

THE RESEARCHER

A Publication from the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach



ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE, DRIVING CHANGE

ISSUE NO 1 | 2023



University Fundamental Statements

VISION

The Vision of the University is to be an innovation driven globally competitive business and technology university promoting integrity, diversity and teamwork

MISSION

The Mission of the University is to be a creative business and technology university, training employable and market driven graduates for sustainable economic development

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Professor Vincent O. Onywera

Deputy Vice Chancellor Research,
Innovation and Outreach & Professor of
Exercise and Sports Science,
Editor in Chief.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the KCA University Research Publication – **The Researcher**. The goal of this publication is to celebrate and publicize research, innovation and outreach activities by KCA University scholars. The publication provides a landing page for schools at KCA university to share their research activities as they advance the university research agenda. In particular, The Researcher focuses and highlights topical news and stories related to the following areas among others:

- i. Ongoing research and Innovation news
- ii. Research partnerships and collaborations including with industry
- iii. Research publications and exhibitions
- iv. Research grants won by members of staff
- v. Visiting scholars (both to and from KCA University)
- vi. Research awards and honors
- vii. Research based community service and extension
- viii. KCA University outstanding researchers at different levels of their careers
- ix. Upcoming events

The current issue highlights some selected topical areas in-line with the vision, mission and identity of KCA University. We therefore look forward to your contributions as we make the publication an interesting and exciting experience.

University Management Board



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Vice Chancellor & CEO



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THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH AT KCA UNIVERSITY



Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki
Vice Chancellor & CEO

Question 1:

The KCA University Strategic and Vision Plan 2019-2023 identifies Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO) as one of the key pillars of the University. How has the university ensured that RIO flourishes?

Answer:

There has been exemplary performance by both faculty and students in the various areas of Research, Innovation and Outreach. This has been made possible by putting in place a conducive environment backed by policies, strategies and initiatives that support Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO). I am pleased to report that the University recently established a Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach to help catalyze RIO at KCA University and position KCA University as an institution that is committed to research excellence. Our faculty and students are currently implementing various innovative projects including in the areas of technology, business, health, entrepreneurship, economics, creative economy among others.

Question 2:

Kenya's Vision 2030 provides a roadmap for transforming Kenya. How has research at KCA University contributed to Kenya's vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda so far?

Answer:

The overarching goal of Kenya Vision 2030 is to transform Kenya into a newly-industrializing, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment. The higher learning institutions had to align their priorities with the Vision 2030. Our approach to research is guided by the vision's pillars because the nation must make deliberate choices supported by data from studies and other forms of proof. In addition, KCA University has produced over 40% of all accountants in Kenya who have held and or continue to hold various positions of leadership and hence impacting society.

Question 3:

Sourcing for Research Grants has become globally challenging. How is KCA University responding to this challenge?

Answer:

Kenya has witnessed tremendous growth in the number of public and private universities. This has resulted in demand for qualified faculty to teach and supervise the increasing number of students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Consequently, stiff competition for research grants to support postgraduate students and for the generation of new knowledge has ensued. This trend has been witnessed globally. With increased population targeting the same donors, it is evident that competition will continue. To respond to this, KCA University has strategically entered into partnerships and collaboration with leading learning and research institutions across the globe. These collaborations have bolstered our chances of attracting research funding. We have also created specialized centers and directorates domiciled in the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach to spearhead our resource mobilization activities and strategies. These directorates have been instrumental in training our faculty members on techniques of writing competitive grant proposals and formation of multi-institutional multi-sectoral research collaborations.

Question 4:

Research Ethics and Safety is an important global issue. How is KCA University ensuring research ethics meet international standards?

Answer:

Research is specifically the process of establishing facts or reaching new conclusions. These facts and new conclusions are realized in different disciplines including, business, technology, health, humanities, engineering, natural sciences, education among others. Further, establishing these facts or reaching new conclusions involve participation of humans and animals; commonly known as the subjects. To ensure that such a process follows the acceptable international standards, KCA University has established an Institutional Ethics Review Committee (IERC). This is one of the specialized Units in the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach. The Committee ensures that all undergraduate, postgraduate and donor funded research activities emanating from KCA University comply with the national and international allowable research ethical considerations. The committee is also NACOSTI accredited and vets research proposals from other institutions to ensure safety of the participants and research subjects.

Question 5:

What is your niche as a research institution?

Answer:

Over the years, KCA University has been associated with the training of CPAs. In fact, records show that over 40% of all CPA in Kenya are trained at KCA University. As a higher learning institution, we are proud of this recognition. As the demands for higher education in different fields continue to grow, the university has significantly invested in business and economics, technology, humanities and social science and creative performing arts. Just as we have carved a niche in the training of CPAs, we are considering introducing other market driven courses.

Question 6:

How is the Vice-Chancellor and CEO's research and innovation fund supporting budding researchers?

Answer:

The Vice-Chancellor and CEO's research and innovation fund has been instrumental in providing modest funds for early career researchers and students to venture into research and innovation. Through the initiative, early career researchers and students are introduced into the competitive world of grant writing and the reviewing process. The reviewers' comments are shared with both the successful and unsuccessful applicants for necessary improvements. With such contributions from experienced reviewers, the applicants get training in writing winning research proposals. This fund is the first of its kind to be established by a University in Kenya.

Question 7:

What are the next steps for KCA University in terms of research roadmap?

Answer:

With the increasing paucity of resources, there is a need for institutions of higher learning to invest in the incubation and commercialization of research outputs either through licensing or creation of new ventures. KCA University is keen on creating wealth through commercialization of research outputs. This is our next big agenda as a university. That is why we have embarked on establishing research, innovation, and incubation hubs in all our campuses.

Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki
Vice Chancellor & CEO

THE RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND OUTREACH ECOSYSTEM



Professor Vincent O. Onywera

Deputy Vice Chancellor Research,
Innovation and Outreach &
Professor of Exercise and Sports Science

Question 1:

You are heading a new Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach at KCA University. What plans do you have moving into the future? Say 5 -10 years from today?

Answer:

I wish to thank and congratulate KCA University for establishing a new Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach. As you are aware, the core mandate of KCA University is teaching, research and technology transfer. As a Division, we are committed and driven by the University Vision and Mission statements to ensure an optimum environment and ecosystem which encourages and promotes excellence in research, scholarship and innovative endeavors. We do all these in-line with the KCA University Strategic Plan, Kenya's Vision 2030, Africa Agenda 2063 as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. To ensure discharge of our Mandate in an effective, efficient and accountable manner, the University Management has created specialized directorates and units to spearhead the Division's specific goals, responsibilities and objectives. Our success is already being witnessed by the increase in the number of research grants submitted and awarded by various funding organizations locally and internationally; increased capacity building activities for staff and students in research; increased funding for innovations; creation of new partnerships and dissemination of research findings through publications, seminars and conferences.

Question 2:

What is the Impact of the specialized Directorates and Units within the Division to KCA University and other stakeholders?

Answer:

The University Management has created specialized Directorates and Units within the Division to ensure maximum delivery of the university strategic goals and objectives. The specialized Directorates and Units are: Directorate of Innovation, Incubation and Enterprise Development, the Directorate of Research Support and Dissemination and Directorate of Partnerships and Collaborations, and Ethics Review Committee. These specialized Directorates and Units have proved vital in resource mobilization; policy formulations; creation and management of research partnerships and collaborations; management of intellectual property rights; student mentoring and innovation management. They have created the required impetus for a research and innovation culture at KCA University.

Question 3:

How does the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach link to the university fraternity?

Answer:

The Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach offers research and innovation related support to KCA University researchers, postgraduate students and other stakeholders on a regular basis. We link to our stakeholders (internal and external) in a complementary manner through our specialized Directorates, Units and an interactive website. The directorates and units supplement the activities of other Divisions (Academic and Student Affairs; Finance, Planning and Development) to ensure realization of the university objectives and key strategic pillars. Our responsibilities as a Division further support the University Vision, Mission, Statement and Philosophy in furthering the university's unique identity.

Question 4:

Managing research grants requires attention to demands of different research funders; how has the Division ensured this?

Answer:

The Division has put in place clear guidelines to ensure research grants are used and managed as per the contractual agreement between the researcher, the funder and the university. It is the position of the university that research grants must be administered in a manner that ensures the realization of the research objectives and to the satisfaction of the funder. Our experience indicates that prudent management of research grants builds trust and results in repeat awards.

Question 5:

Current trends in research demand multidisciplinary approaches. How is the Division supporting researchers on this?

Answer:

The University notes that a multidisciplinary approach to research is beneficial in providing different unique approaches and perspectives in solving societal problems; encourages teamwork among researchers from different departments/ institutions; technology transfer and yields high impact research. The university has put in place measures to support researchers to collaborate with their peers from other departments/other institutions locally and abroad. Our collaboration process goes through thorough due diligence and background check to ensure that our reputation as a premier research university of choice is protected.

Question 6:

What plans does the university have to drive or catalyze innovation and incubation?

Answer:

KCA University has a vibrant Directorate of Innovation, Incubation and University-Industry Linkages that admits innovators from both KCA University and from outside KCA University. We do this in the spirit of leaving no one behind. In addition, we remain keen and committed to collaborating with the industry in solving some of the present-day challenges as we make future projections. This partnership has supported innovators and given the industry partners the confidence to continue supporting new and viable ideas.

About the Division of Research, Innovation and Outreach KCA University

KCA University Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO) is a new division started in 2021 to catalyze and strengthen research, innovation, and outreach ecosystem that promotes research culture among KCA University scholars and students. Headed by a Deputy Vice Chancellor, RIO is a home of distinguished and budding scholars in various fields.

RIO hosts four directorates; Directorate of Innovation, Incubation and Enterprise Development, the Directorate of Research Support and Dissemination (RSD) and Directorate of Partnerships and Collaborations, and Ethics Review Committee.

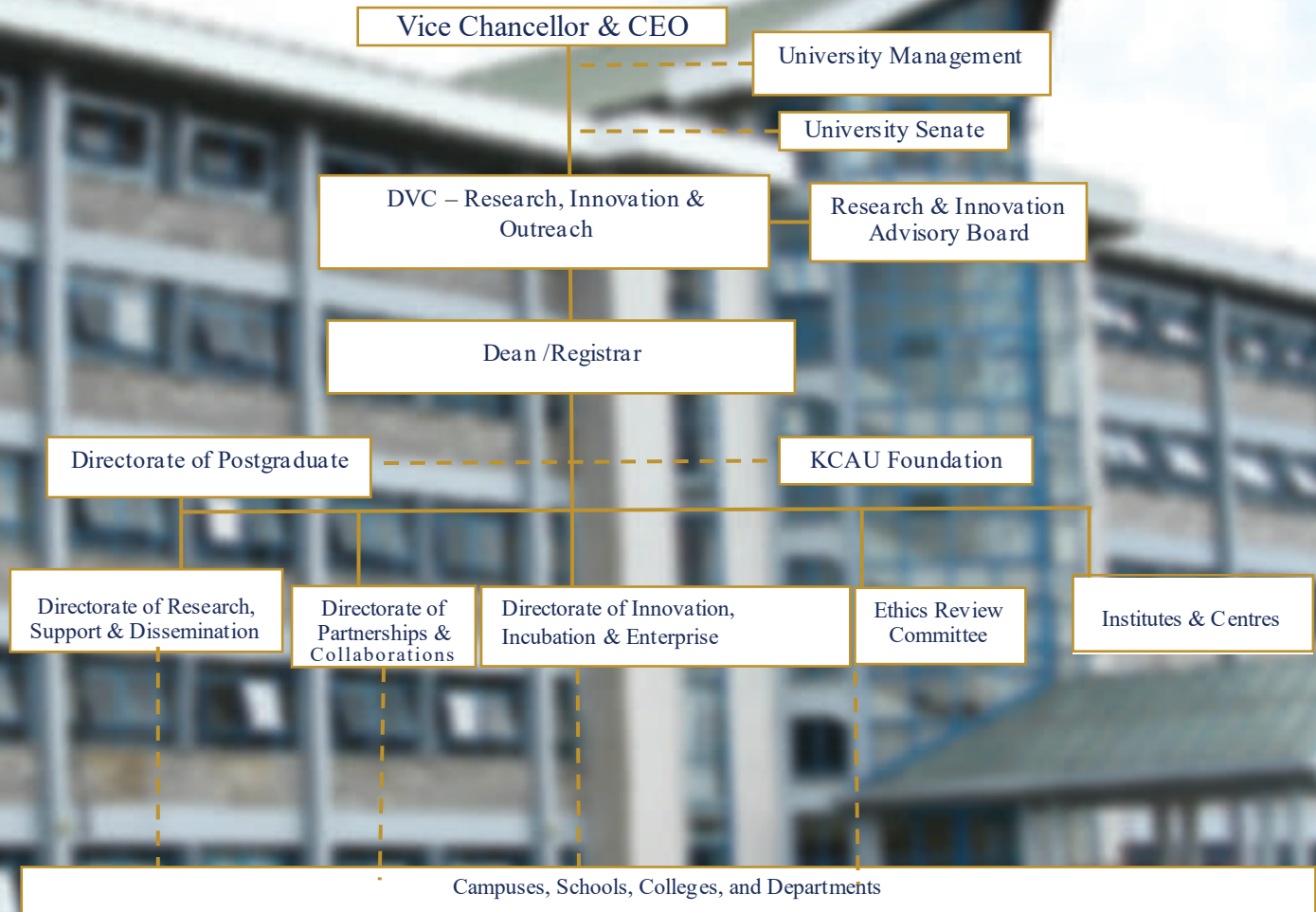
The Directorate of Innovation, Incubation and Enterprise Development (IIED) is mandated to stimulate innovation among our students, staff and the public resulting into commercialization of viable ideas and creation of employment opportunities. IIED creates a robust innovation ecosystem that enhances the innovation potential of the KCA community.

Research Support and Dissemination(RSD) directorate supports the KCA University, staff and students to excel in their research ventures. We provide an end-to-end research support system which supplements the intrinsic talents of our research community and frees them to focus on core areas of their research endeavors. Deepening of technical capacity is absolutely necessary. On this, we have a calendar of training and development events for the entire academic year which address various aspects of research needs. In doing so, we develop our faculty into quality, well rounded researchers who are ready to help in solving the preeminent challenges facing human societies today.

Directorate of Partnerships and Collaborations (DPC) is mandated to expand the university's global footprint by establishing local and international partnerships and collaborations, encouraging cross-cultural experiences for students and faculty and researchers.

The role of KCAU- Ethics Review Committee (ERC), is to ensure that all research activities are conducted in an ethical and responsible manner. The ERC serves as a safeguard to protect the rights, welfare, and dignity of research participants while also ensuring that research conforms to established ethical principles, guidelines, and standards. Reviewing and approving research proposals to ensure that they comply with ethical principles and guidelines.

The Structure of Research, Innovation and Outreach



KCAU 2022 Score Card on Research, Innovation and Outreach

The Research, Innovation, and Outreach (RIO) division at KCA University have shown an exceptional commitment to fostering a culture of research and innovation within the institution. In 2023, the division spearheaded an ambitious plan to enhance the research and innovation capacity of both the faculty and students, marking a significant stride toward academic excellence. Notably, RIO has actively facilitated the identification and dissemination of a multitude of research-related opportunities, serving as a catalyst for growth and development within the university community.

To capitalize on these opportunities, the division has successfully established and nurtured multidisciplinary research teams, enabling them to effectively respond to various grant proposals. The integration of the beeline fund platform has provided an avenue for enhanced research possibilities, underscoring RIO's commitment to expanding the university's academic horizons. Furthermore, the division has demonstrated a keen focus on capacity building through a series of physical and virtual forums for both students and faculty members. These events, conducted in collaboration with both local and international universities, along with strategic partnerships with leading tech institutions, have significantly enriched the research ecosystem at KCA University. It is crucial to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the research community, which have not only propelled the university's distinction but also secured multiple travel grants, further solidifying its global presence and impact in the academic arena.

A noteworthy development in 2023 has been the commencement of the ISO Certification process for Good Financial Grants Practices (GFGP), supported by a grant of up to USD 2,000 from the APHRC. This initiative reflects RIO's unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards of financial accountability and transparency, thereby fostering an environment conducive to sustainable growth and excellence.

The launch of the Vice Chancellor and CEO's Research and Innovation Fund has galvanized research-based innovation activities among the university's staff and students, exemplifying RIO's dedication to fostering a culture of creative exploration and academic ingenuity.

The division's second Innovation and Industry Summit served as a testament to their commitment to fostering an innovative culture within the KCA University community, providing an enriching platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange among industry leaders, scholars, and students.

Notable Achievements in 2023:

- 28 research publications in esteemed, peer-reviewed journals, signifying the university's commitment to scholarly excellence and impactful research contributions. Successful development and publication of 2 book chapters, further solidifying KCA University's intellectual footprint in the academic landscape.
- Noteworthy contributions to the film industry with the production of "Sisters Alone" and "Contract Love," both of which are currently available on Showmax, showcasing the diverse creative endeavors of the university's research and creative teams.
- Establishment of 21 multidisciplinary research teams, fostering a collaborative and dynamic research environment, instrumental in addressing complex societal challenges through a holistic approach.
- Cumulative value of grants won totaling \$15,000, highlighting the division's remarkable success in securing crucial funding for pioneering research initiatives. Acknowledgment of individual achievements, including \$8,000 in travel grants awarded to Dr. Laiboni and \$5,000 in travel grants awarded to Dr. Waruguru, underscoring the university's commitment to supporting the professional development of its esteemed faculty members.

The comprehensive strides made by the RIO division in 2023 are a testament to their unwavering dedication to nurturing a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem within KCA University. These accomplishments not only position the university as a leading research-intensive institution but also signify its impactful contribution to the academic and global community at large.

As we continue to foster a culture of academic excellence and innovation, the RIO division remains committed to spearheading transformative initiatives that will shape the future of research and innovation at KCA University.



Committee members celebrate successful submission of ISO certification Proceses for GFGP



Members of research team during a departmental retreat in Naivasha

Research, Innovation and Outreach Team



Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki
Vice Chancellor & CEO



Prof. Vincent Onywere
Deputy Vice Chancellor
Research Innovation &
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Dr. Nanjala Simiyu ,
Senior Lecturer - School of Business /
Dean RIO



Dr. Abraham Rotich
Senior Lecturer / Directorate
of Innovation, Incubation &
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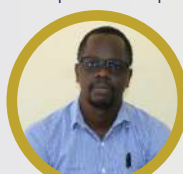
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Elizabeth kasyoki
Executive Assistant to DVC RIO

RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING, UPTAKE AND ADVANCEMENT

LAUNCH OF VICE CHANCELLOR AND CEO'S RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND

KCA University marked a significant milestone with the launch of the Vice Chancellor and CEO's Research and Innovation Fund, underscoring the institution's steadfast commitment to fostering a culture of academic excellence and innovation. With an initial seed capital of Ksh 10 million, the fund has been strategically designed to catalyze and support research-based innovation activities among both the esteemed faculty and the dynamic student body.

Aligned with the overarching mission of promoting research, innovation, and outreach at KCA University, the launch of this fund embodies the university's visionary approach toward nurturing a robust and dynamic research ecosystem. The Vice Chancellor's Research Fund is set to play a pivotal role in amplifying the university's research prowess and academic contributions on both a local and global scale.

The key objectives of the Vice Chancellor's Research Fund encompass a holistic approach to fostering a culture of excellence and ethical conduct within the university's research endeavors. These objectives include:

- Stimulating and promoting creativity that enables outstanding research outputs among the KCA University community
- Building capacity among faculty and students for stellar research outputs and publications
- Strengthening adherence to research ethics
- Promoting the utilization of research findings for societal development
- Promoting collaborative research between and within disciplines in the
- To strengthening the university-industry partnership
- To promoting research uptake

In addition to the launch of the Vice Chancellor and CEO's Research and Innovation Fund, the university also celebrated the commendable achievement of one of its students, Maryanne Wakarindi, pursuing a Master of Science in Data Analytics, for her innovative contribution to the healthcare sector.

Maryanne's Surgical App, aimed at streamlining the referral process for patients, particularly those with chronic diseases, has garnered recognition and acceptance from Jumuiya Group of Hospitals.

This success serves as a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and providing a conducive environment for students to thrive and make meaningful contributions to society.



KCA UNIVERSITY COLLABORATES WITH ST. PAUL'S ON JOINT RESEARCH



Seated L-R: KCA University Vice Chancellor and CEO Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki and St. Paul's University Vice Chancellor Prof. James Kombo during the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint collaboration in research and innovation.

KCA University and St. Paul's University have solidified their commitment to fostering a culture of collaborative research and innovation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU serves as a pivotal milestone in the strategic partnership between the two esteemed institutions, aimed at building research and innovation capacity among their students and staff.

The collaborative efforts outlined in the MoU encompass joint grant proposal writing, fellowship programs, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of research and innovation ideas, setting the stage for a dynamic and mutually beneficial academic partnership.

The official signing ceremony, held during a farewell luncheon for the esteemed Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) scholar, John Okpara from Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania, USA, on June 30, 2023, was a significant occasion that stressed the commitment of both universities to nurturing a culture of academic excellence and international collaboration.

Okpara's eight-week stay at both KCA and St. Paul's universities, facilitated by the Carnegie foundation in the USA, exemplifies the universities' dedication to fostering global academic partnerships and knowledge exchange.

Reflecting on the significance of the MoU, KCA University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, emphasized that the MoU signing signifies the formalization of a longstanding partnership that has thrived in the realms of research and innovation. "With this MoU, we aim to further strengthen our collaborative efforts, affirming our commitment to fostering a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship," Prof. Wakindiki emphasized.



Similarly, St. Paul's University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. James Kombo, said the occasion was a testament to the enduring culture of collaboration that the two institutions have cultivated over the years.

"Our collaborative endeavors epitomize the shared vision and interests that have united our learning communities for an extended period," Prof. Kombo stated. He further expressed confidence in the collaboration, noting that it represents a significant milestone for St. Paul's University in locally expanding opportunities for both local and international scholars.

Both administrators underscored the vast opportunities that the newly forged partnership would unlock for the two institutions. The collaborative efforts are poised to not only enrich the academic experiences of students and faculty but also contribute to the advancement of research and innovation within the local and global academic landscape.

KCA University and UNISA Forge Strategic Research Collaboration

KCA University and the University of South Africa (UNISA) held a collaborative meeting on Monday, 25th September 2023, to deliberate on potential avenues for strategic collaboration in areas of teaching, research, and outreach.

This joint initiative seeks to strengthen academic and research ties between the two institutions, opening new avenues for mutual growth and knowledge sharing.

The KCA University team, spearheading the discussion, was led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO), Prof. Vincent Onywera. On the other hand, the UNISA delegation was led by the distinguished Executive Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, Prof. Tennyson Mgutshini. The convergence of these academic leaders marked the beginning of a promising partnership with far-reaching implications for the academic community.



Prof. Tennyson Mgutshini Executive Dean of the College of Graduate Studies (UNISA) presents a token to KCA University Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaiah I.C Wakindiki



During the meeting, both institutions explored a range of strategic priorities emphasizing the potential for collaboration in diverse areas.

Key areas of focus included the exchange of faculty, professional staff, researchers, and students. This proposed partnership also encompasses joint research projects, the exchange of academic resources, collaborative proposal writing, capacity-building initiatives, and the elevation of co-curricular activities.

The collaboration furthers aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices in Open and Distance Learning, underscoring a shared commitment to advancing educational methodologies and promoting innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

SOBARC 3RD ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The School of Business held its 3rd virtual Annual Research Conference (SOBARC) on 20th and 21st July, 2023.

Guided by the theme, 'Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership: Innovation, Transformation and Sustainability', SOBARC III collated over 200 academia, industry icons, and policymakers to share ideas on how leadership shapes humanity. SOBARC III was about finding new ways of doing things, developing new technologies, and fostering creativity and entrepreneurship.

The conference was also an excellent forum to exchange knowledge, share research findings and reflect on the role of academia in catalysing sustainable individual and communal development through research, innovation and outreach.

Through this platform, KCA University strengthened its relationships in knowledge sharing while at the same time provided the necessary thrust in joint research collaborations within the research society.



Dr. Edward Owino, Dean School of Business during the opening ceremony of SOBARC 3

The speakers presented insightful topics covering SOBARC 7 thematic areas of Future of Financial Services; Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Block Chain Technologies & Cyber Security; New Public Management & Devolution: Innovation in Public Service Delivery; Transformational & Ethical Leadership: Towards Effective Stakeholders Engagement International Trade, Regional. Integration & Local Enterprise Development; Greening the Supply Chain Management & Climate Change Resilience; Change Management and Organizational Development & Cultural Influences and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

The conference was officially opened by Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, Vice Chancellor KCA University.

Among key speakers were; Hon. Musalia Mudavadi Prime Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala PS, State Department for Higher Education & Research, Ministry of Education, and all KCA University DVCs Prof Vincent Onywera (DVC RIO), Prof. Joshua Bagaka's (DVC ASA) and Prof. Damianah Kieti (DVC FP&D)

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

The Conversation Africa in July 2023 conducted a science communication workshop for KCA University academics, postdoc and PhD students. The training aimed at helping the academia to translate research into easy to understand material that can gain global exposure and reach policymakers.

The Conversation Africa is a unique collaboration between academics and journalists that has become the world's leading publisher of research-based news and analysis. The Conversation Africa professional editors work with academics to turn knowledge and insights into easy-to-read articles, and make them accessible to general readers.



VISITING SCHOLARS

KCA UNIVERSITY HOSTS CARNEGIE SCHOLAR



Prof. John Okpara

visiting from Bloomsburg University
Pennsylvania, US

KCA University was selected by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) to host an African Diaspora scholar from Pennsylvania- United States of America to work on a collaborative project aimed at growing research capacity and output as well as mentor graduate students. The Carnegie scholar was jointly hosted between KCA University and St. Paul's University in Limuru.

Prof. John Okpara from Bloomsburg University Pennsylvania, US was this year's Carnegie scholar attached to KCAU and SPU. The visit by Prof. Okpara was aimed at cross pollination of skills to ensure strengthening of research capacity as well as mentorship and supervision of postgraduate students.

With the guidance of Prof. Okpara grand proposals were jointly written and successfully submitted by KCA and St. Paul's universities.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program pairs African Diaspora scholars with higher education institutions and collaborators in Africa to work together on a number of areas including but not limited to curriculum co-creation, co-development, collaborative research, graduate training and mentoring activities with the aim of developing sustainable partnerships.

The CADFP, now in its tenth year, develops long-term, mutually-beneficial collaborations between universities in Africa and the United States and Canada. It is funded by Carnegie Corporation of New York and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in collaboration with the Association of African Universities (AAU). Nearly 600 African Diaspora Fellowships have been awarded for scholars to travel to Africa since the program's inception in 2013.

Fellowships match host universities with African-born scholars and cover the expenses for project visits of between 14 and 90 days, including transportation, a daily stipend, and the cost of obtaining visas and health insurance.

Activities by carnegie scholar

Carnegie scholar, Prof. John Okpara conducted various academic workshops, mentorship and capacity building trainings for KCA and St. Paul's Universities. The trainings were conducted in KCA University and St. Paul's University. The trainings were aimed at cross pollination of skills to ensure strengthening of research capacity as well as mentorship and supervision of postgraduate students.



Faculty members from KCA and St. Paul's universities during grant writing workshop facilitated by Carnegie scholar Prof. John Okpara



Faculty members from KCA and St. Paul's universities during mixed method research Workshop facilitated by Carnegie scholar Prof. John Okpara.



Faculty members from KCA and St. Paul's universities during grant writing workshop resulting in two proposals submitted for funding



Mentorship and Career Planning workshop for undergraduate and postgraduate students conducted by Carnegie scholar

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION HOSTS PROF. DAKOTA WHITE FROM USA



Prof. Dakota White

School of Education Arts and Social Sciences hosted Prof. Dakota White, a visiting professor from Cleveland State University Ohio, USA.

Dr. Dakota engaged staff and students on various workshops and presentations to support faculty and staff and students related to mental health, self-care, and student engagement. Together with KCA University staff, Dr. Dakota completed and submitted research papers pertaining to college-students and access to mental health supports.

Dr. Dakota also facilitated the drafting of an outline for conceptual publication relating to mental health supports currently being provided at KCA University. She also conducted sessions with counseling psychology students pertaining to trauma and trauma-informed care.

Dr. Dakota King-White is an Associate Professor in Counseling and the Program Coordinator of the School Counseling Program at Cleveland State University. She is licensed as a professional counselor and a school counselor. Dr. King-White gives back to her profession by serving on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Whole Child Advisory Board, the ODE Trauma-Informed Schools Committee, and the Ohio School Counseling Association Board as the Chair of the Equity and Inclusion Task Force. Her broad area of research focuses on developing mental health models in systems from a trauma-informed lens. Through her research, Dakota has partnered with various organizations including KCA University where they have sought and secured funding for research projects locally and internationally.

As a way of reaching out to the community we serve, Dr. Dakota donated books and other reading materials to the “Read Baby Read program,” an initiative of KCA University that targets to empower and instill reading culture among young readers in Kenya. The program was launched in Kisii County and has since supported a number of young children to improve their reading culture. We are boosting & energizing the program at an event scheduled for Friday, 14th July 2023 at Inani Primary School.

KITENGELA CAMPUS HOST VISITING SCHOLAR

John Paine, from West Virginia University, USA visited Kitengela in May 2023 to discuss possible areas of collaboration particularly in geography and research in arid and semi- arid areas. Paine was received by our campus Director Dr. Fred Spota.



COMMERCIALIZATION REQUIRE PREDICTABLE INFORMATION FLOW



Dr. Robert Karanja,
Co-Founder and Chief Innovation
Officer at Villgro Africa during
commercialization of Research
findings discussion

Kenyan university lecturers have been caught napping twice in the recent past. The first was the onset of the structural adjustment program which came with massive job cuts, and other issues. Lecturers who were fond of enjoying generous allowances found themselves in a perilous state that pushed some to sell mandazis and others in the matatu industry to survive.

The scenario was aggravated by the “Matiangi’ effect which ended moonlighting among university lecturers. This coupled with the outbreak of COVID 19 exacerbated the situation. University dons were left with no choice but to be innovative and look at ways to start commercializing their research projects and generate income.

This formed the basis of discussion on “Commercialization of Research Findings” conducted by Dr. Robert Karanja, Co-Founder and Chief Innovation Officer at Villgro Africa during the first Research Excellence and Sustainable Innovation Series 2023.

According to Karanja, commercialization and innovation of research requires reliable, coordinated and predictable flow of information and technology among people, enterprises and, institutions and academia plays a critical role as the creator of innovators.

He however said the business model of academia must be informed by the innovation systems thinking to play a dual role in research, development and innovation. The discussion was attended by deans and faculty members from various schools.



TRAVEL GRANTS

J-PAL SUMMER SCHOOL: EXPERIENCES FROM MOROCCO

The J-Pal Summer School is an annual multi-day training event that is organized by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) as part of the "Development Methodologies" Professorship held by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo at the Paris School of Economics. It is noteworthy that Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo are professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Co-founders of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, and winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics.

The main purpose of the Summer School is to help African researchers and project leaders in getting grounded on evaluation methodologies for development interventions. The 2023 Summer School took place from July 4 to 7, 2023 in Rabat on the campus of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. It was organized by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab in partnership with the French Development Agency, the Fund for Innovation in Development, the Morocco Employment Lab, the Paris School of Economics, and the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University.

Sometime in March 2023, as I was reading the open opportunities for research funding that are always shared by our Department of Research Support on Monday, I saw a particular call from J-PAL for proposals to attend a fully funded Summer School in Rabat, Morocco. This greatly stoked my interest because proposals that incorporate impact evaluation methodologies are currently heavily demanded by agencies that fund development research. The call required applicants to submit their application together with a proposal to undertake an impact evaluation in any area of the social sciences. I put together my application package, submitted it using the prescribed process, and kept my fingers crossed. I was pleasantly surprised to receive an email from a J-PAL administrator notifying me that my proposal had a good scientific value and thus I had been selected to attend the Summer School, out of over 450 other applicants.



Dr. Gabriel M. Laiboni

Director, Research Support and Dissemination
Lecturer of Finance and Econometrics, KCA University

At the summer school, we had 56 participants from over 20 Sub Saharan Africa countries. We covered content on survey design and measurement, statistical power and sample size, threats to validity, ethics and research transparency, and advanced randomization designs.

We had the opportunity to learn from renowned researchers in the J-PAL network - including Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, Prof. Karen Macours of the Paris School of Economics, and Prof. Rema Hanna of Harvard University.

I made a plenary presentation on my proposal, which was on testing the impact of weather analytics and agronomic advisories on farm level productivity amongst subsistence farmers in Kenya. I specified three treatment arms and cluster-level randomization. At the sidelines of the Summer School, I had a chat with officials from the Fund for Innovation in Development on funding the development of a new innovation to minimize post-harvest losses of fish in the African Great Lakes Region. This project is still in its infancy and is being worked on by myself, Prof. Vincent Onywera, and colleagues from other Universities in Kenya, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo.

This Summer School helped me create a vast network with African researchers from several countries, key of which are: Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia, South Africa, Malawi, and Tanzania. We are constantly in touch with each other and are always exchanging research ideas and open calls. Additionally, it helped me to meet accomplished scholars who were, and still are, ready to mentor and guide me as I build my research career.

I would like to encourage my KCA University colleagues to keep on applying to the research calls that are shared by the RIO Division. One day, you will get a breakthrough - and the rest will be history. Failing to succeed is impossible for someone who doesn't give up.



Receiving my Certificate
of Participation.



Serving as a discussant in one
of the breakout sessions



With Prof. Esther Duflo

KCAU PARTICIPATES IN AFRICAN SPECIFIC CASE STUDY WORKSHOP IN SWEDEN



Dr. Abraham Rotich

Senior Lecturer / Directorate of Innovation,
Incubation & Enterprise Development

KCA University and five other international universities including Makerere University in Uganda, University of Botswana, University of Namibia, African Nazarene University and Stockholm School of Economics collaborated to develop African specific case studies to improve teaching methodologies.

KCAU has also benefited from this collaboration through workshops facilitated by scholars from Stockholm School of Economics in between June and October 2022. The final workshop was held in Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden attended by two KCA University research staff; Dr. Abraham Rotich (Senior Lecturer / Directorate of Innovation, Incubation & Enterprise Development) and Joshua Nyangidi (Manager Entrepreneurship) during which a case collection on case studies was unveiled.

KCA University Masters Students Embark on Transformative Academic Journey in Rwanda

The spirited enthusiasm of KCA University's Masters students was palpable as they embarked on an enriching academic excursion to the city of Kigali, Rwanda. The trip, which took place from 17th September 2023 to 22nd September 2023, proved to be an immersive and transformative experience for the students, offering a comprehensive understanding of Rwanda's dynamic socio-economic landscape.

During their visit, the students had the opportunity to explore a diverse array of institutions and landmarks, immersing themselves in the rich cultural tapestry of Rwanda. The itinerary included visits to prominent establishments such as Legacy Clinics, the Rwanda Development Board, the Presidential Palace, the Genocide Memorial Center, and the bustling Kigali Market.

Further, the students had the privilege of touring the renowned Bakhresa Grain Milling Limited, a key player in the processing of wheat products into maize flour and five other valuable by-products, thereby championing a sustainable approach to production processing with zero wastage.

The students were accompanied by the Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba Ondabu, their senior lecturer specializing in financial management, during their visit to Bakhresa Grain Milling Limited. Dr. Ondabu's guidance and expertise undoubtedly enriched the students' understanding of the intricate financial dynamics and operational strategies crucial to the success of such industrial ventures. The visit not only provided the students with firsthand exposure to Rwanda's thriving business environment but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the country's resilience and remarkable progress in various sectors.



KCAU DON ATTENDS IEEE ICE CONFERENCE IN EDINBURGH

The International Conference on Engineering (ICE) is a high-impact peer-reviewed conference with an average acceptance rate of 23 percent. The conference brings international researchers together each year to present and discuss topics related to computing and engineering under the umbrella of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The IEEE ICE 2023 conference was held at the King's Buildings Campus, University of Edinburgh in Scotland, UK in June this year under the theme "Shaping the Future." The conference was attended by more than 200 researchers with most participants coming from Europe. Four attendees were from Africa: three from South Africa and one (myself) from Kenya. The conference also received participation from China, Japan, Indonesia, USA, Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

This was a three-day conference with each day running three parallel sessions and two plenaries for keynote speeches. Topics ranged from computer science, engineering, renewable energy, robotics, AI and many others. Most participants presented research outcomes, while others showcased their project outputs and ongoing collaboration activities.

The paper that I presented was co-authored with one of my master students (George Kangéthe) who is now a graduate working in Norway. The main objective of the study was to establish a model for evaluating efficacy of eLearning in higher educational institutions using secondary data. This objective was driven by the sustainable development goal No.4 of promoting inclusive learning to mitigate disruptions in the learning process. To measure the efficacy of eLearning, the study observed student activity on a learning management system against academic performance.

The study further compared the performance of different machine learning techniques, i.e., Support Vector Machine, Random Forest, Decision Tree, Naïve Bayes, Logistic Regression, and Neural Network. The categorization of the six techniques established differences in levels of accuracy, precision, recall, and Fscore. The best performing machine learning algorithm formed the basis for evaluating the student performance on eLearning systems and advising educational interventions.



Dr. Lucy Waruguru Mburu

Chair, Networks and Applied
computing department

This paper will be soon published with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Xplore as proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Engineering, Technology, and Innovation (ICE/ITMC). All conference papers that are included in IEEE Xplore are indexed in the SCOPUS database.

The main impact of the IEEE ICE conference to me is that it has fostered my professional growth. By publishing the paper, I will contribute to the literature on elearning efficacy. The in-person attendance also allowed me to follow the proceedings throughout and gain a lot of knowledge about what others are doing, and to actively discuss with the researchers.

The keynote speeches by distinguished professors on the large projects they were undertaking offered a challenge on what more needs to be done in Kenya and other developing countries. Among the most inspiring keynotes was the one by Jarmo Eskelinen the Executive Director of Data-Driven Innovation (DDI) Programme at the University of Edinburgh. He explored the diversities in strategy between innovation ecosystems of three global powerhouses: The U.S.A conquering approach, China's emphasis on control, and Europe's penchant for collaboration. Jarmo concluded that collaboration might be the most sustainable and universally beneficial future route for startups, established firms, universities, and government bodies.

During the IEEE ICE 2023 I was able to establish networks for future research and collaboration activities. Generally, attending international conferences is inspiring and motivates researchers to explore new ideas and work with renewed energy. I appreciate the support of Kenya Education Network (KENET) through the travel grant that catered for my travel and conference registration fees. I also thanks KCA University for granting me leave to attend the conference and covering my additional expenses.



With Prof. James Fleck- Conference Chair and Professor at the University of Edinburgh Business School



At the conference dinner



Presentation at the IEEE ICE 2023 conference



Following the conference proceedings

KCA UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR ATTENDS GRANT WRITING FORUM



Dr. Jackson Ndung'u Mwangi,
lecturer at School of Education,
Arts and Social Sciences

Dr. Jackson Ndung'u Mwangi is a lecturer at School of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, won a travel grant to present a paper during a Grant Writing and Dissemination of Research finding for policy makers training held in Accra, Ghana. His topic of study for this grant was "Analysis of Factors that Determines Family Planning Options Among Women Living in Informal Settlement in Kenya." Dr. Mwangi has also won a grant from UAPS (Union for African Population Studies) for young African Post-doctoral scholars across Africa.

His area of specialization is Kiswahili literature and Linguistics. Dr. Mwangi has published 11 papers from peer reviewed journals, attended and presented 18 papers in various international conferences both locally and abroad including the Global Associations for Growth of Kiswahili international conferences in Zanzibar and Kampala Uganda, Chama cha Kiswahili cha Afrika Mashariki International .

conferences in Kenya and Uganda.



Dr. Jackson Ndung'u Mwangi in ACCRA GHANA for the UAPS organisation that gave him the grant.

OUTREACH

COPYEK PROJECT ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY LEARNING WORKSHOP HELD IN KENYA



Joshua Nyangidi

Faculty Member, School of Business

Africa is projected to have the largest young workforce in the World by 2040. It will become increasingly difficult to meet the growing employment demands through traditional education, skills training, and job opportunities, highlighting the need for developing an entrepreneurship ecosystem for young people to emerge as not only job seekers but also as job creators.

The Kenyan government's Vision 2030 calls out for competitive education, research, and innovation for youth-driven economic growth. However, the knowledge of practice has been developed mostly for youth rather than with youth. The University of Nottingham, KCA University and Kenya's Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) (referred to as "the network"), under the British Council's Innovation for Africa Universities Programme, partnered in 2021-2023 to co-develop creative, participatory understanding of lived experiences of young entrepreneurs in Kenya and co- create knowledge curation and entrepreneurs' development opportunities through networks in Kenya and the UK, through the project titled "Co-Production for Youth Entrepreneurship in Kenya" (COPYEK). The project was carried out in three phases;

- a) Phase I which sought to understanding the lived experiences of young entrepreneurs and the gaps identify gaps in current entrepreneurship training programs offered by Higher Education Institutions in Kenya,
- b) phase II that considered the findings of phase I to reimagine entrepreneurship learning curricula offered at KCA University and YEDF.
- c) phase III which involved rolling out interventions to bridge the gap between entrepreneurial learning and practice.

As part of the COPYEK project intervention, the project team held a workshop in Naivasha, Kenya on the Active and Participatory Teaching and Learning Methodologies between 10-12th May 2023. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity and capability of KCA University members of academic staff to apply active and participatory teaching and learning methodologies with an aim of bridging the gap between learning and practice.

The workshop, which had 32 participants, was facilitated by Prof. Judy Muthuri, Dr. José Francisco González of University of Nottingham Business School, Dr. Tom Morton Open University Business School, Prof. Renson Muchiri, and Prof. Simon Ngigi both from KCA University, Kenya.



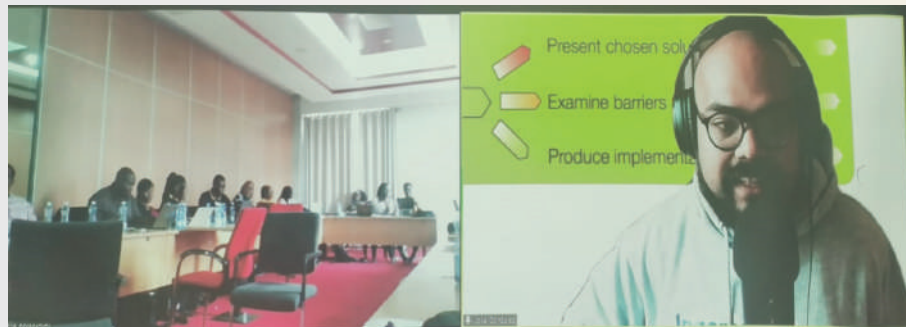
KCA University members of academic staff engage at a workshop to reimagine entrepreneurship curriculum.



Active and participatory learning workshop participants photo session with the KCA University Vice Chancellor & CEO, Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki



Dr. Tom Morton of Open University Business School taking participants through the Cultural animation.



Dr. José Francisco González of Nottingham University Business School taking the participants through the challenges of developing student-led cases

KCA UNIVERSITY PILOTS CHALLENGE BASED LEARNING

KCA University experimented Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) over for over two years as it became evident that, without a practical context, graduates were failing to meet the industry expectations upon getting employed.

Challenge Based Learning (CBL) model provides an effective framework for learning while solving real-world challenges. The framework promotes collaboration in identifying big ideas, asking thoughtful questions, and solving learning challenges. The model also helps learners gain deep subject area knowledge and develop the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

CBL differs and deviates very much from the traditional test papers and multiple-choice examinations. It allows students to provide solutions based on the courses they are pursuing. The piloting was done with the MSc. Data Analytics class under the patronage of Prof. Patrick Ogao.

The university also involved external stakeholders such as K-Unity, a Sacco that acts as a means of facilitating savings and credit facilities for Dairy & Pyrethrum societies within Kiambu County. K-Unity Sacco currently has an asset base of over 6 billion with over 10000 members, and Makueni County Government health departments that provided real problems to be solved as part of the project.

The participants were presented with challenges that required them to draw on prior learning, acquire new knowledge, work as a team, and use their creativity to arrive at solutions. Speaking during the dissemination forum for CBL findings, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Joshua Bagaka's said the university was redefining assessments and will continue to use the model as a means of exams assessment.

"The exam questions will be tied to the course content and will require critical thinking. Exam cheating is here with us and we have evidence of cartels. If we have the programme, each learner will be addressing these challenges differently," he said.

"This is a long-term process that will require critical self-reflection by teachers with a conversation centred on students' learning environment presently fostered," he said.

Bagaka's said some of the perpetrators and beneficiaries of cheating are daring and do not allow anything to stand in their way. He added that the university will always embrace technology that will assist in returning integrity and credibility of its products. Bagaka's also called for a review of universities' grading policy. The current set up requires students sit continuous assessment tests for 30 marks while the end of semester exams account for 70 marks.

"It is time to move away from the setup and give lecturers the power to vary how they weigh their learners. The final exams can even have 20 to 30 percent marks," he said.

DVC Research Innovation and Outreach Prof. Vincent Onyewera said KCA University is the first institution in the country to adopt the CBL.



YERH Hub

The Youth Entrepreneurship Resource Hub (YERH) is an initiative stemming from the Co-Production for Youth Entrepreneurship in Kenya (COPYEK) Project. This project stands as a collaboration involving KCA University, the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, and the University of Nottingham, funded by the British Council.

The YERH website has been crafted to empower young entrepreneurs by offering them essential resources vital for establishing thriving enterprises. These invaluable resources encompass:

Comprehensive Training Materials

Entrepreneurship Funding Resources

Guided Mentorship in Entrepreneurship

Engaging Workshops, Webinars, and Entrepreneurial Bootcamps

A Marketplace for Entrepreneurs to Showcase Their Products and Services



A Vibrant Networking Space Facilitating Entrepreneurial Connections

The site is fully operational and is undergoing constant updates to ensure a progressively enriched user experience. As of now, prospective participants can register for the upcoming KCAU Innovation and Industry Summit week via this platform—an event jointly organized by KCA University in collaboration with COPYEK.

ISBNPA APPOINTS PROF. ONYWERA GOODWILL AMBASSADOR



The KCA University wishes to congratulate Prof. Vincent Onywera, DVC research on his appointment as GOODWILL AMBASSADOR for the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (ISBNPA).

Prof. Onywera joins a group of distinguished colleagues from around the globe in promoting inclusivity and diversity in the field of behavioral nutrition and physical activity.

Prof. Onywera will undertake the task of disseminating information about ISBNPA's activities and opportunities to researchers and populations in Africa.

ISBNPA aims to bridge the research gap in the field of behavioral nutrition and physical activity which has predominantly focused on developed countries, leaving behind large parts of the world where these issues are equally pressing.

Through this appointment, ISBNPA aims to bridge this gap by promoting equal representation and access to research opportunities. Prof. Onywera will play a critical role in identifying gaps in research, disseminating information about existing research, and encouraging researchers from Africa to participate in ISBNPA's activities. This includes attending conferences, submitting abstracts for presentations or posters, and applying for the Pioneers Program, scholarships or grants.



ISBNPA

Advancing Behavior Change Science

REUNITING, REMINISCING, AND REKINDLING: THE MAGIC OF ALUMNI REUNIONS

The Alumni Association of KCA University held its inaugural homecoming and reunion event on 9th September 2023 at Safari Park Hotel. The chilly weather did not stop the alumni from thronging the event. This was a journey back in time, a chance to reconnect with old friends, and an opportunity to celebrate shared memories. Nostalgia enveloped everyone the moment they met each other as they exchanged warm hugs, laughter and positive vibes.

Reconnection with old friends after many years was a sentimental experience, particularly when everyone's busy juggling between work and family. Nothing seemed to have changed and everyone seemed caught in a time warp! The experience evoked a plethora of emotions – the rush of memories, the sense of belonging, and the appreciation of how far everyone had come since the years of study-life at KCA University.

Established in 1989, KCA University has alumni spread across the globe occupying important positions in government, private sector and in the industry. KCA University has always believed that in order to build a strong and vibrant alumni community, it is very necessary for the institution to engage the alumni and stay connected with them.

The Alumni Board launched new Alumni Chapters with the aim of promoting inclusivity and a sense of belonging amongst the alumni community. Alumni Board Chair, Brian Kiprono also led the members in launching the Alumni Seed money, an initiative intended to support the Alma Mater in many ways including supporting needy students and participating in university projects where possible.

In the history of KCA University, it was the first time that we witnessed alumni participation of over 2000 alumni in the event and made the occasion a memorable one for every member who belong to Alumni Association of KCA University. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor & CEO of KCA University, Prof. Isaiah I. C. Wakindiki.



KCA University Hosts Olympic Value Symposium

KCA University demonstrated its commitment to promoting sportsmanship and ethical engagement among its student body through the organization of an impactful Olympic Value Symposium. The event, held on Friday, 13th October 2023, saw the active participation of over 250 students, all eager to delve into the essence of the Olympic Value Education Program (OVEP) and the Long-Term Athlete Model (LADM).

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) played a pivotal role in delivering an insightful workshop, enriching the students' understanding of the fundamental principles embedded within the Olympic ethos.

Mr. Fred Ogola, the IOC National Course Director and Olympic Values Tutor, spearheaded the OVEP session, guiding students through a comprehensive exploration of the core values that underpin the Olympic movement.

Eliakim Ogenga, an accomplished IOC International Coaching Education Course Candidate and Long-Term Athlete Development Tutor, led the session on the Long-Term Athlete Model (LADM).



DVC Prof. Onywera during the opening ceremony for Olympic Value Symposium held at KCA University



The students were exposed to valuable insights and best practices on athlete development, fostering a deeper appreciation for the holistic approach to nurturing sporting talent and character development.

The symposium specifically targeted students actively engaged in various university sports activities, ranging from soccer, volleyball, basketball, and swimming to badminton, hockey, tennis, golf, and more. Their enthusiastic participation and genuine interest in the principles espoused by the Olympic values were palpable throughout the session.

Eager to embody the spirit of the Olympics, the students pledged to uphold the fundamental values of integrity, sportsmanship, and fair play, demonstrating a renewed commitment to ethical engagement within the sporting arena.

As KCA University continues to emphasize the importance of holistic education, events such as the Olympic Value Symposium serve as a catalyst for nurturing well-rounded individuals who not only excel in their chosen fields but also embody the virtues of ethical sportsmanship and camaraderie.

INDUSTRY ACADEMIA LINKAGES

THE CEO'S CO-CREATION ROUNDTABLE

KCA University held its inaugural CEO's Co-creation roundtable to discuss the role of Industry Academia Partnership for Sustainable Innovation.

The roundtable was intended to facilitate the sharing of insights and best practices on how academia and industry can partner to drive innovations.

KCA University recognizes industry academia collaboration as key focus area in creation and transfer of knowledge, skills, and innovation for mutual benefit.

A collaboration between KCA University and the industry will therefore foster innovation, entrepreneurship and research development.

Over 20 CEOs from different sectors of the economy attended the event.



VISIT TO KONZA CITY

KCA University Msc Development Finance student's toured Konza Technopolis City at Machakos on 16th March 2023 to have an industry experience of the developments ongoing in the city and also to understand development finance related issues in the City and give their recommendations for cheaper development finance avenues for the city



to the Konza management such as issuance of Konza Bond and many more. Accompanying them was Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba Ondabu, a senior Lecturer of Financial Management and also the Director for KCA University-Town Campus.

PANEL DISCUSSION- BLOCKCHAIN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The School of Technology held a panel discussion on “Blockchain Technologies and Sustainable Development” to mark the closure of Kenya Norway Mobility (KENOMO) program.

The discussion was jointly hosted by KCA University and the Kenya Norway Mobility (KeNoMo) project which is an academic collaboration that established a long-term sustainable relationship between KCA University, University of Stavanger (UiS) Norway, and University of Nairobi (UoN).

The panel was composed of distinguished professors and world renowned researchers who unpacked and explored the various opportunities blockchain offers in higher education.

The panelists included Prof. Rong Chunming, Head of DSComputing at University of Stavanger, Prof. Hans-Arno Jacobsen – Middleware Systems Research Group at University of Toronto in Canada, Prof. Bitange Ndemo,

Kenya’s Ambassador to Belgium & EU who joined virtually, and Dr. Z. Zhao, Senior Researcher from university of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. The event was also attended by Deputy Head of Norwegian Mission Geir Arne and Dr. Sawanga Ndakala, Director State Department of University Education and Research who represented the permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Beatrice Inyagala

The project funded by Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART) was initiated in 2015 to facilitate mutual student mobility and academic cooperation between the partners to enhance the quality of computer science education in both Norway and Kenya.

By 2022, Sixteen KCAU masters students and eleven UoN masters students had traveled to the University of Stavanger for studies. Two KCAU PhD students and Four UoN PhD Students had traveled to the University of Stavanger for 3 months’ research stay. Five KCAU faculty members and three UoN faculty members participated in at least one summer school that involved presentation of scientific research. There were also at least three joint workshops held for students and faculty members to exchange knowledge.



Deputy Head of Norwegian Mission Geir Arne
during the closure of Kenya Norway Mobility (KENOMO)
program held at KCA University

KCA UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH WORLD CLASS CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE

KCA University is in the process of establishing a global creative arts centre to match and feed the budding creative economy in the country and across the borders.

The arts centre will bring together industry practitioners in the university and also the scholars and students in collaborative projects of the industry.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki said the university will work together with the government in supporting the Talanta Hela initiative by providing short courses in business and financial skills to the creative industry.

He also said he wants to see KCAU become the benchmark of creative arts education in the East African region. KCA University offers creative arts related courses both at diploma and degree level and currently has over 1000 students.

The VC spoke when KCA University hosted Hon. Ababu Namwamba, Cabinet Secretary for Youth Affairs, the Arts and Sports for a panel discussion on “Creative Economy as an exciting frontier for national development.”

Ababu challenged Kenyans to change their negative opinion towards the contribution creative sector, adding that economies such as Nigeria, South Africa, UK and America have succeeded through mainstreaming the creative sector.

He said the government was moving towards mainstreaming the creative sector through the launch of Talanta Hela initiative which will turn talents into real money. Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Film Commission Mr. Timothy Owase said the commission was already partnering with the university in capacity building and it will work with it to establish a film hub under its Studio Mashinani initiative at the creative arts centre once complete.

Other distinguished panelists included; Wanjiku Njuguna (CEO of Heva Fund), Nancy Matimu (Fintech Innovation Director & Business Lead, and the vice chairperson of the KCA University Council) and Eddie Butita (CEO of Stage Presence Media Africa).



CS Youth Affairs, Sports and the Arts Hon. Ababu Namwamba (Right) when he paid a courtesy visit to Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki. Seated (Left) is DVC Research Prof. Vincent Onyvera



GOVERNMENT URGED TO TAP INTO THE INFORMAL SECTOR TO INCREASE TAX COLLECTION

The Kenyan National Tax Policy provides the framework within which tax related laws, regulations and rules are formulated and implemented.

In realization of the need to rebuild the economy and the demands of the changing business environment the tax policy has become a necessary tool. Unique challenges such as expanding the taxation to the hard-to-tax sectors (agriculture and informal sector), increased online businesses and globalization requires a framework to guide the process.

The panel discussion on “Taxation and Bottom-Up Economic Model” organized by Kenya University’s Centre of Excellence in Tax Education, provided broader perspectives of taxation in Kenya; existing legal and regulatory framework, challenges and policy guidelines. It also articulated the principles governing tax administration and revenue collection in Kenya. The discussants further provided guidelines for tax legislation, review, development and tax administration.

Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Institute of Economic Affairs (IEAK), Prof Vincent Ongore, Associate Professor, Business Administration & Entrepreneurship (DBAE) and Tony Murega, Accountant and Lecturer in Economics and Consultant on Micro and Small Medium Enterprises (MSMES) were the discussants during the panel discussion.

They urged the government to widen its tax base from the usual income tax through Pay As You Earn (PAYE).

An economist and former employer with KRA, Prof Ongore blamed the taxman for inefficiency in tax administration systems despite having the best technology in the continent ahead of South Africa.

“KRA has the power to collect more taxes but they have not told Kenyans the reasons they need to pay the taxes, if Kenyans see the value of paying taxes, they will pay without even being forced,” he said.



INNOVATIONS

INNOVATION CENTRE CONDUCTS TECHFEST

KCA University research division in partnership with Moringa school conducted a Hackathon for students in software development in February 2023.

Students presented a total of 10 different projects in a bid to provide solutions in different areas of SDGs. The winning project received an award of Ksh 10000 while first runners up and second runners up got 7000 and 5000 respectively.

The winner developed a prototype sensor for shoes meant for visually impaired persons dubbed Uwezo shoes. The sensors help the blind detect and navigate areas with objects around them.

First runners up developed a virtual school where students were able to learn in a 3D virtual environment.

While the second runners up developed a mobile service where people can order and book “mama fua” services.

The rest of the projects were referred to our Incubation and innovation centre for further incubation.

Hackathons are forums that challenge students to analyze problems and come up with digital solutions for the betterment of our present-day society. Hackathons also play an important role in building the future of the students as they develop essential programming skills during the event.



KIPI TRAINS KCAU STUDENTS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Kenya Intellectual Property Institute (KIPI) conducted a training for KCA University students out on 28th September 2023. The training equipped the students with skills and Knowledge on how to protect their Intellectual Property. This cohort of over 50 students will be our champions in educating other students with the same knowledge and skills. The Training was facilitated by Mr. Paul Chege Assistant Patents Manager at KIPI.



Rendercon Bootcamp

KCA University hosted Rendercon Bootcamp, a Software Engineering Bootcamp which unites software engineers, developers, and designers from all levels of expertise, to engage in a capacity building experience of innovation, mentorship, and community spirit.

The Bootcamp happened on 29th and 30th September. This bootcamp gave our students the exposure and skills needed to help them in their Innovation Culture.



KCA UNIVERSITY INAUGURAL LECTURE

KCA University on 25th September, 2023 delivered the first professorial inaugural lecture by Prof. Carolynne Omulando, a professor of Educational Media and Technology School of Education, Arts & Social Sciences.

Dubbed “Constructivist Orientations to Learning, Teaching and Teacher Education: A focus on English Second Language Education in Kenya.” Omulando had an opportunity to publicly profess her knowledge to lay audience and fellow academicians.

The Inaugural Lecture affords a platform for newly appointed professors to share their discoveries, innovative ideas and deep insights with the public and the larger academic community. The professor who delivers an inaugural is a center of academic excellence in his chosen field. The inaugural is the arrival and justification of the appointment of a professor into the chair of a particular discipline based on his contribution to knowledge.

A lecture of this nature requires one to have the ability to conceptualize highly technical and abstract matters and to express them in commonly used language, often through analogy, allowing people who have not had the privilege to grapple with the subject for extended periods to quickly grasp the zelements at play.

Professionals and academics gain a unique opportunity to engage across knowledge boundaries for the benefit of humankind. The occasion was attended by Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, KCA University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Barasa, Vice Chancellor Alupe University, Prof. Charles Ongondo, Director and CEO Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Prof. Vincent Onywera DVC Research, Innovation and Outreach KCA University, Prof. Dammianah Kieti DVC Finance, Planning & Development KCA University, Prof. Tennyson Mgutshini, the Executive Dean of the College of Graduate Studies UNISA, Prof. Omulando’s family, members of KCA University faculty, staff and students.

The lecture coincided with the celebration of 10 years since KCA University was awarded a charter to operate at a fully-fledged university.



Prof. Carolynne Omulando

About Prof. Carolyn Omulando

Prof. Carolyn currently is serving as a Professor of Education in Educational Media and Technology Studies at KCA University in the School of Education, Arts, and Social Sciences, Department of Education and Psychological Studies.

She is a DAAD scholar having participated in the training DIES International Deans Course (IDC) programme under the: “Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies” initiative (2019 – 2020). She has also participated in the National Multiplication Training Programme – Kenya, sponsored by DAAD as a Trainer (2021-2022).

She has vast experience in postgraduate supervision and mentorship. She has supervised to graduation a total number of 11 Ph.D. students and 44 Masters’ students and is currently supervising 10 Masters and Ph.D. students.



Prof. Peter Barasa Vice Chancellor Alupe University and Prof. Charles Ong'ondo Director/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) following proceedings during KCAU inaugural lecture



KCA University's Second Innovation Week and Industry Summit

Inspire Collaboration and Ingenuity

The bustling grounds of KCA University witnessed an influx of creative minds and industry experts at the 2nd annual Innovation Week and Industry Summit.

The event, held under the theme "Leveraging on Academia-Industry Linkages to Foster Sustainable Innovation," garnered praise for its dynamic atmosphere and promising discussions, emphasizing the potential of Kenya's burgeoning innovation ecosystem. The distinguished presence of Prof. Olive Mugenda, KCA University Chancellor and chairperson of the board of directors at the Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral, and Research Hospital, (KUTRRH), on the inaugural day, set the tone for the impactful summit.

Addressing the eager participants, Prof. Mugenda underscored the significance of fostering collaborations that yield groundbreaking solutions to tackle the contemporary socio-economic challenges. She emphasized the pivotal role of innovators, dreamers, and relentless optimists in shaping a better world throughout history.

"We need to facilitate enhanced collaborations between higher education institutions and industry to promote innovations and create opportunities for the youthful population," asserted Prof. Mugenda. She highlighted the imperative of bridging the gap between innovative students and industry players, citing the benefits of industrial exposure in refining and commercializing innovative ideas.

Day two of the event witnessed the presence of Geoffrey Kaituko, the Principal Secretary of Blue Economy and Marine Affairs. Kaituko, addressing the attendees, highlighted the prevalent challenges in fostering effective collaboration between academia, government, and industry.

He stressed the necessity of cultivating an ecosystem that nurtures development and bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Kaituko urged universities to devise robust frameworks supporting student innovations and the commercialization of research findings, with a strong focus on solutions addressing societal needs and creating employment opportunities for the youth.

On the third day, Nancy Matimu, a distinguished member of the KCA University Council and Fintech Innovation Director, and Business Lead at Serrari Group, delivered an insightful address on Innovations in the Fintech Industry.

Matimu challenged innovators to create solutions enabling individuals to access a store of value that outperforms the global inflation rate.



The event also featured an array of notable guest presenters, including Gladys Njiru, Group CEO of Datasec-Africa, representatives from IPACK, and Rose Tinderet, Director of Member Value and Customer Experience at the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, among many others. The event's success was further amplified by the diverse array of exhibitors from various sectors of the economy, showcasing their innovative endeavors.

Key corporate sponsors, including KRA, Safaricom, the Anti-Counterfeit Authority of Kenya (CAA), the Communication Authority of Kenya (CA), HUAWEI, British Council, and Serari Group, played an instrumental role in making the summit a resounding triumph.

As the curtains closed on the KCA University's 2nd Innovation Week and Industry Summit, the echoes of collaborative spirit and a collective commitment to driving sustainable innovation reverberated through the hearts and minds of all attendees. With the promise of a brighter and more interconnected future, the event marked a significant milestone in the journey towards a more innovative and prosperous Kenya.



KCA University Recognizes Top Innovators at Annual Innovation Week

KCA University recently concluded its highly anticipated Innovation Week and Industry Summit, which showcased a range of ground-breaking ideas and entrepreneurial spirit.



The event, held at the university's main campus in Ruaraka from 30th October to 2nd November 2023, culminated in the recognition of top innovators who participated in the business plan writing and hackathon competitions.

The Business Plan competition, a focal point of the event, garnered significant attention as it attracted 20 innovative entries. These entries underwent an intensive three-day screening process and business boot camp organized by the Association of Star-up and SMEs Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK).

Following this rigorous selection process, seven exceptional plans were chosen and presented before a distinguished panel of judges for the final evaluation.

Simultaneously, the Hackathon competition, an exhilarating showcase of tech-savvy minds, witnessed the participation of 35 ambitious entries.

Participants in this category received specialized training in user interface and user experience design, generously supported by Moringa School. From the pool of 35 entries, 13 outstanding presentations were featured during the grand finale of the event. During the momentous ceremony, the top three most exceptional ideas were honored, with the ultimate winner seizing the prestigious title along with a handsome prize of Ksh20000.

The awards were sponsored by Safaricom, emphasizing the critical role of corporate support in fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

The Innovation Week and Industry Summit served as a testament to KCA University's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and excellence, providing a platform for emerging entrepreneurs and visionaries to showcase their talents and contribute to the dynamic landscape of Kenya's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

With the resounding success of this year's event, the university continues to solidify its position as a pivotal hub for nurturing and celebrating innovation in the region.



INNOVATION WEEK AND INDUSTRY SUMMIT EXHIBITIONS



Awards To Top Innovators at Annual Innovation Week



Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)



KCAU Partnership with HRMPB



Carnegie scholar Activities



Public Lecture on creative economy



Research Seminar: Research Excellence in the Social Sciences: A Practitioner's Insights"



