



# CBPS News

NEWSLETTER JAN 2017

VOLUME 4 ISSUE III

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CBPS celebrates the 55th Valedictorian
- Prof. John Kokwaro's lifetime achievements
- Bikeshare project is launched

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## CELEBRATING THE 55TH VALEDICTORIAN

Amitoj Singh is 22 years of age, born and brought up in Kenya in a family of four. He completed his primary education at Visa Oshwal Primary and secondary at SCLP Samaj School. As an individual, he is easy going yet ambitious and a tad too logical being a mathematician.

He did his O-levels in 2010 and A-levels in 2012. In O-levels, he achieved 7A's and 6A's while in A-levels he obtained 6A's. Amitoj was the second top student in the world in A-levels as well as the top student in East Africa in business studies. He currently works at British American Insurance in the Actuarial Department as he continues with his professional Actuarial exams. He actively participated in

several charity activities with his classmates and the Nairobi Actuarial Students Associa-



55th Graduation Valedictorian Amitoj Singh

tion (NASA) and also engaged in several sports activities during sports days and swimming galas.

His reasons for choosing the University of Nairobi (UoN) for his studies were; other than being the top ranked university in East Africa, he felt that UoN was the also

best university in the region to study Actuarial science. The actuarial profession is very young and UoN is known for the top actuaries it has produced over the years. For inspiration Amitoj refers to former UoN graduates who studied Actuarial Science and went on to become fully qualified actuaries. He notes that "there aren't many fully qualified actuaries in Kenya but of the few, majority are UoN graduates."

When asked who his best lecturers were and why, Amitoj quips "there were several lecturers whose classes I really enjoyed but if I had to choose one, I would say it was Ms. Wangomb'e from the School of Mathematics. Apart from being a great lecturer, she

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## HONORING JOHN KOKWARO PROF. EXCEPTIONAL BOTANY



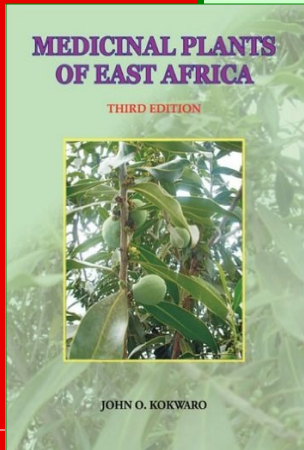
Prof. Kokwaro (right) with the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi

When considering the giants of academia, none stands out more in the field of Botany than Professor John O. Kokwaro. Prof Kokwaro began his studies at Luanda intermediary school in Gem where he sat for and passed his Kenya Africa Preliminary Examina-

tions (KAPE) and proceeded to Bugema Missionary College in Uganda where he sat for his Cambridge School Certificate Examination. Being a bright student Kokwaro passed with a 1<sup>st</sup> division and was accepted at the Haile Selassie University, American College of Agriculture Alemaya. Here, he earned a

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# PROF. JOHN KOKWARO: PROFESSOR EXCEPTIONAL



An example of one of Prof. Kokwaro's publications

*"He is the first Kenyan University lecturer to be awarded the Senior Fulbright Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship and the foremost authority in the field of Botany in East Africa"*

BSc. Agriculture majoring in Plant (Crop) Sciences after which he returned to a recently independent Kenya to work.

Having only gained independence in 1963, the country was still in the clutches of colonial attitudes and racism. Well qualified Africans were not welcome to work in agricultural colleges such as Egerton. These were the preserve of White farmers, notwithstanding that the qualifications of the white farmers were diploma level and John Kokwaro came back to Kenya with a Degree.

Not to be deterred, Kokwaro was recruited to join the East African Herbarium where he worked with some honorable gentlemen from the United Kingdom whose support and encouragement he remembers fondly to date.

On being recruited at the herbarium, Prof. Kokwaro's

potential was recognized and he earned a scholarship for postgraduate studies in Uppsala University, Sweden.

Prof. Kokwaro returned to Kenya and joined the University of Nairobi in 1968 as a tutorial fellow though he returned to Uppsala and completed his PhD in 1969. Prof Kokwaro worked consistently and as a result, he rose steadily through the ranks and served as a lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and a Full Professor respectively.

These few sentences belie the vast experience and the achievements for which Prof. Kokwaro is known. He is the first Kenyan University lecturer to be awarded the Senior Fulbright Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship and the foremost authority in the field of Botany in East Africa. In 2008 Prof Kokwaro completed another first, he was award-

ed Doctor of Science (DSc.) from the University of Nairobi, the first Post-Doctoral (PhD) degree ever to awarded by the University of Nairobi.

In spite of all these achievements, Prof. Kokwaro's greatness is seen in his humble demeanor which belies his impressive repertoire. He has published over 13 books, 61 journal and conference papers. Some of his more noted works include the series of Medicinal Plants of East Africa, the first being published in 1976, the second edition in 1993 and the third edition in 2009. These books comprehensively cover the medicinal plants found in the region and form a solid foundation for subsequent scholarly work.

Another outstanding quality that Prof. Kokwaro ex-

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## FAMALIA MOBILE APP BEST IN HiiL 2016

A mobile application-startup formulated within the confines of Computing for Development Lab (C4DLab) emerged the overall winner in family justice category, at the HiiL Innovating Justice Competition Award at the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands.

The mobile app, known as Famalia was awarded 20,000 EUR as the overall winner of The Hague



Famalia App developer enjoy a light moment at HiiL 2016 at the Africa Regional pitch

Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) 2016 Family Justice Challenge, coming ahead of teams from all over Africa and Middle East. This was after a successful pitching session in December 2016, at the Hague. Famalia was previously shortlisted in Africa and won the best innovation in the region in family justice category. HiiL is a not for profit organization based in The Hague, it helps solve justice-related problems through a justice

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# AMITOJ SINGH THE 56TH VALEDICTORIAN



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always encourages her students to be the best they can be. She really motivated me throughout my four years at the university.” On achieving first class honors, Amitoj acknowledges that it took a lot of late nights, hard work and determination. “You really do have to be devoted to your studies and make sure you are always at 110% before any exam. This definitely involves lots of planning and time management”. Amitoj also notes that the greatest value that upheld him during his studies was dedication. “There is usually so much going around in students’ lives today and it is easy to lose

A section of dignitaries listening attentively to Amitoj's speech

sight of your goals but in order to perform to the best of one’s abilities, it is imperative to stay dedicated and focused.” He pays homage to his parents, who supported him throughout the course of his degree, his friends whom he studied with and of course all his lecturers who were always there to guide him. Being the Valedictorian for the 2016 graduation was the greatest achievement of his life. “I would never have dreamt of it but it was certainly worth all the hard work I put in. I believe firmly in the adage ‘no pain, no gain’, and having worked extremely hard during my time in the university, I can say it was certainly worth it”. Amitoj also emphasizes the importance of balance while studying. “I am a huge sports fan so in my free time, I do play and

watch lots of sport. Other than that, I certainly enjoy outdoor activities and reading a good book now and then.” Peer pressure is a challenge that faces all students at one time or another. Amitoj believes peer pressure can sometimes be positive, but at other times it can be a bad influence in our lives. “Combating the pressure of ones peers can be challenging but for me, it was essential to know what my personal values were. I believe being involved in a group of friends who are focused in their schooling and regularly participating in sports and other extracurricular activities made it easy to deal with peer pressure.” His advice to first year students is that failure facing students stems from the choices one makes. “A key ingredient for success is choosing something that you are passionate about.

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**“Combating the pressure of ones peers can be challenging but for me, it was essential to know what my personal values were.”**

# PROF. JOHN KOKWARO PROFESSOR EXCEPTIONAL

From Pg. 2

hibits is that of remembering where he started. Prof. Kokwaro remembers with respect his humble beginnings as a tutorial fellow in the department of Botany and has donated his entire personal library to the Chiromo Campus Library. This not only includes his reference books but his publications as well. This is a valuable resource that will be available to students for posterity. For this and all his other great achievements that he presents

with such a humble demeanor, Prof Kokwaro will always be appreciated.



Prof. Kokwaro autographing a book during his book launch with Prof. Aduda looking on from the right.

# CBPS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Children from Grace Community Children's home



Peer Mentors present school uniform to the best performer in Kabiro Primary, Kawangware, Nairobi

University of Nairobi Peer Mentors Club (UoNPMC), Nairobi University Computer Science Students Association (NUCOMSSA), Chiromo Campus Christian Staff Fellowship (CCCSF) and Mathematics Association of Nairobi University (MANU) took on an initiative role to reach out to one of the most vulnerable groups in the society, children.

Student members from UoNPMC visited Kabiro Primary and Kabiro Secondary School in Kawangware, Nairobi in February 2017. The students presented full school uniform to the best pupil in standard six.

Similarly, in December 2016, Chiromo Campus Christian Staff Fellowship (CCCSF) visited Grace Community Children's home, while Nairobi University Computer Science Students Association visited Feed the Children home

near Kikuyu Town, accompanied by NUCOMSSA'S patron, Mr. Christopher Moturi, Deputy-Director



MANU Members hard at work

School of Computing and Informatics. Feed the Children home was established 35 years ago and aims to fight childhood hunger.

CCCSF reached out to orphaned children from Grace Community Children's Home. The children were encouraged to work hard in life with the knowledge that they can prosper, despite their current situation. Grace Children's home received donations of clothing, foodstuff, stationery,

mattresses and financial contribution.

Mathematics Association of Nairobi University (MANU) also had an outreach activity to Early Childhood Education Programme Centre in Dagoretti, established 15 years ago. The visit to the community centre on October 29, 2016, saw students interact with children while they took part in various activities among them; cooking, cleaning and playing with the children. MANU members interacted with 100 orphaned and vulnerable children from Dagoretti, within the age range of 1 and 23.

Through the student organizations, vulnerable children in the society have been encouraged to redefine their future without focusing on their past misfortune.



## PAN AFRICAN CHEMISTRY NETWORK CONGRESS



PACN Plenary session at the Millennium Nall

This year's Pan Africa Chemistry Network Congress took place at the University of Nairobi, Chiromo Campus Kenya from 30th November to 2nd December 2016.

The 10th PACN Congress brought together over 200 participants from India, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Belgium, Uganda, South Africa, Sweden, Nigeria and Senegal among other countries, to discuss current research, challenges,

new developments and crucial issues on the topic of Water.

The speakers and participants shared expertise and best practices in discussing cutting edge research and applications. The congress reflected the diversity of science and research that can help solve challenges of water security and water safety, with a focus on the chemical sciences. It gave participants an opportunity to engage with other scien-

tists, exchange ideas and form collaborations and partnerships.

### Themes

There were 4 themes covered in the scientific sessions:

- **Water and Health** – Included sanitation, water-borne disease, pathogen detection, disinfection, disease prevention and disease treatment.

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# PAN-AFRICAN CHEMISTRY NETWORK CONGRESS

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- **Wastewater management and treatment** – Included water reuse in industrial, agricultural and domestic environments.
- **Water quality and contamination** – Included pollutant monitoring, removal of pollutants and analytical techniques.
- **Water policy** – Included the implementation and assessment of chemical science innovations for sustainable water.

All the four themes focused on

innovations that are relevant to decentralized, community scale and/or point of use applications (rural or urban). Sustainability assessment for new technologies was also not left out.

The International Science Programme (ISP) which is committed to long term support to institutionally based research groups and scientific networks in low-income countries, strengthening their research in the basic sciences: Physics, Chemistry, and

Mathematics. The Cross Cultural Partnership event took place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016. PACN Congress welcomed all the participants to learn more about ISP and to discuss the future development of the programme.



A section of the panel addressing the plenary

# UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI 56TH GRADUATION

A record exceeding 12,000 graduates were conferred degrees and awarded diplomas in 2016 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> University of Nairobi graduation ceremonies, which took place in September and December, respectively.

In December 2016, just over 8500 degrees were conferred, while at least 4,400 graduated in September 2016.

The graduates were bordering on these totals: Diplomas (1,700), Bachelor degrees (7,900), Postgraduate diplomas (60), Masters degrees (3,000), Doctor of Philosophy degrees (100) and Fellowships (2).

College of Biological and Physical Sciences had 723 graduates in September 2016 and 226 in December 2016. Out of this, there were 29 Doctor of Philosophy Degrees, 232 Masters and 639 Bachelor



Dr. Idle Farah retiring Chair of Council– University of Nairobi

degrees.

During the December graduation, vice-chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, recognized the University's achievements in 2016, among them; top 3% ranking in Africa; completion of University of Nairobi Towers, which has changed Nairobi's skyline; increase in high impact research

resulting to a research fund worth Ksh. 4.5 billion; admission to World research network – Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) and increase of UoN alumni exceeding 195,000. The 56th graduation also marked a farewell to Dr. Idle Farah whose term as University of Nairobi Council Chair ends in February 2017. Dr. Farah was appointed Chair of Council in 2013 and has also served as a member of the council for twelve years.

Dr. Fred Matiang'i Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, who was the guest of honor at the 56<sup>th</sup> graduation challenged more students to enroll in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses which are key in fast-tracking achievement of developmental goals. Dr. Matiang'i noted that only a third of the student population is enrolled in STEM courses.



A section of the graduates

# CBPS GALLERY

## MATHS STUDENTS OUTREACH TO DAGORETTI CHILDREN'S HOME



Maths Student entertains a resident of the home



CBPS staff assist students go through registration

## CBPS STAFF REGISTER 1ST YEAR STUDENTS



# CBPS GALLERY

## C4D INNOVATION LAB PROJECT WINS AWARD



**Matthew Egessa, lead innovator of**

**Famalia doing his presentation**



## BIKESHARE LAUNCH IN UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



# CBPS GALLERY

## CBPS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP OUTREACH TO GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER



Children from the Grace Children's home outreach destination of the Chiromo Christian Fellowship



NUCOMSSA Member with a resident of the home.

## NAIROBI UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION—NUCOMSSA VISIT FEED THE CHILDREN





# CBPS GALLERY

*CBPS APPRECIATES RETIRED AUDITOR JOHN NDEGWA*



**John Ndegwa**  
long time  
serving CBPS  
auditor retires.  
He will be  
remembered  
for his wisdom  
and gentle  
ways.

*AJTIA INNOVATIVE START-UP'S GRADUATE*



## First Female PhD Nuclear Forensics Student Wins



Ms Bobby Bhatt.  
First PhD Nuclear  
forensics female stu-  
dent and accolade  
winner

Meet the first woman to undertake PhD Nuclear Forensics at the Department of Physics and an accolade winner of an award in France, having travelled all the way from South Asia to join the distinguished Physics intellectuals at the University of Nairobi. She has won the Best Poster Award in the Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)

Conference for two consecutive years. Ms. Bobby Bhatt talked to CBPS News about her recent award and research focus:

**You recently won an award in France, tell us about it.**

Yes, I won an international award as the best student poster in France in September 2016. Posters are used to communicate and display

researchers' work. I received a certificate and a financial award of £300 at the 9th International Conference on (LIBS) in Chamonix-Mont-Blanc. The award was a complete surprise to me as there were many participants from all over the world. It was a great opportunity to present my work in

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## Bikeshare Becomes a Reality



Nation Media's Tom Mshindi and C4D Lab's Dr. Tonny Omwansa enjoy a ride at the Bike-Share launch

*"There are already 20 bicycles available, presently being charged at Ksh. 40 per hour."*

Cycling will now be a culture at the University of Nairobi following an official launch of the initiative dubbed Bikeshare.

Bikeshare aims to enforce a healthy community through cycling, while seeking to provide a solution towards urban mobility challenges caused by a great dependence on motorized transportation.

"In the Bikeshare project, you borrow a bike, take it and return it; you don't need to own it," revealed Dr. Tony Omwansa, Director of Com-

puting for Development Lab (C4DLab) and a champion of the Bikeshare initiative.

The project launch which was on February 16, 2017 was graced by Nation Media's Editor-in-Chief, Tom Mshindi and Bike share funding partner,

UN-Habitat, represented by, Ms. Stephanie Holzwarth an Urban Mobility Specialist.

There are already 20 bicycles available, presently being charged at Ksh. 40 per hour. Having the bicycles in the University compound is key to exposing the students, who are the citizens of tomorrow, to issues of sustainable transport. Bikeshare which will operate in a controlled campus environment will encourage people to take up cycling more. It is a pilot project that potentially would be a reality to the public and other universities, at a later

stage.

"Our task is to solve problems using innovative solutions. Every year, we hold the Nairobi Innovation week which is a forum that brings people together from private sector, Government, academia and development agencies to reflect on the challenges that we have and how to solve them," said Dr. Omwansa.

The third annual innovation week themed '**Innovating to solve basic and local global challenges**' will be held at the University of Nairobi from 6<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.



Shiny bikes waiting for the launch

# Famalia Mobile App Best in HiiL 2016 Awards



**Award winners pose in a group snapshot**

accelerator program that runs the Justice Innovation Challenges.

Famalia is an SMS based application which assists in monitoring inheritance succession cases in Kenyan courts. It aims to transfer inherited property easily and conveniently. Famalia was among 22 innovations selected under the family justice category, out of 450 applications from Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Mathew Egeesa, Lead innovator of Famalia, previously the lead Events, Dissemination and Publications at C4DLab, confirms that the SMS based application reduces cost on time, and finances incurred during moni-

toring succession of inherited property. This is because the mobile application empowers an interested party during a succession case to track the position of the case via SMS.

Famalia also sends an SMS notification in the event of cancellation of hearing dates in courts. It also sends notification if there is a missed court session.

In addition Famalia sends SMS alerts to interested parties once a succession case is published in the Kenyan Gazette.

Over the last five years, HiiL has supported 384 innovations, thus providing justice to more than 1.4 million people. HiiL supports access to justice by

supporting the best justice entrepreneurs and innovations in seed funding and linkages with partners to scale innovations. HiiL's objectives include provision of legal service or dispute resolution, creating awareness through educational platforms as well as having efficient and inclusive justice policies.

Other categories in the competition included SME Empowerment, Living Wage, Human Rights and Student Innovation.

Among the ten African innovations pitched at The Hague include: Kenya's Sauti- mobile app providing trade information to cross-border traders; Uganda's Justice to People (J2P)- providing legal support and advice to Agripreneurs; and Puliida- access to online justice in tracking records of crimes and offences.

*African innovations pitched at The Hague included Kenya's Sauti- mobile app providing trade information to cross-border traders*



# PhD Nuclear Forensics Student Wins Award

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the presence of eminent scholars and scientists from renowned research labs. I was accompanied by my supervisor, Prof. Kalambuka Ang'eyo and two of my colleagues who are also students at the School of Physical Sciences: Joshua Onkang'i and Joy Namachanja. During the conference, Joshua made an oral presentation on his Master of Science thesis research "Direct Analysis of Fission Products in Simulate Nuclear Glass by Chemometrics LIBS".

**What research area are you**

**involved in?**

Nuclear Forensics is the field of my research. Nuclear forensics is the analysis of nuclear and radiological material (NRM). Nuclear forensics plays a very important role in strengthening security and safeguarding countries by preventing illicit trafficking of NRM. My research involves qualitative and quantitative analysis of uranium in unknown samples as well as attributing them to their source. I am using Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy and Laser Raman Spectromicroscop-

py along with Chemometrics for my research work.

**Where can your research be utilized?**

Uranium is used in manufacturing nuclear pellets and making dirty bombs, a radiological weapon that on explosion contaminates the explosion area with radioactive material. Kenya is coming up with a nuclear power plant by 2030 and incidents of dirty bombs explosions, trafficking nuclear pellets and yellow cake- uranium

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## PhD Nuclear Forensics Student Wins



Ms. Bhatt posing with colleagues

From Pg. 11

concentrated powder, is likely to happen. My research will find application in these situations, where investigation needs to be carried out to prevent illicit trafficking of uranium across the porous border of Kenya, thus strengthening nuclear security of the country.

**Which other conferences have you participated in?**  
In December 2016, I attend-

ed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Nuclear Security.

In July 2016, I presented a paper in China at the International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC) and the paper has been selected for publication in the Energy Procedia Journal, based on the summary and my oral presentation. The paper is currently in the press for the next edition.

In **September** 2015, I presented a paper in Linz, Austria, at the 8th Euro-Mediterranean Symposium on Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy 2015 where I was awarded the first prize for my poster presentation. This was my maiden award.

In March 2015, I presented a poster at the Focus on Microscopy Conference in

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## LAST WORDS FROM JAPHETH ODERA-EXITING CHAIR ONUSS

*Japheth advised the incoming management of ONUSS to build on the foundation that has been laid down for the benefit of the students.*



When interacting with Japheth Odera, the immediate chair of Organization of Science Students (ONUSS) in the University of Nairobi, one is struck by the humble demeanor of this student leader.

Japheth's vision for the science students in the University of Nairobi is that of unity regardless of where one is going and one's objectives. Japheth moulded ONUSS into an organization that nurtures young leaders in Chiromo.

His interests are in industrial chemistry, both in the science and the business behind the industry. Japheth made the College proud by earning a first class honors in his studies. During his tenure he increased interaction between student leadership in the College and the industry corporate leadership, whilst building bridges between the student leadership in the College and the College administration. He firmly believes in the use of dialogue for common solutions.

As a student leader he also worked on several initiatives although by his own admission, he was not able to do as much as he would have wished. A visit to Chandaria paper industries gave him the idea of introducing the concept of "waste segregation" to the College. This initiative re-

sulted in the setting up of a segregated waste paper point in the College and afforded him the opportunity to work with the Chairman of the Chemistry Department on sensitizing the community on the impact of waste disposal. Going forward, his objective is to encourage students to use collection and sale of waste paper and other income generating projects as a means of raising funds for the club.

Japheth was grateful for the opportunity the University gave him to interact with dignitaries from the larger Kenyan community and beyond. He had the privilege to meet with the former President of the United States, Barack Obama, the Prime Minister of Italy H.E. Matteo Renzi and the Chairman of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) – Mr Vimal Shah. Japheth advised the incoming management of ONUSS

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## PhD Nuclear Forensics Student Wins Award



**Ms. Bobby Bhatt displays her certificate**

From Pg 12

Göttingen, Germany.

### What was your most memorable moment during the LIBS conference in September 2015?

I received immense support from Prof. Johannes Pedarnig, Johannes Kepler University, Linz. He waived off my registration fee of £400. The professor also covered the cost of my stay and air ticket, Vienna-Nairobi.

### Why should a graduate student participate in conferences?

It is very important to present your research work as posters or oral presentations in confer-

ences. Conferences give a global platform for the research community to be aware of the work you are undertaking. In addition, through presentations, researchers' work is acknowledged and appreciated. It is also a requirement in the University of Nairobi regulations to present your research papers in conferences. However, the University should allocate some fund to PhD students, especially to foreign students; to enable them attend international conferences as a consideration of their additional foreign students' fee charge.

### What changes would you recommend to the department for better and enhanced re-

### search?

PhD students need to be allocated a room fitted with apt Internet accessibility, where they can undertake their research work when they are not operating the instruments in the lab. This will enable them undertake their research better.

Additionally, PhD students attending conferences should be facilitated through grants provision.

With these, focus in research will be more enhanced especially when students present their research worldwide during conferences. This will give a great name to the University of Nairobi.

**PhD students need to be allocated offices fitted with apt internet accessibility, where they can undertake their research, if they are not in research labs. This enables them undertake their research better**



## LAST WORDS: JAPHETH ODERA-EXITING CHAIR ONUSS

From Pg 12

to build on the foundation that has been laid down and to continue to work positively with the College Management for the benefit of the students. He challenged the new team to build strong relationships with the students to ensure that personal problems such as sickness and class issues are easily resolved. He advised that student projects such as the Peer Mentors Club,

campaigns against HIV infection and drug abuse, should continue to be supported. He also highlighted one of the main challenges facing students as lack of opportunities in the job market. He suggested that student clubs could address this by strengthening links between current students and Chiromo student Alumni with a view to building linkages with the industry. He thanked students and management for the support he received during his tenure as

Chairman. The editorial board of CBPS news wish him all the best in his endeavours.



## INSIGHT INTO ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS ACTIVITIES



Ms. Lucy Jiomba interacts with students in CBPS

*“The Dean of Students office works with other departments to ensure students are provided with the services they deserve”*

The office of the Assistant Dean of Students (ADS) has the responsibility of catering for students welfare from entry to graduation. Chiromo campus has located the Assistant Dean’s office next to finance, where students can receive the following services.

#### **Counseling Services-**

Offered free of charge to enhance students psychological, emotional, social and behavioral well-being. Students are offered professional support on such issues as; bereavement, relationships, Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADA), Health concerns, personality concerns, stress, trauma and academic issues.

#### **Advocacy and liaison activities -**

The Dean of Students office works with other departments to ensure students are provided with the services they deserve while also ensuring they observe the code of conduct for students. The duties include:

#### **Follow-up on students with discipline issues-**

Aimed at encouraging and supporting them to reform.

#### **Coordination of all clubs and societies activities**

to ensure all clubs are registered and adhere to the university policies.

#### **Providing support to students with disability**

to ensure they have an equal opportunity to acquire education and as much as possible participate in the various aspects of university life. In this regard the office offers advice and advocates for the welfare of these students e.g. in issues of accommodation.

#### **Coordination of the students work-study programme**

**Signing of HELB and Bursary forms** for students.

**Students Orientation-** ensuring all students are provided with the students’ information booklet to guide and facilitate orientation of new students in the

college.

CBPS News interviewed the Assistant Dean of Students who is domicile at the college. She provided the interview with some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) that cover the concerns of students in the college.

#### **FAQ: What is the difference between the Assistant Dean of Students and the student Counsellor?**

**The Assistant Dean of Students:** ADS office is in charge of administration of students welfare activities while the Students Counsellor is responsible for provision of psycho-social support services to student.

#### **FAQ: My problem seems complex and confusing; it also involves a lot of different offices. Where do I start?**

We offer liaison services so we will

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## INNOVATIVE START-UPS GRADUATE FROM AfTIA



The Africa Technology and Innovation Accelerator (AfTIA), a start-up incubation programme emanating from UoN’s innovation lab, Computing for Development lab, recently graduated nine start-ups after a rigorous 6-

month mentorship period ending November 2016.

AfTIA aims to incubate and accelerate innovative technology start-ups with an objective of commercializing the innovations. AfTIA was launched by the Vice-chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Ratansi at the inaugural Nairobi Innovation week in 2014. Among the nine startups

that graduated were Vospine, REQUEST, Elimu Advisor and M-KULIMA. Vospine is a social networking platform which brings different people together, having similar interests to share their experiences and knowledge while REQUEST is an online

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# INNOVATIVE START-UPS GRADUATE FROM AFTIA

From Pg.14

platform tool that can be used by musicians to monitor music air play.

Elimu Advisor on the other hand is a web platform that helps and guides students who have completed Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) on career choices while M-KULIMA uses Internet of Things to increase efficiency of farming.

Other startups on the graduating list were: Learnmine, an online platform connecting learners with skilled tutors who have various expertise; M-ASCA, an indiscriminate mobile phone based accumulating savings and credit association that aims at bringing community members

together, in order to improve their livelihoods; CipherTech, a home security solution; Silicon Savannah, an anti-fraud security system for insurance companies and individuals and Proolabs, a startup leveraging on the power of analytics to provide fraud investigation insight.

The startups are driven by an entrepreneurial approach to product development throughout the incubation period, commencing from pre-incubation, to early stage acceleration, unto growth stage acceleration.

Annually, AftIA calls for application from non-incubated and original innovations in the following categories: technology in health, education, governance, finance and agriculture.

Incubations are received from within and outside the university comprising students, alumni and researchers.

During the incubation period, start-ups are provided with office space and broadband internet. Intellectual property protection, business mentorship programs, networking avenues, auditing and legal services are also availed to the mentees.

Intel and UNICEF are among key mentors in the project.

**“Annually, AftIA calls for application from non-incubated and original innovations.”**



## INSIGHT INTO DEAN OF STUDENT’S ACTIVITIES

From Pg 14

refer/help you get assistance from the other offices.

Visit the Assistant Dean of students (ADS) for guidance:

**FAQ: What resources are there for students who disclose financial hardship?**

Students can register with the Special Students Advisor in main campus as needy students. Once qualified, they receive bursary.

We have a work study programme where needy students request for consideration to the Principal through the Assistant Dean of students.

Students need to visit the ADS office to explore other

possibilities.

**FAQ:As a foreign student, what services can you offer me?**

This depends on the requirement, but we generally offer all services to all students without discrimination. In case of a special need like advice on how to get a Kenyan students pass, please visit us.

**FAQ:I am doing poorly in academics and I fear dismissal, could you help?**

Yes, visit the office for counselling to help us determine the reason behind non-performance. We will also explore areas where you may require our intervention.

**FAQ:I am having a problem with my on-campus roommate, whom should I**

**contact?**

The Halls Officer .Write a letter to him/her and make a request.

**FAQ:What is the students’ code of conduct? How will I know if I am alleged to have violated the student code of conduct?**

The students code of conduct refers to the rules and regulations governing the institution, conduct and discipline of students at the University of Nairobi.

Refer to the students information handbook pg.104-114.Using this as the criteria, evaluate whether you have violated the code. Best of all, observe self discipline.



## CBPS PARTICIPATES IN NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

The 2016 Nairobi International Trade Fair took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The theme of the show was “**Enhancing Technology in Agriculture and Industry for Food Security and National Growth**”. The four projects from the College were from: Department of Physics, School of Computing and Informatics and Science Workshop. The summary of the projects is as follows:

### Shamba Plus Software for Farmers

This software was developed by the School of Computing and Informatics. It makes use of meteorological data and soil characteristics to give essential information to farmers, which will enable them to reap maximum benefits. The information provided include: where to obtain farm inputs, ranking of the suitable type of crops to cultivate in a given area and the corresponding costs, planting and harvesting periods, yields and the available market options. Farmers in diverse areas of this country therefore obtain valuable knowledge and are further connected to vital networks and markets. This was a fourth year student project.

### Modern Chicken House

The modern chicken house comprises an automatic feeding trough and an egg banker. This valuable piece of farm device allows automatic feeding of chicken when they step on a given area within the structure. Food for the chicken

therefore becomes available only when required. Wastage of feeds is thus minimized in addition to maintaining a clean environment. Eggs can also be safely stored and collected in a separate compartment.

### Remotely Piloted Aircraft System for Pesticide Application

Developed by the Department of Physics, this is a locally designed and fabricated aerial system that is utilized to spray pesticides in farms. It is automated, easy to deploy and follows specified instructions. Other applications of this system are: crop monitoring, land mapping, crop disease detection and crops classification. The device, uses Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, to fly on its own to selected farms and perform the various functions.



UON Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Show Chairman Respect the National Anthem

### Sign Language to Speech Translation Glove

Also developed by the Physics department, This software utilizes an electronic glove to convert sign language to speech. Deaf and dumb farmers, upon wearing this glove, can therefore effectively communicate with their clients on smart phones. The exhibit was a fourth year student project that was demonstrated during the 2016 Nairobi Innovations Week and was one of the few that was consequently selected for display at the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) that was recently held in Nairobi.



## AMITOJ SINGH THE 55TH VALEDICTORIAN

From Pg. 3

In order for students to excel at their studies, they must choose what they really want to do, no matter what other people think about it. Sadly this is not the case and as a result, many students don't live up to their full potential. I would encourage first years to show the same level of commitment throughout the course of their degree as they show in their first years. Lots of times students come to



Amitoj giving the Valedictorian Speech

the university and work really hard in their first year but then slack off during their second and third years after which it becomes harder to get the overall grade they had aspired to get.”

His words of wisdom ring true as he has proven himself from the grades he has made. CBPS News wish Amitoj all the best in the future as he begins the next chapter in the journey of life.



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