# University Fundamental Statements

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<td>Kenyatta University is a community of scholars committed to the generation and dissemination of knowledge and cultivation of wisdom for the welfare of society.</td>
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Editorial

This is the third issue of the Kenyatta University Research, Innovation and Outreach publication – The Research and Innovation News! This bi-annual publication continues to highlight the efforts and achievements by the Kenyatta University Management Board, members of faculty, students as well as key stakeholders. It is an effort to showcase the quality of research and the pride that Kenyatta University has in its colleagues’ and students’ accomplishments. The publication covers a wide range of research activities and stories including but not limited to funded research and development programs, scholarly publications, dissemination of research findings and community engagements, incubations and innovations and visiting scholars.

We congratulate all of you for your support, efforts and achievements which are true to the Vision and Mission of Kenyatta University. We remain open to any suggestions and look forward to active participation by scholars, researchers, students and other stakeholders to make this publication an exciting experience.

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Prof. Vincent Onywera,  
PhD, ISAK 2  
Registrar Research, Innovation and Outreach and  
Editor-In-Chief
Kenya University continues to maintain a robust research structure and ecosystem whose outcome can be seen in terms of increased research productivity, excellence and impact. Through its directorates, the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach continues to support both faculty and students in main and safelighter campuses by organizing capacity building workshops and sensitization seminars on research, innovation and outreach. These efforts aim at enhancing the competitiveness of individual and corporate research proposals to various funding agencies, the quality of our scientific writing and encourage engagement in dissemination and uptake activities especially and the community level.

Additionally, the operationalization of the research and innovation policy has provided a clear guide on the university’s research agenda, maintaining high levels of professionalism and integrity and unifying all our research activities. I urge the university community to continue supporting the Division and the University at large as we all work hand in hand in making a permanent mark in the world through our research.

I am pleased that the University continues to explore various collaborative efforts which have seen an increase in the number of collaborative grants won by our faculty members. Our network of visiting scholars has expanded allowing our faculty to benefit from the knowledge and expertise the visitors bring as well as share theirs while abroad. In this issue we have highlighted a number of those grants as well as the visiting scholars.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Prof. Frederick Q. Gravenir
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Research, Innovation and Outreach
Injecting a Regional and Global Booster in Medical Students’ Training

Kenyatta University through the School of Medicine has partnered with the ECFMG funded African Regional Global Educational Exchanges in Medicine and Health Professions (GEMx) programme, whose aim is to promote global exposure of health professional training through student elective exchange opportunities in undergraduate medical education worldwide.

Kenyatta University is part of the AFREHEALTH Networks with GEMx partners which has eight other Universities in Africa participating namely: Makerere University (Uganda), University of Kwa Zulu Natal (UKZN), University of Zambia, Kwame Nkurumah University of Science and Technology, Kampala International University Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and University of Zimbabwe.

After being selected through a competitive process, students take their four week elective term training in a participating university of their choice and in an area of their interest. Successful applicants are given grant funds which are used solely to help defray costs associated with travel, housing, living expenses.

Nancy Binsari(R) and Tendwa George(L) with Dr. Naidoo(C) at UKZN, South Africa
Some of the 5th Year KU medical students that have successfully completed the regional elective term training include: Charles Munene (Makerere University-Cardiology & Cardiothoracic Surgery-August, 2017 (MaKCH)); Janet Jescah (Makerere University-Cardiology & Cardiothoracic Surgery-August, 2017); George Tendwa (Kwa Zulu Natal- Family Medicine-September, 2017), Nancy Binsari (Kwa Zulu Natal- Family Medicine-September, 2017).

In turn, Kenyatta University successfully hosted three (3) Medical students from Makerere University from 3rd July, 2017 for a period of 4 weeks. They included: Barigye Aston (Paediatrics and Child Health); Namingira Simon Peter (Obstetrics and Gynaecology); Wasukira Bugosera Sulaiman (Paediatrics and Child Health). They were supervised and mentored by KU faculty and consultants from Mater Hospital.

The programme’s success story has encouraged the School of Medicine to apply for membership in the Global GEMx programme which has formally been accepted. KU’s medical students now have an opportunity to take their elective term in any of participating universities worldwide.

https://www.gemxelectives.org/
info@gemxelectives.org
Kenyatta University celebrates Dr. Joan Murugi Njagi of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health for winning an NRF Multidisciplinary Grant. Her project, entitled ‘Determination of Levels of Ionizing Radiation in Human Habitat, Water and Food: a Potential Cause of the Rising Cancer Incidences in Kenya’ takes cognizance of the rising cancer incidences and seeks to evaluate whether Kenyans could be exposing themselves to higher levels of ionizing radiations emanating from their environment, food and water.

The project notes that most permanent buildings in Kenya are constructed using underground stones mined from embedded rocks, yet the country is not adequately radio-profiled to determine whether the rocks used for building contain radioactive particles that emit ionizing radiations capable of causing cellular mutation. The project points to the concerns that when it rains these radioactive particles often find their way to water bodies whereas others form part of the soil. Overall, the project postulates that by living in stone houses that are not radio-profiled, drinking water from natural sources and ingesting foods of unknown radiation levels especially tuber crops which tend to accumulate heavy metals, Kenyans risk exposure to carcinogenic levels of ionizing radiation.

‘...by living in stone houses that are not radio-profiled, drinking water from natural sources and ingesting foods of unknown radiation levels especially tuber crops which tend to accumulate heavy metals, Kenyans risk exposure to carcinogenic levels of ionizing radiation.’
As such, this Project takes a preventive perspective to cancer management by seeking to determine indoor background ionizing radiation in premises intended for human habitation and key quarries in 10 towns in Kenya. Further, the study will determine the radiation levels in 35 water bodies, soils from key agricultural zones and 5 selected tuber crops.

This project will also undertake geospatial mapping, create awareness on the potential risk of exposure to radiation as well as evaluating interventions for minimizing exposure to radiation. The project brings together professionals from six institutions (Kenyatta University, Kenya Medical Association, University of Nairobi, Radiation Protection Board, Kenya Bureau of Standard and Radiation Watch International Ltd) with expertise cutting across several disciplines including Occupational health, Healthcare policy, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Medico-Radiation, civil Engineering, Environment impact assessment.

The findings of this study will play a critical role in formulating policies on the need for radio-certification and regular surveillance of human habitat prior and during occupancy. The resulting interventions could be adopted by regulatory agencies such as NEMA and Radiation Protection Board to minimize continuous exposure to background radiation thereby reducing radiation related diseases including cancers.

Kingstone and Seven stone quarries in Juja where stones are cut using machines, and where the assessment of radiation levels will be conducted

Research by:
Dr. Joan M. Njagi
Department of Environmental & Occupational Health

Funded by:
National Research Fund, Kenya
Prof. H. O. Ayot and Prof. S. R. Ondigi of Institute of Teacher Professional Development have been undertaking a research project funded by the Aga Khan Foundation titled ‘Strengthening Education Systems in East Africa: mentoring for teacher development in pre-primary and primary education’ the research’s target is to use research evidence to design, implement and evaluate an evidence-based teacher mentoring intervention, generate theory concerning the interplay of culture, context and teacher mentoring as well as build local capacity for teacher mentoring.

So far, the study has revealed that mentoring in general promoted professional growth and development of both the mentors and mentees. It also brought to fore gender and ethnicity issues that may influence the mentoring process and also helped head teachers of schools to communicate effectively with the members of staff and hence improve the performance of the schools. It is expected that the project’s impact will be mainly felt by the mentors and mentees evidenced by improved ability to plan and prepare lessons, improved pedagogy in various aspects such as creativity, learning strategies and classroom management.
Growing Young Scientists

Prof. Judith Kimiywe of the department of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics a modern day champion of proper nutrition practices has been advocating through her extensive research the need for proper support systems to enhance food security and healthy lifestyles across all age groups. She continues to consult for various international and UN agencies on policy informing programs that have had a significant contribution in providing sustainable mitigation strategies against hunger, malnutrition and poverty not only in Kenya but also across the globe. Her work has given her global recognition and has enabled her build extensive networks that benefit a lot of individuals more so her students, who she is very keen to mentor and is optimistic, will take over the mantle.

Prof. Kimiywe’s has put two of her students Angela Theuri and Collins Ogutu through an internship programme with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the students share their experience:

“It has been two months and a few days since we began our internship. Going to such a large and well established organization sparked various emotions including anxiety. We were especially in wonder of what our work would entail having gone through a very elaborate recruitment process; we did not expect anything short of a strict working environment.

Contrary to our expectations, we were met with genuine warmness and were introduced to staff from different departments. To begin with, we met Head of Nutrition Unit, Mrs. Angela Kimani, who welcomed us and took us through the work that FAO and in particular the nutrition unit is involved in, she also highlighted the ongoing projects that we would be a part of. The first week majorly involved acclimatization with the FAO policies, goals and projects in the field; we were issued with articles and books to read through as well as a huge platform of eLearning resources which had courses that include: Designing Nutrition Sensitive Interventions; and Agreeing on the Causes of Malnutrition.

We had an opportunity to attend KE-FCT team meeting. The meeting’s agenda included way forward on identifying the recipe cooking participants. In attendance was a representation from Ministry of Health, FAO and the lead consultant. This opportunity enabled us to participate in the final stages of the planning process and meet senior government officials in the Ministry of Health, Division of Nutrition.

‘Going to such a large and well established organization sparked various emotions including anxiety. We were especially in wonder of what our work would entail having gone through a very elaborate recruitment process; we did not expect anything short of a strict working environment.’
On the fourth week, we began the recipe cooking exercise and documentation. We got the opportunity to learn what different communities cook and the reasons as to why they eat or not eat certain foods. We also learnt of events and occasions that some foods are associated with and a brief history of how food has evolved over the years. It was an activity rich of cultural exchanges and learning experiences for both the community participants and us. We were able to relate the prevalence of various nutrition conditions with some of the foods that are predominant to particular communities. Some communities also consume foods that are nutrient dense which is a contributing factor to their associated nutrition status.

On 31st October, we accompanied one of the FAO nutritionists to a stakeholder planning meeting at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization. The meeting was a consultative meeting to help plan for a coming field visit to Kalobeyei. We observed how FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture works together to build the capacity of both the refugees and host communities to be self-reliant and produce agricultural products for sale in nearby markets. Among the thematic areas of interest to achieve the goal of self-reliance and development were food handling, processing and preservation, nutrition and food systems, and meal preparation.

The Kalobeyei project involves training people from mostly the target population on basic nutrition, influence of agriculture and food systems on nutrition as well as food preparation, handling and preservation. The other project is a Telefood project that includes solar drying. It involves training Trainers of Farmers who will later cascade further training. Both projects will emphasize on recipe development and value addition.

The meeting’s agenda included consulting with the ministry of agriculture on trainings schedule, itinerary and training content. FAO finds it effective working with the ministry of Agriculture as they are more inclined to nutrition sensitive nutrition. The merit of involving the government is that there is a high chance of success and sustainability if and when the national government and county government are involved.

Collins is currently in the shortlisting process for a conference that will be held in South Africa. The conference is organized by the FAO to increase the awareness of the organization’s work in South Africa. The specific objective is to encourage the participation of University students, graduates and recently graduated students to take part in the Global Internship, Fellows and UN volunteer programmes. This has been organized in a backdrop of zero enrollment into these programmes in South Africa. Featuring in the presentations and seminar proceedings will be Interns and beneficiaries of the programmes to showcase and discuss the benefits of the programmes. In attendance will be key stakeholders from the universities, government stakeholders and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization.

This opportunity is not only fulfilling our objectives and expectations as young nutritionists, but it is opening our mindset to learning as we gain experience.
Mentoring Junior Scholars into Research: A Case of the Department of Early Childhood Studies
Mentoring is fundamental to ensure that junior scholars develop skills and eventually make important contributions in research. Mentoring plays an important role in supporting the early career development of mentees, into research. However, it takes a range of skills developed over time to effectively guide someone towards a successful career path in research. Mentors therefore can serve as a coach, career counsellor, champion and critic. Junior scholars on their part can invest their time by establishing strong mentoring relationships with various senior scholars to gain multiple perspectives and different skills and expertise.

In the past one year, nineteen junior scholars from the Department of Early Childhood Studies have had an opportunity to participate in various research projects including a study funded by the Vice Chancellor’s research grant 2015/2016 focusing on the safety and security of children in preschools in informal settlements in Nairobi City County. The second study was funded by Feed the Children focusing on the status of preschool children’s numeracy and literacy skills in Kajiado County. Junior scholars were involved in various processes of research including, inducting them into research methods and electronic data collection procedures applied in the two studies, pretesting and validating data collection tools, transcribing, coding and analyzing qualitative data and report writing. They were also involved in disseminating research findings to stakeholders.

Involving junior scholars especially those undertaking their PhD and Masters program gave them an opportunity to have hands on experience in research. Dr. Teresa Mwoma of Department of Early Childhood Studies was the Principal Investigator for the two studies.
Dr. Richard Oduor from the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, School of Pure and Applied Sciences was among 52 other African Scientist recently celebrated for advancing the continent and the world through science and technology. This recognition was the first of this kind, and was organized by the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa through its inaugural publication entitled ‘Science in Africa’. This annual publication is aimed at recognizing individuals for their outstanding contribution as African researchers in 2017.

Dr. Oduor, who is also the Chair for Kenya University Biotechnology Consortium was specifically recognized for his research towards the development of drought tolerant crops through modern biotechnology as well as his efforts to create awareness on genetically improved crops in Kenya and beyond. Through such recognitions, the Department of Science and Technology commits to implement Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa and Agenda 63 and hopes that many more potential scientists will follow such footsteps.
Working towards Attaining SDG 4 & 5: Perspective Drawn from Kenya and French Pre-Service Teacher-Training Colleges

SDG 4 & 5

Following the Education for All Goal of 1990 which was subsequently reaffirmed in Dakar in 2000, countries everywhere and especially in sub-Saharan Africa were remarkably successful in attracting many more children into schools. However, the same cannot be said about the quality of the education that the old and new entrants into education systems were receiving; and gender inequalities among others were notable. Understandably therefore, the two issues of education quality and gender equality received particular focus in the 2015 sustainable development goals as Goal 4 – to achieve inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and Goal 5 – to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Cognisant of the huge challenge these two goals pose for education systems in both developed and developing countries, and the key role of teachers and teacher education in the attainment of these two goals, Kenyatta University and Université Paris-Est Créteil in France researchers have come together to look into how teachers in these two countries are trained to develop gender equality practices.

Key activities of the collaboration include: analysis of education policies and curricula with special focus on teacher education and gender; in depth observations of teacher training classes and interviews of teacher trainers and trainees; research seminars; and joint publications. It is expected that this exploratory work will lead to the development of a joint research proposal for an expanded research project on issues of education quality and gender equity in teacher education.

Launched in November/December at the Université Paris-Est Créteil in France the project will run for two years and will involve exchange visits of the two countries by the researchers. The project is funded through the PAMOJA PHC bilateral scientific cooperation agreement signed between Kenya and France.

The Kenyan team is lead by Prof. Grace Bunyi and comprises of Ms. Lillia Boit, and Drs Mukirae Njihia, Charles Magoma, and Hellen Kiende of the Department of Education Management, Policy and Curriculum Studies; while the French team is led by Prof. Couchot-Schiex Sigolène and comprises of Drs. Nyambeck Francine, Pasquier Gaël and Pelini Eunice.

Prof. Grace Bunyi
Department of Education Management, Policy and Curriculum Studies;
kenya, like many other African nations, is experiencing rapid physical activity and nutrition transitions. Although technologies such as computers, the internet, satellite TV, and cell phones took decades to permeate North American and European societies, all of these ‘electronic age’ items are becoming available very quickly in Kenya. These transitions are leading to a serious public health crisis related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). In addition, the capacity, skill and strategy to adequately meet the requirements for quality education that can address the current health challenges posed by NCDs have made it difficult for any single institution to be absolutely self-sufficient in meeting all requirements.

International collaborations such as the KENFIN-EDURA is working at providing a means to address various challenges related to NCDs by providing an opportunity for researchers from Kenyatta University, APHRC (Kenya) and University of Helsinki, Haaga Helia University (Finland) in order to:

- Build capacity thus strengthening the role and relevance of our institutions in societal development especially in the backdrop of the physical activity and nutrition transition.
- Share expertise and information with the aim of improving quality of higher education and the research environment, in particular regarding health promotion and healthy lifestyles.
- Share best practices with goal of enhancing systems and capacity to support quality of teaching and research in our institutions.

The project is well on course and recently had a project meeting held at KU to map on capacity building activities, study programme design, pedagogical tools in teaching and also practical health among other project activities.
Research skills and Competencies among Faculty gets a Boost.

In the current academic year the Directorate of Research Support launched the long planned training events to strengthen the research capacity and competencies of KU staff. The training, which was launched in two separate modules targeting Grant proposal writing skills and Data handling using STATA program, was preceded by a needs assessment activity to identify research skills gaps amongst KU staff.

To ensure a high level of excellence, the university management provided substantial financial resources to engage external experts to facilitate the STATA software training, while the grant writing training was done by accomplished researchers amongst KU faculty. STATA was identified as the program of choice due to its suitability for use in both STEM and social science research and its superior analytical power that enables users to organize and manage data, analyse and produce graphical visualizations for more reporting.

KU management has also approved a budget to procure an initial batch of at least 50 licenses of the STATA software for installation in different schools and campuses. While the STATA module was conducted over a one week period, the grants writing module was structured to take two days.

The objectives of the training is to ensure participants understand the key steps in the research cycle and are equipped with skills to plan research, collect high quality data and analysis. The trainees represented the different schools at KU and directorates with fund raising mandates, e.g. KU foundation and Directorate of Disability Services. Another module will be introduced to improve project management skills for established researchers.

Through the Directorate of Research Support, the RIO Division intends to sustain the training until majority of the teaching staff in the different schools and campuses have acquired the necessary research skills.

Data Analysis and Statistical Software for Professionals. Stata is a complete, integrated statistics package that provides everything you need for data analysis, data management, and graphics.
Kenyatta University Hosts Inaugural Biomedical Engineering Summer School

The School of Engineering through the UBORA Open Biomedical Engineering Initiative held the 1st Design Summer School at the Kenyatta University Conference Center in November. The EU funded UBORA project is working at creating an e-Infrastructure, an open source co-design of new solutions to face the current and future healthcare challenges of Europe and Africa, by exploiting networking, knowledge on rapid prototyping of new ideas and sharing of safety criteria and performance data.

The Summer School that is under the stewardship of Dr. June Madete from the department of Electrical and Electrics Engineering introduces this new approach.

Through the UBORA e-infrastructure, it is expected that the biomedical community will generate, exchange, improve and implement creative ideas in biomedical engineering underpinned by a solid safety assessment framework. UBORA couples the open design philosophy with Europe’s leadership in quality control and safety assurance, guaranteeing better health and new opportunities for growth and innovation throughout the planet.

Students will basically be taken through the design process of medical devices and compliance to relevant standards by attending specific classes, workshops and lectures from outstanding speakers who highlighted the role of biomedical engineering in the context of global health and future research directions.
Kenyatta University joined other institutions globally to celebrate the annual GIS day on the 15th November 2017. The international event provides a forum where users of geographic information systems (GIS) technology demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference to society. The recurring global theme of the GIS Day is “Discovering the World through GIS”.

Kenya University joined other institutions globally to celebrate the annual GIS day on the 15th November 2017. The international event provides a forum where users of geographic information systems (GIS) technology demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference to society. The recurring global theme of the GIS Day is “Discovering the World through GIS”.

This year’s rallying call at KU was “We Map It. Do you?” The event attracted students and staff from various institutions of higher learning in the country was co-organized by KU Esri Eastern Africa and the University of Nairobi. Among institutions presented included Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Technical University of Kenya (TUK), University of Nairobi (UoN), University of Eldoret, and Maseno University. Leading organizations and corporate companies in the Geo-Spatial industry in the region demonstrated real life working solutions where spatial tools were used to solve a problem.

The Geo-Spatial industry organizations present that made presentations included Esri Eastern Africa, the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Geomap, International Centre for Research in Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Ramani, World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Oakar Services Limited and Synod.

In the opening speech of the Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University, Prof. Paul K. Wainaina delivered on his behalf by the Dean School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Chris Shisanya, the VC was delighted to note the steady uptake of GIS as a tool in education and research. The Vice Chancellor acknowledged the power of GIS in making positive difference in the society. He appreciated the efforts being put in place to ensure that the GIS knowledge uptake is sustained in the University and that the University was commitment to setting up a GIS center to provide a platform for research, knowledge transfer and innovation.
KU Ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} for Volume of Research and Education Network Traffic

Certificate of Recognition
Awarded To
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
For Being
The Second Ranked Institution in Terms of Volume of Research and Education Network Traffic in Gigabytes (October 2016-September 2017)

Signed:
Prof. Michael Wainaina
Executive Director, KENYA Education Network

Date: 26.12.2017
Research Journey
In keeping with the core tenets of the Kenyatta University vision, research among faculty continues to experience growth in leaps and bounds. Further, the recent establishment of more schools within the University structure has allowed research to take center stage through innovation and ultimately dissemination. The following is a graphical presentation of some of the schools and how their ‘research journey’ in terms of number of publications and conferences attended has come along.
Following the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme Call for Proposal, Prof. Chris Shisanya of Department of Geography is part of the 6 team research consortia that has received 2 year funding to the tune of Euros 1,379,550 from the European Union under the project titled; African Trans-Regional Cooperation through Academic Mobility (ACADEMY).

The Consortia, composed of six higher education institutions (HEIs) from four different regions in Africa, and technical support from the University of Porto (Portugal), seeks to address several challenges facing the continent related to rapid increase in the number of students, a need for improving the quality of higher education, shortage in job creation and brain drain, gender equality, environmental sustainability and poverty.

The overall objective of ACADEMY is to contribute in promoting cross-regional continental integration, sustainable and inclusive development. More specifically, it intends to create an open Platform as a key instrument for innovation, knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practices within the participating institutions. It will focus on the implementation of a common inter-regional digital platform between the participating universities, encouraging the creation and sustenance of Communities of Practice by students, teachers, and administrative staff that interact regularly. It also aims at improving both the capacity of the participating HEIs and beneficiaries’ competences.

Among the expected benefits are reinforced inter-institutional cooperation; peer learning and transfer of innovative practices; creation of new academic networks such as ACADEMY-NET; improved gender balance and equity in access to internationalization opportunities and increased visibility of partner institutions.
Prof. Frederick. Q. Gravenir

The AHEAD project is a partnership between 4 HEIs in Europe (Romania, Poland, UK, Italy), 1 SME from Bulgaria, 5 HEIs from Kenya (Kenyatta University, Kibabii University, Catholic University of East Africa, Kisii University & Mt. Kenya University) 2 HEIs from Tanzania and 3 HEIs from Uganda.

Prof. F. Q. Gravenir of the Department of Education Management, Policy and Curriculum Studies will lead a 5 member KU team involved in an international collaborative project titled: African Higher Education Leadership in Advancing Inclusive Innovation for Development (AHEAD) awarded Euro 706,326 by the European Union under the Erasmus programme. The other members of the team are Prof. Vincent Onywera, Dr. George Kosimbei, Dr. Onesmus Thuo and Ms. Salima Kiriago.

The AHEAD project is a partnership between 4 HEIs in Europe (Romania, Poland, UK, and Italy), 1 SME from Bulgaria, 5 African HEIs (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda). The project will seek to enhance the management, governance, teaching, research and evaluation capacities of partner country HEIs with a view of enabling them to implement the knowledge triangle and better integrate their research, education and innovative functions in support of innovation for sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The 3-year project will undertake analysis of national innovation systems and institutional innovation capacities; develop learning materials in innovation management and inclusive innovation; improve the good-practice and evidence base for delivering (social) entrepreneurship education; establish innovation for development hub encouraging local and regional development and stakeholder co-creation in innovation.
KU Successful in 2 SPHEIR Awarded Projects

Kenyatta University is involved in two of the 9 projects funded under Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) programme. SPHEIR is a grant scheme established by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to support programs that catalyse innovative ‘partnerships’ in low-income countries (LICs) to improve the performance, governance and influence of higher education systems and institutions. The projects include:

**Project 1: Transformation of Pharmacy and Chemistry Degree Provision**

Transformation of Pharmacy and Chemistry Degree Provision expected to run for 4 years will seek to work with Kenyan academics to engage employers and alumni from the healthcare, chemical and pharmaceutical industries to reinvigorate chemistry and pharmacy higher education courses and better link learning outcomes with population needs. The project will work to develop new set of institutional policies and practices that will deliver innovation and transformed professional education within Kenyan universities. It will embed this learning in a new culture that will be able to flourish within institutions beyond the project life cycle. Further, University leaders will be introduced to a more efficient and effective approach to education delivery, whilst strong engagement with public and private stakeholders will help to attract future investment, ensuring interventions are sustainable from within the Kenya Higher Education system.

The partnership aims to: create a globally competitive and adaptive chemistry and pharmacy workforce to meet the requirements of a rapidly industrialising Kenyan economy; enhance collaboration between industry and education with an emphasis on chemistry and pharmacy courses; link learning outcomes and wider impact at the individual, institutional, systemic and national levels and develop diagnostic models and benchmarking tools for developing academic capacity in pharmacy and chemistry.

The project objects will be attained by; providing work placements that will increase skills and employability of graduates; increasing the capability of academic staff and developing new needs based pharmacy and chemistry curricula in Kenya that will address shortages of specific skills in the pharmacy and chemistry workforces.

Lead partner: University of Nottingham (UK)

Partners: Nairobi University (Kenya), Kenyatta University (Kenya), Maasai Mara University (Kenya), Maseno University (Kenya), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (Kenya), International Pharmaceutical Federation (Netherlands), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (Kenya) and GlaxoSmithKline plc (UK).

Dr. Evans Changamu Ogwagwa, Department of Chemistry
Project 2: Partnership for Enhanced and Blended Learning (PEBL)

PEBL expected to run for 4 years will seek to address the critical academic staff shortages many East African universities are currently facing. It will enable universities to share teaching resources through quality assured, credit-bearing degree courses, delivered through blended learning. Participating East African universities will be able to expand the range of courses offered to students enrolled on taught undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes, and ease the teaching burden placed on their staff.

Quality assured courses, taught by academics from other institutions in the region, will provide students with online teaching, combined with in-person tutoring and assessment, resulting in degree credits from their own university. To ensure the courses offered through PEBL are high quality, the project will also grow the educational development capacity of its partner universities. It will do this by building a solid base of expertise amongst academic staff in the use of effective blended learning pedagogies, and focusing on developing students’ soft skills.

PEBL ultimate goal is to enhance teaching quality, student outcomes, and graduate employability, helping to ensure that students graduate from East African universities with the relevant skills and knowledge needed for the workplace in a dynamic and changing economic climate.

Lead partner: The Association of Commonwealth Universities (UK)

Partners: Commission for University Education (Kenya), Commonwealth of Learning (Canada), Kenyatta University (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda), Open University of Tanzania, State University of Zanzibar (Tanzania), Staff and Educational Development Association (UK), Strathmore University (Kenya), University of Edinburgh (UK), and the University of Rwanda.

Dr. George Onyango
Dean, Digital School of Virtual and Open Learning
The British Academy Early Child Development Award

The British Academy Early Child Development Award has funded to a tune of £349,289 a project titled: Testing the Feasibility of Incorporating Support for Early Childhood Development (ECD) into the Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCI) in Kenya. The project which will employ a multidisciplinary approach will incorporate teams from Loughborough University, UK, (Lead Institution) African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) and Kenyatta University represented by Prof. Judith Kimiywe of Department of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics and Dr. Teresa Mwoma, Department of Early Childhood Studies.

BFCI was first implemented in Kenya in 2002 administered by the National Academy of Sciences together with other partners, the project entailed promotion of optimal maternal, infant and young children nutrition practices at the community level, the project realized considerable milestones including policy formulation at the national level as the government has prioritized the BFCI for its potential to strike to the heart of SDGs 2 (end hunger) and 3 (ensure healthy lives). The new project seeks to investigate feasibility of incorporating parental support for Early Childhood Development into the BFCI.

The projects objects entail: better understand user, stakeholder & service provider needs for incorporating parental support for ECD through the BFCI; evaluate the potential impact of the BFCI pilot randomized control trial intervention on ECD cognitive, physical, & social-emotional outcomes; engage users & stakeholders with existing ECD materials (e.g. UNICEF/WHO CFD package) to establish if there is a need to adapt message delivery & to provide culturally relevant examples to refer to; test the applicability of a tool for assessing & monitoring counselling & ECD outcomes in the BFCI; and co-produce with stakeholders a sustainable plan for incorporating parental support and care for development (CFD) into further BFCI delivery.

The expected project outputs include; policy briefs, 2 academic papers in high quality journals, sustained communication with stakeholders, comprehensive website content, development of networks with other British Academy ECD projects.
Dr. Julius Gathogo of the department of Philosophy and Religious Studies has been awarded 3 small grants totaling to USD 12,000 to facilitate his research activities which included; research on 40 Years of Theological and Practical Education at St Andrew’s College, Kabare (1977-2017); research on the Mau Mau rituals in Kirinyaga County (1952-60) with funding from St. Alcuin House Seminary, Minnesota, USA where he also serves as an Academic Preceptor and travel grant from Research Institute for Theology and Religion, UNISA, to attend a conference in Pretoria on the “Legacies of Albert Schweitzer considered” 1875 – 1965. He further awaits the renewal of a 3 year contract as a research fellow with UNISA this follows the expiry of his recent contract that he took up in 2014.

Dr. Cecilia N. Mwangi of the department of Educational Psychology was a beneficiary of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Early Career Academic Grant, 2017. The annual grant is designed to support early careers professionals working at ACU member institutions by enabling them to participate in a conference held in a commonwealth country other than their own. The Grant facilitated Dr. Mwangi’s participation at the 26th International Conference on Teaching, Education, and Learning (ICTEL) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore where she presented a paper titled: “Relationship between Type of School, Academic Resilience and Academic Achievement among Secondary School Students in Kiambu County, Kenya”.

Dr. Lucy Maina of the Department of Sociology has alongside others won the Newton Fund Institutional Links grant whose call was in April 2017. The research titled Health and well-being of older persons in Kenya: Tackling data gaps and needs focuses on developing a research framework for routine generation of evidence on the health and wellbeing of the elderly in Kenya to provide baseline data for future research.

The project is a partnership between the University of Southampton-UK through the Centre for Research on Ageing, Kenyatta University together with the Ministry of EAC, Labour and Social Protection (Kenya) as a core partner. The research will aim to develop and validate a research tool to assess the health and wellbeing of older people in Kenya; examine the disease and disability burden among older people in Kenya; Identify strategies that will enhance the health, psycho-social and general wellbeing of old people and strengthen the research capacity of the collaborating institutions through designing a policy-focused study and production of research outputs for use in policy and interventions in the area of older persons’ health and well-being.
The 2017 Vice Chancellor’s Research Grant and the newly introduced Innovative grant awarded 26 research projects under the 2016/2017 call for proposals. The call focused on 7 thematic areas namely:

- Agriculture & Food Security
- Health and Wellbeing
- Security and Peace,
- Science Technology & Engineering
- Entrepreneurship & Poverty Eradication
- Quality Education
- Natural Resources

Over 47 proposals were submitted for consideration, the proposals were taken through a rigorous screening process that included blind peer review by three independent reviewers from within and outside of Kenyatta University. The recommended proposals were forwarded to the University Management Board through the University Research Advisory Board (URAB) for consideration the successful projects included:

**Agriculture and Food Security**

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<th>Project Description</th>
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<td>Dr. Monica Murcheru – Muna</td>
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<td>The Impact of Gender Shift in Cultivation of Food Crops along Highlands Floodplains on Livelihoods in Kiambu County</td>
<td>Dr. Florence Muthoni Mainah</td>
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<td>On Farm Management of Biochar, Fertilizer and Water to Increase Productivity, Soil Carbon Content and Mitigate Eutrophication and Greenhouse Gas Emission from Intensive Rice-Fish Systems</td>
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<td>Assessment of Productivity and Profitability in Smallholder Dairy Goat Systems in Kiambu County Kenya</td>
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<td>Assessing Changes in Agricultural Land Use and their Implications on Food Production in Kiambu County, Kenya</td>
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<td>Dr. Mathew Piero Ngugi -</td>
<td>Department of Biochemistry &amp; Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Striga Resistant Sorghum for Small Holders Farmers</td>
<td>Dr. Steve Runo</td>
<td>Department of Biochemistry &amp; Biotechnology</td>
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<td>Health and Well Being</td>
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<td>Identification of Human Foot Bacterial Profile Responsible for Production of Constituents that Modulate Level of Attraction of Malaria Vector Anopheles Gambiae</td>
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<td>Dr. James Nonoh</td>
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<td>Department of Microbiology</td>
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<td>The Proliferation of Organized Criminal Groups and their Effects on Peace and Security in Nairobi</td>
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<td>Dr. Michael T. Katola</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jane Wanza Mutinda</td>
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| Damage of Powderpost Beetles on Acacia Species in Nairobi, Isiolo, Machakos and Nakuru Counties, Kenya |
| Dr. Ruth Kahuthia-Gathu                                                                 |
| Department of Agricultural Science & Technology                                         |

| Soil Carbon Pool in Mangroves of Kenya                                                 |
|                                                                                        |
| Dr. Fredrick Tamooh                                                                   |
| Department of Zoological Sciences                                                     |

| Outdoor Adventure Practice in the Afro-Alpine Mountain Areas in East Africa: Training, Certification, Competence and Standards in Injury Occurrence and Pre-Hospital Emergency Risk Management |
| Dr. Lucy Joy Wachira                                                                  |
| Department of Physical and Health Education                                           |

| Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Crime Mapping and Analysis in Kasarani Sub-County, Nairobi County |
| Dr. Shadrack K. Murimi                                                                |
| Department of Geography                                                               |

| Ethnobotanical Survey, Conservation and Phytochemical Properties of Medical Plants Used by the Akamba, Machakos County |
| Dr. Grace Wambui Gatheri                                                              |
| Department of Plant Science                                                          |

| Bioassay-Guided Isolation and Characterization of Anticancer Phytochemicals from Selected Kenyan Aromatic Plants |
| Prof. S. C. Chhabra                                                                  |
| Department of Chemistry                                                              |
### Quality Education

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<td>Dr. Gladwell N. Wambiri</td>
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<td>Using Artificial Intelligent Systems (AIS) to Enhance Personalized Learning in E-Learning Platforms</td>
<td>Dr. Elizaphan M. Maina</td>
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<td>Dr. Phyllis W. Mwangi</td>
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<td>Kenyatta University Enhancement of Learning Experience with AIDS (KUELEWA)</td>
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### Science, Technology and Engineering

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<td>Phyto-Mediated Biosynthesis of Novel Metal Nanoparticles and their Antimicrobial Activity</td>
<td>Prof. Wilson Njue</td>
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<td>Effect of Exchange and Absorption Potential on the Distorted Wave Calculations for Electron Impact Excitation of Autoionizing States of Alkali Atoms</td>
<td>Dr. C. S. Singh</td>
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### Innovative Projects

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<td>Design of an Electromagnetic Field Pulses based Profiler Technology for Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment Monitoring</td>
<td>Dr. Lawrence Ochoo</td>
<td>Department of Physics</td>
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<td>Commercialization of Locally Developed Agricultural Inputs-Foliar Fertilizers, Hydroponic Nutrient Solutions and Rooting Powders</td>
<td>Dr. Wilson Thagana</td>
<td>Department of Agricultural Science &amp; Technology</td>
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Acquire Essential Goods - Pay in Installments with Flexpay Technologies

Flexpay Technologies is an automated layaway platform that enables customers to afford essential goods and services from merchants and service providers while paying in piecemeal or flexible installments conveniently via mobile phones. The startup co-owned by Johnson Mwangi and Richard Machomba at Chandaria Business Innovation and Incubation Centre offers an automated platform to enable merchants and their customers to manage flexible payments for both goods and services across mobile money and bank transfer platforms.

This technology offers an automated, reliable and accurate purchase platform that increases merchant’s sales by enabling their customers to afford goods and services via convenient flexible payment. Flexpay solution general unique feature is the ability to automate the existing traditional layaway platform of purchasing good and services which rely on manual and inconvenient methods. Whether online or offline, consumers get access to the items or services they intend to acquire and make flexible payments over stipulated period of time.

Flexpay has signed up 3 supermarkets and 12 electronic shops, transacting items worth 50 million shillings in under nine months with 2000 active users. They have recently signed up Tuskys Supermarket, a major retail giant in Kenya with a client base of 4 million customers. Flexpay has been featured in Techstars, a global investment firm, as one of the top ten promising start ups in Africa. They have also been part of the annual 3 – months Barclays Accelerator that took place in Cape Town South Africa.
How Flexpay Technologies platform works

• Customer identifies a product (a good or a service) from a store, on either offline or online, under FlexPay plan and sends the product’s unique code i.e (Flexpay test001) to FlexPay short code (20880), and instantly gets a message with instructions on how to proceed to reserving and paying for the product.

• Customer pays the outstanding balance in installments as they wish but within the stipulated period of payment duration.

• FlexPay acknowledges receipt of the amount and specifies the remaining balance and the payment duration while displaying the paid amount instantly via an SMS. The customer can then be making flexible payments of any amount, anytime and from anywhere conveniently via mobile phone till completion.

• Customer can then pay a deposit using either mobile money or bank transfer. E.g. via Mpesa Customer sends deposit amount to a Till Number via buy Goods feature.

• Depending on the Merchant, FlexPay sends automatic reminders to a customer about his/her payment status for the item booked periodically.

Mr. Johnson Mwangi, Co-founder Flexpay pitching during the Barclays Accelerator Program held in South Africa.
Research Dissemination and Uptake
A stakeholder’s workshop to elucidate how advanced techniques in plant sciences can help to breed sorghum that is resistant to the parasitic plant Striga, was organized by the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology on the 1st of September, 2017.

The workshop dubbed: “Going wild for Striga resistance” aimed to disseminate research findings on the work that has been going on at the Plant Transformation Laboratory (PTL) on the noxious parasite of cereals. The parasite attaches to roots of cereal crops and sucks out their nutrients causing severe stunting and death. All cultivated cereal crops – maize, millet, sorghum and rice are parasitized by one or more species of Striga.

The research group at PTL led by Dr. Steven Runo succeeded in identifying new sources of Striga resistance only in wild relatives of sorghum. Using genomic and resistance screening experiments the group was able to ‘pinpoint’ genetic components – only present in wild sorghum that induced a strong protection against Striga, underscoring the rich diversity of wild sorghum.

The workshop therefore served to disseminate evidence that wild sorghum are important sources of Striga resistance to a network of stakeholders comprising farmers, breeders, seed experts, agronomists, and agricultural extension experts in order to influence the action of developing demand driven varieties.

Hildah Kithinji a graduate of MSc Biotechnology explains her poster on using Chemical Biology to eradicate the parasitic plant Striga.
Empowering Farmers, Enhancing Productivity and Increasing Incomes through Soybean and Climbing Bean Commercialization.

The SoCo project (Scaling up Soyabean and Climbing Bean using Value Chain Approach in Maize-bean Systems of Central Highlands of Kenya) was a three year project and an extension of the Soybean and Climbing beans Commercialization project concluded in April 2017 that aimed to agricultural productivity and income of small holder farmers through adoption of yield-enhancing integrated soil fertility management practices (ISFM).

The project operated in nine sub-counties and was a collaboration of four institution spearheaded by Kenyatta University under the lead of Dr. Jane Mugwe, senior lecturer of the department of Agriculture Resource Management, University of Embu, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute.

Over the 3 years the project adopted a pluralistic approach which involved working with various stakeholders, partners and farmers along the value chain. The project was supported by four pillars namely: capacity building of farmers and stakeholders in ISFM; strengthening farmer linkage to agricultural inputs; building capacities of farmer organization and linkage to output market and documentation of lessons learnt and catalyzing other stakeholders.

Justin Giton an entrepreneur showcasing his value added products
The projects realized key milestones and achievements and managed to reach out to over 31,521 farmers through various upscaling activities, capacity building trainings were carried out through the 3 years with farmers being equipped with a range of skills including past harvest handling, integrated soil management practices, processing and utilization, financial management and group dynamics and leadership. Secondly 3 training manuals were developed for use by field officers n training farmers groups as well as brochures.

Thirdly farmers were also introduced to ICT platforms that will allow them to enhance information sharing. Fourthly soybean hubs that provide ready market for soybean were initiate, this follows a 30% increase of area reserved for soybean cultivation. The project further incorporated five undergraduate and ten masters students by engaging them to fill research gaps in the project.

The key lessons drawn from the projects included the importance of inclusion and training of field extension officers this strategy greatly improved on economies of scale and enhanced effectiveness of project implementation; synergistic communication channels and upscaling strategy models enhanced effective dissemination and reach to farmers; forums led by agro processors increased trust among the farmers. The innovation of SoCo data base

more exploration to advance dissemination of agricultural technologies to farmers

Overall the project successfully realized 85% of its planned activities and promoted sustainable livelihood diversification in the nine counties. The work done not only strategically fitted to the countries national social and economic policy aspirations but also aligned with the government’s approaches on improvement of incomes, productivity and marketing.
Students taking practical lessons on horticulture crops management in a greenhouse installed to improve teaching quality through the EDULINK project FED/2013/320-148

Students taking practical lessons on horticulture crops management in a greenhouse

The EDULINK project on capacity building for food security and nutrition successfully concluded in early 2017. The four year project aimed to improve capacity of higher education institutions to impact on food security and nutrition through several actions. One thrust aimed to improve curriculum design, teaching skills, research and roles of professional bodies in quality assurance. Strategies were developed for developing effective professional associations that are linked to institutions of higher learning.

Staff from different institutions were trained on pedagogy and curriculum design while students were targeted to improve their capacity to provide feedback for quality assurance mechanisms. A set of three reference handbooks targeting teaching staff were developed under the EDULINK project on (i) Teaching Skills, (ii) Curriculum Design and (iii) Management of Agriculture Teaching and Research.

A career guidebook was developed targeting university entrants to enlighten them on careers in agricultural sciences. The project enhanced capacity in different institutions by providing projectors, greenhouses and various office and lab equipment. Departmental heads and Deans from eight institutions in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe took part in a benchmarking visit to academic and private sector bodies in Italy to observe how agriculture teaching and research is designed and integrated with private sector activities. The project outcomes will be more and better trained manpower to support food security and nutrition initiatives in the region. The project was coordinated by Dr. Maina Mwangi of the Department of Agricultural Science and Technology, Kenyatta University and implemented in collaboration with South Eastern Kenya University, Chinhoyi University (Zimbabwe), Universita Politecnica dell Marche (Italy) and University of Hannover (Germany). Over 20 universities took part as Associate partners including in Uganda (Kyambogo, Uganda Myrtyrs, Uganda Christian Univ, Makere, Gulu), in Kenya (JKUAT, JOOUST, UoN, Chuka), in Zimbabwe (Midlands Univ, African Christian Univ, Lupane State, Univ of Zimbabwe).
Visiting Scholars and Fellows
Dr. George Ochieng’ Asudi, of the Department of Biotechnology and Biochemistry, was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt - Georg Forster Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. During his 1 year fellowship, Dr. Asudi has been working on his research on the mechanisms of plant-phytoplasma interactions with special focus on Napier grass stunt phytoplasma under the guide of Professor Ralf Oelmüller and Dr. Alexandra Furch at the Institut für Allgemeine Botanik und Pflanzenphysiologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany. The Fellowship has created an opportune environment for merging his research interests in molecular biology and plant pathology and has further allowed him to incorporate a master student Ms. Keziah Moraa Omenge, currently finalizing her master thesis under his supervision.

The Humboldt network provides a lifetime research support to fellows long after their stay including support of an equipment research grant to the home-returning fellow’s institute.

Stunted Napier grass
Dr. Fridah Kanana Erastus of Department of English and Linguistics has been awarded a DAAD research Grant to spend three months (October – December 2017) in Germany at the Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main in order to advance her project on the linguistic properties and social dynamics of youth languages in Africa, with particular reference to Sheng (Kenya) and Tsotsitaal in South Africa. Dr. Kanana is one of the eight successful applicants who were awarded the grant for the academic year 2017/2018. The University of Frankfurt invited her for the three months research visit due to the outstanding quality of her scholarship in general and her current research proposal in particular and the selection board of the DAAD decided to support her travel and stay in Germany with a grant.

Besides research, the purpose of the grant is also to intensify the contacts between her host and home universities. Therefore, the grant is expected to facilitate future collaborations between Kenyatta University and the University of Frankfurt and other partner institutions in Germany.

Dr. Joshua Mutiso of the Department of Zoological Sciences was granted a 1 year Georg Forster Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship award by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Germany Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg, Germany. During his fellowship Dr. Mutiso will be undertaking a research on Cancer Treatment (Toxicology) and Chemotherapy his focus will be on examining antigens that are associated with Human Breast Cancer and Colorectal Tumors and investigating their potential utilization as targets for cancer treatments. The research study will employ both in vitro (Human Cancer Cell Lines) and in vivo (Nude Rats) model systems and will also look at immunogenicity of the Tumor antigens as well as Immunotherapy (using the Tumor Antigen specific Antibodies).
African Economics Research Consortium (AERC) is one of the most active policy-relevant economic capacity building organizations in the world with a vision of sustained development in sub-Saharan Africa grounded on sound economic management and an informed society through research and postgraduate training in economics. Every year it runs a Joint Facilities of Electives (JFE) programme. The programme is an intensive teaching environment that offers a full range of elective courses in economics for both masters and PhD students in Africa between the month of June and November.

Eligible participating African universities send their postgraduate students to JFE where they are taught by a team of visiting lecturers competitively selected internationally. The programme admits approximately 100 collaborative Masters and PhD students who have successfully completed the core courses in their home universities. Prof. Nelson Wawire, Dr. Angelica Njuguna and Dr. Diana Ngui of KU School of Economics were among this year’s invited visiting lecturers from within African continent to participate in this year’s Joint Facilities of Electives (JFE) programme.

Prof. Wawire and Dr. Njuguna have been in the JFE programme for over 5 years, this year they took PhD students through Public Sector Economics and Econometrics respectively while Dr. Ngugi who joined the program in 2016 took masters students through Econometrics. Last year, Dr. Njuguna was chosen by the AERC academic board as the best lecturer in the CPP-JFE program. The JFE is hosted in the Kenya School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi.
Prof. David Minja from the Department of Public Policy and Administration was awarded a European Union’s Erasmus + Grant, following his award. Prof. Minja was invited as a visiting scholar in the month of October, to give lectures at National University of Public Service (NUPS). During his visit he gave lectures to postgraduate students studying at NUPS and drawn from several nationalities in Europe on issues of Public Policy, Public Sector management and reforms in Africa particularly in Kenya, Regional Integration in Africa and Tackling Corruption in Africa.

The visit and lecture provided the students with an insight on efforts taken by African governments in promoting the continent’s development agenda. A possibility of a student exchange programme is being pursued and may take place in the summer of 2018.

Prof. Phillip W. Rudd from Pittsburg State University, Kansas, USA is visiting as a Fulbright scholar at the Institute of African Studies where he share and explore his research interest covering Second Language Acquisition; Pragmatics; English linguistics; Ecolinguistics; Contact Linguistics; and African Linguistics.

Prof. Rudd’s research will focus on Modern Citizenship in Kenya which examines the construction of identity in Kenya. The research is a buildup on Schneider’s dynamic model of post colonial English. The research is a buildup on Schneider’s dynamic model of how an underlying process of identity reconstruction occurs in postcolonial contexts around the globe which will be applied to the basic developmental scenario of Kenya. This model proposes that postcolonial identity is a parameter of negotiation, a social construct in which sociopsychological identity reconfigurations reflect sociolinguistic realities that have linguistic ramifications, such as language variability and dialect birth.
Prof. Karen Torjesen

Prof. Karen Torjesen a Margo L. Goldsmith Professor of Women’s Studies in Religion at Claremont Graduate University (CGU) has concluded her 2 years visit as Fulbright Scholar at the Department of Gender and Development Studies (GDS). The purpose of her visit was to foster understanding across cultures and create links between academic institutions in the US and Kenya, during her stay at KU she conducted research taught a course on “Transnational Gender, Activism and Research” that was adapted from a CGU course and revised by the Gender Department. Asked about her experience, Prof Torjesen commented. “I learned so much from my students; it turned out to be one of the most aspects of my Fulbright experience.”

Her research which focused on Gender, Religion and Culture and HIV Stigma was adopted by the department and a collective approach adopted, the faculty organized four research teams based on their specializations: Religion & Culture; Gender & Sexuality; Health & Medical Management; and Social, Economic and Political Aspects of HIV Stigma. This arrangement allowed incorporation of graduate students giving them gain research experience, the research was further expanded to four different counties to deal with the regional and ethnic differences that shape attitudes toward HIV/Aids. The research was completed in April 2016, a report prepared and is awaiting publication.

International institutional collaborations were further strengthened in the summer of 2016 when faculty and students from three universities--KU, CGU, and Santa Clara University--collaborated to organize a symposium, “Weaving Just Peace: African Women’s Transformative Leadership in Contexts of Transition” in August 2016. Thirty participants from a range of countries and disciplines joined the discussion of women’s roles in peace making.

Prof. Torjesen credited her experience with the Gender Department for preparing her for the next collaborative project with KU; particularly impressing were the ways in which the faculty structured the research, strategies for data collection, approaches to ethnicity and gender which were invaluable in developing a proposal for assessing Gender Based Violence. The most recent research collaboration between KU’s GDS Department and CGU’s Center for Evaluation is an assessment of the Tamar Campaign in the DRC funded by Norwegian Church Aid which uses a Bible study process to break the silence around gender based violence and to create local interventions to mitigate it. The KU team is being spearheaded by Prof. Grace Wamue Ngare.
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY EMBRACES GREEN ENERGY IN Ksh1.2Bn SOLAR PROJECT