



THE RESEARCHER



**A University Publication from the Division
of Research, Innovation and
Outreach**

ISSUE NO 2 | 2024



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

EDITORIAL

In today's rapidly evolving academic and professional landscapes, institutions of higher learning must continually adapt and innovate to remain relevant and impactful. KCA University stands at the forefront of this evolution, emphasizing interdisciplinary research, innovative teaching methods, and lifelong learning as key components of its educational philosophy.

At KCA University, we are dedicated to fostering a robust research ecosystem. Our Division of Research Innovation and Outreach plays a crucial role in this, providing structured support for both faculty and student research initiatives. By facilitating access to research grants and encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration,



Professor Vincent O. Onywera
Deputy Vice Chancellor
Research Innovation &
Outreach

we ensure that our research efforts are both cutting-edge and impactful. Our investments in state-of-the-art facilities and technology further strengthens our research capabilities, positioning us as leaders in academic and practical innovation.

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Dr. Caroline Ntara

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The areas of research interest as identified by KCA University are diverse and dynamic, including business and entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, the creative economy, education and learning, and natural resources and climate action. We are committed to expanding these areas and welcome strategic partnerships and collaborations to advance our research goals.

A cornerstone of our support for researchers is the Vice-Chancellor & CEO's Research and Innovation grant. This initiative provides essential seed funding for students, faculty, and staff to transition their ideas from ideation to innovation. By commercializing research outputs, we aim to create wealth and drive economic growth, reinforcing our commitment to impactful research.

The collective efforts of our researchers and the support structures we have put in place are a testament to our dedication to research, innovation, and outreach. From establishing various research directorates and innovation hubs to increasing our visibility in research rankings and scholarly publications, KCA University continues to make significant strides in the academic world.

In this second edition of "**The Researcher**," we highlight the following stories among many others that showcase our achievements and ongoing efforts;

- ❖ Recognition of staff and students in research and innovation
- ❖ KCA University publications and industry engagements
- ❖ Grants Won
- ❖ KCA University Inaugural annual tech expo
- ❖ Accreditation to grant ethics clearance
- ❖ Learning and Design Lab to fostering innovation
- ❖ Establishment of center for climate change action
- ❖ Faculty mobility programs

As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering a vibrant research culture and supporting our faculty and students in their pursuit of academic excellence and innovation. By doing so, we aim to remain at the forefront of research and innovation, contributing to the betterment of society.

Professor Vincent O. Onywera

Deputy Vice Chancellor Research,
Innovation and Outreach & Professor of
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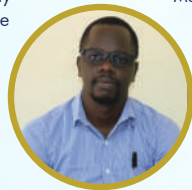
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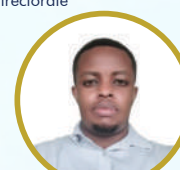
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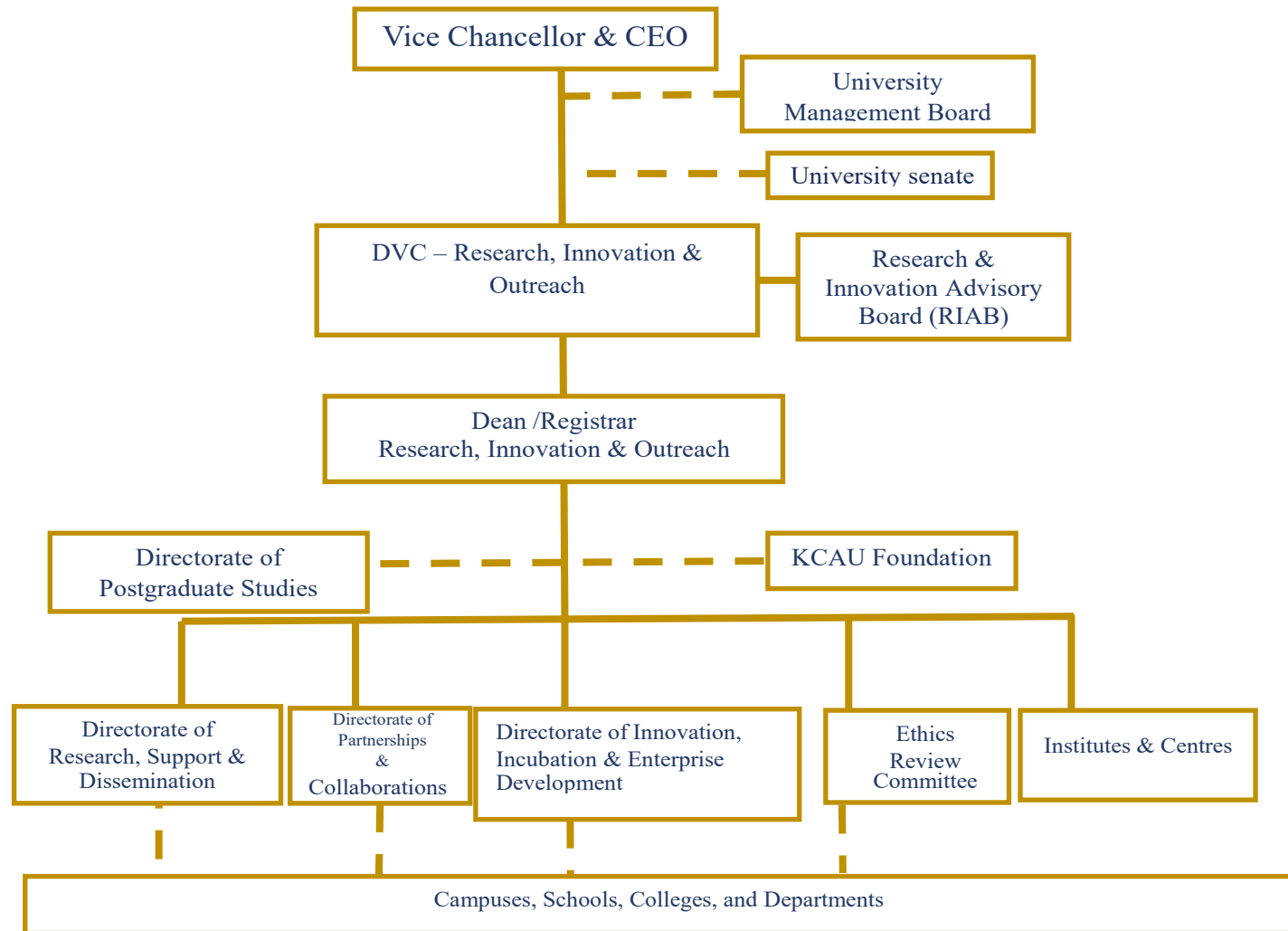


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Innovation and Incubation Officer

The Structure of Research, Innovation and Outreach



My perspective on KCA University Research

Q: How is KCA University fostering research and academic excellence for lifelong learning?

A: At KCA University, we emphasize interdisciplinary research and innovative teaching methods in teaching and learning. Through our Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, our curricula are designed to be flexible and adaptive, ensuring that students are knowledgeable in their fields in line with the current industry needs while being equipped with life skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving. This way, we also cultivate continuous learning and professional development to prepare our graduates for the dynamic job market.

Q: Which initiatives has KCA University implemented to enhance Research?



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

A: KCA University is home to a vibrant division of Research, Innovation and Outreach, which provides structured and forward-thinking support for faculty and student research initiatives by encouraging the pursuit of cutting-edge studies across various disciplines. The division also creates a robust research ecosystem by facilitating access to research grants, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and ensuring compliance with ethical standards.

We have expanded our investment in state-of-the-art facilities and technology to advance our research agenda while fostering partnerships and collaborations with industry experts to keep students and faculty abreast with the opportunities in collaborative research and innovation.

Q. What is KCA University Research Niche?

A: The KCA University areas of research interest include business and entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, creative economy, education and learning, natural resources and climate action. The University will keep expanding its areas of research interest moving forward. We welcome strategic partners and collaborators in advancing the above areas of research interest and more.

Q. How is the Vice-Chancellor & CEO's Research and Innovation grant supporting budding researchers?

A: With the increasing paucity of resources, there is a need for institutions of higher learning to invest in the commercialization of research outputs either through licensing or the creation of new ventures. KCA University is keen on creating wealth through the commercialization of research outputs.

The Vice-Chancellor & CEO's grant has been instrumental in providing seed money for students, faculty and staff to venture into ideation to innovation as we seek to commercialize our research outputs. We call on partners and stakeholders to support us in growing this fund to enable us reach more recipients.

Q: How is KCA University preparing its graduates for jobs of the future?

A: Jobs of the future refer to the opportunities influenced by rapid advancements in technology, shifting economic landscapes, and evolving societal needs. We are preparing our graduates for the jobs of the future by staying abreast of industry trends and technological advancements. KCA University is also integrating emerging technologies and industry trends by offering specialized programs in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, data science, and sustainable development.

We also provide students with experiential learning opportunities through internships, job shadowing programs, and industry projects to equip them with hands-on experience and ensure their adaptability to future changes in the job market.

Q. What are the key pillars of the KCA University 2024-2028 Strategic Plan?

A: Strategic planning is the compass that guides an organization's collective efforts toward a future of excellence, relevance, and impact. In an ever-evolving higher education landscape, there is a need for a roadmap that charts our course, enables us to navigate uncertainties and capitalizes on emerging opportunities.

The Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028 focuses on five key priority areas.

- i) Excellence in teaching and learning
- ii) Research, entrepreneurship and commercialization
- iii) Resource mobilization and optimization and Sustainability
- iv) Digital transformation
- v) Stakeholder engagement.

Q. How is KCA University addressing issues related to infrastructure development?

A: The University has a master plan which guides the university infrastructure development as approved by the University Council.

With the clear understanding of needs we have; the university has will prioritize projects that align with the

university's mission and long-term goals. Consideration should will be given to creating learning spaces that can adapt to future pedagogical shifts.

Q. How is KCA University contributing towards the realization of the Kenya Vision 2030?

A: 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 by the year 2030.

Education is a pivotal element in achieving this goal, considering that human capital is the cornerstone of sustainable development through the production of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce that drives economic growth and innovation.

KCA University is at the forefront of attaining this by facilitating access to quality education through initiatives such as the VC & CEO cycling tour, fostering Research & Innovation and equipping students with the skills and competencies that drive the nation's economic and social development.

CELEBRATING OUR RESEARCH CULTURE AND MILESTONES

Research, Innovation and Outreach has been a key focus for KCA University in the recent past. The collective efforts of our researchers are not only a testament to the quality and breadth of our research, but also to the University's commitment and role in seeking solutions to the challenges facing humanity. The University continues to support research, innovation and outreach by putting in place the necessary structures, infrastructure, strategies and ecosystem aimed at bolstering our research and impact. Below are some highlights of our research foot prints and milestones especially spanning the last 2 years.

1. Establishment of a Division of Research Innovation and Outreach
2. Establishment of a Directorate of Innovation, Incubation & Enterprise Development (IIED)
3. Establishment of a Directorate of Research Support & Dissemination (RSD)
4. Establishment of a Directorate of Partnerships and Collaborations
5. Establishment of the Vice Chancellor and CEO's Research and Innovation Fund
6. Establishment of two (2) Business Innovation and Incubation Hubs
7. Embedding a research component in the curricular
8. Increased visibility of the University and research community as demonstrated in research rankings
9. Increased number of scholarly publications
10. Increased strategic partnerships with various research organizations in the world.
11. Increased number of research grants won by members of staff
12. Development of the University Research and Innovation policy
13. Development of a dedicated research webpage in the main University website.

14. Increased avenues and opportunities to communicate our research news including conferences, seminars, symposia, peer-reviewed journals as well as electronic media.
15. Establishment of the KCA University Scientific and Ethics Review Committee (KCAUSERC).
16. Completion of NACOSTI requirements for the KCAUSERC's Accreditation.
17. First Postgraduate Research Dissemination Seminar
18. Strengthening Postgraduate Research Supervision Training
19. Rollout of periodical research capacity building workshops for faculty
20. Hosting of events to inculcate research skills in undergraduate students.
21. Pioneered the commercialization of innovations, establishing the foundation for an entrepreneurial university.
22. Establishment of the Center for Climate Change Action
23. Establishment of Return to Office Research Seminar

We congratulate members of staff for making research and research uptake part of their academic life at KCA University. We also salute the Council, University Management Board and the Senate for creating an enabling environment for creative research, innovation and stakeholder engagement.



Professor Vincent O. Onywera
Deputy Vice Chancellor Research,
Innovation and Outreach & Professor of Exercise
and Sports Science

KENYAN SCHOLARS CONVENE FOR RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON RANDOMIZED METHODS

KCA University played host to a vital workshop on randomized research methods in February 2024, bringing together top scholars and researchers from over 20 Kenyan universities. Sponsored by Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), the workshop aimed to equip participants with the tools to design and conduct rigorous research that can directly impact poverty reduction and improve lives.

The workshop fostered a space for knowledge sharing and collaboration among Kenyan academics. Participant shared best practices for randomized research, a methodology that utilizes random assignment to control for external factors and isolate the true impact of an intervention.

Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), the sponsor of the workshop, is a global organization working at the forefront of evidence-based development. IPA boasts a vast network of partners and researchers, and plays multiple roles:

- Designing and testing innovative solutions to poverty challenges.
- Supporting and partnering with local researchers and organizations to generate and utilize data effectively.
- Helping to scale up proven approaches that demonstrably improve lives around the world.

IPA champions the notion that high-quality evidence should be readily accessible to those who can put it to good use. The organization actively works to ensure policymakers and decision-makers have the data and research they need to craft better programs and policies.

Policymakers' most pressing questions drive IPA's strategic approach. They go beyond simple impact evaluations, employing a robust toolkit that empowers local researchers and policymakers. Notably, IPA invests heavily in building localized data and evidence capacity, ensuring a sustainable foundation for continued learning and improvement.

The workshop also served a critical purpose of equipping decision-makers with the evidence-based tools they need to implement effective programs and policies that have a tangible impact on poverty reduction and improving lives on the ground.

KCA UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STAFF SHINE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

KCA University is proud to announce the continued dedication and achievements of its faculty and staff in research, innovation, and outreach activities. Faculty members have secured grants, participated in conferences, and authored research publications, reinforcing the university's position as a research-intensive institution.

Grant Success Stories

KCA University researchers secured various grants, supporting diverse initiatives. These include:

- **Travel grants:** Dr. Laiboni Munene received funding for the J-pal summer school and Dr. Lucy Waruguru attended the ICE IEEE conference in Edinburgh.
- **Research and development grants:** Prof. Vincent Onywera secured funding from APHRC and Master card Foundation for different projects.
- **Staff mobility grant:** Dr. Fred Sporta was hosted at Livingstone International University for research collaboration.
- **Postdoctoral training grant:** Dr. Jackson Ndung'u received funding from the Union for African Population Studies.

Active Conference Participation

Faculty members actively participated in conferences around the world, presenting their research findings. This includes presentations on topics such as:

- The impact of weather analytics on Kenyan farmers by Dr. Laiboni Munene.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of e-learning by Dr. Lucy Waruguru.
- The impact of streaming services on Kenyan cinema by Benson Ngobia.
- Sustainable business practices by Dr. Lucy Wamalwa.

Publications and Industry Engagement

KCA University faculty authored a total of 39 research publications in 2023/2024, demonstrating their commitment to scholarly contribution. Additionally, the university's successful Innovation Week and Industry Summit received sponsorship from various organizations.

These achievements highlight KCA University's commitment to fostering a vibrant research culture and supporting its faculty in their pursuit of academic excellence and innovation.

Research Grants and Consultancy Teams

The following 8 research teams and 1 consultancy team won a total of KES 44M in various projects:

No.	Research Team	Funded Project/Funder/Amount
1	Prof Renson Muchiri (Investigator) Dr. Christine N. Simiyu (Co-Investigator) Joshua Nyangidi - Member	The CoPYEK Project which developed a youth an entrepreneurship resource hub where youth access entrepreneurial information to build their businesses.
2	Prof Renson Muchiri (Investigator) Dr. Christine N. Simiyu Dr. Abraham Rotich	The Design Labs Project was a student exchange program where KCA University and Nottingham University students in UK worked together to develop an innovative solution in climate change.
3	Dr. Zipporah Okoth (Investigator) Prof. Renson Muchiri (Co-investigator) Dr. Priscilla Gachigi Dr. Caroline Ntara Dr. Mary Mwanzia	Addressing issues in Gender Based Violence in Higher Education Institutions. The project is on-going.
4	Prof. Isaiah IC. Wakindiki (Investigator) Prof. Vincent Onywera (Co-investigator)	This project is about building entrepreneurship financial literacy is Micro and Small Businesses in selected counties. The project is on-going.
5	Prof. Vincent Onywera	Setting up of the Good Financial Grant Practices (GFGP) (1681:2018) ISO Certification. GFGP ISO certification is being completed by KPMG.
6	Dr. Abraham Rotich (PI) Prof. Renson Muchiri	About Challenge Based Learning Pilot Project which is meant to improve assessment of our various courses at the University.
7	Prof. Renson Muchiri (Team Leader) Dr. Christine N. Simiyu Dr. Abraham Rotich	This project was meant to institutionalize Commercialization Framework at KCA University. The framework is under review.
8	Dr. Christine N. Simiyu (Team Leader) Dr. Gabriel Laiboni Dr. Caroline Ntara Dr. Abraham Rotich	Develop evidence for Informing Optimization and Scaling of Youth and Women-led Clean Energy Enterprises & Business Models in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and South Africa funded by IDRC and in collaboration with the African Center for Technology Studies (ACTS). The project is on-going.

Consultancy Award at the Department of Economics and Statistics, School of Business

1	Dr. Peter W. Kariuki (Team Leader) Dr. Christine N. Simiyu Domnic Ojwang' Anthony Mulinge Victoria Litali Francis Ochieng' Isaiah Were	A Research Consultancy Services to Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA)
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Travel Grants

The following 9 faculty members won a total of KES 5M to attend various conferences, workshops and summer schools.

1	Dr. Christine N. Simiyu	National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Development Economics Summer Workshop, MA, USA Travel Grant
2	Dr. Lucy Wamalwa	Travel Grant by DAAD to Adis Ababa Ethiopia
3	Dr. Jackson Ndung'u	Travel Grant by CODESRIA to Malawi
4	Mr. Stephen Mutiso	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Conference Grant to Ghana
5	Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba	KENET Travel Grant to Australia
6	Dr. Gabriel Laiboni	JPAL Summer School Travel Grant to Morocco
7	Dr. Lucy Waruguru	KENET Travel Grant to Germany & Recognized as the 3rd best female and Also, a recipient of The World Academy of Sciences & the Germany Research Foundation Research Fellowship
8	Dr. Caroline Ntara	Travel & Accommodation Grant to Valleta, Malta for a Grand Excelsior Workshop.
9	Dr. Fred Sporta	Inter-University Council for East Africa mobility (IUCEA) Staff Mobility Programme at the Livingstone International University, Uganda.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications			
No.	Author(s)	Title of the Publication(s)	
1	Kaya Mrubata, Adornis D. Nciizah, Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki & Fhatuwani N. Mudau	Effects of Rainfall Intensity and Slope Gradient on Soil Sealing and Crusting, Erosion and Phosphorus solubilizing bacteria. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sciaf.2024.e02064	
2	Sibongiseni Mgozozeli, Adornis D. Nciizah, Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, Siaw Onwona-Agyeman	Agri-mat and grass mulch effect on crop biomass yield in sandy loam and loam soils. https://rb.gy/pv0qq1	

3	Juliet Anyango & Dr. Brigitte Okonga Wabuyabo	Accountability Principle and Financial Management of National Government Constituency Development Funding Nyanza Region, Kenya https://www.kcaijirss.com/index.php/home/article/view/55
4	Dennis Muchuki Kinini, Dr. Peter Kariuki & Kennedy Nyabuto Ocharo	Capital Adequacy, competition and Liquidity Creation of Banks; Evidence from Kenya. https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/AJEMS-02-2023-0048/full/pdf?title=capital-adequacy-competition-and-liquidity-creation-of-banks-evidence-from-kenya
5	Josphat Njoroge Kabui & Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba Ondabu	Navigating Risk: A Deep Dive into Credit Risk Management Practices and Loan Performance in Kenya's Fintech Frontier https://doi.org/10.47191/jefms/v7-i1-20
6	Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba Ondabu & John Oyaro	Personal Characteristics and Financial Inclusion: A Review of Literature https://doi.org/10.46382/MJBAS.2024.8106
7	Dr. Caroline Ntara & Dr. Ignatius Odongo	Role of Phenomenology in Management Research http://dx.doi.org/10.1504/IJMCP.2023.10060724
8	Caroline Kimani & Dr. Caroline Ntara	Public Private Partnership and Sustainable Development in Murang'a County, Kenya. https://doi.org/10.53983/ijmds.v13n1.001
9	Joseph N. Gachira & Dr. Caroline Ntara	Effect of Transformational Leadership on Organizational Performance of Top 100 SMEs in Nairobi, Kenya. https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t2361

10	Dr. Lucy Simani Wamalwa & Patricia Nang'ole Meyer	Green Supplier Development and Sustainable Supply Chain Management. https://doi.org/10.1002/bsd2.357
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KCA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH NICHE

KCA University's Division of Research Support and Dissemination has released its Faculty Research Excellence Report 2024, highlighting the top five areas of research interest among faculty and staff. The report, based on a comprehensive survey, provides valuable insights for optimizing research excellence at the university.



Education and Learning

- Innovative Pedagogy
- Education and Neuroscience
- Gender and Education, sexual orientation and gender diversity
- Play Education
- Education and Measurement
- Decolonizing Studies
- Migration and social Mobility
- Postromantic Stress Disorders



Business and Entrepreneurship

- Youth, Women and Entrepreneurship
- Family Business Succession
- Youth in education, entrepreneurship, innovation and Technology, Social and Educational Entrepreneurship
- Urban and Rural Agri-Entrepreneurship Development
- Financial Innovation and Inclusion.
- Environmental Accounting and Finance, Sustainable Finance
- Behavioral and Entrepreneurial Finance.



Innovation and Technology

- Emerging Technologies
- Digital Transformation
- Disruptive Innovation
- Open Innovation and Collaboration
- Use-Centered Design and Human Computer Interaction
- Sustainable Technology and Green Innovation
- Innovation Management and Strategy
- Technology Policy and Regulation.
- Entrepreneurship and Startups
- Ethics and Social Implications of technology



Natural Resources and Climate Action

- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration
- Carbon Capture and Storage
- Climate Policy and Governance
- Natural Resource Management and Conservation
- Climate Finance and Investment
- Urban Planning and Infrastructure
- Climate Communication and Public Engagement



Creative Economy

- Creative Arts as Communication Tool for Community Engagement
- Dramatherapy and Use of Children's Theatre
- Cultural Economics of Women in the Creative Arts Media and Gender Representation.
- Use of Cultural Arts in Cross Disciplinary Education.
- The status of the Artist in Africa
- Content Creation in Economy- E-commerce
- Emerging Areas in Journalism

The survey aimed to identify faculty research interests, understand the challenges they face, and explore support services that would be most beneficial. It also sought suggestions for elevating KCA University's research landscape, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and ultimately driving impactful outcomes.

KCA UNIVERSITY HOSTS INAUGURAL ANNUAL TECH EXPO

On March 7, 2024, KCA University held its first-ever Tech Expo, an event that brought together industry experts to share insights and offer mentorship to the university's aspiring tech professionals.

Spearheaded by the School of Technology (SoT) in collaboration with the Division of Research, Innovation, and Outreach (RIO), the Tech Expo showcased the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in software development, cybersecurity, networking, and other emerging technologies.



Panel discussion during KCA University inaugural tech expo

Judy Kimani, the Director of Partnerships and Digital Transformation at Britam, represented CEO Tom Gitogo at the event. She expressed Britam's interest in partnering with KCA University to support and sponsor future tech expos, and emphasized the company's readiness to help scale innovative ideas developed by the university's students

Prof. Joshua Bagaka's , Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Academic and Student Affairs, who stood in for Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaiah Wakindiki, reaffirmed the university's commitment to embracing technological advancements and actively involving students in adapting to these changes.

Prof. Vincent Onywera, DVC for Research, Innovation, and Outreach, highlighted the Tech Expo as a melting pot for technology enthusiasts, industry experts, staff, and students, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and hands-on experiences. The event featured tech talks, panel discussions, hackathons, and a mini-summit.

The discussion panels included notable figures such as Albert Kimani, Director of Programs at Power Learn Project; Nancy Muriithi, Head of Programs at SheHacks KE; and Eric Mutuku from BParpus Limited.

The Developers' Hackathon was facilitated by a team from Africa's Talking Ltd, led by Michael Kimathi, Head of Developer Community Africa, along with Graham Muhanga, SVP of Marketing and Partnerships, and Sylvia Jebet, Developer Relations.



A breakdown of the hackathon participants showed a strong representation from KCA University with 35 participants, alongside attendees from institutions such as Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, and Mama Ngina University College.

Distribution of Hackathon Participants Across Universities

University	Number of Participants
KCA University	35
Kenyatta University	4
University of Nairobi	5
Mama Ngina University College (MNUC)	4
Technical University of Kenya (TUK)	1
Mount Kenya University	1
Zetech University	1
Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA)	2
Multimedia University (MMU)	1
Kenya Methodist University (KEMU)	1
Total	55

The diverse group of participants demonstrates the increased interest and engagement in the development community.

KCA UNIVERSITY GEARS UP FOR ACCREDITATION TO GRANT ETHICS CLEARANCE



A team from National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) visited KCAU on the 25th of March 2024 to assess the preparedness and suitability for approval of KCA University Scientific Ethics Review Committee (KCAUSERC).

The primary objective behind the formation of the KCAUSERC is to streamline the process of research involving human

participants while ensuring the protection of their rights and welfare. Once operational, the committee will serve as a critical body, receiving and meticulously scrutinizing research proposals not only from within KCA University but also from external researchers interested in conducting studies within Kenya's borders.

The KCAUSERC's mandate is to enforce strict adherence to scientific and ethical principles integral to research involving human participants. KCAUSERC is composed of a committee led by Dr. Caroline Ntara as the Chairperson. The committee boasts a diverse composition comprising both internal members from KCA University and external experts hailing from various fields of study.

The internal committee members include Teresia Irura (Committee Secretary), Isaiah Were (Administrator) Dr. Gladys Bunyasi, Dr. Kevin Mugoye, Paulas Adamba, Dr. Jackson Ndungu, and Milka Njuguna. Meanwhile, the committee also benefits from the invaluable perspectives of external members such as Capt. Rev. Kennedy Owino, James Rimui and Sheikh Abu Najma, ensuring a well-rounded approach to ethical considerations.

KCAUSERC MENTORSHIP



KCAUSERC and Kenya University ISERC team during mentorship at Kenyatta University

In accordance with the provisions of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), a select group of members from the KCA University Scientific Research Ethics Review Committee (KCAUSERC) underwent mentorship at Kenyatta University. This mentorship initiative is integral to the accreditation process of the KCA University Scientific Research and Ethics Review Committee.

The KCA University delegation was led by Professor Vincent Onywera, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Outreach (DVC RIO).

Accompanying him were Dr. Caroline Ntara (Chairperson of KCA University Scientific Review Committee), Dr. Gladys Bunyasi, Dr. Kevin Mugoye, Isaiah Were (Administrator, KCA University Scientific Review Committee), and Yvonne Ochilo (in attendance). The Kenyatta University team included Dr. Richard Oduor (Registrar, Research, Innovation, and Outreach), Professor Nicholas Gikonyo from the Department of Pharmacology & Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Professor Judith Kiminywe (Director, Centre for Research Ethics and Safety, and our host), and Sylvia Anzagi.

The primary objective of this session was to familiarize and mentor KCA University committee members with the requisite procedures for ensuring that all research conducted within the university adheres to ethical standards and follows the prescribed protocols.

Additionally, the administrative processes, from proposal submission to the review stage, were thoroughly explained by the Kenyatta University administrative team, headed by Peter Kakai.

Key Highlights

- The mentorship session provided a comprehensive overview of the procedural requirements mandated for research within our respective institutions.
- Practical insights were shared regarding the submission, evaluation, and review processes, ensuring clarity and understanding among all participants.
- Interactive discussions facilitated a deeper understanding of ethical considerations and compliance standards, fostering a culture of responsible research conduct.
- Opportunities for networking and collaboration were explored, fostering stronger ties between KCA University and Kenyatta University.

The mentorship session proved to be immensely beneficial, equipping KCA University Scientific Research Ethics Review Committee members with invaluable knowledge and tools essential for upholding ethical standards in research. We express our gratitude to Kenyatta University for their hospitality and expertise extended during the engagement.

VARSITY DON INSPIRES KCSE CANDIDATES



DVC Research, Innovation, and Outreach (RIO) Prof. Vincent Onywera (L) poses for a photo with KCSE candidates of Baba Dogo Secondary School. In brown jacket is David Ajiki a lecturer of KCAU School of Business.

DVC Research, Innovation, and Outreach (RIO) Prof. Vincent Onywera delivered a stirring motivational speech to over 200 KCSE candidates of Baba Dogo Secondary School. Prof. Onywera was invited by the School's Management to share his experience as an educator and mentor to inspire the students as they prepare to sit their final exam later this year.

Prof. Onywera graced the occasion accompanied by David Ajiki, a faculty member from the School of Business who also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Management (BOM) of Baba Dogo Secondary School. He was received by Ms. Brigitte Mugambi, the School Principal.

KCAU SCHOLAR ATTENDS THE GRAND EXCELSIOR WORKSHOP IN VALLETTA, MALTA



Dr. Caroline Ntara was invited as a researcher to offer insights and commentary on various topical areas presented. All travel and accommodation expenses were paid by the organizers of the workshop.

Some of the research presented included topics around: Oil and gas in Nigeria, Racism and the workplace in Bermuda, Sustainable Water Supply in South Africa, Gender and Entrepreneurship in the USA, Corporate Social Responsibility or “Personal Social Responsibility”? The case of Nigeria, the Challenges on Executive Level Advancement among Latinos in Corporate America, Youth Entrepreneurship in Uganda, Women in Entrepreneurship in Egypt and Leadership Competencies in South African businesses, among others. Several research methodologies were presented and discussed during the workshop with emphasis on robustness and academic rigour.

The Grand Excelsior workshop brought together scholars from around the world to present and discuss research on global socio-economic development from the 8th to the 12th of April 2024.

These included ethnography, phenomenology, grounded theory and factor analysis, among others. Overall, there was emphasis on research output that is geared to solve problems and bring tangible societal changes around the world.

On the last day of the workshop, Dr. Ntara was invited to participate in a doctoral defence committee for a doctoral viva voce on MSMEs and the topic “Financial Inclusion and Self-exclusion” in Nigeria’s - Lagos, Enugu and Kano states.



KCA UNIVERSITY HOSTS LEARNING AND DESIGN LAB: FOSTERING INNOVATION FOR PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT IN KOROGOCHO

From April 22nd to 26th, KCA University hosted a dynamic Learning and Design Lab activity, bringing together a diverse group of twenty participants—ten from KCA University and ten from the University of Nottingham in the UK. This collaborative initiative aims to address a pressing industry problem provided by Chemolex, a company specializing in plastic recycling in the Korogocho slums. The project was generously sponsored by the British Council, emphasizing the significance of international cooperation and sustainable development.

The week-long event focused on harnessing the creativity and technical skills of the participants to develop innovative solutions for plastic waste

management in one of Nairobi's most challenging environments. Chemolex presented a real-world problem: the effective collection, processing, and repurposing of plastic waste to reduce environmental impact and improve the livelihoods of Korogocho residents.





To guide the participants through this complex challenge, Circle Innovation conducted a series of intensive innovation sessions. These sessions were designed to stimulate creative thinking, foster teamwork, and provide the necessary tools and methodologies for effective problem-solving. Circle Innovation's facilitators employed a variety of techniques, including design thinking, rapid prototyping, and iterative testing, to help students translate their ideas into tangible prototypes.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in hands-on activities and collaborative discussions. They explored different aspects of the plastic recycling process, from collection strategies and sorting mechanisms to innovative product design using recycled materials. The diverse backgrounds of the participants, combining local insights from KCA students with the technical expertise of their Nottingham counterparts, enriched the problem-solving process and led to a multitude of innovative ideas.

One of the highlights of the lab activity was the development of several promising prototypes. These included a modular plastic sorting machine designed to be easily operable within the constraints of the Korogocho slums, and a range of marketable products made from recycled plastics, such as eco-friendly bricks and artisanal crafts. These prototypes were not only functional but also culturally sensitive, reflecting the unique needs and aesthetics of the local community.

The collaboration between the two universities and the active involvement of Chemolex and Circle Innovation underscored the potential of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural partnerships in addressing global challenges. By the end of the lab activity, participants had gained invaluable experience in innovation and design, while also contributing to a cause that holds significant environmental and social benefits.

The Learning and Design Lab at KCA University exemplified how academic institutions, industry partners, and international organizations can come together to foster innovation and drive positive change. Sponsored by the British Council, this initiative not only highlighted the importance of sustainability in education but also showcased the impact of collaborative efforts in solving real-world problems.

KCAU VISITING SCHOLAR FINDS ENRICHMENT AT UGANDAN VARSITY: A STORY OF COLLABORATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

A recent visiting scholarship at Livingston International University (LIU) proved transformative for Dr. Fred Sporta, a Senior Lecturer in Accounting and Finance at KCA University.

The experience, as Dr. Sporta recounts, went beyond academics, fostering both professional and personal growth.

LIU's vibrant campus in Mbale, nestled against the scenic Wanale Ridge, provided an inspiring backdrop for Dr. Sporta's stay.

The university's emphasis on academic excellence and inclusivity resonated with him, setting the stage for a fruitful exchange.

Dr. Sporta wasn't just imparting knowledge at LIU; he was igniting a passion for his field. His engaging lectures and workshops in accounting and finance resonated with students, while his collaboration with faculty yielded a more globally relevant curriculum that also addressed the specific needs of local Ugandan students.



Dr. Fred Sporta, a visiting scholar from KCA University, poses for a photo with students at Livingston International University, Uganda

Research collaboration proved to be another highlight. Dr. Sporta partnered with local researchers on a TEFF proposal focused on empowering women in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This project aimed to enhance their entrepreneurial skills, increase access to financial resources, and foster a supportive environment for growth.

The collaboration enriched Dr. Sporta's own research while fostering a valuable exchange of ideas and methodologies.



LIU's commitment to community service resonated deeply with Dr. Sporta. He participated in outreach programs, conducting educational workshops at local schools and volunteering at community centers.

These initiatives ranged from clean-up drives in Budaka town and the district hospital to providing food, essential supplies, and educational opportunities for those in need.



A particularly memorable experience was the Cultural Gala, a vibrant celebration of diversity within the university community. Each cultural group showcased its unique traditions, including cuisine, offering a glimpse into Uganda's rich tapestry. Students, faculty, and visiting scholars like Dr. Sporta all participated in the preparations, collaborating to create a platform for cultural exchange.

Beyond academics, the experience fostered personal growth for Dr. Sporta. Living in Uganda instilled in him resilience, adaptability, and a deep appreciation for cultural sensitivity. The friendships forged with colleagues and students became cherished connections that transcended geographical boundaries. Dr. Sporta reflects on his time at LIU as an enriching experience that broadened his horizons and strengthened his passion for education and cross-cultural collaboration. The lessons learned and the memories made will undoubtedly continue to influence his professional and personal life for years to come. He expresses his deep gratitude to LIU for this opportunity and looks forward to future collaborations.

Dr. Fred Sporta,
KCA University

KCAU SCHOLAR TO UNDERTAKE COLLABORATION RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Dr. Lucy Waruguru Mburu, received a research grant from the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the German Research Foundation (DFG) to participate in a collaboration visit programme. The programme offers a unique opportunity for international scholars to collaborate with leading researchers in Germany, fostering academic exchange and advancing scientific knowledge. The TWAS-DFG collaboration visit programme aims to promote scientific cooperation and capacity-building in developing countries by providing researchers with the opportunity to work closely with experts in their field at renowned institutions in Germany. This initiative supports the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources, ultimately contributing to the advancement of science and technology on a global scale.

The application process for the TWAS-DFG collaboration visit programme was rigorous and competitive. Dr. Waruguru submitted a detailed research proposal outlining the objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes of the proposed project, together with letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and a curriculum vitae highlighting her academic achievements and research experience. After careful review by the selection committee, she was notified of her successful admission to the programme.

The 3-month collaboration visit programme will take place at TU Dortmund University in Germany. During the visit she will have the opportunity to collaborate with Prof. Eva Heinen, a leading expert in Mobility and Transportation Research, on spatial analysis of motorbike accidents in Kenya. This collaboration will enable her to gain valuable insights, access state-of-the-art facilities and establish professional connections within the international scientific community.

Participation in the TWAS-DFG collaboration visit programme yields several tangible outcomes. Firstly, it enhances the researcher's skills and broadens the domain-specific knowledge. By working alongside globally acclaimed researchers and engaging in interdisciplinary discussions, the collaborative nature of the programme deepens the understanding of complex scientific concepts and methodologies.

Additionally, the visit offers Dr. Waruguru an opportunity for knowledge exchange and fostering of long-term partnerships between researchers in TU Dortmund and KCA University. This program not only advances science and technology at KCA University, Kenya, but also has the potential to make a global impact. Dr. Waruguru is excited to represent KCA University on the international stage and make meaningful contributions to the scientific community.

She expresses her gratitude to the World Academy of Sciences and the German Research Foundation for their support and funding of this collaboration visit programme. Additionally, she wishes to thank her host professor Prof. Eva Heinen, the Vice Chancellor and CEO Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki, her mentor the deputy Vice Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach Prof. Vincent O. Onywera, and her recommender the deputy Vice Chancellor Academics and Students Affairs Prof. Joshua Bagaka's for their guidance and encouragement throughout the application process. Their support has been invaluable, and Dr. Waruguru appreciates their continued mentorship as she embarks on this exciting opportunity.

Dr. Lucy Waruguru

Senior Lecturer & Chair of
Department – Networks and
Applied Computing, School
of Technology



KCA UNIVERSITY HOSTS AWS COMMUNITY DAY



John Tanui, Permanent Secretary of Kenya's State Department of ICT and Digital Economy, shared the nation's ongoing journey of digital transformation and innovation. He emphasized the government's commitment to realizing the "Digital Superhighway" vision. This initiative aligns with Kenya Vision 2030, leveraging cloud service infrastructure to drive economic growth and unlock opportunities for Kenyan talent.

"I am particularly pleased to see young Kenyans working at the recently launched AWS development center in Nairobi, serving clients across the globe," said Tanui.



The Permanent Secretary highlighted the vast potential of the digital economy for young people, offering exciting careers in cloud computing, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. He expressed his appreciation to KCA University for providing a platform for connection, collaboration, and driving positive change. Dr. Amina Zawedde Permanent Secretary of ICT from Uganda, graced the occasion signifying the event's regional significance.

DEAN'S COURSE IN AFRICA: EMPOWERING UNIVERSITY LEADERS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



Dr. Lucy Wamalwa
Senior Lecturer, School
of Business

I was honoured to attend the Dean's Course in Africa in February of this year. The Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) program aims to support higher education institutions in developing countries, particularly Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, to enhance their management capacities and promote internationalization. DIES training programs offer modular and practice-oriented training opportunities for management-level professionals from developing-world universities.

The Deans Course Africa program aims to enhance leadership and management skills among deans and academic leaders in African universities. The program includes workshops, seminars, and dialogue events to cover various aspects of university management. Participants learn from each other's experiences, develop projects, and network with peers and experts in higher education. The courses address unique challenges faced by the management of universities in developing countries, such as quality assurance, securing external funding, managing faculty, research, and finance. The German Centre for Higher Education and the University of Applied Sciences of Osnabrück coordinate the program, collaborating with international instructors.

The course coordinators introduced a new module during our time in Ethiopia, focusing on sustainability in higher education. The course aimed to equip academic leaders, educators, and students with the knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability into higher education institutions. These courses focused on various aspects, such as sustainable campus operations, curriculum development, research, and community engagement. Curriculum development involves training on incorporating sustainability principles into existing courses and creating new ones. Sustainable campuses include best practices for improving operations, such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable transportation. Research and innovation training encourages and supports research in sustainability-related fields, facilitating interdisciplinary research collaboration to address complex sustainability challenges. We also emphasized community engagement and participation, strategies for community involvement and mutually developed projects that cultivated leadership and management skills to drive institutional change towards sustainability.

The event also offered an opportunity to network, build research, and collaborate with academic leaders, trainers and mentors from African universities.



**Dr. Lucy Wamalwa at the Dean's Course Africa program
in Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia**



KCA University don participates in African Population Conference

The 9th African Population Conference "The conference, the largest scientific gathering on population (APC) convened from May 18 to May 24, 2024, at the Bingu Wa Mutharika International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe, Malawi. Organized by the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), this year's theme was "Road to 2030: Leveraging Africa's Human Capital to Achieve Transformation in a World of Uncertainty."

The APC provided a platform for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and experts to discuss various population and development issues. The event featured a wide array of research presentations, keynote speeches, and panel discussions on topics around population growth, fertility rates, mortality trends, migration patterns, urbanization, health, and socio-economic implications.



Key Findings

The study revealed that 87.3% of the girls had received information about menstruation, primarily through school health clubs supported by NGOs. However, a small percentage, 0.9%, had no information at all. On menstrual hygiene practices, majority, 86%, of the girls used disposable sanitary pads. However, access to these materials during school holidays was limited, leading some to use alternatives like reusable cloth or cotton wool. Many girls reported being uninformed about menstruation before experiencing it, highlighting a significant challenge. The study also noted the stigma surrounding menstruation, which hampers open discussions and education on the topic.

Recommendations

The study provided several recommendations to address these challenges. It called for the Nairobi County Government, school administrations, and NGOs to provide continuous support for sanitary materials to ensure consistent access. Training for teachers on reproductive health was deemed crucial, as 61.5% were found to be untrained in this area.

One of the significant presentations was by Dr. Jackson Ndung'u from KCA University School of Education, whose study focused on "Analysis of Menstrual Hygiene Management Among School-Going Adolescent Girls in the Mathare Informal Settlement in Nairobi." Dr. Mwangi highlighted the challenges faced by adolescent girls in managing menstrual hygiene due to inadequate resources and education.

Additionally, the study emphasized the need for infrastructure improvements in schools, such as proper facilities for menstrual hygiene, including washing areas and water basins.

The conference further explored various sub-themes, reflecting the diverse and interconnected aspects of population studies. These sub-themes included Migration and Urbanization, Data and Methods, Health and Mortality, Fertility/ Sexual and Reproductive Health, Education, Health, and Human Development, Environment and Climate Change, and Population and Economic Development.

The discussions highlighted emerging trends and provided valuable insights into demographic transitions, aging populations, youth demographics, gender dynamics, reproductive health, and the impact of climate change on populations.

The conference emphasised the importance of rigorous research, capacity building, and the use of scientific evidence to inform policies and programs aimed at addressing Africa's population and development challenges.

The insights and recommendations from the conference are expected to significantly contribute to achieving sustainable development goals across the continent.

KCA University Honours Staff and Students for Research and Innovation Excellence

In a move to promote a culture of innovation and research, KCA University recognized the outstanding contributions of 28 staff members and 5 students during the July 2024 graduation ceremony. This initiative, spearheaded by the Division of Research Innovation and Outreach (RIO), underscores the university's commitment to research excellence as outlined in its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

The recognition aims to celebrate the efforts of staff and students who have demonstrated exceptional work in research and innovation. By highlighting these achievements, KCA University hopes to motivate more faculty and students to engage in research, thereby enhancing the university's research output and contributing to societal development through innovative solutions.

The recognition list features a diverse range of projects and grants secured by the staff and students. Notable projects include;

The recognition list features a diverse range of projects and grants secured by the staff and students. Notable projects include;

The CoPYEK Project, funded by the British Council in collaboration with Nottingham University and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, led by Prof. Renson Muchiri, Dr. Christine N. Simiyu, and Joshua Nyangidi, with a funding amount of £150,000.

The Financial Literacy Project, funded by the MasterCard Foundation, spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaiah IC. Wakindiki and DVC Research, Innovation and Outreach Prof. Vincent Onywera, with a funding of USD 25,000.

Catch Global Project for Children on Holiday, led by Prof. Vincent Onywera, funded with KES 700,000, alongside an ISO certification project funded by APHRC with USD 2,000.



Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki



Prof. Vincent O. Onywera



Prof. Renson Muchiri Mwangi



Dr. Christine Nanjala



Dr. Abraham K. Rotich



Dr. Lucy Waruguru



Dr. Peter Kariuki



Dr. Lucy Wamalwa



Dr. Ibrahim Tirimba



Dr. Priscilla Gachigi



Dr. Fred Sporta



Dr. Zippora Agatha Okoth



Dr. Munene Laiboni



Dr. Mary Mwanzia



Dr. Jackson Ndung'u



Dr. Caroline Ntara



CPA Dominic Ojwang



Joshua Nyangidi



CPA Victoria Litali



Anthony Mulinge



Isaiah Were, MPRSK



Francis Ochieng'



Mr. Stephen Mutiso



Alexander Njuguna

The students being recognized have also made significant strides in innovation. Anthony Chege, an undergraduate student, has developed a project that converts organic waste into organic manure using Black Soldier Fly technology, supported by the Kenya Climate Innovation Center with a fund of \$47,000.

Rayfrank Muriithi and his team won the Best Innovation Award at the 2024 NRF Hackathon for their game "Cyberverse," which uses cybersecurity innovations to create a metaverse for learning.

Farah Abdi has developed two notable projects, Fabemed and EDU AI, in healthcare and education, securing a contract with IBM for his innovations.

Samson Mutori's project, Farmwise, offers an affordable smart brooder for poultry farmers in Kenya, contributing to the agricultural sector with innovative technology.

Jacinta Kazenzi's project is abouts She's safe which offers security details in an environment enhancing security information in our localities.

By celebrating these achievements, the university not only motivates its current members but also sets a precedent for future generations of researchers and innovators.



Farah Abdi

Jecinta Kazenzi

Rayfrank Murithi

Samson Mutoro

and Antony Chege

KCA University Hosts Chemolex Limited and Circular Innovation Hub to Foster Strategic Collaborations

KCA University welcomed a delegation from Chemolex Limited and Circular Innovation Hub at its town campus to explore further strategic collaborations. The visit, hosted by Dr. Ibrahim T. Ondabu, Director of Town Campus, aimed to build on the successful outcomes of recent collaborative initiatives.

The engagement follows the successful conclusion of a joint project between KCA University and the British Council, which also involved Chemolex Limited as an industry partner. This project featured a five-day exchange program in Nairobi, bringing together 20 students from KCA University and Nottingham University Business School.



The program emphasized challenge-based learning, offering students a hands-on experience in tackling real-world problems.

Dr. Ibrahim Ondabu Director KCA University CBD Campus, along with Prof. Renson Muchiri, Director of Quality Assurance, and Dr. Abraham Rotich, Director of Linkages and Enterprise Management, hosted the visiting team at the KCA University Town Campus. The event facilitated discussions on enhancing collaborative efforts and exploring new opportunities for innovation and industry engagement.

NURTURING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT KCA UNIVERSITY

By Prof. S. Ngigi, Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

In the dynamic landscape of higher education, faculty members play a pivotal role in shaping the academic journey of students. At KCA University, we recognize the critical importance of continuous learning and professional development for our esteemed faculty. Under the auspices of the Vice Chancellor & CEO, KCA University recently hosted a transformative faculty enhancement workshop titled “Curriculum Development and Review: Sensitization on Competency-Based Education Framework.” This workshop, held from February to April 2024, served as a beacon of our unwavering dedication to empowering educators and building a strong foundation for student success.



Understanding the workshop's significance

The overarching theme of the workshop, “Empowering Educators: Building a Foundation for Student Success,” underscored our commitment to equipping faculty members with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate modern education effectively.



Through tailored sessions led by esteemed local experts, participants engaged in robust discourse, practical exercises, and hands-on learning experiences aimed at enhancing their proficiency in curriculum design and instructional methodologies.

Methodology

The workshop's evaluation methodology ensured comprehensive feedback collection. Employing a continuous survey approach, coupled with interactive feedback sessions, participants were provided with ample opportunities to articulate their thoughts and offer suggestions. This multifaceted approach enabled us to glean valuable insights into the workshop's impact and efficacy.

Key findings and insights

The evaluation findings paint a compelling picture of the workshop's success. With an impressive attendance rate of 86%, participants overwhelmingly rated the workshop as highly effective.

Importantly, 77.6% of participants found the topics covered to be highly relevant. Furthermore, the workshop significantly strengthened participants' understanding and application of key concepts, with 97.8% expressing satisfaction in this regard.





Moving forward

To build on the success of this workshop, we propose a series of recommendations, including diversifying workshop topics, enhancing engagement, improving logistics, ensuring continuity, and providing certificates for authentication.

Conclusion: A Commitment to excellence

In conclusion, the success of the “Curriculum Development and Review: Sensitization on Competency-Based Education Framework” workshop stands as a testament to KCA University's commitment to academic excellence and educator empowerment.

Empowered educators are essential to student success, and as we forge ahead, guided by these insights and recommendations, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture the next generation of skilled, compassionate, and visionary educators.

ENHANCING FACULTY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

By Prof. Ngigi S. K., Director, Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

KCA University recently hosted a transformative faculty enhancement workshop titled “Curriculum Development and Review and Sensitization on Competency-Based Education Framework.” Held over three intensive days from February to April 2024, this workshop aimed to equip faculty members with essential tools and knowledge to navigate the transition toward competency-based education effectively. The workshop’s structured training sessions, collaborative discussions, and hands-on activities deepened participants’ understanding of curriculum development principles and competency-based education frameworks. Key training areas included:

- a) Understanding Educational Philosophy: Faculty members engaged in thoughtful discussions about the underlying philosophy of education, aligning their teaching practices with student-centered learning.
- b) Active Learning Strategies: Participants explored innovative teaching methods that promote student engagement, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- c) Technology Integration: The workshop emphasized leveraging technology to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Faculty members learned how to integrate digital tools effectively into their courses.
- d) Competency-Based Assessment Methods: Faculty were introduced to assessment approaches that focus on students’ demonstrated competencies rather than traditional exams. This shift aims to better prepare students for real-world challenges.

Additionally, the report underscores the significance of continued professional development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research and innovation in strengthening faculty development initiatives. By fostering a culture of lifelong learning, KCA University aims to empower faculty members to excel in their roles as architects of impactful learning experiences.



Recommendations

The report concludes with actionable recommendations to further enhance faculty empowerment:

- a) Faculty Training Continuity: Regular workshops and training sessions should be organized to sustain faculty development efforts.



- b) **Research and Innovation:** Encourage faculty members to engage in scholarly research and innovative teaching practices, contributing to educational excellence.
- c) **Collaboration Across Disciplines:** Interdisciplinary collaboration fosters creativity and enriches teaching approaches.

The workshop outcomes and recommendations serve as a roadmap for continuous improvement, ensuring that faculty members play a pivotal role in shaping student success.





A BOOK CAFÉ: DECOLONIZATION OF THE MIND

The KCA University in partnership with Amnesty International held an event to celebrate the works of Kenyan freedom writers including Professors Micere Githae Mugo and Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. The event took place at the Martin Oduor-Otieno Library, Ruaraka Campus on Friday, 14th June 2024.

The objective was to celebrate the profound contributions of these literary giants and reproduce the Freedom Writers' experience among the youth in schools around the world while providing educators with tools to empower all students to succeed and become catalysts for positive social change.

Amnesty International donated books to the KCAU library to advance knowledge and information about rediscovering new ways to express ourselves and embracing history,

humanity, and hope. The books included: *My Mother's Poem and Other Songs* which allowed the students to explore Prof Micere's vision of a united Africa free of oppression and imperialism but also to understand the significance of family in supporting liberation movements. "*Decolonizing the Mind*" by Prof Ngugi, exposes students to the process of ending a false universalism in the guise of "Westernized" canons that attribute truth only to Western forms of knowledge production but without succumbing to a relativism in which all perspectives are equally valid. Other books: *A Grain of Wheat*, "*Dreams in a Time of War*" and "*Petals of Blood*".



“Our sincere hope is that students and lecturers can emulate the moral values that are exhibited by the Freedom Writers including bravery, humility, honesty, steadfastness, love and affection, and trustworthiness”

KCA UNIVERSITY HOSTS PRE-OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



KCA University Pre-Olympics International Symposium
THEME: Sports, Business, Technology, Health & Environment

Prof. Isaiah I.C. Wakindiki
Vice Chancellor & CEO KCA University
Chief Host

Hon. Ababu Namwamba
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs,
Creative Economy and Sports
Chief Guest

Akinyemi Awodumila
Partner, Deloitte
East Africa

Prof. Schumann Moritz
Chemnitz University
of Technology, Germany.

Prof. Vincent O. Onywera
KCA University

Dr. Arch Paul Aloyo
Jomo Kenyatta University
of Agriculture and
Technology

DATE: 1st July 2024, 8:00 am -1:00 pm **Virtual: Join Zoom Meeting**

Zoom link: <https://bitly.cx/DVv8q> | **Meeting ID:** 991 9101 5786 | **Passcode:** 500144

KCA UNIVERSITY **CATCH GLOBAL FOUNDATION** **KAS KENYA ACADEMY OF SPORTS** **UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY CHEMNITZ** **Deloitte** **unesco**

KCA University hosted a virtual pre-Olympics international symposium on 1st July 2024, attracting a global audience of sports enthusiasts and scholars. The symposium served as a legacy event for the university in the lead-up to the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Mr. Jaxon Indakwa representing the chief guest, Hon. Ababu Namwamba, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Creative Economy and Sports graced the occasion.

Indakwa said the KCA University pre-olympic symposium came at the right time as the world prepares to witness the biggest sporting extravaganza in the forthcoming Paris 2024 summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The symposium highlighted the key role universities play in research and development for sports science, engineering, and technology. These advancements contribute to innovative tools and methodologies that enhance athlete performance, injury prevention, and rehabilitation.

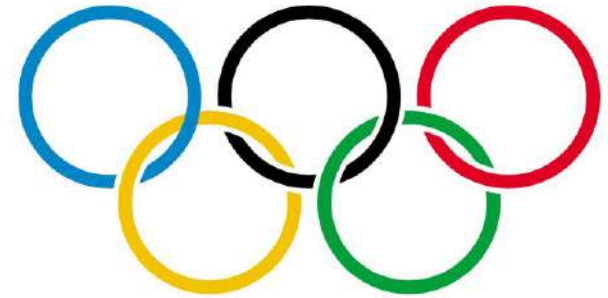
Over 10,500 Athletes participating in 41 sports disciplines will gather to celebrate Sports excellence after undergoing various rigorous qualification competitions.

Kenya will be part of this celebration in Paris, and will parade its own best to face the rest of the world. Over 10,500 Athletes participating in 41 sports disciplines will gather to celebrate Sports excellence after undergoing various rigorous qualification competitions. Kenya will be part of this celebration in Paris, and will parade its own best to face the rest of the world.

The Olympic Games have long been celebrated world over not only for sporting excellence but also for the ability to unite nations, inspire innovation, and promote global cooperation.

This symposium was very critical as it enabled discussions, insightful presentations, and interactive sessions, which aimed to harness various potential in the Sports ecosystem. The event spurred more understanding of sports related initiatives, hence catalysing positive change, environmental conversation and sustainable development.

Akinyemi Awodumila, Partner at Deloitte East Africa, highlighted the role of the sports industry in driving the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda. He emphasized the necessity for sustainability in sports, just as in any other human activity.



Prof. Vincent Onywera, DVC Research, Innovation, representing the KCA University Vice Chancellor and CEO, spoke of the Olympic spirit, emphasizing teamwork, collaboration, partnership, and inclusivity fostered through sports and competition.

Other facilitators included Hugue Ngandeu, UNESCO Representative; Prof. Moritz Schumann from Chemnitz University of Technology, Prof. Vincent Onywera from KCA University, who spoke on Sports and Health and Dr. Arch Paul Aloyo from JKUAT, who explored the connection between sports and the environment.

KCA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES SPORTS BOOTCAMP TO ENGAGE LOCAL CHILDREN IN PHYSICAL FITNESS AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

KCA University in collaboration with CATCH Global Foundation initiated a children's school holiday sports bootcamp to keep children age 8 – 12 years engaged in safe and appropriate sports programs when not in school. This is a two-pronged approach intended to engage the children in physical fitness while introducing them to basic age-appropriate financial literacy business and technology skills.

CATCH Global Foundation is a public charity founded in 2014, in partnership and with support from the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHealth) and MD Anderson Cancer Center, to increase the availability and adoption of evidence-based health programs.





The project was piloted during 2023 December holiday at KCA University main Campus. The program has attracted over 300 children mainly from the Mathare informal settlements neighbouring the university.

The success of the pilot phase and enquiries from parents gives us reason to continue with the program. By 2025, we foresee this program spreading beyond the Mathare catchment area and having greater impact on the children countrywide.

KCA UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

KCA University has announced the launch of the Center for Climate Change Action (CCCCA), a new initiative dedicated to tackling the pressing challenges of climate change.

The Center's establishment stems from a deep concern about climate change's global impact on ecosystems, economies, and livelihoods. KCA University recognizes the urgency of proactive action and aims to empower individuals and institutions to become climate leaders.

The CCCC's mission is to advance climate change research, education, and advocacy. It seeks to empower individuals, communities, and institutions to take decisive action and build resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

The Center envisions a future where communities thrive in harmony with nature, are resilient to climate impacts, and possess the knowledge and resources to build a sustainable world.

Key Objectives

- The Center will prioritize research excellence in climate change, focusing on innovative solutions for mitigation and adaptation.
- Through training programs and courses, the Center aims to equip students, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners with the knowledge and expertise to become climate leaders.
- The Center will influence climate policy discourse by conducting research, providing evidence-based recommendations, and engaging with policymakers.

- The Center is committed to engaging local communities by raising awareness about climate change impacts and empowering individuals to take- action.
- The Center will actively seek partnerships with various stakeholders to leverage resources, share expertise, and maximize impact.
- The Center will serve as a platform for knowledge sharing, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices in climate change.
- The Center will raise awareness about the urgency of climate action and mobilize support for sustainable development goals.
- The Center will support innovation and entrepreneurship in climate change solutions by providing incubation support and funding opportunities.

The Center plans to collaborate with various entities like climate change centers in other universities, UN agencies, and the private sector. Its activities will encompass research, capacity building, advocacy,

knowledge exchange, outreach, and collaboration, all designed to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

The CCCA's establishment positions KCA University as a leader in climate change research, education, and advocacy. The Center's work will not only benefit the university but also society as a whole. By building capacity, driving policy change, and fostering innovation, the Center has the potential to generate positive impacts on climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and human well-being.

The KCAU Center for Climate Change Action represents a significant step towards a more sustainable future. Through its dedication to research, collaboration, and advocacy, the Center has the potential to make a lasting impact in the fight against climate change.



KCA UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS WOMEN IN SPORTS DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



KCA University marked International Women's Day (IWD) with a focus on celebrating women's achievements in sports. The centerpiece of the day was a panel discussion featuring inspirational Kenyan female sports personalities.

Headlining the panel were prominent figures including Joan Githua, Gender Secretary at NOC-K, Winnie Majani, CEO and President of Usawa Mashinani, Cythia Mumbo, Founder and CEO of Sport Connect Africa, Catherine Mabwa, Coach for the M-Pesa Foundation, and Caroll Radul, a Sports Journalist.



KCA University Council Vice Chairperson, Nancy Matimu, delivered the keynote address. The event aimed to recognize the accomplishments of women in sports, promote gender equality in the field, and cultivate a supportive community that empowers women from all backgrounds.

REFLECTING ON THE HONOUR OF RECEIVING THE UONGOZI CAREER AWARD

I am delighted and humbled to share with you the joy that came from the news of my recent recognition at the 2023 Uongozi Career Awards ceremony as a 1st Runners up winner for the most innovative and industry-oriented lecturer of the year 2023 for the active role in promoting employability skills, career awareness, industry linkages and mentorship thus transitioning learning to earning. I received this Award during the East Africa Employability summit held at Catholic University of East Africa between 21st and 22nd November 2023. Themed: Closing the Gap; A Decade of Investing in Youth Employability Skills in East Africa.



Milka Njuguna being awarded a certificate for most innovative and industry-oriented lecturer at uongozi career award ceremony

Uongozi Career Awards was organized by Corporate Career Academy which is a platform to Recognize, Celebrate and amplify efforts of Individuals and Institutions Championing Career Development, Employability, Leadership, and Innovation in Advancing the Career and Job Readiness for the of In-school Youth.

Corporate Career Academy is a Career and Leadership development social enterprise supporting Students, Graduates, professionals and institutions of learning achieve holistic career development through creating awareness, counseling, training, talks, leadership training and professional career days in institutions of learning, internships, attachments, and job opportunities.

As a lecturer at KCAU, I have always strived to uphold the highest academic standards and industry relevance in my class facilitation. I believe in mentoring and molding a student in way he or she become someone who can bring positive change in the society. My philosophy is to use the class environment as a place that can bring that desired change in our society.

My objective has been to bridge the gap between theory and practice, equipping our students not only with knowledge but also with the practical skills and mindset necessary for success in their chosen fields.

My slogan for my students in 2023 was "Positivity all through" which indeed worked very well for me and for my students, one of whom said "Mwalimu, Thank you so much, I am so happy with my results, I am not a maths person but whatever you said in our first class stuck with me all through "The power of positivity" you changed my mindset and perspectives to maths. Be blessed"

Receiving this award would not have been possible without the unwavering support of top management through the visionary leadership of our Vice chancellor, the faculty members, the dedication of our hardworking students,

Through this award, I was awarded an opportunity to have 7 students from KCAU join the Diamond Trust Bank(DTB) Job-shadowing through Lilian Ngala foundation for two weeks (Monday, January 22nd to Friday 3rd February 2024) and the students learnt a lot of skills.



Milka Njuguna makes a speech during uongozi career award ceremony

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This award has given me more inspiration to continue pushing the boundaries of traditional education and adopting new approaches that would empower our students to thrive in an ever-evolving professional landscape. I am committed to journey with my colleagues as we embrace and explore more new methods in teaching and learning that will contribute to the success of our students as they embark on their own professional journeys.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire KCAU community for your support and encouragement. This award is a testament that reflects positively on our collective commitment to providing high-quality education and industry alignment.

Our Partners



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