

CONTENTS

- 2 :: Strathmore now a Chartered University
- 3 :: Japanese handover language lab
 - :: SBS unveils new brand, premises and program
- 4 :: School of Accountancy gets ACCA's highest approval
 - :: If you are lucky
- 6 :: Strathmore Enterprise Development Centre launched
- 7 :: My goal: to endow every child with opportunities to advance in education , says alumnus
- 9 :: Accountants (too) are called to sanctify their work
- 11 :: Alumnus in 'Apprentice Africa' TV show emphasizes importance of professional ethics
- 12 :: Kilele Choir rocks South Africa
- 13 :: Transition: Kevin O'Byrne



President Mwai Kibaki presents the University's Mace to Prof Terry Ryan, Chairman of Strathmore University Council as Prime Minister Raila Odinga looks on

Strathmore now a Chartered University



Prof Terry Ryan, Chairman of Strathmore University Council

On 23rd April President Mwai Kibaki awarded a charter to Strathmore University. “The stewardship of Kenya’s corporate sector owes much gratitude to Strathmore, not just for its ability to supply qualified accountants, but also for the high level of professionalism by past graduates of this institution,” the President said.

“Strathmore is an outstanding academic institution. It is one of the most successful private universities. It is an Ivy League university in our country. It is conscious of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and strives to transform Langata Constituency which is one of the most socially stratified constituencies in the country,” said Prime Minister Raila Odinga who is also the area MP.

The Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology Dr Sally Kosgei said the Strathmore family is famous for intellectual foundation built on strong Christian ethos that encourage and uphold the orders of knowledge (of) faith and reason paying special attention to create an environment where faith and reason work together and not in opposition.

She added, “I salute Strathmore for ensuring that service to society and improvement of social and economic conditions are underscored all its intentions. The award of a charter does more than provide Strathmore with a legal character and recognition. The award demonstrates to the world that institutions of quality higher education are thriving in Kenya.”

The University’s Pro-Chancellor Monsignor Albert Pampillon charted the future of the University when he remarked: “If the award of the Charter is a credential of maturity, we want do look at it as well as a challenge for what lies ahead. Today we are not crossing the finishing line that might lead to a well deserved rest. No, today we begin again, we begin a new race, we are challenged by what is still to be done by means of our work in and from the University.”

And the University Vice Chancellor Prof John Odhiambo highlighted some of the policy impediments private universities are facing. “These include the classification of education as a tradable commodity by the World Trade Organization and the reunification of the East African Community. This has resulted in a more competitive environment. In many cases, universities from the other member countries of the East African Community are able to provide educational opportunities at a much lower tuition rate. Ugandan tuition rate is considerably lower than that in Kenya. Tanzania is already offering tax incentives to higher education institutions that also will facilitate lower rates. These conditions make Kenyan educational market non-competitive,” Prof Odhiambo said.

Japanese handover language lab



Joan, a Japanese language student demonstrates to Mr Kikuchi how the equipment in the lab is used

Mr Hitoshi Kikuchi, Counsellor at the Japanese Embassy who is also the Director of Japan Information & Cultural Centre on Thursday, 15th May handed over Japanese Language Learning Equipment

to Strathmore University. The equipment worth Kshs 1.5 million shillings has been installed as a digital language lab.

“I am very glad to see the equipment installed, a testimony to the appropriate utilization of the Grant. I am also very happy to learn that the equipment is already functional and that it is benefitting the students learning Japanese at the University,” Mr Kikuchi said.

The lab has 21 PCs, a printer, TV, video playback machine (VCR), an audio system and 21 headsets. The University’s Institute of Humanities Education and Development Studies (IHEDS) offers Japanese to all students pursuing undergraduate degree programs.

“Learning a foreign language provides an opportunity to learn about the people and society of that country. If more Kenyans learn Japanese, there will be more applicants for Japanese scholarships

to pursue humanities,” Mr Kikuchi said.

“All the eight Kenyan youngsters – most of them men - awarded Japanese Government scholarships this year will pursue natural sciences. I have the formidable challenge to rectify this skewed gender balance as well as the general tendency towards the natural sciences,” Mr Kikuchi added.

The Japanese Government supports Kenya in the area of education, mainly focusing on scholarship and the Japanese language education. Beginning 2006, the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) can be sat in Nairobi. Last year, 132 people took the test.

JALTAK (Japanese Language Teachers Association in Kenya), in conjunction with the Japan Foundation and Embassy of Japan, will hold the second nationwide Japanese Language Speech Contest in early October.

SBS unveils new brand, premises and program



From left: SU Vice Chancellor Prof John Odhiambo; SBS Finance and Administration Manager, Mr James Thiongo; Equity CEO, Dr James Mwangi; and the Chairman of SU University Council Prof Terry Ryan in the new SBS Centre

Strathmore Business School (SBS) on April 16th 2008 unveiled its new brand, officially opened its the new learning and administration centre and launched a new course - Program for Management Development (PMD). PMD is designed for managers who want to broaden their knowledge and understanding of critical management issues and boost their leadership skills.

The Guest of Honour at the event was Dr James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank. Francis Okello, a member of Barclays Bank of Kenya’s Board gave the keynote address. The Master of Ceremony was Patricia Ithau, Group Marketing Director, East Africa Breweries Limited. In attendance too were Prof Terry Ryan, the Chairman of Strathmore University Council; Prof John Odhiambo, the University’s Vice Chancellor; Mr George Njenga, Dean, Strathmore Business School; and students and friends of SBS.

School of Accountancy gets ACCA's highest approval



School of Accountancy graduates

The School of Accountancy (SOA) has been approved as a Platinum level tuition provider by ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) a global body for professional accountants. Platinum approval is the highest and most prestigious level of ACCA's Approved Learning Partners programme.

ACCA's Approved Learning Partners are tuition providers who have demonstrated that they can meet a range of challenging

performance targets set by ACCA. There are 57 platinum approved tuition providers worldwide and only two in Africa. Strathmore is the only platinum approved tuition provider in Kenya.

To be considered for platinum approval, tuition providers must already have achieved Gold approval in addition to the challenging performance targets that have been demonstrated by the institution to attain the Gold approval (the

level of approval below platinum approval). The tuition provider must also meet ACCA's platinum performance targets and platinum pass rates over two consecutive sets of results.

Platinum approval lasts for three years. During this time, ACCA conducts monitoring, including site visits to ensure that performance targets and platinum pass rates continue to be met and to identify any new areas in which ACCA can work closely with the approved learning centre.

ACCA's Approved Learning Partner – Student Tuition programme gives formal recognition to leading tuition providers of the quality tuition and support that they offer ACCA students. It is the platform from which ACCA can develop a mutually beneficial relationship, increasing the global availability of effective and innovative ACCA course delivery and first-class student support.



Dr Caesar Mwangi

If you are lucky

There is one advert that rubs Dr Caesar Mwangi the wrong way. The advert goes something like: If you are lucky to win a green card, you will live in the best country in the world. "The concept of a better life through a green card is flawed as it suggests that if you are lucky, you will live in the USA happily ever after. It also unfortunately suggests that if you are unlucky, you will have to continue living in Kenya and continue to suffer sadly here after," Dr Mwangi says.

"This is not true," Dr Mwangi told a gathering of alumni of Bachelor of Commerce. He should know better. Dr Mwangi lived, worked and studied outside Kenya for 11 years. He now runs a consultancy firm – Executive Training here in Kenya.

Many people accept these myths and end up ignoring the numerous possibilities that this our beloved nation has to offer. It is my view that we can rise to our God given potential in our own country without relying on myths propagated by marketing agents”.

“I am a proud alumnus of Strathmore and I must admit that as I look back on my time studying there, I must admit that it is the one institution that had a very positive impact on my personal work ethic,” Dr Mwangi said.

“I noticed a bumper sticker on a car ahead of me and it struck a chord deep down in me. It read: ‘Kenya is each one of us’. It is easy to complain, to blame politicians, government, civil servants, school teachers and University lecturers, the business people who overcharge, inflation, the January skirmishes etc... ad nausea. We however need to forget the blame game and ask ourselves very personal question regarding what our personal contribution is in alleviating these challenges because complaining and apportioning blame dis-empowers the complainer and cripples his/her ability to take positive action.”

Complaining goes with denial. “There a certain disease that is very common and it has been around for long. It is called ‘excusitis malitis’. Symptoms of the illness manifest themselves in the patient not taking any positive action on any important issue but being proficient at providing excuses. These excuses include lack of time, money, ability, etc...”

“An acquaintance of mine started a business and out of sheer determination and hard work built a

vast business empire over a period of ten years. He told me that often his friends and relatives came up to him and congratulated him and told him how lucky he was that he had a successful business. They were never there with him when he slogged late hours to build up his business. He often spent days away from home seeking new clients and travelling long distances by road alone to ensure that his business grew.”

“He always answered and told them, indeed they were right in congratulating him for being lucky, but he always reminded them that he indeed was lucky because he was not lazy. He reminded me of the famous quip by Thomas Jefferson: ‘I am a firm believer in luck, and I’ve found the harder I work, the luckier I get’.”

“This I think captures the essence of an appropriate attitude towards work. It is not that successful outcomes occur by chance or luck, but they emanate from some effort and sacrifice which is not compatible with laziness.”

Possible plans of action that an alumni network such as Strathmore’s can be involved in:

“As individuals, you need to ensure that you strive to do your best in the work that you have. You should strive to ensure that you learn the needed skills, both social and professional to ensure they can develop to the highest echelons of business and public life.”

“The challenge of inequality and poverty can be addressed through education and indeed there is a great opportunity to support the efforts Strathmore is making to provide affordable education to those who can and to those who cannot afford.”

“This group has the opportunity to have and nurture the shared vision of a better Kenya and have initiatives to resolve the myriad of challenges we experience as a society. These include initiatives to positively influence public opinion and to propagate truth and meaningful progress in your families and workplaces.”



The Bachelor of Commerce organizing committee left to right: Front – Jimmy Oluoch, Caroline Kamau, Pauline Kuria, David Sperling. Back – Eli Njeru, Tom Ager, John Mwangi, and David Ndolo

Strathmore Enterprise Development Centre launched



From left: Mr Gabriel Bargechir, Manager of ICE; Dr Ruth Kiraka, Dean of ICE; and Eng. John Mosonik, Secretary of Industrialization at the launch of SEDC

The Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) on Friday, 23rd May launched the Strathmore Enterprise Development Centre (SEDC). “We have come here today to witness the birth of one of the most important players in Kenya’s economic development agenda,” said industrialist Manu Chandaria in a speech read on his behalf.

SEDC’s primary objective is to help owner managers of SMEs develop competencies to effectively manage the growth of their ventures. “The Centre is envisaged to be a “one-stop-shop” for entrepreneurs that will provide comprehensive services that they need to support growth, development and innovation,” said Dr Ruth Kiraka, the Dean of ICE.

This will be done through a six-month modular Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management; business counseling, networking meetings, business diagnostics, mentoring, exhibitions and corporate retreats. The centre will also have a resource centre with contact information of other SMEs, information relating to taxation, a Kenyan SME toolkit which provides details on how to set up a small business and other useful information for the successful running of an enterprise.

The certificate course will use locally developed case

studies, and a highly participant-centred learning methodology. It will focus on: Managing business operations; Business law and taxation; Developing an effective marketing strategy; Financial management; Managing human resources; Business planning; Strategies for business growth; Using information technology for competitive advantage; Delivering excellent customer service and Risk management. Customised courses will also be offered as requested by entrepreneurs.

“The course is not academic and there will be no exam at the end of the course. The success of the course will be measured by the success of those who go through it,” Dr Kiraka said. The establishment of the Centre is consistent with the University’s vision: to become a leading outcome driven entrepreneurial university offering world class and accessible high quality education.

Any business with less than 100 employees qualifies to be a SME, Dr Kiraka said. The launch was a culmination of months of discussions and interaction with entrepreneurs and other partners on the need to establish a Centre for Enterprise Development at Strathmore University. In the past three years, the

University, with support of the World Bank has been involved in a project that seeks to enhance business education in institutions of higher learning.

The project known as the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Competitiveness Project, managed under what was formally the Ministry of Trade and Industry aimed to develop the capacity of Kenyan business schools to offer business education. This was by writing local case studies and integrating them into the curriculum to increase effectiveness, relevance and practical application of the training available to business students and entrepreneurs. The project also aimed to develop the teaching capabilities of the business teacher with particular focus on participant-centered learning.

The project provided the University with an opportunity to engage with micro, small and medium enterprises through case study development and teaching. A total of 38 case studies on MSMEs were developed between January 2005 and December 2007 and used to train MSMEs (albeit in a rather fragmented and unsystematic way). A series of successful short workshops for MSMEs were held in 2006 and 2007 in which over 2000 entrepreneurs were trained. This interaction with MSMEs gave the faculty at the university the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the sector and also be responsive to the needs of MSMEs.

The use of locally developed case studies to train MSMEs owner managers in the various short courses revealed the following:

(i) The need to use locally developed cases to teach

business education to entrepreneurs cannot be overemphasised. There was strong feedback on their relevance and practical application, as well as being able to identify with the issues in the case studies. This made the training both interesting and beneficial, and left participants asking for more;

(ii) There was need for systematic structured training for entrepreneurs. Many of them said they had attended several ad hoc training sessions that had been offered by different players and therefore lacked coherence and some were not very practical. They requested for more systematic and progressive training;

(iii) There was need for on-going support to MSMEs beyond the training. They needed on-going business counselling, consulting services, networking meetings, exhibitions, access to business information etc. Requests to offer such services were received;

(iv) There was need for business research to support and inform entrepreneurial ventures. Many entrepreneurs start business based on a “hunch” or “gut-feeling” that they will be successful. Whereas it is important to have some level of confidence of success, such decisions need to be informed by market research and data, a factor that is consistently lacking in the current MSME business environment.

It is against this background, and with technical and financial support from the International Finance Corporation that the Strathmore Enterprise Development Centre has come to be.

My goal: to endow every child with opportunities to advance in education , says alumnus

When Davis Karambi finished his Bachelor of Commerce degree in March 2007, 35 students of Ikumbo Secondary School in his village in Maara District, Meru were not sure their school would be operational when the second term of the year began in May. Talk in the village was not why but when the school would close.

To meet the need of pupils graduating from local primary schools whose enrollment had increased owing to the free primary school education, Ikumbo secondary had

admitted its first batch of all of its four pioneer students in January the previous year. But funds to sustain the good intention were not forthcoming.

The school was short of classrooms, and didn't have laboratories, offices and teachers' houses. Davis felt compelled to help so he started mobilizing resources from friends and colleagues at Strathmore University, his alma mater; and among colleagues at Clinton Foundation. He also got the community involved.



From left: Davis Karambi (BCom 2007), Mpiuki Kareke (MP for Nithi), Anthony Mugambi Kinyua (Principal, Ikumbo Sec. School), and Mathew Gartland

At Clinton Foundation, Davis met Matthew Gartland. “We became quick friends. I shared my background as well as my dreams for the secondary school. These conversations sparked an idea that moved Mathew to join in our efforts. Later on Ravi, a medical student in USA joined us,” Davis said.

“After gathering US\$6000 in contributions from friends and family in the United States, we were able to fund the first phase of construction and take part in a life-changing experience. US based Strathmore University Foundation facilitated the transfer of the funds,” Davis said.

“Staying with a family in Ikumbo, we got our hands dirty at the construction site by day and enjoyed the hospitality and cooking of villagers by night,” he added. Parents hauled stones and mixed cement, laying the foundation for Ikumbo Secondary School (see ikumbo.blogspot.com). This community-initiated project will alleviate the prohibitive burdens of high school fees and the additional costs of travel, food, and accommodation associated with boarding schools.

Phase I of construction of the school

was completed in November 2007, with the addition of a permanent classroom and administrative offices to two previously existing temporary structures. These facilities have enabled the school to register with the Ministry of Education and receive the benefit of government paid teachers.

Ikumbo should graduate its pioneer class in 2009, but there is still work to be done before that. Three more permanent classrooms, a library and a science laboratory need to be built. The entire village remains committed to seeing this project through.

On Sunday, 25th May 2008, Davis presented a cheque of Kshs 300,000 to the school. The money was raised by pupils of Retamar School in Spain. Strathmore University’s Advancement Office facilitated the fund raising. Present at the ceremony was the area MP Hon Mpiuki Kareke who promised the school will have electricity by August.

The funds will go towards constructing a class. And that solves one headache for the community. The challenge now is to build a laboratory which students can use

to do their final exams next year. They use a neighbouring school’s laboratories for their practicals at the moment. But that won’t be possible during exams or even during trial exams.

The challenges notwithstanding, the school has changed the education opportunities in the village. The primary to secondary school transition has risen from 4% in 2006 to 100% this year. The current Form One class has 53 students up from 4 students the Form One class attracted in 2006. “My goal is to endow every child in Ikumbo with the same opportunities for advancement in education I have had,” Davis says. And his is a compelling story which he relates below.

“My father left before I was born and my mother was unable to care for me. I was raised by my grandmother, a hard-working but poor woman with no formal education and little means for providing for my future.

My grandmother instilled in me a strong devotion to education, and in spite of my difficult beginnings, I received high marks in primary school education exams and was selected to attend one of the best secondary schools in the region.

However, my grandmother could simply not afford the fees required to attend the good school. In fact, she barely scraped together funds to send me to a local school. She sold her only cow and told me that if I was able to experience just one term of secondary school, it would be worth the sacrifice.

I attended the first term, but I was unable to gather the money to return for the next term. However, when the second term began the

deputy-principal (DP) of the school visited us to share my exam results: I had earned the highest grades in my class. Upon hearing my reasons for dropping out, he initiated a fundraiser among the teachers of the school to pay the necessary school fees. He also gathered the people of Ikumbo together for a harambee to raise my fees.

The villagers gave generously, offering the little money they could as well as other gifts – chickens,

tomatoes, and bananas - to be auctioned off. In a single evening they raised enough money to send me to school for another term.

The sacrifice, compassion, and unity reflected in these harambees define the spirit of Ikumbo and the many other communities like it around Kenya. Through the generosity of my teachers and my fellow villagers, I returned to school with renewed vigor and purpose. I achieved top marks throughout secondary school

and received a full scholarship to study at Strathmore University.

While at university, I began to support the early education of several of my cousins and neighbors, and initiated two projects focusing on development of the youth in my village. I directed my passion for education into a mission for my community to endow every child in Ikumbo with the same opportunities for education advancement.”

Accountants (too) are called to sanctify their work

Fr Charles Wanyoike was ordained a priest on May 24th in Rome, Italy by the Bishop Javier Echevarría, the Prelate of Opus Dei and the Chancellor of Strathmore University. An alumnus of the University, Fr Charles talks about his family, life, work and aspirations.

Tell us something about yourself and your family.

I am the fifth born in my family. My father worked as a hospital administrator for many years before he retired in the early 90s in order to run a small scale business. My mother continued teaching in a primary school in Nyeri, until she also retired and joined my dad in the running of the business on a full-time basis. As time went by, the worsening economic situation in the country almost brought the business to a halt. This led my parents to change from one line of business to another. At the beginning, they ran a wines and spirits shop, today they deal in tailoring.



Fr Charles Wanyoike

I have always felt and received the support of my family at the different stages in my life: at school, at the university and especially during these years I have spent abroad. My elder brothers and sisters got married and settled down with their new families. My younger sister is about to complete her university studies. I see in them all, a special blessing from Our Lord.

From my earlier years at school, I remember that my classmates would

often tease me for being very short in height. Each year, I would look forward to having someone shorter join my class. At least in that way, I would not be the only one on the receiving end. The situation hasn't changed much over the years, yet I am now more than ever convinced that whether tall or short, one has to seek sanctity. I learnt from the teaching of St. Josemaría, that there is only one race of people: the race of the children of God. We all belong to this race with our differences, capabilities, studies, defects, ethnic origin etc.

Which schools did you attend?

I went to Consolata Primary School in Nyeri until Standard 5, then transferred to Moi Nyeri Complex where I completed my primary school studies. At that time, my dream was to go to Mangu High School, but was admitted to Nyeri High School, where my elder brothers had studied. A few days after joining the school, my father came and told me that I had received

an opportunity to join Njiris High School. He insisted, however, that whatever decision I would take, both he and my mother would adhere to it. I knew how much my parents would have loved me to go there, yet something kept me from taking that decision. When I told him the next day that I would remain in Nyeri High, he simply said, "Ok, let God's will be done". This was just one of the many occasions he has repeated that answer almost word for word. Two other significant occasions were: when I told him that I was going to join Opus Dei, and recently when I told him of my ordination.

I owe part of my vocation today to that decision to remain in Nyeri High School. Towards the end of my secondary school studies there, I did an interview with some Strathmore College representatives with the hope of pursuing an Accountancy course in this College. When I received the admission letter some weeks later, I was very happy and grateful to God. As time passed, I got to know about Opus Dei and its message of the sanctification of ordinary work. It was then that I asked for admission to Opus Dei.

How was it working as a student assistant and accountant in the then, Strathmore College?

It was a real test of responsibility, for in those circumstances, I had just recently finished high school and had no working experience as such. At the same time, it meant combining work and attending evening classes at the College. I am also grateful for the opportunity I got to work in the Accounting department of the College, for this experience was just the beginning

of my career in financial accounting and which later on helped me a lot at Africa Online.

What did you do at Africa Online?

At the end of the first academic year at the University of Nairobi, I applied for an accounting job at Africa Online. I was lucky to be taken in and was assigned to the credit control department. Amongst other things, I would get in touch with the clients on a day to day basis, resolving their financial debts with the company. Again, this involved a direct contact with new people, institutions, organisations etc. It was an unforgettable experience.

I returned to campus with the hope of continuing at Africa Online during the next vacations. I remember being taken in on the same job two or three other times. However, when I completed my degree in Bachelor of Commerce at the Lower Kabete campus, I left for Spain to study theology at the University of Navarre.

How would you compare working as an Accountant to your pastoral duties?

It is not easy. Both the accountant and the priest are called to sanctify their work, sanctify themselves and seek the sanctity of other people as they work. In that sense they are similar. For the accountant, there is always an opportunity to make new friends, be it in the work place or in the streets as one fulfils ordinary duties. As a priest, one can also make friends and help them to live better their spiritual life.

Yet there is an important difference, the main occupation of the priest is the salvation of souls,

being available to administer the Sacraments, being at the service of the Church etc. In this respect, a new meaning has been added to my life and that is a gift for which I will eternally be grateful to Our Lord.

What was the most difficult thing about teaching English in Spain?

During the summer holidays in Spain, I had some opportunities to teach English to groups of students from Spain. The most difficult thing was the difference in language structure. For example: whereas in English one responds to a question using the same verb and only changes the pronouns, in Spanish one conjugates the verb. Such differences, though subtle, end up making the translation difficult. A Kiswahili saying like: 'haba na haba hujaza kibaba' - Little by little, fills the pot - would come in handy to raise up the spirits when things looked tough. All in all, I liked the experience.

What are your most memorable moments as you played basketball all over Spain?

Making friends and spending time with them. We formed a group of friends from different countries and different careers at the University of Navarre and we would play basketball especially over the weekends. We also participated in the tournaments at the university. Then, at other times, we would organize excursions to the Pyrenees, historical towns, museums and other cultural places. They also were occasions in which we would also speak about our religious beliefs, practice, the faith, the Church and Opus Dei.

How was it being in Spain during the death of Servant of God Pope John Paul II and the election of Benedict XVI?

There were many news articles and mass media coverage on the life of Pope John Paul II. What was even more moving, were the broadcasts of the events as they occurred in St. Peter's at the time. The long queues of pilgrims, the funeral mass, the conclave, the first Pontifical Mass of Benedict XVI etc. Being in Europe and in a country almost next door to Italy made it easier to follow up the events. They were grimy days for everyone and especially those for whom it was their first time to witness consciously such events. We stuck close to the TV set waiting impatiently and anxiously for the "fumata bianca" (white smoke). When we saw it, there was a bit of uncertainty as to whether it was really white, but the continued clanging of the bells of the Basilica, confirmed the joy we were already experiencing in our hearts.

A few months later that same year, I moved to Rome, where I have remained until today. From here,

living in the same city as the Pope, one can see the universality of the Church. The profound Christian culture, ancient monuments and Churches, the continuous flow of pilgrims to Rome from all over the world etc., help one to keep praying for the unity of the Church.

What role do you envision for African Christianity in the global stage in the 21st century?

The future is in our hands, in the hands of the African community as a whole. Saint Augustine observed that human beings in general admire seeing the height of the mounts, the big waves of the sea, the wide currents of the rivers, the immensity of the ocean, the course of the stars, and they forget how much they have to admire in themselves. I am convinced that the same case applies to us as Africans. The time has come in which we have to set the African heritage in the global network of cultures and developments. For instance, the importance of solidarity and charity with one's neighbour, that is very imbued in our African culture, shall

be our priceless weapon to fight the individualism & consumerism in today's world.

For this to succeed, one primary obstacle has to be eliminated, that is the lack of peace. Pope Paul VI stated in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio* that, 'Development is the new name for peace', meaning that there cannot be any development of peoples or nations, if peace is not guaranteed. Several African countries have been war-torn whereas others experience instabilities from time to time, like our beloved country experienced a few months ago. We, therefore, have an important task ahead of us and we all are called to contribute towards its success. All we need is to work together, with the spirit of 'Harambee' – together as one –, convinced that this united effort will bear good fruit in due time.

In all this, we could see the message of the Pope for the African countries and especially our beloved Kenya: "sow peace and love for one another, and development will be the fruit of your labour!" The ball is in our court. Let's go for it!



Alumnus in 'Apprentice Africa' TV show emphasizes importance of professional ethics

Anthony Migui graduated from Strathmore University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He was in the inaugural first Apprentice Africa reality TV show. Chude Jideonwo writes about Anthony's post-show press conference.

It was difficult not to be impressed with Anthony at his post-firing press conference. The journalists present certainly were. And it is quite a feat to impress journalists. They are trained to be cynical.

Whilst on the show, people thought Tony gave in too easily; actually he thought he was being noble. "Leadership is a delicate matter. What I think is leadership might differ from what you think." He was explaining his decision to take the firing in his strides: "I didn't fight that much because

I felt responsible for the team and for the team's loss – and so I deserved to be fired.”

This is certainly a rarity in any business or corporate terrain, and Anthony, working in financial services in Kenya, certainly knows this. But he sees it completely differently: “I am an internal auditor, and my work is all about ethics – I cannot do what other people do. I do what I feel is right.”

That doesn't mean he doesn't have respect for people that go out there and hustle it out ... like Nigerians. “I love Nigerians – you guys, you just go out and do it. You guys are brave people.”

Oozing confidence and a cool, attractive charm, he had only the best words for his team. “TV can't show you everything. If you were there with my team and you saw how they broke their backs – they really worked, my boys did. I took two people into the boardroom with me because I had to; they did well under the circumstances but they were the weakest links – but if I could I would have gone in alone.”

His team did well, according to him, but the girls did better: “The girls were like wounded animals, they came out fighting – we were good, (but) they were better.”

About his plans for the future, going home to Kenya is first, although a question about Bank PHB got his mind working. “If they gave me an incentive, I could stay back!” He said as he laughed. “This is a big, big bank growing very fast – who wouldn't want to be associated with them? Remember, I am also in finance,” he pitched. “Look at their ads – brilliant stuff.”

His eyes are set firmly on the future, including his marriage in June to his wife named ... June! And even though his joy would have been complete if he had won the \$200, 000 in June, he is only stoic about how it has turned out. “I knew I had a 1-18 chance. I realise I lost the money, but come see me in 8 months, (and) I will have made \$400, 000.”

There was an easy confidence to his words – and to him. “If I could do it again,” he said, with a smile, “I'd do it the same way.”

Kilele Choir rocks South Africa



Kilele at the Kenya High Commission's Office in South Africa

Strathmore University's Kilele Choir jetted back in the early morning hours of 22nd April after a successful concert tour of South Africa. The climax of the tour was an invitational concert performance at the University of Pretoria's centenary celebrations on 19th April at The Atrium in the university's main campus in Hartfield, Pretoria.

The chief guests at the centenary celebration concert were the Kenyan High Commissioner to the Republic of South Africa Ambassador Tom Amolo, and the Chancellor of the University of Pretoria, Prof Nkulu. The concert which was preceded by a dinner was by invitation only. Apart from Kilele choir that was scheduled to perform last, other choirs on stage were UP Chorale of the University of Pretoria and the world acclaimed TUKS camerata who were also the hosts of Kilele choir.

Kilele choir lived up to its name as one of the best choirs in Kenya and got a standing ovation from the audience at the end of their 40 minutes performance. At the request of the audience, the choir went back on stage and once again did Malaika, a popular Kenyan love song. There were a number of Kenyans in the audience and they were very happy to see a Kenyan group performing in South Africa especially after the chaos that rocked Kenya early this year.

On the previous day (Friday 18th April), Kilele choir had performed in Johannesburg at a concert held at the University of Johannesburg's Sanlam Auditorium. It was a joint concert with the university's Bunting Road Choir. The evening concert divided into parts had a mixture of music ranging from Handel's Messiah to traditional African music. It concluded with a joint mass choir singing of Jambo Bwana, a famous Kenyan song.

After the concert which ended at 11.00pm choristers from both universities and top officials of the University of Johannesburg proceeded to a formal dinner organized by the Department of Arts and Culture. Earlier in the day, Kilele Choir did a tour of Johannesburg visiting suburbs like Soweto where it went to the famous Hector Pieterse Memorial Museum, the site where the acclaimed musical Sarafina was shot. It also visited Nelson Mandela's former house in Soweto and the Walter Sisulu Square.

Transition.

Kevin Francis O'Byrne

Mr Kevin O'Byrne, a member of Strathmore University Council and a lecturer in the Faculty of Information Technology passed away on the night of Thursday, 29th May at Nairobi Hospital. Kevin was a founding trustee of Strathmore Education Registered Trustees.

Kevin was diagnosed with colon cancer last year. In a letter he sent to the University's Pro-Chancellor following the death of Kevin, Bishop Javier Echevarria, Prelate of Opus Dei who is also the Chancellor of Strathmore University eulogized Kevin as a person who spent his life serving

Kevin was born in Galway, Ireland on 2nd December 1934. He graduated with a first class honours in Bachelor of Engineering (Civil



Mr. Kevin O'Byrne

Engineering) from the National University of Ireland in 1955 coming first country-wide, in the Engineering class of 1955.

That same year he met and joined Opus Dei, while pursuing specialized courses in Statistical

Analysis and Computations as a Hydrometric Engineer for the Electricity Supply Board of Ireland. From this point on, Kevin had a deep sense of mission, and he set out in his search for personal holiness, dedicating himself generously to helping others.

In 1957-58 he worked as a Design Engineer for the British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Company in Dublin and in the UK. When St Josemaría Escrivá, the Founder of Opus Dei, asked him whether he would move to Kenya to help start the Work there, he unhesitatingly dropped the promising career already undertaken and came to Nairobi, where he would spend the remaining 50 years of his life.

He came to Kenya in September 1958 and worked as a design

engineer at Ove Arup & Partners in 1958 and 1959. He was involved in the design of New Mulago Hospital in Kampala and Norwich Union Building in Nairobi among other projects.

Between 1959 and 1961, he lectured at Royal Technical College now University of Nairobi. When Strathmore College of Arts and Science opened its doors on 6th March 1961, Kevin once again dropped his career as a University lecturer to prepare 'Advanced' level students for the Cambridge Higher School Certificate in Mathematics, Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, and two years later for the Advanced Level General Certificate of Education examinations of the University of London, in the same subjects.

As a teacher he was meticulous, precise and very organized. He had his classes carefully planned out for the two-year course and had

a sincere concern for constantly improving his methods. In the examinations in January 1965, Kevin's class had 100% passes at Advanced Level. In addition to helping them improve academically, Kevin spent a lot of time counselling students and teaching them how to live as Christians. He was also the College's first Deputy Principal. He returned to lecture at the University of Nairobi in 1966. Between 1971 and 1976, he was a partner in the firm Architects-Engineers Collaborative (K). He was a partner at Gathaiya Njagi & Partners in 1976 until his passing on. Kevin was registered as a consulting engineer in Kenya in 1994.

He was a member of Kenya's Institution of Civil Engineers of Kenya, and Institution of Engineers of Ireland. He was a chartered Engineer and a European Engineer. Some of the projects he has recently worked include the AIG Building

on Chiromo Road and the Doctors' Plaza at Nairobi Hospital. Kevin was also involved in the structural design of Strathmore School and the phase I of Strathmore University.

Kevin was an accomplished rugby, football and tennis player. He played rugby scrum half for Harlequins and for East Africa between 1960 and 1965. He put together the first multi-racial rugby side in Kenya in 1961. The development caught the attention of the international press. 'The Johannesburg Star' said the development was "a study in Black and White Rugby".

Thanks to his coaching and encouragement, in 1963 and 1964 Strathmore College won the seven-a-side competition organized for schools in Kenya. He also played a good game of golf, reaching a single-digit handicap at his peak.

Kevin's funeral Mass was held on 4th June, at 2pm at Holy Family Basilica. He was then laid to rest at Langata Cemetery after the Mass.



The SU Newsletter is a publication of the Strathmore Alumni Liaison Office.

Strathmore University
 Ole Sangale Road, Madaraka
 P.O. Box 59857, 00200
 City Square, Nairobi
 Tel 254-020-606155, Fax 254-020-607498
www.strathmore.edu
www.salo-kenya.org
salo@strathmore.edu or pkuria@strathmore.edu