



KIBU NEWS

A Bi-Weekly Digital Newsletter of Kibabii University

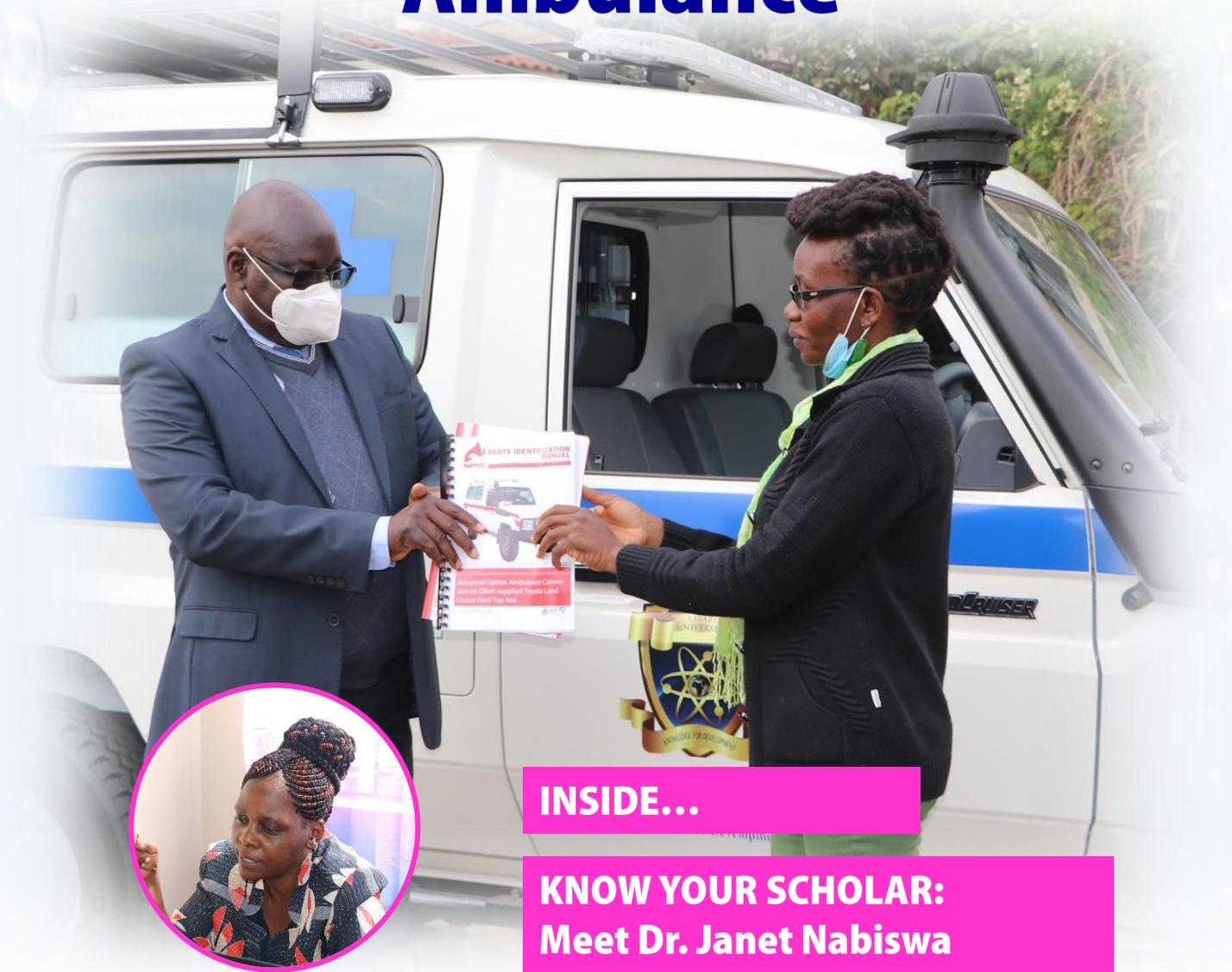
Week



Vol. 1 Issue 8: 24th July, 2020

ISO 9001:2015 Certified

KIBU Unveils Heavy Duty Ambulance



INSIDE...

**KNOW YOUR SCHOLAR:
Meet Dr. Janet Nabiswa**

2020/21 Theme:

Exercising Academic Freedom



Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

As we head into the final stretch of the month of July, we present to you the 8th Issue of KIBU Newsweek.

This edition focuses in showcasing developments in preparation for reopening after closure due to COVID-19.

We also continue to interreact with our staff and students in their various engagements in careers and industry.

Enjoy your reading!

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Contributor



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Photographer

PHOTO: A section of staff and students together with the Vice Chancellor pose for a photograph after the commissioning of the new ambulance



KIBU Receives Premium Ambulance to boost Health Services Delivery

By Meshack Nyambane

In a bid to increase efficiency in the delivery of health services, Kibabii University on Wednesday 22nd July, 2020 officially received a 4.2 CC Toyota Land Cruiser Ambulance from Toyota Kenya. The “Heavy Duty” cruiser, is equipped with state-of-the-art emergency equipment suiting speedy evacuation situations with minimal response time.

The Chairman of the Students Union Mr. Caleb Musawa who attended the unveiling ceremony thanked the university management for keeping the promise of holding the matters of students’ welfare in high esteem.

“This machine will help our comrades in times of emergencies. We have been experiencing fair delays in response from the medical personnel because of the older and less equipped ambulance in times of crisis. We want to appreciate management for this gesture,” He said.

Representing the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs), the Registrar (Academic Affairs) Prof. Ernest Mohochi echoed the student leader’s remarks and reiterated the university management’s commitment to student welfare as the top agenda.

Ms. Lynn Lusaka, a Clinical Officer who was present to receive the Ambulance on behalf of the Department of Health Services confirmed the eminence of the facility citing top level emergency equipment with topnotch standards.

“On behalf of Health Services, I wish to appreciate the University Council and Management for considering our request. We have done a thorough inspection of the vehicle against the specifications of a world-class ambulance and I can confirm that it conforms to the best terrain clearance, speed requirements as well as safety and comfort of medical personnel and patients. It befits the comfort of any patient including top State Officers”, She added.

The Vice Chancellor Prof Isaac Ipara Odeo challenged the University community to make good use of the facility and for the right purpose of saving lives. He cited the death of young musician George Mukabi (1930-1963), whose premature death could have been avoided were it there be an ambulance at the time.



The Interior section of the ambulance, fully equipped for use
Photo: Debra Kisongochi



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ipara and Procurement Officer Ms. Jesca Wanyonyi peruse through inspection documents before commissioning.
Photo: Debra Kisongochi

“Our University Health facility is currently Level 3A Hospital. This means we have capacity to handle patients from beyond the university surroundings. It is the duty of each one of us to ensure proper utilization of the ambulance, its hygiene and mechanical soundness to ensure our staff, students and community benefit from this costly asset,” He said.

According to the Vice Chancellor, the older ambulance will be revamped and deployed to the Security Service Department to support in security operations and investigations.

The Chairman of Kibabii Community Mr. Ben Wanjala commended the university leadership for the remarkable engagements in guaranteeing steady growth over the few years of the university’s existence.

“On behalf of the Kibabii Community, we are very glad because the ambulance facility will be beneficial to us. We are proud of the leadership of this university for standing with us, more so especially during this difficult time of the Corona Virus Pandemic,” He said.

Features of the New Ambulance

S/NO.	SPECIFICATIONS	SPECIFICATIONS/FEATURES
A1	Make	Toyota Land Cruiser
A2	Model	HZJ78R-RJMRS Ambulance
A3	Country of Origin	Japan
B	GENERAL	
B1	A standard Production, 4x4 diesel ambulance of latest design in the class, robust construction in current production.	A standard Production, 4x4 diesel ambulance of latest design in the class, robust construction in current production.
B3	Design	Design to heavy duty specifications, capable of operating in tropical conditions in extremes of mud and dust.
B4	Operating Conditions	Most suitable in Operating both “on and off” Conditions
B5	Purpose	Built and specially equipped to transport the sick/injured to and from hospital
C	DIMENSION	
C1	Overall Length, approx..	5,000 mm
C2	Overall Width, approx..	1,700 mm
C3	Overall height, approx..	1,800 mm
C4	Wheel Base, approx..	2,900 mm
D	ENGINE	
D1	Make	1 HZ
D2	Model	Japan
D3	Country of Origin	Specify
D4	Engine type	Diesel
D4	Fuel Tank Capacity, approx..	75 Lt.
D5	Extra fuel Tank fitted	Specify
E	SPECIAL FITTINGS & EQUIPMENTS	



ABOVE: Prof. Donald Siamba conducts a symbolic irrigation as Prof. Benedict Mutua and other members of staff present look on. INSET: Ms. Sophy Waliaula and Prof. Julius Maiyo share a light moment during the exercise

Staffer Donates Indigenous Tree Seedlings to the University

By Debra Kisongochi

As the world is fighting and trying to find all possible means to curb the Covid-19 pandemic, at Kibabii University Ms. Sophy Nekoye Waliaula through her program of giving back to the community donated 40 indigenous tree seedlings to Kibabii University on 15th July 2020 which were planted as part of the University's greening initiative. In her sentiments during the tree planting session Ms Waliaula stated that despite world suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic that has led to many deaths no one at Kibabii University has been directly affected.

The occasion was graced by DVC (Planning, Partnerships, Research & Innovation) Prof. Dr - Ing. Benedict M. Mutua PHD, DVC (Administration, Finance & Development) Prof Donald Siamba, Ag. DVC (Academics and Students Affairs) Prof. Julius Kiprop Maiyo among other Kibabii University family members.

In his speech at the tree planting session Professor Mutua challenged other members of the KIBU fraternity to emulate Ms. Sophie Waliaula who has left a trademark that will be remembered by many generations to come for selflessly donating such a huge number of trees to the university at such a crucial time when the nation is battling a major disaster COVID-19.



Meet Dr. Janet Nabiswa: The Musical Thespian and Scholar Behind KIBU Anthem

Interview by Agnetta Shilasi

In one of the offices in the Psychology Department at Kibabii University, we get to meet a scholar, a patriot and author of the Kibabii University Anthem. Dr Janet Nabiswa. In an interview with her, we bring you her full story.

Who is Dr. Nabiswa? Briefly tell us about your academic journey.

I am a typical Tachoni girl, born Mikuva Village in Bungoma County. I was brought up in a middle class family, my mother was a primary school teacher while my father was similarly a teacher and also a colonial chief.

I grew up in an environment where learning was not an option but mandatory. I got motivation from my father who had so many shelves of books. My father insisted on getting value of the school fees that was spent.

I started schooling in Mikuva Primary School in the 1975, I did my standard 7 CPE exams in the year 1983 I proceeded to Misikhu Girls. In 1987 I sat for my form four and merited for A-levels after which I joined Loreto Matunda. I later proceeded to Moi University and graduated with my first degree in 1994. I was immediately posted to Ribe Girls in Kilifi County where I taught for a couple of years. Then I was transferred to Busakali secondary school for a few months.



Later, I was posted to St. Theressas Girls Kimilili where I taught for 14 years and rose to the position of Principal. Also to mention Namunyiri Girls and Chebukwa secondary school. Enrolled for my Master's Degree in 2006 at Masinde Muliro University and graduated in 2011 followed by a PHD from Moi University in 2018.

How does your typical day look like?

Rest is key. I always ensure that I get enough rest. I start my day taking care of the house chores. I then spend a lot of time conducting my research.

How did you get into counselling and what is the most outstanding challenge you have ever faced as a counselor?

My passion for counselling dates back to my time as a high school teacher and also in the church. I offered counselling services to both students and parents. I discovered that parents require a lot of counselling to aid them understand the high school age group. Most parents live in denial regarding some situations that their children undergo such as drug abuse and adolescence. Furthermore, they always side with the children and by the time they realize that they were wrong, the clock will be out on them.

Currently, I am a Warden on campus and I handle a notable amount of cases. Sometimes as a counsellor, I face dilemma while handling some complicated cases. I am torn between involving a third party, i.e. the parents in the case or not.

All in all, I have enjoyed counselling, although it is not part of my formal responsibility at the university. However, through my psychology classes some of the students do reach out to me for counselling.

I feel happy when I put something right through my counselling skills even with couples out there. The gratitude that I receive always makes me feel good as people appreciate the impact of my skills.

From a counselor's or parent's or perspective, what would you advice parents and teenagers during the COVID-19 that resulted to the closure of learning institutions?

Parents need to have programs for their children. They need to take the lead and specify activities to the children. They should not fear hurting their children but rather give directions to them. Children, including the ones at university level, look up to their parents for guidance. Therefore, parent should never tire from giving directions to their children.

Give guidance then delegate roles for each child. Afterwards, let them account how they have spent the day through an informal family gathering. Once the children know that they will account to the family, there shall be minimal problems when left on their own.

I also advice parents not to spend much of their time away from their children, they need to create time for their families. If this sacrifice is not done, parents will have a hard time containing adults who were never natured or mentored to live within defined structures.

For the children, apart from following the directions from their parents, they should develop their personal goals and be self-driven. They can do a short course online or engage in income generating activities to alleviate the financial crisis that has hit most homes due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Know your Scholar



How do you juggle the multiple hats that you don? - A Lecturer, Counselor, Patron KIBU Choir, Chairperson of the Board of Management St. Andrew and Nzoia Sugar Girls and above all, a mother.

Growing up, I watched how my parents handled issues and I learnt from them. Having a program is essential. I plan my annual leave in a way that it falls at the time my children are at home. This gives me time with them to monitor them. I also delegate and empower my team at work so that they can handle any issue that arises even in my absence.

I plan my work, I prepare notes for my students in advance and give handouts for the whole semester at the beginning of a semester. I never find myself rushing to beat deadlines in my life because of the advanced planning that I put into my work.

As a mother, I always ensure that my spouse is always comfortable.

What interest and hobbies do you have at the workplace?

I am a singer and an also actress. I have acted since high school and I got an award as the best actress in Loreto Matunda. I also acted a lot in university, I was a member of Chama Cha Kiswahili Cha Moi and we participated in so multiple dramas. I have been a drama and choir trainer. I also write poems.

What inspired you to compose the KIBU anthem?

In 2013, when I came to Kibabii, I was transitioning from a high school to a University. I psyched myself that this was the best place since it was my first time to work in such an environment. I was amazed by the University's directional beacons: the mission and vision caught my attention. I then explored how I could put them in an artistic expression like a

song. One day I decided to write about my work place and I put it in a song, little did I know that it would be the Kibabii anthem. The Vice Chancellor approached me and requested that I do something for the institution. I presented the song to management with other competitors but mine outshone all and that's how it became the anthem. I did it because I wanted to move from the high school, appreciate, and express love to my new station through a song.

What are some of your current research interests?

I am researching on *Deviant Behavior* but I am very keen on organizational culture and how it can create or break someone's character in terms of personality or behavioral tendencies. I deviated from looking at deviance behavior of an individual to what could have been the constraints within an organization that could have caused the change in the individual.

I have also looked at rehabilitation in a community or society.

Given a chance to put out word to the entire Kibabii fraternity, what would it be?

Love your institution and you will want the best for the institution, protect it from any pitfalls and you will enjoy it.

I become a school head by the age of 38 years through hard work. Therefore, I encourage everyone, especially the young career professionals to work hard because when you do so, you will move through the ranks.

Having successfully taught Kiswahili and Geography in High School, I took up the challenge by enrolling for my Master's Degree in Psychology, which in turn put me on a path to my present work station, Kibabii University.



Understanding COVID-19 and Diabetes Relationship

By Amos Nyongesa

The loss of two prominent personalities in Kenya to COVID-19 has sent fears in all walks of life as the number of confirmed cases continue to surge in the country. This fear has been aggravated by the fact that both Dr. Adisa Lugaliki, an Obstetrician and Gynecologist as well as renown comedian Charles Bukeko popularly known as “Papa Shirandula” had a history of diabetes disease, that is according to their family. There is therefore a enough reason to exercise an extra level of caution for people suffering from diabetes to beat the deadly

virus. According to WHO, early studies are showing that about 25% of people who go to the hospital with severe COVID-19 infections had diabetes. Those with diabetes were more likely to have serious complications and to die from the virus. One reason is that high blood sugar weakens the immune system and makes it less able to fight off the infections. Type 1 or type 2 diabetes patients have a higher vulnerability to the virus as compared to others in the population.



Your risk of severe coronavirus infection is even higher if you also have another condition, like heart or lung disease.

If you do contract COVID-19, the infection could put you at greater risk for diabetic complications like diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). Diabetic ketoacidosis happens when high levels of acids called ketones build up in your blood. It can be very serious.

Some people who contract the new coronavirus have a dangerous body-wide response to it, called sepsis. To manage sepsis, Healthcare workers need to manage your body's fluid and electrolyte levels. DKA leads to lose of electrolytes, which can make sepsis harder to manage/ control.

Tips to Avoid Infection

The best way to avoid contracting the infection is to stay home as much as you can. Under the prevailing presidential directive and ministry of health guidelines people with diabetes have the right for reasonable accommodations at work. That includes the right to work from home or take sick leave when you need it.

Therefore, there are lower chances of getting infected with COVID-19 if you keep 1.5meter social distance from other people, maintaining good hygiene and keeping your blood sugar under control.

Also, always remember to wash your hands before you give yourself an insulin shot.

Clean each site first with soap and water or rubbing alcohol swab.

For the family to protect you, everyone in your house should wash their hands often, especially before they cook for the family. Don't share any utensils or other personal items. And if anyone in your house is sick, they should stay in their own room, as far as possible from you. They should wear a recommended face mask when you have to be in the same room.

COVID-19 Diabetes Plan

Social distancing and stay at home rules may make it harder to get the supplies you need. Stock up on enough goods to last you for several weeks, in case you get isolated/quarantined.

Make sure you have:

- Enough food, especially healthy carbohydrates found in fruits, grains, vegetables and milk products.
- Simple carbohydrates like honey, sugar-sweetened soda, fruit juice, or hard candies in case your blood sugar drops.
- The maximum number of refills you can get of your insulin and other medications
- Phone numbers for your doctors, nurses, nearest health facility and Health Insurance Company.



What to Do if You Get Sick

If you start feeling sick, stay home. Check your blood sugar more often than usual. COVID-19 can reduce your appetite and cause you to feed less, which could affect your blood glucose levels. You also need more fluids than usual when you're sick. Keep fluids/water close by, and drink it very often.

Some medicines bought over-the-counter to relieve virus symptoms like fever and cough can affect your blood glucose levels. Especially high doses of aspirin or ibuprofen can lower blood sugar levels. Many syrups for cough and cold are high in sugar, which can raise your blood sugar levels. Kindly before you take them, check with your personal healthcare provider.

Inform your personal healthcare provider if you've taken them and your blood sugars are out of control.

Call your personal healthcare provider if you get coronavirus like symptoms such as a dry cough, fever, or shortness of breath. Have your most recent blood sugar and ketone readings available to share with your healthcare provider.

Get medical help right away if you have:

- Moderate or large ketones
- DKA symptoms like tiredness, weakness, body aches, vomiting, or belly pain/ abdominal pain
- Severe shortness of breath

Comrade Undeterred by Effects of COVID-19

COVID-19 has brought the best in us, such is the story of Samuel Kahindi, a fourth-year student pursuing BSc IT. Besides books, Kahindi has turned to talent as a creative way of beating boredom and cash crunch occasioned by the global pandemic. He has ventured into designing, drawing and painting of logos. This is a challenge to his peers to borrow a leaf from his story in exploring their talents as they observe ministry of health COVID-19 containment protocols. In his words, "as we all anticipate of going back to school after a long period of compulsory holiday, let us realize our talents and work hard to achieve our future because the future belongs to us and it is in our hands."





OPEN

KIBU Students Speak on Proposed Phased Reopening of Universities

By Emmanuel Wamalwa

Universities in Kenya are set to initiate phased reopening from September while adhering to the directives established by Ministry of Health in a move to curb Covid-19 scourge that has paralyzed learning institutions.

On Tuesday, July 7, 2020 Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha gave the guidelines that would guide higher learning Institutions before reopening, hinting out that other Universities in the county had already embraced online studies and as so online graduation.

“All institutions allowed to reopen must comply with Covid-19 regulations or risk closure. All the decisions that we have made with the stakeholders regarding reopening of learning institutions may change as informed by reports from the Ministry of Health, prevailing circumstances and

increased knowledge of Covid-19,” Prof. Magoha said while addressing a press at Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD).

Kibabii University students have been left pondering on when they will resume learning, as they wait for official communications from the Vice Chancellor Prof Isaac Odeo Ipara.

On March 15, 2020 all Universities were directed to close by President Uhuru Kenyatta, who equally serves as the Chancellor of Kibabii University in a bid to cut links of spread amongst students.

While speaking to this author on phone, John Wekesa who is a finalist student in Kibabii University taking a degree in Education Arts (English and Literature) shared his opinion on the need for Kibabii University to reopen.

“I understand Universities ought to resume in September this year. I champion for resumption, as directives given by the Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe are strictly adhered to. We are now used to taking precautions as far as matters, use of face masks, frequent hand washing and social distance is concerned. On my end, I second the reopening of Kibabii University soonest,” Wekesa said.

Following the directives given by Prof. Magoha, Institutions are required to reduce physical contact by having fewer students in lecture halls or classes.

On a one on one interview with Joyce Wafula, a finalist student in the latter University says Kibabii University should pave way for all finalist students as the curve is being studied before ushering in other continuing students.

“We have to accept that things have changed in an irreversible way. The best way to accept changes is to be flexible. My opinion on this subject is that finalists should be given the first priority as the curve is carefully being studied before allowing other students join the team,” Wafula stated.

In a number of the Whatsapp groups ran by the bonafide students of Kibabii University, and where this author is a member in those groups, matters revolving around KIBU reopening dates has been a puzzle that is yet to be solved as portrayed below.

“When shall resume learning? Anyone please...”

“I have no clue about it but I have a strong feeling that our VC will give us the

directives...”

“I have friends in MMUST and UoE, they have hinted out to me that they have received notifications on their exact dates of resumption...”

“Home is boring; imagine I was counting months to graduate...”

“Can someone send me some notes? I want to start refreshing up...”

“We should just resume, the holiday has been too long than expect. What do you think guys?”

The above anonymous display is an instance of what has been reported in those group raising concerns on when the Institution will publicize official communication on resumption dates.

A spot check around the University shows preparations in top gear as it prepares for inspection and approval for reopening. Speaking to KIBU NewsWeek, the Officer in Charge of Public Health Mr. Wachira Njogu confirmed the measures put in in place.

“We are in the final stages of our preparations having installed foot-operated handwash dispensers with running water in all access routes to the University. We have also re-arranged and marked our classroom floor plans to conform to the 1.5 meters social distancing protocols. Further, we have designated special holding rooms to be used as temporary isolation wards. Plans are underway for fumigation of the whole university and its facilities among other measures. We believe we shall be ready for inspection in less than a week,” he said.

KIBU Alumni graduate from the Presidential Digital Talent Program (PDTP)

By Dennis Gichuki

On Wednesday 22nd July, 2020 Fifteen (15) of Kibabii University class of 2017 and 2018 Alumni graduated from the Presidential Digital Talent Program (PDTP). The graduation was held virtually with CS Joe Mucheru as the Chief guest among other dignitaries.

PDTP is a program run by ICT Authority, a parastatal in the Ministry of ICT, Innovation and youth affairs. It is a collaboration between the public and private sectors that takes fresh and qualified ICT graduates through an internship programme designed to build their ICT capabilities, ready for the ICT market.

The graduates owe their gratitude to Kibabii University for having trained and equipped them with skills that enabled them compete favourably and get selected to join the program. Kibabii university also takes pride, as one of its alumni has been serving as the President of the graduating Cohort.

The 15 are listed as follows;

SN	Name	Degree	Graduation Year
1	Dennis Onkeo	BSc. Computer Science	2018
2	Eric Kamunzyu	BSc. Computer Science	2018
3	Martin Simwelo	BSc. Computer Science	2017
4	Nicholas Ouma	BSc. Computer Science	2017
5	Peter Ali Obeto	BSc. Computer Science	2017
6	Pius Kitheru	BSc. Computer Science	2018
7	Toroitich C. Griffins	BSc. Computer Science	2018
8	Walter Ochieng Odhiambo	BSc. Computer Science	2018
9	Linda Wakhungu	BSc. Criminology / Criminal Justice	2017
10	Analyne Jeptoo	BSc. Information Technology	2017
11	Canicious Lagat	BSc. Information Technology	2017
12	David Kariuki	BSc. Information Technology	2018
13	James Kigwa	BSc. Information Technology	2017
14	Philip Kivilu	BSc. Information Technology	2017
15	Sinda Alexander Mwikwabe	BSc. Information Technology	2017



Photo: A group photo posed by the PDTP KIBU Team during induction at the Kenya School of Government (Kabete)

STEVEN KETER,
Journalism & Mass
Communication
(Class of 2018)
Technical operator and
Sports Journalist at NTV



Nostalgic Memories of Steven Keter; A Sports Journalist and Alumnus

May 2014, at around 6:00am, I'm sitting with my brother right below the administration block, he said the WiFi was strong there especially the morning hours, I didn't even know what WiFi was, so I still could not get why he had to wake me that early.

"Are you sure" ? He asked, looking me straight in the eyes, I could read uncertainty, disappointment and disapproval in his eyes. But I didn't care.

"Yes very sure, and if you want to pick another course be ready to do it." I said with finality, ofcourse in Swahili, English has never been our mode of communication.

He shook his head and pressed the "Enter" button. I smiled, partly because he gave in to my demands and secondly because I had defeated him in one of our little fights.

You see, He was okay with me joining him at Kibabii University, then...Kibabii University College, but he was against my choice of Journalism and Mass communication in Kibabii. He argued that it was a new course and we were going to be the first lot to do it. And probably the University was not prepared for it. But, I was ready to take my chances.

When I was admitted to the University early September...it took me just the first lecture me to congratulate myself for making probably the wisest choice of my life. Picking Journalism at Kibabii University.

The class was lively, lovely and entertaining, everybody seemed happy, infact you could be forgiven to think that someone had leaked the "laughing gas" in the lecture room. To me, this is the perfect environment I had been longing for, all my life.



From the look of things it seemed we were the proverbial birds of the same feathers, we easily connected and found common grounds and within no time, a family-like bond had already formed amongst us.

We started a publication named, '*The Third Eye*', publishing news within the campus locality, however it didn't last long due to financial and logistical challenges associated with publishing, owing to the fact that there were only a handful of smartphones and a single laptop in the whole class of around 40 people.

In the second semester of the first year, Dr. Ken Simiyu joined the University as full time lecturer, being the only permanent Journalism lecturer at the institution, he played a major role in guiding us on the right path. He was like our 'class teacher' literally.

In the second year, with the incoming of the second batch of journalists, we formed The Kibabii University Journalism Club and yours truly here was elected as the first chairperson.

As the first chairperson, I must admit things were not easy as I had imagined while campaigning. I wouldn't have given many promises... Anyway I had to do whatever was possible and manageable with available resource to ensure the presence of journalists is felt within the Kibabii Fraternity...And it was felt and it is still felt.

One thing with journalism as a course is that it's actually relatable with daily happening and most students easily find it enjoyable and so did I...I made it a routine to always watch news daily and read newspapers and the good thing with KIBU was that the all the daily publications were readily available in the Library. And that was helpful.

By third year the KIBU journalism community had grown and we were directly involved in the publication of the annual students magazines.

Somewhere in 2017, as a third year student, around April during the Career and Cultural week, an opportunity came knocking.

Dr. Robert Wafula, Director for Career Guidance at Kibabii, had managed to convince, Linus Kaikai, the then Managing Director at National Television (NTV), to be one of the guest speakers during the event. We definitely knew this is it. And we prepared for the day that would either make or break us.

On the D-day we gave a well-orchestrated though quickly rehearsed news presentation, complete with the news-room and news production protocols...it ended well and four of us were picked to join NTV for the elections coverage in August that year.



STEVEN KETER,
With NTV news Anchor
Salim Swalleh



STEVEN KETER,
At the Nation Media
Group Offices

On August 3rd 2017 I and other colleagues including Irene Sinoya, Fiona and John Macharia joined Nation Media for a 3-month internship.

Macharia and I were posted to Eldoret Bureau as Studio operators for the new studio that had just been opened, second largest from the main Nairobi studio. We gave it our best and when our time expired, we were recalled the following year.

I'm still a Technical operator at NTV but as a sports enthusiast I am, I also do sports reporting but I am not yet where I need to be.

I can't possibly list down all the friends across the board that made my life bearable in that institution, but the likes of Samwel Oyondi, Victoria, Philp, Mash, Musya, Amar, 'Nkaisery' ,Pharis...all the KIBU journalism community made part of my life.

If I was an employer or if I were in a position to give suggestions in the industry...I would definitely go for a Kibabii Journalism product. They're made up of a certain tough all-purpose material, exactly what is needed in the industry!

Entrepreneurial Alumnus Traces His Way Into the Comfort of our Living Room

After graduating, I immediately got a temporary Job with SkullLab Enterprise Ltd, where I served as record keeping person for goods in and out , which lasted for two months, after which I was employed on BOM terms at St. Teresa Boys High School Bikeke. “Mentor” which is an alias name I acquired in 2017 while I was a student at KIBU has now become my best identity to the entire public. To me, Kibabii University was a home away from home. The knowledge I acquired was enough to move the giant in me. That’s to climb the ladder to greatness. The university motto was enough to set me free from the mentality of “I can’t do this one, I learned about the other one” “Knowledge for Development” propelled me to have an open mind. Just like the rest of graduates, I did job seeking too. In the midst of our job search, COVID-19 came into place, and all schools were closed. The best that could work for me was to think of *Jua Kali* Industry. I joined Construction Company where I was lucky working as a masonry since I had little knowledge about.



DENNIS WEKESA,
Class of 2019, Faculty of
Education and Social
sciences.

Entrepreneurial Alumnus Traces His Way Into the Comfort of our Living Room

Together with my friends, we worked for a while as “watu wa mkono” in a few projects at St. Patrick’s High School, construction of personal houses, hospitals, painting, wall decoration, and wall writing. Seeing how tedious that work was, and considering its seasonal nature, another brilliant idea came into place. With the little coins I had saved, I started EdenCa Furniture, a workshop that I invited my elder brother Edwin who is also a teacher of Mathematics and Physics BOM to be a shareholder together with Catherine Neema a 2nd year student Kibabii University, SOBE who came in as EdenCa Furniture Business Advisor. The sector is flourishing well and I have had several customers admiring to invest in our products. Alongside carpentry work, I have been active in electrical wiring, the knowledge I acquired while at Kibabii University. I did also more research on two-way switch circuit, three way and currently working on Remote control of Lightning system. I also did some YouTube video lessons on Mats making and that’s what have been doing after busy day in EdenCa Furniture. Before I surrender to bed at least I make one which fetches about 1000/= in the local Market. I can’t count the University knowledge I acquired to be a waste. My mind was open to think beyond horizon. I have shared a lot of secrets to success using my Mentor Dennis Facebook page and Account.

I have a plan that in five years’ time, EdenCa would be fully registered and would have created employment for At least 500 people. More so would be glad to have done my Master’s degree and PhD in Quantum mechanics. As I conclude, I would like to encourage young people that with little knowledge they have about anything, the best way is to keep on trying, hands-on work improves one’s creativity and opens minds for best opportunities to venture in.

Photos: (Top): Dennis busy running chores at his workshop.

Alongside: Some of the complete products





“Let this be the Year of Exercising Academic Freedom”

**-Prof. Isaac Ipara Odeo
Vice Chancellor**

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