Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Newsletter

Better Life Through Technology

4th Quarter 2018 Newsletter

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Toastmasters Club

On 22nd June, Ms. Gladys Muhunyo, CC, CL Toastmasters Area 4 Director, addressed a group of DeKUT Staff and students as she demystified “Toastmasters” and gave an informed talk about the value of Toastmasters Club Membership. Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni, the Vice-Chancellor, committed himself to ensure that a Students’ Toastmasters Club is launched within the shortest time possible. DeKUT is keen on ensuring that she provides holistic education. The Vice-Chancellor, therefore, emphasized the need for students taking advantage of this opportunity and joining the Club to learn how to effectively communicate and articulate their views/ ideas as well as to develop their leadership skills. In connection to this, a team of seven students and a Staff member volunteered to work closely to ensure that the club is launched. Toastmasters International is a non – profit organization whose focus is empowering individuals to become better and more effective communicators and leaders. The organization is a world leader in communication and leadership development and has more than 352,000 memberships. Members improve their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 16,400 clubs in 141 countries that make up toastmasters global network of meeting locations. A platform that develops the people within our fraternity is one that we would love to consider.



DeKUT Staff Sports and Fun Day 2018

Sports is one of the activities that promote talents and cultural integration. It is in this line that the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) came up with a league for the youth to compete in different levels annually. DeKUT Soccer Club kicked off its 2018/19 FKF Nyeri County League season at the Othaya Approved Stadium on Sunday 17th June 2018 as from 3:30 pm against Mathaithi FC. The top team from each county league got to be promoted to Division Two league.

https://www.dkut.ac.ke/…/why-is-a-play-day-so-important-to-…



Nelson Mandela 100th Celebrations

On 7th June 2018, the Directorate of Students Welfare held talent search auditions in preparation for Nelson Mandela's 100th Celebrations' week in July 2018. The categories included songs, drama, modern dances, poetry, spoken word, zangalewa dance, breakdance, salsa dance, modeling among others. The Directorate of Students' welfare organized a leadership summit with DeKUTSO Students Council, Class Reps, Clubs & Society leaders to tackle issues that affect the student body on 24th May 2018 at the DeKUT Conservancy. The summit mainly focused on the importance of dialogue, Academic Excellency, National Cohesion and positive expression of our Cultural Identity. The participants were also informed about their roles in the realization of the common goal of the DeKUT Fraternity.



Graduation Ceremony of all the Laikipia County Vocational Training Centres

"DeKUT has committed herself to work together with the vocational training centers and polytechnics to develop the capacity of the staff, by providing them with the necessary skills through training". These were the words of Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni the Vice-Chancellor DeKUT, during the first and one of its kind graduation ceremonies of all the Laikipia County Vocational Training Centres that brought together 350 graduands.



Data Science Africa

Since 2015, Data Science Africa (DSA) has held an annual summer school and workshop to train participants on machine learning and data science methods and provide an avenue for researchers to present work demonstrating the application of these techniques to problems relevant in the African context. For 2018, there were two events: DSA 2018 Nyeri in Kenya, May 31st to June 8th and DSA 2018 Abuja in Nigeria, 12th to 16th November, representing our goal to consolidate the regional community in East Africa while also expanding to other regions. Data Science Africa 2018 Nyeri was to focus on training approximately 30 participants who will then be able to serve as trainers in their local contexts. DSA 2018 Nyeri was to be a "Training of Trainers" event under the theme "end-to-end data science."

http://www.datascienceafrica.org/dsa2018/

The data science trainers explored computer vision and it's applications. The data science trainers were exposed to the entire pipeline of data collection, analysis, and communication of results using relevant examples. The participants deployed sensor systems at the DeKUT conservancy and farm which will collect data that they will then analyze.

https://www.datascienceafrica.org/dsa2018/



Educational Clinics

DeKUT Marketing team had a great weekend spent at Kahuhia girls in Muranga County during the SEMASE contest, on 26th May 2018 and in Nyeri high in Nyeri County during their annual career day on 27th May 2018. These were great platforms to increase the University's visibility and programs offered which is the main mandate of the department.



Creating a Conducive Environment for People Living with Disabilities

DeKUT Committee for People Living With Disability (PLWD) established an online platform on the website that was launched by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Eng. Ndirangu Kioni on 16th May 2018. This page contains downloadable materials as well as informs people on the steps the University is undertaking to provide a conducive environment for PLWD.



Orientation

On Friday 11th May 2018 the Chair of the Chemistry Department Dr. Paul Sang held an orientation exercise to introduce teaching staff, non-teaching staff and Chemistry student leaders to the 2018 first-year students from

Industrial Chemistry and Leather Technology programs. The student leaders gave their experiences at the chemistry department and DeKUT at large and also gave some pieces of advice to the new students on what they can do to excel and be on the right side of the law. The Leather Technology and Industrial Chemistry Technologists and Graduate Assistants (GAs) gave the new students tips for success and especially how to excel and transition into the Master's program once they graduate from bachelor courses. Emphasis was laid on the Leather Technology program and the GAs involved pointed out areas (Footwear and Leather goods) they can work on once they acquire knowledge.



Nyeri hill excursion

On 12th May 2018, in the excursion and expedition versions, we addressed key dynamics that are readily transferable to the students' areas of learning and living:- cooperation, trust and teamwork, sense of place, communication and positive interaction with the community, endurance, risk and safety factors in the planning and execution of outdoor excursions and simulating group dynamics that are the basis of our survival, safety, and comfort. In the long term, we can only hope that the participants who go through our programs shall see the need to work together to overcome conflict and solve problems regardless of which fields they will venture into.



Freshmen Bonding & Integration (F.B.I.)

Freshmen Bonding & Integration (F.B.I.) is an Outdoor experiential program that facilitates in the fast-tracking of settling the first-year students and embracing some of the much needed Common Core Values of teamwork, inclusion, diversity, cohesion, and assimilation while subsequently immersing our students into a whole new world of Outdoor Recreation and Adventure lifestyle. At the Challenge course, the students are exposed to diverse pre-set challenges that require teaming up to overcome the numerous obstacles that stand in between them and the accomplishment of their task. They have to strategize, communicate, meet deadlines and be accountable; because what they do and how they do it has direct impacts on the results. At some point in time, the participants realize that although results are highly valued, it is only a genuine process that can guarantee sustainability. This sounds a lot like the “Process versus Product” metaphor.



Celebrating all Nurses across the Country

DeKUT being at the forefront of capacity building among nurses in the country through its bachelor's program in nursing joined nurses across the country to celebrate the Nurses week. Our staff and students have been part of the events including the free medical camp that was held on 8th May at the Dedan Kimathi Grounds, in Nyeri county. On 11th May they joined all nurses across Kenya who will be coming to Nyeri for the climax of the week-long celebrations.



DeKUT May Intake

At DeKUT, we note that technological development requires not only the mastery of techniques but the ability to establish and run successful enterprises. It is only then that technology can contribute to the wealth creation of a country. Our mix of academic programs is spread over Engineering, ICT, Food Technology, Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, and Business Studies - fit for this purpose. Of critical importance is that all our Academic Programmes are accredited by both local and international accrediting bodies. Locally, the University's Programmes have been accredited by the Regulatory Body, Commission for University Education, and respective Professional Bodies where they apply. We encouraged the KCSE 2017 candidates whom University of choice is the Dedan Kimathi University of Technology to apply for transfer soonest possible to seize this opportunity of early admission and timely completion of their studies.



Biodiversity Conservation and Management

Biodiversity Conservation and Management is one of DeKUT's strategic action areas. On 7th April 2018, a team of 60 persons (students and staff) honored an invitation from the Senior Warden to participate in a Tree Planting Exercise in the Timberline zone of Mount Kenya National park-Sirmon Gate. About 5000 seedlings were planted. It was an exciting opportunity on three fronts: First DeKUT is an important stakeholder of the national park - Mount Kenya supports climb to educate initiative; second, the national park has become an indispensable laboratory for students pursuing Bachelor of Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, and, last, participating in the tree planting exercise falls within DeKUT's strategic action regarding giving back to the society and enhancing linkages with the community. The Timberline had been ravaged by bush-fire in 2012 and tree planting was part of the initiatives the Kenya Wildlife Service has put in place to ensure rapid forest cover recovery. Therefore, participating in the event was not only fun in nature, but it was also part of contributing to Biodiversity Conservation and Management and the well being of the entire society.

