

THE Flashlight

MAGAZINE



A Publication of the University of Embu

UNIVERSITY OF EMBU NEW LIBRARY OPENED



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

Contents

Page **04**



UoEm Ultra-Modern Library Opens its Doors

Page **07**



DP Launches Endowment Fund

Page **10**



3rd Graduation Marked with Pomp & Colour

Page **15**



Celebrating Talent & Cultural Diversity

Page **31**



University Relocates to New Administration Offices

Page **34**



Change of Guard at Student Council

Page **44**



Kiswahili ni Taaluma Yenye Tija

Page **49**



ERP System Implemented

Editorial

Together we shall excel

As individuals and institutions make strides in growth and development, they undergo a myriad of changes and challenges. The University of Embu, like other upcoming institutions, has metamorphosed from a simple Agricultural Staff Training Institute to an admirable modern University. This edition explores some of the milestones that the University has attained in the recent past.

Major events featured in this edition range from the official opening of the new state-of-the-art Professor George Magoha Library and the launch of the University Endowment Fund by the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, to the formal installation of Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru as the first Vice-Chancellor of University of Embu.

This edition also features the University's 3rd Graduation Ceremony during which the best graduating student received the Chancellor's Award. Other top-performing students in the five schools won University scholarships and have since joined various masters' programmes. Our very talented student artists also displayed their prowess during the 3rd UNESCO-KNATCOM Cultural Celebrations held at the Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground in Kisumu County, where they scooped national awards.

Despite the reduction in government capitation in the recent past, University activities have been going on without disruption, albeit at a limited scale. This has been made possible by the University's symbiotic relationship with its research and financial partners. To this end, the 3rd University Cultural Festival received a financial boost of Ksh. 1.6 million from Kenya Commercial Bank which enabled the activity to go on as scheduled. Other notable successful events include the Careers Day, University of Embu Students Association (UESA) elections, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and the Open Access Week.

The above milestones could not have been achieved without the cooperation of various stakeholders. **The Flashlight** Editorial Board wishes to appreciate individuals and corporates who have continuously supported the University in its endeavour to provide excellent training and research for service to humanity. As you read this edition, remember to ask yourself what you have done so far to make the University what it is today.

We also wish to ask staff, students and all our stakeholders to support the Vice-Chancellor in his tireless efforts to firmly place the University in the league of world class universities. The task is not easy, but with God all things are possible.

UoEm Quarterly MAGAZINE



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From The Vice-Chancellor's Desk

On behalf of the entire University fraternity, and on my own behalf, let me take this opportunity to welcome you to the 6th Issue of **The Flashlight** Magazine. First and foremost, I would like to recognize the efforts of the Editorial Board in its determination in pursuing editorial excellence. Congrats!

It's been a year filled with major accomplishments, milestones and steady accelerated growth in the midst of uncertainty in the higher education sector; from unrecognized and unaccredited to proposals to increase of tuitions fees, but we have been able to chart our way forward and align ourselves with being a global leader and centre of cutting-edge research.

Despite these uncertainties, the University has continued to provide quality education to young minds with emphasis on nurturing them to think critically and develop collaborative skills. Our academic curriculum has been designed to provide holistic education with sharp focus on relevance to industry needs and capacity to adapt in the ever-changing globalized world. It is with this in mind, the University launched the much anticipated Endowment Fund.

The Fund which was officially presided by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya on 25th October 2018, will play a crucial role in aiding needy students in search for knowledge and realizing of the Big4 National Government Development Agenda. The launch also coincided with the official opening of the ultra-modern Prof George Magoha Library.

We are guided by 4 major goals, excellent teaching, customer satisfaction, cutting edge-research and corporate social responsibility. In line with these goals, the Institution is at advanced stages of establishing the School of Law, with the first cohort of students expected during the September intake. The University is also on course towards the establishment of the School of Engineering and School of Medicine.

Excellence is potential carved into a perfect state through vision and sheer hard work. It is worth noting our students' exemplary performance at the national and global stage. The students exhibited outstanding performance and were recognized in the 2018 UNESCO-KNATCOM Cultural Celebration, Miss ASK Embu

When learning is purposeful, creativity blossoms. When creativity blossoms, thinking emanates. When thinking emanates, knowledge is fully lit. When knowledge is lit, economy flourishes.

DR. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India former President

2019, and finally, the 3rd Edition of CULFEST with the theme being Celebrating Talent and Promoting Cultural Diversity.

In the University's endeavour to provide holistic and premium education, the Institution has continuously involved students in governance and leadership. The University held its 6th UESA election with Mr. Bill Osome, a 3rd year student in the School of Education and Social Sciences, taking the mantle as the new UESA Chairman. Congratulations!



Prof. Daniel M. Njiru, Ph.D
Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu

As part of our growth strategy, the University held the Chancellor's State of the University address at the University Sporting Ground. The address aimed at reviewing the University's achievements and opportunities for furtherance of its mission and objectives. The administrative services were relocated to the University brand new Administration Building valued at 617 million Kenya shillings.

Finally, I want to assure you that the University of Embu shall remain committed to offering premium market-driven programmes and building sustainable careers for students that will be responsive to the market needs. As we look into the future, one thing is certain - knowledge will be a key resource. I urge the members of management and all staff to consolidate gains made in order to attract increased student population; and also to use the available resources prudently.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Intelligence plus character -that is the goal of education" I strongly believe University of Embu is marching ahead in the right direction, providing a holistic education for posterity and playing a positive role in Nation building.



The New University of Embu Library named after Prof. George Magoha opened by H.E William Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

UoEm Ultra-Modern Library Opens its Doors

The University of Embu added a feather in her cap as the staff and students celebrated the auspicious opening of the state-of-the-art library on 25th October 2018. The auspicious occasion was presided by H. E William Samoei Ruto, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

The Library, named after the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, Prof. George Magoha is composed of three subject libraries, namely: Humanities and Social Sciences on the ground floor, Law and Political Science Library on the first floor and Science and Technology on the second floor. The Library has a total stock of approximately 20,000 volumes, inclusive of books, periodicals and other non-print materials. Prof. George Magoha Library has also fully subscribed to electronic information resources. It has electronic versions of text books, online journals and databases.

Most significantly for students, more seating and student space is available than is usual within academic libraries, with a study space for every eight students (*compared to the national average often students per space*). There are also dedicated group-study areas with furniture and power points at every desk, as well as limitless Wi-Fi access. Users will have views from the first and second floor of the Library over iconic Embu National landmarks, including the iconic Mt. Kenya.

Speaking during the occasion, the Vice - Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, emphasized the need to embrace modern technology in provision of quality library services. *"Libraries today are more than just about borrowing books. They are a comfortable and aspirational place to study, with multiple on-line and printed resources. We've worked hard to create a library which is a motivating and inspiring place to study,*



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, H. E William Samoei Ruto, cuts the ribbon to officially open the New Library on 25th October 2018.

with plenty of space and natural light. We know that everyone studies in their own way, and to accommodate everyone's different styles, there are information commons in the ground floor and as you move up through the building there are quieter areas for individual study."

The new Library enjoys natural light and wonderful outlook with a series of double volume spaces and glazed walls. This means the floors are interlinked vertically, thus ensuring a sense of communication connecting all areas and all levels. The central stairway and light-well acts a triumphal connector between all levels and spaces.

This new Library is designed to respond to the nexus of change in information provision, pedagogy, research practice and reader behavior. Drawing on aspects of design from libraries of antiquity with space for the exchange of ideas and from traditional libraries with space for solitary scholarship, we were determined to capitalize on this opportunity to introduce new ways of thinking and technologies across the board, all with a view to the future and the inevitable change that will bring about

The design is based on the growing evidence of the important relationships between the library and learning, and research which demonstrates that library use increases students' success; and that library instruction builds students' skills and contributes to retention and persistence. Equally, the design responds to the growing importance of unique collections, digital scholarship, data for research, and the role library space has in fostering social and academic community.

These principles underpin the Library's provision of a constellation of spaces, resources and expertise that will facilitate student and faculty success.



Dr. Paul N. Nthakania, Ph.D
Registrar,
(Planning, Administration & Finance)

Etymology of the Name Professor George Magoha Library

The location and site of the University ultra-modern library offers a soothing view to its users. From the first floor the legendary snowcapped Mount Kenya is easily visible. Likewise, between it and the athletics field is a river. Thus, scholars interested in study of mountains (Orology), rivers (Potamology) and games (Ludology) will find it very easy to view related features from the comfort of the Library. But, have you ever stared at the magnificent building, wondering who is Professor George Magoha. The University Management realized the need to identify our key infrastructural projects by specific names. Since then, the University Naming Committee initiated the process of information gathering so as to appropriately advise on the naming process. Firstly, the Committee did an etymological study in order to establish the basis on which buildings were to be named. The naming process involved stakeholder participation, whereby students, staff and the University management were involved.

Among the buildings that needed naming was the new University library. After considering the collected data and specific contributions, the Management aptly named it the Professor George Magoha Library. This was in recognition of Prof. Magoha's immense contribution in nurturing the University of Embu from the nascent age.

Prof. George Magoha served as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi (UoN), from January 2005 to January 2015. It is on record that Prof. Magoha gave consent for the Embu University College to be a constituent college of the University of Nairobi. This dream came into fruition in June 2011 when the then Embu Agricultural Staff Training (EAST) was upgraded to Embu University College via Legal Order No. 65 of 2011 as a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi admitted the pioneer students at Embu University College in September 2012. However, since the facility needed a facelift to reflect its new status; and that the College had no budgetary allocation, these students were enrolled in September 2013 and offered programmes from the University of Nairobi under the guidance of Prof. Magoha. Before the appointment of the college administrators, Prof. Magoha oversaw the official handover and transition from EAST College to Embu University College. The mentorship of the nascent University started in earnest. At this point, Prof. Magoha allowed the College to access the University of Nairobi Library without limitation. Also, the UoN staff trained the pioneer College staff on access to e-resources free-of-charge. He also sent key staff to oversee the transition.

The College was to transit to a full University status within three years, a role Prof. Magoha guided with great enthusiasm and professionalism. Prof. Magoha attended in person, most if not all planning meetings. During the accreditation process by the Commission for University Education, he directed the Senate of the University of Nairobi to allow the University of Embu to adopt as many UoN programmes as possible. By the time the University of Embu was chartered, it had over 24 accredited undergraduate programmes and several postgraduate programmes. It is from these and many more acts of selflessly giving his all for the success of UoEm that Prof. Magoha gains an indelible position at the University of Embu, that is why the University of Embu Management approved the naming of the imposing facility as Professor George Magoha Library.

Prof. Mugendi Installed as 1st VC



The University of Embu Chancellor Prof. Paul Musili Wambua MCI Arb, robes Prof. Daniel Mugendi with the academic attire and installs him as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu.

The University of Embu formally installed the founding principal of the former Embu University College, the precursor of the University of Embu, Professor Daniel Mugendi, as the 1st Vice-Chancellor during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony held at University of Embu on 14th September 2018.

The installation ceremony, which coincided with the 3rd graduation ceremony and ISO certification celebration saw close friends and family flank the former principal as he was robed with the academic attire and installed as the first Vice-Chancellor. The appointment, which came after a rigorous and highly competitive process, saw the academician robed by the chair of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Eucharia Kenya.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics, Research and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, read the citation which detailed the VC's remarkable accomplishments, both personally and professionally. Part of the citation recognized Prof. Mugendi as a scholar and researcher of international repute, who boasted of more than 35 years of service; author, co-author and publisher of over 120 peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles and books.

In his speech, the Chancellor described Prof. Mugendi as a seasoned University manager who has brought a wealth of experience to the University. He lauded the VC, terming his installation a confirmation of his great achievements.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Mugendi for his appointment as the new and first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu. His installation ushers a new era in governance and leadership and I am confident that his strategic leadership and vision will propel this University to a formidable powerhouse and centre of excellence in teaching, research and service to humanity," the Chancellor said.

Chair of the University Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi commended the Vice-Chancellor's appointment, noting that it was historical. *"On behalf of University of Embu Council, I want to sincerely pat in the back, Prof. Mugendi for his installation as the first Vice-Chancellor. This is indeed historic, as we officially hand him instruments of power as he takes the journey as the University's 1st Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Mugendi's bold vision and strategic leadership during his tenure as the pioneer Principal of the Embu University College has been able to steer this Institution to full-fledged University status,"* she said. *"As a Council, we are confident in his leadership and his commitment to attaining the University's vision of being an epicenter of excellence,"* she added.

The occasion was graced by Prof. P.K. Nair, a distinguished Professor from the University of Florida. In his speech, Prof. Nair was full of praises for his former student, terming his appointment as deserving.

"Prof. Mugendi has demonstrated extraordinary effort and commitment over the years towards strengthening excellence in higher education, research and scholarship in Kenya and internationally," he said.

"His appointment and installation as the University's first Vice-Chancellor clearly affirms this achievement. I believe his wealth of experience as a scholar and researcher of international repute, shall catapult this university to a global education powerhouse," he added

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Mugendi acknowledged the overwhelming support and goodwill from the Chancellor, Council Members, the University Management, colleagues, his family and other educational stakeholders. He also heaped unsurmountable gratitude to the teaching and non-teaching staff and students for demonstrating extraordinary professionalism, dedication and resolve to grow this young University. He concluded his speech by clearly enumerating his vision and key priorities as he focused on his first term as Vice-Chancellor.

DP Launches University Endowment Fund



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, presided over the launch of the University Endowment Fund on Thursday, 25th October, 2018 at the University of Embu Sports Grounds. The much anticipated visit saw meticulous planning and execution overseen by the University Council and Management to fine tune every detail before the Deputy President's arrival.

The Deputy President was received by the Governor of Embu, H.E. Martin Wambora, University of Embu Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, Chairman of the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees Hon. Lenny Kivuti, UoEm Council Members, the University Management and other leaders of the County, including MPs and MCAs.

In his opening remarks, the Deputy President commended the University for identifying innovative ways for resource mobilization in an era marked by limited resources and competing priorities by the exchequer. The DP stated that he was particularly privileged to be part of the launch of the Endowment Fund,

since it was the first of its kind in the Country.

He further lauded the efforts of the University in promoting scholarly excellence and the rapid growth it had recorded since its inception. He singled out the University's innovativeness in averting financial challenges it faced in its quest to be an epicenter of excellence in teaching, research and service to humanity.

"I commend the University for recognizing the fact that some students face challenges in meeting their financial obligations. Over the past two years, the University's outside-the-box thinking saw them assemble financial resources through the Financial Aid Kitty and the One Shilling Foundation to support needy students meet their financial obligations by paying their fees and providing meals for the extremely needy cases," said the DP

The DP was also quick to point out that the Government was on track to achieving its Big 4 Agenda in its current term to set the scene for greater development for our Country. He also recognized the challenges that many public institutions were experiencing in generating revenue for development and limited

resources from the exchequer, urging for an innovative approach in addressing this delicate issue.

"Although the Government is committed to expanding the scope of the National Research Fund, the University Funding Board and other funding streams to facilitate further the development of our Universities, it is important for universities to strategically partner with the corporate world in this discourse. Institutions of higher learning need to engage in quality and strategic research targeted at finding practical solutions to the challenges our society is facing today," he added

He recognized the University's efforts in establishing an endowment fund, the first of its kind in the education sector in the Country. The Fund primarily focuses on assisting needy and deserving students through bursaries, feeding programme and scholarships.

"The Endowment Fund will definitely provide some form of financial independence for the University and a break from over-reliance on government capitation as well as political and economic factors of the day," he emphasized.

Additionally, the DP was keen to advise institutions of higher learning to focus on re-configuring and re-aligning University curricula, to ensure learners are not pressured to pass exams but cultivate a culture where acquisition of competence, knowledge and skills is paramount.

"Institutions of higher learning need to be concerned on the courses they teach and course relevance to the market place and to requirements of the economy and development programmes to prevent producing graduates who have no proper place in the economy hence contributing to unemployment."

In his closing remarks the Deputy President urged the University of Embu to spearhead economic growth by bringing tools of engineering transformation of the economic growth of the country through adoption and use of research, technology and innovation. Over Kshs. 40 million was raised.

Testimony of a Beneficiary of the Endowment Fund

By **Cathra Sambili**, 3rd Year B.Ed Arts Student

I sat down all alone, feeling the world was crumbling down on me with so much strength, not in portions but with one never ending downpour to the extent of giving up. I laid down well-versed prayers to the almighty. I did the prayers so well and in very humble words, since the urgency of their answers to me was unimaginably high. I thought by doing so God would look at me, smile and give a reassuring nod of his head to signal an approval of my prayer being answered.

There was no need of calling home. Moreover, how would that even help? Is it not because of the nature of our situation and background back at home that am in this situation? Many questions lingered in my mind without answers. I could not blame my parents because everyone is gifted with the power to choose neighbors they want but not their parents, upbringings and relations. What gave me so much hope and motivation was the fact and knowledge I had, that my future was solely in my hands and I was the

moulder of my own destiny. That is why I gave it my all, studied with so much vigor, though my academic life was hanging on a thread due to financial constraint, I had hope on which I consoled myself with.

Finally, my prayer was answered! Finances were no longer going to be a hindrance for me to pursue my goals because a noble hand had been stretched towards me and all I needed to do was raise mine and hold on to it. The hand of hope, in form of a fund, the Endowment Fund. At last, I had a reason to smile and drown all my stresses. I dedicate this to the entire University of Embu family specifically the administration for initiating this miracle. The Endowment Fund has shown us that you indeed care and want the financially unstable students reach and fulfill their dreams.

God bless you, God bless The University of Embu.



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. William Samoei Ruto, receives contribution from former UESA Chairman, Mr. Nathaniel Saul and former UESA Vice-Chair Ms. Stella Njiru during the Endowment Fund Drive that was held on 25th October. 2018.

University of Embu Endowment Fund Board of Trustees (BOT) Membership



Hon. Lenny Kivuti _____ Chairman, BOT

Hon. Kivuti holds a Bachelor's degree in Survey from the University of Nairobi and a Master's degree in Information Science from London. He is a renowned Geo-information expert and is currently the Managing Director, Geomaps Africa. He served as the first Senator of Embu County, and formerly as a Member of the National Assembly for Siakago Constituency.



Dr. Evangeline Njoka, Ph.D, MBS _____ Member, BOT

Dr. Njoka holds a Master's degree in Education Administration from the University of Nairobi and a Ph.D in Education Administration from the University of Durrham, UK. She is the current Secretary General and the first Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) State Corporation. In recognition of her distinguished service rendered to the Nation in the course of her work, she was conferred a medal, the Moran of the Burning Spear 3rd Order (M.B.S), by the President of Kenya.



Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba _____ Member, BOT

He holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi and a LL. D (Doctor of Laws) on the Law of the Sea from the University of Ghent, Belgium. He is also a holder of the Degree of Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He is an Advocate of the High Courts of Kenya and Tanzania. He is an Associate Professor of Public Law and the Founding Dean, Kabarak University School of Law. He is trained on Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, and on International Humanitarian Law. He has served the Country in various key capacities including as a Secretary of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission, Director, Kenya Anti Corruption Commission, amongst others.



Ms. Agnes Wanjuki Ndwiga, HSC _____ Member, BOT

Ms. Ndwiga is a financial sector expert with over 20 years' experience and is currently the General Manager Equity Group. Agnes has been awarded the Head of State Commendation (HSC) by the President of Kenya for her contribution in Financing of SMEs through her work in the finance industry and also public sector board roles. She has served in various capacities in Boards of key institutions in Kenya.



Mr. Mohamed Abdirahman Hassan _____ Member, BOT

Mr. Hassan holds a Master of Science degree in Finance, (MSc.) of the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designate and a graduate of the Advanced Management Programme (AMP) from Strathmore Business School and IESE Business School, Universidad de Navarra, Barcelona. He is currently the Board Chairman of National Bank. Mr. Hassan has over 21 years' experience in the international and regional capital markets. He is a member of the Board of Trustee, Northern Kenya Education Trust. He has served in various key capacities, including Joint Managing Director & CEO, Dyer & Blair Investment Bank, Chairman, Kenya National Trading Corporation and Director, Kenya Community Development Foundation.



Ms. Paula Konttinen _____ Member, BOT

Ms. Konttinen holds a Master's degree in Education from the University of Helsinki, Finland. She is currently the Regional Programme Manager with Fida International, a Finnish NGO. She has a wealth of experience in working with various Non-Governmental Organizations and has held various leadership positions including with World Poverty Solutions (WPS), KEPA, the umbrella organization for Finnish Civil Social Organizations.



Mr. Titus Ibui, EGH _____ Member, BOT

Mr. Ibui holds a Masters of Business Administration. He is the founder and Executive Director of Bell Industries Limited and currently serving as the Board Chairman of LAPSET Corridor Development Authority. He has had extensive training in Sales and Training, Advanced Marketing and Management, Crop Protection, Planning and Marketing and Finance. Mr. Titus has been awarded the Elder of the Golden Hearts (EGH) by the President of Kenya in recognition of his outstanding services rendered to the Nation. He has served in various capacities in Boards of Management of public and private institutions and entities.



Dr. Margaret M. Gikuhi, Ph.D _____ Representing Council

Dr. Margaret Mumbi Gikuhi is the Chairperson of the University of Embu Council. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, Master of Education, (Educational, Administration and Planning) both from Catholic University of Eastern Africa and a Bachelor of Education Arts, University of Nairobi. Dr. Gikuhi has a wide experience in academics and administration and has held various leadership positions, with the Teachers Service Commission in which she has displayed exemplary performance. She is currently serving as a director in a consultancy firm.

3rd Graduation Ceremony Marked with Pomp and Colour



A section of the first cohort of School of Nursing graduands taking the Hippocratic Oath during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony held on 14th September, 2018 at the University Sports Ground.

The 3rd University of Embu Graduation Ceremony was held on 14th September, 2018, at the University grounds. In total, five hundred and ninety three (593) students graduated. This was an increase in the number of graduands compared to 2017, where two hundred and seventy eight students (278) graduated. This trend of growth is expected to continue in the coming years, since there has been an increase in both the number of students enrolled as well as the number of programmes being offered by the University.

The graduation ceremony was unique, because the programme included the installation of the 1st Vice-Chancellor of the University of Embu and the presentation of the ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013 certificates by Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

There were various entertainment pieces by University students and the community around the University,

which kept the audience yearning for more. One of the graduating students, Mr. Duncan Othuon, was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

The guest speaker during the ceremony was a distinguished professor from the University of Florida, USA, Prof. P. K. Nair. Prof. Nair was full of compliments for the University, noting that the University of Embu had recorded big strides and leaps in its few years of operation, thereby gaining an international reputation as an upcoming leader in higher education and research.

He congratulated Prof. Mugendi for his historic appointment as the 1st Vice-Chancellor of the institution and expressed confidence in the VC's ability to provide the best leadership for the steadily growing University.

Speaking during the occasion, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in charge of Higher Education, Prof. Colleta Suda, congratulated the University of Embu for being

among the first institutions in Kenya to acquire ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013 Certification. She noted that this was an indication of the hard work and commitment by the University community towards making the University a world-class centre of excellence.

The Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, who presided over the ceremony, reiterated his commitment to support the University Council and Management as they work to steer the University to even greater heights of success. *"As the Chancellor, I am committed to seeing this University grow into a formidable powerhouse in teaching, research and scholarship as well as service to humanity,"* Prof. Musili emphasized.

The Chairperson of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi congratulated the graduands and reiterated the University Council's commitment to seeing that the University is able to provide the students and staff with necessary facilities and resources to

3rd Graduation Ceremony: Graduand Scoops Chancellor's Award



Mr. Dancan Othuo Otieno receives the Chancellor's Award from the University of Embu Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua MCI Arb, during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony, on 14th September, 2018.

The University, in its endeavour to provide a holistic and premier education, has continued to recognize the need to motivate students towards achieving excellence in their various disciplines. It is for this reason the University's Chancellor, Professor Paul Musili introduced the Chancellor's Award. The Award has three categories: the best overall graduating student, exceptional academic staff, and stakeholders who have made the greatest contribution to the University. The recipients are awarded a recognition certificate and prize money as found appropriate. In this regard, during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony, Mr. Dancan Othuo Otieno was awarded the 2018 Chancellor's Award for Best Overall Graduating Student.

Mr. Othuo, a School of Business and Economics student taking Bachelor of Commerce (Finance

Option) displayed exemplary academic excellence, impeccable disciplinary record and doubled this with being the 2017/2018 University of Embu Students Association (UESA) Chairman. He distinguished himself as the best graduating student in the Class of 2018 by attaining a First Class Honors Degree. Mr. Othuo is also the founder and Chairman of the Business Students Association, had no disciplinary record and is a trained fire marshal. He was also recognized for his role in championing support for needy students. In addition, he participated and presented a research paper in the 2018 UN SAIMUN Conference.

As a result of this accomplishment and recognition, Mr. Othuo was awarded a full scholarship for a Master's Degree at the University of Embu. The award embodies portrays the University's vision, which is a dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research for service

to humanity by providing a holistic education and molding an all rounded student.

We encourage potential sponsors and well-wishers to partner with the University in support of this initiative of appreciating and rewarding exemplary academic excellence and redefining the spirit of competition.

**THIS AWARD
EMBODIES THE
UNIVERSITY'S
VISION WHICH IS**

**“ a dynamic epicentre
of excellence
in training and
research for service
to humanity.”**



Pomp and Colour During Graduation

Continued from pg 10

promote high quality teaching and learning. While underscoring the Council's satisfaction with the work that the University Management, Senate, Staff and Students were doing, Dr. Gikuhi said, "You have all continued to impress us with your commitment to the realization of the mandate of this University. Indeed, it is as a result of your hard work and dedication that we have managed to shape and guide our graduands on a success path that will enable them to attain meaningfully better lives."

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, thanked the Chancellor, the Government, through the Ministry of Education, the University Council and the University community for the support they had accorded the Institution which had enabled the University realize notable achievements since his appointment as the pioneer VC. "We, as the University of Embu family are grateful for the goodwill and support that we continue to receive which has enabled us record the milestones that we have so far." He thanked everyone for their kind messages, including the National Government and the County leadership. "It is not lost on us that we are privileged to enjoy unwavering support from the local community, the County leadership, and the National Government. We do not take this for granted. Thank you all for your goodwill and support," the VC concluded.

Other guests that graced the occasion included Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Registrars from other Universities, the Secretary Commission for University Education, officials from the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and Embu County Government officers, among other dignitaries.





Dr. Mark Otieno
Dean of Students

Towards Moulding an All-Round Student

The Dean of Students Office is proud to report tremendous achievements in the 1st Semester of 2018/2019 academic year in its quest to support student welfare at the University of Embu.

As the University was excited to receive a cohort of 1362 first year students on 27th August, 2018, the Office in conjunction with Admissions Office was putting together a vibrant induction programme for the new students. The programme ran from 27th to 31st August, 2018 and was aimed at enabling students to integrate into the University life quickly by informing them about the campus culture, academic expectations and available resources; and how to maintain their health and wellness. The orientation ended with a colourful interfaith service on 2nd September, 2018 that brought together students of all faiths to ask God to bless the academic year and guide the students into leading a righteous life.

An important day in the University's calendar is graduation. On 14th September, 2018, the University held its 3rd graduation ceremony that was marked with pomp and colour. Student groups put up a high standard of performance by showcasing great talent which left the guests yearning for more. In the evening of the same day, the students held a Fresher's Night organized by UESA. For the first time, the event had a contest for Mr. and Miss. Fresher which saw Sharon Nakamet emerge as Miss Freshers' UoEm 2018/2019 and Cheupe Lameck Genya as Mr. Freshers' UoEm 2018/2019 respectively.

The Dean of Students office is committed to providing opportunities for students to sharpen their skills for the job market. In this regard, we organized for a youth employability training that was facilitated by Care International - Kenya on 27th September, 2018. About 600 students were trained on how to find work, manage money, work with people and be entrepreneurial.

Other activities the Office was engaged in include; participation in the KNATCOM-UNESCO Cultural Event where students represented the University and got two trophies. The Office also organized for students to participate in the Mashujaa Day celebrations on 20th October, 2018 where 60 students performed. The Office also organized for a successful registration and launch of the University staff choir which will provide entertainment during future functions at the University. In addition, the Office also hosted Japanese exchange students on two occasions; first, students from Tenri University on 23rd August, 2018 and then Takushoku University on 10th September, 2018. In future, we plan to conduct sensitisation on psycho-social issues affecting students, and start a Fire Marshal's Club in the University.



Admission of Students Goes Hi-Tech.



Ms. Liz Murugi
Head of Admissions



First year students register during the admissions exercise on 28th August, 2017 at the University Charter Hall.

The First Semester, 2018/2019 Academic Year, saw a key milestone for the Admissions Office since the office launched implementation of the admissions module of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP). The ERP is aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to the University's stakeholders.

Notably, during the registration of new students for the first semester 2018/2019 academic year, the time taken to register one (1) student was substantially reduced to twenty-five (25) minutes from the four (4) hours taken during the registration for the 2017/2018 Academic year. Going forward, the office will implement paperless processes and establish other innovative ways to further increase efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery and access to information by students.

The University offers a wide range of competitive and market driven programmes which are domiciled in five Schools, namely; School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Pure and Applied Sciences, School of Agriculture, School of Business and Economics and School of Nursing. The University has over one hundred and nineteen (119) programmes offered at Doctorate, Masters, Bachelors,

Diploma and Certificate levels. Over 6,000 students are currently enrolled in these programmes.

The University runs a vibrant marketing drive to attract students into its programmes to enable them acquire needed skills and competences to serve the Nation. Our programmes are offered on full time and part time (Part-time Intensive - Institution-Based, Weekdays, Evenings and Weekends) modes of study. Our intakes are in January, April, May, August, September and December every year.

The Admissions Office is committed to provision of timely and quality information to enable prospective students, parents and guardians make informed decisions about programmes of study. As such, the Office is open to all interested parties; members and non - members of the University community where our staff provide information on career choice, opportunities in higher education, application and revision for placement by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) and inter university transfer process.

**For more information
kindly reach us on:
Email: admissions@embuni.ac.ke
Tel: 0706-528878**

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots,”

Marcus Garvey



Celebrating Talent and Cultural Diversity

KCB officials led by Mr. Job Njiru (*second right*) are joined by the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi and CULFEST Committee Chairman, Dr. Timothy Kinoti in enjoying a thrilling performance during the opening ceremony of the 3rd Cultural festival held on 8th February 2019 at the University Sports Ground.

The University of Embu hosted the 3rd Cultural Festival dubbed ‘**CULFEST**’, an event that is highly anticipated by students and members of staff throughout the academic year as it not only seeks to bring light moments during the academic year, but also aims at appreciating and celebrating the cultural diversity witnessed in the rapidly growing Institution of higher learning. This year’s Cultural Festival whose theme was **Celebrating Talent and Cultural Diversity** was held at the University’s sportsground.

The event, that ran from 4th to 9th February 2019, was officially launched by the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi Njiru in

an opening ceremony that was filled with pomp and colour. In his speech, the VC emphasized the University’s commitment in supporting cultural activities of the students as well as providing necessary support for talented students in the realization of their dreams.

“Our cultural heritage keeps our memories alive to how beliefs and cultural expressions have contributed to the growth of society. Cultural Festivals, like this one, bring people together in shared experiences at regional and National levels. Under no circumstance, should a person abandon his or her culture. I want to call upon all students and staff to try all their level best to appreciate and feel

proud of their culture.” Prof. Mugendi added.

In line with one of its core values, team-work, the University partnered with the Kenya Commercial Bank, in a move to ensure that the event, which aims at enhancing National cohesion and integration was successful. Kenya Commercial Bank through the Director Retail Banking, Ms. Annastacia Kimtai, presented a cheque of Kshs. 1.6 million to the University’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi to sponsor the Cultural festival. The Bank has also in the recent past supported the University in other ways, such as offering internship opportunities to students, and has pledged to increase

Celebrating Talent and Cultural Diversity

Continued from pg 15

the number of students they admit in their internship programme.

Culfest 2019 in a great way incorporated the entire University fraternity through the various activities that took place during the week. Both students and members of staff actively participated in observing various dress codes that had been set for each day throughout the cultural week. They also participated in indoor games that had been organized. University of Embu students exhibited intriguing talents and creativity through the various presentations made during the Cultural festival that included Drama skits, Cultural dances, Modern dances, and Modeling.

A section of students and members of staff showcased their talents and skills including art work, embroidery and catering. The audience also got a chance to get entertained by renowned artists in the entertainment industry including award winning artists such as Nadia Mukami, Mejja, Moji Short Baba and the rib-cracking comedian Jasper Murume.

The climax of the two-day event was the hotly contested Mr. and Miss. University of Embu beauty pageant that took place on the night of 9th February.

Different contestants showcased their prowess in modeling by displaying their beauty and creativity skills through the different wears, leaving the judges with a difficult task of deciding who was the fairest of them all. The fun-filled night came to an end with the official crowning of Stanley Okoth Nyagaya, a Bachelor of Economics and Statistics student and Zipporah Wambui Muchiri, a Bachelor of Education (Science) student as Mr. and Miss. University of Embu 2019/2020. The two who walked away with gifts from KCB and additional rewards from Factorial 55 Beauty shop in Embu, will actively participate in key University events and play a role in boosting the image of the Institution.

The University of Embu plans to partner with other institutions in future to ensure that the talents exhibited during the cultural festival are tapped and further, it appeals to members of the public to appreciate the cultural diversity in our Country in order to promote peace and stability.

The Outgoing Miss UoEm, Abigail Kibe (*left*) presents a bouquet of flowers to the newly crowned Miss University of Embu 2019, Ms. Zipporah Wambui during the Mr. and Miss. UoEm gala night held on 8th March 2019 at the University Sports Ground.

Culfest Gets a Kshs 1.6 Million Boost



University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (3rd right) pose for a group photo with KCB Group Human Resource Director, Mr. Paul Russo (center) and Director, Retail Banking, Ms. Annastacia Kimtai (right) during a cheque presentation ceremony held at KCB Head Offices on 29th January. The Bank was the main sponsor of the CULFEST 2019. Also in the picture is (second left) DVC (PAF) Prof. Eucharua Kenya, DVC (ARE) Prof. Kiplagat Kotut (second right) and Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi.

The University of Embu received a major boost towards the preparation of the 3rd Edition of the University Cultural Festival dubbed **"CULFEST 2019"**. The cash sponsorship from KCB to the tune of 1.6 million shillings was presented at the KCB head office at Kencom House, Nairobi on 29th January, 2019.

The annual Cultural Festival held on 8th - 9th February 2019 sought to celebrate unrivaled talent, diversity, culture and arts among the University community.

On hand to receive the cheque, was the UoEm Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi accompanied by Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance, Prof. Eucharua Kenya, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academics, Research

and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, other members of Management and University student representatives led by UESA Chairman, Saul Nathaniel. The cheque was presented by Director, Retail Banking KCB group Ms. Annastacia Kimtai.

Speaking during the cheque hand-over ceremony, Professor Mugendi lauded KCB for their unrelenting support towards the growth of talent and cultural diversity in the Country. *"We are very grateful to KCB Bank for the huge boost towards the staging of this year's Cultural Festival. It is indeed an auspicious occasion. Talent identification and mentorship remains an integral part of the University as an instrument of promoting cohesion and celebrating cultural diversity among students and the University community as a whole,"* said Professor Mugendi.

"KCB and University of Embu have a long standing partnership that is beyond customer-client relationship and I believe this contribution towards the cultural festival firmly cements this partnership that is geared not only to promoting cultural diversity but also a symbiotic relationship," he added.

During the presentation, Ms. Annastacia Kimtai expressed delight in KCB Group coming on board to sponsor this year's University of Embu Cultural Festival. She added that the Bank was pleased with the solid partnership that has existed between the two institutions. *"I believe this financial boost towards the Cultural festival will go a long way towards redefining the spirit of competition, promotion of cultural diversity and talent among the student community."*

Fanfare as Mr. & Miss. Fresher Crowned

The University of Embu has a tradition of holding Freshers' Night at the beginning of every academic year. The event is designed to welcome first year students and introduce them to the University environment besides building their confidence and adding to their creativity. This event also enables the new students to interact and gel with each other and the continuing students in order to feel part of the University of Embu family.

At the beginning of the 2018/2019 academic year, UESA government organised a colorful and fun-filled Freshers' Night on 14th September, 2019 that featured tremendous improvements from previous years. In this event, a new concept of crowning Mr. and Miss. Fresher was introduced to enhance and nurture talent among the first year students. The event featured a variety of music and fanfare and was thoroughly enjoyed by students.

The Mr and Miss Fresher competitions attracted many first year students with a talent in modelling. After a rigorous process led by a team of three judges, among them the reigning Mr. and Miss UoEm 2017/2018, the contestants were declared winners.

On behalf of the entire student fraternity the UESA government would like to say Bravo! to the 2018/2019 UoEm Mr and Miss Fresher.



The newly crowned Mr. and Miss. Fresher's UoEm 2018/2019 (seated L-R) Lameck Genya and Sharon Nakamet (respectively) pose for a group photo with the 1st & 2nd runners up (standing L-R) Joseph Muchiri, Nickson Wainaina and Sally Chebet during the Inaugural Mr. and Miss. Fresher's UoEm 2018/2019 held on 14th September, 2018 at the University Sports Ground.

INAUGURAL VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

Prof. Daniel Mugendi, the VC, urged students to focus on their studies, retaliating it was the main reason they joined the University. He advised the students to uphold the value of honesty, integrity in the end-of-the semester exams. The VC was speaking during the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service which took place on Sunday, 17th March, 2019 at the University Sports ground. This year's thanksgiving service was unique in its own way as it saw the inauguration of the Vice-Chancellor's Award. This award recognizes the best students in each year of study with exemplary aggregate academic excellence and impeccable disciplinary record. In his remarks, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics, Research and Extension (ARE) said that the award was based purely on academic merit and that any contestant who had a record of disciplinary cases automatically got disqualified. He further thanked the Chancellors Award Committee, who had worked tirelessly to ensure that they came up with the best of the best performing students.

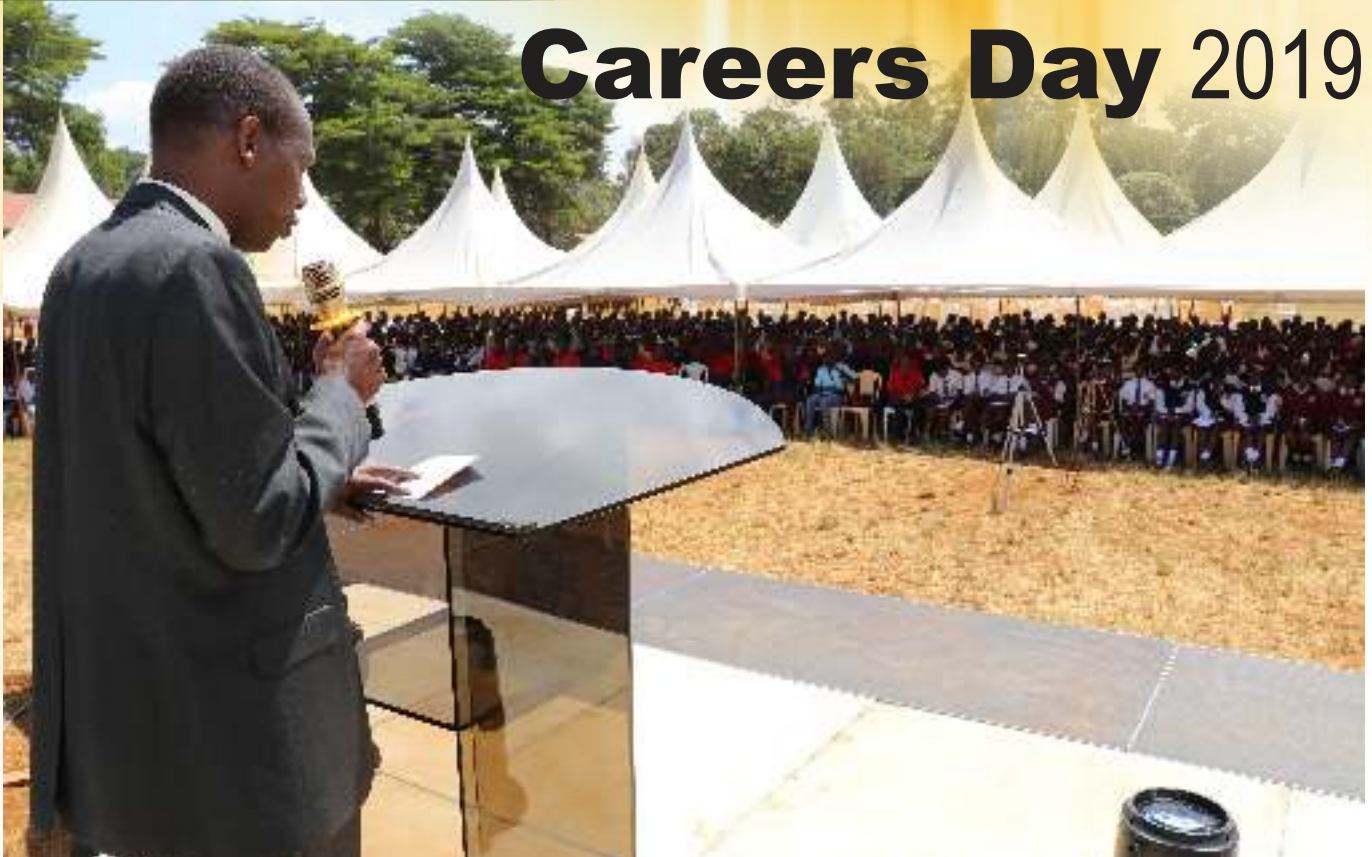
Mbithe Muinde a student in the School of Nursing emerged the best second year student with Kagwe Allan Waweru from the School of Pure and Applied Sciences scooping the award for the best third year student. Cecilia Adhiambo from the School of Agriculture emerged the best Fourth year student.

While making his remarks after issuing certificates to the best students, the Vice-Chancellor, further advised students to avoid engaging in activities that would compromise their future such as engaging in exam malpractices. This being the last Thanksgiving service for the graduating class of 2019, students were urged to be good ambassadors of the University by holding the name of the University high and inspiring other students to join the great University of Embu.



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (in red tie) DVC (ARE) Prof. Kiplagat Kotut (left), DVC (PAF) Prof. Eucharia Kenya, (right) pose for a photo with (L-R) Ms. Mbithe Muinde, Kagwe Allan Waweru and Cecilia Adhiambo who were the recipients of the VC's Awards 2018.

Careers Day 2019



Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Research and Extension, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut addresses students and teachers from various high schools in the Mount Kenya region during the Careers Day held on 9th February, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.

University of Embu hosted its third Careers Day since it was chartered. The event which took place on 9th February at the University's sportsground targeted high school students from Embu, Kirinyaga and Tharaka-Nithi Counties. The main aim of the event was to mentor and enlighten students on the various courses offered in the institutions of higher learning while providing them with the necessary information they need in order to make better career choices.

A total of 1532 students accompanied by their teachers from twenty-eight secondary schools attended the Career Day whose theme was **Transforming Career Decisions Through Information**. The students were informed of the various career opportunities in the job market including self-employment and how they can achieve their career goals by focusing on their talents and strengths.

While addressing the students, the University Vice-Chancellor Professor

Daniel Mugendi urged students to be committed to their chosen career path, and further, encouraged them not to be deterred by the challenges that they may come across in their career path. In line with the University's commitment to corporate social responsibility, he emphasized the University's dedication in organizing similar events in future to positively impact on the youth and the society at large.

"The University appreciates the partnerships that we have forged with our secondary schools and colleges in the region, and from the feedback that we get from our students who come to your institutions for teaching practice; we know that you have treated them very well in addition to mentoring them for their future careers as teachers. We look forward to working together even more to raise the standards of education in our schools," Prof. Mugendi added.

Students had a chance to interact with the Deans of various Schools and Chairmen of Departments in the University who not only mentored

them but also gave them first-hand information on the academic programmes that are offered in the University in a bid to enlighten them on courses that are most relevant in the current labour market. The students also got an opportunity to network with professionals from various sectors, including Dr. Wallace Karuguti from the field of medicine, Kelvin Mukundi – a communication and media practitioner, Mr. Joab Kanji (Business), Dr. Mark Otieno and Dr. Bernard Gichimu (Agriculture) and Mr. Erick Mutuku an ICT expert.

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 in 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.

Clubs & Societies: Growing Students Socially & Morally

The University of Embu boasts of having a growing number of clubs and societies that enhance students' experiences through sharing with their colleagues with similar interests. Currently, 14 clubs and 4 societies are registered. Students are encouraged to form new or join existing clubs and societies as this guarantees the best value for time at University of Embu.

Some clubs and societies are professional and academic, while others are religious or give service to the community. Students form or join clubs voluntarily to pursue their passion besides gaining new skills and experiences at the University.

In the first semester of 2018/2019 academic year, many clubs and societies recorded tremendous achievements.

The E-sparks Crew, an entertainment club that promotes talents such as dancing, acting and singing organized the talent show on 6th October 2018 to raise funds for the University's Endowment Fund. The club also represented the University in the 3rd Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) Cultural Festival in Kisumu from 19th to 23rd September 2018 and won several accolades including a trophy for Best Performance in 'stand up' comedy category.

The Oasis Club, a group of students with a passion for salsa dance on 20th October, 2018 held a salsa night and invited students from other institutions of higher learning to exchange ideas and also learn from them. The proceeds for the event were donated to the University of Embu Endowment Fund. The club participated in the Inter-University salsa pageant for Mt. Kenya region on 28th September 2018 and won the Mr. and Ms. Salsa, Mt. Kenya region.

CHAKIE, which stands for Chama cha Kiswahili cha Chuo Kikuu cha Embu is a club that was formed by students taking Bachelor of Education (Kiswahili) subject option. The main objective of the club is to promote Kiswahili language in the University. The club uses 'Kiswahili' language through their captivating performances during University Events. Apart



Dr. Phyllis Muturi, Ph.D
Deputy Dean of Students

Continued on pg 22



Ms. Agnes Koome
Head Health Services

Medical Activities in the University

The Department of Health Services, supported by the Vice-Chancellor and University management, collaborates with the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Embu in blood donation exercise.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Centre assists the Mount Kenya region and the entire Country to save lives. The University's blood donation slogan is *Share Blood, Share Life*.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Centre in Embu has recruited University students to their donation club pledge dubbed 25kenya. The club has 56 student members, whose aim is to educate their colleagues on the importance of blood donations and encourage them to participate in blood donation activities. A former student named Samuel Mwoshere Wangu from the School of Applied Sciences

participated in 'Fill a Pint' walk from Nyeri satellite blood bank centre to Embu blood bank. The aim of the walk was to create awareness on importance of becoming a regular blood donor, recruit voluntary blood donors and raise funds to support communication channels between KNTBS and the registered blood donors.

This year's activity on blood donation was held on the University grounds on 8th and 9th November, 2018. Staff and students donated a total of 78 pints, which was an invaluable boost to the health sector. The Regional Blood Donation Centre has an adage that *'it isn't every day you can do something to save someone's life, but that is exactly what you do every time you donate blood.'*

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, under the Embu

County Government, the University management is also doing the best to avail quality health care services in its fight against non-communicable diseases. This is achieved by organizing medical camps in collaboration with the County Government to reach out to the community.

The University hosted the World Contraception Day medical camp on September 2018. The University donated drinking water to a medical camp organized by the County Government at Embu Stadium grounds in October 2018. During a medical camp organized by Wimwaro FM in partnership with Embu County Government, University of Embu, Tenri Children's Hospital and County Sacco Society at Karurumo Rural Health on 13th December 2018, free services were offered to the community.

On 1st December 2018, the University hosted the HIV World Day, in collaboration with the County Government. The Kenya Aids Response Progress Report 2018 was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Sicily Kariuki accompanied by Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, the Chief Executive Officer, National Aids Control Council at the University of Embu Charter Hall.



2018 | KNATCOM National
Cultural Week
'Tamaduni Zetu, Maendeleo Yetu'
Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground
Kisumu County
19th to 23rd September, 2018

3rd UNESCO – KNATCOM Cultural Celebrations



Elijah Otieno (right holding the microphone) stages a performance during the UNESCO-KNATCOM Cultural Celebrations held at the Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground in Kisumu County from 19th to 23rd September, 2018. The performances scooped many trophies.

The University of Embu participated in the Third UNESCO-KNATCOM Cultural Celebrations held at the Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground in Kisumu County from 19th to 23rd September 2018. The event, themed *Enhancing National Cohesion, Identity and Pride*, was aimed at bringing all counties and universities together to celebrate cultural diversity and promote national cohesion in Kenya.

The University of Embu's delegation was led by the Vice-Chancellor and included ten students and an officer from the office of the Dean of Students. The event was marked with heartwarming performances throughout the festival in line with the theme.

The University students starred at the festival, as Mr. Kennedy Mugendi, popularly known as Sir. Ken, left the audience in stitches with his indisputable funny jokes in the comedy category. Mr. Mugendi, who is a fourth year student pursuing Bachelor of Education (Arts), was crowned the Best Performing Artist, and was declared the funniest man in the Cultural Festival. His comedy focused on the importance of embracing culture and identity with a comical touch and

won a slot on the 4th Edition of Kenya Week at UNESCO, Paris, France from 12th -15th November, 2018.

Also notable among the top stars was Ms. Cathra Sambili, a second year Bachelor of Education (Arts) student. Ms. Sambili presented a thrilling poem on the disintegration brought about by negative ethnicity and reiterated the importance of National cohesion. Her performance was highly ranked and hence it emerged second best among many other quality performances in the same category.

Ms. Graca Awuor, a third year Bachelor of Science in Statistics caught the attention of the audience with her Luo narrative *Oboke*. The narrative was a sympathetic cry of a nation that stands divided, courtesy of tribalism. The narrative highlighted the manner in which Kenya bleeds from loss of lives through tribal clashes, especially during election periods. It also showed how lack of National cohesion has hindered growth and development. But alas! *Oboke* spoke of a new day for the Country to celebrate cohesion, share cultural experiences and stand in pride and unity as the Nation heals.

Continued on pg 23

Yes! I made it

By Cathra Sambili, Student, 3rd Year B.Ed (Arts)

As I approached Embu town, I clearly read the big post that announced: **WELCOME TO THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES**. As if that was not enough, at the gate of the place I was to call home for the next four years, the words **KNOWLEDGE TRANSFORMS** were clearly written. I couldn't stop wondering what a beautiful land I was about to inherit and how blessed I was to get a chance of being here.

The University of Embu, I can proudly say, gave me an opportunity to reach out to people and share my gift, because it does not only dwell on students excelling in their academics, but also embraces unity in diversity. To me it stood out to be a loyal institution to its motherland, Kenya.

This propelled the University's willingness to participate in the **KNATCOM-UNESCO** celebrations which were held in Kisumu on September, 2018. Having been motivated by my own lecturer who told me to come out of my hiding place and be confident in what I did, together with other students and members of staff, we headed to Kisumu.

I went out with two things in my mind. One, that I was bearing the name and flag of my University and two, that I was going to carry out a duty like any other citizen of my country, in order to embrace and enhance cohesion, love and above all oneness. The podium in front of me was big and for a moment my hands became wet with sweat. My stomach was full of butterflies and for a moment I thought I was going to throw up or worse still, collapse. However, I encouraged myself that I had come a long way and I could not afford to spoil the show and embarrass my University! Moreover, the institution had entrusted me with this task and I was not going to give anything less than the best on that podium.

There was a discouraging noise as I started. But as I continued, silence reigned and a voice within me told me that the audience was actually listening to me! Words flowed over and the shouts, cheers and claps that followed were overwhelming - I had done it! When they started shouting "*rudia*" I smiled to myself and after they were calmed by the master of ceremony, I did another round of poetry.

When it was time to go back to the University, I held my trophy and certificate so close to my chest that I could feel my heart pulsating. At last I had gotten a platform to perform my poems, which were part of the numerous articles that I had written over time, but had no idea where to take them.

I was crowned second best in poetry and I couldn't wait to get back and express my gratitude for the overwhelming support that I was accorded by the University management, staff and my colleagues.

Clubs and Societies Growing Students Socially and Morally

Continued from pg 20

from participation in different conferences (Kongamano), the club recently played a big role in organizing for a Public Lecture by Prof. Ken Walibora, on 14th October, 2018.

The following is a highlight of the other registered clubs and societies and their activities

- i. The Environmental Club participates in tree planting and clean up exercises both within the University and in the County.
- ii. The Red Cross Club aims at giving back to the society through blood donation drives and Embu town clean-up. The club has trained first aiders who are on standby to offer assistance in case of emergencies.
- iii. The Chemistry Club is composed of students who have a passion for chemistry. When not in the laboratory or working on chemistry journals, they are giving back to society by visiting childrens' homes.
- iv. The Society of Young Scientists is a group of future scientists. The club has an innovation team that is working on mobile Apps which they hope to share with their peers once it's done.
- v. The Adroits Club works to better the lives of its members

financially.

- vi. The Young Thespians is a group of motivators, who do a lot of motivational talks in high schools within the County. Currently, the club is working on set books theatre production and a motivational book.
- vii. The Peer Counselors Club is a team of students who offer intensive training, help fellow students (peers) through counselling.
- viii. The Eagle Scouts Movement is instrumental during University functions by guiding guests and raising the flag. Members of the movement recently served as protocol officers during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony; contributed to endowment fund and participated as track guides during the Run for Education road race held on 13th October, 2018.
- ix. The Language and Journalism Club has talented writers. The Club is in the process of launching a YouTube channel.
- x. The University of Embu Agricultural Association is a team of Agricultural Students .

A Reflection of the outgoing UESA Leadership; 2018/2019



Outgoing UESA Officials pose for a group photo with some members of Management.

University of Embu Students Association (UESA) is the students' governing body which is charged with running students' activities such as welfare, entertainment, among others.

The student government has been able to enhance students' welfare through fostering the establishment and launch of an Endowment Fund. This move is aligned to one of UESA's objectives of helping needy students pursue their dreams through provision of financial support. This will see many students achieve their dreams and become resourceful in society.

UESA has also introduced a talent nurturing programme that will enable students to discover and achieve their talents. This has created a platform for gifted students to explore the world and gain more exposure as they also market the University. UESA has also been able to introduce

Mr and Miss UoEm Fresher, a competition held during Freshers' night, which gives first year students a sense of belonging as they settle in the University. In addition, UESA has successfully negotiated for the addition of new food items on the menu which has made students enjoy high quality meals at affordable prices.

We express our gratitude to the UoEm comrades for electing us into office. Indeed, it is a great opportunity serving comrades at different levels. We pledge our commitment towards enhancing the welfare of every student. We shall also continue giving our best in collaboration with various stakeholders to take our University to the next level. Let everyone do their part for us to build an empire of comradeship. Again, let's forego individual interests and walk this journey together for together we shall triumph.

Alluta continua!

3rd UNESCO – KNATCOM Cultural Celebrations

Continued from pg 21

The E-sparks crew hit a home run with their play *The Sweet Bite*, written and directed by Mr. Elijah Otieno, a third year Bachelor of Education (Arts) student. The play was indeed one of the most sought after performances during the festival. It highlighted some of the negative practices of our cultures that diminish empowerment and growth in the community. The play also highlighted common issues that are currently experienced in the Country such as teenage pregnancies, greed and misuse of power by officials in

high offices. Although the play was not adjudicated; it was referred to severally by key speakers to emphasize matters that are true and dear to the hearts of many.

This event prominently highlighted the University of Embu as a powerhouse in nurturing talent. Other than the immense publicity, it was a great experience for the students by giving them a platform to showcase their creativity to the rest of the Country.

UoEm Partners in Tree-Biotechnology Research



Director, Biotechnology Programme Trust, Dr. Benson Kanyi (second left) and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi exchanging MoU on 29th January, 2019 at the University Boardroom. Looking on is Chairman, Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust, Mr. Joseph G. Kibe (left), DVC (PAF) Prof. Eucharia Kenya (right) and DVC (ARE) Prof. Kiplagat Kotut (third right).

University of Embu officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust on 29th January 2019 at the University in a move to extend forestry technology, research and preservation of indigenous trees.

The move came against the backdrop of the threatened and almost extinct indigenous trees in the Country, and the need for extended research on eucalyptus and camphor trees which are quickly phasing out. The Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust has established a clone nursery in Kenya, based in Karura Forest, with a capacity to propagate 3 million seedlings per year.

While signing the deal, Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust (TBPT) Director, Dr. Benson Kanyi said there was need to use new technology of breeding high quality and fast growing seedlings which mature quickly. He affirmed that the collaboration would bring in a wealth of technical expertise and knowledge

from the University in terms of research and use of readily available research laboratories in fact-finding and cloning of trees.

“The collaboration will enable us to do thorough research, develop hybrid seedlings which we are planning to introduce to the environment. The partnership seeks to extend cloning technology in threatened indigenous trees, set up cloning nurseries and use novel propagation technologies in seed and vegetative propagation of indigenous species,” he affirmed.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi, in his remarks expressed his heart-felt gratitude to Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust for appointing University of Embu as an institutional member, meaning that the two institutions would cooperate and collaborate closely. He said the partnership comes in the wake of University’s verge of developing cutting-edge science.

“The memorandum outlines the strong willingness of University of Embu and Tree Biotechnology Trust

Programme to develop a genuine and mutually beneficial relationship to support each other in areas of research, capacity building, adaption and adoption of novel technologies. The partnership will enable the two institutions collaborate and extend technical expertise in the area of tree biotechnology,” said Prof. Mugendi.

“The strategic move will enable the University achieve its mandate of being a global leader in cutting-edge research, since the University sits on the Eastern slopes of Mt. Kenya, a vintage point in ensuring preservation of indigenous trees. The partnership will also pave way for the University to ask for grants to boost research in the area of tree biotechnology.” he added.

The partnership is one of the strategic moves the University has engaged in to partner with institutions to realign itself towards being a dynamic epicenter in training and cutting-edge research and service to humanity.



Pictorial



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



University officials pose for a group photo with students from Takushoku University, Japan, on an exchange programme at the University of Embu on 10th September, 2018.



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



The University's Chair of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi receives ISO 27001:2013 Certificate from University Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua during the ISO celebration and University's 2018-2028 Strategic Plan launch held on 5th October 2018 at the University Charter Hall.



Prof. Ken Walibora, a renowned Swahili publisher giving a public lecture to University staff and students at the University Charter Hall on 14th November, 2018.



The University Chair of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuihi (left) and DVC (Planning, Finance & Administration), Prof. Eucharia Kenya, (right) robe University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, during his installation as the first Vice-Chancellor held on 14th September, 2018 at the University Sports Ground.



Pictorial



A Distinguished Professor from the University of Florida, Prof. P.K. Nair, makes his opening remarks during the 3rd Graduation Ceremony held on 14th September, 2018 at the University Sports ground. He was the Guest speaker at the ceremony.



Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi, (left), Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi (2nd left) donate food stuffs to Embu G.K Women Prison on 19th December, 2018. This is an annual Corporate Social Responsibility activity by the University staff.



The University Chancellor, Prof. Paul Musili Wambua, (5th right), University Chair of Council, Dr. Margaret Gikuhi, (left) and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (right) pose for a group photo with the 2019 UESA officials during the 2nd State of the University Address on 26th March, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



UoEm Students perform a Miji Kenda Traditional Dance during the 3rd Cultural Festival on 8th February, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



Members of the Management pose for a group photo with the recipients of various awards for outstanding performance in 2018, during the Staff Building Retreat held on 20th December, 2018.



James Muhia, a Kenyan gospel artist popularly known as Moji Short Baba, performs during the 3rd Edition of Culfest 2018 at the University Sportsground on 8th February, 2019.



Pictorial



The University Chancellor, Prof. Musili Wambua, addresses staff, students and University stakeholders during the 2nd State of the University Address on 26th March, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



Dean of Students, Dr. Mark Otieno, debriefs staff and students after a simulated fire Drill exercise on 21st March, 2019. The exercise is part of a fire and safety preparedness exercise.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension), Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, and Catholic Bishop in-charge of Embu Diocese, Bishop Paul Kariuki Njiru after the signing of MoU between UoEm and the Catholic Diocese of Embu, CARITAS on 5th March, 2019 at the University Senate Boardroom.



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, shakes hands with Embu Women Cultural Dancers during the Launch of the University Endowment Fund held on 25th October, 2018.



KCB Head of Customer Service Experience, Mr. Job Njiru (2nd right) and the VC UoEm, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, (right) appreciate some of the artwork exhibited by students during the official opening of the Culfest 2019 held from 8th - 10th February, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



Students from Embu County Secondary School present a thrilling performance of a dance during Careers Day held on 9th February, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



Pictorial



Mr. Bill Osome, takes oath of office after being elected as UESA Chairman on 21st March 2019. Looking on is the University Legal Officer, Ms. Ann Ndegwa.



A facilitator demonstrates use of fire extinguishers during the Fire & Safety sensitization held at the University on 28th February, 2019. This was followed by a Fire Drill Exercise.



Young Catholic Students (YCS) Choir performing during the Thanksgiving Service held on 17th March, 2019 at the University Sports Ground.



Fire Engine responding to an "emergency" during a fire drill exercise conducted at the Prof. George Magoha Library on 21st March, 2019.



A section of students from St. Catherine Nthagaiya High School in Embu County enjoying a light moment during the Careers Day held on 9th February 2019 at the University Sports ground. They were part of the schools that had visited the University for the Career Day.



Students from School of Business & Economics display certificates awarded for participating in the Stage 3 of the Capital Market Authority University Challenge on 12th March, 2019 at the University of Embu Multipurpose Hall.



Pictorial



H.E. Hon. Martin Wambora, Governor Embu County presenting a trophy for the Best Stand in Youth Activities Empowerment & Capacity Building to Mr. Kelvin Munene, Assistant ICT Officer in UoEm and Mr. David Mbuvi, 4th Year B.Sc, Computer Science Student on 15th March, 2019 during the Eastern ASK Show at Njukiri.



One of the University's Angoran goat being paraded after emerging the 2019 ASK Livestock Category Champion during the Eastern ASK Show held at Njukiri on 15th March, 2019.



Registrar (PAF) Dr. Paul Nthakanio (*in red tie*) guides the County Development Implementation Co-ordination Committee led by Embu County Commissioner, Mr. Abdullahi Galgalo Hidi on an inspection tour of the proposed Tuition Block at the University on 7th May, 2019.



The newly crowned Mr. and Miss. UoEm 2019 (*seated L-R*) Stanley Okoth and Zipporah Wambui (*respectively*) pose for a group photo with runners up (*standing*) during the Culfest on 9th February, 2019.



The outgoing and incoming UESA officials pose for a photo with University Management during the 3-day Induction training held at the University Multi Purpose Hall from 12th - 15th April, 2019.



Fire Marshals stage a mock evacuation exercise of a 'casualty' during a Fire drill exercise held on 21st March, 2019 at the Prof. George Magotha Library.



Pictorial



The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, delivers his keynote speech during the Launch of the University Endowment Fund held on 25th October, 2018.



A section of members of staff engage in various activities during the Team Building event held at Serena Mountain Lodge in Nyeri on 20th December 2018.



University Management & members of the Clergy pose for a group photo after the Blessing Ceremony of the New Administration Block on 1st March, 2019.



Newly elected UESA Officials (2019) undergo an Induction training held from 12th -15th April, 2019 at the University Multi-Purpose Hall.



Chairman, Department of Mathematics, Computing and Information Technology, (MCIT), Dr. David Mugo poses a question during an interactive session at the 2nd Chancellor's State of the University Address held on 26th March, 2019.



Embu County Commissioner, Mr Abdullahi Galgalo Hidi is assisted by DVC (ARE) Prof. Kotut Kiplagat plants a commemorative tree during the National Tree Planting launch in Embu County held at the University on 17th May, 2019.

University Relocates to New Administration Offices



ACK Minister Rev. Canon John Gichangi, gives a sermon during the Blessing Service of the New Administration Block held on 1st March, 2019. Looking on (From left) VC, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, Imam, Sheikh Bamkuu Ali, Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi, Extra-Ordinary Minister, Mr. Henry Atuma, Director, Teaching Programmes & Senate Affairs, Mr. Julius Maore.

The University of Embu administration relocated to its brand new Administration Building within the University compound in Embu County along the Embu-Meru Road. Construction of the massive and impressive Administration Building, valued at approximately 617 Million Kenya Shillings, officially commenced in 2014. The building was completed in 2018. The new Administration Block is located next to the equally impressive University Library - named after former UoN Vice-Chancellor Prof. George Magoha.

The new building is indeed an iconic and an architectural masterpiece in the entire Embu County. It gives the occupants and visitors a wonderful aerial view of Embu Town and its surroundings on its Southern wing or atop the large balcony located on the 6th floor. On the Northern side of the building, one is treated to a breathtaking and magnificent view of the world famous Mt. Kenya and the ranges surrounding it.

The building sits on approximately one-and-a-half acre piece of land and hosts over 100 office spaces, 9 boardrooms and 15 lecture halls. It also has a spacious

reception, kitchenettes, parking lot, lifts, high speed Wi-Fi and sufficient water and power supply to cater for the needs of a rapidly growing University.

On Friday, 1st March 2019, the University Community held a service to bless the building and dedicate it for service to mankind and the transformation of society through quality training, research and innovation. Leaders of various religious groups drawn from the Christian, Muslim and other faiths represented in the University Community, conducted the service that was also attended by the University Management led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru, staff and students representatives.

Speaking during the dedication ceremony, the VC thanked the staff and the students for their patience and commitment to their duty even when there was a serious shortage of office facilities and other necessary amenities after the elevation of the former Embu Agricultural Staff Training Institute (EAST College) to a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi in 2012 and later on to a fully-fledged University following the award of Charter by President Uhuru Kenyatta in 2016.

From the **Pulpit**



Rev. Mary Nkari
Coordinator, Chaplaincy
Services

“All that Begins Well Ends Well.”

The quarter began with the interfaith service whose theme was: **Beginning and Going with the Lord.** God’s guidance was experienced at Institutional and individual levels. Pastoral counsel and guidance were also provided to all who sought help.

God loves and cares for us since we are his children. However, when we encounter challenges in life, we sometimes feel as if He has forsaken us. We need to remain focused and give service to humanity. When we have done our lot, then we should let God do His will in our lives. Let us reflect upon the following verse from 2nd Chronicles 7:14, New International Version (NIV): *“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

Many a time we endlessly search for answers to various issues in our lives. In His wisdom, God gives us a working formula in the above verse. In the first place, God refers to his people. I confirm that you are one of them because He created you. Secondly, God requires that we are called by His

name. To be called by God’s name means that we acknowledge Him as our God and seek His guidance in all that we do. Thirdly, we are supposed to be humble. Humility is a recognition and an acceptance that we are weak and powerless. It is the point at which we are helpless and ask God to be in total control of our lives.

Fourthly, God requires that we pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. Prayer is a strong weapon. Ask Satan, he knows how powerful prayer is. Through faithfulness in prayer, we can destroy Satan’s evil schemes. Prayer is an eternal power that moves God to action. God promises that He will hear us from heaven, forgive our sin and heal our land.

Prayer requires that the body, soul and spirit be subjected to the power of the Holy Spirit. Satan does not want us to pray because prayer interferes with his power, disturbs his plans and destroys his kingdom. He fills your body, soul and spirit with unrest. You feel tired, harassed and depressed.

When Satan succeeds in making us shun prayer, we become empty and vulnerable. At such times, we need other people to stand with us.

It is important to confide in someone we can trust. This will result in a prayer chain that shakes Satan’s kingdom and thwarts his schemes as we flourish in victory. Whatever you are going through, your answer is only a prayer away. Jesus is on the main line, tell Him what you want!

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Give Thanks to The Lord for He is Good!



Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi, leads prayers during the 3rd Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. (Insert) A section of Guests and staff follow keenly during the 3rd Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

University of Embu Christian Union (CU) Patron, Dr. Fredrick Njoka, has urged students to adopt the culture of being grateful in all circumstances despite the various challenges they come across in their day-to-day life as students. He pointed out that there was need to cultivate habits that would mould them into future drivers of the economy. Dr. Njoka was speaking during the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service which took place on Sunday, March 17th 2019 at the University Sports ground.

The University fraternity had congregated to thank the Lord for a smooth ending of the academic year 2018/2019 among many other blessings witnessed in the Institution. The service brought together University Management, members of staff accompanied by their families and students in the colourful occasion whose theme was derived from **Psalms 107:1 Give Thanks to the**

Lord, For He is good.

During the service, the University observed a minute of silence in honour of victims of the ill-fated Boeing 737 Ethiopian Airline which crashed and took away the lives of many people, including innocent Kenyans, among them teaching members of staff of a sister university.

While ministering to the congregation, religious leaders from various faith groups emphasized the importance of always having a thankful heart. Seventh Day Adventist Group Patron, Dr. Boaz Too, in particular, applauded the move by the University of Embu fraternity of always finding time to thank the Lord for the far He had brought the Institution. He added that the reverence of God in the Institution was a major driver of growth and the foundation of many blessings witnessed by the Institution.

Embu Jamia Mosque Imam, Sheikh Bamkuu M. Ali echoed the words of Dr. Boaz, noting that showing gratitude is one of our foremost duties

as human beings. *"Giving thanks does not only involve appreciating through our hearts but also by living righteous lives that please Allah,"* he added.

In his sermon, the Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph Kirimi encouraged everyone to give thanks even for the most basic things such as waking up every morning. *"Make God your companion in everything that you undertake,"* he advised.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Daniel Mugendi, in his remarks encouraged the students to focus on studying and desist from engaging in anything that deters them from realising their goals. He further accentuated the numerous achievements including opening of the Prof. George Magoha Library, launching of the Endowment Fund and relocation to the New Administration Block as the various blessings the University was grateful for, amongst others.

Change of Guard at Student Council



Dr. Mark Otieno
Dean of Students

The University held its students' elections on 19th March, 2019. The elections were held in two stages; first, the students voted for departmental delegates who later formed the Electoral College Delegates' Conference and elected the Students' Council as prescribed under the Universities (Amendment) Act of 2016.

The large voter turn-out was impressive and students, most of whom had never voted before, were very eager to cast their votes for the very first time. The elections were free, fair and transparent, a fact that satisfied students and resulted in no appeals. The Electoral Commission, ably led by Dr. Fredrick Njoka (the Dean School of Agriculture) was showered with praises and positive accolades by jubilant and enthusiastic students. The campaign period was marked by brightly coloured posters and banners displayed throughout the University grounds. Social media was saturated with campaign propaganda and creative memes. Social places both within the University and outside were filled with enthusiastic candidates frantically trying to engage with students to earn their votes.

On the elections day, students voted for delegates from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm followed by vote counting immediately after polling stations were closed. A total of 22 delegates representing 10 departments were declared winners and proceeded to the Delegates' Conference in Charter Hall to elect the 7 Student Council members.

The Delegates' Conference was conducted peacefully and quietly with hordes of students watching with bated breaths from the flanks of Charter Hall to know who will be the victors. At 10:00 pm, the winners were announced. Mr. Bill Osome was declared the Chairperson of the University of Embu Students Association (UESA) and Ms. Patience Nyambura, the Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Denis Ngugi was declared the Secretary General of UESA.

On Thursday, 21st March 2019, the new Students' Council was sworn in and took the oath of office administered by Ms. Anne Ndegwa, an Advocate of the High Court and the Legal Officer for the University of Embu. The Students' Council will serve UESA members during the 2019/2020 academic year.

The newly elected 2019 UESA Officials pose for a group photo before the commencement of the swearing in ceremony on 21st March, 2019 at the University Charter Hall.



VOTING IN PROGRESS



Management Committed to Promoting Ethical Practices at UoEm



Mr. Francis Ngure
Internal Auditor



(Right) DVC (PAF), Prof. Eucharia Kenya, receives a Certificate from (left) Ethics & Anti-Corruption Commission, Nyeri official, Ms. Faith Ng'ethe, during Integrity Champion training that was held on 27th September 2018.

The University has put in place a framework for ensuring a corruption-free working environment within its precincts. In order to ensure prompt reporting of corruption and other unethical behavior, the University Management has created several channels of reporting unethical conducts.

These channels are:

- Corruption reporting boxes
- University Web site www.embuni.ac.ke
- Postal Address 6-60100 Embu
- Telephone 0722 107810
- Email address info@embuni.ac.ke
- Complaints/ Compliments registers
- Direct reporting to the VC.
- Direct report to EACC
- Reporting through the Integrity Committee
- Complaints/ Compliments Reporting boxes



SAY NO TO **CORRUPTION**

Information Ambassadors Shine During Open Access Week



Mr. James Njue
Head of Library and Information Services

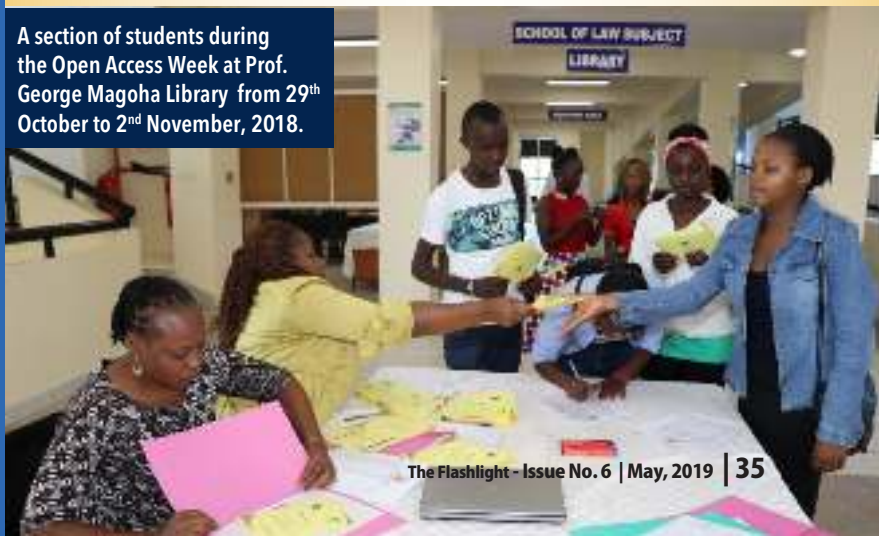
The University of Embu held a successful Open Access Week from 29th October to 2nd November, 2018 at Prof. George Magoha Library. The theme of 2018 International Open Access Week was **Designing Equitable Foundations for Open Knowledge**. Unlike the previous year where the Library staff carried out the demonstrations, the 2018 activities were carried out by Ambassadors for Information Club. This is a students' club that promotes advocacy and usage of information, particularly the electronic resources under the patronage of Ms. Victoria Nyaga.

The theme reflected a scholarly system in transition. While governments, funders, universities, publishers, and scholars are increasingly adopting open policies and practices, how these are actually implemented is still in flux. As open access becomes the default, all stakeholders must be intentional about designing these new, open systems to ensure that they are inclusive, equitable, and truly serve the needs of a diverse global community. The 2018 Open Access Week invited all interested stakeholders to participate in advancing this important work. The University's Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities was the subject of discussion between academics, librarians and the students.

Open Access content is available online. It is freely accessible and encourages free exchange of knowledge and resources to widen access that might stimulate creativity and also allow others to re-use the research. The Library hosted a series of activities during the Open Access Week such as, demonstrations to open access resources, plagiarism detection, training on referencing and postgraduate students workshop on copyright and publishing.

The impact of open access information can be experienced on many levels. For students, open access provides equitable sources of scholarship that are free at the point of access. Open access also furthers our mission and enables the University to demonstrate its inclusion and engagement with the global research community.

A section of students during the Open Access Week at Prof. George Magoha Library from 29th October to 2nd November, 2018.



University Lays Strategies for Third Stream Income



Mr. Samuel Gitonga
Coordinator
Third Stream income

Following the Government’s plan to turn the Country into a middle income economy through Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big 4 Agenda, the University has identified relevant priority areas to focus on, in order to contribute to the achievement of the two blueprints.

One of the projects that the University is undertaking to support the realization of the Food Security pillar in the Big 4 Agenda is to enhance production of yoghurt, a component of value addition in the pillar. Procurement process for the purchase of machines and equipment for the project is underway. The office of the Third Stream Income (TSI) and the Farm Department will spearhead this process. Proceeds from this project will enhance revenue streams in the University.

The second project that will be initiated in the 3rd quarter of FY 2018/2019 is the expansion of the University Bakery. Currently, the small unit produces, among others, bread, mandazi, and cakes. These products are consumed internally, mainly targeting the student and staff population. The new unit will increase the product range and boost quantities produced. This merchandise will target not only the internal market but also external customers such as households, supermarkets and retail outlets in Embu County and its environs.

In a bid to increase the University’s visibility in the region and beyond, the publicity committee and academic departments have been participating in career days and fairs in secondary schools and churches in Embu, Tharaka/Nithi, Nyeri, Kirinyaga, Muranga and Kitui Counties. This has contributed to the increase in KUCCPS student population as KCSE graduates choose UoEm as their preferred University.





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

Transition to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 27001:2013 Certification

The process of transition from ISO 9001:2008 to ISO 9001:2015 and certification to ISO 27001: 2013 was completed upon certification to both standards on 28th June 2018. A celebration to mark this momentous event was held on 5th October 2018. It was attended by the University Chancellor, Members of University Council, University Management, Staff, Students and invited guests. The two ISO certificates were officially handed over to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Daniel Mugendi Njiru.

The second combined ISO audits for ISO 9001:2015 (QMS) and ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) were conducted on 13th and 14th November 2018. The objectives of the audits were to determine level of conformity of the implemented QMS to ISO 9001:2015 Standard and ISMS to ISO 27001:2013 and to identify areas of improvement. Twenty six departments were sampled and audited on both systems. At the end of the audit it was concluded that, "based on the samples taken during the audit that University of Embu has implemented the Quality Management System to a greater extent (75.62%) that meets the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 Standard, commitments in University QMS procedures and adherence to relevant legal and regulatory documents in its operations".

Further on ISMS the auditors concluded thus: "University of Embu has implemented the Information

System Management Security to a greater extent (77.13%) that meets the requirements of ISO 27001:2013 Standard, ISMS procedures, ISMS policies, ISMS guidelines, risk registers and relevant legal and regulatory documents applicable in the University operations".

Various areas of improvement in both systems were identified such as monitoring and reviewing internal and external issues, interested parties, risk and opportunities; the need to develop objectives that meet the needs of the respective departments; and also on monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation by each department/ section determining what needs to be monitored and measured, the methods to be used, when it would be done and when the results from monitoring and measurement would be analysed and evaluated. This would enable the University to evaluate the performance and effectiveness of both management systems.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING

The 15th Edition of Performance Contracting Guidelines for FY 2018/2019 was received on 6th June 2018. Unlike in previous occasions, the arrival of the guidelines was timely and efficient. Negotiation for the Performance Contract was held with the Ministry of Education on 16th July 2018 at Dedan Kimathi University of Science & Technology and vetted

by the Office of the President, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Performance Management and Coordination Office 1st August, 2018 at Kenya School of Government - Embu Center. Cascading of the Performance Contract to the specific target owners was done on Thursday, 8th August 2018. Implementation is on-going and the first and second quarter reports were submitted to the relevant offices in October 2018 and January 2018 respectively.

The evaluation of the FY 2017/2018 Performance Contract was conducted on Monday 17th December 2018. For the first time the exercise was conducted at the University, hence the evaluators had an opportunity for physical confirmation and monitoring of performance by touring and inspecting the projects/ targets implemented. Some of the projects inspected for verification included, construction of the Athletics Track and tuition block, mounting of University service delivery charter at the reception, procurement office and Prof. George Magoha Library. At the end of the evaluation exercise the University scored a composite score of 1.9965 which is in the **Excellent Performance** category. University of Embu has therefore, maintained an excellent performance for the last four (4) consecutive years. This has been made possible by the teamwork exhibited by the University Council, Management, Staff and Students.

Reaching out: International Linkages



Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga, Ph.D.
Dean,
School of Education & Social Sciences

A Reflective Piece

Visiting new places comes with new ways of thinking and doing things. Attending and presenting a paper during the CIARS Decolonizing Conference at the Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, in Toronto, Canada in November, 2018, presented a learning moment and a deep reflection on my scholarly journey. Just take this mental cruise with me.

University of Toronto is 191 years old! Imagine the number of people that have passed through this Institution over generations. Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE), one of the divisions of the University, which I visited, is Canada's only All-graduate Institute of teaching, learning and research. It is recognised as a leader in graduate education, initial and continuing teacher education and research in education and human development. Its history dates back to 1906 when it started as Faculty of Education.

Informed by changing demands for teachers in Ontario Province, something special happened in 1965, when special Act of the Ontario Legislature, established OISE to offer graduate programmes, conduct research and disseminate findings, and engage in field development activities in education. The growth continued and embracing these changes in 1996, OISE in its current status, represents a merger of the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute of studies in Education.

This OISE has preoccupied my mind since the visit, with unending desire that we could have the School of Education and Social Studies modelled on The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). These questions keep on ringing into my mind: What is different about OISE? What can the School of Education and Social Studies (SESS) learn

from OISE? How can we get there? I am excited that we have a Memorandum of Understanding between this giant in Education. We long to grow our postgraduate portfolio and engage in cutting-edge research. We envision a Child Research Institute linked to the Jackman Institute of Child Studies School Lab where children learn purely through inquiry and provides room to offer evidence-based solutions to issues that bedevil early childhood development and education in Kenya.

To get there we need to nurture academic passion, ask questions and find answers. We also need to invite and expose young minds to what fascinates us, the academicians. We have to ignite their curiosity and sustain it as we create an academic environment that assures all of us of academic freedom that is characterised by the simplicity displayed by faculty. Another important aspect is to seek knowledge earnestly because it pleases God.

All of us should strive to be members of a university that we are creating - ourselves and for ourselves and posterity, knowing that our nature reflects our University and our University reflects our nature. This should keep all of us awake long hours to get there. This is our time, and it is short. Creating a university that will forever value diversity, that remains deeply interconnected, where members feel known, respected and supported is what will make us a true epicentre. I dare to dream, reach out and bring in to the University of Embu!

Hello! Sasa?

University of Embu:

An International Students'

PERSPECTIVE



(Left) Chris (centre) Birgit and Pauline, exchange students from The Technical University of Dresden, Germany. The students were in the University of Embu during the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year.

We are the three international students, Birgit, Pauline and Chris, who came to the University of Embu during the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year. We all come from the same university in Germany: The Technical University of Dresden. Dresden is a beautiful town at the banks of the Elbe and lies in eastern Germany, close to the capital Berlin.

But we don't want to talk about where we came from. Let us talk of our experience here in Kenya. We feel really excited to be here at University of Embu. The staff and the students welcomed us with open arms. The first weeks were all about getting to know the environment and the flow of University life in Kenya. We explored the campus and wandered through small forests and got to know the environment. We especially enjoyed dam five, where we frequently went for a jog throughout our stay. We found our first friends really quickly and joined sports teams. Chris was a member of the soccer team and Birgit and Pauline joined the hockey ladies team. Overall the University offers a wide range of extracurricular activities and sports take place daily. So most of the time you could find us at the sports field in the evenings.

We adapted to the Kenyan way of life fairly quickly, despite the numerous differences we experienced to the German culture. We, for example, learned how to wash laundry by hand and how to eat

ugali the proper way. In the beginning we experienced difficulties with the Kenyan version of English. Also, Swahili was totally new for us, but we learned more and more words of Swahili "pole pole". Nevertheless, a language course would have been helpful.

During the semester, we participated in the ordinary life of Kenyan students. After bread and chai for breakfast, we joined the lectures, which were very personal, and sometimes even entertaining and challenging. Nevertheless, the duration of three hours and the early classes, at 7 am, was something we had to change our habits to. Also, the teaching style differs from the one at German universities and we had to get used to writing notes about everything the lecturer says. Furthermore, CATs and frequent assignments were a new experience for us, but we think it's a nice way to evaluate one's understanding of the content taught.

After classes and lunch, we participated in our sports trainings, which contributed to our physical fitness. It also helped to interact with the friendly and open local students who became friends immediately.

The Kenyan cuisine is nice. We grew especially fond of ugali, chapati and ndengu, all dishes which we don't have in Germany. We frequently ate at the mess or cooked with friends. A little odd for us was the fact that Kenyans love a lot of sugar in their tea, as we usually don't add any. On campus grounds there is a fruit shop where we were

daily customers as it offers fresh slices of delicious pineapples and watermelons as well as fruit juices. Overall, we loved Kenyan food!

We were accommodated within the University at Shimoni Hostel, a hostel preserved for international and post-graduate students as well as staff and visiting professors. The rooms are sunny and tidy, with their own bathroom facilities and hot water showers. Unfortunately, the room for washing clothes and the kitchen are still under construction, and therefore we weren't able to cook for ourselves. But we are confident that once the construction work is completed it will be a perfect facility! We want to thank everybody who made our stay so memorable and we will forever remember our time here at Embu as wonderful. We believe that cultural exchange is essential in building international bonds and understanding among countries. The University of Embu is on a good path, yet there are still lessons to be learned, as for example some cultures perceive it as impolite to name someone by their race, like in our case "mzungu". This just makes one feel odd and out of place.

We will take many nice experiences home with us and have made friends for life and we are really grateful for that.

Tschüss!

We Knew we Could Count on You – Inmates



Ms. Evelyn W. Njogu
Senior Administrative Assistant



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 19th December, 2019.

Imagine being in prison and losing contact with everyone who is important to you. Friends fall away; even family members forsake you. As days turn into months and months into years, sometimes the only person to visit a prisoner is

a volunteer. For some inmates, this is the case. Nobody comes to visit, and that's why the annual Christmas visit to the Embu GK prison by University of Embu comes in handy. On 19th December, 2018 the Vice-Chancellor led a team of staff members to pay

“People appreciate and never forget that helping hand especially when times are tough”
Catherine Pulsifer

a visit to Embu GK Prison and share Christmas joy with the Prisoners and Warders. Various items were donated courtesy of the University Corporate Social Investment and voluntary contributions from staff members in support of the initiative. The inmates moved a vote of thanks indicating a great joy for the love that the University fraternity extended to them.

Strengthening the GREEN Lungs

As an Institution, University of Embu is committed to giving back to the community. The Social Responsibility programmes range from awareness campaigns to treading lighter on the planet and reaching out to the needy among others.

Forests worldwide are diminishing at an alarming rate. As the green lungs of Mother Earth, trees play a vital role to our health and survival and needs extra care. To this end, the University of Embu conducts tree planting exercises within and

outside the University every season. The aim of this exercise is to meet the constitutional target of 10% national forest cover by the year 2022, besides greening our environment.

During the 2018 short rains, the University staff and students participated in community tree planting activities on 24th October and 14th November, 2018 at Jeremiah Nyaga Technical Training Institute, where over 3000 trees were planted.

On Friday 30th November, 2018, University of Embu staff and students planted 1000 trees in the University. The exercise was in the spirit of

Panda Miti, Boresha Maisha where each participant focused on adopting one or more trees. The adoption of trees was taken as a strategy to ensure survival of the planted trees through nurturing and management by the respective staff and students.

All are encouraged to continue supporting investments towards tree growing, trees are the lungs of the planet, they breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out Oxygen. Everyday a single tree supplies oxygen to up to 4 people.

“It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.”



LAUNCH OF THE KENYA AIDS RESPONSE PROGRESS REPORT 2018



Vice-Chancellor, University of Embu, Prof. Daniel Mugendi, giving his welcoming remarks during the launch of the Kenya Aids Response Progress Report (KARPR) on Thursday, 23rd November, 2018 at the University's Charter Hall. Also in the picture (L-R) is Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Sicily Kariuki (in blue coat) and Embu County Governor, Hon. Martin Wambora.

Aids Response Progress Report Launched at UoEm

The University of Embu got a rare chance to host the launch of Kenya Aids Response Progress Report (KARPR) on Thursday, 23rd November, 2018 at the University's Charter Hall. The 2018 KARPR provided an opportunity for self-assessment in the progress towards achieving the national targets as set-out in Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework (KASF) and global targets as set-out in 2016 the United Nations Political declaration on HIV and AIDS. The report outlined the challenges that have hindered the fight against this pandemic. The launch was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Sicily Kariuki as the chief guest.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Embu Governor, Hon. Martin Wambora, Embu County Commissioner Ms. Esther Maina,

National Aids Control Council CEO - Nduku Kilonzo, University of Embu Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mugendi Njiru, top officials from the National Aids Control Council and key stakeholders in the Ministry of Health. The occasion catapulted the University of Embu as a preferred conference destination and an epicenter of excellence in research as it was the first launch to be held outside the capital city of Nairobi. In her speech, Hon. Sicily Kariuki lauded the University and the Embu County Government for their relentless undertakings in promoting sex education among students and being part of this hallmark milestone in the Country's fight against HIV/AIDS. She emphasized that it was the mandate of the University of Embu as an Institution and other key stakeholders to fight against the deadly epidemic.

In his welcoming remarks the VC,

Prof. Mugendi, lauded the Ministry of Health and National AID's Control Council for choosing University of Embu to launch such a cutting-edge report. In part, the VC pointed out that the University was on the forefront in promoting sex education and that launching the HIV Estimates Report was quite a groundbreaking occasion for the University.

The HIV Estimates Report brought forth a sound reflection on the existing status of HIV burden in Kenya and trajectory of the HIV epidemic in the form of prevalence, new infections, AIDS orphans and related deaths. In part, the report said that adult (15-49 years) HIV prevalence was estimated at 4.9% in 2017 and approximately 1.5 million people were living with HIV. It also noted that Kenya had succeeded in reducing the epidemic through focused interventions.

UoEm Implements Dress Code



Dr. Milcah Nyaga, Ph.D
Chairman, Dress Code Committee

In 2017, the Vice-Chancellor formed the Dress Code Committee which comprised of six members of staff and three student leaders. The Committee was mandated to bench mark with universities which had implemented a dress code. These included Strathmore, KCA, Daystar and Catholic University and any other University as found appropriate. During bench marking, the deans, lecturers and student leaders of respective universities unanimously agreed that dress code is one of the tools which market their graduates in the job market.

The main purpose of dress code was to provide a framework of responding to members of the

University community's, need for professionalism and decency in their dressing, grooming and appearance in a way that is sound and creates an environment in the University in which all can live, work, and learn together in peace and harmony.

After bench marking, the Committee drafted dress code guidelines which were adopted with amendments by University Management. These were the objectives of implementing the dress code:

- i. Establishing a culture of professionalism through decency that will enhance distinctiveness.
- ii. Promoting the UoEm brand that will enhance marketability.
- iii. Promoting a conducive learning

and working environment in which members of UoEm are able to perform to the best of their ability.

- iv. Creating an environment where members of UoEm relive their commitment to treat each other with courtesy, respect and dignity.
- v. Ensuring that members of UoEm adhere to the standards set out in the University's dress code.

The University management, members of staff as well as students have a responsibility in ensuring that the dress code is adhered to.

The Committee wishes to thank all members of University of Embu who have embraced the implementation of dress code.



Felista Mumbua,
4th year student,
School of Education



Different clothes communicate different messages to the world about our attitudes, emotions and feelings. Dressing well is a form of good manners since it shows respect to oneself and the society at large. How you perceive yourself is how you groom yourself. If you are care free, you will just cover yourself but if you are an elegant person you will always dress appropriately.

Although the dress code is highly emphasized at the University of Embu, we should not misconstrue it for a punishment. It is for our own good. When we dress well now, it will not be difficult for us to dress decently when we get into the job market. Dressing

appropriately does not mean wearing suits or expensive clothes. It means wearing clothes that one is comfortable in and ones that the society will appreciate. Always dress well but keep it simple. It is ridiculous for a university graduate to wear demeaning clothes that expose body parts or are very tight. Just imagine attending an interview and the panel sends you away because of the way you are dressed, despite having appropriate qualifications!

It is from the mind that you plan what you want to wear depending on occasion, time or place. Once you are dressed decently you are able to confidently express yourself. In addition, you are appreciated by the society.

Dressing starts from the mind. You will never find something to wear that makes you feel beautiful, smart or loved if you don't believe that you already have it.

You are What You Wear

I am very passionate on the implementation of the Dress Code at the University of Embu. Dr. Jennifer Baumgartner in her book, *Psychology of Dress* says that you are what you wear. The first impression you create through what you wear is often quite significant. Snap judgements such as 'she is not my type,' 'he looks disorganised,' 'she looks friendly' and 'he looks efficient' could emanate from the clothes they wear. University students, who are hoping to be employed after graduation, should be thinking on how to dress professionally.

The vision of the University of Embu is a *dynamic epicentre of excellence in training and research for service to humanity*. Students are being trained and nurtured to serve humanity. One special attribute that we need to embrace is that of looking presentable before the people we are expected to serve. To prepare for this, the University Management has come up with the dress code for students and members of staff. The worst dressing is the kind that tries to undo, ignore, or hide where or who you are, the kind that shows you didn't pay attention to your body, age or situation. Any dressing that prohibits one from doing their job well sends a wrong message.

There are several lessons we can learn from other universities. Zambezi University in Mozambique banned dreadlocks, sandals, short and tight dresses from being worn by students. University of Lagos banned tight fitting clothes, transparent clothing, mini-skirts and inappropriate outfit like beach wear. Hampton University in US also has a

dress code. The continuous demonstration of appropriate manner and dress ensures that students from these universities meet minimum standards of quality achievement in social, physical, moral and educational aspects of life.

The dress code is based on socially acceptable manners and selecting attire appropriately to specific occasions which are critical factors in the total educational process. Understanding and employing these behaviours not only improves the quality of one's life but also contributes to optimum morale as well as showing a positive campus image. It plays a major role in instilling a sense of integrity and an appreciation for values and ethics.

We should, therefore, treat our bodies with respect through modesty and avoidance of sexual explicitness. By so doing we gain self-respect. As a church leader, it gives me great joy when the University administration comes in strongly through the dress code to help us live according to the expectations of a decent, modest and focused Christian.



Araka Ezekiel Matundura,
Chairman,
Young Catholic Association



Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

(1Corinthians 3;16)

Kiswahili ni Taaluma Yenye Tija

Mwanafunzi anapochagua taaluma ya kujiunga nayo katika chuo kikuu anapaswa kujiuliza iwapo taaluma hiyo itamsaidia kujikimu maishani. Aghalabu vijana huchagua taaluma kutokana na ushauri wa walimu na wazazi wao au kwa kuwaiga watu maarufu katika jamii. Changamoto kuu katika uchaguzi huu ni kuwa huenda vijana wakapotoshwa na hisia na matamano yao badala ya kuongozwa na uwezo wao kimasomo au vipaji vyao.

Warsha ya Kiswahili iliyoandaliwa katika Chuo Kikuu cha Embu mnamo Jumatano tarehe 14, Novemba 2018 ilinua kuwasaidia wanafunzi kutambua nafasi ya Kiswahili kama somo la kitaaluma kote ulimwenguni. Mwandishi, msomi na mwanahabari maarufu, Prof. Ken Walibora aliwaongoza waliohudhuria warsha hii katika kujadili dhima ya Kiswahili kama lugha ya kimataifa na jinsi wanafunzi wanaolienzi somo hili wanaweza kunufaika kutokana na maendeleo haya. Prof. Walibora, ambaye ni gwiji wa uandishi wa riwaya, novela, hadithi fupi na mashairi, anatambulika hasa kutokana na riwaya zake maarufu kama vile Siku Njema na Kidagaa Kimemwozea, miongoni mwa kazi nyingine ainati.

Katika hotuba yake fupi wakati wa ufunguzi rasmi wa warsha hii, Naibu wa Mkuu wa Chuo anayehusika na masuala ya elimu, utafiti na shughuli za nyanjani, Prof. Kiplagat Kotut, alimsifu Walibora kwa mchango wake mkubwa katika usomi na uanahabari. Prof. Kotut aliwahimiza wanafunzi na wafanyikazi waliofurika katika Ukumbi wa Charter kuiga mfano bora wa Prof. Walibora, ambaye vipaji vyake na juhudi mahsusi zimemfanya kutambulika, sio tu nchini, bali katika maeneo mbalimbali ulimwenguni, ambako lugha ya Kiswahili inatumika.

Prof. Walibora alizungumzia kwa kirefu changamoto zinazowakumba waandishi chipukizi katika nyanja za bunilizi na ushairi, huku akiihimiza hadhira yake kutovunjika moyo iwapo miswada yao itachukua muda mrefu au hata kukataliwa na baadhi ya wachapishaji. Huku akitoa mifano kutoka kwa kazi zake zilizochapishwa, mtaalamu huyu alieleza jinsi baadhi ya kazi hizo zilivyomchukua zaidi ya miaka kumi kabla ya kukamilika na kupelekwa kwenye matbaa. Licha

ya changamoto hizo, kazi bora inapochapishwa hupata wasomaji na kumpa mwandishi riziki.

Washiriki katika warsha hii walikuwa na fursa adhimu ya kutangamana na msomi huyu kupitia maswali na majadiliano. Baadhi ya hoja muhimu zilizoibuka kutokana na mitagusano hii ni kwamba lugha ya Kiswahili imepanuka sana kimatumizi katika nyanja za elimu, uanahabari na masuala ya kidiplomasia. Wataalamu wanahitajika katika mataifa mengi, ndani na nje ya bara la Afrika, ili kufunza lugha na fasihi ya Kiswahili katika shule na vyuo mbalimbali. Hatua ya serikali za Zimbabwe, Afrika Kusini na Rwanda kuhimiza Kiswahili kifunzwe katika shule zake inawapa vijana wetu nafasi za kazi katika mataifa hayo. Isitoshe, nchini Marekani kuna zaidi ya vyuo vikuu mia moja ambapo Kiswahili kinafunzwa. Taaluma ya utafsiri na ukalimani pia inawapa wasomi wa Kiswahili nafasi ya kujiimarisha na kuhudumu kote ulimwenguni. Ilibainika kuwa Kiswahili sio lugha ya kina yakhe bali ni taaluma iliyo na tija, sawa na taaluma nyinginezo.

Akiwahutubia waandishi wa habari muda mfupi baada ya kukamilika kwa warsha hiyo, Prof. Walibora aliwakashifu viongozi na baadhi ya vyombo vya habari kwa kuipuuza lugha ya Kiswahili. Alishangaa ni kwa nini viongozi wengi barani wanaendelea kujivunia lugha za kigeni kama vile Kiingereza, Kifaransa na Kijerumani badala ya kuikuza lugha ya Kiswahili. Alisisitiza umuhimu wa kuwepo kwa vyombo na sera ya lugha inayoihimiza matumizi ya Kiswahili katika sekta zote kwani hakuna taifa linaloweza kuendelea kwa kuzitumia lugha za kigeni.

Warsha hiyo iliandaliwa na Idara ya Masomo ya Sanaa ikishirikiana na Chama cha Kiswahili, Chuo Kikuu cha Embu (CHAKIE).



Dkt. Timothy Kinoti, Ph.D
Mlezi, Chama Cha Kiswahili,
Chuo kikuu Cha Embu



Profesa Ken Walibora akiwahutubia wafanyikazi na wanafunzi wakati wa warsha iliyoandaliwa katika Chuo Kikuu Cha Embu, Ukumbi wa Charter tarehe 14 Novemba, 2018.



Dr. Samuel N. Ndirangu
Lecturer,
Agricultural Economics & Extension

Down Memory Lane

A personal experience by Dr. Samuel Ndirangu



Embu University College Old Gate A



University of Embu Old Gate A



University of Embu New Gate A

The transition from EAST College to Embu University College can best be depicted in three phases. The first phase being the period prior to the Gazette Notice of 11th June 2012 which upgraded EAST College to Embu University College. The second phase is the period immediately after the Gazette Notice and the take-over by the University of Nairobi (UoN) in July 2012. The final phase being the period between the take-over by the interim administrators appointed by the UoN and the appointment of the first substantive Principal of Embu University College in September 2012. Contrary to what many would have expected, there was sudden dissipation of the Embu community's agitation for a University soon after the issuance of the Gazette Notice of 11th June 2011. EAST College continued to operate under the Ministry of Agriculture and even its 2011/2012 budget was funded through the Ministry. The events that took place towards the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012 served as a pointer that the journey towards a University was still on course.

In January 2012, the Commission for University Education (CUE) visited the College. Prior to the

visit, the Commission through the Ministry of Agriculture had asked the Management to prepare a status report on the College. I came to understand that such visits were referred to as "audits to determine conformity with CUE requirements." As the College Deputy Principal of EAST College, I was charged with the responsibility of coordinating the compilation of the status report/exit report. The CUE audit was conducted by two commissioners accompanied by one support staff from CUE. The EAST College Management and all the staff members were in attendance. The meeting with CUE was cordial but I still recall one memorable moment when the meeting was almost derailed by the inability of the staff members to confirm the existence of some facilities provided in the report. The commissioners almost accused the College Management of misleading the Commission and the resulting dire consequences were hinted.

The EAST College Management had made the mistake of failing to circulate the status report to staff members and some members nearly disowned the report. I hurriedly rushed to my office and collected a few copies of the report that I had and circulated them to staff members but not without

a discrete wink of disapproval from my boss. The action brought the meeting on course once again and in the end the College passed the test and was recommended for the next stage of the transition.

I also recall the final moment of that meeting when the Commissioners posed a question on the programmes that we intended to introduce once the College was upgraded to a University. Again for unexplained reasons, the members of the College Management went silent. I quickly interjected and explained that we proposed to offer the programmes that were in line with the ones we were offering to the Ministry of Agriculture staff: Agribusiness Management, Horticulture, Agronomy and Land and Water Management.

The second meeting was held around May 2012 between the EAST College staff members and two Directors from the Ministry of Agriculture: the Director of Extension and Training and the Director of Human Resource Management. In the meeting, the position of the Ministry in regard to the impending transition was communicated. The Ministry's position was to relocate EAST College together with its staff and assets to Wambugu Agricultural Training College (ATC)

News

Down Memory Lane

Continued from pg 45



Old Bus



New Bus

in Nyeri County. According to the Directors, EAST College would be renamed Kenya School of Agriculture.

However, members of staff were free to choose whether to remain in the Ministry or join the University College. For the fear of unknown, most staff members including myself chose to remain in the Ministry. The position taken by the Ministry was contrary to the Gazette Notice that had transferred the ownership of EAST College assets and liabilities to Embu University College as the successor.

The University College was granted an opportunity to choose the staff members they wished to work with unlike other University Colleges. The meeting had its own light moments. In response to the Ministry's position to relocate EAST College, one junior officer surprised many when he said the Directors stand accused of "mass transfer of human population." It was during this period when some top government officers had been indicted of a similar crime in the International

Criminal Court. I cannot clearly recall the reaction of the Directors but I believe that this was a period when forgiveness would be granted for any crime committed by EAST College staff members, including insubordination.

The other light moment was the christening of the EAST College Principal and his Deputy as "Moses" and "Joshua" respectively, who would lead the "children" of EAST College to the promised land of Wambugu ATC. Later, I (Joshua) did the opposite and led the "children" to Embu University College which up to this moment I believe was the real "Canaan."

The long awaited meeting between the anxious EAST College staff and the UoN delegation was finally held in July 2012, chaired by the University of Nairobi VC. In attendance were; UoN senior staff members: Registrar in charge of Academics and two Deans and the incoming Chair of Embu University College Council Dr. Margaret Gikuhi. The agenda of the meeting was the take-over of EAST

College by Embu University College, a Constituent College of UoN, as per the Gazette Notice of 11th June 2011.

The interim administrators of Embu University College were introduced by the VC; Professor Paul Kanyari as the Principal, Ms Florence and Ms Margaret Ngatia as the Registrar and Accountant respectively. Others were Mr. Peter Otieno as the Procurement Officer and Mr. Munoru as in-charge of Security. The five were instructed to take-over the running of the University College with immediate effect. However, on a light note, the VC also mentioned that the former EAST College Principal and his Deputy would become the first Registrar and Deputy Registrar of the University College so that in the VC's own words "they could roast together during the transition." The prophecy of the VC's words was almost fulfilled later when I was nearly consumed in a fire lit in an attempt by some EAST College Heads of Departments to transfer a few assets to Wambugu ATC.



Old hostels



New Mt. Kilimanjaro ladies hostels



University of Embu Staff during the Staff Team Building activity held on 20th December, 2018 in Mt. Kenya region.

Tapping the Gains of Teamwork

Henry Ford famously observed that *Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.* This quote by Henry Ford aptly highlights the significance of working together in teams. Every employee is dependent on his/her fellow employees to work together and contribute efficiently to the organisation. No employee can work alone; he/she has to be helped by his/her colleagues to accomplish everyday tasks efficiently. Employees work better in a team to produce better results rather than individually, as every individual contributes in his best possible way. In organisations, individuals having similar interests and specializations come together on a common platform and form a team.

Team Building activities improve relations and strengthen social bonds among employees. Every one strives hard to achieve a common goal. It also reduces the chances of confusion, misunderstandings and in turn makes communication effective. It also builds trust among employees and productivity increases when individuals work as a team. Employees tend to divide work among themselves and hence the objectives are achieved at a much faster pace.

On 20th December, 2018 members of Staff of the

University of Embu gathered at Serena Mountain Lodge in Karatina. The hotel is located in Mount Kenya Forest, thus the atmosphere was peaceful and calm. Everyone was in a good mood, ready to spend the day engaging in various activities and relaxing after a whole year of hard work. This was the last day of work and the University was to close for Christmas holiday after the event.

The day began with registration exercise, as members enjoyed delicious breakfast. Thereafter, there was a presentation on Group Synergy and Performance for Individual and Institutional Growth coordinated by the facilitator, Kenya School of Adventures and Leadership (KESAL). The presentation emphasized on the importance of teamwork for personal and institutional development.

Members of Staff then proceeded to the Hotel's field for outdoor activities. They were grouped into various troupes, and competed against one another, which made the exercises fun and interactive. All the team building activities tested planning, communication, conflict resolution, bonding, progression, unity and building trust among staff members. The activities were well-suited to the participants, as they made it easier for them to comprehend the importance of working as a team for the betterment of the University.



Mr. David Macharia
Coordinator, Sports & Games



University of Embu's basketball player goes for lay-up during the 2-day KUSA Central Conference League tournament held on 10th and 11th November 2018 at the University's newly built Basketball pitch.

University Participation in Sports and Games

May I congratulate all student sportsmen and women for active and continued participation in organized sports, games and recreation activities throughout the semester. Sports provoke purposeful and meaningful social relationships. These social interactions with your friends from sister universities and other backgrounds provide you with highly desirable security, sense of belonging, and ultimately happiness. Therefore, happiness originating from the participation in sports and games is a highly cherished reward during your stay at the University.

As a consequence of participation, diverse university teams displayed prowess in their respective disciplines. Some of the University notable accomplishments include the University Women Scrabble, Basketball and Football teams who were triumphant during 2018 Annual Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA Central Conference Women Championships. Semester one of 2018/2019 academic year is a great period. During the semester, the University produced one of the best swimmers in the region's swimming gala, Mr. Muaadh Farouk, a 3rd year B.Sc Agriculture student. This resulted in the University winning seven gold medals and one silver medal. Other conquests came from Women Basketball who won regional 3-on-3 Basketball title and qualified for KUSA 3-on-3 Basketball National Games to be held later in the year and the University

Volleyball Men Team who remarkably won Embu County Kenya Volleyball Federation League title undefeated thus stamping their authority as a volleyball powerhouse in this region.

The University managed to take part in all KUSA Central League matches with all teams posting impressive results. We are optimistic that our teams will qualify for KUSA National Play-offs later in the year. We also hosted the maiden regional KUSA Central Roll Ball Championships which was graced by the Kenya Roll ball Federation President who committed to nurture this national sport in the region. Similarly, we successfully hosted a leg of major sporting events among them the KUSA Central Conference ball games, Mt. Kenya Basketball League Tournament, Rugby among others. The University introduced baseball game under the banner of Kenya Little League Baseball Federation.

The University also organized the Inaugural 10km Road Race for both men and women and 3 km Family Fun Run themed **Running for Education** on 13th October 2018. The races aimed at raising funds for the University of Embu Endowment Fund. The main race attracted internationally acclaimed male and female athletes who endured the dusty terrain in the outskirts of Embu town to win their respective races. The best University student athletes took position 4,5 and 3,4 in men and women categories respectively.

The event was graced by Anti-Doping Association of Kenya (ADAK) where over 1000 students successfully received training on the importance of engaging in clean/ drug free sports. The Department, appeals to the University community to participate in sports alongside their studies and work. This will pay you rich dividends in terms of general fitness, well-being and happiness.

A HEALTHY OUTSIDE STARTS FROM THE INSIDE

- Robert Urich -

ICT Updates

New Dawn as ERP System is Implemented



Maurice Murimi
Head of ICT

The University of Embu is in the process of implementing an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that is aimed at automating the University records. Upon completion, the project aims to encompass all functional areas of the University into one central platform. This shall provide seamless delivery between various departments, ensuring improvement in service delivery to University customers.

Currently the following sections are in the process of implementation and are almost at completion stages:

1. Admissions
2. Accommodation
3. Academics
4. Finance
5. Human Resource
6. Procurement and Stores

The Implementation has enabled the students to conduct most of

the manual processes on-line via the student portal, including but not limited to:

- Viewing of fee status and fee structure
- Registering of units and viewing of the curriculum
- Viewing of academic progress once all results have been verified and approved

The first semester 2018/2019 examinations were processed using the system; and underwent the various approval processes after which they were be released to the students via the student portal.

Access to the student portal has been enhanced by embedding it to the University website and the UoEm Android Application.

The ICT Department is quite hopeful that the system will be used to process year 2019 graduation data and will help to automate most, if not all University processes.

(Standing centre back) A trainer takes University of Embu Finance Department staff through the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in the ICT Computer Lab on 18th July, 2018.





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

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

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

Applications are invited to the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) programme as Self-Sponsored Students for the September 2019 Intake.



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.

About The University of Embu

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

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



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