DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLGY NEWSLETTER BULLETIN, (MAY, 2020)

In this issue;

• Grand Challenges Africa
• Launch of DeKUT Kenya Film Commission Film, Animation and Gaming Hub
•DeKUT Holds its 9th Graduation Ceremony (virtual graduation)
• Meet Frances Njambi – An Android Developer At Mkulima Young And A Parliamentarian In The Making

Grand Challenges Africa

Grand Challenges Africa is honored to extend an invitation to ALL groups that meet the eligibility criteria and have proof of concept results for science-based innovations to participate in the Transition to Scale grants call for proposals. Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) is a program of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). This call is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Eligible innovators can apply for this competitive follow-on transition to scale or scale up grant which will run for a term of up to thirty-six (36) months. We will fund an amount which is commensurate with the scope of work proposed. Grantees will automatically be eligible for technical and business development support through the period of the grant by the partners. They will also have an opportunity to showcase their innovations, interact with fellow innovators and other stakeholders as well as learn from experts in various areas of interest through the GC Africa Innovation Network (GCAiN). https://www.aasciences.africa/…/grand-challenges-africa-rou…

Launch of DeKUT Kenya Film Commission Film, Animation and Gaming Hub



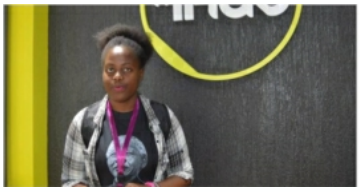
Earlier this year, we signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Kenya Film Commission (KFC). This was enhanced after the previous discussions to start a digital media center to reduce the unemployment gaps among the youth through the use of technology by coming up with digital media products such as films. The partnership aims to provide a platform where young people and interested parties in creative art can use technology in film making and participate in the production of digital media products that can be marketed widely. It is an industry that can provide employment to a lot of young people and where you can achieve a lot with very little investment. It is prudent to develop the capacity of those going to use the facilities and therefore an important aspect to scale the Human resource and get more people involved in the project. The university will aid in the provision of capacity development support for the interested parties as the commission's main objective is to provide a vibrant film industry in Kenya. Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) will provide an avenue for dissemination of content. As a sector, the commission is an enabler within the big four agenda. Kenya Film Commission is also working in collaboration with Konza city to create a digital media city. On 21st May this year, we launched the DeKUT Kenya Film commission Film, Animation and Gaming Hub which was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary, Information ,Communication and Technology, Mr. Joe Mucheru. It is an initiative by KFC which is seeking to devolve filmmaking and create opportunities at the grassroots. This creative industry will be open to students, staff, and members of the public who are animators or film makers.

DeKUT Holds its 9th Graduation Ceremony (virtual graduation)



In light of the coronavirus pandemic and the directives on social distancing, we held the first of its kind in Kenya virtual graduation. This happened on 8th of May after numerous requests by the students. This came in amid ban on public gatherings due to COVID-19. . Students requested for the graduation ceremony as they wanted their certificates and move on with their lives despite the pandemic. Therefore, the University Senate resolved to hold this virtual graduation to maintain the student-centric approach and ensure timely completion of studies. The ceremony was brief and attended by only 15 people, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and members of the Senate in regard to the laid out directives by the Ministry of Health. The graduating class also received their certificates two weeks later on to enable them venture into the job markets.

Meet Frances Njambi – An Android Developer At Mkulima Young And A Parliamentarian In The Making



Being a Student at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) has been a fulfilling experience. There was so much going on especially in the field of technology and leadership; there was always something epic to look forward to. I loved the challenges I got from my fellow students and mentors and this always pushed me out of my comfort zone into reinventing and building myself. Balancing all the activities I involved myself in as a student was not easy but the effort was worth it." – Frances Njambi When you meet and interact with Njambi, you are not likely to guess that she is in a tech field. This is because of her pro – activeness outside tech matters at the University; especially her involvement in the debate club where she was one of the most active members. Something might help explain this though; "I'm very much into politics. I hope to be in parliament soon." Yes, there you have it. Njambi is on her path to the parliament and she needs people/ social skills, oral and written communication skills, confidence among other skills to succeed in a career in politics and governance and she has been deliberately preparing for that. Njambi is one of the 1, 600 graduates who graduated virtually here at the University on 8th May, 2020. She is therefore a fresh graduate but already on the go. While pursuing her degree in Information Technology, she was working with Mkulima Young in data analytics and correspondence and currently, she is offering her services as an android developer; Mkulima Young is a social venture that encourages young people to practice agriculture in a bid to contribute to the actualization of Kenya's and East Africa's food security agenda. "One of the key highlights of Mkulima Young is the provision of a market place for farm produce. For the longest time, middlemen have exploited both farmers and consumers by doctoring prices to profit themselves. Mkulima Young eradicates that by providing a direct farmer to consumer/market traders' interaction thus increasing the profit that farmers reap" – she adds. In addition to being a woman in tech and a promoter of food security, Njambi describes herself as a pro - good governance advocate, a pro-capitalist, a feminist and a libertian. She is involved in youth leadership as a local coordinator at Students for Liberty; an organization that teaches and supports the advocacy of liberty. "Liberty is much needed in Africa and can be achieved through free markets, the rule of law, comprehensive property rights and economic empowerment and freedom. I believe that the government is simply a protector of citizens and should never be turned to a provider as this interferes with free trade and individual economic advancement"- adds the enthusiastic Njambi. She further expresses that she looks forward to joining liberal think tanks and influencing policies in government. ust recently, Njambi was selected to join YALI; the Young African Leaders Initiative launched by the former President of the United States of America, Barack Obama as an effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. To advance her knowledge in politics, governance and advocacy, she will be getting training in the line of Public Management. In addition, Njambi was on 20th May, 2020 appointed to lead the She Code Africa (SCA) community in Nyeri – SCA's goal is to celebrate and empower young girls and women in technology across Africa by telling their story, involving them in technical and non – technical training while also helping them share their knowledge and ideas. To Njambi we say, "Congratulations! We are proud of you." As a parting shot, Njambi says that the Kenyan leadership space is changing slowly but surely and she is glad to be part of the process. "It's time for the young people to take up opportunities and thrive" – she adds in emphasis In the words of the Vice Chancellor

DeKUT, Prof. P. Ndirangu Kioni, “the University has set you on the path to self-realization and service to humanity. Embrace the journey with the courage and determination necessary to make an impact wherever you go.”

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