



# THE OASIS NEWSLETTER

A Publication from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor



*Prof. Hellen Atieno, the Director, Directorate of University Special Services hands certificate of merit to a peer educator*

## *Inside*

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## JOOUST COMMISSIONS NEW STUDENT PEER EDUCATORS



Prof. Hellen Atieno (left), Prof. Christopher Obel Gor, the Dean of Students (Center) and Mr. Jackson Ulira, the team lead, make me Smile-kenya (MMSK)

**I**t is said that the essence of teaching is to make learning contagious; to have one idea spark another. This was exactly the theme of the day during the commissioning of 40 trained Jaramogi Oginga University of Science and Technology student peer educators.

The peer educators were trained for five days after which they were assigned specific tasks under Behaviour Change Communication Groups (BCCGS) which encourages individuals and communities to change their behaviour by triggering them to adopt healthy, beneficial and positive behavioural practices in real life. BCCGS tackles girl child empowerment,

entrepreneurship, health, mentorship and economic empowerment.

The commissioning was spearheaded by Mr. Peter Mitenga and Mr Jackson Ulira, trainers from Make Me Smile Kenya (MMS-K), an NGO organization based in Kisumu which handles entrepreneurship, mentorship, and sexual and reproductive health issues, for the youth. The two trainers took the members present through a peer educators' leadership lecture and afterwards, the trained peers were given a platform to share their testimonials and stories of change during their fieldwork. After all, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What

are you doing for others?"

Speaking during the exercise, the Director, Directorate of Special Services, Prof. Hellen Atieno thanked the trainers and students for showing up and urged the trained peer educators to wear their tags once a week on a selected day so that their fellow students are able to identify them. She further urged them to feel free to visit her office and share with her on how best the Directorate of Special Services can serve them. "It is through peer educators that the issues of the students can be addressed," She said.

The newly commissioned peer educators took a moment to light candles to signify the need to impact other peoples' lives in a positive way and the power which had been bestowed unto them as ambassadors of spreading information to those in need before being awarded certificates. Mr Jackson Ulira, one of the trainers from Make Me Smile Kenya affirmed that the certificates are theirs but the knowledge acquired during their training is for sharing with others so as to positively change lives.



JOOUST peer educators Chairperson, Mr. Arlingson Omondi, appreciated the University for its support and the training opportunity. He however noted that they lack relevant resources to enable them facilitate their objectives and urged the institution to do what it can to help them in this front.

Such trainings enable the candidates to learn, enhance and adopt leadership values and skills necessary in making informed decisions. In addition, they encourage One on One

small group interactions, mentorship – usually under the spirit of Ubuntu – and enable them protect themselves from HIV/ AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections. The peer educators act as a link between students and the relevant staff members depending on the problem at hand, offer sexual reproductive health education and behavior change counseling.

The newly trained peer counselors are looking forward to carrying out mentorships within and

outside the University and sensitizing their fellow students on HIV/ AIDS, Gender based violence, drug and substance abuse, cervical cancer among others. Though they say that practice is the hardest part of learning, training is the essence of transformation. Ours is to wish them nothing but the very best as they prepare to transform lives, one at a time.



*The peer educators all smiles during the group photo at the University Administration Block*



## THE CLUB OF CHOICE!

By Erick Dadu

It's not just an ordinary club; It's a warm and welcoming family, a sanctuary for compassionate souls. It's JOOUST Charity Club. The genesis of the club is traced to the year 2017 when a group of JOOUST students ventured into the world of selflessness. At the inception phase, recruiting new members presented its challenges, but the mission of the pioneers was unwavering: to extend acts of kindness both within the university and the surrounding community. The club's charitable endeavors range from visiting children's homes, tree-planting initiatives within and beyond our campus, paying visits to the elderly in our vicinity to engaging in public places cleanup campaigns. These activities authentically echo the very essence of the club's name, "Charity," and this noble message has been handed down through different cohorts of students.

Over the years, the club has earned the enviable reputation of being one of the fastest-growing clubs in the university community boasting of a membership of over 100 people.



*JOOUST Charity Club members wash clothes at an orphanage in Migori.*

The club is guided by a dedicated team of leaders comprising 14 individuals, each with unique roles and responsibilities. Under the capable stewardship of the Chairman, Mr. Allan Malach, and his assistant, Mr. Innocent Mbeche, the club is, without an iota of doubt, steered in the right direction. Every semester, members diligently carry out various activities such as visiting children's homes, assisting those in need within the university's proximity, among others.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022,

club members embarked on a heartwarming visit to Kipchamgaa Children's Home in Kericho which is nestled near a scenic, ever-flowing waterfall. They dedicated themselves to cleaning the home's compound, washing clothes and shoes for the children, engaging in games, delivering educational talks, and crowned the day with a delicious meal prepared by our club chef, Valentine Jerop, fondly referred to as "Mama Nitilie." Members always relish such heart touching moments. More recently,



members visited Kwetu Nyumbani Children's Home in Kitale, just a stone throw away from the town. The members have also been at Kadika Children's home in Migori, Neema in Eldoret, and Mamangina in Kisumu. The most cherished moments were the interactions with these children, listening to their touching stories, empathizing with their experiences, and offering words of encouragement.

These heartfelt activities have greatly impacted the lives of countless individuals. The club meetings are held every Sunday of the semester, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. With open hearts, we extend our invitation to all compassionate comrades who may wish to socially, materially or spiritually make a difference in the lives of the needy.



*Refreshment session with children at Kipchamgaa children's home, in Kericho*



*The Charity Club members visit the elderly near the Main Campus, in Bondo.*



## SECURING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE THE BLACK SOLDIER FLY WAY!



*Dr. Elijah Museve engages the participants during the feedback session.*

**T**he Directorate of University Enterprise Services (JOOUSTES) in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Livestock Feed and Commercialization Project conducted a two-day training aimed to providing valuable insights into the production of Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) for the livestock feed industry. This endeavor was attended by JOOUST representatives, selected students, and enthusiastic youths from Siaya, Kakamega, Kisumu, and Homabay counties.

The first day of the training was dedicated to selected students from JOOUST. The session was an insightful and interactive opportunity,

where the students learnt about the immense potential of BSFL as a high-protein and sustainable source of livestock feed. These insects could be the solution to addressing the challenges of animal feed production and ensuring food security in the near future.

The students also gained insight on the lifecycle of the Black Soldier Fly, their nutritional benefits, and the technology involved in large-scale breeding. During the plenary session, emphasis was laid on the importance of disseminating the knowledge they gained to local farmers. This will not only ensure that the benefits of BSFL production reach a broader community, but also ultimately helping to improve livestock farming in the region.

The all encompassing training highlighted on the potential economic opportunities within the



*Dr. Elijah Museve, The Director, University Enterprise Services gives a presentation during the workshop*



BSFL sector, including entrepreneurship and income generation, including the commercialization of BSFL production and how it can contribute to the local economy, employment, and food security.

This workshop churns positive strides towards

empowering the youth and students from the Siaya region and beyond. Consequently, this served as a platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building in the livestock feed industry. The impact of this training event is poised to be felt not

only within the academic circles of JOOUST but throughout the Nyanza region and beyond.



*The participants pose for a group photo at the University Administration Block.*



# PICTORIALS

## HON. OBURU ODINGA'S THANKSGIVING CEREMONY



*Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka is received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno moments before the ceremony.*



*The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga is received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno the DVC, Planning Administration and Finance, Prof. Aggrey Thuo.*



*The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga during a courtesy call at the Vice Chancellor's Office.*



*The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga signs the visitor's book at the Vice Chancellor's Office.*



*Moments at the Vice Chancellor's Office Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka signs the visitor's book.*



*Hon. Wavinya Ndeti (left), Dr. Ida Odinga (right) at the Vice Chancellor's Office during the courtesy call*



# PICTORIALS

## HON. OBURU ODINGA'S THANKSGIVING CEREMONY



*The Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga and his delegation at the University Administration Block moments before Hon. Oburu Odinga's Thanksgiving Ceremony*



*Prof. Emily Achieng' Akuno greets Hon. Wandayi, James Opiyo during the Hon. Oburu Odinga's Thanksgiving Ceremony*



*The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning, Administration and Finance receives The Right Reverend Prof. David Hellington Kodia.*



*The Right Reverend Prof. David Hellington Kodia signs the visitor's book at the Vice Chancellor's Office.*



# *The Oasis*

**A Newsletter of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga  
University of Science and Technology**

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*The University Administration block at a glance*

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