

LOCALUMAN NEWSLETTER A Publication of the University Nairobi Alumni Association A Publication of the University of

Nairobi Alumni Association

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

> **OUR ALUMNI ON** THE FRONTLINE COVID-19

MAKING GLOBAL IMPACT

HOME & AWAY



Welcome

n behalf of UON Alumni Association (UONAA), I welcome you to this 14th issue of the alumni newsletter. This year started on a high note when our Association officially launched the UONAA Scholarship Fund on March 13th 2020. The Association handed over cheques worth KShs. 2 Million to 52 1st year students from the 7 colleges of the university. UONAA has set out an ambitious plan to offer 1000 Scholarships to bright and needy students at the University of Nairobi over the next 5 years.

These students will not only get cash support for their tuition, meals and accommodation but UONAA will also strive to offer mentorship and coaching to these students and also attach them to industry as they pursue their studies at the University. This fund will be a progression from the bursary fund kitty that the Association had contributed KShs. 21 Million and supported over 4,000 students over the last 10 years. I urge our fellow alumni to support us in this endeavor through cash or in kind support.

The month of April 2020 came with its fairs share of challenges with Kenya reporting its first case of the global Covid 19 pandemic. The cases have continued to rise and has majorly affected the operations of our alumni. I wish to thank all alumni who have come out bravely to support those affected by the virus.

I also want to take this opportunity on behalf of the alumni community to congratulate Prof. Stephen Kiama Gitahi for being installed as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of our great University of Nairobi. We look forward to working with him. Further, I want to thank members for giving me and the executive committee another opportunity to lead the Association for a further term of 3 years.

Lastly, remember to stay safe and follow all government laid down directives, during this new normal. Thank you and God bless!

Mr. Isaac Awuondo

Chairman, UoN Alumni Association





Editor's Note

he 14th issue of this UoNAA magazine is unique not only because of the fresh redesign, but also that it comes at a time when the world is struggling to cope with a new normal due to the coronavirus pandemic. I am grateful to the entire team for having braced the challenges brought by the virus to put together this edition.

This is also the first issue since the current executive committee for the alumni association came into office. I therefore take this opportunity to congratulate the new Executive Committee that was elected to office in December 2019. The new team has promised to reinvigorate the association and make it more visible and impactful.

This issue of Alumni newsletter will profile Alumni making impacts locally and internationally. During this period of Covid-19 crisis UoN Alumni have been very visible in the fight against the pandemic coming up with innovations and wide range of Interventions. We congratulate them.

The change of guard at the University of Nairobi is also good news that has been received warmly by the Alumni community. The new Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Kiama Gitahi who is a member of the Association has expressed his desire to work closely with the Alumni Association for the benefit of the University of Nairobi. The editorial team had an interview with the Professor to find out how he has managed to wade through the controversies surrounding his appointment and settled quickly to steer the University through the covid-19 crisis.

We look forward to your feedback!

John Anthony Onyango Orindi, MCIPR

Editor, UoN Alumni Association

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The Executive Committee



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Mr. Keneth Sawe
Executive Director

UoN Alumni elect new officials



n Saturday 30th November 2019, University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) held its 2nd Annual General Meeting at the University of Nairobi Taifa Hall. Registered members of UONAA got a chance to elect new members to lead the Association for a term of three years. The event was graced by the Chancellor, Dr. (Mrs.) Rattansi, Ag. Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o.

The following are the elected officials; Mr. Isaac Awuondo- Chairman, Dr.Anne Aseey-Vice-Chairman, Prof. Patrick L.O Lumumba-Secretary, Mrs. Mildred Owuor-treasurer, Mr.Johnson Kinyua-Organizing Secretary, Dr.Fronica Monari-Deputy Secretary, Dr. Hastings Ozwara-Deputy Treasurer, Mr. Andrew Gakiria - Deputy Organizing Secretary, Mr.John Orindi-Newsletter Editor, Mr. Brian Ouma(Co-opted Member)-Representing the University Advancement and Mr.Keneth (Ex-Official)-Executive Director.

In her remarks, the Chancellor, Dr. Vijoo Rattansi challenged the members to mobilize resources to support the University especially in the areas of student bursaries, scholarships and capital projects. The Ag. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Mbeche promised to work closely with UONAA to ensure that the Association plays its rightful role in supporting the University.

"As a Word Class University, we continue to improve

UONAA elected officials & UoN Management pose for a photo. From left (sitting) Mr. John Orindi, Dr.Anne Aseey, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o (UoN), Dr. (Mrs.) Vijoo Rattansi (UoN), Mr. Isaac Awuondo, Mrs. Mildred Owuor, Mr. Brian Ouma (UoN), Dr.Fronica Monari. From left (standing) Mr. Keneth Sawe, Dr. Hastings Ozwara, Prof.Patrick L.O Lumumba, Dr. James Michira, Mr. Andrew Gakiria, Mr. Johnson Kinyua.

on our areas of weakness and we shall leverage on our strong alumni spread across the different spheres of life to make significant contribution towards the growth and stability of our university," said Prof.Mbeche.

The Chairman UONAA, Mr. Isaac Awuondo highlighted the major activities the Association undertook in the last three years in line with its mission and vision.

"As Alumni, we remain a key stakeholder of the University as we play a critical role in advancing the University's vision and mission", said Awoundo." As an Association, we continue to make major strides in supporting our alma mater as well as fostering good relations between the alumni, students, the university community and industry."



ON Alumni Association (UONAA) Scholarship Fund is a program that provides University Scholarships and Mentorship to academically gifted but financially disadvantaged University of Nairobi students. This fund is a build up from the UON Bursary Fund that UONAA has supported over the last 10 years to a tune of KShs. 21,000,000 (Twenty One Million)in line with one of its main objectives; to assist the University to initiate, organize and sustain programmes such as Bursary Fund,

Alumni Scholarship Fund that seeks to support 1,000 bright and needy students

Outstanding Achievement Award and Distinguished Service Award.

In the 2019/2020 academic year, UON Alumni Association led by the Chairman Mr. Isaac Awuondo made a commitment to kick start an Alumni Scholarship Fund that seeks to support 1,000 bright and needy students pursuing their studies at the University of Nairobi over the next 5 years. In addition to the scholarship, the Association will endeavour to attach the beneficiaries to alumni in the Industry for

mentorship and practical exposure through Internship and work study programs.

Speaking during the award ceremony that saw 52 (Fifty Two) 1st year students get a 1 year full scholarship, the Chairman noted that although





the Scholarship targeted 1st year students, the Association received over 500 applications from UON continuing students and 259 from 1st Year Students. This is a clear indicator that more needs to be done to support students currently pursuing their studies at the University. He also noted a low number of women applicants to the Scholarship Fund. Only 23% of the applicants were women compared to 77% men. He emphasised the need for more sensitization during the next cycle based on lessons learnt from this pilot phase.

On his part, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama recognized the efforts of the Association in supporting the University of Nairobi in various activities and projects i.e. Bursary Fund, Nairobi Innovation Week, University Prizes, Open Days and Graduation Ceremonies. He promised to continue engaging the Association on ways of encouraging UON Alumni out there to come back and give back to their alma mater.



Process



Selection Process

he Alumni Association (UONAA) Scholarship Fund selection committee had a huge task of ensuring that the selection process was well conducted. The culmination of the proces was through an interview on 4th February 2020 at the University Tower, with the 70 shortlisted applicants who had fulfilled the given requirements. Fifty students were then selected to be awarded a one year full scholarship at the University of Nairobi for the academic year 2019/2020.

Testimonials

"From UONAA Scholarship Beneficiairies"



Charles Oyamo School of Journalism & Mass Communication

1st Year Student

oining the University of Nairobi currently ranks as my greatest achievement and I for sure know that I am the envy of most, if not all of the Form Four students across the region.

I was looking forward to interact with the greatest minds and that this would be an experience to take me places. As exciting as this one was, I had what at the time seemed as the greatest hurdle to overcome.

I come from a humble family and funding my education was not a walk in the park. I tried to seek financial aid from various organizations all to no avail. The reporting date was fast approaching and I only had my admission letter in my right hand and the dream of brighter days. I consulted with the office of the Dean of Students and decided to take a forceful gap year as I like to call it. I deferred my studies in hopes that I would rejoin the following year but I still didn't know where I would get funds.

My mother helped as she saved a few coins towards the same. I would regularly visit the university's website and this kept me updated. It is on one of these visits that I came across information about the University of Nairobi Alumni Association Scholarship and their goal to support 1,000 brilliant but needy students over the next five years.

For every scholarship opportunity I came across, I applied. I was fortunate enough to be invited for an interview and subsequently privileged to be a beneficiary of the UONAA Scholarship program. The scholarship offered more than I could ever imagine.

The experience I received from the whole of this journey cannot be traded for anything. I have created networks, made friends, learnt, and a lot of people: The University's Vice-Chancellor, the Chairman of the Alumni Association, and the top management while a freshman!

We even created a group as beneficiaries and it's a family that checks on each other. I now have no worries about what I'll eat, where I'll sleep, or who will pay my fees because of the incredible selflessness of the donors to this fund. I am entirely grateful for this opportunity and I will work extremely hard to uphold the trust you have put in me even as we continue to donate towards supporting more needy students.



Colleta Chepkosgei Department of Veterinary Medicine 1st Year Student

am Colleta Chepkosgei, a first year student pursuing a course in Veterinary Medicine.

Being a member of the University of Nairobi community is really a privilege that cannot be taken for granted. However it comes with its challenges. These challenges have made many students to drop out of the University at some point. I am glad to have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Alumni's scholarship fund. This will help me in so many ways.

The scholarship will help me study comfortably at the university without worrying about going without a meal. Most of the students have to sometimes go hungry because they lack money to buy food. Most students also have been found to miss classes for lack of accommodation at the university. However, with the scholarship fund, I will easily get a room at the university as I don't have any problem raising the fee.

Outstanding school fees balance is a major deterrent for many students from successful completion of their university courses. I have seen my fellow classmates cry during exam days for being denied the opportunity to sit the exams due to unpaid school fees. However with the scholarship fund I won't have to worry about my efforts to study going to waste and for not being allowed to sit the exams.

Another challenge I face as a student sometimes is the lack of basic necessities like toiletries and this can easily cause you to skip lectures. This can go on for days as your parent or guardian may not have the means at the time. The scholarship fund will help me cater for these basic necessities easily.

I really thank the University of Nairobi Alumni for having such an idea in mind and would really be glad if many of us would benefit from the scholarship. Thank vou UoN Alumni Association!

With the fund I can be able to study comfortably at the University without worrying about lacking a meal.

Cohort 1

2019/2020 UoN Alumni Scholarship Fund Beneficiaries

NO	NAME	HOME COUNTY	STUDENT NUMBER	COURSE
1	JUSTUS MAKWORO ONCHIRI	KISII	A83/5264/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION)
2	PATRICK OCHIENG OPOLE	HOMA BAY	A90/4776/2019	FOOD NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
3	DAVID ODHIAMBO NDIAWA	KISUMU	B02/1064/2019	BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE
4	DAVID WACHIRA MAINA	MURANGA	B66/1068/2019	QUANTITY SURVEYING
5	PAUL ADESA	HOMA BAY	B66/1097/2019	BACHELOR OF QUANTITY SURVEYING
6	NICKSON BERA NGEYWO	BUNGOMA	B66/5521/2019	QUANTITY SURVEYING
7	PATIENCE MUSEMBI MWENDWA	MAKUENI		ARTS
8	KEVIN MUENDO KIIO	MAKUENI	C01/0217/2019 C01/0259/2019	BACHELOR OF ARTS
9	KELVIN MURERWA MURERWA	MERU	C01/0308/2019	BACHELOR OF ARTS
10	PENINNAH MUTHOKI MUTHENGI	MAKUENI	C01/136017/2019	BACHELOR OF ARTS BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY
11	MARGARET MUMBI MBURU	KIAMBU	c01/137664/2019	BA POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
12	ELIUD EKUWAM ETUKUTAN	TURKANA	C01/C465/2019	BACHELOR OF ARTS
13	JOSPHAT KIPNGETICH BETT	NAKURU	co1/0591/2019	BACHELOR ARTS BACHELOR ARTS
14	JOSEPH ODHIAMBO WANGACH	SIAYA	D33/138960/2019	BACHELOR OF COMMERCE
15	ROGERS OKOTH OYOKO	HOMA BAY	E35/3740/2019	BACHELOR OF COMMERCE BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
16	KIBET NGENO KEVIN	KERICHO	E46/2064/2019	EDUCATION ICT
17	MARK SIMIYU SIMIYU	VIHIGA	E46/3974/2019	EDUCATION ICT
18	HUSSEIN TAHERALI IMANI	MOMBASA	F16/137600/2019	BSC CIVIL ENGINEERING
19	LUKE AYIEKO AMOLO	HOMA BAY	F16/1716/2019	CIVIL ENGINEERING
20	SYLVESTER ODHIAMBO OMUNGU	MIGORI	F17/1792/2019	BSC. ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING
21	JADIS AZADE AGANDA	KISUMU	F18/1818/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
22	EVANCE OMONDI ONDORO	HOMA BAY	F21/1478/2019	BSC. BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING
23	PETER MURIITHI KANYARI	MERU	F21/2242/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
24	JOSHUA OCHIENG OCHIEL	SIAYA	F21/2256/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING
25	LYDIAH WAMBUI MAINA	MURANGA	H12/1500/2019	BIOCHEMISTRY
26	EMMANUEL OKOTH OCHOLA	SIAYA	H32/1491/2019	SCIENCE IN NURSING
27	CLARRYSON LAIN KIPIGH	BARINGO	H32/2731/2019	SCIENCE IN NURSING
28	CENTRINE NAFULA WAFULA	BUNGOMA	H32/2732/2019	SCIENCE (NURSING)
29	SAMUEL NJUGUNA KARANJA	KIAMBU	107/137119/2019	ACTUARIAL SCIENCE
30	JOSHUA MOSETI MOGIRE	KISII	108/1322/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY
31	ABEL WANAMI NYONGESA	BUNGOMA	110/1399/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (METEOROLOGY)
32	SARAH ONGACHI	VIHIGA	110/1424/2019	METEOROLOGY
33	ROONEY OMONDI OTIENO	KISUMU	110/1426/2019	BSC. METEOROLOGY
34	PETER MUTUNGA KIETI	MAKUENI	114/1599/2019	SCIENCE
35	MARTIN ADWOGO TADAYO	KAKAMEGA	120/2117/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (MATH & PHYSICS)
36	OUKO JOSHUA OKOTH	HOMA BAY	120/5525/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
37	ERIC KIMONDO WAMBUI	LAIKIPIA	144/2402/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS
38	PETER KAMAU NDUNGU	NYANDARUA	163/1271/2019	STATISTICS
39	FELIX ONYANGO ODHIAMBO	HOMA BAY	164/1575/2019	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHEMISTRY
40	BONFACE NZYOKA JANET	MAKUENI	J30/2517/2019	BACHELOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
41	COLLETA CHEPKOSGEI MELI	NANDI	J30/2522/2019	VETERINARY MEDICINE
42	LAMECK OTWORI OMBULU	NYAMIRA	J30/2535/2019	VETERINARY MEDICINE
43	CHRISTOPHER JUNIOR OTIENO	SIAYA	J30/2566/2019	BACHELOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
44	BOAZ PKEMOI SIWANYANG	WEST POKOT	J30/5221/2019	VETERINARY MEDICINE
45	CHARLES OTIENO OYAMO	MIGORI	K59/5465/2019	ARTS JOURNALISM AND MEDIA STUDIES
46	ABUBAKAR ABDI MOHAMED	GARISSA	p15/136877/2019	COMPUTER SCIENCE
47	STEPHEN OCHIENG ODODA	SIAYA	U29/2479/2019	B PHARM
48	ALEX MUSAWA MASINDE	BUNGOMA	V28/2428/2019	BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY
49	LINDA CLARICE OKOTH	SIAYA	X74/4223/2019	ECONOMICS
50	MOSES MUTURI MACHARIA	KIAMBU	X74/5542/2019	ECONOMICS
51	DIANA UMAZI KAMBI	KWALE	X75/4821/2019	BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS
52	STEPHEN NDEGWA IRUNGU	NYERI	X75/4834/2019	BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND



BACKGROUND

UoN Alumni Association Scholarship Fund is a program that provides University Scholarships and Mentorship to academically gifted but financially disadvantaged University of Nairobi Students.

This fund is a build up from the UoN Bursary Fund that UONAA has supported over the last 10 years to a tune of KShs.21,000,000.00 (Twenty One Million).

The Scholarship Fund target is to financially support 1000 (One Thousand) needy and deserving students at the University of Nairobi over the next 5 years.

PURPOSE

- 1. To financially support bright but needy students from the University of Nairobi.
- 2. To attach the beneficiaries to alumni in the Industry for mentorship and practical exposure through Internship and Work Study programs.
- 3. To bring together the UoN Alumni community and foster the 'giving back' spirit with the intent of positively impacting the younger generation.

GOAL

To provide scholarships to one thousand (1000) needy but bright UoN students over the next 5 years.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1. Eligibility for Scholarship Fund is limited to UoN students.
- 2. Must be an undergraduate student studying at UoN.
- 3. Student MUST be proved to be needy and of good academic standing.
- 4. Student MUST adhere and sign the terms and conditions of the Scholarship Fund.
- 5. Age Limit for the Applicant is 17-25 years.



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Institution / Organization				
Amount [KSh USD]				
Discipline (e.g Arts, Medicine, Engineering)				
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Donate directly through: alumni.uonbi.ac.ke/donate or cheque payal	ble to UoN Alumni Association			



YEARS LATER

"Alumni doctors return to appreciate UoN"

🖥 wo medical alumni of the University of Nairobi returned to their alma mater on 4th July 2020 with KSh6 million scholarship offer for five students from the School of Medicine. Cardiologist Betty Gikonyo and psychiatrist Frank Njenga graduated from the UoN's School of Medicine 45 years ago - 1975. The Sh6 million scholarship starting 2021 will benefit the select students every year.

Gikonyo and Njenga have fond memories for the institution that made them the success they are today. July 4 will forever be etched in their mind for it is the date in 1970 that they enrolled in the School of Medicine. The septuagenarians reminisced fondly about the university that built their childhood dreams.

For Gikonyo, the Karen Hospital co-founder and CEO, the memories go deeper - she met Daniel Gikonyo, her husband of 46 years in her second year. Three years later, they wedded at the school. In 1975, Gikonyo graduated with MBCHB and after her internship in Nakuru, returned to the UoN for a Master's in Pediatrics.

On his part, Njenga apologised for leading strikes at









the university. He said he was young and failed to look at other avenues of redressing issues. "I had a misguided energy of youth, and raised the flag of freedom, leading at least two strikes. Fifty years later, I come to seek forgiveness," he said.

Njenga, a psychiatrist consultant who runs Chiromo Lane Medical Centre, advised the university leadership to adopt better ways of managing youths. "Leaders can sometimes misinterpret the way of thinking of the youth. When you accept and talk to them, it is easier to manage them," he advised.

Vice-Chancellor Stephen Kiama, who received the scholarship, lauded the two medics and encouraged other alumni to come back and support the university. "I am grateful for the solid foundation that you laid in the alumni and the exemplary leadership which has continued to inspire the Alumni Association to grow in size and impact," Kiama said.

The two are founding members of the University of Nairobi Alumni Association which was formed in 2005 with Gikonyo as the founding chair.

"They offered Ksh.6 Million worth of scholarship to five students in the School of Medicine"

Courtesy of Star Newspaper; July 6th 2020

Edited by R. Wamochie and Keneth Sawe



New VC wades through the storm and sets sights on reforms

Prof. Stephen Kiama Vice Chancellor, UoN

Immediately you took up the role of Chief Executive of UoN, Covid-19 came knocking, how did you handle it?

My expectation was to come in and fit in a normal routine of running the University but that was not the case because of the Covid-19 pandemic so I had to embrace the new normal and purse a different approach because the students were away and staff had taken off. My main challenge was to bring the University back to Life but with the support of the Senate and University Executive Board Chair I was able to overcome the challenge.

I was able to bring things back to normal though the approach had to be different in that most of the communication was being done through emails, text messages, WhatsApp messages and phone calls and hence I needed to be more proactive in responding to the messages and phone calls so that everything runs smoothly.

The other big challenge was changing the University culture of physical classroom teaching to virtual teaching, most of my faculty members were not keen in adapting to the virtual teaching model but they have since accepted and went to the extent of administering exams online.

The post graduate students were very quick in accepting the online learning model owing to that fact that they are mature in terms of age and exposure though their counterparts who are the undergraduate were a bit reluctant in that virtual learning affected their social lives forgetting that they each have individual goals and objectives to achieve in life but they have since changed and embraced the online learning system.

What are the major milestones you hope to achieve during your tenure?

I plan to provide a conducive environment for members of staff and students to be able to express

themselves, we have un utilized wealth of information at the University and I believe with good platforms where our members of staff and students can contribute ideas, then the University can achieve its intended growth.

I am also devising mechanism which will boost the financial stability of the Institution by sealing all financial leakages within the University, enhance revenue growth and use the resources more efficiently by aligning the resources with our core mandate which is teaching, research and extension work and also exploit tangible assets such as copy rights, patterns and utility models.

I also plan to have proper records on data, this will help my management make key decisions such as development of a succession plan for members of staff who are about to retire whether administration staff or faculty members. With good data we will be able to establish our areas of strength when it comes to publishing of academic of papers and Journals and thus concentrate on what we are good at.

With good data we will be able to know the number of international students and their countries of origin and the field they undertake, thus carry out a vigorous marketing campaigns in those countries which will help grow our numbers but at the same time make sure we have taken good care of the students by making sure they are safely accommodated.

Will good data we will be able to follow up students after graduation to check on their employability

"My desire to see Alumni come back and give talks to our students as well as financial resources"

rates, also get to ascertain the industry with high employability rates. Good data will also help us in Curriculum development – Put resources on programs that attract students. We have some programs that need to be repackaged so as to be able to attract students. In general, with good data we will be able to make sound decisions for the University.

How do you plan to grow revenue

and cut costs in running the **University?**

I have tenure and I plan to first of all streamline costs around the payroll, make sure our assets are well utilized, proper alignment of expenses so that they get to fit within our core business and finally outsource services which are not within our core business such as housing of staff members, construction and maintenance.

Kenyan Universities have often been criticized for being ivory towers, and not helping society solve day-to-day challenges. Your take on this?

The impression that we have created as University is that the University is all about degrees, but this is not the case because the University should be about teaching, research and community service. We have put more emphasis ion intake, graduation ceremony as opposed to research, patterns which are among our core mandates. For the University to be felt by the community then it should bring positive impact to the community through research and community service.

What role do you think Alumni groups can play in their Alma Mater?

I believe our Alumni can use their good networks to influence resource allocation for the University, they can also offer mentorship, internships and work study programmes to UoN Students.

They can also fundraise to support programmes such as scholarship and any other project that can be beneficial to the University community.

How do you plan to work with **UoN Alumni Association?**

My desire to see Alumni come back and give talks to our students as well as financial resources. I also wish to request the Alumni Office to help trace Alumni who have since graduated and left the University so as to help find out their whereabouts, follow up to know whether they have been employed or not.

Finally, I plan to work and support the Alumni Office and I have a major expectation on them.



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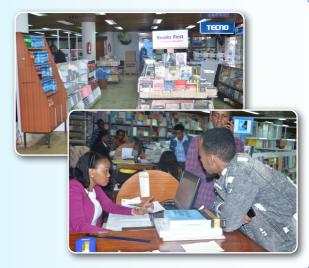
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Mombasa Alumni

Port city residents aided



he COVID-19 pandemic demands deliberate individual and collective responses not only to curb the rate of infections but also in addressing the resultant issues.

In response, the County Government of Mombasa set up an elaborate emergency household relief and nutrition support project. As demanded by our alma mater's core value of responsible citizenship, the Mombasa Campus in conjunction with the University of Nairobi Alumni Association embarked on supporting this County Initiative.

From the contributions of staff, students and the Mombasa chapter of the alumni, we handed over foodstuff and sanitary towels worth Ksh188, 880 to Governor Hassan Ali Joho on 19th May 2020.

The Governor expressed appreciation for the support and continued partnership with the University

of Nairobi. He also underlined the role of academia as researchers informing control and management of the pandemic. In particular, he called upon academics to explore perceptions and other factors hindering compliance with the COVID-19 health directives.

The Mombasa Campus director, Sarah Kinyanjui lauded the County Government's efforts and affirmed the university's commitment to providing technical support as well in other ways.

From the contributions of staff, the Mombasa students and Chapter of the alumni, we handed over foodstuff and sanitary towels worth Ksh 188, 880



Visit alumni.uonbi.ac.ke



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OUR ALUMNI, OUR STRENGTH

hout



Character development and connections from the teaching staff and year-mates, have influenced greatly my placement and career development.

For future Alumni, Create networks meaningful nurture positive relationships while in campus across, with fellow students and staff because these relationships will be very meaningful in your career progression. You will need them more than anyone else.

Caleb Wekesa



Best memories were the days in first year in the architectural studios while doing our technical drawing assignments, adapting to campus life while taking cheap meals from the famous Club 36 market, my building technology classes by Dr. Mbatha and finally the day I was awarded my firstclass honors degree.

The University of Nairobi shaped my career path by molding me into the professional I am in the Kenyan construction industry.

Tedson Muriuki



The University of Nairobi, being a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary university dedicated to creativity, innovation, and excellence in teaching, learning, and research, has shaped my career path through rigorous practical workshop sessions. Because of the high number of students in my class, sometimes I couldn't have had the chance to do some of my experiments, and that gave me a thirst and a quest to pursue postgraduate studies so that I could be an independent researcher. This together with the encouragement from my supervisor (Dr. Thomas Ochuku) to pursue greatness in research, really shaped how I perceive things.

Matoke Peter



I got great skills here. I made friends, networks now. I have now transitioned into a different career path and thankful to the common courses I studied like Communication. This is key! I'd say the best thing I got is being able to transition and learn new skills quickly.

Skill is more important thing in the current world. Do not shun away from an opportunity to learn something new. Go through the time in the University and have fun, chances to do that out here are minimal, priorities change a lot. Focus on your studies but have an open mind regarding your career path.

Nelson Makokha



My best memories were the educational trips the university organized to Mombasa in my 2nd and 3rd year of study; and the trip to Naivasha in my 4th year. This allowed us as a class to grow strong bonds that have lasted to date. The university has helped me be a passionate, organized and well-informed wildlife manager, which has helped me be favored when it comes to job opportunities.

Cynthia Mumbua



Communication Units played a major role in making who I am today. Dr. Hezron Mugambi was a good mentor and helped me define who I wanted to be and what I was passionate about. University of Nairobi's name is purely depended on you and me as the Alumni.

Harvey Joe



The university has various programs available both during your degree years and also after the completion of your studies. Students need to continue to engage with the university to identify programs suitable for them and their career path to reap the maximum benefit from the university. Furthermore, completion of programs offers an opportunity to grow your skills which can greatly assist in achieving individual career goals. The university and its vast Alumni have a network that if future Alumni can maximize can greatly benefit and set them on the right path.

Wanyonyi Brenda Mutenyo



Undergraduate at (SBS) offered me an opportunity to establish my future career. My interaction with Dr. Maina Wagacha, Dr. Anthony Otieno and Dr. George Ong'amo turned out to be a major blessing towards the progression to my Master's study. Currently, I am well knowledgable in the field of genomics, immunology and bioinformatics courtesy of the University of Nairobi Master's scholarship at CEBIB. The center (CEBIB) shaped my skills as well as thoughts on how to approach life and prepared me for my current career path (PhD).

For future Alumni, strongly believe in your dreams and the University of Nairobi will act as a scaffold or anchor towards fulfilling them.

Kevin Omondi Ochwedo



The story of a valiant heroine

Dr. Mercy Mwangangi CAS Health, MOH, Kenya

What has been the journey so far since you took office?

It's past 100 days in terms of our Covid-19 response and you can imagine it feels like we've been fighting for years but I must say that I'm quite pleased with the progress made so far.

Just the other day, we were having a de-brief at the Ministry of Health and remarked at how we literally had to send samples for testing to South Africa at the beginning.

You can imagine the experience of having to do that, the logistics that came with that. Today, we have almost 28 labs. It has been a learn-as-you-go type of experience, interestingly, this happened a little under four weeks since our appointment to office.

Things have settled down now and we have a good approach. We are of course paying attention to all these other essential medical services that also need to continue.

What was your first reaction when you were named Health CAS?

The announcement was made on a very interesting day. I was at the time working with the intergovernmental participation agreement for county governments and we were busy finalizing some agreements.

The announcement caught me off guard. I do remember trying to type out and print the agreements and heard so many people calling...and they told me "you need to watch the news". It was quite humbling to get the opportunity to serve my country.

D.O.B	1986	
Class Of	2009	
University of Adelaide	Master's degree in health economics and policy	
Work experience	 Intern - Machakos Level 5 Hospital District Medical Officer, Meru Monitoring and evaluation - MOH Chief Administative Secretary - MOH 	
What I'm reading now	21 Species Which Shaped Our World by Chris Abbot	

How has the experience been so far?

While working in my previous role, there was a lot of background and technical work. This new role is a little bit different.

It does have of course a technical aspect but there is a very huge section requiring translation. My role is acting as the bridge between the technical and the political by being the translator to ensure policies can actually be understood by the political class who play a big role in passing them. Perhaps the skills required now are more of negotiation, diplomacy and translation.

The main thing I've learnt is to deal with multiple agendas at once. When I was a medical doctor doing ward rounds, when you are on bed 10, it's all about bed 10.

In this new task, you are always dealing with at least 10 different agendas.

One day there is an issue you need to deal with in blood... an issue that has come up at NHIF, coronavirus is still there; we are having stock outs in malaria drugs. You have to know how to balance everything and how to delegate when you need to.

There are also new skills I'm learning as a leader where you are supposed to be the vision bearer.

However, the execution of the vision really lies in the team so you should have the ability to impassion your teammates to appreciate your vision, contribute to it and refine it.

You must give them the impetus to go forth and do it without particularly micromanaging the result.

What specific changes or plans or policies do you hope to put in place during your tenure?

UHC is the best way to have better health care in the country.

With the president as the torchbearer, the ministry is working to ensure NHIF is able to push through with the provision of health insurance subsidies for the poor. We are making great strides and soon you'll be able to see some fantastic progress. This is what we wake up and sleep on every single day.

Of interest also, which perhaps might be a little offside, will be the role of climate change. This has been featured over the years but it is becoming more instrumental.

The biggest lessons with COVID-19 is how our environment is such a key determinant of our health and why we really need to focus on it. I have been working in health for almost 11 years now, there's always been very little emphasis and focus on the environment.

One of the key responses in combating Covid-19 will involve emphasis on non-pharmaceutical interventions. There is no magic drug, it is really our behaviour, our environment...how we interact with the same going forward.

One of the things I want to put in place in the ministry is a focus on these social determinants of health-so having a fully-fledged team that actually looks at the interactions of health with areas such as water and sanitation.

Looking back, how did campus life prepare you for the workplace?

It required... should I say a sense of bravery? I do remember my first year as most doctors would narrate spending hours upon hours in a morgue. Before I went to med school, I never thought I would be able to sit in a mortuary and dissect our cadavers.

Remember it is a pandemic of which the world has never seen. Alot of bravery and courage has been required to put in place a response for this unseen enemy and I think med school afforded me that.

At the UON I had the honour and a privilege of having Prof George Magoha as my lecturer, VC and mentor.

I remember going through ward rounds with him years ago and here we are now together addressing the country's coronavirus response, me in health, and him in education.

Execution of the vision really lies in the

team

Are you involved in alumni activities?

We need to devote a little time to everything else outside of coronavirus.

One of the new things we are trying to put together is to come up with what I'd call a master class for public health mentorship.

This will be much like the master classes you see online having the experts in the space talking to budding young practitioners and it would mean bringing together past directors of medical services to share their insights and their valuable experiences.



Our health is our wealth

A case for more investment for the ailing sector.

When did you graduate from UoN?

In 1996, from the College of Health Science

You are co-Chair of the UHC 2030 Steering Committee, a World Bank and WHO initiative. How has the experience been so far?

The experience has been mixed in many ways. It is clear to everyone that health is a human right but almost half of the world population do not have access to health services.

About 100 million people globally become poor because of health costs with an estimated 1.5 million people in Kenya. The drive has been to make sure that every country achieves this dream by 2030.

Gains made so far have included a closer engagement between civil society and the private sector. We now have a health declaration on universal coverage by the UN.

D.O.B	1970		
Class Of	1996		
Work experience	 (1996 - 2000) Avenue Group (2000 - 2001) Madison Insurance Company Limited (2001 - 2007) gsk East Africa (July 2011 - May 2015) Nation Media Group (June 2019 to date) AMREF 		
What I'm reading now	Development as Freedom by Amartya Sen		

The level of investment in health has been low at about 40 dollars per person per year in Kenya how has this been a challenge in achieving UHC?

Yes, this has not been achieved. We are way behind the Abuja declaration of 18% and are spending under 7 % of the national budget on health. It is a major challenge and we have many still left behind.

What are the challenges Kenya must overcome in order to roll out universal health coverage?

It is going to require some drastic choices. This is a choice driven from the top and the center. As such, the best health minister is the president. Education of girls is also investment because they won't get pregnant early therefore not burdening the system with maternal mortality.

The next thing is to identify the vulnerable and providing access to them. Finally, we need to invest in community health because you can never win on UHC if you just wait for people to get sick and then treat them.

What lessons do you see from the covid-19 pandemic for Africa's healthcare policy makers?

Kenya and the rest of the world are learning that health is an investment in the economy. For long, health has been seen as consumption but over time, it has been very clear that you have to invest in people for you to grow your wealth.

I think these lessons will drive investments into UHC, infact my frustration is the government putting UHC investments on hold while we should instead be on an acceleration.

Kenya, as well as Africa's spending on primary healthcare remains below 1% of their gross domestic product (GDP). How should this be improved?

Health is distinctly different from healthcare and that is the start. When budgeting, this is the model to consider; you start with a strategy which drives policy which then drives budgeting.

Some countries like Tunisia, Iran, Thailand and France have mechanisms called National Health Assemblies which collect views from people at the ward, county and the national level.

Second is to see health in a holistic manner; health is not only hospitals, it is communities. If you don't have enough money, spend it better on primary healthcare and keep your people healthy.

What is your opinion Devolved Health Services? Should health now return to the national government?

Health has many different layers including service delivery, health workers, health commodities, money, governance and people.

If you look at these building blocks, then you can decide on how you want to devolve. So it is not a basket question. For me, I would say that service delivery need to be devolved for communities' services but secondary and tertiary care needs to be centralized because it means that there is something that needs to be shared.

What were your experience like during your time at UON?

I was from the village when I came to the University, it was the first time to be in the city for more than a day. I could not believe that one of my classmates had a car because I never actually thought people owned cars.

I pursued a Bachelors in Medicine, at that point the government provided what we called "Boom" (Allowances & free food), and the fact I could have chapatis every week other than once in a year during Christmas was notable.

When we went to KU in third year, we started to participate in student

politics in which

I was very active. At some

point, I rose to be the chair of the university's crisis committee during the lecturer's strike that almost took a year. I was the best final year student at UON; best in surgery and one more category and received a 1500 shilling prize in 1998.

These were very interesting memories that build my character, resilience and leadership.

Any parting shot to alumni of UoN?

The role of the Alumni must be stronger in identifying career opportunities, curriculum development and review must also involve the alumni.

The Alumni should also support and mentor students as well as finance the University as we see it in global universities who have created endowment funds.

> What is your advice to young graduates who are still trying to figure out what to do after leaving UoN?

> > You cannot build the future if you don't focus on cementing foundation at present. Many students are worried on whether they shall become the next Dr. Gikonyo or Dr. Githinji, do not worry about that.

the student can focus on the now, ensure the day, week, semester and year is the best, this becomes a very good foundation to the place you want to go.

I registered as a Gold Member because I believe strongly that the Alumni is the eye of the University



WE'VE MOVED

NEW LOCATION

Kolobot Drive, Off State House Rd next to UNES Headquaters

CONTACTS









- Chairman, Mr. Isaac Awuondo makes his remarks 1 during the Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2019
- A Scholarship Fund Beneficiary poses for a photo after the Scholarship Fund event.
- Prof. Stephen Kiama Gitahi is Installed as the 8^{th} Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi.
- UONAA team led by the Vice-Chairperson Dr. Anne 4 Aseey host visitors from Sweden at the UONAA Offices











- 2020 UONAA Scholarship Fund pose for a photo 5 with UONAA officials and UON Management outside Taifa Hall.
- Prof. Kiama presents the award letter to one of the 6 Scholarship Beneficiaries
- Institute of Development Studies Alumni Chapter 8 Organising Committee make a courtesy call to the Executive Director, UONAA
- A student presents his documents to the UONAA 9 Scholarship Fund Selection Committee
- The Secretariat led by the Executive Director Mr. Keneth Sawe pose for a photo with a visiting delegation from Daystar University Alumni Association after a benchmarking visit.



Students Today Alumni Tommorrow

Stella Tiyoy

Journalism and Media Studies, Student UoN

tornado that no one saw coming. A wind of change we all woke up to when it had already taken its course. That's just how I can describe the Covid-19 pandemic. We all probably never thought of how serious it could be and the fact that it would change our ways lives. The warm hugs we all looked forward to, the weekends we would hang out with friends and the basic freedom of inhaling the fresh air outside were all gone in a blink of an eye. This left many of us reminiscing on the old days. The days when sitting close to each other posed no threat to one's own health and life.

However, since the abnormal is the new normal, we have all found new ways of coping and responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, especially now that we have all been indoors. Personally, this period has enabled me to evaluate my goals and develop new strategies to achieve them. It has also been a period of self-discovery. I have learnt new skills such as baking and swimming, which I am really excited about. Most importantly, the fact that I have spent quality time with family has made me realize that family is the most important gift in someone's life that we often take for granted.

Even though the pandemic has had its negative effects on the economy and social life, looking at it with a positive attitude is what keeps us moving, with a hope for a brighter day. A day where we will all come out with a new perspective to life. Appreciating the beautiful moments with friends, colleagues and family. Appreciating the fresh air that we breathe. That day is soon.

Capitalization on Social Media platforms on Covid-19 awareness



am Jimmy Magero, a fourth-year student Reg. No. C01/31760/2015 pursuing Bachelor's degree, double major in Political Science and Sociology. I am the immediate former Students Representative (UNSA Chairperson) University of Nairobi Kisumu Campus and currently the chairperson for Kisumu County Students Association (KISA) an umbrella Union that brings together all Universities, colleges and tertiary institutions in Kisumu county.

I am the current holder of "Most influential student Leader award" a survey conducted by Talent-Preneur Kenya, an event held at Nairobi Film Centre and graced by CEO KFCB. Dr. Ezekiel Mutua.

Owing to my position and as a social responsibility, I have led a number of drives within and outside our campus in fight against Covid 19. I have with the assistance of a few committed students managed to indiscriminately trace and reach out to some of the most affected students, exceptional cases in flood hit areas of Kano plains in Kisumu County, where we managed to meet one of our Students from Lower Kabete George Odhiambo Odongo and a number from Kisumu Campus whose houses were submerged in water due to heavy rains and back flow of Lake Victoria and supported them with food stuffs and necessary items received as donations from the drive.

I have partnered with County Government and Nongovernmental organizations, Volunteer and Charity groupings to sensitive the public against the spread of Covid19: conducting reach outs for street children in the streets of Kisumu, providing them with face masks, clothes, food stuffs and sensitizing them on measures to avoid the spread of the virus.

I have capitalized on social media platforms and campus online forums to consistently share materials that create Awareness on Covid 19 control. I am in touch with the administration, both the assistant Dean of Students and the students Counselor who have been very supportive on psychosocial support cases that I have shared so far.

I have been in the forefront in campaign to embrace online learning by initiating sober discussions on campus social media forums which has enabled students to begin embracing the new learning method. Despite the risks of coming into contact with groups in my line of duty, I have managed to observe safety guidelines against covid19.

Having had the firsthand experience with the effects of Covid 19, I would wish to conclude by an assertion that this pandemic has proven to be much more than just a health crisis, a situation that calls for a multidimensional approach in handling it's adverse effects. This calls for professional intervention to look into both social, economic and political effects of this pandemic and how they can be mitigated.

The University on the other hand must also develop a strong interest in nurturing leadership amongst students, supporting that they stand out and are an asset during such Global crises.

Jimmy Magero Fourth-year Student, UoN



on sales!

IN SELECTED OUTLETS ACROSS KENYA

Register alumni.uonbi.ac.ke

UONAA hosts Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Scholarship recipients

he University of Nairobi Alumni Association (UONAA) hosted a luncheon for four postgraduate students who have been awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship to University of Toronto, Canada.

The four students are Willis Phabian Akala Opondo (PhD Sociology), Wamvua Andrew (PhD Education), Ivy Maina (MBA, Strategic Management) and Valentine Gatune (Masters in Project Management).

The UONAA Vice-Chairperson, Dr. Anne Aseey was instrumental in securing the scholarships for the students who travelled to Canada in September 2019. She said that the Alumni Association looks forward to creating more opportunities and linkages for the University of Nairobi students. "Be good brand ambassadors of UoN and create networks to benefit more students," she urged the Alumni.

The International Visiting Graduate Student (IVGS) Study Abroad programme is a fully sponsored academic scholarship administered under the Centre for International Experience, University of Toronto, Canada. The four recipients are in different schools undertaking their studies, research and networking in different disciplines.









Esther Obonyo, an associate professor of engineering design and architectural engineering in Penn State's College of Engineering, has been named director of the Global Building Network (GBN). She will be working as part of the Institutes of Energy and the Environment.

The University of Nairobi alumnus started her tenure in August 2019. It all started with her admission into the Building Economics (Quantity Surveying) program at the University of Nairobi in 1994. Her father was not keen on her studying a program that he perceived masculine and would take too long to complete. His reservations escalated when he found out that she was going to be the only girl in the class. He tried hard to convince her to change to another program - law, medicine, education and other widely known courses. A family friend assured Esther's father that she was going to be just fine.

Within a month of completing her final exams at, Esther was recruited by an American company. Her work entailed cost engineering analysis during the construction of the emergency consular facility for the US Embassy in Nairobi following the 1998 terrorist attack. It took many by surprise when the budding cost engineer declined a full scholarship to University of Cambridge and instead chose to go to the University of Nottingham to study Architectural Technology.

During one of those late nights in the architectural studio, she stumbled upon a brochure that talked about a new industry-based doctoral degree program that was being established by the UK government. She submitted an application and secured admission. Esther's studies saw her investigate the use of distributed artificial intelligence in design and construction. The knowledge

Alumni in Diaspora

Making global impact home and away

Prof. Esther Obonyo

Director, Global Building Network (GBN)

she acquired at during her days at the School of Architecture and Design came in very handy here because she had done some basic programming, she says.

After her doctoral training, Esther worked as an industry-based researcher as well as an innovation analyst with Balfour Beatty Group in the UK. Esther has also served as a visiting professorship at the Technological Institute of the Philippines in Manila through the Philippine Development Foundation Innovative Development for Entrepreneurship Advancement program.

During her transition to Penn State, she served as a 2015/2016 US Department of State Jefferson Science Fellow and senior policy adviser for the teams managing the US Agency for International Development portfolios for infrastructure, digital tools for food security and science partnerships.

"I am proudly a University of Nairobi alumna"

Her research interests cross multiple disciplines and include climate change and extreme weather events, sustainable structural materials, intelligent information and knowledge-based systems and entrepreneurship. She has won several e National Science Foundation research grants for projects relating to sustainability, building systems and building materials. Her work has been included in more than 100 journal papers and conference proceedings and presentations.

Her parting shot: "I am proudly a University of Nairobi alumnus. I am open to exploring new opportunities through which I can take the existing synergies with my current employer to the next level."

How alumnus in the diaspora is coping with Covid-19

am a 1987 agricultural engineering graduate and I remember November 30th 1987 like its vesterday!

The University of Nairobi alumni in the diaspora are greatly involved in this opportunities while others are on the frontline as healthcare professionals.

Through my company (www.amakobe.com) headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, I offer human capital consultancy, international recruitment agency for registered nurses and those who've studied bachelors of nursing to US market.

I also have a earning platform for primary schools www.smartkidzclub.com

Covid19 has given us time for soul searching and introspection. An understanding that language is a medium of exchange for information and knowledge, it's not the knowledge.

> knowledge resident in citizens who only speak their national language, I see some alumni working on converting this implicit knowledge explicit knowledge before it disappears, this is an area where The UoN alumni can lead

> > the way.

Kenya has a lot of institutional



r. Edward Ouko officially joined the University of Nairobi Alumni Association as a Gold Life Member. Mr. Ouko is the immediate former Auditor General of Kenya.

Mr. Ouko served as the 1st Auditor General since the promulgation of the new Constitution in 2010. Mr. Ouko retired in August 2019. An Alumnus of the School of Business graduated from the University of Nairobi in 1976. Karibu Sana to UON Alumni Association Mr. Ouko.

Mr. Edward Ouko

Dr. David Amakobe





UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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2005

Inception of the UoN Alumni Association Over

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17

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Over

301

UoN Alumni Serving as Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and Chairmen

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Ksh. 23 M

Bursary Fund Disbursed to support Needy Students at UoN

Alumni offer Mentorship and Coaching to our Students

Our Alumni, Our Strength

JOIN US TODAY AND REMAIN CONNECTED TO YOUR ALMA MATER