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## GENDER CENTRE SUCCESS STORIES

**INSIDE FEATURE:** LU SHINES IN THE  
TEACHER OF  
THE YEAR AWARDS  
(TOYA)

# 2019



Laikipia University-KE



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## EDITORIAL TEAM



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**W**elcome to the 6th Edition of *LU Info Point*. This edition focuses on the Gender Centre milestones. *Info Point* also brings you inspiring stories of our alumni and members of staff who are scaling the heights. Thank you LU Community for appreciating *Info Point*. Together let us tell inspiring stories about LU.

**LU** *Info Point*

## OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR GENDER CENTRE

### OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, OUR STRENGTH

**T**he Gender Centre began its operations as an independent department under the Academic Division in 2016 with Dr. Sheila Wandera Simwa heading the department. It is through the continuous support of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics & Research) Prof. Wanjiku Chiuri that the department has grown to its current status.

The Centre prides itself in the following achievements:



### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

In March this year, the centre celebrated the International Women's Day by holding public lectures around the year's theme 'Balance for Better' and on gender related concerns in the university. On this day the DVC (A&R), Prof. Wanjiku Chiuri and the DVC (AF&D), Prof. Isaac Ochieng' graced the occasion and made presentations on the subtle areas of gender discrimination and the history of International Women's Day respectively. Prof. Isaac Ochieng' emphasized on the need to involve men in championing of women's rights since women's rights are basically human rights that apply to all irrespective of their sexual orientation. He noted that if women were to get the equality and equity that they fervently fight for, then they must begin by incorporating men in their fight.

On women empowerment and sisterhood, Prof. Wanjiku Chiuri the DVC (A&R), talked about women being aware of the subtle areas in which they are silenced and end up losing their voices. She encouraged women to stand their ground and shun this kind of discrimination.

Dr. Sheila Wandera, the Coordinator Gender Centre, demystified Gender by giving a talk on the gender issues/concerns in Laikipia University. It was noted that those concerns related to both male and female. She urged members to break the silence and speak up for possible interventions.

## VISIT TO TALITHA KUM CHILDREN'S HOME

Gender Centre celebrated International Womens' Day by mobilising students together with staff from different departments to visit Talitha Kum Children's Home; which is a home for orphans living with HIV/AIDS where they shared a cup of tea with the children, played with them and offered donations in cash and in kind.



*Prof. Chiuri , Dr. Sheila and Children of Talitha kum Children's Home*

## ADOPT A GIRL INITIATIVE

The centre has also launched the "Adopt a Girl Initiative." In this initiative each female member of staff has adopted 10 female students who they mentor and track their academic and social progress. The objective of the initiative is to ensure that all female students complete their university education. Plans are also underway to ensure that this initiative also put into consideration the male students.



## HYMA (HELP YOUNG MOTHER ACHIEVE) DAY CARE CENTRE



*The direction sign for HYMA (Help Young Mothers Achieve) Day Care*

The Centre has established a day care facility, HYMA an acronym for *Help Young Mothers Achieve*. The HYMA Day Care was launched on 8th March 2019. This project has received tremendous backing from the University Management and more so from the DVC (A&R) Prof. Wanjiku Chiuri who has the project at heart.

The day care centre is meant to help student mothers in the following ways:

- *Ensure that student mothers concentrate in their studies since they can check on their children when they want to;*
- *Ensure 100% class attendance of the student mothers;*
- *Help student mothers balance study and motherhood;*
- *Help children develop social skills as they mingle and play with other kids;*
- *Reduce anxiety for the student mothers since they are assured their children are in safe hands;*

A young 3rd year student mother Lillian Kariuki, spoke on behalf of the young mothers and thanked the University Management through the Gender Centre, for thinking about the welfare of the student mothers on Campus through the Day Care Initiative. She highlighted some of the areas where they face stigmatization as young student mothers. She voiced out that the young student mothers are just students who have decided to take responsibility for their actions, and that LU Community should give them a chance to redeem themselves.

### COFFEE HOUR

The Centre has been holding coffee hour meetings with the students every Wednesday from 5-6 pm. During these sessions, students gather to discuss some of the challenges that they might be facing and how to deal with them. Besides that, the Gender Centre takes this opportunity to sit and listen to the students and advise them accordingly hence equipping them with life skills.



## HUGS AND SMILES CAMPAIGN

As they say charity begins at home, the centre also carried out a campaign dubbed “Hugs and Smiles”, where members of the gender club visited offices and shared messages of love with the staff and giving them hugs so as to remind them that someone out there cares for them and that they are important in the society.



In addition the Gender centre has also reached out to organizations that are geared towards gender mainstreaming and have received educational materials from UN Women and the National Gender and Equality Commission. The Centre has also scheduled sensitizations sessions on gender issues for all the staff in the university.

The Gender Centre endeavours to continue serving the Laikipia University community through different activities so as to realize our dream of gender equality in the workplace.

## LU SHINES IN THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS (TOYA)



**L**U Alumnus *Felix Kipkemboi*, a teacher at *Jemovo Secondary School, Western Region*, emerged 2nd runner up in the TOYA (Teacher of the Year Award) Category 2019 Nationally. He graduated in 2007 with First class Honors in Education (B.Ed Arts -History and Kiswahili). According to Felix, LU molded him into an all-round citizen and as a teacher gave him an opportunity to transform the society as enshrined in the LU Vision. “Indeed Laikipia University is committed to the Vision: A University for valued transformation of society. I left Laikipia University as a transformed servant of the people and I am proud of Laikipia University.” Felix has a Masters of Education degree in Education Psychology from Moi University



**I**n 2016 *Lucy Mugo* also an Alumnus of Laikipia University scooped first position in The Teacher of the Year Award (TOYA). Laikipia University awarded her a scholarship to pursue a Master’s Degree in Kiswahili & Communication.

This is evident that Laikipia University is as an excellent institution in training of teachers and has created a culture of excellence in the teaching world.

Kudos to our alma mater.

*‘No matter the size of the bottle the cream always rises to the top.’*



## LAIKIPIA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEE (LU-IERC)

**L**aikipia University is committed to be at the forefront in ensuring that the country realizes its dream of having researches of high ethical standards; ensures research is conducted in a manner that respects the dignity, rights and welfare of participants. In this regard the University has established Laikipia University Institutional Ethics Review Committee (LU-IERC).

The LU-IERC is one of the key committees in research anchored in the Laikipia University Statutes and Research Policy.

LU-IERC shall operate under National Commission of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). The Committee shall review all submitted applications in accordance with the procedure established by LU-IERC. The committee shall review every research proposal undertaken by members of Laikipia University (inclusive of undergraduates, postgraduates and staff) and community in the surrounding for ethical practices before the research is initiated. The Committee shall evaluate the possible risks to the participants and subjects with proper justification, the expected benefits and adequacy of documentation for ensuring privacy, confidentiality and the justice issues. In future, the Committee shall develop mechanisms of networking with other Institutional Ethics Review Committees (IERCs) within the region and internationally.

LU-IERC shall serve as the regulatory entity for research at Laikipia University and as an independent representative and competent body to review, evaluate and decide on the scientific and ethical merits of research proposals. It is committed to ensuring and guaranteeing the rights, dignity, safety and protection of actual or potential individuals and communities who participate in research. This respect for human participants should extend to non-human subjects, plants and the environment.

## **Role of the LU-IREC**

- a. Coordinate and regulate all matters pertaining to research ethics and integrity at Laikipia University and its affiliate campuses;*
- b. Receive, review all research proposals at LU on ethical issues and make recommendations to the NACOSTI;*
- c. Ensure the protection of the dignity, rights and well-being of potential and actual research participants;*
- d. Ensure compliance with all regulations, policies and standards to ensure animal welfare;*
- e. Monitor the implementation of approved research to ensure ethical compliance; and*
- f. Prepare and submit annual reports to the NACOSTI.*

## **Members of LU-IREC includes the following:**

- 1. Prof. Moses Rotich           Chair*
- 2. Dr. Janerose Mayabi       Member*
- 3. Dr. Margaret Ngugi       Member*
- 4. Dr. Peter Mwaura           Member*
- 5. Prof. Felicia Yieke         Member*
- 6. Prof. Nicholas Kamau     Member*
- 7. Ms. Imelda Wanjau        Member*
- 8. Peter Kimani Wakiriba   Lay*

In June 17 2019 a team from NACOSTI visited Laikipia University. The purpose of the visit was to undertake monitoring and evaluation of Laikipia University Ethics Review Committee and to assess its preparedness for accreditation.

## **NACOSTI Team:**

- 1. Prof. Violet Naanyu -Team leader*
- 2. Dr. Stephen Karimi Kibiru - Director (Research, Accreditation & Quality Assurance)*
- 3. Dr. Boniface Wanyama - Head of Registration (Accreditation & Quality Assurance)*
- 4. Mr. Abdalla Bii (Legal Officer)*
- 5. Mrs. Charity Musembi*
- 6. Ms. Joan Chepletting*
- 7. Rev. Frallystone Omusala*

# FIRE MOCK DRILL



The Security Department organized a Fire Mock Drill on June 14 2019 at the University Pavilion. The objective of the demonstration was to sensitize staff on Disaster preparedness and emergency response skills. Members were also sensitized on classes of fire and firefighting appliances.



## DR. NAFTAL M NYANGA'RA: PRESIDENT KEFUCA - UNESCO



*Right; Dr. Nyang'ara - the KEFUCA UNESCO Clubs President holding a sideline meeting with UNESCO Regional Director.*

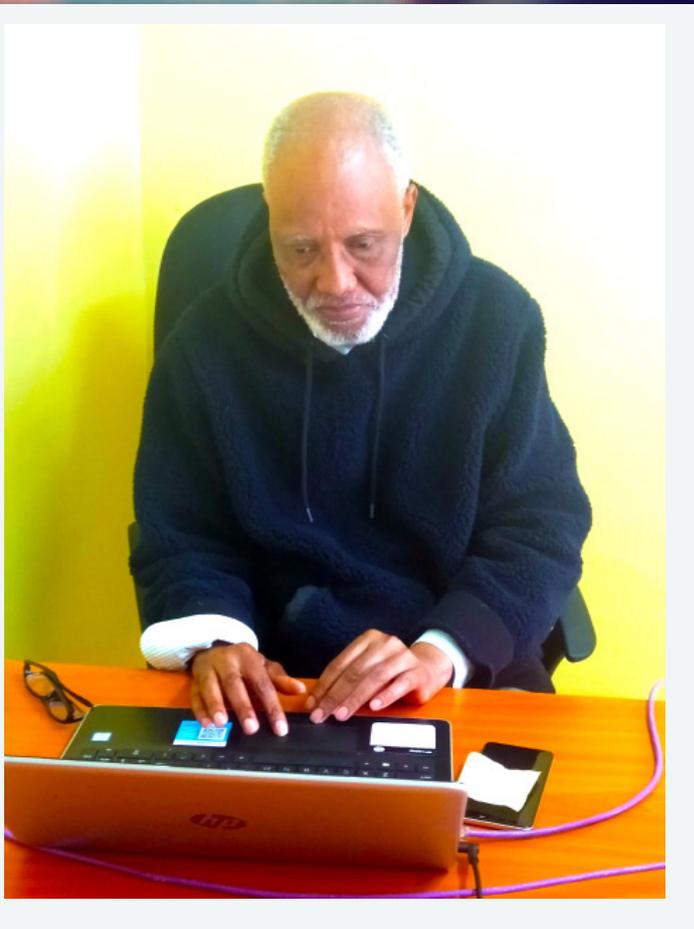
**D**r Naftal Michira Nyang'ara, PhD, was elected by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) members as the President of the Kenya Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers & Associations (KEFUCA) on 19th February 2019 at Kenya Education Management Institute -Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Nyang'ara is the Patron of Laikipia University UNESCO Club (LUUSCO). He lectures at the Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling & Educational Foundations, Laikipia University.

As KEFUCA President his main role entails co-ordination of all UNESCO Clubs, Centers & Associations in Kenya both at the Local, and Regional and International level. This co-ordination includes; fostering of peace through promotion of tolerance, cohesion and sustainable development. The seat of KEFUCA Presidency is domiciled at Laikipia University and this therefore strategically gives Laikipia University an edge worldwide on matters of UNESCO Clubs. The role of KEFUCA is to contribute towards the realization of Vision 2030 by promoting a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for sustainable development through the vehicle of UNESCO clubs in Kenya and the world.

Dr. Nyang'ara's vision is that KEFUCA functions as a repository of ideas and a pace-setter in forging universal agreements on emerging ethical issues within educational institutions in Kenya. KEFUCA undertakes the role of ensuring that UNESCO clubs acts as centers of research through knowledge creation and sharing. KEFUCA does the role of helping Kenyan UNESCO clubs to build their human and institutional capacities in diverse fields.

KEFUCA undertakes the role of establishing local grassroots movement with a global perspective by using a community's own experience, skills and outlook to foster peace and exchange of experiences- these entails groups of people from all walks of life who share a firm belief in UNESCO's ideals as set out in its Constitution.

Dr. Nyang'ara has a broad experience in working with and building teams both at the national and international levels with a purpose of spurring growth and development of humanity. He has enormous knowledge in managing development partners which spans from his 30 years engagement with critical stakeholders who includes; governments, private and public sectors, UN agencies and Community groups while implementing development initiatives with them.



**L**aikipia University is hosting Prof. Sinfree Bullock Makoni, a Professor of Applied Linguistics and African Studies at Pennsylvania State University –USA under the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship program. Prof. Makoni has taught in various Universities: University of Cape Town, South Africa (1995 – 2001); University of Michigan, USA (2001 – 2003); and Pennsylvania State University (2003 – to date). He is also an Extra-ordinary Professor (University of North West, South Africa).

Prof. Makoni will be mainly involved in the co-development and enhancement of the PhD (Linguistics) program along with building capacity and mentoring of Laikipia University (LU) staff and Postgraduate students in his area of expertise respectively. Prof. Makoni will be instrumental in helping establish links with other institutions and experts with a view of creating LU Diaspora Pool who will help mentor and co-supervise Postgraduate students.



*Congratulations!*



## **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

- 1 Samuel Chepkuto      Farm Mangager
2. Meshack Orwako      Estates Manager

## **PROMOTIONS**

The following members of staff have been promoted:

1. Dr. Barnabas Kurgat from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer
2. Dr. Issac Gitogo from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer
3. Dr. Alexander Mbeke from Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer
4. Mr. David Otieno from Senior Administrative Assistant I to Assistant Registrar

## **STAFF WELFARE**

Adams Amutavi has been elected to serve in the Board of Management of Egerton Housing Cooperative (ECOHCop) to represent LU Community. He replaces Mr Moses Macharia.

# LU ACTIVITIES

## NYANDARUA COUNTY MEGA CAREER FAIR

**L**U participated in Nyandarua County Mega Career Fair 2019 on 21st June 2019 at Ol'Kalou Stadium.

Theme was Securing the future of Nyandarua through mentorship of youth on careers

The career fair aimed to provide an avenue for career mentorship to form four students from 160 secondary schools and also form four leavers within Nyandarua County. Students were exposed to different career opportunities.

Prof. Wanjiku Chiuri, DVC (A&R) gave the keynote address.



## FAREWELL PARTY

**M**edical Department held a farewell party for Dr. Mulongo - Medical Officer.

# LU

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*‘A University for Valued Transformation of Society’*