



THE Flashlight

MAGAZINE



A Publication of the University of Embu

Special
Souvenir
Issue



5th
GRADUATION
CEREMONY

CONGRATULATIONS
Class of
2020



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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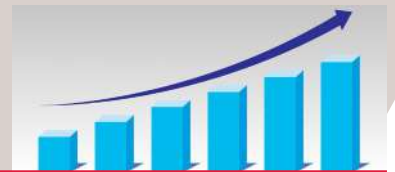
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Editors' Desk

UoEm Quarterly
MAGAZINE

Thank God, you have made it

As we congratulate the 2020 class, it is worth noting that this is the most unique cohort since the inception of the University. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a tangible threat to the completion of their studies and subsequent graduation. However, with concerted efforts made by the University Management, academic staff and the entire University fraternity, their dream has finally come true. The Directorates of Open, Distance & e-Learning (ODEL) and ICT deserve a pat on the back for the well-coordinated e-learning exercise that ensured the success of our Graduation Ceremony.

In the midst of the global crisis, the University managed to continue with its ongoing projects that saw the phased use of the new Tuition Block, acquisition of a new 46-seater bus and development of new academic programmes. All the necessary facilities have also been put up in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, in line with the Ministry of Health protocols.

For the first time, the University of Embu Students Association (UESA) elections and swearing in ceremony for the new office bearers were done virtually, enabling students to participate from home. This was a remarkable milestone for the University since no leadership vacuum has been left by the outgoing comrades. Admission and orientation for first year students was also done virtually. This was a very rare experience for the freshers since they attended classes before setting foot at the University!

The Editorial Team takes this opportunity to remind everyone that coronavirus is real. Let us all take caution lest we become part of the statistics.



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Message by the Chancellor



PROF. PAUL MUSILI WAMBUA, LL.D, MCIArb.
LL.B. (Nbi); Dip. Law(KSL); LL.M. (Lon); MBA (USIU); LL.D, MCIArb. (Ghent)
Chancellor, University of Embu

It is my pleasure to join the University of Embu fraternity during this historic occasion of the 5th Graduation Ceremony. This ceremony is an important landmark in the University's academic calendar as it represents the University's commitment to its vision and core mandate.

The Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2020 is held virtually in response to Government directives on the COVID-19 pandemic. Like in many parts of the world, our graduands are probably disappointed by the fact graduations are being done virtually because of the prevailing pandemic which has denied them the physical pinnacle of excellence and moment of triumph.

Today we are celebrating a special group of young men and women who have worked extra hard and under the most difficult conditions in the past academic year than probably any other group in the history of our universities. I acknowledge the determination of our graduands in their endeavour to pursue excellence to transform themselves, the Country and the entire world through education. I encourage all of you to recognize the tremendous significance of your achievements in making the transition from UoEm student to UoEm graduate, and to allow your success to be a source of pride in the present and confidence for the future. The differentiating hallmarks of UoEm graduates are many, but most importantly, they include self-discipline, resourcefulness and the ability to finish what they started, in spite of the number of challenges they encounter along the way.

My message to all of you is that irrespective of what pursuits you undertake, pursue your passion even though

the path may sometimes seem circuitous. Work hard, have fun, but remain sharply aware of the inevitable and perpetual changes in the world around you and the new opportunities they create. Always remain open to new possibilities. I urge you to uphold values of honesty, integrity, and accountability in your professional development. Remember that in proving yourself equal to the task of fulfilling the degree requirements at the University of Embu, you have made a lasting and powerful statement about your character. Therefore, hold the family values, professional ethos, and refuse to believe that you need to manipulate others in order to get what you want because the world is unfair.

The University has, over the years, continued to scale higher heights as it seeks to find its niche as a global leader and an epicentre of excellence. In so doing, the University has recorded tremendous growth in terms of staff, student numbers and infrastructure. This is clear testimony that the University Management has continued to work diligently to achieve its mandate. I must thank the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi for bringing the Institution to its current level of development. As the Chancellor, I will endeavour to offer the Vice-Chancellor all the support to propel the University to be among the great institutions of higher learning in the world.

I commend the immediate former University Council under the leadership of the Chairperson Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, for the concerted efforts exhibited in steering and managing the affairs of the University in the face of increasing financial challenges. I extend appreciation for the good and harmonious governance practiced by the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the Management. The good work ethics has enabled us to build the institution from scratch to what we are seeing today.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the 2nd University of Embu Council members for their well-deserved appointment, which happened barely a month ago. I warmly welcome you to the governance system of the University of Embu. I am confident that this new Council, led by the Chairperson Dr. Kennedy Okong'o has ushered in new governance and leadership that will take the University to the next level.

I urge the Council, University Management and members of staff to remain committed, dedicated and faithful to our great mission of providing quality university education and training.

Congratulation Class of 2020!!

Message by the Chair of Council



Dr. Kennedy Okong'o, Ph.D
Chairperson

On behalf of the University Council, I am delighted to welcome you all to the 5th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Embu. Graduation is one of life's memorable milestones, a highlight in the University's calendar and an event that I greatly look forward to. This year, myself and my colleagues in Council and Management share our students' disappointment at being unable to get together to celebrate their achievements in the time-honoured way. Although not yet able to share this special occasion in person, I congratulate each and every graduand on completing their studies excellently.

Mere months ago, as the graduands were entering the final weeks of their final year, I suspect most of them thought they had everything pretty much figured out. To some degree, we all did. Then came a global pandemic that changed everything. Thanks to the University Management and members of staff who worked hard to save the year - to take classes virtual and make the graduation possible. I wish to sincerely thank and acknowledge the University Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Senate and all the University stakeholders for their exemplary efforts and

dedication in ensuring a continual provision of quality teaching and learning services to our clients.

The year 2020 has seen the transition from the first University of Embu Council appointed on 1st August, 2017, to the second University Council appointed on 4th November, 2020, in which I am privileged and honoured to serve as the Chairperson. Our great appreciation goes to the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha for appointing us to continue the good work done by the first Council for this great Institution, for the next three years.

I would like to send warm appreciation to the former University Council, led by Dr. Margaret Gikui for the enormous contribution made to the success of the University so far. I wish them God's blessings and pray to God to remember them as He showers His faithful servants with blessings. We greatly appreciate the Government of Kenya for provision of resources which enabled the previous Council to put up the necessary infrastructure. We have a lot of faith that the Government will continue to provide us with the resources to meet our budgetary requirements, and to ensure the University fulfils its mandate.

As a Council, we shall continue to accord the University Management the support they need to execute the University's mandate. Even as we appeal for Government's financial support to the University, we continue to source for partners who will provide support in putting up world-class infrastructure in the University. I wish to give the assurance of the University Council that this expansion, however, shall not compromise the quality of the education being offered in the University. We shall, at all times, protect the University's reputation in training, research and extension, and the quality of graduates it releases to the job market.

To the graduands, as you are released to the job market, we count on you to give the University of Embu a reason to take delight in what you do outside the University. I want to urge you to roll up your sleeves and take advantage of opportunities in the formal and informal labour markets. Aspire to be innovators, entrepreneurs and job creators since the knowledge you are equipped with is sufficient to realize your dreams. The University Council wishes you all the best in your future endeavours. Thank you for making the University of Embu stronger and better.

Congratulations

UoEm Council Members (Effective November 2020)

The second Council for the University of Embu since the award of Charter was appointed via Gazette Notice No: 9008 and 9009 of the Universities Act No: 42 of 2012, dated 6th November, 2020, for a period of three (3) years with effect from 4th November, 2020.



DR. KENNEDY OKONG'O, Ph.D **THE CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL**

Dr. Kennedy Okong'o, the Chairperson of the University of Embu Council holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Information Systems from University of Cape Town, a Master of Science in ICT Policy and a Bachelor of Science in Geomatic Engineering & Geo Information Systems, both from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. In addition, he holds an MBA in Information Systems from University of Nairobi and a Master of Arts in Diplomacy & Foreign Policy from Moi University. He has previously served as a member of Council for Embu University College and South Eastern Kenya University. Dr. Okong'o is currently serving as a Senior Policy Advisor in the 'Partnership for Digital Inclusion, Innovation & Scale' of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the GSMA Mobile for Development Foundation Incorporation.



MR. SAMUEL K. KIIRU

Representing the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury, Mr. Kiiru holds a Master of Arts in Economics, Carleton University, Canada and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from University of Nairobi. He is currently serving as the Director of Planning and Head of Budget Policy, The National Treasury.



MR. JAMES NJERU KABURU

He holds a Master in Business Administration in Strategic Management and a Bachelor in Business Administration, Accounting degrees, both from the United States International University (USIU). In addition he is a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya. Mr. Kaburu served in the first Council.



MS. KAREN BASIYE ITELA

She holds a Joint Master of Environmental Science, Policy and Management degree from Lund University (Sweden), University of Manchester (UK), Central European University (Hungary) and University of the Aegean (Greece) www.mespom.eu and a Bachelor of Environment Science degree from Kenyatta University. Currently at Safaricom, Karen leads the Sustainability agenda for the company. She is passionate about the interplay between People, Purpose and Profits. Karen served in the first Council.



MS. LILIAN N. MUNENE

She holds a Master of Science in International Management from Oxford Brookes University, England and a Bachelor of Sciences (Hons) in Business Information Systems from North London University, England. Lilian is an international management professional with proven linkages, skills and understanding of the research and innovation financing landscape. She has a wealth of experience in governance since 2005. Lilian is currently serving as an Executive Director at Ayenit Alolom Africa



MS. AGNES W. NDWIGA, HSC, CDFA

She holds a Master of Science Degree in Development Finance from Reading University, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Business Administration from the University of Nairobi. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate Degree in Development Studies. She is a financial sector expert with over 20 years' experience. Agnes has been awarded the Head of State Commendation (HSC) by the President of the Republic of Kenya in recognition of her outstanding contribution in financing of SMEs through her work in the Finance industry and public sector board roles. She is currently serving as a General Manager, Corporate and Public sector banking, Equity Group. She is a member of the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees, University of Embu. Ms. Ndwiga previously served in the Embu University College Council.



MR. FELIX N. KILONZI

He holds a Masters degree in Tax and Customs Administration from Moi University, Master of Business Administration in Corporate Management and a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Finance both from KCA University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D in accounting at Moi University, Eldoret. In addition, he is a Certified Public Accountant and a certified secretary. Felix is a member of Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) and full member of Kenya Institute of Management (MKIM). He has a wealth of experience in accountancy and financial management since 2001. He is currently a consultant at IMA Associates, Certified public accountants and also serves as an Academic Supervisor at the Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA).



PROF. DANIEL M. NJIRU, Ph.D

He holds a Doctorate degree in Agroforestry, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA, Master of Science degree in Crop Science/ Horticulture, University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Moi University. He is the Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu and the Secretary to the University Council.

THE 2nd UNIVERSITY OF EMBU COUNCIL IS INAUGURATED



The Chief Administrative Secretary, State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research, Ministry of Education, Ms. Mumina G. Bonaya (seated 4th left) and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (seated 5th left) pose for a group photo with the newly inaugurated 2nd University of Embu Council and Management, on Friday, 27th November, 2020 at the University of Embu.

The 2nd University of Embu Council was appointed effective 4th November, 2020 for a period of three years (4th November, 2020 to 3rd November, 2023) by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education. The appointment follows the expiry of the term of the 1st University of Embu Council on 31st July, 2020 after serving for a period three years.

The Council was inaugurated on Friday, 27th November, 2020 at the University of Embu with Ms. Mumina G. Bonaya, Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS), State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research, Ministry of Education gracing the occasion. She was representing the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education. The CAS noted that

Council is the representative of the government in the University and plays an oversight role of ensuring that the University delivers on its mandate and that University resources are prudently managed and utilized for the benefit of the University and its community.

The Chairperson of Council, Dr. Kennedy Okong'o congratulated the members on their appointment noting that the experience and leadership qualities that the members possess would be very critical in Council, especially in charting the way forward for this young University. Dr. Okong'o emphasized on the need for Council to continue exploring and opening up more revenue streams to supplement the Government funding.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi welcomed members

of Council to the University and congratulated them on their appointment, noting that their credentials gave the confidence that a strong Council was in place to provide the necessary leadership and direction to steer the University to greater heights. He further assured the Council of Management's commitment towards working with them harmoniously.

The CAS, Ms. Mumina G. Bonaya and the Chairperson of Council, Dr. Kennedy Okong'o planted commemorative trees in the presence of Council members and Management. Council members later toured various sections of the University in company of the University Management.



PROF. DANIEL M. NJIRU, Ph.D
Vice-Chancellor

On behalf of the entire University fraternity, and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to welcome you to yet another historic occasion as we celebrate the 5th Graduation Ceremony of the University of Embu. First and foremost, I take this opportunity to congratulate **The Flashlight** Editorial team for yet another edition of **The Flashlight** Magazine.

Graduation Ceremony marks the achievement of our key goal as a university to provide holistic education firmly grounded on quality, relevance and industry needs. This year's Graduation Ceremony is held virtually because of the restrictions of mass gatherings as one of the mitigating measures for the spread of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Ceremony is one of its kind as we celebrate a group of graduands who, even in the ravaging effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, did not falter but kept the spirit of resilience and commitment in pursuit of excellence. It is indeed an auspicious event for you, the graduands; a celebration of your sheer hard work, sweat, and determination. To each of you, I offer my congratulations.

As we celebrate this graduation ceremony, the University is proud of the progress it has made on many fronts. Despite the shift in Government's focus to greater enrollment in TVET institutions than in universities, the University has continued to record steady growth in student enrollment. This year, the University admitted 2,475 first year students during the 2020 Students'

OFFICE OF THE Vice-Chancellor

Intake. This is the highest number of student enrollment in one year since the University's inception. The student population therefore stands at approximately 8,500 in 2020/2021 Academic Year. This is a clear indication that our programmes continue to be attractive and popular among prospective students.

It gives me great pleasure to note that the University has deliberately adopted Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) as a medium of delivery and streamlining the operations in the University. The University conducted both 2020/2021 students' elections and first year students'

and participation in research dissemination forums by members of staff has led to the University's continued improvement in local and global ranking.

As part of the University's growth strategy, the Institution through the various schools, is actively involved in developing market-driven programmes, ranging from certificate to doctorate level in line with stakeholder needs. Consistent with this, the University has partnered with several likeminded institutions by signing Memoranda of Understanding with them, including the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), California Coffee Importers. The University has also entered into a partnership with Gitutho Architects and Planners Limited (GAPL) with the aim of working together to source for funds for the establishment of a green innovation centre at the University.

I want to assure all our stakeholders that the University of Embu shall remain committed to continually provide quality education to keep up with the ever-changing needs of our clients.

To our graduands, other people are the most important part of every successful endeavour. Academic excellence, talent and ideas are helpful, but the single-most important factor leading to eventual success is emotional intelligence, empathy, and your ability to build strong, honest, and trustworthy long-term relationships with others. Be kind, generous and believe in yourself and your goals for the future, but figure out how to craft a vision that benefits everyone around you. I urge you to support your alma mater in different ways. Be our loyal ambassadors.

The University has managed to attract research grants amounting to approximately 41 million in 2019/2020 Academic Year.

orientation exercise virtually. These, together with the adoption of the online teaching and learning platforms reaffirms the Institution's ability to consistently demonstrate its commitment to efficiency and responsiveness to the turbulent operational environment.

The University continues to maintain the tempo in research and innovation by supporting students and staff in making scholarly contribution to society. In 2019/2020 Academic Year, the University awarded 23 scholarships to masters students in various programmes. In addition, the University has collaborated with research partners with an aim of enabling members of staff to continue making scholarly contribution to the society. Along this line, the University has managed to attract research grants amounting to approximately 41 million in 2019/2020 Academic Year. The increased publications

**Congratulations Class of 2020.
God Bless you all!**

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Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Planning, Administration & Finance (PAF)

Sustained Infrastructural Development Activities in the University

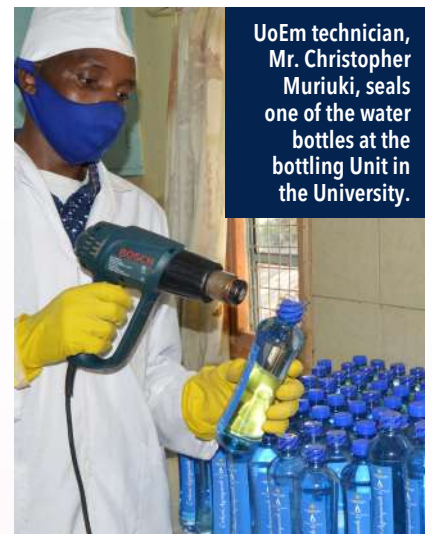
The Division of Planning, Administration and Finance is proud to report tremendous achievements in the FY 2020/2021 in the quest to improve infrastructure in the University.

The University recognizes the need for having modern and adequate Infrastructure taking into account, the legal and statutory requirement for provision of quality university education. To realise this, the University has made progress in construction of Ultra-Modern Tuition Block with a sitting capacity of 6,000 for our students. The project is estimated to be completed by FY 2021/2022.

Despite the economic instability being experienced across the globe due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University is committed to developing income generating projects that will ensure its sustainability. This has been achieved by establishing various products such as; Yoghurt, Animal feeds, Bottled drinking water, Cleaning solutions and Hand Sanitizers. These products are in the final stages of certification

by the Kenya Bureau of Standard (KEBS) after which they will be commercialized.

Further, the University has established a modern fish greenhouse that at full capacity will produce 2.025 tonnes of Tilapia per year. Currently six (6) ponds have been stocked with three thousand (3000) fingerlings. These fingerlings are expected to be ready for sale after six (6) months. The Division is also focused on the timely implementation of the University's Strategic Plan 2018-2028, to ensure the University realises its plans for effective service delivery.



UoEm technician, Mr. Christopher Muriuki, seals one of the water bottles at the bottling Unit in the University.



UoEm Farm Manager, Mr. Bernard Kitur inspects the water quality in the newly constructed fish pond under green-house system technology.



The University's newly furnished auditorium located in the upcoming Tuition Block.

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Academics, Research and Extension (ARE)

Quality **Education** is our **Strength**



Graduands during the 4th Graduation Ceremony held on 20th September, 2019 at the University's Graduation Pavillion.

PROF. KIPLAGAT KOTUT, Ph.D
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
(Academics, Research & Extension)

The closure of the University as a containment measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 was unprecedented and represented the most significant interruption in the academic calendar of the University since its establishment. With the aim of maintaining its focus on achieving scholarly excellence, the University immediately reviewed its strategies in order to minimize the interruption occasioned by the pandemic. A business continuity plan was thoughtfully crafted to provide for various options of ensuring that the interruption of teaching and learning was kept to a minimum. This included the establishment of the Directorate

of Open and Distance Learning to coordinate the implementation of online teaching. The plan also made provisions for the continuation of research and community service during the containment period.

To ensure that the academic calendar was not interrupted, teaching and learning was shifted online. Owing to the practical nature of most of the programmes offered at the University, Senate approved a blended teaching and learning approach. Under this approach, the theoretical part of the course was covered through a variety of online approaches that included the use of the University web conferencing platform, while the practical component was set aside

to be covered through face-to-face sessions at a later date.

For better learner involvement, emphasis was placed on the development of interactive course materials to be posted online and measures to mitigate the common challenge of network unreliability were implemented, including sharing teaching schedules in advance to allow for adequate preparation and archiving online lectures for later review by the students. The Directorate of Academic Quality Assurance closely monitored the quality of teaching and learning and regularly conducted quality audits as per the quality assurance policy of the University and in line with

Continued to pg **10**

Quality Education is our Strength *Cont...*



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi makes his opening remarks during the opening of the 5th Postgraduate Training workshop held on 26th November, 2020 at the University computer lab

Continued from pg **9**

the requirements of Commission for University Education. Using this approach, the University was able to complete semester two of 2019/2020 academic year workload successfully and is now making good progress with Semester one 2020/2021 Academic Year. As a result, the students who were in their final semester when the pandemic struck have been able to complete their studies and are expected to graduate in December this year.

The University has also continued to develop new market-oriented programmes as well as carry out a review of existing programmes in line with the requirements of the market and technological changes. Between September and November 2019, the University Senate considered and approved five (5) new programmes which are presently under review by the Commission for University Education.

In addition, the University has continued in its quest for

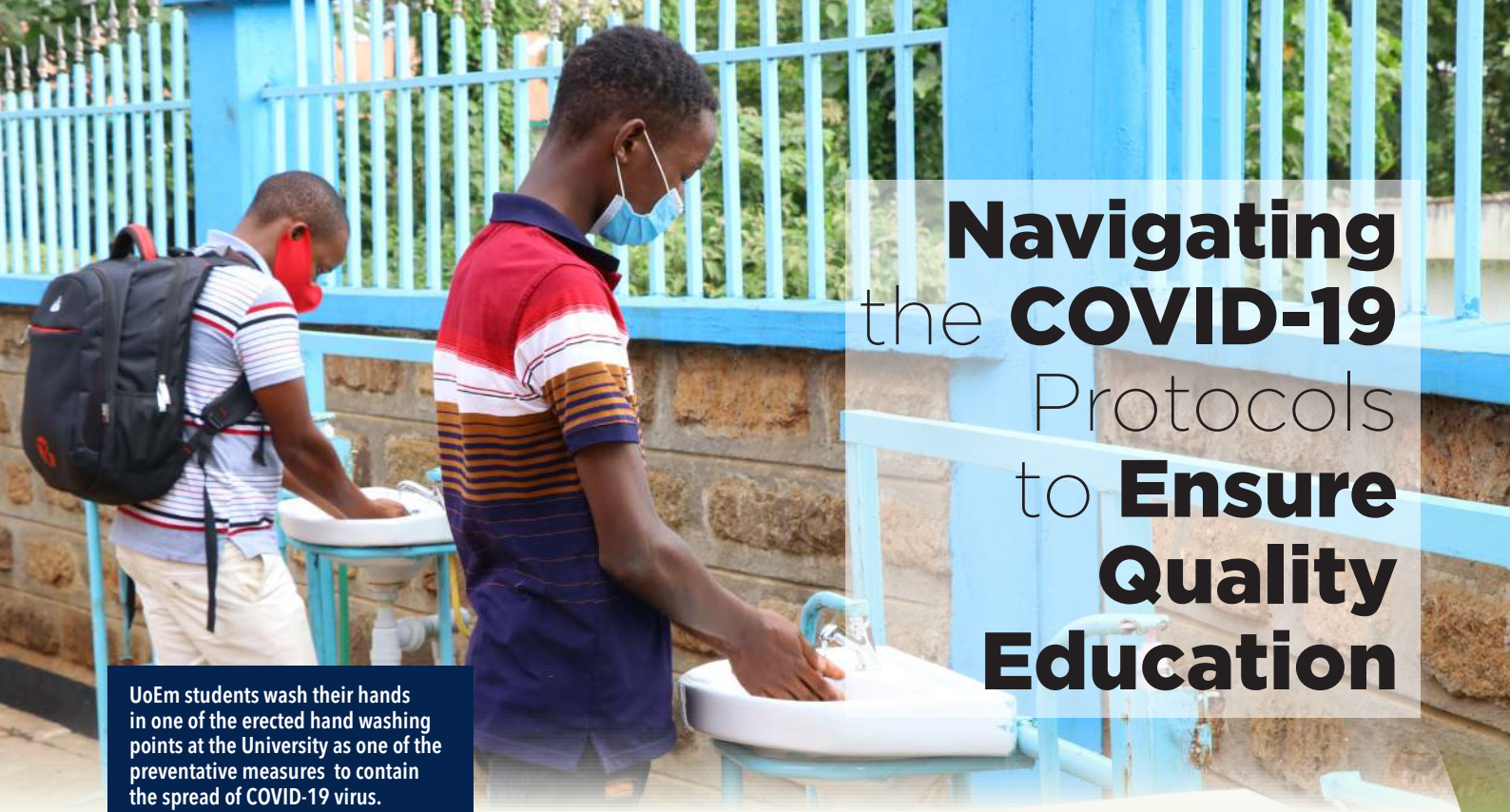
establishment of new schools in order to cater for customer needs as well as the human capital needed to support the Government's development agenda. Currently, the University, in collaboration with Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital, among other partners, is on course to establish the School of Medicine. Good progress has also been made in the establishment of the School of Engineering. Following an increased demand for Diploma and Certificate Programmes, the University is on course towards the establishment of a Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institute at the University, to manage these programmes.

A key focus of the learning experiences of students at the University is to develop an all-round student with both the soft and hard skills necessary for effective service delivery at the workplace. The success of the University graduates in the world of work has resulted in a progressive increase in student enrollment at the

University. During the last Academic Year, a record of 1,937 students enrolled for various degree, diploma and certificate programmes offered at the University. This represented a 41% increase in student numbers, from a total number of 1,372 registered in the previous Academic Year. Despite the challenges faced this year, the University is poised to break that record by enrolling over 2,000 students.

The Academics, Research and Extension Division appreciates the role played by students, staff and the University stakeholders in ensuring that the University remains buoyant despite the challenges facing the higher education sector in Kenya.

We invite our partners and other members of the society to continue supporting the University to realize its mission and vision and in the process, meet the expectations of the community through provision of service to humanity.



Navigating the COVID-19 Protocols to Ensure Quality Education

UoEm students wash their hands in one of the erected hand washing points at the University as one of the preventative measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 virus.

Following the National government's directive on closure of all learning institutions after the first case of COVID-19 was reported in Kenya on 12th March 2020, the University of Embu closed its doors on 20th March, 2020. Thereafter, a committee was formed to deliberate and implement the measures that would enable safe reopening of the University. With a focus on achieving scholarly excellence, we embarked on putting in place the necessary measures required for prevention of the spread of the pandemic among the University community, as well as minimizing the interruption of our programmes. The University Senate approved a blended teaching and learning approach whereby theoretical part of our courses was covered through a variety of online approaches that included use of the University and KENET web conferencing platforms, while the practical component was covered through face-to-face sessions. For the online component of the course, emphasis was laid on the development of interactive course materials posted on the University Moodle Platform. To mitigate the challenge of fluctuations in the quality of network connection, the University increased internet bandwidth and

adopted a culture of archiving online lectures for later review by the students.

Covid-19 Protocols

During preparations for safe reopening of the University, the Chief Administrative Secretary, State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research in the Ministry of Education, Ms. Mumina Bonaya engaged the Management in a very informative discussion that would ensure a holistic and sustainable approach towards curbing the spread of COVID-19 infections. Among the key strategies put in place at the University to ensure the safety of students, staff and other stakeholders included; installation of sanitizers and hand washing facilities in strategic places and sensitization of University community. The University also developed comprehensive content on COVID-19 that was shared with students and staff. Counselling and contact tracing mechanisms were also put in place in case of an occurrence.

In order to ensure social distancing, the University minimised physical contacts by expanding office spaces, marking high human traffic areas, adopting virtual meetings and ensuring minimised contact between

students during lectures, in the hostels, dining hall and other facilities. Guidelines on COVID-19 protocols within the University were strategically displayed, and regular temperature checks done at various entry points. Further, entry to the University was denied to anyone without a properly worn mask.

Despite enforcement of the above measures, we were aware that, some masks may not offer 100% guaranteed protection. To this effect, the University installed glass shields in key offices that are exposed to high human traffic and issued face shields to officers working in highly sensitive areas like the catering department, health unit, and accommodation among others. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were put in place to ensure compliance to the laid down protocols.

The University Management appreciates the role played by students, staff and our stakeholders in ensuring that we remain buoyant despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. Together, we shall realize our mission and vision in order to meet and exceed the expectations of our customers as we offer service to humanity.

Prof. Romano Mwirichia explaining to Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, the Principal Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, the procedure for isolating and screening bacteria for useful metabolites. One of the key research areas at the University of Embu is on environmental microbiology with an objective of coming up with potential alternatives to synthetic pest and disease control agents.



University Hosts PS, University Ed. & Research Ministry of Education

reopening following the temporary closure of learning institution in the country, as a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. He also inspected the progress of the ongoing government-funded projects at the University.

In his remarks, the PS commended the University for its various achievements and especially its level of COVID-19 containment preparedness for the University reopening. He said the tour was geared towards a discussion on phased resumption of face-to-face learning in universities as directed by the Ministry of Education. He noted that the University had made very good progress he implementing the compliance protocols issued by the Ministry of Health on COVID-19.

On the second occasion, the PS was accompanied by the National Research Fund (NRF) Kenya CEO, Dr. Jemima Onsare when they visited the University on the 16th October 2020 to familiarize themselves with the progress of the National Research Fund-Kenya funded projects in the Eastern Region. The University of Embu is currently hosting 5 multidisciplinary/multi-institutional projects. During the visit, Amb. Nabukwesi expressed the Government's commitment to supporting researchers by encouraging, recognizing and funding them so that they can continue impacting the society.

"The Government will explore the possibility of increasing the allocation for research to about 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," Amb. Nabukwesi said.



Prof. Mwirichia takes the PS and National Research Fund (NRF) Kenya CEO, Dr. Jemima Onsare through some of the NRF funded projects at the University on 16th October, 2020.

The University of Embu got a rare chance to host the Principal Secretary of the State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi on two different occasions. On the first occasion, the PS toured the University on Tuesday, 6th October, 2020 to gauge the University's preparedness towards face-to-face



UoEm Head of Library and Information Services Mr. James Njue takes the CAS, State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research, Ministry of Education, Ms. Mumina Bonaya through the COVID-19 containment measures the Library has put in place in preparation for reopening, when she visited the University on 21st July, 2020.

Chief Administrative Secretary, Visits the University

The University of Embu got a rare chance to host the Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS), State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research, Ministry of Education, Ms. Mumina Gallo Bonaya. The CAS was on a tour of the University to gauge its preparedness towards face-to-face reopening following the temporary closure of learning institutions as a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The CAS was accompanied by Deputy Director, University Education, Mr. Johnson Nanjakululu.

In her remarks the CAS stated that her visit was geared towards a discussion on resumption of face-to-face learning in universities as opposed to inspection and fault finding. She added that the Ministry of Education would continue to give guidelines on the reopening

procedures.

"The welfare and safety of the students, quality of education being offered at the University and equity of resources during these unprecedented time are paramount," she emphasized. She commended the University for the notable preparations undertaken in ensuring the government directives were being followed. She was particularly impressed by the improvised foot operated sanitizer dispensers the University had installed at strategic locations. She toured the Prof. George Magoha Library and some classrooms accompanied by the Management. She offered more insights on what more could be done to ensure that phased reopening of the University was a success.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, pointed out that the University was working closely with the health experts and other relevant

authorities to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic within our environment. He said that an ad-hoc emergency response team had been established to oversee the University's preventive efforts against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. He also said that the institution had adopted ICT as the medium of delivery and to ensure continuity of the University operations. He stressed that classes were going on online.

The VC emphasized that the University would continue to navigate the unprecedented times and innovate new strategies to deal with the new normal. In his closing remarks the VC appealed to the Ministry of Education, for funding of the Science Lab Project given that 60% of the courses offered at the University were science-based and the available laboratories were not adequate to serve the student population.



The University of Embu Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua presents the Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration Degree Certificate to Dr. Karambu Kiende Gatimbu, during the 4th Graduation Ceremony, held on 20th September, 2019. Looking on is Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, the immediate former Chairperson of Council, University of Embu.

4th Graduation Ceremony Held

It was a day of celebration not only for the graduating students but also for their parents, relatives and the community as the University of Embu held its fourth graduation ceremony on 20th September 2019. The colourful event saw a total of 1,033 students conferred with various degrees & awarded certificates and diplomas. The Graduation Ceremony was historical in that since the University got chartered, its first Ph.D. students were graduating.

The jubilant students had just marked a great milestone in their academic life. Even from a distance, one could tell the level of excitement among the graduands as they proudly walked around wearing their gowns, taking numerous photos, delight and fulfilment written all over their faces. Truly, the time, effort and commitment to their studies had finally paid off.

Various scintillating pieces of entertainment had been prepared by enthusiastic UoEm students and groups from the community around the University. The audience, which comprised students, parents, staff and other major stakeholders was thoroughly entertained.

Among those who graced the occasion, was the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi. He commended the University for continuing to uphold and

stand by its core values, a factor that had contributed to its tremendous population growth. The Speaker advised the graduands to aim at being job creators rather than job seekers.

"The knowledge and skills that you have acquired at the University have prepared you enough to be successful job creators. Do not just look for white collar jobs, but also aim at being employers," he advised.

The Speaker further expressed the commitment of the National Assembly in fully supporting growing universities in terms of funding.

While presiding over the ceremony, the University of Embu Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua commended the graduands, and urged them to exercise high levels of integrity in their future workplaces. Prof. Wambua further advised the graduands to use the skills that they had acquired at the University to earn a living and not to just wait for white collar jobs.

"Ethics and integrity are becoming increasingly important to employers and society as a whole, in addition to competence and qualifications. Graduates and prospective employees who exhibit such values are the most sought after," the Chancellor said.



UoEm academic staff lead the Chancellor's procession to the Graduation Pavilion during the University's 4th Graduation ceremony held on 20th September, 2019.

4th Graduation Ceremony Held

Continued from pg 14

In his speech, the University of Embu Vice-Chancellor Prof Daniel Mugendi highlighted the University's numerous achievements over the years. He revealed that the University was accredited by the Council of Legal Education to offer Bachelor of Laws programme. He commended the entire University fraternity for their devoted contribution in helping the Institution soar to great heights. *"This has led to a steady growth in student numbers, despite the increased competition for students*

among universities and other tertiary institutions," the VC stated.

A special moment during the graduation ceremony was the presentation of the annual Chancellor's Award for Excellence, which highlighted the University's commitment towards providing a holistic education and moulding all-round students. The award is given to the best graduating student. The recipient of the award, Mr. Mutinda Mwangela, attained exemplary academic performance and also had

an impeccable disciplinary record. Mutinda, a Bachelor of Education graduand attained a First Class Honours Degree. As a result of this accomplishment, he was also awarded a full scholarship for a Master's Degree at the University of Embu.

The University Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua presents to Bachelor of Education graduand, Mr. Mutinda Mwangela the annual Chancellor's Award for Excellence. He attained a First Class Honours Degree. Looking on (left) is UoEm VC, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and the immediate former Council Chairperson, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi (Second right).





DR. KENNEDY OCHARO, Ph.D
Dean,
School of Business & Economics

We Mean Business!



School of Business and Economics Masters graduands during the 4th Graduation Ceremony held on 20th September, 2019 at the University's Graduation Pavilion.

The School of Business and Economics has continued to grow its programmes. From the one undergraduate programme (*Bachelor of Commerce*) and two postgraduate programmes (*Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Philosophy in Business and Administration*) in 2014, the School now boasts of six (6) undergraduate programmes. These are Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Economics and Statistics, Bachelor of Economics and Finance, Bachelor of Science in Finance and Bachelor of Purchasing and Supply Management. In addition to the previous two (2) postgraduate programmes, the School has developed three more programmes: Master of Economics,

Master of Science in Project Planning and Management and Ph.D in Project Planning and Management, to bring the total postgraduate programmes to five. The Master of Economics programme has already admitted the first batch of students.

The School also offers Diploma, Certificate and Professional courses relevant to the job market. The Diploma programmes already in place include: Diploma in Project Planning, Diploma in Purchasing and Supplies and Diploma in Business Management with IT. The Certificate courses offered include Certificate in Purchasing and Supplies and Certificate in Business Management with IT. The School, in partnership with KASNEB is also to offer CPA courses.

In the area of linkages, the School has partnered with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Kenya Institute of Business Training (KIBT), and Taifa SACCO in Nyeri among others. The School also trains entrepreneurs from Embu in the following areas: book-keeping and taxation, detection of business failure and how to mitigate against this and the managerial skills required to run a business. In addition, the School will be looking forward to sensitizing these entrepreneurs on interventions and strategies for Post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Congratulations Class of 2020!



DR. SAMUEL NDIRANGU, Ph.D
Dean,
School of Agriculture

Agriculture for **Food Security**

The School of Agriculture aims at producing highly trained graduates in various disciplines to meet the growing demand for food security, as well as offering solutions to challenges facing farmers in the agricultural sector. It recognizes the fact that farming and natural resource utilization are based on science and technology that rely heavily on proper management of environmental resources. To achieve this, the School is committed to offering practical based learning that will enable learners contribute to sustainable development. The three core Departments that form the School of Agriculture are: Agricultural Resource Management (ARM), Agricultural Economics and Extension (AEE), and Land and Water Management (LWM). The School is cognizant of the fact that for the University to develop into

a centre of excellence for learning and research in agriculture and farming systems within and outside Kenya, students must be empowered and enabled through comprehensive and integrated programmes to create wealth and eradicate poverty. Even with COVID-19 pandemic posing serious challenges, we have been able to achieve a lot of milestones in the past year including: new programmes in Agricultural Biotechnology and Environmental Science; Training of farmers on Farm Management to Promote Food Security and Nutrition (Small Holder Productivity), Signing MoUs with Ndaroini Coffee Growers PLC and the National Cereals and Produce Board respectively. The School has also won several grants courtesy of our diligent lecturers.

Goodwill message to our graduating class of 2020
Congratulations to you and your

families. There is nothing more beautiful than to wake up every day holding in your hand the full measure of your hard work and success. Embrace your new identity and tell your story to the world. A story to empower and a story embodied in truth, in humanity. Speak your truth. Even though it is hard to tell ourselves the truth about our failures, our fragility, and our uncertainties, yet when we do, we are better off. As you go out there bend towards truth, think of people as people, seize opportunities and take what's yours, because it will not be handed to you freely! Demand and create equal opportunities for yourself. May blessings be upon you every day!

Congratulations!





DR. CIRIAKA GITONGA, Ph.D
Dean, School of Education &
Social Sciences



School of Education and Social Sciences graduands during the 4th Graduation Ceremony held on 20th September, 2019 at the University's Graduation Pavillion.

Congratulations Class of 2020 Teachers

I write this to share my hearty congratulations on the completion of the four-year journey. Despite the global pandemic, the transition into online learning, and completing the semesters, you remained persistence. You leave behind memories of resilience and fortitude. Every destination ushers in a new beginning. We are confident you are empowered and equipped to tackle life's assignments in your professional and social lives.

As you get out into the new world, ravaged by COVID-19, we are confident that you will surmount the

challenges posed by the pandemic and crumbling world economies. We are convinced that you will innovatively face the difficult period ahead with patience and courage. Perhaps, this period has taught us that the world changes relatively fast, and we must be ready to evolve.

I acknowledge the incredible losses that you and your families have endured during this global pandemic. One is the loss of glamorous graduation ceremony, denying us the opportunity to share our joy physically the African way. Nevertheless, I am proud of you, and I am looking forward to connecting with you our alumni. As

you celebrate from a distance, we are proud of you.

I encourage you to go out there to educate and lead as changemakers powered by your industrious nature. You are our ambassadors; keep our light shining. On behalf of the School of Education and Social Sciences fraternity, I wish you good tidings, walk and talk in confidence, knowing that God gave you dominion over the earth.

Go and prosper:
Touch hearts and change
the world



DR. MILLIEN KAWIRA, Ph.D
Dean,
School of Pure & Applied Sciences



UoEm students in a practical session in a Chemistry Laboratory.

Well Done SPAS Graduates, Your Journey Begins Now

Today, we are excited to hand you over to the professional spheres because we are confident that you are going to be agents of positive change in our society as you put into use the knowledge, skills and experience gained through training from our esteemed University. You have therefore begun a journey that will require a lot of discipline and resilience in the duties and tasks ahead of you. We envisage that the credentials acquired and your faith in God will make your journey more pleasurable.

As you join various fields, remember to enhance your studies by joining the various Master's and PhD programmes in the School of Pure and Applied Sciences. Our programmes are regularly reviewed to reflect the

industry needs and we are confident that they add value to the endeavours you will choose to undertake. The University is committed to providing quality global education with local applications and creation of wealth at individual level and for collective impact on the community and on the world.

Your achievement has demonstrated beyond any doubt that you can challenge talent boundaries, break out and redefine the same. In this respect, we encourage you to be committed to social change within the skills and training acquired and utilize connectivity to change the society for better since you are logically part of the global village. The engagement with facts, opinions and interpretation and the moment you take to reflect on how the world has changed around

you is the key to the next level of experiences.

As I look at you, I see both great accomplishment and great hope for our nation. By your success, you have challenged, lived and emboldened each one of us to live up to the promise of this great University and to your promise. You are great incubators of intellectual and social progress, extraordinary individuals, accomplished graduates and mature thinkers who from this day make the progress their imperative endeavor. Create your space to promote equity and opportunity, eradicate systematic lack of communal values and ensure corruption free systems in the society.

**Congratulations
the class of 2020**



DR. JOHANA K. GATHONGO, Ph.D
Ag. Dean, School of Law

We Now Offer Legal Studies

Take this opportunity to welcome you to the newest School at the University of Embu. The School of Law has witnessed steady growth in the number of teaching staff and students' population. The inaugural class of 51 students joined us in September 2019, and this year we are proud to have welcomed 94 new students in September 2020.

The Bachelor of Laws aims to equip learners with relevant skills and knowledge that meet the individual and professional needs in legal

education and related areas to be able to provide legal services in the Country and globally in order to stir and stimulate growth.

The programme curriculum, syllabuses and other relevant documentation were evaluated by the Council for Legal Education (CLE). Subsequently, CLE licensed the University of Embu as a Legal Education Provider of Bachelor of Laws Degree Programme on 16th April, 2019.

We strive to incorporate practical

sessions for the students like mooted competitions. Our recent inter school competition between the Bachelor of Law and the Bachelor of Criminology & Security Studies students had the theme: The Place of Consent in Spousal/Marital Rape in Kenya and was very successful.

The School of Law website is <http://law.embuni.ac.ke/> where you can get to learn more about us and our email is sol@embuni.ac.ke for any inquiries.

“The University of Embu-The Place To Be” Passion, Dreams. Aspirations. Enthusiasm.



Munene Njoroje J.
Bachelors of Laws (LLB)

The University of Embu, has provided an ideal platform where students in the higher learning can effectively and comprehensively advance their studies. Impacting and changing lives of many. Providing a light and giving bright futures.

Located approximately 4 kilometers from Embu town, a scenic view of Mt. Kenya and a serene environment for learning. The haven created by the mother nature of blossoming greenland and well-kept environment says it all.

Over a period of time, I have listened to people giving their amazing stories of

their university life and their experiences. The dynamics and the transitioning from high school to campus life. I must say that the enthusiasm and eagerness to join campus was quite at the optimum percentage. The University of Embu opened the doors and welcomed us warmly. The pride in it, you know what I mean, don't you? The naive smiley faces could not hide the joy and happiness, they said it all.

In deed it was and is the place to be! The University with the state of art facilities with infrastructural advancements popping up as times and seasons go by. The school administration and management have had a great hand in this in ensuring they provide necessary resources for learning. With the introduction of a new school, the School of Law, which I subscribe to, and making a hallmark of the pioneer class, one that will go down in history. It is incredibly important to take note of the administration's input in ensuring academic welfare as well as co-curricular are looked into. I am tempted to quote

Article 10 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, 2010, "the national values and principles of governance include: good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability."

One of the most memorable moments in the University was taking part in a first ever Moot Court Competition. Where a practical approach, free from the classroom world and skills are applied. The point of understanding that we ought to fight for justice and change the narrative, being a voice to the voiceless. Essentially, the University of Embu, has taught me a lot already running from time management (where bells and teacher on duty never exists), financial management, relating with diverse persons and understanding the purpose and the whys in life. It is a platform of growth and acquiring knowledge which in the University of Embu, we say it transforms. Life has been good and I plan to make the most out of it.

Thank you.
God bless the University of Embu!

We train Professionals for the Health Sector



DR. KENNEDY OCHARO
Ag. Dean,
School of Nursing



A section of School of Nursing Students, during a practical session in the Nursing Skills Laboratory.

The School of Nursing has continued to grow since its inception in 2016. The student population has grown from 16 to more than 200. The school offers both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes with flexible modes of study to cater for students across different spans of life. There are two undergraduate programmes which are offered under the full time mode of study for those who have just graduated from high school. These are the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Direct entry) and the Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Development.

There is also a programme that is tailored for students who are already in service and would wish to continue with their studies as they practice. This programme is the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Upgrading) which is offered under the part

time intensive mode of study. The School has recently developed a new postgraduate programme, which is; Master of Science in Public Health, whose intake is open twice per year for those who are interested in pursuing their studies in public health. For our graduates who would wish to pursue a Masters degree in Nursing, the opportunity is coming very soon. The School is currently embracing technology through blended learning and looks forward to offering some of its programmes under the open and distance mode of study.

Our graduates are adequately trained in both theory and practice. They are indexed and registered with the Nursing Council of Kenya to ensure that they meet the stipulated standards, and can compete effectively in the job market upon graduation.

The School also provides an opportunity for students who would wish to pursue a diploma in Community Health and Development. Upcoming programmes in the School include Bachelor of Science in Health Records and Bachelor of Science in Clinical Nutrition.

The School has continued to partner with different stakeholders both in the public and private practice in order to ensure that our graduates have experiences from both worlds during their training with us. These students are trained to offer services in all levels of care that are available in the country starting with the most basic which is the community.

The School is committed to the success of its graduates and looks forward to be a leading institution in the training of graduates who will offer quality service to humanity upon their graduation.



Dr. David M. Mugo, Ph.D
Chairman, Mathematics,
Computing & Information
Technology Department

Staying Abreast in a Dynamic IT Space

Take this opportunity to welcome you to one of the fastest growing Academic Departments in the University of Embu, which is releasing yet another batch of highly trained and qualified graduates to the market this year. The Department of MCIT has continued to grow in leaps and bounds. The Department of Mathematics, Computing and Information Technology (MCIT) was established in 2016, following the splitting of Physical Sciences. The Department was then offering two undergraduate programmes (BSc in Statistics and BSc in Computer Science) with four full time lecturers. Since then, the Department has registered a progressive growth in student numbers and programmes offered, which has been made possible by an increase in dedicated and highly committed staff members. Presently, the Department offers the following courses with more than 1,200 students:

Undergraduate Programmes

1. BSc. in Computer Science
2. BSc. in Information Technology
3. BSc. in Statistics
4. BSc in Mathematics with Computing
5. Bachelor of Business Information Technology
6. Diploma in Information Technology
7. Diploma in Data Management and Analysis
8. Certificate in Information Technology
9. Certificate in Computer & Portable Devices Repair & Maintenance
10. Proficiency Certificate in ICT

Postgraduate Programmes

1. Ph.D in Computer Science
2. MSc in Information Technology
3. MSc. in Statistics
4. MSc. in Applied Mathematics
5. MSc. in Pure Mathematics
6. MSc. in Computer Science

Proposed Programmes

1. BSc in Financial Mathematics
2. BSc in Software Engineering
3. BSc in Data Science
4. Bachelor of Science in Security and Forensics degree
5. BSc in Data Communications and Networking
6. BSc in Actuarial Science
7. Ph.D in Applied Mathematics
8. Ph.D in Statistics
9. Ph.D in Pure Mathematics
10. Ph.D in Information Sciences

Further, the Department is offering Computing Courses as service units to over 1500 students spread across various teaching Departments within the University. In addition, more than 2000 students in the programmes under the Schools of Agriculture, Pure & Applied Sciences, Education and Social Sciences and Business & Economics are undertaking mathematics units serviced by the Department.

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 in their lifelong learning. Our graduates will fit in 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. Being application oriented courses, we strive to incorporate practical sessions and multiple teaching case studies in the learning. The University has also invested heavily in modern 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.

The University plans to expand the existing-infrastructure in the Department to include a Computer Hardware Laboratory and a specialized modern Computer Laboratory for Computing & Information Technology. The Department is also exploring linkages and collaborations with industrial partners to bridge the existing gap between the delivered curricula and the industrial practices. At the moment, the Department is collaborating with Zalego Academy Institute, and IBM East Africa to expose students to modern practical skills in emerging technologies such as: virtual reality and augmented reality, network function virtualization (NFV), cloud computing, mobile application development, Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Optical Computing, Blockchain Development, Speech Recognition and wearable computers among others. Through these collaborations, we shall continue offering quality and market-driven training to our students, making them the most sought after both in the local as well as the international job market. I invite all parents to bring their sons and daughters to the Department, and we shall zealously walk with them to transform them into formidable world changers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Competency-Based Education – the way to go



Dr. Zachary Njagi
Co-ordinator, Certificate & Diploma Programmes



UoEm machinery technician, Mr. Eric Chirchir demonstrates uses of farm machinery to students from St. Peter's Gatituri Secondary School during an education tour at the University on 18th October, 2019.

Teaching and learning require common goals, shared responsibility and accountability between instructors and learners in an environment that maximizes on learning achievement. Effective learning is demonstrable by lasting capabilities applied to different situations in life. While traditionalist approach to learning conceptualizes learning as theoretical recall of knowledge, current trends shift to competence. Therefore, Competency-Based Education (CBE) derives from three interrelated ingredients of competencies;

- i. Knowledge component (understanding)
- ii. Behavioral component (overt behavioral repertoire)
- iii. Value component (values, beliefs and attitudes)

A competent person possesses a combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours required for effective performance of a task or activity. Given that a teacher confers success to learners, the attributes of competency-based teaching reveal a shared responsibility with the learner.

These include;

- i. Understanding how learners learn
- ii. Matching principles of learning and teaching
- iii. Facilitating, rather than control learning
- iv. Modelling humility, critical thinking, respect, competency and caring
- v. Supporting acquisition of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours in all learning domains
- vi. Promoting and expecting learner accountability for learning
- vii. Providing timely, specific feedback on learner progress beginning with learner self-assessment
- viii. Individualizing learning experiences
- ix. Increasing complexity of performance as the learner progresses

The recent educational reforms in Kenya seek to address these global requirements. To streamline the operations of different education subsectors, various Acts of Parliament

have been enacted. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Act of 2013 and the Kenya National Qualification Framework Act of 2014 are pertinent to these reforms as perfect examples as well as The Universities' Act of 2012 and the Basic Education Act of 2013. These reforms have been synchronized with the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

In line with the Ministry of Education vision to offer globally competitive education, research and innovation system for sustainable development, the University of Embu is in the process of establishing a TVET Institute. The Institute is envisaged to help attain Vision 2030 by producing necessary skilled workforce for the Country. The Institute's mission is to provide, promote and coordinate, training and research while applying Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). As such, Diploma and Certificate programmes will be offered under the umbrella of the Institute; thus, the students will have a unique identity within the University; while the University's focus will be graduate programmes and research.

The Institute will collaborate and work together with regulatory and professional bodies to ensure that quality is maintained at all levels. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA), will regulate and coordinate training in the Institute through licensing, registration and accreditation of programmes. In addition, Technical and Vocational Education and Training Curriculum Development, Assessment and Certification Council (TVET CDACC), will provide curricula for the training, examination, assessment and competence certification for the institute. Other examining bodies such as Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC), Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Examinations Board (KASNEB), will also be involved in examining the programmes at the Institute. The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) will be involved in promoting the highest standards in the quality and efficiency of Industrial Training in the Institute.



MR. JAMES NJUE
Head,
Library and Information Services



Library Conducts Information Literacy and Capacity Building Sessions

University of Embu recently employed Turnitin (Tii) software detection tools to promote quality of research work. Turnitin is hosted on the World-Wide Web and operates from multiple data centres, checking similarity indexes within student repositories, the internet and archived materials; periodicals; journals and publications. The launch of Tii was marked by training of 20 supervisors of postgraduate students. The main emphasis of lecturer (instructor) training was not to focus on the actual report generation; rather to focus on the interpretation of the generated report. Lecturers were trained to set up a "class" within the Tii system, with specific criteria related to the generation of a similarity index report.

For example, a lecturer can decide whether bibliographic material, small matches and quoted material should be selected or deselected for submission purposes. Over 200 postgraduate students were also trained on how to use Turnitin. Feedback from the training was that allowing students to submit drafts and view their originality reports reduces anxiety in students, helping them to correct their mistakes or omissions and feel better that they are on a level playing field with their peers.

From October 21st - 25th the University Library celebrated Open Access (OA) week 2019, an international event aimed at making open access to research the new norm. Open Access is the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly

research, and the right to use and re-use those results. The theme of the week was Open for Whom? *Equity in Open Knowledge Open Access Week*, a global event now entering its tenth year, is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research. During the OA week, students were taken through tasks such as access and use of open access resources. The event culminated in Open Access competition where winners were crowned with various prizes.

Cutting-edge Research is our Mission



PROF. ROMANO MWIRICHIA, Ph.D
Director,
Research and Extension



Students conduct their practical session at one of the Microbiology Research lab in the University.

The Directorate of Research and Extension (DRE) is mandated to coordinate and monitor research activities in the University. The faculty at the University of Embu have been engaging in various research activities in the following thematic and priority areas: Agriculture and Food Security, Microbiology and Molecular Biology, Ecology, Education, Organic and Applied Chemistry, Energy, Business, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Mathematics and Law. In

the 2019/2020 financial year, eighty-six (86) papers were published in peer reviewed journals up from 66 that were published in the 2018/2019 financial year. Besides, two book chapters and two books were published. In the same financial year, 2019/2020, nine (9) grants were attracted to the University amounting to over KES 40.73 million. Eleven (11) MoUs were also signed with different organizations. The Directorate held a training on grant writing for the European Union on 5th November

2019 in Senate Boardroom. The training aimed to mobilize and create awareness on the upcoming European Union's funding schemes on horizon 2020 and the Era-net co-fund calls for proposals. The training attracted thirty-five (35) teaching members of staff. The facilitators of the training were Dr. Joyce Ngure and Mr. Jacob Njagi both from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.



PROF. SPERANZA NDEGE, Ph.D
Director, ODeL

ODeL

Online & Blended Learning is Adopted

The key mandate of the Directorate of Open, Distance & e-Learning (ODeL) is to ensure that blended learning is adopted as a viable mode of teaching and learning. Considering the diverse learning styles of individual students, this approach becomes more desirable as tangible results are realized within a short time since it interweaves traditional teaching strategies with the latest technologies. This ensures that the student is kept busy, engaging and interacting with the content, in group or individual activities, and the course instructor. Through this approach, students can enroll for programmes of their choice at UoEm and study through the blended learning mode for local students, and purely online mode for international students.

Since its inception in March 2020, the Directorate has facilitated successful completion of the 2019/2020 Academic Year. In order to enforce this, training of all academic staff and students in online learning has been continuously done. Modules have been developed and uploaded on the e-platform in order to enable

students access quality notes, participate in discussion forums, chats, wikis, quizzes, e-Projects, e-Case studies, assignments and continuous assessment tests online through the LMS. Students are also able to access thousands of e-Journals and e-Books online through the University e-Library.

ODeL has also maintained constant communication with students through a dedicated Student Support Online Communication Helpdesk where they get prompt response. The University also has a website with up-to-date information about online learning/ blended learning (<http://www.embuni.ac.ke/odel>).

Student feedback

"I really love the online mode because it is not noisy and concentration is assured. It has guaranteed me easy access to learning without having to walk all over Campus to attend classes."

Benjamin Muthengi, 3rd Year Student

"Education has been made easier by online learning. It has helped

me to upload my assignments, thus submitting them easily even from home. Online learning is just superb."

Bensuder Nthenya, 2nd Year Student

"Online learning has made studies efficient and easier. No more walking to physical classes when I am unwell. It is just good."

Benard Murimi, 4th Year Student

"Online learning has helped me have sufficient time for revision. The module notes and online discussion forums have helped me. I am no longer shy to participate in discussions since no one is around staring at me"

Charity Kasyoka, 3rd Year Student

"I don't have to pay for accommodation, transport or buy food. I wish we could continue embracing this digital way and learn from home. It is affordable!"

Sally Awuor Odhiambo, 1st Year Student



Ms. Liz Murugi
Head of Admissions



UoEm Staff (seated) assist first year students register during the admissions exercise at the University on 24th November, 2020

Embracing The New Normal

The Admissions Section is anchored within the Academics, Research and Extension Division. The mandate of the section is to process applications for admission, registration and orientation of students, processing of students requests and responding to enquiries on admission related matters. The Section also manages and ensures safe custody of students' records.

Following the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya, the Government directed that all institutions of learning be closed to prevent spread of the disease. Consequently, most operations in the University were affected. Dealing with the uncertainty can be truly challenging but as Kakuzō Okakura said in the essay **The Book of Tea**, "The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings." The Section was quick to adapt to the new situation and ensure that services continue uninterrupted. As such, most activities that were traditionally conducted physically were shifted to the virtual space. These activities include: processing of applications for

admission, registration and orientation of students and processing of students' requests. As a Section, we are proud to have maintained and in some cases improved the exceptional levels of service provision experienced by our clients, despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Admissions Section has truly adapted to the **'new normal'**.

During the 2020/2021 Academic Year, a total of 2,196 students were placed at the University of Embu by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). This is an increase in relation to the 1,537 students placed in the 2019/2020 Academic Year. Additionally, a total of 284 students sought to transfer from other institutions to the University of Embu. This is an indication that our programmes together with the quality of teaching and learning at the University has gained attention. The new students were taken through online orientation from 28th August, 2020 to 4th September, 2020. This was mainly conducted via the University of Embu Web conferencing platform and streamed live via various social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

To all prospective students, the University offers a wide range of undergraduate, masters and doctoral degree programmes in the areas of Science, Computer Technology, Health, Agriculture, Business, Education and social sciences. We therefore invite you to study with us.

To the graduating class of 2020 - Congratulations on your well-deserved achievement! We look forward to welcoming you back to further your studies in your chosen fields.

The Admission Section is committed to providing timely and quality service to all current and prospective students. All admission enquiries can be made through the email: admissions@embuni.ac.ke or telephone number: **0706528878**.

E-learning in the COVID-19 Era

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the economies and education systems world-wide, institutions have realized the need to quickly adapt to the changing times.

Following the suspension of learning and closure of the University in line with the government's directive to stop the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), the University continued to be at the forefront of efforts to ensure that all learning activities on campus continued seamlessly.

University of Embu is a proactive learning, teaching and research institution. It has embraced digital teaching methods such as cloud-based e-learning platforms. Specifically, it incorporated teleconferencing into its teaching programmes to ensure learning goes on uninterrupted.

As the world grapples with challenges of physical distance, the University strategically adopted this move to ensure that service delivery continued without disruption. The University also rolled out online courses through the e-learning platform in March 2020. The e-learning platform has ensured lecturers and students continue to interact. The digital platforms also ensured continuity of the University's operations as faculty members and departments have been able to meet regularly.

The University organized multiple training sessions for management, teaching members of staff, ICT support staff and the student's



The Co-ordinator, Teaching Practice and Practicum, Dr. Milkah Nyaga, taking 2nd year Diploma Students through a mentorship workshop held on 23rd November, 2020 at Learning Centre 3.

body to ensure that all stakeholders understand the system. These trainings were done via web conferencing facilities such as Zoom, Google meet, and Skype. While encouraging stakeholders to adjust to the current circumstances, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, believes that as an institution of higher learning we must always continue to innovate and adapt to changing times.

To ensure that the Institution continues with its core business of teaching and learning, the University partnered with Safaricom Mobile Company to ensure students received a subsidized mobile data bundles to enhance e-learning and teaching experience. The move would ensure that the transition process from the traditional classroom setup to digital space was as seamless as possible, Students affected by the closure of the University like Miss Caroline Kamuru, a fourth year student in the School

of Education, says online learning is different from the traditional classroom experience.

"Since the indefinite closure of education institutions, learning as we know it had to shift. Learning from home was exciting; it allowed us to explore new methods of learning and brought lecturers and students together despite the distance that separates us," says Miss Kamuru.

Any questions and inquiries can be channeled to odel-studentsupport@embuni.ac.ke for students and odel-staffsupport@embuni.ac.ke for staff for assistance.



PROF. FREDRICK NJOKA
Dean of Students

Providing the **Best** Environment to **Live** and Learn

The office of the Dean of Students is dedicated to continuously serving students and handling their welfare issues. First year students reported at the end of August 2019 as continuing students resumed at the beginning of September 2019. The office kick started the semester by participating in the New Students' orientation process. The office of Dean of Students ensured that the newly admitted students had all the information on student welfare and other services offered by the Department of Student Affairs.

As per the tradition, the University of Embu Students Association (UESA) Student Leaders together with the office of the Dean of Students organized a 'Freshers Welcome Bash' event to usher in the new students. During the event, there was a competition to crown Mr. and Miss Fresher. The event was colourful and the new students had a 'taste' of the University social world.

The office of the Dean of Students partnered with other Departments and University Committees to introduce and sensitize students to University life. For example, on 18th September 2019, the Dean of Students office in collaboration with Gender Mainstreaming Committee,

Award and Honors Committee and Disability Mainstreaming Committee held a sensitization session for the School of Law students on the work done by the different committees in the University.

Throughout the 2019/2020 Academic Year, the students counselor reached students in the lecture halls and sensitized the students on how to identify and deal with mental issues. The office of Dean of students connects students with opportunities; the students were mobilized and participated in a public lecture with the theme '**Demystifying Volunteerism**'. The event was organized by the Office of the Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's office with Mr. Njoka Tikum; *Regional Manager for East and Southern Africa United Nations Volunteers*. Mr. Tikum was the key speaker and touched on opportunities in volunteering programmes in the United Nations. Thirty students participated in the United Nations Conference in Nairobi on 5th December 2019.

The University offers bursaries in every academic year to extremely needy students as part of students' welfare. Meal and accommodation services are also offered to the most needy students. In 2019/2020 Academic year, 520 bursary

applications were processed and applicants benefitted. The Students' Welfare Committee continuously considers support to students in times of emergency.

The Cultural Event Organizing Committee, in collaboration with the Dean of Students organized the 4th Cultural Week from 2nd-7th March, 2020. The theme of the event was "*Embracing Cultural Diversity and Nurturing Talent*". Embracing cultural diversity through celebrating cultural differences supports national cohesion and co-existence.

The Dean of Students organized for UESA student leaders benchmarking exercise at Chuka University and Southern Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) on 11th and 12th March 2020. On 17th January, the Director, Teaching Programmes and Senate Affairs (TPSA), Mr. Julius Maore trained the officials of clubs and societies on leadership skills. The office of the Dean of Students expanded the services offered to students by setting up a HELB help Desk to deal with Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) related issues. Two Hostel Wardens were appointed to offer accommodation related support to students.

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The University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (2nd right) accompanied by CULFEST Committee Chairman, Dr. Timothy Kinoti (middle), Registrar, Academics, Research and Extension (ARE), Prof. Jackson Wachira (right), Dean of Students, Prof. Fredrick Njoka (2nd left) and former acting 2019/2020 UESA Chairperson, Ms. Caroline Chepkemoi (far left) enjoy a thrilling performance during the opening ceremony of the 3rd Cultural festival held on 6 February 2020 at the University Sports Ground. (Below) UoEm students perform a thrilling Taita dance.



Our Cultural Diversity, Our Strength

The 4th Cultural Event, themed **Embracing Cultural Diversity and Nurturing Talent** was held from 2nd to 7th March 2020. The annual event brought together staff and students, hence providing an opportunity for the community to appreciate the diverse and rich cultures within the University. The ceremony was officially opened on Friday, 6th March 2020

by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, who was the Chief Guest.

The event marks an important forum where students are provided with a platform to showcase their talents involving all genres of performing art, modelling, exhibitions and culinary art. It also attracts award-winning guest artists in the world of comedy, gospel and secular music

who perform, interact and guide students on showbiz matters. This left the audience content with the performances with many terming the event as the best so far.

In his remarks, the VC noted that the event has continued to attract young and very talented artists who are doing very well and making a

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“When a tradition gathers enough strength to go on for centuries, you don't just turn it off one day.”

Chinua Achebe

The Outgoing Miss University of Embu 2019 (left), Ms. Zipporah Wambui, presents Ms. Miriam Mumbe (right) (2nd Year, Bachelor of Economics) with a bouquet of flowers following her win as the 2020 Miss UoEm Beauty Pageant during the Mr. and Miss UoEm gala night held on Saturday, 7th March 2020, at the University Sports Ground.

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Our Cultural Diversity, Our Strength

living in the showbiz industry. He challenged the students to take advantage of the opportunity to build and nurture their talents in addition to their academic excellence so as to have an edge in the modern highly competitive world. The VC stated that the University community's diverse and rich cultures will make it stronger, more united and focused on working together.

During the week long event, the festival was hailed as the most successful ever, with a lot of participation from students and staff. The Event Organizing Committee had come up with daily cultural wear which students

and members of staff were encouraged to adorn. The climax of the event was the Crowning Ceremony of Beauty Pageant that was marked on Saturday, 7th March 2020 whereby Mr. Erick Macharia (3rd Year, B.Sc. Microbiology & Biotechnology) was crowned as Mr. UoEm and Ms. Miriam Mumbe (2 Year, Bachelor of Economics) as Miss UoEm.

The Event Organizing Committee, wishes to assure all students, performers and the University Management that future cultural events can only be better and bigger. In our diversity, we are united as a University.

UESA Elections 2020

The University conducted its 2020 University of Embu Students Association (UESA) elections amid the COVID-19 pandemic on 13th August, 2020 and swearing in of the newly elected officials thereafter on 14th August, 2020. Unlike the previous UESA elections which were conducted manually with casting of the ballot in the ballot boxes, this year's election was unique and unprecedented. This was after the suspension of learning and temporary closure of the University as a measure to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The unprecedented yet exciting experience saw the candidates vying for various positions in the UESA 2020 government campaign which was done online through the University website unlike previous elections.

In the run up to the election, changes were inculcated to ensure that the Institution observed the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines set by the Ministry of Health for infection prevention.

In his speech during the inauguration of the new student Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi pointed out that as the academic institutions continued to navigate this uncharted territory brought about by the outbreak of the pandemic, the management would continue to fully support students' activities. The VC intimated that the election was done against the backdrop of the Corona virus outbreak to avoid a student leadership vacuum.

He poised to the incoming student Council, challenging them that their first major task was helping their peers to navigate this new life dominated by COVID-19. He stressed that as the pandemic casts a shadow on the work that student leaders

need to do when there is no face-to-face teaching and learning, the new leaders must focus not only on supporting fellow students as they continue their studies through various online modes of delivery, but to also focus on their own studies.

"Remember that even in the midst of all the efforts that you will put to represent and articulate the issues affecting the students, let me remind you that your core business in this University is to seek knowledge, academic excellence, professional growth and personal development," advised the VC.

While congratulating the new Student Council, the Electoral Commission Chairman, Dr. Joanne Ogunah thanked the ICT Department for the innovative online Student Elections Platform, and for ensuring that the platform worked without any hitches. Dr. Ogunah said that the unique learning experience reminded us that we must always continue to innovate and adapt new strategies in order to navigate the current generational and the ever dynamic technological advances.

In his brief remarks, the overjoyed newly elected UESA Council Chairman, Mr. Moses Ogweno stated said he was grateful, to be granted the stewardship of this venerable Institution's students' association. Dressed in a black suit, the Chairman said the election would go down the annals of history as the first successful online voting exercise to be conducted in a public university in Kenya.

"I believe that with all the opportunities and challenges that come with leadership, for this journey to be smooth, we need to walk together as we adapt to the new normal of doing things following the outbreak of the Corona Virus which has paralyzed ways of living and learning," concluded the Chairman



Moses Ogweno
Chairman



Nancy N. Ndung'u
Vice-Chairperson



Robenyo Peter Ekai
Secretary-General



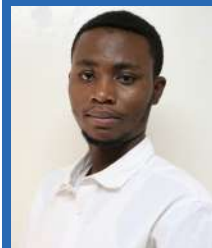
Emilio Mburu Wanjiku
Treasurer



Douglas M. Omweri
Gender & Special
Needs Secretary



Otieno Loice Nicole
Amondi
Female Special Needs
Secretary



Wilfred N. Kamene
Male Representative



Judy Chebet Elizabeth
Female Representative

Message from the UESA Chairperson



Mr. Moses Ogweno
UESA, Chairman

On behalf of University of Embu Students' Union, I congratulate the graduating class of 2020 for their outstanding achievements and their cooperation throughout their stay at the University. They

have been so industrious and have displayed courage, discipline and endurance in their academic struggle for the various Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees, Masters and PhD.

I must thank you for the exemplary work and best direction you have shown the students behind you. As University of Embu Students Association (UESA), our highest priority is students' success. We do our best to ensure all aspects of students' welfare are catered for effectively.

Graduation may look a little different this year - families and friends will gather for a toast remotely from a safe distance as students toss their caps collectively over the video chats. Regardless, graduation will always be a time to celebrate the favourite student's accomplishments and the exciting things that lay ahead in their future.

While sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul. May all you've learnt with pleasure in this great institution forever remain in yourselves and may it be used to make a difference in the world. May the graduating class of 2020 go forth and make unique contribution in the society, not forgetting your parents and your mother University, UoEm. Don't forget your *Alma mater* and keep in touch by joining the University of Embu Alumni Association. I encourage you to positively influence change in the world through making ethical decisions and living lives of integrity. Congratulations once again.

While sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the human soul.

Providing the Best Environment to Live and Learn

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UESA Elections are held yearly, where students enjoy their democratic right by voting for their student representatives. The 2020 UESA elections were done online for the first time in the history of the University. Students voted from home and the voting process was streamed online in real-time. What a way to embrace technology and innovation! The election took place on Tuesday

11th August, 2020, followed by a swearing-in ceremony that was aired live to all students on 12th August, 2020. The office of the Dean of Students takes pride in mentoring young leaders. In connection to this, Student Leaders' Induction Workshop was organized on 17th and 18th October, 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to equip the dully elected student leaders with the tools to effectively serve comrades.

Despite the prevailing difficult conditions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is light at the end of the tunnel and we look forward to brighter days.

To all the graduands, I take this opportunity to congratulate you for reaching this great milestone. All the best and God bless you as you open the next chapter of your lives.

VC Welcomes New Students in 2020 Intake

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi hailed the freshmen and women for choosing to study at the University of Embu. He said that despite the country and the world at large going through a dark period due to COVID-19 pandemic, he was particularly proud to welcome the 2020 intake students for the diversity of talents and ideas they were bringing to the University. Professor Mugendi was addressing 2020-2021 first year students on 3rd September, 2020 via YouTube and Facebook.

The Vice-Chancellor's matriculation address marked the culmination of the formal orientation programme which was done virtually and the commencement of learning. The virtual orientation exercise, which began on Friday, 28th August, 2020 ended on Friday, 4th September 2020. The VC hinted that this year was a historic one for the University of Embu. This was because, 2020 first year students' intake represented the highest number of first year students ever admitted at the University since the pioneer group of 123 students reported in April 2013, a clear indication that our programmes continue to be attractive and popular among prospective students.

The VC said that disruption of studies and temporary closure of the University due to the COVID-19 pandemic brought about the need to prioritize safety of the University

community while still delivering on its core mandate of teaching and learning.

He congratulated the University staff for working tirelessly and selflessly during the difficult times not only to make the virtual orientation of first year students a reality but also for their resilience in the face of adversity. He added that the situation was unprecedented and needed re-strategizing in-order for students' normal learning routines to be un-interrupted. This exciting experience saw the new students being taken through a comprehensive virtual orientation programme as they were assimilated to the culture of the University before face-to-face learning resumed.

"Switching from traditional lecture room and face to face teaching to online based learning or being in a virtual class room will bring new experiences, for some you will feel lost or the expectations may be confusing. You need to free yourself and adapt fast in order to fit well in the University's virtual learning programme. The new digital learning method prioritized safety of the University community while delivering on the University's core mandate of teaching and learning," Prof. Mugendi said

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The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru Ph.D. gives his matriculation speech to the 2020-2021 first year students on Thursday 3rd September 2020. The Vice-Chancellor's address was streamed live via YouTube and Facebook due to the restriction of face-face interaction in a preventative measure against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

4th Career Day 2020



UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (*middle*) poses for a group photo with a section of students during the 4th Careers Day held on 7th March, 2020 at the University Charter Hall. The purpose of the event was to mentor and enlighten students on the various courses offered at the University while providing them with the necessary information to make better career choices.

Choosing the ideal career path is not an easy decision for many students in secondary schools. Many grapple with questions on the best career to pursue and its prospects for getting a job.

Whereas at primary school level pupils harbor dreams of careers such as medicine, aviation and law among others, these preferred choices become distant memories as years roll on, and by the time they get to secondary school, many are unsure of what they want to do.

It is with this in mind that the University organized the 4th Careers' Day under the theme of **"Nurturing Global Citizenship Through Informed Career Decisions."** This is part of the University's endeavour to give back to society. While addressing the high school students drawn from ten Sub-Counties, four Counties, and five extra County secondary schools, the VC said that the aim of the Careers Day is part of the University's efforts to help high school students understand the careers and professions available in the market. This would help to make it easier for them to achieve their future career aspirations.

"I urge you to be open minded as you interact with our University Schools and Departments, Career Advisors and Counsellors, so that you can get to know how your education, special skills and talents can lead to your dream career paths," advised the VC

"These interactions will motivate you to work hard and help you achieve academic excellence" he added.

Students had a chance to interact with Deans of various Schools and Chairmen of Departments in the University. They not only mentored the students but also gave them firsthand information on academic programmes that are offered by the University. This was in an attempt to enlighten them on courses that are most relevant in the current labor market.

The chief guest, Mr. Steve Ngari from the Embu County Professionals Development Association, urged the students to identify their career paths early and work undeterred to get there. He gave his life experience on how he had succeeded against all odds to be where he is now.

During the event, the students were also entertained by a number of groups including E-Spark Crew and Travelling Theatre. In a speech read on his behalf by Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (*Academics, Research & Extension*), the VC encouraged the students to be courageous and committed to their chosen careers, and not to be afraid to venture into unknown territories.

Through the insightful and very interactive talks with the students, the professionals shared their diverse experiences in the corporate world. This encouraged the students to dedicate themselves fully to ensuring that they not only meet but also surpass their career goals. The visibly excited students expressed their gratitude to the University for the knowledge they had acquired from the various speakers at the Careers Day.

Learning Beyond the Traditional Classroom Setting

Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG) Project Officer, Ms. Elizabeth Wanja, makes her remarks during the public lecture held at the University on 15th October 2019.



Learning at the University of Embu has always extended beyond the traditional classroom setting. Our key emphasis is producing all-round scholars and ethical professionals who embody excellence, accountability, social responsibility, innovation and professionalism while developing contemporary life skills. This driving force has led to the University organizing capacity building programmes such as public lectures, where students interact with the crème de crème in various professional fields. The aim of the programme is to leave a mark and fill any existing gaps that students may have and help them understand what is awaiting them in the competitive job market. Invited professionals tackle an array of issues affecting students' personal growth, society to social responsibility.

It is with this in mind that the University organized a public lecture in conjunction with United Nations Volunteers (UNV) with an aim of exploring the role of universities in volunteerism for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in East Africa. Mr. Nyoja Tikum, Regional Manager for East and Southern Africa, UNV emphasized volunteerism as a tool for proper skill development and base for economic development.

He called on the students to engage themselves in social responsibility such as volunteerism, noting that it was a way of giving back to the society and for enhancing career development. *"I encourage our students to join UN volunteers as a way of not only giving back to the community but also to gain practical knowledge and exposure. I urge students to offer their services, skills and knowledge in fields which are related to their academic*

and professional programmes. Volunteerism requires dedication, commitment and social behaviour change," said, Mr. Tikum.

In a related development, the University in collaboration with Kenya Climate Change Working Group organized a climate change lecture for staff and students where matters of national and international climate trends with focus on innovations in climate change action towards community resilience were addressed. The event, held on 15th October, 2019 at the graduation pavilion, was graced by the University Management, led by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi.

In her opening remarks, the Project Officer, Ms. Elizabeth Wanja, noted that the next generation of humanity was being threatened by environmental degradation. With this in mind, the University of Embu is organizing a Sustainable Climate Action in Africa Conference (SCAAC). The Conference is novel in the region and aligned to the emerging climate change concerns across the globe. Attracting researchers from across Africa, the Conference will provide a globally competitive platform for researchers, students, policy makers and society to contribute and learn from a well of scientific knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The multidisciplinary Conference is co-organised by Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) and Kenya School of Government (KSG). The Conference was planned for May 2020. However due to COVID-19, the Conference has been postponed to a later date to be communicated. For more information, please visit: www.conference.embuni.ac.ke

VC Welcomes New Students

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"The University will use a blended learning approach that will utilize online teaching using different digital media tools for delivery of lectures and learning materials as we closely monitor the coronavirus pandemic", he added.

Prof. Mugendi also advised the students to be ready to overcome the challenges faced in the new normal such as those related to technical issues such as internet connectivity and e-learning gadgets.

In his remarks, the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic,

Research and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, said that despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on public gatherings and suspension of learning in all institutions, the students were well trained on how to join online classes so as to be ready for learning.

"We will keep making follow-up on how the students are going on with virtual learning. We are ready to assist those that will face challenges. The learners should not shy away as they face challenges but report to us," Prof. Kotut added. The event was attended

by Deans of Schools, Chairmen of Departments, Directors and members of Management.

"The University will use a blended learning approach that will utilize online teaching using different digital media tools for delivery of lectures and learning materials. Although students may face some challenges through online classes, I encourage you to adapt to the new mode of learning", the VC added.

Engaging Students in Active Learning



Prof. Joanna Masingila, Dean of the School of Education at Syracuse University makes her remarks during her visit to the University on 2nd July, 2019.

The fact that more and more students have continued to join institutions of higher learning in the recent past cannot be ignored. This has made it necessary for these institutions to embrace modern and innovative ways of handling the challenges associated with the surging numbers. The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent containment measures have led to a higher demand for online learning following closure of the said facilities. On its part, the University of Embu has strived to embrace instructional methods that address the dynamic needs of students-teacher interaction.

The School of Education and Social Sciences organizes workshops to train the academic staff on strategies aimed at ensuring all learners are effectively involved. As such, on 6th and 7th July 2020 the Dean, Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga in conjunction with Syracuse University organized an online workshop on pedagogies for engaging students in active learning in large classes which was held via Zoom. The workshop themed **“Engaging Students in Active Learning in Large Classes 2020”** would bring to the fore the importance of equipping faculty members (lectures and instructors) with various strategies to use in ensuring learners are actively and effectively engaged.

Present were facilitators from Syracuse University, Prof. Joanna Masingila and Dr. Duane Grasay, UoEm Management and faculty members drawn from different Schools. The UoEm, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi while addressing the faculty members and facilitators noted that impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt extensively in every sector of the country, particularly the education frontier. He emphasized the importance of reinventing ways of engaging learners during these unprecedented times. He noted that the linkage between University of Embu and Syracuse University had been beneficial. He advised the faculty members to make changes in the learning strategies in their large classes in order to actively engage the learners.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARE), Prof. Kiplagat Kotut noted that COVID-19 had disrupted University normal routine hence the need to be innovative in making sure learning and academic curriculum goes uninterrupted. He appreciated the University management for supporting the workshop and lauded the School of Education and Social Sciences for being innovative. He hailed the facilitators from Syracuse University for partnering with the University of Embu.

“Institutions must consider the expectations of the learners and create an environment that supports active engagement of students in the ever-changing global economy. As institutions of higher learning, we must examine learning form, in the context of the economy and optimize the existing resources,” Prof. Kotut said.

Prof. Joanna Masingila and Dr. Duane Grasay noted that the University was making great progress with online learning and that they were excited to facilitate the workshop. They encouraged faculty members to use the strategies of learning that are not limited by time and physical classes in order to make learning a continuous process. They also urged participants to consider the different needs of learners so as to employ effective strategies and active learning. The workshop ended with a call to action with emphasis on learner centered teaching and preparation of learners for the world of work.



Coping with Stress During Covid-19 Times

Following the suspension of learning and temporary closure of the University as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has laid out procedures and measures to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

For many people, the uncertainty surrounding coronavirus is the hardest thing to handle. We don't know how exactly we'll be impacted or how bad things might get. This makes it all too easy to catastrophize and spiral out into overwhelming dread and panic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our routines and made our everyday activities, such as work and caring for loved ones challenging. One other key domain that has received a blow is education at the global arena. The uncertainty this has come with can cause overwhelming and strong emotions that are likely to adversely affect the students. Academic uncertainties, financial challenges, general anxiety, loneliness, fear of discrimination, loss of family members and friends, conflict with parents, relationship issues can be some of adverse effects of the pandemic.

There are many things you can do even in the face of this unique crisis to manage your anxiety and fears:-

1. Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO, Ministry of Health website.

2. Find ways to manage disappointment: - Treasured events such as internship, dissertation defense or graduation ceremony may not happen this year. Accept this as something beyond your control and change the frame of mind that timelines sometimes can be disrupted by natural, technological or global events.
3. Maintain a healthy lifestyle as you stay at home including proper diet to boost your immune system, exercise, rest well and keep social contact with loved by email and phone calls.
4. Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.
5. Reach out to older adults or people with chronic health conditions and offer to help. For example, offer to pick up groceries, medications and other essential supplies. Check in with them regularly but practice social distancing.
6. Take time to talk calmly and reassure children about what is happening in a way that they can understand e.g. Children and teens tend to respond more strongly to the stress and anxiety caused by COVID-19, and become frightened that they or their loved ones will get sick.

As we continue to adapt to the new normal, it is important to put measures in place and reinforce our surroundings to support the government and intergovernmental efforts in containing the COVID-19 virus.

To our stakeholders, we value your wellbeing and we are keeping you in our prayers as we continue to urge you to adhere to the Ministry of Health guidelines such as regularly and thoroughly washing your hands, practice social distance (1.5 meters), cover your mouth and nose while coughing, always wearing a mask when in public and ensure proper disposal of masks after use.



Pictorial



Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET), Secretary General Mr. Akelo Misoro exchanging MoU documents with UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi on Friday, 22nd February, 2020 at the University Senate Boardroom. Looking on is the University Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili (3rd left), immediate former Chairperson of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi (2nd left) and members of the University Management.



Prof. Mark Dieters from the University of Queensland gives a talk to members of University Management during a courtesy visit to the University on 13th February, 2020.



The Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, presents gifts to Embu GK Prison, when University Management and staff members visited the Embu G.K. Prison on 20th December, 2019 – a Corporate Social Investment initiative.



Prof. Antony Kinyua from the Morgan University presents his publications to the Registrar, (Planning Administration and Finance) Prof. Paul Nthakanio, when the Professor visited the University of Embu on 10th January, 2020. Looking on is Dr. Samuel Ndirangu, Dean School of Agriculture (left) and Mr. Edwin Ireri, School of Agriculture (right).



University Farm's crop technician, Mr. Peter Nyaga training farmers on advantages of drip irrigation kit organized by the School of Agriculture on Friday, 28th February, 2020.



University security officer screens a student for temperature using a thermo-gun. The screening is part of measures put in place by the University to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.



Pictorial



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (4th right) exchanges MoU documents with ACK Diocese of Embu, Bishop Rt. Rev. David Muriithi (3rd left) during the MoU signing ceremony held on 14th October, 2020.



Dean, School of Law, Dr. Johana Gathongo speaks to students of School of Law and Department of Criminology and Security Studies, during a mentorship session held at the University Charter Hall on 12th February, 2020.



Chairman of Department, Mathematics, Computing and IT, Dr. David Mugo addresses a section of students during the 4th Career Day held on 9th March, 2020 at the University Charter Hall.



A facilitator trains staff and students on first aid procedures during the Fire Safety and First Aid training held at the University from 20th - 24th January, 2020.



The UoEm VC, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, appreciates some of the beadwork exhibited by students during the official opening of the 4th Culfest 2020 held from 2nd - 7th March, 2020 at the University Sports Ground.



University nurse, Mr. Edwin Muriuki checks the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi's blood pressure during the annual HIV Screening and Wellness Clinic held at the University on 30th September, 2020. Looking on is Ms. Bessie Mukami, UoEm Clinical Officer.

Pictorial



The University's Registrar, Academic, Research and Extension (ARE), Prof. Jackson Wachira (2nd right) together with staff and students hand over donations to the County Red Cross Co-ordinator and In-charge of Jomo Kenyatta Children's Home, Ms. Rose Kanini (3rd left) during a visit to the home on 5th October, 2019 - a CSR initiative.



The Registrar, Planning Administration and Finance (PAF) Prof. Paul Nthakanio receives tree seedling from Equity Bank, Embu Branch Manager, Ms. Teresia Migua (left) donated by the Bank to the University. The two institution partnered to plant trees as part of Corporate Social Investment (CSI) activity on 27th November, 2020. Looking on is the Dean of Students, Prof. Fredrick Njoka (2nd right) and CSI Officer, Mr. Joseph Mumo.



The Principal Secretary, the State Department for University Education and Research, Ministry of Education, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (in red tie) tours one of the lecture halls during his visit to the University on Tuesday, 6th October, 2020 to gauge the University's preparedness for reopening amid COVID-19 containment measures.



The newly inaugurated 2nd University Council tours one of the classrooms in the upcoming Tuition Block at the University of Embu on 27th November, 2020.



The newly inaugurated UoEm Council Chairperson, Dr. Kennedy Okong'o waters a commemorative tree shortly after the 2nd University Council Swearing in Ceremony held on 27th November, 2020 at the University of Embu.



The Chief Administrative Secretary (CAS) State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education & Research, Ministry of Education, Ms. Mumina Bonaya tries the hand washing point during her tour of the University on 21st July, 2020 to gauge the University's preparedness for reopening amid the COVID-19 containment measures issued by the Ministry of Education.



Pictorial



Dr. Rebecca Yegon, Chairman, Land and Water Management who was the macebearer, leads the Chancellor's procession to the Graduation Pavilion during the 4th Graduation Ceremony, held on Friday, 20th September, 2019.



Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Hon. Justin Muturi, addresses the graduands during the 4th Graduation Ceremony, held on Friday, 20th September, 2019.



Ms. Mary Kithome, gives her valedictorian speech during the 4th Graduation Ceremony, held on Friday, 20th September, 2019. She emerged the 2019 Best Student Overall.



University of Embu Students' Choir performs during the 4th graduation ceremony held on 20th September, 2019.



The University Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili poses for a photo with University's pioneer Ph.D graduands Dr. Karambu Kiende (2nd left) and Dr. Milkah Kiboi (right) since the University became a fully-fledged University. Looking on is the immediate former chairperson, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi (3rd left), Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (2nd right) and DVC ARE, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut (left).



A section of graduands toss their graduation caps in the air in celebration of their graduation during the 4th graduation ceremony held on 20th September, 2019.

Pictorial



Cabinet Secretary in-charge of Agriculture, Hon. Peter Munya presents the Best University Stand trophy to UoEm Deputy Librarian, Ms. Victoria Nyaga during the 2020 ASK - Eastern Kenya Branch Show held from 14th to 15th March, 2020 at Njukiri Showground, Embu.



Mr. Joseph Muse parades one of the University's cows after it emerged the 2020 ASK Livestock Category Champion during the 2020 ASK - Eastern Kenya Branch Show held at Njukiri Show ground from 14th to 15th March, 2020.



The Deputy Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Academics, Research and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut receives research lab equipment from the Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Thomas Wimmer when he visited the University on 3rd December, 2020. The equipment worth Ksh. 2.5 million, was donated by Humboldt Foundation, a German Research Foundation.



The newly crowned Mr. and Miss. UoEm 2020 (Seated L-R) Erick Macharia and Mirriam Mumbi (*respectively*) pose for a group photo with runners up (Standing) during the Culfest gala night held on 7th March, 2020.



UoEm students take part in blood donation exercise at the University held on 20th February, 2020 in support of Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital.



Students from Precious Blood Nthangani Secondary School pose for a group photo during their academic tour of the University on 13th March, 2020.



Pictorial



Mr. Moses Ogwenyo, takes oath of office as the UESA Chairman on 14th August, 2020 after student's elections held on 13th August, 2020. Looking on is the University Legal Officer, Ms. Ann Ndegwa (right) and Dean of Students Prof. Fredrick Njoka (left).



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi signs a memorial book in observance of the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims observed on Sunday 15th November, 2020.



The University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (5th left) and Embu Water and Sanitation Company Limited (EWASCO), Managing Director, Eng. Felix Mutuura (yellow-tie) display Memorandum of Understanding documents shortly after the signing ceremony on Friday, 6th November 2020. Looking on are the officials of the two institutions.



Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) President, Mr. Richard Ngatia (5th left-seated) and UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (6th left-seated) pose for a group photo on Friday, 23rd August, 2019 shortly after a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between the University and KNCCI. Looking on are the officials of the two institutions.



Members of University Management led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (3rd right-seated) pose for a group photo with the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA) CEO, Dr. Tonny K. Omwansa, Ph. D (4th right-seated) when he visited the University on Wednesday, 14th October, 2020.



ICT Officer, Mr. Charles Mugera demonstrates the use of modern green-house to Embu County Governor, Hon. Martin Wambora (middle), Chairman, Communication Authority of Kenya, Mr. Ngene Gituku, EBS (right) and Acting Director General, Mrs. Mercy Wanjau (2nd left) during the 19th Edition of the County ICT Consumer forum dubbed "Kikao Kikuu" at the University of Embu on 28th November, 2019.



Rev. Dr. Mary Nkari, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Chaplaincy
Services

Hope in the Storm

Live Each Day in the Calm Amid the Storm

“Isaiah 43:1b
Fear not for I have redeemed
you; you are mine”.

God actually commands us not to fear or worry. The phrase ‘fear not’ is used at least 365 times in the Bible, most likely because God knows that the enemy uses fear to decrease our hope and limit our victories. In the era of COVID19, we are likely to get worried, thereby lose hope and subsequently fail to achieve our dreams and aspirations.

Obstacles and adversities show up unexpectedly and find us out of our comfort zone. We must accept that life will be full of obstacles that can derail our plans. It is not pure sailing but an adventure full of valleys and victories: if you fear, you place unnecessary burden on your shoulders while dreading the worst. If you adapt a hopeful and optimistic heart, you can breathe easier and expect a more pleasant future.

Hope has What it Takes

“The road that is built in hope is more pleasant to the traveller than the road built in despair, even though they both lead to the same destination”

(Marion Zimmer Bradley).

Hope is more valuable than we give it credit for. It is a soft burning flame, unable to be extinguished and capable of enduring any conditions. Hope has what it takes to get you through anything.

“People usually consider hope among the most wondrous of gifts: it keeps us going when we want to quit and makes possible victories that seem unattainable,” affirms author Dr. Alex Lickerman in: **The Undefeated Mind: On the Science of Constructing an Indestructible Self.**

Hope is the belief that things will work, especially when it seems otherwise. It helps you stay calm and peaceful when something less than desirable emerges. Hope believes you will get through it. Hope teams with faith and believes in the impossible.

You are therefore called to commit to a life of optimism irrespective of the circumstances and raise the beacon of hope when times are tough. You can become confident through your willingness to see life from a different viewpoint. Let us always trust God for the best in and out of season.

Thanksgiving Service Planned

Chaplaincy is planning for a thanksgiving service to be undertaken at the close of the academic year. During this occasion, the University fraternity unites in appreciating God for his guidance, protection and blessings.



Dr. Faith Mueni
Coordinator,
University Website &
Repository

The ranking considers the following four parameters: Openness, Impact, Presence, and Excellence.

UoEm Webometrics Ranking Up

The July 2020 Webometrics Ranking was released on 27th July 2020, where University of Embu was ranked position 25 out of 129 institutions in Kenya. During the January 2020 Edition, the University was ranked position 28 out of 128 institutions. The Website & E-Repository team is looking

forward to a great 2021. The section is still on course towards enhancing the visibility of the University by ensuring continuous improvement in the next Webometrics Ranking which will be released in January 2021. The University has put in place various strategies to improve in the 2021 and the next editions of webometrics ranking.

The ranking considers the following four parameters: Openness (Strength of University Repository), Impact (Number of MoUs and Backlinks), Presence (Number of Relevant Pages in the University Website), and Excellence (Publications in high impact journals).

| 2019 & 2020 Results | January 2019 | July 2019 | January 2020 | July 2020 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Presence | 21/127 | 35/128 | 25/129 | 22/129 |
| Impact | 45/127 | 41/128 | 37/129 | 39/129 |
| Openness | 98/127 | 14/128 | 18/129 | 17/129 |
| Excellence | 107/127 | 42/128 | 17/129 | 88/129 |
| Overall Ranking | 50/127 | 27/128 | 28/129 | 25/129 |

More information on the webometrics ranking can be found on the link below:

<http://www.webometrics.info/en/africa/kenya>



UoEm staff donate foodstuff to the Embu Children Home as part of the Corporate Social investment activity on 20th March, 2020.

Community Service: We Care

The University of Embu recognizes the need to create shared value and address the concerns of various stakeholders beyond legal requirements. Thus, as part of Corporate Social Investment, University of Embu made donations in kind with the aim of advancing education, community initiatives and alleviating various challenges facing the needy.

In recognition of the need to promote the welfare of Children, the Vice-Chancellor led a team of staff members and students to participate in the Agricultural Society of Kenya Harvest Festival on 8th March, 2020. This was in support of 7 needy Children Homes in Embu town. The University in the spirit of Corporate Social Responsibility donated various food stuff such as eggs, ripe bananas, green bananas, cabbages and dry maize.

The Vice-Chancellor, in his remarks as the Chief Guest, appreciated all

participants for their consideration to help the poor. He highlighted that the University of Embu fraternity believes that service to man is service to God. As such, all members are always thankful to the Lord for everything they have, and always endeavour to share with the needy. This is in response to the word of God in Leviticus 23:22 (NIV)

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.”

The Vice-Chancellor concluded by encouraging such noble initiatives

which positively impact lives of the needy in the society.

This endeavour did not stop here as the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic compelled us to give more to various children: St. Angela Embu Children’s Home, St. Stephens Children’ Home and Toto Love Children’s Home. These homes received donations in terms of foodstuff and hand sanitizers to assist in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

The University, in its Corporate Social Responsibility mandate, is committed to improving sustainability, welfare and wellbeing of the community. Plans for future engagement under CSR are in place, which include but not limited to: community capacity enhancement programmes through training, environmental conservation through tree planting, community-based research, and service-learning programmes.



UoEm, Deputy Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Planning Administration and Finance, Prof. Eucharia Kenya (*third left*), presents a donation of medical supplies to Ms. Sicily Muthoni, Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital Administrator as part of the University's Corporate Social Investment activity on 14th July, 2020. Looking on from the right is Dr. Kelvin Kinyua, Pharmacist, Dr. Charles Makau, in-charge of Pharmacy. Accompanying the DVC (PAF) from the left, Ms. Evelyn Njogu and Mr. Titus Njue, Nursing Officer.

UoEm Donates Medical Supply to Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital

University of Embu has continued to renew its commitment towards service to humanity as enshrined in its vision and mission statements. As such the University has focused on CSI activity as creative opportunity to strengthen quality service while contributing to society. In the back drop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused severe disruption of learning and lives, UoEm has been championing causes that alleviate the suffering experienced across the country. The University, through Department of Health Services, has stepped up its effort in donating drugs and face masks to the surrounding community.

It is with this in mind that UoEm through the Department of Health Services has managed to purchase facial

masks and distributed to the university staff during this time to curb the exponential spread of the coronavirus. The University, working closely, with health experts and other relevant authorities, has put measures in place to combat the spread of this virus within our surroundings.

The University also donated medical drugs to the Embu Level 5 Hospital, on 14th July 2020, with a view to boosting health during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor in-charge of Planning, Administration and Finance, Prof. Eucharia Kenya, appreciated the great partnership between the University of Embu and Embu level 5 Hospital. She said the partnership was mutually beneficial.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Sicily Muthoni, the Hospital Administrator

noted that there had been great progress in development of medical facilities within the hospital. Major departments like the medical complex with theaters and an intensive care unit, the renal and oncology units were operational.

The University donated medical supplies worth one hundred and thirty-five thousand, three hundred and eighty-six Kenya shillings (Ksh. 135,386.00).

“The drugs donated will help patients with Peptic Ulcer Disease, hypertension, asthma and other general ailments that could predispose individuals to adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic”, stated Ms. Muthoni

Moving Forward Together in Partnership



UoEm, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (3rd left) and Director, Gitutho Architects & Planners Limited (GAPL), Arch. Mugure Njendu display MoU documents shortly after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Tuesday, 3rd November 2020. The MoU is aimed at establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the two institutions to collaboratively establish a Green Innovation Centre at the University. Looking on are officials of the two institutions.

In the recent past, the University has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various stakeholders in an effort to share scarce and limited resources. In addition, the University also strives to offer quality education to the students, thus the need for collaboration and partnerships with like minded institutions.

In preparation for the best teachers, the University reviewed the MoU with Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) and Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT). The MoU ensures that the University is well informed of the teacher requirements, thus imparting the right skills in the preparation of the Bachelor of Education students. In addition, the MoU provides a chance to teachers and their spouses to study at the University while waiving their tuition fee.

The Embu Teaching and Referral Hospital (ETRH), reviewed the MoU with the University. The MoU is geared towards preparation of nurses and doctors. The ETRH facility

complements the University by providing practical sessions to the Bachelor of Science Nursing students. The students are presented with an opportunity to interact with other professionals in the field of medicine. The MoU also allows the University researchers to carry out joint research with medical professionals in an effort towards providing solutions to the community, more so in the field of medicine.

The field of Agriculture, being the backbone of our economy is equally represented when it comes to partnerships. The University signed MoUs with the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB); and Embu Water and Sanitation Company (EWASCO). The two MoUs will see the institutions carry out joint researches as well as secure industrial attachments for the students, especially so for those taking Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

To promote climate smart initiatives, the University entered into partnership with the Gitutho Architects and Planners Limited (GAPL). The

two institutions will work together to source for funds for the establishment of the Green Innovation Centre at the University of Embu. The proposed centre will provide a platform for innovation and incubation of green business ideas to the University fraternity and community.

Embu TV Limited entered into a partnership with the University, whereby the media house through UVORO TV will provide media coverage to the University activities. Through its experienced specialists in various areas, the University will provide content to the TV, as well as the venue to record the TV shows from.

The University would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders for their co-operation and support. It is our hope that the collaborations will enable our institutions to achieve more and grow to greater heights together.

Together we can do more. Together we can face any challenges as deep as the ocean and as high as the sky. - Sonia Gandhi.



DR. KIREMA M. NKANATA, Ph.D
Director,
Performance Management

Focus on **Quality &** Performance **Management**



University of Embu is certified to both ISO 27001:2013 ISMS and ISO 9001:2015 QMS. The University has implemented the Quality Management System that meets the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 Standard, University's QMS procedures and adherence to relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

Further, the University has implemented an Information System Management Security that also meets the requirements of ISO 27001:2013 Standard, ISMS procedures, ISMS policies, ISMS guidelines, risk registers and relevant legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the University's operations.



Performance Contract

The University is implementing the FY 2020/2021 Performance Contract which was negotiated and vetted by the Ministry of Education in August 2020. It was reviewed by the Public Service Performance Management and Monitoring Unit in September 2020 through the Government Performance Contracting Information System (GPCIS). Cascading of the Performance Contract to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning Administration and Finance), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Extension) and Chairmen of various Committees implementing agency targets was done by the Vice-Chancellor on the 13th October 2020. Further cascading by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors to the Deans and Heads of Departments and Sections was done on 22nd October 2020. Implementation is on-going and the first quarter performance contract reports were submitted to the relevant offices on 12th October 2020.

Although the FY 2019/2020 Performance Contract has not been evaluated, a self-evaluation conducted on the Performance Contract platform and submitted to the coordination office has ranked the University at **Excellent** Performance Category. University of Embu has therefore, maintained an excellent performance for the last five (5) consecutive years. This has been made possible by the teamwork exhibited by the University Council, Management, Staff and Students.

UoEm Hosts the 1st University Deans Consultative Forum



Chairperson, Teachers Service Commission, Dr. Lydia Nzomo OGW, CBS engages participants in a question and answer session during the 1st Deans of Schools of Education Consultative Forum held at the University of Embu on 14th - 15th August 2019.

There was need to understand what the curriculum was all about in order to prepare and adjust early.

Prof Daniel Mugendi

The demand for quality education has led to a rethinking of curriculum planning at all levels of education, from early stages to higher education. This need for quality education has sparked debates across the country on the need for education stakeholders to restructure the education curriculum. It is now acknowledged that it is important to incorporate hands-on skills and attitudes (competencies), and apply those skills in everyday life. The roll out of the plan has led to educational institutions such as universities and vocational training centres to examine the level of preparedness for successful implementation of Competency Based Curriculum at higher education levels.

In light of this, the University organized the 1st Deans Consultative Forum for Deans of Schools and Faculties of Education. The two-day forum under the theme ***"The Role of Schools of Education in Teacher***

Education for the Development of the 21st Century Skills" drew Deans from over 50 universities. Other stakeholders were the Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission and Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

In his opening remarks, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, who was represented by Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research and Extension) emphasized that there was a need to understand what the curriculum was all about in order to prepare and adjust early. *"Unless universities start preparing teachers who will teach learners now under the CBC at secondary and university levels, there are risks they will be graduating tutors who are not prepared for the new curriculum,"* Prof. Mugendi cautioned.

He reassured the Deans, that the University was putting measures in place to prepare its lecturers on the new curriculum. *"We are keen on building collaborative initiatives and*

partnerships that will drive the agenda to achieve effective implementation of CBC," the VC added.

The keynote speaker, Education Principal Secretary, Dr. Belio Kipsang', who was represented by David Njegere, emphasized on the need for deans to mobilize development of resources for the CBC.

"Universities should encourage Masters and Ph.D students to research on CBE in order to allow seamless transition from the current to the new curriculum", stated Dr. Kipsang

UoEm Hosts the 1st Deans Consultative Forum

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The Teachers Services Commission Chairperson, Dr. Lydia Nzomo, reiterated on the need for Deans to be aware of the reforms that are taking place in teacher training in readiness for CBC. *"21st Century teachers should demonstrate capacity required for facilitating and motivating learning to fit the ever emerging technologically-advanced teaching environment,"* Dr. Nzomo emphasized.

On her part, the Secretary General and the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) State Corporation, Dr. Evangeline Njoka, said that CBC was emerging as a promising model for bridging the gap between graduates and employers. She challenged deans to be actively involved in the implementation process. Senior Editor, Nation Media Group, Mr. David Muchunguh underscored the need for academicians to provide expert opinion on the implication of education reforms. He particularly asked academicians to address contentious issues that have been in the public domain since the roll out of the curriculum.

The two-day consultative forum ended with participants agreeing that a lot still remained to be done in terms of



Dr. David Njengere representing Principal Secretary, State Department for Early Learning & Basic Education, Ministry of Education, Dr. Belio Kipsang explaining the rationale for the ongoing curriculum reforms during the 1st Deans of Schools of Education Consultative Forum held at the University of Embu on 14th - 15th August 2019. (Below) DVC (ARE) Prof. Kiplagat Kotut speaking during the Forum.

capacity building, training and resource development for successful implementation of the curriculum. The Deans resolved that there was need for retooling university lecturers with emerging skills, knowledge and pedagogies for implementation of the new curricula. It was also agreed that lecturers needed to spearhead the process of forming a teacher professional body to inform the conversation on professionalism.



Prevention is Better than Cure

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure environment in which academic endeavours thrive. Efforts, including partnership with the security officials, local elected officials, community leaders and residents have made the campus and neighbourhoods surrounding it significantly safer and more secure. In addition, the University has put in place a Security Policy and other security procedures and initiatives to maximize personal safety and security on campus and in areas adjacent to it.

The University takes safety and security of the campus very seriously. The University Management strives to ensure that the wellbeing of students, staff, faculty, and guests is protected and that the institutional risk of exposure to safety and security threats is reduced. Since institutions of higher learning are now dealing with a greater variety of incidents, and are also being subjected to a higher level of public scrutiny, University of Embu maintains that prevention is the most effective form of mitigation. This is only possible when the University community is aware of what it takes to prevent such crises from occurring. It is against this backdrop that the University organizes a fire, safety and security trainings and sensitizations annually.

In the financial year 2019/2020, the University conducted a five-day fire safety, security and first aid training from Monday 20th January to Friday, 24th January, 2020. Over 70 students and members of staff attended the training, and were sensitized on fire safety, security, and terrorism awareness and prevention. The training and sensitization comprised discovering a security threat, evacuation procedures, actions on hearing the fire alarm, forms of terrorism, terrorist tactics and effect, and countering terrorism. Demonstrations of handling firefighting equipment as well as evacuating victims were done.

1. A facilitator demonstrates how to use a fire extinguisher during the Fire Safety, Security and First Aid training held at the University on 20th - 24th January, 2020.
2. A staff puts out a fire using a fire extinguisher during the Fire Safety, Security and First Aid training held at the University on 20th - 24th January, 2020.
3. Fire Engine responding to an "emergency" during a fire drill exercise conducted at the Prof. George Magoha Library at a past event.



Running for Education



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, flags off the Endowment Fund road race held on 13th October, 2018 at the University Sports Ground.

The University launched the Endowment Fund, on 25th October, 2018. The Fund, when fully operational, will play a crucial role in aiding needy students to realize their dreams for a university education, and assist the University achieve some of its development goals. The Endowment Fund derives its authority from the Constitution of Kenya, 2010; Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012; Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2009; Public Finance Management Act, 2012. Trustee Act, 1982; Universities Act, 2012; Universities Act, 2012; University of Embu Council Minutes, Minute Number 3CNL/2R/2016/44 dated 16th September, 2016, pursuant to the University Charter, Part 5, read together with the University of Embu Endowment Fund Trust Deed and any other applicable Kenyan law governing endowment fund management.

Endowed funds will be managed by a Board of Trustees comprising of seven members whose mandate is spelt out in the Endowment Fund Trust Deed. The Board is to ensure

that endowed funds are well managed; and to partner with philanthropists to ensure funds are used as per the benefactor's desire. Some of the achievements made by the Board of Trustees is registration of the Endowment Fund Trust Deed and preparation of the Endowment Fund Policy and Guidelines.

The Policy provides the framework within which organizations and individuals can endow funds in various areas to enable the University realize its vision, mission and objectives. It also provides an objective, transparent and efficient mechanism for soliciting for donations, management as well as investment of endowed funds. The Endowment Fund Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring every needy student at the University of Embu gets a chance to complete his/her studies. Meanwhile, The Board of Trustees is in the process of putting in place a mechanism for resource mobilisation for the Fund, and those wishing to make donations can do so to:

Account Name: University of Embu Endowment Fund
Bank: Equity Bank
Account No: 0190279052803
OR
Paybill No: 233320
Paybill Account No: Your Name/Company Name



A section of University top management with students during the Endowment Fund road race held at the University on 13th October, 2018.



QS. HURIA KARUGU
Head of Estates

Infrastructural Development for Service Delivery

Kenya's Construction Industry has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since the first case was reported in March 2020. Most projects stopped, some have been progressing slowly and others were temporarily suspended.

There have been many challenges, among them, the challenge of social distancing. There were also challenges of maintaining the recommended hygiene levels, challenges in project supply chain management and reduced site meetings and inspections.

In efforts to enhance human capacity through relevant education, research and training, University of Embu has been constructing an ultra-modern Tuition Block since May 2018, with a projected completion date of December 2021. However, the implementation of this project has also been affected by the Covid 19 Pandemic. This notwithstanding, the concerned parties, that is, University of Embu and the Contractor (Kamuti Building Contractors Ltd) have endeavored to meet their commitment.

What is it that has been done to ameliorate these challenges? To begin with, a safety officer has been hired to regularly sensitize construction workers on COVID-19, take temperatures of everyone entering the site and provide hand washing facilities at site entrances and exits. He also ensures that construction tools and equipment are sanitized before and after use. In addition, all

site personnel are provided with face masks, and advised to keep proper social distance while cashless payment of construction workers is exercised at all times.

By taking the above measures and ensuring all MoH guidelines are adhered to, we have managed to keep to the work schedule and ensured that the construction of the Tuition Block is currently at 60% and progressing on well. It is therefore our belief that the University will be able to achieve one of its Strategic Objectives, which is to develop and enhance infrastructure for effective delivery of services.



(Top) The artistic impression of the proposed Ultra-Modern Tuition Block.
(Bottom) The ongoing construction of the proposed Ultra-Modern Tuition Block.

Embu County Child Protection Network Launched



The Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences, Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga, addresses guests during the launch of the Embu County Child Protection Network on 26th February 2020 at a local hotel.

University of Embu Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru has urged universities to endeavour to take up a leading role in generating and disseminating relevant knowledge in the field of children rights and child protection. Noting that the mandate of universities was to lead in mainstreaming the work of child protection, the VC added that education is a critical tool towards liberating the mind from shackles of poverty and ignorance.

The VC was speaking during the launch of the Embu County Child Protection Network where he was the chief guest. While addressing key stakeholders, the VC said he was confident that the network will spearhead campaigns in sensitizing the community on issues of children rights, child protection and gender-based violence. The forum would also mount a media campaign against all forms of child right violations in Embu County. The network would also create a framework for networking

and a referral system among service providers in child rights and protection.

The VC added that the University was spearheading efforts in designing programmes and courses that are focused on child protection. These include Master of Child Studies which is designed for child practitioners; Bachelor of Criminology and Security Studies with a specialization in deviance and delinquency and protection of children from themselves, which is one of the most crucial ways of safeguarding a child's right. Other child-centered programmes include Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with a specialization in family and law and Bachelor of Education, which for the longest time has given rise to professionals working with children.

In his concluding remarks, the VC hailed the collaboration between the University and other stakeholders, noting that this will facilitate coordinated efforts in organizing and planning major children activities such as the Day of the African Child,

the World Orphans Day and the County Children's Assembly.

While emphasizing the need for collaboration in child protection and children rights, the Dean, School of Education and Social Sciences, Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga, noted that Social Workers can utilize their knowledge, skills, and values to improve the lives of children. She added that there is need to incorporate social work skills into the school system on an individual, group, and community level, particularly while dealing with children with special needs. She reiterated the need to protect children from vices such as defilement, noting that lives of abused children may never be the same again. The event was attended by the Embu County Administrators and Officers from the County Department of Children.



The Tea That Unites

DVC (ARE), Prof. Kiplagat Kotut addresses UoEm Staff during the Vice-Chancellor's tea, a weekly interactive gathering held every Friday, but temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Any institution's key element is identity. One may be tempted to pose this question: How is identity related to security? When people in an institution integrate well, security is improved. One of the platforms used in the University of Embu to achieve this is the Vice Chancellor's tea - a weekly interactive event where new appointments are announced, and new staff members are introduced, and important announcements made.

The event is always attended by a senior member of the University Management on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, fondly known as the Vision Carrier. When his diary

allows, the Vice-Chancellor joins the members of staff and interacts with them with utmost humility. At times, he goes out of his way to crack healthy and professional jokes. Through this forum, the VC leads the University Management in displaying the real viscosity of leadership.

During the Vice-Chancellor's Tea, members of staff get an opportunity of maintaining a friendly working environment as they enjoy a cup of tea away from their routine chores as they freely interact with the Management. This gesture highly motivates the attendees and proves that it is not the big things that count in success but the consistency with which small ones are executed!

To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vice-Chancellor's tea has been suspended temporarily, until such a time that the situation is conducive for large gatherings.

“Coming together is a **beginning**, staying together is **progress**, and working together is **success**.
-Henry Ford”



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Daniel Mugendi addresses UoEm Staff during the Vice-Chancellor's tea.



Dr. Cyrus Ngumo, Ph.D
Lecturer, Linguistics
Department of Humanities

A Tale of Five Lakes by Cyrus Ngumo

I was in a garden named Eden where there were five beautiful lakes. The water was blue and the shores of the lakes were the most beautiful I had ever seen. Inexplicably, there was no serpent in this Garden of Eden. It was a dream and I woke up with a start. The scene of this reverie was atop the imposing Administration Block at the University of Embu. This imperious building towers the Embu skyline, the only rival being Mount Kenya. Slumber had stolen upon me atop the building. I stand up and the whole of Embu County and part of Kirinyaga County lie before my eyes. Above, the sky stretches to the north, merging neatly with Mount Kenya, which the locals call the Mountain of God. Towering and majestic, the Mountain of God forms a near artistic background to the University. It is as if the University and the mountain had sprung together at the beginning of time. Below the Administration Block, the eye beholds the panoramic expanse of the University of Embu. The luminous and shimmering water of Dam Five can be seen through tree branches-and this partial view

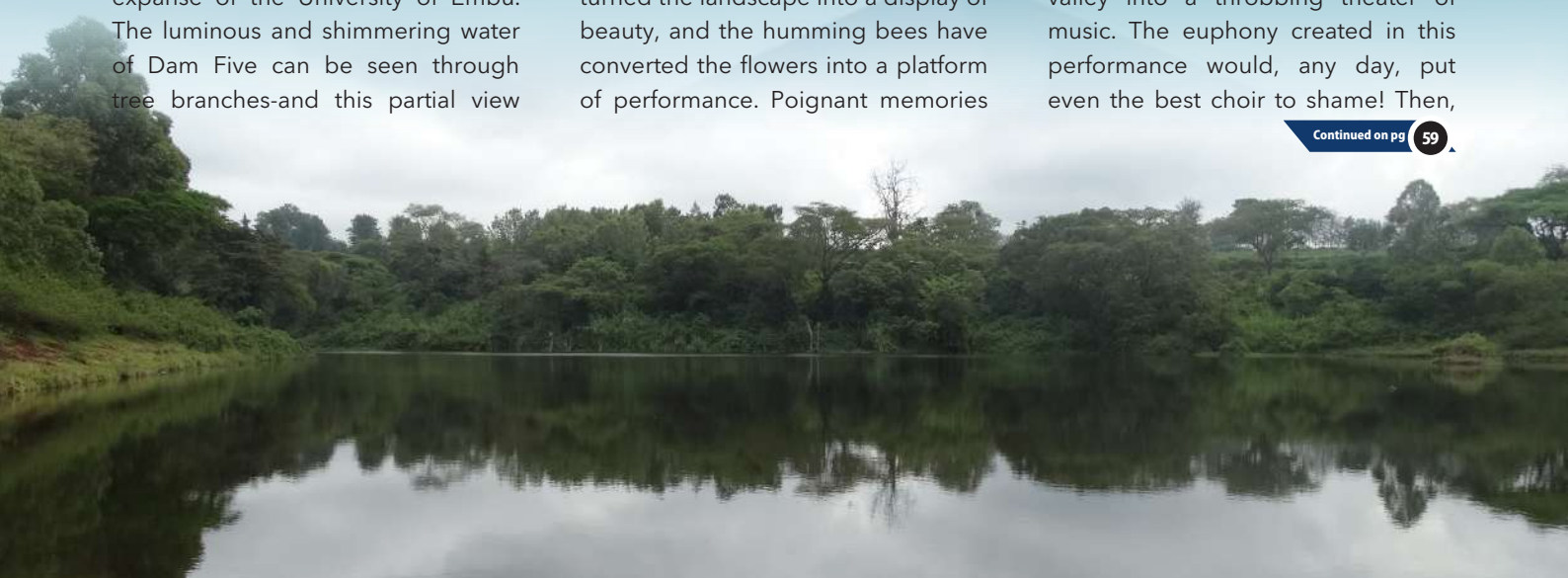
provokes my curiosity.

It is a short walk from the block to Dam Five. From the southern end, one has a breathtaking view of the dam. Lovely ducks effortlessly swim in the centre of the dam, while on a rocky island, near the eastern shore, Karogi birds fight over a frog. The small waves of the water appear to be continuously receding. My eyes cannot help but feast on the ethereal beauty of the shoreline where different clans and tribes of plants co-exist in harmony. It strikes me powerfully that it is one of the few corners in the country where man has left nature to its designs; wild creepers, shrubs and mighty trees coalesce into a stunning landscape. The valley on which the dams lie forms a unique ecosystem, teeming with incredible biodiversity. Up the valley, I hear the song of the Invisible Bird. As children, we heard the song of this bird but we never saw it. On the shores of Dam Four, multicoloured butterflies have turned the landscape into a display of beauty, and the humming bees have converted the flowers into a platform of performance. Poignant memories

of days gone by are reignited and the repressed child in me is reborn. I walk up, along the road, then, I gape at the delightful view of Dam Three.

I sit on the prehistoric stones on the shore watching the beautiful parade of white birds quietly patched on the branches as if hatching a conspiracy. I marvel at the choreographed dance movements of the ducks as they glide smoothly, breaking the tranquil water into trails behind them. In two lines, they move left and right without missing a move. Meanwhile, the song of the Invisible Bird can be heard audibly in the nearby bushes, and the mysteriousness of the bird accentuates the sweetness of her song. I stand on the bridge that separates Dam Three and Two; clearly, the two dams represent the archetypal theater of music and drama. In the thicket, the melodic, plaintive song of the Invisible Bird mingled with the rhythmic cooing of doves on the opposite shores transform the riverine valley into a throbbing theater of music. The euphony created in this performance would, any day, put even the best choir to shame! Then,

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A Tale of Five Lakes

Continued from pg 58

the frogs in Dam Three burst into song followed by those in Dam Two, and amazingly the two sets of frogs sing as if they had rehearsed. The Dam Two amphibians are the lead singers, while the Dam Three relatives provide the back-up vocals. The collective voice of the frogs in the two dams is a baritone, while the birds up the trees chirp a soprano. Different sounds but one song, and the song falls to a diminuendo and then rises to a crescendo. I hear an Asian student exclaim that the whole valley has been transformed into a throbbing theatre of music. A white student declares it sounds like an orchestra is playing in the valley!

And there is drama too in these dams, perhaps the drama of life. I move to the bridge to witness the magic of Mother Nature. The Dam Valley represents the whole spectrum of the human condition, complete with comedy and tragedy. A white student points at two frogs in their romantic escapades on the prehistoric stones on the shores of Dam Three. Then, the Karogi Bird comes swooping down at the two lovers. The impunity of making love in broad daylight is fatally punished, for the two frogs are turned into dinner. This Karogi Bird is a master of improvisation too. He converts the stones into a dining table where he enjoys the fresh meat of the two late lovers. Ah, nature is astounding, for even in such a homicidal enterprise there is still beauty! The drama is not over as the unerring hand of nature intervenes again. What follows is a case of poetic justice: from a thicket, a spotted hawk flies across the Dam, strikes and maims the Karogi bird, then flies away with him. The distress cries of the victim rupture the evening calm. As children, we called this

spotted hawk, Kahungu, small, but often kills birds much bigger than he is. Like a sea pirate, he patrols the Dam Valley with sadistic tyranny. And in all these seeming contradictions, the dam ecosystem retains her balance. The makers of human history are all represented in the Dam Valley—tyrants, butchers, lovers, traitors...the list is endless.

On the higher shore of Dam Three are young cinders growing on a lush green meadow that give the landscape an exotic look. I saunter up the path and cannot resist the beckon of the new Tuition Block that directly overlooks the Dam. On the first floor, I have a commanding view of the ducks in the dam. A gentle breeze from the dam floats in the classroom and I momentarily imagine I was a student obeying my thirst for knowledge in this room. The song of the Invisible Bird, from the thicket below, stirs ripples of poetry in my heart.

My itinerary takes me up the bridge, to the road, and I behold the magnificent view of Dam Two below. The water is unwrinkled, undisturbed and its serene state evokes wistful memories within me. The dam has an astonishingly straight shoreline dotted with diverse trees that form a picturesque background to the dam. The setting sun trains her orange rays on the surface of the placid water which both fascinates and bewitches the soul. In the woods, the incandescent rays of the sun filter through the branches, and the ambience created is that of a tropical island waiting to be discovered. I reluctantly walk up the shore, navigating my way below the University Tentatorium Hall and the cafeteria. Beyond is Dam One, and my guide tells me it is the source of the five dams. The opposite shore

is heavily wooded and weaver birds have found a home in these trees. The weavers' nests are fastened to the branches lying low, almost touching the water. To the east, Jacaranda in full bloom parade their beauty as if in worship of these great dams. I feel like John Speke on the Northern end of Lake Victoria when he beheld the source of the mighty River Nile at Jinja. Even among the flowering Jacaranda, the nostalgic song of the Invisible Bird rings audibly in the evening coolness, but bewilderingly the legendary bird remains invisible. The smell of fresh earth mingled with the scent of the flourishing Jacaranda flowers wafts in the air and I feel engulfed in a sea of well-being.

The sun is slowly sinking behind the trees and twilight looms over the Dam Valley. The song of the Invisible Bird echoes across the whole valley and it is hard to tell where the secretive bird is specifically located. We stride back to the Administration Block to get another vantage view of the University before darkness falls. What can I say? Stupendous! The view below dissolves my steely mind into a hundred flowers of emotion. The outline of the Dam Valley is populated with trees and bushes. From its source, the riverine valley takes a westerly course, then gently arcs southwards and ends at Dam Five. To the North, the majestic Mountain of God stands motionless and mysterious as if guarding the University. While I stroll on top of the building, I cannot help comparing the vast network of dams below with the Great Lakes of North America that straddle between the United States and Canada. As darkness descends on the valley, the song of the Invisible Bird is heard somewhere near Dam Five.



MR. FRANCIS KIRATHE (OGW, HSC)
Assistant Inspector General of
Police (Rtd)
Chief Security Officer



Cross-section of Security personnel at the University.

Security and Safety

It is said that history is an account of the past events. This is true because this enables us to understand how situations took place. They say history is likely to repeat itself and in this context, the communities used to prepare adequately in the past.

One common thing today and even in the past, communities and the society at large mostly needed peace and security. In this regard, therefore, for peace to prevail, measures were put to ensure that those who go against the laid rules were dealt with deterrently. This is the same thing today when one goes against the law of the land.

Peace! Peace everywhere every person is yearning for! Peace is the rarest commodity that cannot be bought from any shopping outlet. Everybody enjoys peace and business flourishes. When there is peace, the security is also guaranteed. However, the two words at times seem to overshadow each other. This is therefore good order to ensure that for peace to be realized, security should start with you. It is therefore

important to get to know well the person next to you. This may be your neighbour at home or at your place of work. If you do not understand him or her, this is dangerous.

Currently, the most hunted criminals live in the neighbourhood without being noticed. This is purely because many people tend to be busy without being inquisitive of those around them. Going by what is happening today, a number of people have been done all manner of bad things by people they trust or assume. In security, they say the most precarious things are assumption and routine. Be careful and be on the lookout for this. It is always not easy to understand this but through what they call the 8th sense you can. And again when you are always in doubt, please do not.

Finally, peace and security brings about growth, let us nurture these. Once more and again let the peace and security start with us for the sake of humanity world over. Let us embrace both because it is not even a health hazard.

Meanwhile, the University

Management is Committed to providing security 24/7 to all staff, students and property within the University premises. The co-operation with the security personnel is necessary for them to offer efficient service

During these unprecedented times, to safeguard all of us from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all required to observe the laid down protocols to mitigate the spread of the pandemic. As far as road safety is concerned, those driving within the University premises are expected to observe the stipulated speed limit of 30KPH; and for pedestrians to walk besides the road. Let us work together collaboratively to make our University a safe and secure environment.



Road Traffic Accident Victims Remembered



The University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi plants a commemorative tree in observance of the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims. The Day is observed on the Third Sunday of November annually and was held on Sunday, 15th November, 2020.

It is 25 years ago this year since the first day dedicated to remembering road traffic victims began to be observed. The third Sunday in November each year is set aside by the United Nations General Assembly to remember the many people killed and injured on our roads, together with their families, friends and many others who are also affected. It is also a day to pay tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals who daily deal with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury.

It is in line with this, that the University's recently established the Road Safety Mainstreaming Committee launched a road safety awareness campaign to sensitize the public on the dangers of not observing road safety guidelines and the plight of victims of road accidents. The campaign coincided with the launch of the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic crash victims, observed world over, every 3rd Sunday in November. This year, the day was observed on Sunday, 15th November, 2020.

Speaking during a commemorative tree planting exercise to mark the Day, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi said that the road safety awareness campaign is aimed at persuading road users, who include our students, staff, their families and the community in general, to adopt safe road user behaviour in order to reduce the road carnage. He added that the University of Embu road safety campaign targets to reach all our 9,000 plus population of students and staff, pedestrians, drivers and potential drivers, motor cyclists and their passengers, all other road users and the wider community around the University and in Embu County.

To sustain the campaign, the University has established a Road Safety Committee (RSC) which will work towards mainstreaming road safety awareness in the University. "As a University Community, we believe that road safety awareness is an important and integral part of our teaching and learning

efforts aimed at producing road-safety conscious citizens from amongst our staff and students as they prepare for future roles as professionals and leaders in society," said the VC.

The VC welcomed the UoEm staff, students and the general public to join the University in observing the World Day of Remembrance of road crash victims; reminding them that our collaborative efforts would help in ending these untimely deaths. In line with this year's theme of REMEMBER, SUPPORT and ACT, the VC urged the University community to:

REMEMBER

those we have lost through Road Traffic injuries and first responders to road traffic crashes;

SUPPORT

road traffic injury victims and their families;

ACT

by doing something practical in your own capacity towards the reduction of this carnage.

In Kenya, over 3000 people are killed every year and more than 6000 people permanently disabled through road traffic crashes.



Coffee Centre to be Established



UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (middle) lays a foundation stone for the construction of the proposed Coffee Centre during the ground breaking ceremony, held on 6th March, 2020.

UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi joined the California Coffee Importers team on 6th March 2020, for a ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a coffee centre at the University. The project, to be housed in the School of Agriculture, once completed will see the Centre serve as a training ground for students and youth as well as retooling farmers and coffee farm managers in all aspects of coffee value chain. The courses will include coffee nursery management and agronomic management, coffee processing using different methods, coffee grading, milling, roasting and grinding as well as coffee barrister training. The proposed centre will also operate a coffee cupping laboratory and will seek accreditation from international bodies specifically Coffee Quality Institute (CQI) and Specialty Coffee Association (SCA) to train coffee tasters (Q-Graders), who are very few in the country.

The lab will also be receiving

coffee samples from the local farmers and cooperative societies for cup quality analysis. In addition, the centre will endeavor to encourage coffee drinking culture within the community and will run a state-of-the-art coffee restaurant that will be serving all sorts of coffee beverages and flavors.

The initiative will be undertaken in partnership with the University and internationally recognized coffee importers-California Coffee Importers. The two institutions will provide capacity building, training and assist farmers market their coffee internationally. Speaking during the ground-breaking ceremony at the proposed coffee centre site, the VC said.

"Laying of the foundation stone therefore signifies the commitment of the University to empowering coffee farmers in the region," the VC concluded.

The VC added that the collaboration between the two institutions will help in setting up the centre where the farmers in the Embu

region will not only be trained on how to improve the quality of their coffee but also act as coffee testing and tasting centre where the farmers can grade their coffee before selling. The VC also hinted that the University will also benefit through having coffee model farms which will serve as demo farms to be used for training on how to produce high quality specialty coffee.

"As an agricultural institution, we continue pushing the agenda of assisting the farmers in the region produce quality coffee through extension and rigorous training. The partnership with California Coffee Importers will enable farmers tap from their expertise and available resources in not only producing quality coffee but also in marketing their coffee abroad," the VC stated.

While inviting the VC to sample the grade AA coffee that has been produced and processed locally, a representative from the California Coffee Importers, Mr. Simon Nyaga thanked the VC for the opportunity to set up the coffee complex. He said the complex will help the Embu coffee farmers appreciate the whole coffee value chain, the quality attributes of their coffee, and find good market for their product.

The Chairman of Agricultural Resource Management Department, Dr. Bernard Gichimu, who is also the co-ordinator of the project noted that Kenya produces high quality Arabica coffee that is only comparable to Colombian milds and that the Embu region is renowned as one of the regions whose coffee quality is exceptional. He added that the initiative will attract the youth into coffee farming as an agribusiness opportunity which will play a major role in revitalizing the dwindling coffee sector in Kenya.



Mr. Bernard Kibet Kitur
Farm Manager

University Farm Providing Sustainable Food Supply

Welcome to the University of Embu Farm

The Farm Department falls under the division of Deputy Vice Chancellor - Planning, Administration and Finance (DVC-PAF). It serves as a commercial centre for fresh livestock and crop products. The major clients are the

catering section, staff, students and other clients from the neighbourhood. It also serves as a research centre on emerging technologies in agriculture.

Various notable developments to enhance its growth have been undertaken. One of them is mechanization of the farm operation to reduce the labour cost. Through this, processing of yoghurt using a newly acquired state-of-the-art equipment, has been implemented. This has greatly increased the processing capacity from 50 litres to 200 litres daily, thus enabling steady supply to our clients. In addition to this, an egg-hatching incubator

with a capacity of approximately 1100 eggs was procured. This will ensure that the farm supplies high quality chicks of different sizes to clients.

In terms of livestock improvement, the Department has recently procured high yielding in-calf Holstein Friesian heifers. The cows have already calved down. This has ensured increased supply of fresh milk. In addition, the farm has high quality breeds of Duroc, Landrace and Large White pigs and has engaged with Farmers Choice to supply them with baconer.

As an agricultural Institution, we have endeavored to continue pushing the agenda of assisting the farmers in the region through extension and rigorous training. The newly established green house fish farming project, for instance, will not only be an income generating project for the University but will also be a platform where the students, farmers and community will be trained on aquaculture.



UoEm machinery technician, Mr. Eric Chirchir demonstrates uses of farm machinery to students from S.A Gikuyari Secondary School during an education tour at the University on 27th May, 2019. (Inset) University Farm manager, Mr. Benard Kitur takes students through the process of making animal feeds when they toured the University.

University Adopts Green House Fish Farming

A photograph of Mr. Benson Kioko, UoEm Assistant Farm Manager, sitting in a white plastic boat on a body of water. He is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, brown trousers, and an orange life vest. He is holding a long wooden pole or stick in his right hand. The background shows a calm body of water with some greenery in the distance.

UoEm Assistant Farm Manager, Mr. Benson Kioko, demonstrates how the newly acquired fishing boat will assist in fish farming production at one of the University's dam.

For years, farming in Kenya has been regarded as the backbone of the economy, directly contributing 24% of the annual GDP and another 27% indirect contribution (ASDS, 2010 - 2020). However fresh water aquaculture including breeding, rearing and harvesting have recently sky rocketed. This has been necessitated by the increased demand for fish in Kenya, courtesy of exponential population growth of around three percent per year and increased awareness of its nutritional value.

The University of Embu has kick-started fish production greenhouse system housed by the University Farm. The project was conceived as a solution to the high demand of fingerlings and fish in Embu County and beyond. There has been a paradigm shift from the belief that fish is only consumed by the lakeside community, therefore contributing to its rising demand in other regions, particularly Embu

County. The increased awareness of its nutritional value in the County was another reason the University opted to tap into the already increasing market for the commodity. The increased demand for fingerlings in the region by small scale farmers in the region also prompted the University to utilize its available resource to scale-up the production.

The state-of-the-art greenhouse has a capacity of 20 fish ponds. The University exploited the already available natural dams to breed Tilapia and Catfish. The two fish breeds were preferred due to their marketability and feeding preference of micro-plants which makes feeding and production affordable. The use of greenhouse technology was employed in order to raise the internal temperatures to suitable levels for warm water fish, making their growth rate fast (6 months and optimal weight of 300gm in maturity).

The project is at pilot stage with 4 ponds stocked with 1000

fingerlings sourced from Kenya Marine and Fishery Institute, a certified fish hatchery farm in Sagana. The fingerlings will be ready for harvesting in January/February 2021. The gradual and phased stocking will enable year round harvesting.

The project will also ensure a constant supply of table fish to staff, student community and nearby hotels. The University community will also be able to enjoy the delicacies served at various joints within the University premises. In addition, the initiative will act as a training ground for students and farmers, as well as supplying fish farmers with fingerlings.

The project in collaboration with the School of Agriculture will ensure students and the community learn more about aquaculture in addition to undertaking research. The University has engaged a fishery expert to assist the Institution in maximizing the scale of production.

DIRECTORS



Prof. Speranza Ndege
Open and Distance Learning
(ODEL)



Dr. Charles Onyari
Examinations

CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT



Ms. Diana Mawia
Community Health

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



Dr. Makena Muriithi
Health Services

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations on your Promotions

University of Embu values its employees and is committed to providing opportunities for professional development and career advancement in a process which supports and encourages fairness, accountability, and engagement. The below listed members of staff were appraised and recommended for promotion by the Promotion and Appraisals Committee (PAC) and duly ratified by the University of Embu Council.

Congratulations on this great achievement to the members of staff.



Prof. Paul Njiru Nthakanio
Associate Professor
Agricultural Resource
Management



Prof. Jackson M. Wachira
Associate Professor
Physical Sciences



Prof. Ngetich Kipchirchir Felix
Associate Professor
Land and Water Management



Prof. Romano K. Mwirichia
Associate Professor
Biological Sciences



Prof. Speranza Ndege
Associate Professor
Humanities



Dr. Samuel Nduati Kariuki
Senior Lecturer
Business & Economics



Dr. Kirema Nkanata
Senior Lecturer
Agricultural Economics &
Extension



Dr. Bernard Gichimu
Senior Lecturer
Agricultural Resource
Management

OTHER PROMOTIONS



Mr. James N. Mutegi
Library
Librarian I



Ms. Victoria W. Nyaga
Library
Librarian II



Ms. Laura A. Simiyu
Security
Senior Admin Assistant



Mr. Titus M. Njue
Health services
Senior Nursing Officer



Ms. Elizabeth K. Njagi
TPS
Senior Admin. Assistant



Ms. Irene W. Mwangi
BPS
Senior Admin. Assistant



Ms. Rachel Wakio
SoA
Senior Admin. Assistant



Ms. Joan M. Njagi
Procurement
Senior Admin. Assistant



Mr. Kelvin M. Ndaru
PC/ISO
Senior Admin. Assistant



Mr. Moses Baithili
Examinations
Senior Admin. Assistant



Mr. David M. Marathi
Sports
Sports and Games Officer



Mr. Peter M. Nyaga
Stores
Senior Accounts Assistant



Ms. Peris N. Wainaina
Physical Sciences
Technician I



Mr. Erick K. Chirchir
ARM
Technician



Mr. William W. Ndirangu
Registrar (VC's Office)
Admin. Asst.



Ms. Catherine W. Diffatha
Accommodation
Housekeeper



Mr. Cyrus M. Muriithi
Library
Senior Library Assistant



Mr. Josphat B. Muriuki
Admissions
Senior Data Entry Clerk



Mr. Gitogo D. Wanyeki
Estates
Maintenance Officer



Ms. Caroline L. Njogu
DVC (PAF)
Office Assistant I



Ms. Eunice W. Njagi
Finance
Accounts Assistant



Ms. Sicily M. Kithumbu
Library
Library Assistant



Mr. Kelvin M. Mutegi
Catering
Dining Hall Supervisor



Ms. Mercy W. Karuiru
Catering
Dining Hall Supervisor



Ms. Mercy M. Njeru
Catering
Senior Cleaner & Messenger



Mr. Jacob N. Kathii
Security
Security Supervisor



**Achievement seems to be connected
with action.**

Successful men and women

keep moving.

They make mistakes, but they don't quit

-Conrad Hilton



Mr. David Macharia
Coordinator, Sports & Games



University of Embu's Volleyball players during the 2-day KUSA Central Conference League tournament held on 7th June, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.

Soaring **Higher** in **Sports** and **Games**

The Department witnessed an increased participation in both recreational and competitive sports and games for 2019/2020 academic year. The year culminated with several disciplines qualifying for various Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) National Games.

During 2020 KUSA National Women Championships, the University presented three basketball and one lawn tennis team respectively. The teams took position three (3) overall, a feat not realized there before. This sets a stage for more exploits in future if the performances in these games is anything to go by.

Additionally, the University qualified in handball men and women, basketball women and netball men for KUSA National Ball Games that were scheduled to take place in the month

of March. This was however, never realized due to COVID-19 pandemic that prompted closure of all learning institutions. Handball men was the team of the year having qualified undefeated in the region.

To create an all-inclusive recreational programme, the period saw the establishment of Roll Ball teams for both men and women for the first time at the University. The game is played by players on roller skates and it resembles handball played on hardened surface. The game has gained popularity across the Country.

In preparation for our athletes, the University saw the successful completion of a state-of-the-art athletics track. The track, situated in the serene environment within the University meets World Athletics Standards. It is one of its kind in the

Athletics Kenya Upper Branch as well as in the region. This raises the bar and positions the University at the apex to host major national and International tournaments. The facility has been hailed by athletics professionals as a game changer in the County since such standard facilities are rare. Athletics Kenya has shown interest in the facility, declaring it ideal for hosting one of their Annual National Athletics meets in the near future. It is our hope that the student fraternity will make use of the track and fly the University flag even higher.

The Department wishes to congratulate all the teams and individuals who represented the University in various activities. On the same breath, we would like to challenge each student to identify and engage in a sport of their choice.



Maurice Murimi
Head of ICT

Advancing IT Support Systems



During the harsh conditions of Covid-19 pandemic that took the world to a stand-still, technology was the one thing that kept organizations afloat and ensured that operations continued. Stewart Brand postulates that 'Once a new technology rolls over you, if you're not part of the steamroller, you're part of the road.' With this, the team immediately took up the trend by implementing some of the systems and process that were in the pipelines for future considerations.

As the universities closed, online meetings were the first process to be implemented despite the need to attain social distance, ICT ensured that ideas and opinions can be constantly shared on online boardrooms while observing distance. Online communication ensured that operations still ran seamlessly, and staff could work from home. The online meetings have proven to be successful and hopefully this did set a trend for the future. Distance from the institution is never going to be a hindrance to attendance of meetings.

The University was able to admit

new students electronically, register the students in the system and commence teaching via the e-learning management system. The system was embraced with a positive outlook and it gave students the opportunity to get back on their academic track. The process may not have been without challenges but there is nothing new under the sun, as the team is constantly working on improving the systems.

Security is key especially in the University, that is why the ICT Department, in consultation with the University Management, setup a state-of-the-art surveillance equipment to boost security in the University. You can never have too much security. There is coverage of the better part of the University and we look forward to increasing surveillance throughout the University.

Electronic Voting system was a project that excited the team. Developing an electronic voting system from scratch was a challenge the team took up with a lot of enthusiasm. After months of hard work, the team delivered a fully functioning system that allowed students to vote

at the comfort of their homes. The system was put to work and it worked perfectly. Through this project the department assisted in making history for the University as being the first to conduct online elections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Simplifying workloads is one of the key purposes of Technology, that is why the ICT team is keen on automation of many procedures within the University. The department wants to ensure that clients get outstanding services at minimum time possible. By automating procedures, there has been improved accessibility of services and staff members have been able to work efficiently and effectively.

Finally, the Department is looking forward to further improving technology in the University, developing innovations, automating more services, improving customer satisfaction and save on resources. As technology changes the way we communicate, connect and innovate, it is democratizing access to opportunity. Education is no exception - Laura Andreessen.



MR. JOHN KINYUA
Head of Transport

Moving the Movers



The newly acquired 16 seater van for easy transportation.



The newly acquired Motor Bike for speedy mail delivery.



The Transport Department is charged with the responsibility of managing transport services professionally and cost effectively. It is also expected to implement a fleet management system that effectively serves the University and provides and maintains optimum number of motor vehicles in excellent working condition. The main focus of the Department has been provision of world class customer focused transport services. Our greatest joy is when our clients are satisfied with the services we offer.

By joining hands with our stakeholders, the Department has achieved several milestones to effectively and efficiently deliver to our clients and also help the University in its core mandate of Teaching, Research and Extension. The Department has acquired a 46 seater bus, a 16 seater van and a motorcycle. It has also recruited a Driver/Mechanic.

As we congratulate the graduating class, we are proud of having taken you for field trips, sports and conferences.

Meanwhile, the Department

implores all road users to take extra caution while on the road, whether as a driver, rider, passenger or pedestrian.

Data obtained from the National Transport & Safety Authority (NTSA), indicates that an estimated 3,000 deaths occur annually and more than 6,000 individuals are permanently disabled annually. About 40% of these are pedestrians.

Approximately 83% of the fatalities are male, with the most affected being those between 20-39 years. Most accidents occur between Friday and Sunday. This is therefore to urge you to be more careful while on the road.



UNIVERSITY OF EMBU ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFERED



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

Applications are invited from qualified applicants for the following programmes which will be offered on Full Time and Part time (Part-time Intensive - Institution Based, Weekdays, Evenings and Weekends) modes of study.

DOCTORATE PROGRAMMES

1. Ph.D. in Crop Protection
2. Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding
3. Ph.D. in Biotechnology
4. Ph.D. in Horticulture
5. Ph.D. in Agricultural Resource Management
6. Ph.D. in Land and Water Management
7. Ph.D. in Soil Science
8. Ph.D. in Agroforestry
9. Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics
10. Ph.D. in Management of Agro-ecosystems and Environment
11. Ph.D. in Educational Administration & Planning
12. Ph.D. in Entomology
13. Ph.D. in Plant Ecology
14. Ph.D. in Genetics
15. Ph.D. in Applied Microbiology
16. Ph.D. in Applied Parasitology
17. Ph.D. in Computer Science
18. Ph.D. in Chemistry
19. Ph.D. in Physics
20. Ph.D. in Business Administration

MASTERS PROGRAMMES

1. MSc. in Agricultural Resource Management
2. MSc. in Agroforestry
3. MSc. in Crop Protection
4. MSc. in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
5. MSc. in Horticulture
6. MSc. in Agricultural Economics
7. MSc. in Soil Science
8. MSc. in Land & Water Management
9. MSc. in Management of Agro-ecosystems and Environment
10. MSc. in Applied Microbiology
11. MSc. in Plant Ecology
12. MSc. in Genetics
13. MSc. in Entomology
14. MSc. in Chemistry
15. MSc. in Physics
16. MSc. in Statistics
17. MSc. in Applied Mathematics
18. MSc. in Pure Mathematics
19. MSc. in Computer Science
20. M.Ed. in Educational Planning & Administration
21. Master of Arts in Linguistics
22. Master of Arts in Kiswahili
23. Master of Business Administration

BACHELORS

1. BSc. in Agriculture
2. BSc. in Water Resource Management
3. BSc. in Management of Agro-Ecosystems and Environment
4. BSc. in Horticulture
5. BSc. in Agricultural Biotechnology

6. BSc. in Animal Science and Production
7. BSc. in Agricultural Economics
8. BSc. in Agribusiness Management
9. BSc. in Agriculture Education & Extension
10. BSc. in Range Management
11. BSc. in Computer Science
12. BSc. in Analytical Chemistry
13. BSc. in Industrial Chemistry
14. BSc. in Biochemistry
15. BSc. in Statistics
16. Bachelor of Science (BSc.)
17. BSc. in Biology
18. BSc. in Microbiology and Biotechnology
19. BSc. in Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources Management
20. BSc. in Environmental Sciences
21. BSc. in Information Technology
22. BSc. in Nursing (BScN) - Upgrading Programme.
23. BSc. in Nursing (BScN) - Direct Entry
24. BSc. in Community Health and Development
25. Bachelor of Economics
26. Bachelor of Commerce
27. Bachelor of Economics and Statistics
28. Bachelor of Purchasing & Supplies Management
29. BSc. in Finance
30. Bachelor of Education (Science)
31. Bachelor of Education (Arts)
32. Bachelor Arts (Criminology & Security Studies)
33. Bachelor of Library and Information Science
34. Bachelor of Laws
35. Bachelor of Science (Mathematics with Computing)
36. Bachelor of Business Information Technology
37. Bachelor of Economics and Finance

CONTENT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES

- Content Enhancement in
- Science Subjects
 - Art Subjects

DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES

1. Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)
2. Diploma in Crop Protection
3. Diploma in Information Technology
4. Diploma in Purchasing & Supplies
5. Diploma in Business Management with IT
6. Diploma in Project Management
7. Diploma in Library and Information Studies
8. Diploma in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
9. Diploma in Agricultural Extension
10. Diploma in Water Resources Technology
11. Diploma in Crop Protection
12. Diploma in Horticulture
13. Diploma in Seed Technology
14. Diploma in Animal Production and Nutrition
15. Diploma in Agricultural Biotechnology
16. Diploma in Information Technology
17. Diploma in Data Management and Analysis
18. Diploma in Analytical Chemistry
19. Diploma in Applied Biology
20. Diploma in Community Health

21. Diploma in Counseling (Disaster Management and Trauma Counseling)
22. Diploma in Social Work and Community Development
23. Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management
24. Diploma in Criminology & Security Management
25. Diploma in Corporate Communication
26. Diploma in Japanese

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

Certificate in Computer & Portable Devices Repair & Maintenance

1. Certificate in Computer Applications
2. Certificate in Purchasing & Supplies
3. Certificate in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
4. Certificate in Agricultural Extension
5. Certificate in Business Management with IT
6. Certificate in Business Management with IT
7. Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Audits
8. Certificate in Analytical Chemistry
9. Certificate in Information Technology
10. Certificate in Japanese

PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES

1. Proficiency Certificate in ICT
2. Proficiency Certificate in Data Analysis
3. Proficiency Certificate in Japanese

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

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

SHORT COURSES

1. Certificate in Tissue Culture
2. Certificate in Banana Husbandry
3. Certificate in Smallholder Irrigation & Water Management
4. Certificate in Farm Fertility Management
5. Certificate in Agribusiness Management
6. Certificate in Seed Technology

KASNEB PROFESSIONAL COURSE

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

KASNEB PROFESSIONAL COURSE

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

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



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

ENQUIRIES

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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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.

The University of Embu

Established under the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012
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