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THIRD EDITION

March 2019

LU Info Point

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY DRAMA TROUPE SHINES

**NATURE SLICE:
THE GIANT SPONGE**

2019



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Welcome to the Third Edition of **LU Info Point**. Info Point continues highlighting the activities taking place in our University. I encourage you to continue sharing with the Public Relations Office the events taking place in your section. Together let us put everyone in the loop.

In this edition we pay tribute to our colleague the late Mr. Peter Ndung'u Kamau. May he rest in eternal peace.

Lucy Mugo (Hsc)

Public Relations Officer

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LU Info Point



LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY DRAMA TROUPE SHINES

Laikipia University was well represented in this year's Rift Valley Region University Drama festivals held at the School of Government (SoG) in Kabarnet Baringo County on 7th and 8th March 2019. The University was represented by Laikipia University drama troupe popularly known as the Laikipia Travelling Theatre or LTT. Also present at the event were Moi University, Mount Kenya University (Nakuru Campus), Baraton University, and Evangelical Highlands University (Kericho). Laikipia University competed in 8 categories that included a play, solo verse, choral verse, narrative, modern dance, mime, comedy, and spoken word. In all the categories our University qualified for the next stage National Drama Festivals which will be held at Kibabii University in early April 2019. 3 items scooped the first position, 4 items second position while one item got the third position. The mime, modern dance and comedy got position one, the play, solo verse, narrative and spoken word got position two while the choral verse scooped the third award. The troupe also managed to scoop other awards for best costume, best production, original productions and adjudicator's awards. The presentations by the group at SoG in Kabarnet comes shortly after the team participated as guests at the Laikipia County Drama Festivals that were held at Marmanet Secondary School a week ago. The team was led by Prof. Nabeya who wrote directed all the productions with the assistance of Mr. Obwanga Benson and Mr. Emmanuel Obare an M.A student in the Department of LITCOMS. Production of items for the drama festivals is a very expensive endeavor given the hundreds of thousands of shillings that goes into costume and decor, travelling, directing and production. For this reason the group is very grateful to the Laikipia University Management for availing funds and for also finding time to watch and critic the productions. The group is also grateful for the University Management for providing this platform for the students to nurture their talents which will go a long way in providing a spring board for their future endeavors.





Peer Counselors' Day

8th March 2019 at LU Main Campus

By Mercy Njue
Student Counsellor

Peer Counselors are students who are trained to act as Para-professionals. They assist their peers to deal with psychological, emotional and social issues. They are an integral part of the Counseling Section. Peer Counselors reach out to their fellow students through mentorship forums, social support groups and individual counseling. The group plays a key role in identifying and referring complicated counseling cases such as suicidal tendencies, depression, psychological disorders among other issues that require attention from the Students Counselors. Currently there are 40 trained peer counselors.



The day was organized by the Counseling Section under Students Affair Department to sensitize the students on accessibility of the Counseling services in the University. The Peer Counselors' Day activities included:

- Sensitizing students on negative effects of drug use and substance abuse
- Encouraging students to seek Counseling services
- Interacting with other students through various sporting activities that is, football, netball and tag of war as

they sensitize them on the role of peer counselors in the University

- Distributing condoms and encourage students to avoid irresponsible sexual behavior
- Responding to students' questions and concerns regarding Counseling services

The Peer Counselors were able to reach out to students through word of mouth and referred some students who needed Counseling services to the Students Counselor. The day was a fruitful.





POST-DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUMS (RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS)

The Laikipia University Postdoctoral Colloquium is the most recent addition to the activities of LU. The Directorate of Research, Extension and Consultancy has organized a series of post-doctoral research presentations from 27th February 2019 onwards on each Wednesday between 1.00 and 2.00p.m in Mandela Hall.

The colloquiums are dedicated to post-doctoral staff as part of their research interests and focus. The colloquium is also open to staff, post-graduate and undergraduates.

The goals of the Doctoral Colloquiums are two-fold:

- *To allow presenters to discuss their research with scholars and peers in an academic setting*
- *To develop and sustain a network of scholars conducting high quality research*

So far 3 speakers have presented their work;

1. *Dr. Florence Opondo -Evaluation of Cassava commercialization and its effect on household incomes. A case of Siaya and Kilifi Counties*
2. *Dr. Wachira Mwangi- Preparation and Characterization of Chitosan – stabilized oil- in-water pickening emulsions for controlled delivery applications*
3. *Dr. Barnabas Kurgat- Promoting Sustainable Intensification of African Indigenous Vegetables in Kenya*

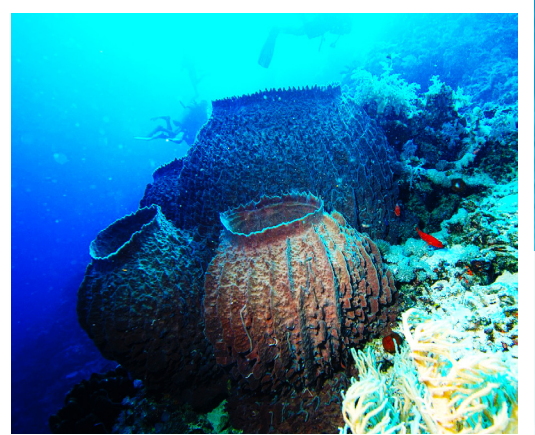
It is of paramount importance that young researchers feel inspired and engaged by our diverse discipline. The University considers it a prime objective to offer a platform for researchers to meet up, present and discuss their work.

Staff and students are encouraged to participate in our next scheduled presentations in the coming Wednesdays every week. Visit our University website and notice boards for timelines. The event is free and all are welcome.

Dr. J.M. King'au
Senior Assistant Registrar
Directorate of Research, Extension and Consultancy
Laikipia University



THE GIANT SPONGE



The Giant sponge, also known as Neptune's cup, due to its cup-shaped structure, is an unusually massive marine animal with no skeleton and a soft porous body. This sounds like a fairy tale, right? Nevertheless, scientists claim that it was first discovered in 1822 and due to their popularity, was once used by mothers to bath their children among other uses led to their overharvesting until they were completely extinct. This sounds really sad! However, the last of its kind was last spotted in 1907 in west Java, Indonesia, though they are claims that it has been recently rediscovered off the coast of Southern Singapore, more than a century when it was last seen. Back to the basics now, another mightier sponge, "Wetlands", faces extinction. Wetlands are ecosystems like lakes, rivers, marshes and peatlands. They act as 'Giant sponges' that soaks up and stores extra rainfall and water from the storm surges. Wetlands have a myriad of functions ranging from feeding downstream waters, recharging ground waters, removing pollution, providing habitat for fish and other aquatic animals. Besides, they can also be key drivers of local economies, ranging from agricultural, recreational and fishing activities. However, experts warns that the world's wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate, faster than our tropical forests. Recent studies by global wetland convention, Ramsar, found nearly 3% of world's wetlands were lost between 1970 and 2015. To safeguard all these benefits, International Wetland Agreement on conservation and sustainable use of wetlands advocated countries to put standards on wetland management, restoration and protection. Kenya being a signatory to the convention, with six Ramsar sites of international importance, has much yet to be done to realize their sustainable uses. Owing to the recent campaign on Big four Agenda, the four pillars expected to accelerate economic growth, environmental issues are yet to be featured in economic development plans yet it's the engine that silently drives the economy. There is therefore need to balance trade, environment and development for sustainability as recommended by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

However, the recent National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) initiative on Adopt – a River Initiative, which is aimed at strengthening links between curricula and sustainability issues in Kenya, may perhaps steer the country towards this goal. The initiative empowers students at middle and higher training institutes to adopt a nearby River, monitor its pollution levels and undertake its restoration and conservation. Laikipia University being endowed with such resources, is in the process of adopting its watershed hence this will go a long way in the realization of sustainable environments both locally, nationally and globally and maybe with other initiatives in place, the history ought not repeat itself!!!!



Dr. V.N Kimani
Environmental Science



TRIBUTE:

FARE THEE WELL MR. PETER NDUNG’U KAMAU

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ntil his death he was a Senior Public Health Officer at Laikipia University.

Mr Kamau passed on while receiving treatment at Nairobi West Hospital on Sunday, March 10th 2019.

The burial is scheduled to take place on Friday, March 15th 2019

We pray to God to give the family fortitude to withstand this great loss.



*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.
Death Is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the
limit of our sight...*

Chaplaincy Desk



The Chaplain welcomes you to the following programs:

Wednesday 13th 2019 from 12:00-2:00pm: Memorial Mass of Mr Kamau at Mandela Hall.

Saturday 16th 2019: Prolife Training

Bible Verse of the Week

Job 8:7

Though your beginning was small, yet your later end would increase abundantly.

May your later be greater than your past. Have a hope filled and blessed week ahead.



Quote of the Week

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

'St Catherine of Siena'





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Upcoming Events

CISCO EVENT:

Organized by the Department of Computing & Informatics



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