



# Chuka University Newsletter

*A Publication of Chuka University*

Issue No. 11



# 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**

**THEME: Enhancing Global and National Sustainable Development through  
Quality Higher Education, Research and Enterprise**



*Inspiring Environmental Sustainability for Better Life*



**3,823 Graduate in 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony**



72



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# Editorial Board

## Chuka University Newsletter

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## CHUKA UNIVERSITY

*Sapientia divitia est [Knowledge is Wealth] Akili ni Mali*

### Our Vision

A Premier University for the provision of quality education, training, and research for sustainable national and global development

### Our Mission

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

### Our Philosophy

Nurturing an intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice to produce graduates with relevant training, lead to social cohesion, human and economic development.

### Our Core Values

Freedom of Expression

Integrity

Sustainability

Teamwork

Excellence and Professionalism

Confidentiality

# Message from the Cabinet Secretary

## Ministry of Education



**Mr. Julius Migos Ogamba, EBS**

It is a pleasure to join you for the Chuka University's 13<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. To the graduating class, I say heartfelt congratulations for achieving this significant milestone. Your graduation reflects your hard work and determination, along with the love and support of your families, guardians, and educators. Today, we honour not only you but also the parents and guardians whose sacrifices have paved the way to your success. In a special way celebrate the all University staff who, over the period of your study diligently imparted knowledge and nurtured your talents. I extend my gratitude to the Chancellor, the University Council, and the Vice Chancellor for the invitation to this special occasion. I note with satisfaction your deep commitment to growth of Chuka University and cultivation of an enabling environment where students flourish in both character and academics, thus preparing them to serve with integrity and innovation. The theme of this graduation, "Enhancing Global and Sustainable National Development through Quality Research and Extension," resonates well with our national goals. Quality research and extension are cornerstones for socio-economic growth and the backbone of sustainable development. This is well

aligned with the National Education Sector Strategic Plan 2023–2027, which emphasizes building a competitive workforce capable of navigating the demands of modern rapid scientific advances, climate change, and other global challenges. To meet the needs of an evolving world, the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) is designed to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. With the Ministry of Education's ongoing support for curriculum enhancement, we aim to ensure that the young people acquire essential skills across specialized pathways like STEM, Social Sciences, and Sports. Together, these skills will empower them to drive Kenya's socio-economic transformation. Higher education plays a pivotal role in national initiatives such as Vision 2030, the SDGs, and the Bottom-Up Agenda. We need graduates who greatly significantly contribute to sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, housing, and food security. The government's commitment to equitable access to quality education — from Free Primary Education to low-cost boarding — underscores our mission to leave no one behind, irrespective of background. Besides teaching, Universities have a core mandate to nurture innovation and find solutions to challenges such as poverty, youth unemployment, climate change, and technological disruptions. These challenges also present research opportunities for graduates to make meaningful contributions toward sustainable development. We are grateful to the private sector, Non-governmental organizations, county governments and government departments for supporting the achievement of goals of higher education through providing opportunities for industrial attachments, infrastructure development, research funding, and scholarships. We encourage universities to build strong linkages with these partners to fulfil their core mandates.

### *To our graduates:*

***Your journey has only just begun. You are now well-equipped to create employment opportunities or compete for others within and beyond our national borders. I urge you to take advantage of government programs***

such as Public Service Commission internships to gain essential experience and explore funding opportunities for your ventures. Whether you pursue further studies, employment, or entrepreneurship, approach your goals with integrity and resilience. Remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s words: "If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means, keep moving." May you uphold the highest standards of honesty and service, prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable, and remain true to justice and integrity in all your endeavours. The world needs individuals committed to righteousness and fairness, who stand firm in their convictions.

Thank you, and congratulations once again.

# Message from the Principal Secretary

State Department for Higher Education and Research, Ministry of Education



Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Ph.D.

It is my great pleasure to join you for the 13th graduation ceremony of Chuka University. I am deeply honored to witness the conferment of degrees on today's graduating class. Let me begin by congratulating all of the graduands on their outstanding achievements.

Today, I join your parents, guardians, and loved ones in celebrating this momentous occasion. We recognize the dedication, hard work, and time you have invested throughout your time here at the university, as well as the invaluable moral and financial support provided by your families, without whom this day could not have been possible. In particular, I take note the bachelor graduands are those who enrolled during the COVID 19 era. My plea to those graduating is become the pillars of moral fiber in the society and national workforce hence forth.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the University Council, Management Board, Senate, and entire university community for the steadfast support the continue to offer to our students, as witnessed today by the graduating cohort. I am confident that among the graduating class future

leaders and professionals will emerge from you.

I take note that your 2024 graduation theme "**Enhancing Global and National Sustainable Development through Quality Higher Education, Research and Enterprise**" resonates well with the Kenya Kwanza national development agenda. You all recall the His Excellency the President introduced the Student Centered New University Funding Model that aimed to improve support for student to access University education. I am happy that the VC and Student President (Mr. Evans Muchanga) are part of the national taskforce reviewing and refining the same to improve the model further.

I am happy with the positive transformation taking place in this University. I was happy I joined you to launch your Summer School in June that attracted participants from 87 countries. In addition, I note in your 2023/2024 Academic year, the University attracted research projects worth over 170M and also laid a lot of focus in ensuring all your income generating Units posted profits. This demonstrates that a shift towards newer frontiers of funding

universities through alternative revenue streams is feasible.

As a Country, under our Ministry and my department, we are committed an education system that builds national workforce capacity that has acquired requisite knowledge, skills and values that create positive impact in your communities. Graduands your journey at Chuka University has given you these tools, use then to innovate around your lives and shine nationally and beyond our borders.

I am aware the National Industrial Action by workers has been a challenge to our Universities. I am that Chula University has created a win-win environment to enable our students continued to be taken care of as such matters are addressed.

Once again congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Go out there and be innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial and exploit all available opportunities.

Thank you and God bless you all.

# Message from the Chancellor

## Enhancing Global and National Sustainable Development through Quality Higher Education, Research and Enterprise

**O**n behalf of the entire Chuka University fraternity, it is my distinct honour to welcome you to our 13th graduation ceremony. Today, we gather to celebrate a momentous occasion, where (3,823) of our students are graduating. Congratulations to the graduating Cohort of 2024! All of us gathered here are happy and proud you navigated through this journey.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you the parents and guardians of these graduands. They put a lot in you in terms of parental care, financial support, moral encouragement and prayers. Hats off for these parents.

To my Council, Management, Senators, Dons, Administrative and Support staff, I salute you for the many hours, days, months and years you toiled to support these graduands to achieve their dreams. I also salute the Ndagani community who tolerated and hosted these graduands during their study period.

As a University we are committed to empowering our students to be well-rounded individuals, not only through academic excellence but also by nurturing critical life skills, creativity, and innovation. Our unique holistic approach is designed to prepare our graduates to take on leadership roles in society with confidence and make meaningful contributions to both local and global development. **The theme of this year's graduation, "Enhancing Global and National Sustainable Development through Quality Higher Education, Research and Enterprise"**. This is reflecting very well with our dedicated focus, as a University, on our mandate and niche area that is geared towards contributing meaningfully to addressing societal challenges in areas of climate change, health, agriculture, and technology.

As a University and my administration, we pay a lot of focus on fiscal stability through internal budgetary controls that tighten balanced budget and streamlining processes that lay emphasis on expense that support our core mandate. We diversifying revenue streams through our profitable Income-Generating Units (IGUs) and mobilised research and development donor resources. I am happy to report that all IGUs have been transformed into profit making through restructuring to create efficiency and reduced operating expenses.

I am proud of the leadership and guidance our University council has been providing. Through their guidance, we have been able to prioritize and supported capital projects on functional priority-basis. The Food Science Block is now complete and the milk plant machinery is in place ready. The Science Research Park is in its final stages of completion. In pursuit to ensure a serene learning environment, we have undertaken the facelift of our facilities; halls of residence, lecture halls, student mess, conference halls and enhanced internet connectivity. Chuka has always posted Excellent result in Our National Performance Contract Evaluation.

Chuka University supports all academic and administrative functions to facilitate effective attainment of core mandate. I am happy to note our University is on an upward trajectory following

the recent University webometrics ranking where our University was ranked at position 24 up from 37 in the previous year. This achievement is attributed to our collective efforts through robust web presence, visibility and transparency, and increased research activities, and community outreach engagements. In the current 2024/2025 academic year Chuka University attracted 5,714 first year enrolment, which included 895 self-paying students. This is an improvement from previous year of 3,636, a sign that our favourable ranking amongst potential clients is better. To all those students who chose to join this prophetic University as your academic home, we say a BIG THANKS TO YOU. On our part we commit to give our students quality service and make their life in campus memorable.

The international visibility of our University has continued to grow from our collective strategic direction and partnerships. In July this year, we hosted the Nairobi Summer School which attracted participants from over 87 countries and also held the 11<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference in October, 2024. Next year, we have lined up a number of staff and student exchange programmes with other international universities as part of our internationalization strategy.

Our University has become a national reference centre for dialogue and best practices among various stakeholders on national development. Quite recently we hosted and participated in notable event that included Launch of MTP-IV officiated by the Deputy Vice President, H.E. Hon. Prof. Kithure Kindiki, Green Moot Court Competition, the AMMnet and Generative Artificial Intelligence conference, East Africa Grain Council Exhibition, the Cultural week, the Safaricom Chapa Dimba football where our students emerged as the Eastern Regional champions. Additionally, we hosted Dr. Narendra Raval (Guru) inspirational public lecture on entrepreneurship, wealth creation, and purpose in life.

As a University, we are committed to support the government agenda of making education accessible and affordable to all. The University underwent the 5-year cycle audit in April this year and I am pleased to report that all our programmes met the stipulated CUE requirements for University education. I am happy to report that we remain one of the university that that has conducted staff reviews/ promotions and also has remitted all statutory deductions on time.

In conclusion, I urge all our today graduates and your parents/guardians to become ambassadors of Chuka University. Go out there and become change agents that contribute positively to society. Uphold the virtues of integrity, hard work, and service to others. The future is bright, and with your acquired skills, the sky will not be your limit but only a stepping step to greater achievements.

Once again, HONGERA!

God blessings to you all and Thank you.



# Message from the Chairman of Council



**Prof. David T.K. Serem, Ph.D., OGW**  
Chairman of Council

I warmly welcome you all to the 13th Graduation Ceremony of Chuka University. Today, we are proud to present to this great country a skilled cohort of 3823 graduates, well-prepared to take their place as the future workforce of our nation. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. We greatly appreciate your dedication and perseverance to achieve this great academic milestone amidst many challenges. We acknowledge the collaborative effort of the University administration, faculty members, guardians and families in supporting you throughout your academic journey. We exhort you to reciprocate the sacrifice of your guardians by living the positive values inculcated in you during the course of your study at Chuka University. Today's graduation theme, Enhancing Global and Sustainable National Development through Quality Research and Extension exemplifies the University's commitment to contribute solving the development challenges facing our country Kenya. It reflects Chuka University's success in its mission of teaching, learning, and impactful research. The Vice-Chancellor and his team have skillfully guided this institution toward these achievements, supported by the dedicated efforts of all departments working together with a unified purpose. The University Council is committed to

overseeing governance and proper administration of resources, properties, and funds to secure the University's sustained growth. I am pleased to report that over the past year, we have achieved various milestones in governance, infrastructure development, and strategic partnership. These include for example, enhancing leadership capability at all levels of management and significant increase in employee satisfaction and work environment indices. Second is renovation and upgrading of physical facilities, including the refurbishment of the Business School Complex and the construction of the Food Technology Tuition Complex. Additionally, the Science Research Park is in an advanced stage of completion, representing our commitment to fostering high-quality research. Finally, is the establishment of six (6) international partnership collaborations and 18 local linkages promoting a global network for research and innovation. The University Council, alongside all stakeholders, has developed a clear vision for the University's future, as enshrined in our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Over the next five years, we aim to achieve academic excellence, strengthen research, improve student welfare, generating dynamic research to support growth in infrastructural and human resources, and enhance sustainability. Our goal is to maintain and advance the University's role as a leader in higher education, fulfilling our mission to support sustainable national and global development to attain a world class status. As a learning community, Chuka University is committed to cultivating leaders of integrity for this country. Graduates, as you step into roles of leadership across various sectors, we encourage you to exercise ethical leadership and responsibility in both your personal and professional lives. You are graduating during a time of rapid societal, environmental, and technological shifts that present socioeconomic challenges locally and globally. With this in mind,

*it is essential for you to be proactive, solution-oriented, resilient, and adaptable, qualities that will enable you to navigate successfully life beyond graduation. I especially encourage you to embrace lifelong learning, continuously seeking knowledge and skills to remain adaptable, competitive, and innovative.*

Your education represents an investment by the community and nation, and therefore I urge you to give back by using your knowledge and skills to make meaningful contributions to society. As I conclude, I reiterate the Council's commitment to supporting all our graduands in their future endeavours, through the University's alumni networks, mentorship programs, and further education opportunities. As alumni, we hope you will stay engaged with Chuka University, by being her good ambassadors contributing to its growth and success. Once again, on behalf of the entire University, I congratulate you for this remarkable achievement. The future is bright for you, and we wish you success in all your endeavors. May God bless you abundantly.

I wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous new year of 2025.

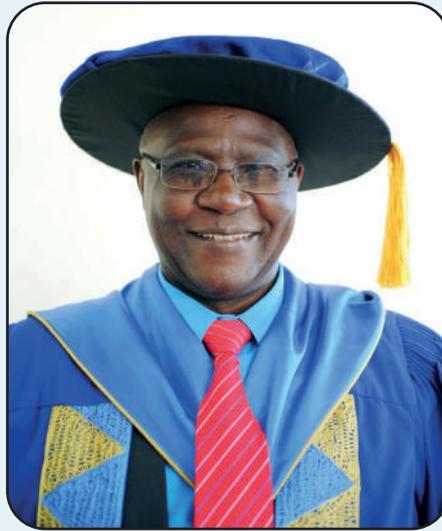
Chairman of Council, Chuka University



# University Council



**Mr. Jona Wala**  
Representing the PS,  
The National Treasury



**Prof. David T. K. Serem, OGW**  
Council Chairman



**Dr. Wahome Rureri Ph.D.**  
Representing the PS,  
State Department of Higher  
Education and Research



**Mr. Zephaniah Rwanda Mbaka**  
Council Member



**Prof. Henry M. M'ikiugu, Ph.D.**  
Council Secretary/Vice-Chancellor/CEO



**Ms. Margaret M. Makhungu**  
Council Member



**Ms. Linet K. Maganda**  
Council Member



**Mr. Crispus M. Ndeke**  
Council Member



**Mr. Samuel G. Gitonga**  
Council Member

# Office of the Vice-Chancellor



**Prof. Henry Mutembei M'ikiugu, Ph.D.,**  
Vice-Chancellor/ Council Secretary

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Once again, HONGERA!

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# University Management Board



**Prof. Gilbert M. Nduru, Ph.D.**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Academic, Research and Student  
Affairs



**Prof. Henry Mutembei M'ikiugu, Ph.D.,**  
Vice-Chancellor/ Council Secretary



**Prof. Eunice W. Githae, Ph. D.**  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Administration, Finance, Planning  
and Development



**Dr. Samwel M. Chege, Ph.D.**  
Registrar Academic Affairs



**CPA John K. Thurania**  
Finance Officer



**Dr. Peter O. Mabubi, Ph.D.**  
Registrar Administration and  
Planning

# Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

## (Administration, Finance, Planning and Development)



*As Chuka University continues to set ambitious standards, we strive to reach new heights in competitiveness, progressive governance, leadership, and culture. Our focus on long-term sustainability is underpinned by well-projected resource mobilization strategies.*

**C**ongratulations to the Chuka University Class of 2024 on this remarkable achievement! Today marks a significant milestone in your lives, representing the culmination of years of hard work, growth, and dedication. Graduation is not just an end; it is the beginning of an exciting journey filled with limitless opportunities, eagerly waiting for you to seize them. Your perseverance and resilience have brought you to this pivotal moment. As you reflect on your time here, cherish the friendships you've forged, the knowledge you've gained from your instructors, and the unwavering support from your families. These experiences have shaped you into the individuals you are today. Utilize the knowledge, skills, and connections you've built as a solid foundation for your future endeavors, and embrace every opportunity that comes your way. Chuka University takes pride in having played a vital role in your development into outstanding graduates. The university's strategic plan for 2022 to 2027 has been carefully reviewed to align with Kenya's Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV) 2023-

2027 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). These initiatives guide the provision of quality services to produce the exceptional graduates you are today. Through an annual performance contract, the university is committed to ensuring successful student mentorship, providing attachments and internship opportunities, and fostering the cultural values of our communities through engaging activities.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of you. Embrace this new chapter with enthusiasm and confidence!

**Prof. Eunice W. Githae, Ph.D.,**

**Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor** (Administration, Finance, Planning and Development)

**BSc. MSc. PhD** (University of Nairobi),

**PGD** (Open University, England)

# Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

## (Academic, Research, and Student Affairs)



**Prof. Gilbert Mbaka Nduru, Ph.D.**

Ag. DVC-Academic, Research and Student Affairs

I wish to congratulate all our esteemed graduates of 2024 cohort. You have fought a good academic battle for the last four years and hit the jackpot of your worthy efforts and dedication. Today, you are graduating from Chuka University to match out proudly into the world of service to humanity and I am sure, focused on providing innovative solutions and making a difference in our society and the world yonder. I am overjoyed as I team up with other academic mentors and all distinguished stakeholders in saluting you for this shining achievement. I acknowledge the efforts, dedication and resilience that you exhibited through your academic journey until now. Congratulations to you all and may God bless you and open opportunities of every kind to you in your future. I am also filled with gladness and pleasure today as I witness the great gathering of friends of Chuka University that have joined us in celebrating your graduation.

I take this opportunity to welcome every one of them to our 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony with a sense of pride. This is surely, I would like to say, the day that the Lord has made, we shall rejoice and be glad in it. Praise be to God who has brought us all this far. I thank God and all that have contributed in respective ways to make this day a momentous occasion in the lives of our graduates. Thank you for being there when you were needed and for coming to grace graduation ceremony. To all our graduates, this occasion is a testimony of your academic resilience in pursuit of excellence since the day you were admitted to join Chuka University. I have no doubts that you made up your mind to be seated here today, hence you focused yourself and did justice to your dream, and that is why we are here celebrating you. Hongera kwenu. You did everything within your power to study as required and God empowered you to excel thus far. I have no doubt that Chuka University presented you with freedoms, responsibilities and challenges that now constitute your wealth of experience. Apart from guided academic work, you learnt how to make your own choices as you navigated contextual circumstances that you often faced during your academic journey. I am thus certain that you have the requisite knowledge, skills and experiences that will come in handy as you now step forward to face the world and contribute in making it a place we all need to coexist harmoniously and develop in a sustainable manner. May God bless you hence in every step and decision that you will have to make after this graduation that you may prosper and make our world a better place to live in. Apart from training at Chuka University, we have also established a

vibrant research and innovation culture that is designed to empower staff and students to create appropriate knowledge, skills and innovations that commence new academic and development boundaries. Members of staff and students have frequently competed successfully for international and local grants to support their research and outreach activities. From research carried out as well as other scholarly work, they have managed to publish research articles in high impact journals and wrote several books. In pursuit of our goal to create a robust network of partners in research and extension, the University has created local and international to among other things provide staff and students with opportunities to engage in international exchange programmes, collaborative research and cultural immersions including summer schools and conferences. Our graduates, being a produce of this academic ecosystem have appropriate preparedness to serve and live as global citizens. With this assurance, I encourage our 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony graduates to go out into the world confidently and prove their worth. Go confidently and serve outstandingly because your qualifications are second to none. It is my prayer that God will provide you with strength and wisdom on how, when and where to apply all that you have been prepared for at Chuka University. Be men and women of integrity in all you will be given opportunity to do. Always give your very best. You have what it takes to work and always deliver expected results. Whatever you will find to do, please be engaged productively and God will bless you immensely.

# Office of the Registrar

## Academic Affairs



**Dr. Samwel Chege, Ph.D.**  
Registrar Academic Affairs

**T**oday, we gather to celebrate not just your academic achievements but the remarkable journey that has led you to this moment. You began your university life in the year 2020, a time when the country was grappling with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unprecedented hurdles, you persevered and have emerged victorious. As your Registrar, it has been an honor to witness your hard work, resilience, patience and determination. As you step beyond these walls into the wider world, remember that the knowledge and skills you've gained here will serve as the foundation for pursuing your dreams. Graduation is not merely the end of your academic journey but a gateway to new experiences, opportunities and challenges. I am confident that the resilience and skills you've developed at Chuka University will equip you to overcome any obstacles you may encounter in the future. The Office of the Registrar has played a key role in supporting your journey, acting as the custodian of all official student academic records, including those of continuing students and alumni. From overseeing student registration, enrollment and academic records verification, to managing inter-faculty transfers and the issuance of final transcripts and certificates. We take pride in ensuring that all our stakeholders receive fair and timely services. This year, Chuka University achieved a significant milestone by receiving 5,241 first-year students placed by KUCCPS, compared to 4,507 in the previous year; a testament to our growing reputation and impact on the community. As you graduate today, I encourage you to embrace the future with courage and curiosity. Take inspiration from the eagle, a symbol of strength, determination and vision. Like the eagle, rise above challenges, stay focused on your goals, and let your aspirations guide your path as you move forward. You are the future, and we look forward to witnessing your continued success. Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We are incredibly proud of you and excited to celebrate all the victories that lie ahead.

### Valedictorian for the graduating class of 2024

The valedictorian for the class of 2024 is Brian Machurusi Abani from the Faculty of Agriculture graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Brian has demonstrated exceptional academic excellence and leadership throughout his academic journey. It is a well-deserved honour. Well done Brian.

# Office of the Registrar, Administration and Planning



**Dr. Peter O. Mabubi, Ph.D.**  
Registrar Administration & Planning

**T**he Office of the Registrar, Administration and Planning plays a pivotal role in coordinating the strategic use of resources to promote equity,

efficiency and cost-effectiveness in line with the University's core mandate. Through key departments such as Human Resource, Estates, Medical Services, Accommodation, Utilities and Facilities, Security and Transport, the office ensures smooth operations and optimal resource utilization across the institution. To specifically support student needs, the office manages the allocation of space for lectures and laboratories, ensuring that these learning environments are well-maintained, clean and furnished with adequate seating and equipment. Additionally, the maintenance of fields and playing grounds for various games and sports activities is a top priority to promote student wellness and engagement. As the graduating class of 2024 embarks on their new journey, there is no doubt that they leave Chuka University with holistic preparation—equipped with refined skills, a competitive spirit, a global mindset, and the drive to innovate in an ever-changing world. This year's graduates stand poised to make meaningful contributions in their respective fields. The Office of Registrar, Administration and Planning extends its best wishes to the class of 2024, encouraging them to embrace the less-traveled paths that lead to success and personal fulfillment. With confidence in the skills and knowledge they have gained, we send our dear graduates into the world with heartfelt congratulations and blessings for the future. May you continue to make us proud and always remember that your alma mater is cheering you on every step of the way!

## Mentorship Program Shapes Future Public Service Leaders



**Participants pose for a photograph with the Registrar A&P, Dr. Peter Mabubi**

The Office of the Registrar (Administration and Planning) spearheaded a robust Intern Mentorship Program, offering a comprehensive introduction to the intricacies of the internship framework. The event was designed to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience for interns. A cornerstone of the program was a detailed exploration of key public service principles such as integrity, transparency and accountability. These discussions underscored the significance of these values in fostering a trustworthy and efficient public service sector.

Additionally, participants were introduced to the Citizens Service Delivery Charter, a pivotal document that underscores a commitment to providing efficient and citizen-focused service. The charter aims to set a benchmark for excellence in public service delivery, reflecting the institution's dedication to meeting the needs and expectations of the public. The mentorship program also featured a series of workshops focused on essential skills for the labour market. Interns engaged in interactive sessions that emphasized effective communication and professional networking, both crucial for enhancing employability and career growth. These workshops were tailored to equip participants with the tools needed to thrive in a competitive job market, ensuring they are well-prepared to transition into full-time roles.

## Office of the Finance Officer



**CPA John K. Thurania**  
Finance Officer

I sincerely congratulate the graduating class of 2024 for the great milestone in their academic journey. I take cognizance that the graduands have heavily invested their time and resources to achieve the academic excellence we are celebrating today. It is expected that the skills learnt will help the candidates earn a living and better the growth of the Kenyan nation and the world at large. Education is a remarkable tool that enables scholars to do wonderful things that can catapult them to the great success. The Finance department

is responsible for custody and accounting for financial and non-financial resources, including efficient and accurate reporting, budgeting and financial planning, cash, debt and risk management. These functions are undertaken in strict conformity with the National Treasury policies, governing legislations and the requisite financial reporting standards. In the endeavour to comply with the Government policies, the department has embraced the Government Investment Management Information System (GIMIS) requirements, where all statutory financial returns to the National Treasury are done through the GIMIS platform. The system has the capabilities for preparation, submission, analysis/review and approval of the University budget. The University has also on boarded its services on e-Citizen platform in strict compliance with the government regulation to cut cost of time and money for clients seeking government services. The process is also expected to minimize corruption and pilferage believed to cost the government millions of shillings in lost revenue. In order to enhance transparency in financial reporting, the department has successfully adopted the emerging accounting policies and guidelines as provided by the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). In the spirit of fulfilling its mandate, the department has continued to streamline financial operations through digitalization of financial processes to ensure seamless flow of services to students, staff and other customers. Some of the digitalized activities/processes include payment of fees where the students' financial statements are updated on real time basis enabling students to get prompt services, payment of salaries and other products and services. The department is committed to ensuring that student concerns are promptly addressed to make them comfortable as they undertake their studies. We value our students who are our main customers by offering timely and quality services. The department has undertaken to advice students on how to efficiently manage financial resources as well as the avenues for external financing. The success we are celebrating today may not have actualized without the input of the Council, Management, Senate, Students leadership, parents, guardians and sponsors. These players have done a commendable job to facilitate this event. On behalf of Finance department, I appreciate you all.

# FACULTIES

## Faculty of Agriculture

Embrace Change, Seize Global Opportunities in Agriculture



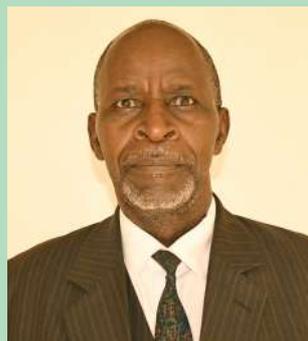
**Dr. Grace Abucheli, Ph.D.**  
Dean Faculty of Agriculture

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands on your outstanding achievement. I also wish to extend heartfelt appreciation to the lecturers who have tirelessly mentored and equipped you with the skills and knowledge you now possess. Graduating from university is no small feat—it demands hard work, commitment, perseverance, resilience and dedication, all of which you have demonstrated remarkably well. As you graduate today, I urge

you to maintain a positive outlook on the world. While there are many challenges ahead, remember to persist and try again, for it is through perseverance that success is found. This mindset will guide you toward a fulfilling and successful life. I hope that each of you will find yourselves in positions of great influence, both regionally and globally, where you can make a significant impact in the agriculture sector. I believe the future of our society is in very capable hands. Change is a constant in life. During the four years you spent as a student, your ambitions and desires may have shifted, and what you want today could evolve over the next decade. This is entirely natural. The world is full of possibilities and you have the power to become whatever you aspire to be. Nothing is beyond your reach. The Faculty of Agriculture continues to make significant strides in a positive direction. Through collaboration with the private sector, the Faculty has developed graduate programs, and we encourage all graduates to visit the website and plan to advance their studies. The Faculty is also expanding its network of international partners, enabling students to gain valuable experience through internships in developed countries. For instance, our collaboration with the founder of the International Centre for Relearning and Skilling Programme (ICRSP) will allow students from Chuka University's Faculty of Agriculture to travel to countries such as Germany, the USA, Sweden, and the Netherlands. This opportunity is open, and those interested are encouraged to consult the Faculty for further guidance. The internationalization of Agriculture programs remains our top priority. As a Faculty, we are immensely proud of you today. You have so much to offer the world, and we eagerly await your contributions. Remember that the challenges you face will shape you, as overcoming them will strengthen your resolve. Keep your focus on the future, and always seek out new opportunities, even when it seems that none exist.



**Dr. Rose Kahindi, Ph.D.,**  
COD, Animal Science



**Prof. Jackin Njagi Nanua, Ph.D.**  
COD, ETECH



**Mr. Geoffrey Kosgei,**  
COD, AGECE/AGBM/AGED



**Dr. Martin Njogu, Ph.D.**  
COD, Plant Science

## Department of Plant Sciences Congratulates You!



**Dr. Martin Njogu**, COD, Plant Science

**D**uring this 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony, we take this moment to congratulate the graduating class of 2024 on your remarkable achievement in advancing your careers. This graduation marks a new beginning in your life, and it is time to step out and pursue your career aspirations with divergent thinking. Such thinking will

ignite your curiosity to explore greater opportunities, give you the courage to follow your dreams, help you discover who you truly want to become, and enable you to effectively and efficiently plan for your future. To contribute towards achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially in the areas of food security and provision of quality education the department collaborates with different stake holders such KALRO, KEPHIS, MoALD&F, Kenya Seed Company, KTDA (several factories), other Public Universities, Private Horticultural Farms and Agrochemical, among other stakeholders. This enables the department to develop and disseminate new knowledge, innovations and technologies to solve farming challenges facing farmers in this time of climate change. Collaborations in research, field attachments and field visits by our students in many agricultural based

organizations has increased the visibility and impact of Chuka University that has also assisted in exposing our students to potential employers. To our graduands, the training you have received places you amongst the best graduates in the country and beyond. May the knowledge obtained enable you to be competitive and be of great service towards transformation of humanity. We pray that God enables you to be great leaders who show other people how it is done. Happy Graduation and God bless.



**Students on a field trip**

## Harvesting Knowledge: Practical Agribusiness Training for Tomorrow's Food Security Champions



**Geoffrey Kipruto Kosgei**,  
COD, AGEC/AGBM/AGED

**Dear Class of 2024,**

**O**n behalf of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Education, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on this incredible achievement! Today not only marks

the culmination of your academic journey at Chuka University but also the beginning of a new chapter filled with endless possibilities. You have worked tirelessly, faced challenges head-on, and demonstrated remarkable resilience every step of the way. As you step into the world, remember to embrace your unique talents and perspectives. Keep striving for excellence, stay curious, and never stop learning—the world is eagerly awaiting your brilliance! This year has been a milestone for our department, marked by significant advancements in teaching, research and extension. The number of graduating students today is a testament to our commitment to academic excellence. Our faculty has conducted extensive research across various areas of specialization, contributing valuable insights to the field. Notably, a study in Makeni County examined the influence of agricultural extension services on the adoption of modern marketing practices. Additionally, our agribusiness research in Maara sub-county explored microfinance credit uptake among smallholder

dairy farmers. In our ongoing effort to enhance food security knowledge in Kenya, our researchers analyzed the determinants and extent of crop diversification among smallholder coffee farmers in Kirinyaga Central and East Sub-Counties. These initiatives not only further our academic pursuits but also aim to address pressing agricultural challenges in our communities. Furthermore, the department actively engaged in extension activities, holding farmer training sessions on commercializing agriculture, enterprise selection, and value chain management. Our students benefited from industry exposure through field trips focused on technology transfer, breeding programs, innovation in agriculture, and emerging technologies such as fish farming and management. Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024! As you embark on your next journey, know that you carry with you the knowledge, skills and experiences that will empower you to create a positive impact in the agricultural sector and beyond.

## Unveiling The Ultra-Modern Food Science and Technology Complex

**C**huka University has launched its cutting-edge Food Science Complex, an exciting milestone in our commitment to advancing food science and technology education. This innovative facility will house the university's Food Technology Department, world-class laboratories, a food pilot plant, and a commercial dairy processing unit, all designed to give students a dynamic and hands-on learning experience. The highlight of the new complex is the upcoming commercial dairy processing factory. It will produce a wide range of high-quality dairy products, including pasteurized milk, yogurt, ice cream, and many others. This facility will enable us to supply these products locally and across Kenya and offer our students invaluable practical experience in modern food processing techniques. With this state-of-the-art complex, Chuka University is positioning itself as a leader in food science and technology education, preparing the next generation of food technologists and scientists to tackle the challenges of food and nutrition security and innovation. Students will graduate with a deep understanding of both theoretical knowledge and real-world application, making them highly competitive in the job market. This is just the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our university and the food industry in Kenya!



Milk processing plant ready for operations



Food Science and Technology Complex

## Faculty of Agriculture Champions Academic Excellence

**F**ocused on enhancing academic excellence and reducing the failure rates among students, the Faculty of Agriculture organized an Open Forum Workshop. Under the theme "Exploring Pathways to Excellent Professionalism." Faculty members and students gathered to discuss strategies for improving academic performance to prepare students for successful careers in the agricultural sector. Prof. Humphrey Kirimi, the Director Chogoria Campus, delivered a keynote address, which emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between faculty and students in creating a conducive learning environment. Through interactive discussions, participants identified barriers to academic success and explored innovative solutions. The Dean, Dr. Grace Abucheli reaffirmed the faculty's commitment to supporting students in achieving academic excellence and making meaningful contributions to the agricultural industry and society as a whole.

## 'Elimu Ya Kilimo, Mafanikio Ya Kesho' Inaugural Symposium

**T**he Faculty of Agriculture held its first-ever symposium, titled Elimu ya Kilimo, Mafanikio ya Kesho, with a focus on youth engagement and innovation in sustainable agriculture. The event, themed "Youth Engagement through Nurturing for Innovation and Sustainable Agriculture," featured various sections of the agricultural community showcasing their innovations and products. The day's activities included exhibitions, keynote addresses, and mentorship sessions aimed at inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders. While officially opening the event, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA), praised the exhibitors for their dedication and urged students to maximize their intellectual potential. The symposium was attended by a diverse group, including local farmers, university staff, students, and even primary and high school students, creating a vibrant platform for learning and collaboration in the field of agriculture.



The DVC AFP&D Prof. Eunice Githae and DVC ARSA Prof. Gilbert Nduru tour the exhibition stands

# Faculty of Education and Resources Development



**Prof. Eric Mwenda E.G, Ph.D.**  
Dean, Faculty of Education & Resources Development

**W**ith great pride, let me extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Educationists who have earned the right to receive degrees, diplomas and certificates from the Faculty of Education & Resources Development during the 13th Chuka University Graduation Ceremony. Every graduating class deserves to be commended for their achievements. The fact that you persevered through the various set number of years to complete your studies gives special meaning and significance to this ceremony. Your patience and perseverance as student teachers in Education is worthy of admiration. I urge you not to stop here but to give back to the community. Your hard work and productivity are essential ingredients for a better Kenya,

Africa and the world. To all who are graduating, always keep in mind that the Faculty of Education & Resources Development in Chuka University is a member of your larger family. In the Faculty, we pride ourselves in providing high quality Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) programmes for students who wish to be globally competitive. The programmes are: Bachelor of Education (Arts), Bachelor of Education (Science), Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Development), Bachelor of Education (Primary Option), Diploma in Early Childhood and Development, Diploma (Primary Option), Post Diploma Training in Technical and Vocational Pedagogy and in Postgraduate Diploma in Education. The Faculty also offers various Masters and PhD programmes in Education. With the dynamics in the Kenyan education sector, our goal as a Faculty is to provide multiple career pathways to our students in order for them to achieve their goals of becoming quality educators who will not only match theory and practice in future but also fit in the Global industry of Educators. As you advance in your careers, strive to be exemplary ambassadors of Chuka University, embodying the values and excellence that define our institution. Congratulations once more and Gods blessings.

## Department of Education



**Prof. Mercy Wanja Njagi, Ph.D.**  
CoD-Department of Education

**C**ongratulations to the Class of 2024! We commend you for the excellent work you have done. As a department, we are proud to have equipped you with the skills, knowledge and values necessary to excel as teacher trainees and, now, as professional educators. As you step into your teaching roles, we encourage you to apply all that you've learned, not only in your classrooms but also within the broader community. The values we have instilled in you are just as essential as your skills; we believe that they will help you in becoming responsible members of society. Remember the importance of flexibility, adaptability, fairness and firmness as you face the world. Continue to expand your knowledge and stay current in all relevant areas. We are confident you will inspire and lead with integrity, impacting generations to come.

# Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

## From Dreams to Achievements: Shaping the Future with Knowledge and Excellence



**Dr. Christopher Kiboro, Ph.D.,**  
Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

### Dear Graduating Class of 2024,

**F**our years ago, you arrived at Chuka University filled with dreams and uncertainties about the future. Today, you stand before us transformed—having faced challenges head-on and carved out your paths through hard work and perseverance. We are immensely

proud of your achievements and excited to cheer you on as you step into the professional world across various specializations. Your graduation today signifies that you possess the skills and competencies necessary to play a pivotal role in transforming our society. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences remains dedicated to fostering a vibrant academic environment where all students can realize their aspirations. This year, we organized numerous events to support your excellence, not just academically, but also in other areas of growth. A key highlight was the inaugural research conference, a defining moment that gave many of you the platform to present your work and engage with distinguished researchers, including our keynote speaker, Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, former Governor of Makueni County. In addition to the conference, the faculty hosted a range of workshops and seminars, such as the Kenya Film and Classification Board workshop, the ECOSTAT club debates, theatrical performances by literature students, and a talent show, where diverse abilities were revealed, which further demonstrates our commitment to nurturing well-rounded graduates. As you embark on your future endeavors, we encourage you to conduct yourselves with professionalism and decorum. Go forth as proud ambassadors of the Faculty and our esteemed university, embodying the values and knowledge you have gained here. Once again, well done and congratulations on your achievements!

### Department of Humanities: Preparing Students for a Dynamic Workforce

The Department of Humanities, under the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) at Chuka University, is dedicated to

nurturing academic excellence and providing impactful training to students, equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in a constantly evolving job market. Led by Dr. Christine Atieno, the department offers a diverse range of programs in **Religious Studies, French, History, Kiswahili, Linguistics, Literature, Media Studies** and **Philosophy**; all designed to address contemporary market demands and global challenges.

#### 1. Welcoming a New Generation of Scholars

This academic year, the Department of Humanities proudly welcomed about, 1,800 new students, offering them comprehensive career guidance, mentorship, and world-class teaching and research opportunities. These programs aim to nurture not only academic prowess but also critical thinking, creativity and leadership skills that prepare students for success in their chosen fields.

#### 2. Ongoing Department Development and Curriculum Review

Members of the department regularly engage in professional development to stay ahead of industry trends and incorporate new knowledge into their teaching. These training programs cover critical areas such as Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), Mental Health, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development; ensuring that both students and lecturers are well-prepared to meet the demands of the modern workforce. Additionally, the department is committed to **curriculum review** across various disciplines, aligning its programmes with current market needs. This effort ensures that graduates are highly competitive and equipped with the skills to tackle today's challenges in both local and international contexts.

#### 3. Expanding French Studies

The French section has made significant strides in enhancing the rich and impact of its programs. The department offers **short courses in French**, which have attracted a growing number of students. This expansion reflects the increasing demand for **multilingual proficiency** in the global marketplace and the department's commitment to offering relevant and competitive training.

#### 4. Promotions in the Humanities Department

The Department of Humanities congratulates the recently promoted members to Lecturer and Senior Lecturer positions. These promotions are a boost to academic excellence, research and the growth of the department.

#### 5. Active Participation in the Faculty Conference

The department played a key role in organizing and participating in the inaugural **FHSS Research Conference** held in July 2024, under the theme *“Leveraging Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation in Humanities and Social Sciences for Sustainable*

*Development.”* The conference provided a platform for scholars to present their research and innovative ideas that enrich the academic community and contribute to the development of future leaders.

Members from the department were actively involved in research presentations and discussions, demonstrating their commitment to advancing knowledge and scholarly discourse. These conferences also create opportunities for **income-generating research** that benefits both the university and the wider community.



**Dr. Christine Atieno Peter, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Humanities



**Dr. Monicah Oundo, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Social Sciences

## Inaugural Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Conference

Chuka University marked a significant milestone with the inaugural Research Conference for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS). Themed “Leveraging Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation in Humanities and Social Sciences for Sustainable Development,” the event drew over 200 participants from Kenya and beyond. During the opening ceremony, Dr. Christopher Kiboro, the Dean of the Faculty, expressed his gratitude to the faculty members for their support and teamwork, which brought his vision to fruition. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei commended the Faculty for organizing the conference and challenged other faculties and schools to undertake similar research initiatives with a multidisciplinary approach. The highlight of the event was a compelling keynote address by the Chief Guest, H.E. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana. Prof. Kibwana emphasized the significance of multidisciplinary research in addressing today’s complex challenges and further highlighted the importance of integrating knowledge from various disciplines to solve societal issues through teaching and research. He praised the Faculty’s efforts and urged them to make the conference an annual event central to Chuka University’s identity. He also encouraged the university to continue forging partnerships with the private sector, in order to position Chuka University as a hub for innovative research and dissemination of findings. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Kibwana challenged scholars to pursue globally recognized research, market their findings across various sectors, and engage in multidisciplinary consultancies for sustainable development. He addition

emphasized the importance of academic mentorship and advocated for systems to develop research skills among students and faculty and encouraged the use of academic platforms like LinkedIn to showcase research work, enhancing global presence. The conference also featured the unveiling of the first edition of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences newsletter.



**Participants follow proceedings during the 1<sup>st</sup> FHSS Conference**



**Participants pose for a photo during the 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Conference**

## KFCB Guides Students in Media & Communication Careers



Participants pose for a photo during the 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Conference

The Kenya Film and Classification Board (KFCB) organized a comprehensive career workshop tailored for Journalism and Communication students at Chuka University, Main Campus. Aimed at providing valuable insights and guidance into the dynamic field of media and communication, the event was met with enthusiasm from students eager to explore diverse career opportunities within the industry. Representatives from KFCB led engaging sessions throughout the day, delving into various aspects of the media landscape, including industry trends, career pathways and essential skills necessary for

success. The workshops were designed to equip students with practical knowledge and actionable strategies to navigate the ever-evolving media landscape with confidence. Attendees of the workshop had the opportunity to interact with industry experts, gaining invaluable insights and advice on how to thrive in their chosen careers. From media regulation to content creation, the sessions covered a wide range of topics, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the media industry's intricacies. One of the highlights of the event was the emphasis on networking and mentorship, with students encouraged to connect with professionals in the field to seek guidance and support. The workshop served as a platform for students to forge meaningful connections with industry leaders, paving the way for future mentorship opportunities and collaborations.

## Faculty of Business Studies



**Prof. Isaac Nkaari, Ph.D.**  
Dean Faculty of Business Studies

On behalf of the Faculty of Business Studies, I would like to seize this moment to extend our congratulations to the graduating class of 2024, marking the 13th graduation ceremony. The Faculty comprises two departments: Business Administration and Management Science. This year, the Faculty is proud to announce the graduation of approximately 530 students across a wide spectrum of programs, including Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees. Our faculty is dedicated to providing a diverse array of academic

programs meticulously designed to cater for the academic and developmental requirements of our stakeholders to meet the emerging global and industry needs. Notably, we are witnessing the first cohort of students perusing Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, a newly developed course by the Department of Business Administration. Also, the newly developed programmes

in Bachelor in Finance and Accounting, and Bachelor in Finance and Statistics, serviced at the Department of Management Science are expected to draw a greater pool of students to the faculty. Within the Faculty of Business Studies, students embark on an exciting journey of growth and learning. Upon graduation, our students emerge well-prepared for both the dynamic job market and entrepreneurial endeavors. This preparedness is a result of the practical skills and knowledge acquired in class and in the field. The institution endeavors to provide a conducive learning environment, backed up by a team of highly qualified, dedicated and experienced Faculty

members, who provide both theoretical and practical working knowledge to the students. Additionally, our students gain exposure through industrial attachments and academic trips, as well as through entrepreneur training and career guidance seminars. Throughout the year, our Faculty members have been actively engaged in disseminating business research findings at various conferences. The faculty also plans to host the Faculty of Business Studies Inaugural Research Conference with the theme, “Advancing Business Research, Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development”, which is scheduled to be held at the University in 2025. Finally, I want to recognize the devoted teaching and administrative staff of the Faculty who go beyond their call of duty to ensure that our students get quality education and training. I extend their congratulatory messages to our graduands on their behalf.



**Dr. Catherine Kaimenyi, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Business Administration



**Dr. Rev. Joseph Wabwire, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Management Science

## Faculty of Science and Technology



**Prof. Paul Kamweru, Ph.D.**  
Dean Faculty of Science and Technology

### Dear Graduating Class of 2024,

**A**s you graduate today, I want to take a moment to reflect on your remarkable journey—one that began in 2020 during the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. You entered Chuka University during a time of uncertainty, yet your resilience, adaptability and determination have carried you through these challenging years. Navigating your studies amidst lockdowns, remote learning, and social distancing required immense strength and commitment. You faced unique obstacles, yet you persevered,

demonstrating an unwavering spirit that speaks volumes about your character and dedication. The world has changed, and so have you; you have grown into knowledgeable, skilled, and compassionate individuals ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead. As you graduate, remember that the skills you have acquired extend beyond the classroom. You have learned to adapt to changing circumstances, think critically, and collaborate effectively—skills that will serve you well in your future endeavors, no matter where life takes you. Your bond with Chuka University will always remain a cherished part of your journey. As you step into the world, carry with you the memories,

friendships, and experiences that have shaped you. You are now ambassadors of this esteemed institution, and we encourage you to stay connected with your alma mater and contribute to its legacy in any way you can. As you embark on this new chapter, I encourage you to embrace the opportunities that come your way, stay curious, and continue learning. The Faculty of Science and Technology will always be proud of you, and we are excited to see the positive impact you will make in the world.

**Congratulations, Class of 2024!** Your journey has only just begun and we cannot wait to see what you will achieve.



**Prof. Ochieng' Ombaka, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Physical Sciences



**Dr. Olivia Njiri, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Biological Sciences



**Dr. David Mwathi, Ph.D.**  
CoD, Department of Computer Science

# Faculty of Science and Technology Updates

## Staff Review and Promotions

The Faculty of Science and Technology at Chuka University is thrilled to announce the promotion of several dedicated faculty members who have tirelessly contributed to their departments, the faculty, and the university as a whole. Their unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service has played a crucial role in advancing the university's academic mission, and they have now been recognized with promotions to higher academic positions. These promotions are a testament to the faculty members' dedication and their impactful contributions to the broader university community. The Faculty of Science and Technology extends heartfelt congratulations to all those promoted and looks forward to their continued success and leadership in the years to come.

## Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Promote Food Security



**Simon Mburu sets up an experiment in a lab during the exchange program**

Simon Mburu, an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at Chuka University, has successfully completed a five-month research exchange program at the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE) in France, running from April to August 2024. This research stay was part of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) flagship project, titled "Reducing N<sub>2</sub>O Emissions and Improving Accounting." During his time at INRAE, Simon engaged in cutting-edge research and received specialized training on measuring, modeling, quantifying, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural systems, all while focusing on the critical goal of promoting food security. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) present a significant challenge to Africa's environment, economy, and public health in the context of climate change. The continent's heightened vulnerability, coupled with limited resources for adaptation and mitigation, underscores the urgent need for effective solutions. Simon's participation in this exchange highlights the importance of international and interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling these global challenges. Through this program, Simon has forged valuable academic and professional partnerships, essential for developing innovative strategies to mitigate GHG emissions within agricultural systems. These collaborations will enhance ongoing efforts at Chuka University to address the impacts of climate change. The project received funding from GRA and the CGIAR Mitigate+, a research initiative dedicated to developing low-emission food systems. This research represents a significant advancement toward addressing climate change and promoting sustainable food security, both locally and globally.

# Kiprono Advances Biotechnology Skills at International Workshop



**Geoffrey Kiprono (Right) in the laboratory**

**G**eoffrey Kiprono, a Senior Technologist in Biochemistry recently enhanced his expertise in biotechnology at a two-week training workshop. The workshop focused on improving the capacity of trainers in biotechnology and molecular biology to address key challenges in Kenya. During the event, Geoffrey presented a paper titled “Improving the Capacity in Biotechnology and Molecular Biology of Trainers to Resolve Challenges in Kenya.” The workshop brought together scientists engaged in molecular biology and biotechnology research and education to exchange insights and discuss future initiatives. The first week centered on scientific discussions, where participants showcased their research findings on how biotechnology and molecular biology can tackle pressing issues in Kenya. The second week transitioned to hands-on laboratory training, enabling participants to acquire practical skills in recombinant DNA

techniques. Geoffrey, alongside other attendees, worked on cloning the Taq polymerase gene into an Escherichia coli plasmid, producing the essential Taq polymerase enzyme for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) applications. This process involved PCR amplification of the target gene, transformation of E. coli, and subsequent protein purification, with the produced enzyme tested against commercial versions. Additionally, the workshop aimed to increase awareness among policymakers about the crucial role of biotechnology and molecular biology in solving societal challenges and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was organized by the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE) and the Interuniversity Programme in Molecular Biology (IPMB), with support from VLIR-UOS (Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad, Ontwikkelingssamenwerking). Geoffrey’s participation not only sharpened his technical skills but also strengthened his ability to contribute to the advancement of molecular biology and biotechnology in Kenya.



## Dons Enhance Malaria Research Skills at AMMnet Annual Meeting

**P**rof. Dennis K. Muriithi and Dr. Mark O. Okongo attended the “AMMnet Annual Meeting | Training and Networking Event” held at the Kigali Marriott Hotel in Rwanda. They were selected to join a group of professionals and experts in the malaria analytics field, aiming to share insights, exchange ideas, and foster collaboration. The AMMnet meeting proved to be an engaging and enriching experience, featuring a lineup of impactful talks, panel discussions, and training sessions. Discussions ranged from innovative modeling approaches to the latest advancements in malaria research, providing attendees with a comprehensive view of current developments in the field. The hands-on training sessions equipped participants with practical skills, enhancing their research endeavors. A key takeaway from the meeting was the critical role of data analytics and modeling in healthcare. Attendees learned how predictive analytics and machine learning models are being applied to effectively manage diseases like malaria. For example, data-driven insights can identify hotspots for targeted interventions, ultimately reducing the disease burden in affected regions. Machine learning models are also being used in hospitals to predict patient readmissions and optimize treatment plans, contributing to improved health outcomes and cost savings. In line with these advancements, Chuka University plans to offer capacity-building programs for healthcare professionals on data analytics, modeling, and Generative AI at the Center for Data Analytics and Modeling within the Faculty of Science and Technology. This initiative will leverage AI tools to enhance data management, analytics, and real-time reporting, ultimately supporting effective decision-making in health centers.



# Don Champions Responsible Use of Generative AI at DAAD Workshop



**Prof. Paul Kamweru makes a presentation during the workshop**

**P**rof. Kamweru, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, recently attended a training workshop at Moi University. The workshop marked the first of a two-part series funded by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), focusing on the integration and application of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools in teaching and research within higher education. Participants drawn from various Universities and institutions engaged in hands-on practice with a variety of GenAI tools, exploring their potential applications in academia and research. These tools encompassed a range of functions, including literature reviews, data analysis, manuscript preparation, image generation, study aids, plagiarism detection, presentation design, personalized learning, tutoring, and automated student evaluations. Notable tools discussed included ChatGPT, Gemini, Research Rabbit, Quizlet, Anki, Turnitin, Canva, Prezi, Coursera, and Duolingo.

The workshop emphasized the ethical and responsible use of GenAI tools, highlighting the potential impacts and risks associated with their

application. Key concerns raised included issues of plagiarism, loss of academic integrity, low-quality and inaccurate information, bias, privacy infringement, intellectual property violations, and the dangers of overreliance on AI technologies. To mitigate these risks, participants concluded that while the use of GenAI tools is becoming essential, it must be governed by specific ethical principles. These principles include purposeful usage, compliance with established guidelines and policies, promotion of digital literacy, balanced application, integrity, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. Additional considerations involve informed consent, third-party disclosures, and respect for privacy and data security. The workshop underscored the urgent need for regulators and academic institutions to develop guiding policies for the responsible use of GenAI tools in academia and research, ensuring that these innovations enhance rather than compromise academic standards.



**A section of participants during the workshop**



## Faculty of Science and Technology Collaborations

### Chuka and Bowie State University Forge Path for Joint Research Initiatives



**C**huka University recently hosted a strategic meeting with Prof. Anne Osano from Bowie State University, Maryland, USA, to explore collaborative research opportunities. Led by Chuka University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, and the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Prof. Paul Kamweru, the discussions focused on developing joint research initiatives that could strengthen academic and research capacities at both institutions. The proposed partnership aims to promote knowledge sharing, resource pooling, and the potential for pioneering research projects, with benefits extending beyond the universities to tackle global challenges. Opportunities for student and faculty exchanges were also discussed, with both institutions committed to expanding their global reach and impact through international collaboration. This engagement underscores Chuka University's commitment to building impactful global partnerships that enhance academic excellence and contribute to a dynamic, interconnected future.

# Zamara Group Partners with Chuka to Empower Students

**C**huka University and Zamara Group Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 17, 2024, establishing a collaborative partnership focused on internships, attachments, mentorship, and



The VC Prof Henry Mutembei and Jay Kosgei, the Principal Actuary Zamara Group display the signed MOUs

training for students and staff. This initiative, driven by the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Prof. Paul Kamweru, and Actuarial Science lecturer Ms. Elizabeth Magero, aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world professional demands, enriching the university community's professional growth. As part of the partnership launch, Mr. Jay Kosgei, Principal Actuary at Zamara Group, led a mentorship session for Actuarial Science students from first to fourth year. His guidance emphasized academic and career planning to better equip students for successful careers in the actuarial field. Additionally, Zamara experts joined a training session organized by the Egerton Retirement Benefit Scheme, providing insights into retirement planning and financial management. This session aimed to empower participants with essential tools for achieving financial security and fulfilling retirement goals. The partnership marks a significant step for Chuka University in offering hands-on experience and professional support, reinforcing its commitment to preparing students for successful careers.

## Workshops

### Chuka Varsity Hosts Generative AI Workshop: Exploring AI's Role in Education



**G**enerative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) is transforming the way we learn, research, and produce content. Tools such as ChatGPT are already being widely used by students and academic staff. However, there remains a mix of reactions in both academia and research regarding their use, ranging from skepticism and complete bans to partial allowances and, in some cases, a deliberate avoidance. It has become clear that educators and institutions cannot continue to ignore this trend.

Recognizing this challenge, a series of two workshops were proposed to DAAD, which subsequently secured funding. The first workshop took place at Moi University, focusing on the integration and use of GenAI tools for teaching and research in higher education. Participants were introduced to a variety of available GenAI tools with significant potential for academic integration, including ChatGPT, Gemini, Research Rabbit, Quizlet, Anki, Turnitin, Canva, Prezi, Coursera, and Duolingo. The Faculty of Science and Technology at Chuka University is proud to announce the successful completion of this Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) Workshop. This event marked a significant milestone in exploring GenAI tools for teaching and research in higher education. It brought together DAAD alumni and academic professionals to discuss the future of GenAI in academia. The workshop centered on the growing influence of Gen AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Canva, which are increasingly used by students and staff alike. With mixed reactions surrounding the adoption of these technologies, the event aimed to provide clarity on how educational institutions can harness GenAI to enhance teaching, learning, and research. Participants were introduced to various AI-driven platforms that demonstrated real-world applications that could transform content creation and educational delivery. One of the primary objectives of

the workshop was to explore how GenAI can be leveraged to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, which emphasizes quality education for all. Through the expertise of DAAD alumni and other professionals, the workshop examined how AI technologies can be integrated into academic settings, providing attendees with valuable insights into the evolving role of GenAI in education. The event attracted enthusiastic participation from DAAD alumni representing various institutions, including the Technical University of Kenya (TUK), Daystar University, South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPR), Maseno University, Moi University, Rongo University, Machakos University, Egerton University, KCA University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Taita Taveta University (TTU), Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenyatta University (KU), and Kisii University. Several distinguished speakers graced the event, including Dr. Moses Thiga from Kabarak University, Dr. David Muchangi Mugo from Embu University, Dr. Edna Too from Chuka University, Prof. Makau Mutua from Meru University, and Dr. John Matogo from IBM Africa & the Middle East. These experts shared practical knowledge and experiences with AI in both academia and industry, enriching the discussions with actionable ideas for the participants. The workshop attracted enthusiastic participation both in-person and online. A total of 98 participants joined online via KENET and livestream platforms,

allowing a wider audience to engage with the event's discussions. Recordings of the workshop are available on Chuka University's YouTube channel and Facebook page. The Generative AI Workshop demonstrated the increasing importance of embracing AI technologies in higher education. By equipping educators and researchers with the necessary skills to integrate these tools, Chuka University is positioning itself at the forefront of innovation in teaching and research. The initiative reflects the university's commitment to remaining a leader in the digital age of academia.



**Workshop participants, joined by the regional DAAD director Dr. Dorothee Weyler and Anja Bengelstorff the Programme Officer for Alumni Matters, pose for a photo at the entrance of the venue.**

## AMMnet Funded Workshop



**C**huka University had the privilege of hosting a training workshop focused on malaria modeling, aimed at developing practical skills to combat malaria within the Kenyan context. This initiative was made possible by a grant of US \$3,000 secured by a team of researchers from Chuka University, consisting of Dr. Mark O. Okongo and Prof. Dennis Muriithi from the Department of Physical Sciences, along with Prof. Paul Kamweru and Prof. Henry

Mutembei. The workshop aimed to develop simple malaria models applicable to the Kenyan context using R and RStudio software. Participants were drawn from various institutions, including the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE), the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Chuka University, Laikipia University, Tharaka University, Garissa University, Mama Ngina University College, and members of the AMMnet Kenya chapter. The training workshop received significant support from the Applied Malaria Modeling Network (AMMnet), which fosters a collaborative community of malaria modelers, data analysts, and partners. AMMnet's mission is to improve decision-making and operations in malaria-endemic countries by developing and applying quantitative tools. The network promotes a respectful forum for learning and knowledge-sharing, ultimately enhancing the analytical support provided to malaria programs and advancing malaria research. The primary objective of the workshop was to build capacity in malaria data handling and control through mathematical modeling. By enhancing participants' skills, the workshop sought to improve the quality of analytical and modeling support for malaria

programs, advancing efforts in the diagnosis, treatment, and elimination of malaria. The event was organized under the auspices of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Chuka University. AMMnet currently offers

funding opportunities for small local in-person events (up to \$3,000) and larger events with a training focus (up to \$40,000). Interested parties can find more information about grant opportunities on the AMMnet website:

**AMMnet Funding Opportunities.** Chuka University is proud to contribute to the fight against malaria through this workshop, reinforcing its commitment to advancing research and education in health sciences.

## Students Trained on Monte Carlo Methods for Medical Physics Students

The Faculty of Science hosted an informative training session on Monte Carlo methods, specifically designed for medical physics students. This valuable event was facilitated by Dr. Omondi Samson, a recognized expert in the field, and organized by Dr. Martin Mutie and Dr. Juster Mungiria, both of whom are dedicated to enhancing the educational experiences of students in the medical physics program. Monte Carlo methods are crucial in medical physics for various applications, including radiation therapy, imaging, and dosimetry. The training aimed to equip students with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to apply these statistical techniques in real-world scenarios. During the session, Dr. Omondi Samson provided participants with a comprehensive

overview of Monte Carlo simulations, illustrating their significance in medical applications. The hands-on training allowed students to engage with software tools and gain practical experience in modeling complex physical systems, which is essential for their future careers in medical physics. The collaborative effort by Dr. Mutie and Dr. Mungiria ensured that the training was well-structured, promoting an interactive environment where students could ask questions and discuss various aspects of Monte Carlo methods. The facilitators emphasized the importance of these techniques in advancing research and improving patient outcomes in medical settings. The training received positive feedback from students, who expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn from an expert in

the field. Many highlighted the value of practical training in enhancing their understanding of theoretical concepts covered in their coursework. This initiative reflects Chuka University's commitment to providing quality education and fostering innovation in medical physics. By incorporating practical training sessions like this, the university is preparing its students to tackle the challenges they will face in their professional careers, ultimately contributing to advancements in healthcare and medical technology. As the event concluded, students left with a deeper understanding of Monte Carlo methods and their applications in medical physics, reinforcing the university's mission to equip future professionals with the skills needed to excel in their fields.

## Student Mentorships Programmes in the Faculty of Science and Technology

### Inspiring Actuarial Futures - A Mentorship Session with Jay Kosgei, FIA



Jay Kosgei the Principal Actuary Zahara Group gives a talk to students

Actuarial Science students had the privilege of attending a one-hour mentorship session with **Jay Kosgei, FIA**, the Principal Actuary of **Zamara Group**. This session was not just a typical talk—it was an eye-opening journey into the world of actuarial science, inspiring students to see the vast opportunities and the perseverance needed to succeed in this challenging field. Mr. Kosgei kicked off the session by introducing Zamara Group and its global footprint, providing the students with insight into the company's influential role in actuarial services and consulting. He then shared his own personal journey of becoming a qualified actuary, emphasizing that the path is demanding but ultimately rewarding. The session covered crucial topics such as the **actuarial professional examinations**, a key component in the path to becoming a certified actuary. Mr. Kosgei acknowledged the financial burden of these exams but reassured

students by highlighting available **scholarships from the Insurance Regulatory Authority** and the support some employers offer in covering exam fees for employees. This was a welcome message for many students who may feel overwhelmed by the cost of professional certification. Diving into the **actuarial job market**, Mr. Kosgei discussed the wide range of career options available to actuarial graduates and shared valuable insights on what employers look for in fresh graduates. He provided essential **interview tips**, advising students on how to stand out during the hiring process, from building a strong résumé to showcasing problem-solving abilities and interpersonal skills. Mr. Kosgei emphasized the

importance of **networking and mentorship**, encouraging students to get involved with organizations such as the **Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK)**, **Actuarial Students' Society of Kenya (ASSK)**, and the **Actuarial Academy of East Africa (AAEA)**. These networks offer invaluable support and resources for young professionals entering the industry. Another critical aspect of the session was the focus on **soft skills and technical expertise**. Mr. Kosgei stressed the need for actuarial students to sharpen their **communication and analytical skills**, as these are essential in the workplace. He also highlighted the growing importance of proficiency in **statistical packages** like **R** and **Python**, urging students to invest time in learning

these tools to stay competitive in the market. Finally, Mr. Kosgei left the students with a profound message: **"Every small step taken today contributes to your future success."** He reminded the mentees that by taking action, maintaining a positive attitude, and being resilient in the face of challenges, they can achieve their aspirations. The mentorship session was both motivational and practical, equipping students with knowledge, strategies, and a renewed determination to pursue their dreams in the actuarial field. The event marked a significant moment in the students' academic journey, giving them the confidence to navigate their future with purpose and optimism.

## Actuarial Science Hosts Inspiring Public Lecture and Career Talk

**T**he Faculty of Science and Technology at Chuka University held an enlightening public lecture and career talk, hosted by the Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences section. The event featured Dr. Francis Wanyama, a lecturer from the University of Nairobi, as the guest speaker, offering students valuable insights into career prospects and professional development in the field. During his presentation, Dr. Wanyama addressed the pressing cancer burden in Kenya, which mirrors global challenges. He highlighted the significant issues stemming from late-stage diagnosis, primarily due to a lack of early-stage biomarkers for disease recognition. Additionally, he discussed the complications arising from resistance to chemotherapy and the prevalence of underlying conditions such as HIV/AIDS, which further exacerbate the situation. Dr. Wanyama concluded his talk by suggesting the use of glycosugars for early diagnostics, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches to combat cancer more effectively.



**Dr. Francis Wanyama addresses students during the public lecture**

The event was made possible through the efforts of key faculty members, including Angeline Wambua and Prof. Silas Kiruki from the Biochemistry section, who played pivotal roles in planning and execution. Prof. Magana Adiel, the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, also graced the event with his presence, offering words of wisdom and encouragement to the students. His participation highlighted the faculty's rich legacy of fostering academic excellence and career growth. Dr. Wanyama's engaging presentation inspired students to pursue their academic and professional goals with renewed enthusiasm, discussing the diverse opportunities available within biochemistry and biomedical sciences. Prof. Paul Kamweru, the current Dean, reaffirmed Chuka University's commitment to preparing graduates for the job market and encouraging cross-disciplinary research collaborations. He emphasized the significance of such events in equipping students with the mentorship and practical guidance necessary for success in their future careers. The event underscored Chuka University's dedication to nurturing talent and empowering students, ensuring they are well-prepared to excel in biochemistry, biomedical sciences, and other fields.

## Career Day: Bridging Academia and Industry

Chuka University hosted a transformative **Career Day**, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to student development. The event featured esteemed actuaries from **The Actuarial Society of Kenya (TASK)** and **Kenbright Holdings Limited (Kenbright)**, providing a unique opportunity for students to engage with industry experts. **Elizabeth Magero** played a pivotal role in organizing the event, inviting notable guests, including **Ms. Stacy Gichuki**, a representative of TASK, and **Martin Pule**, a Senior Investment Analyst at Kenbright. Additionally, the group included **Mr. Felix Owino**, an Actuarial Analyst at KAFS, and **Mr. Robin Ochieng**, a Data Scientist at KAFS. The group also made a courtesy call to the **Vice-Chancellor**, further strengthening the connection between industry and academia. The featured guests guided the students on how to navigate the transition from theoretical studies to practical applications in actuarial science. Participants enjoyed insightful discussions and received hands-on guidance from seasoned professionals, allowing them to explore the intricacies of the actuarial profession. Prof. Kamweru, the Dean, promised students more exposure to industry opportunities, reinforcing the university's commitment to enhancing their educational experience. Students left the event equipped with invaluable insights and knowledge, enhancing their understanding of the skills required to thrive in this dynamic field. This Career Day not only enriched the students' educational experience but also underscored Chuka University's dedication to bridging the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of the ever-evolving actuarial landscape.



Actuarial students follow proceedings during the career talk

## Generative AI Summit: Fostering Innovation

The **Faculty of Science and Technology**, in collaboration with **Teach2Give**, successfully hosted a **Generative AI Summit**, aimed at bringing together faculty members and students with a keen interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in the realm of Generative AI. This area within artificial intelligence encompasses the creation of diverse data formats, including texts, images, and videos. The summit provided an excellent platform for attendees to delve into the fundamentals and applications of Generative AI. This event exemplifies the exploration of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed between Chuka University and Teach2Give through their parent company, **Jitu**, and was spearheaded by **Mr. Charles Kinyua**, the Head of the Department of ICT. One of the key highlights of the event was the insightful demonstrations provided by **Teach2Give** experts. They elucidated the process involved in developing a ChatGPT-like model, shedding light on its functionalities and applications. Furthermore, practical sessions equipped attendees with hands-on experience in utilizing APIs and libraries essential for building such systems using the Python programming language. The summit was not only focused on skill acquisition but also on fostering a culture of innovation and exploration. By providing attendees with the tools and knowledge necessary to develop ChatGPT-like models for various application areas, the event aimed to inspire innovative ideas, particularly in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Education. **Teach2Give**, in collaboration with Chuka University, is committed to nurturing future AI enthusiasts through such collaborative endeavors. This partnership extends beyond the summit, with plans for more events in the pipeline. By nurturing a generation of graduates equipped with the skills to navigate the demands of the modern world, the collaboration aims to contribute significantly to societal advancement.



A section of attendees during the summit

## Are We Ready for GMOs? Insights and Discussions Unfold.

The Faculty of Science and Technology hosted a comprehensive workshop titled “Are We Ready for GMOs?” for staff and students. Dr. Olivia Njiri, the Chair of the Biological Sciences Department, spearheaded the planning and organization of the workshop, ensuring that it addressed key issues relevant to the audience. This event brought together experts and participants to discuss the rapidly evolving field of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their far-reaching implications. The workshop featured key facilitators: Mr. Waweru Njora, a Plant Biotechnologist and Genetic Engineer from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and Ms. Ann Ndanu Muia, Senior Biosafety Officer at the National Biosafety Authority. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, officially launched the workshop, emphasizing the importance of such forums to debunk myths about GMOs and highlighting their critical role in advancing Chuka University’s commitment to scientific research and biotechnology. Other opening remarks were made by Prof. Eunice Githae, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Administration, Finance, Planning and Development (AFPD) and Prof. Paul Kamweru, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology (FAST). Mr. Waweru Njora led the first session, providing an in-depth presentation on GMOs, focusing on their applications and recent advancements in biotechnology. His talk covered the wide-ranging impacts of GMOs on health, the environment, agriculture, and the economy, offering a clear understanding of how biotechnology is transforming these sectors. In the second session, Ms. Ann Ndanu Muia addressed the cultural perspectives, resistance, and controversies surrounding GMOs. She also delved into the future trends of GMOs in food systems and discussed the regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations involved in the use and deployment of GMOs. Ms. Muia’s insights provided a balanced view of both the opportunities and challenges presented by GMOs. The workshop was highly interactive, with a robust Question and Answer session moderated by Dr. Nancy Onchari and Dr. Eric Kuria, allowing participants to engage directly with the experts. The closing ceremony featured remarks from Prof. Kiruki Silas and Prof. Magana Adiel, marking the end of a successful day of learning and dialogue at Chuka University. The workshop offered a unique platform for participants to explore the multifaceted world of GMOs, equipping them with the knowledge to better understand the scientific, cultural, and ethical aspects of biotechnology.



Waweru Njora gives a lecture to the students during the workshop



## Harnessing Data Science for Health: Prof. Murithi’s Insights from South Africa

Prof. Dennis Murithi recently participated in a Data Science for Global Health Priorities in Africa (DSI-A) training held in Durban, South Africa, which aimed to equip attendees with skills in applying data science to critical health issues. Organized under the WASHA (Working on Applications for Data Science and Health in Africa) initiative, the course introduced participants to health systems concepts and their applications in health data science, spotlighting the role of data science in addressing pressing healthcare challenges. A central focus of the training was on how data science, merging

statistics, machine learning, and domain expertise, is transforming healthcare. Prof. Murithi gained insights into the use of predictive analytics and machine learning for managing diseases such as malaria, diabetes, and cancer. Through historical and real-time data analysis, healthcare professionals can now predict disease outbreaks, enhance resource allocation, and personalize patient care. For instance, in malaria management, data-driven approaches can pinpoint hotspots, enabling targeted interventions that reduce disease prevalence. Similarly, machine learning models are being applied in hospitals to predict patient

readmissions and refine treatment plans, saving lives and reducing costs. The training underscored the transformative potential of data science across various sectors, including public health, environmental protection, and economic development. Inspired by this experience, Prof. Murithi is exploring the creation of a Center for Data Analytics and Modeling at his institution, aimed at developing capacity in data analytics, modeling, and AI. This center would address the growing demand for data-driven decision-making in healthcare, business, and other fields, fostering innovation and impactful solutions for Kenya and beyond.

# Center for Data Analytics and Modeling (CDAM):

## Pioneering Innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

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# School of Law

## Sets New Standards: Trailblazing Achievements and Exceptional Graduates Redefine Legal Excellence!



**Dr. Wycliffe Otiso, Ph.D.**  
Dean Faculty of Law

To the class of 2024, I congratulate you on this great accomplishment! As you transition from the University to the outside world, I urge you to walk with your heads high, knowing that the training that you have received from Chuka University is of very high quality. Let the core values of freedom of expression, integrity, professionalism, teamwork and innovation guide your actions, decisions and next career steps. To the parents, guardians and families of our graduands, thank you for supporting and encouraging them. Your sacrifices and belief in the potential of good education for your loved ones have played a crucial role in their academic life. I also appreciate the dedication of my colleagues for mentoring the graduands in all ways both in academics and in sharpening their life skills. At the School of Law, we remain committed to shaping the next breed of lawyers through clinical legal education

and practical based learning of the law by providing opportunities to participate in different activities including; moot court competitions, mentorship programmes, industry internships research programmes and community outreach. Some of the activities and achievements are highlighted below: I extend my best wishes to our graduands as they embark on this new phase in their lives. May your future be filled with success, fulfilment and meaningful contributions to the society. Congratulations once again as you continue to shine as proud alumni of Chuka University.



**Allan Owour,**  
CoD Department of Law

## Moot Court and Debate Competitions

### University of Embu Climate Summit

The Climate Justice Debate was held at the University of Embu on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 under the auspices of Kenya Model United Nations. Participation was drawn from the Embu and Chuka Chapters drawing total of 13 teams. Chuka was represented by 2 teams which made it to the Semi Finals. Chuka University Team 1 proceeded to the Finals and won Best Team Award (Nicole Magret and Jaoko Leakey) and Best Female Oralist (Shillah Lavinah)

### Human Rights Inter-University Moot Competition – Chuka University

The School of Law hosted the prestigious Human Rights Inter-University Moot Competition funded by The Eagles for Life and Heinrich Boll Foundation on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 drew participants from Chuka University, Egerton University, Kisii University, and Mount Kenya University. The competition saw rigorous legal arguments presented before a five-judge bench. After intense rounds of submissions, Chuka University faced Mount Kenya University in the Finals and triumphed as

the Best Team. The winning team members were Rachel Praise Wafula, Mary Goretti Oduor and Chris Mugendi, all third year Law students. In addition to winning the overall team competition, Rachel Praise was named Best Female Oralist, and the university's team also secured the award for Best Memorial which recognizes the best research submission, marking a proud moment for the University.



**Rachel Praise giving her submissions during the moot court competition**

## Green Law Africa Initiative Moot Court Competition – Chuka University



**The VC Prof. Henry Mutembei hands over a trophy to Joy Kananu, Best Female Orator**

School of Law students emerged as the overall winners in the Green Law Africa Initiative International Moot Court competition, held at Chuka University on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The competition drew participation from seven universities across East Africa, including Makerere University (Uganda), Mzumbe University (Tanzania), Chuka University, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, University of Embu, Kabarak University and the University of Nairobi. The winning team members from Chuka University School of Law Comprised Joy Kananu (2<sup>nd</sup> year student), Meshack Yegon (2<sup>nd</sup> year student), also a first year Law student and Rebecca Deche (4<sup>th</sup> year student). Joy Kananu was also honored as the Best Female Orator, adding another feather to the university's cap. Hon. (Rtd.) Justice Matthew Emukule presided over the competition, commending all participants for their legal proficiency and dedication to environmental justice. The event provided a platform for future legal professionals to engage with critical environmental issues affecting the African continent and the globe at large.

## Lady Justice Aluoch Mediation Competition at Africa Nazarene University Moot 2024



**Naslata Mwalimu receives a medal for the best mediator**

Africa Nazarene University hosted the Lady Justice Aluoch

Mediation Competition on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Naslata Mwalimu (3<sup>rd</sup> year student) shone bright as the Best Mediator at the Mediation Moot Competition. With her exceptional prowess in mediation processes Naslata showcased her excellence and mastery in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

## Annual Africa Climate Legal Alliance (ACLA) Climate Justice Moot Court Competition

In a display of exceptional legal acumen and prowess, Chuka University Law students emerged triumphant in the 1st Annual Africa Climate Legal Alliance (ACLA) Climate Justice moot court competition at University of Embu in March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. The Chuka University Team exhibited their dedication to excellence and swept through all preliminary rounds with finesse. The team faced the University of Nairobi in the semi-finals before advancing to the final showdown against Kabarak University. In an intense battle of legal arguments and presentation skills, Chuka University School of Law students emerged victorious as the Best Team, claiming the prestigious trophy. The winning team members were Joy Kananu (1<sup>st</sup> Year Law student) Meshack Yegon and Rebecca Deche (3<sup>rd</sup> Year Law student). Among the standout performers were Joy Kananu (Best Female Oralist) and Meshack Yegon (1<sup>st</sup> Runners Up Best Male Oralist) and Rebecca Deche (2<sup>nd</sup> Runners Up Best Researcher). Other participating institutions included Embu University, Kisii University, and Riara University, all contributing to the enriching experience of the event.

## School of Law Partnerships Collaborations and Mentorship Talks

Over the past year, the School of Law has engaged in partnerships and collaborations with a number of academic institutions, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. These include; Law Society of Kenya-Tharaka Chapter, Institute of Certified Secretaries, National Crime Research Centre, Amnesty International Kenya and CMR Africa, Haanze University of Netherlands, Help Heal Foundation and Green Law Africa Initiative. These partnerships and collaborations focus on the various areas of mutual interest that are beneficial to both the School of Law and the Law students. These collaborations complement existing long-standing partnerships with the Council of Legal Education, Judiciary, ODPP, NEMA, The Eagles for Life, University of Minnesota and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights. The School of Law hosted Executive Directors for Eagles for Life and the Help Heal Foundation, both NGOs on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. The ongoing partnership with the two partners culminated in the funding of the prestigious Interschool Human Rights/ Eagles for Life Moot Court Competition. The University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Institute of Certified Secretaries on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to establish a collaborative framework which will enable the law students and Chuka University students as a whole to gain exemptions and pursue

the Certified Secretaries course with the Institute. The School of Law hosted the Director of Global Initiatives, Dr. John Vreyens from the University of Minnesota, USA in May 2024 to explore ways of strengthening the collaboration between Chuka University and the University of Minnesota. A team from the School of Law and Faculty of Agriculture has since partnered with University of Minnesota and successfully secured US government funding. The three-year project which focuses on School Meal Value for Tharaka Nithi County is in its inception planning stages before programmes are rolled out in the quarter of January-March 2025.

### Institute of Certified Secretaries Career Talk



**FCS Jeremiah Karanja addresses the students during the career talk**

The School of Law, in collaboration with the Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS), held a career talk on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 aimed at enlightening students on opportunities in corporate governance and secretarial practice. The ICS delegation, led by CEO FCS Jeremiah Karanja, MBS and CS Humphrey Ijaka conducted a career talk sensitizing students about the different pathways to a career as Certified Secretaries. The delegation also included Traction College and Star College who guided students on enrolment to their programmes in preparations for their CS examinations.

### Hon. Kiraitu Murungi Inspires Law Students



**Hon. Kiraitu Murungi gives a public lecture**

In a transformative mentoring session held on February 29, 2024, Hon. Kiraitu Murungi, EGH, imparted a wealth of wisdom to enthusiastic students at the School of Law. With a focus on the holistic pursuit of success, Hon. Murungi emphasized the significance of happiness alongside professional achievements. Through a blend of practical strategies, personal anecdotes, and insights on maintaining a healthy work-life balance, the session enlightened and motivated law students to navigate their legal careers with purpose and fulfillment.

### Law Students Lectured On ADR and Judicial Precedents

Hon. Edward Murithi, Presiding Judge of the High Court in Meru enlightened the School of Law students on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and judicial precedent in an interactive session. These were very relevant areas especially for the first year and second year students who were learning the topics in the same semester. Hon. Murithi also explained how the Judiciary operates and how judges process cases before their courts. In an interactive session, the students were given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the legal practice and the Judiciary.

### Lecture on Agricultural Financing and The Law

Exploring contemporary issues in agricultural financing and the law, the School of Law hosted CPA Samuel Mutunga, Manager of Agricultural Financing Corporation (Chogoria Branch), on February 27, 2024. Addressing Year 2 students specializing in Agricultural Law, CPA Mutunga provided insights into various topics including the historical background and legal framework of AFC, service points, agricultural loan structures, different loan products and services (such as livestock and fisheries loans, seasonal crop loans, machinery loans, agro-processors loans, and agribusiness loans), collateral requirements, evaluation processes, the 5C's of credit, and remedies for financiers. The lecture served as a valuable opportunity for students to gain practical knowledge and understanding of agricultural financing practices and their legal implications.



**CPA Mutunga, Dr. Nyachoti (Dean SLAW) pose for a photo with Law students**

## Law Prestigious World Class Fellowships and Internships

### Chuka Hosts 2024 United Nations Millennium Fellowship



**The VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei (center) posing for a photo with Chuka University UN Millennium fellows.**

Seven students from the School of Law out of fifteen students from Chuka University have achieved the prestigious honor of joining the 2024 class of the UN Millennium Fellowship. After a rigorous selection process, these students emerged from a record-breaking pool of 52,581 applicants spanning more than 6,000 universities worldwide. Chuka University is among the few 280 campuses globally chosen to host the renowned program, which focuses on empowering students to make meaningful contributions toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) principles. The School of Law students selected for the 2024 cohort are: Audrey Mulaa, Cornelius Kiiru, Cynthia Awuor, Joy Kananu, Mary Goretti Oduor, Muthoni Ndegwa, Vivian David. Two standout fellows, Cynthia Awuor and Muthoni Ndegwa, were appointed Campus Directors. Their leadership has been instrumental in guiding the cohort through the semester-long fellowship program, which is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to pursue impactful careers aligned with global priorities such as Climate Action, No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, and Quality Education. Throughout the fellowship, the students will participate in a comprehensive curriculum, working on individual and group projects that address one or more of the 17 SDGs. This program offers them a unique opportunity to develop skills vital for careers in global development and social impact, positioning Chuka University as a hub for youth-led initiatives toward a sustainable future.

### Prestigious Student Internship -The Google EMEA Legal Summer Institute Program

After competitive recruitment process, Rebecca Deche, a fourth year Law student, was offered a six weeks fully paid internship experience by the Google EMEA Legal

Summer Institute program beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024. She participated in the Google EMEA LSI program through Bowmans Law-Coulson Harney LLP as one of the two students chosen from Kenya. The program is designed to empower law students from underrepresented backgrounds with valuable insights into both in-house and private practice. Coming from an environment where opportunities like this can feel out of reach, this experience has reaffirmed her belief that we not only deserve to dream bigger but also have the potential to achieve far more than we ever imagined. During her time at Bowmans Law-Coulson Harney LLP, Rebecca had a privilege of interning in the Mergers and Acquisition, and Corporate Departments. Part of the internship experience included virtual sessions with Google. These virtual sessions provided invaluable insights into the relationship between law and technology. The Google EMEA counsel facilitated interactive sessions with the Legal Heads of various departments at Google, in which they explained the roles of each department at Google. Additionally, she acquired knowledge and insights into the different opportunities available at Google and possible career paths in law. She also participated in interactive sessions in workshops where various skills were learned including interviewing and CV writing skills.



**Rebecca Deche at the Bowmans Law Firm**

### School of Law Undergoes Quality Assurance Audit

On May 16, 2024, Chuka University hosted a team from the Council of Legal Education (CLE) to conduct a quality assurance audit in the School of Law. The statutory inspection, serves the CLE's mission to enhance legal education and training, uphold rigorous standards in the legal profession, and ensure that legal education providers maintain excellence in their operations. Led by Moses Muchiri, Director of Quality Standards at the CLE, the audit addressed several crucial issues, including the governance, strategic objectives, staffing, enrollment, curriculum, accreditation of profession-

al programs and the establishment of a unified framework for legal accrediting bodies. Discussions also focused on regulatory advancements within the legal field. The CLE audit team expressed satisfaction with the School's overall performance signaling a positive trajectory in meeting established benchmarks. Chuka The University through the Management reiterated its commitment to delivering high-quality legal education and progressive realization of quality standards.



**Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), left, presents branded merchandise to Mr. Moses Muchiri (Director Quality Standards CLE)**

## School of Nursing and Public Health



**Prof. Lucy Gitonga, Ph.D.**

Dean School of Nursing and Public Health

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Nursing and Public Health, it is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2024! Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. You have overcome countless challenges, both academic and personal, to reach this significant milestone in your lives. As you leave the halls of Chuka University, you step into the world as highly skilled professionals, equipped to make a meaningful impact on the well-being of individuals and communities. The journey you have embarked on in the fields of nursing and public health is one of profound importance. The knowledge, compassion, and ethical

values you have gained here will serve as the foundation of your future careers. As professionals, you will play a pivotal role in addressing the many global challenges we face today, and I have no doubt that you will rise to these challenges with excellence and dedication. I encourage you to remain lifelong learners, continually advancing your skills and knowledge as the global landscape evolves. Remember, the work you do will touch lives in ways that are immeasurable. As you move forward, take pride in your accomplishments and know that you will always be a part of the Chuka University family. The faculty and I wish you every success in your professional journeys, and we look forward to hearing of your future achievements. Congratulations once again, Class of 2024! May your future be filled with success, fulfillment, and an unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the world



**Stephen Kainga,**  
CoD Department of Nursing

### School of Nursing and Public Health Inaugural Conference

On 13<sup>th</sup> March, the School of Nursing and Public Health held its inaugural International Research Conference on the theme "Global Health Challenges and Solutions: Lessons from Around the World." The Conference was officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei and it served as a platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, fostering a sense of unity in tackling health issues worldwide. Attendees engaged in insightful discussions, sharing their expertise and experiences on a range of topics organized into ten sub-themes: the aging population and long-term care; health policy and advocacy to shape the future of healthcare; the impact of climate change on health; the role of public health in pandemic preparedness and response; mental health and well-being as a public health imperative; expanding adolescent sexual and reproductive health in universities; health technologies and innovations; sanitation, water safety, and health; gender and health; and nutrition and health. These discussions highlighted the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within the health sector, fostering a rich exchange of ideas and insights. Reflecting on the success of the Conference, Prof. Lucy Gitonga,

Dean expressed her satisfaction with the turnout and quality of discussions and she further indicated that she looked forward to continuing to foster dialogue, innovation, and excellence in healthcare research and practice on an international scale. As the conference came to a close, participants departed with newfound inspiration and a renewed commitment to collaborate in tackling the multifaceted challenges facing global health today.



**Conference delegates pose for a photo**

### Potential Collaborations Explored Between University of Free State and Chuka University



**L-R: The Late Shem Marangu, Mr. Humphrey Ileri, Prof. Lucy Gitonga, Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Prof. Martin Munene Nyaga and Mr. Casam Njagi.**

A delegation from the University of Free State in South Africa visited Chuka University. Led by Prof. Martin Munene Nyaga, a professor in the next-generation sequencing unit and Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance and Pathogen Genomics, the delegation was eager to explore potential collaborations between UFS and the School of Nursing and Public Health. Key areas of interest included the development of student and staff exchange programs and the initiation of joint research projects. The delegation's visit marked a significant step towards strengthening academic and research ties, particularly between UFS and Chuka University's School of Nursing and Public Health.

### Medical Camp Delivers Healthcare Services to Local

### Community

The School of Nursing and Public Health organized an impactful Medical Camp delivering essential healthcare services to the local community as part of its outreach program. This event not only aimed to provide immediate medical care but also sought to raise health education and awareness among community members. The primary objectives of the Medical Camp were clear: to offer free medical consultations and basic health screenings, to enhance awareness of preventive healthcare measures, to conduct informative health education sessions, and to strengthen the bond between the university and its surrounding community. A dedicated team of healthcare professionals, including nurses, clinical officers, and nursing students, provided a range of vital services. Attendees had access to general medical check-ups, blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, body mass index (BMI) assessments, eye check-ups and vision tests, and HIV testing and counseling. Additionally, health education sessions focused on nutrition, hygiene, and chronic disease prevention, equipping participants with valuable knowledge to improve their overall well-being. The camp saw participation from over 700 community members, highlighting the significant demand for accessible healthcare services in the area. Many individuals received crucial medical advice and treatment for conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory infections. The free HIV testing and counseling sessions were particularly well-received, as attendees benefited from guidance on prevention and management strategies. The impact of the Medical Camp extended beyond immediate health concerns; it promoted the importance of preventive healthcare practices among participants. Community members expressed their gratitude for the services offered, with several individuals referred to nearby health facilities for follow-up care. For nursing and medical students, the camp served as a valuable learning experience, allowing them to engage in patient care and health education in real-world settings. The School of Nursing and Public Health's Medical Camp exemplified the university's commitment to community service while providing students with essential hands-on training. The positive feedback from participants and the tangible healthcare benefits achieved during the event mark it as a significant success in promoting health and wellness in the community.



**Hon. Wilson Nyaga (Deputy Governor Tharaka Nithi County) and Prof. Henry Mutembei visit a medical tent during the camp**

## Human Nutrition and Dietetics Programme Given Clean Bill of Health



Conference delegates pose for a photo

A delegation from the Kenya Nutritionists and Dietitians Institute (KNDI) paid a courtesy call to Chuka University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, during a routine inspection of the university's Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics program. During the meeting, the KNDI representatives announced that the program meets the institute's standards and regulations, allowing Chuka University's human nutrition and dietetics students to be officially indexed. This approval is a significant milestone for the university, ensuring that its graduates meet the professional qualifications required in the field.

### Health Care Dons Champion Roles in Genomics

Prof. Lucy Gitonga OGW recently attended the inaugural conference on the role of healthcare workers in genomics at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. The event, held from July 8 to July 12, 2024,

was organized by Prof. Martin Nyaga, a renowned professor of Genomics at the University of the Free State. Prof. Lucy delivered a presentation on July 8, 2024, focusing on the critical role of nurses and midwives in next-generation sequencing (NGS). Her talk emphasized the importance of NGS in identifying diseases such as cancer and COVID-19, highlighting the potential for significant advancements in healthcare. During the trip, Prof. Lucy had the opportunity to engage in discussions with Prof. Mwenda, the WHO lead from Sierra Leone. A key topic of their conversation was the potential establishment of a WHO Center for Child Health at Chuka University. This initiative would play a vital role in improving child health outcomes in the region. In an interview following the conference, Prof. Lucy expressed her strong belief in the future of next-generation sequencing. She also advocated for the inclusion of genomics as a dedicated health unit in the health curriculum, underscoring the essential roles that nurses and doctors play in preventive and promotive medicine. The conference was a valuable platform for Prof. Lucy to share her expertise and collaborate with international colleagues, reinforcing the global commitment to advancing genomics in healthcare.



Participants pose for a photo during the conference

# Faculty of Environmental Studies & Resources Development



**Dr. Jafford Njeru Rithaa, Ph.D.**  
Ag. Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies & Resources Development

you have been trained, qualified, and equipped with the knowledge necessary for success. In line with Chuka University's motto, "Knowledge is Wealth," I urge you to work diligently and acknowledge the divine guidance that empowers you on your journey. As you graduate today, remember that you stand among many talented individuals, and only those who are innovative, meticulous, and adept problem solvers will thrive. Face the world with courage and optimism, making the most of every opportunity that comes your way. May God bless you all. The Faculty of Environmental Studies and Resources Development is dedicated to training, research and community outreach focused on holistic development



**Dr. Lemmy Muriuki, Ph.D.**  
CoD Environmental Studies & Resources Development

and sustainability. Our efforts contribute significantly to the university's vision of becoming a premier institution known for quality education, training and research

**T**oday, on behalf of the faculty members, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Dear graduates,

that fosters sustainable national and global development. We collaborate with various national and international institutions and organizations for effective curriculum development and networking. Our partners include national and county government departments, which provide valuable attachment opportunities for our students, as well as non-governmental organizations and private companies that support our initiatives. By maintaining an open-door policy and fostering networking opportunities, the faculty has established strong partnerships with organizations such as the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Kibari Bee Farm, International Rice Research Institute, Natural State, and the University of Liverpool, among others. Together, we look forward to your bright futures as you step confidently into your next chapter.

### Planting Seeds of Change to Cultivate Environmental Stewardship



Chuka University students plant trees

provided them with trees to plant on their homesteads. This initiative aims to enhance local greenery and support sustainable agricultural practices. The collaborative project underscores Chuka University's dedication to environmental conservation and its proactive approach to involving the community in sustainable initiatives.

In an effort to promote environmental stewardship and community engagement, Chuka University spearheaded a comprehensive tree-planting initiative at Igwanjau Secondary School. This multifaceted endeavor saw students, faculty and volunteers from both institutions come together to plant trees within the school compound, reinforcing their commitment to a greener future. Extending its environmental efforts beyond the school, Chuka University also reached out to local farmers and



Chuka University fraternity and the Igwanjau community during the tree planting exercise

## Faculty of Engineering



Prof. Eng. Marcel O. Ohanga,  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

### Engineering Dreams into Reality and Building the Future

It gives me immense pleasure to celebrate the conclusion of a remarkable journey with all of you today. This day marks not just the culmination of years of hard work, commitment, and persistence, but also the beginning of a new chapter in your professional lives. You have successfully navigated five

years of a comprehensive curriculum—an impressive achievement indeed. Today, we honour your tremendous effort in lecture halls, workshops, and fieldwork. A special congratulation goes to the second graduating Engineering class of 2024! The Faculty of Engineering at Chuka University has provided you with an exceptional education. We believe this journey has been one of discovery, innovation and growth. You have become part of a vibrant community of innovators, problem-solvers and emerging leaders. We trust that your time with us has equipped you with the knowledge, technical skills, and problem-solving tools necessary to tackle the ever-evolving challenges facing humanity today. As you step into the professional world, embrace

the core values instilled in you during your time at Chuka University. Remember that good character can take you places where knowledge alone cannot. This new phase of your life will be less about classroom learning and more about practicing the principles we've imparted to you. As we release you to the industry, we are confident that the course content, experiential learning, and mentor-based professional development you received will elevate you toward success. In engineering, suc-



An Engineering student works on a project assignment in the laboratory

cess extends beyond technical proficiency; you will also be judged by your creativity, integrity, and passion for making a positive impact on society. We encourage you to remain inquisitive, seek collaboration, and never shy away from a challenge. I am confident that you will excel in your chosen

fields and emerge as leaders in your respective industries. As alumni of Chuka University, you carry the values and standards of our institution into your future endeavors. Stay connected to your roots, support one another, and continue to uphold the integrity and excellence that define our great

university. If you wish to further your studies, we welcome you back to explore our world-class programs at all levels. Know yourself, believe in yourself, stay true to yourself, and carve your own path. Congratulations!

### Tech Trailblazers Engineering Graduates Poised to Shape the Future



**Dr. Josephat Machoka**  
CoD Engineering

Congratulations to the 2024 graduating class of Electrical and Electronics Engineering! Today, you stand on the brink of exciting opportunities, equipped with a robust, interdisciplinary foundation that empowers you to lead and innovate in a rapidly evolving field. Your studies have covered crucial areas such as computer engineering, power systems, electronics, IoT, clean and renewable energy, artificial intelligence, control engineering, and robotics. This comprehensive approach has prepared you to address pressing global challenges, including environmental sustainability,

energy efficiency, and renewable energy advancement. Throughout your rigorous five-year program, you've engaged in theoretical studies, hands-on labs, and collaborative projects that honed your problem-solving skills and fostered real-world applications. You are now equipped to make a meaningful impact, leveraging your expertise to drive positive change across diverse engineering domains. As you step into your careers, we encourage you to embrace continuous learning. The field of engineering is ever-evolving, and staying current with advancements, particularly in technology, is essential. Lifelong learning will keep you at the forefront of industry developments, enabling you to be agile, innovative, and proactive in the face of new challenges and opportunities. Once again, congratulations, graduates! We look forward to seeing the remarkable impact you will make in the world.



**A robotic arm prototype**



**Dr. Machoka engages students during practical lessons**

### EBK Strengthens Engineering Standards



A delegation from the Engineering Board of Kenya (EBK), led by Chair Eng. Erastus K. Mwangera and CEO Eng. Margaret Ogai, visited Chuka University in 2024 to discuss the accreditation of engineering courses offered by the university's Faculty of Engineering. The visit underscored the collaborative efforts between regulatory bodies and academic institutions to uphold the quality of engineering education in Kenya

and beyond. Upon arrival, the EBK team was welcomed by Chuka University's Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research, and Student Affairs), Prof. Gilbert Nduru, who expressed appreciation for EBK's role in ensuring high standards in engineering programs. Prof. Nduru reaffirmed Chuka University's dedication to producing highly skilled engineers critical for Kenya's technological and infrastructural development. During a roundtable session with the faculty, EBK CEO Eng. Margaret Ogai engaged with the Faculty of Engineering team, led by Dean Prof. Eng. Marcel Ohanga. Eng. Ogai outlined EBK's standards and processes for course recognition, commending the faculty's proactive steps towards gaining EBK accreditation. Prof. Ohanga, in turn, thanked the EBK delegation for their constructive feedback and assured them of the faculty's commitment to meeting the necessary requirements, expressing optimism for a positive accreditation outcome. The visit by Engineering Board of symbolizes a broader initiative to ensure that engineering education across the country adheres to the highest standards, ultimately contributing to the development of a skilled and competent engineering workforce in Kenya.

# Board of Postgraduate Studies



**Prof. Moses Muraya, Ph.D.**  
Director, Postgraduate School

**T**oday's graduation is indeed a culmination of many years of hard work, sacrifice and dedication by the university, the graduands, the academic staff and community at large. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPGS) to join the rest of the Chuka University community in congratulating the graduates of Chuka University during this 13th Graduation Ceremony. Indeed, your diligence, focus and commitment has brought joy to your families, Chuka University and the general society. The BPGS is dedicated to upholding high standards of quality and integrity across all postgraduate programs. Our commitment is to provide outstanding postgraduate training and research, fostering the development of highly skilled professionals for national and international roles, aligned with Chuka University's vision. Recognizing the critical role of strategic partnerships, the BPGS actively promotes linkages and collaborations to strengthen teaching, research and community outreach efforts. Over the years, the Division of Academic Research and Student Affairs has played a pivotal role in building networks with educational institutions, enhancing students' academic work and professional growth. This year, we have witnessed substantial growth in student enrolment and program diversity. The Board commends all students for their scholarly achievements and encourages them to pursue competitive opportunities, such as research grants. We remain committed to promoting quality while ensuring a streamlined and supportive training system. To track progress and facilitate timely program completion, we remind all postgraduate students to submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to the Board. This ensures ongoing support and prevents potential discontinuation and minimizes student frustration. Students are also urged to actively engage in both university and international conferences, as well as to publish their work in peer-reviewed journals. We encourage each student to translate their academic findings into impactful contributions to policy by drafting at least one policy brief based on their research work. You have been empowered through your academic journey and we are confident in your potential to serve humanity with commitment and to embrace lifelong learning.

# Board of Undergraduate Studies



**Dr. John O. Ogembo, Ph.D.,**  
Director Board of Undergraduate Studies and  
Field Attachment

**T**o the graduating class of 2024, well done! The Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment has been actively involved in facilitating practical and hands-on training opportunities for students across various faculties and schools. Teaching practise placements were secured in public and private sector institutions nationwide that have maintained partnerships with Chuka University. These collaborations are aimed at delivering market-driven, skill-based, and hands-on training opportunities for our students. We remain greatly indebted to these institutions for continuing to partner with us in ensuring that Chuka University produces highly competitive graduates with requisite 21st-century knowledge, skills, and aptitude. The Board has, in line with its mandate, continued to facilitate the creation of new academic programs for various departments and faculties that are market-driven and responsive to the global needs of the 21st century. The Board has also promoted the diversification of existing programs to align with the increasing demands of the local and international job market as well the Competency Based Curriculum. In keeping with Chuka University's tradition of promoting high academic standards and competitiveness, the Board has continued to acknowledge and recommend students from all faculties and schools with outstanding academic performances for Master's Degree scholarship awards. Students achieving exemplary performance have also been recommended for recognition and inclusion in the Vice-Chancellor's Roll of Honour. The Board congratulates all the graduating students for successfully completing their studies and extends its best wishes for success in all their future endeavors. Congratulations!

# Directorates

## Directorate of Research, Extension and Publications: Innovation and Knowledge



**Prof. Shelmith Munyiri, Ph.D.,**  
Associate Professor of Agronomy (Plant  
Breeding & Biotechnology).  
Director of Research & Extension.

**T**oday marks a significant occasion as we celebrate Chuka University's 13th graduation ceremony—a monumental milestone in the lives of our graduates. On behalf of the Directorate of Research, Extension and Publications (DREP), we extend our heartfelt gratitude to God for guiding you through your academic journey. We are proud to have contributed to your success by funding several postgraduate research projects through our competitive Internal Research Funds (IRF). Congratulations to each of you! Over the past academic year, the Directorate has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at enhancing faculty and community capacity. We conducted staff retooling workshops on external grant writing proposals, as well as numerous training and outreach activities through our academic departments. These included farmers' training sessions, local business entrepreneurship workshops and medical camps held both within and beyond the university. Internationally, we had the privilege of hosting the Nairobi Summer School Cohort IV on climate justice from June 24 to July 6,

2024 and the 11th Annual International Research Conference, held from October 23 to 24, 2024. To further build capacity among faculty researchers, we organized two workshops focused on writing successful grant proposals, where over 100 lecturers were trained. Additionally, through the Technology Innovation Support Centre (TISC), another 100 researchers received training on intellectual property rights and technology commercialization. TISC has also supported the patenting of an innovation and is currently incubating the innovator at our new research park, facilitating the path to commercialization. To strengthen our research ecosystem, DREP board members have initiated a review of the existing 2019 Research and Intellectual Property Rights Policy to address contemporary challenges facing our institution and researchers. We anticipate that these strengthened incentives and enhanced grant closure reporting will motivate more faculty members to engage in grant writing, thereby attracting additional external funding to the university. This year has already seen several lecturers writing award-winning proposals, resulting in unprecedented funding. We are confident that this positive trajectory will continue, as researchers strive to solve societal challenges through evidence-based research. To the graduating class of 2024, my heartfelt congratulations! Your dedication and hard work have led you to this incredible milestone. May the good Lord guide and direct your paths as you embark on this new chapter. I wish you a journey filled with growth, purpose, and success.

### Inaugural Faculty Research Conferences: A Mark of the Nascent Research Culture at Chuka University

Upon his confirmation as the Vice-Chancellor of Chuka University, Prof. Henry Mutembei made a bold commitment to buttress a robust research culture by calling on all faculties to build both specialized and multidisciplinary research pathways, in order to fortify the visibility of the university. This pledge has quickly come to fruition, with two (2) inaugural faculty research conferences taking center stage in 2024. Even as the university prepared to host the 11<sup>th</sup> International Research Conference, the School of Nursing and Public Health (SNPH) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), through the leadership of Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga and Dr. Christopher Kiboro respectively, took on the challenge to hold their first-ever faculty research conferences. The events were nothing short of remarkable, showcasing groundbreaking research, international participation and far-reaching academic influence, which affirms Chuka University's status as a growing hub for academic excellence and innovation.

## Global Innovators Converge at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference to Drive Socio-Economic Empowerment



Winners of various categories pose for a photo with the VC Prof. Henry Mutembei

The 11th Annual International Research Conference, held from October 23 to 24, 2024, commenced with a grand opening led by Dr. Idris Salim Dakota, Principal Secretary for Cabinet Affairs. Dr. Dakota underscored the pivotal role of research in tackling global challenges and boosting economic growth, aligning with this year's theme, *Entrepreneurial Research, Training, and Enterprise Approaches for Socio-Economic Empowerment*. The conference attracted scholars, researchers, and innovators worldwide, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration through impactful keynote addresses, panel discussions, and 207 expert presentations. The theme resonated on a global scale, highlighting entrepreneurship as a powerful vehicle for achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including poverty alleviation and economic growth. Entrepreneurial research offers innovative approaches to challenges like climate change, automation, and income inequality, propelling socio-economic empowerment across regions. The conference emphasized that knowledge-based economies thrive on enterprise-driven research, equipping communities to adapt to rapid technological changes and building resilient economies worldwide. The event culminated in an awards ceremony recognizing exceptional research contributions, with Mr. Eliphas Gitari, General Manager of Equity Bank's Chuka Branch, presiding over the closing ceremony. Gitari lauded the participants for their commitment to innovation, acknowledging the conference's success in fostering partnerships among academia, industry, and government. This year's gathering underscored the transformative impact of research and innovation in shaping a sustainable, inclusive global economy.

The 11th Annual International Research Conference, held from October 23 to 24, 2024, commenced with a grand opening led by Dr. Idris Salim Dakota, Principal Secretary for Cabinet Affairs. Dr. Dakota underscored the pivotal role of research in tackling global challenges and boosting economic growth, aligning with this year's theme, *Entrepreneurial Research, Training, and Enterprise Approaches*



Participants pose for a group photo with Dr. Idris Dakota and the university management PS Cabinet Affairs



Dr. Idris Salim Dakota, PS Cabinet Affairs

## University Bags 100 Million Grant To Advance Nuclear Technology Adoption



VC Prof. Henry Mutembei receives state-of-the-art equipment alongside other university Dons

Chuka University has secured a significant Kshs 100 million grant from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) aimed at advancing agricultural productivity through nuclear technologies over a six-year project. This initiative, spearheaded by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, seeks to enhance livestock productivity by focusing on breeding, genetic improvement, and nutrition. As part of this initiative, the university has invested Kshs 50 million in acquiring state-of-the-art equipment to support the project. Additionally, university staff are receiving specialized training at leading international institutions to equip them with the necessary skills for effective implementation. To further research and innovation in this field, Chuka University plans to establish a Mt. Kenya East Centre of Excellence in collaboration with the IAEA. This center will serve as a hub for advancing nuclear technology applications in agriculture, positioning Chuka University as a leader in integrating modern scientific approaches to improve agricultural outputs in the region.

# Directorate of Quality Assurance

## Our Commitment to Quality Education



**Prof. Colomba Muriungi, Ph.D.**  
Director, Quality Assurance

**C**huka University accords great attention to all aspects of Quality to ensure continued improvement. The Directorate of Quality Assurance, under the leadership of Prof. Colomba Kaburi Muriungi has the mandate to monitor the delivery of quality learning, teaching and research, in bid to propel the University towards meeting, both national and international quality standards. On quality

learning and teaching, the directorate oversees class attendance by both lecturers and students, which is done through signing of class attendance by students. In addition, at the end of every semester, the directorate conducts Teaching Effectiveness Evaluation (TEE), whereby students evaluate lecturers' work throughout the semester. Each lecturer is then issued with an evaluation report for all the courses they have taught in the semester. The TEE exercise is crucial as it not only allows lecturers to gauge their efficiency in class based on students' evaluation, but it also helps lecturers to craft mechanisms for continued improvement. Furthermore, the directorate also works hand in hand with external bodies to ensure that the set academic standards are met by the university. For instance, in the month of April 2024, the Directorate successfully coordinated the Institutional Quality Audit by the Commission for University Education (CUE), an exercise that guarantees adherence to the set quality guidelines and procedures. Therefore, as we send out our students to the world, we are confident that we have given them the best education. Congratulations to our graduands on attaining this important milestone! We celebrate your achievements and commend you for remaining steadfast in your goals through hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Today marks the culmination of your efforts, and we recognize the crucial role our lecturers have played in guiding, mentoring and supporting you throughout your academic journey. As you step into the next chapter of your lives, we encourage you to embrace patience, remain open-minded, and commit to working diligently as you adapt to new environments. This mindset will enable you to reach new heights in your personal and professional lives. Once again, congratulations on your great achievement and may you be excellent ambassadors for Chuka University wherever you go.

## Directorate of Career Services



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

**O**n behalf of myself and the entire Directorate of Career Services and Mentorship, I extend heartfelt congratulations to you on this special day of your graduation. I also commend the entire Chuka University community for their tireless efforts in making this celebration a reality. Reaching the milestone of our 13th Graduation Ceremony is truly a remarkable achievement. Congratulations! Throughout your journey here, we've had the privilege of interacting with you in various workshops, training sessions and discussions designed to help bridge skill gaps, build networks and connect with industry leaders. I trust that, through our numerous career forums, you've gained essential job skills, employability skills, and soft skills that will be invaluable as

you embark on your professional path. I encourage you to stay informed and adaptable to the ever-evolving trends in the job market. To all graduates, I warmly invite you to join the Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA). Becoming a part of this network offers invaluable opportunities for consultation, networking, and creating linkages that can support your career journey. It also provides a meaningful way to give back to the university that has played such a pivotal role in shaping your future. May our Lord bless you in all your future endeavors and make your efforts fruitful.

# Directorate of Performance Contracting



**Florence Muthua Muthee**  
Director, Performance Contracting

**T**he Directorate of Performance Contracting extends heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 on this momentous achievement. Today, the field of education welcomes promising new additions in each of you. Graduation serves as a bridge to the next phase of your life, and everything that has brought you here—your hard work, determination and confidence—will propel you toward a future filled with success and opportunity. The Directorate of Performance Contracting plays a pivotal role in overseeing the coordination, implementation, monitoring,

and reporting of the University's Performance Contract. This initiative aligns with the University's Strategic Plan and the annual guidelines from the Public Service Performance Management Unit. The Performance Contracting framework aims to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in public service management through four key stages: Negotiation, Vetting, Implementation and Evaluation. Working closely with University Management, our Directorate drafts the Performance Contract, sets comprehensive performance targets and ensures their achievement. This process includes cascading these targets to all departments and staff, preparing quarterly reports, and submitting them to relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies for ongoing monitoring. In the FY2022/2023 Performance Contract Annual Evaluation, Chuka University achieved an excellent performance ranking, boasting a composite score of 2.3514. This result underscores the University's commitment to upholding best practices that lead to measurable outcomes while maintaining a strong focus on our students, staff, and stakeholders. Chuka University's Performance Contract has delivered significant milestones in support of

the Government of Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achievements include the completion of state-of-the-art infrastructure under the Vision 2030 Flagship Projects, the development of market-driven academic programs, ongoing research and innovation, staff training in Competence-Based Education & Training (CBET), and impactful community outreach initiatives. Additionally, the University has integrated ICT in education by upgrading infrastructure and digitizing core services to enhance efficiency and reduce costs. As we implement the FY 2024/2025 Performance Contract, we remain confident that Chuka University will continue to lead in delivering quality education and fostering innovation. To the Class of 2024, as you step into the world, we encourage you to contribute to nation-building in your respective areas of expertise. May the knowledge and skills you've gained here open doors to limitless opportunities and continued success. Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement, and Happy Graduation



**File photo: VC Prof. Henry Mutembei and Chairman of Council Prof. David Serem sign PC being witnessed by members of the council**

## Directorate of Resource Mobilisation



**Prof. Andrew. T Muguna, Ph.D.,**  
Director, Resource Mobilisation

**O**n behalf of the Directorate of Resource Mobilization, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Class of 2024 for achieving this significant milestone in your lives! It is both a privilege and a joy to celebrate this historic occasion with you as you graduate and prepare to join those who came before you, each poised to make a positive impact on society in your own unique ways. being a lifelong learner. You must use what you've learnt by motivating others, contributing, and significantly improving your

community. By holding yourself to high standards and pushing yourself to reach your goals despite obstacles and difficulties, you can aim to be excellent and intelligent in whatever you do. Even if the path ahead may not always be straightforward, you are prepared to handle any difficulties because of your strong foundation. The Directorate of Resource Mobilization (DRM) is mandated to mobilize funds to complement funds received by the University from the Government of Kenya. The DRM is a strategic decision by University Management in response to the diminishing capitation from the government. The overarching objective of the Directorate is to spur and coordinate resource mobilization efforts by mapping donors, Philanthropic Foundations, Friends, Corporations, Alumni, Media, and the government and further identifying potential sources of new funds and facilitating interdisciplinary proposals to attract funding for research and infrastructure. Additionally, coordinate consultancies by tapping the institutional expertise and networks. You are the scholars that Society needs. In addition to

the pressing need to combat climate Change and live more sustainably, we are also experiencing a technological revolution, a profound Change in how we think and communicate, and a crucial cry for justice and economic reform. With empathy, Creativity, and community as your guiding principles, you will take the lead as you seize these chances and positively impact the world. I know this because I've seen you do it at Chuka University. Your success would not have been possible without the support of your lecturers, mentors, and parents, who have played significant roles in shaping your educational journey. They have provided you with the guidance, support and love that have brought you to this momentous day, equipped you with competence and the right values and developed you into a resilient individual. Surface a moment to express your profound gratitude to them. Once again, congratulations, graduates. May your future be filled with success, happiness and fulfilment. Wherever your journey leads you, always remember to learn and teach with a heart to be great and smart.

## Directorate of Examinations & Timetabling



**Jediel Sendeyo**  
Director, Examinations & Timetabling

**W**e extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 on this auspicious occasion of your graduation! Your hard work, determination, resilience, and discipline have culminated in this significant achievement. The qualities you have demonstrated throughout your academic journey will undoubtedly serve you well as you pursue your dreams and embark on future endeavors. The Directorate is proud to be associated with this achievement, having supported you throughout your journey by programming your academic

schedules, designing teaching, consultation, and examination timetables, and processing your exams to ensure everything was implemented as envisioned. This dedicated effort has facilitated the timely completion of your studies. As you embark on this new phase of your life—one that involves personal development, contributing to your family, your community, and the nation—we hope the training you received at Chuka University equips you with the necessary skills to conquer the world.

We wish each of you a bright and successful future.

# Directorate of Farms, Buildings and University Enterprises (FABUE)



**Dr. Jafford N. Rithaa, Ph.D.**  
Director, FABUE

**O**n behalf of the directorate, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2024! You have been trained and qualified to excel in your respective professions. As you step into the future, we encourage you to face reality with courage, confidence, and optimism.

Always keep God first in your journey. The Directorate of Farms, Buildings, and University Enterprises (FABUE) plays a vital role in advancing the University's mandate of teaching, research, and outreach by providing demonstration plots for student projects and experimental sites for staff research. Our university farms and enterprises also generate crucial income for the institution. Chuka University encompasses 645 acres of land across various locations, including the Main Campus, Kairini Farm, Mwanjati Farm, Igembe Campus, and Chogoria Campus. Additional university lands include Embu Campus and Nairobi Campus, where the Chuka University Elimu Plaza is situated along Loita Street. The Directorate contributes to achieving the University's vision and mission by managing the university farms and income-generating units (IGUs). Collaboration is key to our success, and the Directorate partners with national and county government departments, as well as other stakeholders, to fulfil its mandate. Notable partners include the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in Tharaka Nithi County, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute (KARLO), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Kibari Bee Farm, and the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC), all working together on various on-farm activities. The University has established a robust income-generating unit focused on enhancing efficiency and boosting revenue. Agricultural products are continuously sold at the Directorate's outlet shop, offering items such as milk, eggs, cereals, vegetables, fruits, and seedlings. The sale of live animals and other farm products occurs on a seasonal basis. Our farming enterprises encompass livestock keeping, agronomy, horticulture, apiculture, and the production of tree and flower seedlings, with farms located at Ndagani, Kairini, Mwanjati, Chogoria, and Igembe Campuses. Other income-generating ventures include the Chuka University Elimu Plaza in Nairobi, which provides rental income, as well as the Hillside Grand Hotel and various eateries that offer catering and hospitality services, alongside accommodation and conferencing, as well as medical and library services.



# Education Without Boundaries: Your Degree, Your Way



**Dr. Jonathan Kathenge, Ph.D.**  
COD, Online, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL).

**T**he Department of Open, Distance, and e-Learning (ODEL) congratulates all graduands of Chuka University's 13th graduation ceremony on their remarkable achievements. A special recognition goes to the 60 students from the ODeL Class of 2024, who are graduating today. This marks the fifth cohort of ODeL students since the pioneer class of 2018 graduated in 2021. Your dedication, hard work, and resilience have paid off, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Since its inception, the

ODEL department has seen significant growth. The number of students opting to pursue their studies via the ODeL mode has steadily increased, and 2024 has witnessed the highest intake yet. A total of 228 students were admitted across the January, May, and September intakes, highlighting the growing demand for flexible learning. In response, the department has expanded its course offerings from 18 to 25 programs, including undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, and certificate options. This reflects the global shift towards e-content and e-learning, and Chuka University has positioned itself as a leader in the field. This year, the ODeL department has broadened its e-learning facilitation to three locations: Chuka University Main Campus, Chuka University Nairobi Campus, and Wajir Teachers College through a partnership for e-learning. The convenience and accessibility of these programs have attracted a large number of students eager to benefit from the flexible and dynamic education offered by the department. The growth and success of the ODeL department would not have been possible without the unwavering support of Chuka University's management. Thanks to their backing, the department boasts

modern infrastructure, including a fully functional studio and computer laboratory at the Main Campus. The studio enables lecturers to offer virtual classes and record audiovisual content for students, while the lab, equipped with 25 laptops, supports research and assignments for both students and lecturers. Chuka University's e-learning programs are designed to be flexible, affordable, and accessible, offering a personalized learning experience. Students have access to diverse materials such as videos, photos, eBooks, and digital library resources, all available anytime, anywhere. Lecturers enhance the learning process through discussion forums and other interactive formats, creating a dynamic and tailored educational experience. The ODeL department is committed to supporting all stakeholders—students, lecturers, and partner institutions alike—in ensuring the seamless implementation of all e-learning programs. If you are considering advancing your education, now is the perfect time to take advantage of ODeL's flexible, accessible, and affordable learning opportunities. We remain dedicated to promoting a 100% transition rate in education, ensuring that no one is left behind.

## ODEL Students Undergo Induction

Marking a vibrant start to the May-August 2024 semester, the Department of Open, Distance, and E-learning (ODEL) facilitated an impactful orientation program for first-year ODEL students. The training was conducted in collaboration with various university departments aimed at seamlessly integrating the freshmen into the University's dynamic academic ecosystem. The program provided a comprehensive guide covering essential aspects such as accessing the E-learning system, mastering web conferencing, navigating the student portal, utilizing digital library resources, booking hostels, and applying for credit transfers. Dr. Jonathan Kathenge, Director of ODEL, led the session and underscored the importance of embracing E-learning in the current global technological trajectory, citing the increasing enrollment of ODEL students while expressing gratitude to supporting departments for enhancing effective E-learning initiatives.



**Dr. Jonathan Kathenge (CoD ODEL) orients students**

## We Provide Quality Library Services: the Foundation of World Class University Education

### The Case for Quality Library Services



**Prof Joseph M Kavulya, Ph.D.**  
University Librarian

Chuka University is fully committed to providing world class library services. *But why is a good library service critical to research, teaching and learning, the core business of the University?* A d v a n c e m e n t knowledge is based on the already

existing literature, generated across space and time. Therefore, without access to quality library resources, there is a potential loss of quality of the scholarly experience of researchers, lecturers and students.

Being in a university is a time unlike any other in the academic life of a student. At this level, students are treated as young adults have to control how they spend time in learning new things, ideas, knowledge and skills. *What is the meaning of this?* University students are fully responsible for the quality of the degrees they obtain and therefore are encouraged to set academic goals. The library provides opportunity for students to read on various topics in advance to prepare for classes, undertake further personal reading using library books to deepen personal understanding of the subject study, research to and fulfil class assignments. At the beginning of their study, students at Chuka University are assisted to develop positive attitude to life, academic curiosity and a habit using library resources to engage in self-directed, independent learning activities. This deepens learning by providing them with a great opportunity to engage with global experts on various subjects, and analyze different issues, topics and ideas, and equip them with a global knowledge and which they can apply in life situations. This approach has enabled our graduates to be outstanding experts with extensive skills and knowledge and very competitive player in all sectors on the Kenyan society.

### Key Library Achievements

In the 2024/2025 academic year the University Library achieved several milestones in enhancing the quality of services:

- i. Library resource mobilization:** The University library mobilized Chuka University staff to donate university level books worth Kshs. 8,617,435.80 to supplement university library book acquisition efforts.
- ii. Information Literacy for first year students:** The Library successfully held a week-long information literacy Week for First Year students. This initiative equipped new University students with competences in searching, locating, retrieving, and using library resources in learning activities
- iii. Library Knowledge Ambassadors (KAs) Outreach Events:** Knowledge Ambassadors is a student club established by University Library established in 2021 to enhance “*learning experience of students at through mentorship and improved access and use of library resources learning.* In the last one year KAs carried out three (3) outreach events to market university digital library services. For example, in the period July-October 2024, over 3000 student Myloft (*My Library on Fingertip*) accounts were activated, and students across various faculties guided on how to access premier e-books and e-journals from globally acclaimed digital library databases. Beyond the Kenyan borders our KAs have performed extremely in the Emerald 2024 Ambassadors Competition, covering the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.
- iv. Establishment of Library Income Generation Unit (IGU) activities:** The library substantially increased income through printing and photocopying services through increased marketing, becoming the preferred service-provider to both students and staff. In the course of this year the library plans to implement document lamination and binding services for student research proposals and theses.
- v. Digitalization of University Journal:** The library spearheaded the conversion of University journal, *Journal for Environmental Sustainability and Research (JESAR)* from print to online, open access model. Thanks to this initiative all past issues of the journal since 2012 are now online platform and accessible across the globe which will enhance the visibility of the research output of the university and the University itself.



Prof. Kavulya poses for a photo with the knowledge ambassadors

## Procurement Department



**Naftal Oenga**  
Senior Procurement Officer

take this opportunity to congratulate all graduands who are graduating today. This is a major milestone in your life that gets you ready to take up

the opportunities available both nationally and globally in contributing to the world's growth. We take pride as Procurement Department for being part of your journey by availing the requirements needed for your studies and comfort in your stay at the University. The Procurement Department has continued to improve service delivery in the University. By doing so, the department facilitates the University to achieve its Vision and Mission. The department has supported the Income Generating Units in the University in procurement of their inputs at best market prices to enable them realize good profits. The department has also built capacity for Youth, Women and PWDs by holding a training workshop for them facilitated by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority. The workshop was held on

10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 where Sixty people were trained. This has seen many suppliers in this category participate in public procurement not only in Chuka University, but also in other public organizations. Another milestone that the department has achieved is equipping the Food Technology Laboratory and Electrical Engineering Laboratory through purchase of various teaching equipment and practical teaching materials. The Department event successfully disposed all unserviceable, surplus and obsolete inventory which generated income for the University. The department has supported poultry project by acquiring broiler chicken and feeds which is projected to generate income through sell of chicken meat. This will also facilitate teaching and training for students.

## Information and Communication Technology Department



**Charles Kinyua Gitonga**  
HoD ICT

The Department of ICT extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024 for their remarkable achievements. Your hard work and dedication have led you to this significant milestone, and we join the entire Chuka University fraternity in celebrating your success. As you transition from Chuka University into the professional world, we encourage you to continue

your efforts and strive to build a prosperous career. Be ready to serve your communities by addressing the challenges they face and, importantly, consider how technology can be harnessed to find effective solutions. These small initiatives not only enhance your experience but also bolster your CV as you embark on your career journey. The Department of ICT remains committed to providing exceptional services to staff, students, and the community. In recent years, we have prioritized training in cybersecurity as a proactive measure against cyber-attacks and to ensure data protection. Our ongoing efforts underscore our commitment to safeguarding our digital environment. Collaboration is at the heart of our mission, and we proudly work alongside other departments, faculties, and stakeholders to serve the community effectively. Notably, we have partnered

with the University of Nairobi School of Computing and the HealthIT team to bolster ICT infrastructure and digitization across various health facilities. This collaboration has allowed us to expand our reach into several proximity counties, enhancing healthcare services by building robust data networks. Through our HealthIT project, we have made significant strides in digitizing health services at multiple facilities, including Marimanti District Hospital, Muthambi Health Center, and Kaanwa Health Center in Tharaka Nithi County. Our efforts also extend to hospitals and health centers in Meru, Embu, Kirinyaga, Nyeri, and Murang'a counties, with ongoing infrastructure and digitization initiatives supported by Chuka University Management and funding from USAID. Additionally, the department is focusing on the digitization of university services. The

recent acquisition of Microsoft Business Central ERP has automated various services for our students, staff, and stakeholders. We are committed to further innovations that will streamline all university services and enhance our mission of excellence. Our services have been integrated into the e-Citizen platform, improving visibility, transparency, and ease of access for all users.

Congratulations once again to the Class of 2024 on this significant achievement! As you step into the future, remember that your education has equipped you with the tools to make a meaningful impact in your communities and beyond.

### Varsity Hosts Three Day Hackathon to Innovate Healthcare Data Solutions

Chuka University organized a three-day hackathon from March 25 to 27, 2024, bringing together students from computer science and applied computer science disciplines for an intensive design thinking and coding competition. The event aimed to address data reporting challenges within the Electronic Community Health Information System (ECHIS) and it was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei. This is a critical platform for primary healthcare services managed by Community Health Practitioners

(CHPs). Through the mentorship by experienced industry developers, students were tasked with devising innovative solutions to enhance data management and streamline healthcare provision. This initiative is in line with national priorities on Universal Health Coverage, aiming to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery. The hackathon, organized by the HealthIT project—a collaborative effort between Chuka University, the University of Nairobi, and the Ministry of Health, with funding from USAID—also served as a platform to nurture young software developers. Through their participation, students gained valuable skills and experience, thus enhancing their readiness for the job market.

Prof. Mutembei highlighted the significance of the event in fostering technological advancements in healthcare, stating that the hackathon represented a pivotal moment in leveraging technology to improve healthcare delivery in Kenya. The successful collaboration underscores the potential of academia and industry partnerships in driving meaningful innovation and development.



ICT Students make presentations during the hackathon to knowledge ambassadors



Participants listen to presentations

## Security Department

### Securing Our Future: Enhancing Campus Safety



Mr. Ibrahim Mulinge Pius  
Head of Security Department/CSO

The Chuka University Security Department extends its warmest congratulations to the Class of 2024! Graduation is the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and dedication. Today, we celebrate your accomplishments and the resilience that has led you to this significant milestone. Your success is a reflection of your commitment to your academic journey. As you step into the next phase of life—whether joining the workforce, pursuing further studies, or exploring new adventures—

remember that the skills you have developed here, such as teamwork, adaptability, and determination, will serve you well. These qualities are crucial in navigating the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Beyond academics, security is about safeguarding not just physical assets but also your dreams and well-being. As you move forward, we urge you to stay vigilant, prioritize your safety, and support one another. The strength and resilience you have shown to reach

this point will help you tackle whatever the future holds. The Security Department remains committed to ensuring a safe environment for the entire Chuka University community. In partnership with the sub-county administration police, we have enhanced security measures, including acquiring a police land cruiser to patrol student residences. We have also adopted a community policing approach, encouraging collaboration among students, staff, and stakeholders through initiatives like the Hostel Kumi strategy. Recognizing the importance of addressing emerging security concerns, we have adopted a community policing approach that encourages students and other stakeholders to share critical security-related information. The Hostel Kumi initiative has been established to integrate students, staff, and the surrounding community into our security strategies, with proactive engagement at the core of our operations. To further enhance security, we have introduced a toll-free number, 0800230008, for reporting emergencies affecting students, staff, and the community for a prompt and effective response. This initiative ultimately strengthens our communication channels for security concerns. The Security Department, in collaboration with the Human Resource Department, regularly conducts sensitization sessions on counter-terrorism, disaster preparedness, and fire emergency response procedures for outsourced security guards and internal staff. Looking ahead, we plan to launch the Security Forensic Laboratory, an initiative that will apply science and technology to address crimes within the university precincts, ensuring a safer environment for all.

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024! You have made us all proud, and we wish you the very best in your future endeavors. Stay safe, stay ambitious, and never stop learning.



**Security Officer Mr. Ibrahim Mulinge trains Chuka University security guards**



**Police Land Cruiser used for patrol**

## Students Welfare Department

**Impactful and memorable student life: embrace your future with pride and purpose**



**Dr. Benjamin Kanga, Ph.D.**  
Dean of Students

**O**n behalf of the Students Welfare Department, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional graduating Class of 2024. Throughout your time here, you've demonstrated growth, resilience, and an unwavering

commitment to success. Your academic achievements, paired with the skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership, have prepared you well for the dynamic world ahead. Together we have achieved great strides. We have provided you with professional counseling services, leadership training for the student leaders, class representatives and peer counselors. We celebrated your cultures during the cultural week celebrations, conducted free and fair student leader's elections, participated in mental health awareness walks, visited vulnerable children in group homes and promoted environment conservation through planting trees. We have created an association with the landlords to ensure your stay in the university is pleasant. Through sports you have

also raised the Chuka University flag high as Eastern champions during the Safaricom chapa Dimba games and in various sports categories in the inter-universities competitions. Graduation should never mean goodbye. As you embark upon and progress through your careers, I urge you to always remember where you came from. I sincerely hope you will remain connected by joining the CU Alumni Association. Use the tools you've earned at Chuka University as you continue to learn and achieve, and take advantage of opportunities that may come along the way. I am convinced that you will continue to serve as ambassadors for the university. I encourage you to not only give back to the university by supporting university activities, programs and scholarships,

but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements. Please know that Chuka University will remain your 'home' and you are always welcome. A special thanks to the families and friends of our graduates for their unwavering support. Graduates, take a moment to express gratitude to those who believed in you—they have played a vital role in shaping who you are today. As you move forward, I encourage you to be bold in your ambitions and compassionate in your actions.

The world needs innovative thinkers, problem solvers and leaders who are not afraid to make a difference. Prioritize and protect your mental health by prioritizing self-care. Remember life is full of highs and lows and hard times don't last. Be kind to yourself and create healthy boundaries. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter of your professional careers.

Congratulations once again, and onward to greatness!

## CAMPUSES

### Embu Campus



**Dr. Moses K. Kathuri, Ph.D.**  
Director, Embu Campus

#### A Message to the Graduating Class of 2024

**A**s we celebrate the 13<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of Chuka University, the Embu Campus extends heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2024. This milestone marks the culmination of your hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence. You are now equipped with market-driven knowledge and skills that will set you apart in the job market. We are confident that you will be exemplary ambassadors of Chuka University, using your education to serve humanity and contribute positively to society. Our message to you is simple: go beyond being employees—become employers, innovators, and problem solvers. The world is in need of your ideas, your creativity, and your leadership. As you step into the future, we encourage you to remain committed to lifelong learning, research, and community engagement. You are not just graduates; you are the future of Kenya, and we believe in your potential to shape a better tomorrow.

#### Chuka University Embu Campus: A Beacon of Academic Excellence in Eastern Kenya



**Rev. Prof. Dickson Nkonge Kagema**  
Coordinator of programmes

The Embu Campus of Chuka University (CUEC) has experienced tremendous growth and development since its establishment, positioning itself as a vital hub for higher education in Embu County. Originally a community initiative driven by the growing demand for university education in Embu town and its environs, the campus has evolved into a vibrant academic institution offering a serene and conducive environment for learning. Located just 200 meters off the Embu-Meru Highway, along Kanjuru Road, the campus is easily accessible while providing students with proximity to essential amenities such as government offices, hospitals, hotels, and the Embu County Talent Academy. This strategic location enhances the academic experience, making CUEC an ideal place for personal and professional growth.

#### Development Milestones: January 2024 to Date

In 2024, the campus has continued to build upon its strong foundation, admitting 78 self-sponsored students across various levels of education, including certificate, diploma, degree, and postgraduate courses. Notably, the campus has introduced a Master of Science in Procurement and Logistics Supplies for the first time, further diversifying its academic offerings. Additionally, short courses in the Tourism and Hospitality Management department are currently pending approval by the University Senate. The total number of students graduating this year stands at 180, an increase from the 168 graduates of 2023, reflecting the campus' steady growth. The campus also takes pride in creating employment opportunities for over 50 staff members, both in teaching and non-teaching capacities. This year, collaborations with local industries such as St. John Ambulance, Mini Inn Ho-

tel, Embu County Talent Academy, and Embu College have strengthened the campus's connection with the community, enhancing students' learning experiences and providing practical, hands-on training opportunities.

### Achieving Excellence through Research and Community Engagement

CUEC's commitment to academic excellence is evident in the numerous research activities undertaken by its faculty members. The members of academic staff have presented papers at various conferences, including the University's International Conference, and have published research articles aimed at addressing real-world challenges. This focus on research not only strengthens the campus's academic standing but also contributes to solving societal problems and advancing knowledge in diverse fields. The campus's dedication to outreach is further exemplified through its career guidance programs in local secondary

schools, such as Igumori Secondary School, St. Teresa, and St. Rita Secondary School. These initiatives are designed to inspire potential students and promote Chuka University as a premier choice for higher education. Through these efforts, CUEC has witnessed a steady increase in enrollment, highlighting the campus's growing influence in the region.

### Looking Ahead

Chuka University Embu Campus remains steadfast in its mission to provide high-quality, affordable education, with a focus on practical, market-relevant programs. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to fostering academic excellence, community engagement, and research that makes a difference. We look forward to welcoming new students, expanding our academic offerings, and strengthening our ties with the Embu community and beyond. Congratulations once again to the Class of 2024, and may your future be as bright as the promise you hold today!

## Chogoria Campus



**Prof., Humphrey K. Ileri, Ph.D.**  
Director, Chogoria Campus

**C**huka University Chogoria Campus has taken a significant step in student representation with the recent election of student leaders. On January 30, 2024, an exciting and competitive election resulted in Moses Leshoo and Mercy Jepkorir being elected as the male and female representatives, respectively. This development has inspired students across the campus, ensuring their voices and concerns can now be directly communicated to the Chuka University Students' Association (CUSA). In a related milestone, the relocation of Nturiri Boys Secondary School from the Chogoria campus grounds to Nturiri Primary School was successfully completed by the end of August 2024. We commend the management for facilitating this transition and initiating the renovation of the dining hall. With the relocation, the facilities formerly occupied by the secondary school are now available for campus use, enhancing the educational environment for all students. On September 2, 2024, Chogoria Campus welcomed an additional 70 students into its Bachelor of Education (BED Arts) and Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM) programs. The orientation

program for these new students took place from September 4 to 6, culminating in an address from the Vice Chancellor on September 6 at the main campus. This new influx of students brings the total campus population to 320. Nestled in a serene environment, Chogoria Campus features well-aerated lecture halls and beautifully landscaped areas with external shades, providing a conducive learning atmosphere. The campus offers affordable, modest hostels, and the surrounding neighborhood has developed quality accommodation options for students. Additionally, a tree planting initiative conducted by University Senators late last year aligns with the government's goal of planting 15 billion trees for a sustainable future, enhancing the campus environment. The campus is witnessing an increase in



**Chogoria Campus first year 2024 orientation**

self-sponsored students enrolling in various undergraduate and postgraduate programs, including a Master of Arts in English Language and Linguistics, Master of Arts in Kiswahili, Master of Arts in History, Master of Arts in Religious Studies, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics, along with several diploma and certificate programs. We invite all potential students to register for their preferred programs at Chuka University Chogoria Campus. As we celebrate these advancements, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates during Chuka University's 13th graduation ceremony. May you step into your future with courage and determination, and may success follow you in all your endeavors!



# Igembe Campus

## Igembe Campus is now a TVET Accredited Centre



**Dr. John Mwithalii Kamoyo, Ph.D.**  
Director, Igembe Campus

**O**n behalf of Chuka University, Igembe Campus, Igembe Community and other key stakeholders I wish to extend warm congratulations to the graduating class of 2024. Graduation is a momentous occasion in every student's journey. As you achieve this important milestone, It is my prayer that, the knowledge, skills and attitude you acquired will enable you to contribute towards addressing existing and nascent challenges in your communities, regions and beyond. We

would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the Chuka University management and council for creating a supportive and conducive environment



**CHUKA UNIVERSITY**  
Knowledge is Wealth/ AKili ni Mali  
(Sapientia Divitia Est)



## NEW STUDY IN IGEMBE TVET CAMPUS

### TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) PROGRAMMES

COURSE	REQUIREMENTS	FEES PER YEAR	DURATION	EXAMINATION BODY
Diploma in Computer Science (Level 6)	A mean grade of c-(minus) in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination OR: At least a division II in the Kenya Certificate of Education Examination	Kshs 65,000 per year	2 years	CDACC
Diploma In Social Work and Community Development (Level 6)	A mean grade of c-(minus) in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination OR: At least a division II in the Kenya Certificate of Education Examination	Kshs 65,000 per year	2 years	CDACC
Certificate In Project Planning and Management (Level 5)	A mean grade D (Plain) and above in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination OR; At least a Division III in Kenya Certificate of Education Examination	Kshs 65,000 per year	1 years	CDACC
Certificate in Library and Information Science (Level 5)	A mean grade D (Plain) and above in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination OR; At least a Division III in Kenya Certificate of Education Examination	Kshs 65,000 per year	1 years	CDACC
Certificate in Archives and Information Service	A mean grade D (Plain) and above in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination OR; At least a Division III in Kenya Certificate of Education Examination	Kshs 65,000 per year	1 years	CDACC

**Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.**

We are expanding our course offerings. Soon, you can enroll in more programs, including hairdressing and beauty therapy, Agriculture-related courses, and Business Management.

**Please contact Director Igembe Campus through 0725 539 168**

020 231 0512 / 020 231 0518

www.chuka.ac.ke info@chuka.ac.ke

ChukaUniversityOfficialPage

chuka\_uni chuka university official

for learning at Igembe Campus. The future looks bright for our campus as we aim to increase student enrollment. We are actively engaging with the local community to raise awareness and foster a positive mindset among prospective applicants, strengthening the relationship between the university and the region. At Igembe Campus we offer both Degree and TVET courses. The campus was accredited

by TVETA this year (2024) to offer TVET courses alongside degree programmes. We warmly welcome prospective students to visit the campus and explore the wide variety of academic and training opportunities available. As you embark on your career voyage I wish to ask you to cultivate a positive mindset as you endeavor to making the world a better place for humanity.

## Nairobi Campus



**Nairobi Campus first year 2024 orientation**

On October 11, 2024, the Nairobi campus celebrated the completion of its orientation program for its first intake of sixty students, marking a historic milestone in the campus expansion. Recently awarded an interim certificate after a successful inspection by the Commission for University Education, the Nairobi campus is dedicated to making quality education accessible to Kenyans across all walks of life, aligning with the government's broader agenda to improve access to higher education. The new campus has already attracted a diverse student body, enrolling in nine programs ranging from diploma to bachelor's degree courses. Among the courses offered are the Diploma in Business Management, Certificate in Business Management, Certificate in Computer Science, Diploma in Computer Science, and a Certificate in Criminology. In addition, the campus offers Bachelor's degrees in Criminology, Project Planning, and Commerce. Designed

to meet the demands of a dynamic job market, these programs equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their fields. To accommodate varying student needs, the Nairobi campus provides flexible study options, including both Open, Distance, and E-Learning (ODEL) and full-time modes. This flexibility allows students to pursue their studies alongside work or family commitments, reinforcing the university's commitment to inclusive education. Addressing the new cohort, Dr. Samwel Chege, the Registrar Academic Affairs expressed his pride in the campus's swift progress and urged students to make the most of the resources and support systems available. "We are thrilled to welcome you to our Nairobi campus," said the Dr. Chege. "This campus not only represents an expansion of Chuka University but also embodies our dedication to serving the educational needs of Kenya."

## Varsity Advances Research through Strategic Partnerships

### International Rice Research Institute Meets the University Leadership for Agricultural Research Initiatives

Emissaries from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) convened with the Chuka University Management and the Faculty of Agriculture in a landmark meeting aimed at laying the foundation for potential research collaborations. The focus of the discussions was to explore avenues where joint efforts could propel agricultural research to new heights. The meeting, which was characterized by a vibrant exchange of ideas and insights, sought to foster a collaborative environment where knowledge and expertise seamlessly intertwine for the betterment of agricultural practices. The IRRI representatives shared cutting-edge insights



**L-R: Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Prof. Eunice Githae (Ag. DVC AFP&D), Dr. Daniel Menge (IRRI), Dr. Melannie Connor (IRRI), Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Dr. Rosemary Murori (IRRI), Dr. Jafford Rithaa and Mr. Joseph Murima.**

into rice research, presenting a wealth of opportunities for collaborative projects that could significantly impact the field. Both parties recognized the mutual benefits that could arise from joining forces in research initiatives, pooling resources and leveraging each other's strengths. The primary objective of the proposed collaboration is to advance agricultural research, with a particular emphasis on rice cultivation and related fields. The partnership also aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices, enhance crop yields and address challenges faced by farmers in the region. As the groundwork for this collaborative effort is laid, both Chuka University and the International Rice Research Institute envision a future where shared knowledge and collaborative research efforts lead to innovative solutions in the realm of agriculture. The partnership is poised to contribute not only to the academic and research community but also to the broader agricultural landscape, fostering advancements that have the potential to positively impact local and global food security. This promising collaboration marks a significant step towards the integration of international research expertise with local academic vigor, creating a synergy that holds the promise of transformative breakthroughs in agricultural science.

### **Chuka University and Tharaka Nithi County Government Forge Alliance for Agricultural and Industrial Advancement.**



**L-R: H.E. Hon. Muthomi Njuki, Governor Tharaka Nithi County and Prof. Henry Mutembei, VC, exchange the MOUs.**

Chuka University has entered into a strategic partnership with the Tharaka Nithi County Government to establish a County Aggregation and Industrial Park. This collaborative initiative aims to unlock the economic potential of Tharaka Nithi County, fostering growth and viability in the agricultural sector. Speaking during the Memorandum of Understanding signing-in ceremony on 20th December, 2023, H.E. the Governor of Tharaka Nithi County Hon. Onesmus Muthomi Njuki thanked the Chuka University Management for the community engagement initiative to support the County and National government agenda on transforming Kenya into an Industrialized Middle-income country offer-

ing a high quality of life to all citizens. Hon. Njuki further emphasized that the upcoming Industrial Park is aimed at growing manufacturing and investments through Agro-Industries and sustainably enhancing the productivity of the agriculture sector hence creating inclusive decent jobs, increasing farmers' income, and increasing foreign exchange. In his remarks, Chuka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei affirmed that the established partnership is envisaged to act as a springboard for the growth and viability of farmers' products in the Agricultural sector. Prof. Mutembei stated that Chuka University is ready to work with like-minded stakeholders who will support and drive the university, county, and national government's agenda. The 100-acre County Aggregation and Industrial Park, which is situated on Chuka University's 500-acre Kairini farm, will feature state-of-the-art cold storage and value-addition facilities that will spur research and economic growth as well as boost food security. These facilities are envisaged to support farmers in maximizing their earnings, particularly in the cultivation of bananas, avocados, mangoes and vegetables. The project marks a significant step toward the shared goal of promoting agro-industrial development by providing a platform for sharing public resources and collaboration among farmers, processors, exporters, research institutions, industrial bodies and the government. Governor Njuki and Prof. Mutembei agreed to advance collaboration on environmental conservation and sustainability programs and public health through capacity building and research among many other areas.



**H.E. Hon. Muthomi Njuki, Governor Tharaka Nithi County (seated), signs the visitor's book in the presence of (L-R) Prof. David Serem, Chairman of Council, Prof. Henry Mutembei, VC, Prof. Eunice Githae, Ag. DVC AFP&D, Hon. Godfrey Murithi, MCA Karingani Ward, Hon. Wilson Nyaga, Deputy Governor Tharaka Nithi County, Hon. John Mbaabu, County Assembly Speaker and Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC ARSA.**

### **Howard Community College and Chuka University Forge Collaborative Ties**

Delegates from Howard Community College engaged in collaborative talks with the Chuka University Management to explore potential partnerships that could pave the way for a new era of academic collaboration between the United States and Kenya. The meeting centered around key areas

of collaboration, including Faculty and Student Exchange Programs, the establishment of a cutting-edge forensic lab, joint research projects, attracting grants, as well as collaboration on research conferences, seminars and webinars. Professor Eric Clark, a distinguished expert in Criminal Justice from Howard Community College, underscored the importance of this international collaboration in bridging the knowledge gap between Kenya and the United States. "Through initiatives like faculty and student exchange programs, joint research endeavors and shared resources, we aim to not only expand our understanding of criminal justice but also foster the diffusion of cultures between our institutions," he remarked. Chuka University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mutembei, echoed Prof. Clark's sentiments, emphasizing that such collaborations are pivotal in advancing academic excellence in the realms of criminal justice and related fields. In Prof. Mutembei words: "This partnership holds the promise of substantial benefits for both Chuka University and Howard Community College. We foresee significant advancements in our respective criminal justice departments, leading to enriched academic experiences for students and groundbreaking research opportunities". The proposal to establish a robust forensic lab emerged as a focal point during the discussions, with both institutions recognizing the potential for groundbreaking research and hands-on learning experiences for students. The collaborative talks concluded with a shared commitment to formalize the proposed initiatives, working towards the mutual benefit of both institutions.

Alikhan. The meeting aimed to lay the groundwork for a collaborative exchange initiative, with discussions centered on broadening academic opportunities across both institutions. Expressing enthusiasm for the partnership, the VC Alikhan highlighted Kenya's potential for "comprehensive cooperation" and indicated that Synergy University is keen to establish exchange programs across a wide range of disciplines. "Kenya stands out as a promising region for meaningful academic collaboration," he stated, emphasizing the goal of fostering a robust exchange program to benefit students in multiple fields. This proposed partnership envisions students gaining diverse, cross-cultural learning experiences, reflecting a commitment to internationalizing education and fostering global perspectives. Prof. Nduru and Dr. Chege expressed gratitude for Synergy University's interest, underscoring Chuka University's dedication to partnerships that elevate academic excellence and enrich student experiences.



L-R: Mr. Ibrahim Mulinge (CSO), Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Ms. Clark, Prof. Eric Clark, Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Prof. David Serrem, OGW, (Chair of Council), Dr. Christopher Kiboro, Dr. Monica Oundo and Mr. Saif Kinyori.



L-R: Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Ms. Skobelina Irina, the Vice-Chancellor of Synergy University, Khashiev Alikhan, and Dr. Samuel Chege (Registrar AA).

## Synergy University of Russia Explore Student Exchange Partnership

Chuka University is exploring an international exchange program with Synergy University, Russia, following a high-level meeting in Nairobi involving Chuka's Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, and Registrar of Academic Affairs, Dr. Samwel Chege, alongside Synergy University Vice-Chancellor, Khashiev

## Chuka Poised to Enhance Agricultural Productivity



L-R: Mr. Geoffrey Kosgei, Dr. Peter King'ori, Dr. Deviaiah Kambiranda, Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Prof. David Serrem, OGW, (Chair of Council), Dr. James Obuya, Prof. Geoffrey Gathungu, Dr. Martin Njogu.

Delegates from the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Centre (SUAREC), Baker La, paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei. The delegation led by scientists, Dr. James Obuya and Dr. Deviaiah Kambiranda are on a monitoring and evaluation mission of the smallholder farming systems project a collaboration between Chuka University and SUAREC. This is a donor-funded project by the 1890 Universities Centre of Excellence in Global Food Security and Defense.



**Delegates from SUAREC and the Chuka University team during a tour of the smallholder farming systems project.**

The project has been key in providing research and outreach skills to targeted small-scale farmers and stakeholders with the primary goal of enhancing agricultural productivity in Tharaka Nithi County. The Faculty of Agriculture played a key role in empowering four self-help groups of small-scale farmers within Tharaka Nithi County to implement a fruit tree agroforestry project. In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mutembei said that he is delighted to witness this impactful collaboration as it reflects on the university's commitment to fostering agricultural development. He commended the efforts of all involved in the project, and he anticipates positive outcomes as they work together to enhance the skills and productivity of local farming communities.

**Partnering for Advancements in Agriculture and Law**



**Dr. John Vreyes addressing students during his visit at Chuka University.**

Dr. John Vreyes from the University of Minnesota, visited Chuka University and engaged in fruitful collaborative discussions with the Management. The visit, which took place at Chuka University, Main Campus, marked the inception of potential partnerships between the two institutions, particularly in the Faculties of Agriculture and Law. The discussions, characterized by enthusiasm and a shared commitment to academic excellence, focused on several key areas. Environmental law and climate justice were central topics, with both universities expressing a keen interest in addressing pressing global issues related to the environment. Climate-smart agriculture was also a significant point of discussion, emphasizing sustainable and innovative practices to mitigate the impact of climate change on agriculture. Curriculum support and legal community outreach emerged as critical components of the collaboration. The two universities explored ways to enhance the Bachelor of Laws program by infusing clinical legal education as a mode of learning, providing students with practical experience and a deeper understanding of the legal landscape. One of the highlights of the meeting was the concerted effort to address challenges facing crop and livestock farmers in the community. Both institutions pledged to collaborate on research initiatives aimed at finding practical solutions to improve farming practices, enhance productivity, and ensure the well-being of local agricultural communities. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, expressed optimism about the potential impact of the collaboration, stating: "This visit sets the stage for academic growth, research advancement, and shared initiatives that will undoubtedly benefit both our universities and the broader community. By pooling our resources and expertise, we can make significant strides in addressing the complex challenges related to the environment and agriculture." The collaborative talks between the University of Minnesota and Chuka University mark a significant milestone in fostering global partnerships for academic and societal advancement. The initiative is expected to open new avenues for research, knowledge exchange and shared initiatives that will have a lasting positive impact on both institutions and the communities they serve.



**Dr. John Vreyes receives Chuka University Branded Memorabilia from the VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei.**

## Joining Forces to Boost Sustainable Agriculture



**Ms. Jacinta Mwau, EAGC Country Manager (Kenya, DRC, Burundi and Ethiopia) and Prof. Henry Mutembei signs the Memorandum of Understanding, witnessed by Ms. Stella Kaburia (Senior Legal Officer).**

Chuka has formalized a partnership with the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in Kenya's Upper Eastern Region. The two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 2, 2024, marking a strategic move to strengthen the agribusiness landscape in Tharaka Nithi County and neighboring regions. The collaboration aims to enhance agricultural development, empower local farmers, and foster sustainable farming practices. At the heart of this partnership was the organization of Agribusiness Expos, with the first expo held at Chuka University on March 14, 2024. The expo showcased innovations in sustainable agriculture, drawing over 70 exhibitors and attracted more than 3,000 farmers from Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Kirinyaga, Isiolo, and Embu counties. The event featured demonstrations of advanced farming technologies, eco-friendly pest control, and soil health management, providing farmers with valuable insights into climate-smart practices. Additionally, the MOU facilitates apprenticeship opportunities for Chuka University students pursuing agribusiness-related courses. This initiative will bridge the gap between academia and the agribusiness sector, offering students hands-on experience and practical skills. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, highlighted the importance of the partnership in addressing food security challenges. He emphasized that the collaboration not only supports the university's mandate of promoting research but also empowers farmers and drives economic growth in the region. "By partnering with EAGC, we are taking proactive steps toward promoting sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring food security," said Prof. Mutembei. This collaboration between Chuka University and EAGC represents a significant step in aligning academic research with industry needs, fostering synergies that can transform the agribusiness sector and contribute to the region's economic development. The expo and subsequent initiatives underscore the importance of innovation and community engagement in overcoming the challenges facing agriculture, particularly in light of climate change.



**File Photo of attendees visiting Chuka University Stand led by Dr. Grace Abucheli, Dean Faculty of Agriculture.**

## Interdisciplinary Collaboration Drives Post-Assessment Sustainable Land Use Initiative

In a bid to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and advance sustainable land use practices, Chuka University, in collaboration with the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies at the University of Nairobi and Copenhagen University, successfully hosted the post-assessment meeting for the Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resources Management course.



**Prof. Mutembei address participants**

The meeting, which took place in Kibugu, Embu County, marked the culmination of the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (SLUSE-2024), which commenced on February 29, 2024. Attended by 33 Master's students representing 15 nationalities from Chuka University, Copenhagen University, and the University of Nairobi, the event showcased research findings and insights gleaned from the initiative's interdisciplinary approach. Throughout the initiative, participants probed into various aspects of sustainable land use, including Agroforestry, Participatory Forest Management, Waste Management, E-voucher systems and Fish Farming. The aim was to not only deepen academic understanding but also to foster tangible solutions to pressing environmental challenges. Presentations during the post-assessment meeting highlighted the collaborative

efforts of students and faculty from the participating universities, as well as the engagement of community stakeholders. These efforts have led to the development of innovative strategies and practical interventions aimed at promoting sustainable practices across different landscapes. Dr. Peris Nderitu, a lead organizer of the initiative and faculty member at Chuka University, emphasized the importance of such collaborative endeavors in addressing complex environmental issues. "SLUSE-2024 exemplifies

the power of interdisciplinary collaboration in tackling pressing environmental challenges. By bringing together students and experts from diverse backgrounds, we can develop holistic solutions that have a meaningful impact on communities and ecosystems," Dr. Peris remarked. The success of SLUSE-2024 underscores the potential for universities to serve as hubs for knowledge exchange and innovation in the realm of sustainable development.



The VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei poses for a group photo with Master's students representing 15 nationalities including Copenhagen University.

## Robust Professional Development Programs Rolled Out



L-R: Dr. Catherine Kaimenyi, Prof. Isaac Nkaari, Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), FCPA Isaac M. Njuguna, Ms. Caroline Makutwa, Dr. Henry Nyamu, and Dr. Jonathan Kathenge.

Chuka University hosted dynamic professional courses launch and career day. The event drew the participation of prominent organizations, including the Human Resource Management Professionals and Examinations Board (HRMPEB), KASNEB, Kenya Institute of Supplies Management (KISM), and Kenya Institute of Supplies Examination Board (KISEB), signalling a collaborative effort to empower individuals with diverse career opportunities and professional certifications.

Attendees comprising students, faculty members, and professionals, eagerly engaged with representatives from these organizations, exploring diverse career pathways and certification programs in fields such as human resource management, accountancy, procurement, and supply chain management. Some of the distinguished speakers gracing the occasion, included CS William Kiema, Council Member at the Institute of Certified Secretaries of Kenya; Dr. Fred Ongia, PhD, CP3P, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Institute of Supplies Examination Board (KISEB); Dr. Leonard Kiragu PhD AMIHRM, Principal Examinations Board Administration Officer at the Human Resource Management Professionals and Examinations Board (HRMPEB); and FCPA Isaac M Njuguna. Through interactive sessions, workshops and career counselling, participants gained valuable insights into emerging industry trends, best practices and the importance of continuous learning for career advancement. The event underscored Chuka University's commitment to fostering partnerships that empower students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's competitive job market. The event not only provided a platform for networking and knowledge exchange but also highlighted the pivotal role of educational institutions in nurturing a skilled workforce capable of meeting the evolving demands of the global economy.

## Partnership with ICFL to Advance Sustainable Agriculture



L-R: Mr. Geoffrey Kosgei, Prof. Shelmith Munyi, Ms. Ann Karimi (ICFL), Mr. Obadiah Justo (ICFL), Mr. Edwin Gitari (ICFL), Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Prof. Eunice Githae (Ag. DVC AFP&D), Dr. Rose Kahindi, Dr. Grace Abucheli, and Dr. Martin Njogu.

On March 25, 2024, Chuka University and Ideal Concept Farmers Limited (ICFL) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), aimed at advancing sustainable agricultural practices. The MOU signifies a commitment to collaborative efforts between academia and industry to promote initiatives that enhance profitability and uplift rural livelihoods in Kenya. Key aspects of the MOU encompass opportunities for Chuka University students to engage in field attachment and internships, facilitated access to the ICFL farm for Chuka University faculty field visits, and collaborative research endeavors targeting funding for agricultural advancement. These initiatives underscore a mutual commitment to fostering innovation and addressing pertinent challenges within the agricultural sector, highlighting the pivotal role of collaborative efforts between academia and industry in driving sustainable development.

## KALRO Explores Collaboration on Agricultural Research

Delegates from the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KARLO) embarked on a significant partnership journey on April 9, 2024, as they paid a courtesy call to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei. Led by Dr. Duba Golicha, the delegation engaged in collaborative discussions with university management and the Faculty of Agriculture, focusing on agricultural and livestock research initiatives. The meeting served as a platform to explore avenues for joint research endeavors aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and livestock development in Kenya. One key aspect of the visit was the assessment of the university's soil laboratories to gauge their capacity. This assessment aligns with the national soil fertility mapping initiative, a vital component of the national value

chain development program (NAVCDP) spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD). Dr. Golicha underscored the importance of partnerships between research institutions and academic entities in driving agricultural innovation and sustainable development. He stated that collaborative efforts such as these are instrumental in advancing our understanding of agricultural practices and promoting food security. Prof. Mutembei expressed Chuka University's commitment to supporting national agricultural initiatives and welcomed the opportunity for collaboration with KARLO by saying: "Our university is dedicated to contributing to research and development efforts that positively impact our nation's agricultural sector." The collaborative talks between KARLO and Chuka University mark a significant step towards leveraging research expertise to address agricultural challenges and drive socio-economic growth in Kenya.

## Strengthening Academic Ties with the University of Texas, Galveston



The VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei presents Chuka University branded memorabilia to delegates from the University of Texas, Galveston.

In a move to strengthen ties and foster collaboration, delegates from the University of Texas, Galveston, paid a courtesy call to the University Management. Accompanied by faculty members from the faculties of law and humanities and social sciences, the delegation, engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing training, research, and extension programs between the two academic institutions. The focus was on exploring opportunities to expand on the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and further leveraging this partnership for the benefit of students, faculty, and the broader academic community. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei in his remarks, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and fieldwork in advancing academic excellence. He also encouraged the possibility of hosting joint conferences as a way to foster knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary research.

## NEMA, Kenya Forest Service, and Chuka University Drive Conservation



**Prof. Charles Ngome receives Chuka University Branded Memorabilia from the VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei.**

On May 2, 2024, Prof. Charles Ngome, a board member from the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) alongside a three-member delegation, paid a courtesy visit to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei. The objective of the visit was to discuss the University's role in national environmental conservation efforts. Professor Ngome commended Chuka University for its proactive stance in planting over one million trees across various public sites including schools, hospitals, forests, riparian lands, and wetlands. In a significant development, NEMA, in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Chuka University, announced plans to form a collaborative partnership aimed at conserving the Gataungwa wetland and one river. This forthcoming memorandum of understanding aligns with the government's initiative to augment tree cover and safeguard the environment. Vice-Chancellor Mutembei reaffirmed the University's commitment to meet its performance contract targets through active participation in sustainable environmental conservation initiatives, such as tree planting.

## Chuka and Kibari Bee Farm Sign Memorandum to Advance Research and Innovation

In a major move to bolster agricultural practices and research, Chuka University and Kibari Bee Farm entered into a strategic partnership, marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 13, 2024. The launch event, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, saw a delegation from Chuka University visit Kibari Farm to inaugurate this promising collaboration. The MOU delineates several crucial areas of cooperation aimed at driving innovation and growth

within the agricultural sector. Kibari Bee Farm will function as an off-campus station and model farm for Chuka University, offering practical learning, research, and training opportunities in apiculture and aquaculture to students and faculty members. The university will also leverage its experimental farm in Kairini for honey production and other hive products, integrating academic research with practical applications to enhance apiculture practices. A key focus of the partnership will be on scientific, technological, and economic research, targeting improvements in processing, quality, grading, and packaging techniques for bee and fish products. Both institutions will collaborate on advancing research in fish farming and beekeeping, conducting joint publications to disseminate their findings. The MOU also aims to support fish farming, feed production, and the supply of fish produce, alongside boosting honey and other bee product outputs on the farm. Extension support services will be developed to aid small-scale fish farmers and beekeepers in Meru County and the Mt. Kenya Eastern region. To sustain these initiatives, Chuka University and Kibari Bee Farm will jointly prepare proposals to secure government funding and grants. These resources will be channelled towards promoting fish farming, producing and supplying fish products and feeds, and advancing beekeeping. The collaboration will also involve organizing workshops, seminars, and training programs to share knowledge and best practices with the community. Detailed action plans will be crafted for each activity, outlining objectives, methodologies, timelines, costs, and benefit-sharing rules. The partnership may also include joint efforts with other organizations or individuals to achieve the outlined objectives. During the launch, Prof. Mutembei expressed his enthusiasm for working with Kibari Bee Farm and KIMFRI, highlighting the practical learning and research opportunities this partnership would provide for students. Mr. Titus Mwirigi, Director of Kibari Farm, emphasized the potential for value addition and job creation through this collaboration. Dr. Kevin Obiero from KIMFRI noted the MOU's potential to train postgraduate students, impact the youth, pioneer research, and equip graduates with essential skills. The event featured a comprehensive tour of Kibari Farm's facilities, showcasing the collaborative spirit and shared vision driving this initiative, which is set to create key opportunities for education, innovation, and community development.



**The VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei and Mr. Titus Mwirigi, CEO of Kibari Bee Farm Ltd sign MOU witnessed by Prof. Eunice Githae, Ag. DVC AFP&D (left) and Dr. Wycliffe Otiso (standing)..**

# Trainings

## Dons Hone Proposal Writing Skills

Dons recently underwent training to enhance their skills in writing successful proposals for external funding. The workshop focused on essential components of successful research proposals, including effective budgeting, creating realistic work plans, meeting timelines, and understanding the significance of networking for research funding. Participants also delved into forming research consortia, managing work packages, and handling patents and intellectual property rights. Interactive Q&A sessions fostered rich exchanges between facilitators and participants, enhancing the workshop's practical relevance. The seminar was facilitated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Research and Student Affairs (DVC ARSA) Prof. Gilbert Nduru, Prof. Stephen Wambugu, Prof. Moses Muraya, Prof. Joseph Kavulya, and Prof. Joel Gichumbi.



Prof. Gilbert Nduru makes a presentation at the workshop



A section of Dons following the proceedings during the workshop

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei opened the workshop. The VC underscored the role of research in enhancing the quality of teaching, strengthening the university's financial base, and supporting infrastructure development. He encouraged faculty to prioritize research as a vehicle for both academic enrichment and institutional growth. In a subsequent workshop—building on the success of the initial session—faculty further honed skills in scholarly visibility, optimizing web rankings, and using tools like Google

Scholar to elevate research impact. DVC ARSA Prof. Nduru highlighted the strategic value of research for academic excellence and revenue generation.

## Chuka Advances Competency-Based Education to Prepare Future-Ready Graduates



Participants pose for a group photo

The Faculty of Education and Resources Development recently conducted two pivotal seminars on Competency-Based Education (CBE), aimed at equipping faculty with advanced instructional strategies that meet modern educational standards. Spearheaded by Prof. Eric Mwenda, the sessions, held on March 21, 2024, and May 8–9, 2024, focused on empowering educators to foster critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and curriculum alignment with real-world applications. The seminars delivered a robust framework for curriculum realignment to meet CBE standards and provided faculty members with interactive workshops, updated assessment strategies, and curriculum design principles tailored to CBE requirements. Faculty from the university's nine faculties and schools engaged in discussions on innovative teaching methods and strategies for measuring competency acquisition, with an eye toward preparing for the university's first CBE cohort, expected to enroll in 2029. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei commended the initiative, emphasizing Chuka University's dedication to academic excellence and industry-aligned curricula. "Our commitment to student-centered, competency-driven education is pivotal in preparing Chuka graduates for success in the evolving global workforce," he stated. Reflecting on the success of the sessions, Prof. Mwenda noted the enthusiasm among faculty to integrate CBE principles across disciplines. "Our objectives for CBE training were achieved, and the dedication shown by our faculty underscores our readiness to adopt forward-thinking educational paradigms," he remarked.

## Promoting Inclusive Procurement



**Dr. Haron Moti makes a presentation during the training**

In alignment with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act of 2015, Chuka University's Procurement Office conducted a workshop focused on government procurement opportunities for youth, women, and persons with disabilities. The annual event was led by Mr. Haron Moti from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), who provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the procurement legal framework, tendering process, and the preference and reservation scheme. Mr. Moti highlighted the government's directive reserving 30% of all public procurement contracts for youth, women, and persons with disabilities, underscoring the university's commitment to inclusivity and economic empowerment. "This workshop is an essential step toward ensuring compliance with national directives and opening doors for underrepresented groups," he stated. The training offered practical guidance on navigating the procurement process, enabling participants to better access tender opportunities at the university and other government entities. By fostering understanding and engagement with government procurement, Chuka University aims to empower marginalized groups and promote equitable economic participation. This annual workshop reflects Chuka University's dedication to supporting youth, women, and persons with disabilities, aligning with its broader mission to promote diversity and inclusivity within the community.

## Staff Gain Insight into Intellectual Property Management and Innovation

Chuka University recently hosted an intensive training on intellectual property (IP) management and protection, gathering faculty and professionals eager to deepen their understanding of IP intricacies. The day-long seminar, held on October 30, 2024, featured sessions led by expert facilitators covering key aspects of IP, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and commercialization strategies. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei opened the event,

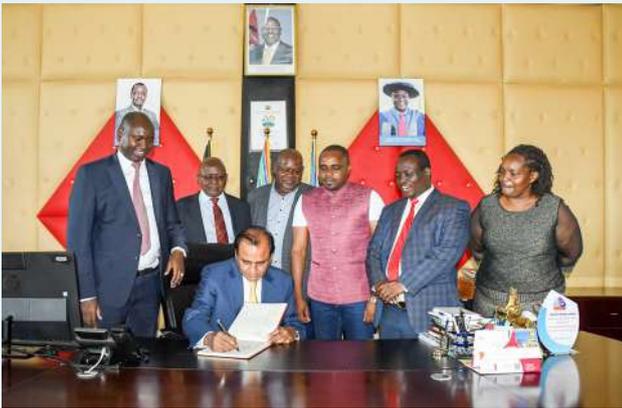
emphasizing IP's strategic role in positioning universities at the forefront of innovation. He encouraged staff to create patentable innovations and to foster a culture of innovation among students, affirming the university's commitment to support and fund patenting efforts. "Intellectual property is a strategic asset for universities, and we must leverage it to drive impactful research and innovation," he stated. Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA), Prof. Gilbert Nduru, underscored IP's significance in academia, while Prof. Eunice Githae, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Administration, Finance, and Planning Development (AFPD), highlighted its financial implications for the institution and innovators. Throughout the day, staff engaged in practical sessions, exploring topics like IP licensing agreements, patent search techniques, and technology commercialization strategies. This comprehensive training equipped attendees with essential knowledge to protect and leverage intellectual assets, aligning with Chuka University's mission to champion academic and entrepreneurial excellence.

## Drivers and Staff Trained on Road Safety

The Chuka University road safety mainstreaming committee conducted a road safety sensitization seminar targeting university drivers and staff. The event focused on enhancing awareness of safe driving practices and was facilitated by officials from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), Embu, and local traffic officers. Ms. Monicah Mbugua, Head of the Department of Transport, highlighted the importance of road safety and strict adherence to traffic regulations. She emphasized that university drivers and staff play a vital role in modeling safe driving within the community. Ms. Mbugua urged participants to apply the lessons from the seminar in their daily routines to improve overall road safety.



# News Roundup



**Dr. Narendra Rava Guru signs the visitors book.. Looking on L-R: Amb.. Prof. Julius Bitok, Rof. Isaac Kibwage, Hon. George Murugara, Hon. Patrick Munene, Prof. Henry Mutembei and Hon. Anita Mbae**

## Narendra Raval Inspires Students in Public Lecture

Renowned industrialist and philanthropist Narendra Raval, popularly known as “Guru,” inspired Chuka University students in a public lecture held on 8th November 2024, focusing on entrepreneurship, wealth creation, and personal purpose. The highly anticipated event attracted hundreds of students, faculty, and esteemed guests, who gathered to hear Raval’s insights on transforming challenges into opportunities. In his address, Raval, chairman of Devki Group of Companies, shared lessons from his journey, highlighting the importance of resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering entrepreneurial spirit. “Success demands courage, persistence, and the ability to see failure as a stepping stone,” he stated. He also emphasized that entrepreneurship should go beyond profit-making and focus on creating long-lasting societal value. Among the distinguished guests present were Amb. Prof. Julius Bitok, Principal Secretary for Immigration and Citizen Services; Prof. Isaac Kibwage, Vice-Chancellor of Egerton University; Hon. Patrick Munene, MP for Chuka Igambang’ombe Constituency; Hon. George Murugara, MP for Tharaka Constituency and Hon. Anita Mbae, MCA Mariani ward. Throughout the lecture, Raval encouraged students to start their entrepreneurial journeys with the resources available to them, rather than waiting for ideal conditions. “You don’t need a perfect plan to start,” he advised. “Success is built through consistent effort and the willingness to learn and adapt.” The Q&A session allowed students to delve deeper into Raval’s experiences, with questions on balancing family life and business, staying motivated in tough times, and handling failure. Raval shared candid stories, including challenges he faced while expanding his business internationally, stressing the importance of thorough preparation and maintaining a purpose-driven focus. Student Mary Njoki, a third-year business student, described the lecture as “one of the most inspiring talks I’ve ever attended,” adding that

it gave her a new perspective on entrepreneurship and life goals. The event also spotlighted Pamela Apuko, an emerging innovator who developed affordable, eco-friendly sanitary pads using banana fiber, an agricultural by-product widely available in Kenya. Apuko’s biodegradable sanitary pads address menstrual health needs while reducing environmental impact. Inspired by her ingenuity, PS Prof. Amb. Julius Bitok and Dr. Raval personally contributed Kshs. 600,000 and Kshs. 1,200,000 respectively to help Apuko upscale her production and reach wider markets. “Apuko’s innovation exemplifies how young entrepreneurs can tackle critical societal issues,” Raval remarked. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei expressed gratitude to Raval for his impactful insights, adding that Raval’s journey exemplifies the values of integrity, determination, and community-focused growth that Chuka University strives to instill. The lecture was organized by the Dr. Christopher Kiboro, the Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Raval concluded by reminding students that Kenya’s future lies in the hands of visionary leaders who combine entrepreneurial spirit with a purpose to serve society.



## Don Shines as Kenya’s Second-Best Nursing Educator

During the prestigious 66th National Nurses Association of Kenya (NNAK) International Scientific Annual Conference held at Kenyatta University from October 23 to 25, 2024, Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga received recognition as the second-best Nursing and Midwifery Educator in the country. This honor was part of the venerated Nurse and Midwife of the Year awards, which celebrate excellence in nursing education, clinical practice, and leadership. The conference attracted nursing professionals, educators, and policymakers from across the nation and beyond, all coming together to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the nursing field. Prof. Gitonga’s recognition underscores her unwavering dedication to advancing nursing education and her profound impact on shaping the future of healthcare professionals. With decades of experience and a strong commitment to public health, she has

been a driving force behind innovative teaching methods and mentorship programs within the School of Nursing and Public Health. Her relentless efforts to enhance healthcare outcomes and promote quality education in nursing and midwifery have earned her widespread respect within the healthcare community.



**Prof. Lucy Gitonga (center) receives a certificate as the best nursing educator**

This accolade reaffirms Prof. Gitonga’s status as a leading figure in the nursing profession and a passionate advocate for healthcare reform and innovation. The Nurse and Midwife of the Year awards celebrate individuals who excel in their professional roles, embodying the values of dedication, service, and compassion in the healthcare sector. Prof. Gitonga’s achievement is a testament to her steadfast commitment to elevating the standards of nursing and public health education in Kenya.

### **Council and Management Enhance Governance and Leadership Skills**



**Council and Management follow proceedings during the training**

The University Council and Management recently underwent an intensive governance training workshop at the Morendat Institute of Oil and Gas in Naivasha, held from June 25th to June 29th, 2024. This workshop was designed to strengthen council members’ and university management governance and operational skills in critical areas, including corporate governance, public procurement, financial reporting, and strategic leadership. The program aims to equip members with practical tools and insights to enhance institutional accountability and transparency. The

sessions kicked off with Mr. Nicholas Awiti’s presentation on “Principles and Practices of Corporate Governance under Mwongozo.” Awiti emphasized that the Mwongozo Code is an essential guide for nurturing accountability and ethical behavior within Kenya’s public sector. Mr. Haron Moti from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) followed with a presentation on “Public Procurement and Supply Chain Management,” highlighting the crucial role of procurement in promoting efficiency and transparency in governmental operations. Moti underscored the PPRA’s regulatory and oversight role in enforcing policy and resolving disputes. Financial governance took center stage as Mr. Andrew Rori from the Kenya School of Government covered “Financial Reporting Requirements” and “Public Finance Management.” He stressed the importance of accurate reporting and audit practices for organizational accountability. Dr. Ndung’u rounded off the workshop by exploring “Strategic Thinking and Transformative Leadership,” equipping council members with adaptive leadership techniques to foster a transparent and accountable culture. The Chairman of Council Prof. Serem acknowledged that the training was a significant stride towards enhancing the University’s governance standards and empowering its leadership.



**Council and Management follow proceedings pose for a photo**

### **Staff and Students Champion Inclusivity with Visit to Ndagani Primary School**

In a heartwarming display of solidarity, Chuka University’s fourth-year Bachelor of Education students in Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), alongside differently-abled staff members, visited Ndagani Primary School for Children with Special Needs. The visit, was an opportunity to extend support and foster inclusivity for children facing various disabilities.



**Led by faculty members, the group engaged with the learn-**

ers in interactive sessions, offering encouragement and building their confidence. The students and staff emphasized the abilities of the children rather than focusing on their disabilities, promoting self-esteem and a sense of belonging. The visit also served as a valuable exchange of ideas between the Chuka University students and Ndagani's educators. Discussions revolved around innovative teaching methodologies and adaptive learning strategies designed to create an inclusive environment for all learners. The staff and students donated food stuff to the learners.

### Farmers Trained on Dairy Goat Management



Farmers pose a photo holding certificates presented to them after the training

The Department of Animal Sciences, in collaboration with the Tharaka Nithi County Livestock Production Office, conducted a comprehensive training session on dairy goat management for farmers from neighboring communities. The session aimed to equip farmers with essential knowledge and practical skills to enhance their dairy goat farming practices. The training covered key topics including dairy goat feeding and daily management, breed selection and breeding strategies, health care, food safety, and laboratory analysis of dairy samples. Expert faculty members from the Department of Animal Sciences led interactive discussions and practical demonstrations, ensuring participants gained hands-on experience. The session ended on a positive note, with participants being awarded with certificates of participation. The training emphasized Chuka University's commitment to fostering community partnerships and promoting agricultural development in the region.

### Chuka University Hosts Kenya Veterinary Association's CPD Forum



The Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) held a two-day Continuous Professional Development (CPD) forum at Chuka University from July 18th to 19th, 2024. The forum aimed to keep veterinarians in the Upper Eastern region updated on the latest developments and innovations in their field, ensuring they meet the minimum CPD points required for professional compliance. The event featured a diverse range of presenters from dairy cooperatives, the civil service, pharmaceuticals, research institutions, and academia. Topics covered included "Impacts of Mycosis on Dairy Cattle Health: Challenges for Food Safety and Dairy Production in Kenya," "Overview of Hardware Disease in Dairy Cattle," and "Psycho-Social Behavior in Veterinary Practice." In his opening remarks, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei emphasized the forum's value as a platform for professional mentorship and urged veterinarians to collaborate and support each other to foster sustainable growth in the field. Prof. Mutembei also delivered a presentation on "Bovine Reproduction Health Management" during the event, further contributing to the ongoing learning experience. The forum attracted a wide audience of veterinary surgeons and paraprofessionals, solidifying its role as a key opportunity for continuous learning and the advancement of animal healthcare standards.

### Chuka University Hosts Launch of Tharaka Nithi County's Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP-IV)

Chuka University recently hosted the official launch of the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP-IV) framework, covering the years 2023-2027. The event, which also included a town hall public participation forum, was presided over by Deputy President, H.E. Hon. Prof. Kithure Kindiki. The MTP-IV framework, the final five-year strategy under Kenya's Vision 2030, aims to guide the nation's development. During the event, the focus was on soliciting input from both leaders and the public to ensure the framework meets the needs of all stakeholders. In his address, Deputy President Kindiki emphasized the importance of public participation in shaping national policies. He also underscored the pivotal role universities, including Chuka University, play in the success of the MTP-IV framework. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei reiterated the university's commitment to supporting national development through research, innovation, and education.



Dignitaries display the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP-IV) during the launch.

## Chuka Hosts Nairobi Summer School On Climate Justice



Nairobi Summer School Cohort IV pose for a photo

The fourth Nairobi Summer School on Climate Justice (#NSSCJ4) kicked off, focusing on training and empowering global youth advocates for climate justice. Under the theme “Igniting Youth Power for Enhanced Global Solidarity on Climate Justice,” the event attracted high-level dignitaries, government officials, diplomats, and hundreds of youths from 87 countries spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, and America. The symposium aimed to empower the next generation of climate advocates. The opening ceremony featured notables including Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary of Kenya’s State Department for Higher Education and Research, and Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, Chairperson of the EALA Sub-Committee for Environment and Climate Change. Chuka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei highlighted the event’s significance in rallying youth towards addressing pressing climate issues. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, CEO of Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) emphasized the pivotal role of youth in advocating for climate justice, underscoring their readiness and enthusiasm. The PS. Dr. Inyangala praised the initiative for fostering climate education and empowerment among young leaders, describing the event as a catalyst for sustainable development and resilience. Organized by the Pan African Climate

Justice Alliance (PACJA), the summer school provided a platform for participants to engage with experts, policymakers and peers. Through a series of discussions and collaborative activities, the program fostered a network of informed youth leaders ready to address global climate challenges. Dr. Mithika Mwenda, the Executive Director of PACJA, also addressed the participants, stressing their role as future leaders. He urged them to remain active in advocacy, influence policy and push for climate justice: “Build networks, create movements, and push for policies that prioritize climate justice. You have the power to make a difference”. On the other hand. Ambassador Mohamed Ali, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators, provided insights into the strategic importance of youth in international climate negotiations, encouraging participants to engage actively and ensure African priorities are addressed: “Your voices are crucial in the negotiation rooms,” he said. “You bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions. Engage actively and ensure that the priorities of African youth are represented and addressed.” Armed with new skills and networks, the participants are now poised to advance the climate justice agenda and advocate for a sustainable future.

## Varsity Secures KES 3 Million Grant for Groundbreaking AI-Driven Breast Cancer Research

Chuka University researchers have won a prestigious KES 3 million grant for an innovative project aimed at revolutionizing breast cancer detection through artificial intelligence. The National Research Fund (NRF) and the National Cancer Institute of Kenya (NCI\_Kenya) jointly awarded this grant to five researchers at Chuka University. The research team is led by Dr. Edna Chebet Too from the Department of Computer Science, who serves as the Principal Investigator. She is joined by Dr. David Gitonga Mwathi, also from Computer Science, Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga from Nursing and Public Health, Dr. Milpah Kwamboka from Chuka General Hospital, and Julius Muchoki from Chuka University's Medical Department. Together, they will work on a project titled "Automated Breast Cancer Screening and Detection Leveraging Modified-Unet Convolutional Neural Networks and Capsule Neural Networks with X-ray Images." This cutting-edge project seeks to develop an AI-powered system designed to improve breast cancer screening accuracy using mammogram X-ray images. By employing Modified-UNet and Capsule Neural Networks, the system aims to enhance the precision of image classification, particularly for early-stage detection. The technology is intended for lower-level healthcare facilities, allowing medical personnel to efficiently conduct screenings and detect cancer in its early stages, thus improving patient outcomes and expanding access to essential diagnostic services. The researchers believe that this AI-driven approach could lead to more timely interventions and better survival rates, as the system will streamline early diagnosis and make advanced diagnostic tools accessible in underserved regions.

## Parliamentary Education Committee Lauds University's Progress on Key Projects



The Parliamentary Committee tour the University

The Parliamentary Departmental Committee on Education visited Chuka University to evaluate the progress of ongoing capital projects and review other critical aspects of university operations. Led by Committee Chair Hon. Ju-

lius K. Melly, CBSMP, the five-member delegation focused on assessing university infrastructure, financial management, and the status of the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget alongside its procurement plan. During the visit, Hon. Melly praised Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei and the university's management team for their dedication to fulfilling statutory financial obligations, exercising prudent resource management, and successfully implementing the new funding model. He noted that Chuka University serves as a model of fiscal responsibility and commitment to educational excellence. This oversight visit highlighted the Committee's support for educational institutions striving to maintain accountability and enhance their facilities, reinforcing the university's role in advancing Kenya's higher education landscape.

## Varsity Audited to Enhance Quality

Chuka University underwent an audit inspection by officials from the Commission for University Education (CUE) to evaluate the quality of its programs and other university processes. The inspection, which took place from April 22 to April 25, 2024, was chaired by Prof. Ratemo Michieka and who led a delegation of eleven-members, drawn from CUE and university Quality Assurance officers. This meticulous evaluation, conducted every five years, assesses the university's adherence to various regulatory frameworks, including the Universities Act 2012, revised University Regulations 2023, and CUE Regulations and Standards for University Education. The audit aimed to ensure that the operations of Chuka University align with CUE guidelines, technological advancements and statutory requirements. The four-day site inspection covered a wide range of aspects, including resources, institutional governance and management, curriculum development, library services, financial management, physical infrastructure, and student and human resources. The CUE team based its assessment on evidence provided by the university across these parameters. Heads of various department at Chuka University engaged in the audit exercise proactive by availing the evidences required, which underscores the university's dedication to maintaining excellence in education and administration. This commitment to continuous improvement and accountability highlights the collaborative efforts between university leadership and regulatory bodies to uphold the highest standards of quality and integrity. The audit concluded positively, with the auditors praising Chuka University's transparency and adherence to high standards. Prof. Michieka commended the university for its well-established systems and processes for delivering quality services. The delegation also noted the university's conducive learning environment and robust student welfare system, affirming that Chuka University is dedicated to providing a supportive educational experience.



Mr. Evans Muchanga, Chairperson CUSA, gives his report during the audit

### Varsity Champions Youth Sexual Health

On May 2, 2024, a seminar titled “Breaking Barriers, Charting the Course: University Leadership as Advocates for Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (AYSRH) and Universities’ Role in Addressing Related Challenges” brought together university leaders, scholars, and experts to tackle pressing issues surrounding youth sexual and reproductive health. The seminar focused on the vital role universities play in advocating for comprehensive sexual health education and destigmatizing discussions on sexual well-being among young people. Participants explored key strategies for empowering students, including integrating AYSRH advocacy into university policies and programs, creating safe spaces for open dialogue, and collaborating with stakeholders to foster sustainable interventions. University representatives emphasized that higher education institutions must lead in promoting sexual and reproductive health education, equipping young people with the knowledge and resources to make informed choices. The seminar underscored the urgency for universities to address these challenges proactively, paving the way for a healthier, better-informed generation.

### Chuka Remains the Premier Destination for Benchmarking Best Practices

On May 9, 2024, a delegation from the University of Kabianga, led by Dr. Joseph Rono and Dr. Rueben Lang’at, embarked on a collaborative journey with Chuka University aimed at benchmarking best practices in various academic and administrative domains. The focus of this benchmarking initiative centered around enhancing part-time program structures, refining examination procedures and optimizing campus administration processes. Dr. Samuel Chege, the Register Academic Affairs spearheaded discussions on these critical areas, seeking to leverage shared experiences and insights for mutual improvement. The benchmarking discussions delved into several critical areas, with participants sharing insights, challenges and innovative approaches. Part-time program structures emerged as a focal point, with both institutions exploring ways to enhance flexibility and accessibility for students balancing academic pursuits with other commitments. Examination procedures also came under scrutiny, with a

shared commitment to ensuring integrity, fairness and efficiency in assessment processes. Strategies for leveraging technology to improve examination security and streamline grading mechanisms were among the issues discussed. Dr. Rono, representing the University of Kabianga, expressed enthusiasm about the collaborative endeavor, stating, “By benchmarking with Chuka University, we aim to leverage collective wisdom and experiences to elevate our educational offerings and operational efficiency.” The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei emphasized the value of collaborative benchmarking in driving continuous improvement: “When other Universities benchmark best practices with us, we can identify areas for enhancement and innovation, ultimately benefiting our students and stakeholders at large,” he remarked. As the benchmarking session concluded, both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the insights gained from the collaborative endeavor. They expressed optimism about the positive impact on their respective academic communities and pledged to continue fostering partnerships for mutual growth and development.



L-R: Prof. Gilbert Nduru (Ag. DVC ARSA), Dr. Rueben Lang’at (University of Kabianga), Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Dr. Joseph Rono (University of Kabianga), and Dr. Samuel Chege (Registrar AA).

### University’s Multi-Billion Project: A Benchmark for Research and Innovation in Kenya



The Benchmarking team pose for a photo in front of the Science Research Park during the tour.

The multi-billion science park project at Chuka University is envisaged to significantly boost research and innovation

in Kenya, setting a new benchmark for other educational institutions planning to establish technology parks. Recognizing this, a delegation from Kenyatta University has embarked on a collaborative journey with Chuka University to benchmark the conception and progress of the science park. Currently under construction, the park will be equipped for 6 billion Kshs, with 25% of the work completed. This ambitious project aims to propel Chuka University into the commercialization of research and to foster an entrepreneurial culture within Kenyan universities. Aligned with the Government's plan to support start-ups and business ideas from Kenyan youth, the park will encourage job creation and once complete, it will serve as a research innovation and incubation hub for researchers globally.

### EMPOWERING AND GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

In a concerted effort to empower and guide the next generation of leaders, the Chuka University Marketing Team has been actively engaging with students in various educational institutions and career expos, fostering dialogue and providing invaluable insights into higher education and career pathways. The journey commenced with the Career Open Day at the Catholic Archdiocese of Nyeri, where the marketing team welcomed Form Four leavers and shared comprehensive information about the diverse academic programs and opportunities available at Chuka University. Through interactive sessions and one-on-one consultations, aspiring scholars were equipped with the knowledge and resources to make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures. Continuing their mission to inspire and empower, the team participated in the Powering Dreams initiative at the Career Open Day hosted by Chuka Boys' High School. Through motivational talks, career guidance sessions and engaging activities, students were encouraged to dream big and pursue their passions with determination and resilience.



The outreach efforts extended to the Mt. Kenya National Form Four Career Leavers Day at Chania Boys High School, where the marketing team facilitated workshops on personal branding, resume writing and interview skills. By imparting practical knowledge and insights into the job market, students were better prepared to navigate the transition from school to higher education or employment. Further amplifying their presence, the Chuka University Marketing Team showcased the university's offerings at the High Education Exhibition and Career Fair held at KICC. With an impressive display and informative materials, attendees had the opportunity to learn about Chuka University's academic programs, facilities, and extracurricular activities, reinforcing the institution's commitment to excellence and innovation. The Chuka University Marketing Team remains dedicated to fostering meaningful connections, inspiring academic excellence and empowering students to realize their full potential. By nurturing a culture of learning, exploration and personal growth, Chuka University continues to shape the future leaders of tomorrow, driving positive change and innovation in society.

### Prof. Gitonga Honored with the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW)



Prof. Lucy Gitonga, Ph.D., OGW

In recognition of her distinguished and outstanding services to the nation, Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga, the Dean School of Nursing and Public Health was honored with the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) by the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency, Hon. Dr. William Ruto on the 60<sup>th</sup> Jamhuri Day held on December 12, 2023. The Nursing fraternity nominated her for this prestigious honor, recognizing her as the first full Professor of Midwifery and Nursing Education in Kenya. The Order of the Grand Warrior (O.G.W) is an award presented to individuals in recognition of an outstanding service rendered to the country in different responsibilities and capacities. More importantly, it is an award presented to those who put their lives at risk to save their fellow countrymen. The recipients

of the O.G.W. are those who leave a lasting image on their fellow countrymen by putting their country first before their personal feelings and interests. Congratulations Prof. Lucy, your unwavering commitment shines through this well-deserved recognition!

### Chuka University Triumphs in ASK Shows



Chuka University made a resounding mark at the Embu and Meru Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Shows, by clinching three prestigious awards, thus reaffirming its commitment to innovation, research, and excellence in education. Amidst a vibrant display of agricultural prowess and technological innovation, Chuka University's participation stood out, earning recognition across multiple categories. Chuka university got the coveted "Best University Stand" award, acknowledging the University's attention to detail and captivating presentation. The university's stall served as a hub of knowledge and innovation, showcasing various academic programs, research endeavors and community engagement initiatives. Adding to its accolades, Chuka University secured the title for the "Best Stand That Inter-

prets the Show's Theme." Through creative and insightful interpretation, the university's display resonated with the overarching theme of the ASK Show, reflecting its commitment to addressing contemporary challenges and driving sustainable development within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, Chuka University was recognized with the "2nd Best Stand in Research and Development" award.



James Wainaina takes high school students through radio related courses at the Meru ASK show



A display of products exhibited at the Embu Show

### Transforming Menstrual Health with Sustainable Solutions

Chuka University student Pamela Triza Apuko is breaking barriers in menstrual health with her innovative creation of biodegradable sanitary pads made from banana fiber. Her ground-breaking invention, showcased at recent events, has garnered significant attention for its dual potential to provide affordable, safe sanitary products for women while addressing the environmental impact of traditional non-biodegradable pads. Utilizing banana fiber, an agricultural by-product abundant in Kenya, Apuko's sanitary pads are entirely organic and decompose rapidly, offering a sustainable solution to menstrual health challenges. "This is just the beginning," says Apuko. "I want this product to be available to girls and women everywhere, especially in marginalized communities where access to affordable menstrual products is limited." Her project, incubated at Chuka University, exemplifies the power of research to address real-world issues and has received praise from women's health advocates and environmentalists alike. As she envisions scaling up her project for commercialization, Apuko is determined to make a lasting impact on menstrual health and sustainability, proving that innovation can lead to positive change in society.



Triza Apuko showcases the finished sanitary towels

## Varsity Promotes Education and Culture at Ura Gate Cultural Festival

Chuka University took center stage at the 6th Annual Ura Gate Cultural Festival, held from September 4–7, 2024, in Tharaka Nithi County, where it celebrated local heritage while promoting academic opportunities. The festival, a vibrant showcase of the Tharaka people’s and neighboring communities’ rich cultural traditions, highlighted traditional dances, attire, indigenous foods, relics, and artifacts that underscore the region’s unique heritage. In its active participation, Chuka University provided academic guidance to festival-goers, especially young attendees, by introducing them to its diverse educational programs and encouraging them to pursue higher education. The university’s exhibit featured cultural artifacts from its Faculty of Humanities’ history collection, bridging the gap between academia and cultural preservation. Staff and faculty also engaged with the public, offering insights into scholarship opportunities, career pathways, and the importance of education as a tool for community development. Tharaka Nithi Deputy Gov-

ernor H.E Hon. Wilson Muisraeli, in a visit to the Chuka University stand, expressed gratitude to the university for its sponsorship and active participation in the festival. He praised the university’s efforts in promoting both education and cultural heritage, acknowledging the positive impact of its involvement on community engagement and development. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei emphasized the university’s commitment to supporting local culture while empowering youth through education, noting, “Chuka University is dedicated to nurturing both academic and cultural growth, recognizing that preserving heritage is as vital as promoting educational excellence.” The festival fostered a sense of unity, with attendees from all backgrounds immersing themselves in the rich tapestry of Tharaka culture. By participating in the Ura Gate Cultural Festival, Chuka University not only honored local traditions but also reinforced its role as a pillar of both educational advancement and cultural appreciation, strengthening ties with the surrounding community and encouraging youth to pursue academic and cultural aspirations.

# Doctoral Achievements in the FY 2023/2024



**Dr. John Mwaura Ileri**  
Ph.D. in Information Science



**Dr. Charity Nyaboke Onsinyo,**  
Ph.D. in Information Science



**Dr. Joseph James Kimathi**  
Ph.D. in Business and Management



**Dr. Bernard Cheruiyot Soi**  
Ph.D. in Conservation Biology



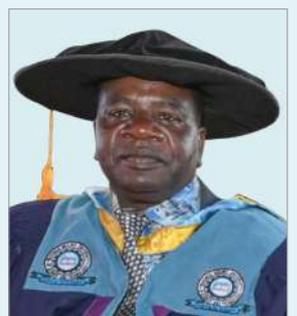
**Dr. Martin Mule Mutie,**  
Ph.D. in Physics



**Dr. Beth Wanjira Gichobi**  
Ph.D. in Medical Nursing Surgery



**Dr. Lenity Kananu Mangu**  
Ph.D. in Economics



**Dr. Job Mulati Chebai**  
Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies



**Dr. Daniel Muthee Gaichu**  
Ph.D. in Medical Bio-  
Chemistry



**Dr. Bornace Kimeli Jepkorir**  
Ph.D. in ECD and Education



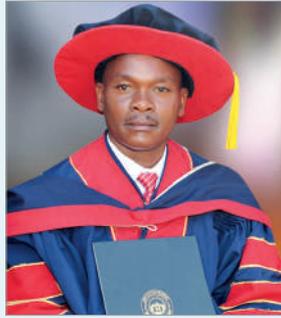
**Dr. Domisiano Koome Impwii**  
Ph.D. in Nursing sciences



**Dr. Elosy Gatakaa Njeru**  
Ph.D. in Physics



**Dr. Pauline Micheni**  
Ph.D. in Agribusiness  
Management



**Dr. Cornelius Musembi Muendo**  
Ph.D. in Epidemiology



**Dr. Joshua Ngacha Weru**  
Hospitality & Tourism  
Management



**Dr. Shadrack Kiri Nyagah**  
Ph.D. in Kiswahili Linguistics



**Dr. Christine Weveti Kinyua**  
Ph.D. in Hospitality & Tourism  
Mgt.



**Dr. David Kemboi**  
Ph.D. Veterinary Science/  
Mycotoxicology



**Dr. Johnson Kyalo Mwove**  
Ph.D. in Food Science and  
Nutrition



**Dr. Kenneth Kigundu**  
Ph.D. in Economics



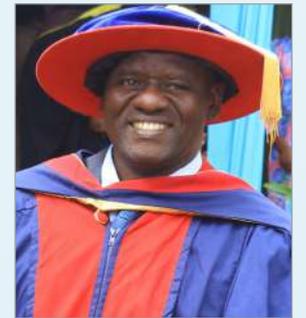
**Dr. Jane Mukuha**  
Ph.D. in Religious Studies



**Dr. Dickson Kinoti Kibetu**  
Ph.D. in Geography



**Dr. Purity Kananu Mwongera**  
Ph.D. in Religious Studies



**Dr. Nebat Galo Mugenda**  
Ph.D. in Business Administration



**Dr. Caroline Shikuku**  
Ph.D. in Sociology



# A New Era Dawns as the 17<sup>th</sup> CUSA Leaders Are Sworn In



**Evans Muchanga**  
Chairperson



**Jebet Faith Korir**  
Vice-Chairperson



**Novel Ooko Obuya**  
Director Academics



**James Kariuki**  
Secretary General



**Kirwa Enock**  
Treasurer



**Kiplangat Kevin**  
Director Student Welfare  
Academics



**Linet Koki Mang'ole**  
Organizing Secretary



CUSA leaders are sworn in



Students cast their votes

Chuka University kicked off its 2024/2025 CUSA elections on January 24, 2024, marking the 17th round of elections at the institution. With 82 candidates competing for 22 positions, the event set the stage for an exciting electoral process. The process began with faculty debates, where candidates for various representative roles outlined their platforms. This was followed by the official start of campaigns at the University Pavilion, where candidates rallied support from students. On January 30, 2024, the university held a historic election with strong voter turnout, ensuring a smooth and efficient voting process. By February 5, 2024, the excitement peaked as Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei oversaw the peaceful handover of leadership to the newly elected student representatives. In his remarks, Prof. Mutembei emphasized the importance of unity, consultative leadership, and listening to diverse voices. Evans Muchanga was elected as the new CUSA Chairperson, leading a team committed to inclusivity, unity, and effective leadership. The successful election process reflects Chuka University's vibrant democratic culture and the student body's dedication to shaping the future of the institution.

# Inter-Faith Prayer Service Promotes Unity and Inclusiveness



Students take part in the inter-faith prayers

Chuka University concluded its 2024 orientation with a meaningful inter-faith prayer service at the University Pavilion on September 8, 2024. The event brought together students, staff, and religious leaders from diverse faiths, including Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism, to foster a sense of unity and inclusivity among new students. Presided over by Assistant Dean of Students, Mr. Francis Gacheru, the service featured prayers, readings, and speeches that emphasized spiritual grounding, mutual respect, and the importance of both academic and personal growth. "At Chuka University, we value not just intellectual development but the holistic well-being of our students," Mr. Gacheru stated. The event, which included prayers for guidance and peace, offered new students an opportunity to connect with their peers across different cultural and religious backgrounds. Many students expressed gratitude for the

event, highlighting its role in promoting a sense of belonging. The inter-faith service underscores Chuka University's commitment to inclusivity, providing a supportive and respectful environment for all students.

## Chuka Takes a Bold Stand on Mental Health



VC Prof. Henry Mutembei and Ass. Dean of Students Mr. Francis Gacheru leading the walk on mental health awareness

Chuka University has been at the forefront of promoting mental health awareness, with two significant initiatives highlighting its commitment to supporting students' well-being. On March 28, 2024, the Chuka University Student Association (CUSA), in partnership with the Office of Student Welfare, organized a mental health awareness walk under the theme #NotOkay-isOkay. The walk, led by CUSA Vice-Chairperson Miss Faith Jebet, saw active participation from students, faculty, and

staff. Participants marched through the campus, carrying banners and placards that encouraged open discussions on mental health. This initiative aimed to destigmatize mental health challenges and create a supportive environment where students could seek help freely. The awareness walk was followed by a mental health, addiction, and triple threat forum on March 31, 2024. The forum provided a platform for candid discussions on the mental health issues affecting students, emphasizing the importance of breaking the silence and creating safe spaces for open dialogue. Miss Jebet highlighted the need for students to feel comfortable discussing their mental health struggles without fear of judgment, reinforcing the university's commitment to supporting students holistically. Furthering its mental health advocacy, Chuka University marked World Mental Health Week from October 7 to 12, 2024, with a week-long series of events. The theme "It's Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace" guided the activities, which included workshops on stress management, depression, anxiety, self-harm, and the dangers of substance abuse. The university also hosted a 7-kilometer awareness walk and fitness sessions, emphasizing the connection between physical health and mental well-being.

# Freshmen Welcomed in Grand Matriculation Ceremony



University Management pose for a photo with the first-year students

Chuka University launched the new academic year with an energetic matriculation ceremony on Monday, September 6, 2024, officially welcoming the incoming first-year students. Held at the University Pavilion, the event marked a significant milestone as the students embarked on their academic journeys. The first-year students had arrived on campus on September 2, 2024, and began their orientation program, which ran until September 11, 2024. The orientation provided a thorough introduction to university life, familiarizing the new cohort with key university departments, student organizations, and essential support services, including the Office of the Dean of Students and the student association leaders. Throughout the orientation, students participated in workshops focusing on personal financial management, mental health, and academic success, offering them vital tools to navigate their university experience effectively. The university's commitment to student well-being and personal growth was evident in these comprehensive sessions.

Presiding over the matriculation ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei welcomed the new students, highlighting the importance of this pivotal moment in their academic careers. He encouraged them to approach their studies with focus and determination, assuring them that Chuka University would provide steadfast support throughout their time on campus.

## Clubs and Societies

### ECOSTAT Club Hosts Inaugural Economics Debate

The ECOSTAT Club at Chuka University recently celebrated a landmark event by hosting its first-ever economics debate competition, titled "Integrating Governance, Technology, and Social Welfare for Development." This highly anticipated debate, held at the university's main campus, attracted participants from various faculties, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas on the intersection of governance, technology, and social welfare. The competition aimed to generate innovative, multidisciplinary solutions for sustainable development. Students passionately debated the role of digital governance in enhancing public service delivery, the impact of emerging technologies on economic growth, and strategies to ensure that social welfare programs meet contemporary challenges. Their discussions highlighted the potential of digital tools and collaborative governance to improve efficiency and inclusivity in economic policy. Judges praised the participants for their analytical depth and creativity, commending the competition as an excellent platform for aspiring economists and policymakers. The event underscored ECOSTAT Club's commitment to fostering academic discourse and practical solutions, positioning itself as a vital contributor to the development of future economic leaders focused on sustainable progress. Through initiatives like this debate, the ECOSTAT Club continues to cultivate critical thinking

and engagement with pressing economic issues, inspiring students to contribute to transformative change within their communities and beyond.



Prof. Henry Mutembei VC (Center) poses for a photo with the participants in the debate and ECO-STAT lecturers

### Rotaract Club Brings Hope to Isiolo Children's Home

The Rotaract Club of Chuka University, along with partner Rotaract Clubs, embarked on a heartfelt charity mission to the Child Welfare Society Children's Home in Isiolo on November 9, 2024. Led by Club President Victor Ombisi, the Patron Rotarian Gitonga Mutani and Ms. Miriam Kanini

Njagi officer in charge of clubs, Dean of students office the team brought joy, support, and essential supplies to the children, embodying Rotary International’s motto, “Service Above Self.” Joined by members from the Rotaract Clubs of Embu College, Mount Kenya - Meru, Embu, and Nanyuki, as well as representatives from Chuka University’s Dean of Students office, the volunteers were greeted by excited children who had eagerly awaited their arrival.



**Chuka University Rotarians pose donate food stuff and essential supplies**

The Rotaractors engaged in various activities, with teams dedicated to cleaning, cooking, organizing games, and babysitting, ensuring all the children felt cared for and loved. Throughout the day, they shared meals, played games, and led encouraging conversations, creating an atmosphere filled with laughter and connection. In addition to their time and energy, the clubs donated essential supplies, including sanitary products, food, clothing, sports equipment, and learning materials, furthering their impact. As the day concluded, one child expressed gratitude on behalf of the group, highlighting the positive impact of the visit. This meaningful experience underscores the potential for young people to make a lasting difference in their communities. Committed to Rotary’s seven core areas of service, the Rotaract Club of Chuka University plans to continue its dedication to charitable efforts and community support.

**CJ Emeritus David Maraga Inspires Students**



**CJ Emeritus David Maraga makes his remarks during the service**

In an impactful visit to Chuka University, former Chief Justice David Maraga joined the Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) students in worship, delivering a profound message on sexual responsibility, life choices, and steadfast Christian values. The gathering, held at the university chapel, drew a large congregation eager to hear Maraga’s insights on living a life of purpose and integrity. In his address, Maraga emphasized the importance of making informed, responsible decisions, particularly regarding sexual education and personal accountability. “Your choices today lay the foundation for your future,” he noted, urging students to maintain control over their lives with a clear sense of purpose. He encouraged them to stay firm in their faith and to consider the lasting impact of their actions, reminding them that life’s journey extends beyond worldly existence and is ultimately a preparation for eternity. Maraga’s words resonated deeply, inspiring students to uphold moral principles and remain committed to responsible Christian living. Speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nduru underscored the importance of integrity, faith, and responsibility in achieving a fulfilling life. He encouraged students to embrace Christian values as a guiding framework for making decisions and preparing diligently for their future.

**Award-Winning Club Honoured for Community Impact**



**Peace Ambassadors pose for a photo with the VC Prof. Henry Mutembei alongside DVC ARSA Prof. Gilbert Nduru, Registrar Academic Affairs Dr. Samwel Chege and Ms. Florence Muthua**

On April 19, 2024, the Peace Ambassadors Kenya Chuka Chapter received a prestigious accolade as first runners-up in a national competition among universities and TVET institutions, celebrated under the Peace Ambassadors Kenya initiative. The trophy, presented to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, acknowledged the club’s remarkable commitment to promoting peace and community development through impactful initiatives. The Peace Ambassadors Kenya Chuka Chapter has led notable outreach efforts, starting with a transformative anti-jigger campaign on February 14, 2024, in Mweru village,

Igoji Sub-County. This healthcare outreach provided essential relief to the local community, addressing urgent health issues and raising awareness. On March 30, 2024, the group extended their service to the Mufu Children's Home, offering vital charity support to improve the well-being of children in need. This national recognition reflects the Chuka Chapter's dedication to fostering peace and development, both within the university and in surrounding communities. The group's contributions underscore Chuka University's commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders who drive positive change across the country.

### Varsity Launches Maisha Youth Chapter



**Dr. Peter Mabubi cuts a ribbon during the launch**

Chuka University took a significant step toward youth empowerment with the launch of its Maisha Youth Chapter on June 5, 2024, unveiling a comprehensive program to address critical issues such as HIV/STI prevention, adolescent pregnancy, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The inauguration, attended by students, faculty, and community representatives, spotlighted these urgent challenges through national and regional insights, underscoring the university's commitment to fostering a healthier and safer campus community. The event featured a series of impactful activities, including a guided plenary discussion where participants shared personal experiences related to health and social challenges. This candid sharing session shed light on the immediate need for effective interventions and support mechanisms for young people. Attendees collaborated in proposing targeted, inter-institutional measures aimed at creating a framework for joint efforts among universities, healthcare providers, and community organizations to address youth-related health and social issues comprehensively. Dr. Peter Mabubi, the Registrar, Administration and Planning, emphasized the importance of collaboration in his remarks. "Addressing these critical issues requires a concerted effort from all sectors," he stated. "By pooling resources and expertise, we can build a robust support system for our young people and work toward a brighter, healthier future." The launch of the Maisha Youth Chapter highlights the University's dedication to student well-being and social responsibility.

Focused on tackling issues like HIV/STI prevention, reducing adolescent pregnancies, and addressing SGBV, the program aims to create a supportive and proactive environment, empowering students to make informed choices and lead healthy lives.

### Thespians Raise Snakebite Awareness



**Chuka university thespians perform a skit during the snake bite awareness day**

Chuka University Thespians delivered a powerful snakebite awareness skit during the International Snakebite Awareness Day, held at Mwenjeu Primary School in Tharaka Nithi County. Their engaging performance, addressing misconceptions and immediate responses to snakebites, received praise from local leaders, including MPs Kareke Mbiuki (Maara) and Patrick Munene (Chuka Igambang'ombe). The skit underscored the importance of educating communities in snake-prone areas about local snake species, behaviors, and habitats. Through the performance, the team highlighted the severe impacts of snakebites, including fatalities and disabilities, especially in the context of human-wildlife conflict. Speaking after the event, the students emphasized the need for informed response strategies to reduce the risk of long-term harm. Observed annually on September 19, International Snakebite Awareness Day highlights the global issue, as nearly 5.4 million people suffer snakebites each year, leading to over 80,000 deaths. This year's theme, "Disabilities from Snakebite Envenoming," spotlighted the lasting consequences of untreated or poorly managed bites.

### Chuka Hosts KUPCA Workshop



**Participants follow proceedings during the workshop**

The Kenya Universities Peer Counsellors Association (KUPCA) held a transformative three-day workshop on mental health challenges in universities, drawing participants from 17 Universities. The event addressed crucial topics affecting student well-being and equipped attendees with strategies for campus-wide mental health support. On the first day, discussions centered around cohabitation, drug-fueled instant gratification, and social media's impact on mental health. Prof. Eunice Githae, Acting DVC-AFP&D, underscored the university's commitment to supporting mental health initiatives, praising the workshop's profound impact on students and counsellors alike. The second day covered sexual addiction, self-care for mental health professionals, and the role of emotional intelligence in building healthy relationships. Attendees participated in team-building exercises, fostering collaboration and mutual support. The workshop concluded with sessions on stress management, mental health awareness campaigns, and peer support programs, with a highlight panel emphasizing the need to integrate mental health services into academic settings.

Acting DVC-ARSA, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, closed the event, encouraging ongoing collaboration among universities to sustain this momentum. Participants left empowered with practical tools and a network for implementing meaningful mental health initiatives across their campuses.



Participants in team building activities

## Safaricom Hook Empowers Youth at Chuka University

Chuka University recently hosted the inaugural Safaricom Hook which attracted over 1,500 students and 25 partner organizations. Launched on October 14, 2023, Safaricom Hook is designed to empower the youth by harnessing technology to support the aspirations of the Gen Z demographic and transform their lives. The platform centered around three key areas—technology, career, and culture—aiming to enable young people to maximize their online potential and embrace a digital lifestyle. Key features included facilitating smartphone access, offering customizable data plans through “Make Your Own Bundle,” and providing loyalty rewards. In the **Tech hook**, Safaricom focused on equipping youth with essential digital skills through initiatives such as the Digital Talent Programme and the Safaricom Engineering Community, alongside partnerships with organizations like the Power Learn Project, which promoted software development among African youth. The **Career hook** prepared young people for both conventional and unconventional career paths by collaborating with partners like Meta and Wowzi, which provided digital training for the gig economy, and Brighter Monday, which offered guidance for traditional career pursuits. In the **Culture hook**, Safaricom encouraged Gen Z to explore their passions in sports through initiatives like

Safaricom Chapa Dimba and the Safaricom Athletics series, as well as content creation via Baze, which helped creators monetize their music and video projects. Additionally, the initiative included partnerships with organizations like Artfit to mentor emerging fashion designers. To promote a savings culture, Safaricom Hook also leveraged M-PESA Go and the Mali wealth management platform.



Ms. Fawzia Ali Kimanathi, the Safaricom Chief Consumer Business Officer signs the visitors book. Looking is the VC prof. Henry Mutembei and Registrar A&P Dr. Peter Mabubi

# Chuka University Alumni Association



**Linus Ndung'u**  
CUAA Chairman

## Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this extraordinary milestone! Today marks the beginning of your journey into the corporate world, where your potential, enthusiasm, and resilience will shape your future. Stand tall, embrace this moment, and prepare to seize the endless opportunities and overcome the challenges that lie ahead. You are now part of something bigger—a proud legacy—our alumni family at Chuka University, the only prophetic university in the world. As alumni, we have walked diverse paths across the globe, impacting communities through countless CSR initiatives, and standing by each other in our pursuit of academic excellence, professional growth, and shared aspirations. Chuka University is more than just an institution; it is a vibrant community that uplifts, supports, and empowers every one of us. The education and values instilled within us here are a blessing, a foundation that we carry with pride. As you join our alumni association, remember that you are never alone. Together, we form a force united

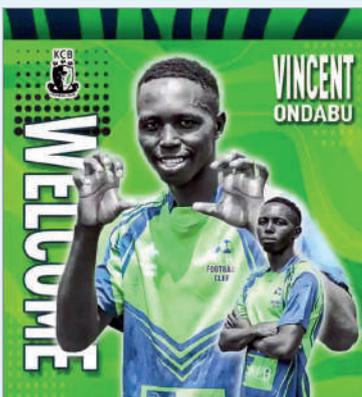
by purpose and pride. We advocate for one another, build strong networks, and position ourselves as global ambassadors for this remarkable university. The world is waiting for the impact you will make, and as a community, we will ensure that each of us succeeds—together. Welcome to the Chuka University alumni family, where unity fuels progress and together, we create a brighter, more impactful future.



L-R: Anthony Kimani, Treasurer, Livan Njeru-Secretary General, Lucy Wambui-Organising Secretary, VC Prof. Henry Mutembei, Immaculate Nafula-Female Rep., Lawrence Jabuya-Vice-Chair, Peter James Wainaina-Male Rep, Martin Mbugua-PWD Rep., and Wilfred Ruto-Chapter Rep.

## Alumni Spotlight

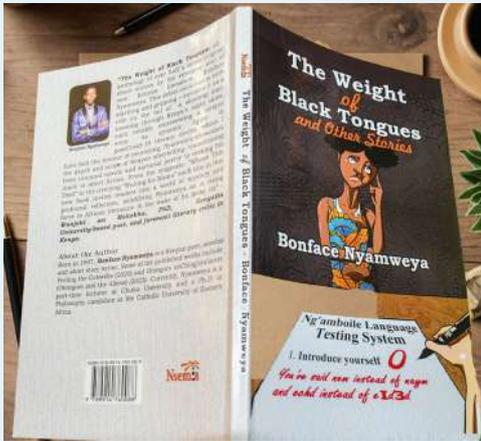
### Chuka University Alumnus Vincent Ondabu Seals Deal with KCB FC



Vincent Ondabu a Chuka University Alumnus has been picked to join the Kenya Commercial Bank Football Club. Ondabu's trajectory commenced with 3k FC in Embu, followed by stints with Rware City FC in Nyeri and Equity FC in Nairobi before finally landing a coveted spot with KCB FC. His progression from a university graduate to a professional footballer underscore not only his success but also reflects the caliber of talent emerging from Chuka University, making waves in the national football scene. Ondabu graduated in the year 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Bio-Medical Science.

# Book Review and Poetry

## Bonface Nyamweya: A Mind Shaped by Wonder and Words



Bonface Nyamweya, a part-time lecturer in the Department of Humanities, Philosophy Section, has carved a distinct path in the literary world. Bonface is a doctorate candidate in Philosophy at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, and his scholarly pursuits are as impressive as his creative endeavors. This year, he had the honor of presenting a paper on racism at the University of Oran in Algeria—a milestone in his growing academic journey. A passionate writer, Bonface has published

across multiple genres. His short story “Whose Title Died” appeared in the Pan African Writers Association’s anthology *Voices that Sing Behind the Veil* (2023). His poetry has also gained recognition, with ten of his poems featured in the CBC anthology *Voices from the Woods* (2023), edited by Dr. Christopher Okemwa. His novels, *Peeling the Cobwebs* (2020) and *Her Question Pills* (2020), explore themes of tribalism and African womanism, respectively. His latest work, *The Weight of Black Tongues* (2024), addresses racism, love, and the roles of children and women in society. Bonface has also ventured into science fiction with *Otongoro neChing'erabanto: Orogendo Gochia Ase Ching'enng'eni* (2023), one of the first sci-fi works written in an African language, Ekegusii. Bonface’s literary journey is deeply intertwined with Chuka University. The Faculty of Humanities supported the launch of *The Weight of Black Tongues* during this year’s FHSS Inaugural Research Conference, spearheaded by Dr. Christopher Kiboro. He reflects on the university’s invaluable role in his growth, stating, “The staff here are incredibly supportive, and I find great joy in teaching and mentoring my students, who I fondly call my intellectual relatives.” Despite never studying literature formally, Bonface’s writing is driven by a deep sense of wonder and an enduring curiosity about societal concerns. He describes his process as one fueled by ordinary conversations, silence, and solitude—an environment where his thoughts flourish. For Bonface, writing is not just a skill but a delicate craft of reshaping the world through words. As his journey unfolds, Bonface Nyamweya continues to develop as a pillar of intellectual and artistic brilliance at Chuka University, inspiring both his students and the broader academic community.

## Mystery of the Wishes

They thwart and say, “ipo siku”,  
Oooh poor us who’ve anchored our hope on days,  
Everyone would jolt a long prose and end with the  
same phrase,  
We’ve repeated this phrase not even thrice,  
Maybe, indeed Ipo Siku.

But no!  
When is this day which everyone speaks about?  
Perhaps this day passed long ago and we’re not  
aware,  
We could be clinging to the dead energy hoping the  
day to ripen,  
Maybe it does not even exist in the multiverse.

Every day is “Siku” for everyone at the dawn,  
But the sunset paralyses the hope because there is  
nothing to celebrate,  
We wake up every day hoping to get things work,  
We even let our fingers waggle in the mud to fix our  
struggle,  
Our fingers get hard with jiggers while perusing the  
soil in search of “Siku”.  
Wish this “Siku” had hears,  
Perhaps it could listen to our daily cry, and be the  
“Siku” we always write “Ipo”,  
Or, maybe it can tell us whether it passed so we de-  
tour our thoughts to something else,  
Well, maybe or maybe not: Ipo Siku.

**By: Kenneth Njagi.** - Author graduates today with a  
*Bachelor of Science in Community Development.*

# Staff Forge Stronger Bonds at Energizing Team Building Retreat



In line with its long-standing tradition of promoting teamwork and camaraderie, the Chuka University fraternity gathered at the scenic Maya Gardens in Sagana for the annual Welfare Team Building Day. Organized by the university's welfare team, the event brought together staff members from both administrative and academic divisions for a day of bonding, unity, and collaboration. Set against the lush surroundings of Maya Gardens, the event featured a series of engaging team-building activities aimed at fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual support within the univer-

sity community. Participants took part in exercises designed to improve communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, while also enjoying the beautiful outdoor environment. The day was filled with laughter and a shared sense of purpose, as staff members strengthened personal and professional connections. The event was seen as an important initiative for boosting morale and enhancing collaboration across the university, reaffirming Chuka University's commitment to a cohesive and supportive work culture.

## Pomp and Glamour as Chuka Marks Cultural Week

The 9th Edition of Chuka University's Cultural Week concluded on a high note, celebrating diversity and talent with the crowning of Helena John's and Eugene Masika as Miss and Mr. Chuka University, respectively. Held at the University Pavilion, the event attracted over 10,000 attendees. The 2024 theme, "One Campus, Many Stories," underscored the event's focus on showcasing the rich cultural tapestry within the university community. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, graced the event, which has been a celebrated tradition at Chuka University since 2010. The week-long festival offered a vivid display of the university's diverse population, incorporating cultural activities like music, drama, dance, poetry, film and exhibitions. The week opened

with students in official attire, showcasing cultural clothing from around the globe, setting a formal yet inclusive tone. The festivities then took an energetic turn with sports-themed narratives and performances, highlighting the importance of physical activity and teamwork in cultural expression. Midweek, a traditional dance competition encouraged students to wear expressive, unconventional outfits, filling the campus with lively rhythms and joy. As the week continued, casual wear and creative hats marked a beauty contest that saw the crowning of Mr. and Miss Chuka University, sparking excitement and camaraderie as students celebrated beauty, talent, and charisma. In the Mr. and Miss Chuka University competition, Helena John's claimed the title, followed by Joy Mwende

as the first runner-up, and Sheila Awuor in third place. Eugene Masika took the Mr. Chuka University title, with Wilson Joshua as the first runner-up and Josephat Ochieng in third place. These cultural ambassadors captivated the audience with performances that

highlighted Kenya's multicultural heritage. In addition to the pageant, attendees enjoyed a kaleidoscope of cultural experiences, including cultural culinary competitions, traditional presentations, and a captivating awards ceremony.



# Feature Stories



In a powerful address at the United Nations in 1963, Emperor Haile Selassie I asserted that as long as basic human rights remain unguaranteed, conflict will persist. His statement highlights the in-

herent nature of conflict within human interactions, where diverse goals, perspectives, and needs often collide. As rational beings, people aim to maximize their benefits while minimizing their efforts, inevitably leading to disputes when interests overlap. Traditionally, the Kenyan legal landscape has been dominated by litigation, the conventional method of resolving disputes in court. Historically, parties in conflict would file lawsuits in competent courts, seeking legal resolution. However, as the judicial system became overwhelmed with cases, significant backlogs emerged, resulting in delays and frustrating experiences for those seeking justice. Moreover, litigation is increasingly seen as confrontational, lengthy, complex, and costly, underscoring the urgent need for alternative methods of dispute resolution. Fortunately, many alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods have long been part of societal practices. In Kenya, for instance, councils of elders have served as conflict resolution bodies for centuries, with the Njuri Ncheke of the Ameru and the Myot council of elders among the Kalenjin standing out as notable examples. Other ADR methods include negotiation, conciliation, expert determination, and mediation. To be legally applicable in Kenya, these methods must align with the Bill of Rights and adhere to the principles of justice, as outlined in the Kenyan Constitution. Article 159(2)(c) emphasizes that courts should consider alternative forms of dispute resolution, including mediation and traditional mechanisms, thereby affirming the role of ADR systems within the legal framework. Among these various systems, mediation has emerged as a particularly effective method for resolving disputes in Kenya. Mediation involves an impartial third party, known as a mediator, who assists the disputing parties in negotiating a voluntary, mutually beneficial resolution. Unlike judges or arbitrators, mediators do not impose decisions; their role is to facilitate discussions, ensuring that all parties are treated with fairness and respect. If a mediator encounters a conflict of interest, they are ethically bound

to recuse themselves from the process. The introduction of court-annexed mediation by the Kenya Judiciary in 2016 has further enhanced the accessibility of this dispute resolution method. When parties present their cases in court, judges assess the suitability for mediation and appoint accredited mediators. If an agreement is reached, it is documented and becomes a binding court decision, carrying the same weight as a judicial ruling. For private and commercial disputes, parties can select their mediators, sidestepping the adversarial nature and complexities of litigation. Mediation fosters a collaborative atmosphere, granting parties greater control over both the process and the outcome. Choosing a certified mediator is crucial, as they can uncover the underlying causes of the conflict, which may not be apparent to the parties involved. Professional mediators provide a confidential and impartial environment for open dialogue, allowing disputants to articulate their perspectives, share emotions, and clarify critical issues. This dialogue enables mediators to help parties identify their true interests and common ground. When mutual agreements are reached, they can mitigate misunderstandings and reduce hostilities, often restoring relationships that may have been strained by the conflict. One of mediation's significant advantages is its voluntary nature; no party is obligated to accept an unsatisfactory outcome. If an agreement cannot be reached, the case can still proceed to court. Unlike traditional litigation, mediation allows for a broader range of creative solutions tailored to the preferences of the parties involved. Moreover, mediation offers privacy, involving only the parties in conflict rather than the public courtroom. This less confrontational setting encourages open discussions about disputes, enabling parties to explore important issues beyond the legal conflict itself. Mediation is also a more cost-effective option; court-annexed mediation is often free, and in private mediation, fees are negotiable compared to the often exorbitant costs of legal representation. So, the next time you find yourself embroiled in a conflict, especially with someone whose relationship matters to you, consider mediation as a viable option before resorting to the adversarial environment of a courtroom. Mediation provides a legal yet less combative means of resolving disputes, offering a path toward a more amicable resolution. Embrace the potential of mediation and explore the possibilities it offers for a healthier conflict resolution experience.

***Rtn. CPA Gitonga Mutani is a certified professional mediator, a certified public accountant, a boy child advocate, and a legal scholar.***

# Tharaka Nithi's Pioneer PhD in Early Childhood Education



In a remarkable story of resilience and dedication, Joachim Njagi is on the brink of making history as the first Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Early Childhood Education from Tharaka Nithi County. His academic journey, set against a backdrop of significant adversity, serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for upcoming scholars, proving that the path to success is possible even under the most challenging circumstances. Growing up in a rural community in Tharaka steeped in poverty, Joachim faced daunting challenges from a young age. Food insecurity, unstable shelter, and the need to contribute to his family's livelihood defined his childhood. He worked hard, helping his only parent (mother) sell "maroa," a traditional brew, and performing menial jobs to support his family. Despite these hardships, his resolve to pursue education never wavered. Joachim's academic path began humbly, with a certificate in Science Laboratory Technology from Kabete Technical Training Institute. However, his aspirations were far greater. Driven by an unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives, he persevered, earning a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from Kenyatta University, followed by a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood and Primary Education from Kampala International University. The journey, though rewarding, was never easy. Financial constraints, long hours balancing work and study, and the pressures of survival in a marginalized community often threatened to derail his progress. However, Joachim's

vision for a better future and his passion for Early Childhood Education fueled his determination. In 2016, Joachim completed his Master of Education in Early Childhood Education at Kenyatta University, a significant achievement that laid the groundwork for his PhD studies at Chuka University, where he is set to graduate in November 2024. His anticipated doctoral degree marks not just personal success but a historic milestone for his community. Joachim's achievement as the first PhD holder in Early Childhood Education in Tharaka Nithi County symbolizes the breaking of educational barriers and the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Throughout his career, Joachim has made significant contributions to education, currently serving as a Senior Administrative Assistant at Chuka University's Faculty of Agriculture. His more than 20 years of experience in classroom management, Early Childhood Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, and Child Psychology reflect his deep commitment to shaping the future of young learners. His story is not just one of academic achievement, but of resilience, grit and hope. By rising from his challenging background to reach academic excellence, Njagi embodies the transformative power of education and serves as a role model for future generations. His journey encourages young scholars to persevere in the face of adversity, demonstrating that, with hard work and determination, even the most insurmountable challenges can be overcome. Achieving a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Early Childhood Education, particularly as the first in Tharaka Nithi County, is a significant milestone that reflects dedication, resilience, and a commitment to overcoming challenges. Joachim's academic resilience inspires a Generation. His Doctorate represents more than personal triumph it is a testament to the power of education to break cycles of poverty and create lasting change in individuals and communities. As he continues to impact early childhood education, his legacy will undoubtedly inspire many to follow in his footsteps, proving that no dream is too big when fueled by perseverance.

***Congratulations to Joachim Njagi as he earns his Doctorate today.***

# Graduating with Sanity: The Degree We All Need



University is that magical place where we juggle assignments, finals, endless cups of coffee, and the occasional existential crisis. Between sleepless nights and the relentless what's next? it's no wonder students face a mental health roller coaster, Stress, anxiety, and burnout. They're basically mandatory credits these days. While university life might feel like a survival game, turns out, post-grad life can bring new challenges and sometimes even bigger

ones. Many graduates experience the "post-uni blues," a phenomenon where the excitement of being done with university meets the daunting world of "adulthood". From job-hunting woes to paying bills and paying them *on time*, post-uni life can make those all-nighters look easy. But here's the good news: there's no need to do it alone. Enter the unsung hero of university life: the counseling office. In the midst of balancing essays and emotions, counseling services can provide crucial support. Chuka university currently offer evidence-based therapies, like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and mindfulness workshops, tailored specifically for student challenges. These sessions can help students learn stress-busting techniques, overcome procrastination, and even reduce social anxiety (yes, that counts as studying). So, as you cross the stage, remember that your mental health degree i.e. learning to take care of yourself is one of the most valuable lessons of all. The counseling office, with its evidence-

based therapies, is here to ensure you not only graduate with your cap and gown but with a clear mind and solid resilience, ready to face the next chapter. Congratulations again, as you step into this next chapter, remember to take care of your mental health as much as your career plans. Embrace the uncertainty, laugh at the little things, and trust that you're on the right path even if you have no idea where it's going yet. Cheers to a future filled with growth and resilience.

On behalf of the Counselling office, I would like to extend my congratulations to the graduating class of 2024 for achieving this significant milestone in your academic journey. We're so proud of all you've accomplished and can't wait to see the mark you'll make on to the world.

**Ms. Ruth Muturi, Counselling Psychologist**

Chuka University

## SPORTS ROUND UP

### Chuka Excels at KUSA Central Conference

Chuka University athletes made a notable impact at the Kenya Universities Students Association (KUSA) Central Conference Athletics and Disability Sports, held on October 12, 2024, at the University of Embu. In the Disability Sports category, competitors from different universities were divided into Team Red and Team Blue, competing in sports such as sitting volleyball, darts, chess, scrabble, futsal, and the 100m dash. Team Blue emerged as the overall winner, with each participant receiving a certificate for their efforts, highlighting their sportsmanship and dedication to inclusivity in athletics. Chuka University's athletics teams also delivered commendable performances. The women's team stood out by finishing second overall, demonstrating consistency

and resilience across multiple track and field events. In the men's category, Chuka University secured a gold medal in the 5000m race and added a bronze in the 200m sprint, reflecting the team's competitive edge. The women's team earned medals in several events, including a silver in the 5000m, 800m, and 100m races, as well as a gold in the 400m. Their prowess extended to the relay events, where they captured silver in the 4x100m, further boosting the university's medal tally. Chuka University's men's team achieved notable success in field events, bringing home silver medals in the javelin and shot put. The women's team added to this tally with a bronze in both the shot put and discus, contributing to the overall success of the university's athletic representation. The university's strong showing in both athletics and disability sports reflects its commitment to supporting diverse talents and fostering a culture of excellence.

## Chuka University Dominates KUSA Central Conference League with Strong Show of Athleticism

Chuka University reaffirmed its status as a sports powerhouse at the Kenya Universities Students Association (KUSA) Central Conference League 1, held across three thrilling legs between late September and October 2024. Displaying skill, determination, and team spirit, Chuka's athletes secured top positions across multiple events.

### League 1A Highlights (September 28-29, 2024)



At Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Chuka University's Volleyball, Netball, Floorball, and Pool teams showcased impressive performances. The Women's Volleyball team claimed second place after winning two out of three matches. In Netball, the Men's team finished strong in third place, winning three out of five games. Meanwhile, the Men's Floorball team also secured third place with one win, while the Women's Floorball team finished third after drawing two of their three matches. In Pool, the Men's team placed sixth with three wins in seven games, while the Women's team placed fifth.

### League 1B Highlights (October 5-6, 2024)



With renewed momentum, Chuka University excelled in Volleyball, Badminton, and Football. The Women's Football team dominated, winning all five matches to secure first place, while the Men's Volleyball team finished first with

five victories in six games. In Badminton, the Men's team claimed second place, winning seven out of eight matches. In Darts, the Men's team placed second with 57 points, while the Women's team scored 54 points to take fourth.

### League 1C Highlights (October 26-27, 2024)



Chuka University hosted the final leg of the Central Conference League, welcoming teams from across the region. The home teams continued to shine, particularly in Basketball, Roll Ball, Taekwondo, and Karate. The Women's Basketball team clinched first place with an outstanding performance, while the Women's Roll Ball team secured second. In Karate, the Men's team took third place, and the Women's team achieved second. The Men's Taekwondo team placed third, while the Women's Taekwondo team finished in sixth position.

### Table Tennis and Other Sports



In Table Tennis, the Chuka Men's team demonstrated impressive skill, taking second place, while the Women's team placed sixth. With support from sports officers Mr. Opwora and Mr. Ouma, Chuka University delivered an unforgettable hosting experience, ending the event with celebrations of the teams' successes.

## Chuka Triumphs at KUSA Central Conference Women Sports Championship



Chuka University's women athletes made an indelible mark at the Kenya Universities Students Association (KUSA) Central Conference Women Sports Championship, hosted by Meru University of Science and Technology on September 21-22, 2024. Competing across a range of sports, Chuka's teams demonstrated exceptional skill and determination, securing multiple championship titles and top finishes. Chuka's Football, Basketball, Badminton, and Hockey teams delivered standout performances, each emerging victorious in their final matches. The Football team claimed the championship with a convincing 2-0 victory, while the Basketball team triumphed with a close 35-30 win. In Badminton, Chuka's players dominated the finals, securing a 2-0 victory, and the Hockey team swept their opponents with an impressive 3-0 win. Though they faced stiff competition, Chuka's Volleyball and Handball teams reached the finals, showcasing resilience and skill. The Handball team concluded their final match with a respectable 6-8 score, finishing second, while the Volleyball team secured second place with a 1-3 result. In league events, the Netball team finished with a strong record of 4 wins and 2 losses, placing third overall. Chuka's Scrabble and Chess teams also showcased strategic prowess, with Scrabble finishing third with 8,548 points, and Chess securing fifth place with 519 points. Despite a challenging group stage, the Table Tennis team fought hard, winning one out of four matches to end in sixth position. The success of Chuka University's teams was backed by dedicated game representatives, sports officers, and logistical support provided by staff comprising Han-nigton Sitati, Joseph Ledama, Moses Oyieno, and Mwangi. Their commitment ensured the athletes remained focused and scooped awards.

## Scorpions Sting Predators to Claim Chapa Dimba Eastern Region Title



Chuka University Scorpions claimed the title of Safaricom Eastern Region champions after a thrilling finale against The Predators from Embu County at Kinoru Stadium in Meru. The Scorpions triumphed 4-2 in a penalty shootout following a fiercely contested match that ended 1-1 after regulation time. The Scorpions took an early lead in the 9th minute with a spectacular strike from Joseph John. However, The Predators equalized in the 52nd minute through Josphat Kimanzi, forcing the match into penalties to determine the winner. Head Coach Sean Opwora expressed his pride in the team's performance, especially during the pressure of penalty shootouts, which had also been pivotal in their semifinal victory. "Winning the Chapa Dimba Eastern regional finals is a huge accomplishment for us, especially since it's our first time in the tournament. The game was challenging, and we didn't anticipate going to penalties, but we executed well when it mattered most," Opwora stated. In the women's final, Syomunyu Secondary School edged out the Chuka University Starlets 1-0 in a closely contested match. The Starlets fought hard to equalize, but their efforts were thwarted when Weddy Ndereba's attempts hit the crossbar twice. This marked the second consecutive time the Starlets reached the finals without securing the title. For their remarkable achievement, the Scorpions received a cash prize of Sh. 250,000 and the honor of representing the Eastern region in the national finals. The Starlets, as runners-up, were awarded Sh. 150,000. Individual awards included Sh. 30,000 for the Most Valuable Player, Best Goalkeeper, and Top Scorer for both boys and girls. Each player from the winning team received a Neon Ultra phone,

while the runners-up were given Neon Smarter Phones. The annual Chapa Dimba tournament serves as a vital platform for scouts and coaches to identify new talent and establish feeder systems for Kenyan football leagues, targeting players aged 16 to 20 years. The tournament also aims to train 250 coaches to bolster the grassroots development of football. Both the Scorpions and Starlets returned to a grand homecoming, celebrating their achievements and flying the Chuka University flag high.

### **Athletes Shine at KUSA Central Conference with Top Finishes Across Multiple Sports**

Chuka University athletes delivered outstanding performances at the Kenya Universities Students Association (KUSA) Central Conference X-Country and Multi-Sport Tournament, hosted by Meru University of Science and Technology. Competing in a range of sports, Chuka University's teams displayed exceptional skill, resilience, and teamwork in cross-country, basketball, baseball, floorball, skating, cycling, and wood ball events. The Men's Cross-Country team led the charge with a first-place victory, accompanied by strong finishes in 15th, 26th, and 30th positions, reflecting the team's strength and endurance. The Women's Cross-Country team also performed well, securing 12th, 14th, and 18th places in a highly competitive field. Chuka University's Basketball Women's team emerged as champions, clinching first place, while the Men's Basketball team secured a respectable third place, further establishing the university's competitive presence in basketball. The Wood ball team earned a commendable second place, and the Baseball team rounded off a strong showing with a third-place finish. Chuka's Floorball team achieved a solid fourth place, showcasing depth across team sports. In individual events, the Skating Men finished in 9th and 18th positions, while the Skating Women took 12th and 13th spots. Chuka's Cycling Men placed 13th, 16th, and 22nd. Additionally, Chuka's Volleyball team competed with placements in 20th, 22nd, and 18th positions.

### **Chuka Athletes Excel at KUSF National Playoffs**

Chuka University showcased its athletic excellence at the Kenya Universities Sports Federation (KUSF) National Playoff A, held at Pwani University. Competing across a range of sports—including Tennis, Basketball 3-on-3, Karate, Taekwondo, Darts, Badminton, Swimming, and Pool—Chuka's athletes delivered impressive performances, proudly representing their university. The Women's 3-on-3 Basketball team achieved a commendable 4th place with a record of 4 wins, demonstrating their competitive spirit on the court. The Men's Darts team excelled, finishing in 2nd place with an impressive record of 7 wins and 1 loss. The Women's Tennis team also shone brightly, securing 2nd place by winning 5 out of their 6 matches, while the Men's Tennis team followed closely with a solid 3rd place finish. In martial arts, the Karate Men's team had a notable showing, securing 4th place with a medal haul of 1 gold, 1 silver, and

2 bronze medals. The Karate Women's team placed 10th. In Taekwondo, the Men's team finished 5th, bringing home a gold medal, while the Women's team also finished 5th with a silver medal, reflecting Chuka's strength in combat sports. In swimming, both the Men's and Women's teams earned bronze medals, finishing in 6th and 9th positions, respectively. The Pool teams demonstrated strong performances, with the Men's Pool team achieving 4th place with 42 points, while the Women's Pool team finished 5th with 63 points.



**Chuka University swimming pool**

### **Don Takes the Helm as Vice Chair of Kenya Karate Federation**



**Dr. Henry Nabea Nkoru (Right, red and green jacket)**

In a hotly contested election, Dr. Henry Nkoru Nabea, emerged victorious as the 1st Vice Chairperson of the Kenya Karate Federation (KKF) Executive Committee. Dr. Nabea secured the position after a rigorous campaign and voting process held at the iconic Nyayo Stadium in

Nairobi on September 7, 2024. The election saw a robust turnout, with 94 registered voters casting their ballots for various leadership positions within the Federation. In addition to Dr. Nabea, Richard Ngichabe Binga clinched the coveted Chairperson role, while Ben Otieno Oulo was elected as the 2nd Vice Chairperson, completing the top tier of the Federation's new executive team. This election marks a notable shift within the Kenya Karate Federation as the organization strives to expand the sport's reach and enhance opportunities for karate athletes throughout Kenya. Dr. Nabea, known for his academic leadership and commitment to media studies at Chuka University, brings a fresh and dynamic vision to the federation. His role is expected to be instrumental in guiding the federation's future development and fostering engagement with both local and international martial arts communities.

to excellence in sports. Congratulations to all the athletes for their hard work and dedication.

### Faculty of Science and Technology Clinches Victory in Football Tournament



Faculty of Science Football Team pose for a photo with the CUSA President Evans Muchanga

In a thrilling display of athleticism and teamwork, the Faculty of Science and Technology triumphed in the much-anticipated inter-faculty football tournament, securing the championship title. Their outstanding performance throughout the competition demonstrated not only their sporting prowess but also their commitment to excellence both on and off the field.

The tournament, which saw teams from various faculties compete, was marked by high-energy matches and intense rivalry, with each team showcasing their skills. However, it was the Faculty of Science and Technology that rose to the occasion, outplaying their opponents and ultimately claiming victory with a resounding win in the final. This victory is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the faculty's athletes, reinforcing the university's ethos that excellence in academics goes hand-in-hand with success in extracurricular activities. The Faculty of Science and Technology's win underscores the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, qualities that are equally valued in both academic and athletic arenas.

In addition to their sporting achievements, the tournament also highlighted the university's broader commitment to fostering a well-rounded student body, where sportsmanship and academic excellence thrive together. Congratulations to the Faculty of Science and Technology on their well-deserved victory and for setting a high standard for future inter-faculty competitions!

### Veterans Defend Football Crown!



File photo of Veterans

Chuka University proudly showcased its athletic spirit at the KUSA Central Conference Staff Games, held on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at Kirinyaga University. The university was represented by dedicated staff athletes in men's football, men's volleyball, women's volleyball, and women's netball. The competition drew teams from various institutions, including Karatina University, Murang'a University of Technology, and Kenyatta University, Kirinyaga University, University of Embu, Machakos University, Meru Youth Polytechnic, Nyeri Water Company and Embu County. Our teams demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork, with the men's football team, affectionately known as the Veterans, leading the charge. They successfully retained their title as champions, clinching a narrow 1-0 victory in the finals. While the volleyball and netball teams faced tough competition, they showed great resilience and determination. The men's volleyball team reached the semi-finals, finishing in a commendable third place, while the women's volleyball team also secured a third-place finish in their league. The women's netball team showcased their competitive spirit but ended up in fourth place after winning one match and losing three. Overall, Chuka University's staff teams performed admirably, reflecting the university's commitment



*Congrats*  
**CLASS OF**  
**-2024-**

Chuka University 15th  
 Graduation Newsletter



Faculty of Science and  
 Technology  
 Chuka University



## Intakes

- > January, May and September
- > School based: April, August and December

## Campuses

- > Main Campus in Chuka
- > Nairobi Campus - Chuka University Elimu Plaza
- > Embu Campus
- > Chogoria Campus
- > Igembe Campus

## Application Procedure

- > Forms can be downloaded from the Chuka University website: [www.chuka.ac.ke](http://www.chuka.ac.ke)



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