

# SU Digest



May 2007 Issue No. 2 The Strathmore University Staff & Students Newsletter

## SU to be Chartered Soon



*Mr Anthony Kiuna (left) explains to Professor Rosalind Mutua, Vice -chair, Commission of Higher Education (right) how the library system works.*

THURSDAY, 5TH APRIL 2007, was a historic day for Strathmore University. In the morning, Professor Rosalind Mutua, Vice Chair of the Commission of Higher Education (CHE) and Vice Chancellor of Kiriri Women's University of Science & Technology, arrived on campus, together with the Commission of Higher Education (CHE) inspection committee.

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## Hockey Champions of East Africa

GLADIATORS, the Strathmore University men's hockey team, are East Africa clubs' champions after beating their Kenyan arch rivals Simba Union of Nairobi 2-0 in a tightly fought final at Moshi, Tanzania on Sunday, 25th March 2007.

Nine of the players were selected to play Pakistan in an international friendly on Tuesday, 27th March at Nairobi's City Park stadium. On their road to the finals, Gladiators beat Arusha Twiga of Tanzania 8-3. They then dismissed Re-union Island 9-0. In the semi-finals, Gladiators, who are also the 2006 Kenya national hockey champions, beat the championship hosts, Moshi Khalsa of Tanzania 2-1.

Apart from lifting the champion's trophy, the team's main striker Bromwel Lijodi got the top scorer trophy after scoring five goals. The coach attributed the success of his players to high levels of discipline which was evident in the whole championship. None of the SU players got even a caution card.

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Japanese-funded Language Lab



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Interview with Anne Kwamboka

# News From Around the University

## Japanese Govt to Fund Language Lab ... and a Short Alumni Re-union

ON THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2007, Strathmore University Vice-Chancellor Prof John Odhiambo signed a contract document presented by Mr Ian Wairua, the Education and Information Officer, of the Embassy of Japan in Nairobi.

The contract is for US\$22,244 grant from the government of Japan. The funds will be used to equip a language laboratory which is expected to be operational by July.

After the ceremony, Mr Wairua, who is an alumnus of Strathmore and has a daughter at SU had a

refreshment with Mr Luis Borrallo, SU's Director of Advancement. Wairua did his A levels at Strath-



Vice-Chancellor Professor John Odhiambo (left) receives contract documents from Mr Ian Wairua

more School between 1983 and '84. His daughter, Mercy Wairua, an alumna of Kianda School, is currently pursuing a Diploma in Business Information Technology (DBIT) at SU. She joined her dad for tea and posed for a photo afterwards.

Mercy was the second best student at Kianda School in last year's KCSE and had position 52 in Nairobi province. She is happy to be at SU. She finds DBIT challenging and enjoyable. She intends to pursue a law degree after finishing DBIT.

## Library gets Kshs13 million donation

LIMMAT STIFTUNG, a foundation based in Switzerland awarded Strathmore University a grant of € 150,000 ( Kshs13,000,000) to enhance the quality of its library collection. The university used this grant to purchase books and other materials for the newly established Strathmore Business School (SBS) and the Faculty of Hospitality and

Tourism (FOH).

The first disbursement of the grant (€ 75,000) was made in February 2006 for the commencement of the project while the second disbursement (€ 75,000) was sent in October 2006. The project aimed to buy about 4000 books at an average price of €48 per book.



Books purchased with funds from LIMMAT STIFTUNG

### SU Digest

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## From the Editor's Desk

### What is a digest?

Welcome to the second edition of SU Digest, the Strathmore University newsletter. What is a digest? A digest is a summary. I bet the most famous digest is the *Reader's Digest* which is a condensation of what appears in other publications.

There are many activities happening at SU and most of them are recorded on the SU website. The newsletter is a summary of what appears on the website.

The editorial board wants the newsletter to have a people, and not bureaucratic feel, because individuals are central to Strathmore University. In other words, the newsletter is about you the reader.

In this light, the board is eagerly looking forward to receiving feedback from you in the form of suggestions, criticisms and compliments as well. The board has, in a manner of speaking, an open door policy. So welcome on board. Send all feedback to me: ekathenya@strathmore.edu

Eric Kathenya, Editor

## Dying and rising with Christ



*Fr George Kocholickal (SDB), Parish priest at Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Upper Hill, Nairobi baptises Mercy Achieng at the Shrine's baptismal font during the Mass of Easter Saturday Vigil. Mercy was among the 14 catechumens who were prepared by the university chaplaincy to receive the sacraments of Christian initiation over Easter.*

The University chaplaincy offers catechism classes to students, staff and their friends. Other services offered by the chaplaincy include daily Holy Mass, spiritual direction and the sacrament of reconciliation (confession).

## Cisco Road Show 2007

STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY hosted the Cisco Road show event for the third year running. The international event was held at the University from the 13th to 15th March. Delegates from a cross section of countries from Eastern Africa (Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya), International CISCO partners, the UNDP, and Government representatives were in attendance.

The show aimed at:

- Raising and maintaining the quality of instruction by offering technical refresher sessions to instructors.
- Providing guidance to Cisco Academies in effectively managing the business of their Academy.
- Providing program updates - including technical updates.
- Providing training in the use of updated tools such as Packet Tracer, Net Lab, Quality CD, PlanIT, etc.



*Dr Joseph Sevilla, (fourth from left) SU's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Quality Assurance with some of the participants at the Cisco Road Show*

- Facilitating networking between Academies and prospective employers through Workforce Development programs.

## Spanish essay contest winner

The Association of Teachers of Spanish – Kenya organized a national Spanish essay contest. Strathmore University is a member of the association and some students who take Spanish as one of their humanity elective participated in the contest. Alice Muthoni Ngochi, a second year BCOM student won the intermediate level category for an essay she wrote on the importance of Spanish



*Alice Muthoni*

in her life. An award giving ceremony was held on the 31st of March 2007. The University was awarded a certificate of participation. The guest of honour at the ceremony was Ms Myrna Ortiz Kerr, Deputy Consul United States of America Embassy. Certificates of participation were also given to two other SU students; Johnson Kilangi Mwawasi and David Mathuva.

### Transition: Catherine Musyimi



MISS CATHERINE KANINI MUSYIMI, Systems Administrator, ICT Department passed away suddenly on the night of 25 March 2007. During a requiem Mass for the repose of her soul at the University chapel on Tuesday, 27th March 2007, Fr Paul Mimbi, the university chaplain paid tribute to Catherine's christian pragmatism. Catherine was laid to rest on Saturday, 31st March at Kuindwa village, Mwingi District. Speaking on behalf of the family, Catherine's father, Joseph Mulyungi paid tribute to her forthrightness.

He also expressed his gratitude to the University for the support it had given his family.

SU staff going to the burial were led by Dr Florence Oloo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and Mr. Martin Wanjohi, Director ICT Services, where Catherine worked. The SU chapel choir led the singing during Mass and at the graveside. About 90 members of staff, from all departments, travelled to her funeral. About 600 people attended the Mass celebrated before the burial.

### News in Brief

#### Lecturers attend conference in UK

MR GODFREY MADIGU and Mrs Mary Omingo, both lecturers at Strathmore University's School of Accountancy (SOA), attended the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Teachers' conference in Manchester, United Kingdom between 27th and 28th February 2007.

The conference provides excellent opportunities for tuition providers to meet ACCA Examiners and get tips on what guides examiners when setting exams. Participants also get a chance to network.

SU was one of the two institutions from Africa represented at the conference. The other was the Botswana Accountancy College which sent one representative.

It was the first time Strathmore University was sending participants to the conference. Only accredited tuition providers with a certain accreditation status can send participants. SOA achieved the Premier Plus Status - the highest status - in December 2006.

#### Strathmore's Year II Case Studies Launched

ON FRIDAY 30TH March 2007, Strathmore University launched its case studies for the second year. Eight case studies were launched at a ceremony held at the Nairobi Serena Hotel together with other Kenyan universities. The keynote address was given by Mr David Nalo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry. The case study development project falls under the IFC Global Business Schools Network (GBSN) component of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Competitive-

ness Project. The project focuses on improving opportunities and training for entrepreneurs and MSMEs. The case study development initiative is coordinated at Strathmore University by Dr Ruth Kiraka. The eight case studies were written by Mrs Mary Omingo, Mrs Beatrice Dimba, Mrs Stella Nyongesa, Ms Catherine Dean, Mrs Lillian Ollows, Mrs Hellen Otieno and Dr Ruth Kiraka. For more on the case studies developed at Strathmore University, visit <http://www.strathmore.edu/gbsn/>

#### Appointments

**DR RUTH KIRAKA**, Director, Institute of Continuing Education. She is a lecturer in the Faculty of Commerce. Holds a BSc (Agriculture), and PhD (International Development and Management) from Victoria University, Australia



**ERIC KATHENYA**, Corporate Communications Officer. Previously worked as Assistant Librarian. Holds a BSc (Information Science) from Moi University.

**PAUL MALOBA**, Acting Evening Courses Administrator, School of Accountancy (SOA). Previously Assistant Course Administrator, Evening Courses (SOA). Holds a BSc (Mathematics) from Moi University.



**MARTIN NJOGU**, Systems Administrator, ICT Department. Previously IT Systems Administrator and Communications Manager at Madison Insurance. Also teaches CCNA at Strathmore University. Holds a BA (Econ), CISA, CISM, and CCNA and IMIS graduate diploma.



**LEE KYONZE**, Programme Manager, Strathmore Business School (SBS). Previously Programme Administrator (IT and Operations) at SBS. Holds a diploma in IT, and a BSc (Computer Science) from University of Nairobi

## What they said at the 2007 Graduands' Dinner

IT WAS FUN GALORE at the 2007 Graduands' Dinner held at The Stanley Hotel ballroom on Tuesday, 27th March 2007. The chief guest at the event was Mr. Sunny Bindra, himself a Strathmore alumnus and a renowned management consultant and Sunday Nation columnist.

Bindra's speech was the icing on the cake. As he began he observed that he was starting at the exact time indicated on the programme - for him this was evidence of how Strathmore manages and values time. "When I received the invitation to speak, I was asked to inspire you. So let me start by asking you, 'In addition to your course work, what has SU taught you?'" The first response by acclamation from the graduands was ethics, followed by discipline, dress code and philosophy.

"I left Strathmore School in 1983 and it is only many years later I realized how valuable the lessons of life I had received from Strathmore were. You cannot appreciate them now. But you will later in life," he said. The full speech is available at:

[http://www.strathmore.edu/news/grad\\_dinner.html](http://www.strathmore.edu/news/grad_dinner.html)

Robin Aswani, the Bachelor of Business Information Technology (BBIT) class representative, with a tinge of nostalgia, described SU as a challenging place and told his fellow graduands: "People think highly of SU. It is a strong brand. Represent it well."

Martin Maina, the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) class representative, hailed his classmates for being elegantly dressed, which was true. He also cheerily

reminded them they were officially jobless.

Tom Pyle, the Executive Director of Strathmore University Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation based in Princeton, New Jersey, USA, said SU is playing a vanguard role in the socio-economic development of Kenya and Africa. "What does Kenya expect of SU?", he asked. "Kenya looks to SU to be an agent of change and progress." He added that the International Finance

Corporation (IFC) wants to partner with Strathmore in a project on alternative funding of higher education in developing countries. Laura Temesi, the best student in the graduating class of 2005 closed the function with a passionate testimony. In two short years, Laura has moved from being a graduate trainee to the position of Manager,

Technology & Security Risk Services, at Ernst & Young. She attributed her rise to hard work and observed there are no mass promotions in life - promotions are on merit," she said. Laura stressed the need for job seekers to prepare CVs that sell them. "The CV is very important because it says things about you that you can't say yourself. Job seekers need to tailor their CVs to the job requirements so that the CV can interest the selectors. CVs also need to be concise. A good CV is not repetitive." Laura observed that SU graduates continue to be competitive. She noted that out of five recruits in her Department early this year, three were SU graduates.



*From left to right: Isaac Mwangi, Dr Charles Sotz and Sunny Bindra at the dinner party*



*Laura Temesi speaking at the event*



*Party time: Mrs Hilderith Ogutu (left) and George Njenga (right) with some of the graduands.*

## "Leos" Extend the Lead in Rugby League

STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY rugby team, Leos, mauled Mombasa II 51- 0 to extend their lead in the pool A of Eric Shirley Shield (ESS) rugby league. The game was played at Mombasa Sports Club on 31st March 2007.

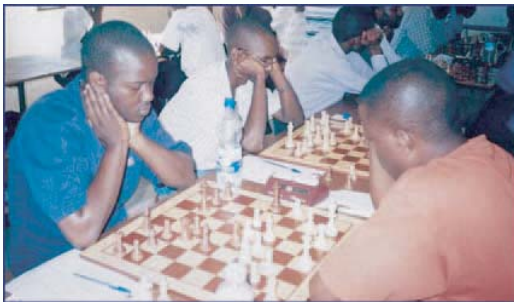
Leos took control of the game from start to finish. They attacked the Mombasa II try line relentlessly. Their efforts were rewarded and by half time the scores stood at 29-0. In the second half, Leos squeezed the hosts in their own half and extended the score line to a flattering 51 – 0 at the final whistle.

Leos try scorers were Luke Siboe and Edgar Osege who touched down twice. Felix Osiemo, Hastings Nyariki, Kariuki Njoroge and Seth Machuki who touched down once each. Ian Mwangi made three conversions and was sure with the boot for a penalty. The win cemented Strathmore's position at the top of Pool A with a maximum 17 points out of 4 games.



*SU Leos Muturi is tagged by a Mombasa II player. Can you spot the ball?*

## Staff Shine at Uganda Chess Tourney



*Paul Maloba (left) against Ben Magana (right) at the Uganda Open Chess tournament in Kampala*

PAUL MALOBA, the Strathmore University chess coach and an administrator at the School of Accountancy (SOA) participated in the Uganda Chess Open tournament over Easter. The international tournament is held annually in Kampala and draws participants from all over East Africa.

Mr Maloba is ranked 13th in Kenya and represented the country with Ben Magana (Kenya No 1, and Strathmore University visiting chess trainer), Ben Nguku (Kenya No.2) , John Mukabi (Kenya No.11) , and Zachary Njuguna.

The overall winner was Hassan Mulambe of Uganda who had an impressive score of 7.5/8. Ben Magana was second with 6.5. Three Ugandans tied at third position with six points. Maloba and Nguku tied at position six with 5.5 points. Among the 80 participants at the tourney were chess Olympiads as well as upcoming talent.

## Hockey Champions of East Africa

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But the competition didnt respond in kind. "Our captain lost two teeth and another of our player's thigh muscle was torn. And the crowd was hostile to the point of getting nasty. Our fault is we were better than the competition," SU sports officer Mwangi said.

This was the third edition of the games and many tournament records were set. It was the first time the



*Team photo with the trophy* winners sailed through the championship without losing a match and the first time a university side won the championship. It was the first time the Gladiators, who were recently promoted to the Premier league, were participating in an international event. The chief guest at the finals was the District Commissioner for Moshi. The team was partly kitted by East Africa Breweries Limited.

## Looking Back...

ANNE KWAMBOKA COMPLETED her Bachelor of Commerce degree last month. SU Digest Editor talked to her about her four years at Strathmore

**Question: What was the best moment of all your years in SU?**

Answer: The award given to the Marketing Club (SMS) early this year for the best-organized conference 2006. It was rewarding to realize that the effort of the club was recognized. Being a student-only organized conference, it was challenging for the team to balance academics and extra-curricular activities.

The conference centred on entrepreneurship so as to encourage innovation among the youth. The feedback from the participants was positive and winning the prize simply added 'icing to the cake'. However, this would not have been possible had it not been for the talented and adept committee of the year 2006 and the club Patron.

**Q: What was your worst moment?**

A: Not my worst moment but rather the most challenging moment. It was organizing the social week by the marketing club, SMS, in September 2006. This event was the first of its kind in Strathmore. The club had the mean task of initiating activities, establishing sponsors and partners within a short period of time, whilst still ensuring good academic performance. The club members were able to establish partners as well as activities.

Unfortunately one of our partners pulled out at the last minute. That was disconcerting. However, we were able to successfully implement the programme.

**Q: Has SU had any long-term impact on you as a person? If so, please explain.**

A: Yes, I would say it has enabled me to build my courage, my professionalism, my ethics, my analytical skills, my interpersonal skills and many more

**Q: What would you do differently if you were to start all over again at SU?**

A: I would probably ensure that I get involved in intra and extra-curricular activities earlier, such as first year as opposed to beginning at 3rd year as I did.

**Q: Any suggestions on what SU can do differently?**

A: Yes, SU is doing well but I believe that it can scale



Anne Kwamboka

**Strathmore has enabled me to build my courage, my professionalism, my ethics, my analytical skills and my interpersonal skills**

greater heights. For example, I believe that the University should make full use of the interconnectivity and expand the e-learning system. It should not only encompass online notes rather it should allow for international forums with students across the globe to allow students to be exposed as early as possible to the global society in which we now live. It would be incorrect to say that the Strathmore student competes only with Kenyan undergraduates in other tertiary institutions, whereas the world is the market place. The Strathmore student should not only know that which is of necessity in his or her environment but that which is required of him or her as a citizen of the global market.

I also believe that Strathmore should encourage its students to be involved in extra-curricular activities as early as possible, and to this end Strathmore should develop a special 'sports-curricular' which will allow the athletes to have a flexible regime to allow for involvement in both academics and sports. This will enable the athletes to develop their talents without having to compromise their studies. In addition, the sports fraternity in Strathmore could help influence the sports standards in Kenya by allowing for sports exchange programmes and scholarships.

Finally, the University should develop a grading system that encompasses the whole individual. That is, in as much as scoring high grades in examinations is vital it is also important that the whole individual is developed as it is individuals with character and intellect who will positively influence the society.

**Q: A word for students behind you?**

A: Do your best to live without regrets. You are here for a reason and a very short season.

**Q: Anything else you want to add?**

A: Goals and strategy encompassed with smart and hard work will lead to success. The attainment of success leads to pursuit of higher ends, eventually and inevitably leading to self-development. Of-course the sprinkling of God's abundant blessings cannot be omitted.

At no one time can one say that they have accomplished all for once a fruit is ripe it can only rot.

## ALUMNI: SALO Website Database Hits 100

THE STRATHMORE ALUMNI LIAISON OFFICE (SALO) launched its website (<http://www.salo-kenya.org/>) last year. SALO aims to promote and coordinate Strathmore and Kianda College alumni activities world-wide.

Pauline Kuria, the Alumni Affairs Coordinator said the website continues to grow as alumni all over the world register at the website almost on a daily basis. On 29th March 2007, Patrick Muteti an alumnus of Faculty of Informa-



Michael Maina

tion Technology (FIT) was the 100th person to register at the site since it was launched two months ago. During the 2007 Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM) and Bachelor of Business Information Technology (BBIT) full-time students' finalists' dinner held at The Stanley on 27th March 2007, Michael Maina, the BCOM class representative challenged the alumni office to make the website more interactive.

## News Extra

### SU to be Chartered Soon

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The appearance of the inspection committee on campus portended good things for the future as this is the committee entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out the final inspection of a university prior to the granting of a charter.

At the end of the visit Professor Mutua indicated that the committee would be recommending the award of a charter to SU without conditions.

During the visit, the commissioners toured the campus to inspect its physical facilities. They also

held separate meetings with members of staff, a representative group of students, the Management Board and the University Council.

CHE is now preparing an accreditation report based on the documentation the university submitted and the outcomes of the inspection. When CHE is through with the documentation and other legal procedures, they will advise the university on the date of gazettelement and the award of the charter.

## Choir records CD and unveils new attire

STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY CHOIR recorded a music CD on Friday, 30th March 2007 at the university's auditorium. The 21 minute CD has eight renditions of Kenyan golden hits. They are in alphabetical order: *Chaupele, Kanga ya Che, Kokoliko, Malaika, Niwara Nono, Skandamayez, Tulasiswe, and Wakariru.*

Raul Figueroa, the CD's producer, said the CD will be used for promotional and not commercial purposes. "We will reproduce about 100 pieces which will be distributed among SU friends, donors and alumni including in Philadelphia, USA, later this month in a gathering of some high flyers in academia and business," Raul said. He added the singing is great but the microphones



Left to right: Mark Kaigwa, Catherine Kionga, Sheila Kioko, and Gitau Mbugua in the new uniform

were of poor quality. "We are trying to get professional grade microphones that will allow us to make higher quality recordings that will capture better the talent of our choir," he said

And on 18th April, the choir unveiled its new attire. "The blue and gold attire was designed and tailored by Fobo African Designers. "The colours are derived from the university coat of arms, said Mr Paul Ochieng, the Dean of Students.

The ladies' attire consists of a plain blue wrap-around skirt with gold thread embroidery work and a plain blue blouse with matching gold thread embroidery. While the gentlemen's blue top will be worn with a black pair of trousers.