

## *Commission for University Education hails MKU alumni*



*A group photo of Commission for University Education officials with the MKU alumni during the audit on 31<sup>st</sup> November 2016*

On 31<sup>st</sup> November 2016, The Commission for University Education, Government high authority in-charge of Universities regulation, had a session with a section of MKU Alumni. This was during the MKU audit, since the award of charter to Mount Kenya University in 2011. The Session was to confirm how far Mount Kenya University had complied with the on the alumni management and

services. The report noted that the network

of alumni, through ICT proved well managed. For the Graduands and Alumni Relations Office, this is just a start, we promise to keep the vision to be the best in Africa in managing and supporting alumni services.

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### *Uplifting many to their destiny- the Graduands and Alumni Relations Office in the Division of Students Welfare and Alumni Affairs (SWAA) success story....From DVC, SWAA*

The Division of SWAA her together with her daughter the Graduands and Alumni Relations (GARO) section

celebrates three years since their establishment in January 2014. The Division constituted three sections, Students Welfare, Alumni and Marketing Affairs and later in 2016 revised to Students Welfare and Alumni Affairs (SWAA) after the Marketing Affairs was transferred to the Division of Administration, Institutional Planning and Advancement (APIA). So far much has been achieved and much is also to be done. In the section GARO, several areas have been handled. These include the strong networking of the alumni to the university and

among themselves. The communication channels via phone call, bulk sms system, social media-MKU alumni Facebook page and WhatsApp groups are effective tools of communication. This social platform has provided for instant circulation and exchange of business information, job and internship opportunities among the alumni and students and their Alma Mata. Through these communication channels, a good percent of alumni database of alumni has been developed including contacts

of the employers. We wish to urge all the alumni to update their status online via the online link [goo.gl/m4g7eM](http://goo.gl/m4g7eM). It is worth to recognize that through the Whatsapp network, the Hospitality and Tourism alumni have registered a business Hostouri Investment that they are pooling the financial resources to a major investment of choice. They have a group account at Stima Sacco to build their financial base. With such a step; we look forward for higher impact through alumni services.

The GARO has managed to carry out Alumni Tracer Studies. Though initially a challenge, the on-line surveys have worked well and we shall expand on this to cover various aspects. Indeed, our 2015 and 2016 confirmed an employability rate of above 50% within a year of graduation, MKU alumni work across the world. The other areas of improvement noted include bulletins which now are implemented together with soft skills trainings even more enhanced. More feedback has been recorded implementation in the

process at various levels. We thank all the alumni who have always taken their time to respond on our online questionnaire

The GARO has been able to spearhead partnerships and closely working with more organizations in various aspects including internships, job placement/recruitment fair activities, career talks, employability skills to students. Some of the partnership include, Internship agreement with Kenya Commercial Bank in which top students from business courses benefit each year at KCB and recently, Wadhvani Foundation for entrepreneurship skills training. Other organizations who have participated include Nation Media Group, Rift Valley Railways, Techno Brain Technologies, Europa Group of Pharmaceuticals, Fuzu.com, Tecno Mobile, Proctor and Allan, Syngenta among others.

Students have been engaged in employability soft skills trainings in which several physical and on-line facilitators have been engaged. These include the Bridge Africa Uready work programme, tukoworks on-line resource and Barclays' Bank "readytowork" programme will be on board soon.

Thank you

**Mr. Peter M. Waweru**

## ***Bachelor of Social Work and Administration***

### ***MKU-Kigali Alumnus Visits Kenya on Exchange Program***

Meet Mr. Ruzindania Egide, an alumnus from Kigali Campus. Upon his graduation, he established a Children's Home in February 2016. He was listed as the best awardee for community transformation, during a



***A photo of the view of one of the family set up house in Macheo Children's home during Mr. Egide's Visit on 7th December 2016***



dinner sponsored by Prof. Simon Gicharu, Chairman Board of Directors, Mount Kenya University.

Mr. Egide supports over 26 children at the home which in January 2016, he relocated to the new four acre space. He has a football Team for Youth and mentoring and coaching network to over 1000 vulnerable youths.

His visit as a fulfilment of the award, took him to Macheo Children's Home, Ark Children's Home at Kiganjo Estate Thika and By Grace Children's home in Ngong. He was accompanied by Mr. Patrice Baraka, the Alumni Officer, Mount Kenya University, Rwanda. While on his tour, he gave his support for the goodies donated to the children.

During the visits to the homes, he was accompanied by the Graduands and Alumni Relations Officer Mr. Afubwa Musumi and Forth Year student Ms. Naomi Kirigo, who secured her

***From left , Patrice Baraka ,MKU Alumni Officer,Ms Naomi Kirigo,student Bachelor of Development Studies Finalist & President ,Rotaract Club -MKU Thika Campus, Mr. Egide, Alumnus ,Mr. Afubwa Musumi, GARO-MKU ,One of the children, Ms. Joan Mburu, the manager of the Macheo children's Home and Mr. Mannix (Far Right)Founder***

attachment at Macheo Children's Home starting January 2017.



***A photo of the with the children at the Ark Children's Home in Kiganjo Estate-Thika appreciate the gift hamper Mr. Egide's MKU team on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016***

Mr. Egide has offered internships to Kenyan students/graduands in Development Studies and Social Administration in Kigali.

This was a great milestone and the Alumni Office looks forward to better Alumni achievements through similar partnerships.

**NETWORKING ALUMNI BEARS FRUITS AS HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM SCHOOL ALUMNI CHAPTER UNVEILS AN ENTERPRISE: HOUSTOURI INVESTMENT GROUP**

What started as a WhatsApp Network Group in July 2016 is now an Investment Company. It is with joy as the alumni smile with final launching plans. The school Hospitality and Tourism Alumni came together via the Group administered by the Alumni Officer Mr. Afubwa Musumi and the Dean, School of

*The Hostouri Investment Logo, A business born from the Hospitality and Tourism Management alumni*

Hospitality Travel and Tourism, Madam Jane Kanjuru.

Several meetings have been held to spearhead the venture and now it is live. The members appreciate the venture that will unite them through enabling them investing in land, hotel and tourism for development and economic prosperity. The School of Hospitality enjoys many of her alumni working across the continents including Africa, Middle East and in the West



among others. This venture confirms the MKU's Founder Prof. S.N. Gicharu's call that, MKU alumni must endeavor to be job creators and not job seekers. For us in the Students Welfare & Alumni Affairs division we say "Congratulations".



*Part of the meeting at MKU Staff Cafeteria brainstorming the name at initial stage Nov 2016*

*Employers hire graduates and finalist class students at Mount Kenya University-Thika Main Campus during recruitment fair*

GARO on 17th November 2016 successfully organized and held recruitment fair and career talk which was graced by Mr. Aajay Alva, Business Development and Training Director of Techno-brain Technologies Limited. Other companies that participated in the campus recruitment fair and Career talk were Fuzu limited and Europa

group of companies.



*A group photo of Europa group of Pharmaceuticals and part of MKU team after their presentation.*

The Europa Group of Companies' representatives gave details in the area of pharmaceutical marketing opportunities and Internships. Earlier on, the Tecno Mobile had also recruited on 9th and 10th November 2016. The Career talk and recruitment was a success by attendance of several students and alumni.

Students and Alumni were enthusiastic to get the real time information on recruitment and job searching journey.



*Mr. Mwenda, and School of IT Student representative, Mr. Aajay Alva, Tecno Brain Technologies and Mr. Robert Kimani of East Africa Manager, Fuzu.com*

Speaker by speaker emphasized ***the soft skills and attitude of the graduates a key determinant to successful job search, placement, job retention and even self-employment.*** That the Technical Knowledge is an opener to various areas of interest that must be followed to reward back an earning. They were informed

that as they appear for recruitment, the employers are not going to hire their degree but their services through their knowledge, skills and character (attitudes). These employability skills ranged from being creative & innovative, leadership, critical thinking, adaptability, flexible, commitment, agility to business dynamics (change). Basically, strategic management of the individuality (professional and personal character) gives success to the job seeker.



*From Left, Mr. Afubwa introduces Mr. Robert Kimani, Fuzu E.A Manager at the podium, while Mr. Alva looks on*

The Guest speaker emphasized on the importance of professional skills and continuous update of the latest technologies noting that even after graduation the industry is not stagnant in innovations as in their curriculum at the university and thus, graduates need to be agile to update their skills time to time to remain competitive and retain or transit better opportunities. This included attending professional seminars, workshops and

register for professional courses in their various areas e.g. CISCO, ICDL, programming languages for Information Technology skills; IHRM courses for Human Resource Management professionals; CPA, ICCA for accounting among others in order to fit into the job market successfully, not forgetting the latest updates in their professional regulators.

Students were brought to the greenlight to appreciate various job entry levels like internships, attachment, graduate trainee, management trainee and



*A part of the group photo after the training*

Volunteering the most employers currently used to avert the cost of staff turnover due to unfit staff in the alternative recruitment processes.

Students were advised to be agile with ICT opportunities available and how they can utilize them, a good example given was Uber, a company whose revenue and logistics are purely on-line, running transport services without owning any single car across

the world, other e-products Mpesa, E-Citizen cards among others .The manager Fuzu.com presented the platform for recruitment with

extra service to filter jobs that the candidates curriculum vitae profiles are rated qualified with above 70%. Finally, students and alumni

were given opportunity for the job in the industry and respective companies.

### **MKU SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ADMITTED TO THE BAR**

The School of Law enjoys the graduates to the market since 2013. A good chunk of the 'learned friends' have triumphed in their career as they navigate through various positions in the region. The Kenya School of Law is a requirement for all law graduates to enroll as practitioners for a period of one year and pass the professional test before they are appointed or admitted to practice as advocates. It was a joyous moment as this year's awardees were crowned and a good number of them were from MKU among other Universities.

### **AND ON THE ALUMNUS CORNER.....MEET GIBSON KIMANI OF GIBSON AFRICA LIMITED.**

Mr. Gibson Kimani graduated in the year 2014, with BSc. Hospitality Management. He has worked with various star rated hotels in management levels. He decided to quit and do full time business. He is the

founder and Director of Gibsons Africa Limited, a full-fledged company dealing with events, caterings (graduations, weddings and corporate) and cakes for all occasions.



*Dinner Set in recent event*



*Gibson at the work station as waiter*

According to the Dean, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management on Gibson's history, he knew what he wanted; he was very active in class, school catering events and a go getter attitude. He was just passionate and the outcome can be seen. The school is proud of their alumni.

Gibson says his talent of entrepreneurship was nurtured at MKU and the quality delivery of the staff in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. "...If it were not for them, I will not be here...." Last year 2016, he applied for the Graduate Enterprise Academy that nurtures young start-ups in MKU and he was successful. His cohort is scheduled to graduate soon. He says, "... the Graduate Enterprise Academy has built his business Acumen very many miles ahead. He says "...that MKU has the best choices for studying the course you need to transform yourself.



*Gibsons at the Nyama  
choma Grill*

The lecturers are available together with massive facilities and services to students. I advise that graduates should never detach themselves from the University. I am always in touch with Graduands and Alumni Relations Office and the school of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Thanks to Mr. Afubwa Musumi for the network..."

He has created jobs for 15 people himself being the first employee.

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**GARO  
CULTIVATES  
MOUNT KENYA  
UNIVERSITY TO  
PARTNER WITH  
WADHWANI  
FOUNDATION FOR  
PRACTICAL  
ENTREPRENEURS  
HIP TRAINING**

For any University that is focusing on strategic growth, the success of the alumni is the benchmark of quality and university sustainability for its future. This was an opportunity GARO could not see slip away when it arose. It all started by a visit of Mr. Varsy, now the Vice-president Wadhvani Foundation, Africa Region. One of the main objectives of the GARO is to support students' employability skills. With the great challenges of securing job opportunities, the Wadhvani Foundation has a programme designed to enhance massive job creators via nurturing those students aspiring to be entrepreneurs. MKU is among the first three universities in Kenya to kick-off the training. After the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Stanley W. Waudo and the

President Wadhvani Foundation based in USA, the 16 faculty members from MKU went through rigorous facilitator training in December 2016, the student training commenced in January 2017. The training is offered in a series of instructions supported with Edcast on-line platform. Students will be able to learn and practice their dream entrepreneurship ideas up to the registration of campus companies via the Entrepreneurship-Cell (e-Cell) model to become the Gurus of their time. By doing so, massive job creation will be achieved as they expand their ideas and link with venture capitalist and the current global entrepreneurship gurus mentor them through. In the first cohort, over 100 students are registered in Thika Main Campus while at Nairobi campus, 70 students. Other universities that launched the training are Strathmore and University of Nairobi.

The Office of Alumni will continue to search and nurture partnerships that are to help the students transit into successful alumni within the shortest period

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