



Chuka University Newsletter

A Publication of Chuka University

Issue No. 10



12th Graduation Ceremony

Friday 24th November 2023

**THEME: Supporting National Economic Transformation Agenda through
Higher Education Research, Innovation and Community Development**



Inspiring Environmental Sustainability for Better Life

CONTENTS



COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT	5
DIRECTORATES	17
FACULTIES	25
CAMPUSES	37
Strategic Partnerships	45
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	52
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES	60
NEWS ROUNDUP	62
SPORTS ROUNDUP	84
BOOK REVIEWS	88
FEATURE STORIES	89
PICTORIAL	90

EDITORIAL DESK



The 12th Graduation Ceremony brings forth a moment of joy, reflection, and great anticipation for Chuka University fraternity. It is with immense pride and joy that we extend our warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2023. Today, we witness a historic moment as 3,844 students don their caps and gowns, marking not only a personal achievement but also contributing to the highest number of postgraduates ever recorded in the University's history. This ceremony marks the transition of our students into the larger society, where they will play a vital role in the growth and development of our nation. As a Premier and Prophetic University, we remain committed to upholding academic prestige, scholarly excellence, and intellectual prowess. In this special graduation edition, we not only celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating class but also reflect on the journey that has brought us to this point.

A significant milestone is upon us as we commemorate the 10th anniversary since Chuka University was chartered

in 2013. Over the past decade, we have evolved, grown, and continually strived for excellence in teaching and research. As part of our commitment to academic excellence, our Strategic Plan (2022-2027) is aligned with the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda of the Government. The Strategic Plan will serve to steer the way forward to improve internal business processes to achieve the University's corporate goals as well as the support and realization of the National Development Agenda. At the heart of our university's vitality is research, and this year we hosted the 10th International Research Conference, drawing scholars and experts from both local and international arenas. Our students continue to excel not only in academics but also in extracurricular activities. The University's Karate team, for instance, stands tall as defending champions for two consecutive years, showcasing the spirit of determination and excellence. We also feature inspirational stories from our alumni who are making extraordinary contributions to empower communities and make a positive impact in various fields.

Chuka University is not only an academic institution but a community that cares about social responsibility. We hosted the Uhai festival for persons abled differently, reaffirming our commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Additionally, our university radio marks its 5th anniversary, illuminating the airwaves with information and entertainment. In the face of environmental challenges, Chuka University has taken a leading role in eco-friendly initiatives. Our tree-planting initiatives have surpassed the 2 million mark, contributing to the mitigation of climate change. Spiritual renewal is also at the forefront as our dedicated staff recently observed the 5th Staff Prayer Day. This edition provides an insight into various aspects of university life, from the hotly contested deans' elections to the thriving Chuka University Sacco, which marked its 12th anniversary.

We also highlight the Fresher's Night, a memorable day for our first-year students, and the exciting staff team-building activities that foster a sense of unity and collaboration. Additionally, we share the vibrant experience of Kongamano la 37 la Chawakama, a testament to the diversity and richness of our university culture. As we close this edition, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders who have played a crucial role in our journey. To the graduating class, wear your alma mater's pride with honor and carry the spirit of Chuka University wherever life takes you.

Congratulations once again to the graduating class of 2023!

Warm regards,

Dr. Immaculate Namulia J. Mutali, Ph.D.,
Editor-in-Chief

Editorial Board

Chuka University Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY:

Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Chuka University
P.O. Box 109-60400, Chuka.
Tel: 061-2304004
E-mail: info@chuka.ac.ke
Website: www.chuka.ac.ke

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief Editor

Dr. Immaculate Mutali

Editorial Advisor

Prof. Gilbert Nduru

Associate Editor

Prof. Joseph M. Kavulya

Design and Layout

Briston Barasa

Content Developers

Mavilyne Gatwiri

Lapit Moses Punyua

Eric Kimani

Photographer

John Dulu

Contributors

University Management

Deans of Faculties

Directors

Chairpersons/Heads of
Departments

Heads of Sections

COPYRIGHT

The online version of this
magazine can be accessed
from the Chuka University
website <http://chuka.ac.ke>

Chuka University, 2023

All rights reserved.



Lapit Moses Punyua
Intern CU Radio



John Dulu
Intern PR & Marketing



Mavilyne Gatwiri
Intern PR & Marketing



Briston Barasa
Intern Graphic Designer



Eric Kimani
Media Student



Dr. Immaculate Mutali
Chief Editor



Prof. Joseph Kavulya
Associate Editor



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

Sustainability

Teamwork

Integrity

Freedom of Expression

Excellence

Message from the Chancellor

Welcome to the 12th graduation ceremony of our University. I extend our sincere appreciation to you all for taking time off your busy schedule and joining us on this auspicious occasion to celebrate the achievements of our 12th graduation cohort. Our deep-felt congratulations to you, our graduands. This celebration is the fruit of sustained commitment and dedication in the search for knowledge and skills that prepare you for future life endeavors. We appreciate the role played by your parents, guardians, and both academic and administrative staff at Chuka University for the support that they have given you in your studies and for constantly guiding you towards this great achievement.

We have a new University Council, a new Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors. Despite these changes, we are consistent in building on the work of our forerunners in our commitment to service, well captured in our core values: Passion for excellence and devotion to duty, integrity, transparency and accountability, and social fairness. Despite being a young University, Chuka has earned the status of a premier University with state-of-the-art science laboratories, top-notch human resources, educational infrastructure, and forward-looking policies. We dedicate ourselves to continue on this path of excellence. We have aligned our operations with the new University funding model which is a brilliant strategy for stabilizing University operations. Towards this goal, we have prioritized our development projects, optimized our human resources, and put in place mechanisms to ensure data-based institutional decisions. Our strategies have prioritized the most critical and largest constituency of our customer base which is our student fraternity. We have put in place measures to ensure that every student who joins the University is accounted for and supported to graduate in the set period and that they receive a world-class education.

As a University, we have embraced a culture of innovation, research, and development. In this regard, the University is making efforts to utilize its farms to provide experiential learning, demonstrating the integration of a circular economy through resource conservation, especially soil and water. While the Kairini farm is utilized for Agroforestry and horticultural farming, the university farms at Ndagani, Mwanjati, and Chogoria are used to supplement the university income through the sale of farm products. The prioritized high-value chain crops include Avocado, Mangoes, Macadamia, citrus fruit trees, sorghum, and assorted vegetable growing established through an automated drip irrigation system. Other value chains include dairy, goat-keeping, poultry, piggery, and beekeeping.

As a University, we have embraced a culture of innovation, research, and development. In this regard, the University is making efforts to utilize its farms to provide experiential learning, demonstrating the integration of a circular economy through resource conservation, especially soil and water.

The university has procured equipment for milk processing to boost income generation and technology transfer. Additionally, the university has partnered with organizations such as Kibari Bee Farm and East African Breweries Limited (EABL) for specialized beekeeping and sorghum value chain management respectively. All these are geared towards implementing value addition that will augment the revenue of the University. Our outstanding publishing output and research conferences such as the recent 10th International Conference held here between the 5th and 6th of October this year, under the theme Mainstreaming Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer and Commercialization for Sustainable Economies, illustrate the University's commitment deepen research, innovations' diffusion and commercialization of innovations amongst its students, lecturers, and other stakeholders. This is also another way we can increase our revenue streams like other global premier Universities.

I would like to assure your Ministry and the Government of Kenya that Chuka University will continue to collaborate with the industry, national and international institutions, government agencies, stakeholders, and other collaborators to come up with technology and innovations. This will allow the transfer of innovations to local industries, thereby creating jobs and spurring the national economy through start-up companies and consulting engagements between industry and our faculties. Above all, as a university, we will continue to implement measures to promote the realization of National Cohesion and National Values, Vision 2030, Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and other government policies and strategies. We shall also continue to accord all our staff the opportunity to grow and thrive at the university in all diversity and inclusivity.

As a final word to our graduands, as you pursue your careers, I implore you to be our goodwill ambassadors where ever you shall be. I urge you to join our Alumni Association and help develop this great and prophetic University. God bless Chuka University, God bless Kenya, God bless you all

Message from the Chairman of Council



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

It is a great joy and indeed a high honor to welcome you today to our 12th graduation ceremony. This occasion marks a significant milestone in our annual calendar, and we celebrate it with deep sense of gratitude to our God almighty by whose grace we are able to see this day. On behalf of the University Council, the staff and the students of this great Prophetic University, allow me to express our deep appreciation to all of you gathering here today. To our Chief Guest, thank you very much for honoring us with your presence.

Today's graduation ceremony demonstrates that the University has been successful in its business of teaching, learning, and research. It is proof that all the parts of the university are well-oiled and have been moving successfully towards this end. We thank the Vice-Chancellor and his management for successfully steering the ship to the docks. Today, we gladly present to this great country a skilled resource of three thousand eight hundred and forty-two (3,844) graduands ready to take their place as the future workforce of our great country. This year's graduation theme: supporting the

national economic transformation agenda through higher education research, innovation, and community development aligns well with our commitment in developing talents for a greater better Kenya, and indeed, a global service to humanity.

As a learning and research institution, we acknowledge that we stand at the strongest vantage position in strengthening our country's policies and service delivery to support and contribute to the realization of government targets as enshrined in the BETA economic model. This can be achieved if we all join hands in improving the quality of our human capital and innovations. On this front, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our development partners to complement our efforts in this endeavor. As a Council, we continue supporting policies and initiatives that help the University remain firmly on a pedestal to harness the benefits of the virtual sphere to its advantage.

Transformations in higher education ought to lead us to the internationalization of our structures to enable us to compete effectively on the global stage. This can only be possible if we continue to improve the infrastructure that enables the internationalization of education through collaborations in teaching, learning, and research. As a Council, we shall continue supporting our faculty to collaborate with leading institutions and centers in carrying out cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges our society faces. We also encourage practical and multi-disciplinary teaching and mentorship between and among institutions to equip our students with knowledge and skills from a diverse range of world perspectives in order to give them an advantage on the global stage.

The greatest challenge facing University Education in the contemporary world and particularly in Kenya is perhaps funding. With the shrinking budgetary support from the government, Universities have been left struggling to meet operational costs, particularly the wage bill. As a Council, we understand and are indeed aware of the need for us to look for sustainable and alternative ways of funding to supplement the government capitation. To this end, we are continuously encouraging and supporting the University management in diversifying its income streams to meet its recurrent and developmental needs.

Finally, as you graduate today and enter the job market, endeavor to make Chuka University proud by being good ambassadors through your strong, innovative, ethical and excellent contributions. I salute and applaud your achievement and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. Thank you for offering us the privilege to make Chuka University part of your life. Your success is our success and pride. As Chuka University Council, we look forward to watching your story unfold as you empower humanity for sustainable development.

God bless Chuka University; God bless Kenya God bless you all.

University Council



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



Elijah K. Song'ony
Rep. the PS, The National Treasury



Margaret M. Makhungu
Member



Crispus M. Ndeke
Member



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



Samuel G. Gitonga
Member



Linet K. Maganda
Member



Zephaniah Rwanda Mbaka
Member



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



Message from the Vice-Chancellor



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

On behalf of the entire Chuka University community, I welcome you all as we gather here for the 12th graduation ceremony. Today is a historic day in the annals of Chuka University, as we witness to the graduation of **3,844** students. In a special way, I wish to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2023. Well done for successfully completing this important phase of your academic journey. You now join the ever-growing ranks of Chuka University alumni, who continue to make valuable contributions to the workforce and embody our motto that *"knowledge is wealth."*

I also wish to express our deep appreciation to parents, guardians, and sponsors whose unwavering support played a pivotal role in the success of our graduands. Our dedicated faculty, tireless staff, and committed stakeholders have worked both individually and collectively to ensure that our students successfully completed their studies, making this graduation a resounding success.

This graduation is a testament to the confidence in Chuka University's ability to provide opportunities for aspiring Kenyans to achieve their academic dreams. The theme for this year's graduation, *supporting the national economic transformation agenda through*

higher education research, innovation, and community development underscores the essence of a successful academic and post-graduation life. In our pursuit of excellence, we uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and innovation for sustainable progress. Chuka University remains steadfast in imparting quality education and training, instilling competencies, values, and expertise to mold responsible and valuable citizens. We are committed to providing the necessary infrastructure and facilities to support these efforts. This year we celebrated the 10th year anniversary since Chuka University received a charter as a public University. This year also marked successful transition of leadership from the founders to the next generation of leaders. We sincerely thank these leaders for laying the foundation for the development and growth of Chuka University. In a special way, we thank the founding Vice-Chancellor Prof. Erastus Njoka for his dedicated effort and those who served with him.

I take office as the Vice-Chancellor of this great prophetic University at a time when higher education is facing many challenges especially due the harsh global economic situation. However, I would like to firmly inform you that we have put in place measures to ensure financial stability of the University and quality assurance of our academic operations. Currently we are reviewing our academic programmes to ensure that they are aligned with the market needs and the Competency-based education and training model (CBET). Most importantly we now have systems to ensure that we provide exceptionally quality services to our students. These measures, combined with an aggressive marketing strategy has increased the number of students who choose Chuka University as their destination of quality education.

At the baseline we have fully embraced the new University funding model which we are convinced it is the solution to the persistent problems bedeviling Universities Kenya. Further, we have taken measures to diversity our revenue

"This graduation is a testament to the confidence in Chuka University's ability to provide opportunities for aspiring Kenyans to achieve their academic dreams. The theme for this year's graduation, supporting the national economic transformation agenda through higher education research, innovation, and community development underscores the essence of a successful academic and post-graduation life."

base through diverse income generating activities. I would like to thank the Government of Kenya, all our corporate partners, the Ministry of Education and other government agencies at the County and national level for the support we have continued to receive.

To our dear graduands, as you step out into the world armed with the knowledge you have gained at Chuka University, remember that you have a crucial role to play as change agents and catalysts for sustainable development in your communities. Your graduation today should be viewed as a foundation upon which to build opportunities for economic growth and acceleration in our beloved country, Kenya. I challenge you to remain vigilant in identifying and seizing the available opportunities in the dynamic work environment that awaits you.

Once more, I extend my heartfelt congratulations once more and wish you the very best in all your future endeavors!

University Management Board



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



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



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



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



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



CPA John T. Kirimi
Finance Officer

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Administration, Finance, Planning, and Development)



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

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! As you graduate today, I want to encourage you to harbour big ambitions and cultivate new visions for the exciting journey that lies ahead. Live passionately and never stop striving for greatness. This achievement is not solely your own; it is a testament to the unwavering support of your friends and family who have stood by you every step of the way. Chuka University takes immense pride in having played a part in nurturing such outstanding graduates.

Chuka University is charting a course for the future with its strategic plan spanning from 2022 to 2027. This blueprint sets the stage for the university to reach new heights in academic excellence, research and innovation, student welfare, resource dynamism, competitiveness, and progressive governance. Our ultimate goal is to become a “world-class university,” one that not only excels in teaching and research but also competes on the global stage in higher education. Through collaborative partnerships in research funding and the strengthening of income-generating activities and units (IGAU), we are committed to judicious resource management for long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the ongoing digitization of services is poised to streamline operations

and enhance the overall experience for our students and stakeholders. In line with these efforts, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of productivity, an essential performance objective that calls for the creation, application, and adoption of strategies and initiatives that promote high performance at every level.

To the graduating class, today you celebrate years of unyielding dedication,

intellectual exploration, in search of self-discovery, and the wisdom that comes from experience. Always remember that with self-belief, there are no limits to what you can achieve. Once more, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. The world is full of possibilities awaiting your unique talents and aspirations. Embrace them with confidence and enthusiasm.

“Our ultimate goal is to become a “world-class university,” one that not only excels in teaching and research but also competes on the global stage in higher education.”



Celebrating Academic Resilience & Excellence at Chuka University

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research, and Student Affairs)



Prof. Gilbert M. Nduru, Ph.D.

Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Academic, Research and Student Affairs

To all our esteemed graduates of 2023, congratulations! Finally, you have hit the mark with perfection, graduating today from Chuka University. Your resilience has ultimately borne sweet fruits. I join the university community and all distinguished stakeholders in saluting you for this achievement. I acknowledge the efforts, dedication and perseverance that you have exhibited through many hard times to excel in your respective fields. To all distinguished guests and friends of Chuka University, I am so glad and have great pleasure to welcome you to the 12th Graduation ceremony with a sense of pride. This graduation ceremony marks a momentous occasion in the lives of our graduates and also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the contribution that Chuka University continues to make

towards sustainable development of our society, which is by releasing well-groomed and qualified human resource, that is ready to join hands with others in accelerating the wheel of development in our country and globally as well.

Esteemed graduates, this day is a testimony of your resilience in pursuit of excellence since the day you earned yourselves admission to this premier University. You did everything within your power to continue excelling in your studies. Unlike your basic academic life, your life at Chuka University presented you with a lot of freedom, responsibilities and challenges, which you needed to make deliberate choices within and without the University, in order to navigate the circumstances that you often faced during your academic journey. By so doing you have demonstrated your academic resilience and resolve to become a part of a better future. May God bless your 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 with your worthy contributions.

At Chuka University, we continue to provide students with the requisite training, guidance and mentorship that orients them towards responsible living in addition to their academic and research competencies that have been inculcated during their four years at the university. Teaching has been evolving in an adaptive manner to an ever changing education ecology.

Apart from the annual vagaries associated with climate variability and global warming, the challenges of climate changes, droughts and floods in their extremes, the COVID-19 pandemic affected our academic programmes the most, during their time with us at the university. It pushed us to integrate technology in our teaching and research, to the extent that we now have integrated online and blended learning as part of our expanding teaching and learning modes of teaching and learning. We are proud of our respective successes online, upon which we plan to expand and grow to reach more students locally and internationally.

Apart from teaching, research, innovation and extension are integral components of any great university as they lie at the heart of inquiry and pursuit for knowledge. Chuka University has established a vibrant research and innovation culture that is designed to empower staff and students to push their knowledge and commence boundaries a notch higher. As part of their academic endeavour, researchers at Chuka University have successfully competed 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 over 85 articles in high impact journals and 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 through summer school programmes. Our staff and students have therefore become global citizens, and are equipped with knowledge and skills required to thrive in global networks.

Overall, the Chuka University graduates today have been provided with quality education, training and outreach exposure through teaching, research, innovation, extension and entrepreneurship for sustainable national and global development. They were nurtured within an academic environment that provided them with requisite knowledge and skills for quality, effective and ethical leadership in their future life and work engagement. Moreover, they have been inculcated in environmental husbandry skills like tree planting in coursework and practically in the field.

I have no doubt that they are adequately educated, trained and nurtured to have developed an intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice, which has produced graduates that will meet customer, statutory, regulatory and other interested parties' requirements. In all its mandatory commitments, the University was guided by passion for excellence, integrity, professionalism, devotion to duty, inclusiveness and peaceful co-existence, which have brought us this far, the glory of the 12th graduation that we all now celebrate. I am satisfied that the graduates Chuka University in releasing to the world today are well grounded in their respective fields and adequately equipped for the world of work.



I implore all of our graduates to go out into the world confidently and prove their worth. Go out there and serve outstandingly in the knowledge that your qualification is second to none. I pray that God will provide you with strength and wisdom on how, when and where to apply all that you have been inculcated in. You have been tooled, trained, examined and qualified not only to think critically but also to work and deliver expected results to your employers and customers. The real test of the education and skills that have been imparted to you over the years will

be confirmed in the work places. This is the reason we are sending you out with the theme: "Supporting National Economic Transformation Agenda through Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Community Development". Go and be positively engaged in a productive manner and God bless you all immensely. Our contemporary world has changed drastically in diverse ways and you must therefore be ready to adapt yourselves into new settings to thrive. I expect you thus to be part of the change agents that will transform this new world to becoming a better place for all of us.

"Go out there and serve outstandingly in the knowledge that your qualification is second to none. I pray that God will provide you with strength and wisdom on how, when and where to apply all that you have been inculcated in. You have been tooled, trained, examined and qualified not only to think critically but also to work and deliver expected results to your employers and customers."

Office of the Registrar, Academic Affairs



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

On behalf of the Office of the Registrar for Academic Affairs, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to all the graduates of the 12th Graduation Ceremony at Chuka University. The University has achieved remarkable progress, gaining recognition worldwide, and we remain committed to mentoring and training world-class leaders who will go on to make a positive impact on the world.

The Office of the Registrar plays a crucial role within the university as the custodian of all official student academic records, which includes records for both current students and

alumni. Additionally, it is responsible for overseeing all university student registration and enrollment services. The office performs various functions, including student admission, registration, compilation, and maintenance of academic records in the registry, communicating and implementing policies, organizing and verifying graduation, and issuing final academic transcripts and certificates. We also manage the deferment of students, provide and replace student identification/smart cards, and ensure the orderly process of students' Inter-Faculty/Programme and Inter-University transfers. We have ensured that our services, projects, and programs are of the highest quality to enable students to pursue their academic aspirations

Our dear graduands, you have all demonstrated enthusiasm about the new chapter that lies ahead of you, and regardless of the path you choose, we encourage you to utilize the skills and knowledge you have acquired through the various academic programs to improve not only yourselves but also those around you. On this day, it's worth noting that your determination, drive, and focus have led to your victory in graduating from this esteemed

institution. We release you into the world with optimism, confident that you will make a difference, and proudly represent this great prophetic University. We are committed to serving our stakeholders diligently and fairly, ensuring they receive the high-quality and timely services we offer. We have maintained a timely admission process and ensured that students can complete their studies without unnecessary delays. The university remains dedicated to fulfilling its vision and mission of becoming a center of excellence. With eight faculties, we continuously generate and disseminate relevant, high-quality knowledge in education, enhance skills, and promote community capacity building. Additionally, we have taken the initiative to align our programs with the requirements set by the Commission for University Education (CUE) through self-assessment of our academic programmes.

We express our gratitude to the academic staff members who have worked diligently to ensure our graduates are equipped with the necessary skills demanded by the job market. Congratulations once again! We wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

VALEDICTORIAN FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

The Valedictorian for the Class of 2023 is Evans Nyamboi Chesang from the School of Nursing and Public Health graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Evans has demonstrated exceptional academic excellence and leadership throughout his academic journey. It is a well-deserved honor. Well done Evans.

Vice-Chancellor's Roll of Honor

1. Winnie Cherop, Bachelor of Commerce (HRM Option) Department of Business Studies.
2. Douglas Chisaka Shikwati, Bachelor of Public Health, School of Nursing and Public Health.
3. Muresia Carolyne Nekesa, Bachelor of Procurement & Logistics Management Dept of Business Studies

Office of the Registrar, Administration and Planning



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

The Office of the Registrar (Administration and Planning) is responsible for coordinating the provision and utilization of essential services that are integral to achieving the University's core mission of teaching, research, and

outreach. We have supported training efforts by increasing staffing levels and providing capacity-building opportunities for academic, administrative, and support staff. In order to enhance the comfort of both staff and students, we offer a range of essential services, including security, medical assistance, transportation, infrastructure maintenance and repair, cleaning, and grounds maintenance, among others. Further, the office has continued the formulation and implementation of various policies that streamline University operations in line with its strategic direction. The office encompasses the Human Resource Department and Facility and Utility Services Department. On behalf of the office of the Registrar (Administration and Planning I gladly take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2023 for your patience, sacrifice, hard work, and commitment that has brought you this far. Congratulation! Remember that graduation is but one peak in the vast mountain range of life's challenges. I trust that the training you have undertaken has equipped you with life skills that will enable you to navigate through successfully. Always strive to add value to humanity and create a better society by doing your best, driven by virtues, and exploring the less traveled road.

May the Almighty God bless you as you embark on the new phase of life as graduates.

Office of the Finance Officer



CPA John K. Thuraniira
Finance Officer

On behalf of the Finance Department, I would like to extend my congratulations to the graduating class of 2023 for reaching a significant milestone in their academic journey! We recognize you have dedicated a substantial amount of time and resources to attain the academic excellence that we are celebrating today.

The Finance Department is responsible for oversight of the University's finances, including efficient and accurate transaction processing, financial reporting, budgeting and financial planning, cash, debt, and risk management. These functions are carried out in strict conformity with the national treasury policies, governing legislations, and the requisite financial reporting standards. In the endeavour to comply with 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 the e-Citizen

platform in compliance with government regulations to cut the cost of time and money for clients seeking government services. In order to maintain 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 International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

In line with our mandate, the department has been actively streamlining financial operations by implementing digitalization of financial processes, ensuring a seamless provision of services to students, staff, and other stakeholders. Some of the processes that have been digitalized include the payment of fees, which updates students' financial statements in real time, ensuring prompt service delivery. Additionally, we have automated the payment of salaries and other products and services. Our commitment is to promptly address student concerns, creating a comfortable environment for their studies. We highly value our students as our primary customers, and we are dedicated to offering them timely and high-quality services. The department has also taken the initiative to counsel students on efficient financial resource management and external financing options. We remind you of the wise counsel from the renowned scholar, Kristian Kan who said "In response to those who say to stop dreaming and face reality, I say keep dreaming and make reality."

Human Resource Department



Dr. Henry Nyamu, Ph.D.
Human Resource Manager

efficiency, and aptitude as assessed from their educational, training, and prior employment records. All of these efforts are directed toward fostering employee retention, and loyalty, and boosting overall morale. Chuka University recently conducted comprehensive staff promotion reviews, and the fiercely competitive interviews resulted in the promotion of 2 full professors and 8 associate professors. In line with the practices of other higher institutions of learning, Chuka University is dedicated to promoting staff members who have achieved advanced qualifications and those who have consistently demonstrated satisfactory performance in their roles over a specified period.

“Chuka University is dedicated to promoting staff members who have achieved advanced qualifications and those who have consistently demonstrated satisfactory performance in their roles over a specified period.”

One of the University’s primary objectives is to attract, develop, and retain high-quality staff. Merit, as the basis for promotion, encompasses an individual employee’s skills, knowledge, ability,

Facility & Utility Services Department



Justin Kathuru,
HoD, Facility and Utility Services Department

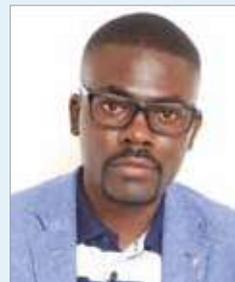
On behalf of the Facility and Utility Services Department, congratulations to the graduating class of 2023! We take pride in this accomplishment and encourage you to aspire to reach even greater heights. Facility and Utility Services is a new department which

includes the following sections: Accommodation, Catering, Hillside Grand Hotel, Transport Services, Cleanliness Management, Beautification and Landscaping

The Directorate’s overarching goal is to provide efficient and quality services in these diverse areas, contributing to an enriched and supportive university experience for all stakeholders, be they students, staff, or visitors.



Fridah Gatwiri,
In-Charge Accommodation



Makori
In-charge of student mess



Julius Musyoka,
In-Charge Hillside Grand Hotel



Elias Nyaga,
QS. HoD Estates



Evans Masanga,
In-Charge Catering

New Appointments



Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga, PhD.,
Professor of Midwifery and Nursing Education
Department of Nursing



Prof. Ochieng Ombaka, PhD.,
Professor of Chemistry
Department of Physical Sciences



Prof. Anne Andayi Sande, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor of Development Studies
Department of Social Sciences



Prof. Andrew T. Muguna
Associate Prof. of Human Resource Management
Department of Business Administration



Prof. Dennis Kariuki Muriithi, PhD.,
Associate Prof. of Applied Statistics
Department of Physical Science



Prof. Eric Mwenda Elias, PhD.,
Associate Prof. of Educational Management
Department of Education



Prof. Gilbert Mugambi Miriti, PhD.,
Associate Prof. of Entrepreneurship
Department of Business Administration



Prof. Nancy W. Mbaka, PhD.,
Associate Prof. in Linguistics
Department of Humanities



Prof. Humphrey Kirimi Ileri, PhD.,
Associate Prof. in Linguistics
Department of Humanities



Prof. Kyalo Wa Ngula, PhD.,
Associate Professor of Mass Communication
Department of Humanities

DIRECTORATES

Directorate of Performance Contracting



Florence Muthua Muthee

Director, Performance Contracting

On behalf of the Directorate of Performance Contracting, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduands. We are confident that the skills you have acquired will empower you to be relevant in your workplace, solve societal challenges, and build the nation.

The Directorate of Performance Contracting oversees the coordination, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the University Performance Contract in line with the University's strategic plan, and guidelines released annually by the Public Service Performance Management Monitoring Unit. Performance Contract is a performance tool that aims at improving efficiency and effectiveness in the management of public service and involves four major stages namely: Negotiation, Vetting, Implementation, and Evaluation. The Directorate coordinates University Management in drafting the University Council Performance Contract setting compressive performance targets and ensuring their achievement, coordinating implementation of performance contracts and annual work plans, coordinating the mainstreaming of the performance contracting system including preparation of reports in the University, cascading the contract to all departments, sections and cadres of staff, submitting quarterly reports to designated ministries, departments and agencies for the purposes of monitoring the progress.

The Public Service Performance Management and Monitoring Unit released the report on the performance contract evaluation of ministries, state corporations, and tertiary institutions for Financial Year 2021/2022. Based on this report, out



Seated: L-R: Prof. David T. K. Serem, Chairman of Council, Ms. Linet Kwamboka (member), Standing: L-R: Prof. Henry Mutembei (VC), Prof. Gilbert Nduru (DVC ARSA), Florence Muthua, Director Performance Contracting and Prof. Eunice Githae (DVC AFP&D).

of the 239 state corporations, Chuka University was ranked position 17 among 249 State Corporations. In the Education Sector, there were 38 Public Universities whose performance was evaluated, and the Chuka was ranked position 7 overall with a composite score of 2.3543, indicating an excellent performance.

Worth noting, the Public Service Commission published the 10th report FY 2021/2022 on Compliance with Values and Principles in Articles 10 & 232 of the Constitution. Chuka University was rated as a high achiever in the category of Public Universities. Chuka University continues to support the Government of Kenya in implementing Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, (BETA) MTP IV 2022-2027 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its activities, plans, policies, and programmes highlighted in the current Performance Contract. Among the notable milestones made by the University under Performance Contracting are the state-of-the-art infrastructure under the Vision 2030 Flagship Projects, the development, and review of new Bachelor, Masters, and Doctorate programmes which are market-driven, alignment of programmes and projects in line with the BETA economic model, continuous publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals, programmes that enhance quality and relevance of education, continuous capacity building of staff on Competence Based Education & Training (CBET) and engagement in community outreach programmes.

To our graduands, continue to seize opportunities to learn, grow, innovate, adapt, and be resilient. Once again, congratulations to all the graduands!

Directorate of Quality Assurance



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

The Directorate of Quality Assurance, is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the delivery of high-quality education, teaching, and research to enable the University to align with both national and international standards. Chuka University places significant emphasis on all facets of quality to ensure ongoing enhancement.

Congratulations to our graduates for reaching the finish line. We wholeheartedly celebrate your achievement. Your unwavering commitment, dedication, and sacrifices have kept you on the

path to success, and today signifies the culmination of your tremendous efforts. Today, we extend a warm welcome to your parents, guardians, stakeholders, and our distinguished visitors who have joined us to witness this significant event. It serves as a testament to the delivery of high-quality services at Chuka University. We extend our sincere appreciation to the lecturers, who have provided guidance, mentorship, and unwavering support throughout your academic journey.

As you transition from academia to the job market, you may encounter some cultural differences and challenges. We encourage you to be patient, open-minded and prepared to put in hard work as you adapt to your new environment. With these qualities, you are well-equipped to thrive and succeed in your future endeavors. Once again congratulations on your great achievement! May you be excellent ambassadors for Chuka University wherever you go.

Office of Career Services

The Directorate of Career Services and Mentorship wishes to congratulate all graduands on this 12th Graduation Ceremony for their well-deserved achievement.

The primary mission of the Office of Career Services is to facilitate the development of students' skill sets, with a focus on enhancing soft skills, and to foster opportunities for meaningful interactions and networking between students and potential employers. This is aimed at ensuring a seamless transition from the academic sphere to the professional world.

Throughout our educational programs, we have conducted numerous training sessions for students engaged in business activities. Additionally, we have organized incubation forums as part of the 4th Eastern Region Open-Career Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (ERO-CRIEW), providing students with a platform to present and pitch their business

ideas. This initiative aims to foster an environment where students can cultivate and develop their entrepreneurial talents.

We trust that through the numerous career forums we've organized, you have gained vital job-related, employability, and interpersonal skills. We encourage you to remain vigilant and stay abreast of the ever-evolving trends in the job market. This proactive approach will undoubtedly benefit you as you embark on your career journey. The purpose of education is to address and resolve the challenges that communities face and, more specifically, to offer solutions to individuals' problems. In this context, we strongly promote entrepreneurship and urge you to think innovatively and creatively.

If you are completing your undergraduate degree, I encourage you to aspire to pursue a master's degree. Similarly, if you have earned a master's degree, I urge you to contemplate furthering your



Joyce Mghoi Macharia
Director, Office of Career Services

education with a doctorate. The pursuit of knowledge should be a continuous journey, and one should never be content with their current level of achievement. Strive for greater heights and continue your academic and personal growth.

I encourage you to consider joining Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA). This will provide you with invaluable opportunities to network, consult with fellow alumni, and establish connections that can greatly benefit your career. It's also a wonderful way to give back to the university that has played a pivotal role in shaping your future.

Directorate of Resource Mobilisation



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

On behalf of the Directorate of Resource Mobilization, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Class of 2023 for achieving this significant milestone in your lives! It is both a privilege and a source of joy to celebrate this momentous occasion with you as you graduate and take your place alongside those who came before you, all poised to make a positive impact on society in your own unique ways.

The Directorate of Resource Mobilization (DRM), formerly known as the Directorate of Privately Sponsored Students (DPSS), was established in 2023 to mobilize both internally and externally generated funds. The Directorate of Resource Mobilization plays a pivotal role in fostering financial sustainability and growth for the University. With a clear and dynamic mandate, the Directorate works diligently to ensure that the University's financial foundation remains robust and adaptable through the development, implementation,

and rigorous monitoring of fundraising strategies. These strategies are not only essential for meeting the University's financial goals but also for supporting the diverse needs of the academic community.

Furthermore, the Directorate takes on the vital role of coordinating the University's resource mobilization efforts. This collaborative approach ensures that various departments and stakeholders work in unison to achieve common objectives, making the University's financial endeavors more effective and efficient. Mapping donors is another crucial aspect of the Directorate's work. By carefully identifying and categorizing potential benefactors, we lay the foundation for meaningful and sustainable partnerships. This includes not only recognizing existing donors but also discovering new sources of financial support that align with the University's mission and vision.

“Our dear graduands, as you complete this phase of your Chuka University, we would encourage you to take some time to reflect on your passion and consider your goals in life.”

In line with this, the Directorate is tasked with coordinating and facilitating interdisciplinary proposals. These proposals are instrumental in attracting funding for research and infrastructure projects, advancing the University's academic and research agenda. To diversify funding sources, the Directorate actively engages with a wide range of entities. This includes liaising with county and national governments, corporations, charitable trusts, partners and donors, financial institutions, as well as foundations, both within Kenya and internationally.

The Directorate is dedicated to fortifying the University's financial position and fostering a culture of financial sustainability. With a multifaceted approach encompassing strategy development, donor engagement, and capacity building, we ensure that Chuka University can continue to excel and grow in its mission of academic excellence and research advancement.

Our dear graduands, as you complete this phase of your Chuka University, we would encourage you to take some time to reflect on your passion and consider your goals in life. We are certain that whichever path you take; Chuka University will always remain close to your heart.

We look forward to reconnecting with you as our alumni. Once again, congratulations, and best of luck in your endeavors. You have earned this moment; it is your time in the sun and we so proud of all of you!

Directorate of Examinations & Timetabling



Jediel Sendeyo

Director, Examinations & Timetabling

We congratulate the 2023 candidates on this auspicious occasion of your graduation. It is your

hard work, determination, resilience, and discipline that has earned you this achievement. These qualities, which you have demonstrated throughout your academic journey, will undoubtedly continue to serve you well as you pursue your dreams and embark on your future endeavors.

The Directorate is pleased to be associated with this achievement. We have walked with you throughout this journey by way of programming your academic schedules, designing your teaching, consultations, and examinations timetables, processing your examinations as well as ensuring that all these were implemented as envisioned. This has ensured the completion of your studies within the prescribed time.

It is our prayer that as you embark on a new phase of your life, that of developing yourself, your family, your community, and the nation at large, the training you have received at Chuka University will come in handy as the requisite arsenal to conquer the world.

We wish all of you a bright future!

Directorate of Farms, Buildings and University Enterprises (FABUE)



Dr. Jafford N. Rithaa, Ph.D.

Director, FABUE

have equipped you to excel in your chosen professions.

The directorate contributes to the achievement of the University's Vision and mission through the management of University farms and income-generating units (IGU) of the University. The University farms enhance teaching and research by providing demonstration plots for students' projects and experimental sites for the staff research

On behalf of the Directorate of Farms Buildings and University Enterprises (FABUE), I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2023. You have received comprehensive training and have demonstrated your qualifications in your respective fields of expertise. We wholeheartedly encourage you to approach the challenges of the workplace with courage, confidence, and an optimistic outlook. Your preparation and dedication

projects as well as generating income for the University. The University has a total of 645 acres of land distributed at the Main Campus, Kairini Farm, Mwanjati Farm, Igembe Campus, and Chogoria Campus. Other University lands include the Embu campus and



Llamas used for training and research at Ndagani farm.



Kairini farm 15 million-liter water dam.

Nairobi Campus-Chuka University Elimu Plaza, along Loita Street.

The University's agricultural enterprises encompass a wide range of activities, including livestock management, agronomic practices, and horticultural farming.

At the Ndagani farm, we have animals that are primarily used for training and research, as well as demonstration plots for students and staff. The farm also boasts greenhouses,



VC Prof. Henry Mutembei (Center) with students at the Mwanjati Farm during the tree planting exercise.

tree nurseries, flower nurseries, a variety of crops, coffee, napier grass, lucerne, desmodium, rhodes grass, cows, pigs, llamas, fish, sheep, and rabbits. These agricultural products are consistently available for purchase at the Directorate. The Kairini farm is primarily dedicated to livestock keeping, particularly local breeds of goats and cattle. It also engages in agronomic farming activities, with plantations of bananas



Dr. Jafford Rithaa, Director of Farms, Buildings, and University Enterprises plants a tree at the Mwanjati Farm.



Oscar Njagi
University Farm Manager

and mangoes as notable features. Ongoing developmental projects at Kairini farm include the installation of a drip irrigation system, which involves a 15-million-liter water pan to irrigate at least 50 acres of land.

In addition to its agricultural pursuits, Chuka University operates a dispensary at the Kairini farm to provide health services to the local community within the University's vicinity.

The University's endeavors extend beyond agriculture and include the Hillside Grand Hotel, which offers catering and hospitality services, accommodation, and conference facilities. Other essential services provided by the University with enterprise elements are medical clinic, library, and AI services. Furthermore, the University operates tree and flower nurseries, offering seedlings for sale.

Notably, Chuka University also owns Elimu Plaza in Nairobi, which generates rental income as a financial sustainability strategy. These diversified initiatives reflect Chuka University's commitment to not only academic excellence but also its active role in contributing to the local economy and community.



Mango trees plantations at Kairini farm.

Directorate of Research, Extension and Publications



Participants during the 10th Annual International Research Conference.



Prof. Shelmith Munyiri, P.h.D.
Director, Research, Extension and Publications

Today is a significant occasion as we celebrate and extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2023 for reaching this remarkable milestone in their academic journey. Congratulations! May God bless your endeavors as you step out to tackle the challenges confronting our societies. Go forth, shine, thrive with the grace of God, and contribute to making the world a better place for humanity

The Directorate of Research, Extension, and Publications is responsible for leading research, extension activities, and publications within the University. To fulfill its mission, the Directorate hosts Annual International Research Conferences, Bi-annual Open Research and Career Weeks, and publishes the University journal, *Journal of Environmental Sustainability Advancement Research (JESAR)*, which is now published on electronic and open access (OA) model. The Directorate operates with the support of 13 board members, who receive, review, and process internal research proposals from both staff and postgraduate students.

The Directorate coordinates university extension activities. To strengthen the capabilities of our staff, the Directorate offers training for faculty members on writing research funding proposals and mobilizes staff to engage in national and international research initiatives. In February this year, the Directorate organized a proposal and policy



Dr. Roselida Owour, Director of Research Development, Ministry of Education receives branded memorabilia from the VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei during the 10th International Research Conference.

brief writing workshop for 80 staff members drawn from all faculties and schools. In March, the Directorate successfully held the 4th Open Research and Career Week, whose Theme was: *'Careers and Research for Economic Transformation through Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CRETIE)'*. The Open Week forum attracted over 1,500 attendees, including exhibitors, and innovators, and a recognition of the best startup exhibitors and presenters.



Dr. Dan Gikonyo, CEO Karen Hospital, gives his keynote address on protecting the world from adverse climate change and healthcare.



Alan Dixon, MD Let's Go Travel Uniglobe delivers his keynote address during the 10th Annual International Research Conference.

from various nationalities including keynote speakers and presenters from the USA, China, Madagascar, Fiji, Tanzania, and Nigeria. Several renowned Kenyan scientists graced the event and held vivacious panel discussions within the various sub-themes including: concept of planetary boundaries in peaceful societies and environmental sustainability; vital nexus between nuclear energy and climate change; innovative strategies and approaches for realizing sustainable societies and strategies for mobilizing partnerships and solutions



The VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei, and the International Research Conference participants cut a cake to celebrate a decade of research excellence.



Participants during the closing ceremony of the 10th International Research Conference.

for sustainable development within climate justice; entrepreneurial university culture and mind-set setting for increased academic and research productivity; the upsurge of lifestyle diseases in contemporary Kenya and available remedies, the role of humanities and social sciences in a changing world; green innovations for enhanced resilience and sustainability in hospitality business.

In addition, this year's conference marked the 10th Anniversary since the inception of Chuka University International Research Conferences in the year 2013. This year further marked a paradigm shift in our publishing history through the launch of JESAR as an open-access journal. All previous articles have since been uploaded and can now be accessed through the online open-access platform which has several benefits including increasing knowledge access, accelerating scientific progress, equality, and inclusivity among other advantages. The Directorate has held several community outreach activities within Campus and without by organizing farmers' training and demonstration activities.

On the 5th and 6th of October 2023, the Directorate successfully organized and held the *10th Annual International Research Conference (IRC)*. This year's conference theme was *"Mainstreaming Research Innovation and Technology-Transfer and Commercialization for Sustainable Economies (MRIT-TCSE)"*. This theme resonated with the current drive in Kenya towards addressing the challenges facing our society. The 10th International Research Conference attracted researchers

To fulfill its mission, the Directorate hosts Annual International Research Conferences, Bi-annual Open Research and Career Weeks, and publishes the University journal, Journal of Environmental Sustainability Advancement Research (JESAR), which is now is published on electronic and open access (OA) model.

Directorate of Online, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL)



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

On behalf of the Directorate of Open, Distance, and e-Learning we extend our congratulations to all the graduands during this 12th graduation ceremony for your well-deserved achievements. The journey may have been challenging, but you have ultimately succeeded. You have fought valiantly and completed the race with determination. In a special way, we acknowledge the 52 students in the ODEL class of 2021 who will be graduating today. This marks the fourth cohort of ODEL students following the pioneer class of 2018, which graduated during the 11th graduation.

The ODEL Directorate has achieved significant milestones since its establishment. The number of students enrolling for education through the ODEL mode of study has steadily increased over the years. The global demand for e-content and e-mode of delivery has been growing rapidly, and Chuka University is at

the forefront of this trend. This is the era of the digital revolution, which has transformed how students and lecturers interact. Virtual classrooms have become the norm, allowing students to engage with lecturers from anywhere in the world.

We offer 18 programmes through the blended mode of study. The Directorate hosts a fully equipped modern studio and computer laboratory that allows lecturers to conduct virtual classes and record audio-visual lectures. The lab is furnished with 25 laptops, available for both students and lecturers to utilize for research and assignments. The Department's mission is to enhance accessibility to affordable and high-quality higher education for society

through flexible modes of delivery and modern learning technologies.

Our e-learning mode of study is not only flexible, affordable, and accessible but also offers a customized learning experience. Students and lecturers often have access to very diverse material such as videos, photos, and e-books. Lecturers can also integrate other formats like forums or discussions to improve their lessons. This extra content is available with the use of digital platforms and digital libraries anytime from anywhere, which will offer students a more dynamic and tailor-made education. The growing digital uptake in all sectors including telecommuting in education affirms the need for embracing e-learning. The concept of traditional education has changed radically within the last couple of years. Being physically present in a classroom is not the only learning option anymore. We have entered into a new era of digital uptake with a paradigm shift to online education.

Are you seeking an opportunity to further your education? Look no further. The Chuka University EDEL program offers you availability, accessibility, flexibility, affordability, and a tailored learning experience. Join us now to unlock your educational journey. Once again congratulations to the graduating class of 2023.

The Chuka University EDEL program offers you availability, accessibility, flexibility, affordability, and a tailored learning experience. Join us now to unlock your educational journey.

FACULTIES

Faculty of Agriculture



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

On behalf of the entire staff of the Faculty of Agriculture (FAGRI), I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2023, parents and guardians. It has been a journey travelled well but not without challenges that have made you come out strong and focused. The Faculty of Agriculture comprises of four departments namely Plant

Sciences (PLSC), Animal Sciences (ANSC), Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Education and Extension (AGEC/AGBM & AGED), and Food Technology (FTEC). The Faculty of Agriculture (FAGRI) aims to reduce poverty and improve community livelihoods by producing graduates with skills and competencies that contribute toward increased food productivity through sustainable utilization of locally available resources. FAGRI's niche is to extend creative climate-smart farming solutions to increase agribusiness productivity and agricultural product value addition to create wealth and sustainable development. FAGRI also aims to achieve its mission through collaborative research with relevant stakeholders in society. The faculty realizes that farming is an industry based on science and technology and therefore offers courses relevant to the changing climate and societal needs for industrial growth. In addition to providing knowledge and skills to the students to be competent, they are also equipped with entrepreneurial and management skills for self-employment.

The training offered to our graduates in FAGRI is key to improving crop and livestock productivity through better research and extension services, agribusiness management, policy analysis, and agricultural product value addition.



Members of the Faculty of Agriculture engage with the community in farming.



Prof. Geoffrey Gathungu (left), Outgoing Dean hands over instruments of power to the Incoming Dean, Dr. Grace Abucheli (right).

To improve the quality of our graduates the faculty staff and students have been conducting research with communities that is in tandem with the local, national, and international demands and challenges through developmental agricultural and entrepreneurial projects like InnoFoodAfrica (IFA), CIAT Bioversity, 1890 Universities Center of Excellence in Global Food Security and Defense (CEGFSD), Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program (KCSAP), Internally Funded Projects, and National Research Fund among others. Working with communities has enabled our students to have a strong practical orientation during their training. Our collaborators include Research Institutions like KALRO, ILRI, IPNI, FAO, local and International Universities, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, NGOs, and Faith-based organizations among others. The faculty has established international collaborations with the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Southern University, and Tuskegee University all in the USA among others.

From the Department of Plant Science, we are confident that today we are graduating managers, researchers, producers, amenity horticulturists, commercial horticulturists, consultants, sales executives and entrepreneurs among many other opportunities. We encourage the graduates that as long as there is life on earth, no Horticulture/ Agriculture graduate should talk of unemployment. The two courses are highly practical and the type of training obtained exposes you to a variety of opportunities. As a department we are optimistic that you are an asset to this country, we look forward to your contribution towards sustainable Agricultural production and food security as per the BETA (Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda) 2022-2027 agenda. In addition, we would like to encourage you to pursue higher training and specialize in various courses offered by the Department at Master's and PhD levels in Horticulture (one can specialize in fruits, flowers or vegetable production),

Agronomy, Soil Sciences, Plant Breeding, Crop Protection, Plant Biotechnology, Dryland Farming among others. We encourage each one of you to face the outside world with a positive mind and you will succeed.

In the Department of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Education, we believe you are now equipped with knowledge and the best skills from a world-class university. The Department has achieved a great milestone of producing high-caliber students in the fields of Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness Management Agricultural Education, and Extension. The department continues to expand in terms of post-graduate student enrollment. Currently, the department is



Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, Prof. Gilbert Nduru (DVC ARSA), Dr. Roseline Kahindi, Prof. Shelmith Munyiri, Dr. Grace Abucheli (Dean Faculty of Agriculture), Ms. Stella Kaburia have round table discussions with Mr. Loyd Kibaara and Mr. Edwin Munene from Ideal Concept Farms Limited.

hosting 4 Ph.D. programmes, 4 Master of Science programmes, 3 undergraduate programmes, and 2 diploma programmes. The department boasts of graduating the highest number of postgraduate students since its establishment. Our core function is to develop and offer programmes geared towards solving the socio-economic, cultural, and agricultural developmental challenges facing humanity in the 21st century.

The Department of Animal Sciences has also been key in promoting livestock production. A new program the Bachelor of Science in Animal Health Management and Upgrading Diploma in Animal Health and Production will go a long way in producing graduates that will spearhead livestock products value addition. Through funding from International Atomic Energy, the department hosted two graduates from Njala University College from the University of Sierra Leone for an eight weeks internship programme. In collaboration with Tuskegee University, USA the department is also implementing a beekeeping project.



Faculty of Agriculture have a round table discussion with the VC, Prof. Mutembei.

The Department of Food Technology, endeavors to be at the forefront of the agro-industrial development of the nation through the training of intellectually and practically competent graduates in food science and technology to cater to national and regional needs. Our department is also proactive in engaging with the relevant public and private sector players so as to create the best environment for industrial growth through the value addition of agricultural products in Kenya. Recently, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dairy Training Center (DTC) of the Netherlands which will see our students and staff advance their knowledge in the area of dairy technology. Through this partnership, the first cohort of young dairy entrepreneurs is set to undertake training from October to December 2023 at the Practical Dairy Training Centre, Nakuru, Kenya. We are also keen to offer training to the community especially farmers in Tharaka Nithi who are interested in value addition of agricultural produce, the most recent being the Global Family Welfare group who were trained on strawberry value addition.

To further improve the quality of teaching, training, and research we offer we shall soon commission an ultramodern food science complex that will host a commercial dairy processing plant, cereals, fruit and vegetables, and meat processing pilot plants together with fully equipped food chemistry, microbiology, and engineering laboratories. Part of the equipment for the dairy processing unit has already been delivered awaiting installation and commissioning. These facilities will provide excellent practical and innovative experiences for our students and staff and serve as an income generation unit for the University. The facility will also offer teaching, training, and research opportunities for the community through the formation of strategic partnerships with stakeholders in the food value-addition sub-sector, thus contributing to the Kenya government's goals of improving food security and manufacturing actualizing the Kenya Kwanza 'BETA' economic model.



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



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



Mr. Geoffrey Kosgei,
COD, AGEK/AGBM/AGED



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

Faculty of Education and Resources Development



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

Well done and congratulations class of 2023! You have done us proud. We challenge you to utilize the many skills you have harnessed through education and training at Chuka University to add value to society. Our faculty provides a vibrant learning environment where faculty staff, students, alumni, and stakeholders regularly engage in active learning and training, responsive pedagogy, rigorous scientific discoveries, passionate advocacy, and competency-based engagement. Our distinguished faculty and staff

members work every day to achieve our vision. FERED in Chuka University is a community in which all students are given the support they need to realize their unique potential and develop the creativity and resilience that will lead to a successful career in education.

We are also proud of our diverse offerings for achieving a degree or a diploma in education. For instance, we offer programmes with Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) content at the 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) and in our Postgraduate Diploma in Education. Our goal is to provide multiple pathways and modalities for students to achieve their goals of becoming quality educators who will not only match theory and practice in the future but also fit in the Global industry of Educators. Endeavor to be Chuka University's prime ambassadors as you advance professionally.

Department of Education

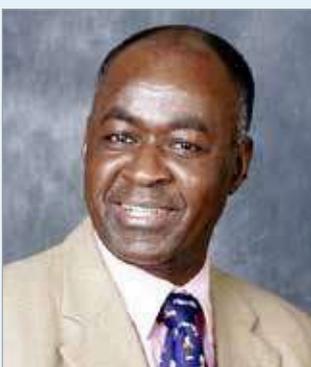


Prof. Mercy Wanja Njagi, Ph.D.
CoD-Department of Education

We congratulate the 2023 graduates and express my appreciation for the excellent work you have done. As a department, we have prepared you to become the best teacher trainees possible. Now that you are professional educators, please apply all the knowledge and skills you've acquired in both the school and the larger community.

The department has also instilled values that you need to impart to your students, helping them integrate into society. As professional teachers, remember to be flexible, adaptable, fair, and firm. Furthermore, you should continue to learn and stay updated in all relevant areas.

Faculty of Engineering



Prof. Marcel Odhiambo Ohanga, Ph.D.,
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

Dear graduands of the inaugural class of the Faculty of Engineering, congratulations on reaching this momentous milestone! Today marks not only the culmination of your hard work and dedication but also the beginning of a new era for our esteemed faculty. As the Dean, I am immensely proud of each and every one of you for your accomplishments, resilience, and commitment to excellence. You are the pioneers of our engineering legacy, and

I have no doubt that your innovative spirit will shape the future of this field. Embrace the challenges ahead with the same enthusiasm that brought you here today, and remember that the skills and knowledge you've gained will not only serve you well but also contribute to the advancement of society. Best wishes on your journey beyond these walls, and may your futures be as bright as the impact you're destined to make. Congratulations, Class of 2023!

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



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

Today, with a deep sense of pride, we congratulate you for your outstanding achievement. You have worked so hard over the years and today marks the culmination of realizing your academic dreams. We are celebrating you today because from the onset you had a well-defined goal and went the extra yard to achieve. Like an eagle, armed with the quality education that you have received at Chuka University, you can now fly away and soar into the realm of endless possibilities.

We are happy that we have produced citizens who are adequately trained for the labour market, and who can provide sustainable solutions to the problems confronting human society. Many of our graduates are doing very well in their careers and professional development. For example, Dr. Kenneth Kigundu, a former student in our faculty and now a lecturer of Economics in the Department of Social

Sciences, was selected through a rigorous and competitive process in the whole of Africa as a visiting scholar for six months (January –June 2023) at the World-Bank in Washington DC through the World Bank-African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) visiting scholars' programme. His short stint at the World Bank has earned him invaluable experience and international exposure. Similarly, Mr. Ibrahim Mulinge also a former student of Criminology and Security Studies in our faculty, was recently appointed as the Senior Security Officer to head the Security Department in Chuka University. These are just but a few examples of the exemplary graduates that we produce as a faculty.

To ensure we provide quality teaching and research, lecturers in the faculty are empowered and supported to pursue further academic studies. Currently, a sizeable number of lecturers are undertaking their doctoral studies in various universities in the country and abroad. Besides staff development through advanced studies, the faculty has been reviewing curricula and aligning them to the labour market needs.

The faculty has acquired modern equipment for teaching and learning. For example, Chuka University Radio provides an excellent platform for training journalists many of whom have soared into stardom on the airwaves. The radio is also a source of informative and educative

programmes for the local communities across seven counties in Kenya. These resources together with a dedicated and competent team of lecturers in the faculty have made the academic programmes in the faculty a first choice by many students across the country.

There has been a change of leadership in the faculty. Following the lapse of tenure of office of the former dean, Prof. Stephen K. Wambugu, I was elected as the next Dean. I want to sincerely thank my colleagues in the faculty for having confidence in me and electing me as their Dean. In addition, I want to thank our former dean Prof. Wambugu for his exemplary leadership during his tenure as the dean. Prior to being elected the dean, I served as the chairman of the Department of Social Sciences. I therefore, wish to congratulate Dr. Monicah Oundo for her appointment as the acting chairperson and promise the department and new job dispensation.

Finally, I urge our graduands to be excellent ambassadors of your alma mater, Chuka University. Once again congratulations!



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



(L-R) James Wainaina, a lecturer in the section of Media interviews Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mutembei, Dr. Dan Gikonyo the CEO and Cardiologist at the Karen Hospital, and Prof. Jospeter Mbuba, USA during the 10th International Research Conference



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

Growing Global Influence of the French Language



Chrispus Mwakundia
French, Head of Section

In the year 2022, the International Organization of the Francophonie released a report revealing the remarkable growth of French language speakers across the globe. With an estimated 321 million speakers in 2022, French has secured its place as the fifth most spoken language worldwide, following English, Chinese, Hindi, and Spanish, and surpassing languages such as Arabic, Bengali, and Russian. Notably, French and English are the only languages spoken on all continents, emphasizing their global significance. Furthermore, French stands as the second most taught language, with more than 50 million individuals dedicating themselves to its mastery, solidifying its role as a crucial tool for international communication. The report underscores the importance of multilingualism as a prerequisite for mutually beneficial multilateralism, advocating for the defense of this shared resource and social value (IOF, 2022).

Apart from its worldwide status, French also stands as the third most utilized language for business communication and the fourth most used language on the Internet, trailing behind English, Chinese, and Spanish,

and surpassing German, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, Hindi, and Arabic. A significant development worth mentioning is the adoption of French as one of the official languages by the East African Community (EAC) in 2021. Additionally, French holds the status of an official language within the African Union (AU), COMESA, and various other international organizations.

Recognizing the growing demand for French language proficiency in a globalized world and the increased need for academic and literacy courses in French within the country, Chuka University has started various French language courses. These courses aim to equip students with foreign language skills and foster intercultural awareness, sensitivity, and competence.

To lead this initiative, the French Section has been tasked with coordinating French subjects and programmes and spearheading curriculum development and review, among other responsibilities. The current programmes include Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Sociology, Bachelor of Education (Arts) in French (offering French with another subject specialization), and an Elementary Certificate in French language. The section is also contemplating the development of a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and International Relations, as well as Certificate and Diploma programs specializing in legal and medical French.

The French Section has forged partnership agreements with the French Embassy in Kenya and Somalia. This collaboration has yielded numerous benefits, including: Two students successfully completing

the Professional Diploma course in Hotel and Tourism (DFP Hôtellerie-Restaurant) in 2020, a programme offered by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris; A generous book donation of 35 textbooks for the teaching of French for tourism ("Bon voyage A1/A2"). The participation of a student, Bonface Omari Okworo, in the Language Assistant Program, which allowed Kenyan students to teach French in selected French secondary schools. Omari is currently serving as a language assistant in the Montpellier region; The Coordinator of the French Section, Mwakundia benefited from the PAMEFK project, attending a fully funded one-week training course in Specialty French in June 2023, followed by a two-week fully funded training in university teaching and research skills for Doctoral students in September 2023. This partnership is set to be extended starting November 2023.

Finally, in collaboration with the Kifaransa Village, the French club at Chuka University successfully organized its inaugural French Day celebration on October 21, 2023.

The global prominence of the French language, coupled with Chuka University's commitment to promoting French language education, showcases the growing significance of multilingualism and intercultural competence in an increasingly interconnected world. Through international partnerships and academic initiatives, Chuka University's French Section is poised to play a vital role in equipping students with the language skills and cultural awareness needed for the challenges of the 21st century.

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 2023, marking the 12th graduation ceremony. The faculty comprises two departments: Business Administration and Management

Science. This year, the faculty is proud to announce the graduation of approximately 450 students across a wide spectrum of programs, including Certificates, Diplomas, Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees. Notably, we are witnessing the first cohort of Doctoral students in Business Management, Supply Chain Management, Finance, and Accounting, who are currently at different stages of their thesis writing. We are proud to announce that two of these doctoral students will be graduating during today's ceremony.

The Faculty of Business Studies is committed to its mission of providing high-quality and relevant business and entrepreneurship education, training, and research, contributing to sustainable national and global development. Our aspiration is to elevate the Faculty of Business Studies to the status of a world-class Business School. 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 job market and entrepreneurial endeavors. This

preparedness is a result of the practical skills they acquire in a conducive learning environment, guided by a team of highly qualified, dedicated, talented, and experienced faculty members. Additionally, our students gain industry exposure through industrial attachments and academic trips, where they interact with key industry players



Prof. Isaac Nkaari (seated), L-R: Dr. Catherine Kaimenyi, Prof. Gilbert Miriti, Dr. Rev. Joseph Wabwire, Ms. Jacinta Mitambo and Ms. Redempta Makena during the Dean's handing-over ceremony.

Throughout the year, our faculty members have been actively engaged in disseminating business research findings at various conferences. Notably, we participated in the recent 10th International Research Conference with the theme 'Mainstreaming Research, Innovation, Technology Transfer, and Commercialization for Sustainable Economies,' which was held at the University. Our faculty is dedicated to providing a diverse array of academic programs meticulously designed to cater to the academic and developmental requirements of our stakeholders to meet the emerging global and industry needs.



Prof. Gilbert Miriti (left) outgoing dean and Prof. Isaac Nkaari (right) incoming dean sign Faculty documents during the dean's handing-over ceremony.



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

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2023. Dear Graduands, it is truly inspiring to witness your resilience and determination as you have navigated through the challenges of your educational journey, and today, we share in the joy of your achievement. You have been an integral part of our story, just as we have been a part of yours during the time you were under our care.

This journey has been a long and winding one, often marked by significant challenges. You have triumphed over extraordinary circumstances that posed threats to disrupt and alter your education. You have conquered the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, endured rigorous training schedules, faced demanding financial needs, and persevered through numerous personal sacrifices. Today, we gather here to celebrate, honour, and recognize your remarkable accomplishments. You are the winners.

As we send you out into the world, we take pride in the knowledge we've instilled in you, and we have complete

confidence in your capabilities. You have acquired the right information, skills, aptitude, and ethics from your faculty, which will serve you well as you embark on your careers and lifelong journeys. Keep in mind that your journey is ongoing, and with

the knowledge you have gained, there is no limit to what you can achieve and the great things you can accomplish. We have tenaciously molded each of you to be prudent leaders, brave researchers, zealous scholars, and committed transformative agents. As you embark on your corporate journey, I beseech you to seek ways to serve your community and mankind. I implore you to be the light and salt of the world. Bring peace and solutions to every environment you find yourself in and be positive role models to everyone.

As you join our Alumni, spread across the world, be our ambassadors and live up to the greatness of our prophetic university. I encourage you to come back for the next level of learning. Our programs are accredited, solution-oriented, market-driven, and designed to deliver world-class solutions. Our facilities, faculty, and staff are among the best in the region and the world ensuring that you successfully complete your learning on time.

Special gratitude to you the parents, spouses, children, and friends of our graduands many of whom are here today to witness this graduation. You have been patient, understanding, and very supportive of us and the students during these challenging, but rewarding, years at the university. As we promised when we admitted them here, we give back to you qualified professionals and problem solvers.



Prof. Sammy Musundi (left), outgoing dean, handing over the instruments of power to Prof. Paul Kamweru (right), incoming dean.



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



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



Dr. David Mwach, Ph.D.
CoD, Department of Computer Science

Faculty of Law



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

As we mark an important milestone in the life of students who have passed through Chuka University in various programmes, I wish to thank you all for your tireless efforts. Congratulations Graduands! I fully appreciate the work done by all teaching and non-teaching staff who have mentored and equipped the

Graduands with the required skills and knowledge. As a Faculty of Law, we firmly believe in the spirit of community and are therefore proud to be part of your achievement (even though our students are not due for graduation yet!). We appreciate those who have attained this joyous achievement and reflect on the need to have an all-rounded Graduands and this is a commitment that we have undertaken to realize in the faculty of law.



The Faculty of Law received accreditation in December 2020 and welcomed its inaugural class of students in May 2021. Since then, the faculty has expanded to enroll 240 students, a clear testament to its status as the preferred provider of legal education in Kenya. Despite being among the newest faculties in the university, the Faculty of Law staff and students have been able to make an impact on the student's life in the faculty and the institution at large. The faculty has set the pace and is on the rising trajectory as evidenced in many events as highlighted.

Natural Justice Moot Court Competition – Riara University

Chuka University Faculty of Law (CU-FLAW) was privileged to participate in the Inaugural Natural Justice Moot Court competition held on 28th and 29th October 2022. It was the first inter-university moot court competition that the school participated in and was represented by second-year students. The aim of the moot court was to bring forth solutions to the ever-rising violation of Article 42 of the Constitution of Kenya on the right to a clean environment. The CU-FLAW had



a representation of two teams comprising of three members per team. The teams beat the odds and claimed position 9 out of the 20 teams that participated in the competition. One of the teams also claimed position 4 out of the 18 teams with regard to the neatness and coherence of their well-researched memorials.

SOGIEC Moot Competition - University of Embu

Chuka University Faculty of Law (CU-FLAW) was privileged to participate in its second inter-university moot court competition on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression and Characteristics (SOGIEC) held on 31st March 2023 at the University of Embu. The competition was sponsored by Eagles of Life (who have since formalized a collaboration with Chuka University Faculty of Law) Three teams represented the school and performed exemplary well. A team of 10 observers was also included to enhance students' exposure to practical and industrial experience. The aim of the moot was to help students comprehend what rights sexual minorities have and the limitations of the rights. Chuka University Faculty of Law Team 1 emerged as position 2 overall in the orals. The team was also clinched the 'Best Research Award'.

Faculty of Law Discussions on Emerging Jurisprudence

Chuka University Faculty of Law (CU-FLAW) initiated a seminar on emerging issues and jurisprudence. The discussion is hosted online to enable the diverse participation of interested stakeholders. On 27th July 2023, the Faculty of Law held its inaugural online discussion where other law schools such as the Catholic University of East Africa, Kenyatta University, University of Embu, University of Nairobi, and Egerton University participated in the discussion. The topic was 'Altering the Indeterminate Life Sentence Matrix: Revisiting the Court of Appeal decision in *Julius Manyeso versus Republic*.' The panelists in the meeting were; Advocate Kipkorir Elvis, Naomi Kiereini and Evans Muchanga. The topic provided some great insights in light of questioning the constitutionality of the Life Sentence.



Allan Owour,
CoD Department of Law

LSAK Launch

On the 4th of August 2023, Chuka University Faculty of Law proudly participated in the Law Students Association of Kenya launch at Catholic University of East Africa. Chuka University School of Law took pride in sending a delegation of 20 students in the event launch. The event proved was a good networking platform where students were also privileged to meet distinguished legal practitioners and scholars such as Prof. Fred Ojiambo, Senior Counsel Philip Murgor, Senior Counsel and Chair Law Society of Kenya, Eric Theuri among others. It was such a splendid experience.

Remarkable Participation and Performance in the KEMUN Debates - 5th Intersivity Debate

On the 26th of August 2023, Chuka University Faculty of Law (CU-FLAW) was privileged to be invited to the 5th Inter-varsity Debate at Kenyatta University School of Law Parklands Campus by Kenya Model United Nations (KEMUN). The aim of the competition was among other things; to equip students with knowledge with regards to finance matters; to equip students with knowledge of how the different institutions and commissions work, and, to equip students with the requisite knowledge on plastics pollution and help them to come up with solutions of curbing pollution. CU-FLAW was represented by 3 teams. Out of 32 teams that participated in the event, one of the faculty team emerged as position 2, and one of the team members was selected and awarded the best delegate/oralist.

First Mock Debate



On the 7th of October 2023, Chuka University was honoured to be invited to the 1st Mock Debate by KEMUN that was held at the Catholic University of East Africa. A team of 21 participants attended as well as a few observers. The participants were engaged in different simulations including the General Assembly, the International Law Commission, and the International Court of Justice. Some of the participants were



specially recognized for their dedication. Chuka University was also recognized as the most vibrant institution in the debate. Notably Evanson Muchanga, a Chuka University Faculty of Law emerged as the Best Oralist.

Initiation of Collaboration with Kenya National Human Rights Commission

Chuka University Faculty of Law had the privilege of hosting a delegation from Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNCHR) on 18th October 2023. The delegation led by the Head of Public Education and Training, Mr. Laban Cheruiyot met the Chair of Council, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor-ARSA and Director- REP to explore possibilities of establishing partnership and linkages in activities of mutual interest and benefit to KNCHR and Chuka University. KNCHR and Chuka Faculty of Law teams also conducted a joint mentorship programme and held a sensitization talk for students on the importance of human rights protection and promotion of human rights. Among other things, the scope of the partnership includes the establishment of a Human Rights Centre to enhance education and awareness of human rights.



School of Nursing and Public Health



Prof. Lucy Gitonga, Ph.D.

Dean School of Nursing and Public Health

Congratulations class of 2023! It has been an honour to witness your personal and professional growth throughout your college career here at Chuka University. You have invested a great deal of effort in achieving your goals, and now you're poised to explore new horizons, dream big dreams, embrace life wholeheartedly, and continue aiming for the stars. Go for it!" I encourage you to identify something in the world that presents a profound

moral paradox, something that compels you to break your silence. Take a stand, take action, and work towards making the world a better place. Your journey has been long and challenging. There were moments when you may have wanted to quit, run away, or felt the path ahead was too dark to navigate, but you found the strength to persevere.

Take these experiences with you. Embrace them and use your experience to face the challenges ahead. Because you are more than capable. You are enough! Your past is the proof of that. Getting to this point, graduation day is a validation that even if you fretted about your future or struggled with your past, you still chose to move forward to hope. And that hope is action. Success will not be worth it if you have to sell yourself out to get it. So hold on to who you are. "So, I say to you, forget about the fast lane. If you really want to fly, just harness your power to your passion.

Honor your calling. Everybody has one. Trust your heart and success will come to you." —Oprah Winfrey

In a special way, I would like to take this moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the first three pioneer graduands from the School of Nursing and Public Health who are graduating with PhDs in Nursing Degrees. I wish you all the best and eagerly anticipate hearing about your future accomplishments. Congratulations!



Stephen Kainga,
CoD Department of Nursing

Faculty of Environmental Studies & Resources Development



Dr. Jafford Njeru Rithaa, Ph.D.

Ag. Dean, Faculty of Environmental Studies & Resources Development

On behalf of the faculty of environmental studies and resources development fraternity, I would like to congratulate all the Chuka University graduands of the year 2023. Well done! The faculty is committed to training, research, and community outreach for the holistic development of students, staff, and other stakeholders. We collaborate with other institutions and organizations both nationally as well as internationally for effective curriculum development, implementation, and networking.

Our faculty takes pride in leading the university's efforts to excel in environmental conservation and renewable energy studies. Our primary focus is on minimizing the impacts of uncontrolled human development on the ecosystem, with the goal of ensuring sustainability. We have tackled this challenge through teaching, conducting research, and building capacity in alternative conservation models, sustainable technologies, and responsible environmental enterprises. Our success in this endeavor is evident through the increased number of graduates who are well-versed in conservation research, environmental technologies, and entrepreneurship.

Today we are happy to graduate 223 professionals comprising 8 master's degrees, 141 Bachelor's degrees, 62 Diplomas, and 12 Certificate Candidates with different merits across all environmental specializations. We are releasing better environmental impact assessment officers, environmental auditors, energy consultants, wardens, wildlife biologists, travel consultants,



Dr. Lemmy Muriuki, Ph.D.

CoD Environmental Studies & Resources Development

destination managers, hotel resident managers, event organizers, travel operators, and agents. This will reinforce the operational and managerial capacity in relevant Kenyan economic sectors, including the environment, wildlife, forestry, tourism, and hospitality sectors. To our dear graduates, please continue to uphold our commitment to environmental excellence as you enter the job market, providing high-quality environmental services. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to you as you embark on your journey to contribute to our nation. God bless you.

Students Welfare Department



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

You've achieved a remarkable milestone, overcoming various challenges including economic hardships, lockdowns, the COVID-19 pandemic, and unfavourable political climates. Your unwavering determination, focus, and resilience have paid off, and you have made us immensely proud.

In this journey, it's crucial to acknowledge the robust support system that stood by your side: your parents, fellow students, dedicated lecturers, the Government of Kenya, and the Ndagani community. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in your success.

Today, we confer upon you the responsibility to disseminate knowledge to the world, making it a better place for

all. You are the ambassadors of change we aspire to see in governments and socioeconomic institutions. As you fulfill your core mission on Earth, don't be intimidated, and don't grow weary in doing good and resolving the world's challenges. Your courage, wisdom, and networking skills are of utmost significance on your path to transform the world. Remember, every effort you make counts, and with you, we have confidence that the world is in safe hands.

We must also recognize the numerous achievements we've accomplished together. From organizing free, fair, and transparent elections to providing leadership training for class representatives, CUSA, and religious leaders. Together, we planted over two million trees in Tharaka Nithi County, demonstrating our commitment to a clean environment. In July 2022, your campaign for peace during and after elections resonated nationwide, showcasing your dedication to a better society. You celebrated our rich cultures during cultural week and showed compassion by visiting the sick, elderly, and children in homes. Our sports teams excelled in various competitions, raising our

university's name high in the region. In supporting the less fortunate, you left no one behind.

To the Graduating Class of 2023, the world eagerly awaits the knowledge and wisdom you've gained at Chuka University. Be courageous and adaptable to fill the gaps in the job market. You are now global citizens, ready to seize opportunities wherever they arise on this planet, armed with the competitive advantage of our training. As new graduates, you are joining a global family of Chuka University alumni. Wherever you go, remember that you have the potential to build successful lives and careers. As alumni, you can continue to make a significant impact on our university. Come back, share your knowledge, career insights, and discoveries with the next generation of students.

As you leave this university, remain committed to lifelong learning, benchmarking, collaboration, and networking with the best the world has to offer. Prioritize your physical and mental health. May you prosper spiritually, economically, and intellectually. Go forth and succeed, Class of 2023. Thank you for making us proud!

Board of Postgraduate Studies



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

Today's graduation is indeed a culmination of many years of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication by the university and community at

large, the graduands, and the academic staff. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of Board of Postgraduate Studies to join the rest of the Chuka University community in congratulating the graduates of Chuka University during this 12th Graduation Ceremony. Indeed, your diligence, focus, and commitment have brought joy to your families, Chuka University, and the general society. The University has adequately prepared you for the world of work. Well done!

The Board of Postgraduate Studies provides administrative oversight to ensure the high quality and integrity of

all postgraduate programmes. The Board is committed to excellent postgraduate training and research and the production of highly qualified manpower for national and international service in line with the Chuka University Vision.

The Board has continued to prepare graduates to serve in various disciplines by ensuring high standards of training and research. This is evidenced by the significant and progressive increase in the number of graduating students at the master's and doctorate levels. Moreover, there is a significant increase in students' participation in international research

conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals. The directorate aims to create a high-quality and enabling learning and research environment where students thrive in the postgraduate programs. These programs are enriched by research and hands-on experience. The training of postgraduate students has undergone a paradigm shift towards design thinking that combines research and an entrepreneurial mindset. As a university, we are well on course to achieve this objective.

The Board recognizes the importance of establishing strategic linkages and collaborations for effective teaching,

research, and community outreach. Over the years, the Division of Academic Research and Student Affairs has been instrumental in creating networks with other educational institutions to enhance students' scholarly work. This year, the Board of Postgraduate witnessed tremendous growth in the student population and training disciplines. The Board takes this opportunity to congratulate the students for their scholarly achievements and encourages all others to apply for competitive initiatives, such as research grants.

The Board remains committed to promoting quality while ensuring an efficient training

system. To monitor progress and ensure successful completion, all continuing and prospective postgraduate students are reminded to submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to the Board to avoid discontinuation. Students are also encouraged to actively participate in conferences, both at the university and international levels. Our dear graduands, you have been empowered well academically and we are confident that you will strive to serve humanity with dedication and embrace life-long learning.

Board of Undergraduate Studies and Field Attachment



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

To the graduating class of 2023, 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. In the 2022/2023 academic year, leading up to the 12th graduation ceremony, a total of 3,591 students were facilitated in their attachments, teaching practices, and practicums. These 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. Eleven new programs were thoroughly reviewed and presented to the Dean's Committee, and subsequently to the Senate for consideration and approval. The Board has also promoted the diversification of existing programs to align with the increasing demands of the local and international job market.

In keeping with Chuka University's tradition of promoting high academic standards and competitiveness, the Board has continued to acknowledge

“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.”

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!

CAMPUSES

Embu Campus



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

University Embu Campus (CUEC) was established to provide access to higher education in line with the government policy of enhancing equity and contribution to education. CUEC started as a community initiative in response to the increasing demand for higher education in Embu and its environs. The Campus boasts of its strategic location for learning on the outskirts of Embu town, with a serene environment. All of this comes with the added advantage of enjoying the

On behalf of the staff of Embu Campus, I congratulate the graduating class of 2023. As a campus we immense pride in the exceptional dedication and outstanding performance of our graduates. Such remarkable achievements are the result of unwavering hard work and commitment, qualities for which our graduates are globally well-recognized. Notably, Embu Campus students possess a unique attribute – the hands-on skills necessary for self-employment across various industries. On this special day, we take great pride in celebrating our graduating class of 2023. We celebrate you!



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei during Embu Campus tour with university management and staff.



File photo of Chuka University Embu Campus entrance.

benefits of the rapidly expanding Embu town, which offers excellent infrastructure and close proximity to essential amenities such as government offices, hospitals, hotels, schools, and even a talent academy located just opposite the campus gate. This location provides both the campus and our students with significant growth potential.

We are committed to being a centre of excellence, as we have done over the years. Embu Campus offers a variety of industry-driven courses ranging from certificate to Ph.D. programmes. We offer our courses on regular and part-time modes. Our doors are wide open to all prospective students to pursue market-driven programmes. May God bless our graduands and enable them to be employers who offer quality services and solutions in today's contemporary world.

Chogoria Campus



On behalf of Chogoria Campus staff I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands during this 12th graduation ceremony. May the Lord go before you as you step out with courage and determination.

Prof., Humphrey K. Ireri, Ph.D. On 22nd June 2023, the Director, Chogoria Campus University Management toured Chogoria campus. Based on the work and the progress of the campus, our Campus has now been assigned a bus now stationed at the Campus. The bus has made students' sporting activities and travel more convenient. Further, to enhance efficiency and productivity, the human resource workforce has been strengthened with additional members of staff including an assistant registrar, a senior security officer, and an administrative assistant.



The Director Chogoria Campus Prof. Ireri leads staff in signing the performance contract

In a notable visit, the University Council made their way to Chogoria Campus on July 27, 2023, to assess the progress and development at the institution. During their visit, council members were deeply impressed by the significant developmental milestones achieved at the campus. The visit also came with a challenge to the campus leadership: to work towards making the Chogoria Campus self-sustaining. This call for sustainability underscores the university's commitment to ensuring that the Chogoria Campus thrives in the long term. Prof. D.K. Serem, the chairman of the council, emphasized that students at Chogoria campus should experience the same high-quality facilities and resources available in other Chuka University Campuses. This commitment to

providing quality education and resources to all students is a testament to the University's dedication to excellence. As Chogoria Campus continues to grow and evolve, it is well on its way to meeting these expectations and providing a top-tier educational experience.

During the first-year reporting cycle in September 2023, Chogoria Campus welcomed a cohort of ninety (90) new students into the Bachelor of Education (BED Arts) and Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM) programmes. This surge in student enrollment has elevated the campus's total student population to approximately two hundred and fifty (250) students. The tranquil surroundings, spacious well-ventilated lecture halls, well-equipped library and thoughtfully landscaped tuition area featuring external shades collectively offer students an ideal learning environment. Many self-sponsored students are now joining various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. We have students in Master of Arts in English language and linguistics, Master of Arts in Kiswahili, Master of Arts in History, Master of Arts in Religious studies, Ph.D. in Linguistics, and in several diploma and certificate programmes. I invite all potential students to register for their preferred programmes at Chuka University, Chogoria Campus.

Congratulations once again to the 2023 graduating class!

Igembe Campus



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

On behalf of the students and the staff of Igembe Campus together with other stakeholders and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate you for your hard work and academic excellence, culminating in this graduation. As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, I wish that success keeps following you in everything that you aspire to do. I have no doubt that the university has equipped you with relevant knowledge, skills, and the right attitude to face the world with

courage and optimism and make the world a better place for humanity to thrive.

I wish to express my profound appreciation to the Chuka University management and the council for establishing and facilitating an enabling, friendly, and peaceful environment for teaching and learning at Igembe Campus. The management has continued to provide facilities ranging from classrooms, and ablution blocks as well as renovating ladies' hostels among others. The campus has embarked on the process of getting Chuka University TVET Institute Igembe Campus registered. This will not only boost the student population but will also address the skills gap in the community by providing potential students with practical, relevant skills and training they need to succeed in specific careers. Igembe

campus fraternity partnered with other stakeholders in a tree planting exercise on 4th November 2023. This exercise played a significant role in increasing the visibility of the campus in the region and beyond.

Finally, I would like to wish you all, endless success and happiness as you embark on this new chapter of your life. Remember "Do your little bit of good where you are; it is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

I invite potential students to apply and join Igembe Campus for full-time or part-time programmes in the Faculties of Business Studies, Education, and Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Intake for full-time programmes takes place in January, May, and September while part-time are in April, August, and December every year.

University Library



Prof Joseph M Kavulya, Ph.D.
University Librarian

On behalf of library staff, congratulations graduating class of 2023! You have done well and we are proud of you! The University Library provides reading resources to support

teaching and learning in all courses, development of skills for research and lifelong learning through independent reading, academic reflection and engagement with ideas of global experts on different subjects. Today's society is knowledge-based and requires all of us to empower ourselves with the right information in order to be effective in all circumstances. In 2023, the University Library mooted the formation of students' Knowledge Ambassadors Club as a way of enhancing information literacy and mentorship among students at Chuka University. Through training seminars, discussion forums and public exhibitions the knowledge ambassador initiative enhanced the skills of our students to recognize

and identify their information needs in different situations, locate, and retrieve the correct information and apply it ethically to solve problems, in study and in life beyond graduation.

To our graduands, as you leave Chuka University, we are satisfied that you are information literate. We are confident that using whatever information is accessible, you will be effective and innovative in your activities as professionals and entrepreneurs, in further studies, and in making choices in life. You are our Knowledge Ambassadors! Wherever you go seek to improve the capacity of the community around you to generate, organize, and access accurate information and promote

a culture of intensive use of the knowledge in seeking solutions. This will truly make you we expected you to be in wealth creation and positive change in the society.

We applaud your industrious engagement and tremendous success in your academic journey at Chuka University. As you depart from here, we wish you all a rewarding future. Always remember, in situations that require decision making and problem-solving, get hold of accurate information about the situation, evaluate it, and apply it to formulate a way forward! It always works! Bravo and hearty congratulations!

University Library partners with student Knowledge Ambassadors to improve vital graduate Skills



Knowledge Ambassadors during the University Research Week exhibition

Procurement Department



Naftal Oenga

Senior Procurement Officer

On behalf of staff of Procurement Department I take this Opportunity to congratulate the graduands of the 2023 class and urge you to be good ambassadors of Chuka University. Well done! This is a milestone in your lives and wish you more success as venture into the world in service of mankind. The Procurement Department has been

committed to enhancing service delivery within the University, aligning with the University's mission. Thanks to the department's efforts, the University successfully awarded the completion works for the Food Technology Complex, which will be utilized for teaching and research purposes. Moreover, the department has recently implemented a new ERP System, replacing the old Navision System, to further enhance efficiency and service delivery throughout the University. Additionally, the Procurement Department has procured additional library textbooks, contributing to the improvement of teaching and research resources.

The department has achieved another significant milestone by equipping both the Food Technology Laboratory and the Electrical Engineering Laboratory with a range of teaching equipment and practical teaching materials. Additionally, the department successfully conducted its annual event for disposing of

unserviceable, surplus, and obsolete inventory, which generated income for the University. Moreover, the department has undertaken the revitalization of the IGU units, which includes servicing and repairing gymnasium equipment. It has also upgraded the student mess and staff cafeteria by procuring new furniture and installing modern Jikos to enhance the catering facilities.

The department has consistently procured both dry and perishable foodstuffs to ensure that students and staff receive excellent service in the respective catering service units. This initiative has significantly boosted the university's revenue collection. Furthermore, the department is currently initiating a poultry project by acquiring layers, which is expected to generate income through the sale of poultry products and provide valuable teaching and training opportunities for students.

Information and Communication Technology Department



Charles Kinyua Gitonga
HoD ICT

On behalf of the Department of ICT, I wish to extend my felicitations to the graduating class of 2023 for your remarkable achievements. Achieving this milestone has required tremendous effort, and we, together with the entire Chuka University community, celebrate your well-deserved success. I firmly believe that you are leaving Chuka University with the potential to offer exceptional services to the world. Be prepared to serve and collaborate with your communities to address the challenges they encounter, and, most importantly, explore how technology can be applied to solve these issues. Every time you successfully apply technology to solve real-world problems, you not only contribute to your community but also enhance your professional experience.

Data is the “oil” driving the 21st century. In light of this, we encourage you to enhance your ICT skills to align with the ever-evolving world of technology and meet its market demands. Doing so will consistently position you ahead of others in competitiveness.

This year, we launched an intensive training program focused on cybersecurity and data protection as a proactive measure against cyberattacks.

As a department we work with other departments, faculties, and stakeholders to provide services to the community. We place strong emphasis on collaborations and partnerships as the foundation for building sustainable projects. Throughout the years, we have engaged in partnerships with the University of Nairobi School of Computing and the HealthIT team to support ICT infrastructure and health digitization in various hospitals. Through these collaborations, we have actively worked with neighboring counties to establish data networks and related infrastructure to enhance healthcare facilities in various counties.

This USAID-funded project has been rolled out by the Department of ICT in partnership with the School of Nursing and Public Health and the Department of Computer Science. Our success can be attributed to the dedicated Chuka University students who have consistently volunteered and actively participated in software development activities, including hackathons. Nursing students have played a crucial role in data collection and proposal writing for Systems Evaluation, while many Computer Science students have entered the project through internships, leading to meaningful employment opportunities after gaining valuable experience. The HealthIT project has been a resounding success in advancing digitization efforts, and it has been granted a one-year extension. During this extended period, our objectives include digitizing more healthcare facilities, providing additional training for medical staff, and enhancing their capacity in the Health Information System.



L-R: Seated; Charles K. Gitonga, HoD ICT, Trizah Mzozo, Rose Muchemi, Alex Magiti, Victor Mwenda, Dennis Rugendo, Justin Ireri, Eric Gitongaa nd Saif Kinyori during the signing of the performance contract

Moving into the future, the Department is placing a strong emphasis on digitizing all University services to enhance efficiency and accountability. The recent acquisition of the new Microsoft Business Central ERP has empowered us to automate various services provided to students, staff, and stakeholders. We are committed to ongoing innovation in automating every aspect of University services as part of our objective to excel. A significant portion of our services have already been integrated into the e-citizen platform, which brings increased visibility, transparency, and improved ease of conducting business with the University. Congratulations once again, God bless you all and best wishes for your future endeavors!

Audit Department



Lawrence Mburugu
Internal Auditor

The Internal Audit Department at Chuka University plays a pivotal role as an independent, objective assurance, and consulting entity, focused in enhancing the efficiency and value of the university's operations. By adhering to national and international standards, the department evaluates and improves risk management,

control, and governance processes, ultimately aiding the institution in achieving its objectives. The mission of the Internal Audit Department is to enhance and safeguard organizational value through risk-based objective assurance, advice, and insightful guidance. The team comprises professionals who are members of respected organizations, such as the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), Certified Public Accountant Kenya (CPAK), and Certified Information System Auditor (CISA), all committed to upholding principles of integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and competency. With a dedicated staff of six, led by the Senior Internal Auditor as the Head of the Department, the Internal Audit Department is administratively under the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and functionally

reports to the Audit Governance and Risk Management Committee (AGRMC) of the Council. Embracing the advancements of technology, the department is currently in the process of automating its processes to ensure the generation of quality and timely reports for management action, in line with best practices in auditing.

As a department we extend our hearty congratulations to all the 2023 graduates of Chuka University for your remarkable achievements. As Chuka University graduates, we encourage you to embrace the principles of servant leadership, nurture a strong sense of self, uphold integrity, and you will make a lasting impact on society. Keep your focus on the future and continue to strive for higher qualifications in your pursuit of academic excellence!

Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers



Lucy Kanini
Shop Steward

On this auspicious day, we stand united as members of Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers (KUDHEIHA) to celebrate your remarkable achievement, as well as the dedicated staff who have played

a crucial role in guiding you to this momentous milestone.

Chuka University has been a place of growth and learning, a stepping stone towards your dreams and aspirations. We, as KUDHEIHA, are immensely proud of your hard work and dedication, which have culminated in your graduation today. This is a moment to celebrate your accomplishments, reflect on your journey, and look forward to the bright future ahead.

As you step into the world beyond these academic walls, remember the words of the legendary Martin Luther King Jr, who said, "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education." Chuka University has not

only enriched your mind but has also nurtured your character, preparing you to be a well-rounded individual who can make a significant impact on society.

With full hearts, KUDHEIHA sends you out into the world, not only to make a difference for yourselves but also to create unimaginable opportunities for your families, communities, and the world at large. As you embark on this new journey, may the Almighty light your path and guide your hearts, enabling you to accomplish great things in your country, across Africa, and beyond.

Congratulations, graduates! Your achievements inspire us all.

Security Department



Mr. Ibrahim Mulinge Pius
Head of Security Department/CSO

Dear Graduands, on behalf of the entire Chuka University Security Team, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one of you on this momentous occasion. Graduation represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the academic journey, and you have reached this significant milestone with honour and distinction. Your success today is a testament to your hard work and resilience, and it's only the beginning of the incredible journey ahead. As you embark on your next adventure, whether entering the workforce, pursuing further education, or any other path you choose, please remain vigilant, look out for one another, and prioritize your well-being and safety. You have the potential to make a positive impact on the world, and we have total confidence that you will do just that.

The Security Department is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its students, staff, and stakeholders. The key functions and mandate of the security department are the enforcement of safety and security policy and the prevention and detection of crime within the university precincts. We are committed to effective and efficient security services and we are guided



Members of Security Department during a Fire Safety demonstration exercise

by the rule of law in dispensing our core functions of safeguarding the university from unforeseen events and circumstances.

To enhance security coverage within the University, we have engaged outsourced security providers and uniformed police officers who work around the clock to beef up security and to ensure that the safety of the university is not compromised. Due to emerging security issues, the University has adopted a multi-agency approach in its security planning whereby we have on purpose established a partnership with other law enforcement entities both at the county and national levels to leverage and share security-related information. Proactivity is at the heart of security and to fulfill its mission, the Department has anchored Hostel Kumi community policing at the forefront and has incorporated students, staff, and the neighboring communities into our security strategies.

The University has also facilitated the installation of floodlights and installation of CCTV surveillance

systems that have gone a long way toward mitigating crime within the University environs. We have an ultra-modern fire engine with a horsepower of 1500 HP and a maximum speed of 135 km/h that plays a significant role in rescue operations serving all stakeholders. In pursuit of empowering the public on security matters, our department conducts regular sensitization workshops on counter-terrorism and disaster preparedness, and fire emergency and response procedures.

In 2024, we plan to roll out a Security Club aimed at building resilience against violent extremism and sensitizing members of staff and students on the dangers of radicalization.

Our dear graduands, we are proud of your achievements, and we look forward to witnessing the remarkable contributions you will make to society. Stay safe, stay inspired, and never stop learning!

University Academic Staff Union



Dr. Alice Mulama Murwayi, Ph.D.
Chairperson

The University Academic Staff Union (UASU), Chuka University Chapter, extends its heartfelt congratulations to you the graduating class of 2013. We celebrate

the dedication and hard work of both the esteemed lecturers and the diligent students, whose combined efforts have culminated in this joyous occasion. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, we wish you the very best in all your future endeavors. As you step into the world beyond the university, we encourage you to never lose sight of the things that truly matter. Our academic staff is wholeheartedly committed to delivering a high standard of quality university education, and we have confidence that you will carry the knowledge and values

you have gained here with you into the world. Once again, congratulations to the class of 2013, and may you continue to thrive and make a positive impact in your chosen paths.



Thomas Motindi,
Secretary General

Newly Created Divisions

Chuka University is dedicated to upholding transparency as it strives to keep all stakeholders well-informed about its performance, financial standing, achievements, and future developmental plans. Departmental heads play a key role in managing their respective areas of responsibility, with the overarching goal of achieving efficiency and effectiveness.

This approach is integral to ensuring that the University can successfully realize its core objectives. In pursuit of enhanced efficiency, Chuka University has empowered its campuses, granting them independent status, with the aim of identifying revenue-generating opportunities to sustain their operations. Each campus is tasked with formulating strategies to bolster student enrollment and productivity. Aligning with the directives issued by the National Performance Contract Committee, Chuka University is embracing a model that integrates productivity and performance into its operations, seeking to enhance overall efficiency and effectiveness.

In this endeavor, the University has embarked on a comprehensive reengineering process. This process entails the restructuring of departments to establish a well-defined reporting structure and clearly defined mandates while eliminating redundancies. This initiative has resulted in the creation of new departments: Legal Affairs, Council Affairs, Office of the VC Operations, Human Resources, Facility and Utility Services, PR and Marketing, and Security. The former Directorate of Self-Sponsored Students has been rebranded as the Directorate of Resource Mobilization.



Ms. Stella Kaburia
Legal Affairs



Mr. Joseph Mwangi Murima
Council Affairs & Office of
the VC Operations



Justin Kathuru
Facility & Utility



Dr. Henry Nyamu, Ph.D.
Human Resource



Dr. Immaculate Mutali, Ph.D.
PR & Marketing



Ibrahim Mulinge
Security

Varsity Advances Research through Strategic Partnerships

Chuka University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Collaborate to Bolster Agricultural Development in East Africa

Chuka University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have formed a strategic partnership to strengthen agricultural development in East Africa. The collaboration aims to enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the agricultural sector, improve the global food chain, and expand knowledge on emerging animal and plant pests and diseases. The partnership was officially initiated during a ceremony at Chuka University, attended by a delegation from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff led by Prof. Professor Pamela Moore.



Prof. Pamela Moore from the University of Arkansas receiving a Chuka University branded memorabilia from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, witnessed by (L-R) Dr. Samuel Chege, Registrar (AA), Dr. Peris Ndiritu, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC-ARSA, Prof. Geoffery Gathungu, Dr. Martin Njagi, Prof. Eunice Githae, DVC-AFP&D, Dr. Peter Mabubi, Registrar (A&P), CPA John Thuraniira, FO and Mr. Joseph Murima.

The collaboration holds significant potential for advancing agricultural achievements in developing countries, with a specific focus on East Africa. By leveraging their expertise, resources, and research capabilities, Chuka University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff will address pressing agricultural issues, particularly related to new and emerging pests and diseases. Their joint efforts will contribute to strengthening the agricultural sector and benefiting rural communities, ultimately supporting the global food chain.



L-R: Prof. Eunice Githae, DVC-AFP&D, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC-ARSA, (seated) Prof. Pauline Moore from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei.

The VC Prof. Henry Mutembei expressed enthusiasm about the transformative impact of the partnership on agricultural development. He highlighted the importance of global collaboration and knowledge sharing to address challenges faced by farmers and rural communities. Professor Moore on the other hand expressed appreciation for the collaboration and emphasized the potential for mutual learning and the exchange of best practices. By combining their academic prowess and research capabilities, Chuka University and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff are poised to make significant strides in agricultural development. This partnership aims to create sustainable solutions, promote food security, and empower rural communities not only in East Africa but also beyond as an internationalization strategy for the University.

Don Expands Expertise through Faculty Exchange at Tuskegee University and Wins Grant

Dr. Onesmus Munene Nderi, a faculty member from the Department of Animal Sciences, recently took part in a faculty exchange program at Tuskegee University in the USA, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The exchange, which took place from January 8th to May 3rd, 2023, allowed Dr. Nderi to acquire valuable expertise in curriculum development, sperm assessment using a Computer Assisted Semen Analysis (CASA) machine, research grant writing, and various aspects of apiculture. Notably, this endeavor led to the development of a significant memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Chuka University's Faculty of Agriculture, forging research collaborations and facilitating staff and student exchanges.



File Photo of Dr. Munene Nderi (center) with colleagues at Tuskegee University.

Upon his return, Dr. Nderi shared the knowledge gained during the exchange by presenting a seminar on May 23rd, 2023 to Chuka University academic community. His relentless effort and commitment and collaborative effort between Chuka and Tuskegee Universities prepared a proposal to the USDA and won USD 50,000 that cements the joint endeavors between these two institutions.

Dr. Nderi's key insights from the exchange include the significance of forming research grant writing teams and sharing curriculum development skills to enhance the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine program. His plans involve enhancing bee colonies at the Kairini University farm, providing training on laboratory data management,



Dr. Munene Nderi examining sperm motility in a laboratory at Tuskegee University

and establishing a state-of-the-art seminology laboratory. Dr. Nderi extends his heartfelt gratitude to the USDA for this scholarship opportunity, Tuskegee University for hosting the exchange, and Chuka University for granting permission for his participation. He also acknowledges the unwavering support and guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mutembei M'Ikiugu, who initiated his involvement in the exchange program and provided continuous support throughout the experience.

With his newfound expertise and the strong support system, Dr. Nderi is dedicated to making substantial contributions to research, curriculum development, and laboratory advancements, benefiting both Chuka University and the broader agricultural community.



File Photo of Dr. Munene Nderi with colleagues at Tuskegee University.

Chuka Embarks on a Transformative Research Collaboration with Humboldt University of Berlin

On August 8, 2023, Professor Emar Kulke, representing Humboldt University of Berlin, paid a visit to Chuka University and met with the University Management. The objective of this visit was to establish the groundwork for a robust research collaboration initiative between the two universities, marking the dawn of a new era of knowledge exchange and cooperation. The focal point of the discussions revolved around the framework of the ELASMOS+ cooperation program, which stands as the cornerstone for fostering student and staff exchange between Chuka University and Humboldt University. The ELASMOS+ program is meticulously designed to facilitate cooperation, knowledge dissemination, and research endeavors across international academic boundaries. Both institutions are poised to harness this platform to facilitate free flow of ideas, research findings, and academic resources.

Prof. Mutembei, in expressing his enthusiasm about this academic venture, emphasized, "This



L-R: Prof. Eunice Githae, DVC-AFP&D, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC-ARSA, Prof. Emar Kulke, Prof. Henry Mutembei, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Moses Muraya, Prof. Joel Gichumbi and Ms. Doreen Nyagah.

collaboration is a testament to Chuka University's commitment to nurturing global partnerships and facilitating the worldwide exchange of knowledge. We firmly believe that this partnership will provide our students and staff with unique opportunities for personal and academic growth." Prof. Emar Kulke echoed his sentiments and commended Chuka University for its unwavering dedication to academic excellence. This collaboration is

not only set to fortify academic connections but also promises to expand the horizons of students and staff, heralding a new chapter of global engagement and scholarly excellence. As the universities progress with their joint research initiatives, the future holds the promise of groundbreaking discoveries and academic achievements that transcend international borders.

Chuka and KNCHR Forge a Collaborative Path for Human Rights Education and Advocacy

On October 19, 2023, a delegation from the Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) paid a visit to Chuka University and engaged in meaningful discussions with the University Management Board. This visit marked the inception of potential partnerships and the introduction of academic courses dedicated to human rights. The central focus of the meeting revolved around the establishment

of a Human Rights Club within the university. This club is envisioned as a dynamic platform for nurturing awareness, dialogue, and proactive engagement with human rights issues among the student community. Mr. Laban Cheruiyot, Head of Public Education and Training at KNCHR, led the delegation and passionately emphasized the club's profound significance during an address to the students.

Mr. Cheruiyot in his remarks as he addressed Chuka University Law students underscored the pivotal role of the club in molding socially responsible leaders and stressed that it would offer students a unique opportunity to contribute to the betterment of society by championing the cause of human rights. Prof. Henry Mutembei expressed Chuka University's steadfast commitment to human rights education. He

recognized the transformative potential of such programs in cultivating socially conscious and responsible leaders. He stated, "We firmly believe that human rights education plays a pivotal role in shaping the values and principles of our students. It aligns perfectly with our vision of producing graduates who excel academically and are socially aware, active citizens."

These collaborative efforts represent a new and promising chapter in the academic journey of students at Chuka University. Equipped with the knowledge and tools to become advocates for justice and equality, the creation of the Human Rights Club stands as a powerful symbol of both institutions' unwavering dedication to advancing human rights education and working toward a future where social responsibility and justice serve as the foundational pillars of our society.



L-R: Ms. Marion Muturi, Dr. Wanyoike Wairima (KNHCR SHRO), Dr. Nyachoti Otiso (Dean Faculty of Law), Prof. Gilbert Nduru (DVC ARSA), Prof. David Serem (Chairman of Council), Mr. Laban Cheruiyot (Deputy Director KNCHR), Prof. Henry Mutembei (the Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Shelmith Munyiri, Ali Damocha (KNCHR Human Rights Officer), Mulanda Bildad (KNCHR HRO).

Chuka and Fiji National University Embark on a Journey of Global Collaboration

In preparation for participation in the Chuka University 10th International Research Conference, held on October 5th and 6th, 2023, Mr. Semesa Karavaki, the Chancellor and Chair of the Council for Fiji National University, made a courtesy visit to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei on October 4, 2023. The purpose was to explore avenues for elevating the partnership between the two institutions to a global level.

Karavaki's visit to Chuka University symbolized the joint commitment of both universities to foster academic collaboration and international partnership, driven by their shared desire to expand their influence in the academic realm. The meeting between the two leaders provided a platform to delve into the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to facilitate global cooperation between the two universities. This discussion laid the foundation for what promises to be a fruitful partnership characterized by the free exchange of knowledge, research, and academic resources.

The Chancellor of Fiji National University expressed his enthusiasm for this prospective collaboration, emphasizing the immeasurable value of forging connections with universities transcending national borders. "In the modern, interconnected world, academic collaboration knows no boundaries", he stated, adding that Chuka University and Fiji National University have the opportunity to engage in a dynamic exchange of ideas and resources that will enhance the academic experience for both students and faculty. Prof. Mutembei echoed Mr. Karavaki's sentiments and underscored Chuka University's unwavering dedication to fostering international partnerships. With the Memorandum of Understanding, the future holds exciting possibilities for students, faculty, and researchers at both universities as they join forces to promote academic collaboration on a global stage.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei (seated) signs MOU with Fiji National University, witnessed by (L-R) Dr. Immaculate Mutali, (CPRO), Mr. Semesa Karavaki (the Chancellor and Chair of the Council for Fiji National University), Dr. Mithika Mwenda (Executive Director PACJA), Ms. Doreen Nyagah, and Mr. Mohammed Rasheed Iqbal



L-R: Mr. Semesa Karavaki (the Chancellor and Chair of the Council for Fiji National University) and Prof. Henry Mutembei (the Vice-Chancellor), exchange copies of the MOUs.

Chuka Ventures into Beekeeping Partnerships for Sustainable Practices



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei leads a team of Chuka University staff at Kibari Bee-Farm.

A notable delegation, featuring Dr. Kevin Obiero, the Managing Director of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Mr. Titus Mwirigi, Director of Kibari Bee Farm and Delta Fish Farm, and Mr. Dennis Koh, Manager of Fresh



Dr. Kevin Obiero delivers a presentation after the tour of the farm.

Kevin Obiero delivered a presentation emphasizing the ecological significance of beekeeping and its potential advantages. This presentation highlighted the vital role of bees in pollination and maintaining the health of ecosystems. This burgeoning collaboration has ignited mutual enthusiasm and a shared commitment to a sustainable future. The



File Photo of Dr. Munene Nderi handles Bee stands during the tour.

stakeholders involved in this initiative are aligned in their objective to promote environmental stewardship, advance academic research, and empower local communities through beekeeping endeavors.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei expressed his optimism about this promising partnership, emphasizing its role in embracing innovative and environmentally sustainable practices. The integration of beekeeping into academic and agricultural programmes is poised to be a transformative step toward a greener and economically empowered future. This collaboration heralds a bright future, endorsing sustainable practices and showcasing the profound impact of partnerships that bridge industry and academia, championing beekeeping as a catalyst for environmental conservation, research, and economic empowerment.

Catch Ltd, recently visited Chuka University on October 4, 2023. Their discussions centered around the prospects of a joint initiative in beekeeping. The meeting marked the inception of a groundbreaking collaboration, aiming to seamlessly integrate beekeeping into both academic and agricultural practice domains. The delegation's visit underscored their shared commitment to advancing sustainable beekeeping practices, with a vision to benefit not only the environment but also academic research and economic empowerment of the local community. To further this partnership, a benchmarking trip to Kibari Bee-Farm in Kisima, Meru County took place on October 7, 2023. During this visit, Chuka University representatives benchmarked bee-keeping demonstrations and gained firsthand insights into the nuances of this practice. Dr.

Chuka University Students Association (CUSA)



Vincent Kipkurui
CUSA Chairman

On behalf of Chuka University Students Association, it is my great honor and privilege to extend my warmest congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023.

Your journey at Chuka University has been nothing short of extraordinary. It has been marked by hard work, determination, and a thirst for knowledge. You've conquered challenges, fostered lifelong friendships, and grown into the remarkable individuals we see before us today. It's a moment of great pride for both you and our institution.

You are not just graduates; you are now part of a legacy that includes generations of alumni who have made a positive impact on the world. The Chuka University community extends far beyond these campus walls, and as you move forward into your next adventures, I encourage you to stay connected with your fellow graduates. Your experiences, knowledge, and aspirations can inspire others and contribute to the continued growth and strength of our alumni network.

Your education at Chuka University has provided you with a strong foundation for the future. It's not just a degree but a gateway to a world of possibilities. I urge you to continue your quest for knowledge, to follow your passions, and to strive for excellence in all that you do. By doing so, you honour the values and principles that our university stands for and you become a force for positive change in the world.

In closing, we the leadership of CUSA express our heartfelt congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023. Your achievements are a testament to your dedication and resilience. As you set out on your unique paths, remember that you carry with you the support and best wishes of the entire Chuka University community. We wish you every success and fulfillment in your future endeavors.



Brian Muchui
Treasurer



Justine Mokua
Secretary General



Lydia Gacheri
Vice Chairperson



Faith Jepkorir
Organising Secretary



Shadrack Lokinyi
Director Student Welfare



Joachim Remoi Lobur
Director Academics

Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA)



Linus Ndung'u
CUAA Chairman

It is with immense pride and joy that on behalf of Chuka University Alumni Association, I extend our warmest congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2023! Your journey at Chuka University has been a remarkable one, marked by hard work, dedication, and the pursuit of knowledge. Over the years, you have overcome challenges, acquired new

skills, and formed lasting friendships that have enriched your lives in more ways than one. Today, as you stand on the cusp of a new chapter, you can reflect on your achievements with pride.

You are not just graduates; you are now part of a cherished tradition, the Chuka University alumni family. This community of graduates, spanning across the years and disciplines, is a testament to the impact of education and the spirit of our institution. As you move forward into the world, we encourage you to remain connected with your fellow alumni. Your experiences and stories can inspire and guide future generations of students, and your support can help build an even stronger Chuka University community.

Remember, the education you have received at Chuka University is not just

a means to an end; it is a lifelong asset that will empower you to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As you embark on your chosen paths, we encourage you to continue seeking knowledge, nurturing your passions, and pursuing excellence in all that you do. In doing so, you honor the legacy of our institution and contribute to the betterment of society.

In closing, we want to offer my heartfelt congratulations once again to the Graduating Class of 2023. Your accomplishments fill us with pride, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact you will make in the world. As alumni, you are now entrusted with the responsibility to carry the torch of Chuka University, and we have no doubt that you will shine brightly. Wishing you all the success and happiness in the world.



Getrude Njeri
Vice Chairperson



Anthony Kimani
Treasurer



Livan Njeru
Secretary General



Esther Robi
Organizing Secretary



Geoffrey Akoko
Male Rep.



Edna Kemunto
Female Rep.



Martin Mbugua
PWD Rep.



Victor Akuba
Chapter Rep.

Alumni Spotlight

“Charting a Course for Success: My Academic Journey at Chuka University”

Dear Graduating Class of 2023,

As we gather to celebrate your outstanding accomplishments, I am honoured to share the story of my academic journey, which began as a BCOM (Insurance and Risk Management) Egerton Eastern Campus student and led to my MBA in Insurance and Risk Management at Chuka University. As you embark on your journey beyond the confines of the University, my goal is to equip you with invaluable insights and guidance, ensuring you step into the world outside these academic walls with confidence. My transformative journey at Chuka University has not only enriched me personally and professionally but also enabled me to leverage these experiences for a substantial impact in the corporate world and beyond.

Throughout my tenure at Chuka University, I had the distinct privilege of assuming diverse leadership roles and actively engaging in various clubs and societies. These experiences not only enriched my personal growth but also allowed me to make a positive impact on the University community. In my role as the Students' Director of Welfare (Chuka University Student Association), I was entrusted with the crucial responsibility of safeguarding the well-being of my fellow students and addressing their needs and concerns. This role proved to be a crucible for developing my skills in effective communication, empathetic service, and creative problem-solving. It was a role that taught me the intrinsic value of taking care of others and ensuring their academic and personal welfare. Furthermore, I had the honour of serving as the inaugural Chairperson of the Chuka University Alumni Association (CUAA). In this capacity, I spearheaded initiatives aimed at nurturing a strong sense of community among our esteemed alumni and providing them with valuable networking opportunities.

My Corporate Journey:

Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of serving my country within the corporate world, spanning both

the insurance and banking sectors. My journey has taken me through renowned institutions, including Britam, Old Mutual, Equity Bank Group, KCB Bank Group, Kenyan Alliance Insurance, Resolution Insurance, and Jubilee Insurance. Currently, I am honoured to hold the position of National Head of Sales and Business Development at KCB Bancassurance Intermediary, a subsidiary of KCB Bank Group. This professional voyage has equipped me with a profound understanding of corporate leadership, a path that has proven to be both gratifying and demanding.

The Corporate Career Academy: My Contribution to a Better World:

One of the key challenges I observed throughout my leadership and corporate journey was the profound impact of making the wrong career choices. Such choices negatively affect communities, industries, productivity, families, and individuals' mental well-being. In response to this critical issue, I founded the Corporate Career Academy, which has become the most fulfilling journey of my life. Collaborating with local and international professionals, professional bodies, and membership organizations, we have reached over 52 learning institutions and more than 500,000 young individuals. Our vision for the next three years is to reach 3 million young people and establish a network of certified career teachers to support career development in East Africa. Our initiatives, such as the Uongozi Career Awards and the East Africa Employability Summit, have served as vital platforms for sharing innovative ideas and practical solutions in East Africa. Our future includes partnering with the African Union to organize the Africa Employability Summit in three years as we continue preparing future-read world leaders.

Leaving a Mark on the World:

“The future of work will be about skills, not degrees,” as Dale Stephens rightly observed. As you prepare to leave the familiar halls of Chuka University,



Livingstone Makori

remember that you possess the power to make a lasting impact on the world. Your education equips you with the knowledge and skills necessary to effect positive change. Embrace opportunities for growth, step out of your comfort zone, and never shy away from dreaming big. The world eagerly awaits your unique contributions, and I have no doubt that each and every one of you has the potential to leave an indelible mark on the world.

In the words of Martin Luther King, “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’”

Once more, congratulations on your achievements. As you embark on this new chapter in your life, remember to stay true to yourself, embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, and always strive for excellence. The journey ahead may not always be easy, but with confidence, determination, and a commitment to lifelong learning, you will be well-equipped to face the world and make a lasting impact. To the graduates of Chuka University, I have no doubt that you will find success and fulfilment in your chosen paths. You are the change the world has been waiting for. See you at the top!

Pioneering Digital Transformation in Agriculture



Salim Juma Kinyimu has become a trailblazer in the field of agricultural technology and information, transforming the landscape of Kenyan agriculture through digital innovation. As the Director of ICT at the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), he is leading the charge in championing agricultural data and digitization.

The Visionary Leader in Agricultural Transformation

Salim's journey began at Chuka University, where he honed his skills and developed a passion for leveraging technology to address real-world challenges. Today, his vision and expertise are instrumental in reshaping the agricultural sector in Kenya. Salim is a pioneer in harnessing the power of digital technologies to facilitate data-driven decision-making, foster innovation, and enhance the productivity of farmers across the country.

Driving Digital Solutions for Agriculture

One of Salim's notable contributions to the agricultural sector is his leadership in piloting the Digital Climate Advisory Information System for Agriculture from the public sector perspective. This system provides

invaluable guidance to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions based on weather patterns and climate data. Salim and his team are dedicated to ensuring that agricultural stakeholders, both public and private, have access to high-performance computing resources and analytical engines through the Agricultural Big Data initiative.

A Champion of National ICT Projects

Salim's influence extends beyond KALRO, as he plays a pivotal role in coordinating and spearheading National ICT projects in Agriculture. Supported by prestigious organizations such as the World Bank, the European Union, USAID, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Salim and his team have achieved significant milestones. Notable accomplishments include the implementation of the National Farmer Register, which serves as a critical national resource for farmer information, including precise geo-location data. The register has empowered micro-level interventions by providing agricultural insights in various climatic pockets.

Innovative Solutions for Data Sharing

Salim's innovative spirit knows no bounds. He recently led a team in the development of a secure web platform to address the existing challenges of data access, sharing, and exchange within agricultural institutes. This platform allows public and private data contributors to seamlessly access the most relevant and accurate information for use and reuse, particularly in providing essential insights to smallholder farmers. Kinyimu's story is a testament to the incredible potential of Chuka University alumni. We look forward to witnessing the continued growth of his remarkable career and the positive changes he brings to the agricultural sector. Salim holds a Master's of Science in Distributed Computing Technology,

BSc Computer Science and is a Certified Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA)



L-R: The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, Mr. James Wainaina and Mr. Salim Juma Kinyimu.

From Chuka University Alumna to County CECM

Maureen Nyambura Kariuki is an exceptional alumna who has not only achieved remarkable educational milestones but has also carved a path of influence and leadership within her community, Tharaka Nithi County.

Maureen's story begins at Chuka University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 2019. During this 12th graduation ceremony, Maureen graduates with a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. Her journey extends far beyond the classroom. She stands as a distinguished figure in the County Government of Tharaka Nithi, serving as the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) in the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture, and Tourism. Her current role is a testament to her exceptional leadership qualities and the Government of Tharaka Nithi's recognition of her as a leader capable of driving substantial change.

Maureen's remarkable journey as a leader was nurtured during her undergraduate years at

Chuka University. Her commitment to positive transformation and her advocacy for youth-related issues set her on a path of influence. Maureen's early leadership role on campus was as the Organizing Secretary of the Chuka University Student Association (CUSA) for the academic year 2018/2019. During her tenure, she demonstrated her dedication to student welfare, organized impactful events, and worked tirelessly to foster a sense of unity and collaboration among her peers.

Beyond her roles within the academic institution, Maureen emerged as a dynamic Youth Champion, actively



championing the voices and concerns of young people on a wide range of critical issues. Her advocacy extended to youth unemployment, the pressing challenge of drug and substance abuse, mentorship programs aimed at nurturing the potential of young individuals, and the identification of partnership and job opportunities tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of the youth.

Maureen's key message to the youth and graduands centers around the power of networking. She passionately emphasizes the importance of building extensive networks and establishing meaningful connections. Through this proactive approach, young people can significantly enhance their access to the limited opportunities available in the job market. Maureen's journey is a living testament to the transformative potential of networking, and she encourages her fellow youth to adopt a similar mindset in their professional lives.

As a young leader, Maureen serves as an example and a source of inspiration to her peers and the younger generation. She urges the youths and graduands never to underestimate their humble beginnings and always present themselves as individuals who are educated and equipped with the capabilities to solve problems. By fostering this mindset, Maureen believes that young people can actively create employment opportunities, not just for themselves but also for their communities. Maureen Nyambura Kariuki's journey from a Chuka University student leader to a distinguished CECM in the County Government of Tharaka Nithi is a testament to the transformative power of leadership and advocacy. Her story serves as a pillar of hope and inspiration for young individuals seeking to make a difference in their communities.

Empowering Communities and Promoting Healthy Living:

Joreen Brands



Ms. Joreen Wanini receives recognition as top 35 under 35 youth in Kenya.

Joreen Wanini, a graduate of Chuka University and Kenya Utalii College, pursued her Bachelor's Degree in Hotel Management at Chuka University from 2014 to 2018. Her story is exceptional not just because of her academic achievement, but also her commitment to making a real difference in the world. Joreen's University days were characterized by a strong focus on her studies and a personal blog she maintained during her free time. Her passion for hospitality led her to explore further, culminating in her decision to study culinary arts after earning her bachelor's degree.

During her time at Chuka University, Joreen honed essential skills, such as teamwork, communication, and global thinking. Her lecturers prepared her to be a future manager and leader. This foundation has proven invaluable as she transitioned to the United States, where she seamlessly interacts with individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Joreen Wanini's post-graduation journey landed her in the United States of America, where she joined Hotel Hilton and began her career in hospitality. Her entrance into the industry was particularly

challenging due to the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, Joreen has not only acquired upper-level management skills and in-depth knowledge of hospitality operations but has also developed a wide range of marketable skills, including teamwork, leadership, design thinking, finance and budgeting, and marketing.

Beyond her role in the hospitality sector, Joreen ventured into entrepreneurship. She co-founded 'Joreen Brands' with her sister Joy, focusing on the sale of organic honey. In an unexpected turn of events, the COVID-19 outbreak led to a surge in demand for honey due to its organic and antibiotic properties. Joreen Brands is on a mission to promote healthy living and empower youth and women. The company has played a pivotal role in creating employment opportunities throughout the distribution chain, from the farm to the consumer.

Joreen Brands sources organic honey, tested and verified by reputable organizations, ensuring it is free from commercial sugars. This commitment to quality contributes to the health and well-being of consumers while supporting farmers by providing a ready market for their products.

One of the company's remarkable achievements is its focus on empowering women. Joreen Brands aims to select and equip 200 rural, underprivileged, and uneducated women with sustainable skills in beekeeping, honey production, business, and entrepreneurship. The goal is to establish a 1,000-hive farm owned and managed by this group, providing a platform for financial independence and livelihood improvement. The success of Joreen Brands has not gone unnoticed. Joreen has received numerous awards and international recognition for her outstanding contributions to

society, the environment, and the economy. These accolades include the Mwanamke Bomba Awards, Zuri Awards, Young Achiever in Environmental Conservation, and the Global Youth Champion in London for her environmental conservation efforts through beekeeping. Joreen's achievements extend to being recognized as a top 35 under 35 youth in Kenya and, most recently, as one of the Top 40 under 40 youth in Africa under the entrepreneurship category. These awards reflect the significant impact her company has had in recent years and will continue to have as they focus on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring health and prosperity for all.

Joreen's commitment to positive change isn't limited to her business endeavors. She had the privilege of attending the USA-Africa Business Week in New York, where she had the opportunity to network with like-minded entrepreneurs. The event emphasized the importance of two-way trade and investment partnerships between the U.S. and Africa, fostering sustainable growth and innovation. In the spirit of Chuka University's commitment to education, innovation, and community development, Joreen Wanini stands as a beacon of inspiration. Her journey exemplifies the power of education, passion, and entrepreneurial spirit in creating a better world.



Ms. Joreen Wanini showcases a sample of her Joreen organic honey.



Dr. Elijah Chege Ndumia, Ph.D.

My academic journey at Chuka University began in 2018. The imposing buildings towered above the neighborhood pointing to a radiant future with countless opportunities. At the Postgraduate office, I met a committed team who oriented me on matters postgraduate and the requisite expectations. I joined the PhD class armed with passion and a resolve to succeed. My class comprised a great team from different institutions and regions. A team of ten scholars all set for the highest academic award gave me energy and clarity of mind for the task ahead. The lecturers were equally passionate and they were set for a serious academic

A Doctoral Journey

engagement. Every day, we sat in the lecture rooms from morning to evening eager to get knowledge on different issues and topics. It was an opportunity to refine the knowledge we had earned earlier and Chuka University was the place to be.

There were classes to attend, presentations to make, research to carry out and exams to write. This arrangement though involving opened new frontiers of knowledge in our minds and made us better scholars. We were also able to navigate the Course work and examination experience by diligent study, research and consultation. The lecturers were more than supportive as we did the course work and later embarked on research. After the course work, some students decided to take a break but our case was different. We decided not to rest until the whole assignment was done. The break would come after earning the ultimate prize which was a Ph.D. in Linguistics in 2022.

At the postgraduate level, there are well established systems to ensure that

students go through their masters/ PhD Course work and thesis writing in record time. In Chuka University, the various schools have adequate lecturers who walk with the students every step of the journey, starting from course work, research and ultimately thesis writing. Any specialty is well taken care of considering that the University has very committed lecturers aligned to different disciplines and areas of specialization. The tracking system is equally elaborate to ensure that students document their academic milestones at graduate school without experiencing any unprecedented delays

We celebrate the entire team graduating today. Chuka University has given you a perfect opportunity and availed the resources for you to learn. You have been mentored to excellence and we are here to celebrate your vision, resilience and the ultimate achievement. You have made it and you are armed with knowledge and skills. You are an authority in your area of Specialization. Go serve the nations, for service is the price we pay for being.

CHASING BLISS:

The Art of Making People Happy

Matika Hillary, popularly known as MC Bahati, is an embodiment of the spirit of Chuka University alumni, proving that success can be found by following one's passion. With a degree in Computer Science from Chuka University, Bahati chose an unconventional path, pursuing his love for making people happy through the world of MCing, entertainment, and catering.

Despite his formal education, Bahati realized that his true calling lay in comedy. He wholeheartedly embraced this passion and transformed it into a thriving career. Today, he is widely celebrated as a prominent MC. He takes the reins of entertainment from birthdays and graduations to homecoming celebrations and brand awareness and promotional gatherings.

Bahati advocates for embracing all available opportunities. Traditional career trajectories are not the sole avenues to achievement, and Bahati's journey underscores that fulfillment can be attained by pursuing one's passion.

He acknowledges that networking played a pivotal role in his journey. An opportunity given to him by Ben Gachoki to stand on stage transformed his career, exposing him to top MCs in the country. **Social capital**, he asserts, is a valuable asset when utilized effectively.

Apart from his career as an MC, he provides catering services, undertakes customer service assignments, offers laundry services, and excels in event coordination. His versatility underscores the significance of adaptability and the exploration of various income-generating streams.



MC Bahati's message "brand yourselves, embracing your talents, establish a strong personal brand, be consistent, and invest in what you love. His journey from a Computer Science graduate to a sought-after MC and entertainer demonstrates that passion and dedication can lead to a fulfilling and prosperous life.

Navigating Challenges: An Alumni's Path of Perseverance and Inspiring Triumphs

In the realm of academic achievements and inspiring journeys, Lapit Moses Punyua is an example of graduating students with exceptional stories. Lapit's graduation is not just a momentous event; it's a testament to the enduring power of human determination, belief, and the pursuit of dreams against all odds. Lapit's story is one that touches the heart, embodying the values of hard work, self-drive, discipline, and the relentless pursuit of excellence.

Lapit's journey began at Chuka University in 2019 when he graduated with a Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication. However, what sets the story apart is that he kept his graduation a secret from his family and friends! He believed that the diploma was not enough for him and, driven by an unyielding desire for academic excellence, he embarked on a path to earn a Bachelor's Degree in the same field.

At the time of his graduation, Lapit was already a registered first-year student at Chuka University, pursuing his dream course in BA Journalism and Mass Communication. His decision to tread this path was fueled by a desire to serve as a role model, mentor, and source of inspiration in his community. However, this decision initially sparked curiosity and concern within his family and village, as they believed he had forsaken his studies for pursuits unrelated to education. Yet, Lapit remained unwavering in his pursuit of knowledge, refusing to succumb to doubt or fear.

His unwavering dedication to his passion and ambition ultimately opened doors to a remarkable opportunity. Lapit emerged as one of the founding members of Chuka University Radio 98.8FM in March 2019. His trajectory to becoming a prominent radio personality serves as a testament to his talent, unwavering



Lapit Moses Punyua hosts a show at the Chuka University Radio 98.8 FM.

commitment, and tireless efforts. Alongside his academic pursuits, he has undertaken roles as a Swahili News Section Head, Senior News Editor, Presenter, Radio Trainer, and Producer, and currently, he holds the position of Student Radio Manager at Chuka University Radio, all of which he has executed with excellence. Balancing academic coursework, research, radio duties, and other responsibilities was not an easy feat. Still, Lapit's unwavering determination and discipline ensured that his academic performance remained stellar.

Another remarkable aspect of Lapit's journey is that he pursued his education through the self-sponsored program, aiming to alleviate the financial burden on his parents who were supporting his other siblings' education. To meet his tuition requirements, Lapit ventured into the field of Interpretation, Translation, and Communication. This endeavor not only opened doors for him but also enabled him to finance his education, even leading him to learn Somali to meet market demands. Lapit encourages students to explore additional language skills and embrace the diverse opportunities in fields such as French, Somali, Chinese, Arabic, and beyond. His story serves as a testament to the transformative power of education. Graduating with

a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication, Lapit has already enrolled in a Master of Arts program in the same field at Chuka University. He is actively engaged in mentoring and training media students at the Chuka University Radio, dedicated to paving the way for the next generation of media professionals.

Hailing from Entashata Village within the Maasai community, Lapit's achievement is not only significant personally but also within his family and the broader community. His degree marks the first in his family and only the second in the entire village. Lapit's ambitions reach beyond academic accomplishments; he envisions transforming his village and family by facilitating access to education, offering inspiration, and providing mentorship to those in need. Today, Lapit graduates not only with a degree but also with six years of working experience as a Radio Presenter, Producer, Trainer, and an all-round media personality, equipped with a diverse skill set, knowledge, abilities, and experiences. Moreover, Lapit is the founder of the Ewalata Foundation, a Community-Based Organization focused on giving back to his community through inspiration, life-changing initiatives, empowerment, and development.

Inspiring Leadership and Youth Empowerment



Philip Pande is a passionate Youth Inclusion Advisor and Policy Analyst. He is currently the Executive Director and lead Mentor at Corporate Career Academy social enterprise whose foundation can be traced back to Chuka University 9 years ago. Pande has been a key player in the Cabinet Office-executive office of the President where he has been pivotal in youth programming under the Strategic Initiatives Unit responsible for Deradicalization, Disengagement, and Rehabilitation since 2019. He is the Lead Mentor and Coordinator of the Peace-building Youth Leadership Innovation and Entrepreneurship Mentoring (PYLIEMgv) Program in the same office, thus far rolled out in 37 counties.

Cumulatively, Philip has mentored 100,000+ youth in Kenya, 30,000+ in the lake region, and another 3,000+ across Africa. He has supported the formation of Grassroots Youth innovation hubs in Trans Nzoia, Wajir, Kisii, and Kwale counties. He has immensely contributed to the counterterrorism efforts helping returnees to embrace decent alternative livelihoods and seamlessly immerse themselves in their parent communities and broadly reducing the likelihood of conflicting with the law.

Through the Corporate Career Academy, Mr. Pande has found an opportunity to support 40+ Universities and TVETS where he has championed mentoring and essential skills to facilitate students to transition to industry. He believes that a candle does not lose its brightness by lighting another and so mentoring is such a natural experience for him. During the Africities 9th Summit, he earned two high-level speaking and three moderator opportunities on youth and women's affairs.

Philip is a Mowgli-trained and European Mentoring and Coaching Council (EMCC) certified Mentor. He is also an Ashoka Change Makers Everywhere Alumnus with global training in systemic and systems change with pragmatic experience in mainstreaming youth inclusion through peace-building, entrepreneurship, innovation, mentoring, policy, and impact reporting. He was awarded a rare European Union Champion title when serving as the youngest Chuka University Senate member and an elected Director of Academics, Chuka University Students Association (CUSA) in 2014.

In continuing to pursue his leadership acumen, Philip ran for the Kisumu Senatorial seat in the last general elections garnering 18% of the party primary votes. Having graduated from Chuka University with BA degree in Economics and sociology in the 2015. He is also a volunteer mentor with the Asian Foundation.

Pande's parting shot to students and young graduates...

"The best resource you got is yourself and innate endowments. When self-doubt and the feeling of inadequacy overtake your talents, skills and capacity to be productive then you begin to waste the unique gift in you. Not even your education makes sense when complacency and procrastination begin to consume you. Be versatile and exceedingly flexible. Think, read, research, put it on paper and begin working on your mission way before anyone else can notice your efforts. This is the art of personal development and certainly the way to create something for yourself in the fast-paced world where nothing is given.



Left, H.E., Prof. Hillary Barchok, Governor Bomet County poses for a photo with Phillip Pande

Equity Bank Collaborates with Chuka Ahead of 12th Graduation



In showing commitment to support education and community development, Chuka Equity Bank as a partner of Chuka University presented sponsorship awards to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei on 14th November, 2023. A delegation led by the Equity Bank Chuka Branch Manager, Mr.

Eliphas Gitari, emphasized the importance of fostering a strong relationship between the university and the banking sector.

The awards, including trophies and Equity Bank branded memorabilia, were earmarked for the Vice-Chancellor awards, a prestigious recognition for outstanding

Eliphas Gitari, Equity Bank Chuka Branch Manager hands over a trophy to the VC. Prof. Mutembei

contributions to academia and leadership within the Chuka University community. The Vice-Chancellor warmly embraced this collaboration expressing anticipation for future partnerships and shared endeavors with Equity Bank.

Dons Inaugural Professorial Assembly

In a historical event, Vice-Chancellor Professor Henry Mutembei presided over his inaugural professorial assembly, bringing together Dons to delve into critical interactive discussions on academic leadership, governance, culture,

and competitive image in academia. The assembly served as a platform for the exchange of profound insights and expertise among the University's academic leaders. In his remarks, the VC emphasized the importance of fostering

a robust academic culture that promotes innovation, excellence, and inclusivity. He underscored the significance of effective governance structures in driving the University's mission and goals.



Clubs and Societies

C.U. A Beacon of Unity, Faith, and Service

Chuka University Christian Union (CUCU) stands as a shining testament to the power of unity, faith, and service within the academic community. Over the past decade, CUCU has grown from its humble beginnings into a thriving inter-denominational organization that unites Christian students from diverse backgrounds under the common banner of their faith in Jesus Christ. Today, CUCU boasts a remarkable membership of 1500 students who actively participate in its various activities and services. This tremendous growth has necessitated the holding of two Sunday services, from 6:45 to 9:00 am and from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, as well as a Saturday evening service from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

The leadership structure of CUCU is based on a constitution that comprises 15 dedicated executive members



A section of Chuka University Christian Union members.

who oversee the administration and operations of the union. These leaders, led by the secretariat, which includes the chair, two vice-chairs, secretary, treasurer, and the patron in cooperation with an advisory committee, work tirelessly to uphold the values and mission of the union. Additionally, CUCU has 23 sub-committees responsible for various ministries and programs, including choir, praise and worship, instrumentalists, publicity, editorial, IT, ushering, catering,

and many more. The core objective of CUCU is to foster unity, integrity, stewardship, accountability, excellence, and, most importantly, the fear of God among its members and the wider student community. Through various events such as prayers and fun days, CUCU has succeeded in breaking down cultural barriers and building a strong sense of family among students from diverse backgrounds, promoting cohesion and resolving intercommunity conflicts.

Building a Peaceful and Empowered Society

Chuka University is home to a dedicated chapter of Peace Ambassadors Kenya (P.A.K), a national youth-focused organization committed to peacebuilding and youth empowerment. Founded in February 2012, this dynamic group of young individuals, in collaboration with the Kenya Administration Police Service, share a common goal of fostering peace during electioneering periods. Their mission has since evolved into a holistic approach to promoting harmony and community well-being.

(P.A.K) has a vision of transforming into a decentralized model organization that mobilizes individuals to actively participate in peacebuilding efforts. PAK's mission is resolute: to bolster peaceful coexistence within society through youth empowerment training, awareness campaigns, advocacy, and collaborative initiatives. The organization's diverse activities and programs underscore its holistic approach to peace and community

development. Central to their mission is a steadfast commitment to peace advocacy, with a focus on promoting harmonious relationships among individuals from various ethnic backgrounds and ideological perspectives. The underlying belief is that stable governance and peace serve as the bedrock for the prosperity of both institutions and nations.

PAK's initiatives encompass an array of impactful projects, including constructing homes for vulnerable families, visiting children's homes, delivering disaster management training, launching mentorship programs in high schools and primary schools, conducting anti-jigger campaigns in marginalized areas, organizing hospital and urban center clean-up drives, facilitating tree planting

efforts in primary schools and designated regions, and orchestrating peaceful walks to raise awareness about mental health.

The impact of PAK's efforts is far-reaching, benefiting a diverse array of individuals and entities. Young people gain access to valuable technical skills, mentorship sessions, and networking opportunities, empowering them to navigate the complexities of our rapidly changing world.



CUPAK pay a courtesy call to the VC, Prof. Henry Mutembei. The delegation was led by the Igoji Assistant County Commissioner, Mr. James Nandi, the Chairman of the Kenya National Peace Ambassadors

Varsity Red Cross: Nurturing a Vision of Compassion and Service



File Photo: Members of the Chuka University Red Cross Society

The Chuka University Red Cross Society is a dedicated community of volunteers driven by a vision to lead, sustain, and provide excellent and high-quality services. Their focus is on preventing and alleviating human suffering, particularly among the most vulnerable members of the community. At the core of their mission lies the fundamental principle of first aid, a commitment they wholeheartedly embrace. Collaborating with the Kenya Red Cross Tharaka-Nithi County branch, the club's members receive comprehensive training in first aid and are unwaveringly committed to sharing this life-saving knowledge with others. They actively participate in first aid demonstrations to empower individuals in the community to respond effectively during emergency situations.

Every year, in celebration of Mashujaa Day, the Chuka University Red Cross organizes the heartwarming Chapati Forum. This event serves as a reminder of the importance of compassion and community. The club mobilizes street children from Chuka town, offering them not only food and donations but, most importantly, a sense of belonging and hope. It's a day dedicated to bringing happiness to these vulnerable children. The

Club's commitment to community well-being extends to organizing clean-up activities and contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment. Whether it's the streets of Ndagani or the Chuka Referral Hospital, their actions beautify the surroundings and underscore the club's dedication to community well-being.

The Support Toto Initiative is another heartwarming gesture. The club identifies vulnerable children in the community who struggle to afford school fees and uniforms. In a powerful display of empathy, they purchase uniforms and pay school fees to ensure these children receive an education. This initiative not only changes the lives of the recipients but also echoes the true spirit of giving. Further, in collaboration with the Kenya Red Cross Tharaka-Nithi branch, Chuka University Red Cross actively engages in community sensitization, providing valuable information on health issues like rabies awareness and livestock vaccination. They also raise awareness about essential issues by conducting walks to highlight mental health concerns and distributing condoms to promote safe sex within the community. This commitment to community education helps improve the health and well-being of residents and exemplifies the club's proactive approach to humanitarian work.

Red Cross Club mentorship programs extend beyond their immediate surroundings as they visit local schools, inspiring and guiding the younger generation by sharing

their experiences and knowledge, contributing to the personal and academic growth of the students. They have partnered with the Tharaka Nithi County Government and Chuka Level Five Hospital to conduct blood donation drives, rallying students to donate blood and become lifesavers. These drives have the potential to make a significant difference in emergencies and medical treatments.

The club's commitment to caring for vulnerable children extends to visiting children's homes, creating lasting memories, and encouraging emotional and psychological well-being in the community. Recognizing the importance of environmental sustainability, Red Cross club members contribute to a greener future by actively participating in tree-planting activities. These diverse and impactful activities exemplify their dedication to preventing and alleviating human suffering while fostering unity and well-being in the community. This club is a testament to the power of altruism, determination, and the positive change that can be achieved when a group of dedicated individuals comes together for a common cause.



Red Cross Society members during the Chapati Forum.

Grand Matriculation Ceremony Welcomes Fresh Faces to Academic Journey



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei poses with CUSA leaders and first year students

In a vibrant celebration of new beginnings, Chuka University hosted its annual Matriculation Ceremony to officially welcome the eagerly awaited first-year students into the academic fold. The event, held at the University pavilion was a spectacle of excitement, anticipation, and the promise of a transformative educational journey. At Chuka, we understand the importance of starting on the right foot, which is why we tailor our orientation program to ensure a seamless transition for our new students.

Chuka University's first-year cohort of students reported on Monday, September 4, 2023. Registration took place on September 4th and 5th, with orientation running from September 6th to 13th, 2023, at the Pavilion Grounds. The orientation program was a comprehensive series



File Photo of 2023 first year students queue for registration.

of sessions designed to prepare new students for their academic journey. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including counseling, library resources, campus life, personal financial management, mental health, and ICT. Expert speakers, including Dean of Students Dr. B. Kanga, Mr. Francis Gacheru, Dr. Monica Gitonga, and HELB officials, provided valuable insights.

On 22nd September 2023, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, presided over this year's matriculation ceremony with grandeur and significance, welcoming the newest cohort of first-year students. In his address, Prof. Mutembei emphasized Chuka University's commitment to nurturing intellectual growth and fostering a culture of excellence. He encouraged the new students to embrace this momentous chapter in their lives with determination and purpose, assuring them of the

university's unwavering support in their pursuit of knowledge and personal development. The matriculation ceremony marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of these students and underscored the university's dedication to their success under Prof. Mutembei's visionary leadership.

The orientation program encompassed topics such as timetabling, personal finance, and health and sexuality on campus. Gender seminars, led by Dr. Grace Muriithi and Mr. Francis Gacheru, aimed to address the unique needs of both male and female students. Additionally, there were faculty-specific Faculty tailored orientation sessions, each featuring campus tours for a comprehensive introduction and adaptation to campus life.



First year student during registration in September, 2023.

Fresher's Night 2023: A Vibrant Evening of Welcome and Celebration



Mr. and Miss Fresher 2023/2024 (seated) after being crowned.

Fresher's night is a pivotal event for first-year university students, marking the commencement of their higher education journey. This vibrant and engaging evening holds immense importance in the lives of these young individuals for several reasons. Firstly, it serves as a critical platform for new students to break the ice and forge lasting friendships. As they step into a completely unfamiliar environment, connecting with their peers is vital in overcoming the initial anxieties and adapting to the university's social fabric. Fresher's night provides an informal and relaxed setting where students can mingle, share their aspirations, and find common ground, thus laying the foundation for supportive relationships that can prove invaluable during their academic tenure.

On 22nd September, 2023 Chuka University held its Fresher's Night 2023, a memorable event dedicated to welcoming first-

year students. The event, organized by the Chuka University Students Association (CUSA), was filled with energy and enthusiasm, focusing on embracing new experiences and creating lasting memories. CUSA leaders, led by Chairman Mr. Vincent Kipkirui, set the tone for the night with a spirited welcome speech, promising an exciting and unforgettable evening.

The Fresher's Night featured a variety of activities, including live music, dance performances, and a talent show, where first-year students showcased their exceptional skills. The vibrant and inclusive atmosphere encouraged connections and friendships among the newcomers, breaking down initial barriers. Thanks to the support of PPP TV, the event successfully established a welcoming and inclusive environment for the new students.

The evening concluded with the crowning of Mr. Jonas Malwa and Miss Clorion Dacha as Mr. and Miss Fresher 2023/2024, highlighting their charisma and enthusiasm. The Chuka University Fresher's Night 2023 was a night filled with laughter, joy, and unforgettable memories, made possible through the dedication of CUSA leaders and the support of the university administration. Fresher's night is instrumental in fostering a sense of belonging and pride among first-year students. Universities are often vast and diverse institutions, and for many newcomers, they can seem overwhelming. Attending such an event signifies their inclusion within the university community and introduces them to the rich tapestry of campus life. It helps them embrace their new identity as university students and instills a sense of ownership and attachment to the institution. This feeling of belonging is a vital ingredient for student success, as it motivates and empowers them to take full advantage of the academic and extracurricular opportunities that the university has to offer. In essence, Fresher's night is not just a party; it's an essential part of the university experience, fostering friendships, a sense of belonging, and a positive outlook on the exciting academic journey ahead.



Mark, Mr. Chuka University models



High School Students Empowered Through Experiential Learning



VC, Prof. Mutembei poses with Chogoria Boys' High School students during their academic tour at Chuka University.

The university's dynamic collaboration is bringing the world of higher education closer to high school students, empowering them with firsthand knowledge and insights into academic opportunities besides the now vibrant

online presence. Through an extensive program of high school visits, Chuka University is not only creating publicity about its academic programs, products, and services but is also sowing the seeds of ambition among Kenya's youth. In the year 2023, this visionary collaboration

has seen 42 high schools from the region tour Chuka University, enabling students to experience the campus, and its resources, and engage with the faculty. This experiential learning is proving to be a pivotal milestone in the academic journey of these high school students. By stepping into the university environment, they gain a deeper understanding of what a university is and how it can shape their future. This immersive approach not only demystifies the concept of higher education but also acts as a powerful motivator, encouraging them to aspire to join the ranks of Chuka University students. During these visits, students receive valuable guidance on choosing the right career paths, tips on excelling in exams, and comprehensive insights into the diverse academic programs offered at Chuka University. This positioning plays a vital role in shaping the career trajectories of prospective students, igniting their enthusiasm for higher education and instilling a profound sense of purpose.

Peer Review Tool Training for Dons

Chuka University continues to demonstrate its commitment to enhancing collaboration and continuous improvement within its academic community by hosting sensitization seminars on peer review tools. This workshop, held on June 14th, 2023, at the Main Campus, was well-attended by dedicated academic faculty.

During the seminar, Professor Eunice Githae, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic, Research, Planning, and Development (DVC AFP&D), highlighted the numerous advantages of the recently introduced peer review tool. Prof. Githae underscored the tool's potential to identify both strengths and challenges within the academic staff, paving the way for targeted approaches to improvement and fostering stronger teamwork and connections among faculty members. Furthermore, the tool facilitates effective self-evaluation, thereby contributing

to individual performance assessments and the overall growth of the academic community. In a significant development, the event featured a hands-on trial run and pilot testing of the peer review tool, giving academic staff members a chance to gain practical experience and offer valuable feedback. The interactive session ensured a comprehensive understanding of the tool's functionalities, empowering staff members to share suggestions for further enhancements. With the implementation of this peer review tool, Chuka University aspires to transform the evaluation process, fostering personal and professional development among its academic staff while nurturing a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement within the institution.



A section of staff during the Seminar.

Sierra Leonean Students Triumph in Kenyan Dairy Farming Program

In a celebration held on June 16, 2023, the Faculty of Agriculture acknowledged the achievements of Sierra Leonean international students who successfully completed an 8-week academic program focusing on Kenyan dairy farming operations. Faculty members commended the students for their resilience in overcoming challenges associated with adapting to a new educational system, cultural differences, and geographical distance from their families. These international scholars, hailing from Sierra Leone, demonstrated remarkable resilience in navigating challenges inherent in their academic journey, including adapting to a new educational system, cultural nuances, and geographical distance from their families. Their unwavering commitment to academic excellence culminated in the successful completion of the program, marking a significant milestone in their educational pursuits. Prof. Geoffrey Gathungu, representing the Faculty of Agriculture, commended the Sierra Leonean students during



Sierra Leon students pose for a photo with members of the Faculty of Agriculture.

the ceremony. He encouraged them to share the knowledge gained during the program when they return to Sierra Leone and emphasized the importance of maintaining communication with the university, becoming ambassadors of Chuka University in their home country. The ceremony featured the acknowledgment of the students' outstanding academic achievements, with awards and accolades presented as a testament to their hard work and dedication. Desmond Moses Kamara and Julius Harvey, spokespersons for the Sierra Leonean student community, expressed gratitude for

the university's support and guidance. They affirmed their commitment to leveraging their education for positive contributions to Sierra Leone and the global community. This celebration not only brings pride to the Sierra Leonean students and their families but also underscores Chuka University's dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for international scholars. Congratulations to the Sierra Leonean international students on their remarkable academic achievement, and best wishes for their future endeavors!

Dons Secure Funding for Cutting-Edge TB Detection Project

In a significant stride towards combating tuberculosis (TB), a team of researchers from Chuka University is making waves with their groundbreaking project. Dr. Edna Chebet Too and Dr. David Gitonga Mwathi, both hailing from the Department of Computer Science, have joined forces with Prof. Lucy Kawira Gitonga from the Department of Nursing and Public Health to develop a Research Project Proposal titled "A Lightweight Convolution Neural Network for Detecting Tuberculosis Using X-Ray Images." The project's core objective is to revolutionize TB detection using X-ray images by optimizing the efficiency of deep learning networks.

This innovative approach promises to enhance the accuracy and speed of TB diagnosis, a critical factor in combatting the disease. This remarkable initiative has received a significant boost with the award of a grant totaling US \$8,000 under the Research and Innovation Systems for Africa (RISA) fund. This funding will support the project's various activities as outlined in the work plan. The University of Nairobi has been designated as the lead partner for this groundbreaking endeavor and will oversee the administration of the grant, ensuring that the project progresses smoothly toward its goal of improving TB detection methods and ultimately contributing to global health efforts.

AGPO Workshop Empowers Youth, Women, and Persons with Disabilities

Chuka University, in collaboration with a consultant (get name), organized an informative workshop on Access to Government Procurement Opportunities, held on June 21, 2023, at the Students' Recreation Center. The event aimed to empower youth, women, and persons with disabilities to engage with government procurement processes effectively. A total of 60 people drawn from AGPO categories participated. The workshop covered several crucial topics, including the registration of suppliers, the use of tender documents, the submission and receiving of tenders, electronic submission processes, and tender opening procedures. Attendees learned about the importance of maintaining and updating lists of registered suppliers, contractors, and consultants as required by

Section 57 of the procurement regulations. Participants also gained insights into the role of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) in issuing standard procurement and asset disposal documents. Furthermore, the event highlighted the significance of submitting responsive bids that comply with administrative provisions and requirements, enabling individuals to compete fairly in government procurement opportunities. This workshop organized by the Procurement Department provided valuable knowledge and skills to empower participants in accessing government procurement opportunities, fostering inclusivity and economic empowerment.



File Photo: Access to Government Procurement Opportunities Workshop.

KUSU Hold 3Rd AGM



KUSU Sec Gen Daniel Wandera gives his remarks during the AGM

The Kenya University Staff Union (KUSU), Chuka University branch held the 3rd branch annual general meeting on October 19, 2023, which was a day marked by camaraderie, unity, and purpose. This meeting, deeply rooted in labor movement traditions, offered workers from various departments a platform to discuss workplace challenges and seek solutions. The atmosphere buzzed with a sense of unity as members celebrated the progress made in the past year.

Key issues highlighted during the AGM included the need for comprehensive medical schemes, harmonized fair criteria for promotions and grade reviews, and the revitalization of Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) to safeguard workers' rights and benefits. Further, the KUSU officials promised to engage the University management to put in place a staff workplace breastfeeding policy, to support female employees for enhanced productivity. The day was characterized by passionate discussions, shared experiences, and a strong sense of solidarity. Workers left with a renewed sense of hope and determination, knowing that they were part of a union that prioritized their welfare and was committed to fighting for their rights in addressing workplace challenges.



Varsity Hosts 4th ERO-CRIEW: A Celebration of Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Ms. Trizah Apuko

From March 27th to March 31st, 2023, Chuka University's Main Campus hosted the 4th Eastern Region Open Career Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week (ERO-CRIEW). This week-long event attracted over 992 participants, including exhibitors, students, high school students, and the general public, offering a platform to explore the transformative power of innovation and entrepreneurship. Innovating for Economic Transformation: Under the theme "Careers and Research for Economic Transformation through Innovation and Entrepreneurship" (CRETIE), the event accentuated the pivotal role of careers, research, and innovation in driving economic change. ERO-CRIEW featured distinguished keynote speakers, including Dr. Mwirigi Kiula from Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral, and Research Hospital, Mr. Stanley Atsali, and Mrs. Belinda Ilagosa from the Kenya Industrial Property Institute. The speakers shared valuable insights into healthcare innovation and intellectual property rights. On Student Start-Up Pioneers, the event offered a unique opportunity for students to pitch their innovative start-up ideas. A total of 38 start-up concepts were presented, ranging across various industries. The winner, Ms. Trizah Apuko, impressed the judges with her idea of producing sanitary pads from banana fibers, showcasing her entrepreneurial

spirit and commitment to sustainable solutions. Exhibition Extravaganza and Awards: ERO-CRIEW was not limited to start-up presentations. Various faculties, departments, and organizations seized the opportunity to exhibit their programs and services. The Faculty of Agriculture, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Chuka University Hospitality Students Association stood out with their innovative showcases. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, recognized the achievements of participants and presented awards

in various categories, celebrating their dedication to innovation and entrepreneurship. The 4th ERO-CRIEW continues to demonstrate Chuka University's dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. With a significant turnout, influential speakers, and groundbreaking start-up ideas, the event highlighted the potential for economic transformation through innovation. ERO-CRIEW continues to inspire the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, shaping a brighter future for all.



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei presenting a trophy to students during the 4th ERO-CRIEW.



Students showcase a Maasai cultural dance during the 4th ERO-CRIEW.

5th Annual Staff Prayer Day: A Day of Spiritual Reflection and Renewal

Chuka University's annual staff prayer day, which took place on September 27, 2023, created a profound impact on all participants, emphasizing the theme, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest," derived from Exodus 33:14. The day commenced with a moving praise and worship session led by the University's Christian Union group. This annual tradition unites staff members, allowing them to celebrate their shared faith and spirituality.



Pastor Martin Mutinda from New Life Ministry preaching during the 5th Annual Staff Prayer Day.

The atmosphere buzzed with spiritual energy as Professor Gilbert Nduru, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs (DVC ARSA), and Vice-Chancellor Professor Henry Mutembe delivered thought-provoking speeches.

They underscored the significance of seeking God's presence, particularly when facing life's challenges. These leaders recounted the university's journey and

how this annual prayer day had evolved into a symbol of hope and unity.

The day's highlight was a powerful sermon delivered by the guest speaker Pastor Martin Mutinda from New Life Ministry. With a commanding presence and a voice

that resonated deeply with the audience, Pastor Mutinda expounded on the theme's profound significance. He reminded staff that, in times of uncertainty and hardship,

hardship, the promise of a divine presence can provide comfort and rest to those who seek it. It fostered a sense of peace and serenity among the university community, reinforcing the idea that, no matter the challenges they face, they are not alone in their journey of faith and spirituality.

the promise of a divine presence can offer comfort and rest to those who seek it. As the prayer day drew to a close, staff members departed with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the theme's profound significance. The day served as a poignant reminder that, even in times of uncertainty and

Chuka University Sacco Marks 12th Year Anniversary with AGM

Chuka University Sacco, in its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on February 21, 2023, celebrated over a decade of financial empowerment. The event was attended by more than 200 members, reflecting Sacco's enduring influence and the dedication of its members. Prof. Andrew Muguna, Chairman of the Sacco, expressed his appreciation for the unwavering support and commitment of its members. He highlighted the remarkable progress achieved in 2022, including a notable increase in Sacco's assets and the initiation of digitalizing its operations.

Prof. Muguna unveiled the strategic plan for 2023, which emphasized expanding Sacco's membership base, enhancing customer service, and diversifying the investment portfolio. He also announced an upcoming milestone - the launch of a mobile banking platform to further facilitate members' access to Sacco services.

The Sacco's elections, presided over by Mr. Daniel Kirigia, the County Commissioner of Cooperatives, resulted in the re-election of key leaders. Prof. Andrew Muguna retained his position as Chairman, Edwin

Mugambi as Vice Chairman, and Prof. Eric Mwenda as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee. Mr. Kirigia emphasized the importance of democracy within the Sacco Movement, noting its central role in cooperative principles. He called upon the elected leaders to prioritize transparency, accountability, and good governance in their daily activities, fostering the development and growth of the Sacco. The newly elected leaders expressed their commitment to building a robust and responsive Sacco that caters to the diverse needs of its members.

Staff Welfare Team Building Excursion Day

The tradition of Chuka University's Staff Welfare Team Building Day, established in 2011, has continued to thrive. Initially, the Staff Welfare Team Building Day and the Welfare Annual General Meeting were held on the same day. However, for the past two years, these events have been separated into distinct occasions. On October 20, 2023, the employees of Chuka University gathered at the picturesque Kisimani Eco-Lounge Resort for the highly anticipated Staff Welfare Team Building Day. The day commenced with an atmosphere of excitement as the team prepared to conquer challenges,



Staff engage in team building activities at the Kisimani Eco-Lounge Resort.

create enduring memories, and reinforce the bonds that unite them. The Staff Welfare Team Building Day was filled with fun as the staff engaged in a variety of team-building activities that not only tested their abilities but also promoted teamwork and camaraderie. From trust falls to group challenges, every moment was embraced with open arms, and the outcomes were unmistakable. The day commenced with a series of ice-breaker activities to set the tone. Employees, representing various departments within the university, mingled and interacted, breaking down barriers and fostering a sense of

unity. It was inspiring to see how these experiences brought everyone closer, establishing a united and resilient team. Team challenges encouraged employees to think creatively and collaborate. Laughter echoed throughout as co-workers cheered one another on, and cooperation was the name of the game. Apart from the team-building activities, the Staff Welfare Team Building Day also provided an opportunity for employees to relax and savor the beautiful surroundings of the Kisimani Resort. Staff were seen enjoying the lush gardens, taking leisurely walks, and even participating in friendly

competitions. In the words of Lucy Wambui, a member of staff, "Today wasn't just about fun and games; it was about something meaningful – strengthening relationships within the university." The Staff Welfare Day not only proved to be a memorable and enjoyable occasion but also served as a testament to the university's dedication to the well-being and unity of its employees. As the day drew to a close, it was evident that the bonds formed and reinforced during this event would continue to benefit the university in the days, months, and years ahead.

Kongamano la 37 la Chawakama lafanyika Chuka



Timothy Omondi,
Mwenyekiti Chakichu

Kongamano la 37 la Chama cha wanafunzi wa Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki (CHAWAKAMA) lilifanyika katika chuo kikuu cha Chuka mnamo tarehe 4 Novemba 2023. Kongamano hilo lilihusisha vyama tanzu vya CHAWAWAKAMA vikiwemo CHAKICHU (Chuo kikuu cha Chuka), CHAKIKEMU (Chuo kikuu cha KEMU), CHAKINA (Chuo kikuu cha Nairobi), CHAKIKE (Chuo kikuu cha Kenyatta), CHAKIE (Chuo kikuu cha Embu), CHAWAKIRO (Chuo kikuu cha Rongo) miongoni mwa vingine. Wageni waalikwa walikuwa ni pamoja na Dkt. James Ontieri (Mlezi wa Chama cha wanafunzi wa Kiswahili Chuo kikuu cha Rongo - CHAWAKIRO), Dkt. Sheila Wandera (Mlezi wa CHAWAKAMA), Dkt. Timothy Kinoti (Chuo kikuu cha Embu) Bw. Ishmael K. Shikanda (Mtaalam wa Kiswahili). Kauli mbiu ya kongamano hilo ilikuwa “Kiswahili Kimataifa”.

Kaimu Makamu Chansela, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, alifungua rasmi kongamano hilo. Baadhi ya waliohudhuria ni pamoja na mtivo wa kitivo cha sanaa na sayansi za jamii Dkt. Christopher Kiboro, mlezi wa CHAKICHU Dkt. Allan Mugambi, mkuu wa kitengo cha Kiswahili Chuo kikuu cha Chuka, Dkt. Dorcas Musyimi pamoja na wahadhiri wengine kutoka vyuo vikuu mbalimbali kama Nairobi, Moi, Egerton, Rongo, Kaimosi, Tharaka, Embu, Kenyatta, Karatina, miongoni mwa wengine.

Chama cha wanafunzi wa Kiswahili Afrika Mashariki kilianzishwa mwaka wa 2004 kwa lengo la kukuza na kueneza Kiswahili katika kanda ya Afrika Mashariki kupitia wanafunzi wanaosoma Kiswahili vyuoni. Chama hiki huwa na utaratibu wa kuandaa makongamano kila mwaka. Tawi la Kenya la CHAWAKAMA huandaa makongamano mawili kila mwaka ambayo huwa ama ya Kikanda au ya kitaifa na hufwatana mtawalia. Mwaka huu, Chuo kikuu cha Chuka kilikuwa mwenyeji wa kongamano la kikanda ambalo kwa kawaida huchukua siku moja.

Kwa mujibu wa mwenyekiti wa CHAWAKAMA – Kenya Bw. Vicus Oduor, vyuo 22 viliweza kuhudhuria hafla hiyo. Aidha, Kongamano hilo lilivutia wanafunzi hadi 842 kutoka vyama tanzu. Vyuo vikuu mbalimbali viliwasili Chuoni Chuka kuanzia usiku wa tarehe 3 ambapo vilipokelewa vizuri na wenyeji kwa ushirikiano na viongozi wa CHAWAKAMA. Kongamano hilo lilifanyika kuanzia saa mbili asubuhi hadi saa kumi na moja jioni huku mapumziko mafupi yakitolewa kwa ajili ya chamcha. Kulikuweco na mawasilisho kutoka kila chuo ambayo yalichukua dakika tano kwa kila wasilisho. Mawasilisho hayo yalihusu

mada mbalimbali zilizoendana na Kauli mbiu. Mawasilisho hayo yalifanywa kwa awamu, yakipisha maoni ya wahadhiri, burudani ya mashairi, nyimbo na hotuba za wageni waalikwa.

Mlezi wa CHAWAKAMA Dkt. Sheila Wandera alizindua nambari ya kufanya malipo kwa chama pamoja na kuzindua vitabu vipya vilivyoandikwa na waandishi chipukizi kutoka vyuo mbalimbali. Aidha, alitoa shukrani kwa wanachama wote kwa kukubali wito wa kuhudhuria kongamano. Hatima ya kongamano hilo ilikuwa ni kutuzwa vyeti wanachama wote waliohudhuria, wageni waalikwa pamoja na wahadhiri.

Kwa mujibu wa mwenyekiti wa CHAKICHU, Bw. Timothy Ologo, kongamano hilo lilikuwa baadhi ya makongamano yaliyofana zaidi. Alishukuru usimamizi wa chuo kwa kufanikisha kongamano zima. Hata hivyo, mwenyekiti huyo hakukosa kutaja changamoto fulanifulani walizokumbana nazo katika mchakato mzima ila alitaja kuwa kuna nafasi ya kujiboresha zaidi katika siku za usoni. Kongamano la awamu ya 38 limeratibiwa kufanyika chuoni Kenyatta mnamo Machi 2024.



Naibu Makamu Chansela, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, afungua rasmi kongamano la 37 la Chawakama

New Deans Assume Leadership Roles

The heart of Chuka University beats within its Faculties, each with a unique purpose and aspirations. These Faculties are entrusted to the guidance of Deans, who shape the academic landscape. On



Mr. Oliver Mwangala and Ms. Joy Nkatha, oversee vote counting.

September 29, 2023, Chuka University conducted its Deanship Elections, a biennial event that sets the course for the University's future. This year's elections witnessed an unprecedented level of

participation and enthusiasm, making it a momentous occasion for the entire Chuka University fraternity.

In a pool of highly qualified candidates, the following individuals emerged victorious, now steering their respective faculties:

1. Dr. Christopher Kiboro - Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
2. Prof. Paul Kamweru Kuria - Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology
3. Prof. Isaac Micheni Nkari - Dean of the Faculty of Business Studies
4. Prof. Grace Opetu Abucheli - Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture

We also extend our congratulations to Prof. Erick Mwenda Elias, who unanimously retained his position as the Dean of the Faculty of Education. Furthermore, Prof. Lucy Gitonga will continue her outstanding leadership as the Dean of the School of Nursing and Public Health. Dr. Jafford Rithaa and Dr. Wycliffe Nyachoti Otiso will continue their roles as acting Deans for the Faculty of Environmental Studies & Resource Development and the Faculty of Law, respectively.



Following their election, the newly appointed Deans expressed their dedication to driving their faculties toward success and development. Each brings a wealth of experience and a vision for the future, vowing to uphold the values of Chuka University and foster the academic excellence this institution is renowned for. In his remarks, Dr. Samuel Chege, the Registrar of Academic Affairs and coordinator of the Deanship Elections emphasized the pivotal role of Deans within the university. He underscored their critical contribution to maintaining the integrity of academic programs across various Faculties. Their leadership and commitment are instrumental in ensuring that Chuka University continues to thrive and evolve. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, also addressed the newly elected Deans, stressing the importance of their roles in supporting the University administration. He urged the newly elected Deans to be effective in their positions and work diligently for the ongoing success and prosperity of Chuka University. This transition signifies a significant moment in Chuka University's history, and we eagerly anticipate how these newly elected Deans will contribute to the growth and success of their Faculties. Their leadership, dedication, and vision will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Chuka University. We wish them the very best in their new job dispensations.



International Student Webinar Unites Minds Across Continents



Prof. Zhou Deyi from Huazhong Agricultural University, China giving a presentation during the pre-conference webinar held on 2nd October 2023.

In an intellectually charged pre-conference webinar that took place on 2nd October 2023, students from Chuka University and Huazhong Agricultural University in China transcended academic and geographical barriers to engage in a meaningful exchange of ideas. This event served as a catalyst for the convergence of diverse perspectives and research interests among these promising scholars. With compelling presentations, stimulating discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions, participants ventured into various subjects, highlighting the truly interdisciplinary nature of their research.

Beyond offering a mere glimpse of the upcoming conference, this webinar reinforced the indispensable role of collaboration in the realm of academia. It laid the foundation for an exciting and intellectually enriching discourse at the forthcoming conference, underscoring the paramount importance of international partnerships and academic unity in propelling knowledge and understanding to new heights. This vibrant interaction underscored the profound influence of global connections, ultimately facilitating shared exploration of the academic world.



FSET Hosts TinyML Boot Camp

The Faculty of Science, Engineering, and Technology (FSET) held an impactful TinyML Boot Camp on March 19, 2022. The event aimed to introduce students to the world of Tiny Machine Learning (TinyML) and offer insights into recent industry trends. Attended by 40 students and facilitated by two experts from Kenya's TinyML community, the event primarily catered to students specializing in electrical engineering, computer science, and related tech fields.

TinyML is at the intersection of machine learning and Internet of Things (IoT) devices, emphasizing embedded programming for autonomous devices. This Boot camp included four distinct sessions to maximize learning and networking opportunities. The keynote session featured experts from TinyML Kenya, sharing valuable insights and experiences. An ice-breaking session encouraged attendees to connect informally through games and Kahoot, fostering fellowship.

The practical session allowed students to develop machine learning models and train AI models using smartphones, enhancing their practical skills. An information session covered AI, machine learning, TinyML, GPUs, and processors, and highlighted opportunities within NVIDIA. Lastly, the networking session facilitated connections, potential collaborations, and partnership discussions. Despite minor challenges, the Boot camp exceeded expectations, thanks to strong support from the university, as per feedback from attendees and the organizing committee.

Setting an Eco-Friendly Pace in Tree Planting

Chuka University officially launched its tree planting drive on November 1, 2023, at Mwanjati Farm surpassing the 2.2 million mark. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei led the tree planting drive at the University Mwanjati farm encompassing staff and students. The tree planting exercise supports the government's initiative to plant 15 billion trees for a more sustainable future. Chuka University aims to contribute to this national goal and aligns with its performance contracting objectives. Further, on November 4, 2023, the Igembe Campus, also took part in the tree planting initiative. Building the momentum of the tree planting initiative, members of the University Senate continued the eco-friendly efforts on November 7, 2023, at the Chogoria Campus. This drive was led by Prof. Eunice Githae, the DVC (AFP&D), and Prof. Gilbert Nduru, the DVC-(ARSA).

This year, the University continues with the tree-planting efforts targeting to plant and donate more than 200,000 tree seedlings. Each member of staff is expected to plant at least 30 trees, demonstrating the University's commitment to environmental sustainability.



The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei leads a tree planting drive at the University's Mwanjati farm.



Prof. Eunice Githae, DVC-AFP&D, and Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC-ARSA, spearheading the tree-planting initiative at Chuka University Chogoria Campus.



University Staff and students plant tree seedlings at Chogoria Campus.

Second Hackathon Ignites Innovation in Health Information Technology

Chuka University hosted its second hackathon from June 24 to June 26, 2023, at the main campus, sparking a creative blaze in the realm of Health Information Technology. The event aimed to form a passionate and technology-driven team, imparting expertise in EID/VL operations and challenging participants to tackle real-world problems. Additionally, it sought to cultivate a proficient team within the University that could collaborate with HealthIT staff in supporting county governments and national information systems, particularly EID/VL. The hackathon revolved around key objectives: fortifying developers' capabilities

with essential skills, addressing and solving issues within Health Information Systems, and fostering collaboration and mentorship opportunities. Chuka University students majoring in BSc (Computer Science) and BSc (Applied Computer Science) played a pivotal role, supported by expert guidance from HealthIT staff at the University of Nairobi, Chuka University, and an EID/VL developer from HealthIT UON.

During the event, participants labored diligently to create prototypes for the designated challenges. Four prototypes emerged in just three days, uploaded to the Health IT GitHub repository. These included an integrated EID/VL help desk

setup product prototype and an EID/ System updates/enhancement product prototype, addressing practical problems in Health Information Technology. The hackathon's success was attributed to the dedication of several HealthIT staff members, whose mentorship and support facilitated innovative solutions in Health Information Technology. Moving forward, the winning prototypes will be incubated, and virtual meetings will ensure ongoing development. The formation of a Health IT Club at Chuka University underscores the commitment to nurturing innovation and collaboration in the field of Health Information Technology, ensuring a brighter future for this dynamic domain.

Chuka Joins Forces with Ajira Digital Program to Empower Students

A delegation from the Ajira Digital Program visited Chuka University on November 2, 2023, to strengthen and empower the Ajira Digital Club. This initiative aimed to sensitize and activate students to access online work training provided by the Ajira Digital Program Implementers, equipping them with essential skills for success in the modern digital economy. The Ajira Digital Program delegates, including Ms. Polly Kirimi and Mr. Joseph Gathura Kibachia, shared their vision with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, who expressed affirmed the University's strong support for this partnership. Discussions during the meeting centered on the logistics of upcoming training sessions. The first cohort of students is set to begin



L-R: Ms. Polly Kirimi (Regional Coordinator Ajira), Mr. Joseph Gathura (M&E Officer Ajira), and Dr. David Mwachhi (CU Ajira Club Patron) pay courtesy call to the VC Prof. Henry Mutembei



Ms. Polly Kirimi (Regional Coordinator Ajira), demonstrates to Chuka university students how to register on the Ajira Digital Program.

training on November 3rd and 4th, after which they will be eligible to join the Chuka University Ajira Club. This club will offer mentorship and support as students explore online work and entrepreneurship opportunities. Prof. Mutembei also expressed support for the club's proposal to establish a center within Chuka University for business process outsourcing (BPO) services. This move not only creates opportunities for students but also contributes to the university's sustainability. The collaboration between Chuka University and the Ajira Digital Program is poised to empower students to excel in the ever-evolving digital landscape while fostering the growth of the digital economy in the region.

CUSA Takes a Digital Leap: Transition to Online Student Elections

The Office of the Dean of Students is committed to nurturing the distinct and individual growth of each student by creating a safe, inclusive, and healthy campus environment that allows them to maximize their potential while pursuing their educational objectives. Our mission is to advocate for student learning through engaging experiences beyond the classroom, providing support to students facing crises, assisting in understanding university policies, aiding in navigating the academic journey, and offering guidance to resolve various challenges. In a forward-thinking move towards digitalization, the Office of the Dean of Students embarked on benchmarking trips in readiness into transitioning from traditional paper-based elections to an online election system, in preparation for Chuka University's upcoming student leaders' election in January 2024. The Student Welfare Department has a commendable track record in successfully organizing free and fair student leader elections,

fostering a sense of community through joint services, and achieving excellence with 23 trophies in various sporting activities since January 2023. In line with our commitment to student welfare, the department is developing a policy on student enrollment funds, to address the identification of needy students, financial assistance mechanisms, and funding sources. To ensure comprehensive student support, there is an established a fund for financially disadvantaged students and implemented a student welfare policy that encompasses a wide range of services, including the management of extracurricular activities, sports, student elections, counseling, orientation, work-study programs, student organizations, and the training of student leaders. The office strives to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all students to thrive in their academic and personal journeys.

Faculty Trained on Research Metrics, Open Access Publishing, and Scholarly Visibility

The academic fraternity recently underwent a capacity-building workshop on research metrics, open-access publishing, and scholarly visibility. The workshop targeted and equipped researchers, faculty members, and students with knowledge and skills to enhance their research impact and visibility in the scholarly arena.

The workshop was officially opened by Dr. Peter Mabubi the Registrar (A&P). In his opening remarks, Dr. Mabubi emphasized the significance of research metrics in assessing the quality and impact of

scholarly work. He underscored the need for researchers to familiarize themselves with key metrics and understand their implications in order to foster a culture of high-quality research within the university. Dr. Mabubi also highlighted the importance of open-access publishing, which enables greater dissemination of knowledge and facilitates collaboration among scholars worldwide.

Throughout the day-long workshop, participants engaged in interactive sessions and discussions led by renowned experts in the fields of research metrics, open-access publishing, and scholarly

visibility. Topics covered included the effective use of research metrics to measure impact, strategies for enhancing scholarly visibility through open-access publishing, and techniques for optimizing digital presence and utilizing social media platforms to promote research. Participants expressed their appreciation for the workshop's content and organization, citing its relevance to their research endeavors. They also lauded Chuka University's commitment to providing platforms for academic growth and collaboration, fostering a conducive environment for research and innovation.

Chuka University Radio Marks 5 Years of Broadcasting Excellence

In the heart of Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Embu, Kirinyaga, Kitui, Murang'a and Isiolo counties, there exists a beacon of communication, information, and entertainment that has been lighting up the airwaves for half a decade now – Chuka University Radio, broadcasting on 98.8FM. As we celebrate the achievements of our graduates in this year's Chuka University Graduation, it is only fitting that we shine a spotlight on this remarkable institution that has been serving both our students and the local communities.

Dr. Henry Nkoru Nabea is Head of Radio, which has become a vital part of our campus life. For five years, Chuka University Radio has never been off air, offering educational, informational, and entertaining programs that cater for diverse audiences. From 6 AM to 12 AM, there's always something fascinating happening on the airwaves. The radio boasts live news bulletins in both Swahili and English, field reporting, programs, live event coverage, interviews with thought leaders, intriguing features, and thought-provoking documentaries. But Chuka University Radio is more than just a broadcast station; it's also a training



Media students hone their journalism skills

ground for the future of journalism, media, and communication professionals.

The radio hosts work tirelessly to ensure that our listeners receive top-quality content. Auditions are held regularly, allowing passionate and talented students the opportunity to hone their skills in the state-of-the-art radio studios. The Radio has also become a learning platform for Journalism students in various secondary schools who tour to the Radio.

Through attachments, internships, and eventual employment, our graduates make their mark in the industry, thanks to the invaluable experience they gained while at the Chuka University Radio. As we look back on these five incredible years, we do so with immense pride and gratitude. Our slogan, "Furaha Yako Fahari Yetu" (Your Joy, Our Pride), encapsulates our commitment to serving our audience and our community.

Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders Trained

The Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders underwent a two-day paralegal training program at the University-Main Campus on May 4th and 5th, 2023. This marked the second phase of their capacity building session, following the inaugural session that kicked off in December 2022. Acting Vice-Chancellor

The training, facilitated by the Faculty of Law as part of its corporate social

responsibility, trained the elders on areas of conflict resolution, family conflicts, gender roles, succession preparedness, and legal frameworks. Chuka University supports and takes cognizance of the collaboration with community organizations for sustainable development. Experts from the Faculty of Law, including Mr. Allan Oduor, Dr. Rosemary Mwanza, and Mr. Henry Mutea, led the

participatory sessions. The training, tailored to the council's specific needs, aimed to empower members to utilize their influence to promote peace and unity within the Ameru community. The Council of Elders was grateful for the empowerment sessions and the University's commitment to community service and cultural preservation.



File Photo of Prof. Dorcas Isutsa, former Ag. Vice-Chancellor, hands over a certificate of participation to Mr. Mutegi.



Allan Oduor trains the Njuri Ncheke Council of Elders

Don Picked as IUNCBD delegate for Intergovernmental UN-CBD

Dr. Jafford Rithaa was recently appointed as a representative of the International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity (IUNCBD). Serving as an accredited observer, he actively participated in the high-level intergovernmental meeting of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity held from October 13th to 20th, 2023, in Nairobi. The seminar, centered on in-depth plenary sessions, aimed to develop and demonstrate the collective and individual scientific and professional capacity required for national and international recognition. The focus was on showcasing expertise in action-oriented research, learning, awareness, advocacy networking, and partnership initiatives. These efforts aim to have a tangible impact on the ground and create opportunities for leading activities in the

subsequent phases of policy implementation. Furthermore, the objective was to enrich studies, theses, research projects, publications, curricula, and international relationships. The workshop's theme revolved around "Biodiversity - Cultural Diversity 2030: Linking Education Science Policy and Society." The IUNCBD Network delegation comprised three professors, one lecturer, and fifteen Kenyan students and alumni. The Kenya Interuniversity Environmental Students Association (KIUESA), an IUNCBD member and representative in Kenya and globally, played a vital role in this delegation. IUNCBD's mission and strategy focus on providing knowledge input, mentorship, and advice to academics and students. Acknowledging student associations as key multiplier drivers, both on-campus and off-campus, IUNCBD aims to contribute to the development of a lifelong-wide-in-depth learning society. The established working partnership, facilitated by Prof. Pierluigi Bozzi, is anticipated to fulfill Chuka University's mission to become a world-class institution.



Dr. Jafford Rithaa (right) and Prof. Pierluigi Bozzi (positioned third from left) pose for a photo at the seminar.

Comrades Revel in Mseto Music Extravaganza



Chuka University's main campus came alive on March 3, 2023, as the Mseto Campus Tour set camp for an exhilarating music and dance experience. This highly anticipated event was organized by Radio Citizen, and sponsored by Safaricom PLC. The objective of the event was to celebrate Kenyan music and provide a platform for budding artists to showcase their talent. University pavilion grounds transformed into a hub of musical enthusiasm as students gathered to revel in the melodies of the Mseto Campus Tour. The event was hosted by Mzazi Willy M. Tuva and deejay Flash. The real stars of the show the emerging Kenyan Artists, gave thrilling performances of their talents. Among them were rapper Ssaru, Mr. Seed,

and former gospel artist Weezdom. The performances were nothing but electrifying, the students yearning for more. The Mseto Campus Tour was not just about music; it offered a well-rounded experience. Activities such as games, giveaways, and a thrilling dance competition added an extra layer of excitement to the event. Lucky

winners walked away with airtime vouchers courtesy of Safaricom. Some students had the opportunity to share the stage with the headlining artists, an experience they will undoubtedly treasure. This affirms the University's obligation to support and nurture talent because talent pays!



ISERC Undergoes Evaluation for Accreditation Renewal

In a significant development, the National Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) conducted a meticulous evaluation of Chuka University's Institutional Scientific Ethics Research Committee (ISERC) on October 19, 2023, as part of the accreditation renewal process. Led by Dr. David Ngigi, the NACOSTI team meticulously examined the committee's compliance with established stipulations. They also assessed crucial factors such as quality assurance, accountability, research policy development, research impact, continuous improvement, and alignment with national priorities. The inspection and subsequent accreditation underscored Chuka University's unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards of scientific ethics. The university's dedication to fostering innovative

research and ensuring alignment with national needs was prominently highlighted during the evaluation process. Dr. David Ngigi praised the university for its proactive approach and comprehensive efforts in upholding excellence in scientific research. Chuka University's ISERC emerged from the evaluation with commendations, reflecting the institution's continuous pursuit of excellence in research practices. The accreditation renewal not only reaffirms the university's commitment to scientific integrity but also positions Chuka University as a leader in aligning research initiatives with the nation's priorities.



L-R: Ms. Alice Otwor, Ms. Christine Njue, Dr. Lucy Mathai, Dr. Hastings Ozwara, Dr. Benjamin Kanga, Dr. Lilian Omutoke, Dr. Joseph Masinde, Ms. Charity Musembi, Ms. Joan Chepleting, Dr. David Ngige and Dr. Roseline Kahindi.



Nursing Beyond the Bedside

The School of Nursing and Public Health (SNPH) hosted a groundbreaking career seminar in partnership with the Kenya Students and Novice Nurses Association (KESNA). The event held on February 17th, 2023 at the University pavilion grounds brought together Universities across the country.

The seminar whose theme was "Nursing Beyond the Bedside," was a collaborative initiative by Prof. Lucy Gitonga, (SNPH) and Joyce Mghoi, the Director of Career Services provided students with valuable insights into potential career paths and networking opportunities. Participants were taken through various career paths available to nursing graduates, highlighting the vast array of opportunities beyond traditional bedside nursing. Throughout the seminar, attendees had the opportunity to learn from a variety of guest speakers, including representatives from the British

Council and the National Nurses Association of Kenya. The event provided a unique platform for students to connect with leading industry professionals and gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the nursing



Prof. Lucy Gitonga, Dean School of Nursing and Public Health addresses participants during the career seminar.

profession. Universities that attended the seminar included the University of Embu, Mount Kenya University, Kenyatta University, Meru University, Dedan Kimathi University, University of Nairobi, and Daystar University. The event attracted participants from guests from the British Council, the African Union, the National Nurses Association of Kenya, and the Kenya Students Nursing Association (KESNA). Professor Lucy Gitonga expressed gratitude to all participants for gracing the occasion and assured them that there would be more such seminars in the future to inspire the next generation of nurses in Kenya.

3,844 Graduate in 12th Graduation Ceremony



21
Doctorates

118
Masters

52
Postgraduate Diplomas

2,842
Bachelor's Degrees

645
Diplomas

166
Certificates

A total of 3,844 Chuka University students are set to graduate today in a grand ceremony to be presided over by the University Chancellor. The ceremony to be held at the main campus will be graced by the second Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei, staff, students, parents, guardians, and invited guests from all over the country. This is the 12 graduation ceremony to be held in the University since it became fully fledged in January 2013.

Today marks a significant milestone in the academic journey of Chuka University to witness the highest number of postgraduate students in history with 21 doctorates and 118 masters across various disciplines. Award of 52 Postgraduate Diplomas, 166 Certificates, 643 Diplomas, and 2,842 Bachelor's degrees. The significant increase and trajectory of post-graduates is attributed to the turnaround strategy that has focused on research and teaching.

The University's commitment to research excellence has had a ripple effect, enticing a surge of postgraduate students eager to be a part of a fraternity that not only values academic prowess but also nurtures a culture of academic curiosity and intellectual exploration. This influx of doctoral and master's candidates represents a broad array of fields, ranging

from the sciences to the humanities, showcasing the university's commitment to providing a comprehensive and multidisciplinary education. Over the past few years, Chuka University has undergone a profound transformation, redefining itself as a hub for cutting-edge research and innovative teaching methodologies. Faculty members, driven by a passion for knowledge and discovery, had actively engaged in groundbreaking research projects, attracting both national and international attention.

Several doctoral candidates have made significant contributions to their respective fields, publishing in reputable journals and presenting their findings at international conferences. This newfound

reputation for academic excellence has elevated the university's standing on the global stage. Moreover, the impact of the turnaround strategy extended beyond the walls of the university.

Collaborations with industry partners, government agencies, and international institutions had flourished, creating a dynamic ecosystem that facilitated knowledge transfer and real-world applications of research outcomes. Chuka University has become and continues to be a key player in driving regional development through its innovative homegrown solutions and expert contributions in pursuit of being a world-class University.



Peer Counselors Enhance Skills

In a proactive move towards promoting the well-being of the students, the Office of the Dean of Students facilitated a two-day peer counselor training program. The exercise which took place on October 10 and 11, 2023 delved into diverse topics crucial to the counseling process. The training covered essential subjects such as mental health issues in counseling, loss, and grief counseling, drug and substance abuse, as well as other types of addiction. Additionally, the peer counselors engaged in discussions on interpersonal relationships, sexuality, personal financial management, career guidance, emotional issues in counseling, and conflict management. Ms. Ruth Muturi, a counselor from the Dean of Students Office, addressed the peer counselors, emphasizing the pivotal role they play in the university fostering mental wellness. Muturi challenged peer counselors to take proactive steps to safeguard their mental health to effectively support their peers. "Peer counselors are a cornerstone of the support system within an academic community. It is imperative for them to not only grasp the intricacies of counseling but also prioritize their

mental well-being, said Ms. Kanini during the interactive session. The workshop was designed to equip peer counselors with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the diverse challenges faced by students. The office of the Dean of Students continues to enhance the well-being of students by providing valuable training opportunities that contribute to the holistic development of all

students. This training programme aligns seamlessly with the University's vision of creating a supportive environment where students not only excel academically but also receive comprehensive assistance in navigating the various personal and emotional challenges that may arise during their academic journey.



Mirian Kanini, Deans of Students office addresses the students during the training

Public Health Program Re-Inspected

On November 6, 2023, the School of Nursing and Public Health welcomed a delegation from the Public Health Officers and

Technicians Council (PHOTC), led by Prof. Mohammed Karama. The purpose of their visit was to conduct a comprehensive re-inspection of the Bachelor of Public

Health program, marking a pivotal stage in the accreditation process. The accreditation process, overseen by PHOTC, is instrumental in regulating the training, practice, and employment of public health officers and technicians. This responsibility is crucial for upholding the standards and quality of public health education in Kenya. Addressing the importance of this evaluation, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Henry Mutembei affirmed Chuka University's steadfast commitment to delivering accredited and high-quality programs. He underscored the university's dedication to supporting the government's mission of enhancing community health through primary healthcare initiatives.



Chuka Hosts Scouts Camp



Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC-ARSA, addresses the scouts.

Chuka University is proud to have played host to this year's Upper Eastern Region Scouts Competition. The two-day event that took place on July 22 and 23, 2023, saw scouts drawn from Embu, Tharaka-Nithi, Meru, Isiolo, and Marsabit counties converge to take part in the competition. During the opening ceremony held at the pavilion grounds, Chuka University, Main Campus, various scout leaders spoke on the different ways of empowering the students with all the necessary skills they require to benefit society as a whole. They also assured that The Kenya Scouts

Association is committed to providing care and protection to all children involved in its activities as well as safeguarding them from any form of discrimination.

The Association recognizes that all children have a right to protection from harm. The needs of special categories of children including those with disabilities will be taken into account while implementing the child protection policy. Prof. Gilbert the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(ARSA) was the Chief guest. In his speech, Prof. Nduru congratulated the participants and urged them to put their

scouting skills to good use by tackling important use such as climate change. He also encouraged the students to work hard to smoothly transition to institutions of higher learning and finally advised them to be disciplined in all they do. Winners in various competing categories were awarded by their Chief Scout, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, who challenged the students to continue sharpening their skills. The Kenya Scouting Association boasts the largest number of registered scouts in Africa. The Upper Eastern Region Scouts Competition provided an excellent platform for scouts from various counties to come together, share experiences, and build lasting friendships.



University Excels in Shows and Exhibitions

Chuka University has continued to shine on various stages through a series of shows and marketing exhibitions, reaping accolades for outstanding research contributions and innovations. Earlier this year, the university showcased its prowess in different domains and walked away with multiple awards. The university emerged victorious at the Mt. Kenya Agricultural Show held from May 24th to May 27th at the Nanyuki Showground. The University secured top honors, claiming first place in three categories: Best University, Best University Stand, and Best Research and Development Stand. The exceptional display showcased cutting-edge technologies and research findings, solidifying its reputation as a leader in sustainable agriculture.



Dr. Samuel Chege, Registrar (AA), presents the certificate of excellence ASK shows performance to the VC, Prof Henry Mutembei.

The University's triumph highlights its obligation to advance agricultural practices to enhance food security and foster innovation. The momentum of success did not stop there. From June 21st to 23, the Chuka made a significant mark at the Embu ASK Show. The University's stand at garnered widespread attention for its innovative agricultural practices, research, and educational programs. The remarkable exhibits earned the team and the University various awards. In a colorful ceremony, the teams led by Prof. Andrew Muguna presented the trophies and certificates to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei.

JITU Collaborates with Chuka



L-R: Allan Mwangi, Kenya Teach2Give Ambassador, Matthew Turner, Director Jitu, Mark Allen, Chief Operations Officer, VC Prof. Henry Mutembei, Prof. Gilbert Nduru, DVC (ARSA), Prof. Eunice Githae, DVC (AFP&D) and Charles Kinyua, HOD ICT exchange copies of signed MOU's.

In a groundbreaking development, Chuka University and Jitu Ltd have officially sealed a Memorandum of Understanding,

it establishes a robust platform for students to showcase their inventive solutions and creations, effectively bridging the gap between academic prowess and real-world industry demands.

Break Barriers and Empower the Boy Child

As we empower the boy child, it is equally important to address how to deal with an empowered girl child. Chuka University Students Association (CUSA) in collaboration with the County Government of Tharaka Nithi, UNICEF, and the MenEnd FGM Foundation led an influential sexual education on October 13, 2023, dubbed "Empower the Girl Child while Keeping the Boy Child Informed through Mentorship and Sensitization." The campaign organized at the Main Campus focused on promoting a society free from harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child marriage, consent, gender equality, and sexual and gender-based violence. In the pursuit of fostering a more balanced and inclusive society, it is essential to empower the boy child through mentorship and sensitization.

Hon. Kelly Karimi, Chief Officer, of Children, Gender, and Social Services Tharaka Nithi County Government underscored the county's commitment to nurturing a safe and supportive environment for children, where they are empowered with knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and protect themselves from harmful practices. Mentorship programs tailored for boys play a crucial role in shaping positive masculinity, promoting emotional intelligence, and guiding them toward healthy and respectful relationships. Sensitization initiatives help challenge societal norms that may limit boys, encouraging them to break free from harmful stereotypes and explore diverse interests without fear of judgment. By instilling a sense of self-awareness and empathy, mentorship and

sensitization will create a foundation for boys to navigate their evolving roles in a changing world.

This campaign sought to challenge and address deeply ingrained societal norms that perpetuate harm and Injustice against both genders. UNICEF's involvement lent global significance to the campaign, providing essential resources and expertise, while the MenEnd FGM Foundation's commitment to ending FGM played a crucial role in addressing harmful practices and engaging communities in meaningful dialogues. The campaign's activities were multifaceted, including mentorship programs, and awareness-raising efforts, with Chuka University students, engaging their peers and the broader community.



Hon. Kelly Karimi, Chief Officer, of Children, Gender, and Social Services Tharaka Nithi County Government gives her remarks



CUSA chairman Vincent Kipkurui addresses comrades

A Vision for A Dignified Future for The Youth



Her Excellency, Pastor Dr. Dorcas Rigathi plants a tree

On 17th November, 2023 Her Excellency, Pastor Dr. Dorcas Rigathi engaged in a mentorship campaign at the University's main campus. The theme of the event centered around envisioning a dignified future for the youth. The exercise, Dr. Rigathi said, was part of her ongoing boy-child outreach program against drugs and substance abuse targeting correctional facilities and learning institutions. In her address, she emphasized the importance of ensuring that neither the boy child nor the girl child faces extinction.

Pastor Rigathi commended the Chuka University fraternity for participating in the campaign as well as the tree planting exercise at Kairini farm and working towards fulfilling the government directive. In attendance were the Tharaka Nithi County Women Representative Hon. Susan Ngugi, and the Member of Parliament Chuka-Igambang'ombe Constituency, Hon. Patrick Munene and County Commissioner Tharaka Nithi County. A total of 8,000 trees were planted during this event at the Karini 500-acre farm.



Her Excellency, Pastor Dr. Dorcas Rigathi with Mr. & Miss. Chuka University



Light moments with Chuka University students

Sports Roundup

Chuka Still a Trailblazer in Sports

Chuka University continues to bask in the glory of its exceptional athletes who continue to make waves in various sports disciplines. From hockey to karate, and everything in between, the University's sporting prowess is on full display as attested through excellent performances. In women's hockey, Chuka University stands tall as the KUSA women's champions, a testament to their dedication and skill on the field. Meanwhile, the men's football has shown their mettle by reaching the semi-finals in the national ball games held in Eldoret this year.



Chuka University students football team

Chuka University's football teams, both men and women, have clinched the title of county champions in the highly competitive Chapa Di mba tournament. Their exceptional performance has earned them a ticket to the regional finals, set to take place in December 2023. In the martial arts arena, Karate takes the spotlight with the Chuka University Women's Karate team emerging as national champions. Their male counterparts also put up an impressive performance, securing the runner-up position at the national level, and proving the university's martial art prowess. On the court and the field, Chuka University's netball and handball women's teams have seized the KUSA Central championship titles, adding more feathers to their cap. Athletics are another forte for the university, with the institution's champions dominating the KUSA Central region in cross-country, 200m, 4*100 relay, and 4*400 relay.



National defending Champions Karate team

Additionally, Erick Rop, a student at Chuka University has qualified for the national cross-country championship, and he is gearing up for the African University Sports competition scheduled for January 2024. Beyond the University League, Chuka University's sports teams are making strides in national leagues. Basketball teams participate in the Mt. Kenya Basketball League (MKBL), while rugby and handball teams have shown their prowess in leagues outside the university. The University roll-ball team participates in the national league, making the institution a force to be reckoned with on the national sports scene. Indoor games are equally noteworthy, with students excelling in games such as scrabble, chess, table tennis, badminton, flow ball, and lawn tennis. The inclusion of sports for persons with disabilities further reflects the university's commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Speaking to the Chuka University news, University sports officers Mr. Sean Opwora and Stephen Ouma affirm that the University places a strong emphasis on nurturing talent and promoting sports as a viable career opportunity for all students.



Women Basketball team

Staff Teams Champion Excellence in KUSA Games

In the world of sports, every record, and every moment of triumph tells a unique story. At Chuka University, the tale is one of relentless dedication, teamwork, and sheer athletic prowess. The staff teams recorded impressive performances in various disciplines during the Kenya University Sports Association games held in June at the University of Embu.

The men's football team dubbed the Veterans, displayed strength and determination after scoring 6-0 goals against Kirinyaga University. However, they faced a defeat of 2-1 against KCA University secured them a place in the semi-finals where they triumphed 2-1 over USIU. In the football finals against Mount Kenya University, the Chuka University team demonstrated exceptional skill, winning with a remarkable 3-0 score to clinch the men's football title.

In men's volleyball, staff demonstrated their prowess with a resounding 2-0 victory against Karatina University during the pool rounds. They maintained their outstanding performance to the semi-finals securing a commendable third position overall. In an unpleasant turn of events, the volleyball team captain Michael Mwangi passed away throwing the entire university community into mourning. May His soul rest in eternal peace.

The women's volleyball team also displayed exceptional talent and teamwork in the Inter-University Staff Games after securing a confident 2-0 victory against KCA University. Despite a hard-fought 2-0 defeat against Karatina



The Chuka University men's football team during the tournament.

University, the team's determination remained unwavering and in the finals, they exhibited outstanding performance of 2-0 against Kirinyaga University earning itself a well-deserved second-place position.

The women's netball team impressed with exceptional skills and teamwork after finishing second overall. The netball team won against Kirinyaga University at 11-2 and Meru University of Science and Technology at 7-2 but was thrashed by Karatina University, at 9-4. The cheering squad led by Daniel Wandera played a big role in subduing our opponents through song, dance, and vuvuzela trumpets. The University Management has mandated the Sports section to increase the number of sports activities such as swimming and roll ball.

The introduction of additional sports activities has breathed new life into the campus, fostering a vibrant atmosphere of physical fitness, teamwork, and

competitive spirit. Whether it is on the field, in the gym, or in the pool, our students now have opportunities to engage in healthier competitions, develop essential life skills, and build a strong sense of comradeship. With the now fully operational gym, swimming pool, steam baths, and sauna running from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, our University's pursuit of a holistic approach to education that promotes both the physical and mental well-being of our students, ultimately enriching their overall educational experience is on course.

The Sports section in collaboration with the Department of Education has developed a Physical Education Curriculum which has been rolled out. Courses are now on offer for all to enroll. As we look forward we are filled with anticipation for the future milestones and achievements that will undoubtedly grace our sports legacy, inspiring generations to come.



VETERANS Unleash Prowess

In the heart of Chuka University, the Veterans Football Club, formerly known as Chuka University Staff Football, has undergone an inspiring transformation since its inception in 2016. Founded by a group of dedicated individuals including Stephen Ouma, Jotham Ainea, Jairo Ogechi, Paul Mwangi, and Daniel Njuguna, the club embarked on its journey with just 15 members. These visionary founders had a dream to foster a vibrant football community within

Chuka University. Over the years, the club has witnessed remarkable growth, both in membership and achievements. Notably, the Chuka University Veterans Football Club has participated in various competitions including the inter-University games, Tharaka-Nithi, Embu, and Meru tournaments. Their participation in these tournaments has been marked by outstanding performances, leading to the acquisition of numerous trophies that adorn their collection. The pinnacle of their journey in competitive football has been their involvement in the Chuka University Premier League (CPL). This league is renowned for its fierce competition, featuring 12 teams composed of students from Chuka University. Currently, the Veterans find



Chuka University Veterans Team.

themselves in a commendable second position with 22 points in the CPL. This is a testament to their commitment, skills, and determination, as they continue to battle it out with the other teams in the league.

One of the driving forces behind the success of the Chuka University Veterans Football Club has been the unwavering support of the Chuka University Management. This support has not only boosted the team's performance but also fostered a strong relationship between players and the University staff. For the members of the Chuka University Veterans Football Club, this journey has been about

more than just winning matches. It has been a school of life lessons, instilling values such as teamwork, discipline, respect, and a focus on improving their physical and mental health. These lessons are invaluable, extending far beyond the boundaries of the football pitch.

Under the guidance of their squad team manager, Dr. Immaculate Mutali, and with the unshakable support of their dedicated fans, the Chuka University Veterans Football Club has set their sights on even greater triumphs. They aim to take on major tournaments and have their eyes firmly fixed on clinching the 2023 Chuka University Premier League.

Former Rugby Queens Captain Joins National Team



Natasha Nalisi first from right.

In a heartwarming tale of dedication and mentorship, our student, Ms. Natasha Nalisi, the former captain of Chuka University Rugby Queens has achieved the extraordinary feat of making it to the national team, Kenya Lionesses. Under the guidance of the school's sports officers Mr. Stephen Ouma and Sean Opwora, Natasha's journey from a novice player to a national figure is a testament to the unwavering support and mentorship she has been accorded. Through countless hours of training, Natasha honed her skills and rose to prominence on the national stage, making our institution proud. Her inspiring journey exemplifies the transformative power of mentorship and the boundless possibilities that lie within the realm of sports at Chuka University.

UHAI Festival Unleashes Talents

Chuka recently hosted the UHAI Festivals on the 4th of November, 2023. The event featured an array of competitions designed to cater to the diverse interests and talents of differently-abled persons. From adrenaline-pumping activities like football, goal ball, sitting volleyball, and wheelchair racing to brainy showdowns in chess and scrabble, the festival provided a platform for participants to display not only their prowess but also their spirit of teamwork. Adding a touch of glamour, a captivating fashion show rounded up the day's festivities.

The event kicked off with great enthusiasm and energy, as Dr. Peter Mabubi, the Registrar of Administration and Planning, officially flagged off the festivities. Among the dignitaries present was Prof. Romanus Odhiambo, the Vice-Chancellor, of Meru University, who is the KUSA (Kenya University Sports Association) Central Conference Patron. Throughout the day, participants demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork, challenging stereotypes and leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.

"The UHAI Festival not only provided a day of fun and sports but also served as a powerful reminder of the importance of inclusivity and recognizing the abilities and



A combined men and women sitting volleyball match during the UHAI Festivals.

potential of differently-abled persons", said Sean Opwora, Chuka University sports officer. The event concluded on a high note, leaving indelible memories

and fostering a renewed commitment to celebrating diversity and advocating for equal opportunities for all.



Team red and yellow women football teams compete

Sakwa Flies the University Flag



Sakwa (second right) in action during a football match.

Kelvin Lumbasi Sakwa, a member of staff at Chuka University, joined a talented group of ball jugglers at Parklands Sports Club for training in preparation for the para games. Previously Lumbasi placed the University on the world map during the Amputee Football World Cup in San Juan de Los Lagos in Mexico, 2018. He was among the first eleven players who represented Kenya in the competition. Currently, he is in a team of 24 players who will be whittled down to 15 players to represent Kenya in the para games. Sakwa serves as the technical manager for the male staff football team, the Veterans.

Book Reviews

The Uncharted Words



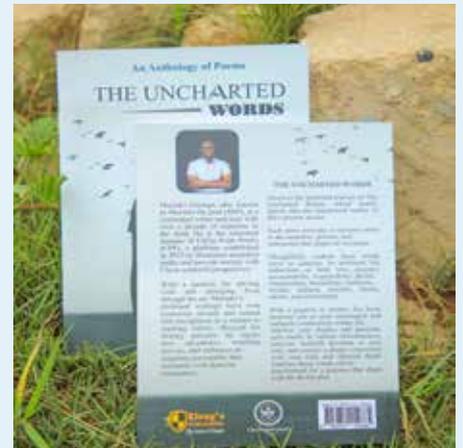
Muriuki Gitonga, known as Muriuki the poet (MtP), has skillfully composed a collection of 140 poems in "The Uncharted Words." Guided by a profound desire to share insights and propagate the teachings of love, Gitonga's work resounds with power and authenticity, aiming to instill valuable lessons in each reader. This book embarks on a purposeful journey, inviting readers to discover meaningful and authentic connections within life. It encourages them to redefine their dreams and passions, gain clarity in various circumstances, cultivate heartfelt devotion in their souls, and nurture a deeper connection with faith and spiritual depth.

Muriuki Gitonga, an alumnus of Chuka University with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting Option), is a celebrated writer and poet with over a decade of expertise in the field. He is also one of the Founders and Chairpersons of Writers Guild Chuka and an Associate in the Christian Union, where he served in the Creative or Theatre Ministry, writing and directing skits, plays, poems, and performing spoken word pieces.

Beyond his literary pursuits, Muriuki is passionate about serving God and changing lives through his art. His profound writings have won numerous awards and earned him recognition as a mentor to aspiring talents. He is the esteemed founder of Christ Point Poetry (CPP), a platform established in 2015 to illuminate unspoken truths and provide society with Christ-centered perspectives.

Muriuki Gitonga's diverse interests extend to new adventures, watching movies, and embracing an outgoing personality that resonates with those he encounters.

Copies are available at Nuria Kenya, Kibanga Books, Afrireads, and Inara Bookstore. You can also contact the author for an autographed copy at (+254) 790 139928 or via email at muriukithepoet@gmail.com.



Michelina Kamathi, alias "Endeavour Mickline," assumes the role of an academic mentor in her enlightening book, "Redefining Academic Excellence." Enshrined in the belief that core principles of academic excellence are universally applicable, Michelina is on a mission to empower high school students with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel academically, transcending the boundaries of school types, and catering to both boarding and day school students.

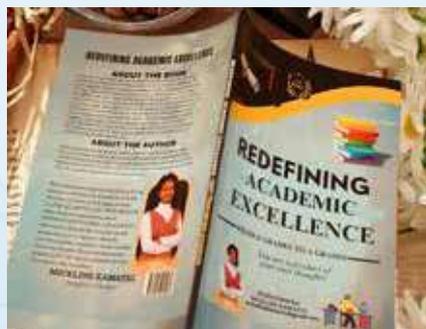
The book is a comprehensive guide that provides practical insights to help

Redefining Academic Excellence

students achieve academic greatness. Michelina imparts valuable advice on how to identify and pursue the most promising parts of their academic journeys. She emphasizes that academic excellence is attainable, regardless of the challenges one may encounter. Drawing from her personal experiences and

inspirational narrative, Michelina encourages students not merely to survive, but to thrive amidst the challenges and obstacles often encountered on the path to academic excellence. Michelina Kamathi, a current student pursuing a BSc in Agricultural Extension and Education at Chuka University, passionately commandeers her position as a writer and a motivational speaker.

Copies of her book are available within Chuka University and Chuka Town for only Ksh. 400. For nationwide delivery and autographed copies, you can contact the author at (+254) 707805369 or via email at michelinakamathi@gmail.com.



Feature Stories

Attaining Excellence in Teaching, Research and Extension



Prof. Geoffrey Gathungu, Ph.D.

I had an opportunity to attend a professional development course in the USA involving 3 higher learning institutions, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (Arkansas), Southern University (Louisiana), and Alcorn University (Mississippi). During the two-week training held from 10th to 23rd October, I observed that every researcher allocates 50%, 30%, and 20% of the time to teaching, research, and extension, respectively. During this professional development course in the USA, my PI in a project we are implementing in small-scale farming communities within Tharaka Nithi was generous enough to expose and network us to other researchers in these universities and Aquaculture and Aquaponics, and Rice Research Organizations.

Such exchange visits can be explored by researchers in our university to connect to such international researchers and start collaborations. To become a successful researcher is a continuous process that is guided by certain values and practices like being a critical thinker, curious and open-minded, effective communicator and networking skills to collaborate with other researchers to add value to your research. Just like investment groups, it is important for you as a researcher to be a member of a research group to be

able to get and share ideas and also learn and appreciate if the things you are doing impact on transformation of humanity.

However, it is also necessary to be prepared to go down through some dead ends or the valley of death, like constantly writing and getting regrets or inadequate funding levels to implement your objectives but, if this happens it is necessary to realize that this is part of the process of discovery and successful researchers have gone through it. Be reminded to remain focused and positive, while strengthening the existing collaborations and being innovative to starting new ones. I congratulate the graduates and welcome them to the world of research with the thought of finding solutions to transform mankind.

Mental Health Among University Students



**Ms. Ruth Muturi
Counsellor**

Among the various hurdles, one that often goes unnoticed but significantly impacts students' lives is mental health. In recent years, mental health issues among university students have gained attention, highlighting the importance of fostering a supportive and understanding environment for young minds.

University life is a period of transition, exploration, and self-discovery. However, it can also be incredibly stressful. Balancing academic demands, social pressures, financial challenges, and the uncertainty of the future can take a toll on students' mental well-being. Common mental health concerns faced by university students include stress, anxiety, depression, drug and substance abuse, and feelings of isolation. These challenges, if not addressed, can hinder academic performance and overall personal growth. One of the first steps toward promoting mental health among university students is breaking the stigma associated with mental health issues. Encouraging open conversations and creating safe spaces where students can share their feelings without judgment is essential. Mental health awareness campaigns, workshops, and support groups play a significant role in fostering an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding.

Chuka University offers a range of support services to address students' mental health needs. The counseling department, helplines, and online resources provide students with access to professional guidance and support. It's essential for students to be aware of these services and to utilize them when needed. Timely intervention can make a significant difference in managing mental health challenges effectively. In addition to

seeking professional help, maintaining a healthy lifestyle can significantly impact mental well-being. Encouraging regular exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate sleep can enhance students' resilience against stress. Engaging in hobbies, spending time with friends and family, and practicing relaxation techniques like meditation and mindfulness are also valuable strategies for managing mental health. The university fraternity, including faculty, staff, and fellow students, plays a vital role in nurturing students' mental health. Creating a supportive and inclusive environment where students feel valued and understood is essential. Faculty members can incorporate mindfulness practices in classrooms, and university events can focus on mental health awareness to educate and empower students.

As you step into the world beyond the university, advocate for mental health awareness and support, not just for yourself but for others who may be struggling.

PICTORIAL



Staff participate in team building games



VC poses for a photograph with participants after the hotly contested Deans elections



Chuka University Alumni pay a courtesy call to the VC



VC receives a branded hoodie from an ABSA representative



Dr. Peter Mabubi, Registrar Administration and Planning hands over chairs to the CUSA chairman Vincent Kipkurui



Sheila Kariuki and Cornelius Kimutai give career advise to high school students



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei and other dignitaries address the press during the 10th International Research Conference

PICTORIAL



Staff Participate in tree planting initiatives



Prof. Zhou Deyi from Huanzhong University, China receives branded memorabilia from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Henry Mutembei, witnessed by (L-R) Dr. Martin Njagi, Prof. Geoffrey Gathungu and Mr. Geoffrey Kosgei.



HELB officials assist students at the main campus



The Vice-Chancellor receives trophies from staff sports teams



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



CHUKA UNIVERSITY
 P.O. Box 109 – 60400, Chuka
 Telephones: 020-2310512/18
 Email: info@chuka.ac.ke

 ChukaUniversityOfficialPage
 @Chuka_Uni
 Chuka_University_Official

 Chuka University TV
 ChukaUniversityOfficial
 www.chuka.ac.ke