

SU Digest

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May - June 2009 Volume 3, No.3 The Strathmore University Staff & Students Newsletter

Choir launches its premier album in South Africa



Kilele performing at St George's Cathedral in Cape Town during its tour of South Africa in April. It launched its premier album during the tour. See story on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



UNIV...pg 5



ASDP...pg 11



Interview...pg 14



Kilele's Maxine Waite (extreme left) poses with choristers from South Africa after the CD launch in Pretoria

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letter

Kilele, the University choir held several concerts and launched its premier album during its 2009 tour of South Africa. The tour began with a concert at the Cape Town High auditorium in the mid-morning of Sunday, 19th April. The concert was organised by Kenyans living in Cape Town.

Kenyans in the Cape Province missed Kilele's performances in 2008 because it only performed in Gauteng Province (Pretoria and Johannesburg). They thus requested that Kilele performs in the province this year. "I am lost for words. To attend a performance by a choir from your home country while you are in a foreign land is always nostalgic," said an overjoyed Musa Otieno, former captain of Kenya football national team, Harambee Stars. Musa plays for Santos FC of Cape Town.

Everybody in the audience rose when the choir started singing 'Cha Upele', a popular Kenyan tune. "I never thought that Kenyans here remember this song. The great response from the crowd took me by surprise but it gave me more energy to sing," said Leslie Msagha, Kilele's lead tenor and soloist for 'Cha Upele'.

On Monday, 20th April, Kilele's lead soprano June Samo was interviewed on SABC radio. The interview was on the tour. She also talked about the challenges

facing the girl-child in Kenya. As June was being interviewed at SABC, Kilele's Conductor Mr Albert Apela was being interviewed at another station - the Fine Music Radio station. The simultaneous 1.00pm interviews lasted about 10 minutes and publicized the choir's concerts in South Africa. (Excerpts of the interviews will be uploaded on the website).

On 21st April, Kilele performed at a packed St George's Cathedral in Cape Town's Central Business District and earned a standing ovation. The concert started at 7.00pm and went on beyond its schedule as the audience kept asking for encore. 'Cha Upele' was a favourite song with the audience. "I can't have enough of this choir, I had to leave training early to come and watch Kilele one more time," said Musa Otieno. He was this time accompanied by his family. Some choral group conductors who were in the audience approached Kilele for close collaboration with their choirs.

Wednesday, 22nd April was election day in South Africa and Kilele took time to rest and appreciate the beauty of Cape Town. The choir visited the V & A Waterfront and the nearby town of Stellenbosch. In the evening, the 32 member choir travelled north east to Pretoria and Johannesburg for more concerts, music workshops and the launch of their 'e polo' album.

Share your ideas with us, MP asks scholars



Hon Cecily Mbarire, Hon Peter Kenneth, Dr Maureen Wafula, and Dr James McFie at the final CITIZEN TV's 'Louis Otieno Live' talk show series on the state of the economy hosted at the University. Hon Mbarire asked scholars to share their ideas with MPs.

Punchy Kiswahili phrases and pleas for collaboration characterized the last of CITIZEN TV's 'Louis Otieno Live' series of talk shows focusing on the state of Kenya's economy and hosted at the University. The sixth and the last show of the series was on 7th May. The shows started on 2nd April.

The last show had four members of parliament – three of them assistant ministers – debating issues with four professionals drawn from various sectors. The show was an indictment on Kenyans. "Kenyans are not demanding on their leaders," said Hon Peter Kenneth, the Member of Parliament (MP) for Gatanga, and Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Planning, National Development and Vision 2030.

Responding to a question by Dr James McFie on whether there is a leadership vacuum in the country, Hon Omingo Magara, the MP for South Mugirango and Assistant Minister for Trade said there in deed was a leadership vacuum. He said that it is incumbent on Kenyans who gave their elected leaders the man-

date to lead to demand on them.

Hon Cecily Mbarire, the MP for Runyenjes and Assistant Minister for Tourism said that young Kenyans have higher stakes in the country and urged them not to lose hope. Playing with the Kiswahili words for citizen and country, the MP for Saboti Hon Eugene Wamalwa said wananchi ndio wenye nchi – citizens own the country. He said that there is need for civic education.

Hon Kenneth said that as equal stakeholders, citizens have a responsibility in charting the future of the country. Hon Magara said that as employers of elected leaders, citizens should show the way forward. But this begs the question: what is the work of elected leaders if not to show the way?

Dr McFie called on Kenyans to work in solidarity and not just for individual ends. With a hilarious punch line delivered in rich irony and alliterating Kiswahili – wananchi watukufu wanakufa (the extolled citizens are dying), he said that a matatu culture – a culture of impunity - has become entrenched in the country.

Hon Mbarire wondered where

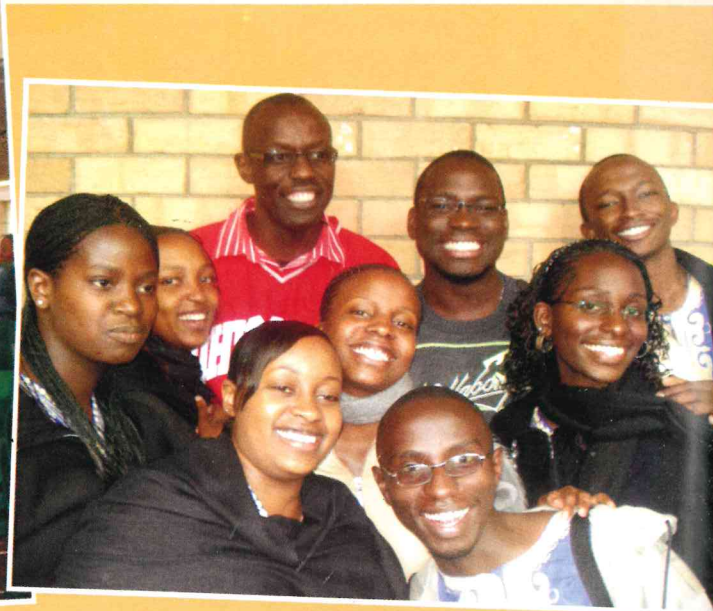
ideas like those articulated by Mr Kwame Owino, the Programme Officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) and one of the panelists go. "Where do the good ideas like the ones Kwame has go? Owing to MPs' heavy workload, clear thinking does not come through easily. Kwame, call us and share these good ideas," she said.

Referring to an IEA survey that showed that most young Kenyans do not want to go into agriculture, Kwame said there was need for structural change if the country's economy was to improve. He said that countries that had improved their per capita income had done so after a structural shift. "If Kenya wants to move from \$600 to \$2000 per capita income, then it needs to have a structural shift in its economy," Kwame said.

Kwame said that the thinking that agriculture was the source of livelihood for most Kenyans was changing and that it was becoming more of a myth with time. Hon Magara said Kenyans need to embrace agri-business instead of subsistence farming.



Prof. Khumalo (second left) poses with Mr Apela and Mr Ochieng after the concert in Johannesburg. Right is Renette Bouwer, the Conductor of University of Johannesburg's choir



Kilele members with Musa Otieno (in red), the Captain of Harambee Stars, Kenya's National soccer team

On 23rd April, Kilele arrived in University of Pretoria where it had a joint rehearsal with the university's TUKS Camerata and UP Choral choirs. Kilele held its first concert in the Gauteng province at University of Johannesburg's Sanlam auditorium on Friday, 24th April. In the audience for the early afternoon concert was South Africa's renowned music writer, composer and arranger Professor Emeritus Mzilikazi Khumalo.

"I came for this concert because I heard that Kilele also sings one of my arrangements - Akhala Amaqunde Amabili (two cocks crowing). I have been impressed by their singing," Prof Khumalo said. He conducted a music workshop for Kilele the following day at the university's music department. "Being taught by Prof Khumalo for two hours is like being in a music class for two years. He knows so much and pours it out to his students so generously," said one of the Kilele choristers Hillary Lagat.

Kilele launched its premier album on 24th April at a joint concert held at the Atrium of the University of Pretoria's Graduate Centre that featured the university's Youth Choir, UP Chorale, TUKS Camerata and Kilele. The sold out concert was graced by the presence of the Kenya Deputy High Commissioner to South Africa Mrs Florence Weche.

After sterling performances by the host choirs, Kilele went on stage. It closed its performance with the song 'Ni wara nono' from which their new album e polo gets its name. The launch was a great success. The concert ended with a mass choir of all participating choirs singing 'Jambo Bwana'.

The guest choir conductor of TUKS camerata Ms

Jeanmari Van Papendorp couldn't be beaten to buying Kilele's first CD. She bought the CD while the concert was on. "The choir sings very well and I wanted to be the first one to buy their premier CD," she said.

Kilele performed at the Kenya High Commission in Pretoria on Saturday, 25th April at a special high-tea organised in its honour by the Commission. On 26th, the choir had its final concert of the tour at the Van der Kloff Hall in central Pretoria.

"Am really proud of this group, they rose to the occasion and we have had a great tour. A workshop with Prof Khumalo was a dream come true for me. I have learnt a lot from him," Mr Apela said.

"The choir has grown from strength to strength over the last few years and the sterling performances in South Africa showed that the choir is of international stature," said the Dean of Students Mr Paul Ochieng who was also the Tour Manager. The choir was also accompanied by the Director of Mentoring Ms Angelica Kiboro. The new album produced in South Africa is also available at the Dean of Students Office.

Special thanks to:

CFC Stanbic Bank
 Pastor Robert Githua (Co-ordinator of
 Kenyans living in Cape Town)
 Pro Cantu Youth Choir of Cape Town
 University of Johannesburg Kingsway Choir
 TUKS camerata
 UP Chorale

All roads lead to Rome ... thanks to UNIV

I hope that Strathmore students will take a keen interest in attending the UNIV Conference every year. Look out for next year's forum here:

<http://www.univforum.org/english/univ2010.html>



James Muhia

UNIV is an international gathering of university students. The Institute for University Cooperation (ICU) has sponsored UNIV since its beginning in 1968. Each year, several thousand students spend Holy Week in Rome, profiting from the cultural and historical riches that the Eternal City has to offer.

The theme for this year's UNIV was "Universitas, Knowledge without limits". Universitas is the name of the challenge facing the University world today: the challenge of recuperating universities. The university system we know revolves around varying specializations, often understood as centers of higher learning that offer their students the possibility of preparing themselves for particular professional work.

Consequently, it often becomes difficult to find things in common between the distinct specializations in a university. There are however things that specializations have in common as they deal with one albeit complex reality.

The question then is what role does the university play in a pluralistic society? Society expects from the university competent professionals, scientific answers, technical or medical solutions, etc. But the problem most particular to a plural society is dialogue. And it is per-

haps in this aspect that Universitas really has something to say.

The topics for this year included:

- Leadership in difficult times: The global financial crisis and the role of the university.

- University Education: Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr Florence Oloo presented the case for Strathmore University

- The relationship between Science and Ethics, and
- Social Leadership in university

UNIV offered a forum for university students from all over the world to exchange outlooks, experiences of their respective cultures, and life projects. It was an opportunity for students to widen their world views and mutually encourage each other to build a renewed and more caring culture.

Rome is a city on its own. It is exciting, vibrant, colorful and artistic city. Major attractions and important monuments in the city include the Colosseum, the largest amphitheater ever built in the Roman empire; the Roman Forum; the Domus Aurea; the Pantheon; Trajan's Column; Trajan's Market; the Catacombs; the Circus Maximus; the Baths of Caracala; Castel Sant'Angelo; the Mausoleum of Augustus; the Ara Pacis; the arch

of Constantine; the Pyramid of Cestius; and the Bocca della Verita. There are also the ancient Catacombs of Rome underneath the city.

There are about 900 churches in Rome. Aside from the St Peter's Basilica, other churches of note include: the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore (Mary Major), the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica of St John Lateran (the Pope's Cathedral as Bishop of Rome).

I hope that Strathmore students will take a keen interest in attending the UNIV Conference every year.

Look out for next year's forum here:

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The first UNIV encounters began thanks to the initiative and impulse of St Josemaría Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, and the inspiration behind Strathmore University. For the past four decades, scores of students and professors have expanded their cultural horizons through their contact with the international environment and the special audiences granted by popes Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI to UNIV participants,

By James Muhia

CISA and CISM pass rates improve every year



Mr John Walubengo (right) presents a certificate to Fredrick Omondi of Distance Learning Centre

CISA and CISM pass rates improve every year

The pass rates for candidates who prepare for Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) have improved over the years, says Mr Denis Bosire, the Administrator of the courses. He said this at the award giving ceremony held at Hilton Hotel on 25th April for candidates who sat their CISA and CISM examinations in December 2009.

Mr Bosire said that 30 out of 40 candidates who sat the CISA examination in December 2008 passed. He added that out of the 12 candidates who sat the CISM examination, eight passed.

The Guest of Honor at the ceremony was Mr John Walubengo, the coordinator ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association) Kenyan Chapter. ISACA is the examining body for CISA and CISM. Other guests included Mr Godfrey Madigu, Director School of Accountancy (SOA) under which the courses are offered; Mr Martin Njogu, and Mr Joseph Keverenge - both CISA and CISM lecturers.

Mr Madigu said the demand for information systems auditors like CISA holders and information security managers like CISM holders was increasing with the emergence of ICT security sensitive ventures like MPESA, ZAP and Mobile banking. Mr Keverenge who is also the Head of Internal Audit at Kenya Reinsurance Corporation emphasized the need of CISA and CISM qualifications. He said that employers are looking CISA and CISM holders for the positions of system auditors, and

information security managers. He added that there are plenty of opportunities in these areas.

Mr Njogu encouraged the graduands to have both the CISA and CISM qualification. In his words "having one qualification is very good, but having both CISA and CISM is a lot better!" Mr Njogu is a CISA and CISM holder. After the speeches the graduates and the guests were treated to a grand cocktail.

The next classes for CISA and CISM will begin in July 25. Meanwhile, interviews for interested students are being held every Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 8:00am.

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Student Entrepreneurs launch websites

Two Masters of Science in Information Technology students, Mr Anthony Mwangi and Mr Gachara Irura recently launched websites to host their respective e-businesses.

Two Masters of Science in Information Technology students, Mr Anthony Mwangi and Mr Gachara Irura recently launched websites to host their respective e-businesses.

Mr Mwangi together with his business partners launched www.gotissuez.com. Gotissuez encourages consumers to post feedback on products or service providers and then collates and analyzes the information posted for use by marketers and researchers. Consumers posting comments get rewards in form of points that they can use to get gifts given through the website.

Mr Irura and his partners on the other hand launched <http://www.ki-kwetu.com/> and <http://www.tex2me.com/ke/>. Tex2 is a mobile phone application that a user loads on mobile phone. Users register and download the software for free by visiting a WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) site. They can then begin messaging using the software.

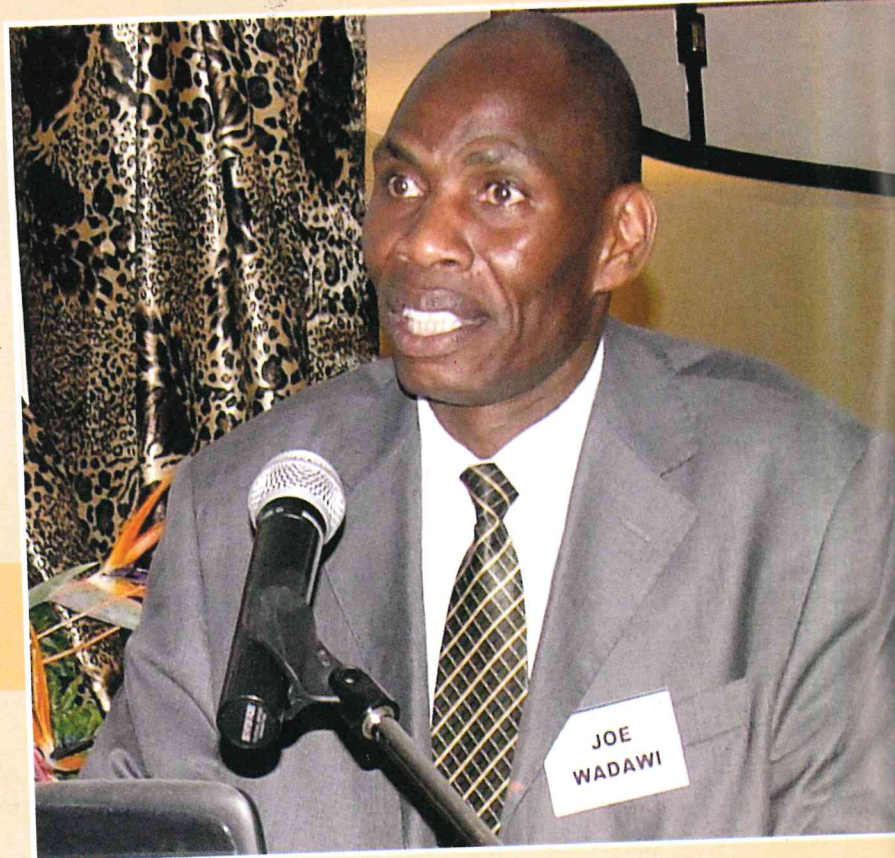
After registration and download, a user can send and receive email messages from other Tex2 users or to any email addresses. To invite other users, one browses to the "Invite" menu option on their phone application and keys in the number of the invitee.

Any data enabled mobile phone that can access the net via subscriber (GPRS) General Packet Radio Service settings can be used. Users activate their handset and SIM card for free through mobile phone providers. Potential users of this application are schools, banks, distributors, and utility companies like electricity and water companies.

By Freddie Acosta

SHT hosts E-Tourism Conference

*Dr Wadawi, Dean, School of Tourism
and Hospitality*



The School of Tourism and Hospitality and E-Tourism Africa co-hosted a two-day E-Tourism Conference at the auditorium. The conference which was held on 25th and 26th May brought together various stakeholders from all over Kenya. Among them was Safaricom, Visa, Kenya Airways, Utalii College, the going safaris.com and Strathmore students and the staff.

The conference was the final part of E-Tourism Africa's East Africa Roadshow. It looked at how today's tech savvy travellers use technology at every step of their travel experience, from pre-trip research, packaging and booking, to communication and decisions making as they travel and post-trip communication, reviews and recommendations. It then identified the key issues facing the industry in Africa today.

The Managing Director of E-Tourism Africa Mr Damian Cook said that the application of new business and marketing technology in a practical and a simple manner will allow people to make informed decisions about their strategies in marketing.

Speakers at the conference talked about the importance of learning how to get tourism business online, like booking travel and accommodation online. They also explained how to market effectively using the web and other multimedia. They also explained how to can make use of the various search engines like Google and the Wikipedia for marketing.

Mr Cook outlined the three E's of websites. These are: easy to find, easy to access and easy to use. "Website content should be easy to share with your users. Websites should have addresses for departments and staff as well as general address that can be easily retrieved by users. You also need to know your users well," Mr Cook said.

Rob Stokes talked about Online Reputation Management (ORM). ORM can be managed by improving customers' services as well as responding to crises on time. He said organizations can use information to build profiles of right social influencers who can be help in future marketing campaigns.

The importance of service delivery that adds value addition to customers and the importance of engaging customers honestly and humbly was also emphasized. Stokes said that a smooth ORM translates to customer loyalty.

Players were urged to use social networking sites and Web 2.0 technologies such as Facebook, and YouTube to improve their reputation.

By Samuel Kamangu

How Rugby team won Nakuru 10 a-side

Cornered: Impala's Duncan Omondi (in red and white) is tackled by Leos Okwomi (2nd left) as Jared Biwott (2nd right) blocks his way



Leos, the University's rugby team added another feather to their hat when they beat an experienced Impala RFC 22-7 in the finals of the Great Rift 10 a-side tournament on 31st May. Leos are also the reigning East Africa Universities Rugby Champions.

The Great Rift 10 a-side is an annual tournament held in the Great Rift Valley town of Nakuru. This was its 20th year. It is also the premier 10 a-side rugby tournament in East Africa and participating teams were drawn from three East African countries.

Leos who were pooled together with Moi University, USIU and Mt Kenya University started their campaign with a 36-0 thrashing of Moi University. In their second game, Leos saw off USIU 24-0 before scoring 34-0 against Mt Kenya.

In quarter finals, they met KCA University. Ken Andola touched down for the Leos' first try. Leos kept the steam going and by half time, Seth Michuki had scored another try. In the second half, Leos international Joshua Gathumbi touched down twice and his compatriot Ken Andola converted the two tries to make the score 24-0.

In the semi-finals, Leos met the

tournament hosts Nakuru RFC in a tight match characterized by hard tackles and sleek passing from both sides. By half time, the scores stood at 0-0. In the second half, a few attacking changes made by Leos' coach Mitch Ocholla saw them have the better of their hosts. Two minutes to the end of the match, a well executed set piece by the Leos' back line saw Mike Wanjala side step the Nakuru RFC full back to touch down for the games only try. The conversion didn't go through the goal posts and the game ended 5-0.

In the finals, Leos met an impressive Impala RFC. Impala too had had a good run to the finals beating title favourites Harlequins RFC. Buoyed by their international players, Impala capitalized on a loose ball from a rack and scored their first try through Nato Simiyu and put the scores at 7-0 after conversion. Leos regrouped and in three minutes responded with a classic try from Oscar Ouma and leveled the scores after conversion.

In the second half, Leos' coach made some substitutions bringing in three internationals fresh from the IRB U-20 World Cup. With their quick passes, Maurice Mbai and Mike Wanjala each scored a try for the Leos in the second half

while Ken Andola made one conversion. The game ended 22-7 making Leos the 2009 Great Rift 10 a-side champions.

Leos are the first team in the tournament's 20 year history to lift the trophy and concede only one try. They were voted the best defensive team. The win came with a cash prize of Kshs 40,000. Leos' Kephur Odera was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player. He was presented with a miniature trophy and a one year complementary membership at the Nakuru Country Club.

The University's Sports Officer, Mr Isaac Mwangi congratulated the team and attributed its success to focus and discipline. At the post match press conference, the coach hailed his defense for a job well done.

The coach will be travelling to Christchurch, New Zealand later this month for a one week rugby course with one of New Zealand's top rugby team - The Crusaders. "I look forward to the course with the Crusaders who are currently 4th placed in the southern hemisphere Super 14 series league and to bring back the experience to the Leos," Mr Ocholla said.

By Paul Ochieng

Academic Staff Development Programme kicks off



SU staff at a past graduation ceremony

ASDP's focus is to continually improve lecturers' effectiveness and efficiency in the teaching and learning process

To meet its mandate of developing programmes that will enhance and support learner-centered teaching and improve the quality of teaching outcomes, the Academic Development Unit (ADU) has developed the Academic Staff Development Programme (ASDP). ASDP is open to all lecturers of the University.

ASDP comprises three modules. The first module is in two, one-week sessions. The first session was scheduled for Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May. The second session will run from 15th to 19th June.

The topics of discussion include: Strathmore University Teaching Philosophy (learner centered), Self Reflection (A reflective practitioner); Class Management; Innovative Teaching, Learning and Research; and Measurement and Evaluation. Vice chancellor Prof John Odhiambo will discuss the Strathmore University Teaching Philosophy.

Other facilitators include Dr

Mike Calvert, Head of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Faculty of Education and Theology, York St John University; Prof Frederick Iraki, Professor at USIU; Dr Charles Kingsbury, Co-ordinator Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CELT) at Daystar University; Prof Faustin Kamuzora, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Mzumbe University; Mr Joseph Njoroge, a lecturer at USIU; and Dr Serah Waitiki, a lecturer at Moi University.

ASDP's focus is to continually improve lecturers' effectiveness and efficiency in the teaching and learning process. It is part of the University's efforts to build the capacity of its teaching staff as spelt out in its strategic theme 1 of the Corporate Strategic Plan for the period 2007–2010.

By Josephine Masika

Jessica Colaço

named a TED Fellow

Miss Jessica Colaço, the Research Leader at Strathmore Research and Consultancy Centre (SRCC) is among the 25 new Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) fellows. The TED Fellows program brings outstanding, world-changing leaders to the TED community.



Miss Jessica Colaço, the Research Leader at Strathmore Research and Consultancy Centre (SRCC) is among the 25 new Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) fellows. The TED Fellows program brings outstanding, world-changing leaders to the TED community.

Early this year, 'Business Daily' named her as one of the top 40, under 40 years of age women in Kenya's business scene."From a leading female Kenyan software developer (read Miss Colaço) to a young political scientist from Belarus, from a Jamaican robotics expert to a next-generation Burmese human rights activist, we couldn't be more thrilled with our inaugural TEDGlobal Fellows," said Tom Reilly, TED Community Director.

The principal goal of the TED Fellows program is to empower TED Fellows to effectively communicate their work to the TED

community and to the world. The new fellows will participate in TED's annual international conference, to be held in Oxford, in the United Kingdom from July 21 to 24.

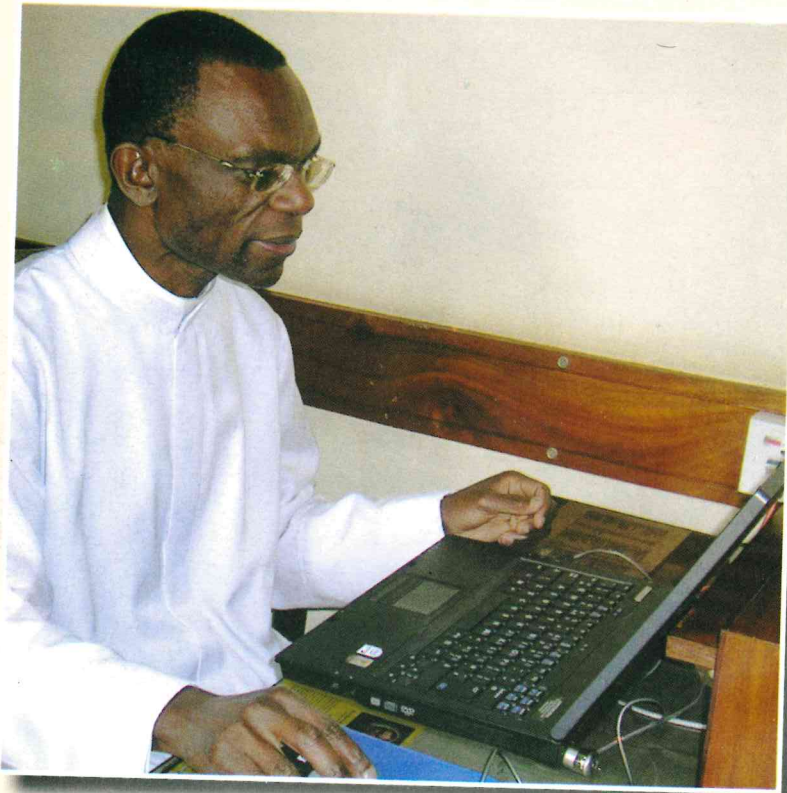
In addition to participating as full members of the TEDGlobal conference audience, each TED Fellow will participate in a two-day pre-conference, where they will receive world-class communication training, deliver a short TEDTalk, and collaborate with their peers, among other benefits.

Their TEDTalk may be selected for posting on TED.com, where it has the potential to be viewed hundreds of thousands of times. They will also participate in the TED community throughout the next year, by telling their ongoing stories on the TED Fellows blog, being featured in the online Fellows directory and participating in a private social

network.

Later this year, TED will choose 20 of this year's TED and TED-Global Fellows to be TED Senior Fellows. They will participate in five additional conferences, for a total of six over a course of three years, with additional benefits.

The TED Fellows program seeks individuals 21-40 (though anyone 18 and over can apply) with demonstrated remarkable achievement in their field of endeavor. The program focuses on candidates from five regions: Asia/Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Middle East. The TED Fellows program is made possible by the visionary support of the Bezos family, Sherpalo Ventures, the Harnisch Foundation, the Case Foundation, private donors and Nokia.



A review of Fr Paul
Mimbi's book

Sources of Effective Leadership

Fr Paul Mimbi

What catapults a company from merely good to truly great? Harvard Business School conducted a five year research project to answer this question, and the results could change the way many people think about leadership. The most powerfully transformative executives possess a paradoxical mixture of personal humility (a moral virtue) and a fierce resolve. Does this mean the right mix of virtues do the trick?

Does this mean that leadership can be learned? Can one really learn to become the kind of leader described above? In the book under review, Fr Paul says yes, leadership can be learnt. Not like a type of knowledge, nor like a skill but like a virtue (a practice). Virtue, like any practice, is acquired by repetition of acts. In the first place, by constantly striving to have one's eyes trained on the long term goals (bonum rationis – the just, the bold, the temperate) affectivity is shaped into maintaining an unwavering resolve (the intentional dimension of moral virtue). This guarantees the premises of rational discourse.

Second, by constantly striving to think things through, with ones eyes set on the goals – thus ensuring truth in prudential judgment –, one acquires a sixth sense about optimal decisions; one becomes wise. Finally, by constantly striving to make the right choices in the subject matters of justice, pleasurable and arduous goods – thus obeying prudential precept –, one develops a sixth sense about making optimal choices (the elective dimension of virtue).

The *Sources of Effective Leadership: exploring the Principles of Pure and Applied Ethics* is therefore, above all, about the principles of virtue ethics... and this is because moral life is a requisite and an advantage for any task of genuine leadership. After an introduction on the general subject of ethics and its re-

lationship with other fields of knowledge, it plunges into the question of the moral agent and his attendant free action. This section of the book examines the human person as author of behaviour and is therefore also an inquiry about the theory of action.

Part II is about moral virtues and virtuous life. It first explores the concept of moral virtue as a habit that facilitates optimality in making choices before delving into the more difficult questions of particular moral knowledge, the intrinsic evil acts and the moral judgment of particular acts.

The setting of the book is that of a manual, gradually introducing the student into the vast field of moral philosophy. Its aim is that of explaining the essence of moral life and of providing scientific underpinnings for formulating norms which can serve as guide or criteria of judgment regarding the right decisions that make for personal fulfilment as well as serving the social purpose. The reader thus discovers that there is no conflict between freedom and law; between self-interest, properly understood, and ethics, properly understood. As a matter of fact, he discovers that one cannot attain one's own good apart from membership in a community.

Fr Paul holds an MA and a PhD in Philosophy (Pontifical Roman Athenaeum of the Holy Cross, Rome) and a Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering) from University of Nairobi. He was ordained priest in 1982. He is currently a lecturer in Ethics and Theology at the University. He is also the author of *The Overlooked Factor: the power of being fully human* which was published in 2007.

Both books were published by Strathmore University Press. The book under review is for sale at the University's bookshop.

UNEP corner opened in the Library



The University Librarian, Mr. George Gitau (right), receives a book from the participants of the workshop on 'Sustainability generation'

A UNEP corner was opened in the library after the lecture. The corner has UNEP resources on climate change for use by the University community.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) held the 'Sustainability Generation Workshop' in Nairobi from 20th to 25th April. The theme of the workshop was "Climate Change: Role of the Sustainability Generation".

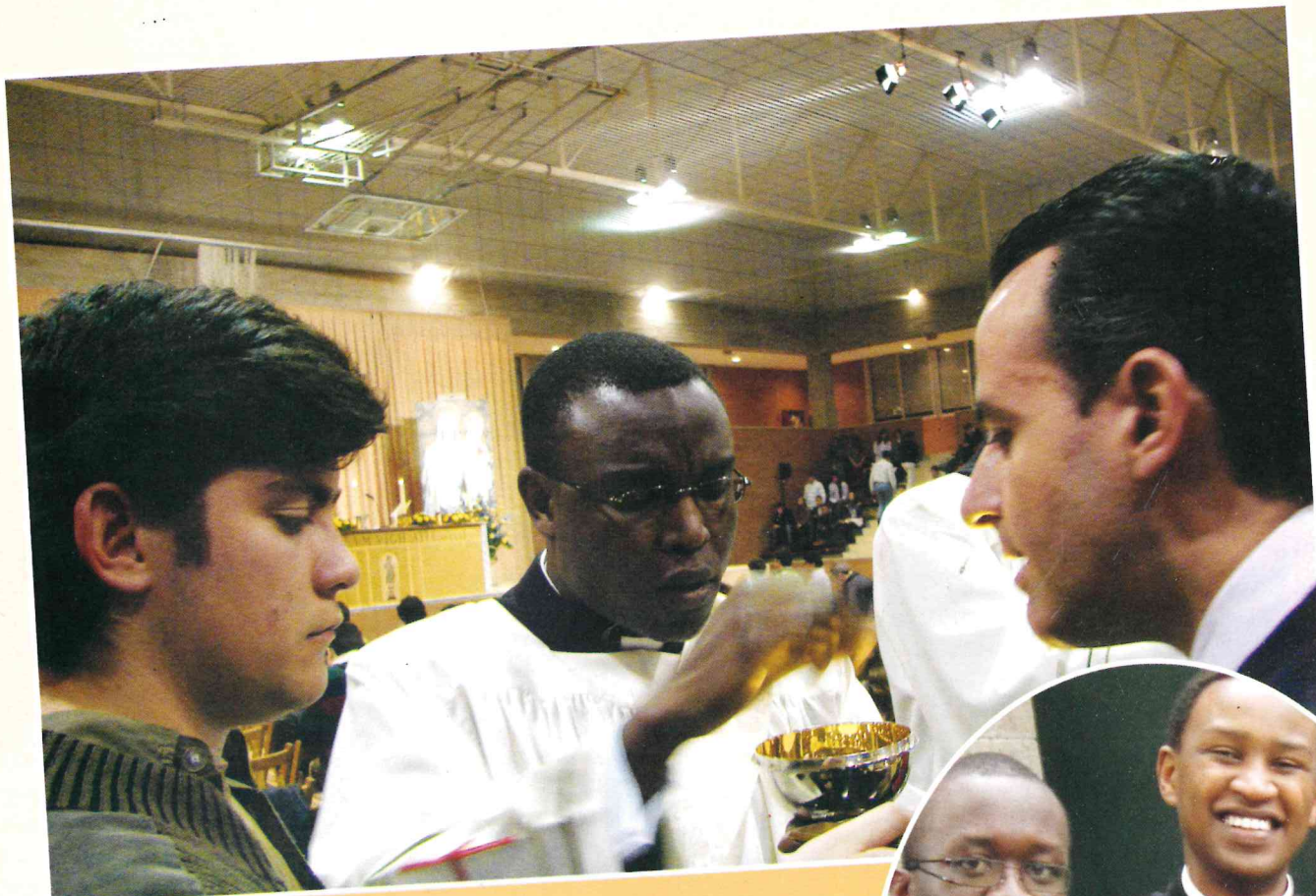
Part of the workshop included an open lecture and discussions at the University on Wednesday, 22nd April. The lecture was on the new 'Atlas of our Changing Environment'. The atlas is a free internet application developed in conjunction with Google Earth. It allows users to track the effects of global warming around the world.

The atlas provides images of mountains and water bodies that have been adversely affected by

global warming with audio commentary. The atlas and other UNEP resources are available for public use.

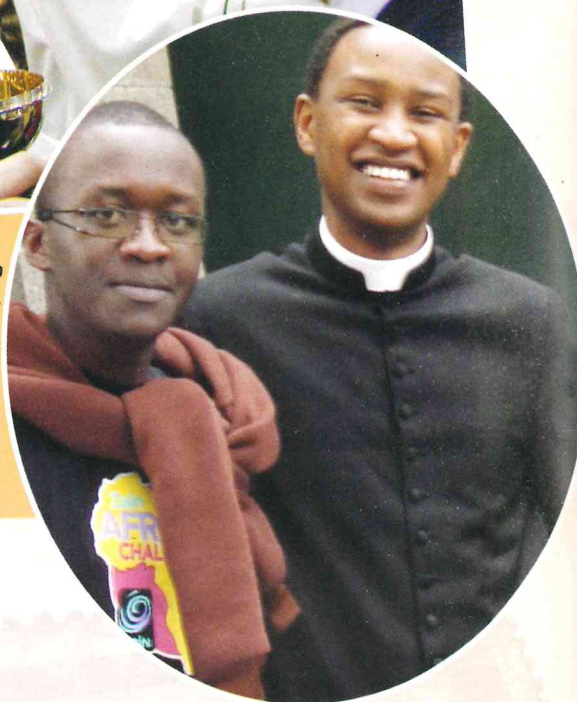
A UNEP corner was opened in the library after the lecture. The corner has UNEP resources on climate change for use by the University community.

The workshop attracted forty students and lecturers drawn from 15 countries. Professor Gitile Naituli of Faculty of Commerce was one of the organisers of the event. Prof Naituli won the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA) award in 2007. He is now the co-ordinator and host of the Education in Sustainable Development (ESD) International Training Programme (ITP).



On Ash Wednesday, Fr Vernon Gewa (middle) then a deacon giving communion at the University of Navarra in Spain. He did his Institute of Management Information Systems (IMIS) Diploma and Higher Diploma in Strathmore.

Inset: In April, Fr John Kuria then a deacon with James Muhia, the Chairman of the Student Council in Rome



Q & A

Alumni ordained priests in Rome

John Kuria, was one of the two alumni of the University was ordained to priesthood in Rome on Saturday, 23rd May. Fr John started his diploma in IT at Strathmore in January 1999 and left with a higher diploma in June 2000. He later joined University of Nairobi where he obtained a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Computer Science. He is currently completing his doctoral studies in Moral Theology at the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross) in Rome. He shared his story with the Association of Kenyans living in Italy website



Fr John Kuria (left) and Fr Vernon Gewa (second right) with members of their families on occasion of their ordination in Rome.

A young Kenyan engineer is ordained to the priesthood. How has this come about?

When I started my university studies in Nairobi, I felt the need to live my Christian life more coherently. If I was striving to improve on my professional formation, why leave behind the spiritual aspects? I wanted to learn and improve in all these areas. Computer Science and the university life were fascinating. I enjoyed what I was doing and knew that God did not want to take me away from this. It is then that I came to know the teachings of the founder of Opus Dei, St Josemaría Escrivá, who taught that ordinary life could be a path to heaven. I was strongly attracted by the ideal of being able to find holiness through the exercise of my profession, first as a student and then as an engineer. I was convinced that this was God's plan for me because He wishes that all men strive for sanctity in whatever situation they might find themselves in. With the call to the priesthood I hope to continue striving for sanctity through my new tasks and to help many people along the way.

What does sanctification of work entail?

Work well done! Even when it's the same every day. This entails punctuality, cheerfulness, amiability, work finished to the last detail without neglecting our family and social responsibilities... This is work that can be offered to God. According to St Josemaría's words it is to make a constant prayer out of our ordinary job, turning the monotonous prose of this life into the rhythm of heroic verse! Sanctity is giving 'God's rhythm' to ordinary life.

In view of your ordination, how do you feel as a Kenyan?

My vocation to the priesthood is a gift to me and to Kenya. God confides in the Kenyans. It's a motive to be

very thankful and also a big responsibility for each one of us.

You have been in Italy for the last 5 years. What do you value about this country?

It's difficult to summarize the Roman experience in a few words. The people, the great works of art, its sumptuous cuisine, gelati... However one thing you will never get anywhere else in the world is to be so close to the Pope. Benedict XVI has a great esteem for Africans and the continent of hope.

What has it meant for you to be in contact with the Kenyan community in Italy?

As is to be expected we Kenyans in Italy do miss our motherland and so are always happy to get together from time to time. We, however, feel very much at home because we have a lot in common with Italians.

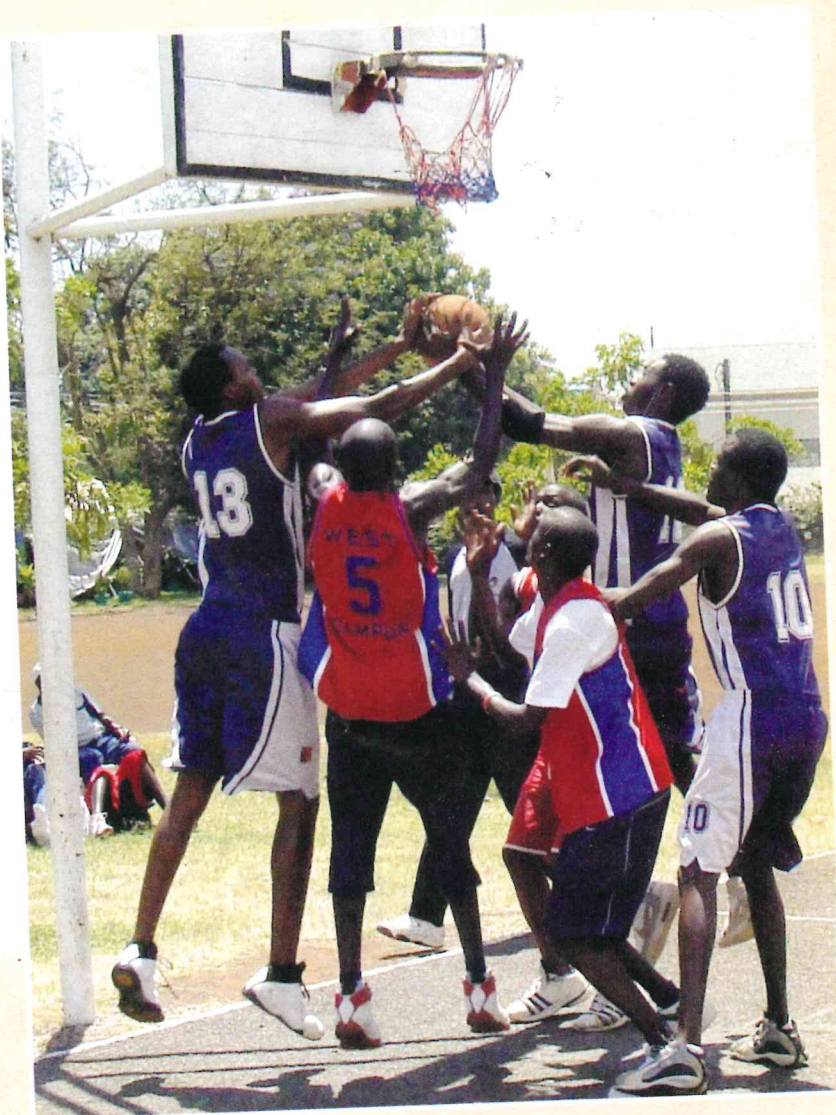
What next?

I hope to finish my studies soon and go back to help out with the apostolic work of Opus Dei in the Church in Kenya. Kenyans have been very receptive to the message of Opus Dei: there are many good workers, good mothers of families and professionals from all walks of life who wish to live a profound Christian life in their ordinary circumstances. You could find some good testimonies from the website: <http://www.opusdei.or.ke/sec.php?s=1002>.

Fr John Kuria (left) and Fr Vernon Gewa (second right) with members of their family on occasion of their ordination in Rome. A video clip of an interview with Fr Kuria is available here: <http://www.opusdei.or.ke/art.php?p=33858>

Blades are Kenya Universities Basketball Champions

Blades in blue in action



Blades, the University's men basketball team are the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) basketball champions. Blades won the title at KUSA's tournament held at Egerton University in Njoro on 30th and 31st May.

In their first game, Blades beat University of Nairobi's Terrorists 41-24. Paul Nyakinda and Kennedy Maru combined for 29 points. The man of the match was Phillip Amenyi.

In their second game, Blades beat USIU 48-7. Paul Nyakinda made five-3 pointers in a row to steer the team to a 26-06 first quarter lead. Despite having only five players available for the game, Blades controlled the game from start to finish. Paul Nyakinda was the man of the match.

Blades beat Mt Kenya University 63-23 in their third game. Paul Nyakinda and Mohamed Abdi again sharpened their blades with super coordination to steer the team. Kennedy Maru added 17 points. Victor Kemboi was the man of the match.

Blades beat Kabarak University 62-31 in their fourth game. Frank Simiyu and David Ogolla were outstanding in both defense and offence. David Ogolla grabbed 12 rebounds and was declared the man of the match.

Blades sliced Africa Nazarene University 47-17 in the semifinals. Blades scored 17 points against to ANU's naught in the first quarter. Philip Amenyi was the man of the Match.

Blades met USIU in the finals. Blades won 55-52 in the tightly contested match. USIU took a 13 point lead in the

first nine minutes but Blades put up a spirited comeback.

Blades controlled the second, third and fourth quarters with Emanuel Odhiambo and Phillip Amenyi collecting 23 defensive rebounds. Tiberius Menya scored 15 points and Amenyi added 11 points. Tiberius was declared the man of the match.