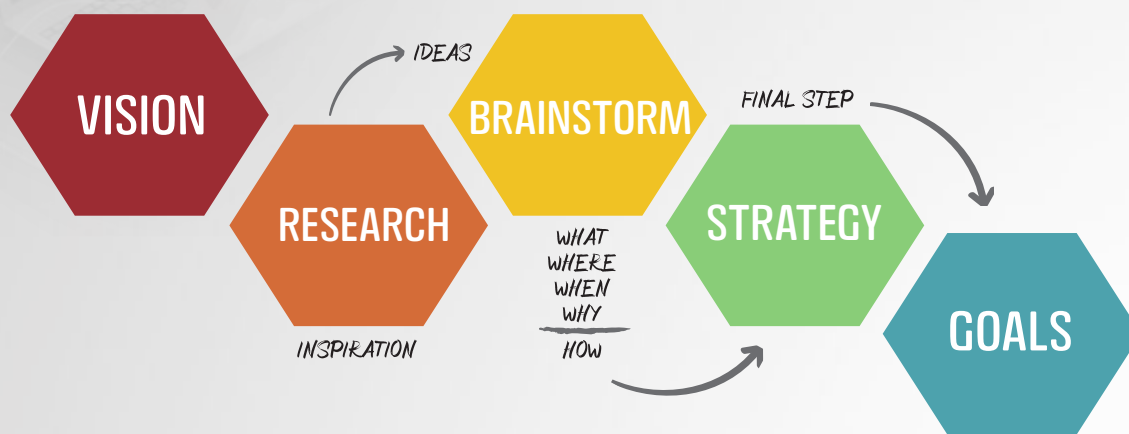


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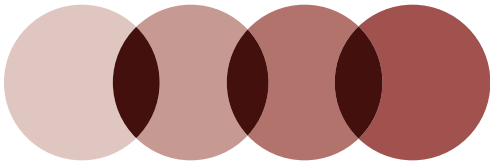
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Scaling Heights

Professor Charity Irungu, the outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, St. Paul's University talks about her life's journey, career in academia and accomplishments.



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CONTACTS

Private Bag 00217 Limuru
Tel: +254-020-2020505/10,
0728669000, or 0736424440.
Email: info@spu.ac.ke
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VOICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

PROF. JOSEPH GALGALO

As I pen my foreword to this 2019 edition of the *Voice Magazine*, a gladness that arises from a deep sense of gratitude floods my heart. In my many tasks as the Vice Chancellor, be it intricate or mundane, there are a few, among them this present task, which are simply a delight to execute. I eagerly

look forward to each edition of this annual publication because of the valuable inspiration and a deep insight into the heart of St. Paul's University that each of the articles included in here affords. Pick and read any of the past editions and you will experience a deep sense of connection with St. Paul's University. The present edition is no exception. Each story reflects our collective

aspirations and validates an amazing testimony of what hard work and prayer can achieve.

Our progress in line with our Strategic Plan has been steady albeit slower than one would wish. In the year just ended, we have seen improved research output, more programs mounted, expanded our facilities, enhanced revenue streams, increased library resources, and created new linkages, partnerships and collaborations. Our theme for this year taken from Isaiah 4:31, which says, “*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength*” is a true testimony of our story of God’s favor and renewal. We may have had our fair share of challenges but we are more than ever strengthened to stay the course, which we have purposed to pursue. We are grateful to our members who believe in this course and all those whose unwavering service continues to inspire the hope, the mainstay of our resolve to scale even greater heights.

The theme for this year’s edition of *The Voice Magazine* is, *Entrepreneurship: Empowerment towards Sustainability*. It is deliberately chosen in line with our objective to mainstream practical component in the delivery of all programs. This emphasis has particularly been our focus over the last few years. We equip every learner to critically process new knowledge and apply it as a practical tool to achieve a desired goal. In this regard, our students have sufficiently been prepared to graduate with an entrepreneurial mindset that will give them a confident entry in to the world of work. The entrepreneurial mindset should be sufficiently creative and agile to convert challenges into opportunities, see prospect or create one where opportunities seems unlikely; and can create wealth solely from fertile ideas. We impart knowledge

and skills so that we may nurture critical thinking. The educated mind should be sufficiently liberated to grasp the principle of independent productivity, and thereby able to discard the mindset that often is focused on an external agent for help. When one embraces entrepreneurship as mission, and mission as a calling to serve God in service to humanity, even the most dispirited minds can be inspired to mobilize every inert potential into life changing actualities.

Some of the stories captured in this edition simply testifies to such actualities, and shows what determination driven by unwavering hope can creatively produce. In here there are also stories of exemplary service and commendable achievements. Some are successfully completing their tenure of office and are transiting. As we learn from these stories, we shall cherish the individual testimonies and keep them as a reference for current and future generations. Their enduring relevance will be a great source of encouragement to keep hope alive for those who never quit to aspire to greater heights of service.

I am most obliged to thank those who have toiled to provide us with these inspirational stories. Their labor of sacrifice is not lost to us, and we offer our utmost gratitude. Let me also congratulate the graduating class of 2019 to whom this edition is dedicated. We are confident that, with minds liberated, hopes renewed and hearts trained on entrepreneurial mission, our graduates are more than ready to take on the world and succeed. We as SPU are privileged to have been part of the academic journey of each and every one of them. Our paths crossed and our stories are now forever intertwined. Graduands, “as we remain your reference and roots, be our ambassadors as you serve God and humanity.” Glory to God alone, *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Prof. Joseph Galgalo
Vice Chancellor

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Managing Editor's note

After a long day at work I always look forward to the evening for a well-deserved rest. I bet most of us if not all are like me. We need a good night's sleep to replenish our bodies for the following days' work. It's recommend that we should have at least seven to nine hours of sleep daily. For one Leaky Mwendwa this is a luxury, he rests for less than four hours in a day. When most of us probably go to work 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in our routine jobs, it's not the same for him. His day starts at 3:00 am as he reports to his hustling job in the "Matatu" business as a tout, a job he refers to as "Matatu Cashier Job". He works up to 9:00 am and then goes to class at St. Paul's University Machakos Campus for his lectures. He studies up to afternoon hours and then goes back to his work up to 11:00 pm. This leaves him with just about four hours of sleep before getting back to his work again. Leaky is very confident that when he finishes his undergraduate degree in Business Management at SPU, he will get a better job. When I read this story I was challenged by his resilience and hunger for education.

This is the kind of resilience, commitment and sacrifice that the stories in this publication bring out. I am glad to commend the **Voice Magazine 2019 Edition**. This edition is themed "**Entrepreneurship: Empowerment towards Sustainability**". We highlight what the University does best, giving students

entrepreneurial skills that will empower them towards sustainability. **The University has provided an opportunity for each student to work together with the lecturers and with one another; providing lifelong experiences and memories; and inspiring students with a sense of purpose as they head out to be part of changing the world.**

I appreciate the writers who have gone out of their way to bring you the **voices** of students and alumni who are making a difference in the society, some in a big way, others in their own simple ways. What is common in all of them is how St. Paul's University has nurtured them to be entrepreneurs. Every one of our graduands today has learned the potential of entrepreneurship as a possible solution to sustainable development challenges. You will also note from the stories that, entrepreneurship is a catalyst for development and it addresses sustainable development challenges experienced especially with today's graduates notably, unemployment, and poverty and in expanding opportunities for all including socially disadvantaged groups and youth.

I thank the faculty and administration staff for the concerted effort with the vision of making St. Paul's University a place for training global entrepreneurs and making it "**Your University of Choice!**"

May you be refreshed as you read.



Michael Mungai,
Public Relations & Marketing Officer

Editors' note

The art of storytelling is one that has survived cultural revolutions and technological onslaughts to retain its relevance in our society today. A story gives us a glimpse into the life of another, allows our emotions to be enmeshed with theirs and bears us into another world where our thoughts are provoked and challenged, dreams revived and new aspirations inspired. This is the power of a story. In this year's edition of the Voice Magazine, we hope the stories will captivate, encourage and infuse a sense of inspiration that motivates you to be the best version of yourself. We hope that each of the personalities featured here will be a lens through which you can view how the other side of

resilience, determination and servitude looks like. Here are tales of ambition and courage, challenges pursued and conquered; dreams realized and people transformed.

We bring you exhilarating stories of success and triumph, but we also give you a snippet of their life's journey and the path less travelled; the struggles, tribulations and discouragement. Through the indomitable spirits represented here, we allow you to see how God, in his wisdom, divinely ordains seasons and uses our life's circumstances to mould our character and weave a beautiful tapestry from every detail of our lives.

The outcome is beautiful, and so are these stories!



Rita N. Kituyi



Sheila Achieng'



Kevin C. Macharia

Chief Guest

SPU 28th Graduation Ceremony

Up Close and Personal with Hon. (Amb) Ukur Yatani CS Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and Acting CS National Treasury

By Sheila Achieng' and Michael Mungai

It was of men such as Ukur Yatani that Woodrow Wilson spoke of when he famously quipped, 'you are not merely here to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.' His humble and calm demeanor conceal the immense power he wields as Kenya's Acting Cabinet Secretary in the National Treasury docket, perhaps a reflection of the rock that has weathered the stormy turmoil and has been curved beautifully by the waters that flow upon life's river bed. Amidst the flurry of activities in the office that runs Kenya's national expenditure, Ambassador Yatani makes time to share his vision for the nation and the resolve that defines his resilience and commitment to what has become his life's purpose.

A Humble Background

Ambassador Ukur Yatani hails from a nomadic minority community that dots Kenya's political landscape. Hardships and challenges were constant companions and aptly describe the circumstances that moulded his childhood and strengthened his resolve for a better future for himself and other people in similar circumstances. "I am indebted to the Catholic Church and the early missionaries for the opportunity to go to school, and particularly Father Paul Tablino," he says, recounting the hardships that he endured as he pursued education in a bid to liberate himself from the shackles of ignorance. The Ambassador attributes his success to God and faith that went unsullied by the adversity that stalked him as he navigated life's twists and turns. "I thank God for His grace and provision," he says as he reflectively recounts a past all too familiar to many Kenyans. In a decisive effort to empower young people through education, Ambassador Yatani has established a family foundation that educates more than two hundred and fifty school going children. These children are the next generation of leaders that

will transform their communities by challenging traditional perceptions towards education within Marsabit County.

A Career in Public Service

Widely perceived as the President's wild card, the Ambassador was thrust in the political limelight through his appointment as Kenya's Cabinet

Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The President would later affirm his faith in him by appointing him as the Acting Cabinet Secretary of National Treasury. He grew up as an ambitious man, using his life's journey to define his purpose and aspirations. While he did not have any political ambitions, it was under the mentorship of Dr. Bonaya Godana that Ambassador



Yatani learnt the virtues of humility, dedication and selfless service. It is the inopportune death of his mentor, Dr. Godana that dealt him the ultimate litmus test. The baton had been unwittingly passed and he knew he had to steadfastly commit to the cause of a man whose shadow once shielded him from the sweltering heat of Kenya's harsh political realities. He quickly embraced the opportunity to lead his people and accomplish a purpose higher than his own, a decision testament to lessons well learnt. "My life was shaped by Dr. Godana's death," he quips as his face cracks into an uneasy smile, perhaps reminiscent of memories shared, values earned and a fluttering thought of how things would have turned out had his mentor lived on. Navigating the political maze was no mean feat and a young Yatani had to quickly acclimatize to his new responsibilities as a leader of the flock he inherited from his mentor. During the steep trajectory that characterizes his incredible ascent, Ambassador Yatani credits another mentor, Honourable Yusuf Haji who shaped his career in public administration.

The Vision and the Strategy

Perhaps it is the easy banter and gentle manner with which Ambassador Yatani communicates with people that defines his fine attributes as a man who leads from the heart with the singular mission to change lives through public service. "My passion is driven by the need to bring harmony, strengthen relationships and facilitate dialogue in the management of disputes in Kenya," remarks the Ambassador as his face lights up with passionate glee. His desire to see the youth economically empowered through employment is the fire that fuels his resolve to tear through the veils of bureaucracy and ensure that every challenge is met with equal determination to find a solution. Some of the ground breaking initiatives that have contributed to upskilling graduates have included the inking of bilateral agreements aimed at exporting Kenya's human capital. In addition, the Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Programme, a project supported by the World Bank, provides paid training opportunities for youth. Ambassador Yatani has also trained his focus on National Labour Policies and training institutions to bridge the gap between skills acquired and those required. "We need to nurture, motivate, protect and ensure that our labour force is provided with a clean and safe working environment," he says firmly, reflective of his steeled resolution to quell the disquiet that has been the bane of Kenya's working majority.

"How do you handle your detractors?" I ask, eager to hear his seasoned response chiseled by years of political intrigues and calculated maneuvers. "I focus on the big picture and sustain what needs to be achieved!" He says almost immediately as he chuckles softly at the implications of his response. "I am very resilient and empathetic but I also focus on the big picture and I am very consistent. I must make things happen and I achieve that by building critical support from staff. They must agree that it can be done before proceeding to do it." Ambassador Yatani is a strategic thinker, grounding his actions in a vision bigger than his own interests. Focusing on outcomes that outlive the situation and people, and a keen focus on the institution constitute the tactics that he has cultivated in response to the political rhetoric that peppers his work environment. "Every day is a serious assignment," he puts in purposefully, taking stock of the tasks vested in him as Kenya's Chief in charge of the country's national budget. "I intend to cushion the country by ensuring that we address the current expenditure and contain debt," he says, a double edged sword that is likely to earn him nay sayers and detractors seeking to poke holes in his ambition.

The Mantle of Integrity

Ambassador Ukur Yatani is a man who shares the same cup from which he drinks from. His legacy is refined by his pursuit for integrity and hard work. "When I started working as a District Officer, my salary was 2,200 Kenya shillings and I made sure that I saved 1,000 shillings in a cooperative," he recounts. "These days, the youth like shortcuts. They are primed for well-paying office jobs within parastatals and want to drive and own houses in prime areas within two months of their employment while they shun opportunities they feel are not well paying. They think life is defined by wealth and believe stealing is the only way to succeed," he says in utter dismay. "Integrity is not about teaching, what counts is practice. We must live an appropriate life but best of all, we must find ways of reinforcing integrity by rewarding it. Life and morality is a continuum and institutions such as St. Paul's must consistently teach, practice and reward integrity," he says, pre-empting the legacy he intends to be remembered by. The ambassador also lauded St. Paul's University for embracing the virtue of servant leadership and instilling integrity among young graduates for the posterity of the country and future generations.

Wise counsel for the Graduating Class of 2019

Ambassador Yatani's life has seen a fair share of turmoil, yet his virtue remains unchanged and his grace unsullied by political smokescreens. He advises the graduating class of 2019 that, "There is no substitute to dignified life and wealth other than hard work. Never forget humanity and genuinely pursue the goal to help others and God will always reward you. In life, you can be and achieve anything, just remember to work hard and never forget humanity," he says in a calm confidence that validates his struggles and affirms that his present circumstances are divinely ordained and posture him to touch lives with the same benevolence as that which was bequeathed him when he was selected to serve within the highest ranks in public service.

As the interview ends, Ambassador Yatani emphasizes that life is about hard work and humility. One cannot go wrong with humility. He also congratulates everyone who has played a part in nurturing the St. Paul's University graduands of 2019, for their resilience and commitment to excellence. He acknowledges the efforts made by the University and its devoted efforts to fulfill its mission, that of producing servant leaders that will bring the desired change to the nation and beyond.





Scaling Heights

Professor Charity Irungu, the outgoing Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, St. Paul's University talks about her life's journey, career in academia and accomplishments.

By Michael Mungai and Sheila Achieng'

A warm rustic painting embraced by the soft cream walls welcomes us into Professor Irungu's office. A vase of sullen carnations sits underneath the painting, guarding the peace of the orange sunset and the tranquil river in the canvas above it. As I prance around on the maroon carpet, my attention is quickly drawn to a little brown frame, enclosed within it, the words of John Scriven, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'. An overwhelming peace tempers the anxiety that hangs in the air. This would be one of our "tete a tete" moments with Professor Irungu as she shares her life story. Everything in her office is meticulously arranged. That gave us a feeling that her private life would be no different from her office with every detail in place. We quietly take our seats at a gleaming mahogany table by a large window that overlooks the well-manicured lawns outside her office. A soft breeze rustles the leaves as the warm sunshine chinks through the thick canopy, casting soft shadows on the green grass. It is against this backdrop that Professor Irungu lifts the veil on her life's journey.

The Academic Pursuit

Professor Irungu was born in Embu County to a father who valued education and envisioned a career in the medical profession for his daughter. It is at her father's behest that Professor Irungu selected and was admitted to the prestigious Alliance Girls' High School where she would spend six years nurturing her academic dreams. While unsure of her specific field of study, she held an unwavering desire to earn the highest academic title, that of a Professor. It was during this time that Professor Irungu walked the academic tight rope with the support and counsel of her family and teachers who saw her academic potential as an opportunity to goad her into taking subjects that were prerequisite for a career in medicine. "One of my highlights in High School was when in form three I chose to take History alongside Biology and Chemistry and dropped Physics. When my father got wind of it, with help of either my uncle or my brother, he sent a letter to the school, demanding that I must take Physics." That letter got her out of the History class she enjoyed so much to a Physics class that she describes as her greatest academic struggle in High School. A struggle not because

she could not perform but because she had to do it against her will. Based on her academic prowess in Biology and Chemistry at the A-levels, and soon after the selection of the University courses, the career mistress one day called her to her office and told her “Charity, you are wasting your brains. You have to choose medicine as your first choice.” She would again be persuaded to change her choices to accommodate medicine that was deemed socially acceptable for a student of her caliber. “After that I almost gave up school. I did not get the grades for medicine and I was very happy,” she says wistfully with a glimmer in her eyes.

As with any young person joining the University, Professor Irungu embraced her new found freedom to choose her career path, an opportunity she says was her defining moment. Her first year of University was tinged with uncertainty as she trudged through her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture lessons with admission details for Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology. “For two semesters, I pursued Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with registration details for Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology and often I would ask myself: “What if they don’t approve? What will happen to me? Will I have to repeat the year?” It was those moments that her faith in God was strengthened as she prayed consistently and clung to hope that the application for change of programme would be approved. Eventually, she was granted reprieve when she received the letter that authorized the change of programme and with renewed strength, she sailed through the programme and graduated with good grades.

Her First Employment Opportunity

On the day she went to check her final results, something, short of a miracle happened. She met one of her professors as she left the office of the Dean. He greeted her and asked a few questions, “How are your results? Do you have a job? Would you mind any job even if it meant cleaning an office?” After answering then, the bomb came. “I have a job for you, report on Monday.” And with that I was employed as a Graduate Research Assistant. Unknown to her, her response to the question whether she could do any job would launch her on her academic journey. Her first task was to organize her Professor’s office, “I thank God I didn’t refuse, maybe that was the test for my job,” she says in hindsight. Her humility and resilience won the favour of the don who entrusted her with a brand new laptop and assigned her the role of Research Assistant. While tucked away in the library, she plunged into academic literature and later to extensive fieldwork that culminated in the joint publications of two book chapters in two international publications, amongst other

research manuscripts. God must have done that for a reason! However, her ambitions to pursue postgraduate studies were dimmed due to lack of funding. Once again, fortunes would change when she got a job as a Program Manager for a TearFund funded project in her home Diocese. Her resilience wore thin when she surveyed the deplorable circumstances under which she would work. Her attempt to return to her previous work contract was thwarted when her professor sent her back to the field with a justification from the Bible, “the work you were trained for is out there in the rural areas.” In an unusual twist of events, she would then be appointed the Diocesan Development Coordinator within six months into the Job, the only female one in the Province at the time. It is while in service to the church that she was recommended for a Master’s degree on a National Council of Churches Kenya (NCCCK) scholarship to Germany. She specialized in Socio economics of Rural Development. Even in Germany, her postgraduate professors took note of her talent and recommended her for a doctorate degree, and went ahead to seek a scholarship for her from the same church organization. It was after the completion of her doctorate degree that Professor Irungu came back to Kenya with a sharpened perspective on how she would make an impact in her area of study. She began her journey in earnest as a part-time lecturer whose heart remained restless until she found a place where she would serve the Church that granted her the opportunity to study. Professor Irungu finally found purpose when she was appointed to lead the Masters in Development Studies programme at St. Paul’s University.

Her Role as Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, at SPU

During her six year tenure as the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Professor Irungu dedicated herself to replicating the quality of education she received in Germany. Along with the efficiency of delivery, Professor Irungu has passionately infused dedication to the identification, nurturing and mentorship of students. “You can’t change the culture at a go, and you also can’t go against everyone,” says the professor as she reflects on the concerted efforts to counter convention with innovation and creative thinking. In her characteristic determination, Professor Irungu has steered St. Paul’s into uncharted waters. The increase in research output catalyzed by her desire to generate new ideas and insight has contributed to the institution’s rise in profile. She has also been the driving force behind the launching of the Health Sciences programmes with the training and facilities considered among the best in Kenya. It is also during her six year stint that the PhD programmes in Development,

Theology and Business were launched. In addition, her desire to improve the competency of students released in the workforce necessitated changes in curriculum delivery to ensure that theory intersects practice to enable students apply learnt knowledge. Beyond imparting knowledge, Professor Irungu has invested heavily in encouraging innovation and creative thinking, a challenge she continually encounters by infusing new methodology in the practice. Additionally, Professor Irungu envisions the building of an innovation hub that will inspire experiential learning and catalyze the application of learned knowledge to solve emerging challenges.

Her Defining Moment

“What is your defining moment?” I ask. “There are many things, but one thing that stood out for me was the number of government sponsored students that chose St. Paul’s University as their first choice in the year 2019. That spoke volumes, it told me that our quality has been recognized, people can judge us because of what they have heard and seen. Even if we don’t do anything else, we have made a mark and people can now see the quality St. Paul’s University has to offer. You don’t have to speak about quality, you just need to act it out and people will see it and respond and that’s a defining moment for me,” she says, her face coming alive with passion. Admittedly, Professor Irungu’s devotion to quality and delivery has borne fruits. In the year 2019, the School of Health Sciences admitted its first cohort of Nursing students with more applicants requesting to be placed in waiting lists, an unprecedented development in the history of the institution. St. Paul’s University’s commitment to quality and efficient delivery has seen an increasing number of Government Sponsored Students and PhD candidates seek admission from the institution. “St. Paul’s is ready for takeoff, this is just the beginning,” she says, expressing satisfaction at the results of what has been years of hard toil. As with any mountain experiences, there have been valleys of decision that have cast shadows on Professor Irungu’s commitment and devotion. Enforcing structures that deliver quality has been a great challenge as stakeholders take time to adjust to the eminent changes that will inevitably come. “People are reluctant to change and that’s natural, so we had to introduce any change slowly but after people see the benefit they eventually embrace change and even own it,” she says reflecting on her tenure.

Her Legacy

Professor Irungu’s dedication to her life’s mission has yielded a rich legacy. A growing number of alumni that have devoted themselves in leading change and transformation in the market place is



Prof. Irungu (left) assists the Chancellor, Prof. Margaret Kobia during her installation as the second University Chancellor

testament to the success of her quest to deliver education that is both liberating and empowering. The common thread that illuminates the path to the quality highly sought after is academic integrity. "Do the right thing at all times even when it is difficult and do the right thing with the best of intention," she says, speaking of the legacy she hopes will outlive her tenure. Professor Irungu has wisely navigated the tumultuous waters of policy to ensure that discipline and integrity are enforced at all levels of the institution's operations to safeguard its legacy. "Don't go against policies just for the sake of it," she says, her clenched fist reflecting her hardened resolve. "Foundations have been laid. We have the policies and operational guidelines in place to take the university to the next level. The university is positioned for great things, and the momentum should not be lost. You just need to take off, but as you take off, remember that academic integrity must be core, don't take short cuts," she says to the successor who must carry the mantle and stoke the flames of integrity on which the university is founded.

Her Parting Shot

As Professor Irungu's tenure folds, profound memories lie in the tireless efforts and sleepless nights that were spent developing the PhD in Development Studies curriculum. "When we were writing the curriculum for the PhD in Development Studies, I had just gotten into this office. We would leave the office at 5 pm, work part of the night and be back to the office in the morning. Nobody knew this, except my team of three ladies. I had a lot to do in the office and yet the curriculum needed to be finalized. I have good memories of people giving themselves fully to the growth of St. Paul's University and that is what has made us grow. I'm happy to leave a fully-fledged University not only because of the PhD programmes but a University where lecturers have embraced research and a scholarly lifestyle. Many people have given themselves to the service of the University and that spirit should not die. When one sacrifices, it may not benefit them directly, may be indirectly at times, but that's the way to grow this institution," she says reflecting on years of dedicated service to a mission that has defined her career in the higher education sector. In the same vein, Professor Irungu acknowledges

the dedication of the academic and non-academic departments and the St. Paul's University fraternity for the spectacular display of commitment and team work in ensuring that the institution delivers its vision to stakeholders. It is through concerted effort of all academic staff that the institution has been able to rise from the confines of a 'Theological College' to a world class academic institution.

Professor Irungu is truly her father's daughter. Her father's determination finds expression in the resilience with which she approaches a career she embraced as her service to humanity. Her joy lies not in a glorious ending but the tedious journey through which integrity is developed, character is moulded and faith finds its anchor. "To the 2019 graduands, I wish you the very best as you step out. St. Paul's University has done its very best in training you and preparing you for the job out there. We have not only given you academic training, we have trained you to be all rounded. As you go out, know that you're well able. Show the world what you are made of, be confident and assert yourself because you are the very best. Above all, know that you belong to God and He holds you accountable; remember to put God first!"



Prof. Irungu with Council Members after launching 2016-2025 the Strategic Plan



The DVC-AA presents graduands at a previous graduation ceremony



The DVC-AA officially receives medical equipment courtesy of Project Cure



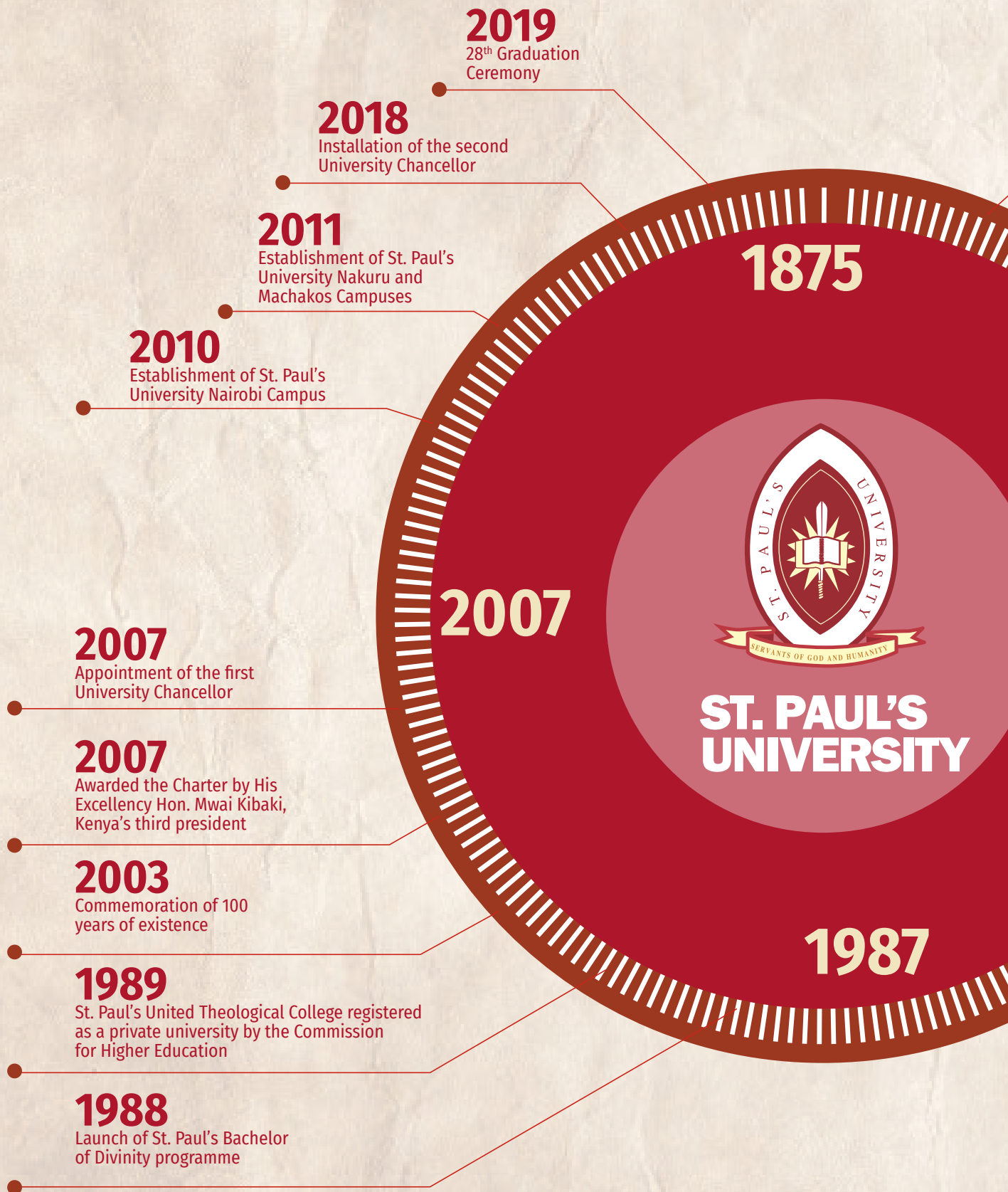
DVC-AA at a previous commissioning service for finalists



The DVC-AA presents a gift to Miss SPU 2015/2016



Prof. Irungu (right) with Thomas Nudi at a luncheon



2019
28th Graduation Ceremony

2018
Installation of the second University Chancellor

2011
Establishment of St. Paul's University Nakuru and Machakos Campuses

2010
Establishment of St. Paul's University Nairobi Campus

2007
Appointment of the first University Chancellor

2007
Awarded the Charter by His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, Kenya's third president

2003
Commemoration of 100 years of existence

1989
St. Paul's United Theological College registered as a private university by the Commission for Higher Education

1988
Launch of St. Paul's Bachelor of Divinity programme

1875

2007



ST. PAUL'S UNIVERSITY

1987

St. Paul's University Main Milestones.

An illustration of the institution's progress since 1875 to date.

1875

Establishment at Frere town settlement

1888

Commencement of the Divinity class

1903

Foundation stone for the Divinity School laid at Frere town

1930

Divinity school moved to Limuru

1948

1948

St. Paul's Divinity School referred to as a College for the first time

1955

St. Paul's becomes a United Theological College

1963

Inauguration of an external London university Bachelor of Divinity degree

1978

Inauguration of the Association of Eastern Africa Theology Institution's (AITEA) Bachelor of Divinity degree

1987

Charter of Co-operation of St. Paul's United Theological College ratified

1986

St. Paul's registered as a limited company

Against All Odds

By Kevin C. Macharia and Yvonne Wanjiru

“Successful and unsuccessful people do not vary greatly in their abilities; they vary in their desires to reach their potential,” said John Maxwell in words that aptly describe Juliah’s life circumstances. Juliah Waithera Karanja is the last born in a family of five siblings and the only one with the short stature condition. She narrates her triumph in her quest for education.

Born and bred in Murang’a county, Mokomboki sub-location, Juliah was born in a family of siblings and parents that loved her unconditionally. However, the community she lived in would laugh, taunt and ridicule her parents for wasting their resources in educating their daughter. Her parents went against social norms to equip her with education that she would need to survive the harsh cruelties of life. Tragedy would strike with the death of her mother, throwing her into confusion and uncertainty. The love and material providence of her father held her steady and contributed to her good performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education.

Juliah would then join the Fatima Kiriko Girls’ in Gatundu North, where she experienced the harsh realities of life away from the confines of a secure and loving family. Life was not easy. Most school activities excluded her from participation owing to her stature. Her feeble attempt at sports and music festivals were always met with mockery, making her the subject of jokes and break time punch lines. This greatly affected her self esteem and led to her dismal performance in the

secondary national examinations.

“The love of a family is life’s greatest blessing,” she says. With the love and support of her sister, Juliah would revive her dreams and take another stab at education. She began her Certificate studies in earnest and pushed through to attain a higher national Diploma in Human Resource. She then started a small business to eke out a living. In 2015, Juliah joined St. Paul’s University to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management with a concentration on Human Resource.

Today, Juliah has found renewed purpose in life. She wears many hats that allow her to experience life’s activities from which she was previously excluded. Currently, she’s the National Treasurer for the Short Stature Society of Kenya. A proud mother of a two year old daughter, Juliah has learnt to take life in stride, balancing between her studies and motherhood. She has also made inroads into the business world where she supplies her wares to institutions in the public and private sectors. Having embraced a career in acting, she actively uses the opportunity to tell her life’s story and share her daily struggles.

Juliah’s story is one of sheer determination, her success a reflection of the hope that has buoyed her through life’s trials. “Everyone is intelligent and all we need is support to strive for progress; that is why we wake up early every morning with determination to learn something new and add value to life. My advice to parents with special needs children is to love them unconditionally, they are a blessing,” she says, drawing



from the resolve that has sailed her through her studies. “My appreciation goes to all teaching and non-teaching staff and the students for making my stay easy and comfortable. I would also like to thank the administration for ensuring that there were adjustable seats and ramps for

students like me,” she says. She has overcome what has been perceived as a disability and is looking forward to graduating next year. Juliah is a true embodiment of a resilient spirit and the exhilarating heights to which one rises when they choose to look beyond their limitations.



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Collaboration: An Academic Perspective

By Esther Njonde and Rita N. Kituyi

Collaboration is a practice that dates as far back as biblical history records. The practice has been adopted across several disciplines such as scientific research, innovation, leadership and project management, owing to the benefits that come with it. Closer home, the spirit of “harambee” popular among our nation’s founding fathers, birthed fundraisers and development initiatives, which have lived on to date and stimulated economic growth for the nation and empowerment among her citizens. St. Paul’s University equally holds the practice in high regard. It is worth noting that Partnership is one of the institution’s core values.

“Our partnerships and collaborations are guided by the University Strategy which states that, St. Paul’s University, in consonance with the philosophy of its Charter, spirit of its Strategic Plan and demands of its Quality Assurance regime, seeks to explore and strengthen ties with institutions of higher learning both locally and internationally,” explains Prof. Esther Mombo, the International Partnerships and Alumni Relations Director at the university. “Two principles govern this policy, interdependence and synergy. The former, propels SPU to seek collaborations with other institutions in a bid to achieve optimum academic growth and create opportunities for learning from one another, while the latter, focuses on collaborations that result from extramural interdisciplinary exposures for students and staff for continuing education,” she adds. Other than academic progression, these partnerships provide funding channels for students and other development initiatives, which Professor Mombo terms as unstructured because they are based on need and vary from one year to another.

Institutions such as Germany’s Evangelisches Missionswerk (EMW), Kerk in Actie, the Global Women Episcopal Church and LiTimoi Foundation provide block grants that fund university scholarships for students. Project for Christian Muslim Relation in Africa (PROCMURA) and the Danish Mission partnered with the University to provide funding, training and support for international students specializing in Islam and Christian Muslim Relations in Africa.

Ms. Mercy Gachie, St. Paul’s Deputy Registrar Academics, attests to students and staff development and exchange of academic resources through exchange programs that result from the University’s collaboration with partner organizations. “These collaborations have yielded projects that result from exchange programs joint curricular, facilitated execution of short events and works for continuing education, developed research projects, and assisted us carry out special interest programs in the areas of

HIV & AIDS, Community Health, Gender, Environment, Mainstreaming, Child-rights, Micro-entrepreneurship Development, and small business support,” she quips.

Early in the 2018/2019 Academic Year, St. Paul’s hosted the UNESCO/Korean-sponsored Global Entrepreneurship Training. The training came forth from the Global Entrepreneurship Education Programme, which seeks to empower residents of developing countries for sustainable development by developing an entrepreneurship mindset among them. Students who signed up for the intensive, week-long training, got to taste the entrepreneurial spirit, learn the basic skill-set necessary to start a new business, participate in a business competition by learning how to compare their plans with others in the class, and network with students from other countries: a foundation for possible multi-national ventures in future. “This programme has been designed to empower participants to become entrepreneurs who can lead economic development in their respective countries. I hope that the entrepreneurship seed in you will be watered by the skills that will be imparted and networks that will be formed here.” States his Excellency, Mr. Kwon Young-dae, the Korean Ambassador to Kenya, while making his opening remarks.

The University is a member of the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), which conducts research that seeks to advance sustainability globally.

Since its inception, IUSDRP has generated enormous publications and reports to address various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, SPU’s research directorate has participated in preparing the following publications by virtue of its membership: “Climate Change Responses among the Maasai Community in Kenya” and “Strategies among African Pastoralist Communities to Cope with Climate Change and Extremes, and Foster Poverty Reduction”. The University has also partnered with the Annual American Association of Geographers (AAG) conferences to provide a unique opportunity for the university’s postgraduate students to share their research in one of the world largest scientific forum.

In partnership with the Nursing Directorate at Ministry of Health, National Nursing Association of Kenya (NNAK), Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK), MBF’s Mary K Centre for Global Nursing Development, and Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), the Directorate delivered the 2nd “Building Capacity for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership in Africa” conference, hosted at St. Paul’s Limuru Campus. The

conference aimed at empowering nurses to the lead in revolutionizing the health sector. The directorate is part of a National Nursing and Midwifery Research Panel (RAP), which is working towards developing guidelines for nursing research. “Partnerships greatly offer opportunities to leverage on resource mobilization, especially funding,” says Dr. Daniel Muasya Nzengya, the Research Director at SPU.

The university Librarian, Mrs. Irene Muthoni Kibandi, elaborated on the benefits accrued from collaborations. She stated that the Library is well-equipped with reference material in both soft and hard copies. “The university has received donations for several books courtesy of Theological Book Network (TBN), Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) among other donors,” she stated. “Being part of Kenya Libraries and Information Services Consortium (KLISC), has enabled subscription for several online resources at favourable rates,” she added. Availability of adequate reference material has resulted in nurturing well enriched graduates. She further stated that service delivery at the library has also been enhanced due to increased computing capacity courtesy of Pittsburg State University. St. Paul’s Primary School, neighbouring high schools and affiliate colleges also benefited from the book donations.

Venerable Scholar Kiilu, the Director of St. Paul’s Center for Christian Muslim Relations in Eastleigh further reiterated on collaborations yielding publicity for the University, academic scholarships for students, sponsorships for conferences and workshops, and creating networking forums.

“As a Chartered Christian University, we have also engaged with Church affiliated colleges to promote their growth as well as to reach populations we are unable to reach,” says Ms. Gachie. “The impact of these collaborations has gone a long way to give us publicity, research opportunities and exchange programs,” adds Professor Mombo.

The aspiration for the University is to continue to soliciting for more especially international partnerships to not only develop new ideas but also to access better technology to enable it to produce graduates in various fields for global service, using creative methods of education and research; in keeping with its vision and mission. As John F. Kennedy once said, “*let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength of the nation.*”

From Trial to Triumph

A story of hope, faith and determination

By Nelson Kitaka

Every year, thousands of students sit for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams. Unfortunately, only a few students are granted the privilege of pursuing tertiary education. Many hang the boots of educational pursuits and are resigned to an unknown fate owing to their academic grades or unavailability of funds to further their education.

Such were the circumstances that confronted Leaky Muthoka after he sat the national secondary school examinations in 2007. "I did not have the grades that were required for government placement and I couldn't afford to pay school fees for parallel programmes," he says describing his anxiety and a resignation to an uncertain fate. He immediately took up informal employment, one that he defines as 'hustling' as a tout in Kenya's transport sector. Without college education, he could not secure gainful employment in Kenya's white collar job sector. Leaky then made a conscious decision to seek his parents' counsel in devising means of raising funds to enable him raise fees to go back to school.

In what was poised to be a long journey, Leaky joined the Diploma in Business Management Programme with the meagre resources he managed to raise from his relatives. "St. Paul's University was the most convenient place to pursue my education owing to the flexible fee settlement arrangements and convenient modes of study that allowed me to 'hustle' while I attended classes," he says. Amidst his second semesters, his resources ran dry as the fees he had raised through relatives and friends could no longer sustain his personal



needs. He was faced with the difficult reality of deferring his examinations and putting his studies on hold if no miracles happened. It dawned on him that his dreams to pursue university education would be thwarted if he did not find the financial means to pay for his education.

Leaky tried to pursue formal employment and got turned down numerous times due to lack of a Diploma certificate. It was then that he turned to what he considers a 'God given opportunity'. Leaky once again embraced the only job he would not need a qualification for, that of being a 'makanga'. "I would wake up at 3 am and work up to 9 am and would then go to campus for classes. After class, I would go back to work till 11 in the night and would sometimes do my assignments in the matatu when I'm caught up in traffic jams. I try to take advantage of my free time whenever it arises," he says.

Leaky wholeheartedly took on what he describes as 'matatu cashier job' and decided to use his occupation as a learning opportunity. "Success is not a genetic or an inherited factor; success is a state of mind developed through understanding that risk, perseverance, dedication and the never quit attitude are the key elements

in combination that lead to masterful achievement," he says quoting Byron Pulsifer as he describes his attitude and approach to what many would consider an unfortunate situation.

Leaky is always smartly dressed as he goes about his duties. It is impossible to tell the odds he has faced in his pursuit of academic empowerment. Fellow students fondly refer



to him as 'makanga', and he takes it in stride, after all, the job was paying his bills. His hard work, positive attitude and determination finally bore fruit and Leaky graduated with a Diploma in Business Management (Marketing option) in 2018 and immediately enrolled for the Bachelor of Business Administration programme to further his academic dreams.

Leaky has hope for a better future and he now stands a better chance of getting employed within the formal sector after successfully completing the Diploma programme. His thirst for education has left him with hardly any time for a social life. "I'm not ready to get married," he says as he tries to describe his busy life. "Life is not hard if you trust in God. Also, learn to manage your time and do not waste even a single minute. With determination and hard work, one can change their circumstance no matter how bleak," he says, reflecting on his journey from trial to triumph.

Transforming Lives through Education

By Rev. Dr. Joseph Mutei

St. Paul's University, Machakos Campus stands as a beacon of hope, testament to the University's commitment to provide quality and affordable education to people from all walks of life. Started in the year 2011, the campus is strategically located at the Anglican Church of Kenya Machakos Diocesan Head Quarters along the Nairobi-Machakos Road. The campus serves the needs of students within the Machakos, Athi River and Kitengela localities through the provision of relevant and market driven programmes that range from Certificate courses to Masters' degree programmes.

In keeping with the changing demographic dividend, the campus has also adopted innovative delivery of curricula through incorporation of diverse modes of study that include the day mode of study, evening classes, weekend programmes, school based sessions as well as distance and e-learning. Under the leadership of academic and faculty staff, the campus is dedicated to ensure there is smooth delivery of the programmes. Administrative departments are also very instrumental in ensuring that support links operate effectively to achieve efficient delivery of services.

The campus consciously and deliberately runs under the inspiration of the university philosophy and commitment to Christian ecumenism, quality service and high academic standards as inspired by the Christian faith and founded upon Christian values. In addition, regular Christian devotions, services and fellowships are the conduits through which Christian values are imparted to inspire holistic development as envisaged in the university's mission.

St. Paul's Machakos campus boasts of ultra-modern learning facilities that provides a conducive environment for study, interaction,



St. Paul's university Machakos Campus

research and networking. The provision of Wi-Fi, for example, has been instrumental in stimulating research and innovation through exploration of online knowledge banks. The university has also invested in acquiring robust library resources that provide students with the amenities needed to facilitate learning. In addition, the campus has strengthened its resources and its capacity to nurture talent and produce graduates capable of competing globally and who can bring transformation to the market place.

In a bid to offer students dynamic learning experiences, the campus has adopted a diverse campus fraternity that ensures there is a global outlook in the academic, spiritual and social exchanges inside and outside the formal university structures. The

campus is also a CISCO/CCNA center that produces globally recognized ICT compliant technicians. The program has been popular in the region, drawing in students from the neighbouring institutions and beyond.

St. Paul's Machakos campus is devoted to transforming the lives of people within its environment. To this end, the campus has a strong team of staff that works together to ensure that the campus not only serves the internal stakeholders, but actively works to address the emergent needs in its context. The campus has been engaged in community outreach programmes, corporate social responsibility efforts as well as collaborations with the private sector and non-government stakeholders. Some of the key partners that the campus prides itself in having include

In a bid to offer students dynamic learning experiences, the campus has adopted a diverse campus fraternity that ensures there is a **global outlook** in the academic, spiritual and social exchanges inside and outside the formal university structures.



the County Government of Machakos, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and beyond. Other partners include industries, universities, the local government and schools.

St. Paul's University is devoted to offering quality, affordable education and the Machakos Campus exemplifies the strides the institution has taken to ensure that young people are empowered to be change makers in the society. The campus is devoted to bringing the transformation envisaged in the university vision by empowering young minds to be change agents in the society. There lies a lot of potential in the youth of Machakos and the campus is at a vantage point, ready to mentor and develop youth capacity to change lives.

Mark Abel, The Sports Enthusiast

By: Felicia Maluki and Brook Rimas

Falinerina Mark Abel Rabezafimandimby is a proud citizen of the Republic of Madagascar and certainly has the longest name in St Paul's University. Other than being a student at the University, he is also a football organizer. One of his goals is to ensure that he uses football as a tool for development.

Mark Abel's academic journey in SPU

Mark first embarked on his journey in St Paul's University for a Certificate in Community Development course; he later pursued a Diploma in the same and is now studying for his Degree certificate. He admits that the transition has been great for him but not all rosy since he has to balance between school, work and his football tournaments. He says things can really get overwhelming at times forcing him to take one or two units or even defer a whole semester.

How SPU has impacted his life

Mark Abel is a very proud St. Paul's student and credits the university for the major role it

has played in his life. "I am able to apply the Christian values emphasized at the University in my daily life and interactions," Mark says. He also acknowledges that it is while at St Paul's University, that he got to understand the true meaning of servant leadership.

Impact he is making in the society

Besides being a student at SPU, Mark Abel organizes 7-Aside football tournaments in Nairobi under the name Nairobi Football Sevens Series 'NF7's. So far, he has successfully organized three tournaments this year and would like to recognize the University's support since the football team took part and even became the second runners up during the first tournament that was held in March. The football tournaments earn him a living. Moreover, the tournaments are meant to bring Nairobi's youth together as a socializing platform, and also use it as a way of addressing social challenges that affect the youth like drug and substance abuse. It is also a space for young ambitious football players from all over Nairobi to showcase their talents.



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Learners conduct research at the state-of-the-art medical skills lab

2nd “Building Capacity for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership in Africa” Conference

By Rita N. Kituyi and Sheila Achieng’

Nurses are perceived to be the pillar of any healthcare system deemed to be fully functional owing to the far-reaching nature of nursing services. According to the World Health Organization, nurses and midwives meet 80 per cent of healthcare needs of a population globally. In this regard, there is need to empower them to take the lead and maximize their contribution in tackling major challenges in the health sector and achieve Universal Health Coverage. This is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goal 3, which calls upon governments to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

In a bid to empower nurses and midwives to take the lead in improving healthcare and appreciate nursing leadership, the Medical Benevolence Foundation’s Mary K Center for Global Nursing Development launched a series of conferences dubbed “Building Capacity for Nursing Leadership”. The conferences were aimed at creating appropriate platforms for exchange of practical principles and practices for nursing leadership, and promote collaboration between nursing leaders based in the United States of America and their counterparts in partner countries.

With requisite preparations in place, the inaugural conference was held on December 2017 in Haiti and succeeded by the second one in Malawi on March 16, 2018. These paved way for the 2nd “Building Capacity for Nursing and Midwifery Leadership in Africa” Conference, dubbed “Leading Change, Achieving Universal Health Coverage, Achieving Health”, held on 13th and 14th June 2019 at St. Paul’s University. Organized by St. Paul’s University in partnership with the Medical Benevolence Foundation, Ministry of Health, Nursing Council of Kenya, National Nurses Association of Kenya and Christian Health Association of Kenya; the conference brought together experts, leaders, practitioners and students in the nursing fraternity from across the globe.

Being one-of-a-kind in East and Central Africa, the conference was aimed at empowering nurses and midwives to take leadership roles in tackling current healthcare challenges, formulating viable healthcare and nursing policies as well as identifying opportunities for advocacy at local, regional, national and international levels in support of Universal Health Coverage and the Beyond Zero and Nursing Now Campaigns. Furthermore, it sought to enhance research capacity



Conference participants pose for a group photo

and evidence based nursing practice among participants. This was achieved through delivery of key note presentations, plenary sessions, workshop breakout sessions and submission of resolutions by participants with diverse specializations in nursing.

The conference kicked off on a high note with an invaluable charge by Mrs. Truphosa Kwaka Sumba, the St. Paul’s Nairobi Campus Principal, who likened leadership to the African three-legged stool. Each of the legs symbolizes one of the components of leadership: personal, people and providence. In her emphasis on the importance of people in leadership, she quoted the African proverb, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others”.

Dr. Mary Nandili Ishepe, the Chief Guest and Director of Nursing Services at the Ministry of Health, commended the conference organizers for creating an opportunity for empowering nurses and midwives and urged participants to take leadership roles in revolutionizing the health sector. She acknowledged an acute shortage of nurses globally and lauded St. Paul’s for offering Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree programme as the training of highly qualified graduates would mitigate the prevailing human capital shortage in the healthcare sector. She further stated that the current tough economic times compelled less fortunate students to drop out of school owing to financial constraints. In this regard, she urged institutions of higher learning to partner with organizations and individuals in a bid to secure scholarships for students pursuing nursing courses. Partnerships would also enable

students to draw a wealth of skills and experience from the healthcare practitioners. In addition, she also encouraged participants to actively participate in nursing research.

Conference proceedings wouldn’t come to a close without the launch of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Regular) programme by the Chief Guest. A jubilant audience, confetti sprinkled podium and meticulous unveiling of the programme’s plaque characterized the climax of the historic event. This was coupled with the launch of the Diploma in Nursing Leadership course and a research panel that would deliberate on developing guidelines for nursing research.

Prof. Joseph Galgalo, the St. Paul’s University Vice Chancellor, affirmed his unwavering support for Health Sciences. True to his word, the university has a well-equipped medical skills laboratory to facilitate research, adequate reference resources both in hard and soft copies at the library and highly qualified instructors with a wealth of experience in nursing practice. In addition, the university has partnered with several reputable hospitals to provide students an environment to practice skills acquired in class. The Medical Benevolence Foundation has relentlessly supported the programmes by donating state-of-the-art medical equipment and sponsoring student’s tuition.

The conference was a great milestone for health practitioners as participants had an array of take homes ranging from leadership to practical methods for improving healthcare.

NURSING & MIDWIFERY CONFERENCE 2019



Dr. Mary Nandili, the Ministry of Health Director of Nursing Services and chief guest, delivers the keynote speech



Lisa Cole of the Medical Benevolence Foundation addresses participants



Launch of the BSc. Nursing (Regular) programme



Conference participants pose for photo after the launch



Participants unwind at a cocktail reception

3RD THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR MISSION IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION (TEMAC) INTER-CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE



The Very Rev. Canon Sammy Wainaina makes his remarks during the question and answer session



Catching up before dinner



Conference participants pose for a photo with the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Grace the Most Revd. Justin Welby.



The divine trio



The Most Revd. Justin Welby presides over a Holy Communion Service at the SPU chapel



Revd. Canon Dr. Spencer, gifts the Vice Chancellor with one of the books written during previous conferences

Through the Lens of *Subsistence*

By Joseph Kamau, BACS Student

To some people, he is “The Gentle Giant”, while to others, he is the “Eagle’s Eye”. Most simply know him by his actual name, John Muyendi. The camera is his tool of trade, and for the past three years, he has used it to reveal the world as he views it. With his camera in tow, skilled hands at work, John has travelled far and wide, capturing moments and recording memories of different events. His talent has not only taken him before kings, the high and mighty, but also financed his schooling and enabled him to fend for himself.

John, a fourth year Communication student based at St. Paul’s Nairobi Campus has to tread the delicate path of balancing between studies and work. The soft-spoken, easy-going 25 year old admits that striking a balance between work and studies can be an uphill task. “There were times I missed assessment tests (CATS) because I was required to deliver a particular job at the time they were administered in class,” explains John.

Has John always wanted to become a videographer? His eyes light up and a wry smile curves across his mouth as he answers the question. “Not really,” he offers. “Since childhood, I have always been fascinated by movies. I have always been drawn to the TV anytime there is anything fascinating,” he further explains.

John’s interest in film and video was piqued when he was a form three student. During his brother’s wedding, the person in charge of videography did such an impressive job that he decided to venture into the field. He was certain that if someone could produce such pictures, he was capable of doing the same. After carrying out some research, it became apparent that he needed skills in shooting and editing videos, among others. It was only natural that John would choose to pursue a course that would offer him that opportunity after completing high school. This led him to join St. Paul’s to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with his minor being Film. He is set to graduate in 2019.

Yes, he has met difficult clients who fail to clear balances after their jobs have been delivered. Some claim the jobs are not up to standard even after going through the brief up to the last detail. Getting

equipment is yet another challenge he faces. This is because, he has to hire equipment every time he covers an event, whose cost eats into his profit margin. In this regard, he has bought a camera to cut down on his expenses as he saves to purchase lights and lenses among other equipment. There have been great moments though. For instance, a gym client was so impressed with his work that he recommended a few more clients to him.

John, who is also a film enthusiast constantly keeps himself updated with industry trends and hopes to own a production studio in three years’ time. This would enable him produce photos, videos and music.

His earnings range from twenty five thousand shillings to fifty thousand shillings, depending on the type of job. In a good month he can make up to one hundred thousand shillings, while in a bad one he makes nothing.

When John is not capturing the world through his camera, he pursues his hobbies which include: reading, watching movies and listening to music. He is grateful to St. Paul’s University for offering him an opportunity to pursue his dreams.



Thomas Nudi – USLA Award Winner & Former SPUSA President

By Bahati M. Gatere

He clinched the University Student Leaders Award (USLA) in recognition for his exemplary leadership among other university student leaders in Kenya. The awards were presented to him during a gala night organized by Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) on Wednesday 29th May, 2019 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. Thomas Nudi, described as tall, dark and handsome, with a charming smile is graduating this year with a Bachelor of Business and Information Technology. The Voice Magazine had the opportunity to talk to him and reveals the inner man who makes the outer self so intriguing.

At St. Paul's University (SPU), you are known as Mr. President, who is Thomas Nudi?

I am a man who loves God and my family, being the first born to my parents Peter and Penina Nudi. I have been a student at the main campus in Limuru since 2015 and intend to graduate this year. In the course of my stay, I was privileged to serve in the St. Paul's University Students Association (SPUSA), as the Limuru Campus Sports Representative for one term and President for two consecutive terms, being the first one to do so. Apart from being a student leader, I served in the university choir, ushered in church and participated in peer counseling initiatives. Away from my normal routine, I enjoy reading, watching movies, travelling, socializing with family and friends and cooking. My favourite meal is 'ugali' and fish. My passion for community service is immeasurable and by God's grace I am the Founder of the Nudi Empire Foundation (NEF), a community-based organization. As a leader, my favorite expression is, "GAA!!" - God Above All!

In a nutshell, describe your experience in SPU.

Securing SPU's Sports Scholarship grant created an opportunity for realizing my dream of pursuing higher education. The institution's holistic approach to training based on Christian principles provided a platform for acquisition of professional Business and Information Technology skills, preparation for global service and Christian spiritual formation: my greatest foundation. Some of the values I've picked include humility, leadership, service to God and humanity, ecumenism, partnership, teamwork, integrity, professionalism, equity and customer centrisim. In fact, my experience here has contributed immensely to who I am today and the achievements made so far.



Tell us more about winning the Kenya USLA Award.

The USLA award is an initiative whose founders aimed at changing the long-term narrative that associated university student leaders with rioting, holding unruly demonstrations and causing chaos on major streets whenever they were faced with challenges in their institutions. This would be achieved by encouraging the leaders to solve problems amicably by propelling students' interest through alternative means such as advocacy and lobbying, and reasoning with their respective university's management. This would create a positive impact on comrades and society at large. The Award is presented to the most outstanding student leader in Kenya, who has demonstrated exemplary performance while serving students, the respective university and community at large.

As a student leader what challenges did you face?

The greatest challenge was meeting my comrades' high expectations by trying my best to solve all their problems. Students believe that the President has answers to all their problems. Balancing academics and office work was not easy

either; it took a lot of sacrifice and hard work to excel. Moreover, striving to be a role model by setting high standards of integrity as a public figure was also quite challenging. I had to study throughout the night in order to finish class assignments within the stipulated time and catch up on missed lessons.

This year Voice Magazine is focusing on Entrepreneurship, what is your opinion on money-making matters?

Money is good when acquired through the right means and used in a proper manner rather than for selfish interests. However, money should not be worshipped.

Jack Ma once said, 'If you have a dollar that is your money, if you have ten dollars, we may not be very sure. It may be yours or not. And if you have a hundred dollars then that is not your money, it is for the community.' Precisely, it means to whom much is given, much is expected from him and the more you are blessed, the more you are supposed to assist people and the community.





Prof. Dr. Christoph Stuckelberger, the founder of Globethics.net, launches the Chancellor Kobia Center Ethics, Governance and Integrity



Prof. Dr. Christoph Stuckelberger presents a seed to Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia in support of the initiative



Students mingle with media personalities during the Beyond Classroom event



A community dialogue initiative in Nairobi's Eastleigh region organized by SPU's Center for Christian Muslim Relations in Eastleigh and Life and Peace Institute



SPU's Roll ball team takes on Tropical Heat during SPU Opens



The Library donates books to students and staff during the University's Cultural Week



Mr. Apollo Njoroge, Faulu Bank's CEO speaks on Entrepreneurship during the University's Cultural Week



Participants spreading a message of peace while encouraging Eastleigh residents to embark on reading



Prof. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o (center) gives an insight into his style of writing



A warm welcome for the Literature legend by SPU's Drama Club



SPU's drama club performs a dance at the National Music Festivals

ICT and Entrepreneurship

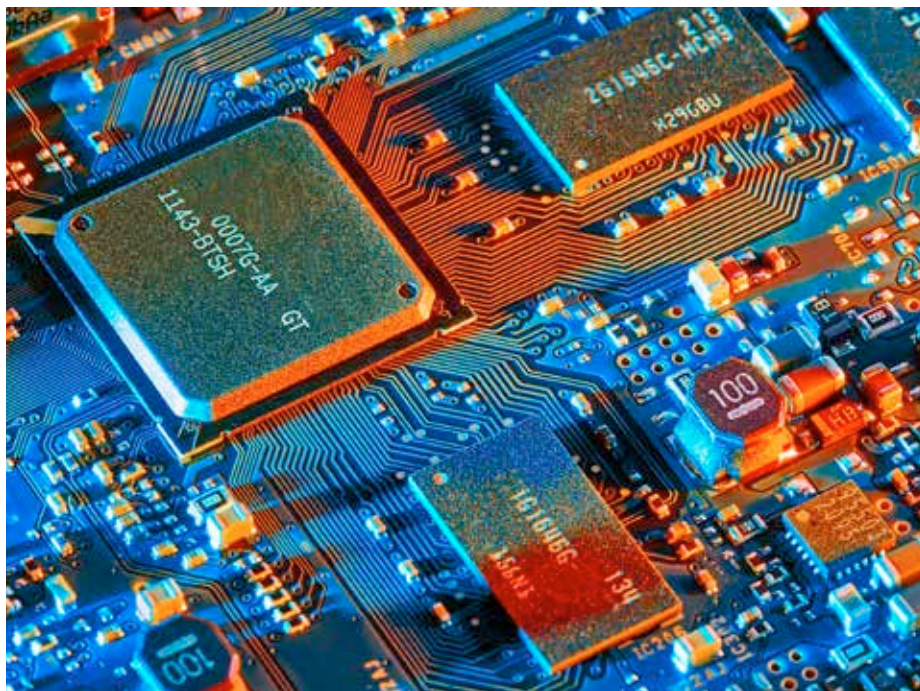
By Kennedy Waweru

One are the days when an Information Technology (IT) office in organizations was just but a dusty back office whose purpose and functions nobody knew. Today, any organization which ignores the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) does so to their peril. In the last two decades, ICT has gone through exponential growth and now cuts across all segments of people's lives bringing with it new opportunities for businesses and individuals. For example, ICT can decrease the cost of doing business, increase productivity and effectiveness in organizations and at the individual level, provide access to valuable information, and also improve the quality of life. ICT is fast changing the way we behave, work, communicate, travel and do business. Welcome to the digital age.

As unemployment and underemployment continue to become chronic political issues in many developing countries it remains to be seen whether there will be enough jobs to gainfully employ everyone. This is compounded by the fact that many activities that workers carry out today have the potential to be automated in the near future. That said however, entrepreneurship remains critical to unlocking new opportunities through innovation in this modern era of changes. Entrepreneurs create both direct and indirect employment to many, thereby clearing the path for economic development.

ICT is both an enabler for entrepreneurship as well as an entrepreneurial opportunity by itself. The Internet, for example, offers learning opportunities to people in far flung parts of a country who traditionally could not access global information that could spur ideas to solve local problems. Where knowledge was safely hidden in books accessible only by the advantaged, the Internet offers access to huge volumes of information in multiple formats including audio and video which can be easily digested by the not so educated. Agro-entrepreneurs, for example, can leverage the superior benefits offered by ICT to access potential markets, improve operational efficiency, access agricultural extension and advisory services, as well as create new opportunities.

The digital age has also seen the rise of new business models. The Internet has made it easier to match demand and supply in real-time without any geographical limitations thereby providing marketplaces for goods, services and information. Digitally enabled business models, for example, are picking pace and challenging the old ways of doing business. These models include the Ubers



As unemployment and underemployment continue to become chronic political issues in many developing countries it remains to be seen whether there will be enough jobs to gainfully employ everyone.

of today that enable private car owners to earn an extra coin on the side, AirBnB which is a model that allows home owners to put out for rent/lease the extra space in their homes for travellers which challenges the traditional accommodation model, LinkedIn which has disrupted the way businesses recruit, to name but a few. ICT therefore provides the means for innovative entrepreneurs to think outside the box and provide new solutions in the digital economy.

Traditional business models are also digitizing their processes in order to gain competitive advantage and/or to survive. A business that proves

to be responsive to customer needs, queries and dissatisfactions will gain a competitive advantage. Digitization provides a means to achieve this through use of digital communication channels like emails, social media platforms, websites, use of data management analytics and more. Apart from transforming these client-facing systems, organizations are also turning their attention to re-inventing the core of business operations. At the heart of the transformation is automation, data analytics and reporting, real-time analysis, which profoundly change how work gets done. All these developments provide opportunities for ICT entrepreneurs to venture into innovative value addition or disruptive ICT business models in the digital age and provide solutions to established businesses that give them that marginal edge against their competitors.

With the right set of skills, entrepreneurs are still open to business in this brave new world. At St Paul's University, we recognize the importance of exposing our students to entrepreneurship skills as well as access to trainings and tools that expose them to the possibilities of leveraging on ICT to make an impact in the digital economy. We are open for business.

SPU Career Talk and Tour

A Walkie-Talkie and Peep @ SPU'S Main Campus - Limuru

By Bahati M. Gatere

In the past few years, St. Paul's University has grown to be a reputable institution of higher learning. The university is known for upholding high moral values and quality standards with regard to academic programmes offered, competent staff, state-of-the-art learning facilities and infrastructure. Moreover, our approach of delivering holistic education provides a healthy mix of student life experiences and extra-curricular activities that students engage in alongside academics.

It is this new reality that has heightened the desire of several high school Principals, teachers and students to physically visit the Campus and share in this coveted experience, firsthand. The Marketing team owes it to God and the institution's dedicated leadership for being at the forefront of steering initiatives, that have propelled the growth and development of the Christian ecumenical University that trains students to be servants of God and humanity in whichever profession they choose to train in. The team endeavors to ensure that visitors participating in the University tours not only feel part and parcel of the exercise, but also enjoy the experience as they see the reality that distinguishes St. Paul's University.

A typical campus tour is initiated by a representative of any high school expressing the institution's intention to visit by writing to the Public Relations and Marketing Officer; who in return, confirms availability of a slot with an appropriate date. Thereafter, the marketing team is assigned to plan for the school's visit.

The day's schedule has four sessions. The **first session** comprises of introductions, ice-breakers and if there is an ongoing church service,

which is usually the case, the high school fraternity will be welcomed and integrated into it. Afterwards, the guests meet the Public Relations and Marketing Officer, from whom words of encouragement flow.

The **second session** is reserved for career talks where staff and student volunteers of SPU take time to pour out their experiences to stimulate a vision of possibilities to the campus tourists. This is supported with facts about SPU which include: the history, courses available, campus life, extra-curricular activities and career guidance. The session is concluded with a question and answer period and an opportunity to show appreciation for both the hosts, and the high school visitors.

Lunch is served during the **third session** after which the actual physical tour of the institution

happens. This is particularly the exciting part for the students as they get to visit the library, the old chapel (which was first built in 1903), the state of the art amphitheatre and student centre; sports field, studio, lecture rooms, offices and cafeterias. The day's highlight is meeting students and staff along the corridors and walkways, creating the feeling like; "that could be me in a few weeks, months or years!" in the mind of the visiting student.

Finally, the visitors have a group photo to capture the day and moment. They are requested to fill in a questionnaire before their departure, which helps the University to get feedback about their experience on campus. Departure is usually full of excitement about the campus tour but also reluctant as they usually wish for just **one more hour at SPU!!!**

For the marketing team, the experience is exciting and the opportunity to pour out information, share experience and give hope to the visiting students is one that we keep looking forward to. Through our talks, we inspire students to aim high and strive to achieve the best for their future to the glory of God. We help the students to make the best choices for professional careers, all the while revealing SPU as the University of Choice!

To book an appointment for a campus talk & tour, simply call us on 0701 079 406 or write an email to pro@spu.ac.ke.



Students from Senior Chief Koinange Girls pose for a photo after the campus tour

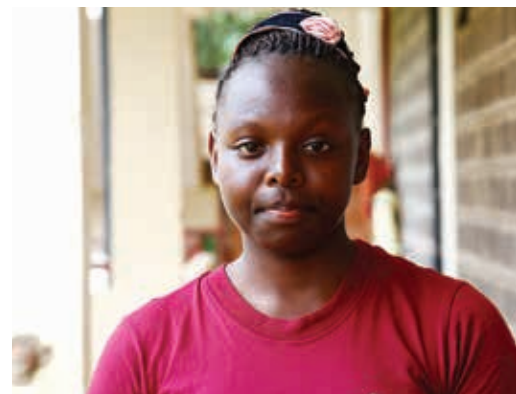


**ST. PAUL'S
UNIVERSITY**

IS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTED?

hit us up on www.spu.ac.ke or write to us via email; admissions@spu.ac.ke or call us on;

Limuru Campus **0701 079 406**
Nairobi Campus **0701 079 407**
Nakuru Campus **0701 079 409**
Machakos Campus **0705 141 002**



RUTH CHEROP NURSING STUDENT
FROM KENYA HIGH NAIROBI COUNTY



ALEXANDER KIBET COMMERCE STUDENT
MANG'U SCHOOL KIAMBU COUNTY



CHELSEA NG'ENO NURSING STUDENT
FROM ALLIANCE GIRLS KIAMBU COUNTY



ELIAS DIBA COMMUNICATION STUDENT
FROM MERU SCHOOL MERU COUNTY



CALEB MAINGI COMMERCE STUDENT
FROM NDATANI SCHOOL MAKUENI COUNTY



CHRISTINE BOSIBORI COMMUNICATION STUDENT
FROM MIRITHU GIRLS KIAMBU COUNTY



ELIUD KIPRONO NURSING STUDENT
FROM ST. JOSEPH'S- KITALE TRANS-NZOIA COUNTY



ELVA MAKANDI PUBLIC RELATIONS STUDENT-FROM MATERI GIRLS THARAKA NITHI COUNTY



HASSAN ADOW NURSING STUDENT-AHMED LIBAN SCHOOL WAJIR COUNTY



MOMBO JEREMIAH COMMERCE STUDENT-FROM TIMBILA BOYS TAITA TAVETA COUNTY



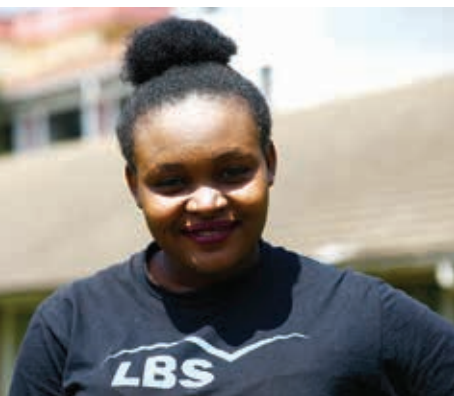
ERICK MUTAI EDUCATION STUDENT-FROM LABORET HIGH NANDI COUNTY



HYLENE SEREM COMMUNICATION STUDENT-FROM KORONGOI GIRLS KERICHO COUNTY



PHILEMON RUTO COMMERCE STUDENT-KAPENGURIA HIGH WEST POKOT COUNTY



ESTHER KERUBO COMMUNICATION STUDENT-FROM MANGUA HIGH KILIFI COUNTY



IRENE GITARI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STUDENT-FROM NYAHURURU ELITE SCHOOL NYANDARUA COUNTY



CYNTHIA MUTURI COMMERCE STUDENT-KAMAHAHA HIGH MURANGA COUNTY



GLORIA NJERI COMMUNITY DEV. STUDENTOUR LADY OF LOURDES NYERI COUNTY



JUDITH MISIATI NURSING STUDENT-FROM BUNYORE GIRLS KAKAMEGA COUNTY



SANIA OKELLO COMMUNICATION STUDENT-FROM ST ANDREWS HIGH MOMBASA COUNTY

REACHING OUT

KAJIADO CHILDREN'S HOME

By Derrick Wesonga, Lynda Kiboi & Bahati Gatere

Corporate Social Responsibility has become increasingly important to organizations over the last several years. Whether it's by empowering women, helping the environment, or trying to end poverty, more and more organizations are incorporating social responsibility into their overall business strategy. St. Paul's University has not been left behind and this year, we reached out with more enthusiasm to meet the needs of the community around us. On Saturday 13th July 2019 both staff and students visited Kajiado Children's Home with the sole desire of spending quality time with orphaned and abandoned children. Voice had the opportunity to speak to the organizers about their experience

Why did you do it?

In our working environment, we can find ourselves self-centred that we miss to see the problems people have. It is prudent to take time to thank God for what you have by helping those in need. At SPU we declare that we are servants of God and humanity and this effort was driven by the Word of God that says you should love your neighbour as you love yourself. We believe that a neighbour is anyone in need of your help. We wanted to help by giving encouragement and meeting some basic needs.

What captured the hearts of the people who went the most?

Certainly it was the cheerful hearts of the children. They may not have much, but they thank God for the provision they get. They are a united community, warm and welcoming. By appearance, you wouldn't tell that they lacked basic needs and has reminded us to give thanks to the Lord for what we have.

What was the response at the end of the day?

Both the children and staff in Kajiado Children's home were very glad we visited. The SPU group that visited decided that they should visit more homes in the near future. In the small ways we participated, we made an impact and touched a child's heart. It was an enlightening experience

and given a chance, we committed ourselves to doing it again. It's not every day that we get a chance to do something nice to strangers but when we do, we should do it with cheerful hearts. What is more satisfying than making someone smile? We hope that the next time we plan to go, more people will be on board.



CSR

CLOSER HOME

Impacting St. Paul's Primary School

By Chantal Bunei and Bahati Gatere

Many employees want to feel like they're part of something bigger, it's no different at St. Paul's University. Social responsibility empowers employees to leverage the corporate resources at their disposal to do good. Being part of a strategy that helps the greater good can boost employee morale and lead to greater productivity in the workforce. Knowing a product and service is also helping with social causes and can create a sense of fellowship and that shows in relationships with customers and fellow employees. Hence, the continuous impact on St. Paul's Primary School is a motivation to the staff and students who give time and various resources to make life easier for the children in this public school. The school borders our SPU fence and being our immediate neighbour, the institution is aware of the needs and seeks to provide a lot of support and assistance.

Readers are Leaders Library & Public Relations CSR

In the beginning of 2011, Bishop Okullo Memorial Library started exploring the idea of starting a primary and secondary schools outreach program uniquely designed to reach out to our schools' community by raising awareness of the need for well managed libraries both in primary and secondary schools. This idea was actualized this year when the PR team partnered with the Librarians to host 7 schools within Limuru sub-county, in a colorful ceremony graced by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs who spoke on the privilege of reading. The Library team gave the schools huge boxes loaded with relevant books. Some of the beneficiaries are Uhuru Girls, Kirenga Boys, Kamandura Girls, Ngenia Boys, Gichuru Boys, Tigoni Primary and Kabuku Primary school. Through this CSR donation, the University

raised awareness of the importance of preparing a generation of readers for leadership; this was one of the key messages passed on to the youth not just with words but by our actions.



The school borders our SPU fence and being our immediate neighbour, the SPU CSR is aware of the needs and seeks to provide a lot of support and assistance.

CISCO Networking Academy at St. Paul's University

By Wilson Musyoka, CISCO Instructor



The place of modern technology in our contemporary world and its ability to influence and transform lives cannot be overstated. Each day, experts in different sectors keep coming up with new innovations while updating existing ones. As a result, lives are transformed owing to changes that come with the innovations. In this regard, training end users on existing and new innovations is crucial. CISCO Networking Academy offers comprehensive training in Information and Communication Technology.

Incepted in September 2016 at St. Paul's University, the academy gives ICT enthusiasts and students insight into computer networking and secure navigation on the World Wide Web. This is achieved through offering comprehensive e-learning programmes that impart students with invaluable skills essential for excelling in a global economy. The course delivery methodology comprises of rich web-based content, simulation tools, online assessments, student performance tracking, hands-on labs, instructor training and support, and preparation for industry standard certifications. The certifications include: CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA), CCNA Security and CISCO Certified Networking Professional (CCNP).

Curriculum development for the academy is done by experts in academia and industry to facilitate adequate coverage of technological skills that match industry requirements. This gives learners a competitive advantage over their peers with regard to securing employment in Computer networking. Since

its inception, approximately one hundred and four learners have successfully completed training at different levels, with a majority securing lucrative jobs with reputable companies before completing their regular programmes at the university.

Samuel Chebweche Kisiangani, speaks of the benefits he accrued from enrolling for the training in preparation for the CISCO Certified Network Associate certification at St. Paul's. "I have always been fascinated by technology and its capacity to drive innovation of solutions that transform lives. With a background in computer science and strong enthusiasm for computer networking, I enrolled for the CISCO Certified Network Associate training," he states. "By interacting with industry practitioners and students during several events organized by the university, I got insight into industry requirements. Moreover, I learnt of internet of communities and internet policy making organizations like IEEE, ICANN, Afrinic and Afnog among others. I also had an opportunity to be part of a policy making team at the African Internet Summit in Kampala, Uganda, that formulated policies that govern the cyberspace," he adds. "The training offered at SPU not only imparts learners with computer networking and internet skills but also programming and Mobile Application Development skills," he states with a broad smile.

Samuel appreciates St. Paul's for giving him a head start in his career in computer networking and encourages all Cisco students to stay focused and keep the fire burning.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BY Brook Rimas

It's a public secret that campus is where almost everyone discovers their true north. It's where we define our career path, meet our future spouses (if we are lucky) and create networks and connections that last a lifetime. St. Paul's University, in a bid to give students a wholesome campus experience has placed clubs and societies at the centre of the student life in campus.

One of the clubs that stood out and continues to wholesomely mould students is the Rotaract Club. It might be the newest club in the university's main campus but kids have also been known to be the most active. The club, initiated by the immediate past President Oscar Luchivya is under the umbrella of Rotary International, a non-profit organisation that is involved in humanitarian work and develops the careers of members. Rotary is the leading charity organisation in the world closely followed by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. To Rotarians, giving is not just a virtue, it's an indispensable part of life.

From the onset, everyone had the feeling that this wasn't just a club like any other. Never before had any other club undertaken the kind of projects the Rotaractors took on. This can be attributed to the various offices within the club that strove to outshine themselves. Some of the projects undertaken by Community Service docket, however, are worth mentioning. The painting of the police post in Kabuku area Limuru proved immensely successful and resonated with the Rotaractors resolve to change the communities within which they live globally. In Kenya, societies have widely regarded the men in uniform as unwelcome visitors. The Rotaract club therefore sought to change this narrative, a brushstroke at a time and in the process set the pace in community policing.

In addition, Rotary is an avenue of networking and a hub for professional development. In this regard, the club has embarked on an initiative to start a bee keeping business and custom make rotary prints that will be funded by the mother club, the rotary club of Karen. This is a sustainable venture that will help fund the club's projects. What more? The members who will be running the business will personally reap big from this initiative as they will gain entrepreneurial skills.



St. Paul's University Stamps Authority in the Film Industry

BY MARITIM IVY.

The St. Paul's University Nakuru drama club team has once again affirmed their prowess in the film industry after a big win in this year's Kenya National Drama and Film Festivals awards. The club's film titled 'FIXED' clinched the 3rd National Best Feature Film award during the festival held at Kibabii University early this year. Apart from winning the National Best Feature Film, the production also scooped best script, best female supporting actress and best poster in the national awards.

The film has also been nominated for awards in four different categories in the upcoming Lake International PanAfrican Film Festival (LIPFF) scheduled for November this year. The four categories include: Best Feature Film in Kenya, Best Student Feature Film, Best Film Nakuru County and the main character, Tichii Njoroge, has been nominated for the Best Actor category. The film will be competing in the same pool with other films from Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, Burundi and South Africa.

The film director Mr. Odipo Riaga of Ustadi films, praised both the cast and crew for their commitment towards the production of a world class film. "I am very proud of the team. We managed to produce a master piece; a very entertaining film suitable for family viewing," said an elated Odipo. The drama club president Ms. Joyllene Mueni congratulated the team for the good work and added that the club had grown in leaps and bounds in its capacity and quality of production. "While we were submitting the film for the national festivals at Kababii we had a hitch with the sound recording which cost us the top position but we immediately rectified the situation and submitted the film for the LIPFF awards. We are glad to be nominees in four categories," said Joyllene.

'FIXED' is scripted from the story of a college boy, Jay, who is addicted to betting and ends up buried in debt which forces him to seek help from Mercy, a girl he likes. The cast features Tichii Njoroge as Jay, Maritim Ivy as Mercy and Abel Okoth as Steve. While the film encourages entrepreneurship in Kenya's creative industry, it will also play a key role in addressing the gambling scourge that is threatening the economic empowerment in Kenya's most productive demographic dividend.

Spreading Love and Support: The Guidance and Counselling Club

BY Felicia Katua

Life presents us with many challenging situations. The uncertainty of constant change often throws curve balls at well thought plans causing us to go back to the drawing board and retrace the path to the goals we intended to accomplish. In cognizance of this reality, a group of students with interest in peer counseling came together to provide love, support and a hearing ear to each other and to fellow students in particular, to see them through the challenges of day-to-day life. It is this initiative that birthed the Guidance and Counselling Club at St. Paul's University, Nairobi Campus.

Arguably, the Guidance and Counselling club is one of the most successful clubs in the university. The cooperation, love and support among its members is the common thread that provides the collective push towards achieving the laid out goals. Despite changes made to the club's leadership every academic year, the camaraderie between club members always outlives their academic pursuit and members keep in touch long after graduation. Club membership is pegged on twenty hours of mandatory training and successful completion of the vetting process. The club is guided by an existing constitution that stipulates the rules and regulations that every member should abide by.

The scope of issues that peer

counselors deal with range from family matters, relationship problems and academic challenges such as adjusting to the university systems. However, with the sweeping wave of depression, the peer counselors have their work cut out for them. The peer counselors play a key role in offering counsel and support to students who find it easier to disclose their problems to fellow peers. Issues of grave concern are escalated to the peer counseling head and the presented to the university counselor. While the peer counselor presents wise counsel and sound options to resolve the problem, the final decision lies with the person being counseled.

The Guidance and Counseling club not only provides a social safety net but is also engaged in outreach activities. The team participates in visiting children's homes, team buildings and regular coffee hour sessions aimed at deliberating on emerging issues. The activities of the guidance and counseling club are grounded in spreading love, care and support to the student community. There is a lot of support and help available to anyone going through a rough patch. For those seeking to make an impact in someone else's life, there is always room to join the club and provide a helping hand and a listening ear to those who need love, comfort and wise counsel.



SPUSA'S *Effect on* ENTERPRENUERSHIP

By Brook Rimas

2019 ushered a new breed of SPUSA leaders as is the norm at the beginning of every year. One agenda that resonated in most SPUSA aspirant's manifestos, now elected officials, is the support of students in their entrepreneurial ventures. SPUSA has been striving to achieve this duty.

Students have financial needs mostly because they do not have a stable source of income. The burden of students is in return the burden of the people they elected, which compels SPUSA members to go back to their pockets to aid students in dire circumstances. Therefore, enforcing entrepreneurial advancement for students is an issue that is close in minds to SPUSA officials.

They have set up strategies to ensure that entrepreneurial students get an opportunity to sell their products to the entire St. Paul's University community. SPUSA President, Victor Ondiek, advocates for the support of students who are go-getters, have good business skills and great business ideas that have not been actualized due to financial constraints.

Moreover, the leadership has been pushing for a club called 'The Young Entrepreneurship Club.' This club will be an avenue for growth and if nurtured, can be a hub for sustainable business ideas. Entrepreneurship, according to the Finance Secretary, Edwin Muhoro will be most profitable if it is sustainable.

The SPUSA Executive Council which includes the President, the Secretary General and the Finance Secretary have been working relentlessly to ensure that SPU Soko becomes a reality in all St. Paul's University



campuses. To ensure that their agenda is fulfilled, they involved the Dean Faculty of Business, Computer Science and Communication Studies, Dr. John Muhoho who is working to ensure that all students who have an interest in running their enterprises get a chance to show case their products to potential customers.

There have also been talks to advocate for a business workshop which will create a window for students to market their ideas to potential sponsors. The advantage of such a forum is that it creates exposure to the students. Students will get training sessions on the entrepreneurial world and meet

STUDENTS HAVE FINANCIAL NEEDS MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE A STABLE SOURCE OF INCOME. ”

individuals who are running successful businesses.

An institution of higher learning is an environment that should facilitate the holistic growth of an individual. With an increase in the rates of unemployment and an influx of highly skilled graduands, there is need to develop alternative sources of employment through self-driven economic empowerment initiatives. The current SPUSA government acknowledges that supporting students' business initiatives will have a solid entrepreneurial impact on the students.

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St. Paul's University Enterprise Unit

By Kevin C. Macharia and Elizabeth Kimaru

Universities are established for the primary role of imparting knowledge, developing new insight through research and innovation and training human capital that is a key driver of economic growth and sustainability. Globally, universities continue to face funding challenges that hinder their capacity to engage in ground breaking research that enriches knowledge. As a result, education institutions are rethinking their entire strategic, operating, organizational and financial models. Revenue diversification programmes offer a compelling and proven solution towards financial independence, greater autonomy and flexibility in funding with lower emphasis on tuition as their only source of revenue. Universities willing to optimize their financial resource allocations to fuel strategic growth can therefore challenge the status quo. St. Paul's University's diversification strategy is tethered on the provision of corporate training and conferencing facilities through the St. Paul's University Enterprise Unit.

The Enterprise Unit was birthed in 2011 to address the growing need for short courses aimed at upskilling professionals with new skills relevant to a dynamic market place. The inaugural training deemed successful saw forty two students equipped with leadership and management skills. A subsequent training would see a group women church leaders trained to enhance leadership in their service to God. The success of the trainings did not escape unnoticed as the programmes mainly aimed at building capacity for social change attracted sponsorship from the Matthew 28 Ministries. In 2014, the Soteria Women Centre



was constructed to enhance the sustainability of the center.

Since its inception, the business unit has generated a significant amount of income and an impressive annual growth of thirty percent per annum. The Enterprise Unit has also developed service offerings which include a catering section that adequately serves the needs of its diverse clientele. An accommodation unit with fifty self-contained rooms, a training unit offering on an array of packages, team building grounds and conference facilities are some of the auxiliary service offerings that have been developed to support the enterprise. Through an initiative by the unit, the university developed a proposal to facilitate the establishment of the Non-Governmental Training Institute (NGOTI) in collaboration with the government, the National Aids Control Council and the NGO Council, a move that has seen St. Paul's University incorporated in national

The Enterprise Unit was birthed in 2011 to address the growing need for short courses aimed at upskilling professionals with new skills relevant to a dynamic market place.

strategy development framework for HIV program development in Kenya.

It is hoped that the enterprise will have achieved the main objective for which it was established, that of diversifying the university revenue streams. Plans are also underway to establish a university foundation fund which will generate additional funds for investment. Moreover, the university is focused on developing competitive products targeting the

international audience. One such initiative is focused on attracting international scholars for the purpose of sharing knowledge while expanding the scope of networking opportunities.

While the enterprise unit was set up for the sole purpose of generating revenue, it has had far reaching impact on the university's operations. The enterprise has extended its training to the student fraternity. In addition, the unit is also in the process of launching programmes that will offer students the opportunity to gain additional training that will prepare them for the market place. In years to come, the unit seeks to venture into the real estate industry to address the growing need for student accommodation within the education sector.

The Kenyan Experience

By Nolavy Arisoa

As a foreign student, I struggled with the familiar challenges that come with the decision to undertake studies in a new environment. I wondered about the weather and if I would like the food. It was a struggle trying to settle in and any form of communication was approached with trepidation because I wasn't very conversant with the day-to-day application of the English language. Life in Madagascar was very different from what I would experience in Kenya and so, I braced myself for the unknown.

It was very difficult to adjust in the beginning. However, I was embraced by a friendly community of students that held my hand as I got acquainted to my new environment. Being away from home was a huge leap of faith. The anxiety would soon even out as I started attending classes. I found solace in imbibing new knowledge. My grasp of the English language got better and so did my mastery of scripture. The holistic approach to education gave me a new perspective to life and fresh insight. As I grew in spiritual stature, I received new strength, energy and a renewed passion to serve God's people.

My stay at St. Paul's University was truly transformational. I now have a clear understanding of holistic ministry from a biblical perspective. Compelled by the great commission in God's Word and equipped through my Bachelor of Divinity studies, I have been involved in several ministries. With the help of Kenyan clergy posted to Madagascar, we have been involved in planting over forty five churches in the last five years. We have also been involved training evangelists to shepherd more believers as they continually reach to the lost with the gospel of Jesus. In the last five years, we have trained forty evangelists that have put their hands to the plough of



The courses I did at SPU totally transformed me. As my grasp of English got better, I began internalizing the courses offered. And wow! I grew in knowledge and my understanding of scripture.

ministry.

Our efforts to transform the Madagascan community through the gospel have been extremely successful. We have new congregations of believers most of whom meet under a tree for regular service. We have now embarked on the

construction of both permanent and temporary church structures targeting to build at least two permanent and five temporary churches a year.

On 25th August, 2019, I was the first woman to be ordained in the history of my Diocese and the only one in the Island of Madagascar. Looking back, I am thankful for my experience in St. Paul's and the difference it made. It was truly transformational!



'Digital Sister'

By Bernice Njeri

Sister Annah Makau is fresh faced and boisterous, her cream religious garb often overwhelming her small frame. She does not fit the conventional description of a 'sister'. Annah lives out her life's calling in service to the Lord at the Africa Brotherhood church in Kariokor, Nairobi.

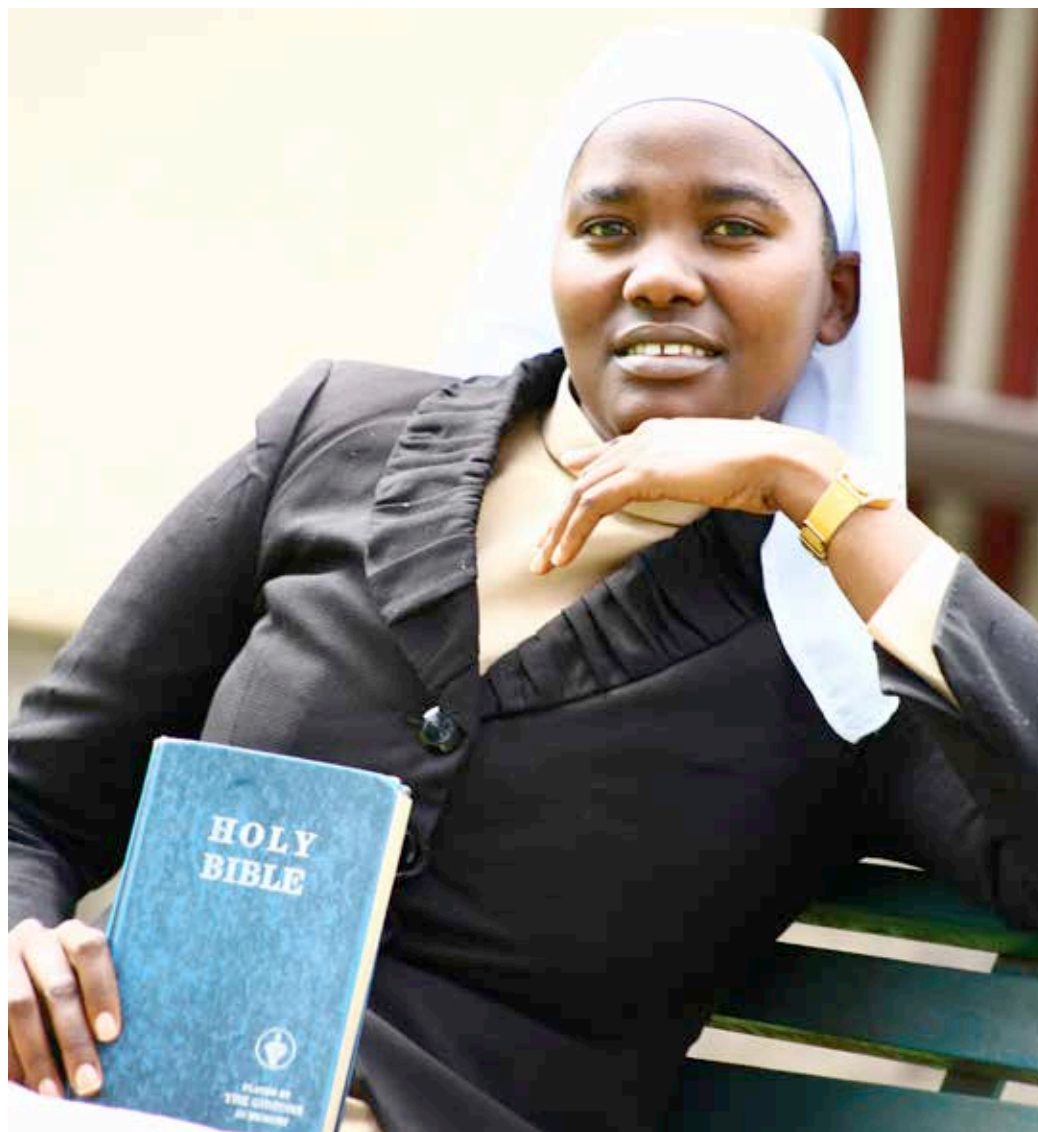
Spurred on by the zeal and desire to serve God, Sister Annah joined the St. Paul's University divinity school in 2013. "It was when I joined the divinity school that I was inspired to minister not only by word of mouth but by song too. This means that by the grace of God, I am a gospel musician and I have been able to reach people that I am yet to meet," says Sister Annah in her usual animated manner.

This year Sister Annah will be graduating from the Bachelors of Divinity Degree programme, one that she credits for her widened perspective on ministry. "Getting the opportunity to study at St. Paul's University is a miracle because I come from a humble background," she says. Sister Annah looks forward to joining the Masters of Theology Programme and trusts God to make it happen. "I would like to thank the St. Paul's fraternity for the support I received during my studies. It is because of this support that I was able to face various issues in life boldly. May God bless St. Paul's University abundantly," she says, almost overwhelmed by the soaring tide of gratitude.

Sister Annah is passionate about spreading the gospel and often shares words of comfort and encouragement from God's Word. "Nothing will ever be impossible to God. Trusting God and keeping the connection with your Creator will bring all things to pass, even those that seem difficult," she advises.

"I would like to thank my denomination for the opportunity to study. God used you to connect me with another amazing environment. I would also like to thank everyone who has contributed to my growth in any way be it physical, spiritual or intellectual. God is above everything that I treasure and so God is above gold," she concludes as she encourages her fellow graduands to embrace service to God and humanity.

Sister Annah is passionate about spreading the gospel and often shares words of comfort and encouragement from God's Word.



The Poodle App- What more can a Mobile Phone do for you?

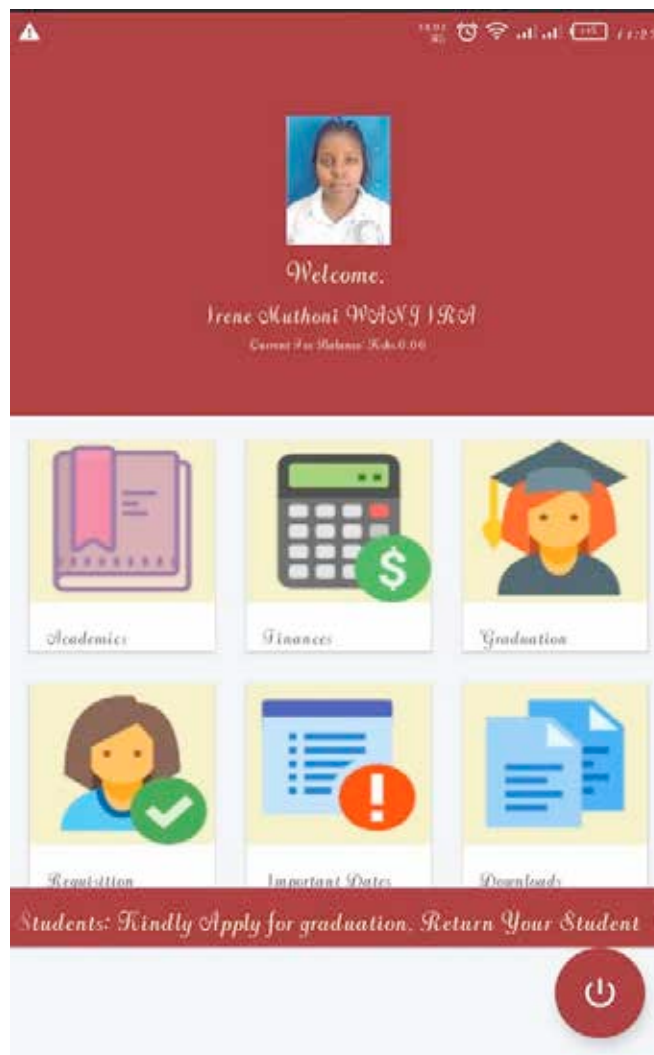
Grace Kinyanjui

Director-Distance & E-Learning Programmes

For the Millennial and those in generation 'Z', life is incomprehensible without a phone. And it's not just any phone, it is the smart phone. All over the world the smart phone has become everything; from using it for purposes of basic communication, to managing finances, for entertainment, as a channel for other mass media, and security, amongst many other uses. Think of a time you have lost your mobile phone, forgotten it somewhere or could not use it because of absence of a signal. Many individuals confess that they became *nomophobic*. "Nomophobia", is a term used to describe the feeling of panic or stress some people experience when they are unable to access or use their mobile phone.

Aided by the never-ending need to cope with new challenges and demands of life, and while exploring new frontiers in technology, new innovations using the smart phone are introduced for use every other day. Humanity has become dependent on a mobile phone because of its capability to solve some inconveniences and challenges. So what more about a smart phone?

Globally, mobile phone penetration has grown astronomically over the last few years, from 29 per cent in 2013 to 43 per cent in 2017, and is projected to reach 61 per cent of the global population by 2025. But there is a new phenomenon now taking over. It is the use of the mobile phone for educational purposes as the next frontier. In this, St Paul's University has not been left behind. Noting that almost every student and Faculty member owns a smart phone, the University chose to utilize this



availability and accessibility. In the process, it has joined the league of innovators using the smart phone for learning purposes.

In 2017, a homegrown e-learning mobile phone application (**POODLE**) made its way into the Google play store. This app is a mirror of the University's e-learning portal (**MOODLE**) that is majorly used by Distance and e-learning students. It is customized to fit on the mobile phone screen and is absolutely free for

same time, use their mobile phones to access their emails.

With this in mind, it was rather obvious that a mobile phone based solution was key to addressing this challenge and bridging the gap. The availability, cost and ease of use of a mobile phone became the critical factors for consideration and with that, **POODLE** was born. It has become a valuable addition to the SPU community of users as it has promoted Mobile Learning. The e-learning mobile phone app provides convenience and flexibility to users wherever they are; in a classroom, in the dining room table, riding on a bus, queuing at a banking hall, in a waiting room of a hospital, attending a function, stuck in traffic jam, waiting to catch a flight, literary anywhere!

With a view of gaining competitive advantage, innovations geared at problem solving and creating efficiency and effectiveness are not only laudable, but the way to go. This innovation has made the virtual campus accessible from all corners of the world, across the digital divide and has promoted digital inclusion. It is accessible both synchronously (real-time) and asynchronously (off-line). Empowered with a tool already in everyone's possession -a mobile phone-service delivery is gaining popularity and traction. Sustainability and development will only be realizable to organizations and institutions such as St. Paul's University that have positioned themselves strategically in a dynamic but turbulent business environment. Technology is here! Smart phones are here! Great leaders are asking themselves how they are going to grab opportunities presented to them by mobile phone technologies for a greater future.

downloading and use by SPU faculty and staff. What led to the **POODLE** innovation? With growing concern, it was noted that for students in far flung areas of the country, cabled internet connectivity is a major challenge because of inadequate infrastructural developments. There lacked both an efficient and an effective medium of communication. However, these students would make phone calls to the University staff and make inquiries, while at the

Spiritual Formation: The Pathway to Academic Excellence

By Reverend Samuel Githinji

Spiritual formation is an important aspect of life at St. Paul's University. This lends credence to the institution's spiritual heritage and its founders, who inspired by the Christian faith, devoted their lives to serving humanity through provision of skills and knowledge. When St. Paul's University was founded in 1903, knowledge and skills were a practical focus for living that has continually been sustained through the institution's existence. Yoked with academic excellence, spiritual formation for global service has been the foundation on which the university's mission and vision are anchored.

'Excellence is not an act but a habit', said Will Durant in repeated emphasis. The institution instills spiritual formation through activities that are grafted in its core business, that of delivering quality education. To achieve holistic transformation, the university has designated three and a half hours each week for spiritual development for both staff and students. Spiritual formation precedes leadership and the main duty of the six ordained ministers is to initiate and coordinate spiritual formation activities. Staff are engaged with the understanding that devotion to God and service to others is an integral part of duty. Every staff is a role model and a mentor to students.

The university finds its distinction in its mission: *To develop servant leaders*. A commitment to provide excellent service is exemplified in the institution's motto, 'Servants of God and Humanity.' In keeping with its Christian values, St. Paul's University leverages the teachings of Jesus Christ who was not only a good teacher but a transformative leader, one that embodied the principles he taught. Jesus was the penultimate professor of spiritual formation. The university seeks to learn and emulate him by providing an environment where faith is encouraged, nurtured, celebrated and affirmed.

Spiritual formation is a matter of passion, total commitment and applying the mind the best one can. It is not an event, it is what

we repeatedly do. Daily spiritual formation events are reminders and pointers to what is core 'until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). In obedience to this exhortation, the university

has invested time and resources in ensuring that values are instilled to enable students' navigate life's murky waters with the clarity, understanding and appreciation for the faith that has been imparted to them during their stay at St. Paul's University.

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SPU's Light FM 99.9 Feted for Compliance

By Esther Njonde

Pomp, color and glamour are the three words that characterized this year's KUZA Broadcasting Awards, with the St. Paul's University fraternity scooping first place in the *Compliance Award Community Radio* category, at the June 28th gala event.

The annual event, which is in its third edition, seeks to "reward responsible and responsive broadcasting, enable participation of consumers in the process and equally encourage the use of broadcasting platforms for socio-economic development."

The SPU Head of Department for Communication Studies Dr. John Ndavula, is quick to clarify that winning the award had its fair share of obstacles. "The period leading to the 2017 General Elections saw the Communications Authority come up with so many regulations for community radio stations, which was difficult to comply with, but we have done our best."

The Light FM patron insisted that behind the shine that the award brings, the university first had to institute the best programmes for its radio station, install the best equipment, source for news anchors conversant with the station's type of content, as well as the general broadcasting laws. "This kind of investment helps Light FM produce competitive programmes that appeal to audiences in both the commercial and institution-based leagues in the country," he quips.

The University Studio Manager, Christine Waringa expressed pride in achieving the award and credits it to the Light FM team's hard work and its patron's exceptional support. "Moving forward, we are coming out bigger and better, with improved programming and more appealing content for our listeners." This year's theme was identified as "Reminiscing the broadcasting journey in Kenya: A snapshot of Kenya from 1924 to 2019."



Dr. John Ndavula, the Department of Communication Studies HOD receives the Award

Another Crown for Miss SPU!

By Brook Rimas, Kevin C. Macharia

Kenya's lakeside County of Kisumu was the venue for the crowning of Mr and Miss University, Kenya. The ambience of the county tickled the salivary glands of the guests who had heard of the praise given to the fish delicacies served along the lakeside. But that was not the priority of the SPUSA officials who went to Kisumu. It was that time of the year when the gala to crown Mr and Miss University was being held.

The contest took place on Saturday the 24th of August at the Mega City Mall inside the exclusive IMAX theatre. Miss St Paul's University, Joy Mungai was all glammed up and ready to represent the university. Despite a challenge to raise the required entry fee; with partial support from SPUSA government and the administration, she was able to pay up the required amount. The event started from noon to 6:00pm due to the ongoing census at the time. However, this did not stop students from showing up to cheer their own

The event was graced by the Minister of Tourism Kisumu County, who welcomed the guests in attendance together with other staff from the county of Kisumu. The contest was tough and therefore called for not only the looks but also brains. Luckily, Miss St. Paul's University, Joy Mungai, had both; she made us proud by making it to the top five. The higher they went the tougher it got and Joy was able to scoop the prize for Miss Congeniality Kenya. This means that she was



eloquent and articulate with her words, a price coveted by many. That was a big win not only for her but also for the university. For the first time the university has a representative at national level at the Mr and Miss University contests.

As the old adage goes, 'for every good deed there is a reward.' Her success was met with recognition from Safaricom representatives who presented her with gift hampers as well as a tour around Kisumu. Joy together with the team of winners got the chance to visit various sites including, Kit Mikai and the Highlands of Kisumu. We wish her all the best as she continues to pursue her career in modelling.

Students' Encounter with Global Scholars

By Dr. John Ndavula

In February 2019, Prof Ngugi wa Thiong'o and his son Prof Mukoma wa Ngugi, held a joint literary event dubbed *'The Duel on the Ridges'* at St. Paul's University's Limuru Campus (SPU). The event was significant because it marked a homecoming for the distinguished professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California. Ngugi was returning to his Limuru home town to hold a literary event so close *Kamirithu*, a place that was the epicentre of the political storm that saw him jailed, exiled and his books banned in the 80s.

His welcome was heroic. The audience filled the 600-seater amphitheatre at the idyllic campus. The varied audience included – St. Paul's University students, academics, writers, lovers of the arts, Ngugi's old friends from the University of Nairobi, members of the publishing fraternity, and the Limuru community. They whispered anxiously as they waited to see Ngugi – the legend of a man – who had published household titles like *'The River Between'* and *'A Grain of Wheat.'* The event which was moderated by Dr Joyce Nyairo, was organized by the Department of Communication Studies. The literary duel was aired on Light FM, broadcast live on Y254 TV and streamed on YouTube.

Ngugi's son Mukoma spent his winter break at SPU as a visiting professor. The literary event with his father was his final appearance before jetting back to Cornell University where he is professor of English. Earlier in the semester, Mukoma had given public lectures on the Black American History and also lectured in communication classes. His engagements revealed his vast knowledge, wit and humour. Apart



Prof Ngugi wa Thiong'o

from the Ngugi's, the communication department also hosted Prof David Dzaka. Dzaka is a Ghanaian professor of English and Director of the Writing Center at Messiah college in USA. The purpose of his visit was to facilitate a writing center training programme for students. He also gave a lecture on writing, cognition, metacognition and reinvention of the African universities.

"I really enjoyed my stay at St. Paul's University. I loved the interaction with students, their enthusiasm and I think St. Paul's university is at the forefront of reshaping university education in Kenya", said Dzaka.

Students benefited immensely from the engagement with visiting scholars. They not only gained knowledge but also practical skills on events planning, media production and public relations. 'I was privileged to attend the lectures and I felt empowered and

inspired as an upcoming academic," said Joe Kamweru a fourth-year communication student.

Leyian Mootian, a second-year communication student who goes by the Twitter handle 'Narok's Finest', was part of the event organization team that put out a spirited online publicity campaign for the events. "We created the hashtag #ngugisatSPULive for the event featuring the Ngugi's. Our hashtag appeared as a top trend on Twitter on the day of the event," said Leyian. 'We put out some publicity material and social media caught the frenzy. One post we made on Facebook reached Ten thousand people and had close to Two thousand engagements', said Brook Rimas, a third-year student who volunteered on the organization team. The professors appeared on TV and Radio talk shows and also got featured in the press. Esther Njonde,

a fourth-year mass communication major said she was elated to see the photos she took during the events appear in the Nation newspaper. "I felt really proud. Most photographers in daily newspapers are men, but seeing my name in the Saturday Nation twice in a row felt really good," said Esther.

Professor Joseph Galgalo, the Vice Chancellor of St. Paul's University, noted that visiting scholars enrich the student's experiences. 'We endeavour to expose students to scholars of global repute in order to enrich their academic experience here at St. Paul's University,' he said. The department of communication strives to expose students to variegated ideas by facilitating interactions with global scholars. Students who keenly engage with visiting professors get exposed to life changing experiences that inculcate in them a global outlook

POEMS

Hongerani Mahafali

Nawapigia unyende, enyi mahafali wote ,
Wasomi wa kila pande, walotimu nyanja zote ,
Wamilima na mabonde, ujumbe huu upate ,
Twawatakia la heri, hungerani mahafali.

Hongerani mahafali, chuo mkekimaliza ,
Kweli mmetoka mbali, vyeti mkivikimbiza ,
Sasa mnazo akili, duniya kuwasikiza,
Twawatakia la heri, pote nendeni kwa hima.

Pote nendeni kwa hima, uchumi kuuchumiya,
Tumia zenu hekima, kazi yoyote ingia,
Biashara ukulima, kipato kujipatia,
Msilale vitandani, mkiingojea kazi.

Mkiingojea kazi, msitegemee mama,
Fanyeni zozote kazi, msiringe mmesoma,
Heshimu wafanyakazi, muwape zao heshima,
Kaeni ndani ya Mungu, musiwe wafuta bangi.

Msiwe wavuta bangi, si sawa kula miraa,
Wamekata kamba wengi, wanywa pombe na chang'aa,
Si hayo kunayo mengi, dunia inahadaa,
Kaa mbali na ya shari, na muwe watu wazuri.

Na muwe watu wazuri, wema wakuheshimika,
Waso wivu na kiburi, fitina kunung'unika,
Waongo watu wasiri, kazi matope kupaka,
Mema tunawatakia, Mungu awasaidie.

Mungu awasaidie, hivi nimefika tama ,
Mema awakirimie, niache niweka koma ,
Nilonena yasikie, wenzangu nenda salama ,
Chuo cha Mtakatifu, Paulo chawapongeza.

Evans Mokua (Painkiller)
Chuo cha Mtakatifu Paulo
Bewa la Nairobi

WORK PIECE

By Emanuel Blessing Wachira Nakuru Campus.

Announcement:

Naleta tangazo kuhusu rafiki yetu tulimpenda sana lakini... lakini hajakufa, ni vile tunamtafuta jina lake Potea. Alikuwa anapenda betting sana no wonder wasee hubet #tag yako hukuwa #patapotea. But thank God tulimpata, na hata alichange jina siku hizi ye ni tailor jina lake ni kazi #tag yake #kazinikazi.

So imagine if Adam and Eve hawangefanya dhambi, before hata tuongele mavazi si then hatungewahi fanya kazi na staple food yetu ingekuwa ni matunda. But stop imagining because already washafanya dhambi no wonder mi na we hatuko Eden. Na walipotoka Eden, walitoka na mavazi ya majani kama eden, no wonder mi na we tuko kwa safari, but haturudi Eden, tunaenda Heaven. That`s the reason this world has dark Currents no wonder its full of Fantancies...

So today I take the character of a tailor, and the reason I take the character of a Ta(i)ylor is because I am Swift, the reason I take the character of a tailor is because I am not drunk, for me Tei LA.

Tangu nikiwa mchanga kalelewa na baba na mama,

Namshukuru Mola chakula haikukosa mi sina lawama,

Wazazi nimewatii ili mie nisije nikapata laana,

Na sasa wakati umefika wangu mimi kuhama, ila si kutoka nyumbani, mbali majukumu ndio nimemwagiwa kama mtama.

So mkononi makasi mkononi tape. Sitaongea uongo lakini nitawapima. So God was the first to work, wengine watasema alitumia words pekee, but si alitumia mikono kutengeneza udongo kaniweka ubongo ni ukweli si uongo.

So I take a minute not to describe my work but I want my work to describe me. Every time I use this tape to measure in inches, I don't focus on the number of times I have pricked myself on the machine or the number of times a design failed or the multiple times a material ran out, because as I cut it into pieces, I am already wearing the final product on my mind. And the sweat that I sweat, is like water on a farmer's crop, and these days I don't shower because I hate sweat, but I shower to create room for a fresh sweat which brings a new harvest.

And so the pricks from needles on my fingers are no longer ugly scars but they are footprints of the beautiful prints on my work. And my desire is that my work not only covers the shame, but also reflects and bears the name of HE who gifted me.

@Manuh

Building the Dream

A story of courage, faith and resilience

By Esther Njonde

Zipporah Wambui Gathu, an icon of resilience and vision in Business has a firsthand experience in gaining and losing. Best known as “Shosh” among the youth and Designer among the elderly, Mrs. Gathu had to endure the harshest tides of life to get to where she is.

Born in Karima, Othaya on 14th July, 1974, young Zipporah grew up against a backdrop of farms, cold weather and meagre resources. Trouble has a tendency of hardening people’s heart and stiffening their countenance; but an endearing personality is what comes off “Shosh” the Designer. She went through school as any normal child until she had to drop out in form two due to lack of school fees. Her parents encouraged her to take up a technical course that would enable her to become useful in life. She joined Karurumo Polytechnic in Embu but struggled to get her Trade Test certificate owing to financial constraints. Being a bright student, her teacher recommended booking her Trade Test exam ahead of time to avoid losing out on the certificate, which she did.

“In 1994, after my technical training, I hired a sewing machine from a friend at 150 shillings per month and started sewing repairs and easy pieces for people around my home area. Tailoring, as it was known then, was and still is a relevant course since people have to dress up, regardless of finances, status or event,” she says while running her tailoring scissors through a red and cream African print. Soon enough, with a good saving culture, the now-mother-of-four acquired her own sewing machine in her hands.

Unfortunately for her, the business did not pick up as fast



as she thought it would. Family problems started creeping in and sucking the venture dry. “During that time, I was working hard for my family but had very little to go around. I therefore started borrowing to pay debts.” The debt dungeon kept deepening until she sold off her machine to offset her dues. “I was growing desperate with no job or income in sight and a family to feed, clothe and educate. My daughter was clearing her primary education and I did not have funds to get her to secondary school. I did not want her to drop out like I did, so I knew it was time to act.” She added. That was 2012.

In October 2012, she took her belongings and her firstborn girl, Peris Wangechi Gathu from Miharati, Nyandarua County where her children called home and headed to Nairobi. “I had to leave the three

young ones at their grandparents’ at that time while my daughter put up at my brother’s place thereby clearing school under his care,” she says. Zipporah then made her way to Limuru and started working in peoples’ homes as a house help. Her earnings of 4,500 shillings per month did not water down her saving culture. She still managed to send money to her 3 boys back home. Between 2012 and 2016, the ambitious designer worked in four households raising her pay from 4,500 to 8,000 shillings. In 2014/5, she broke her piggy bank and with 6,900 shillings, purchased a black Seagull Manual sewing machine model currently valued at 10,000 shillings. “My employer had no problem with me storing the machine in her home because I had a good work ethic and did my house chores as expected,” she asserts.

Around the same time, she broke her piggy bank again, sourced Kshs. 6500 to purchase another model: a green GNI Overlocking machine. Both machines still serve her to date.

“With adequate capital to restart my business, I took my children from their grandparents and brought them to Kabuku in Limuru where we currently reside with my husband Leonard Gathu. I also found an excuse to quit my job since my employer did not want to let me go easily,” she giggles. As she settles in to continue with the story, the joy of fulfillment does not escape the human eye. For someone who has struggled most of her life, the exuberance in her countenance can mask most of her scars perfectly. In 2016, the Gathus discussed the cost of setting up shop opposite St. Paul’s University and with 10,000 shillings in hand; 5,000 shillings for rent and

the rest as her deposit, Kwa-Shosh Designs was born. The business would soon pick up as she explains "I started by sewing one piece from a cheap material, got some profit and ploughed it back into the business. After six months, I purchased better fabric, with special bias to African print (better known as Ankara or Kitenge) worked on them, put the end products on display and then sold them. That earned me double, which was enough to support my immediate family and that of my employee."

Her assistant Susan Maina works silently behind the Seagull Manual Sewing machine, Zipporah's first working model. Now the business boasts of four sewing machines with the Citizen Multipurpose machine being Shosh's favorite. "It can sew, lock the hems to keep the material from fraying as well as fit buttons. I

can do everything with it," she says.

Shosh Zipporah attends to a variety of clients but her frequent customers are students from the nearby St. Paul's University. During the interview, 90 percent out of the walk-ins she attended to were students. She quips, "The students helped boost my business through repairs ranging from Kshs. 50 to new dresses of about Kshs. 1500 and above." The ambitious entrepreneur has also at some point supplied the institution with branded curtains for its newly established Soteria boardrooms as well as dressed a choir that picked out Ankara as its dress-code. "Those particular tenders remarkably boosted my business with working capital and many lessons such as the need to have a KRA PIN and filing of returns. I can now apply for more contracts from organizations

and investors who have their eye on Kabuku and the larger Limuru area as well as assist my husband who works as a foreman," she replies.

The future of the Kwa-Shosh Designs can only grow bigger and better thanks to the infrastructural development of roads, real estate and their subsequent attraction of tenants, green grocers, small-scale retailers as well as computer hubs to the area. Mrs. Gathu looks forward to co-own a Fashion and

Design school in the area along with her daughter who is studying the course at Nyeri Technical Institute, Nyeri County. She however cautions budding entrepreneurs against being distracted from their vision by anyone or anything. "You don't need too much capital to start a business but you have to believe in yourself and your dream to succeed. In addition, don't forsake the culture of saving, no matter how small."



SHOSH DESIGNER'S QUICK FACTS

- Name:** Zipporah Wambui Gathu.
- Married to:** Leonard Gathu
- Children:** 4 (Peris Wangechi, 21 years; Ridge Theuri, 17 years; Jackson Wachira, 12 years; Lewis Muturi, 10 years).
- Best described as a:** Tough Disciplinarian.
- Former Occupation:** House help
- Current Occupation:** Designer.
- Nickname:** Shosh
- Current sewing machine:** Swan Manual sewing machine.
- Favorite sewing machine:** Citizen Multipurpose Machine.
- Favorite design:** Ankara print.
- Best assignment:** Sewing branded blinds for St. Paul's University Soteria Boardrooms.
- Worst assignment:** Men's coats.
- Favorite food:** Ugali Greens (particularly Terere, manage and pumpkin leaves).

Zippy's Tips for success for business.

- Have a vision
- Believe in yourself
- Start with what you have
- Do what you are good at.
- Start your business at a suitable location

Palipo na Nia Pana Njia

Na Lofty Matambo

Mie ni msomaji wa habari na ripota wa KtnNews. Vilevile, ni mtangazaji wa kipindi cha injili kinachoitwa “Shangwe” katika kituo cha redio cha Radio Maisha.

Nilijiunga na shirika la Standard Group mwishoni mwa mwaka wa elfu mbili na kumi na tatu kutoka Media Development in Africa (MEDEVA). Hili ni shirika la kutengeneza vipindi na kuvisambaza kwenye redio na runinga za Kenya na Uganda na pia hutoa mafunzo kwa vijana wanaotamani kujitosa katika ulingo wa habari.

Safari yangu ya kuwa mwanahabari haijakuwa lele mama. Imekuwa ngumu kiasi cha haja. Maana ninakumbuka nilitamani kuwa mwanahabari au mtangazaji kutoka utotoni.

Mapenzi yangu ya utangazaji yalichochea pakubwa na mie kuwa mpenzi wa redio. Kale hizo babangu mzazi alikuwa na redio ya mbao aina ya *Sanyo*. Ninazungumzia miaka ya themanini na mwanzo wa miaka ya tisini. Alipoiacha redio hiyo katikati ya wiki akienda mjini Mombasa kufanya kazi, redio hiyo ingegeuka kuwa yangu wiki nzima. Ningesikiliza

vipindi vyote vya KBC Redio Taifa hadi “Salamu za Majeshi” na “Matangazo ya Vifo”. Vipindi vyote vya KBC redio viliinganda kichwani. Isitoshe, niliwatambua watangazaji kwa sauti zao. Ninakumbuka tukishindana na wenzangu kuwataja majina kwa kuzisikia sauti zao wanapojitambulisha, upesi kabla hawajayasema majina yao.

Ninakumbuka mtangazaji mahiri Lenard Mambo Mbotela, ambaye ni rafiki yangu sasa. Yeye huwasiliana nami mara kwa mara kunipongeza na pia kunikosoa kila ninapokivyoga kiswahili. Kila nionapo simu yake ikiingia kwenye rununu yangu, huwa ninaangalia juu kisha ninasema “kweli ndoto hutimia!”

Wengine kama Elinah Shiveka Sifuna aliyekuwa akipiga salamu za aduhuri kwa maringo na ustadi wa hali ya juu, Elizabeth Obege, Anaklet Araba, Jack Oyoo, Steve Mrima, Badi Mukhusin, Amina Faki, Peter Kimeu, Jeff Mwangemi, Ngulamu Mwaviro, Khamisi Themo, ni baadhi tu ya walionichochea kuwa nilipo sasa, ijapokuwa bado sijafika ninapotamani kuwa. Ni safari.

Nilipomjuzi babangu kuwa ningetamani sana kuwa mtangazaji, alisema ni sawa, ingawa hakuonesha ari, nia wala njia ya kimakusudi ya kunisaidia kutimiza ndoto yangu. “Ni sawa lakini unaona chuo kipi cha mafunzo ya uwanahabari hapa Kilifi? Hao watangazaji unaowashabikia tumewasikia tangu KBC iwe VOK, utapata wapi mwanya na hawaondoki katika nafasi zao?” Haya yalikuwa maneno yake kila nilipomkumbusha kuhusu azma yangu. Maneno yaliyonichoma kama mkuki moyoni.

Nilipomaliza kidato cha nne, sikuwa nimeizika ndoto yangu. Ilikuwa hai ikipumua japo kwa ugumu. Labda ilikuwa imezimia. Niliibwaga hoja hiyo kwenye kikao cha familia kilichoogozwa na babangu na babangu mdogo. Wote waliifikiana kwa kauli moja kuwa uwanahabari haungenifaa. Hivyo, wakanishurutisha nisomee udaktari. Nilifanya hivyo ingawa shingo upande maana sikutaka kuonekana kijana mkaidi. Waswahili wanasema mwana mkaidi hafaidi hadi siku ya Iddi.

Ila hukohuko chuoni nilikofaa kusomea udaktari ndiko kipaji changu cha kufanya ushairi, uigizaji na utangazaji kilipogunduliwa kwa mara nyingine na

wakuu wa vyama vya uigizaji na muziki. Baada ya miaka miwili, nilimuomba mungu anitafutie mwanya wa kubadilisha mkondo ili niifuate ndoto na azma yangu. Mwaka mmoja baadaye, iliwezekana kwa mapenzi yake mwenyezi Mungu. Nikapata kazi Mombasa ya mauzo katika kampuni ya *KUSSCO* ambapo nilipata tajiriba ya kutangamana na watu mbali mbali, kuandaa hafla, kufanya mawasiliano na mwishowe nikaamua nirudi chuoni kujifunza habari na mawasiliano.

Baadaye, niliona nijikite zaidi katika taaluma kwa kuongeza ujuzi na maarifa. Nikaamua kujiunga na chuo kikuu cha St. Paul’s kubukua mabuku zaidi ya Shahada ya Mawasiliano. Kwa sasa, ninayo furaha isiyo na kifani kuona kuwa kila hatua ninayoichukua inathibitishwa na mapenzi yake Mungu.

Awali nilikuwa na kinyongo na machungu mengi kwa familia yangu iliyonipeleka kombo na kuniwekea magogo nisiifuate ndoto yangu. Ila nilipowasamehe na kujua pia wao walitamani nifaulu maishani, milango yangu iliendelea kufunguka kwa ukubwa hata zaidi.

Ndoto yangu kuu ni kufungua kituo cha uzalishaji vipindi na mafunzo ya uwanahabari kwa vijana chipukizi wanaotamani kuwa kwenye tasnia hii ila kiza kimeziba njia yao inayoелеkeka kuliko na ndoto zao.

Nilijiunga na shirika la Standard Group mwishoni mwa mwaka wa elfu mbili na kumi na tatu kutoka Media Development in Africa (MEDEVA). Hili ni shirika la kutengeneza vipindi na kuvisambaza kwenye redio na runinga za Kenya na Uganda na pia hutoa mafunzo kwa vijana wanaotamani kujitosa katika ulingo wa habari.



Empowering People for Entrepreneurship A St. Paul's University Sacco Initiative

By CPA Maxwell Ogweno

St. Paul's University Savings and Credit Cooperative (SPU SACCO) has continued to grow in membership and financials since its incorporation in March 2012. The establishment of SPU SACCO was as a result of the strong drive and need of a SACCO operating on a common bond to address member needs like promoting savings, providing credit at low interest rates and to solve the non-financial problems SPU staff encountered with the various SACCOs they belonged to at the time. The commitment and dedication of the leaders who have served in management over the years has resulted in the tremendous milestones and achievements that we celebrate today.

The current management committee is committed to the growth of the SACCO and passionate to ensure that member needs and expectations are met. With an active subscription of two hundred and nine members by close of year 2018, the SACCO reported an increased growth in member contributions closing at over Kshs. 52 million by end of the year, interest income was at an all-time high of over Kshs. 6.2 million and loan advances to members closing at over Kshs 49 million by close of the year 2018. The members' return on investment grew steadily with an all-time high interest on deposits payment of 8.7 per cent and payment of five shillings dividend per share in 2018.

The demand by SACCO members to establish a cooperative arm to assist in purchasing of land and investments in real estate led to the birth and establishment of St. Paul's University Investment Cooperative in 2017. St. Paul's University Investment Cooperative has so far undertaken two successful projects that enabled members purchase land at subsidized rates. This was actualized by the loans availed and advanced to members by SPU SACCO. SACCO products like normal loans have provided the needed capital for members to venture into business hence the growth of entrepreneurship. The products have also enabled members undertake development projects and deal with emergencies. SACCO educational loan facilities have enabled members realize their personal educational development goals and also assisted members to pay school

fees for their dependants. Members have also benefited from emergency loans and instant loans which are very popular. In the coming years, SPU SACCO intends to continue introducing and providing

innovative products to empower the social and economic stature of members thus contributing to promoting entrepreneurship potential among the staff fraternity at St. Paul's University.

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Hour of reckoning for contestants



Mr. Michael Mungai, the PRMO awards Mr. SPU



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