



Chuka University Newsletter

Graduation News Edition



ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Issue No. 9

23rd April, 2021

Candidates' Tally

Doctorate Degrees	= 002
Masters' Degrees	= 007
Certificates	= 055
Diplomas	= 203
Bachelors' Degrees	= 309
Total	= 576

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Chuka University Adapts to New Normals

Following the global outbreak of coronavirus pandemic in 2019, business operations were drastically changed by the impacts the pandemic caused all over the world. Chuka University has had to adapt to these changing times and change itself too. In this regard, there has been a shift towards doing business virtually, including learning, conferencing, operations, graduation ceremonies, etc. Lockdowns have brought delays in learning which has necessitated re-drafting of progression schedules to fit in available time.



Dr. Julius Tangus Rotich presides at a past graduation ceremony

Consequently, the University will hold two graduation ceremonies this year if all goes as per plans. Infrastructural development requires expansion to allow for physical distancing. The University has modified its campus by installing handwashing basins and sanitizers from gate entrances to all building exteriors and interiors. Signages with health safety messages have also been erected in all premises. The cost of these new norms is not cheap. This has made the University to innovate by manufacturing its own hand washing soap, sanitizers, and water dispensers. The University is also aggressively engaged in sensitizing staff, students and the community about the impacts of the coronavirus. As the sayings go: necessity is the mother of invention, and the fit are the ones who survive, present times call for minding these truths.

Chuka University Approved to Establish a UNESCO Chair



Aerial View of Chuka University

A proposal drafted by University staff was approved on 2nd February, 2021 by the UNESCO Selection Committee for establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Conservation of Environment and Water for Sustainable Development (CEWSD) to be hosted by Chuka University.

The proponents argued that Communities in ASALs are faced with many challenges like severe water scarcity, food insecurity, wanton destruction of vegetation and general land degradation. The UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 of July 28, 2010 noted that lack of access to clean water and sanitation are human right violations. The resolution calls upon nations to provide resources, build capacity and transfer technology to help countries provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable water and sanitation for all. Chuka University's proposal is anchored on the UNESCO's MLA 3 on improving knowledge and strengthening capacities at all levels to achieve water security. Accordingly, the proposed project will promote water harvesting technologies and conservation of catchment areas in the ASALs. The targeted youths will cascade the enhanced technologies and appliances to their local levels. The long-term objective of the proposed UNESCO Chair is to improve community's access to water and to rehabilitate degraded lands and water catchment areas. The project activities include: 1) Short-term training of trainers (TOTs), comprising youths, practitioners, community members, schools, colleges and other stakeholders in water harvesting technologies, environmental conservation approaches, EIA and Audits. 2) Researching to optimize water harvesting technologies, including roof, rock and tree catchment systems, soil and sand river storage systems, and water pans. 3) Enhancing institutional development through availing and strengthening of information/library resources, as well as laboratory equipment for analysis of water samples. The Project team has: Prof. Erastus N. Njoka, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dorcas K. Isutsa, DVC (Academic, Research & Student Affairs), Prof. Gilbert Mbaka Nduru, Dr. Evans Mutuma, Dr. Lemmy M. Muriuki, Dr. Peter K. Gakai, and Dr. Agatha M. Nthenge. It will cost US\$ 72,500 and run for three years before it is reviewed for renewal.

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Class of 2021 (A) Tally

CONFERMENT OF DOCTORATE DEGREES..... 002

Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.....	1
Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.....	1

CONFERMENT OF MASTERS' DEGREES..... 007

Faculty of Business Studies.....	1
Faculty of Education & Resources Development.....	1
Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.....	3
School of Nursing & Public Health.....	2

AWARD OF CERTIFICATES..... 055

Faculty of Agriculture & Environmental Studies.....	22
Faculty of Business Studies.....	18
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.....	5
Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.....	9
Faculty of Physical Sciences, Eng. & Techn., TUC	1

AWARD OF DIPLOMAS..... 203

Faculty of Agriculture & Environmental Studies.....	7
Faculty of Business Studies.....	116
Faculty of Business Studies, TUC.....	15
Faculty of Humanities & Social Science.....	42
Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology....	16
Faculty of Physical Sciences, Eng. & Techn., TUC...	7

CONFERMENT OF BACHELORS' DEGREES.... 309

Faculty of Agriculture & Environmental Studies.....	196
Faculty of Business Studies.....	26
Faculty of Business Studies, TUC.....	8
Faculty of Education & Resources Development....	32
Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.....	26
Faculty of Science, Engineering & Technology.....	9
School of Nursing & Public Health.....	12
TOTAL CANDIDATES.....	576

Chuka University's Fundamental Statements

Motto

Knowledge is Wealth/Akili ni Mali (Sapientia divitia est)

Slogan

Inspiring Environmental Conservation for Better Life

Vision

A premier university for the provision of quality education, training and research for sustainable national and global development.

Mission

To provide access, generate, preserve and share knowledge for quality, effective and ethical leadership in higher education, training, research and outreach through nurturing an intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Philosophy

Quality education, training, research, extension, environmental sustainability and entrepreneurship lead to social cohesion, human integrity, and economic development.

Core Values

Customer value and focus	Passion for excellence
Diversity and social fairness	Peaceful co-existence
Environmental consciousness	Professionalism and confidentiality
Fidelity to the law	Prudent utilisation of resources
Innovation	Teamwork
Integrity	Timeliness and devotion to duty

Quality Policy Statement

Chuka University is committed to provision of quality education, training and outreach services through teaching, research, innovation, extension and entrepreneurship for sustainable national and global development. The University will provide access, generate, preserve and share knowledge for quality, effective and ethical leadership in higher education, training, research and outreach through nurturing an intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice to produce graduates with relevant knowledge, skills and responsible citizenry, and to meet customer, statutory, regulatory and other interested parties' requirements. In this commitment, the University is guided by passion for excellence, integrity, professionalism, devotion to duty, inclusiveness and peaceful co-existence. The University communicates this Quality Policy through displays, meetings and publication in key documents. The University appraises and reviews its quality policy, objectives, programmes, products, services, procedures, processes and performance from time-to-time to continually improve the effectiveness of the Quality Management System based on the ISO 9001 Standard.



Dr. Julius T. Rotich (L) conferring a doctorate degree to a candidate during a past graduation ceremony

Contributors

- The University Council
- The University Management
- Principals of Colleges
- Deans of Faculties
- Deans of Schools
- Directors of Directorates
- Directors of Campuses
- Coordinators of Campuses
- Chairpersons of Departments
- Heads of Departments
- Heads of Sections
- Public Relations Office
- Chuka University Staff
- Chuka University Students Association (CUSA)
- Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA)
- Chuka University Staff Unions (UASU and KUSU)

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<http://www.chuka.ac.ke>

Chuka University, 2020

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*When I have laid bait for deer,
I don't shoot at the first doe that comes to sniff,
But wait until the whole herd has gathered round.*

Otto von Bismarck 1815-1898

*It must be considered that there is nothing more difficult to
carry out, nor more doubtful of success, nor more danger-
ous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things.*

Niccolo Machiavelli, 1496-1527

Editorial Note

The mini-9th Graduation Ceremony of Chuka University is finally here, marking the achievement of the first of the two that have been planned to be held this year. The main Graduation Ceremony this year is slated to happen in December, 2021. A graduation ceremony caps the achievement and desire of every student to fulfil academic dreams and launch a career. The graduands can now look back and confirm that their efforts have not gone to waste. Therefore, this is the day when graduands, faculty, parents, guardians and other stakeholders will join in celebrations to mark the auspicious occasion.

On her part, Chuka University has fulfilled the hallmark of its mandate, objects and functions for her existence; that is the provision of quality education, training, research and community outreach services. As long as the University releases knowledgeable, skilled and qualified graduates, it has fulfilled its core mandate. Thus the Chuka University fraternity joins the **576** graduands and their supporters in celebrating this great milestone. We urge all our graduates to go into the world confidently and prove their mettle. Go out there and serve outstandingly in the knowledge that your qualification is second to none. You have been tooled, trained, examined and qualified not only to think critically but also to work and deliver expected results to your employers and customers. The real test of the education and skills that have been imparted to you over the years will be confirmed in the work places. This is the reason we are sending you out with the theme: "Application of Environmental Protection Strategies in Higher Education to Mitigate Impacts of Pandemics". The world as we have experienced it since the late 2019 has changed drastically and each and everyone must adapt to new normals to thrive. We therefore anticipate that you will be part of the change agents that will transform this new world order to be a better, peaceful, healthy and safe place to live.

During the past year, Chuka University has achieved a number of milestones, some of which are outlined in this issue. The University went through a rigorous paradigm shift in the modes of teaching, learning and operations to blended virtual and in-person styles and succeeded in re-suscitating disrupted academic activities. This, however, does not mean that the University will become complacent and sit on her laurels. This is because here in Chuka University, we believe in continual improvement and it is in this respect that we are continuing to apply the principles of ISO 9001-2015 QMS. The University developed a number of new academic programmes, thus expanding training opportunities for more students. Besides, plans are at an advanced stage to start new Faculties, including Faculty of Environmental Studies, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Medicine. All these are demand-driven and once started, this University will continue to be a game changer.

... Chuka University, Knowledge is Wealth.

Congratulatory Message from the University Council



Dr. Julius T. Rotich, Ph.D.
Chairman



Vainadu Titus Z. Ingana
Rep. PS, Ministry of Education



Mrs. Josephine Gitonga
Member



Dr. George Kwedho, Ph.D.
Member



Ms. Hellen Mungania
Member



Mr. Kennedy Ontiti
Member



Mr. Andrew Mugambi
Member



Prof. Erastus Njoka, Ph.D.
Vice-Chancellor/Secretary

On behalf of Chuka University Council, I sincerely congratulate the **576** graduates in this 9th Graduation Ceremony. We celebrate your achievement as you finally join other professionals to make your contributions in nation-building and serving humanity. I am delighted each time we hold a graduation ceremony for it marks the accomplishment of our core business, which is to impart knowledge through provision of quality education, training, research. And extension This is our contribution to the demanding task of nation building.

Chuka University has continued to deliver on its mandate despite the serious challenges occasioned by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. As the chairman of Council, it is my responsibility to ensure that the University stays on course to achieve its key mandate. For us to realize our development objectives, my Council works closely with the University Management and other University governing organs and employs sound economic principles to ensure that available resources are utilized in the most prudent manner. I am happy to report that we have made remarkable progress through the strategic partnerships we have forged with our key stakeholders in multi-pronged areas of development. In line with the university's strategic plan and Kenya's Vision 2030, my Council has garnered notable significant milestones. In an effort to make education accessible to more Kenyans, we have established Tharaka University College which is a constituent college of Chuka University, in addition to Embu, Igembe and Chogoria campuses, and plans are underway to launch the Nairobi CBD Campus. As we continue to address market and industry needs, it is my joy to announce that we have put in place the Faculty of Law and enrolment is now ongoing. Notably, student numbers have continued to increase and Chuka University is rated among the top ten preferred universities of choice in Kenya.

Chuka University has graduated over 20,000 graduates since inception and boasts of over 240 academic programmes cutting across certificate, diploma, bachelors, masters and doctoral levels. A number of international scientific conferences have also been held at the university, attracting participants from far and wide. I am proud to announce that all conference proceedings have been published and are available. For such development to take place, the need for peace and tranquility cannot be gainsaid. To spur the desired growth, we must steadfastly maintain peace so that we can realize our goals without any disruptions to the academic calendar. In this respect, I must commend our students for maintaining peace. This has enabled them to complete their programmes within the stipulated time.

Among the major infrastructural development that my Council has initiated and continue to oversee are the Science and Technology Research Park, Students' Hostel, Administration Complex, and Food Science and Technology Complex. Once completed, the upcoming Park will make this University the hub of innovative research. In this regard, I must thank the University Management for the progress made so far. The University has identified areas where it has corporate social responsibilities and actively engages the community and other stakeholders. Our collaborative projects include a water piping project from Mount Kenya, donating pipes to the Ndagani/KK Mwendwa Water project, food to the elderly and vulnerable persons, construction of a bypass road for the University community, installation of floodlights in the Main Campus, acquisition of fire-fighting engines and opening of Chuka University radio. Through these projects, we are participating in making the Kenya Vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda a reality. I thank the Government of Kenya for acceding Chuka University the financial support required to carry out all these development projects. I now appeal to Kenyans to enrol their children in Chuka University so that they can make full use of these ultra-modern facilities. I assure the students that once they join this university, they will be able to drink from an ever-flowing fountain of knowledge. Finally, as you graduate today and enter the job market, endeavour to make Chuka University proud by being good ambassadors through your strong, innovative, ethical and excellent contributions. I salute and applaud your achievement and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. Thank you for offering us the privilege to make Chuka University part of your life. Your success is our success and pride. As Chuka University alumnus, we look forward to watch your story unfold as you empower humanity for sustainable development.

The University Management Board



Prof. Erastus N. Njoka, Ph.D. D.Sc. (Hon.)
Vice-Chancellor/CEO



Prof. Dorcas K. Isutsa, Ph.D.
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Academic, Research & Student Affairs)



Prof. Zachary Njogu Waita, Ph.D.
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Administration, Finance, Planning & Development)



CPA John K. Thurairara
Finance Officer



Prof. Francis G. Ndiritu, Ph.D.
Registrar (Academic Affairs)



Mr. Justin K. Kathuru
Ag. Registrar (A&P)

The Chuka University Management Board has been at the forefront of spearheading development of the University in all spheres, including academic and administrative. The assets developed and managed include financial, human and infrastructural to support its mandate of provision of quality higher education, research and extension services to humanity.

The University Management Board is the executive arm of the University governance. It is charged with running of the University on a day-to-day basis. Chuka University Management Board has the following members: The Vice-Chancellor, (Chairperson), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance, Planning and Development) - Secretary, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Student Affairs), Finance Officer, Registrar (Academic), and Registrar (Administration and Planning).

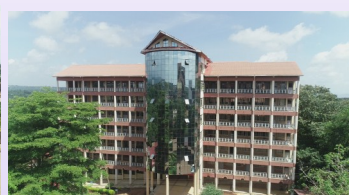
The functions of the Management Board include:

- (a) Ensuring efficient and prudent management and utilisation of human resources, programmes, facilities and finances of the University;
- (b) Planning for University development & other needs;
- (c) Developing strategies for generation of revenue to secure financial support for the University; &
- (d) Making proposals on policies that have University-wide application.

In this regard, the University Management obtains capital from the Government, as well as mobilizes resources from income generating activities. It then obtains approval from the Council to develop the University. Over the years, it has steered the development of many projects some of which are shown below. The new infrastructure has transformed the skyline of this region.



Aerial view of Chuka University infrastructure



L-R: Business School Complex. Business and Students' Recreation Centre. Science Tuition Complex. Students' Hostel Phase I

Principal Secretary Amb. Simon Nabukwesi Inspects the Pioneer Science and Technology Research Park in Chuka University



Left: The Chairman of Council, Dr. Julius Rotich, (Right) the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka, escorting the PS Amb. Simon Nabukwesi to view the University's development projects on 2/3/2021 in the Main Campus



The Upcoming Chuka University 12-Storey Science and Technology Research Park

On 2nd March 2021, the Principal Secretary, Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi for the second time visited Chuka University in a bid to inspect the upcoming Science and Technology Research Park. The ultra-modern multi-billion Park is the first ever in Kenya and East Africa. Speaking during his tour of the University, Amb. Nabukwesi lauded the University Council and Management for this project which is envisaged to boost research and innovation in Kenya. PS Nabukwesi noted that research is anchored on resilient infrastructure and emphasized that once complete, the Park will be a perfect benchmark for other players who wish to set up technology parks. The PS further commended the Vice-Chancellor Professor Erastus Njoka for living up to the core values of the State Department for University Education and Research. "I am happy to report that Chuka University leads the park in prudent utilization of resources", noted Amb. Nabukwesi. Prof. Njoka pinpointed that the Park is being constructed and will be equipped at a cost of 4 billion Kshs. Prof. Njoka added that currently, the construction, using 3.5 billion Kshs, is being undertaken in phases and stands at 25% for works done. This multi-billion project will propel Chuka university to undertake commercialization of research while at the same time creating entrepreneurial culture in Kenyan Universities. Research has revealed that most students want to learn skills that will help them create start-ups, social entrepreneurship and other ventures of their own. This project is in line with the Government plan to support start-ups and business ideas development by Kenyan youth to encourage job creation. The Park will be open to all researchers across the world to boost research and innovation in Kenya.

The PS was accompanied by a high level delegation, including the CEO for the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NaCoSTI); the CEO for the National Research Fund (NRF); the CEO for the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA); and other senior officials from the Ministry of Education in Nairobi. The PS's team was received by the Chuka University Council Chairman, Dr. Julius Rotich, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Erastus Njoka, the Management, and Tharaka-Nithi County Commissioner, Ms. Beverly Opwora, among others.

Prof. Njoka, further explained that the Park will be a game changer in the East African region since it will be devoted to conducting cutting-edge research and innovations by renowned scholars from Kenya and beyond. Industrialists will be eligible to hire spaces in the complex for developing prototypes and incubating invented products. The Park should help the University develop its niche area of environmental and renewable energy development to contribute to solving emerging challenges such as pandemics that are adversely affecting humanity. It is anticipated that once completed and equipped, pharmaceuticals to combat cancer, vaccines against viruses, drones for swift action, solar-powered machinery, and disease-resistant and high yielding plant varieties for nutrition and food security will be invented, designed and developed in the modern Park. While on campus, the PS also inspected other mega-projects upcoming in Chuka University.



The Upcoming Chuka University Ultramodern 15-Storey Administration and Faculty of Law Complex with a Helipad



The 7-Storey Food Science and Technology Complex (Base of Value Addition)

Commission for University Education CEO Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi visits Chuka University



Commission for University Education (CUE) Chief Secretary, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi (Centre) on a visit of Chuka University on 18/3/2021

The Commission for University Education (CUE) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, visited Chuka University on 18th March 2021. The CEO arrived promptly and was welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka and the Principal, Tharaka University College, a Constituent College of Chuka University. The purpose of the visit was to: evaluate the University's status since the last visit in 2018; tour the University to ascertain the current facilities; get a brief on the University's current needs, and give a way forward. The CEO toured: the Faculty of Law, 3 million litre water tank, Business School Complex, Administration Complex, New Students' Hostel, Science and Technology Research Park, Food Science and Technology Complex, Model Primary School, Sports Pavilion, and Science Tuition Complex.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Njoka, requested the CUE CEO to recommend to KUCCPS to allocate more students, as the University had grown in terms of infrastructural facilities, staff and other resources. The CUE to recommend elevating Tharaka University College into a full-fledged University. The CUE to consider recommending elevation of Igembe Campus and Chogoria Campus into Constituent University Colleges, as recommended by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. The CUE to assist the University to secure government funds to complete construction of the initiated Science and Technology Research Park. The CUE CEO remarked that: The University had demonstrated good performance in its core mandate of learning, teaching, research, community outreach and innovation. The CEO was impressed with the steady growth of the University in terms of infrastructural facilities since his last visit in 2018. He was particularly impressed by the initiative of the Science and Technology Research Park. The CEO was impressed by the growth of Tharaka University College and the Chuka University Igembe, Chogoria and Embu Campuses. On the way forward, the CEO emphasized that: Researchers should embrace community-based investigations. The University should update the 2018 CUE report in terms of programmes, staffing and infrastructure and submit to CUE to facilitate recommendation of allocation of more KUCCPS students. The University was recommended to plan for future admissions due to changing dynamics of online teaching and learning. Chuka University staff should work hard to ensure that the graduates produced by the University are unique and stood out among the rest from other institutions.

Directorate of Performance Contracting



*Ms. Florence M. Muthee,
Director, Performance Contracting*

On behalf of Directorate of Performance Contracting, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to graduands during the 9th graduation ceremony. My regards also go to the parents, guardians' family, friends, lecturers and others who have supported the students who are graduating today. To graduands, you have given us the pleasure of assisting and walking with you through your educational journey here at Chuka University. We commend you on your consistency, discipline, hard work and a job well done. Chuka University has embraced Performance Contracting as a tool to improve service delivery to its stakeholders. The University has institutionalized the Performance Contracting by including the process in the ISO 9001:2015 QMS and the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

Among the notable achievements made by the University under Performance Contracting are the state of art infrastructure under the Vision 2030 Flagship Projects, development of new Ph.D. and Masters programmes, alignment of programmes and projects in the realization of Big 4 Agenda, continuous publication of papers in peer reviewed journals, programmes that enhance quality and relevance of education and continuous outreach programmes. The University is also supporting the Government of Kenya in implementing Big 4 Agenda, MTP III 2018-2022 and Sustainable Development Goals through its activities, plans, policies and programmes highlighted in the current Performance Contract. In addition Chuka University through Performance Contract has been actively engaged in community outreach activities to address challenges posed by COVID-19. The University has embarked on manufacturing and packaging of sanitizer, liquid soap and fumigant. Hand sanitizers, facemasks & hand washing liquid soap have been distributed to the elderly & vulnerable persons in the community. The University also launched the annual tree planting exercise during which over 300,000 seedlings were distributed and planted in primary schools, secondary schools, conservancy areas and community land in Tharaka Nithi County. Our warmest thoughts and highest hopes are with you as you celebrate your graduation Whatever you do, never stop learning, exploring, growing and challenging yourself to be your best! Once again, congratulations to all Chuka University graduands.

Message by the Vice-Chancellor



*Prof. Erastus Njoka, Ph.D.
Vice-Chancellor*

On behalf of the Chuka University Management, Senate, staff and students, I sincerely congratulate the **576** graduands in this 9th Graduation Ceremony. Indeed, your resilience and dedication to academic success have paid off and we celebrate with you as you finally join other professionals to make your contributions in nation-building. Today's graduation marks yet another day in our busy University calendar. I am elated to be at the helm of this great University whose birth was foretold many years ago by Seer Jerusha Kanyua. It is for this reason that we revere her as our matriarch. Chuka University has witnessed tremendous growth in terms of student numbers, academic programmes and physical infrastructure. As the Vice-Chancellor, I am very proud to be associated with this growth. I hasten to thank the Management, the Senate, staff, students, parents, sponsors and all our stakeholders for the continued support. We strive to make Chuka University a world class university by ensuring that our learning facilities are equal to the best. That is why we have equipped our laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment to enable our students to receive the best training available. Within the short time that the University has been in existence, we have continued to develop physical infrastructure so that our students receive top range education in a conducive environment. We have also been stringent in recruiting our staff. All this is geared towards providing our students with the best education. Our long term strategy is to make Chuka University a centre for research and innovation. Our academic programmes in this University are tailor-made to the needs of the economy. By roping in the community, industrialists and other stakeholders when developing the curricula, we ensure that our academic programmes are relevant and demand driven. I can therefore assure potential employers that our graduates are

reliable. Chuka University takes research and innovation seriously. Research is part of graduate training which in turn gives impetus to innovation resulting in creation, dissemination and application of new knowledge. It is for this reason that we are already putting up a multi-billion Science and Technology Research Park, which will be the hub of research and incubation of innovation by scientists from around the region and internationally.

The achievements that Chuka University has realized over the years, whether in terms of infrastructural growth, student numbers and academic programmes are evident and available for all and to see. The standards set by Chuka University ensure that quality is maintained at all levels. This is exemplified in our graduate's performance when they join the job market. Our success is attributed to our core values which have guided us in all our endeavours. In our operations, we focus on the customers so that they can derive maximum satisfaction from the products and services that we provide. As a national public university, we are alive to the need for patriotism, national unity and social cohesion. For this reason, we accommodate students and staff from all corners of Kenya and sections of the society with the aim of ensuring social fairness for all.

Since we are aware of the devastating effects of environmental degradation and the attendant climate change, we have positioned ourselves as a centre of excellence in environmental conservation. We have made concerted efforts to make the University an icon of environmental conservation through various corporate social responsibility initiatives. In 2019, the University launched the annual tree planting exercise during which time 200,000 seedlings were distributed and planted in Tharaka Nithi, Meru and Embu Counties. This is in line with the Big Four Agenda and Vision 2030, which aims at mitigating climate change and its adverse effects. In the year 2020, the University distributed 500,000 tree seedlings to the community and schools. This year, the 3rd annual tree planting drive by Chuka University targets to plant and donate over 700,000 tree seedlings to the community.

Institutions of higher learning in Kenya are faced with myriads of challenges. It is against this backdrop that Chuka University upholds prudence, integrity, transparency and accountability in all decisions taken in building the nation. I thank the Government of Kenya for its continued support for the University.

Finally, allow me to once again congratulate the 2021 graduands. Use what you have learned at this premier and prophetic University to change the world for the better. God bless you all.



Chuka Drummers welcome the Ministry of Education PS Amb. Simon Nabukwesi during a visit of Chuka University on 2/3/2021



The Ministry of Education PS Amb. Simon Nabukwesi planting a ceremonial tree during a visit of Tharaka University College, a Constituent University College of Chuka University, on 3/3/2021.



The Commission for University Education Chief Secretary, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi (Standing) addressing Senate members during a visit of Chuka University on 18/13/2021 and 19/13/2021



Hon. John Paul Mwirigi, MP, Igembe South Constituency receives a library project development proposal from Prof. Erastus Njoka, Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. John Kobia, Director of Igembe Campus of Chuka University during a visit by the CUE Chief Secretary, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi on 19/13/2021

Message by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research and Students Affairs)



*Prof. Dorcas K. Isutsa, Ph.D.
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic,
Research and Students Affairs)*

Congratulations are due to the candidates graduating today. I applaud them for managing to complete their studies successfully at this time so as to finally graduate from this prestigious University. The year 2020 brought the University new challenges that necessitated holding the first of its kind mini-graduation ceremony this year. The turn of events was occasioned by lockdowns that prevented students from completing industrial attachment as scheduled. It is only after partial re-opening late last year and early this year that the affected students were able to undertake practicum to fulfil academic requirements for graduation. I, therefore, thank all those who assisted the students to crank on and complete their studies successfully. These include but are not limited to their parents, guardians, friends, industrial sectors, teaching and support staff. Know that you have done the graduating students great by facilitating their academic pursuits. May God bless you for your generosity. The graduates once out there will join the workforce to assist develop economies and boost livelihoods for many. Therefore, they deserve to be supported.



Chuka University Students' Association (CUSA) leaders in a leadership training held at the Kenya School of Government, Nairobi, pose for a group photo on 20/2/2021

Chuka University has remained resilient and is weathering the challenging times experienced from the late 2019 when the coronavirus pandemic struck the entire world. The University has continued to adopt new strategies in conducting business so as to meet its mandates. Among these include: continued admission of students in academic programmes on offer, in which case the student population presently stands at over 17,000 in certificate, diploma and degree programmes. The University has over 240 academic programmes at Certificate to Doctorate levels, distributed as: 55 Doctorate degree, 68 Master's degree, 73 Bachelor's degree, 1 Postgraduate Diploma, 32 Diploma programmes, and 15 Certificate courses. Design, development and accreditation of new ones is continuing.

The University is continuing to engage in research and extension activities. To this end, it has operationalized an Internal Research Fund (IRF) that supports staff and postgraduate students to conduct research. During this ongoing financial year, the IRF has supported 25 new research projects worth over Ksh. 17 M. The University held its 7th international research conference in December, 2020. It published the 6th Proceedings and is preparing the 7th Proceedings this year. It also published the 6th volume of JESAR in 2020, and will publish the 7th volume this year. Soft copies are available on the University website. Staff continue to publish in referred journals; they managed to publish over 70 articles in 2020. This year's conference is slated to be held on 7th and 8th October, 2021. The conference will revolve around: Higher Education Strategies for Mitigating Impacts of Pandemics. Submission of abstracts and papers is ongoing. For details, see the University website.

The University staff continued to conduct research singly or jointly. Collaborations included: a 10-institution project on COVID-19 impacts mitigation that won KSh. 20.9 m from the NRF this year, and 4 projects short-listed by the NRF for cancer research. This year, the University entered into new collaborative linkages with: Meru TRH, PCEA Chogoria Hospital, Pandya Memorial Hospital, the University of Nairobi, Karatina University, and SEKU, among others. The University is set to establish a UNESCO Chair on Conservation of Environment and Water for Sustainable Development (CEWSD) following approval on 2nd February, 2021 by the UNESCO Selection Committee of a proposal drafted by staff. The University will collaborate with KNATCOM, Karatina University, University of Northampton-UK, TNC, NRF and neighbouring stakeholders in operationalizing the UNESCO Chair. Besides individual staff partnerships, the University is continuing to implement four major collaborations, namely: ACADIA, AREC, CEWSD, DEpUK and TISC.

The academic functions are operationalised in 15 Departments, 6 Faculties, 1 School, 7 Directorates, and 4 Campuses. Chuka University is poised to have produced over 20,300 human resource to join the world of work by the end of this 9th Graduation Ceremony. Congratulations once again to our newest graduates. Wishing you the very best in life. God bless you to achieve successful destinies.



Participants attending the 7th Chuka University International Research Conference on Thursday 3rd December, 2020 pose for a group photo

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

On behalf of the Division of Administration, Finance, Planning and Development, I take this opportunity to congratulate those graduating today for various degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of Chuka University. As a division, we are proud to be associated with your great achievement as you graduate from Chuka University. This is a significant milestone in your lives and a moment you will cherish for many years to come, and we wish to share this joy with you, your parents, guardians and friends. Chuka University has over the years striven to ensure that her students gain skills and knowledge and competencies that will be key as you navigate life. Today we all celebrate that achievement. It is indeed a significant investment, which you should use for self-development and service to your country. I wish you success and an abundance of God's blessings as you enter the next stage of your life and start developing your career. As you move out into the world of work, I urge to continue with your ethics of hard work, commitment, discipline and integrity. Provide transformative service and leadership wherever you will be serving.



Prof. Zachary Njogu Waita, Ph.D.
**Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration,
Finance, Planning & Development)**

Chuka University has grown tremendously over years and the University has continued to invest in projects and programmes that support our students to realize their academic pursuits and dreams. Foremost in our investments has been research and teaching facilities. The university has invested in state of the art research and teaching facilities and it offers market oriented and demand driven courses. This is evidenced in the University's acquisition Ultra-modern laboratory equipment and the ongoing development of a Science and Technology Research Park which is in its second phase of development. The University has also embarked on phase two of development of library facilities which will enhance students' access to learning materials. In order to support agricultural research and production, we have continued to equip and develop university farms offering our students exceptional sites for learning and conducting research. This is evidenced in our agricultural programmes in University farms especially the irrigation infrastructure installed in our Kairini Farm. The division has also continued to support students' accommodation and recently completed and commissioned an Ultra-Modern Students' Hostel (Phase I) with a capacity to accommodate 968 students. Construction of the Students' Hostel (Phase II), Administration/Faculty of Law Complex and the Food Technology Tuition Complex are all at advanced stages. The division extends its gratitude to the Government, parents, guardians and our partners for their support that has enabled us to develop these facilities and offer our students a conducive learning environment. As part of Covid-19 preparedness, appropriate measures have been put in place in compliance with the Government directives on containment of COVID-19 pandemic in the institution. The University has set up a Covid-19 committee that is taking practical steps to manage the effects of the pandemic in the University. As you graduate today, you exit as confident, skilled and learned members of our alumni. I ask you to use the knowledge you have acquired contribute to a paradigm shift in the society and create a better world for yourselves and future generations. Thank you and May God bless you.

Message from the Finance Office



CPA John K. Thurairaja
Finance Officer

The Finance Department is committed to supporting the University in achieving its vision of being *A Premier University for the provision of quality education, training and research for sustainable National and global development*. In this regard, the Finance department performs such responsibilities as accounting for students' income, budgeting, income accounting, payment processing, imprest processing, asset management and preparation of final accounts functions. These functions are carried out in strict conformity to statutory requirements, applicable standards, governing legislations and the National Treasury policies.

We have successfully adopted the new accounting guidelines as provided by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) as well as the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). This has improved the financial reporting process as well as enhancing transparency in accounting for the University activities.

The Department has continued to offer timely services to all its customers. Among our key customers are Students whom we continuously interact with in our endeavor to support them achieve their academic goals. We have been able to efficiently collect fees from our students and clearing them on timely basis for their studies. The income from fees collection has significantly enabled students realize their academic goals. As we celebrate the 9th graduation ceremony, we feel motivated by parents, guardians and sponsors for their sheer hard work, dedication, patience, humility and financial support, which has enabled our students accomplish their academic goals. Equally, the graduands have done their best in the academic journey to achieve their goals.

On behalf of the Finance department, may I congratulate the Chuka University Council, Management, Staff, parents, guardians, sponsors and graduands during this 9th graduation celebrations. This graduation is a signal of a great sacrifice that has been made. May the Almighty Lord bless the work of your hands.

THARAKA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TO BE UPGRADED TO A FULLY FLEDGED UNIVERSITY



*Prof. Peter Muriungi, PhD.
Principal, Tharaka University College*

Brief History

Since its inception, Tharaka University College (TUC) has charted a clear pathway to academic excellence. The Institution started as a campus in September 2015 and in July 2017, it was upgraded to a University College through Legal Notice No. 146 of 10th July, 2017. The University College was established to give the people within the region, Kenya and beyond access to quality and affordable University education, and was inaugurated by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta on 27th July 2017. The College is situated in the Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya and endeavors to be a centre of excellence and a leading institution in matters pertaining dryland farming and mining. In the long run, the University College is expected to significantly contribute to the improvement of the livelihood of the community by opening up new frontiers of knowledge, research and economic opportunities in ASALs.

Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, Visits Tharaka University College

On 3rd March 2021, Tharaka University College welcomed the Permanent Secretary, State Department for University Education and Research, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi and the team from the Presidential Delivery Unit on an inspection tour of the ongoing development projects in the University College. The PS noted the significant progress by the University Council and Management in the establishment of key infrastructure in the University College. Amb Nabukwesi during his media briefing, stated that Tharaka University College is working towards becoming a full-fledged University. He pledged the commitment of the government to complete the process by chartering the College.

Tharaka University College Steps up the Prevention of the Spread of COVID-19

In compliance with directives from the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Tharaka University College, has implemented controls to ensure the prevention and containment of the spread of the COVID-19, which forced the closure of all learning institution in mid-March 2020. Among the measures that the University College has put in place is the establishment of hand-washing points across the University College and automatic temperature sensors at all key entry points. The institution has also been producing hand wash and hand sanitizers locally and distributing them for use within the university and to the community. The University College also acquired tents to ensure social distance during physical learning sessions and has established a Learning Resource Centre for production of Learning Materials and set up a Learning Management System fully integrated with Video Conferencing facilities to facilitate online and blended learning.



PS. Amb Simon Nabukwesi inspects the construction of the upcoming Administration Block. He is accompanied by Ms Beverly Oporora, Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner, Prof. Erastus Njoka, Chuka University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Timothy Kiruhi, Tharaka University College Council Chairman and Prof. Peter Muriungi, Principal/CEO Tharaka University College



Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, PS State Department for University Education and Research testing the Ultra-modern smartboard used for blended teaching and learning at the Learning Resource Centre



Amb. Simon Nabukwesi, PS State Department for University Education and Research addressing the media after touring Tharaka University College. He is flanked by Prof. Erastus Njoka, Vice Chancellor, Chuka University and Prof. Peter Muriungi, Principal/CEO Tharaka University College

COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION CEO VISITS IGMEMBE CAMPUS



*Prof. John M. Kobia, Ph.D.
Director, Igembe Campus*

The Chief Executive Officer for Commission for University Education, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi visited Chuka University, Igembe Campus on 19th March, 2021. He was received by the Vice-Chancellor, Chuka University, Prof. Erastus N. Njoka together with the Deputy Vice-

Chancellor (ARSA) Prof. Dorcas K. Isutsa, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Zachary N. Waita, the Principal Tharaka University College, Prof. Peter K. Muriungi, the Igembe Campus Director, Prof. John M. Kobia, Member of Parliament Igembe South Constituency, Hon. John Paul Mwiringi, Former Kiegoi/Antubochiu Member of County Assembly, Hon. Henry Mworia, Chuka University Senate Members, the staff and students of Chuka University Igembe Campus.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the CEO CUE for visiting Igembe Campus. He noted that by growing the institutions of higher learning like Igembe Campus, the living are creating super highways for the future generations. By growing Igembe Campus into a University, the people from the region will be able to interact with the rest of the world. He requested the CEO CUE to join in supporting the growth of the Campus so that they all would be remembered for their contribution. He emphasized the need for support from CUE to gazette Igembe Campus as a University College. The Vice-Chancellor reminded the CUE CEO that the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta gave a presidential directive on 3rd August 2017 that Igembe Campus be elevated to be a University College. He informed the meeting that the University Senate and Council recommended the elevation of Igembe Campus to be Igembe University College. In his remarks, the CUE CEO Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi said that university training is important in helping people know who they are and how to think on their feet and outside the box. He advised that the University needs to help their trainees believe that the skills they acquire are the best. He added that the University should strive to influence young people know that Chuka University is the place to achieve their dreams. He advised that the Campus needed to tailor the courses to meet the needs of the community that connects to their everyday life. Prof. Ntarangwi promised to work with Chuka University to upgrade Igembe Campus into a University College.



Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi, Chief Executive Officer Commission for University Education giving his remarks when he visited Igembe Campus on 19th March 2021

Board of Undergraduate Studies and Practicum's Message



*Prof. Zachary Njogu Waita, Ph.D.
Director, BUSF*

The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment congratulates all those graduating today for their perseverance and outstanding achievement during this most difficult time. The Board joins in celebrating the fruits of your hard work and your outstanding achievement after studying and completing your studies in Chuka University. On behalf of the Board, I wish to congratulate you, your family and friends during this auspicious occasion.

This is a key milestone in your life, marking the stage when you go out into the community to serve, to initiate and develop your careers. As you begin this stage strive to continue being agents of positive transformation and sustainable development of our society. I am proud that the Board of Undergraduate Studies has been part of the process that has played a critical role in molding your training and search for knowledge and skills during your stay here.

The Board has continued to work closely with all stakeholders to oversee the quality of undergraduate programmes which have diversified over the years giving our students a broad base of career options. Over the years we have been able to send our students to various parts of the country where they gain invaluable experience and exposure to practical work. In the process they have been able to integrate with the different industries, employers and surrounding environments for adequate preparation for post University working life.

The Board wishes to recognize our partners in these attachment exercises. We are grateful to the various government agencies and private organizations and schools throughout Kenya that continue to offer our students a chance to practice in their institutions. We look forward to continued cooperation with you.

Let me once again congratulate everybody who is graduating today and wish you success and God's blessings in all your future undertakings.



The Directorate of Quality Assurance



*Prof. Colomba Muriungi, PhD.
Director, Quality Assurance*

The Directorate of Quality Assurance was established in September 2019, after being separated from the Directorate of Quality Assurance and performance Contracting (QAPC). Since then, the directorate under the leadership of Prof. Colomba Muriungi has continued to assist the university with maintenance and improvement in delivery of quality learning, teaching and research to meet the expected national and international standards. The directorate is in charge of evaluating the teaching effectiveness for Academic staff as well as other services offered at the university to ensure that the university produces the best graduates for their customers and the Nation at large.

The directorate has also taken part in assisting Chuka University with the outside world. For instance, on 25th November 2020, Chuka University signed a MOU with Digitally Smart, an e-learning marketing online education provider in the UK, whereby they trained Chuka University students at no cost. The training was concluded by January 2021 and students who completed the course were issued a certificate. Through the directorate, Chuka university is in the process of negotiating a second MOU with Digitally Smart, which is envisioned to benefit, not just the students, but also the university at large.

It is with great pleasure that we as Chuka University fraternity celebrate the 9th graduation ceremony. Indeed, it has taken hard work and dedication by the Chuka University management, staff, graduands, parents, guardians, sponsors and the community at large to be able to get this far. On behalf of the staff in the Directorate of Quality Assurance, I take this opportunity to appreciate everyone who has participated in the programmes and processes that have led us to this great day.

Congratulations to all the graduands for this remarkable academic achievement you have made in your lives today, which required a lot of commitment and dedication. We are certain that the university has provided you with quality knowledge and skills to help you as you venture to conquer the world in service to mankind. I wish you God's guidance as you step out there.

Chuka University Embu Campus Development



*Mr. Justin Njaunini
Assistant Director, Embu Campus.*



Chuka University Embu Campus Minibus

Chuka University, Embu Campus is located on the Embu-Meru highway and from its inception it has nurtured many programmes. For instance, the Hospitality programme has taken shape in the past one academic year. This has been through the installation of modern culinary equipment's by the university management. The hospitality lab facilitates practical sessions for pastry, saucier, cold, entremetier and service section of a hotel. This has improved students' exposure to hospitality technical skills which is in line with the universities mission of integrating theory with practice. In an effort to promote research for sustainable national and global development the campus seeks to utilize the lab as a hub for incubating hospitality business ideas. On behalf of the campus staff, I would like to congratulate the Chuka University graduates of 2021 for their tireless efforts and achievements despite the challenges posed by Covid-19.



Students doing mise en place before food production



Students posing as guests dine during a banquet practical session



Graduate Assistant John Kihui instructing students on service mise en place activities

Chuka University Office of Career Services



*Joyce Mghoi Macharia,
Director, Office of Career Services*

On my behalf and that of the entire Office of Career Services, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands, and the entire Chuka University on this 9th Graduation Ceremony. You have worked tirelessly to attain your various degrees. Congratulations! The Office of Career Services was launched by Ambassador Amina Mohammed in a meeting held at the University of Nairobi in June 2018. Every University and TIVET institution was tasked with the mandate to create this office. The purpose of the career office is to bridge the skill gap, help students develop soft skills and generally create an opportunity for interactions and networking between students and employers for smooth transition from learning to earning.

In Chuka University, the Office of Career Services was created in August 2019. Our mission is to support the vision of Chuka University by empowering students to make the right career choices through Academic Advising, Career Counselling and Linkages. We envision a holistic graduate equipped with soft and practical skills for the job market. The career office also keeps in touch with the alumni in order to get to know how many graduates have secured employment either as employees or entrepreneurs. Among the notable events of the year 2021 was the recruitment and training of 32 Student Career Ambassadors on 22nd January, 2021 making the total number of active SCAs members to 52. The Office of Career Services in conjunction with the Chuka University Alumni Association also successfully held a Career Day on 5th March 2021 at the University Pavilion Grounds.

We envisage to train students who will not only seek white collar jobs but also create employment for themselves and for others. As students get education in whatever area of study, the question should be; What can I do for the society? How does what I am learning solve people's problems? These questions help students to think of ways in which they can make a difference in the society. I encourage all of you grandaunts to join the Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA) as a starting point for networking and to create linkages that can help you in your career as well as giving back to the university that has shaped you.

May our Lord God Bless you in your future endeavors and make you fruitful.



(R-L): Student Career Ambassadors pose for a photo with the DVC (ARSA), Prof. Dorcas Isutsa, on 22nd January, 2021. Students paying attention to Career Guidance as the Director-OCS, Joyce Mghoi, gives her remarks during the Career Day held on 5th March 2021

Milestones in the Directorate of Research, Extension and Publications



*Dr. Charles M. Kariuki, PhD.
Director, Research, Extension and Publications*

The Directorate of Research, Extension and Publications is mandated to spearhead research and extension activities in the University. To achieve its mandate, the Directorate organises annual international research conferences, bi-annual open research and career weeks, compiles the Journal of Environmental Sustainability Advancement Research (JESAR), receives, reviews and processes internal proposals for Internal Research Funding and co-ordinates extension activities. Between 3rd and 4th December, 2020 the Directorate coordinated the holding of the 7th International Research conference that was held in-person in the Main Campus.

The conference attracted many participants despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the students graduating today attended and presented high quality research articles in the conference. In the 2019-2020 FY the Directorate processed 23 research proposals which were competitively awarded funds amounting to KES 5.9 M from the Internal Research Fund. Some of the students graduating today are beneficiaries of the University research grants. Currently, the Directorate is processing manuscripts submitted for publication in the 2021 JESAR issue. Today, we congratulate all graduates on their achievements and extend our best wishes to each and every one of them. God bless you!

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DISTANCE LEARNING



*Dr. Jonathan K. Kathenge
COD, Distance Learning*

The Department of Distance Learning congratulates all graduands of this 9th Graduation Ceremony for their well-deserved achievements. The mission of the department is to increase accessibility to affordable and flexible higher education to the society through flexible modes of delivery and modern learning technologies. The department has been very instrumental in ensuring continuous teaching and learning even during the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought challenges to the face-to-face classroom setting. The Department utilizes the Chuka University e-learning management system and the Kenet web-conferencing platform as teaching and learning modes. Through coordination with other departments and faculties, the Distance Learning Department has been holding trainings and workshops for students and lecturers to ensure smooth facilitation of teaching and learning.

The need for continuation of academic activities amid circumstances like the one presented by COVID-19 and telecommuting in the job market points to the fact that strategic planning in the education sector must consider e-learning. The concept of traditional education has changed radically within the last couple of years. Being physically present in a classroom is not the only learning option anymore. We are in a new era of imminent revolution in the education sector. Chuka University e-learning mode of study is not only flexible and accessible but also offers a customized learning experience where students and lecturers often have access to remarkably diverse material such as digital notes, virtual labs, as well as digital library. Lecturers can also integrate other formats like discussion forums to interact with their students for quality learning. The good news is that with Chuka university e-Learning Management System, you can study from anywhere, hence enabling the university to offer her lecturers and students a flexible, cost-effective, dynamic teaching and learning modes. The Distance Learning Department goal is to facilitate implementation of online learning policies and have Chuka University programmes offered in blended ODEL modes. It promises to offer the necessary support and facilitation to all stakeholders in the University for smooth implementation of the e-learning.

CHUKA UNIVERSITY CHOGORIA CAMPUS: MAARA SUB-COUNTY LEADERS LAUD DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS



*Dr. Humphrey K. Ileri, PhD.
COD, Chogoria Campus*

Leaders drawn from all the locations of Maara sub-county visited Chuka University, Chogoria Campus on 16th March 2021 to see the progress of the developing campus. The meeting was organized by the committee that started the idea of having a University in Maara Sub-County back in the year 2011. The vice chancellor graced the occasion and had a meeting with the committee after the tour of the campus. A brief report was presented to the coordinator of the campus, Dr. Humphrey Ileri. The leaders appreciated the beginning of 4 programmes with self sponsored students and promised to support in a students' recruitment drive. They lauded the infrastructural growth at the campus since the re-launch of the campus on 20th September 2019. The chairman of the Gakuuni village, Mr. Eustace Micheni reported that the community within which the campus is located have built hostels that could accommodate about 200 students and more were still being built and sensitization was needed on co-existence between the students and the community at large.

The leaders applauded the Vice chancellor for being a transformative leader; having pioneered Chuka University and mentored Tharaka University College, Igembe and Embu Campuses and now spearheading the growth of Chogoria campus. They promised to support every initiative towards the rising of Chogoria Campus. On his part, the Vice Chancellor thanked his guests for supporting development agenda in the SubCounty and indicated that Chuka University had plans to admit government sponsored students in the campus during the September 2021 intake. The leaders thanked the Vice chancellor and Chuka University management for the plans and cited that the move would be a game changer in Maara SubCounty.



Chogoria stakeholders visiting the campus. The campus gate entrance



New Chuka University staff attending work performance induction briefing on 7th February, 2020 at the Main Campus

DIRECTORATE OF FARMS, BUILDINGS AND UNIVERSITY ENTERPRISES



*Dr. Jafford N. Rithaa, Ph.D.
Director, Farms, Buildings and
University Enterprises*

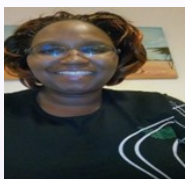
The Directorate of Farms, Buildings and University Enterprises (FABUE) contributes to achievement of the University's Vision and mission through sustainable management of University farms, buildings and Enterprises (income generating units (IGU) of the University). The University farms enhance the teaching and research by providing demonstration sites for students' projects and experimental sites for staff research projects, as well as generating income for the University. The University has farms in the Main campus, Kairini Farm, Mwanjati Farm, Igembe Campus and Chogoria Campus. Other University lands include Embu Campus and Nairobi Plot where Chuka University Elimu Plaza, along Loita Street is located. The University has also acquired the former BC hostel, adjacent to the Hillside Grand Hotel.

The farms enterprises comprise of livestock keeping, agronomic and horticultural farming activities. In Ndagani farm, there are animals for training/research and demonstration plots for practical demonstration and research activities. There are also greenhouses, tree/fruit/flower nurseries, crops, coffee, Napier grass, Lucerne, desmodium, Rhodes grass, cows, pigs, llamas, fish, sheep and rabbits. There is continuous sale of agricultural products at the directorate. The Kairini farm comprises 500 acres which is being used for livestock keeping, especially local breeds of goats and cattle. There are also horticultural farming activities of banana and mango plantations. Other developmental projects ongoing in Kairini farm include the installation of drip irrigation system with a 15 million water dam to irrigate at least 50 acres. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has allowed establishment of Chuka University wildlife sanctuary and conservancy in Kairini farm which will be used for training, research and eco-tourism. There is also a dispensary at in Chuka University Kairini farm for provision of health services to the members of the community within the University environs. The farm enterprises enhance the income generation for the University. The main University enterprises are Hillside Grand Hotel for catering and hospitality services, accommodation and conferencing, clinic, library, AI services, tree/fruit/flower nurseries for sale of seedlings and Chuka University Elimu Plaza in Nairobi which provides rental income to the University.



L-R: Banana plantation. Tree/Fruit/Flower seedling nursery. Fish pond. Chuka University Elimu Plaza, Nairobi CBD

NEWS ON FACULTY OF LAW, CHUKA UNIVERSITY



*Ms. Lucy Wanja Julius
Dean, Faculty of Law*

The Faculty of Law was envisioned for established in 2009 and independently operationalized in May, 2019. The Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) curriculum which was formulated in 2009 and accredited by CUE in 2013, underwent feasibility studies in 2016 to 2019 and various review stages, which culminated in licensing by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) on 10th December, 2020. The LL.B programme was launched by the Ministry of Education, State Department for University Education and Research PS Amb. Simon Nabukwesi on 2nd March, 2021. The Faculty is now ready to admit its first students into the LL.B programme in May, 2021. The Faculty is adequately resourced in terms of personnel and infrastructure. The Bachelor of Laws programme provides students with a sound knowledge of the general principles of the Kenyan legal system, regional and international laws, and has its niche in land and environment laws. Graduates should be able to critically assess, interpret and apply the law and have historical, comparative and jurisprudential background that are essential for thorough and critical understanding of law and legal institutions. The LL.B programme includes a skills component which teaches students generic practical skills such as problem solving, analysis, research and legal skills such as writing, drafting and argumentation. A state-of-the-art Moot Court is available for practical learning in criminal procedures, civil procedures and ADR, as well as prepare students for moot court competitions both locally and internationally.



Message from the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Studies



*Dr. Gathungu, G.K.
Dean, FAES*



*Mr. Kosgei, G.K.
COD, AGE/AGBM/AGED*



*Dr. Kahindi, R.K.
COD, Animal Sciences*



*Dr. Muriuki, L.M.
COD, Environmental Studies*



*Dr. Abucheli, G.O.
COD, Plant Sciences*

The Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Studies (FAES) contributes to improvement in food security and attainment of sustainable livelihoods in Kenya through production of high quality graduates in the fields of agriculture, environment and natural resources management, tourism and hospitality. During this 9th graduation ceremony the faculty staff and students are celebrating an achievement in education through successful completion of certificate, diploma, degree and postgraduate studies. To improve the quality of our graduates, the faculty staff and students have been conducting research directly in/with the communities, which is in tandem with the local, national and international demands and challenges through developmental agricultural, environmental and entrepreneurial projects like InnoFoodAfrica (IFA), DEpUK, among others. Working with communities has enabled our students to have a strong practical orientation during their training. The faculty has 62 approved programmes from Certificate to Doctorate, which are implemented by about 70 teaching staff and 10 technologists in the Departments of Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Education (AGE/AGBM/AGED), Plant Sciences, Animal Sciences, and Environmental Science and Resources Development. Our curricula are tailored to the needs and context of the industry and our clients and this is achieved through practical and action learning.

From the Department of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Education, congratulation to our dearest graduates! Today you have made us proud. Graduating from Chuka University is a great achievement. However, there are many more achievements awaiting you in the future. All you have to do is look inside you and you will discover you have the ability to do great things. I am sending blessings your way and may God always guide you in everything you do. No matter where you go and how much success you achieve, never lose the great faith that you have in God and remember to always remain humble. The Year 2021 has been a blessing to the Department of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management and Agricultural Education, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The department is delighted also to witness an increase in the number of student enrollment to the programmes offered in the department both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. The departments conducted career mentorship and life skills training to the finalists. The aim is to impart the graduating class with skills such as Curriculum Vitae writing, drafting of job application letter, and performance in a job interview. The lecturers in the department participated in various research activities and collaborations and several research publications were also done in refereed journals.

The Department of Plant Sciences wishes to congratulate all the grandaunts. We indeed celebrate your success. Plant Sciences is a department that trains and equips experts in Agriculture, Horticulture and Food Science and Technology. Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy and therefore the Department prioritizes developing and packaging knowledge that assists in solving challenges facing farmers. For instance, the Department recently interacted with farmers to train on how to minimize milk, mango and banana postharvest losses through agro processing. All this has been imparted in our students during their four years of training. We therefore wish to encourage the graduating class to go out and venture in entrepreneurship and boost the rural economies.

The Department of Animal Sciences has also been key in promoting livestock production. A new program the Bachelor of Science in Animal Products and Technology will go a long way in producing graduates that will spearhead livestock products value addition.



L-R: Training of farmers on improved farming practices in Busia and Tharaka Nithi Counties. Training on soil sampling and produce value addition in Tharaka Nithi County

The Department of Environmental Studies and Resources Development endeavors to pursue research in sustainable environmental management and renewable energy use. Recently, together with other researchers in the university, the department will operationalize the UNESCO Chair objectives that will promote sustainable water management and environmental conservation. The environmental section staff have initiated various research projects along this line including; wetland rehabilitation, sewer water phytoremediation, climate change mitigation in forest areas, river restoration, Waste- Energy- home-based gasification technologies among others. Among the departmental priorities this year is the development of a unit solid waste management plant within the university. Wildlife Management lecturers have also developed a proposal for establishing an herbarium and museum that will act as a wildlife lab. Further, the lecturers are working with the KWS to expedite the actualization of the Kairini Wildlife Sanctuary. The tourism and hospitality lecturers are conducting various research projects with a bias towards alternative product development, sustainable nomad tourism, religious tourism and rural tourism propagation. In addition, the department is developing a new curriculum on Renewable Energy Technology and Management which will be rolled out by 2022. More so, the department is developing a curriculum on Sustainable Forestry and Enterprise Management and Diploma in Environmental Studies and Natural Resources Management. In the tourism section we are working towards developing a Bachelor of Aviation Management programme and Certificate in Public Transport Operations Management. To the grandaunts, hard work has been finally rewarded. Use the knowledge gained to transform humanity. May success and Gods' favor follow you in all your endeavors. Congratulations!

Faculty of Business Studies



*Dr. Gilbert Miriti, PhD.
Dean, FBUST*

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Faculty of Business Studies to congratulate the 2021 graduands in this 9th graduation ceremony. The Faculty of Business Studies has two departments namely, Business Administration and Management Science. The faculty is graduating 139 students in Certificates, Diploma, Bachelors and Masters degrees in various disciplines. Our first group of Doctoral students in Business Management is expected to graduate in the next graduation ceremony this year.

The mission of the Faculty of Business Studies is to provide access to quality and relevant education, training and research in Business for sustainable national and global development. We strive to make the Faculty of Business Studies a world class Business School. Chuka University Faculty of Business Studies is indeed an exciting place to study and grow and as our students graduate today, they are well prepared to fit in today's job market as well as to create jobs. This year, our faculty members have been actively involved in dissemination of business research findings through international conferences, and despite the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic we have continued to teach our students through a blending virtual and face to face learning modes.



*Dr. Isaac Micheni Nkari, PhD.
COD, Business Administration*



*Dr. Joseph Masinde, PhD.
COD, Management Science*

The Faculty of Business Studies at Chuka University offers a wide range of academic programmes carefully developed to satisfy the academic and development needs of our students. We have also continued to review our programmes in order to meet the emerging market needs. Additionally, we have introduced new programmes in line with market dynamics.

Some of the new programmes in the Faculty of Business Studies at doctoral level include: PhD in Business and Management, PhD in Finance, PhD in Supply Chain Management and PhD in Accounting. Masters programmes include: Masters of Science in Entrepreneurship, Masters in Co-operative Management, Masters of Science in Procurement and Logistics Management, Masters of Science in Finance, Master of Science in Accounting, Master of Science in Operations Management and Masters of Business Administration with varied specializations.

The Faculty of Business Studies takes pride in its various Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate courses that are on offer since they attract a high number of suitably qualified students and produces much needed human resource for respective industrial sectors in the country.

Implementation of Digital Library Services

Access to quality library services is a critical factor in quality teaching, learning and research. It enables lecturers and researchers to base their scholarly activities on up-to-date academic literature. Access to scientific information facilitates greater collaboration among researchers on projects in research activities and sharing thus avoiding duplication of efforts. For university students, a library provides reading resources and services to support fulfillment of class assignments, development of research skills and lifelong learning. Particularly students use the library for further independent reading, personal academic reflection and deeper understanding of the subject study.



*Prof. Joseph M. Kavulya
University Librarian*

Education world-wide is embracing online, distance and electronic learning (ODEL) model as a way of delivering academic programmes. Globally, due to COVID-19 challenges, there has been renewed and unprecedented shift of learning to virtual environments. Accordingly Chuka University has in the recent past enhanced its digital library service to ensure that all students, dons and researchers have access to e-resources, even while in remote locations away from university, as they participate in e-learning. With this development in digital library services, students, faculty members and other research in Chuka University have a better scholarly experience through improved access to the world class scientific digital information resources in all fields of study in the university. The university is now fully compliant with of national and international best practices for online, distance and e-learning. The quality of learning, teaching and research, for which the university is known for have been maintained even in the virtual environment. The university has improved dissemination of research output leading to better utilization of Chuka University research/intellectual output globally, in solving societal problems.

To achieve a reliable and vibrant digital library service, the university has over the last 9-months carried out the measures:

Subscription to digital library resources

The university subscribes to 31 e-databases with full text e-journal titles, e-books, conference proceedings, reference books and multimedia collections that all fields of study offered in the university such as education humanities, health sciences, social sciences, pure and applied sciences, law, ICT, engineering and media and communication. These databases include globally recognized databases such as *Ebscohost Premier, Emerald Insight, Taylor and Francis, Proquest Central, Project Muse, Lexis-Nexis and IEEE Digital*.

Developing a portal to provide access to course/research- digital collections.

The University has developed an interactive portal which is part of the university website for purposes of providing one-shop access to all the e-databases subscribed to by the university. This allows student and faculty member to log in using protected personal credentials and perform searches for relevant research content.

Facilitating remote access for digital library resources from remote locations

The university has implemented a remote access platform known as *Remotex* which facilitates access to the e-resources outside the university. Students, lecturers and researchers located in any part of Kenya and even outside the country now have a seamless and secure access the digital library and search and download journal articles and e-books.

Provision of Information literacy to students

The university has implemented an intensive and structured information literacy training for undergraduate and postgraduate students and staff on access and retrieval techniques is also limited. *This has led to deep awareness and increase use of digital library resources in learning*

Digitalization of internally generated academic information

The university has implemented a digital repository to host internally generated scholarly content such as students' masters' theses/PhD dissertations, Institution's corporate content, histories and narratives, as well as published journal articles, books or book chapters from faculty members.

Implementing online services for information to scholarly community

The academic fraternity is provided with support services by a team of qualified and committed library staff. Library staff have been equipped with skills to provide library services in the virtual academic and research environment. These online services include literature searches, digital research training, research consultation and quick reference and enquiries. These virtual library ensures that the *information needs of all members of the scholarly fraternity are fulfilled*.

Integration of Digital Library Management Systems to E-Learning Management Systems

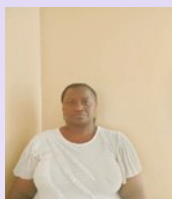
To create a seamless access to learning support services, the university has carried out a process of integration between digital library systems and other Learning Management Systems such as the e-learning management system, *Moodle*, and the University ERP.

The great success in the digital library initiative can be attributed synergy among key stakeholders, University Management, Deans of Faculties, CODs, lecturers and students and a dedicated team of library staff. On behalf of the library team, I welcome all students and faculty to the University's digital library portal on the website. Engage with our library support teams for each Faculty/ School/Department for further assistance.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT



*Dr. Eric Mwenda, PhD.
Ag. Dean, FERED*



*Dr. Mercy Njagi
COD, Education*

The Faculty of Education and Resources Development is mandated to train and produce qualified graduate teachers/educators for achievement of national goals of education. We take this opportunity to congratulate and present the graduates for the 9th graduation ceremony. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Faculty embraced online/virtual learning that has seen the graduating groups graduate today. The consistent growth in the number of graduands over the years is evidence of quality training in the Faculty which is satisfactory to the stakeholders' expectations and market demands. The faculty is committed to continuous improvement by regular revision of the teaching curriculum and pedagogical improvements through staff training and development.

Our academic Programmes are engineered to generate, develop, preserve and share knowledge for efficient and effective management of the educational sector, training, research and outreach through the nurturing of intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice and innovation. The Faculty has identified its areas of strength and is leveraging on its competitive advantage to promote and sustain the momentum in teaching, training and research. The Faculty offers Programmes in Education both on regular and part-time modes. Our undergraduate Programmes in education provide concrete foundations in the theory and practice of education in content knowledge, educational foundation knowledge, practical skills and experiences that promote reflective practice in the dynamic environments. The postgraduate Programmes endeavor to develop researchers with enduring abilities in the synthesis, application and creation of knowledge. The Faculty has endeavored to integrate indigenous knowledge's in an effort to enhance the quality of educational outcomes in the knowledge era. Finally, I congratulate the graduates for their well-deserved achievements. Your consistency, hard work and discipline have brought honor to you, your families, and the university in general. You have been empowered academically and therefore we take this opportunity to remind you to apply the acquired knowledge to service humanity. I wish you the best as you endeavor to unlock your full potentials.

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



*Prof. S.K Wambugu, PhD.
Dean, FHSS.*



*Dr. Christine Atieno, PhD.
Chair, DHUM.*



*Dr. Christopher Kiboro, PhD.
Chair, DSSC.*

Well Wishes and Congratulatory Message from the Dean

The Faculty of Humanities and its two departments (Department of Social Sciences [DSS] and Department of Humanities [DHUM]) wish to convey heartfelt message of good will to the Graduating Class of 2021. You studied during the most difficult situation that was occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, you remained steadfast and resilient in pursuit of your academic goal. Today, we are happy to celebrate your success. As you step out, we wish to remind you that your qualification is just a springboard to propel you to greater heights. There are many opportunities out there which with this great achievement you can utilize to realize your dreams. You are now our good ambassadors and we will be happy to stay in touch with you. The Faculty is in the process of developing a website to enhance its visibility. We would be honoured to publish your accomplishments on our website as a way of motivating our current and prospective students. The Faculty has qualified and dedicated members of staff (both academic and non-academic) whose service and commitment to duty is exemplary. Besides the routine programs, the faculty has been involved and actively participated in a flurry of activities and programs including but not limited to the following:



*The Chuka University
Media Studio Complex
in the FHSS*

Translating Cancer Messages into Local Languages

This is an on-going task which is an outcome of collaboration between the Department of Humanities, on behalf of the university on one hand and the National Cancer Institute on the other. In preparation for the task, the following staff attended a one-week workshop in Nyeri from 15th February to 19th February, 2021: Dr. Augustus Nyakundi, Dr. Christine Atieno, Mr. Enoch Matundura, Dr. Claudius Kihara, Mr. Chrispus Mwakundia, Dr. Dorcas Musyimi, Mr. Kenneth Mwititi, Mr. Kimathi Muembu.

Curriculum Development

Members of the Faculty have also been actively involved in developing, evaluating and improving the university curricula.

Further Studies, Research Networks and Publishing

The faculty has also seen some of its members go for further studies. They are most recently joined by Allan Mwangi who has got a Deakin University Postgraduate Research scholarship (DUPRS) to pursue PhD in Media Studies in Australia. Some staff members have also joined International Network on Government Science Advice (INGSA), the world's preeminent network for people interested in the intersection of science evidence with policy, society and diplomacy. The network works to promote more effective use of evidence in public policy and diplomacy. In addition, students and staff have continued to publish articles in peer reviewed journals. Publishing articles in the dailies by both students and staff has seen the visibility of the faculty and indeed the University at large enhanced. Once again, "Congratulations class of April 2021!"

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY



*Prof. Sammy Musundi
Wabomba, PhD, Dean*



*Dr. Eunice W. Githae, PhD.
CoD-Biological Sciences*



*Dr. David G. Mwathi, PhD.
CoD-Computer Sciences*



*Prof. Ocheing' Ombaka, PhD.
CoD-Physical Sciences*

On behalf of staff of the **Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology**, and on my own behalf, I congratulate the graduating class of 2021. As a faculty, we are proud of our graduands for the exemplary performance and hard work culminating to this very special day. This kind of achievement is attained through hard work, discipline and commitment which our graduands are known for. We acknowledge that these are tough times when the world is facing the Corona Virus crisis. You have shown tremendous effort in versatility in these changing times. We believe that we have equipped you with the necessary skills you need to become excellent professionals capable of meeting today's and tomorrow's critical challenges. We are grateful to Chuka University Management and Council for providing conducive environment for learning of science subjects. This includes procurement of state of art science equipment that enables us to carry out cutting edge research. For details, visit: www.chuka.ac.ke.



Bomb Calorimeter

Finally, I want to recognize the devoted Faculty staff, all along from the technologists who have walked with our students to ensure they acquire quality practical skills, the teaching staff who have handled every learning interaction aspect with inventiveness, tact and assurance. May all of you succeed on the journey ahead as you forge to be problem solvers. God bless you!!

The **Department of Biological Sciences** offers higher education in a broad range of biological disciplines to prepare students to face a wide variety of career paths in microbiology, ecology, physiology, biotechnology, entomology, biochemistry, pathology, genetics, protozoology, parasitology, aquatic biology, among others.

The **Department of Computer Science** offers training in Computer Science, Applied Computer Science, Business Information Technology, and Computer applications. The department is committed to provision of quality higher education innovation in Computer Sciences for sustainable national and global development.

The **Department of Physical Sciences** hosts programmes in following disciplines: Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science; Chemistry; Physics; Biomedical Sciences, Biochemistry and Engineering. It is envisioned to provide world class training and research to accelerate industrialization.

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH



*Prof. Lucy K. Gitonga, PhD.
Dean, SNPH*

Today is an important landmark as our students graduate. May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your achievement. It is through hard work and determination that you have made it this far. As you graduate I would encourage you to be innovative and great thinkers in handling the many challenges facing humanity. Endeavour to see, seize and create opportunities even when and where others see obstacles and difficulties. At Chuka University you have been taught that knowledge is both a tool and vehicle for economic empowerment and development.

By virtue of possessing these attributes you now possess the key for being the change agents awaited for by the world! The School of Nursing and Public Health has witnessed tremendous growth over the years. The School began as a department in June 2012 with four students and two Lecturers.



*Mr. Rankesh Mutisya Willy
COD, Nursing Sciences*

Currently, the School has the following programs: BSc in Nursing (Regular); BSc in Nursing Upgrading; BSc in Health Records & Information Management;

Bachelor of Public Health; BSc in Human Nutrition & Dietetics; Master of Science in Nursing (with options in Medical-Surgical, Midwifery, Community Health, Oncology, Critical Care, Pediatrics, Mental health & Psychiatry, Leadership & Management, and Education), Master of Science in Nutritional Sciences, and PhD in Nursing. Soon, the School will be launching the following new programmes: Diploma in Public Health, Bachelor of Public Health (Upgrading), Master of Public Health, Certificate in Human Nutrition & Dietetics, Diploma in Human Nutrition & Dietetics, Master of Science in Health Records and Information Management and Master of Science in Clinical Psychology. I encourage those qualified and interested in any of the programmes to send their applications. Once again I take this opportunity to congratulate you for your hard work and dedication to achieve your goal.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHUKA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Oscar Cheruiyot, Chairman



Purity Karwitha, Vice-Chair



Naphtal Oduor, Academic Director



Gabriel Mutiso, Treasurer



Gilbert Kiprotich, Welfare Director



Denis Kemboi, Secretary General



Esther Nandele, Org. Secretary

The CUSA elections were held in January 2021 and a new Governing Council was elected headed by Oscar Kipchumba Cheruiyot as the Chairman. The CUSA officials later attended an induction course at Kenya School of Government in Nairobi where they learnt variety of skills that could help transform the new crop of leaders from politicians to leaders ready to work in tandem with other officers to make Chuka University an excellent institution for everyone to thrive and nurture their abilities and talents.

All the elected student leaders promised to adopt a negotiation approach in problem solving, a promise they still hold onto up to date. All and sundry expressed their desire to ensure Chuka University students stay comfortably in the University.

On behalf of the 2021-2022 Students' Council, The CUSA Chairman wishes to congratulate the graduating students. You have been instrumental to the growth of Chuka University and it is my belief that you shall go ahead to be good ambassadors of our University. You maintained a peaceful coexistence around the University and when success is mentioned you shall be on the list.

May you go out to be transformational leaders ready and willing to leave an impact in our society. Open your minds well and wide for the many opportunities out there while at the same time holding each other's hand. May God bless you.

Chuka University student fraternity elected new leaders for the 2021/2022 Academic Year. The hotly contested delegate elections were conducted on 30th January, 2021 while the Governing Council elections were held on 31st January, 2021. The historic elections saw Mr. Oscar Kipchumba, a second year student elected as the Chairman. The new CUSA officials were sworn in at the University Pavilion on 9th February, 2021 in a ceremony presided over by the VC Prof. Erastus Njoka and other University officials. In his remarks, Prof. Njoka thanked the students for conducting free, fair and peaceful elections which gave the University a good repute.

The Vice-Chancellor urged all parties in the just ended contest to work together and embrace the spirit of transformational leadership. He challenged the new office bearers to be exemplary and emulate the good example of Chuka University former student leaders. Prof. Njoka further urged the leaders to be open to negotiations and always consult as they discharge their duties to serve comrades. The leaders underwent a one-week leadership training at the Kenya School of Government in Nairobi. The workshop was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka who in his remarks, said that leadership is not easy because one has to fight many contests and emerge a winner. He congratulated the new student Governing Council and challenged them to walk the leadership talk based on the training imparted.

The training covered a wide range of topics including; time management, resource management, coercive and charismatic leadership, conflict resolution, national integration, organization communication and how to maintain commitment, transparency and integrity in leadership positions. The Chairman, Mr. Kipchumba thanked the University Management for preparing them for the leadership task of serving the Chuka University student fraternity. Mr. Oscar Kipchumba vowed to adhere to the CUSA Constitution, the Kenyan Constitution and the Universities Act in serving fellow students. He pledged to work closely with the University administration in promoting students' affairs and welfare.

Fresh Blood Injected in the Chuka University Alumni Leadership



Mr. Hassan Odoyo
CUAA Chairman

Pursuant to its Constitution, Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA) exercised its democratic right and voted in new leaders. The hotly contested elections took place on 26th March, 2021 which saw Mr. Hassan Ojwang Wellington elected as Chairperson. The electoral commission conducted the elections in a free, fair and transparent manner which was satisfactory to all parties. In his acceptance speech, Hassan promised to diligently serve all Alumni interests and work closely with the University Management. Under his reign, Mr. Odoyo pledged to create more regional chapters across the country in a bid to devolve both power and resources for the betterment of its members; create direct partnerships with different institutions to secure more internship and job opportunities for its member; to organize more scholarships to facilitate higher learning and research; to advance member's welfare through supporting the SACCO and other activities and to create more job opportunities through establishment of the alumni association multi-million business to help raise funds to develop the University. Other leaders of CUAA are: Gertrude Njeri, Vice-Chairperson; Livan Njeru, Secretary General; Obed Kiprop, Treasurer; Esther Robi, Organizing Secretary; Akuba Victor, Chapter Representative, Edna Kemunto, Female Representative; Akoko Geoffrey, Male Representative, and Martin Mbugua, PLWD Representative.

Since inception, CUAA has garnered major milestones as an association. Some of these strides include: Creation of both Mombasa and Nairobi alumni chapters; donation of food stuffs, clothing and stipend support to needy students, children homes; annual career and mentorship programmes in collaboration with the Office of Career Services that is shaping careers of our students and preparing them for the job market. The Association is now fully registered with the Registrar of Societies. As part of giving back to the society, the Association has embarked on building boda boda shades in a bid to boost the transport industry in our country and help publicize CUAA. The Association has organized career talks for alumni members, secured full scholarship opportunities to Japan for further studies and launched a housing cooperative society to help members save and secure loans for personal development to enhance self-reliance among graduates and the nation at large. It is worth noting that Chuka University Alumni Association is the first alumni body to have such a kind of SACCO in the country.

The handing over ceremony which took place on 11th April, 2021 was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Erastus Njoka. The ceremony was graced and witnessed by Prof. Zachary Waita, Ag. DVC-AFP&D, Prof. F. Ndiritu, Registrar (AA), CPA John Thurania, Finance Officer, Justin Kathuru, Ag. Registrar (A&P), Dr. Jafford Rithaa, Director (FABUE), Dr. Immaculate Mutali, Senior Public Relations Officer, and Dr. Benjamin Kanga, Ag. Dean of Students. In his remarks, Prof. Njoka challenged the incoming team led by Mr. Odoyo to initiate projects and always protect the interests of the University. The Vice-Chancellor challenged the incoming CUAA leaders to build new partnerships to ensure their impact is felt and be strong ambassadors of the University. The outgoing CUAA leadership has been under the chairmanship of Mr. Livingstone Makori who is a life member.

Student Fraternity Hold Thanksgiving Prayer and Luncheon Service

Chuka University held a joint thanksgiving service on 12.3.2021 which brought together staff and students, an initiative organized by the Students Welfare Department and Chuka University Students Association. The theme for the service was: effective leadership qualities. This was meant to equip student leaders with tips on servant leadership. In his remarks, the VC Prof. Erastus Njoka reminded students to adopt a paradigm shift in their thinking process and to be problem-solvers. Prof. Njoka encouraged the students to engage in meaningful and peaceful campaigns as they elect new office bearers for the year. The VC assured the students that the University will continue to hire qualified lecturers, improve infrastructure and support student activities as per University policies. The occasion was graced by the DVC-ARSA, Prof. Dorcas Isutsa, and Vainadu Zakayo Ingana, Ministry of Education University Council representative. Vainadu urged the CUSA leaders to be like bridges linking students to the University Management, just like Moses in the Bible led the children of Israel to the promised land. He urged the CUSA leaders to be God fearing and good listeners. "What you hear should go through your ears to your heart and mind to make you good decision makers; good role models; good communicators, and upholders of integrity," he concluded.



Chuka University Students' YCS Choir entertains guests during the virtual 8th Graduation Ceremony held on Friday 18th December, 2020 at the Main Campus

KUSU Elects New Leaders

Newly elected KUSU office bearers are 9. Elections were held on 11th February, 2021. They paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Erastus Njoka and the Management Board, on 22nd March, 2021. The leaders are:

1. Mike Thuo -Chairman
2. Daniel Wandera -Secretary/C.E.O
3. Eric Gitonga -Treasurer
4. Jedida Kariuki -Organizing Secretary
5. Dennis Rugendo -Deputy Secretary
6. Lynet Njue -Assistant Treasurer
7. Fredrick Ogolla -Vice-Chairman
8. Dr. Agnes Maigallo -Woman Representative
9. Martin Kinoti -Trustee

University donates food stuff to the elderly and vulnerable persons in Tharaka-Nithi County

Chuka University over the years has ensured that it partners with the local community through the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives, which is part of the University core mandate as an Institution of Higher Learning. In actualizing its core mandate, the University, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka, donated food stuff worth Kshs 3 million to the elderly citizens aged 85 years and above in Tharaka Nithi County. Food items distributed encompassed maize flour sugar tea leaves cooking oil, powder milk, beans and bar soap. The food donation drive was conducted on 24th December 2020 to 2nd January, 2021 was spearheaded by the Tharaka Nithi County Commissioner Ms. Beverly Opwora and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka. More than 1,500 vulnerable elderly beneficiaries in Tharaka North, Tharaka South, Chuka Igamba Ng'ombe and Maara Sub-Counties benefited from the CSR Initiative. In her speech during the launch, the County Commissioner, Ms. Opwora articulated on the importance CSR initiatives to assist the vulnerable and needy people in the community to achieve the vision 2030 and Big Four Agenda. The County Commissioner thanked the University Management for the kind food donation. She further acknowledged the cordial relationship between the University and the office of the County Commissioner and indicated that her office will continue to work with the University for the betterment of the society. Also present during the flagging off ceremony were the Police Commandant Mr. Charles Mbatu, Ms. Betty Chepng'eno, CID and Mr. Tikwang Fabiano.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka, hands over a food donation package to a beneficiary

UASU Elects New Leaders

UASU Chuka University Chapter held election of new leaders on 10th February 2021. The leaders paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka and the Management Board, on 17th March, 2021. The leaders are:

Dr. Alice Lunani -Chapter Chairperson; Dr. Maina Kariuki -Deputy Chair
Thomas Motindi -Chapter Secretary; Daniel Kinyanjui -Deputy Secretary
Kelvin Gogo -Chapter Treasurer; Charity Nyaboke -Deputy Treasurer
Anthony Ngereki -Organizing Secretary; Sigar Otula -Trustee
Crispin Isaboke-Trustee; Dr. Ndukhu O Haggai -Trustee
Elizabeth Njoroge-Delegate; Dr. Antony Odek -Delegate
Dr. Peris Nderitu -Delegate; Faith Muthoni Nyaga -Coopted Member
Felister Kemunto Mbaka & Domisiano Koome Impwii -Coopted Members

Varsity Plants 700,000 Trees in Two Years



The Tharaka-Nithi County Commissioner, Madam Beverly Opwora, plants a tree during the 3rd annual tree planting drive; Next to the County Commissioner is the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka

To mitigate the devastating effects of environmental degradation and climate change, Chuka University continues to position itself as a centre of excellence in environmental conservation. On 14th March, 2021, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka launched the 3rd annual tree planting of 200,000 trees in Kiera Hill in Maara Constituency in a bid to restore lost forest cover. Chuka University's niche is environmental conservation and renewable energy. "It is against this backdrop that the University opted to undertake the initiative after realizing that the Maara Sub-county was turning semi-arid due to rapid deforestation", said the Vice-Chancellor. The launch was graced by Government representatives, Environmental/Forest Officers and Maara Sub-county community. Chuka University continues to make concerted efforts to be an icon of environmental conservation. The annual tree planting launched in 2019 is a corporate social responsibility initiative which benefits communities in Tharaka-Nithi, Embu and Meru counties. It is in line with the Big Four Agenda and Kenya's Vision 2030 which aim at mitigating climate change and its adverse effects.

In 2020, the University distributed 500,000 tree seedlings to the community and schools. In this year's 3rd annual tree planting drive, Chuka University targets to plant and donate over 700,000 tree seedlings to schools and the community in Tharaka-Nithi. So far, the target has been to reach the ultimate goal of one million trees by the year 2022. "Planting trees is a critical part of the solution and both individuals and communities can get involved and play their role in the fight for a more sustainable future," said Prof. Njoka. The University has and will continue to collaborate with the Government and other institutions such as banks to execute the tree planting campaign aimed at encouraging the community to develop a culture of planting trees to protect the environment. Prof. Njoka said that the annual tree planting exercise will be conducted in public lands such as schools, hills and chiefs' camps, as well as distributing tree seedlings to the community.



PICTORIAL



MOE PS, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (2nd R) on a tour of Chuka University on 2/3/2021, accompanied with County Commissioner, Ms. Beverly Opwora, and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka



MOE PS, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (3rd R) on a tour of the Science & Technology Research Park of Chuka University on 2/3/2021, accompanied with L-R: QS Raphael Muigai, Arch. Seth Changilwa, VC Prof. Erastus Njoka, and County Commissioner Ms. Beverly Opwora, among others.



MOE PS, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (4th R) addressing the Chuka University staff and guests on 2/3/2021, while flanked with Chairman of the Council, Dr. Julius Rotich and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka



The Ministry of Education PS, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (Right) launches the Chuka University Faculty of Law on 2/3/2021, accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Erastus Njoka



The Cabinet Secretary, Prof. Margaret Kobia commissions the ultramodern Male Students' Hostel at Chuka University, as the Chief Guest during the 7th Graduation Ceremony on 18/11/2019



Commission for University Education (CUE) Chief Secretary, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi (Front) interacts with the Senate during a visit of Chuka University on 18/3/2021



Commission for University Education (CUE) Chief Secretary, Prof. Mwenda Ntarangwi (Standing) addresses guests and staff during a visit of the Igembe Campus of Chuka University on 19/3/2021



Tharaka Dancers welcome the MOE PS, Amb. Simon Nabukwesi (Centre) to Tharaka University College, a Constituent University College of Chuka University on 3/3/2021 at Gatunga, Marimanti.