

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY RECEIVES STUDENTS FROM KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY

A team of Karlstad University, Sweden students in the company of their lecturer Prof. Malin Stegmann McCallion paid a courtesy call to the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Research, and Student Affairs (ARSA) on 27th January, 2025.



Prof. John Kanjogu, (3rd right), Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor and the team from Karlstad University led by Prof. Malin Stegmann McCallion (far right) during a courtesy call

The students who are at the University courtesy of the Student Exchange Programme; a partnership between Laikipia University and Karlstad University were warmly received by Prof. John Kanjogu, Ag. DVC (ARSA).



Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor engaging the Karlstad University Team DVC (ARSA) office

He implored them to take advantage of the learning experiences offered by Laikipia University's different faculties, departments, students and staff. He also assured them of total support from the University.

Prof. Malin Stegmann McCallion expressed her confidence in the students exchange programme saying that her students would learn a lot from Laikipia University.

The Swedish based university team is expected to be in the University for 5 weeks. They arrived on Saturday 25th Jan, 2025 and they have already settled well within the University.

They will also be teaching at Laikipia Campus Comprehensive Schools as part of their exchange programme for an experience on the Kenyan teaching and education system.



The Karlstad University Students awaiting to be taken to Laikipia Campus Comprehensive Schools

The programme is part of the Directorate of TVET, Career Placement, Alumni and External Linkages efforts under the Stewardship of Dr. Naftal Nyang'ara to open Laikipia University to the world through cutting-edge collaborations.



Karlstad University students at the DVC(ARSA) office

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY TAX CLUB LAUNCHED

Officials from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) led by Mr. Lawrence Siele, Regional Coordinator, South Rift Region, launched the Laikipia University Tax Club on 5th February 2025.



Laikipia University Tax Club members, Dr. Stella Muhanji (Club Patron) with the Kenya Revenue officials

The club's mission is to empower students with financial literacy and knowledge of taxation and foster responsible financial citizenship. After graduation, students are the main drivers of the country's economy. Understanding taxation and personal finance is, therefore, pivotal for their growth.

KRA, through Mr. Siele, is committed to providing information resources, networking opportunities to attain the club's goals, and forums where club members can exchange views. These efforts are geared towards enhancing responsible financial decision-making for a tax-compliant society.



KRA Team in a group photo with Dr. Naftal Nyang'ara (Middle) and Dr. Stella Muhanji (far left) at the DVC (ARSA) office.

Members will benefit from the following: a better understanding of personal finances and taxation, better financial planning through financial literacy skills, networking opportunities with industry professionals, opportunities to be commissioned as tax ambassadors to sensitize fellow students, volunteer opportunities that boost individual portfolios and resumes, and a Launchpad for the advancement of studies in the field of taxation, among other things. The club membership is open to all interested students.

LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY HOSTS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

Laikipia University marked the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGS) with a groundbreaking event to empower and inspire young women and girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The auspicious event under the theme 'Unpacking STEM Careers: Her Voice in Science' took place on Tuesday, 11th February 2025, at the Vision 2030 Hall.



Prof. Patience Mshenga, Deputy-Vice Chancellor, Administration, Finance and Planning, delivering her speech during the International Women and Girls in Science

The day is celebrated globally with the primary purpose of elevating the role of women and girls in the scientific community, encouraging them to take their place as active contributors to innovation and development. Prof. Patience Mshenga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration, Finance and Planning), represented the Vice Chancellor at the forum.



Delegates paying attention during the International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrations

While presenting the VC's speech, she urged scientists and prospective scientists in the hall to keep breaking barriers in the field of STEM and research for the betterment of the world.

She highlighted the challenges women endured in their pursuit of participating in science and research while acknowledging the significant milestones made by women of substance like the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai. Prof. Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for contributing to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. She is a role model to many women and girls.

The event marked a significant step towards fostering greater participation of women in STEM fields.

It was a remarkable platform for students, researchers, and professionals to connect, learn, and share their knowledge while focusing on empowering the next generation of female scientists.



Participating students during the International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Laikipia University's Vision 2030 Hall

One of the most powerful elements of the day was the sharing of real-life success stories from women in science, showcasing their groundbreaking contributions to sustainability, research, and innovation. By facilitators sharing their personal experiences and successes with the audience, especially the young high school girls, the event spearheaded the University's vision to **'Nurture and Transform for the World'**, through its Mission, **'To contribute to the world through Education, Research, Training, Consultancy, Innovation, Outreach, and Collaboration'**.

The stories by women in science inspired attendees by demonstrating how women are leading the way in scientific discovery and making a profound impact in their respective fields.



Dr. Irene Adhiambo Osore addressing the conference audience

The event fostered meaningful collaborations and networks that will continue supporting women's growth in STEM by bringing together like-minded individuals from academia, industry, and government. Moreover, it helped participants build the skills and strategies needed to overcome the barriers women often face in scientific leadership.

As the world moves towards more significant inclusion in science, Laikipia University's celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science not only highlighted the importance of gender equity but also reinforced the role of women as catalysts for sustainable scientific progress. This event is a testament to the institution's ongoing commitment to empowering women and girls and providing them with the tools they need to succeed in STEM careers.

Prof. Robert Mwebi, Registrar (Academic Affairs), congratulated women for their immense contributions to the field of science and succinctly presented the university's programmes for secondary school students.



Prof. Robert Mwebi, Registrar Academic Affairs at the International Day of Women and Girls in Science Forum

The colourful event was graced by university staff led by Prof. Patience Mshenga, DVC (AFP); the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Kenya National Chapter led by Ms. Pamela Kilavi; and more than twenty girls' secondary schools from the region, among other distinguished stakeholders in the field of science.

COMRADE FOR COMRADE INITIATIVE

Laikipia University, through the office of the Dean of Students, distributed food items to students on 12 February 2025. The noble Comrade for Comrade Initiative is a programme under the Laikipia University Students' Association (LUSA). It aims to make the life of a fellow comrade bearable for academic sustainability.



Ms. Beatrice Yogo, Dean of Students distributing sanitary towels to students

Ms. Beatrice Yogo, Dean of Students, spearheaded the programme with the help of LUSA officials, where foodstuffs and sanitary towels were distributed to students in need. This is meant to spearhead the spirit of giving and uplifting each other to achieve the common goal of academic excellence. Foodstuffs distributed include maize, beans, cooking oil, rice, and sugar. We are committed to our students' welfare. The beneficiaries of the initiative expressed their gratitude to the LUSA Executive, saying that they would now be able to carry on with studies successfully without “kuinama” (skipping meals).



Students during the Comrade For Comrade food distribution

Dr. Korei welcomed the guests and thanked the Directorate of Planning and Performance Management, led by Dr. Samuel Onyuma, for spearheading the exercise. He stated that the University is committed to quality service delivery.

The Public Service Performance Management Unit was at the university to evaluate and monitor the Laikipia University contracting parties to ensure they are within the agreed performance targets. The Unit, a directorate within the Ministry of Public Service, Performance and Delivery Management, is mandated to coordinate the institutionalization of performance management in the public service and evaluate public servants' performance to ensure contracting parties operate within the agreed targets.



Laikipia University staff being evaluated

THE PUBLIC SERVICE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UNIT EVALUATES LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

The Public Service Performance Management Unit (PSPMU) conducted a performance evaluation for the Financial Year 2023/2024 on Monday, 17th February 2025. Mr. Robert Ngei, Director, PSPMU, led the team from Nairobi and was welcomed by Dr. Lemein Korei, Chairman of Laikipia University Council.

Mr. Ngei acknowledged the University’s preparedness for the evaluation and monitoring exercise. The moderation exercise ended with the signing of documents. The Monitoring Unit will announce the results at a later date.

The Laikipia University team comprised the University Council, led by Dr. Lemein Korei, Chairman; the Laikipia University Management Board, led by Prof. Rotich Kibett, Vice-Chancellor; and staff members led by the line Department, the Directorate of Planning and Performance Management.



Council Chairman Dr. Lemein Korei (far right), Prof. Kibett Rotich, Vice Chancellor (3rd right) and Mr. Robert Ngei, Director PSPMU, (4th left) among Laikipia University staff during evaluation



Prof. Kibett Rotich, Vice-Chancellor (right), Ms. Sereya Maitoyo (Council member) and Prof. Patience Mshenga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AFP) during evaluation.

BIOCOSMOS KENYA DELIVERS A PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE THEORY OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN AT LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY

On 25th February 2025, Biocosmos Kenya, led by Board Chair Dr. Richard Ochieng, delivered an engaging and thought-provoking public lecture on the Theory of Intelligent Design at Laikipia University. This remarkable event brought together staff and students, sparking insightful discussions on the intricate relationship between science, faith, and the origins of life.



BioCosmos Kenya team led by Dr. Richard Ochieng', Board Chairman (fourth right) during a photo session with Prof. John Kanjogu (third left) DVC (ARSA); and Prof. Robert Mwebi, (third right) Registrar (Academic Affairs)

The lecture offered a comprehensive exploration of the Theory of Intelligent Design, a concept that suggests certain aspects of life and the universe that are best explained by the actions of a purposeful designer. Dr. Ochieng and his team expertly guided the audience through the complexities of this theory, emphasizing its importance in the broader conversation about the origins and evolution of life.

Throughout the session, attendees were encouraged to critically engage with the notion that life and the cosmos might not be the result of random processes but could instead reflect the work of an intelligent force. The lecture sparked discussions on how Intelligent Design challenges traditional views in evolutionary biology and provoked thought about the larger purpose and design of the universe.



Dr. Lancer Ndede, Board Member at Bio-Cosmos delivering her presentation.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for participants to question long-held beliefs and engage in meaningful academic exchange. It was not only an informative session but also created a space for personal reflection, making it an enriching experience for all involved. The lively discussions were a testament to the event's success in fostering curiosity and intellectual engagement.

The lecture was officially opened by Prof. John Kanjogu, Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research, and Student Affairs at Laikipia University and moderated by Prof. Robert Mwebi, Registrar Academic Affairs. Their presence and support highlighted the importance of such events in promoting academic growth and fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity. Prof. Kanjogu emphasized the importance of forming a student-based club under the support of Biocosmos Kenya to further engage students in scientific discourse.



Prof. John Kanjogu DVC (ARSA) addressing the audience

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the lecture and contributed to its success and also acknowledge the collaborative efforts between Biocosmos Kenya and Laikipia University, particularly the Directorate of External Linkages, under the leadership of Dr. Naftal Nyangara, whose support made this event possible.

Just before the lecture, the guests paid a Courtesy Call to the office of the Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Research and Student Affairs.



BioCosmos Kenya Team, in a Courtesy call at the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (ARSA).

SAVINGS AND PENSION MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR OUR STAFF

The Egerton University Retirement Benefits Scheme, in conjunction with Zamara Group Limited, held a Members Education Day forum on Savings and Pension Management for Laikipia University staff at Mandela Hall



Laikipia University staff during the Pensions and Savings Management Training

The session aimed at enabling staff with the right skills and capacity to manage their finances for a financially secure and prosperous future. The event focused on four thematic areas:

- Financial Planning and Management**
- Estate Planning**
- Psychosocial Wellness**
- Post-Retirement Medical Scheme**



Mr. Khalid Obulinji, Head of Consulting and Advisory at Zamara Group Limited training our staff on savings

The key highlight of the day was The Tax Laws (Amendment) Act 2024, which has brought significant reforms including:

Increased the tax-deductible limit by 50 percent (KES 20,000 to KES 30,000 per month) ensuring more income remains untaxed, leading to lower Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) liabilities for employees.

Provisions allowing contributions to post-retirement medical funds—up to KES 15,000 per month—to be tax-deductible.

Tax Exemption for Pension Benefits. Income derived from registered retirement benefits schemes will now be exempt from tax for individuals who have attained the retirement age as defined by respective retirement schemes or withdraw accrued retirement benefits before attaining retirement age due to ill health or withdrawal from a registered scheme after a minimum of 20 years of membership.

Mr. Khalid Obulinji, Head of Consulting and Advisory at Zamara Group Limited, took members through the New Tax Law Amendment Act on tax-deductible contributions that make retirement savings more attractive.

Besides making the right financial decisions, he also implored members to register for the Post-Retirement Medical Fund (PRMF) while acknowledging the critical importance of healthcare during retirement. The medical fund reduces the financial strain on retirees and is thus essential. He also urged staff members to get closer to their families because they become their social circle upon retirement.



Mr. Khalid Obulinji, Head of Consulting and Advisory, talking to our staff

The social circle entails the closest person whom one can rush to for any assist during retirement. Such people must be trustworthy and loyal to the person trusting them.

All these would facilitate a smooth life during retirement. As a university, we are committed to a prosperous life for all our staff.



Q&A With Our Trailblazer

This segment features Laikipia University Staff and Students making a difference in their daily mandate. In our segment today, we are delighted to feature **Anthony Soon Shisia, outgoing Secretary General of the Laikipia University Students Association (LUSA).**



Who is Anthony Soon, and what motivated you to join the University leadership?

I am Anthony Soon Shisia, a student with a deep passion for leadership. From a young age, I felt a strong drive to lead and provide direction in every space I occupied. My journey as a leader began in lower primary school, where I served in various leadership roles. In the upper primary, I had the privilege of being elected as the school president for two consecutive years.

My leadership journey continued as I transitioned to high school at the Giant Western National School, Friends School Kamusinga. I started as a dorm representative, became a house captain, and in my final year, was honoured to serve as the boarding captain, the third-highest student leadership position in the school. These experiences ignited my passion to pursue leadership at the university level.

During my time at the university, I was privileged to serve as the Secretary General of LUSA 2023/2024 Emeritus. My motivation to join University Leadership stemmed from my passion for advocacy and serving my peers. I wanted to continue my commitment to providing a voice for students, just as I had done throughout my early years.

What are the 2023/2024 LUSA achievements and Blueprint Legacy?

The LUSA 2023/2024 Administration focused on delivering impactful and sustainable initiatives for the student body. Some of our key achievements include:

1. Reviving the LU League after it was dismantled by the Office of the Dean of Students, bringing back competitive and engaging university sports.
2. Organizing the LUSA Tournament during Cultural Week, making the 2023/2024 Cultural Week the most vibrant and memorable in the university's history.
3. Overseeing the installation of new streetlights, improving security on campus at night.
4. Coordinating with police for improved security, ensuring a safer university environment.
5. Partnering with an NGO (Pathways) to provide medical services and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) sensitization, prioritizing student health and well-being.
6. Increasing chairs at UBC, thus improving seating capacity for students.
7. Advocating for solutions to water shortages, with plans for a borehole drilling project to provide a sustainable water source.
8. Successfully pushing for a reduction in the bursary and election fee requirement, lowering it from 60 percent to 50 percent to ease financial pressure on students.
9. Facilitating the purchase of new heating elements for hostel boilers, thus ensuring better living conditions for students.
10. Initiating the installation of high-speed Wi-Fi to improve internet connectivity for students



Laikipia University students enjoying WiFi

11. Facilitating the installation of 55 smart TVs at UBC, an ongoing project to enhance student access to information.
12. Launching the 'Comrade for Comrade' initiative, fostering student solidarity and support.
13. Negotiating rent issues with hostel owners, advocating for fair pricing and better student living conditions.

*Our blueprint legacy was centred on **transparency, inclusivity, and service.** We worked to ensure that student concerns were addressed promptly, policies were well communicated, and leadership was exercised with integrity. The foundation we set was meant to inspire future student leaders to continue prioritizing student needs while fostering a strong relationship with the university administration.*

As the LUSA Secretary General, one of your main mandates was to implement the University's communications strategies with students. How did you manage to do it successfully?

As the Secretary General, I worked to enhance communication between the administration and students, a responsibility that I took very seriously. I ensured all information I passed on to students was clear, accurate, and credible. I made it a point to verify every message before relaying it to avoid miscommunication.

I never rushed to share information; instead, I evaluated how it would impact the students and balanced the administration's perspective and the students' interests. This careful approach helped build trust and transparency. By maintaining open and honest communication, I was able to effectively bridge the gap between students and the university administration.

What are some of the challenges that affected your capacity as one of the LUSA Executive Members, and how were you able to fully focus on your studies?

One of the biggest challenges I faced was balancing the interests of students and the administration, particularly when dealing with strict university policies. It required careful negotiation to maintain a good rapport between both parties, especially when addressing sensitive issues.

However, despite these challenges, I was able to focus on my studies fully. I believe that academics should always be prioritized, and I made a conscious effort to manage my time effectively to ensure that I could excel both as a student and a leader.

How can these challenges be addressed?

To address these challenges in the future, I believe open communication between student leaders and the administration should be prioritized. Regular meetings and consultations help prevent misunderstandings and ensure that student concerns are heard.

Additionally, providing leadership training and mentorship would equip student leaders with the necessary skills to manage their academic and leadership responsibilities effectively. Leadership is a demanding role, but with the proper guidance, it is possible to balance both duties successfully.

We've seen national leaders with a background of having served as student leaders on campus. Do you have aspirations for national leadership in the future?

Looking ahead, I do have aspirations for national leadership, but that is not my primary focus right now. After university, I am determined to excel in my career as a software engineer and become the best in the field.

However, if the need for leadership arises, I will always be ready to serve my country. I believe that leadership is about answering the call to serve when the time is right.

Who is your role model and why?

In my field of software engineering, my role model is Hoan Ton-That, a self-made Software Engineer whose story of innovation and perseverance motivates me every day.

In leadership, I deeply admire Barack Obama, the only Black man to serve as President of the United States. His ability to inspire and unite people is something I aspire to emulate in my own leadership journey. His legacy of hope and resilience continues to guide me in my aspirations.

What advice would you like to share with the incoming LUSA officials on being effective student leaders?

To the incoming LUSA leadership, I would advise you to remember that leadership and power are temporary. Use your position to serve all students fairly, without bias or favouritism.

Take the time to build meaningful relationships and networks, but never lose sight of your academic responsibilities. Leadership is an opportunity to serve and should always be approached with humility and dedication.

What are your final thoughts to the University administration and fellow students?

I want to express my gratitude to the University administration for their support and collaboration throughout my leadership journey. To my fellow students, it has been an honour to serve you, and I encourage you all to continue engaging with student leadership and contributing to the growth of our university community.

Together, we can always strive for a better tomorrow.

I would like to thank the administration for nurturing and transforming me. I am now ready to face the world and make it better for all humanity.

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