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THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



**DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE IT IS!**

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Digitizing the university
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Stories

- *SIIS New Programmes*
- *JOOUST and Calestous Juma Legacy*
- *Conferences and Exchange Programs*

DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IT IS!



The School of Informatics and Innovative Systems (SIIS) held a three-day workshop in Kisumu at the Comfort Inn Hotel aimed at digitizing the University by coming up with new programmes that will enable our students to be competitively innovative and compliant to the current digital job market.

SIIS is currently in the final stages of developing a new programme on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence as a flagship programme in the post graduate studies that is believed to resonate with the fast-changing technology in the digital space.

While speaking at the official opening of the Stakeholders Engagement Forum organized

by SIIS, the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Bosire, challenged the lecturers to be ready to produce students who will remain relevant in the market for the next 50 years or so. He also noted the fast-growing technological skills which keeps changing every day.

The school conducted a three-days stakeholder



engagement exercise to proof read and critique the already developed

programme before it could be presented to the University Senate for approval as required by the Commission for University Education (CUE) before accreditation.

The workshop that was attended by all the staff in the School of Informatics and Innovative Systems and the VLIR team, was graced by various stakeholders from the academia and the industries including Prof. Simon Karume, Professor of IT at Kabarak University; Ms. Violet Murwa of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ICT Department) and Prof. Elisha Opiyo of the University of Nairobi.



During the retreat, the Dons in the School of Informatics and Innovative Systems took advantage of the space to also review the already accredited programs within the school which included; BSc. Computer Security and Forensics, BSc. Business Information Systems, BSc. in Information and Communication Technology, BSc. Library and Information Science and Diploma in Linux for IT Professionals. The

Dean of the school, Prof. Solomon Ogara, averred that this was a major milestone for the school since the last time the programmes were reviewed was in 2013.



The workshop was officially closed by Prof. Denis Ochuodho, the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, who is also overseeing research.

JOOUST IN TALKS WITH CALESTOUS JUMA LEGACY FOUNDATION



Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) is actively engaging Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CJLF), in the United States of America, with an aim of establishing a framework for collaboration between the two institutions.

The purpose of this collaboration is to foster innovation and learning in order to address sustainable development challenges in Africa. Of special interest to the collaboration will be a focus on the Lake Victoria Basin region, with emphasis on Bunyala (Western Kenya), Juma's ' home area. The envisioned possible focus areas include, though not limited, to: aquaculture, food security, economic empowerment,

health (e-health), conservation, climate change, policy literacy and policy advocacy.

JOOUST is focusing on tagging the like-minded institutions on matters research and innovations hence keen to bring CJLF on board to foster research in the university.

Just recently, on the 29th June 2023, a team from the foundation led by Alison Juma, the widow to the late academic legend Calestous Juma, visited the University to kick start the talks on possible areas of collaboration between the two

parties. During the visit, Ms. Juma donated a book to the University Library entitled “University Drop In” which was authored by her late husband, Calestous Juma, while bedridden just a few days before he passed on.

The guests were received by the Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Bosire and the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Professor Denis Ochuodho. The team was hosted by the Ag. Director Board of Post-graduate Studies, Prof. Julius Manyala, Directorate of Research Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP), Dr. Richard

Magwanga and the University’s Enterprise Ltd Director, Dr. Elijah Museve.

The Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2019 to promote and apply science, technology, and innovation (STI) to inspire sustainable development in Africa. One of the Foundation’s primary strategies is to help local communities develop and implement innovative solutions to challenges identified by local experts and community members. Its initial programmatic focus is in Bunyala Sub-County, Western Kenya.

Professor Calestous Juma, who died in 2017, was an internationally-recognized authority and leader in the application of science, technology, and innovation to sustainable development. His original work focused on analyzing the co-evolution of technological innovation and institutional change in socio-economic systems. He directed programs that advanced science, technology, and innovation policy research (especially biotechnology), provided high-level scientific and technological advice, and promoted the conservation of biological diversity.

CONFERENCES AND EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Prof. Denis Ochuodho, the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, and Dr. John Maina Nyongesa from the School of Biological, Physical, Mathematical and Actuarial Sciences attended the 3rd Climate Ecosystems and Livelihoods for Africa Conference held at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi between the 25th and 29th of June 2023. The two are members of the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Chinese Academy of Sciences.



The conference was organized by the UNEP - International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP) and the Sustainably Growing Africa's Food Systems (AGRA).

The conference brought together scientists from China and Africa including international experts who shared their experiences

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*Addressing Food
Security and Food
System Resilience in
Africa*

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and proposed multilateral co-operation priorities. They also discussed opportunities for building partnerships further South, whose context will be sustainable development issues in Africa with the main focus being the nexus between climate, ecosystems and livelihoods in Africa, under the theme “Addressing Food Security and Food System Resilience in Africa”.





SIIS held a three-day workshop between 28th- 30th June 2023 in Kisumu at the Comfort Inn Hotel aimed at digitizing the University through the establishment of new programmes that will position JOOUST students competitively in the digital job market.



A team from the Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CJLF) based in the United States of America pay a courtesy call to Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology over establishing a framework for collaboration between the two institutions.



Third and Final Revision of Degree and TVET Courses

The KUCCPS portal opens from **July 4, 2023 to July 8, 2023** for the **third and final chance** to apply for courses in universities and TVET institutions

The 2022 KCSE candidates who have not secured a course are invited to login and apply again. This is also a chance for those who would like to apply for the first time.

Apply via students.kuccps.net or download the **KUCCPS Student App** on Google Play Store

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The Oasis

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