Dedan Kimathi University of Technology Newsletter

Better Life Through Technology

4th Quarter Newsletter

In this issue:

- The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Laikipia
- A courtesy call by the County Commissioner, Mr. Wilfred Nyagwanga
- World Mental Health Month • Matriculation Ceremony
- Seed To Table Innovators(STIs)
- Empowering the Youth on Career & Entrepreneurial Success
- First-Year Orientation
- Training for Integrity Assurance Officers by Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
- 8th Graduation Ceremony
- DeKUT tops as the most preferred Public University in the country
- International students and staff treated on a rare cultural treat
- Induction to Effective Pedagogical Practices E-learning Module
- DeKUT Exploring Collaborations with BMW AG

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Laikipia

On 28th June 2019, DeKUT signed a memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Laikipia to train entrepreneurs on business skills. The goal of this project is to produce graduates equipped with multidisciplinary competencies to manage projects effectively and efficiently in a rapidly changing environment. This collaboration will also help provide our students with an opportunity to apply for the upcoming opportunities and competencies of solving a practical problem in a discipline.

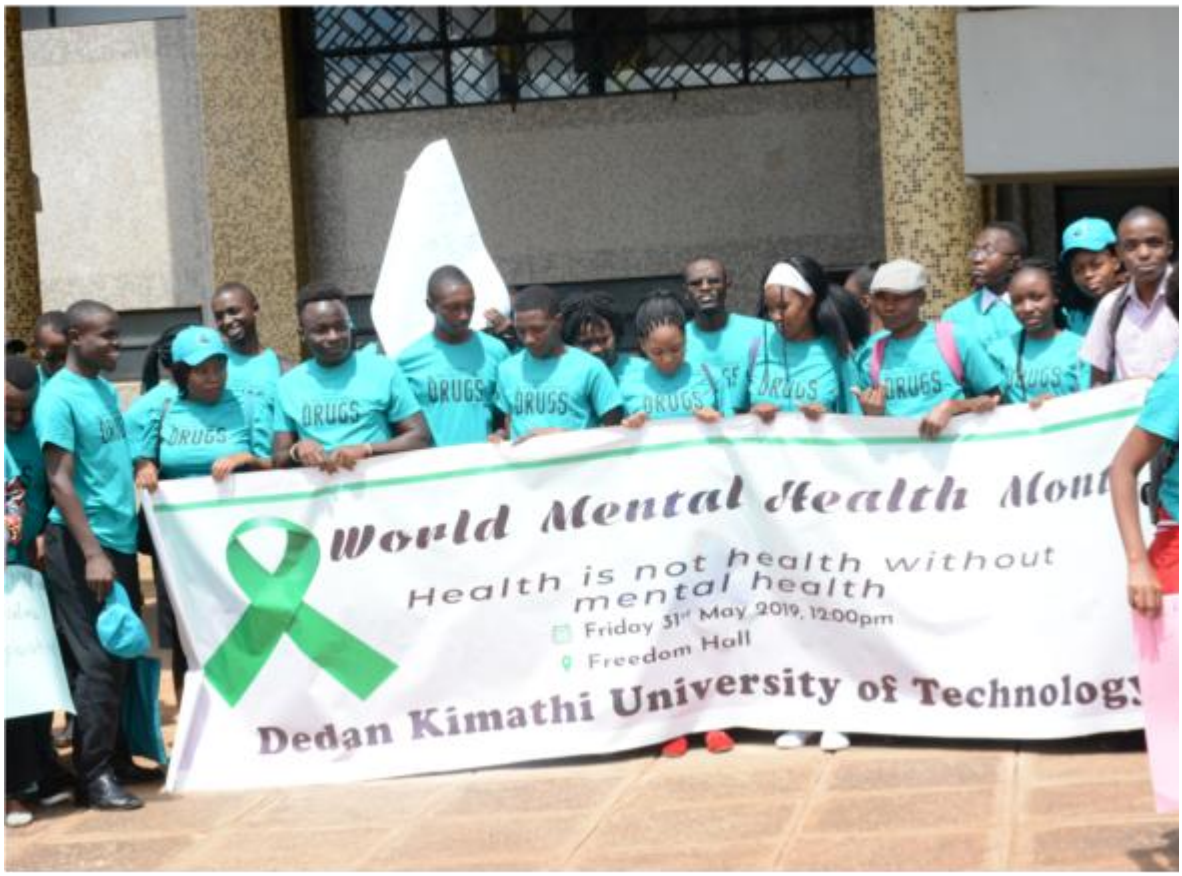


A courtesy call by the County Commissioner, Mr. Wilfred Nyagwanga

The Central Regional Commissioner, Mr. Wilfred Nyagwanga on 27th June 2019 paid a courtesy call to the Vice-chancellor. The commissioner visited various sites such as the proposed sites for Science and Technology Park and Cancer Hospital Centre

World Mental Health Month

Mental Health Month On 31st of May to commemorate the mental health month. They held a walk which included the DeKUT staff and students and was flagged off by Prof. Esther Magiri (DVC A&F). This was done to educate our students on how to take good care of their health and avoid drugs which in return may harm their health and affect their studies.



Matriculation Ceremony

Some days after the First Years were admitted, a matriculation ceremony was held. This is a culture followed by most of the universities and is intended to act as a demonstration of adaptation of student's duties and obtainingtheir rights. The ceremony involves the students taking the Matriculation Oath of the University and getting to learn the Vision, Mission, colors and Core Values of the University. The Vice-Chancellor shared his life stories with the students to motivate them to become future leaders. This was to show them that the journey they are traveling is the same journey that was taken years before by the lectures or the University administrators. "Africa must be transformed by Africans"was the challenge that was given by the Vice-Chancellor to encourage them to be innovative and come up with solutions for Africa.



Seed To Table (STT) Innovators

Seed To Table (STT) Innovators is a group comprised of staff and students from the University, championed by Dr.MonicaMburu who came together to promote nutrient-dense agriculture through organic farming of indigenous and exotic fruits, vegetables and herbs that can be incorporated into existing diets to improve nutrition and health at the household level. The main purpose is to promote functional foods with bio-active compound(s) for the prevention and management of non- communicable diseases to enhance nutrition security and incomes through adding value to indigenous and exotic fruits, vegetables and herbs grown locally. To promote this purpose, the group set up a demonstration farm with five vertical gardens all planted with strawberries and ten beds all with duranium, chives, sage, spring onions, leeks, spearmint, peppermint, lemongrass, broccoli, thorn melon, Italian vegetables, fenugreek, Lucerne, flaxseed, black seeds, kiwi fruits,

chayote, rosemary, pomegranates, grapes, and persimmon.



Empowering the Youth on Career & Entrepreneurial Success

On 18th May, DeKUT hosted a career talk for the students. The talk was organized by the Career Forward Program which is an initiative of Pro Excellence Management Consultants. The main aim of the talk was to empower the youth on career and entrepreneurial success." The future belongs to forward individuals who believe in it and adequately prepare for it." Captain Ian Njirani remarked during the career talk as he urged the students to identify their key focus and work towards achieving their goals. He also urged them to become open-minded people and innovate new ideas that may assist cub some of the challenges such as youth

unemployment. He further states that young people, especially the youths, are still unemployed despite their level of studies.





International students and staff treated on a rare cultural treat

“Culture is the widening of the mind and spirit” and this is one of the reasons DeKUT strives to help International Students and Staff to enjoy and experience the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens the Community and the Nation. On 26th and 27th April 2019, the International Office led some of the International Staff and Students to Kigera cultural group, Nyeri National Museum and Mau Mau caves, Marua where they learned about the Agikuyu traditions and culture, tasted the Kikuyu Cuisines and got some entertainment from the Cultural group. They also learned more about the Mau Mau movement and the struggle for Kenya’s independence

First-Year Orientation

At DeKUT we understand that education is not just about academic knowledge and skills but the holistic development of a person. The orientation process was done for the May 2019/2020 students to welcome and familiarize them with the University facilities such as the library, University farm, conservancy and many more. They also get to learn general rules and regulations governing their schools. The University has invested in facilities geared towards providing students education that does not just give them good grades but add value that helps the students become the best they can by developing their intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic, creative and spiritual potentials.



DeKUT tops as the most preferred Public University in the country

DeKUT tops as the most preferred Public University in the country After the students' selection to Universities, DeKUT topped as the most preferred Public University in the Country. Out of the 1880 declared capacity, 1834 qualified KCSE 2018 graduates selected DeKUT and were all placed to the University; a 98% preference rate, making the University the most preferred Public University in the country. Known for, among many other things, early and timely completion of studies, we are already ready for you to take you through a phase of transformation and actualization through quality education and holistic development.



Training for Integrity Assurance Officers

The University Human Resource Department in conjunction with Ethics and Anti -Corruption Commission conducted training for Integrity Assurance Officers. The five-day training was held from the 6th of May 2019 to 10th May 2019. The training was conducted to educate our staff members on the various conducts that are in line with their job description and how they should carry themselves at the University to serve as an example to others especially the students. They also got to learn various rules and regulations governing the University.



Induction to Effective Pedagogical Practices E-learning Module

On 3rd April 2019, The University organized for half a day in-house training for the staff members to familiarize them with e-Learning and enable them to access the materials on Pedagogical Skills.The Institute of Pedagogical and Academic Writing Skills (IPAWS) was tasked with the responsibility of raising efficiency in teaching and learning. Towards the end, an auxiliary function of the Institute was to act as a useful resource for staff members who may, in the course of undertaking their duties, require help in effective teaching strategies and in preparing various documents.



DeKUT Exploring Collaborations with BMW AG

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has a Siemens Centre approved by Siemens AG, Germany and by the Engineers Board of Kenya (EBK) as a trainer for Continuous Professional Development of practicing Engineers in the industry. So far, companies like KENGEN and personnel from the various government ministries have been trained. Recently, DeKUT Siemens team visited BMW Manufacturing Plant in Leipzig - Germany to learn about manufacturing with purely renewable energy; wind technology and explore possible collaborations. During the visit, the team learned that this plant manufactures 600 electrical cars per day and is the only car manufacturer in the world producing car body from pure fiber. The manufacturing at the plant is automated with Siemens PLC and Robots; technology whose application is being taught here at the University.



8th Graduation Ceremony

Unlike the previous years, we hosted a 3-day graduation ceremony. The University came up with this new plan to meet the changing needs of the graduands, their guardians as well as the entire University community. This was necessitated by concerns raised by the graduands themselves. They noted that ceremonies took too long eating into time their traveling time back for celebrations with their guardians and friends. With the new plan, graduation ceremonies are now more student-centered whereby each graduand’s name is read unlike in the past where they were called using serial numbers. This approach was also used to create time for the

enrichment of the program with talks from industry leaders to guide and advise graduands on the expectations of the dynamic job market as well as entrepreneurship. We once again congratulate the class of 2019 and wish them the best as they venture into the job market.



