



MMUST NEWS

A Weekly Digital Publication of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Post

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In this week's Edition...

Up and Close with Professor Judith Achoka



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MMUSO Election Winners

UPCOMING

EVENTS



□ 13th Multi Disciplinary International Conference-19th June, 2019



Editor's Pen



Greetings MMUST Community

We are very glad to bring you this edition of the *NewsPost*.

We are particularly elated by the University scholars who are opening up themselves and allowing us, and the entire University, to get a glimpse in to their lives. We cannot wait to unveil these scholars in each of our subsequent editions.

In this issue, we also feature a MMUST alumnus who is flying the flag of the University high at the BBC Africa.

We also congratulate the Dean of Students Office, and the entire students' body, for holding free and fair elections. We wish the new leadership wisdom and decorum in discharging their duties.

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Comrades Square it out Through the Ballot

By Wambugu Mary Wangari

M Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Students Organization (MMUSO) elections were held on Friday 10th May and Monday 13th May, 2019. MMUSO, the highest student representative body in the University, exists to represent students in various affairs of the University acting as the voice of students in the local, national, and international issues.

The Students Executive Council (SEC) which comprises of 7 members namely; Chairperson, Vice Chairperson (running mate of the Chairperson), Secretary General, Gender and Special Interest Secretary, Treasurer, Sports and Entertainment, and Academic Secretary.

The other representatives to the students governance include;

- Schools representatives
- Hostels representatives
- Non-residence representatives
- Campus representatives

Continues >>>

The 2019 MMUSO elections were conducted in accordance with Universities Amendment Act 2016 which changed the student leadership structure and the election process. This Act took away power from students to elect their leaders directly but are now, instead, done through an Electoral Colleges System. In this case, representatives from Schools, Hostels and Non-residence make up the student association which constitutes itself into electoral colleges. These representatives are, therefore, mandated to elect members of the students' council.

Schools, Hostels, Campus and Non-residence representatives were elected by students on Friday 10th May, 2019. Polling stations were

opened at 6:00 am and closed at 3:00 pm. Student commissioners, together with members from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Lurambi Constituency, were present to supervise the voting process. The polling stations were twelve (12) in total, eleven (11) in the Main campus and one (1) in Webuye campus. Voters were required to produce a national ID, student ID, student smart card or birth certificate (for those under 18 years) before voting. For international students, a passport or student pass was required. State security officers were also present to man each station.

The table below shows the names of the representatives that won.

REPRESENTATIVE	NAME
School of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baya Kadzo Lilian • Nathaniel Odongo
School of Natural Sciences (SONAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alice Wangechi Mbuthia • Elvis Ngaira • Justice Juma Magere
School of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (SDMHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Wairimu • Harrison Kimani
School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedical Sciences (SONMAPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynthia Moraa Morara • Stephen Oduor Tito
School of Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences and Technology (SAVET)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolfin .A. Okoth • Brian Nyabuto
School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mumo Munyau Gladys • Samson .C. Nkuri
School of Education (SEDU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongere Antonet Auma • Yvonne Mueni • Cornelius Chimwani
School of Computing and Informatics (SCI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouma Vivian Atieno • Jack Omondi Ogendo
School of Public Health, Biomedical Sciences and Technology (SPHBS&T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacy Awuor Oketch • Austine Majiwa Midigo

REPRESENTATIVE	NAME
School of Business and Economics (SOBE)	Diana Agiso Everlyne Samuel Ouma Nicholas Kioko Mwaka
School of Medicine (SOM)	Hamisi Mogire Samuel
Hall 1	Mary Wangari Waitherero
Hall 2	Griffin Odhiambo Adek
Hall 3	Jonathan .W. Telewa
Hall 4	Marube Christine Aregisina Hillary Odhiambo
Non-resident	Caroline Atieno Faith Kasungwa Mutisya Dorris Njambani Samson .S. Kipish Kipkemboi Edwin Navigator George Gathuri
Webuye Campus	Onesmus .M. Matulu Grace Osiako Angalwa
Bungoma Campus	Eoudia Jepyegon Barmusho

On Monday 13th May, 2019, the winners engaged in the election of the Student Executive Council members; an act that was witnessed by various staff and students. A total of thirty eight (38) people cast their votes and the tallying process begun immediately. This step was overseen by student commissioners and agents from each candidate.

Simiyu Vincent Lumala, a Civil and Structural Engineering student, and who has been his class' representative since first year, was declared the Chairperson. Mr. Lumala won the elections with twenty (20) votes out of thirty eight (38).

"Last year, I lost in the competition for the seat of the School of Engineering and Built Environment (SEBE) representative but I never gave up. In fact, I started preparations to become the MMUSO Chairman," said Lumala.

His running mate is Caroline Wachira.

Other Council winners were;

- Secretary general- Maina Gerald
- Gender and Special Interest Secretary- Nyabuto Lucia Kemunto
- Treasurer- Amon Kiptarus
- Sports and Entertainment- John Mwanza Mutuku
- Academic Secretary- Adson Michael Were

The announcement of the results was done by the Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Dr. Judah. Ndiku, the Executive Dean, School of Education (SEDU).

"If you want to succeed, involve your competitors in the leadership," said Dr. Ndiku to the winners.

The swearing in of the elected leaders took place on Tuesday, 14th May, 2019. The ceremony was attended by the University's top management, led by the Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joseph Bosire, IEBC officials, OCS Kakamega Police Station, officers representing the sub-county commander, Standard Media group, students, among others.

Conducted by the University Legal Office, the swearing in involved reading out oaths of leadership and signing them. The newly elected leaders were urged to serve diligently, create a strong link between students and the management, to embrace team work and commitment and rely on God for leadership.

The leaders will undergo a leadership and governance training to sharpen their skills.



A section of Students Representatives taking oath of office



Strict. Focused. Loving



Prof. Judith Achoka

In this issue, we get up close with Professor Judith Achoka; a professor of Education as well as the Director of Research and Postgraduate Support. Read about her dedication and desire to lift up women scientists.

Interview By,

Sandra Dorcas Awuor & Mike Omukuba

Q. Tell us about yourself?

My name is Rev. Prof. Judith Achoka. I am a mother, a Reverend and a Professor of Education.

Q. Please tell us about your family.

I have four grown up children -two sons and two daughters- all enrolled in graduate schools. Two are in PhD and two in master's programmes. I am blessed to have four grandchildren too.

Q. What is a typical day like for you?

I begin my day at 4am by devoting myself to the living God after which I check my mails, groom for the day and take my breakfast at around 6.30am. By 7am, I am ready to leave for work and report just before 8am if not 7.30am. Normally, I begin to work at around 7.40am and the earliest I can leave the office is 6.30pm because of the workload. Occasionally, like when organising for conferences, summits and congresses, to mention just but a few, it becomes excessively heavy. In fact, at times I am forced to leave the office as late as 2am.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

Because of the workload, I work throughout the day with no free time at all. As a matter of fact, my own children have to book an appointment before they come visiting at home. They would book two months in advance and keep on reminding me every single day. I minister downtown at ACK Cathedral, where we have 4 services on Sunday beginning at 6.30am so you can imagine how busy it is. Last Saturday, for example, because of the upcoming 13th Multidisciplinary Conference scheduled for 19th -21st June, 2019, my staff and I were in the University by 8.00am and left very late.

Q: How would you define a Professor?

Very hardworking, positive -minded, eager to help, ever on the correcting front. You know you do not want things to go wrong, I wouldn't say perfectionist but something very close to that because we desire the best and we are so conscious by the Grace of God. So, really, if you are performing in your office, you will be very careful to ensure that all is well as much it is humanly possible. The name Professor comes with a very heavy but pleasant burden. Everywhere you are, you are very conscious, but you are a role model and that is very costly. The way you relate with your family, subordinate staff, your colleagues and superiors matters a lot.

Q: What are some of your academic achievements?

At the University of Nairobi, I studied Education so I was in for BA in Arts. I took Philosophy and History. Ten years later, the Ministry of Education gave me a programme called Master in Education and I went to the Northern hemisphere. However, I was not comfortable. So, I aggressively refused the University of Ottawa and I said I wanted to go to McGill. I was in Ottawa for one semester and went to McGill for the second semester. At McGill, I was in for MA in Education, which meant I had to sit with doctoral students in one class.



Prof. Judith Achoka speaking during the 1st Pan African International Conference, Kisumu

Many people discouraged me but I persisted, went there and excelled. I, then, came back ten years later for my PhD at Kenyatta University. I thank God for Senior Prof. Olembo who overwhelmed my academic shoulders and he pushed me to keep going. Six months later, I went to Germany for Postdoctoral in Higher Education Management to do a certificate course. After that I came back. At present, it is just trainings here and there.

As the Director of Research, I have liked the challenge in my heart to lift up women scientists. Through AWSE (African Women in Science and Engineering), together with Dr. Seline Ooko, we have brought women scholars together and made MMUST our centre for the Western Region in Kenya. We try to lift up girls because they are not encouraged to do well in science.

Q: What are some of your current research interests?

My research interests are in three dimensions; higher Education in Sub Saharan Africa, student discipline and educational management. I just love doing research especially around here. I do not go for intensive and extensive because I prefer to comb the area around me.

Q: What about teaching in this University appeals to you?

I love teaching graduate students. I want them to internalize writing skills, publishing their work and just enjoy the life of an academician. I want to talk to them, discuss with them and mentor them but mostly the research bit. I want them to write because some of them bring things that you cannot believe but I love that because, then, I'll be teaching them what to do. Once we do one or two papers, they become experts and I release them. I like demystifying teaching my graduate student. That is at the center of my heart.

Q: Tell us some of the challenges you encounter in your profession.

Support for research is very minimal. Secondly, time for research is scarce because of the teaching load. There is more

teaching than research and I think, for a Professor that is not very good. Teaching is routine, you really do not have time to discover, to know, to be in touch with the community. Like me, I am an educator, and there is so much happening in our new Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) that I would have loved to be out there knowing what is happening, advising managers, students and teachers and so on. However, I cannot do that because the programme does not allow because so much time is allocated for just teaching.

Q: What advice do you have for students who want to become like you?

Academic excellence is key, determination, self-respect and respect for others. That is much.

Q: Describe yourself in three words.

Strict. Focused. Loving.

Congratulations Dr. Nguka and Dr. Manyali



Dr. Gordon Nguka, from the Department of Nutritional Sciences and the Director, ODeL, on his appointment by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Sicily Kariuki, as a Board member of the Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 6th May, 2019.



Dr. George Manyali, from the Department of Physics, for winning a KENET grant of \$15,000 to build a Physics Computational Laboratory.



MMUST Alumni's Francis Ontomwa Soars to BBC Africa

**Interview By,
Sandra Dorcas Awuor**

Mr. Francis Ontomwa is an alumnus of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. While in the Department of Language and Literature Education, Mr. Ontomwa volunteered in various University functions and events especially being a writer in the now defunct MMUST News. His star has continually risen and has led him to BBC Africa. We interview him to get his insights as to how he rose to where he currently is.

Interview on Page 11-21-13 >>>

Our Alumni



Q: Tell us about yourself

My name is Francis Ontomwa. I am a down to earth, humble guy who fears God and believes in finding his true reason for existence.

Q. How did you start your career as a journalist?

Journalism had always been on top of my mind even in my junior years in high school. I am an avid writer and, back then, I would take part in writing competitions something that, I must say, triggered my interest to tell stories. When I joined Masinde Muliro University I started volunteering for *The Standard* newspaper as a contributor. By the time I was in my third year, they had absorbed me as a sports correspondent. Later on, upon graduation, I became a substantive print reporter, thereafter, joining the company's television wing KTN.

Q: Congratulations on your new job at BBC Africa! Tell us a bit about that.

This is perhaps the most exciting part of my journey in journalism. It just came a year after I had left the Kenyan coast as KTN's regional reporter then joining Nairobi office in the Crime and Investigations unit. Well, I am just settling in but the experience is already amazing with lots of lessons. It has always been my dream to move to an international platform and yes, this is just the beginning for me! Here, I'll be producing documentaries for the Kenya audience in a program called 'Kenya Connect'.

Q: What is a typical day like for you?

A journalist's diary is quite unpredictable. My day begins around 5 am. I begin with a morning routine exercises, do the usual morning chores and get into the groove. In the office, I check emails and review my diary for the day. At around 9 am, it is setting out to chase stories or put together special features. My day ends at around 5 pm.

Q: What do you like to do during your free time?

Oh, I am football maniac; I watch lots of football matches; I am a Manchester United supporter, of course notwithstanding our recent league profligacies. My dream is to set up a soccer academy back in my village to support upcoming talents.

Q: What is it that people do not know about you?

Hmm...that I am not always as outspoken and brave as i might look on camera. I actually fear crowds and it takes me a lot of energy to address a crowd! I am still learning to overcome this though!

Our Alumni



Q: If you were not a journalist, what would you be doing?

I'd be a teacher most definitely. I did teaching practice twice during my college days and I really loved the experience. It is quite exciting to impart knowledge!

Q: While at MMUST, which course(s) informed your career path?

I studied English and Literature. The program was ideally supposed to prepare me to become a teacher. However, the love for journalism surpassed this. At first, I had lots of difficulties settling in for this program but being a government sponsored student, I did not have much choice. I knew I had to work extra hard to achieve my dream, reason why I volunteered for several outlets to get my stories out there!

Q: What were some of your best memories while at MMUST?

I got so many good memories from eating from *kibandas* at Lurambi and Sichirai to attending the ever blazing MMUST nights. MMUST truly prepared me for another life out here! But my best experience was when I won the Zukiswa Wanner writing competition in my fourth year at the University! This one opened huge avenues for me for interaction with some of the best writers in the region!

Q: What are some of the challenges you have experienced in your profession?

Every endeavor has its own challenges. As a crimes reporter, the biggest challenge for me has been to tell the big stories and still remain sane and healthy. It can get quite overwhelming when faced with tough situations where you have to still probe and tell stories while still trying to remain human.

Q: Achievements?

In 2017, I won a prestigious award with the Media Council of Kenya; the Media Freedom Award. I had done a story that focused on the plight of journalists reporting from the Kenyan coast. Same year, I was nominated to attend the Global Investigative Journalists Conference in Johannesburg South Africa!

Q: Any plans for the future?

Yes, lots of plans! I feel indebted to so many people who have continuously made my dream alive! In the next few years, I intend to set up a media lab that would train young journalists and those who cannot get an opportunity to parlay their talents in the society!

Q: Who inspires you?

I have learnt a lot from a long list of respected journalists in Kenya. BBC's Joseph Warungu, Citizen TV's Joe Ageyo and independent journalist Yassin Juma have been a huge inspiration to me!

Q: What advice would you give to other aspiring journalists?

It is possible and it'll always be possible. There are no anointed journalists, everyone was born just like you and there is absolutely no reason why you cannot be them and even better! Keep going!

Q: Parting shot?

Practice, practice, practice, you'll become perfect!



MMUST Kakamega Agri-Expo

**FREE
ENTRY**

Date:
24th
May, 2019

Venue:
MMUST
Model Farm

Contact 0724972207

Theme:
Positioning Agriculture for Sustainable Food and
Income Security through Technology and Innovation





MASINDE MULIRO
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

13TH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

THEME "Transformational Leadership, Innovation and Technology Transfer for Sustainable
Development in Developing Countries"

June 19th - 21st, 2019

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