

STRATHMORE ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

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STRATHMORE ALUMNI LIAISON OFFICE

Keeping us Together



www.salo-kenya.org

SU highest ranked university in Africa outside Egypt and South Africa

Strathmore is the highest ranked university in Kenya, according to the January 2009 webometrics ranking of world universities. At position 12 in Africa, Strathmore is the highest ranked university outside Egypt and South Africa.



South Africa's University of Cape Town is the highest ranked University in Africa and 359th in the world, according to the latest ranking of universities. The top seven universities, as well as those in the ninth and eleventh positions in Africa, are South African. The American University in Cairo and Cairo University are in positions

eight and ten respectively.

The University of Nairobi is the second highest ranked university in Kenya at position 22, up from 25th position in July 2008. Other Kenyan universities in Africa's top 100 are Egerton at position 50, Jomo Kenyatta at 82, Kenyatta at 84, and Moi at 86.

[For more details about this article](#)

See: http://www.webometrics.info/top100_continent.asp?cont=africa

Kenyan universities improved in their world rankings between July 2008 and January 2009. Strathmore shot up from position 4,780 to 2,404. Nairobi improved from position 4,338 to 4,046.

123 of the world's top 200 universities are North American. Europe comes in a very poor second with 61 universities, while the Asia-Pacific region manages a total of 14. The highest ranked university outside the US is the University of Toronto at position 25.

Pioneer Student Council inaugurated



Students following proceedings at the inauguration ceremony

The University's first elected Student Council was inaugurated on Thursday, 22nd January. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony held at the Graduation Square, Vice Chancellor John Odhiambo said a lot was expected of the council. "The Council should provide guidance to student councils of other universities," Prof Odhiambo said.

Council members took a statement of commitment at the inauguration which read:

"I _____ commit to serve the students of Strathmore and the university community at large faithfully. I commit to conduct the affairs of the office of the _____ of the Student Council in conjunction with the appropriate university authorities for our mutual help and to contribute to the welfare of all members of our university to the best of my ability."

The Dean of Students, Mr Paul Ochieng said the inauguration was a momentous occasion in the history of the University. "We have now incorporated students in a more formal way in the management of Student affairs in this university," he said.

"The student council is a great opportunity for you to improve the quality of student life in Strathmore. Seize this opportunity and make Strathmore better than you found it," he told the council.

"This is our first council and like any first born a lot has been placed on their shoulders. It will set the pace for the many Student Councils to come. I ask all students to give it all the support it needs," he continued.

“As our university motto goes - That all may be one - we look forward to the council being a symbol of unity for the students’ body, and look forward its being a strong representative of the student body,” Mr Ochieng added.

World Women’s Day: alumna talks about life after attending an entrepreneurial university



Daphine Mwanza

The World Women’s was celebrated on 8th March. Pauline Kuria spoke to Daphine Mwanza, an alumna on what it means to be a businesswoman from an entrepreneurial university

Only 24 years old, Daphine Mwanza, a 2006 Bachelor of Commerce graduate is an ambitious, artistic and highly motivated entrepreneur. Daphine runs two businesses. One is a joint partnership which runs an exclusive getaway. Jaydan Gardens has a traditional African theme and décor and is focused on giving customers a truly welcoming get away and therapeutic experience. Daphine is also the Proprietor of Elle Interior Designers whose aim in her words ‘is make peoples fantasies about their homes a reality’.

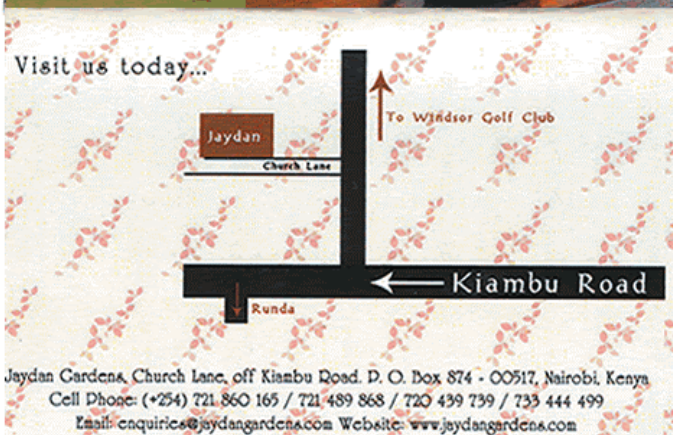
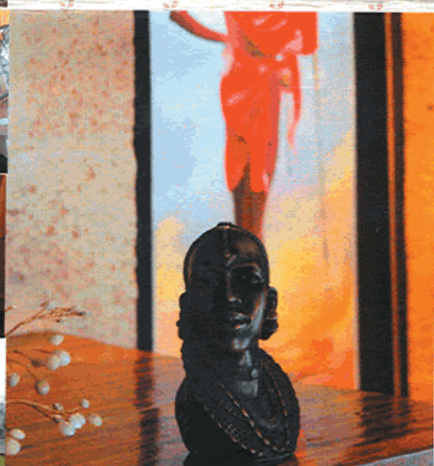
Strathmore’s vision is to become an entrepreneurial university that prepares its students to not only become employees but employers. Has the university realized this vision in her? “I did units such as Entrepreneurship Skills, Business Ethics and these helped me know how to frame my business plan, how to project finances etc. In Business Ethics, I learnt that you don’t do business just for money. Just do what you love and money will come. I learnt how to conduct myself with integrity and doing what I do for the right causes and for the right intentions,” she said.

After finishing her degree in March 2006, Daphine got two part time jobs. One with a HR Consultant and the other with an Investment firm. In November the same year, she found herself without a job.



- Wedding Receptions
- Garden / Private Parties
- First Home / Interior Ideas
- Accomodation
- Get Aways
- Retreats

Jaydan Gardens is an African owned and run events management facility. Its Traditional African themes and decor are focused on giving you a true welcoming get away and therapeutic experience.



“In December, I got these business ideas and I wrote them down on paper then shared with my partners. They bought the ideas, we put capital together and in May 2007, we built Jaydan Gardens. I did the interior design myself and we were good to go,” she said.

But Daphine was not entirely new to the world of business. “While at Strathmore, I would bake cakes and sell them at the shops in Siwaka Plaza. I would also tutor school kids at Siwaka Plaza. This gave me a taste of business dynamics.”

And she is astute. Instead of having staff on payroll, she outsources services such as painting, masonry, and carpentry. But she plans to hire soon. However, she is alive to the challenges of employing staff. “When you decide to employ you have to get someone who shares your passion. You need to get someone who can as closely as possible understand where you are coming from and where you are going,” she said.

For her, the strength of Strathmore is the discipline it imparts. “I learnt so much on time management, self-confidence and presentation. “If you impress your client the first time, your chances of getting business are high – up to 80%. I learnt that from Strathmore,” she said.

Daphine describes herself as free spirited. She enjoys taking risks. She shares the belief with her partners that mistakes are part of the learning process. She also reads a lot of motivational and inspirational books. “I’m also motivated by the fact that someone somewhere is looking up to me and waiting to see my results. That means that at the end of the day, I can inspire somebody,” she said.

She is encouraged by her parents who at first did not understand why she wanted to go into business so young but have eventually accepted her decision, appreciate

her efforts and now support her where they can.

Daphine however says she faces challenges in her businesses such as meeting stringent regulatory requirements. Her age is also a disadvantage. “Youth is read as inexperience. That means I have to work much harder to overcome that perception and prove myself,” she said.

Where does she see Strathmore in future? “I read the university’s newsletter ‘SU Digest’ and was excited to see that Strathmore is taking big steps to prepare students to become entrepreneurs. The expansion programmes the University is undertaking are in the right direction. I see Strathmore as the leading business university not only in Africa but in the globe,” she said.

She has a word of advice for would be entrepreneurs. “When you go into business, you should not expect to get money immediately. They should instead build their client base patiently and the money will come. Patience is an important virtue in business,” she noted.

“Additionally, they should have good inter-personal skills. One cannot market his/her business without inter-personal skills. They should also be outgoing and not waiting for things to happen to them,” she counseled.

“A strong educational background is also important. I would like to encourage the current students to focus on getting their degrees,” Daphine observed.

Daphine is eager to meet Strathmore alumni who are entrepreneurs and she urged the Alumni Office to organize a reunion for all alumni who are entrepreneurs. She said she is also available to share her experiences with students.

By Pauline Kuria

ALUMNI PROFILES

SALO is dedicated to publish profiles of Alumni who wish to appear in the SU website , Alumni website as well as various magazines

Send us your complete profile including : - *Personal Contacts (Name, Address)*

- *Strathmore Information (Course, Years taken)*

- *Organization/ Workplace(Company name including position)*

- *Message to the Alumni (Something about Strathmore more so as an Alum or student experiences)*

- *A recent passport sized photo*

NB : Complete profiles should be send to pkuria@strathmore.edu or jkilonzo@strathmore.edu

IN ORDER FOR YOUR PROFILE TO BE CONSIDERED YOU HAVE TO BE REGISTERED ON THE ALUMNI WEBSITE

www.salo-kenya.org

Mr Ahluwalia marks 30 years in Strathmore



Left to right: Mr Ahluwalia, his daughter-in-law Belinda, and his son Jagi at the dinner

“I have dedicated 52 years in education here in Kenya, and 30 of them have been in Strathmore”. These were the emotional words of Mr Randhir Ahluwalia at a dinner to honour his 30 years of service at Strathmore on Friday, 14 November 2008 at Haveli Restaurant at Capital Centre along Mombasa Road.

Mr Ahluwalia said that the organizers had tried to trick him into attending the dinner but had failed because as he explained his Friday evenings are set aside for family dinners. Eventually they had had to tell him the truth.... But the family dinner tradition was incorporated and his son Jagi and Belinda his wife attended the function. Mr Ahluwalia’s wife was out of the country.

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Dr Florence Oloo toasted Mr Ahluwalia’s dedication and said the real building blocks of the University were its dedicated staff like him. Mr Godfrey Madigu, the Director of School of Accountancy (SOA) where Mr Ahluwalia lectures said that he had never missed a lesson in all the time he had worked at the University.

Quoting point 590 of St Josemaria Escriva’s ‘The Way’, “Don’t wish to be like the gilded weather-cock on top of a great building: however much it shines, and however high it stands, it adds nothing to the solidity of the building. Rather be like an old stone block hidden in the foundations, underground, where no one can see you: because of you the house will not fall,” Mr Madigu said Mr Ahluwalia was hidden block in the building that is Strathmore.

Speaking on behalf of Mr Ahluwalia’s students, Samuel Kagiri gave anecdotes of Mr Ahluwalia’s diligence and strong sense of humour. Mrs Eva Beuttah spoke of his refinement and good intuition when it came to short listing students for admission and scholarship. Dr James McFie who has worked with Mr Ahluwalia since he joined Strathmore in 1978 said that he has been a very dependable colleague in all the years they had worked together.

Envoy opens centre for HIV/Aids



From left: Jan Peciva, Fenuel Kalulu, Hon Murugi and Ambassador Fuchsova

Mr Frantisek Hejny, the Commercial Counselor at the Czech embassy in Kenya on Friday, 6th February opened the re-constructed Kenya Organisation of People Living with Aids (KOPLWA) Centre in Kibera.

The Centre was swept away by heavy rains in November last year. KOPLWA was founded in 2007 by people living with HIV/Aids. Most of the members are women who were abandoned by their husbands when they got to know they were living with HIV/Aids.

Jan Peciva, a lecturer at Strathmore University rallied friends in Czech Republic who donated 1000 Euros to re-construct the Centre.

The project drew a lot of attention at the 'NGOs and Development Projects Exhibition' held at

Alliance Française on Wednesday, 4th February. The exhibition was held was attended by the Czech Ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Margita Fuchsova; and Kenya's minister for Gender, Children and Social Development, Hon Esther Murugi.

KOPLWA has 72 adults and 70 children less than 10 years of age. 21 of the children are living with HIV/Aids. Since the children are stigmatized in school, members have started a special school for them.

At the centre, members hold gatherings for group therapy, self-help and motivation. These have been very useful in helping them solve problems. Families of members live off the clothes,

drawings, and artifacts members make during the gatherings at the centre.

"The Centre has many needs. 20 of the members live in the 10x14 feet centre. It needs a latrine, paint, textbooks for the children, salary for teachers, and professional counseling for the adults," said Mr Patrick Lumumba, the leader of KOPLWA.

Alumni Profiles and Testimonies

ANNIE VALENTINE MUCHAI



Personal Information

Address: P. O. Box 61494 - 00200
Nairobi, Kenya

Work place\ Organization: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Position: Programme Officer/Special Assistant to the Director

Strathmore information

Course: Secretarial

Years taken: 1995-1996

Alumni Registration Number : 459

Message to the Alumni

I remain indebted to the management knowledge and professional grooming acquired during my two years in Strathmore 13 years ago. This has been an invaluable asset through out my career and further education.

An experience I must cite is when I got my first position with UNEP in Paris in 1998, thanks to the basic finance and Excel software that I had learnt in Strathmore. Unbelievably for a developed country, the office was then just moving its financial activities from Lotus to Excel and barely anyone knew how to use Excel.

It has now been 11 years working for UNEP and I have nurtured from a support position in Paris, France where I worked for 5 years, to an Associate Liaison Officer in The Hague, The Netherlands for 5 years and now in UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi as a Programme Officer.

I am also completing a second masters and every time I sit on that keyboard either at work or while doing my assignments, I owe my speeds and accuracy to that typing course in Strathmore College! I would never have made it this far if I was technologically challenged!

Thanks to the Strathmore alumni, I am also lucky to be able to use the library facility as I work on the final journey of the masters (the dissertation).

The alumni office could create a forum, to share experiences, challenges and activities to offer motivation and hope to the rest of the students in Strathmore University. It does not matter what course one pursues! It is what one takes away from the prestigious University. The forum could be electronic (connecting everyone interested and from where they are).

A simple software could create a kind of chat room, but one that saves messages; calling the alumni network to exchange views and address topics of mutual interest to the University and students. This virtual classroom could be an interaction between the students, the alumni and the staff! It will connect every alumni locally and abroad and who knows, these alumni might be the next employers, associates and partners of students from Strathmore University!

Testimonial

Strathmore University is more than just an institution in which you merely pass a course. The business environment enabled me to better understand how to behave professionally and ethically. Through it, I learnt the difference between work and career.



*Peter Mutung'u, ACCA Certificate
2003 -2008*

The lecturers fostered upon me the drive to excel and give my best in all situations. I am honored to be an ambassador of Strathmore University's spirit of professionalism and self improvement.

Irish students to come for COP activities in July 2009



Edward (left) and Jude in a meeting with teachers of John Paul II Secondary School, Kibera.

Students from Rockbrook Park School in Dublin, Ireland will come to Kenya in July 2009 to spend quality time engaged in activities with students their own age in Ikumbo village in Meru, and in Kibera slums.

In the rural environment of Ikumbo, the focus will be on teaching primary school children and assisting the school manually as it constructs more buildings for its students and establishes a farm to provide meals for them. In Kibera both Irish and Kenyan students will engage in a cultural exchange that will include debating, social work and curriculum integration.

Two teachers from Rockbrook, Mr Jude Mulligan and Mr Edward Kellett, recently spent a week in Nairobi (25th-31st Oct) working alongside personnel from the University's Community Outreach Programme

(COP) and learning more about the activities COP does in Kibera and other locations around the country. Rockbrook has been operating a cultural link programme for the past year with the John Paul II Mixed Secondary School in Kibera.

This means that throughout the year there are exchanges between the students in both schools in the areas of literature, art, photography, social service projects and information technology. Moreover, under the auspices of COP, students from Rockbrook are currently providing scholarships to 22 students in the John Paul II School (using money they raised on their own initiative through various fundraising activities in Ireland).

Strathmore is delighted to be partnering with Rockbrook in this scholarship activity, and looks forward to furthering this cooperation over the coming years.

Rockbrook's plan is to continue working in partnership with COP to maintain these 22 young people in school until they leave Form Four. During their stay, Mr Mulligan and Mr Kellett also visited Ikumbo Secondary School.

Does your CV have international codes?

When I look at a CV and the telephone contact(s) don't have the '+254' international code, I know the owner doesn't have a global outlook.

Some people don't even put their town or area telephone codes or even the postal code. I weed out such CVs because people who don't think beyond their town can't make suitable employees, says Mr Jonah Awiti, the President of Kenya's chapter of ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association).

Mr Awiti said this at the University's CISA (Certified Information Systems Audit) certificate awarding ceremony on 5th December 2008 at the Hilton Hotel. Strathmore has been offering CISA since 2002.

Mr Awiti challenged the certificate holders to make use of the certification by working very hard. "There are people who die and people who rest from this life. Those who idle away their life die, but those who work in this life go to rest," Mr Awiti said.

"CISA is a strong certification and you prepared for it at a great university which adds value to the qualification. Strathmore is my university of choice. My son was



Mr Awiti (to the right) of Dr McFie with latest Strathmore CISA certification holders

admitted to pursue an IT degree at a public university. But I told him to go and do the Bachelor of Business Information Technology at Strathmore," he said.

Mr Awiti asked the awardees to demonstrate to employers the importance of the certification. "Professionals are in a sense sustained by fear, so create sufficient fear for the need of CISA certification" he said.

Mr Awiti also asked the awardees to make their spouses professionally successful too. "CISA is an international qualification and it brings professional mobility. Make sure your spouse is not left behind as you advance in your career," he advised.

The Alumni Office Congratulates all those registered on the Website

To register Visit : www.salo-kenya.org

*For more details on how to register contact
Joseph Kilonzo or Pauline Kuria*

Email: jkilonzo@strathmore.edu or pkuria@strathmore.edu

Join Strathmore Alumni online community and keep your profile up to date

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REUNIONS

1.0 INTERNATIONAL STRATHMORE-KIANDA ALUMNI REUNION IN LONDON 25th APRIL 2009

Welcome to London! An organizing committee has been hard at work preparing to welcome alumni of Strathmore (University, College and School) and Kianda College for an international Strathmore-Kianda alumni reunion to be held in London the evening of Saturday, 25th April 2009.

The venue will be the stylish Bertorelli Restaurant on Fetter Lane just 5 minutes away from the Chancery Lane tube station. The restaurant will open that evening at from 6.30 pm to 12 o'clock midnight for the exclusive use of the Strathmore Reunion. It is a very nice venue indeed with a good atmosphere, a large bar area to relax in and music if people want to dance. We are expecting at least 100 Strathmoreans to attend.

Alumni from Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, India and, of course, Kenya, have already confirmed attendance, including pioneer students of the 1960s and 70s, Accountancy students of the 1980s and 90s and some of the most recent university graduates of the 21st century.

David Sperling has confirmed he will be attending, Peter McDermott's widow, Lally, will also be there and we are awaiting confirmation from other past teachers as well. The charge per person is £38 per person which includes a welcome drink and drink with dinner (sit-down buffet style).

For further information about the Reunion please contact Pauline Kuria, the Alumni Affairs Officer, Strathmore at pkuria@strathmore.edu or Ignatius Tavares, the Coordinator of the Reunion Organizing Committee at ignatius.tavares@kcl.ac.uk



Alumni at a past reunion

2.0 REUNION FOR SU ALUMNI ENTREPRENEURS

Strathmore University's vision has been to become an entrepreneurial university producing graduates who will not rely on being employed by being employers.

A good number of Strathmore alumni are already entrepreneurs and we would like to hear as well as them sharing their experiences and challenges of running their businesses after attending an entrepreneurial university.

In this regard, Alumni Office will hold a reunion for all Strathmore Alumni Entrepreneurs in the month of April or May.

More details will be availed to you in due course

The Yellow Column: FUN and JOKES !!

Eight Gifts You Can Give at No Cost

1) THE GIFT OF LISTENING...

But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

2) THE GIFT OF AFFECTION...

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

3) THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER...

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny MountainWings stories.

Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

4) THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE...

It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet.

A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime and may even change a life.

5) THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT...

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

6) THE GIFT OF A FAVOR...

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

7) THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE...

There are times when we want nothing better be left alone.

Be sensitive to those times,

and give the gift of solitude to others.

8) THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION.

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind to someone, really it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank You."



"I don't like to make assumptions, but something tells me they're not going to meet the required educational standards."

A Very Deep Quote

When you raise yourself above a servant, you have just ranked yourself above Savior.

Ready to Learn

Personally, I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught.

~Sir Winston Churchill~

Doesn't Last

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing, that's why we recommend it daily.

~Zig Ziglar~

Ashamed

The more things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is.

~George Bernard Shaw~

Baby Pigeons?

Have you ever wondered why you don't see baby pigeons?

Have you ever wondered why pigeons spend so much time walking when they could be flying?

Some of US spend so much time walking when we could be flying.

This is why you don't see Baby pigeons -

First of all, unlike other birds, pigeons hide their nests. When they emerged in Asia, pigeons were cliff-dwellers. Now they build their messy nests of sticks inside the guts of bridges, or atop tall buildings, or on top of your air conditioner.

Also, pigeons are very protective and babying parents. They lay only two eggs at a time, and spoil those babies shamefully. By the time they leave the nest, the babies are almost the same size as their parents.

That's why you don't see baby pigeons.

The parents spoil the kids by keeping them sheltered and inside away from the world until they are almost grown.

Is it any wonder why they fly as little as possible? Think about that the next time you see a pigeon, a big one walking.



Gladiators, the SU hockey team are the East Africa University Champions. Leos, SU's rugby team are also emerged the regional champions at the East Africa University games held in Kampala from 4th to 7th February

STRATHMORE ALUMNI LIAISON OFFICE



Keeping us Together

The SU Alumni Newsletter is a publication of the Strathmore Alumni Liaison Office.

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