

A L U M N I

SU

NEWSLETTER



## CONTENTS.....

- 2 :: SU the university with highest web presence in East Africa
  - :: Proclaiming peace atop Mt. Kilimanjaro
- 3 :: The Overlooked Factor
- 4 :: Students documentary launched as best of 2007 are awarded
- 5 :: Sperling and McFie decorated by state
  - :: Model UN debate held in SU
- 6 :: SBS hosts lecture on patient safety management
  - :: 4th Annual Careers Fair a success
- 7 :: Keri Residence at three
- 8 :: SU to launch two new degree programs

# SU the university with highest web presence in East Africa



*A computer lab at Strathmore University. The University has over 400 computers with email and internet at the disposal of its students*

*Strathmore University is the highest ranked university in East Africa in the latest webometrics ranking of universities worldwide dated January 2008.*

SU is ranked position 21 in Africa up from position 50 in April 2007. The University of Dar es Salaam is ranked position 22.

The “Webometrics Ranking of World

Universities” is an initiative of the Cybermetrics Lab, a research group belonging to the Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) the largest public research body in Spain.

Cybermetrics Lab is devoted to the quantitative analysis of the Internet and Web contents especially those related to the processes of generation

and scholarly communication of scientific knowledge. This is a new emerging discipline called Cybermetrics.

The Cybermetrics Lab has designed and applied quantitative indicators that measure the research and scientific activity on the web.

For more details please see: <http://www.webometrics.info/about.html>

## Proclaiming peace atop Mt Kilimanjaro



*A group of 15 students and staff from Strathmore University and other Kenyan universities climbed Mt Kilimanjaro and reached the Uhuru Peak which at 5895 metres is the highest point in Africa.*

The trip was organized by Mbagathi Study Centre. The students and staff wanted to send a message of peace to all Kenyans in these trying moments the country is going through. They displayed a banner

*From Left Luis Franceschi, Damian Maingi, George Thinwa, Austin Omeno, Odilon Dizon, James Muriuki and John Matogo.*

at the Uhuru Peak calling for peace in the country.

Through their good spirit of service and teamwork, 14 out of the 15 participants reached the top. Only one of the students who suffered from severe mountain sickness had to remain at the level of the 5,000 metres.

# ‘The Overlooked Factor’

## ...a book by Fr Paul Mimbi

To get a disturbing child off his back a tired father shreds a page with a world map from his newspaper and challenges the little fellow to piece it up together. The chap speeds off to his room and comes back after ten minutes to the amazement of daddy. The boy was about to give up when he suddenly discovered that the reverse side of the page had a portrait of a wanted gangster... By piecing up the human face, which he recognized, he managed to solve the puzzle of the shredded world map.

*A lot of effort is being made to make ours a better world with no explicit role given to the most fundamental factor: man! What [is] man (relating to his identity, essence, nature)? Why man (his goal, purpose, reason for existence)? How man (the right choice of means to that end)? Besides, we are dealing with a broken humanity. Why not tackle man's brokenness before we prescribe a nice set of economic, social and political rules?*

‘The Overlooked Factor’ is an attempt at unravelling the mystery of man, seeking to understand the very root of his unity of being in all its human manifestations. Besides, we are dealing with a broken humanity. Why not tackle man's brokenness before we prescribe a nice set of economic and democratic rules?

Martin Kimani captured the paradox prevalent in our Kenyan discourse on socio-economic issues in the ‘EastAfrican’ issue of February 4-10. “Kenya’s political analysts and



writers insist on believing that politics is a secular affair governed only by material means and ends. Yet even as they believe that about politics the rest of their lives are suffused with belief in the transcendent,” Kimani wrote.

Kimani’s point was there is more to man than economic efficiency and democracy. To give a holistic account of the human person, Fr Paul adopts in this book a

three-pronged approach. First, there is the traditional approach: the so-called third-person perspective. This is the view of the human being that results from looking at persons as a collection of objects. It is the preferred approach of the scientific method.

Then there is the first-person perspective, the method that consists in viewing people as a collection of subjects. This translates into looking at the mystery

of man from the point of view of the acting person. If considered in tandem with the first method, it is an equally valid approach.

But what really crowns the two approaches is the powerful concept of intersubjectivity: the second-person perspective. This is the view that sees interpersonal relationship as fundamental.

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 Strathmore University.

The book is available on sale at the University's Distance Learning Centre sales office.

## Students documentary launched as best of 2007 are awarded



*Elated members of AIESEC with one of the trophies the club bagged*

*To immortalize the unprecedented students' achievements for the year 2007, the Office of Dean of Students on 26th January launched its first documentary on co-curricular activities at the University. The 17 minute documentary is titled 'Living our Dreams'.*

The documentary sold over 110 copies in its first week. It can be bought at the Dean of Students Office for Kshs300. "It is the first among many more to come," says the Dean of Students, Mr Paul Ochieng.

At the event, various teams and clubs were awarded for their outstanding achievements. The men's hockey team was named the

team of the year. It scored 65 points ahead of the second placed Rugby team who scored 42 points.

The late Eric Shiahale who coached the men's hockey team to numerous glories in 2007 was also named coach of the year post-humously. Best rookies in each sports team were awarded too and outgoing captains were congratulated for the role they played in leading their teams to numerous victories.

AIESEC club bagged the best students club for 2007. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) was declared the club with the best social responsibility project. The Art Club (Qualiza Sanaa) won the best poster award.

Finance Students Association (FSA) won the most promising award among the new students' societies while AIESEC won the best annual report award. After the awards the Dean of students hosted the students to a garden lunch held at the University's graduation fields.

The university achieved exceptional success in co-curricular activities in 2007. SU became the first university side to win the EA hockey club championship. Leos, the University rugby team became the first team to win both the Eric Shirley Shield and the Mwamba Cup and was promoted to the highest rugby league in Kenya.

The ladies basketball team won the Nairobi basketball league and was promoted to the national premier league. The University's Students Marketing Society (SMS) became the first student's society in East Africa to be accredited by UK's Chartered Institute of Marketers (CIM).

# Sperling and McFie decorated by state



*Prof David Sperling (E.B.S)*



*Dr James McFie (M.B.S)*

*Prof. David Sperling and Dr. James McFie were awarded the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (E.B.S) and the Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (M.B.S) respectively by President Kibaki on 12th December 2007.*

*The awards were announced in a special issue of 'The Kenya Gazette' dated 11th December 2007.*

“In recognition of outstanding or distinguished services rendered to the nation in various capacities, I Mwai Kibaki, President and Commander-in-chief

of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya confer awards and honours to the following persons,” the gazette reads. It then lists 204 people bestowed various honours.

Those in the same category as Prof. Sperling include renown writer Prof. Ngugi wa Thiongo and vice chancellors of Nairobi, Maseno, Moi and Egerton universities. Prof. Sperling was the first principal of Strathmore College. He is a Professor at University of Nairobi and teaches at Strathmore University as well.

Dr. James McFie is the Academic and Research Director, Faculty of Commerce. He was for many years the Director, School of Accountancy. The award crowned a year which saw him appointed to various high profile appointments.

In June 2007, he was appointed a non-executive director of The Standard Group, the publishers of ‘The Standard’ newspaper and owners of KTN TV station. He now heads the board’s audit committee. And last September, he was appointed Chairman of Sasini Group.

# Model UN debate held in SU



*Enock Onsare addressing the assembly*

*On Saturday the 16th February, Strathmore Model United Nations (MUN) Club hosted the annual Kenya Model United Nations (KMUN) mock debate.*

It was the first mock debate to be held at SU and the organizers left nothing to chance prompting Matthew from USIU who is also KMUN’s Chief Protocol Officer to observe: you guys from Strathmore have set new standards.

The debate was a mock debate of the main debate to be held in Gigiri from 3rd March to 7th. The best five debaters at Gigiri will represent Kenya at the annual Model UN meeting in New York.

Three resolutions were introduced during the General Assembly by the delegations from Uganda, Iran and Sudan. However, only one the resolution from Iran passed but after amendments from the Arab League. The afternoon session was the most vibrant. Enock Onsare, Strathmore MUN chairman said the debate was a success. It was the first mock debate to have its proceedings covered live.

# SBS hosts lecture on patient safety management



From left: Prof Jaume Ribera, and Prof Magdalene Rosenmoller both of IESE and George Njenga of SBS at the lecture

*Strathmore Business School (SBS) in collaboration with German Development Cooperation (gtz) held a public lecture on patient safety management on 6th February 2008 at the Strathmore University auditorium.*

The talk was given by Prof Magdalene Rosenmoller of

IESE Business School, Spain. It reviewed important risks healthcare institutions face, and issues of medical error and patient safety.

The Dean of SBS Mr George Njenga stressed that healthcare professionals should strive to sharpen their managerial skills so

they can better manage resources and patients in their institutions.

SBS is currently offering the Advanced Health Management Programme which aims to equip healthcare professionals with knowledge, skills and expertise to think strategically, use technology, manage teams and systems and add value to the service delivery change in the public and private sector health institutions.

This is the second healthcare management talk held by SBS. Last October, Prof Steffan Flessa of Greifswald University, Germany gave a lecture titled “Reversing the Trends in Health Systems”.

For more information about the Advanced Healthcare Management Programme, visit the SBS website [www.sbs.ac.ke](http://www.sbs.ac.ke)

## 4th Annual Career's Fair a success

*The 4th Career Fair, an event organised by the Placement Office to facilitate students' meeting with potential employers was held on Friday, 15th February. The theme of this year's fair was 'Your future begins here!'. It was graced by presence of companies like Barclays, Citi Group, Proctor & Gamble, Bamburi, I&M Bank, PKF, KLM, Kestrel Capital, Sameer Africa, and Executive Training Consulting.*

A number of speakers spoke to the students. Dr James Boyd McFie, Academic and Research Director, Faculty of Commerce gave his perspective on what it takes to succeed in a career by drawing examples from his successful students. He identified qualities like listening, initiative, time management and value addition as important to launching a successful career. He gave insights on how companies recruit and said graduates

should join employment with a view of adding value to the enterprise.

Speaking on career development, Dr Caesar Mwangi, a former consultant with Deloitte and Touche and, currently a management consultant at Executive Training Consulting and a lecturer at Strathmore Business School gave a talk titled, “The buck stops here”. The talk, interweaved with humor and quotes from great people, was on career as a journey. He used a metaphor of a someone faced with the decision of choosing a matatu, choosing one, realizing it was not the best choice, changing to another matatu and moving on.

Dr Mwangi expounded the paradigm shift from reliance on natural resources to reliance on knowledge, from individual to synergy based models, and from shareholder to customer focus and sustainable profits through integrity and importance of family among



*Paul Ojil (6th from left) with some FIT students*

others. He asked his listeners to always have the bigger picture in mind.

The morning session ended with an inspiring entrepreneurship talk by Eric Kimani, CEO Sameer Africa. Mr Kimani is a motivational speaker, philanthropist and owner of Palm House Dairies and KCA Githunguri Campus. He gave an insightful talk on the need for a person to see himself as a CEO

of a service company with one employee that needs a strategic plan, a proactive attitude and a social security plan. He emphasized the need for virtues like humility, courage, perseverance, hard and smart work and a mentality of abundance instead of scarcity.

The various departments then dived into groups. The School of Accountancy had a talk given by Dr James Boyd McFie. Ewart Salins

from the Kestrel Capital gave a talk to the Faculty of Commerce while Paul Ojil from KLM Royal Dutch Airlines talked to the Faculty of Information Technology students. The afternoon session was interactive session between students and several organizations who had pitched tents at the graduation square to sell themselves as the employers of choice.

## Keri Residence at three



*In 2007, Keri Residence marked its third year. Grace Kihumba (BBIT III) interviewed a resident who has lived there for the past three years.*

*Q: When did you join the Residence?*

*A: I joined in August 2004 amidst very heavy rains.*

*Q: What was your first impression of the Residence?*

*A: I thought that it was awesome – a very big house. It was still under construction and was yet to be fully furnished. The large wooden doors seemed endless and I would pull at them when the door label read ‘push’.*

For the first couple of days, I would confuse the dining room door with the main entrance.

*Q: Describe a typical day in the life of a student living in the Residence during the first few weeks?*

*A: Typically we would wake up early before the construction men came around. We would then have a quick breakfast, take packed lunch and leave for the University. The shortcut through Phase II was not there and one had to go round past the flats opposite the residence. On rainy days, one had to be at school a bit*

earlier to clean the mud off the shoes! We had dinner at 7.30pm and afterwards a short get together where we would speak of the happenings of the day.

*Q: What evolution has taken place these last three years?*

*A:* In my view, Keri's growth has been much like that of a baby: from a garden filled with red soil to one with grass! The large empty rooms have been transformed into a library, computer room and study rooms. At first, we used to eat packed food since there was no catering department but now we have hot meals. The number of residents has also grown, and the residence now houses 35 people.

*Q: Being a fourth year student, this is your last semester at the residence. What will you take with you?*

*A:* The family atmosphere that I found here typified in such activities as cleaning the house together with other residents and birthday celebrations that are planned meticulously. The annual family days were a great opportunity to meet other resident's families and for parents to see where their children live. I will miss the excursions, dancing and fashion shows that everyone participated in. Above all, I will take with me the acceptance that I found there, despite one's background or way of being.

## SU to launch two new degree programs

*The Commission for Higher Education has given Strathmore University the green light to offer two additional degree programs. The programs are Bachelors of Hospitality Management and Tourism (BHT) and Bachelor of Science in Leadership and Management BSc (L&M).*

BHT will be offered by the School of Hospitality and Tourism while BSc (L&M) will be offered by the

Faculty of Commerce. The first BHT evening class intake will be in May and the full-time intake will be in July 2008.

The evening intake is for exempt students and is scheduled to run for two years. The full time class will run for four years. "The BHT program has been designed with a view to cater for the prevailing market needs, and is founded on strong ethical values," says

Miss Lucy Gikonyo of School of Hospitality and Tourism.

The first intake of BSc (L&M) will be an evening class in May. "The programme is designed to meet the current need for managers with broad based training and ability to lead change and development in organisations," says Miss Roseline Lubullelah, the outgoing Faculty of Commerce manager.



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](http://www.strathmore.edu)  
[www.salo-kenya.org](http://www.salo-kenya.org)  
[salo@strathmore.edu](mailto:salo@strathmore.edu) or [pkuria@strathmore.edu](mailto:pkuria@strathmore.edu)