



CBPS News

COLLEGE OF BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **CBPS complied with the Government directive on Biometric registration. In line with managing security concerns raised by stakeholders in the education sector**

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- [Doreen Alusa](#)
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FEEDBACK

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Graduates Challenged at 58th Graduation

As the University released more than 6,000 graduates, the quality of the degree attained at the University of Nairobi could not be re-emphasized any less when the Vice-chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi stressed “we shall not compromise our standards! We shall relentlessly, fearlessly and consistently protect our academic quality.”



Ms. Lorine Nanjala, Msc in Genetics graduate, from School of Biological Sciences at the 58th Graduation ceremony

Prof. Mbithi also added that the University shall remain faithful to the values of academic quality and integrity. This being the second graduation in the year, a

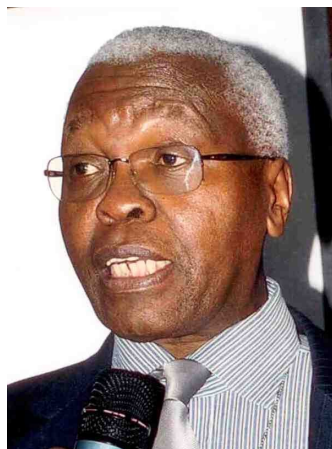
total of 10,076 graduates were churned in 2017 from the University of Nairobi.

A total of 6,611 degrees and

diplomas were conferred during the University of Nairobi graduation ceremony held on 22nd December 2017. Out of 6,611; the graduates were 61 PhDs, 14 Fellowships, 1,981 Masters, 26 Post-graduate Diplomas, 3,787 Bachelors, 6 Higher Diplomas and 736 Diplomas. College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) on the other hand had 144 graduates in the second graduation of 2017. Earlier in the year during the 57th graduation ceremony held on 22nd September 2017, the College had 613 graduates. The 144 degrees and diploma conferred from CBPS graduates included:

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Prof. Munavu: A Celebration of an Illustrious Career



When one is in the presence of Professor Raphael Muatine Munavu, his boundless positive energy is one of the first things that strikes you. Prof. Munavu began his life in Kangundo, in what is now known as Machakos County as the eldest child in his family. A gifted achiever, Prof. Munavu stands out as one who is honoured to serve. When reminiscing on his youth, he says “I remember my Father taught

me to have pride in the achievements of his children”. The incident he was referring to when he had qualified to attend Mangu Secondary School and in spite of financial challenges, his father promised him that he would attend. He later saw his father showing off the admission letter to friends with a lot of pride. This incident has remained with Prof.

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Graduates Challenged at 58th Graduation



Principal CBPS and Director School of Mathematics with PhD Graduates from the College

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10 PhDs, 53 Masters, 2 Postgraduate Diplomas, 17 Bachelor Degrees and 62 Diplomas. While the 613 CBPS graduates in September 2017, included: 10 PhDs, 33 Masters, 564 Bachelor Degrees and 4 Diplomas. Speaking during the Graduation ceremony, the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi informed the

graduates “in every graduation, the leadership of this University extols the virtue of hard work”. Dr. Rattansi challenged the graduates to complement their academic papers with the requisite skills and competence. This, she noted, the graduates can achieve through painstakingly developing their skills over time with keen attention to detail. Prof. Mbithi challenged scholars and students to provide leadership and advise the society objectively, to reflect the University as the mirror it is, by being conscious of society and being

a potent agent of change. Ksh 100 Million infrastructure grant awarded to Department of Chemistry to establish Kenya Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre (KNMRC) is among collaborative research initiatives the University secured funding, as highlighted by the Vice-chancellor. Department of Chemistry received funds from the National Research Fund (NRF) category. NRF also funded 19 projects in various disciplines as well as a provision of funding for post-graduate students. Ms. Elizabeth Itotia, valedictorian class of 2017, 58th Graduation, emerged from School of Pharmacy, College of Health Sciences. College of Biological and Physical Sciences Congratulates Class of 2017!

15 Startups to be Awarded at Nairobi Innovation Week



ICT Cabinet Secretary officiating at the NIW 2018 launch

At least 3,000 delegates are expected during this year's Nairobi Innovation Week (NIW) where innovative startups will be recognized and awarded. As part of its integral mandate to be the go-to platform for energizing the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the region, NIW will recognize the most promising 100 startups and award the top 15 innovations. Already, the University has committed an award of Ksh. 1 Million for the best startup. The

theme for Nairobi Innovation Week 2018 is “Innovation for a Better Tomorrow”. The event will be held at the University of Nairobi, Main Campus from 5-9th March 2018.

Nairobi Innovation Week 2018 was officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary, ICT, Hon. Joe Mucheru at the Intercontinental Hotel on Tuesday 16th January, 2018. The launch brought together startups, Government, Private sector, Academia, Development partners, Media and Civil society. During the aus-

picious launch of Nairobi Innovation Week (NIW) 2018 which also served as the launch of NIW 2025 roadmap, Hon. Mucheru challenged innovators to stretch their innovation and creativity in steering the transformation of the innovation economy; while focusing on integrating technology on the President's Big Four Economic Pillars: Food security, Affordable housing, Manufacturing and Inexpensive health. Currently in its third year of existence, Nairobi Innovation Week 2025 Roadmap looks into increase of funding for innovation ecosystem upto Ksh. 1B, as well as increase of partnerships and collaborations.

CBPS INTRODUCES STUDENT BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION

The 2016 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates are the pioneer students admitted and registered using the Biometric system in September 2017, at the University of Nairobi.

The biometric registration process involves obtaining students fingerprints, their digital signature, a digital passport photograph and scanning of necessary documents such as the national identification card.

The College of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS) has already trained administration, technical staff, ICT staff and heads of units, a month to receiving the new students expected to hit 1,000 as they join the Biological, Physical, Mathematics

and Computing and Informatics Schools in the College.

Prof. Bernard Aduda, Principal CBPS, emphasized that the Biometric registration will assist in efficient record keeping of student details.

The Director of ICT Centre, Mr. Christopher Moturi explained that the Biometric system is integrated with the Student Management Information System (SMIS) and has current scope to handle student registration. “However, the system has the potential to be extended to examination and class attendance



Principals of CAVS, CBPS and Senior staff receive Bio-Metric Kits

as well as staff registration”, Moturi explained. Biometric system is among the automated operations marshalled in ICT Centre under the Management Information System (MIS) section. Other systems which cater for essential student functions include eLearning, SMIS and SMIS student portal as well as Halls Management Information System.

READY-TO-WORK PROGRAMME GRADUATES FIRST COHORT

The first cohort of 150 students who have undergone Ready to Work skills, an online course training students on work, people, money and entrepreneurial skills graduated in a ceremony held at the College of Biological and Physical Sciences on September 12, 2017. Ready to Work Skills is a partnership project with Barclays Bank and University of Nairobi’s Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab) which aims to prepare students and graduates for skills required at work.

The program developed by Barclays team and implemented by C4DLab sets to address the skills



First Cohort of Ready-to-Work Graduates pose with the Principal CBPS (centre) and Director C4DLAB (left)

gap before employment experience. Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Ms Antoninah Moturi, Barclay Bank representative, said that Ready to Work aims to make young people prosper in the skills learned.

“The world has become competitive, and you have to create a niche for yourself by gaining people, entrepreneurial, money and work skills,” emphasized the Principal of the College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda.

Prof. Aduda advised the graduates to actualize what they have learnt to seize any self-employment opportunity whenever it presents itself.

Graduates were challenged to seek innovation to solve societal problems especially with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals.

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UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI PEERS MENTORS CLUB



Humphrey's initiative in forming the club was to "raise young leaders with the right mentality, people who work without follow up and can depend on themselves to improve their lives."

Humphrey Andanyi is the founder of the University of Nairobi Peer Mentors Club (PMC). He is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Nairobi doing his fourth year of a BSc. Degree in Chemistry. He was enrolled in a day school for both primary and secondary and from there, made it to this University to pursue a degree in the University of Nairobi Chiromo Campus.

Humphrey's initiative in forming the club was to raise young leaders with the right mentality, people who work without follow up and can depend on themselves to improve their lives. Given that someone took the time to instill positive qualities in him, he saw the need to mentor others, bring people together and take on the world.

His motivation for mentorship is to ensure sustainability in leadership because the vision that PMC has cannot be run or achieved by common individuals: character

and manners have to be inculcated in the leadership of PMC as stated in its constitution. Also, being a mentorship unit there is need to reflect excellence and singular purpose to the world as positive role models and an example to other students.

The University of Nairobi Peer Mentors's (UoNPMC) aim is to impact the University student body positively. As per the constitution all the campuses have the unique structures that ensure the club has a presence in the campuses. In addition, the club has an executive office that engages with all members from all campuses of the University of Nairobi. Humphrey came up with the idea of the club around mid-2014 and launched the club in April 2015. He assembled a few like-minded students with the same passion, and involve them in the basic steps of establishing club.

The club has been involved in a number of activities including forums at the University. One such event had an attendance of over 170 students. The club also initiates mentorship sessions in primary and secondary schools around Nairobi. To date, the students have been to seven schools including: Starehe Girls High School, Spinners Boys High School, Huruma Girls High School,

Kabiro Secondary School, Kabiro Primary School, Pumwani Boys, and Gatina Primary School. The club has participated in events like: Founders day in Starehe Boys High School and Prize giving day in Ruthimitu Mixed Secondary School. Other activities included tree planting at Gatina primary and Huruma Girls' High School. The club has had an opportunity to carry out mentorship sessions on GBS TV.

The club has an interim patron and around 20 active leaders. The membership has grown to over 90 members in Chiromo and Main campus with representative from; School of Physical Sciences, School of Health Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, School of Engineering and School of Arts and Design.

The inspiration for the formation of UoNPMC was that many first year students in the University have been under strict guidance while living with parents, guardians as well as in their former schools. The transition to University life has seen many unable to cope and as a result, they have joined the wrong company and made decisions that have negatively influenced their lives.

To bridge the gap between students, The Students Welfare Association, and the Management, UoNPMC saw the need to come up with a strategy to undertake student mentorship commencing with first years. The club's strategy is to introduce mentorship through sensitizing first years on the meas-

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Peer Mentors Club during an Annual Leaders Training in Chiromo Campus

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI PEER MENTORS CLUB

From Pg 4



University of Nairobi Peer Mentors Club (UoNPMC) leaders

ures they can take to avoid inappropriate use of freedom when exposed to University life. The club also undertakes follow-up engagements and recommends counseling sessions when needed, to help students

have a comfortable study-life with the correct information, while studying at the University of Nairobi. Apart from providing support in student welfare, UoNPMC provides students with guidance, on how to plan their studies, revision

sion sessions, prepare for exams, undertake projects, get attain best grades and secure scholarships. UoNPMC also helps in mobilizing students to attend expert forums that open opportunities for constructive interaction and exchange of ideas between experts and students. This exposure motivates students to work hard and score highly academically.

Mentorship outside school

UoNPMC also reaches out to young people in secondary and primary schools to show them the need of exhaustively utilizing their time effectively so that they can flourish in this world, as successful people. Students are advised of situations to avoid in the pursuit of excellence. The club also supports needy students through payment of school fees. Currently the club also takes care of two orphaned students with complex backgrounds who have demonstrated a positive attitude in their studies. This is a demonstration of how young people can set an example and make a difference in the lives of the needy by mentoring and helping them. The club’s future plans includes establishing Peer Mentorship Club Chapter in every Campus at the University of Nairobi.

PROF OKELLO ODONGO—TRIBUTES

The College of Biological and Physical Studies bade a sudden and heart rending farewell to one of the Senior Professors in the School of Computer and Informatics Prof. William Okello Odongo. Prof OKello-Odongo was the immediate former Chair of the school and will be dearly missed by students and colleagues. Below are tributes from some of his former students



Fiona Muthoni Nguthi
CEO
Better World Systems
Class of 2016

Since first year, I looked forward to

my fourth year. Not because I would be graduating (obviously) but because I would definitely be taking any and all courses taught by ‘The director’, that’s what everybody called Professor Okello Odongo. He was a darling among all fourth years, and when I finally took the two units he taught, Network Security and Network Management, I understood why. Prof. Okello was a marvelous teacher. In his soft-spoken way he made it easy to grasp tough networking concepts. His classes were always a highlight of a hectic week with his laidback manner and how he encouraged questions even if they

took the class on a complete tangent. In the second semester of my final year, Network Management was one of my most challenging but thoroughly enjoyable units. My favorite thing about Prof. Okello was that, as long as you had put some effort into figuring out how to implement an assignment, he would take time to help you put together the missing pieces, twice a week, every week. I feel sorry for the first years who will never get a chance to hear the joke of ‘Evil eve’. Rest in peace Professor.

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Prof's legacy oscillates between a passion for mentoring students and a passion for mentoring staff

From Pg. 1

Munavu to date. Pride in the achievements of his children is a quality that Prof. Munavu extends to this professional "children", the students that he has encountered in all of the institutions of higher learning that he has had the opportunity interacted with. Prof always takes the time to encourage and build the self esteem of his students. He views them as the future leaders of the country and should be taken seriously.

Prof. Munavu's "honour to serve" attitude is evidenced by his dedicated service to

the Department of Chemistry and later, his service as an administrator at some of the highest levels in Kenyan



Prof Munavu (left) with Prof Karega Mutahi at an

society. He rose from humble beginnings to the heights of academia where his talents as an administrator were recognized and he was able to serve in many different capacities, both in

Government and in sister Universities that he was instrumental in setting up and are now running independently.

He then proceeded to work as an accountant in Kenya Breweries until he benefited from the 'Mboya Airlift Programme' where in 1968 he got the opportunity to study a Bachelors degree at Kalamazoo college Michigan. It was here that with the help of his lecturers

he identified his strength in Chemistry. He excelled in organic Chemistry or as he calls it "the Chemistry of life". Two years after his arrival, Kalamazoo college began an

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READY-TO-WORK PROGRAMME GRADUATES FIRST COHORT

Dr. Omwansa emphasized students' need to take part in the knowledge of other skills and to be techpreneurial.



Prof Aduda congratulates one of the Ready-to-Work Graduates

Director of C4DLab, Dr. TONY OMWANSA also acknowledged the importance and value of using electronic means as the current method of offering

services, a move which is valued at the University of Nairobi. Dr. Omwansa emphasized students' need to take part in the knowledge of other skills and to

be techpreneurial. Other than University of Nairobi students, graduates and continuing students from local universities including KCA University, Multimedia University of Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Maseno University also participated in the four-module online course and graduated.

Apply for the free online Ready-to-Work course at: <https://readytowork.barclays/home>

PROF. OKELLO-ODONGO TRIBUTES

From Pg 5

**Geoffrey Manoti
Maina**

MSC. Distributed Computing Technology (Computer Forensics and Cyber Security).



Network Administrator/ Information Security Officer Multi-media University
It is a privilege to have known and interacted with one of the most brilliant minds in ICT while i pursuit of academic excellence. Okelo-Odongo was a man full of humility and a good listener irre-

spective of the vast knowledge he possessed. Following my interaction with Prof. as my supervisor, I developed the qualities of critical thinking and appreciating others scholarly effort during the critiquing process. Prof., you boosted my esteem in the academia world. Fare thee well Prof. We will surely miss you and your great work. May you rest in the Lord.

Kelvin Kariuki Mwangi
Tutorial Fellow
Multi-Media University

It was with profound shock and deep sorrow that I learnt of the

sudden death of Prof. Okello Odongo. Prof. (as we used to call him) was one of the most humble people I have ever known. I was fortunate to have been one of his Masters students in Computing and Distributed Technology between 2015 and 2016 at the University of Nairobi. He was one of a kind, a humble but dominant intellect in the IT field. You could tell that he had done a through preparation for his lesson by the way he would flow in a lecture. It was exciting and eye opening to

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Celebrating an Illustrious Career: Prof. Raphael Munavu

exchange programme with the University of Nairobi. While at the college Prof. Munavu made links that would serve him well when as DVC/A&F he decided to strengthen exchange programme between University of Nairobi and Kalamazoo College. After completing his Bachelors, he went on to complete his Masters at Wayne State University and his PhD in Wayne University Detroit. From here he developed his lifelong academic passion, Chemistry for industrialization with an emphasis on job creation.

1976 was the first time Prof. Munavu came to work at the University of Nairobi where he had the opportunity to work with leading lights such as Prof. Joseph Mungai, Prof. Thomas Joseph Odhiambo, Prof. Carnute Khamala and Prof K'Okwaro. "In those days there was a real sense of community, the academic staff were housed in the most prestigious parts of the city and the culture at the time was for the academics to invite each other to their



With Prof. Ratemo Micheka and Chairman NACADA John Mututho at anti-smoking launch

houses for dinner on Fridays". Prof. notes that there was also more commitment to research. Weekends would see the staff coming to the University to pursue their research projects. This sense of community was unfortunately impacted by the socio-economic changes in the society. In the past, the University staff were held in high esteem in the society, but when politics began to change the economics of the country. Funding for research was also substantial at the time and from many sources but the possible expansion of University education made the focus of the donors shift to other campuses. There was also funding from the University to do research which currently may not be available.

When asked what has could be done better

he noted that though the core functions of the University in teaching, research and the creation of knowledge are always emphasized, the role of the University in nation building, character building, actualization of the constitution, leadership has been overlooked. The University needs to expose students to more than early specialization.

Going forward all students need to understand their role in Nation building, the history of Kenya, the culture of Kenya and sharing competencies across disciplines. We need to develop a system where the disciplines are interacting for the benefit of the Nation.

As a scholar with vast experience in administration Prof sees the Universities as the bedrock of policy generation effectively utilizing academics to generate evidence through research that is required for coming up with a policy. Policy is a declaration of intent that any nation would have, how to do it requires the input of engi-

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CBPS NEWS PICTORIAL

CBPS AT THE 58TH GRADUATION



VICE CHANCELLOR VISITS CBPS



CBPS INTRODUCES BIOMETRIC REGISTRATION



FOURTH YEAR CHEMISTRY STUDENTS GIVE BACK IN KIND

Fourth year students from the Department of Chemistry initiated the first-ever student-clean up exercise in the Department where students washed offices and chemistry labs occupying the ground floor of Chemistry building.

This initiative was well received by management as well as technologists who facilitated the students with all that they needed during the clean-up exercise.

The students, who are also members of the Peer Mentors Club, had their Chair Mr. Humphrey Andayi, as the lead organizer of this cleanup exercise.

Staff from the Department termed this action as an outcome of well-nurtured students who can make good choices. The fourth years were acknowledged as the first group of students who have ever undertaken cleaning the Department.



READY-TO-WORK GRADUATES READY FOR THE WORLD



CABINET SECRETARY ICT LAUNCHES NAIROBI INNOVATION WEEK



NEW STUDENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



ICCA WELCOMES TOP US ACADEMICS

A Team from the United States industry and academia led by the Harvard University Center for African Studies visited the University of Nairobi with a view to seeking partnership with Kenyan institutions with strong programmes in computer science, engineering, and climate science/change and its impact on agriculture and food security.

The team led by Prof. Emmanuel Akyempong, Faculty Director, Harvard University Center for African Studies visited the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation on the 6th of December 2017 and had discussions with representatives from the academic teaching staff on current research projects, and areas of possible coop-

eration. Other members of the team included five Professors, philanthropists

who held discussions with the visitors were Prof. Daniel Olago who is the coordinator Water, Environment and Ecosystems and Dr. Maggie Opondo, coordinator Human Dimensions and Health. Both these scholars



and businessmen who will be visiting various universities to identify areas of cooperation.

At the Institute, the team was introduced by Prof. Shem Wandiga who is the Director. Other prominent members of the ICCA team

shared experiences in the research programmes that they have recently been involved in.

The visitors were especially interested in the application of scientific research to improving the lives of Kenyans and how

WMO TO ENHANCE TRAINING AT CBPS

There is need to not only revise the programme but also to increase the number of international students.

Plans are underway to enhance the meteorology courses offered at the University of Nairobi's Department of Meteorology, in the College of Biological and Physical Sciences. This was discussed when the Secretary General, World

Meteorological Organization (WMO), Prof. Petteri Taalas and the Director, Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Mr. Peter Ambenje, paid a courtesy on the Vice-

Chancellor, University of Nairobi. Who was repre-



sented by Prof. Mbeche, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs and Administration and Finance.

As WMO's training cen-

tre for Africa, It was agreed that the degree courses offered at the Department of Meteorology through the WMO cooperation with the University will be enhanced to meet Africa's need in the areas of speciali-

zation. Prof. Mbeche observed, "Meteorological training is becoming a more complex field given the current issues of climate change,"

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CBPS PARTICIPATES AT THE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SHOW

The College of Biological and Physical Sciences was one of the crucial components of the University of Nairobi during the 2017 Nairobi International Trade Fair, which took place at Jamhuri Park from 2nd to 8th October 2017. The theme of the show was: Promoting Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and Trade. Below are the projects that were exhibited from CBPS

Solar Energy for Improved Agriculture - by the Department of Physics

The project displayed how locally assembled solar panels were utilized to harvest solar energy. These panels are used as rooftops for greenhouses and therefore produce energy for domestic purposes, including street and residential lighting, and for use in agriculture. This project also offers training in solar technology. Capacity building and youth empowerment activities on the same have already taken place in Lodwar and Marsabit counties.

This, alongside other applications of these solar panels, was demonstrated using posters and on a visual screen. The benefits of this technology were well articulated and included reduced carbon emis-



Vice-Chancellor talks with Arnold Bett from CBPS

sions, enhanced food production, energy generation and cost effectiveness.

A Biopesticide from Bacteria for Pest Control - a postgraduate student project from School of Biological Sciences

This project demonstrated how

toxins that were produced by certain soil bacteria (known as *Xenorhabdus* spp.) can be used as biological pesticides for stem borers. Stem borers are currently responsible for between 11 and 21% of crop yield losses in Kenya. Maize and other crops are adversely affected by this pest, which is prevalent in the Rift Valley region and in Central Kenya. This biopesticide is less toxic and cheaper than the commonly used chemical pesticides, easily available from local soils and environmentally friendly.

360 degrees Enterprise Surveillance - an undergraduate student project by the School of Computing and Informatics.

This project is software that enables different video streams in various sections of

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PROF. OKELLO-ODONGO TRIBUTES

From Pg. 7

see a man of his age so much dedicated to his work that he used to prepare exciting and intuitive Distributed Computing practicals in the lab.

As my own teaching career developed, I've come to understand and appreciate the enormous influence he's had on my life. His standards weren't just high, they were nearly unattainable. When it came time to draft my thesis, Prof. took me into his office and showed me some sample thesis he had guided his

previous students on and guided me on how to approach my research problem. Whenever I sent him my thesis on email, he replied promptly with the necessary corrections and recommen-



Prof. Okello-Odongo with the C4D lab staff

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TOP US ACADEMICS VISIT ICCA

From Pg 12

modern technology such as algorithms developed in the field of computer science can be applied to this objective. Prof Olago introduced some of the research projects that he had been working on with other members of the academic staff that were focused on improving access to safe water in rural areas in Kilifi and Turkana. Akyempong emphasized the three constituencies that the team was interested in collaborating in, namely academic research, policy and action with entrepreneurs, philanthropists and the private sector.

NEW STUDENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The student congress shall consist of the Student's Council and seven Colleges' Student Association officials

Newly adopted constitution of the University of Nairobi Students' Association (UNSA) has replaced Student Organisation of Nairobi University (SONU) with major changes on student governance structure. The New constitution adopted in November 2017 aims to clarify status, membership, appointment and term of office of student governance.

UNSA shall consist of Student Council, Electoral Colleges, Members in General Meetings and Special General Meetings. Members of the student council will hold office for a term of one year and may be eligible to re-election for one term. An additional three-team member will constitute the student council to represent special interest of students which comprise of special needs, interest of international students, as well as sports and social welfare.

The members representing students' special interest

will form part of the student council comprising Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary-General and Treasurer. Among the objectives UNSA is expected to meet include promoting high standards of ethics, integ-



egrity, transparency and cohesion among members of the association. Additionally, each campus will have a student association comprising of students registered in the Campus. The Campus association will be known as College/Campus Students' Association and will promote academic and social welfare of students in respective campuses.

Not only will the association develop leadership capacity and promote mentorship while working with University of Nairobi

(UoN) administration, but student leaders will frequently publish content where students can express their views, through magazines and journals which will be available online. UNSA Constitution provides for five key governance organs, namely:

- Students Council,
- Congress,
- The Electoral College
- Members in General Meetings, and
- Special General Meetings.

Campus Students Associations (CSAs) form twelve (12) electoral Colleges with each providing three representatives (electors) to congregate into an electoral College to elect Student Council. The three representatives thereafter revert back to their Campus Students Associations, and are not entitled to contest for Student Council.

The student congress shall consist of the Student's Council and seven Colleges' Student Association officials.

CBPS PARTICIPATES AT THE NAIROBI SHOW



From Pg. 13

a farm or business premises to be merged into one video stream on a closed circuit television, which is an improvement of the existing technology. The software is an innovation that utilizes cheaper cameras and mobile cell-phones. The 360 degrees En-

terprise Surveillance is ideal for large ranches and warehouses, where it provides a wider view while using fewer personnel.

Space Saver - by the Science Workshop

The project exhibited a Space Saver, which was a single furniture product that was easily converted into a bed, a chair and a table with a set of drawers. During the day the space saver can be used as a chair with a working table while being converted to a bed at night.

The University of Nairobi won three first positions in the fol-

lowing categories: Best University Stand, The Best Stand in Research and Development and the Stand that Best Interprets the Current Show Theme (Education and/or Research category). The University of Nairobi also obtained position three in The Best Stand in Youth Activities, Empowerments and Capacity Building. The Detergent Production Unit of the Department of Chemistry, in addition, displayed and sold its products to customers who visited the University stand.

WMO TO ENHANCE TRAINING AT CBPS

WMO chief in the Office of DVC/A&F with the Director of the Meteorological Department

From Pg. 12

“There is need to not only revise the programme but also to increase the number of international students.” “The effects of climate change will have a big negative impact on Africa,” said Prof. Taalas. “Governments have to be better prepared to deal with the adverse effects. We have to keep updating the training in the meteorology field. This therefore calls for more

staff and students to be trained. WMO is ready to support in training and enhancing capacity to meet the meteorological needs of Africa.”

On his part, Mr. Ambenje said that KMD will continue to accord the University the necessary support needed in training students pursuing meteorology.

“We have a collaboration in which UoN has access to our facilities and the necessary equipment needed in

the field,” he said. “We give students the opportunity to train and interact with professionals.”

According to the Chairman, Department of Meteorology, Dr. Alfred Opere, the Department was established in 1963 at the request of the East African Community (EAC), WMO and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to train professional meteorologists for the English speaking coun-

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PROF. OKELLO-ODONGO TRIBUTES

From Pg 13

dations. Indeed it is because of his support as my supervisor that I was able to complete my research project on time and graduated exactly after two years of joining my masters program. I will surely miss our email conversations.

His humility gave us independence, creativity and critical thinking. Above all, he wanted to see or hear something that was new and exciting from his students. The challenge we all faced was how to say or do something interesting enough to get his attention.

He was more than just a lecturer to me, I had cre-

ated a life-long bond with Prof., and for all those reasons he was a towering figure in my life and my career. And while I will miss him as a mentor and friend, I'm comforted by the knowledge that his accomplishments, his students and his intellect are enduring



and will continue to exem-

plify the very best in the Information Technology field.

Rest in Peace Prof.

Name: David Gitonga Mwathi

Place of work: Chuka University

Role: Lecturer, C.O.D Computer Science

Tribute to Prof William Okello-Odongo

Prof Okello-Odongo was a true giant in the field of Computing science. He was an extra-ordinary scholar with ability to interpret highly abstract and complex aspects of a phenomena. As his Phd student i will remember his kindness, humility, integrity,

Although very busy, professor would always find time whenever I needed his academic counsel

WMO PLAN

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tries of Africa. "Ever since its inception, the Department of Meteorology has continued to play a major role in training highly skilled meteorological personnel, most of whom are currently manning National Meteorological Services (NWS) of most countries in Africa. In response to the evolving needs, the Department has developed several other programs in applied fields," he said. Present during the meeting was the Principal, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof. Bernard Aduda, Director, Center for International Programmes and Linkages, Prof. William Ogara and Director, Corporate Affairs, Mr. John Orindi.

Celebrating an Illustrious Career: Prof. Munavu

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neers, scientist and sociologists working together with other disciplines to deliver results. There is also a need to reach out to identify talent in young people, and as a nation this is an area we have not excelled in, the University needs to have a role in the development of small and medium enterprises Prof's legacy oscillates between a passion for mentoring students and a passion for mentoring staff. An example of such an experience was when he was in Laikipia University, he was the only member of staff on who stayed on campus. He left for Nairobi briefly during a student strike and one student died. He rushed back to find the other students on the street. When he was trying to calm down the students they were shouting at him but he

did not retreat and he stayed with them till they calmed down. When he was in a position he encouraged staff to also focus on personal development. He used his position to help staff have access to personal development loans so they could purchase property that they can call their own. Prof has many projects in his home county of Kangundo. On a normal day, Prof does a lot of work at his home in Kangundo. He is passionate about tree planting and community engagement programmes. He also practices agriculture with his wife and has put up greenhouses as part of his community outreach activities. He is currently working on a project to introduce Safflower as an oil crop to be grown in dry areas.



The garden of Prof's home in Kangundo

CBPS Supports Mathematics Olympiad



Winners at the 2018 Mathematics Olympiad

The second round of the 8th Kenya Mathematical Olympiad was held on the 27th of January, 2018 at the School of Mathematics, College of Biological and physical Sciences, University of Nairobi. The contestants were selected after participating in the first round which was held on the 5th of October 2017. A total of 129 students from 15 different schools participated. The top student was Njeri Ndungu from Moi girls school Nairobi. The event was covered by Nation TV and appeared in the 9pm news on the 27th of January 2018.

Ms. Ndungu received a gold medal. The top 5 students in order of performance are listed below:

- Ndungu Njeri Wanjiru
- Henry Baldacy
- Harriet Agwata Bosibori
- Nyabuto Stephen Obure
- Baroness Nelly

The Kenya Mathematical Olympiad is an annual mathematics contest for High School students with the aim of selecting a team to represent the country at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) and the Pan African Mathematical Olympiad (PAMO). It is organized by the School of Mathematics in conjunction with the Mathematics Association of Kenya. The students from Mathematics Association of Nairobi University (MANU) also assist with the organization and marking of the papers. The Pan African Mathematical Olympiad in 2018 will be hosted in Kenya and

this is a great opportunity for East African countries to participate and a chance for Kenya to promote mathematics among high school students. The host University for the Pan African Mathematical Olympiad is the University of Nairobi. The Students also got a chance to be addressed by representatives of ACCA global and got to know the career opportunities available to the after obtaining ACCA accounting certification. The top 20 students in the second round will be invited for a third and final round which serves as the team selection test for PAMO and IMO. The students who make it to the final team will undergo a two week training session during the April holidays to prepare them for PAMO and IMO. The training will be done by Dr. James Katende and Dr. Jared Ongaro from the school of Mathematics and assisted by some MSc Students from Pure and Applied Mathematics.