel Lpatasi (Mweka Hazina). Mlezi wa chama ni Dr. Timothy Kinoti M'Ngaruthi.

Malengo ya chama hiki ni pamoja na kuwawezesha wanachama kujadili njia za kuendeleza na kuimarisha uwezo wao katika isimu na fasihi ya Kiswahili na kuimarisha matumizi ya lugha ya Kiswahili chuoni na taifa zima kwa jumla. Aidha, wanachama wanauia kukitumia chama hiki kama nyenzo ya kuwaunganisha wanafunzi wa Kiswahili katika Chuo Kikuu cha Embu.

**Na Abony Brenda Hyce - E221/101098/2015  
Mwanafunzi**

## Unity in Diversity: University Celebrates Talent and Culture

Prof. Daniel Mugendi, University of Embu Vice-Chancellor, (second from right), Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Academic, Research & Extension), (second from left) and Dr. Jackson Wachira, Registrar (ARE), during the University Cultural Festivals in the University Sports Ground.



The early hours of Sunday, February 11, 2018 witnessed the climax of a crucial celebration of raw and refined talent at the University of Embu. Gender, age, ethnicity and political differences were cast aside as an ecstatic crowd who had braved a cold night screamed and cheered as the three-member bench of judges declared Edger Owenga and Abigail Kibe as Mr. and Miss University of Embu, 2018/2019 respectively. The 1<sup>st</sup> Runners-up positions went to Karim Jeremiah and Rachael Wamucii while the 2<sup>nd</sup> runners up were Wilson Ndung'u and Carol Maina. The newly crowned Miss UoEm is a Bachelor of Economics student, while Mr. UoEm is pursuing a Bachelors' degree in Computer Science.

This pronouncement of winners ended protracted moments of tension for the contestants and their fans. Some weeks earlier, contestants had their pictures posted in the University of Embu Culfest 2018 Facebook page. Their fans had an opportunity of voting for them by 'liking' the photos. Gift humpers were given to

contestants whose photos received most 'likes' and were declared Mr. and Miss Popularity.

The other participants of the beauty pageant could not hide their smiles as they received gift humpers from sponsors in what turned out to be a win-win situation. In a surprise move, the founder of Miss Orient Kenya, Ms. Millicent Morgan, who is also a nominated Member of County Assembly, Tharaka-Nithi County, promised the twelve finalists a memorable night as they enjoy dinner at a location to be agreed upon.

Earlier, upcoming and refined artists showcased unrivaled talent through music and dance, drama, comedy, poetry, gymnastics, karate and modelling in the three-day event whose theme was Celebrating Talent and Promoting Cultural Diversity. Talented, thoroughly prepared and very confident University of Embu students dominated the programme and left great impact. Part of the YCS choir presented their original composition of the University Anthem as the University Choir

sang their hearts out in praise of African culture. Solo presenters such as Bernard Wambua, Eva Kimanthi, Irene Ndanu and John Maweu could not pass unnoticed. Others that received worthy accolades for sterling performance were the Kennedy Muchere and Gloria duo, Homologio Melodies, ESparks Crew, Jeremiah Mogaka, Sir. Ken, Simon Murimi and the amazing (No) Ganja Farm comedian.

Outstanding student comedians and musicians had a thrilling blending with award-winning celebrities such as gospel music queen Gloria Muliro, rib-cracking Churchill Show comedians YY and MCA Tricky and secular musicians Otile Brown and Reymi De Christian. A team of word-spitting emcees comprising of MC Coin, MC Mbitho, MC Eddie and MC Liz kept the audience busy throughout. Also in place were DJ Nicks Bee and DJ Acid Prime plus a live band that boomed and oozed well-prescribed dosages of African and Western nerve-soothing interlude music.



# Pictorial



Members of the UoEm Council and Management are taken through the structural plan for the upcoming Tuition Block by the architect Mr. Fred Ngunjiri on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the proposed Construction Site.



University of Embu members of staff and students fraternity during the Embu town cleanup exercise held on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 along Embu-Meru Highway.



First year students registration during the admissions exercise on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at the University Charter Hall.



Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, DVC (ARE) receiving HELB publications from Mrs. Mary Wachira, Chief Strategy & Customer Experience Officer. Looking on is Ms. Wavi Muigai, Customer Experience & Communications Manager and Mrs. Madrine Mburu, Head of Human Resource when they paid a courtesy call to the University on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018..



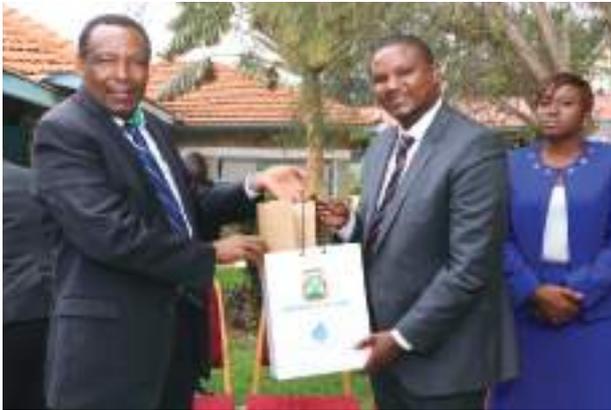
University of Embu Staff & Students pose for a photograph after the Fire Marshalls Training held on 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 in the New UoEm Library.



A section of Students from Thigingi Girls Secondary School during the second Careers Day held at UoEm Sports Ground on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.



# Pictorial



Mr. Jonah Orumoi, Managing Director, Tourism Finance Corporation (TFC) receives a gift hamper from Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, when he paid a courtesy call to the University on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.



Dr. Njage J. N, Chairman Njukiri-Nthambo CBO with Prof. Daniel Mugendi, UoEm Vice-Chancellor exchanging MoU documents after the MoU signing ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 at the University Boardroom.



Staff & Students of UoEm during the tree planting exercise at Njukiri Forest, Embu County on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.



Ms. Betty Chebet from Maier Consulting Ltd during the Internal Auditors Training held at The New UoEm Library on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.



University of Embu Members of Management, Staff and Student leaders with top Embu County security officers after a security consultative meeting on held at the County Commissioners Office on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



Embuvarsity Sacco Management presents a cheque to Dr. Jackson Wachira, Registrar (ARE) on behalf of the University Management in support of One Shilling Foundation Kit on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.



# Pictorial



A student casts a vote to elect the delegates during the UESA elections held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.



Parents and stakeholders register to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Day held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the University of Embu Charter Hall.



Officials from the Certified Public Accountants hand over Publications to Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, DVC (ARE). With him are Dr. Milcah Nyaga, Coordinator, Teaching Practice & Practicum and Dr. Nduati Kariuki, CoD, School of Business and Economics on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017.



Dr. Zachary Njagi, Lecturer, School of Education addressing the outgoing Teaching Practice Students at the Tentatorium Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 .



Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, CEO Commission for University Education (CUE) being taken through the UoEm Library by Mr. James Njue, University Librarian on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Looking on is Prof. Daniel Mugendi, University of Embu Vice-Chancellor.



The University of Embu Council Members and Management during the retreat at a Hotel in Nyeri on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.



# Pictorial



UoEm Students make a presentation to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, when he visited UESA Stand during the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Day held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.



Prof. Eucharia Kenya, DVC (PAF) signing the Information Security Policy Statement on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to launch the ISO 9001:2015 on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. Looking on is the Director PC & ISO, Dr. Kirema Nkanata and the QISMR, Prof. Kilagat Kotut.



The in-coming and outgoing UESA Officials after the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected 2018 Officials on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at the Charter Hall.



Dr. Fredrick Njoka, Dean School of Agriculture being taken through the coffee tasting process during Kathangariri Farmers Field School (KFFS) Graduation Day on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 where he was the Chief Guest.



Members of Staff participate in an exercise during the Annual Team Building retreat held at a Nyeri Hotel on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.



University of Embu Students during the Knowledge Ambassadors' Workshop organized by Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) in collaboration with the University of Embu held at the University of Embu new library on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2018.



# Pictorial



Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, DVC (ARE) with Dancan Othuon, former UESA Chairman and Stella Njiru, UESA Vice-Chair assist Prof. Daniel Mugendi, VC UoEm, in cutting the thanksgiving cake on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, following his appointment as VC.



Prof. Daniel Mugendi, VC UoEm, presents a traditional stool to Mr. Reuben Ndwiga, Estate Department on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 during the Staff Retreat. Mr. Ndwiga was due to retire.



Mr. Paul Russi, KCB Group Human Resource Director receiving a token of appreciation from YCS official after he donated Kshs 100,000 for purchase of seats for the Catholics during the Easter mass held at the University of Embu Tentatorium Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2018. Looking on (left) is Mr. Charles Mukunya, KCB Embu Branch Manager, and Fr. Joseph Kiriimi, the Chaplain.



Members of Staff showcase African attire during the Cultural Festival Week held from 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. Prof. Daniel Mugendi, VC, UoEm joins them (centre)



Students from St. Mary, Kiangima Girls High School after a training session in cataloguing in the University of Embu Library on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.



Agriculture Principal Secretary Dr. Richard Lesiyampe when he visited the University of Embu stand during the Eastern Branch ASK Show on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at Njukiri Showground.

## University Celebrates Talent and Culture

Continued from pg 26

Impressive performances from institutions such as Chuka University, Murang'a University, Kenyatta University (Embu Campus), Mount Kenya University, St. Mark's Kigari TTC, Egoji TTC and Nkabune TTI left the audience crying for more. Cultural dances, folk songs and poetry cut across Swahili, Tharaka, Embu, Meru, Borana, Samburu and Kikuyu cultures. Stealing the show were daring and independent children performers

from Kangaru Village who's dancing and intrigues went unchallenged.

There were colourful exhibitions by students, catering and library staff. Notable among exhibitors were UoEm Mentorship Club and One Shilling Foundation whose proceeds were aimed at raising fees for their needy colleagues. African foods and drinks in form of githeri, roast cassava, offal and fermented uji caressed the intestines of staff and students who took a break

from their predictable daily menus. Mouth-watering nyama choma and accompanying sip of muratina run out of stock long before word could reach many would be customers. Moonlight VCT services was also available and the audience was encouraged to get tested to know their status. The event attracted sponsorship from Unity College (Buruburu), Miss Orient Kenya, Britam, Highlands and Airtel.

## Knowledge Ambassadors Workshop



Participants from various universities during a workshop on promoting electronic resources that was organized by Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) in collaboration with the University of Embu library.

The University of Embu hosted the Knowledge Ambassadors' Workshop held at the new Library Building on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2018.

The Workshop was organized by Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC) in collaboration with The University of Embu library. The overall objective of the Workshop was to share experiences on promoting electronic resources across the different knowledge ambassadors present, and also to emphasize the increase in usage among the academics and students across the different universities subscribed to KLISC content.

Building on the successes of past workshops, this year saw attendance rise yet again with 150 students and faculty members from institutions across the Country attending. The Workshop

themed, *The Role of Students in Dissemination of Information*, sought to curb plagiarism as well as promote the use of electronic resources in research.

Speaking during the Workshop, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics Research and Extension), Prof. Kiplagat Kotut observed that electronic information resources in the universities remain under utilized in spite of the heavy investments in terms of subscriptions. He urged the knowledge ambassadors to play a leading role in marketing the e-Resources. He further commended KLISC: role in supporting learning and research by the young, creative and innovative minds.

### Students presented on the following topics:

1. Modern technological tools in research, teaching & learning
2. Academic integrity
3. Role of social media in enhancement of library be services
4. Access to electronic information resources
5. Responsible use of information

The UoEm Librarian, Mr. James Njue, observed that the Workshop was meant to develop partnerships among the university and college students from Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium member Institutions as they showcase their creativity in promoting the use of e-resources.

The trained Student Knowledge Ambassadors will market university libraries among peers as well as the faculty. Students are more technologically savvy and more vibrant in communicating with their peers and are thus better ambassadors of library resources. The Knowledge Ambassadors project is a volunteer service by students of all levels at all universities in Kenya. A student just needs to be passionate about the library services to qualify to join.



# Fire Safety Sensitization

The Safety and Security Committee of the University of Embu, successfully organized and conducted a Fire Marshal training and Fire Safety Community Empowerment and sensitization in Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018. The aim was to enhance fire safety and security preparedness of the University Community. Through the Fire safety training the students and staff of the University were taught how to identify fire hazards, define fire and its elements, understand fire safety legislations, state the causes and classes of fire, actions to take in case of fire, how to recognize the extinguisher colour coding scheme, how to use fire extinguishers effectively as well as terrorism awareness and prevention.

The training was facilitated by experts from industry. They emphasized that with proper training, workers are able to eliminate fire hazards, prevent a workplace fire, conduct fire safety risk assessment and respond quickly and efficiently if a fire breaks out. On the other hand, without

proper training a small occurrence of a fire can quickly grow to become a major incident with devastating outcomes. Thus it was imperative to have fire marshals on hand in the various departments or sections in the University.

As a way of appreciating important facts about fire, participants were invited to share their experiences of fire incidences. Thereafter, it was clear that though fire is indispensable in our lives, it also has caused pain or loss of life and property in one way or another to us. It was also agreed that, most fire disasters are caused mainly by negligence and ignorance. As a proactive measure, the University provided this training to enhance fire safety awareness and in an effort to adhere to fire and safety laws provided under Occupation Health and Safety (OSS) Act No. 15 of 2007 and Legal notice 59: Fire Risk Reduction Rules.

Fire Marshal training, equipped participants with knowledge about the various roles of fire marshals such as; identifying potential fire hazards, ensuring

the safety of staff and students when fire alarm is raised and checking that fire escape routes are clear. Additionally, fire-fighting equipment and their application were discussed followed by a detailed training and practical demonstration on the use of fire extinguishers. The 46 Fire Marshals trained would be taking the lead in ensuring the safety of University community to enhance the University capacity of first line of defence in case of fire. There was recognition that they could not work in isolation, hence the other members of staff and students were also taken through a sensitization on fire safety and security.

The University of Embu embraces the importance of continuous Fire Marshal training and Fire Safety Community Empowerment and sensitization. This is because the skills acquired, would not only be applied at the University to ensure safe workplace, but also in everyday life, outside the University for students, staff members and society at large.

**“Man is the only creature that dares to light a fire and live with it. The reason? Because he alone has learned to put it out.”** Henry Jackson Vandyke, Jr.

**P**  
**Pull**  
the pin.

**A**  
**Aim**  
the extinguisher at  
the base of the fire.

**S**  
**Squeeze**  
the handle of the  
fire extinguisher.

**S**  
**Sweep**  
from side-to-side at  
the base of the flame.

## Focus on Integrity and Ethics



**Ms. Grace Chumba, Education, Training Public awareness Officer in Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission sensitizing University staff and students on Understanding corruption and unethical conduct in higher learning institutions at the new Library from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.**

- Focusing on the purpose of public service.
- Making informed and transparent decisions in public office
- Establishing clear relationships between the public and public servants
- Promoting good standards and efficiency among public servants

### Foundation of Leadership and integrity

Constitution of Kenya, 2010 & enabling laws which include:

- Leadership and Integrity, Chapter (6) Article 79 & 80 on Legislation on Leadership and Integrity
- National Values and Principles (Article. 10(c) - includes good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability
- Values and principles of public service (Chapter 13)- includes transparency, high standards of professional ethics, accountability for administrative acts, fair competition and merit as the basis of appointments and promotions; efficient, effective and economic use of resources among others.
- Anti-Corruption & Economic Crimes Act 2003
- Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011
- Public Officers Ethics Act 2003
- Leadership and Integrity Act 2012

The University has put in place a framework for ensuring a corruption-free working environment within its precincts. In this endeavour, the University is propelled by the ideals enshrined in its Vision, Mission, Strategic objectives and Core Values. These ideals and aspirations can only be realized within a framework of integrity and ethics, which creates a culture of zero-tolerance to any corrupt practices. The University recognizes that all the stakeholders of the University need to be sensitized on integrity beneficiaries of corruption eradication, through efficient

The University of Embu recognizes that in order to provide efficient and effective services to all stakeholders and play its role in generating, advancing and disseminating knowledge for the development of humanity, corruption must be addressed. Various stakeholders must play their role if the University must achieve the goal of eradicating corruption as outlined in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012 and Public Officers Ethics Act, 2003. In this regard, the University Integrity Committee in collaboration with EACC organized three days sensitization to staff and students. The training was held on 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and focused on the following thematic areas:

- Mandate of EACC
- Understanding corruption and unethical conduct in higher learning institutions
- Leadership and Integrity Obligations for Public Officers
- Strategies for preventing corruption and unethical conduct at the workplace

- Constitutional foundation of leadership and integrity
- Specific leadership and integrity codes
- Offences & penalties under the Leadership and Integrity Act
- Integrity and anti-corruption initiatives and progress in the University Embu

### Concept of Ethics & Integrity

#### Ethics:

- The word ethics comes from the Greek word ethos that means “character”
- It is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology.
- It is the code of moral principles and values that governs the behaviour of a person or a group with respect to what is right or wrong
- Ethics sets standards as to what is good or bad in conduct and decision-making

#### Integrity

A quality that enables one to do the right thing at all times, even when not under watch. It helps in;

Continued from pg 36

## Focus on Integrity and Ethics

and quality services; improved infrastructure; fairness, justice and equity; respect for the rule of law; stability of policies, assurance of proper planning/sustained development; and improved personal safety and security of property. Some of the mechanisms put in place by the University to ensure high ethical standard is maintained include:

- Code of Conduct-The University aligned the staff Code of Conduct pursuant to the provisions under the Leadership and Integrity Act. The members of staff are regularly sensitized to adhere to the Code of Conduct; and disciplinary measures are taken against those who breach the code of conduct.
- Sensitization of staff and students-Regular sessions for staff and students are usually held, spearheaded by the University Integrity Committee, on ethics and integrity to inculcate ethical culture.

### Training & Capacity building

- The University Management made a provision in the approved budget for staff training to enhance professionalism and high integrity in the performance of duties.

### Disciplinary Committee

- The University has a disciplinary committee to steer disciplinary processes and ensure objectivity in the determination of disciplinary cases.

### Complaints Resolution

- The University also has established a Complaint-Resolution & Customer Relations Office and Committee to handle complaints from internal and external customers

### Corruption reporting channels

- To ensure prompt reporting of corruption and other unethical behaviour, the University Management created a variety of corruption reporting channels, including:-

Corruption reporting boxes strategically located  
University Web site [www.embuni.ac.ke](http://www.embuni.ac.ke)  
Postal Address 6-60100 Embu  
Telephone 0796 380 024 (specially dedicated to this)  
Email address [info@embuni.ac.ke](mailto:info@embuni.ac.ke)  
Complaints/Compliments registers at each service point  
Direct reporting to the VC.  
Direct report to EACC  
Reporting through the Integrity Committee  
Complaints/ Compliments Reporting boxes.



**Dr. Kirema Nkanata, Ph.D**  
Director, Performance Management

## ISO Certification

**The process of transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015 and certification to ISO 27001: 2013 is ongoing and activities that have been implemented since September are:**

- a) Staff Awareness Training was conducted on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017
- b) Launch of ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013 took place on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017
- c) Training on Quality Objectives & Information Security Objectives for all process owners was held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- d) Training of internal auditors was conducted as follows:-
  - ISO 9001:2015 (QMS) – Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018-49 auditors were trained
  - ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) – Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018-50 auditors were trained
- e) Internal audit was conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 and the University was found to be complying with both ISO standards to a very great extent.
- f) Management Review Meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2018
- g) Pre-certification audit by the consultant - 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2018
- h) Stage one audit by Certification Body (KEBS) - 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018
- i) Certification Audit by KEBS - 29<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

## PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

The University received the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Performance Contracting Guidelines for FY 2017/2018 on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 from the Office of the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service and Performance Management and Coordination Office and aligned the Performance Contract to the new changes.

The FY 2017/2018 Performance Contract was negotiated through the Ministry of Education on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and vetted by the Office of the President, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Performance Management and Coordination Office on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Cascading of the Performance Contract to the specific target owners was done on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and implementation is on-going.

# CapacityBuilding

## 2018 **Regional** PC Negotiations at UoEm



**Prof. Daniel Mugendi, University of Embu Vice-Chancellor, making welcoming remarks during the PC Negotiations.**

The year 2018 started at a very high note for the University of Embu. The Ministry of Education selected the University of Embu as a centre for the 2017/2018 performance contract negotiations for state corporations, public universities and other institutions in the upper Eastern region.

The second week of January 2018 witnessed the University receiving guests for PC negotiations designated to take place at the University premises for two days: 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

During the two days, the various institutions would report in the morning and gather in the conference halls. The meetings would start with a briefing on the requirements and then the groups would gather at different tables to negotiate the PC targets for their institutions. The

negotiations were held at the University of Embu New Library.

The negotiations took place the whole day for two days. The guests were able to enjoy the spacious conference halls within the new library, a conducive environment and sumptuous meals served by the University Catering Department just to mention but a few.

The fact that the Ministry of Education was able to identify the University of Embu as the centre for the negotiations is an indication that the University commands respect not just within Embu County, but also beyond the County. It is a University of choice not just in academics but also in facilitating high profile meetings where vital decisions are made.

### **At the University of Embu, the negotiated Performance targets have since been cascaded to the target owners.**



**VC to DVC (ARE)**



**Chairperson of Council to VC**



**VC to DVC (PAF)**

#### **Cascading of the Performance Contract at different levels**



**VC to Registrar (VC's Office)**





**Dr. Justin M. Nyaga, Ph.D**  
Chairman,  
Department of Biological Sciences

## UoEM and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Collaboration

The University of Embu (UoEm) is collaborating with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) to enhance student and teacher exchanges that is the backbone of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two universities in 2014. The MoU is spearheaded by Dr. Jamleck Muturi of the Department of Biological Sciences in UoEm and Professor Mattias Jonsson of the Department of Ecology/Centre for Biological Control at SLU.

Since the signing of the MoU, the two departments have developed joint proposals each year to raise funds for student and teacher exchanges between the two universities. For the last four years, these programmes have been supported by the Linnaeus Palme International Exchange Programme, a Swedish exchange programme for faculty and students at masters and undergraduate level. So far, there has been several successful exchange visits for both students and teachers between the two universities. The first student exchange was in 2014/2015 when students from SLU visited UoEm for a field course on agricultural systems in Kenya.

In February 2015, Professor Mathias Jonsson became the first to participate in the teacher exchange programme, spending about two months in UoEm teaching and supervising undergraduate and MSc students. This was followed by a visit by faculty from UoEm to SLU in February, 2016 when Drs. Jamleck Muturi and Benson Mwangi spent

two months teaching and supervising students in the department of Ecology at SLU. The latest of these exchanges was in February-March this year when students from SLU visited UoEm accompanied by two of their teachers, Prof. Helena Bylund and Dr. Opira Otto.

The February 2018 visit was designed to include research activities in both applied sciences and social sciences, but all focusing on management of natural resources in Kenya. Three students from UoEm joined the 15 SLU students to form three research groups. Each group focused on a separate type of farming for their research work including coffee farming, dairy farming and Agroforestry. Before they started their research work, students were given lectures on various topics by the Kenyan and Swedish lecturers which included Kenyan history and Society, Kenyan natural history and land use, Animal husbandry in Kenya. The Kenyan Economy, Political developments in Kenya and Research methods and data analysis, among others. All the field work was done within Embu County and sample and data analysis were done in the Biological Science laboratories at the University of Embu, with expert help from lecturers in the University. Results from these research activities were presented to and evaluated by a joint panel of lecturers from SLU and UoEm.

The future of the collaboration between UoEm and SLU continues to look very promising, and both Universities have continued to show a lot of interest in collaborating with each other in both the area of teaching and research as manifested in the MoU. In the past, programme coordinators from both institutions (Professor Mattias and Dr. Muturi) have conducted planning trips to plan for the exchange activities. This is a sign of a strong commitment from both ends towards the success of this collaboration. Besides, these trips have helped to identify the areas and topics to be covered in subsequent application for funds. In these visits, potential students' projects are also discussed. One such project is a tomato disease project that now forms the Ph.D topic for Ms. Peris Nderitu, a postgraduate student in UoEm, who has just completed her second research visit to SLU this March. Ms. Nderitu's Ph.D work is a direct spin-off from the UoEm-SLU collaboration.



University of Embu Management with deligation from Swedish University of Agriculture when they paid a courtesy call to the University.

## Forging Strong Collaborations in Research



Dr. Justin Nyaga (left) in a meeting with Dr. Cecilia Onyango from University of Nairobi (second left), Professor Mats Söderström and Dr. Magnus Ljung (on video link) both of SLU, Skara campus to discuss possible projects on translating science to practice in Kenya.

Dr. Justine Nyaga recently visited the Department of Soil and Environment at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) as a guest researcher in the Agriculture for Food Security 2030 (AgriFose 2030) project. Agriculture for Food Security 2030 is a programme that has been developed by a consortium of scientists from SLU, Lund University, Gothenburg University and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). It complements the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) agenda, mainly targeting SDG 2 in low income countries through a science-based approach on local, regional and global scales. It translates state of the art science for supporting better policies and improved practices within the agricultural sector. This translation is achieved through a set of activities which includes conducting systematic reviews on various thematic areas of the project. One of these thematic areas is Precision Agriculture.

Through AgriFose 2030, the Department of Soil and Environment at SLU offered Dr. Justine Nyaga a grant to undertake a systematic review of Precision Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. The research work involves a critical systematic review of documented literature on Precision Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa and engagement with various stakeholders especially small holder farmers. It will also involve development of at least one scientific review manuscript and at least one technical/policy brief based on the concepts of systematic review. Engagement with stakeholders will follow a theory of change process that will be developed in advance. Being able to conduct a systematic review and develop a theory of change is therefore critical for this project. To enhance his capacity in these, Dr. Nyaga attended

a course on Systematic Reviews and Theory of Change in Uppsala during the first one week of his visit. The remaining 4 weeks were spent in Skara campus, South Sweden with the Precision Agriculture Research Group. During the last week of his visit, he traveled back to Uppsala for a meeting at the Department of Ecology/Centre for Biological Control. In this meeting, Dr. Nyaga, Professor Mattias Jonsson and Professor Helena Bylund of SLU discussed a range of things related to the MoU between SLU and UoEm. These included the February 2018 SLU students visit to University of Embu and the joint proposal to the Linnaeus Palme International Exchange Programme. The meeting also explored other future collaborative teaching and research opportunities.



Dr. Justine Nyaga (second right) joins a group of African scientists from Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda, and SLU staff for a group photo during a training on the Theory of Change and systematic review at SLU Ultuna campus in Uppsala, Sweden.

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The research work involves a critical systematic review of documented literature on Precision Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa and engagement with various stakeholders especially small holder farmers.

Dr. Justine Nyaga  
Chairman, Department of Biological Sciences

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## UoEm Extends **Caring** Hand to **Prisoners** in **Embu G.K Maximum Prison**



Prof. Daniel Mugendi, The Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, presents gifts to Mr. Charles Mutembei, Officer in Charge, Embu GK Prison, when University Management and Staff members visited the Embu G.K. Prison on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

**“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”** (Matthew 25:35-36)

The University of Embu demonstrated clear understanding of the above verse when on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, a trip was made to Embu G.K. Prison. On this memorable day, University trucks packed with assorted foods headed to Embu G.K. Prisons. This is an annual event, whereby the University identifies various institutions that are in need and visits them. Embu GK Prison was once again on the list.

On this day, staff and members of Management led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, visited the prison. On arrival the guests were warmly welcomed by the prison community. The inmates all gathered with anticipation. The University Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi, led the congregation with an opening prayer and

Sermon. The function would not have ended without entertainment from the inmates. The staff members sung Christmas carols to the prisons community and it was such a great joy.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor appreciated prisons' management and the inmates for their continued support to the University. He noted that for the last three years, inmates from the prison have assisted in cleaning and maintaining university grounds. The Vice-Chancellor called for strengthening of the relationship between the two institutions.

After the VC's speech, gifts were presented to both the prisons' staff and management and the inmates. To the prison community, Christmas had come early. The Vice-Chancellor promised to consider the ladies section of the prison in the next visit. Nonetheless, the VC was assured that the gifts received will be shared with the ladies in the mean time.

**“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”**

(Matthew 25:40)

## Employee Awards (2017)



**Prof. Simon Thurania Ph.D**  
Chairman, Awards & Honours Committee

(Standing) Members of Management with (seated) staff recognized by the Award and Honours Committee for their outstanding performance in 2017.



(Seated From left) Mr. Peter Shinga, Ms. Carol Ndiri, Mr. Peter Kimalel, Prof. Nancy Budambula, Ms. Stella Mbogo (for Mr. Boniface Muriungi) Dr. Samuels Kariuki, Mr. Charles Moseki, Ms. Elizabeth Murugi & Ms. Lucy Kanana.

### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD (2017)



**Ms Liz Murugi Mwiti**

Ms. Liz Murugi is the Head of Admissions Section at the University of Embu.

The **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD** recipient has distinguished herself by having exceptional customer relations, excellent service to students, staff and other stakeholders of the University of Embu. She has also demonstrated good work ethics, team work, innovation and creativity in marketing of University programmes.

### RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD (2017)



**Prof. Nancy Budambula, Ph.D**

Prof. Nancy Budambula is the Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Embu.

The **RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR 2017** has distinguished herself by having outstanding dedication to research in peer reviewed journals and carrying out research with impact to the society. She has attracted research grants and has done exceptionally well in mentoring postgraduate students.

### LECTURER OF THE YEAR AWARD (2017)



**Dr. Samuel Kariuki, Ph.D**

Dr. Samuel Kariuki is the Chairman, School of Business and Economics Department.

The **LECTURER OF THE YEAR 2017** has distinguished himself with outstanding dedication and competence in teaching. He has demonstrated exemplary performance and delivery skills in teaching and obtained an excellent score in students-lecturer evaluation.

## Employee Awards (2017) *Vice-Chancellor's Extra Mile Award 2017*

The recipients of the **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EXTRA MILE AWARD 2017** have distinguished themselves by demonstrating willingness to go out of their way to perform duties that are beyond their routine jobs without coercion. They provide excellent customer service and work under minimum supervision. They demonstrate outstanding and exceptional work ethics.

The Recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Extra Mile Award, 2017 are:-



**Mr. Peter Kimalel Longu**  
Examinations Section



**Mr. Charles N. Moseti**  
Transport Section



**Ms Caroline W. Ndiri**  
PC/ISO Directorate



**Mr. Boniface M. Maragwa**  
Catering Department



**Ms Lucy Kanana Ikiugu**  
Chairmens' Office



**Mr. Peter M. Shinga**  
ICT Department



**Mr. Joshua Makokha**  
Transport Officer



## UoEM Recognizes the Importance of Transport in its Functions

As recently as November 2017, the University of Embu acquired a new sixteen seater Van to upgrade its fleet to twenty-one vehicles. In a quick succession, another sixteen seater Van was acquired to enhance the Transport Department's capacity to serve its clients better. Also, to improve

the provision of services and its operations further the Transport Department occupied its new office in November 2017. It has also acquired a new staff member, an automotive technician, only lady in the Department to ascertain that customers are served by mechanically sound vehicles. In addition, the University has organised

retooling refresher courses for its staff.

As we celebrate these achievements as a department, top on our priority is to strive to provide quality and safe transport services to our customers. This we understand, cannot be achieved by us alone, hence our commitment to listen to our customers to meet their expectations.



Mr. George Kamau, Technical Trainer (ISUZU East Africa) conducts a training on University of Embu Transport Department staff on defensive driving at the University on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.



Staff from the Transport Department after a training session on defensive driving at the University on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.



**Rev. Dr. Kaberia Isaac Kubai, Ph.D**  
Chairman, Chancellors Award Committee

## Chancellor's Awards for Top Performers Initiated

**F**ollowing the University of Embu's Vision which is; **to be a dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research for service to humanity and priding ourselves in having a robust student population that seeks to excel in the various disciplines offered at the University**, the University Chancellor recognized the best graduating student, during the second graduation ceremony held on 15th September, 2017 with **Prof. Musili Wambua award**, which was a great step.

The Chancellor's Award Committee has plans to expand the awards into three more categories namely:

1. Vice-Chancellor's Roll of Honour, 2018
2. Outstanding Student Award, 2018
3. Sports person of the Year, 2018

The Vice-Chancellor's Roll of Honour award will be based purely on academic excellence; the outstanding student award will be awarded to the best overall student and the sportsperson of the year award will be divided into the female and male category which will be awarded to the best sportsman/woman of the year. The process of nominating the awardees for the year 2018 on going and the date for the award ceremony will be communicated to the university community.

We wish to invite potential sponsors and partners within and without our University to support us in this new adventure of recognizing the efforts our students put in academic and co-curricular activities.

**Knowledge Transforms!**

# Catering made simple and affordable at University of Embu

**Welcome one! Welcome all!**

But with A dietary  
**CAUTION!**

What was the original diet for humanity???????

"You shall eat the herbs of the field"

**(Genesis 3:18 NKJV)**

We are instructed to eat vegetables, grains, nuts and fruits.

These were the original God-given dietary plan  
For those living up to the time of flood.

After the flood;

The total plant based diet was impossible,  
For Noah and his family to feed

And;

God allowed the eating of meat.

However,

God has designated the healthiest variety of animals

For consumption referring to these as "clean"

**(Leviticus 11; Deuteronomy 14:3-12);**

Of course instead of going into the Ark in Pairs,

The Clean animals went in sevens;

Before the floods, human life was 900 years

**(Genesis 5)**

After the floods Noah's son lived 600 years,

Abraham lived 175 years.

Today the life expecting is just a fraction;

Could a return to the original diet extend our lives  
today??

A food for thought!! ??

**Thanks comrades**

*From: Concerned Catering Team*

## UoEm receives Research Boost

Five researchers from the University of Embu, together with collaborators from other institutions, have won grants worth Kshs 58,966,703 from the National Research Fund (NRF) under the Multidisciplinary and Multi-institutional category. National Research Fund (NRF) has awarded three Ph.D students research funding totaling Kshs 4,558,700.

A proportion of these funds have already been received at the University and this gesture will go a long way in facilitating cutting-edge research at the University. The National Research Fund (NRF) was established under the Science Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Act of 2013.

The Fund aims to facilitate research, science, technology and innovation for national development in Kenya.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics, Research and Extension) Prof Kiplagat Kotut receives a certificate from Dr. George Ombakho, Director of Research, Science and Technology during the NRF awards ceremony held on 14th December, 2017 at Nairobi Safari Club, Lilian Towers-Nairobi.



Certificate Awarded to the University of Embu by National Research Fund (NRF).



# Coming up: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Decolonizing Education Conference



## About the Conference

### Background information

This Conference marks yet another milestone for the University of Embu. Our inaugural Decolonizing the Spirit Conference held in July, 2016, ignited our scholarly interest to examine the concept of Decolonizing Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This is because the need to continue seeking solutions to global and local challenges as well as advancing knowledge and innovations to enhance wellness in education sector is more apparent than ever before. During the Decolonizing the Spirit Conference, the call was to appreciate the role of indigenous knowledge as being critical in addressing post-colonial domination. It is for this reason, that this conference, **The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference on Decolonizing Education** seeks to examine knowledge production and resistance to colonial and post-colonial intellectual domination.

This conference expects scholars, researchers, practitioners, elders, community leaders, community/digital/media activists, artists and educators to participate in a dialogue on (re)claiming and use of indigenous pedagogies as tools for response to colonial fragmentations. The participants will examine the relationship between the decolonization of the mind and the decolonization of the intellectual landscape.

Worldwide, human beings are in continued and persistent search for solutions. It is no longer an education that leads to an educated elite, but a citizenry that can respond creatively to solving problems facing humanity. A sound education system can correct misconstruction of inherited western-modeled education systems that are abundant in philosophies, ideologies, solutions and reactions that are not necessarily fashioned to address contextual issues at village level. What is evident is that most Education systems in Africa have continued to advance the views that Africans need to become literate.

Continued on pg 47



**Prof. Eucharia Kenya, Ph.D**  
Chairman

This is a great occasion for the University of Embu as we host the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Decolonizing Education Conference. The Conference which runs from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 is a culmination of concerted efforts by the University, partners and sponsors to make it a reality.

It is my honour and privilege, on behalf of the Conference Organizing Committee and the University Management to welcome our Guests led by the Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education & Research, Prof. Micheni

Ntiba, the Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Paul Wambua Musili, Chair of Council University of Embu, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi.

Let me extend a warm welcome to all the participants and presenters during the Conference. We have visitors from Canada, USA, several African countries, and many from Kenya. I thank the Staff of the University of Embu for their untiring efforts to put this conference together.

The theme is **"Transformative Education - Speaking for Africa"**.

The objective of the Conference is to bring to light the argument that there is a relationship between the decolonization of the mind and the decolonization of the intellectual landscape (Universities and other institutions of knowledge production).

The Conference will engage scholars, practitioners, community, researchers, teachers and students to deliberate on transformative pedagogies and re-envision ways in which education can be transformed in order to help Africa address its challenges.

Conference presentations will be in the form of paper and poster presentations, plenary sessions on topical issues based on the conference theme and the following Sub-Themes:

- Decolonizing education: Why does it really Matter?
- Indigenous education.
- Science education and culturally responsive approaches.
- Impact of arts in education.
- Innovations for Africa.
- Re-envisioning the role of education in Africa.
- Quality of education in a changing world.
- Education for sustainability.
- Transformative pedagogies.
- Sustainable Development Goals in Education.
- Decolonizing the Mind for a transformative education
- Inclusive Education for all

It is my pleasure therefore to welcome you all to the Conference.

## About the Conference



Participants of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Decolonizing the Spirit Conference held at the University on 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 in the University of Embu Charter Hall.

### Background information

Continued from pg 46

Yet, literacy is just one of the benefits of an education system, but not the only one. Even though African cultures are usually included in discussions on multicultural education, we are yet to achieve benefits of an education system that is informed by the African experiences that will lead to self-determinism. For self-determinism to be achieved, we must seek to decolonize African intellectual landscape. By so doing, a form of globalization informed by the richness of African ideologies and knowledge will emerge. Currently, globalization, like colonization, continues to disempower many African peoples, especially those who are most alienated from western knowledge and values. In actual fact, the United

Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) warns that the mass export of the cultural practices and values of the industrialized world may contribute to a sense of dispossession and loss of identity among those who are exposed to it.

Decolonizing formal education involves accepting indigenous and alternative ways of acquiring and applying knowledge in solving contextual problems. For academics, it would entail accepting African perspectives, ways of knowledge, wisdom and encouraging efforts by staff and students alike, to reclaim indigenous knowledge as well as philosophies of teaching and learning that encompass the multiple experiences of African people. In

higher education, such a shift is important not only for pedagogic reasons, but also as an important part of African studies itself.

The three-day Conference will be a forum for participants to interrogate our education system and find out how to strengthen and build confidence in indigenous knowledge, ideologies, philosophies, mechanisms and customs for continued eradication of colonial mindsets. It will endeavor to address human and political orientation, the triggers and factors that sustain the belief that indigenous knowledge, customs and beliefs are of less importance in shaping our destiny and that of the globe.

## Infrastructural Highlights

# Development

The Estates Department is in the division of Planning Administration and Finance, mandated to carry out repairs and maintenance for all buildings in the University, grounds maintenance, design and supervision of new infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure projects in the University of Embu are driven by the need for the University to effectively execute its core mandate, which is to enhance human capacity by providing quality higher education, research and training. All infrastructure projects in the University are also in line with the Strategic Plan of the University in which infrastructure is one of the pillars. In addition, infrastructural projects are in line with Vision 2030 and the National Government's development agenda.

Newly completed projects include the construction of the Administration Block, the New Library, Kitchen extension at the Students' Centre and Sewer Line. Other ongoing projects, set to be completed later in 2018, include eating outlets near the Office Block, Gate A, and Road Works at the New Administration Block. The University also plans to construct a Tuition Block, Auditorium, Athletics Track and 4,000 Capacity Hostels with Associated Bulk infrastructure.

### Eating outlets



This project comprises 3 No. kitchens with a 400m<sup>2</sup> sitting area that can accommodate over 200 students. The eating outlets has reduced congestion in the current students' cafeteria and also reduced the walking distance for the students, since it is located near the Learning Center, New Administration Block, New Library and the Proposed Tuition Block.

### Gate A Road Works at the New Administration Block

The projects are meant to provide access to the New Administration Block and other facilities within the University. Gate A is an ultra-modern gate comprising of two No. Guard Houses, automated gate and an improved security system. The road works consists of paved roads with associated storm water drainage system.

The Estates Department is involved in daily supervision of the Project.



### The Tuition Block



The proposed Tuition Block for the UoEm is a project approximately 19,400m<sup>2</sup> comprising Lecture Halls, offices, Boardrooms and associated Building Service. The building is generally a concrete framed structure infilled with natural stone walling, Glazed Aluminium doors and windows. This state of the building will provide a better learning environment for our continued growth in student's population and more office space for our lecturers which will in turn enable the University in achieving its Vision, Mission and mandate.

### The Proposed Athletics Track

The proposed Athletics Track is meant to ensure that students and staff are able to engage in co-curricular activities. The project is an eight lane standard athletics track in accordance with IAAF requirements. The track will in addition, have facilities for steeple chase, long jump, triple jump, discus throw, hammer throw and shot-put.

In conclusion, all infrastructural projects ongoing at the University will enable the University execute its core mandate since they are in line with the University's Mission, Vision, and Vision 2030 and will help drive the National Government's Development Agenda.



**Mr. David Macharia**  
Coordinator, Sports & Games



## UoEm Teams **Continue** to Shine

**O**n behalf of the Sports and Games Department, members of staff, captains and students athletes, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for a successful sporting season we have had so far.

From the onset of first semester, 2017/2018 academic year, our teams displayed their might in the season opener of Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Central Conference Women Championships with basketball, football, volleyball, chess, scrabble and table tennis finishing in medal positions. Additionally,

the various University teams have participated in many tournaments among them 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of KUSA National Games where our sole representative (basketball women) finished in position 5 nationally.

I take this opportunity to also thank teams that have so far qualified for KUSA National Play-offs to be held later in the year. These teams include hockey women, netball men and football women. Other teams that we are looking forward to qualifying are volleyball men/women, basketball men/women and handball men.

Sports facilities continue to improve with the completion of two basketball courts with construction of a state-of-the-art 400m standard Athletics Track underway. The acquisition of these facilities will go a long way in harnessing students' talents and boost the University capacity to host major sporting competitions in the country.

I urge all teams and athletes to remain focused on quality training, channel their energies to constructive sporting activities and towards academic prowess.



University of Embu Volleyball Team playing against Chuka University during a past tournament at the University Sports Ground.

# ICT Updates

## 1. Implementation of Staff Meeting Dashboard

A web application intended to increase productivity and bring efficiency to team members by enabling effectiveness in the scheduling of meetings held within the University. The application has these features: Staff management, Meeting live chatrooms, Simple Document manager, Custom email notifications, Custom reminders, Paperless agenda and Calendars. An android app for the same meeting dashboard has been made available on the google play store for download. Additionally, a dashboard for the University Council has also been developed.

## 2. Installation of Lab Monitoring Software

**VERALAB** is a computer lab management system, which addresses day-to-day activities in a university computer lab. The software is under piloting stage and when fully implemented we are looking forward to a computer lab facility equipped to enjoy the following; secure lab environment; Increased availability of workstations; efficient lab occupancy management; Better resource planning, Lower software expenses through software metering; higher degree of control; better reporting capabilities and; better lab scheduling

## 3. For Support Services;

On top of the email notifications via the already established help desk system, an SMS function is underway to facilitate much easier notification and response, hence provide quality and effective ICT support services to the University by ensuring that 90% of all ICT service requests are responded to within the first twenty (20)

minutes of service request.

## 4. ERP System Implementation

The University is in the process of fully implementing an ERP system to enable management of the University functionalities of various departments more effectively.

## 5. Monitor Screens and CCTV Cameras

Installation of CCTV cameras and monitoring screen is one of our undergoing projects in the ICT Department so as to protect and enhance information and information assets available by availing visual surveillance to the critical areas.

## 6. Third Computer Lab

In an effort to offer better services, plans are underway to equip the third computer lab to allow the rapidly growing number of students to enjoy the ICT facilities for better learning.

## 7. E-Learning

To improve on the learning experiences, the University has been adopting innovative ways that suit a modern university in a digital revolution. Top among these include the gradual shift from the traditional paper photocopies and dictation as methods of disseminating knowledge, to modern lecture room experience where power-point and multimedia presentations, backed with high resolution digital projection equipment is a norm. E-learning concept is also finding root in the University as a system that allows students to follow courses online, outside the conventional lecture theatre.

**School of Pure & Applied Sciences is offering  
Ph.D, Masters & Bachelors  
programmes in Computer Science & Information Systems  
[www.embuni.ac.ke](http://www.embuni.ac.ke)**



# ADVANCING COMPUTER SCIENCE

# CONGRATULATIONS

on your Promotions

**U**niversity of Embu is committed to the career advancement of its employees as it recognizes the key role this plays in maintaining and retaining a well-motivated human resource. In light of this, the University Management set up a Promotions and Appraisal Committee (PAC) which was appointed on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 and mandated with appraising members of staff who apply for promotions to the various grades.

The Committee embarked on developing the Scheme of

Service and the Promotion Criteria for staff which would guide the appraisal process in a bid to ensure fairness and transparency.

The first batch of applicants applied in the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 period with subsequent applications being received and appraised. The below listed members of staff were appraised and recommended for promotion by PAC and duly ratified by the University of Embu Council. Congratulations for this great achievement to the members of staff.



Mr. Ibrahim Ireri,  
Senior Assistant Procurement  
Officer, Procurement



Mr. Robert Njau,  
Assistant Accountant,  
Finance



Mr. Evans O. Oduor,  
Senior Cleaner Messenger,  
DVC(ARE)



Mr. Peter K. Kinyua,  
Registry Officer  
(HR)



Mr. Abel Nyagemi,  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
(SESS)



Mr. Alex M. Njue,  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
(Timetabling)



Ms. Caroline W. Ndiri,  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
(PC&ISO)



Mr. Alexander Kanyi,  
Senior Administrative Assistant,  
DVC(PAF)



Ms. Eunice Wangari,  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
(SESS)



Mr. Richard Muthakia,  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
(Admissions)



Mr. Joshat N. Njeru,  
Accounts Clerk  
(Stores)



Ms. Christine M. Njue,  
Senior Administrative Assistant,  
PCRC (PAF)



**Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."**

**-Mark Twain**



**Dr. Mark Otieno**  
Dean of Students

# Transition: Tribute to our fallen Comrades



**University of Embu students During a picnic at River Nyamindi.**

The University of Embu fraternity learnt with profound shock of the sudden death by drowning of Mr. Francis Gichira Muthii and Mr. Darren Kipkogei Kandie which occurred on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The two students were first year students in the School of Agriculture. Mr. Muthii was pursuing BSc (Agriculture) while Mr. Kandie was pursuing BSc (Water Resource Management).

The two students met their untimely death in River Nyamindi at the **“Daraja ya Ngai”** (Bridge of God) point in Mwea East Sub County in Kirinyaga County. The deceased students were out on a picnic with four others on a Saturday afternoon when the tragedy occurred at around 4.30 pm.

Tragedy struck as the students had just finished their picnic when Mr. Muthii decided to take a swim in the river, little did he know the force of the river. As soon as he got into the water, it became apparent to his colleagues that he was overwhelmed and was drowning. Mr. Kandie, being a swimmer himself and on realizing his friend was in trouble, jumped into the river to save his friend without second thoughts. Unfortunately, both started sinking. A third student jumped into the water to try and rescue the two but was overwhelmed. He was lucky because he clung to a root and was saved by colleagues as the two were swept away by strong currents. The remaining four students screamed for help but they were not heard by local residents because the spot is located in a deep gorge. The students later contacted the

University for help and that is when a team was mobilized to go to the scene to coordinate rescue efforts.

River Nyamindi is a high volume and velocity river characterized by deep gorges, hard rock and caves and is notorious for claiming many peoples’ lives. The spot where the two students drowned is particularly deep and over shadowed by hanging rocks and thick vegetation. The section of the river is also undergoing development of a mini-hydroelectric power plant by local tea farmers. It took search and rescue teams comprising of the County Government of Kirinyaga, local divers and Red Cross personnel more than two days to retrieve the bodies which were lodged deep in one of the gorges in the river. The first body was recovered on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 shortly before 1:00 pm and the second body, 10 minutes later.

The University held a requiem service for the departed students that was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Isaac Kaberia and Fr. Joseph Kirimi and attended by members of University management, staff and students on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

Mr. Francis Muthii was laid to rest on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Kibingoti Sub-Location in Kirinyaga West Sub-County, Kirinyaga County, while Mr. Darren Kandie was laid to rest on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Kiram Village, Mogotio, Baringo County.

Mr. Kandie will be remembered for being a hero who paid the ultimate price by trying to save his friend. Coming from a semi-arid area, he had a vision of providing solutions to the challenge of water availability in his County after he graduates with a BSc degree in water resource management. Overall, he was highly disciplined and a sociable person as testified by both his primary and high school teachers who attended his burial.

Mr. Muthii will be remembered for being a polite, sociable and highly intelligent student who always came at the top of his class. He was a promising young leader having served as a school captain in high school and sat in school board of management. At the University of Embu, he was popular among his classmates who elected him as their class representative. He viewed his education as a way to secure a good job that would enable him support his uncle who raised him.

The entire University fraternity deeply mourns the loss of the two students and extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to the departed students’ families, friends, classmates and fellow students and all who knew them.

The University advises students to avoid dangerous places to avoid exposure to risks.



# UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU



## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

### Ph.D. Programmes

Ph.D. in Business Administration  
Masters Programmes  
Master of Business Administration

### Degree Programmes

Bachelor of Economics  
Bachelor of Commerce  
Bachelor of Economics and Statistics  
Bachelor of Purchasing & Supplies Management  
Bachelor of Science in Finance

### Diploma Programmes

Diploma in Purchasing & Supplies  
Diploma in Business Management with IT  
Diploma in Project Management

### Certificate Programmes

Certificate in Purchasing & Supplies  
Certificate in Business Management with IT

### Professional Programmes

CPA Part 1, Section 1 & 2  
CPA Part 2, Section 3 & 4  
CPA Part 3, Section 5 & 6  
Accounting Technicians Diploma Level I, II & III

## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL SCIENCES

### Ph.D. Programmes

Ph.D. in Educational Administration & Planning

### Masters Programmes

Master of Education in

- Educational Foundations
- Educational Administration & Planning
- Curriculum Studies

Master of Arts in Linguistics  
Master of Arts in Kiswahili  
Master of Arts in Literature

### Degree Programmes

Bachelor of Education (Science)  
Bachelor of Education (Arts)  
Bachelor Criminology & Security Studies  
Bachelor of Library & Information Science

Intakes are on in  
January, April,  
May, August,  
September and  
December every  
Year

## Content Enhancement Programmes

Content Enhancement in  
Science Subjects  
Art Subjects

## Diploma Programmes

Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)  
Diploma in Records & Archives Management  
Diploma in Library & Information Science  
Diploma in Counseling (Disaster Management & Trauma Counseling)  
Disaster Management and Trauma Counseling  
Diploma in Social Work & Community Development  
Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management  
Diploma in Criminology & Security Management  
Diploma in Corporate Communication  
Diploma in Japanese Language

## Certificate Programmes

Certificate in Japanese Language  
Proficiency Certificate in Japanese Language

## SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

### Ph.D. Programmes

Ph.D. in Crop Protection, Genetics & Plant Breeding, Biotechnology and Plant breeding, Agronomy, Horticulture, Agricultural Resource Management, Land and Water Management, Soil Science, Agroforestry, Agricultural Economics, Management of Agro-ecosystems & Environment

### Masters Programmes

MSc. in Agricultural Resource Management  
MSc. in Agroforestry  
MSc. in Crop Protection  
MSc. in Biotechnology and Plant Breeding  
MSc. in Agronomy  
MSc. in Horticulture  
MSc. In Genetics and Plant Breeding  
MSc. In Agricultural Economics  
MSc. in Soil Science  
MSc. in Range Management  
MSc. in Land & water Management  
MSc. in Management of Agro-ecosystems & Environment

### Degree Programmes

BSc. in Agriculture  
BSc. in Water Resource Management  
BSc. in Management of Agro-Ecosystems & Environment  
BSc. in Horticulture

## ENQUIRIES

For Further Information, Please Contact: OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC, RESEARCH & EXTENSION), UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
P. O Box 6 - 60100, Embu, Tel: 0706-528876, 0737714764. Website: [www.embuni.ac.ke](http://www.embuni.ac.ke), Email: [dvc.are@embuni.ac.ke](mailto:dvc.are@embuni.ac.ke)



# UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF EMBU



BSc. in Agricultural Biotechnology  
BSc. in Animal Science & Production  
BSc. Agricultural Economics  
BSc. in Agriculture Education & Extension  
BSc. in Agribusiness Management  
BSc. in Range Management

## Diploma Programmes

Diploma in Crop Protection  
Diploma in Agribusiness & Entrepreneurship  
Diploma in Agricultural Extension  
Diploma in Water Resources Technology  
Diploma in Horticulture  
Diploma in Seed Technology  
Diploma in Animal Production & Nutrition  
Diploma in Agricultural Biotechnology

## Certificate Courses

Certificate in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship  
Certificate in Agricultural Extension

## PROFICIENCY COURSES

Seed Technology  
Tissue Culture  
Banana Husbandry

## SHORT COURSES

Certificate in Smallholder Irrigation & Water Management (3 Days)  
Certificate in Farm Fertility Management (3 Days)  
Certificate in Agribusiness Management (2 Weeks)  
Certificate in Seed Technology (3 Weeks)

## SCHOOL OF PURE & APPLIED SCIENCES

### Ph.D. Programmes

Ph.D. in Entomology, Plant Ecology, Fisheries, Genetics, Applied Microbiology, Applied Parasitology, Computer Science, Information Systems, Chemistry & Physics.

### Masters Programmes

MSc. in Applied Microbiology  
MSc. in Plant Ecology  
MSc. in Genetics  
MSc. in Entomology  
MSc. in Chemistry  
MSc. in Physics  
MSc. in Hydrobiology  
MSc. in Statistics  
MSc. in Applied Mathematics  
MSc. in Pure Mathematics  
MSc. in Computer Science

## Bachelors Programmes

BSc. in Computer Science  
BSc. in Physics  
BSc. in Analytical Chemistry  
BSc. in Industrial Chemistry  
BSc. in Biochemistry  
BSc. in Statistics  
Bachelor of Science (BSc.)  
BSc. in Biology  
BSc. in Microbiology and Biotechnology  
BSc. in Environmental Conservation & Natural Resource  
BSc. in Environmental Sciences  
BSc. in Information Technology

## Diploma Programmes

Diploma in information Technology  
Diploma in Information Technology  
Diploma in Data Management & Analysis  
Diploma in Analytical Chemistry  
Diploma in Applied Biology  
Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment & Environmental Audits

## Certificate Programmes

Certificate in Computer & Portable Devices Repair & Maintenance  
Certificate in Computer Applications  
Certificate in Analytical Chemistry  
Certificate in Information Technology  
Proficiency Certificate in ICT  
Proficiency Certificate in Data Analysis

## SCHOOL OF NURSING Degree Programmes

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) - Upgrading Programme.  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) - Direct Entry  
Bachelor of Science in Community Health & Development

## Diploma Programmes

Diploma in Community Health

## 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

**All KNUT and KUPPET members and their spouses qualify for a 16% tuition fee waiver for all programmes**

## ENQUIRIES

For Further Information, Please Contact: OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC, RESEARCH & EXTENSION), UNIVERSITY OF EMBU  
P. O Box 6 - 60100, Embu, Tel: 0706-528876, 0737714764. Website: www.embuni.ac.ke, Email: dvc.are@embuni.ac.ke

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Oh God of all creation  
Bless this our land and nation  
Justice be our shield and defender  
May we dwell in unity  
Peace and liberty  
Plenty be found within our borders.

Let one and all arise  
With hearts both strong and true  
Service be our earnest endeavour  
And our homeland of Kenya  
Heritage of splendour  
Firm may we stand to defend.

Let all with one accord  
In common bond united  
Build this our nation together  
And the glory of Kenya  
The fruit of our labour  
Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu  
Ilete baraka kwetu  
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi  
Natukae na undugu  
Amani na uhuru  
Raha tupate na ustawi.

Amkeni ndugu zetu  
Tufanye zote bidii  
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu  
Nchi yetu ya Kenya  
Tunayoipenda  
Tuwe tayari kuilinda.

Natujenge taifa letu  
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu  
Kenya istahili heshima  
Tuungane mikono  
Pamoja kazini  
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani.

## EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ANTHEM

Ee Mungu twaomba ulinde  
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki  
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani  
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

**Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde**  
**Tuwajibike tuimarike**  
**Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu**  
**Idumu Jumuiya yetu.**

Uzalendo pia mshikamano  
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu  
Natulinde Uhuru na Amani  
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Viwandani na hata mashambani  
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini  
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali  
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.

# 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.



## University of Embu Contact details:

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