



Graduation: We've Been Doing It for 65 Years

Today's Graduation Ceremony has a unique celebratory aspect to it – it marks 65 years of graduations at Egerton. It was on 22 November 1951 that the first graduands were released into the world of agricultural work. The ceremony was an important milestone in the institution's history of quality training which started in 1939 and continues to this day.

Indeed, 1951 was a turning point for the institution: in June, what had been Egerton School of Agriculture (ESA) became Egerton Agricultural College

(EAC); in September, the first substantive principal, W. J. England, was appointed; by November, a Board of Governors had been nominated. As a result of the changes, EAC authorities were not only seeking closer ties with Makerere University College (the other premier institution in East Africa at the time) but were also working towards the establishment of an East African Diploma in Agriculture – which would be equivalent to the National Diploma in Agriculture in the United Kingdom.

The flaw of racialism, however, marked and marred the character of this institution. By training white farmers only, the College was meant to strengthen the settlers' position in Kenya and thus contribute to the preservation of white rule in the country.



Under Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the Government consistently supported the Egerton Agricultural College. In this picture, for example, the President is seen discussing college affairs with (left) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the College, Sir Michael Blundell, and (right) the Principal, Mr. Michael Barrett.

Graduation ceremonies at EAC in the 1950s were a modest affair. The inaugural one, for example, involved eighteen graduands: four were awarded the Diploma in Agriculture, the rest a Certificate. But in 1952 eleven diplomas and a similar number of certificates were awarded. There was no further growth in graduands' numbers for the rest of the decade owing to a number of reasons. First, during the Mau Mau Emergency (1952–1956), EAC

students, like all able-bodied white men in the colony aged 18 and above, were called up for military and counter-insurgency duties. Second, the turbulent times dissuaded foreign students from coming to Kenya. Third, the possibility of independence under an African government drove some students away from the College and the country in the late 1950s. Fourth, the availability of jobs made some students impatient to acquire them, and they dropped their studies prematurely. Finally, quite a few students failed their exams each year.

In the 1950s, graduation ceremonies were typically presided over by luminaries. The guest speaker at the initial one, for example, was the

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Vision

A world class University for the advancement of humanity

Mission

To offer exemplary education to society and generate knowledge for national and global development

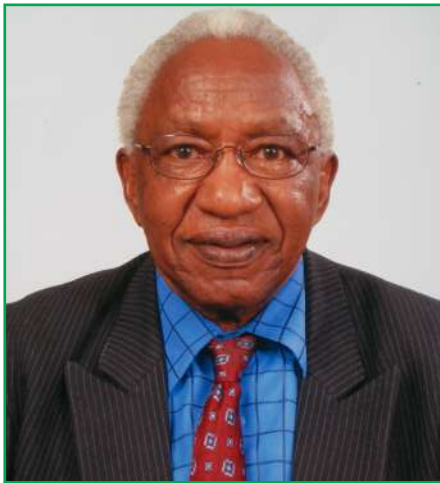
Core Values

The University's activities and decisions will be guided by the following core values:

- National unity, Internationalism,
- Passion for excellence, Professionalism,
- Devotion to duty, Integrity,
- transparency and accountability, and
- Social fairness

Graduation Statistics	
Doctorates	18
Masters	94
Bachelors	3,919
Diplomas	527
Total	4,558

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Prof. Shem O. Wandiga

I am honoured and privileged to welcome you to join us in this auspicious and historic occasion in commemorating the achievements of our 35th Graduation Ceremony. I also wish to acknowledge with great appreciation all those who have found

it fitting to spare time from their busy schedule to come and share in our fete.

I wish to congratulate the graduands for their outstanding achievement. It is a mark of your resilience, hard work and determination to reap from your long journey and efforts in education. It is only through success in education that one can change one's life for the better in an assured manner. As we commemorate your graduation, we share the happiness and pride with your parents, guardians, sponsors and members of the University, who have made significant contribution and unlimited sacrifice to your academic success.

I beseech you to utilise the knowledge and skills acquired to make the world a better place for the advancement of humanity. I wish to appreciate the professors, lecturers, and

administrative staff in a special way for their commitment in training and educating you to the culmination of your graduation today. It is now time for you to take advantage of the unlimited opportunities available out there. To do that, you should be assertive and innovative, for the world out there is full of competition. It is with your acquired knowledge that you must navigate the challenging terrains to realise your long-cherished and ultimate dreams.

Once again, graduands, on behalf of the Egerton University fraternity, I want to congratulate all of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

May God bless all of you. May He bless Egerton University and our country, Kenya.

65 years of Graduation

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prominent settler Lord Francis Scott, who was happy to accept the invitation which the reclusive Lord Egerton had declined. The 1953 ceremony was presided over by the Governor of Kenya, Sir (Charles) Evelyn Baring, who showed keen interest in the College and farm, asking many questions regarding the courses the students were taking. The Minister for Agriculture was also a common feature at the graduation ceremonies. At the time, EAC diplomats were not only in great demand in the regional labour market but could also pursue degree courses abroad.

In 1961, as the African people of Kenya were resuming control of their destiny, EAC opened its doors to all races. It also began admitting students from other African countries. Student numbers rose from 42 in 1961 to 594 by the end of the decade. Diploma programmes also increased from two to

eight over the same period. These changes influenced graduation ceremonies in important ways. At the 1967 ceremony, for example, the President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, who was accompanied by his wife, Mama Ngina, stressed the need to admit women students at EAC. The following year's ceremony was graced by President Milton Obote of Uganda and his wife Miriam. In his speech, Obote hailed EAC's Pan-African spirit, which had enabled students from the rest of Africa to access quality training. The 1969 graduation ceremony was presided over by the Minister for Agriculture of Tanzania, D. N. M. Bryceson, who represented President Julius Nyerere.

In the 1960s and 1970s, graduation ceremonies at EAC were preceded by a graduation ball. The party was usually held in the Junior Common Room (JCR) by the graduating class

on the eve of graduation. Like the graduation itself, the ball usually had a prominent guest. The 1968 ball, for example, was attended by Chief Justice Kitili Mwendwa and his wife, while the subsequent one was attended by Professor Simeon Ominde of the University College, Nairobi, and his wife.

Though graduation ceremonies at Egerton have evolved in various ways since 1951, the underlying spirit of service to humanity has remained unchanged, though the meaning of humanity has been enlarged. Ingrained in the institutional motto of *Sic Donec*, the philosophy of "we serve while we live" has been fervently pursued by successive generations of Egertonians. Presently, the spirit of service is embodied in Egerton's Vision of being a world class university for the advancement of humanity.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



Dr. Reardon Olubayo

I take this opportunity to warmly welcome you all to the 35th Graduation Ceremony. On behalf of the Egerton University Council I wish to congratulate the graduands on this momentous occasion in your lives. It is with great pleasure that we commemorate your great achievement today, as you receive your individual distinguished degrees and diplomas. I equally salute the University Management Board, the Senate, Professors, lecturers and administrative staff for the exemplary

work in preparing you for today's celebrations.

From its modest beginnings in 1939, Egerton University has grown tremendously to become a world class university. Some of the accomplishments attained by the University recently include the launch of the Faculty of Law, the increase in student enrolment, the growth in staff numbers, the renovation of the University's facilities, the initiation of new infrastructural projects, and the ISO 9001:2008 re-certification. The Council is committed to supporting the University to deliver high quality service to students, staff, collaborators, stakeholders and the public. We are also committed to providing stewardship and leadership in managing the University's resources, regulating our academic programmes, and improving our standards.

The Government of Kenya has also made direct contribution to the growth of this University, not only by giving us government-sponsored students to learn in the institution but also by contributing to our infrastructural

development, and we look forward to even more fruitful collaboration with the Government in that regard in the coming years.

We wish you well, knowing you will take with you great memories of your transformative days at Egerton University. We also know that as alumni you will wish to keep in touch, allowing us to continue providing you with our guidance and assistance in your development and as you act as our ambassadors.

I believe that the education which you have received from this University has indeed changed your life for the better. Remember, your success today has been made possible by a combination of several factors, including unlimited support from your parents and guardians, and relentless commitment from the academic and administrative staff of this University. As you go out there, know that the University will remain your alma mater, for your entire life, so be proud and build it in the best way possible. May God bless you all!

Chief Officers of the University



*Prof. Rose A. Mwonja
Vice-Chancellor*



*Prof. Alexander K. Kahi
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic Affairs)*



*Prof. Samuel Wachanga
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Administration, Planning & Development)*



*Prof. J. Gowland Mwangi
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research & Extension)*



*Prof. Lenah Nakhone-Wati
Principal, Nakuru Town
Campus College*



*Prof. S. F. Owido
Registrar (AA)*



*Dr. T. K. Serrem
Registrar (Admin)*



*Prof. Alfred Kibor
Director (R&E)*



*Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui
University Librarian*



*Mr. Moses Ouma
Finance Officer*

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Prof. Rose A. Mwonya

On behalf of the University Management Board, the Senate, staff and all our stakeholders I heartily welcome all of you to the 35th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. As a university community we are delighted that you have chosen to grace this function individually and as a congregation.

To our dear graduands, your solemn academic journey has successfully reached its highest point. This is an achievement that I commend you for and commemorate with you. I urge you to employ your acquired knowledge and skills for the advancement of humanity wherever you will be honoured to serve.

I am satisfied that the University has played its part in making entrepreneurs out of you, and as you graduate, know that the world is expecting each of you to confront the prevailing challenges appropriately, and take care to capitalise on whatever opportunities you come across in order to add value to the society. I am confident and proud that you are equal to the task.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of the Senate, the faculties, the student community, and members of staff for offering mentorship and guidance to the graduands. There is no doubt that

years of persistence, hard work and struggle have paid off tremendously, culminating in this auspicious day of celebrating our academic excellence.

Today, we are awarding diplomas and degrees to a total of 4,558 graduands. Among them are 18 Ph.D.; 94 Masters; 3,919 Bachelors and 527 diploma holders. I wish to appreciate their resilience in the course of their study at Egerton University. Congratulations!

Finally, this function would not have been possible without the steadfast support our students have received from their parents, guardians, sponsors, friends and fellow students, who have sacrificed a great deal for their education. We thank them abundantly.

I wish you God's blessings! Have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

DIRECTORATE OF MARKETING AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Message from the Director



Prof. Josiah Ouma Omolo

I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 35th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University for having

successfully completed their various academic programmes. This achievement serves to demonstrate the hard work and resilience by the students. As a graduand, you are leaving Egerton University with a rich experience, fond memories and a wealth of knowledge. These are assets you will need in order to confront the future meaningfully and make high-impact contributions to the society. Be good ambassadors of Egerton University, as our wonderful alumni so far have been.

In the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, there is an Alumni Relations Department that

works closely with the Egerton University Alumni Association (EUAA). I wish to encourage all graduands to join EUAA right away. As you will discover, being a member of EUAA will greatly help to establish and build your careers in the future. It will help you to network with your graduating class and the huge alumni pool of Egerton University. Join EUAA and actively participate in all its activities to make your alma mater great.

On behalf of the Directorate of Marketing and Resource Mobilisation, I wish all of you, graduands, the very best in your future life.

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Egerton Alumnus Wins Principal of the Year Award

For Egerton University Alumnus Mr. Solomon A. Koech, the Principal of Eming Boys High School, winning Kenya's Principal of the Year Award 2016 was a culmination of hard work, passion for excellence and devotion to duty.

In the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association meeting that was held in June 2016 in Mombasa County, Mr. Koech was hopeful to do well, but he was not fully prepared to triumph. The long and arduous journey started at the sub-county level, where he was declared the Best Principal. It then went on to the county level, where he still was judged the best, then to the regional level, where Mr. Koech had to compete with Principals from eight counties. These included Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Bomet, Kericho and Nakuru. He won the crown. Then came the national level. The rest is history ... Mr. Koech becomes the first Principal from the South Rift region to win this award, which is coveted by secondary school heads around the

surprising for those who know him. Under Mr. Koech's leadership, in 2015, Eming Boys High School produced one of the top candidates at the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education.

"It wasn't easy to win the award as there was stiff competition and rigorous vetting that took four days, but I am happy the judges trusted the quality of my work inside and outside the classroom," said Mr. Koech.

He attributed his success to the excellent academic background he received at Egerton University and to the entire University fraternity while undertaking his studies in Agriculture. The Egerton alumnus also paid tribute to the cooperation by the School's Board of Management, the teachers, support staff and students. "The academic and non-academic staff are very well respected in the society as they embody the core values of passion for excellence, devotion to duty, integrity and accountability," Mr. Koech said.

The victory was not abrupt or The award came with Ksh100,000 in



Mr. Solomon A. Koech, Principal of Eming Boys High School

addition to the Ksh50,000; Ksh35,000; and Ksh20,000 which Mr. Koech received at the lower level competitions.

Despite his qualification in Agriculture, Mr. Koech opted to become a teacher as he considered the profession to be his passion. "Teaching is in my blood, and that is why in 1996, when I was given an opportunity to be an Agriculture Extension Officer, I turned down the offer and went to the classroom," said the proud award winner.

Customer Feedback Matters

Egerton University has acknowledged and embraced the best practice of asking for, receiving, and taking into consideration customer feedback. Customer feedback is a marketing term that describes the process of obtaining a customer's opinion about a business, product or service. Customer feedback is important because it provides marketers and business owners with insight that they can use to improve their business, products and overall customer experience.

At Egerton, customer feedback is obtained through filling questionnaires placed at strategic locations. Measuring customer satisfaction helps the University determine whether products or services meet, fail to meet, or surpass customer expectations. Customer feedback questionnaires deliver tangible data that can be used to make better management decisions. The best business decisions are based on data, not hunches. The questionnaires gather real insight into how customers really feel about the

product or service the University delivers.

Improving the customer experience is Egerton's primary reason for gathering customer feedback. It also helps to improve customer retention. Customer feedback offers a direct line of communication with the University's customers.

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)



Prof. Alexander K. Kahi

This is a great day for the students graduating from Egerton University. Our footprint in the national, regional and global field of academia is evident for all to see. Our graduates are leaders in different fields countrywide, regionally and internationally. Despite the competition from other similar institutions we have carved a niche for ourselves to ensure our graduates remain relevant to the needs of industry and society. Since inception, this institution has been known for its quality in agricultural training. However, we have not been shy from venturing into other fields and disciplines. From a single faculty with a handful of trainers and students, we now have great diversity in faculties, with hundreds of trainers, and thousands of students. We have become a platform for hosting serious research projects. Indeed our lecturers, researchers and students have won research awards that turn into billions of shillings, and this has translated into partnerships in all continents in the world. Our institution is now a conduit for regional and international mobility training programmes.

We continue to attract students from across the continent and the world. We have played host to visiting scientists as well as exchange lecturers with other world-class universities. Our

former students rub shoulders with who is who in global leadership. For instance, Hope Mwanake, an alumnus of Aquatic Sciences, was among the first persons to win the Mandela Fellowship, an initiative by the outgoing USA President Barack Obama, whereby young leaders are trained on leadership and entrepreneurship under the Young African Leaders Initiative. Ms. Mwanake, upon completion of her undergraduate studies, started a company dealing with waste management, and this is what enabled her to be selected for this prestigious award. This year, another alumnus of Biomedical Sciences, Ms. Catherine Nyambura, was selected among thousands of applicants for the Mandela Fellowship. These two persons have shared a platform with one of the most influential persons on earth – President Barack Obama of the USA. Apart from this, Catherine raised the bar by winning the 120 Under 40 – a Bill and Melinda Gates and John Hopkins competitive initiative. She is also a Women Deliver Young Leader and Seed Grant Recipient as well as the 2015/2016 highly commended runner-up for the Queen's Young Leader. There is so much to narrate about these young achievers who graduated not so long from our institution. This goes to show that we can achieve whatever we want if we put our minds to it and if we create the right environment in which to mould our dreams. Egerton University has proven time and again its ability to mould young minds and to give them the muscle to compete not only on the local but even on the global platform. Our alumni have not only dared to dream but also gone on to actualise their dreams. I also need to give you a different example of an alumnus of Animal Sciences, Mr. Augustine Raila, who has gone beyond the borders and in the most unlikely of places to search for greener pastures. Few of us will dream of searching for jobs in Somalia, but this alumnus thought differently and crossed the borders to share the knowledge he learnt in this premier agricultural

institution. Augustine now works as a manager of a poultry and fish farm in Mogadishu.

The contribution of Egerton University to Kenya's important role in regional and global development is demonstrated by these individuals that I have mentioned. And these are just but a few examples. If I had to mention more I would name so many reputable personalities that Egerton University has produced and who are working in reputable national and international organisations, setting the national and global agenda. I therefore take this opportunity to encourage you and to tell you that your future is only limited by the boundaries you set for your dreams. The sky is the beginning. Do not hesitate to dream big, for the opportunities out there are immense. However, remember that you are not just graduating to be part of the statistics made up of the thousands of your peers from other institutions who are also seeking employment. You are well aware of the cut-throat competition of youths seeking employment. You must have seen in the media desperation among graduates who have resorted to using banners and placards on the roadsides and highways to seek employment. In this era, there is a glut of graduates being churned out of institutions of higher learning, but it is your uniqueness that will set you apart from the rest. When you go to the streets and fail to get jobs, go back to the farms, your homes or your villages and create jobs. Tomorrow's world will be run by entrepreneurs, people who dared to dream and are driven by ambition. You have been trained by reputable lecturers and professors with international exposure, you have used world-class facilities and you have had world-class interactions. You are also a product of our Philosophy, Vision, Mission and Core Values. It's now my humble pleasure to present you to our country, to the region, and to the world. Go out and make us proud. We do not expect any less from you.

Message from the University Librarian



Ms. Janegrace Kinyanjui

In its endeavour to fulfil its mission and vision, the University Library is committed to providing quality services and has continued to provide excellent services to its users in collaboration with various stakeholders. The Library has achieved several milestones in terms of growth in information resources, infrastructure and staff training. The Library collection has continued to grow in leaps and bounds to the current total number of 419,837 volumes of information resources in various disciplines and formats, distributed in the 10 libraries that form the Egerton University Library System.

In addition to the Njoro Campus Library that is fully automated, we have plans to automate all our Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) and Nairobi City Campus (NCC) Libraries by the end of this year. The Library already has an electronic security detector. In this regard the Library has acquired and installed an additional electronic security system in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Library, the NTCC West Campus (Bawani) Library, and the NCC Library in October this year. The systems are now in operation and have enhanced security in the libraries tremendously. A Library Management System (AMLIB) has also been installed in the same libraries to automate all operations. This will enhance effective and efficient service delivery.

The NTCC Library system consists of four libraries, namely the West Campus (Bawani) Library, the East Campus (EU) Library, the Faculty of Health Sciences Library's and the Faculty of Law Library. The Faculty of Law Library is the most recent addition following the accreditation and launch of the Faculty early this year. In August this year, the West Campus and the East Campus libraries, which have been providing duplicate resources, were clearly distinguished in terms of the clientele they serve. The West Campus library was designated to serve clients from the Faculty of Commerce, FASS, and the Faculty of Science. The East Campus Library will now serve programmes offered by the Faculties of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS), Environment and Resources Development (FERD), and the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies. This reorganisation is meant to make the libraries more focused on the information needs of the users and hence serve them better.

The Library and Marketing Committee organised a workshop on 26 and 27 October 2016 to

commemorate the International Open Access Week, which is held yearly across the globe, to create awareness of the wide-ranging benefits of enabling open access to information and research. The theme for this year was "Open in Action". The workshop was well attended by postgraduate students, undergraduate students' representatives, members of the University Knowledge Management Committee and teaching staff. The participants were sensitised and trained on the concept of Open Access, open access resources, and the Institutional Repository and its advantages. Participants were also taken through Citation and Referencing software. The outcome of the workshop was envisaged to be increased utilisation of electronic resources and the Institutional Repository.

As part of its corporate social responsibility the Library has a vibrant community outreach programme, whereby we visit neighbouring schools to impart and inculcate a reading culture in the minds of young learners. In a similar initiative, the Library visited Kilimo High School on 26 October 2016 to donate 99 volumes of books to the School Library. The

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Mr. James P. Foster (front left) during the launching of the James Foster Collection at Egerton University's Utafiti. With him are (front right) the Chancellor of the University, Prof. Shem O. Wandiga, and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonja.

Message from the University Librarian

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materials are meant to enhance service provision to the School Library's community, especially in exposing students to readership that spans the curricula. The Library Community Outreach Committee and the Kilimo High School Management identified several areas of collaboration, including advocacy and awareness and incorporation of multimedia in teaching to improve the learning and teaching experience for learners and teachers.

On 19 May 2016, Mr. James P. Foster, a Kenyan of British origin who was born in York, in the North of England, on 22 August 1929, bequeathed to the Egerton University Library a rich Africana collection of over 3600 print books and reports. The collection was officially launched in a colourful ceremony on 2 November 2016, presided over by the University

Chancellor, Prof. Shem O. Wandiga, and graced by Mr. Foster. During the function, attended by the University Management Board members, Deans, Directors and Library staff, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya, thanked Mr. Foster for choosing Egerton University to be the recipient of the collection. Prof. Emilia Ilieva, who was instrumental in the transfer of the collection to the University, said that Mr. Foster's great passion for Kenyan history and for Kenya itself was the driving force behind the 60 years he spent collecting books and other materials on Kenya and Africa. The collection comprises fiction and non-fiction, survey reports, census reports, different commission reports, manuscripts, maps, annual reports of ministries, Development Plans, Sessional Papers and Constitution Writing working documents. The information is on various subject areas,

including Agriculture, Sociology, Economics, History, Governance and Politics, Languages, Linguistics, and Geography. Some of the books consist of rare signed first editions (e.g., Jomo Kenyatta's *Facing Mount Kenya*) and other printed works spanning the last 170 years. The collection has been housed at Utafiti in close proximity to the Rockefeller Library, whose staff will manage it, and make it available to researchers. We sincerely thank Mr. Foster for his generous contribution to the Library and promise to put strategies in place to create awareness and maximise the utilisation of the resources by the researchers within and outside the University.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates for earning their various awards.

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Message from the Dean



Prof. Joshua Ondura Ogendero

The 35th Graduation Ceremony presents a moment for the graduands to celebrate their hard earned and deserved academic achievements. It also serves as a unique right of passage to the next phase of life and into the global alumni community. On behalf of the

Faculty of Agriculture (FOA), I take this opportunity to congratulate all FOA graduands for the journey well-travelled and for making us proud. The FOA fraternity heartily congratulates all the graduands and welcomes you to the ever-growing alumni base and networks. In a special way, the Faculty acknowledges the contribution of our graduands in upholding the academic virtues held by Egerton University in its unending quest and commitment to the provision of quality higher education and scientific endeavours.

During the past six months, FOA has asserted its status as the centre of excellence in agricultural education, training and research by winning two major regional grants: one from the World Bank and the other from The MasterCard Foundation (MCF), with

the total value of US\$12.2 million (Ksh1.22 billion) over a period of 5-8 years. In addition to the two grants, Egerton University, through FOA, has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the KCB Foundation on the establishment of a programme titled "Formalising the Informal Sector: Skilling for Self-Employment Programme" that seeks to create jobs and wealth by addressing youth unemployment and stagnation of existing small informal businesses.

Responding to the needs of the society and the industry, the Faculty recently reviewed and modelled its academic programmes along the Earth University Education Model that adopts a holistic and hands-on approach expected to offer sufficient

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Message from the Dean

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practical exposure to students and ensure that both technical and non-technical competencies of individual students are developed. The graduands of the new curricula are expected to measure up to the expectations in the labour market. This approach has been approved and is currently being implemented during Semester I of the 2016/17 academic year. We wish to reiterate that FOA curricula remain competitive in the job market and responsive to the market. FOA continues to embrace new initiatives with a view to equipping the learners with unrivalled quality knowledge and skills with sufficient exposure to agricultural value chain development and analysis. The University also remains keen to forge public-private partnerships that focus on the creation of specialty-guided centres of excellence in agriculture, agro-tourism and farmer-centred student attachments/internships.

Given the quality content and community interactions during the life of individual curricula at Egerton University, today's graduands can walk tall in the society and the job market as proud beneficiaries of the above stated quality agricultural training, research and scholarly initiatives. The graduands should courageously and proudly market Egerton University as a premiere agricultural institution, a centre of excellence in sustainable agriculture and agribusiness management and the university of choice in Africa.

In recent years Egerton University has doubled its institutional commitments to invest in quality grant proposal submissions targeting key agricultural value chains with potential for development of value added products, and creation of jobs and wealth. The large FOA alumni base should add to the pool of a community of practice (COP) expected to offer an effective

knowledge-sharing forum in the society. The University community outreach initiatives such as *The Seeds of Gold* Magazine joint venture between Egerton University and the Nation Media Group continue to provide a direct university-farming community-industry interactive platform. As you graduate today, FOA graduands are encouraged and challenged to measure up to the expectations of the society and make quality contributions to existing interactive initiatives. The FOA COPs are called upon to engage the agriculture value chain actors and provide quality information on good agricultural practices, quality post-harvest handling and storage, agribusiness and agri-entrepreneurship. All FOA alumni are duty bound to make valuable contributions in their respective professional disciplines towards the advancement of humanity and global development.

The University remains committed to being a World Class University for the Advancement of Humanity, and it continues to provide requisite leadership in agricultural training, research, innovation and agribusiness. In recent years the University has generated and disseminated a number of new agricultural technologies and products which are available for use by the farming community. These include new improved crop varieties (common beans, chickpea, finger millet and sorghum) suited for the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) in Kenya, animal breeds (indigenous chicken, dairy goats), enriched animal feeds produced courtesy of the feed processing unit, a mobile Sorghum Sheller, and a variety of value-added products (yoghurt, honey, cassava- and sorghum-based baked products). With this rich technology development and incubation exposure

at Egerton University, all FOA alumni have the requisite technical grounding and are thus better equipped to contribute to changing the face of agriculture and allied sectors in Kenya.

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FOA curricula
remain competitive
in the job market
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Finally, I wish to remind all FOA graduands that you have been given “the power to do all that appertains to your respective diplomas and degrees”, thus enabling you to positively and courageously define the next course of your lives. Be prepared to generate personalised drivers to take charge of your own professional growth and make contributions towards a better society. You have boundless options in your efforts, among them advancing your academic accolades beyond today's achievements at Egerton University and other globally renowned academic institutions with quality tailor-made academic and professional courses. You are also encouraged to competitively bid for job, scholarship and self-employment opportunities that abound in the digital space.

Once again, may I offer hearty congratulations and best wishes to all FOA graduands for their merited academic achievements in their respective careers. The Faculty wishes you a life full of hope. As such, always remember to define your own destiny.

Have a Blessed Graduation and Future Life!

Egerton Wins Ksh1.2 Billion Grants

In 2015 and 2016 the Faculty of Agriculture made Egerton University proud by winning two major capacity building, research and community outreach grants totalling Ksh1.2 billion.

In collaboration with four other East African universities and the Biosciences East and Central Africa ILRI Hub, Egerton successfully bid for a World Bank grant for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture and Agribusiness Management (CESAAM) in its Faculty of Agriculture. The University, through CESAAM, will receive a total of US\$6 million (Ksh600 million) over a period of five years (2016–2021). The overall objective of CESAAM is to contribute to sustainable agriculture and agribusiness management through capacity development, research and technology transfer for enhanced food security.

As part of the World Bank funding, CESAAM will offer 30 Doctorate and 60 Masters-level full scholarships in the area of agricultural and livestock sciences. At least 40 per cent of the scholarships will be reserved for women and 35 per cent for regional institutions. The institutions involved are the University of Rwanda, the University of Burundi, Gulu University in Uganda, and the University of Juba in South Sudan. In addition to the advanced training of actors across the agricultural value chains, CESAAM will offer short-term skills enhancement courses, staff and postgraduate exchanges regionally, collaborative research projects for staff, special internships to enable graduates smoothly exit into the job market, mentorship to young scientists, and international conferences. Through the Centre, a farmer-focused knowledge centre and new Ph.D. programmes in Sustainable

Agriculture and Agribusiness will be developed. The implementation of the CESAAM Project will be guided by a team of six members, namely Prof. A. Y. Guliye (Centre Leader), Prof. G. Owuor (Deputy Centre Leader), Prof. S. M. Mwonga, Prof. J. P. Ouma, Dr. M. Omwamba and Prof. J. O. Ogendo.

The other grant is from The MasterCard Foundation (MCF) for a project titled “Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev)”. The TAGDev Project is a collaborative venture between the MCF and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) aimed at testing new models of agricultural education and community action research in Africa. Egerton University, which is an early adopter of the RUFORUM approach, will be the key implementor of the TAGDev programme in Kenya. The University will receive a total of US\$6,228,304 (Ksh623 million) over eight years (2016–2024).

The TAGDev Programme will offer 55 Bachelors and 55 Masters full scholarships to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Seventy per cent of the undergraduates and 50 per cent of the postgraduates will be from Kenya and the remainder from across Africa. The Programme focuses on integration of entrepreneurship and community engagement into university outreach platforms. In addition to the scholarships, the TAGDev programme will further provide opportunities for transformative action research, using the expanded RUFORUM Community Action Research Programme (CARP+) to enhance university-led community impact. The CARP+ will include supplemental focus on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions to enhance gains through greater collaboration and joint action between Egerton University and TVET institutions. The implementation of the TAGDev Programme at Egerton University will be spearheaded by Prof. Nancy W. Mungai (Coordinator), Prof. Patience Mshenga, and Prof. Joshua O. Ogendo.



Egerton is the leading institution of higher learning in agriculture in Kenya. This picture shows an improved variety of common beans growing in one of the University's farms.

Message from the Dean



Prof. Kibet Ngetich

On behalf of all staff of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, I wish to

congratulate the December 2016 graduands for completing their studies successfully. Graduation is not only a rite of passage that distinctly marks transition from one academic level to another but also a celebration of hard-earned academic achievements. The onus is now on the graduands to make use of competences and skills acquired in Egerton University to make valuable contribution to the society. Kenya needs graduands to seek to

positively influence the society for the sake of current and future generations. It is our conviction that the graduands are well equipped to tackle issues in fields that they have been trained, educated and qualified in.

As you enter the job market, we wish you the best. As alumni of Egerton University, keep the ties with Egerton alive and actively be involved in alumni events.

Doing Economics and Statistics Wasn't a Burdensome Struggle but a Joy

By Stephie Muthoni Mwangi

Choosing an undergraduate degree in Economics and Statistics was the result of my deep-seated curiosity about why economies function the way they do. Deciding on a programme of study was not a straightforward process for me. After completing Naivasha Girls High School, I knew that I was interested in pursuing a business-related course. Having been selected for Economics and Statistics at Egerton University, I consulted people from different fields and institutions, as I was not quite sure what lay ahead of me. I discovered that most people considered Economics and Statistics to be a tough course, which required one to be very good at maths. This didn't discourage me; it actually challenged me and spurred me on.

The self-knowledge I have gained over the last four years makes it clear to me that choosing a degree in Economics and Statistics was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. Economics has given me a deeper understanding of what it means when we say that everything has a cost and that people are rational decision makers. Statistics, on the other hand, has enabled me to gain some of the skills required in analysing economic problems. By the end of the degree, I knew how to read, compute, and

analyse econometric data – as well as how to handle accounting and statistics. I can say without any hesitation that this was a most valuable course.

During the first semester of the first year, I was overwhelmed by how much work and practice we had to do. However, with time this intensity became the rhythm of my daily life. It wasn't a burdensome struggle; I enjoyed my classes. I got to understand the importance of consultation and participation in discussion groups for sharing ideas and getting easier methods of solving questions in exams. I also found discussion groups helpful in easing the pressure when it came to preparing for exams.

Studying at Egerton University was a great opportunity for me. For four years I had the chance to interact with people from different cultures and backgrounds. The environment was conducive for studies. I was surrounded with an incredible and supportive student community, and along the way I encountered friends who will always have a place in my heart.

I would recommend a degree in Economics and Statistics to anyone who has the desire to make the world a



*Stephie Muthoni Mwangi
the author*

better place through economic policies, statistical analysis and modelling, and who has the determination to work hard for it.

Graduation signals a time to plan for the future, whether it is more school, a break, or starting a new life of work or marriage. It all depends on the individual's dream and level of motivation to achieve one's goal. Graduation is also a time to celebrate accomplishments and, for graduates like me, to reflect on past college experiences as a source of confidence and inspiration.

For me, it is also the time to say: I feel proud to be a graduate of Egerton University!

Media Staff and Students Accredited

Over 20 students taking Communication and Media Studies at Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) were accredited by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) on 21 July 2016. The accreditation was organised jointly by MCK and the Department of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. During the exercise, which took place at NTCC, officers from the Council explained to the students that it was now mandatory by law for journalists

practising in Kenya as well as those completing their training to be accredited.

Those who were accredited were issued with Press Cards. These will grant them easy access to information by allowing them to participate in conferences, workshops and training events, among other gatherings. Accreditation also helps in the protection of the rights and privileges of journalists in the performance of

their duties and the general enhancement of professionalism in the industry.

The students who were accredited were in their third and fourth year of study. Four members of staff were also accredited. Laikipia University, Mt. Kenya University and Rongo University were also represented at the event, which is set to be an annual activity.

FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Message from the Dean



Dr. D. O. Auka

The Faculty of Commerce has embarked on vigorous and mandatory academic counselling for the weaker students (who fail between 4 and 6 units), which has helped minimise the number of students being discontinued on academic grounds. In so far as placement is concerned, the Faculty has been organising public lectures in consultation with potential employers and professionals.

The Faculty has also succeeded in encouraging its academic staff to pursue Ph.D. degrees, with one (Dr. Henry Kombo) recently graduating from the University of Nairobi. Out of the five Ph.D. in the Faculty who recently successfully defended their proposals, three are staff members.

The Faculty recently participated in an exchange programme at the St Thomas

University, Minnesota, USA, between 9 August and 9 September, 2016. The exchange was organised by St Thomas as part of the development of new joint academic programmes and the finalisation of the collaboration agreement that the two universities were developing.

During my stay at St Thomas, I was able to sign a collaboration agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The focus of the collaboration is to encourage and promote international academic cooperation through activities that are mutually acceptable to both universities. These activities may include the exchange of materials in education and research, publications, and academic information; the exchange of faculty, research scholars and students; and joint research and technical assistance.

Another activity undertaken during the exchange programme was the development of a new certificate course on new product development based on frugal innovation for the developing world. The course was launched on 10 September 2016, during which at least eight pioneer students got enrolled. It is structured to be undertaken jointly by students of both universities via video

conferencing technology. Students have weekly class sessions and discussion fora.

This is a unique course as it brings together students from the two universities in the developed and developing worlds. It focuses on developing products and services to serve the needs of those living in subsistence marketplaces. The emphasis is on frugal innovation (doing more with less) in designing products for the “bottom of the pyramid”, or for the poor, who live on two dollars per day. The ultimate aim of the course is the establishment of an innovation lab at Egerton University at the Kenyatta Campus, where students will be able to develop innovative products for the Kenyan marketplace.

Finally, the Faculty wishes to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the graduating class of this 35th Congregation for their tireless efforts and hard work throughout their respective programmes. This 35th Graduation ceremony marks a new beginning in their lives as they enter the competitive job market, and as a Faculty we are confident that the graduands are ready and able to respond to the various needs of the employers and the society. May God bless you in your future endeavours.

Message from the Dean



Prof. Micah Chepchieng

As we celebrate the 35th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University, the Faculty of Education and Community Studies is pleased to congratulate the graduands for successfully completing their training in the various disciplines. You have worked hard, and you have put a lot of commitment into your studies. The achievement you are celebrating today has not only been a long journey but has also been one that required great sacrifice and tireless efforts. I believe the University has

equipped you with requisite skills and knowledge that will enable you to work effectively and innovatively whether in the government or in the private sector.

As a Faculty, we have continued to live up to our vision of being a centre of excellence in education and community development. To achieve this excellence, the Faculty continues to explore various initiatives in our determination to assure the quality of programmes and services offered. One such initiative has to do with the annual evaluation of the Faculty, which was conducted this year between August and September 2016, although the planning process started much earlier, in August 2015. The evaluation was undertaken with the support of the Directorate of Quality Assurance, Egerton University, and the Centre for Higher Education Development and Quality Enhancement (CHEDQE) of

the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany) through a project entitled “Toward a Culture of Quality: Establishing Integrated Quality Management Systems (EIQMS).” The project falls within the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), and it is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The other university in the region under the project is the St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), which is located in Mwanza, Tanzania. The outcomes of the evaluation and recommendations from external reviewers drawn from Kenya, East Africa and Europe will be used to improve the quality systems of the Faculty.

FEDCOS Focuses on ICT Integration in Education

In May 2016, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), in collaboration with the Technical Cooperation Directorate (TCD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, and the Singapore National Institute of Education (NIE), mounted a training programme on the importance of ICTs in teaching and learning in the 21st Century for teacher educators from eleven countries in Africa. The training was attended by Dr. Adijah Olubandwa, who represented the Dean of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS), Prof. Micah Chepchieng; the Coordinator of the E-Campus, Prof. Fred Keraro; and the ICT Manager, Mr. Benjamin Odiyo.

The training programme was designed to support teacher educators to prepare and support teachers embrace and fully utilise ICTs as one of the strategies to improve quality in education. As part

of their commitment to put into use the knowledge and skills gained at the one-week training, participants were expected to develop change projects for their institutions.

Busitema University (Uganda), Egerton University (Kenya), and Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) (Tanzania) decided that since the region has similar challenges with respect to integration of ICTs in teaching and learning, the three institutions would collectively mount a joint project called DigiTeacher. In this respect, they would engage in a variety of activities, including designing a common Post-graduate Diploma course in ICT Integration in Education (PGDIE) – using the Commonwealth Certificate for Teachers' ICT Integration (CCTI) course materials; training trainers and mentors in ICT integration; setting up DigiTeacher

centres in the different universities; and engaging in joint research on ICT integration in education.

As a follow-up on the Singapore training, a two-day workshop was planned in August 2016, in Kampala, Uganda, that was attended by Dr. Olubandwa, Prof. Keraro, and Dr. Joel Ngeno. The purpose of the workshop was to refine the DigiTeacher proposal; discuss and agree on plans for development of the Post-graduate Diploma programme and adaptation of the CCTI learning materials; draft a joint Post-graduate Diploma course in ICT Integration in Education; and develop an implementation plan.

In view of the above, FEDCOS is receiving Canadian \$12,450 to develop the modules of the programme. The agreement between COL and Egerton University will be signed soon.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Message from the Dean



Eng. P. N. Karogo

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) has made strides towards the accreditation of its three programmes, namely Civil and Environmental Engineering; Electrical and Control Engineering; and Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. Among other things, it has reviewed the

programmes in line with the requirements of the Commission for University Education (CUE) and the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK). Further, the Faculty has hired four adjunct professors who are registered Engineers and who are to supervise and guide graduate Engineers in the programme towards professional registration.

The Faculty has continued to participate in a number of projects, including the Mau-Mara-Serengeti (MaMaSe) multi-disciplinary project, which focuses on improvement of water security and which involves our post-graduate students and a number of Dutch professors. In addition to the MaMaSe project, the Faculty is

actively involved in post-graduate research and training, with nine Ph.D. and 16 Masters students drawn from Kenya, South Sudan and Malawi, with sponsorship from the African Development Bank (through the Ministry of Education), which sponsors eight Ph.D. and 14 Masters, all from Kenya; and Britain's Department of Foreign and International Development (DFID), which sponsors the rest. One of the projects developed was based on the Deficit Irrigation Concept and was selected among the top 22 most innovative projects from a total of 94 projects reviewed nationally during the recently concluded Kenya Water Week.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Message from the Dean



Dr. S. O. Obure

Today marks a major milestone in your lives. However, we would like to remind you that graduation is not the end of learning but a conferment of a degree to enable you learn more, explore the world, and solve the many problems that await scholars in our country and continent.

Always remember that success isn't like winning a lottery or SportPesa but

it comes from doing a lot of simple things consistently and well. People who are designated for success manage their time well, so set deadlines for everything you plan to do and stick to them. Successful medical personnel do not put money above the care of their patients since the patients' lives are in their hands. However, as you take good care of others, take good care of your health because as each year goes by that becomes harder. So develop healthy habits while you are still young and stick to them forever. Even just watching your weight, taking a little exercise, and cutting back on sugar can add years to your life.

Successful people do not always win, but they always pick themselves up, because failure is never the end of the world. And if you have the right attitude it can be a great teacher. Successful people are flexible and

open to new experiences. They take measured risks and always think deeply about the impact of their decisions, and act with confidence. They keep learning and they know that fancy degrees sound great on paper, but soon don't count for much if you do not go on learning. So always read as much as you can about your profession, and develop the skills that you cannot pick up from books. Like how to listen well, communicate brilliantly and have an impact. They understand the importance of relationships and stay in touch with their former colleagues because such ties are often the ones that give you access to new networks and ideas. Also, successful people associate with real good people, because you gradually become the company you keep.

As we release you today from this University, always remember to uphold the good name of the institution, since your success or failure is ultimately conferred on us.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing a Major Contributor to the Job Market

The Department of Nursing is one of the most robust departments in Egerton University's Faculty of Health Sciences. It was established in the year 2006 under the leadership of Mrs. Mugo Jackbeth. It has nine vibrant full-time teaching staff and two support staff.

The Department's programmes are accredited by the Nursing Council of Kenya, the body charged with regulating nursing practice and education in the country. It thus enjoys good will and a working relationship with the regulatory body – as well as with the Nakuru Level Five Hospital, with which the University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

At the moment, the Department hosts one programme, the Bachelor of

Science in Nursing. The programme runs in two modes: a full-time mode for pre-service students and a work-based mode for in-service students. The Department is confident that it will roll out postgraduate programmes soon.

The Department prides itself with having contributed 46 graduands with Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing in this 35th Graduation. Of the group, 17 studied under the pre-service mode and 29 were in-service students. We are delighted to have the pioneering in-service class complete their

studies successfully. Egerton University's nursing graduates are among the most sought-after medical personnel in the job market both locally and internationally.



An important part of the tradition of the nursing profession is the administering of the Florence Nightingale Oath. Here, the graduating class of 2015 takes the Oath.

FACULTY OF LAW

Message from the Dean



Prof. Michael Wabwile

On 30 September 2016, Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) formally launched the Faculty of Law (FoL), seven months after it was accredited by the Council for Legal Education (CLE) to offer legal studies. This makes the FoL the newest faculty at Egerton University and the newest law faculty in the country.

The event, which was attended by different stakeholders in the legal profession, including the Judiciary's Chief Registrar, Ms. Ann Amadi, also saw the NTCC fraternity (staff and students) congregate for a thanksgiving. What stands out for our law programme is its focus on Human Rights, a unique area that older institutions teaching legal studies in the country have not been keen on.

Our desire as a Faculty is to see a culture of respect for universal Human Rights, especially for communities that have historically been marginalised, such as those living in rural regions.

Because of this, we will be working closely with like-minded organisations with a view to expanding the programme and reaching as many people as possible. This will call for novel ideas on resource mobilisation and partnerships.

In this regard, I am happy to report that during the launch the Rift Valley Law Society pointed out the need to collaborate with us on the development and running of a system on children's justice, in addition to having a holistic mentorship programme for our law students. Other organisations that have shown interest in working with us to develop the programme are the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC) and the Judiciary, with the latter specifically targeting students who are interested in understanding judicial practice.

So far, we have 83 students, 25 of whom joined as a pioneer class in May this year, and 18 of whom were enrolled through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Services (KUCCPS) unit. Our endeavour is to perfect the Faculty and strategically align it to be a leading legal education provider in the country.

A Memorable Inaugural Matriculation Ceremony

In mid-September 2016, Egerton University held a Matriculation Ceremony for first-year undergraduate students at the Faculty of Law. The ceremony was hailed as very successful. It was also a historic occasion because it was the first time such an event was ever organised at the institution. The ceremony was staged at the Main Campus Graduation Square.

As the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Michael Wabwile explained that the purpose of the event was “to formally initiate our newly admitted students in our unique cultural manner, celebrate their great achievement of joining our learned academy and launch the students' academic journey with us in solemn fashion, depicting our determination to overcome all that may come up against our cause.”

As is the case with respect to the admission procedures performed for those selected to join traditional institutions among Kenyan communities (such as the Kaya elders), the new students underwent an elaborate initiation ceremony. This included donning the appropriate academic gown (without cap and hood, which are reserved for those attending the degree award ceremony) and taking the oath of matriculation. The formal ceremonial procedures (such as the prayer, the oath and gowns) are designed to

reinforce a ritualistic spiritual impartation upon every participant – as well as to register the clear message that we are here on serious academic business. Other highlights included the Vice-Chancellor's address and the all-important matriculation photograph, which captures the historic moment.



The Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Michael Wabwile, leads Egerton First Year Law students in the matriculation ceremony

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Message from the Dean



Prof. Julius Kipkemboi

On behalf of the staff of the Faculty of Science, I wish to take this opportunity to salute and congratulate all the graduands of the 35th Graduation for achieving this significant milestone in life. You have made it, and you deserve it! I am sure you will agree with me that this is the benefit of determination, optimism and patience. Let this day be celebrated among your parents/guardians, who

have sacrificed to ensure your success; your friends, who have always encouraged you; and the Faculty staff, who have mentored and guided you towards this great achievement.

To the Science graduands: As a Faculty we are pleased to have offered you an environment to grow as young scientists. You leave here rich in cognitive knowledge and soft skills, and that will help you fit into the society to which we all cherish to belong. Our hope is that you are now imbued with the desire to succeed. Go out there and make a difference in the society.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the academic staff in the Faculty, who have worked diligently to empower our graduands with the skills and competencies they will require to respond accordingly to the challenges out there in the society accordingly.

As a Faculty, we have been active not only in disseminating knowledge but also in creating new knowledge. For example, some of our staff – namely Dr. Faith Toroitich, Dr. Meshack Obonyo and Dr. Musa Njue – have been unearthing important knowledge through research on Mycotoxin contamination courtesy of funding from Grand Challenge, Canada.

Mycotoxin contamination is a serious problem in cereal production worldwide, affecting some of the world's most important crops – such as maize, rice and pea nuts. At short term (acute) and high level, they cause death (which has been observed in this country), while at long term (chronic) level, they cause cancer and damage to internal organs (such as the liver). There are three steps that can be used to reduce the risk. The first step (called “DRY IT”) involves drying grain in a hygienic way while avoiding contact with soil. The second (“STORE IT”)

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Message from the Dean

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involves storage of grain in dry conditions, to prevent insect damage or further increase in moisture. And the (called “TEST IT”) recommends that maize should be tested every two months of storage. This is especially so with respect to the Rift Valley here in Kenya, where, for example, maize harvested this year is consumed till next year. Our Faculty infrastructure has continued to improve.

The Faculty wishes to thank the University Council and Management for the ongoing effort to complete the stalled Physical Science Complex building. Once completed, the building will be a landmark infrastructural development in teaching and scientific research. The complex is in its last phase of completion and will provide more space for teaching and research.

As a Faculty, we have also continued to nurture existing partnerships. As part of the implementation of the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of 2013/2014 between Egerton and the Geothermal Development Company (GDC), the Chemistry Department will provide an analytical facility. The facility will include space for preparation of reagents and sampling equipment/apparatus, a weighing room, and other services. In addition, the GDC will contribute staff to the laboratory, together with portable

equipment and reagents. The arrangement will be of considerable benefit to the GDC in the sense that it will facilitate the transitional process through which they will relocate their laboratory from hired facilities to their own premises. The facility will support research and teaching for both staff and students. So far, a number of students from the Faculty have participated in various short courses mounted by the GDC and by United Nations University.

The Department of Computer Science, in collaboration with African Virtual University, is in the process of finalising the setting up of a computer laboratory for open and distance learning at the new Physics Block. A Memorandum of Understanding in a Certificate course in Applied Computer Science is due to be signed between the two institutions. This year Dr. Ronald Rop, who is the COD of Physics, was appointed a member of the

Woven Fabrics Technical Committee. This is a committee of the Kenya Bureau of Standards under the Standards Development and International Trade. The Faculty is also in the process of developing seven new curricula which will be launched soon.

We do not take all these achievement for granted. We want to thank all the staff and students for their tireless efforts, which have enabled us to continue to grow.

Lastly, we wish you the very best in all your future plans. Have a blessed festive season and a Happy New Year!



Egerton University students participate in the launch of the Kenya-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Molecular Biology at the Njoro Campus, held on 14 October 2016

LWM Students Expected at Egerton

The International Joint Masters Programme in Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) has this year attracted a number of students from six countries – Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Austria and Germany. The students reported at Boku University of Life Sciences and Natural Resources in Austria for their first trimester, which takes place from October to January every academic year. They are expected at Egerton in February 2017 for their second trimester,

when they will take courses in Lake Ecology, Ecology of Streams and Rivers, Wetlands for Water Quality, and Fisheries and Aquaculture. Their third trimester will start on 22 May 2017 in The Netherlands at the UNESCO-IHE, Institute for Water. After their third trimester, the students will undertake their research work either in their mother countries or in any of the three partner institutions. They will then graduate at either of the three institutions in 2018.

In order to uphold gender balance, the programme has four female and eight male students. In addition, there are two students (female and male) for the Kenyan trimester short courses, which have attracted students undertaking Masters in Applied Limnology from Boku. The students started off in Boku in October this year with a rather relaxed mode, whereby they traversed the vast Austrian country as both tourists and scientists. They visited research facilities in Mondsee and

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LWM Students

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Lunz (where most of Egerton's Aquatic Science professors and senior lecturers originally derived their training).

The LWM programme encourages team work, which has been an important aspect of the success of the programme since its inception in October 2012. The multicultural

dynamics, coupled with the wide expertise and knowledge base of its experienced and diversified resource persons, makes the programme the most knowledge and practical oriented programme in Africa. The immense achievements made by the programme are evidently based on the quality of research publications from both the

students and the resource persons and the facilities available in the biological sciences research labs, which have attracted postgraduate students from other departments, such as Environmental Sciences, Soil Sciences, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Natural Resources, and Food Science and Technology.

So far, the Rotary Club of Vienna (RCV) Fellowship Programme has committed financial support (tuition fees and research cost) for two students since 2015. Currently, four students from Egerton University, i.e. Mr. Alex Akidiva, Ms. Callen Aera, Mr. Hassan Saeed and Ms. Elizabeth Ngesa, are beneficiaries of this noble initiative. Two more students for 2017-2019 are in the process of being identified. Recently, the LWM Coordinator, Prof. Nzula Kitaka, negotiated with the RCV Fellowship Programme for an undergraduate scholarship opportunity in the field of Engineering. Ms. Mesret Endale Tadesa from Marsabit County (a semi-arid area with water scarcity problem) is in the process of being awarded the Fellowship to assist her realise her dream of improving lives of the people in her community as a water engineer. She is a first-year student undertaking a Bachelor of Science degree in Water and Environmental Engineering at Egerton University.



Students enrolled in the International Joint Masters Programme in Limnology and Wetland Management (LWM) attend an outdoor lecture

FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Message from the Dean



Prof. Inyagwa C. Muleke

Graduation is here once again, and we are celebrating the achievement of the graduands in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery during this 35th Graduation Ceremony. It must be a very proud

moment for you. Chasing a dream requires your effort and passion. Hard work is not over yet when you graduate. It is just a break as you enter the new battlefields of life.

Since its inception, the Faculty has continued to diversify its undergraduate teaching to embrace the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, the Bachelor of Science in Animal Health Management, and the Diploma in Animal Health programmes. The first batch of 19 students pursuing the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme proceeded to the second year of study in September 2016. Student enrollment in the Faculty stands at 432. This growing scenario calls for re-thinking of the Faculty operations

to realise its vision to rise into a leading centre of excellence in veterinary education, training, research, outreach, and consultancy services. It is on this account that the Faculty found it necessary to develop its Strategic Plan 2015-2020, which will steer it for the next five years. As part of this Plan, the artificial insemination pens and sick animal facilities were completed in 2016 to reinforce animal health and veterinary practical training.

Once again, may I congratulate all the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery graduands for their hard work and achievement. I sincerely wish you well in the next phase of your life. May God bless you in your future endeavours.

Egerton Sees Huge Potential in E-learning

The Egerton University E-Campus was launched on 19 February 2015. It is housed in the College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL). Its goal is to have all Egerton University degree and diploma programmes and short courses offered through the blended e-learning mode. This is where the learners, in addition to having access to the online content, can also interact with their lecturers through discussion forums, instant or real time chats, and short face-to-face sessions. In this regard, we are continually developing content and uploading it onto our e-learning platform on a programme priority basis. At the same time, we regularly review our content in order to reflect new developments in various subject disciplines. The content is developed by lecturers who are subject matter experts in their disciplines with the assistance of instructional designers and ICT experts.

From an initial five pilot phase e-learning programmes, there are now 10 programmes for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies on our e-learning platform. These include: Bachelor of Science in Community Development, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Studies, Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Bachelor of Commerce, Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Master of Arts in Security Studies, Master of Science in Community Development and Extension, Master of Business Administration (MBA), and Master of Education in Educational Management.



The Director of the College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL), Prof. Ezra K. Maritim (5th from left), and other participants in the E-content development workshop at the Morendat Training and Conference Centre, Naivasha, in August-September 2016

We admit students who, for one reason or another, are unable to attend full-time classes using the traditional mode of delivery that requires them to sit inside “four walls” with a lecturer at the front. Among our range of students are full-time working professionals like police officers, teachers, medics, accountants and military officers. Others are people living in remote areas far away from Egerton University, including foreign countries.

In line with the blended e-learning mode, upon admission all students are invited for a two-day orientation where they are shown how to access the e-learning platform and are issued with user-names and passwords. They then continue with their studies “anywhere”, “anytime” via the e-learning platform. Lecturers also support learners by way of e-mail and

messaging through the platform. One continuous assessment test and the final session examinations are done face-to-face while student assignments are submitted via the e-learning platform.

The University has invested heavily in e-content development. For the quality of the content development process, the E-Campus organises training of lecturers in both content development and e-class management (online tutoring). Between August and September 2016, 47 academic staff were trained on e-content development in two one-week workshops at Morendat Training and Conference Centre, Naivasha. In total, 188 academic staff have so far been trained on e-content development and e-class management since the inception of e-learning at Egerton University.

Egerton Sets Pace in Distance Education and E-learning Research

In order to keep abreast of the latest developments in distance education, staff of the College of Open and Distance Learning (CODL) and the E-Campus have been and continue to attend and present papers at local and international conferences. On 16-20 May 2016 Prof. Fred Keraro, the E-Campus Coordinator, attended a Commonwealth of Learning Joint Training Programme on the “Importance of ICT in Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century” at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang University, Singapore.

On 22-26 August, 2016, Prof. Ezra Maritim (Director, CODL) and Prof. Keraro presented a paper at the First Biennial Conference on the State of Higher Education in Kenya held at Kenyatta University. In the conference organised by the Commission for University Education, they presented a paper titled “Mainstreaming Open and

Distance Learning in Higher Education in Kenya: Prospects and Challenges”. The paper covered two main areas, namely the place and the role of Open and Distance Learning in Kenya in the context of the emerging high demand for university education, declining budgetary allocation to universities, and shifting policy framework; and a show-case of Egerton University Open and Distance Learning methodologies. Among the many issues and updates highlighted, the Conference participants discussed ways to improve and accelerate postgraduate training at Ph.D. level and the need for the universities to establish their research niche. Regrettably, it was reported that while the country requires 10,000 Ph.D. holders, approximately 70% of the registered candidates drop out.

On 12-16 September 2016 the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonja,

Prof. Maritim, Prof. Keraro and the In-charge Learner and Tutor Support Services at the E-Campus, Mr. Daniel Makini, attended the respected E-Learning Innovations Conference and Expo (ELICE), an International Conference for mobile education innovators, leaders and educators, held at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development, Nairobi. Prof. Mwonja gave the closing keynote speech entitled “E-learning as a Means of Opening Access to Higher Education in Africa”. Prof. Maritim and Prof. Keraro made presentations as e-learning thought leaders during the Expert Mentor sessions. Their respective papers were entitled “My E-Learning Journey: From Yellow Notes to Electronic Board” and “Establishing an E-learning Function in a Public University: From Content to Results”. Mr. Makini was part of the conference organising team as a paper reviewer and programme co-chair.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Message from the Dean of Students



Prof. D. Odera-Wanga

It is my great joy to join the Egerton University Community to congratulate you during this graduation season. May you prosper in all your future plans. The rich diversity of the programmes and courses that you have achieved in this University will go a long way in building your professions. My desire is

that all that you have acquired in terms of knowledge, skills and mind-set will be of great benefit to your personal growth and to our national development.

The mandate of the Dean of Students' office is to develop, nurture and promote an enabling environment that supports and enhances both the academic pursuits and other development processes of students. In addition, we offer services that cater for the general welfare of students and we act as an advocate for students by assuring that interests of students are served at all levels in the University.

To achieve this mandate, the office has four sections which include: Chaplaincy Section; Counselling Section; Games, Sports and

Recreation; and Student Leadership Development Programme. The Chaplaincy office provides an environment for free interaction of religious groups, which include Protestants, Catholics, SDAs and Muslims. The mission of the Chaplaincy section is to organise, coordinate and offer spiritual services in the University, and to act as a link between the University administration and the faith community. The Counselling section strives to assist students in the development of skills for establishing and maintaining effective and rewarding personal and social relationships in the formulation and accomplishment of their educational and career plans and to facilitate student self understanding and self acceptance.

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Message from the Dean of Students

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The well-established Sports and Games section is manned by highly qualified and adequate personnel in all the Campuses. There are a variety of sports disciplines like soccer, hockey, netball, basketball, swimming, volleyball, rugby, tennis, boxing, weight lifting, martial arts, aerobics, cycling, athletics (track, field and cross country) and handball.

The overall goal of the Student Leadership Development Programme is to develop a holistic leadership culture among students which will impact not only on the University community but also on the society as a whole.

Other services offered in this Department include: registration of clubs and societies, career advice,

public lectures, financial aid, orientation of first year students and recreational activities.

Our students have continued to fly the name of the University high by excelling in various indoor and outdoor competitions. From 12-14 August 2016, music students travelled to Kasarani Sports Complex in Nairobi for The Kenya National Music Festivals, where 19 items were presented in various categories. Two of these items emerged at position one, three were position two, and several others at position three nationwide.

The Department also successfully oversaw the Students Union of Egerton University (SUEU) elections, which were held on 28 October 2016. Micah W. Abuga was elected

Chairman; Salim Omar, Vice Chairman; Antony Mumo, Secretary General; Emily Ndungwa Mbai, Director Finance; Ian Gatere, Director Academics; Antony Irungu, Director Gender; Ann Neema, Director Health, Environment & Catering; Silikwang Peter, Director Security & Accommodation; Shirim Grace Naserian, Director Special Needs & Programmes; Salat Salah Sheiki, Director Persons with Disability; and Newton Kitema, Director Entertainment & Transport. We wish them well as they provide leadership to the rest of the student fraternity during their term. We also wish our graduands well as they step out to impact in the society through the skills and knowledge gained here at Egerton University.

BOARD OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Message from the Director



Prof. Nancy W. Mungai

Graduation is an important milestone in academic life, both for the graduates and the University, as it sums up the efforts of each candidate for all the years they have invested in study, as well as that of the departments that have facilitated the successful completion of the

academic cycle. We therefore congratulate the graduands at this 35th Graduation Ceremony.

As a Directorate, we are proud to be associated with the graduands today, especially those who are qualifying for their undergraduate studies. The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment Programmes (BUGS/FAP) is responsible for the review of, and recommendation to the Senate on, the quality of undergraduate degree and diploma curricula. The Board also coordinates and facilitates field/industrial attachment (FA) and teaching practice (TP).

The Board is in charge of the attachment of students to small to and medium-scale farms across Kenya.

Over 320 students have been attached with 190 farmers or farmers' cooperatives since January 2014, when this programme was restarted. The main objective of the programme is for Egerton as an agricultural university to actively engage the rural communities, especially farmers, through students' internship/attachment programmes with the aim of assisting farmers to transit from subsistence to commercial production, and to equip students with practical agricultural techniques. The number of students interested in this programme has progressively grown, with 116 students participating in the May-August 2016 session. Students who participate in this programme also get a chance to be attached in Israel.

BOARD OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Egerton Students on Attachment in the Arava Region of Israel

Twenty seven Egerton University students are currently on attachment in the Arava Region of Israel for 11 months. They are scheduled to graduate in June 2017. They are attached through a partnership with the Arava International Centre for Agricultural Training (AICAT).

The Israel Attachment Programme began in 2014 and was initially done in partnership with the International Centre for Agricultural Studies in Israel Ltd (Agrostudies), where 38 students have successfully graduated from the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 cohorts. The change from AgroStudies to AICAT arose out of the visit to Israel by President Uhuru Kenyatta in February 2016. One of the amazing aspects of Arava, Israel's long eastern valley between the Dead Sea and Eilat,

is that although it is mainly a desert 90% of its residents are successful farmers. President Kenyatta is keen for Kenyan students to learn and replicate the advances in agriculture as practised in the Arava Region of Israel to address the issue of food security and sovereignty. This is particularly relevant to Kenya, given that 75% of Kenya's land resource is in the arid or semi

arid zone. Egerton University is proud to be associated with AICAT and Israel.



The DVC (AA), Prof. Alexander K. Kahi (centre), the Director of the Board of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, together with staff and students involved in the Israel Attachment Programme

BOARD OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Message from the Director



Prof. Nzula Kitaka

On behalf of the Board of Post-graduate Studies (BPGS), I would wish to congratulate all the graduands of the 35th Graduation Ceremony. Graduation symbolises the successful outcome of your hard work, effort, determination and patience. Graduation is not only a milestone for the graduands but an achievement for the entire family, who have invested resources and given you support and

encouragement; for well-wishers and sponsors; for the University fraternity, who have successfully completed an academic cycle; and for the nation at large.

A special congratulatory message goes to all the post-graduate graduands, who have endured many challenges, sleepless nights, and sometimes despair. However, your dedication and perseverance kept you going. You may have dreaded the journey but your experience has made you a stronger human being, an academician, a thinker, a problem solver and a leader ready to conquer the world. It is a major step in your life, and therefore you have every reason to celebrate today. On behalf of the BPGS, I congratulate you.

Within the year 2016, BPGS has undergone transformation geared towards efficiency and better service delivery. The Directorate staff have

been trained on the Academic Records Management Software (ARMS) in order to enhance the process of handling students' records. After the training the staff were able to register post-graduate students admitted in 2015 and 2016 on the Uniplus Portal for easier management by different units of the University, academic departments, and faculties. In addition, registration on the portal is targeting to enhance the student completion rate and the payment.

To facilitate registration of fees the students, the Directorate organised the first ever registration and orientation sessions in all the campuses. By the end of September 2016, most of the graduate students had been registered on the portal. At the same time, the Directorate is upgrading students files and reorganising the registry to make access to documents easier. The Directorate will digitise all post-graduate students files.

Message from the Director



Dr. Damaris Parsitau

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduands on this important day. This is a culmination of your hard work and sacrifice. I wish you all the

best as you go out to serve the world and your country. You are now Alumni of Egerton University. You should all be proud of this achievement and become good ambassadors of your alma mater.

As an Institute, we continue to strive to serve our clients through continuous training and skill development even as we appreciate life-changing innovations. We also continue to give our students and staff the best as well as link them to the world through research and best practices from around the globe. For these reasons, the Institute recently hosted a Diaspora Scholar, Prof. Njoki Wane, from Ontario Institute of Social Justice

Education (OISE), University of Toronto, Canada. Prof. Wane taught our postgraduate students Research Methodology for four days, held mentorship sessions with the same students and held a round table with Institute staff.

Similarly, on 2 September 2016, the Institute hosted Prof. Farah Shroff from the University of British Columbia, Canada, who delivered a public lecture on “Women and Mental Health”. She also held a round table forum on yoga and stress relief, natural family planning and women's well being.

16th Gender Awareness Day Marked

On 13 October 2016, the Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies (IWGDS) held the 16th Egerton University Annual Gender Awareness Day at Njoro Campus. The theme for 2016 was “Women Economic Empowerment and its Link to Sustainable Development.” The chief guest was Ms. Alice Kiarie, who represented the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Ms. Raychelle Omamo. The guest speaker was Dr. Marie Rarieya, who represented Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenburgh, Country Director at African Women in Agricultural Research & Development (AWARD).

The day was marked by songs, dances and celebrations. The Institute used the occasion to honour Ms. Jamila Abbas and Cliff Moturi. Ms. Abbas is the founder and CEO of M-Farm, a mobile App that allows farmers to source and sell their crops without middle



Ms. Jamila Abbas, CEO and co-founder of M-Farm, and Mr. Cliff Moturi, Bonga APP developer, receive innovation awards during the 16th Gender Awareness Day

men/women. Mr. Moturi is the brain behind Chowders Loft, the creators of the Bonga APP that was launched during this day. The Bonga APP is a social enterprise that helps fight Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the University and beyond. Bonga means “speak up.” The educative platform

includes information on monitoring dangerous levels of GBV and how to be safe and seek help from the police, health officers and counsellors. IWGDS honoured these individuals for their innovation, which is impacting lives positively.

DIRECTORATE OF EXAMINATION AND TIMETABLING

Message from the Director



Dr. P. K. Migwi

The Directorate of Examinations and Timetabling falls under the Division of Academic Affairs and is charged with a number of responsibilities. The two major ones focus on ensuring that teaching and learning takes place smoothly and that evaluation is conducted in a credible manner. In this regard, the Directorate is charged with the responsibility of preparing teaching and examination timetables, and coordinating field trips in the University. In addition, the Directorate is mandated by the University to ensure that the processing and administration of all University examinations is done in a way that is credible and inspires confidence among the various stakeholders. It is

also the mandate of the Directorate to prepare the University academic calendar and present it to the Senate for approval.

In consultation with the Office of the Registrar (Academic Affairs), the Directorate also coordinates the internal and external moderation of all University examinations across all the Campuses. Internal and external moderation of University examinations plays a major role in ensuring that Egerton University trains and produces graduates who are well qualified and who can perform assignments in both public and private sectors nationally and anywhere in the globe. Some of our graduates have also ventured in self-employment and have succeeded quite well.

Globally, the credibility of any University worth its name is gauged in the way it trains and examines its graduates. To maintain high standards, Egerton University continues to engage a high caliber of external examiners who moderate our examinations. The external examiners are drawn from universities and research institutions that are known to be of high standards both locally and internationally. In pursuit of academic

excellence, the University commits itself to continue subjecting all examinations to external moderation as spelt out in the ISO 9001:2008 procedures.

To manage examinations even better, the Directorate is undertaking various restructuring measures, which when completed will see the unit deliver better service to our stakeholders. Key among the restructuring measures are the completion of the refurbishment of the new Examinations Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FEDCOS), which we hope will be accomplished before the end of the year. The Directorate is also working on a proposal that will give direction on the devolution of the University Examination Office and how the devolved units will operate in various Campuses.

Finally, we at the Directorate wish to express our congratulations to all graduands of the 35th Graduation Ceremony. We wish them all the best as they prepare to enter the vibrant job market to serve mankind in the various disciplines in which they have been trained and examined.



From right to left: The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Rose A. Mwonya; the DVC (AA), Prof. Alexander K. Kahi; the Principal Secretary, State Department for Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Affairs, Ms. Nancy Karigithu; and the DVC (A&F), Prof. Njenga Munene, during an official visit by the Principal Secretary in June 2016, in the course of which she addressed students

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DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Extension)



Prof. J. Gowland Mwangi

Graduation marks a new beginning for you with the opening up of a new world of opportunities to participate in nation-building. In addition, you will be faced with challenges of the future, among them securing a job in the highly competitive market. Fortunately for you, Egerton University has equipped you with the knowledge and skills that give you a competitive advantage globally. You are therefore qualified to meet the demands and challenges of the society and industry at large. It is your responsibility to use the strong foundation laid by Egerton University to build yourself, develop a fulfilling career and ensure that you realise your full potential.

As you go out to the job market, you should not only think about securing jobs but also endeavour to be entrepreneurs. To be successful entrepreneurs you should think strategically with the full knowledge of community aspirations, needs, priorities, constraints and opportunities. Entrepreneurs grow businesses from identifying the needs of a community and developing a product or service that meets that particular need.

Kenya being an agricultural economy, there are plenty of business opportunities in value addition. In being an entrepreneur, you not only create a source of income for yourself but also employ other Kenyans. To those that will be engaged in formal employment, apply the skills acquired from Egerton University to transform the lives of people by offering solutions to challenges that the country is facing such as environmental degradation and economic crimes like corruption. It is also important to identify a mentor(s) in organisations or in the business world that have risen up the career ladder and model around

them. The mentors will assist you acquire qualities that will make you stand out from your peers, positioning you for greatness. Having a positive attitude and making the best use of every opportunity that comes your way will lead you to success.

Wherever you are, wherever you go and whatever you do, be a good ambassador of Egerton University by embracing the virtues it upholds of nationalism, performing your duties professionally, and serving all clients/customers fairly. Be excellent in all that you do and endeavour to make a positive impact in this world by being kind and helpful to all those you encounter. The challenges that you face along the road should not deter you from “pressing on” towards achieving your dreams. Always remember that you can make it. Once again the Division takes this opportunity to congratulate you on this occasion and wish you the best in your endeavours.

God bless you.

UNIVERSITY INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE

Message from the UILO Officer



Prof. Symon Mahungu

The need to offer quality services at the Division for Research and Extension (R&E) is well articulated in its Quality Statement and

the respective objectives. The University Industry Liaison Office (UILO) falls within the R & E Division and has been in existence for more than eight years. It was created in order to enhance Egerton University – Industry Linkages. UILO initiates and pursues issues of mutual benefit between the University and the industry, leading to preparation and signing of Memoranda of Understanding. Such a scenario synergises the

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The President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, presents a trophy won by Egerton University to the University Industry Liaison Officer, Prof. Symon Mahungu

Message from the UILO Officer

Continued from page 26

theory learnt in the University with the practice that dominates the industry. The Extension and Outreach mandate is achieved through a series of activities. A key activity is the participation as an exhibitor in the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) National Shows and the Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF). In 2016, Egerton University participated in the Nakuru ASK Show and the NITF. In both these exhibitions, Egerton's

performance was rated as excellent. During the Nakuru ASK Show, Egerton University Stand won six first positions, one second position and one third position in various competing classes. The University also won various champion positions in the livestock category confirming its position as a centre of excellence in agriculture not only in Kenya but in the region as well. This observation was confirmed during the 2016 NITF,

where Egerton won two champion trophies and three third positions in this international gathering. The Egerton University stand was visited by various government officials including the Principal Secretary for East African Community Affairs and the Principal Secretary for Trade.

Delivering Extension Outreach to Communities

The Division of Research and Extension is mandated to provide quality extension outreach services to individuals and the community at large. The Division provides the advisory services required to empower farming households with the knowledge, skills and linkages they need in order for them to solve common challenges relating to the management of their farm enterprises.

Our extension outreach activities are delivered on expressed demand. Farmer groups that are in need of specific agricultural advisory support are subjected to participatory needs assessments conducted by our team of experts. During needs assessment, we map stakeholders, inputs and advisory services, and the value chain in the area. This information is used in prioritising interventions and advising on where to source additional services. The information is also used to avoid duplication of support already being executed by other organisations in a given area. On the basis of the needs assessment outcome, we develop action plans on priority interventions with the target beneficiaries for implementation. This approach has enabled us provide farmer is need-based advisory services.

In the *Seeds of Gold* agribusiness magazine, published in the *Saturday Nation* in partnership with the Nation Media Group, our pool of experts respond to specific queries from farmers on challenges relating to crop and animal production. The responses are specific to the challenges that are

identified by individual farmers. When published, the information benefits many other farmers who also face similar challenges. When questions are repeated on a specific issue, we pick the issue and transform the concerns into advisory extension materials prepared by our pool of experts.

These extension materials targeting farming households are freely available for downloading on our website (www.egerton.ac.ke) and are also distributed freely in the Agricultural Shows through Egerton University Stands, mainly at Kabarnet, Nakuru and Nairobi. Farmers may also obtain the extension materials from the University at the Division of Research and Extension.

We respond to requests for extension advisory support from individuals and the private sector through consultancy services in which the service fee is negotiated on the basis of the tasks and diversity of expertise needed to solve the identified issues of concern. Consultancies are tailored to the needs of the clients. Unlike the other extension advisory services available to farmer groups, the applicants for such services do meet the costs incurred in staff time, inputs, transport, government tax and administrative overheads.

The approach in providing extension outreach services follows the value chain development concept. This is why in needs assessment we map the stakeholders, input and advisory

services in an area. This informs our empowerment plan for sustainable uptake of up-scaling of knowledge, skills and network building among the target beneficiaries. For example, we are currently working with the Lare farming community in Nakuru County to empower them in profitable dairy intensification and cassava value addition. We have linked the community with the Nakuru County Department of Cooperatives to build a farmer institution that will address their input and output milk markets. To ensure access to continuous capacity building in emerging areas of capacity needs, we have mobilised resources through successful development of research and development grants that are being used to construct a dairy campus at Mt. Clara Mtakatifu Development Centre and train resident extension staff who will be available to the local farming community. We chose to support this centre in building capacity to mobilise resources, train technical staff and improved dairy infrastructure for vocational training because it is located within the community, more accessible to the community, offers vocational courses and has built a tradition working with the farming community in agriculture. Other value chain development cases we are supporting presently are 100 women groups in Kendu Bay in Homa Bay County, which we are empowering in commercial production of indigenous vegetables for urban markets, and rabbit producers in Lanet area of Nakuru Country.

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Delivering Extension Outreach

Continued from page 27

For the Kendu Bay women groups, capacity development support has been in quality seed production and bulking, land preparation, water harvesting, disease management, and packaging vegetables for the markets where quality, safety and customer retention are prerequisite to expanding business.

We have worked with youth groups too who received grants from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund for

agribusiness investments to enhance the benefits of the fund. Working with the youth groups in Gilgil and Naivasha area, we focused on capacity empowerment in technical management skills for their specific enterprises – as well as building entrepreneurship skills, developing business plans, networking in the value chain and record keeping and analysis to inform management decisions.

One unique extension outreach we have supported is the Gilgil Sub-County Hospital on commercial bean seed production, vegetable growing and better human nutrition for mothers and children. This was intended to empower the hospital to productively use large idle land to produce affordable vegetables and use the farm to demonstrate to the local community good nutrition for infants and lactating mothers in order to reduce high prevalence of malnutrition cases.

Division of Research and Extension Reviews Its Policies

Egerton University's research agenda is aligned to Kenya's national policies, priorities and market needs. In order to remain relevant in that regard, the University continuously evaluates and identifies priority areas of research, development of technological innovations, community outreach and extension activities, and consultancy and public policy development. The management of research, innovation, extension and consultancy at Egerton University is guided by policies that are reviewed from time to time to enhance applicability and relevance in the face of changing national and international trends and approaches.

The Division of Research and Extension is in the process of reviewing the following policies in consultation with key stakeholders from various faculties and other sections of the University: The Research Policy, which provides guidelines for the ethical conduct of research, administration of research funds and sharing of benefits; the Intellectual Property Rights Policy, which provides guidelines to innovators on how to guard against theft of their intellectual property and facilitates commercialisation of innovations; the Extension and Outreach Policy, which provides the framework for improving efficiency

and effectiveness of providing extension and outreach services; the Consultancy Policy, which provides the necessary institutional framework under which all consultancies are conducted and helps ensure that all consultancies are well coordinated and implemented professionally, ethically, and efficiently; and the Publications Policy, which provides the framework to guide all publications, including journals, books, and conference proceedings produced by the University to ensure effectiveness of knowledge dissemination.

Rehabilitation of Njoro River Ongoing

Egerton University has not relented in its rehabilitation of the Njoro River. This is in line with the Vision 2030, which is geared towards addressing environmental degradation and pollution in the country.

The source of Njoro River is located in Olokurto Division, Entiyani Location in Entiyani Sub-location, Narok North District, at an altitude of about 2,880 meters above sea level. The river drains approximately 60 kilometers through a number of farms and settlements before discharging into Lake Nakuru

(which is located at 1,750 meters above sea level), a designated wildlife sanctuary of international importance (Ramsar site). The river is the main source of water for Lake Nakuru, the home of millions of flamingoes, hippos and other wild animals that act as a destination for tourists. It is also a source of drinking water for the community around the Njoro area and parts of Nakuru town, which have an estimated population of over 600,000 and also the source of ground water used by the riparian community and various institutions. The water from the river is also used for irrigation and

livestock watering.

The University sectioned the river into six zones of approximately 10 kilometers each for ease of rehabilitation and adaptability by interested conservationists. The University has been working on two zones: the source (approximately 20 acres) and the middle region (which borders the Njokerio settlement and the University and is approximately 12 kilometers). The activities carried out include planting of indigenous trees, fencing of critical areas and clearing dumpsites.

DRTEC, Chemeron, Forges Ahead

The Dryland Research, Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC), Chemeron, has grown in leaps and bounds since its establishment in 2012. The Centre has eight members of staff (two security men, one cleaner, three livestock herders, one Assistant Manager and the Centre Coordinator). Despite the limitations in staff and financial resources, the Centre has lived up to its vision and mission of training and supporting research and development activities that are geared towards sustainable natural resource utilisation, and enhancement of food and environmental security in the region.

The construction/establishment of a nature park at the DRTEC is ongoing. The nature park houses a botanic garden, a reptile park (containing snakes, tortoises, crocodiles, etc.), a primate park, a rodents' park, etc. So far, some of the plants for the botanic garden have been identified and labelled with the assistance of a plant botanist/taxonomist. The plant ecology, distribution and uses have been documented. The crocodile park, lizard park and tortoise park have been completed and stocked with live animals. The relevant permits for caged animals have been obtained from the Kenya Wildlife Service Licensing Department. We are hopeful that the nature park will be open to the public before the end of this year.

The tree and fruit nursery has expanded to include more dryland species (vegetables, fruits and tree species). Some of the tree seedlings grown at the nursery have been planted at the Centre. These include 1,200 Neem trees (*Azadirachta indica*), 250 flam-

boyant trees (*Delonix regia*), 470 Cassod trees (*Senna siamea*), 600 *Leuceanaleucocephala*, and 50 pawpaws. Over 4,000 assorted seedlings have been donated to members of the local community as well as to visitors to the Centre. The planting will be extended to other areas, including the Nature Park. Currently, we have 20,000 tree seedlings of the Neem tree.

A total of 35 post-graduate students (nine doctorate and 29 Master of Science students) have been offered scholarships from the DRTEC Vision 2030 Flagship Project housed in the Division of Research and Extension. The funds have supported the students in conducting their fieldwork. The Centre has also provided field attachment and internship opportunities for Egerton University undergraduate and post-graduate students.

The Chemeron DRTEC has recorded increased visitations since January 2012. The number of visitors coming to the Centre for educational and research purposes has increased to a record high of 17,028 people. Most of the visitors have been from primary, secondary and tertiary-level institutions. Workshop participants, especially those sponsored by counties and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for training seminars and workshops, also constitute a bulk of the visitors to the Centre.

The Division is grateful for the support that it has received from the Egerton University Council, the University Management Board, Egerton staff (both teaching and non-teaching), and collaborators from various institutions for their unwavering support. The Division looks forward to continued support from all these quarters in the coming financial year.



Ongoing work on the nature park at the Egerton Dryland Research, Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC), Chemeron

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Planning & Development)



*Prof. Samuel W. Wachanga
Ag. DVC (APD)*

It is with delight and pride that the Division of Administration, Planning and Development welcomes you to our 35th University Graduation. This is the time for your family, peers, friends and admirers to gather, celebrate and honour your efforts and accomplishments. It is an

achievement worth celebrating after all the hard work and pain that you went through. It is our hope that the additional qualification that you have earned will propel you to greater heights.

Today is a special day for you as it culminates in the celebration of several years of study. We are all united today by a shared sense of pride in your achievement as you have completed one of the dreams of your life. You have matured emotionally and socially, and we are confident that each of you will address effectively the world's challenges and seize the most exciting opportunities.

Graduation is not an end goal in itself; it is a journey, and all accomplishments we achieve during its course should be taken as starting points for

further achievements. As you are graduating, ensure that this is not the end of your learning. You still have a whole lot to learn and make sure that you continually improve your skills base through life-long learning and always remember to upgrade yourselves to remain relevant in your career choice.

Congratulations once again on completing your programmes successfully – and we hope that you will be our good ambassadors. May this be the beginning of a successful journey. Be proud of what you have worked to achieve, and we wish you every success in the future as you enter the next exciting phase of your lives.

May God bless you.

DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Message from the Director



Prof. Bernard N. Githua

As we come together to celebrate the 35th Graduation Ceremony and honour the graduands on this special occasion of

their educational transition, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate them on behalf of myself and that of the entire Directorate for their hard work and commitment to their studies. My advice to you is that you always plan for all the activities you would like to carry out in future. A plan will give direction to the cause of action you want to take in your future.

The Directorate facilitates the proper utilisation of human and non-human resources by cascading the current Strategic Plan (2013-2018) and Citizen Service Charter to University

Units through the Performance Contracting system. The Directorate also monitors and evaluates the University Strategic Plan and Operational Plan. Currently, the Directorate is internally evaluating the FY 2015/2016 Performance Contract for all University Units.

I wish all graduands successful lives and look forward to partnering with them as we aspire to serve humanity.



EGERTON UNIVERSITY SACCO SOCIETY LIMITED

Together we prosper

Who we are

Egerton University SACCO Ltd was formed and registered on 10th March, 1975 under the Co-operative Act Cap 450. Registration No. CS/2314, with an initial membership of 40 (Forty) drawn from Egerton University. We are a fully compliant Sacco regulated Sacco.

The SACCO currently draws its membership from diverse institutions namely Egerton University, Kisii University, Laikipia University, Kabarak University, Masinde Muliro University, Maasai Mara University, Chuka University, Kabianga University, Karatina University, Pwani University, Mount Kenya University, Tegemeo Institute, Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology, Nakuru County, Kenya Medical Training College, Kenyatta National Hospital, AMU Press Limited, churches, farmers, individual business people, welfares and groups, several primary and secondary schools and members of the community.

Society growth

Since its inception, Egerton University SACCO has experienced significant growth in its membership, share capital, members deposits and advances and total assets as tabulated below.

	2015	2014	2013	2012
MEMBERSHIP	5,172	4,777	4,009	3,234
SHARE CAPITAL	47,647,768	42,682,297	35,264,360.94	7,386,753.25
MEMBERS DEPOSITS	1,178,444,447	1,171,925,103	841,851,874.35	723,625,865.48
LOAN PORTFOLIO	1,480,300,783	1,306,827,510	1,032,580,981.15	955,224,481.43
ASSETS	2,141,008,916	1,767,978,944	1,421,550,408	1,331,132,827

Key Developments

- Opening up of a fully operational branch in Nakuru Town CBD in January 2017
- Completion of a refurbished and spacious branch in Laikipia University.
- Expansion to new markets namely Maseno University, Nakuru County and business people to increase membership and overall Sacco performance.
- Reduction of interest rates on loans to ease strain on members.
- Migration to a modern and efficient ICT platform by April 2017.
- Development of a comprehensive business plan and credit policy to match the competitive market needs.
- Revamping of our products to meet members needs.

Introducing new SACCO Loan Products:

We are proud to introduce the following two new LOAN products. Members can also enjoy revised loan interest rates for existing loans. Access Normal Loans at a rate of 12% p/a for an extended period of 48 Months. Other BOSA and Business Loans will attract interest rates of 14.5% p/a on reducing balance.

LOAN TYPE	PURPOSE OF LOAN	INTEREST RATE	MAXIMUM PERIOD	MAXIMUM AMOUNT	OTHER CONDITIONS
Super Flexi Loan	Long-term credit facility meant for big investments like large scale farming and purchase of capital assets.	1.21% per Month (14.5% P.A) Amortized.	84 Months	Deposits multiplied by 4 Maximum 12,000,000	Loan deduction through member salary (Check off). Loan approved once a month. 0.75% Insurance fee.
Fahari Loan	Long term loan meant for Members who have saved over 1 Million Share Deposits consistently.	1% per Month (12% P.A) on reducing balance.	60 Months	Deposits multiplied by 4 Maximum 10,000,000	At least Seven guarantors whose deposits adequately cover the loan applied or acceptable collateral.

Egerton University SACCO invites universities employees, civil servants, employees of public and private entities, schools and other institutions, investment groups, 'chamaas' and business people to join us today, contribute and benefit from our range of great products and services.

We offer a great opportunity to save, invest and get affordable loans.
For more information please visit our website www.egertonsacco.coop

E-mail: info@egertonsacco.coop or egertonsacco@yahoo.com

Or call 0722144734/0733999002/0512217809

P. o Box 178-20115,
EGERTON.

Egerton University Sacco is SASRA (Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority) compliant.

Message from the Principal



Prof. Lenah Nakhone-Wati

Nakuru Town Campus College (NTCC) has had a very eventful period since we held the last Graduation Ceremony in June this year, in which we graduated 355 students, among them one Ph.D. candidate.

In July this year, we took part in the Nakuru Agricultural Show, in which the University emerged the best in six categories. Two among these – the Best Stand in Youth Activities and the Best Community Based Organisation Stand – are very directly related to what we do with youth through our Egerton Radio and to communities through our community outreach activities at our Faculty of Health Sciences.

This was followed by a staff workshop that took place in Malindi towards the end of August, at which we took time to review our strategies as a campus. It helped us to form a strong team spirit, one that will enable us to forge ahead with vigour. Apart from staff, we organised a workshop for student leaders that took place in Mombasa, this time with the aim of creating synergies between the administration and the students' body.

In September, we admitted more than 600 new undergraduate students with courses in Criminology, Education Arts, Law and Commerce being the most preferred. This is three times more than what we had been admitting

in previous years for the same intake. During the same month, we also launched five new post-graduate courses in the Faculty of Health: Master of Public Health; Master of Science in Health Professions Education, and Master of Medicine courses with specializations in Reproductive Health, Surgery, and Pediatrics and Child Health. We also launched two new undergraduate courses in the same Faculty: Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health and Bachelor in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

The College also initiated a collaboration with St. Thomas University in the USA on new product development (AFrugal Innovation for the Developing World Course). The course aims at improving informal settlements and is open to all persons with a passion on working with communities living in such settlements. All these courses have been inspired by the need to come up with specializations that meet the challenges of the modern society.

I wish to thank the University Management Board (UMB), which has continuously made it possible for the NTCC to make developmental strides. I also wish to thank my colleagues and students at the College, who have always supported me in the implementation of the decisions by the UMB. We will remain focused on improving service delivery and providing quality and responsive education.

I congratulate the graduands, who have brought us together in this 35th Graduation Ceremony of this great institution that we all love, Egerton University. As you leave the University, may you always be positively guided, and may you find satisfaction in all that you will do in your life.

May God bless all of you and grant you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2017.



Egerton staff of Nakuru Town Campus College take a break during the staff workshop held in Malindi in August 2016

Message from the Director



Prof. Fugich Wako

On behalf of Nairobi City Campus (NCC) I wish to congratulate all the graduands in general and those from NCC in particular on this auspicious occasion of the 35th Graduation Ceremony of Egerton University. To the graduands, this event has been made possible by your hard work in your studies over the years, the efforts of your lecturers and other administrative staff and the support of your parents and guardians, whom we cherish as invaluable stakeholders. As the campus management, we wish to

assure all stakeholders and parents that we shall do our best to support students achieve their academic goals in line with Egerton University's motto of "Transforming Lives through Quality Education". To this end, I am happy about the story of a young graduate, Amina Mohamed, from this campus who, in spite of her marginalised background, has excelled in her studies and has become a shining example to girls from the pastoralist communities that generally shun education of girls.

Egertonian First Woman Gender Officer in Garissa County

Ms. Amina Mohammed Ahmed became the first woman to be appointed as a Gender Officer in Garissa County. Immediately after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Gender and Development (First Class Honours) on 17 June 2016 she was absorbed into the Public Service as a Gender Officer in the Judiciary.

Her appointment came as a result of her academic excellence as well as her outstanding leadership qualities. While pursuing her studies, she had served as the Director of Special Programmes in charge of students' welfare under the Student Union of Egerton University (SUEU) at the Nairobi City Campus.

Ms. Ahmed has made great changes in the lives of women and girls in Garissa County in the North Eastern region of Kenya. She is recognised as an outstanding role model, mentor, and advisor to girls and women on issues that promote women's empowerment and realisation of their rights.

Despite her humble background, Ms. Ahmed managed to successfully complete her education through the charitable effort of UNICEF and a non-

governmental organisation known as WomanKind, which paid her school fees.

Her interest in women's rights and capacity enhancement of women has led her to develop outreach and advocacy modules for training young women and girls on their social and cultural rights. She started by properly conceptualising the context of the local women through carrying out broad-based gender analysis, as well as using varied tools and principles. Her role as a Gender Officer is to administrate on court matters and to ensure that litigation on issues affecting the youth, women and children are prioritised.

The University's follow-up on her career progress revealed excellent outcomes from her Garissa office. She is organised, a team player, and an outgoing person, who always takes initiative in her work. She has the drive, and she manages to get things moving even when hurdles are enormous. She has taken her own initiative to further develop her skills and knowledge in the gender field, primarily by joining and participating in public education and related

endeavours within the Garissa County – including participating actively in various forums and youth-based social activities. She is a resourceful, creative, and solution-oriented person, one who always comes up with new and innovative approaches to her assigned projects. It is also evident that her academic experience is very relevant to her work and training.



Ms. Amina Mohammed Ahmed

HUMAN CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT

List of Staff Appointed from July to November 2016

NJORO CAMPUS

Richard Ocharo Onchiri
Adjunct Professor
Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering

Richard Marvin Otworu
Teaching Assistant
Department of Computer Science

Kevin Nehemiah Onchoka
Teaching Assistant
Department of Computer Science

James Kamau Mutonya
Teaching Assistant
Department of Computer Science

Faith Nduku Ngeka
Teaching Assistant
Department of Computer Science

Allan Bernard Nawale Ohono
Senior Technologist II
Department of Agricultural
Engineering

Steve Onyango Oketch
Senior Library Assistant I
Library Department

Ndinda Mutia
Senior Library Assistant I
Library Department

Rosemary Kirigo Kirera
Senior Library Assistant I
Library Department

Faith Lucy Achieng Oduor
Health Records & Information
Officer I
Medical Department

NAKURU TOWN CAMPUS COLLEGE

Rhoda Brenda Khaemba
Administrative Assistant II

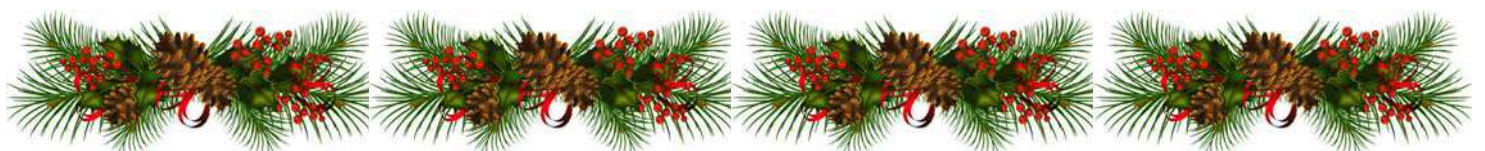
John Kimani
Administrative Assistant II

Leah Adhiambo Okoth
Clerk II

Winnie Aluoch Odhok
Administrative Assistant II



*The Egerton University Council
and the University Management Board
wish all staff and students
a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2017*



EGERTON UNIVERSITY ACKNOWLEDGES ITS PARTNERS

The organisations listed below have, in their respective ways, contributed to the development of Egerton University through collaborations, partnership, linkages, financial support, training of students and bench marking. The University would like to take this opportunity to appreciate their support and looks forward to even closer interactions with them in the future.

- Africa Merchant Assurance Company Limited
- African Climate Change Fellowship Program (ACCFP)
- African Economic Research Project
- African Forest Forum
- African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD)
- African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- APA Insurance Kenya
- Association for Strengthening of Agricultural Resource in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- British American Tobacco Kenya Limited
- Centre of International Development and Environmental Research
- Comic Relief
- Commission for Higher Education (CHE)
- Cooperative Bank of Kenya
- County Government of Nakuru
- Department for International Development (DFID) Kenya
- Diocese of Embu
- East African Academy of Sciences
- East and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN)
- European Union
- Geothermal Development Company (GDC)
- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)
- German Organisation for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Kenya
- Grand Challenges Canada
- IGAD-Inland Water Resources Management Programme (IGAD-INWRM)
- Institute for Money Technology and Financial Inclusion (IMFT)
- Intermediate Technology Development Group Eastern Africa (ITDG-EA)
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Area (ICARDA)
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Foundation for Science (IFS)
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- KCB Bank Kenya
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)
- Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Project (KAPAP)
- Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)
- Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- Kenya Water Towers Agency
- Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- Lake Victoria Research (VicRes) Initiative
- McKnight Foundation
- McMaster University, Canada
- Michigan State University, USA
- Ministry of Health, Kenya
- Mushroom Initiative of China
- National AIDS Control Council (NACC)
- National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)
- Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC)
- Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO-WOTRO)
- Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)
- Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR)
- Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- The Agricultural Research for Development Dimension of the European Research Area (ERA-ARD)
- The MasterCard Foundation
- The Rattansi Educational Trust
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- The World Bank
- UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
- United Nations Office Project Services (UNOPS)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- University of Illinois, USA
- University of Kassel, Germany
- University of Wollongong's Global Challenge Program, Australia
- Urban Institute
- Vision 2030
- Water Research Commission, South Africa
- Wellcome Trust, UK
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Marine Research Grant (WIOMSA-MARG)

Chancellor Calls for Quality Higher Education in Kenya

Egerton's Chancellor, Prof. Shem O. Wandiga, made a unique visit to the University on 2-3 November 2016, during which he officiated over the launching of the James Foster Library, addressed a special Senate meeting, and attended a Council meeting.

During the Senate address, where he was accompanied by the Chairman of Council, Dr. Reardon Olubayo, the Chancellor outlined key milestones that Egerton University has reached since he was appointed Chancellor in 2013. "One of the achievements which makes me very proud is the winning of the African Centre of Excellence in Climate Smart Agriculture. I highly commend the individuals involved and congratulate the University for this remarkable success," said Prof. Wandiga.

Professor Wandiga is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Nairobi, and the Acting Director, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation. As an accomplished scholar and an experienced university administrator, he highlighted major challenges that the university system in Kenya has been facing recently which have started to bring stress and conflict both within it and from outside.

"We have the challenge of fast expansion of universities. Today we have 35 public and 33 private universities. The student population stands at over 500,000 compared to 80,916 in 2002/3," stated the Chancellor. He added that the expenditure by the government has increased from Ksh8.4 billion in 2002/3 to Ksh32 billion in 2015/16. Despite the 3.8 times increase, most

public universities have financial shortages. The Chancellor noted that higher education in Kenya has to respond to key demands from students, employers, funders, research institutes and the nation while having to ensure financial and operational sustainability.

It was disappointing, the Chancellor further observed, that the transition rate from secondary school to university stands at 4% and still lags behind the sub-Saharan African average at 7%.

Prof. Wandiga pointed out the broad inequalities between Kenyan universities, the poor quality of academic programmes in some cases, the lapses in financial accountability, and the fragile university-to-work transition. "The plethora of challenges has created fragile nerves and

explosive circumstances leading to much litigation, which is unfortunate," said the Chancellor.

Prof. Wandiga spelled out what requires special attention and action in order to achieve quality higher education, focusing on key areas of policies and legal frameworks, governance and management of universities, capacity development, financing universities, national values and cultural anchors.

While presiding over the donation of over 3,500 books and other materials by Mr. James Foster to Egerton University, Prof. Wandiga talked about the importance of a culture of constant learning. The James Foster Library becomes part of the J.D. Rockefeller Research Library and is located at Utafiti, Njoro Campus.



An artist's impression of the new Egerton University Main Gate, which is currently under construction