

# SU Digest



March- April 2009 Volume 3, No.2 The Strathmore University Staff & Students Newsletter

## Project "Transforming Africa through Leadership" launched



Vice Chancellor, Prof John Odhiambo (pointing) explaining the features of the new building to the Chairman of the University Council, Prof Terry Ryan (second right) and Hon Alfred Khang'ati (right), Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister looking on, during the launch of the project 'Transforming Africa through Leadership' on 25th February

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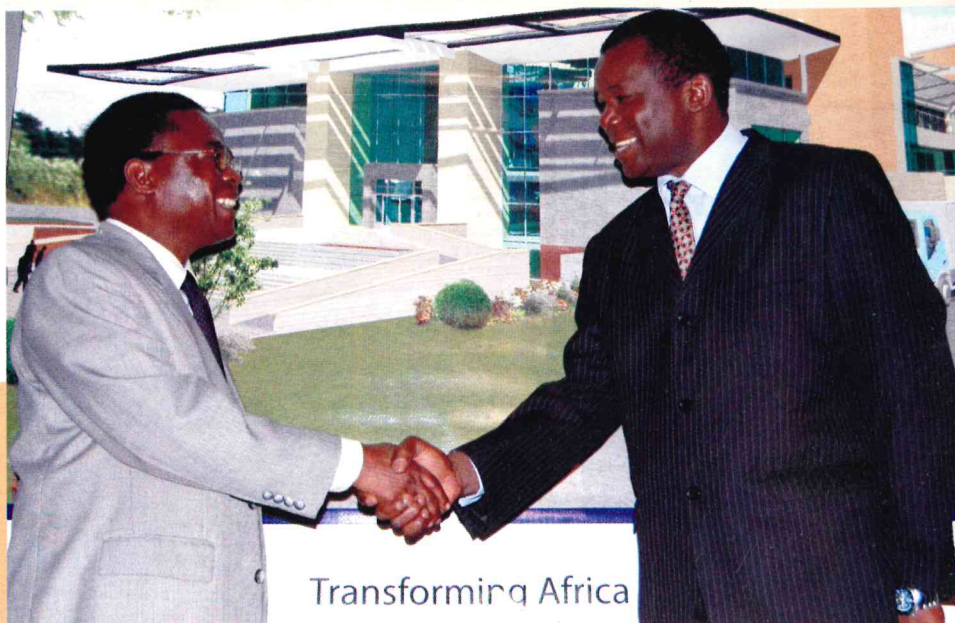


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# Transforming Africa through leadership

Vice Chancellor Prof John Odhiambo (left) with Hon Alfred Khang'ati, Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister at the launch of the project



Transforming Africa

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**The** University officially launched its Phase III of development on 25th February. The theme of the project is 'Transforming Africa through leadership'. It is expected to cost about KShs 550million. It comprises of a Management Science Building, a Student Centre, the definitive Business School Complex, and a Sports Complex.

The project will increase the University's sitting capacity to 4,350 from the current 2,350 places, and more than double its build up floor area from the current 20,190 to 41,190 square meters. According to Vice Chancellor Prof John Odhiambo, the project is expected to be complete by 2011 when Strathmore will celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

The event was marked by the unveiling of architectural impressions and the blessing of the grounds. It attracted Government officials, diplomats, corporates, University Council members, Strathmore alumni, parents, students and staff.

The Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon Alfred Khang'ati delivered a speech on behalf of the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya and the MP for Lang'ata Constituency.

In the speech, the Prime Minister hailed the University for being top in East Africa in the January 2009 webometrics rankings. Quoting from the

renowned strategy guru, Prof Michael Porter, the PM emphasized the need for corporates to invest their Community Social Responsibility spending on higher education.

Among the reasons he mentioned were the high quality employees corporates would get from universities if they invested in higher education. He observed that quality of employees is key to achieving corporate goals since employees determine organisations' productivity and competitiveness.

### Green Building

The buildings will be the first in Africa to be designed in adherence to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. LEED rating system addresses six major areas: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation and design process. According to the Dean of Strathmore Business School, Dr Edward Mungai, the new business school will be the first such designed business school in Africa.

Prof John Odhiambo encouraged alumni, friends and parents to contact him to explore ways in which they can contribute to the fund raising, so that as it is the tradition in Strathmore, the project is finished within budget and on time.

## Open Source software can grow Africa's ICTs capacity



Eng James Rege (left), SU's Dr Joe Sevilla (third right), Balthas Siebold (second right), and Alex Gakuru (right) at the workshop

**The** cost of acquiring software and hardware has been a great hindrance to usage of ICTs in Africa. "But with the cost of hardware reducing everyday and FOSS (Free and Open Source Software), Africa should narrow the digital divide if not close it," says Mr Alex Gakuru, an ICT consultant and the Chairman of ICT Consumers Association of Kenya.

What is FOSS? FOSS is any computer program which can be freely used, modified and distributed. Software developers can customize, change or add to FOSS. "Free does not mean 'no cost'. It means developers have the power change the programs' codes and the responsibility to share the enhanced program. FOSS has a great potential to create business and learning opportunities in Africa," says Balthas Seibold, a Senior Project Manager at InWent - Capacity Building International, a not-for-profit organisation from Germany.

Eng James Rege, the Chairman

of Kenya's Parliamentary Committee on Communication and Member of Parliament for Karachuonyo said FOSS is an idea whose time has come. "Propriety software has impeded our entry into ICTs. Our entry into FOSS is long overdue," Eng Rege remarked at the ict@innovation programme workshop at Strathmore University in Nairobi.

The workshop was held from 9th to 12th March. ict@innovation is a partnership of FOSSFA (Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa) and InWent - Capacity Building International (Germany). The programme focuses on FOSS as a key technology to drive innovation, add local value and create sustainable and affordable ICT-solutions. Funding partners are the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Germany and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA).

"FOSS challenges people to think thus encourages innovation. It is also easier and quicker to learn. This means it can be easily adapted

to businesses processes in public and private sectors. The government should embrace available and affordable technologies that will enable citizens to interface with its functions. This will also help curb corruption as E-government enhances transparency in government," Eng Rege said.

"Government should also create an enabling environment for technologies to develop. Just as it has reduced taxes on tractors to encourage farming, it should also stop charging taxes on mobile phones to encourage their use and thus encourage their penetration. And this should be done across the East Africa region so that technological development is not skewed," he said.

The legislator's views were echoed by Mr Gakuru. "In the current fiscal year, the government has allocated Kshs500 million. The figure has been incremental for the last few years. And where is this money going to?

Continued page 9

## ICE Dean makes investment proposals to Austrians

**Dr** Ruth Kiraka, the Dean of the Institute of Continuing Education presented a paper at conference in Vienna, Austria on 4th March. The title of her paper was "Innovative Private Sector Development Instruments: An African Perspective." Dr Kiraka is also the Director of the

supports the development of economic frameworks that benefit poor people by researching the synergies between business and development and mainstreaming the positive effects that a stronger cooperation between business and the development cooperation actors have on societies in emerging and develop-

to Austrians into the Kenyan SME sector and identify opportunities for investment. Dr Kiraka also held a meeting with the Austrian Development Bank, which is keen to invest in developing countries. The bank was set up in 2008 and is looking for investment opportunities. The bank found her paper insightful on investment opportunities. She hopes to



*ICE Dean Dr Ruth Kiraka speaking at the conference in Austria*

Strathmore Enterprise Development Centre that is building the capacity of SMEs through training and other business support services.

The conference was on investment and development in developing countries. It examined various investment opportunities for Austrian agencies and businesses in developing countries. Dr Kiraka's paper focused on Africa and more specifically on Kenya. It discussed investment opportunities in the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Dr Kiraka attended the conference at the invitation ICEP (Institute of Cooperation on Development Projects), an Austrian non-profit association that works with people in developing countries as well as the private sector in Europe. ICEP

ing countries.

"This was an important conference for me, as it gave me an opportunity to present the Kenyan SME case to an Austrian audience. It was rather surprising to find that most Austrians know so little about Africa, and the opportunities that exist for business and development. The paper that I presented gave them a window into this important SME sector, and there were many questions on how they can get involved. I also had an opportunity to interact with participants from other countries who had conducted extensive research on both African and European markets and have useful data to share that Kenyan SMEs can benefit from," Dr Kiraka said.

Dr Kiraka's paper is being used as a Working Paper to provide insights

work together sometime in the near future with ADB as it seeks investment partners in Kenya.

Dr Kiraka also gave a seminar on 3rd March to doctoral students at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. The research seminar "Teaching and realising business development in the South: the same, but different?" focused on business education in Kenya, looking at what is similar and different to the Austrian context.

She also gave two press interviews on the SME sector in Kenya, and on the economic and political situation. "Everyone wants to know how African countries are being affected by the global economic crisis. They were also interested on how Kenya is performing after the post-elections violence," she said.

## El Club at the Mexican Film Festival



Kevin Muchemi (left) with the Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy Sr Sergio Carranza (right) and his wife (middle)

**The** Spanish Club, El Club, on 12th March attended the launch of the Mexican Film Festival at Alliance Française. The launch was presided over by the Mexican Ambassador to Kenya His Excellency Juan Carlos Cue Vega and the French ambassador Her Excellency Elisabeth Barbier. The Spanish Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission His Excellency Sergio Carranza was in attendance.

The Mexican Ambassador presented audio-visual materials on Mexican culture to the institutions in attendance. He then gave a brief about the films to be screened. The film of the night was 'Los olvidados' produced in 1958. Los olvidados means the young and damned or the forgotten ones. It is a story of street urchins who live in very tough conditions. They fend for themselves and in the process encounter murder, theft and deceit among other immoralities.

The film is in Spanish but has simple English subtitles that made it easy follow for those who Spanish is a challenge. It has a classical and humorous setting. It captures Mexican cultural aspects like grooming and aggression at work.

The Mexican Ambassador encouraged local students to take their Spanish classes seriously as knowledge of the language could translate to lucrative careers what

with the growing Spanish and Latin American undertakings in the country and the region.

Those in attendance from the University included Lydia Ng'weno, an Administrator at the Institute of Humanities, Education and Development Studies (IHEDS); Harrison Kago (Languages Coordinator in IHEDS); and Douglas Macharia (a Spanish lecturer). SU students in attendance included Christine Kahwai, Ruth N'gan'ga, Ray Kimutai and Innocent Muchiri and El Club officials: Andrew Kabungo, Sebastian Kimatu and Kevin Muchemi.

The Mexican Ambassador encouraged local students to take their Spanish classes seriously as knowledge of the language could translate to lucrative careers

## Swords and Dramsoc were SU's best in 2008



DRAMSOC  
members

**S**words, the women's basketball team was declared the 2008 team of the year at the Annual Sports and Clubs awards gala held in the auditorium on 27th February. The team coached by Mrs Sylvia Kamau won eight out of the ten tournaments it participated in. Other factors the judges considered were team discipline, and national league results.

An elated Sylvia attributed the victory to hard work and focus. "We worked hard in both the league and tournaments in 2008. We also had few injuries and thus I had many players to choose from at every game".

Drama Society (Dramsoc) emerged the best club in 2008 beating a strong field of older clubs in the University. The club also won the best annual report award. "We out did ourselves last year and I must commend

all our members for their dedication," said an excited Spencer Okatch, the Club's Chairman.

In mid-2008, the club's Stage Manager, Peter Namuye was the University's quality award winner. Apart from contributing the most to improving student life in clubs and societies, Dramsoc also did a number of Community outreach activities to support the disadvantaged.

Speaking at the function, the event's chief guest Mr Benjamin Ayimba - the 7s National Rugby coach said: "I am impressed by the level of competition amongst sports teams and clubs. No wonder Strathmore is the university to beat in any sport in East Africa". Mr Ayimba, a former coach of Leos, the University's rugby team congratulated the university's rugby and hockey teams on their recent victory at the East Africa University games held in Kampala.

### Other winners were:

- **Coach of the Year**  
Mr Mitch Ocholla - Rugby Coach
- **Rugby MVP** – Eric Kioko
- **Rugby Rookie of the Year**  
Mike Wanjala
- **Soccer MVP** – John Omoit
- **Soccer Rookie of the Year**  
Gregory Omondi
- **Basketball Men MVP**  
Kelvin Waweru
- **Basketball Women MVP**  
Grace Wanjiku
- **Basketball Women Rookie of the year** - Carol Onsongo
- **Hockey Men MVP**- Bramwel Lijodi
- **Hockey Men Rookie of the Year**  
George Mutira
- **Hockey Women MVP**- Rachael Ousa
- **Hockey Women Rookie of the Year**  
Lilian Aura

### Clubs and Societies

- **Best Community Service Activity**  
Strathmore University IT Students Association (SUITSA)
- **Best Publicity Poster** – AIESEC
- **Most Promising New Club**  
Strathmore Human Resource Club ( SHREC)

## Community Outreach

**A testament to what people can do when they work together**

The Australian High Commissioner to Kenya Her Excellency Lisa Filipetto on Saturday, 7th March 2009 opened a Kshs1.8 million science laboratory at Ikumbo Day Secondary School in Maara District in Meru. The envoy said the completion of the laboratory was testament to what people can do when they work together.

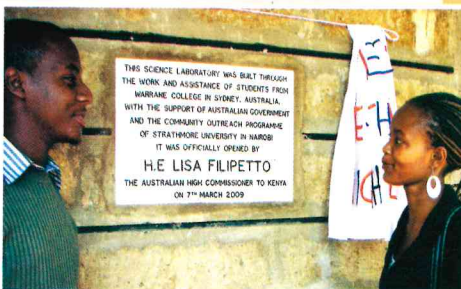
The Australian government gave U\$ 5,505 to complete the lab that can be used by 40 students. Students from Warrane College (<http://www.warrane.unsw.edu.au/>) in Australia raised U\$8,500; the local community raised U\$3,050; the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) gave U\$3,000; friends of the community gave U\$1,000. Warrane students together with the local community also spent three weeks last November helping in the physical building of the lab.

Although the lab stands, it needs to be equipped. A representative from Maara District Education Office said Ikumbo qualifies to be equipped under a government program that assists needy schools to strengthen their capacity to teach sciences.

Ikumbo was a dying institution less than two years ago. But thanks to Davis Karambi, a 2007 graduate of Strathmore University, the school should have its pioneer class taking KCSE this year.

When Davis Karambi finished his Bachelor of Commerce degree in March 2007, the 35 students in the school were not sure the school would operational in May. Talk in the village was not why but when the school would be closed for it had not met the Ministry of Education operational standards. Today the school has 131 students, has teachers paid by the government, and electricity is being installed.

In 2007, the school was short of everything from classrooms, teach-



Top: Students of Ikumbo Secondary School demonstrate laboratory work to the Australian High Commissioner Lisa Filipetto (third right), and SU's Director of Advancement, Luis Borrallo (in glasses) among others

Bottom: Members of Corporate Outreach Program (COP) Gerald (left) and Sheila (right) outside the newly opened lab.

ers, and offices not to mention libraries, laboratories, kitchen and dining facilities. Davis who was able to complete his secondary and university education through scholarships, felt obliged to help; so he started mobilizing resources from friends and colleagues at Strathmore, and among colleagues at the Clinton Foundation. He also got the community involved.

At the Clinton Foundation where he got a job as an Assistant Program Officer, Davis met American Matthew Gartland, who was volunteering at the Foundation. "We became friends quickly. I shared my background as well as my dreams for the school. These conversations moved Mathew to join in the efforts. Later on Ravi, a medical student from USA joined us," Davis said.

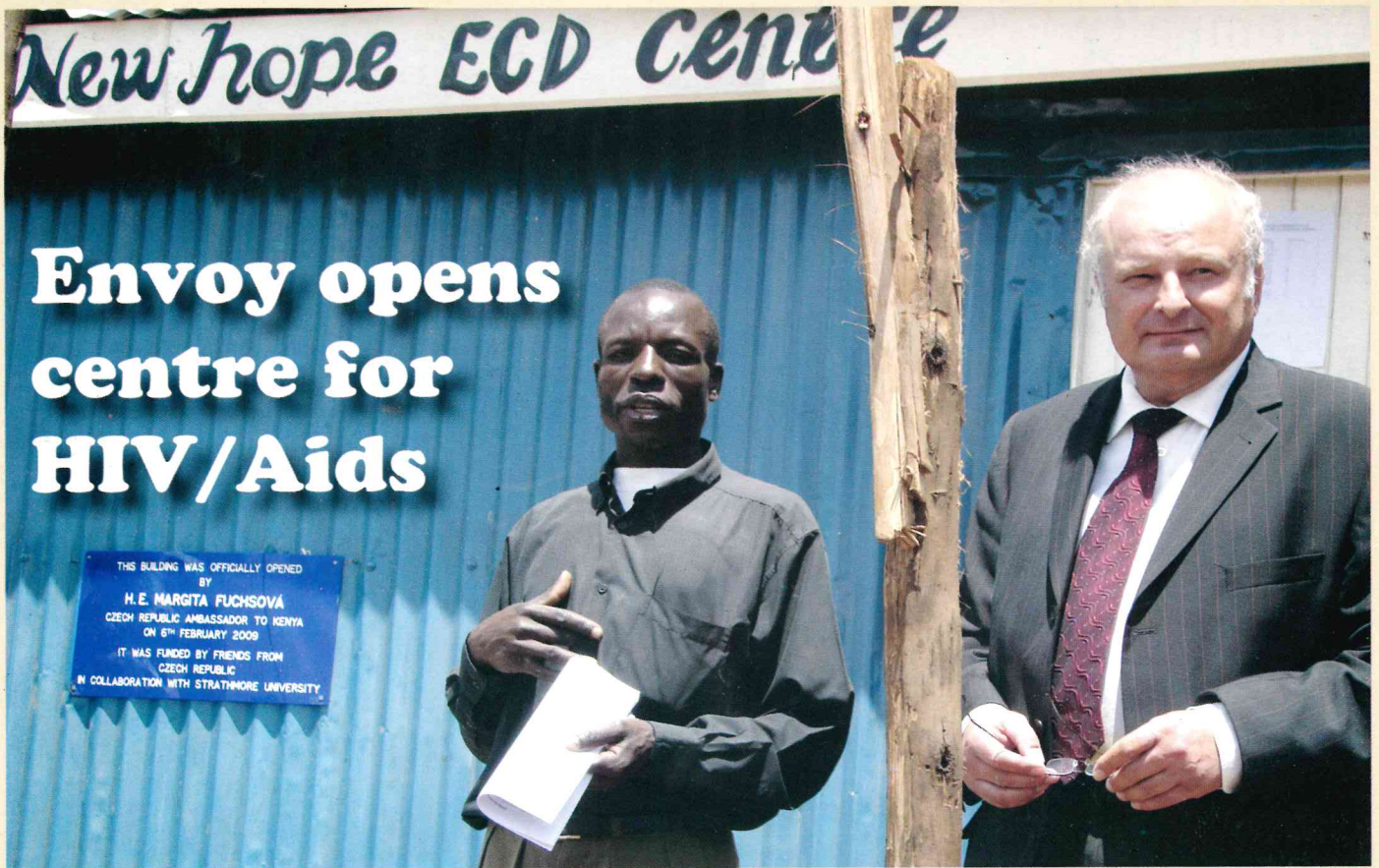
"After gathering over U\$6,000 in contributions from friends and family in the United States, we were able to fund the first phase of construction. Strathmore has been providing logistical support to Davis in his efforts. US based Strathmore University Foundation (SUF) fa-

cilitated the transfer of the funds. SUF was necessary because American givers wanted their contribution to be tax deductible," Davis explained.

Since SUF is a registered 501©3 not-for-profit corporation in the United States, donations given through SUF are tax deductible. The transfer was also a chance for SUF to fulfill its mandate – to support opportunities for development and advancement of philanthropic projects in areas in which Strathmore and its alumni are interested and active in.

Speaking at the function, Mr Luis Borrallo, Strathmore's Director of Advancement said Davis efforts are first class. "Is Strathmore the best University in Kenya?" Mr Borrallo posed. "

"It is difficult to tell because there are many parameters that can be used to rank universities. However if giving back to community is considered, this is a first class effort from a Strathmore alumnus," he said.

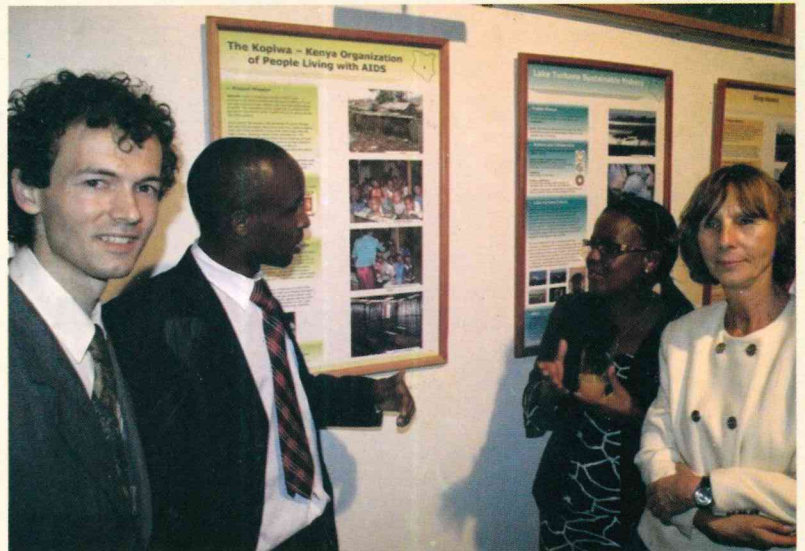


## Envoy opens centre for HIV/Aids

THIS BUILDING WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED  
BY  
H.E. MARGITA FUCHSOVA  
CZECH REPUBLIC AMBASSADOR TO KENYA  
ON 6th FEBRUARY 2009  
IT WAS FUNDED BY FRIENDS FROM  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
IN COLLABORATION WITH STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY

*Top: Mr Frantisek Hejny, the Commercial Counselor at the Czech embassy (right) when he opened the re-constructed KOPLWA. With him is Andrew Lumumba, the Chairman of KOPLWA*

*Bottom: From left: Jan Peciva, Fenuel Kalulu, Hon Murugi and Ambassador Fuchsová at the KOPLWA at the 'NGOs and Development Projects Exhibition' held at Alliance Française on 4th February*



**Mr** Frantisek Hejny, the Commercial Counselor at the Czech embassy in Kenya on 6th February opened the re-constructed Kenya Organisation of People Living with Aids (KOPLWA) Centre in Kibera on behalf of the Czech ambassador Margita Fuchsová. The Centre was swept away by heavy rains in November last year.

KOPLWA was founded in 2007 by people living with HIV/Aids. Most of the members are women who were abandoned by their husbands when they got to know they were living with HIV/Aids. Jan Peciva, a lecturer at Strathmore

University rallied friends in Czech Republic who donated 1000 Euros to re-construct the Centre.

The project drew a lot of attention at the 'NGOs and Development Projects Exhibition' held at Alliance Française on 4th February. The exhibition was held was attended by the Czech Ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Margita Fuchsova; and Kenya's Minister for Gender, Children and Social Development, Hon Esther Murugi.

KOPLWA has 72 adults and 70 children less than 10 years of age. 21 of the children are living with HIV/Aids. Since the children are stigmatized in school, members

have started a special school for them.

At the centre, members hold gatherings for group therapy, self-help and motivation. These have been very useful in helping them solve problems. Families of members live off the clothes, drawings, and artifacts members make during the gatherings at the centre.

"The Centre has many needs. 20 of the members live in the 10x14 feet centre. It needs a latrine, paint, textbooks for the children, salary for teachers, and professional counseling for the adults," said Mr Patrick Lumumba, the leader of KOPLWA.

## Global recession presents opportunities too



Participants at the seminar

**The** Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) held its 2009 annual seminar in Kenya at the University on 21st March. The theme of the seminar was "Thriving in the current economic condition". What the rest of the world is calling economic crisis, ACCA is referring to it as an economic condition because one can either make the best or worst of it.

The seminar covered various issues that contribute to developing an all round accountant equipped to make the best of prevailing economic condition. First off was Mr Al Kags from the Kenya ICT Board. His talk was on 'BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) as a form of Entrepreneurship'.

Dr James Mwangi, the CEO of Equity Bank made a very enlightening presentation on the 'Global Financial Recession and its Effects on the Kenyan Economy'. He explained how the crisis began and how some of its effects are trickling down to the Kenyan economy. He said the crisis has a silver lining which includes an opportunity to re-examine capitalism. He was accompanied by the bank's Director of Marketing, Advocacy and Policy Dr Wahome Gakuru; and Dr Catherine Munene, the General Manager, Human Resources.

Sonali Shah from Smart Speak Toastmasters Club gave a talk on public speaking skills, an area many professionals overlook. Joyce Njogu from ACCA Kenya made a presentation on 'Downsizing? Why the Accountant should be last to leave'. Dorothy Ooko, Nokia's Communications Manager in East and Southern Africa talked about 'Growth in Business and Global Expansion', and cited

the Nokia example. She also talked about the Nokia Ovi Suite (see [www.ovi.com](http://www.ovi.com)) where one can backup, manage and share files. Nokia provided many giveaways and set up a tent where it did a pre-launch of the Nokia 5130 phone. Every participant who had a Nokia 5000 series was asked to claim a prize from the tent!

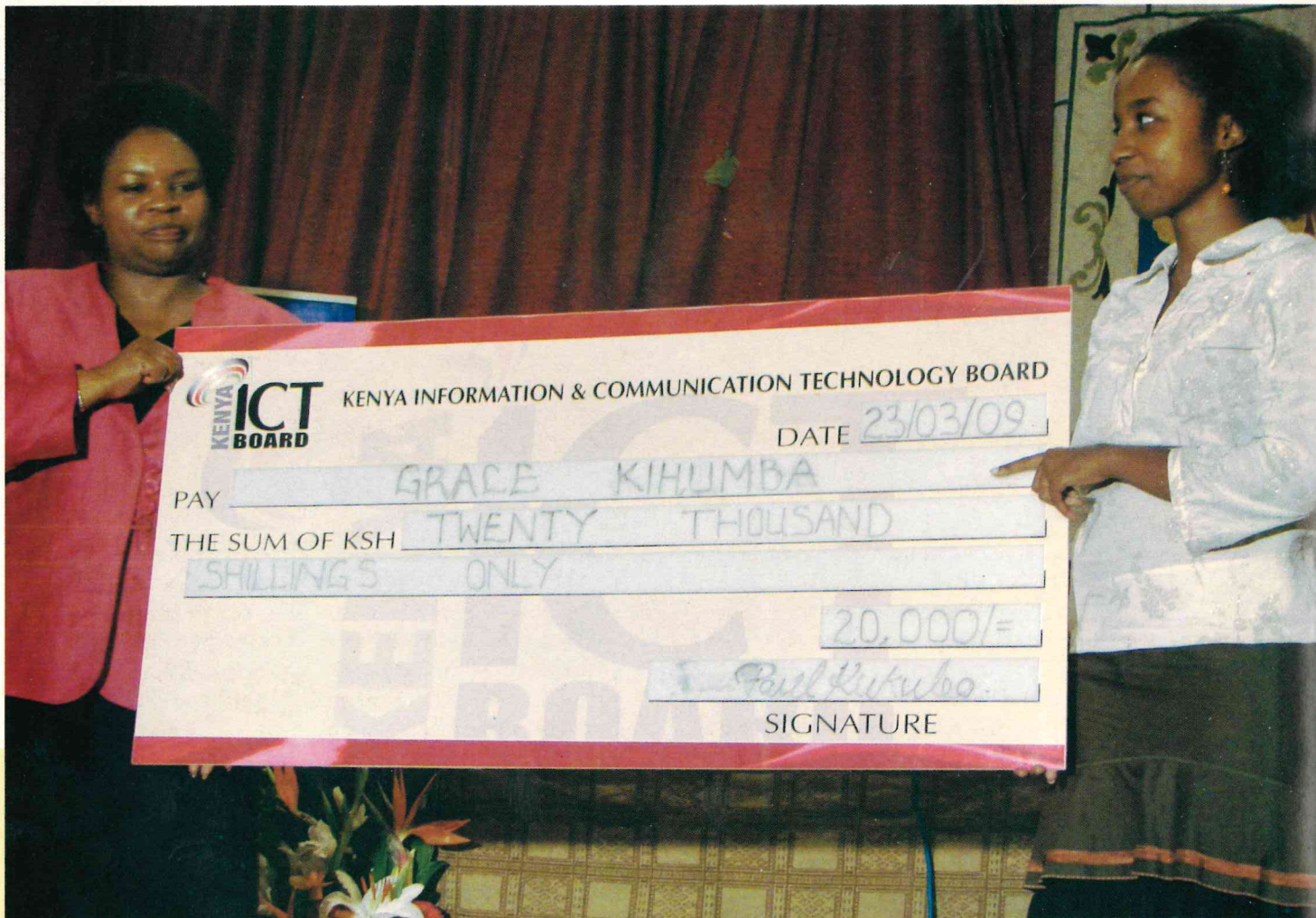
Mr Joshat Ngali from the Strathmore's School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) gave insights on etiquette, an issue of paramount importance in the professional world. Olivia Oloo, Standard Chartered Bank's Human Resources Manager and her team made a presentation on 'Getting it right the first time: The Interview Process.' The bank also provided giveaways.

Diana Njuguna, an Associate Analyst at TransCentury gave a talk on 'What Next after ACCA Exams'. Diana is a rising star who has accomplished so much in such a short time, including two first class degrees at the tender age of 24. An ACCA Affiliate, she was recently awarded a scholarship by the Birmingham City University to pursue an MSc in Accounting and Finance, making her a true role model for ACCA students.

It was an intensive and informative day that saw participants get the best of both worlds, from the technical bits to the soft skills. The turnout was great with an estimated 500 students in attendance. The seminar was organized by the Chartered Certified Accounting Students' Society of Kenya (CCASSK) which is the student representative body of ACCA.

**By Perry Njeri**

## Winners of inaugural mobile applications competition awarded



Catherine Ngahu, Chairman Kenya ICT Board presents the winner's cheque to Grace Kihumba (right)

Grace Kihumba won the inaugural mobile applications competition. Sospeter Muriu, and Hussein Lightwalla were the first and second runners up respectively. Grace, Sospeter and Hussein completed their BBIT degrees in March.

Grace got Kshs20,000 while Sospeter and Hussein each got Kshs10,000 from the Kenya ICT Board. Catherine Ngahu, the Chairman of the board presented Grace with her cheque.

The competition was announced

at the first mobile boot camp held at the University on 27th and 28th November 2008. The competition's applications were to be developed in two weeks in J2ME, Python or Blackberry. Grace's application was a sales application customized for use by East African Breweries Limited. The application runs on Blackberry phone and enables distributors to collect sales data on the phone, send data to a server, out it in a database, and produce varied reports.

## SU offering ACCA Tuition in Tanzania



Left to right: Geoffrey Injeni, Susan Kibe, Muthoni Ng'ang'a, and Mercy Omuyoma

Sospeter's application on Python makes it possible for users to view and manipulate ID3 tags on the S60 phones. S60 phones can play MP3 files. However, users cannot view or manipulate the files' ID3 tags. The application enables them to view and manipulate them. ID3 tags are information such as track number, artists, genre etc related with MP3 files.

Hussein's application was known as Wordmatica. It is a simple word game in Python to be played on Series 60 Nokia cellphones. The game basically involves exchanging words with the computer. Each player must give at each round a unique, legitimate English word that begins with the letter with which the opponent's last word ended.

Speaking at the event, Mr Paul Kukubo, the CEO of Kenya ICT Board said that an essential factor in the development of ICT innovation was an enabling institution of higher education like Stanford University in Silicon Valley. He likened the role Strathmore is playing in Kenya to the role Stanford has played at the Valley.

The next mobile boot camp will be held on 10th and 11th July 2009.

With the growth of the East African Community over the last decade, the need to train accountants and other professionals in the region has risen. The University has responded to this need by entering into a partnership with HOSO Consultants Tanzania Limited.

The partnership has enabled the University through the School of Accountancy (SOA) to provide intense ACCA tuition and revision sessions in Dar es Salaam for the past two years. The sessions are held monthly and range from three to ten days.

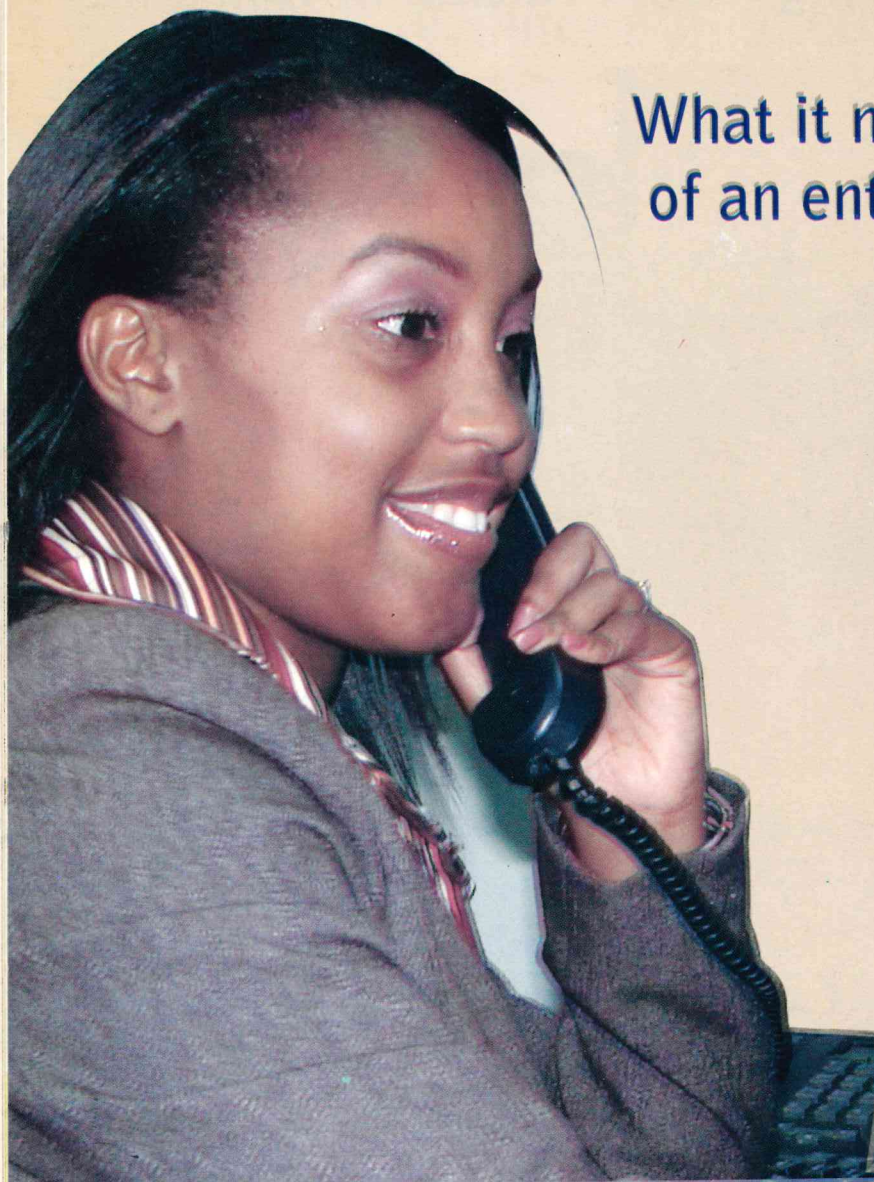
Each session is run by four lecturers. The sessions have become very popular among students in Dar es Salaam, most of who are working. According to the ACCA office, there has been a marked increase in the Dar es Salaam pass rates since inception of the programme.

The March session was attended by almost 50 students who were taught by Geoffrey Injeni, Susan Kibe, Muthoni Ng'ang'a and, Mercy Omuyoma. There were a sessions planned for April and May to prepare students for the ACCA exams in June. SOA is working on similar partnerships in other regions in Rwanda and Sudan.

When ACCA introduced the universities and colleges accreditation scheme for tuition providers (UCRS), it encouraged Strathmore to apply for the Premier Plus status, the highest accreditation award given by ACCA to a tuition provider.

In December 2005, Strathmore was named a Premier Plus tuition provider; the third institution in Africa to achieve such a feat. The term Premier Plus was later changed to Platinum in 2007. Strathmore has maintained the accreditation.

## What it means to be a graduate of an entrepreneurial university



*Only 24 years old, Daphine, a 2006 Bachelor of Commerce graduate, is an ambitious, artistic and highly motivated entrepreneur. She runs two businesses*

*The World Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March. On the occasion Pauline Kuria, our Alumni Affairs Officer, spoke with Daphine Mwanza, a Strathmore alumna, about what it means to be a businesswoman who studied at an entrepreneurial university.*

Only 24 years old, Daphine, a 2006 Bachelor of Commerce graduate, is an ambitious, artistic and highly motivated entrepreneur. She runs two businesses. One is Jaydan Gardens, which is a joint partnership is an exclusive getaway with a traditional African theme and décor. It is focused on giving customers a truly welcoming and therapeutic experience. Daphine is also proprietor of Elle Interior Designers whose aim, in her words, is "to make peoples' fantasies about their homes a reality."

Strathmore's vision is to become an entrepreneurial university that prepares its students to not only become employees but employers. Has the university realized this vision in her? "I did units such as Entrepreneurship Skills, Business Ethics and these helped me know how to frame my business plan, how to project finances etc. In Business Ethics, I learnt that you don't do business just for money. Just do what you love and the money will come. I learnt how to conduct myself with integrity and doing what I do for the right causes and for the right intentions," she said.

After completing her degree in March 2006, Daphine got two part time jobs. One with a HR Consultant and the other with an Investment firm. In November the same year, she found herself without a job.

"In December, I got these business ideas and I wrote them down on paper then shared with my partners. They bought the ideas, we put capital together and in May 2007, we built Jaydan Gardens. I did the interior design myself and we were good to go," she said.

But Daphine was not entirely new to the world of business. "While at Strathmore, I would bake cakes and sell them at the shops in Siwaka Plaza. I would also tutor school kids at Siwaka Plaza. This gave me a taste of business dynamics."

And she is astute. Instead of having staff on payroll, she outsources services such as painting, masonry, and carpentry. But she plans to hire soon. However, she is alive to the challenges of employing staff. "When you decide to employ you have to get someone who shares your passion. You need to get someone who can as closely as possible understand where you are coming from and where you are going," she said.

For her, the strength of Strathmore is the discipline it imparts. "I learnt so much on time management, self-confidence and presentation. "If you impress your client the first time, your chances of getting business are high – up to 80%. I learnt that from Strathmore," she said.

Daphine describes herself as free spirited. She enjoys taking risks. She shares the belief with her partners that mistakes are part of the learning process. She also reads a lot of

motivational and inspirational books. "I'm also motivated by the fact that someone somewhere is looking up to me and waiting to see my results. That means that at the end of the day, I can inspire somebody," she said.

She is encouraged by her parents who at first did not understand why she wanted to go into business so young but have eventually accepted her decision, appreciate her efforts and now support her where they can.

Daphine however says she faces challenges in her businesses such as meeting stringent regulatory requirements. Her age is also a disadvantage. "Youth is read as inexperience. That means I have to work much harder to overcome that perception and prove myself," she said.

Where does she see Strathmore in future? "I read the university's newsletter 'SU Digest' and was excited to see that Strathmore is taking big steps to prepare students to become entrepreneurs. The expansion programmes the University is undertaking are in the right direction. I see Strathmore as the leading business university not only in Africa but in the globe," she said.

She has a word of advice for would be entrepreneurs. "When you go into business, you should not expect to get money immediately. You should instead build your client base patiently and the money will come. Patience is an important virtue in business," she said.

"Additionally, you should have good inter-personal skills. One cannot market his/her business without inter-personal skills. You should also be outgoing and not waiting for things to happen to you," she counseled.

"A strong educational background is also important. I would like to encourage the current students to focus on getting their degrees," Daphine observed.

Daphine is eager to meet Strathmore alumni who are entrepreneurs and she hopes the Alumni Office will organize a reunion for alumni who are entrepreneurs. She said she is also available to share her experiences with students.

**By Pauline Kuria**

Continued from page 3

It is going to foreign businesses. This is because although the government's ICT policy states that it will promote local software, 99% of software it is using is proprietary and largely foreign," he observed.

"The government needs to change its mindset if it has to realize its Vision 2030 which stipulates that 50% of software in government systems should be locally developed. The time to start working towards achieving this is now," he said.

Mr Gakuru said that government departments and state corporations routinely violate Section 34 of Public Procurement and Disposal Act when they specify trade names instead of performance specifications in the equipment tenders. "Such practices close business opportunities for local software developers thus hindering local innovation as most popular trade names that are referenced are foreign. Senior government officials need to be sensitized on these issues," he said.

Mr Gakuru said that at the East Africa ICT Policy and Regulatory Harmonisation Workshop held in Entebbe (Uganda) last week and which he attended at the invitation of Kenya's Ministry of Information and Communication, two resolutions were made. "One was that member states should deliberately promote FOSS to save scarce national resources, boost innovation, and increase business opportunities for citizens. Secondly, the East Africa Community should set up an Institute of Emerging Technologies that will among other things research and promote FOSS," he said.

The aim of the workshop in Nairobi was to build capacities in Africa for small and medium ICT enterprises with the use of FOSS. The [ict@innovation](mailto:ict@innovation) programme which organized the workshop encourages the growth of African ICT industries, particularly in Southern and Eastern Africa through:- spreading FOSS business models for enterprises in Africa, fostering FOSS certification and supporting innovative local FOSS applications for social and economic development.

## Hockey and rugby teams triumph at East Africa Games



*Leos Eugene Ombogo (with ball) in action at the Games*

**The** University's hockey and rugby teams are the new East Africa University champions. The teams emerged triumphant at the 6th edition of the regional university games which were held from 4th to 7th February in Kampala.

The rugby team also known as the Leos began its campaign with a bang with a 41-0 win over Uganda Martyrs University (UMU). Teddy Salano touched down in the early minutes of the game followed by Kariuki Njoroge and Seth Machuki.

In the second half, Leos scored through Davis Nyarige and George Mutuku. Ken Andola and George Mutuku converted to put the game out of their opponents reach. UMU made runs at the Leos defence but the hard tackling Arnold Onyango prevented them from reaching the goal line.

Leos second group match was against perennial rivals Moi University. The match lived up to its billing as a tight game. The first half ended with both teams tied at 7-7. Leos' try in the first half was scored by Peter Kepher.

In the second half, Leos spread out the ball and opened Moi University's defence. By full time, Peter Kepher had touched down twice. Joseph Abala, Arnold Onyango, Davis Nyarige all touched down once. Ken

Andola converted thrice, while George Mutuku scored three penalties to beat Moi 38-7.

Leos kept the winning trend all the way to the finals where they met Makerere University's Impis. Leos started the match on a high note and touched down in the third minute. Scared, the Impis came alive and once came close to scoring but the decisive tackles of Arnold denied Uganda's international Edwin Mukasa.

With ten minutes to half time, Seth Machuki picked the ball from the rack to score Leos first try between the posts. Ken Andola easily converted to give the Leos a 7 point lead at the break.

In the second half, Impis preferred to kick the ball towards the Leos territory to gain ground. That proved costly when Leos' Hastings Nyarike collected a badly kicked ball, side-stepped the Impis defence to score at the far corner.

Some clever substitution boosted the Impis attack for some time but the hard tackles of the Leos back line of Geoffrey Githaiga, George Mutuku, Ken Andola, Mike Wanjala, Felix Ayange, Teddy Salano, Peter Kepher and Joseph Abala brought their effort to a naught.

With five minutes to the end of the game, the Impis defence cracked following a series of crisp Leos passing for Peter Kepher to score. At the final whistle, the score was 22 -0 in favour of Leos.

Leos coach Mitch Ocholla attributed the victory to discipline and team work. "We have been training hard for this and our efforts have yielded fruit. The players out did themselves," Ocholla said.

SU's Sports Officer, Mr Isaac Mwangi lauded the team's mental strength and focus. "On many occasions, our opponents came close to scoring but your calmness and resolve kept their strikes at bay, keep it up!" Mr Mwangi told the elated Leos.

The Men's hockey team, Gladiators, who are also the reigning East and Central Africa Hockey Club champions displayed well executed moves to see off Makerere's team in the first group match. Kenya's international Francis Eshikuri scored twice in the match. Internationals Frank Wanangwe and Bramwel Lijodi too scored a goal each. The game ended 4-1.

In their second group match, Gladiators faced University of Nairobi. Gladiators scored a goal through Davis Wanangwe for a 1-0 victory. The last group match pitted the Gladiators versus Maseno University. Gladia-

With seven minutes to the end of the match, Egerton scored through a former Gladiator striker James Shiahale. With three minutes remaining, Allan Inungu intercepted a pass in the midfield, went round an Egerton midfielder and passed the ball to Emmanuel Kongin who side stepped a defender and then released the ball to two Gladiators - Frank Wanangwe and Dan Ojwang - at the goal mouth.

Frank went forward as if to score but slipped the ball across to Dan who tapped it into the net to the jubilation of the cheering Leos and Swords - the University's ladies basketball team. Gladiators won the game 3-1.

Gladiator's Coach Meshack Senge a former Kenyan international and professional player in Italy couldn't hide his joy. "I am impressed by the skill and discipline of this team. The defenders were solid, the midfielders were mercurial and the strikers superb," said a jubilant Senge.

Addressing the team after the game, the Dean of Students, Mr Paul Ochieng said: "Gentlemen we are the



Dean of Student, Mr Paul Ochieng (right), Mr Isaac Mwangi (left), and the hockey team members

tors Frank Wanangwe, Francis Eshikuri, Allan Inungu and Fredrick Oracha sent the ball past the Maseno goal-keeper. The final score was for 4 for Gladiators and 1 for Maseno.

In the semi-finals, the Gladiators met Makerere University Business School. The game again ended 4-1 in favour of the Gladiators. Davis scored twice while Eshikuri, and Wanangwe scored a goal apiece. That set the stage for an all Kenya final pitting Gladiators against Egerton.

In the finals, Gladiator Allan Inungu scored from a short corner in the 30th minute. Mid-way through the second half, the quick dribbling Wanangwe blasted the ball to the left corner of the net to give Gladiators a 2-0 lead.

first team to concurrently hold the Club and University hockey titles of East Africa. You have cast your names in the history books of Strathmore and hockey in this region. We are proud of you."



Mr Tom Indimuli (left), Zain Kenya's Corporate Social Responsibility Manager presents computers to Mr Luis Borrallo (right), the University's Director of Advancement at Pan Africa Hotel.

The University hosted five CITIZEN TV's 'Louis Otiemo Live' show on the Thursdays of April. The theme of the shows was the state of the economy.



The School of Graduate Studies on 26th March 2009 hosted the outgoing German Ambassador to Kenya His Excellency Walter Lindner for a colloquium in the auditorium. The envoy talked about the role the youth can play in developing the country, the country's current position after the post-elections violence, institutional reforms, and the role of universities in development.