MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

THE VOICE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



The Chief Guest, Mrs Agnes Ntutu (in green shirt and green cap) being assisted to plant seedlings in the demonstration plot

TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

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- THE INAUGURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (APSOMMU) OF MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2023.
- BOOK LAUNCH

DAAD DIRECTOR DR. DOROTHEE WEYLER VISITED MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY

On the 1st March,2024 the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Director for the East African Region, visited Maasai Mara University. This was the first time in the history of the university for a high ranking DAAD official to visit the university. This signifies the institution's growing importance in the academic landscape. The objective of the visit was to discuss possible collaboration and scholarship opportunities for staff and students. The Director was accompanied by her colleague Ms. Pia Schauerte who is the DAAD Senior Desk Officer in Bonn, Germany.

Edition #05 March-April 2024,

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Dr. Dorothee Weyler, Director DAAD and Pia Schauerte from DAAD, Kenya paying a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor, Maasai Mara University Prof. Peninah Aloo- Obudho

The two presented opportunities for collaboration as well as scholarships available for staff and students. The dialogue primarily centered around opportunities provided by DAAD scholarships and collaboration possibilities between Maasai Mara University and German universities. The discussions covered the following areas:

DAAD Scholarship Overview

- · The DAAD scholarship program was highlighted as a crucial avenue for academic advancement and international collaboration.
- · Projects initiated during 2017-2019 focused on training directors in Kenya and sponsoring university leaders in 2018-2019.
- \cdot Emphasis was placed on encouraging Maasai Mara University community to apply for and benefit from these opportunities.

Scholarship Application Process

- · Prospective applicants were advised to maintain active engagement with the alumni network and align their proposals with relevant themes to secure funding.
- · It was suggested that Deans and Directors should apply for courses offered every two years to enhance their qualifications and institutional capacity.

DAAD East Africa Programs

- · The Director elaborated on DAAD's presence in East Africa, outlining various scholarship programs for PhD and Master's degrees with options for shorter durations and sandwich programs and how Maasai Mara University could benefit.
- · The availability of over 50 different courses under the Master's program was highlighted, showcasing the diversity of scholarships available.

German Language Initiatives

Discussions centered on how Maasai Mara University could initiate German language courses, ranging from certificate to degree levels, to facilitate smoother academic exchanges. Future support to be provided by DAAD in terms of supplying lecturers was also explored.

Future Collaboration

The Director encouraged staff to be checking their website for any scholarship announcements. She also suggested that the staff can make use of DAAD Alumni including the VC, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and Prof. Adu Wasike, Dr. F. Otieno and Mr. S. Partoip, among others to explore study opportunities in Germany.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties expressing a keen interest in fostering long-term collaboration. The exchange highlighted the potential for Maasai Mara University to leverage DAAD scholarships and programs to enhance its academic offerings and international standing.

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Tree planting session at the botanical Garden





Photo session with the welcoming entourage from Maasai Mara University (L). On the right is Dr. Dorothee Weyler with a gift of Maasai shuka and University custom bag from the Vice-Chancellor, Maasai Mara University- Prof. Peninah Aloo Obudho





A group photo of members of Maasai Mara University fraternity with the team from DAAD

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY TAKES LEAD IN CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE FOREST, 2024



The International Day of the Forests (IDF) serves as a global reminder of the pivotal role forests play in sustaining life on Earth. On March 21st, 2024, amidst global celebrations, Maasai Mara University, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peninah Aloo-Obudho, took center stage in the above event held at Aitong Primary School, Narok West Constituency. The Chief guest during the event was the First Lady of Narok County, Her Excellence Agnes Ntutu. The event was jointly organized between Maasai Mara University and the County Government of Narok. The theme of the 2024 IDF event was "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World".



(a) Workshop training on tree nursery production and management facilitated by Prof. Francis Mburu-Dean school of Natural Resources, Environmental Studies and Agriculture

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The activities at Aitong Primary School marked significant moment in Maasai Mara University's commitment ongoing to environmental stewardship. The university, in alignment with the International Day of Forests, seized the opportunity to advocate for forest conservation and sustainable management This practices. event saw University's management members and staff fully engaging in tree planting exercise and participation in all the activities of the day.

The event witnessed the participation of 20 primary schools, which were invited and facilitated by Maasai Mara University. These schools brought pupils and Environmental Club Patrons who were representatives of schools and students to undergo training on tree nursery establishment and management, aligning with the theme of sustainable forest management facilitated by Maasai Mara University. Key stakeholders present at Aitong Primary School included the County Executive Committee Member for Environment, Water, and Energy, representatives from the Office of the First Lady of the republic of Kenya (Mama Doing Good), officials from the Kenya Forest Services, National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and local leadership of the area.

Key Initiatives

The key activities during the celebrations were:

- i. Tree Seedling Donation: A cornerstone of the university's contribution was the generous donation of 5000 tree seedlings to 20 schools in Narok County, Narok West Sub-county. This gesture aimed to empower schools to actively participate in reforestation efforts and foster a culture of environmental responsibility among students.
- i. Establishment of Tree Nursery and Forest: In a bold move towards sustainability, Maasai Mara University initiated the establishment of a tree nursery and the planting of a tree forest at Aitong Primary School.

This endeavor underscores the university's commitment to long-term forest conservation and biodiversity enhancement in the region.

- ii. Educational Workshop: The university organized educational workshops on Tree Nursery Production and Management with live practical demonstrations for the patrons and pupils. A sample model Tree nursery was set up and seeds planted at Aitong primary school which was adopted for management and replicability by other schools.
- Presentations and Speeches: Various dignitaries delivered speeches emphasizing the significance of preserving forests for future generations. The First Lady of Narok County, Her Excellency Agnes Ntutu along with other officials, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in conserving and restoring forest ecosystems. The Vice Chancellor explained the objective of the project to participants. She echoed that the project of establishing Environmental Clubs in schools is towards planting and growing 15 billion trees by 2032 in line with the Presidential Directive.

Primary schools also made their presentations on the theme of the International Day of the Forests.

Maasai Mara University's participation in the International Day of the Forest at Aitong Primary School was a resounding success, highlighting our dedication to environmental stewardship and community empowerment. Through collaborative efforts and educational initiatives, we reaffirm our commitment to preserving forests and safeguarding the environment for future generations.



Mr. Galfen Omuse and Mr. George Kemboi providing technical assistance in the training exercise.



Tree planting session led by the First Lady, Agnes Ntutu and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho



A student showcasing her prowess after being trained on tree nursery production and management

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The Vice-Chancellor, Maasai Mara University, Prof, P. Aloo-Obudho (L) addressing the participants during the event. Her Excellency Agness Ntutu (R), complimenting Maasai Mara University for providing the tree nursery production and management training as well as stakeholders for honouring the event and their dedication to making Narok County Green.



Students showcasing their presentation on forests, their significance and importance of conservation



Prof. Francis Mburu, Chair of the Committee on Greening Narok County Concept addressing participants



A representative of the office of the First lady of the Republic of Kenya, Ms. Sheila of Mama Doing Good appreciating the strong partnership with Maasai Mara University. Looking on is the Vice-Chancellor of Maasai Mara University.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho and the First Lady Her Excellency, Mrs Agnes Ntutu leaving the venue of the event in jovial moods.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HOLDS A STRATEGIC PLAN RETREAT AT NAIVASHA



Members of the Council during the retreat. Seated Left to Right: Mr. CPA Malanga, Ms. Agnes Busienei. Amb. Peter Nkuraiya, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (VC), Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei (Council Chair), Dr. Susan Chebet, Mr. Mike Eldon (Facilitator), Prof. G. Bulitia (DVC-ASA) and Prof. J. Oyaro (Dean School of Science)

The University Council held a retreat at Burch Resort in Naivasha from April 24th to 27th, 2024. The primary objective of this retreat was to review and refine the University's Strategic Plan for the next five years, spanning from July 2024 to June 2029 in line with Treasury guidelines of development of 5th Generation Strategic Plan. The retreat was centered around the theme "Maasai Mara University of new beginnings: Taking the University to the next level".

In the University setting, the Strategic Plan serves as a vital tool, guiding the effective allocation of resources, enabling informed decision-making, ensuring effective communication, measuring performance, and adapting to change. To achieve long-term success, the plan must incorporate diverse leadership styles and emphasize teamwork

between the University Council and University Management Board. The review of the University's Strategic Plan was necessitated by the conclusion of the current plan, which has been in effect for the past five years, ending in June 2024. This review aimed to set new goals and strategies to propel the University towards its future objectives while incorporating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AU Agenda 2063, the Vision 2030 and the strategic focus of the Kenya Kwanza Government Agenda.

The retreat was attended by key stakeholders, including members of the University Council, University Management, Deans of Schools and representatives of Department Chairpersons, whose involvement was crucial for the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Plan and cascading down to key implementors.

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Two consultants graced the retreat, providing valuable insights into strategic planning processes and emotional intelligence. These were Mr. Mike Eldon who shared his experience on strategic planning and Mr. Evans Okoyo who on Emotional Intelligence and spoke implications on university leadership. Their contributions were instrumental in guiding attendees through the complexities of strategic planning and its significance to the University's future development and the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership and teamwork.

Resolutions made during the retreat

At the end of the retreat, members made the following resolutions aimed at ensuring that the strategic plan reflects the University's vision, values, and aspirations while also garnering support and commitment from all stakeholders for its successful implementation.

- 1. That the University's vision needed to resonate with all internal and external stakeholders of the University with the adopted vision being, "A University focused on Innovation and Empowerment for Societal Transformation."
- 2. The core values of the University, represented by the acronym EXIPACE Excellence, Innovation, Productivity, Accountability Collaboration and Equity.
- 3. The Secretariat of the Strategic Plan development committee was tasked with incorporating budgetary and other concerns raised by the University Council into the strategic planning process not limited to; addressing key result areas, resource mobilization strategies, and budget considerations.

- 4. The University Management to organize a validation workshop specifically designed for all stakeholders, encompassing both internal and external parties, which workshop will focus on gathering feedback and validating the strategic plan to ensure alignment with stakeholders' perspectives and needs, thereby facilitating overall effectiveness.
- 5. The finalized University Strategic Plan document be presented before the Council for approval followed by a launch where key stakeholders, including government officials, governors, and pertinent institutions, will be invited to showcase the University's vision and commitment to advancement.
- 6. The University to benchmark with peer Universities that have demonstrated exceptional success in implementing their strategic plans to identify best practices and strategies.

Conclusion

The retreat in Naivasha was a productive and insightful event that set the foundation for the University's Strategic Plan from July, 2024 to June, 2029. By focusing on teamwork, diverse leadership, and strategic planning, Masaai Mara University is poised to achieve its long-term objectives and bring about positive change. The involvement of key stakeholders and expert consultants has ensured that the strategic plan is well-rounded and geared towards the University's future success.

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY SENATE HELD A RETREAT AT THE BURCHS RESORT, NAIVASHA



Members of the University Senaters, council and other during the retreat. Seated Left to Right: Dr. George Rukaria (Dean School of Business), Prof. James Nampushi (DVC-AF&S), Mr. Mike Eldon (Facilitator), Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (VC), Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei (Council Chair), Dr. Susan Chebet, Prof. G. Bulitia (DVC-ASA), Prof. Stella Kirui Chelagat (Director TVET), Prof. Adu Wasike, and other senate members

Maasai Mara University Senate held a retreat at the Burchs Resort in Naivasha from12th-16th March, 2024. The Senate retreat was a great opportunity for Maasai Mara University to work together, bond and rejuvenate away from the campus environment. Thanks to the University management for facilitating the retreat. Indeed it was a great experience for most Senators some of whom intimated that they thought retreats were only for council members.

The retreat was officially opened by the University Chair of Council, Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei who gave an overview of the topics of the retreat presentations. He urged members to take advantage of the opportunity and learn from the high level speakers.

The Chair of the Academic Committee of the Council, Ms. Agnes Busienei emphasised the importance of working together towards making Maasai Mara a great institution. On her part, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho explained the theme of the retreat which was Maasai Mara University of new Beginnings: Taking the University to the Next Level. The Vice-Chancellor urged senate members to aim at making a difference in their departments/sections. Facilitators invited to grace the Senate retreat in Naivasha included the following:

1. Prof. Mike Kuria - CEO, Commission for University Education

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Prof. P. Aloo-Obudho (VC), during her Address

- 2. Dr. Tonny Omwansa CEO, KeNIA
- 3. Dr. Wanjiku Ng'ang'a UON, Research Advisor, KENET
- 4. Dr. J.P.R. Ochieng Odero Research & Relationship Mgr, EA
- 5. Mr. Antony Mbadi Lecturer, Strathmore University
- 6. Mr. Evans Okoyo Lecturer, Kenya School of Government
- 7. Mr. Mike Eldon Chairman &Lead Consultant DEPOT

The four-day retreat exposed senators to a wide range of topics from Organizational Culture, Internationalization, Resource mobilization, Research and innovation activities in universities and Artificial Intelligence among others. For each of the topics, senate members developed way forward for implementation



Prof. G. Bulitia (DVC-ASA), during his Address



Dr. Kennedy Ole Kerei (Council Chair), during his presentation

CONCLUSION

Members concluded that the goodwill and teamwork of Senate members is paramount towards the achievement of the University's vision and mission. It also came out that Senate members need to be agents of positive change. That for the achievement of all these, members were requested to consider change of mindset, attitude and ownership of the University.

RECOMMENDATION

That one (1) day retreat be scheduled within Narok to brainstorm on the issues raised during the Senate retreat.



Mr. Evans Okoyo of Kenya School of Government;, during his presentation

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Senators durig the Event

MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATED IN CAREER WEEK AT SEKENANI GIRLS



A section of prospective students going through the University programmes during the Maa Trust Career Day at Sekenani Girls Ground .

Maasai Mara University representatives participated in the Maa Trust Career Day at Sekenani Girls Ground on 9th March, 2024. the Directorate of Public Relations, Linkages and Marketing and the (PRL&M), the Office of Career Services and Admissions represented the University

The event was a perfect opportunity to market the University programmes, undertake publicity, enhance University visibility, improve the image, and realise increased enrolment of students and offer guidance to prospective students and applicants on course selection.

The University representatives showcased the University programmes through a wide range of activities:

- · Face to face interactions with prospective students, parents, teachers and other education stakeholders.
- · Admission, recruitment, and collecting

contacts of interested or prospective students for follow-ups

- Networking and interactions with other institutions
- · Promotional activities
- Expose young people to education, funding or bursaries opportunities
- Provision of information on courses and requisite qualifications
- · Career talks, motivation, and mentorships
- · The University enhanced its visibility, improved image and was promoted to a wider audience around Maasai Mara Game Reserve.
- · The event brought together over nine multiline institutions of higher learning with diversified career paths to choose from. There were five high schools in attendance and hundreds of form four leavers, parents, and guidance.

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· More than 119 prospective students identified different programmes they would like to pursue at Maasai Mara University.

· Ten (10) students applied for admissions into various courses

The event helped Maasai Mara University to have a better understanding of the expectations and needs of students more so from the local environment.



Ms.Rose Cherop, Admissions, (second left), guiding applicants on the admission process.



Maasai Mara University representatives; Rose Cherop, Admissions (left), Angela Langas, Admissions (second right), Nickson Magak, PRL&M (right) with Mary Ndungu, Maa Trust (second left) singing the visitors book.

The impact of the Career day participation resonates in the words of one participant, "I didn't know that Maasai Mara University offers a Nursing course. I applied for the same course through KUCCPS, however, during the review, I'll request for intra-University transfer to switch to Maasai Mara University. It is near and I'll save a lot".



Participants during the Career Day interacting and exchanging views while visiting various institutional booths.

THE INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES ASSESSMENT AND THEIR CONTROL: A GLOBAL THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY

The Global Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control was initiated by a decision from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on **Biodiversity** and (IPBES) Ecosystem Services Plenary (decision IPBES-6/1) at its sixth session (IPBES 6, Medellin, Colombia, 2018), based on the scoping report (annex III to decision IPBES-4/1) approved by the Plenary at its fourth session (IPBES 4, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2016).

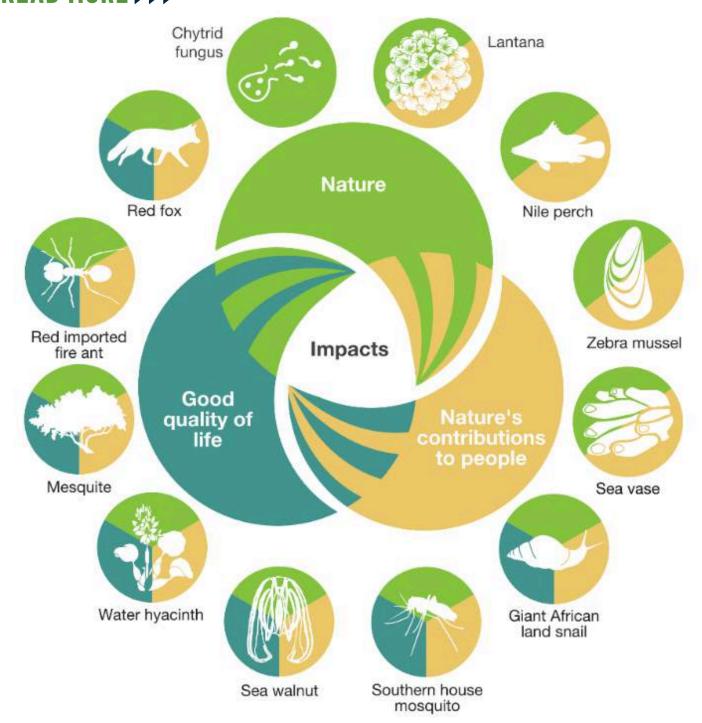
The Thematic Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control, or "Invasive Alien Species Assessment" in short, is part of a series of reports whose production was initiated during the "first work programme of the IPBES, 2014-2018" and concluded during the current "IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030". The Invasive Alien Species Assessment has been carried out for 4 years by a multidisciplinary team of 86 selected world experts from all regions of the world (from 49 countries), including early career fellows, assisted by about 200 contributing authors. than 13,000 scientific More publications were analyzed as well as a substantive body of Indigenous and local knowledge. Its 6 Chapters were accepted, and its summary for policymakers was approved, by the IPBES Plenary (IPBES 10, Bonn, Germany, 2023), composed of 143 member States at its tenth session held from 28th August to 2nd September 2023 in Bonn, Germany.

The Invasive Alien Species Assessment provides the best-available evidence, critical analysis and options for governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector and all those seeking to address the issue of biological invasions. The Invasive Alien Species Assessment highlights that invasive alien species are a major and growing threat to nature, nature's contributions to people, with, in some cases, irreversible changes biodiversity to and ecosystems. Invasive alien species also dramatically impact the economy, food security, water security and human health, sometimes adding to marginalization and inequity. The Assessment demonstrates that with sufficient will, and resources, political long-term commitment, preventing and controlling invasive alien species are attainable goals that will yield significant long-term benefits for people and nature.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body comprising over 143 member Governments and States. Established by Governments and States in 2012, IPBES provides policymakers in Governments, the private sector and civil society with scientifically credible and independent



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up-to-date assessments about the state of knowledge regarding nature and the contributions it provides to people, as well as options for actions to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets as better evidence-informed policy decisions and action at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Assessment of Invasive Alien Species and their Control was initiated by a decision from the IPBES Plenary (decision IPBES-6/1) at its sixth session (IPBES 6, Medellin, Colombia, 2018), based on the scoping report (annex III to decision IPBES-4/1)

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The Assessment is also expected to support sharing of information within and across countries and capacity building globally. It is our sincere hope that this Assessment will support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (especially Goal 15) and form a significant contribution to the implementation of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and especially of its Target 6.

People and nature are threatened by invasive alien species in all regions of the Earth. Examples of the world known invasive alien species are shown below.

37,000 established alien species have been introduced by human activities worldwide. 200 new alien species every year become introduced in new environments.

Globally, there are 3,500 invasive alien species, with negative impacts on nature and also on people. More than 2,300 invasive alien species are found on lands of Indigenous Peoples across all regions of the Earth. Common Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes (Martius) Solms.)



Is one of the world's best-known invasive alien species impacting negatively on nature and people's life. However, at Maasai Mara University, the Common Water Hyacinth is under strict control and management, and is used to purify sewage water for watering medicinal and cultural plant species conserved in the University's African Medicinal Botanical Garden as well as providing drinking water for animals in the ecosystem.



By: Prof. Dr. Wycliffe Wanzala, PhD, AMATINER, MACSE, MISE, FASI., a Lead Author- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

THE INAUGURATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (APSOMMU) OF MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2023.

The Association of Political Science and public administration of Maasai Mara University thrives within the dynamic domain of the Humanities and Public Administration section, operating under the esteemed umbrella of the Social Studies Department, Guided by visionary leadership from the Head of Department Dr. Kungu Ndungu a lecturer of political history and an advocate of good governance, and Patron, Dr Towett Geoffrey, a lecturer of political science, this Association was inaugurated in collaboration with Association of political science of the University of Kabianga under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Juma, lecturer of political science and public administration. The inception of this association marks a significant stride towards fostering inter-university linkages and collaboration. Serving as a pivotal hub professional exchange, the department facilitates a vibrant community of scholars dedicated to the rigorous exploration and advancement of political science and public administration. The Association of political science and public administration of Maasai Mara University stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to academic excellence, providing a platform for intellectual exchange, research collaboration, and the cultivation of a rich academic community. As it continues to grow and evolve, the association plays a crucial role in shaping the future of political science and public administration, public policy and research within the university and beyond.

MOTTO:

"The culmination of meticulous planning, dedication, and a shared commitment to intellectual advancement, setting the stage for a vibrant community of scholars at the forefront of political thought and public governance".

VISION AND MISSION:

The Association of Political Science and Public Administration of Maasai Mara University is a beacon of intellectual curiosity, fostering critical thinking and analytical skills. The association is a hub of intellectual discourse and a driving force for innovative policy solutions, aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Through seminars, workshops, and collaborative research projects, it seeks to enrich the academic experience of its members while contributing valuable insights to the broader community.

STI DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PARTNERSHIP INKED

Research in scientific, technology, innovation (STI) development as well as entrepreneurship strengthening and streamlining is set to flourish at Maasai Mara University after it inked a collaboration with Hubei University of Economics.

This was actualised through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Peninah Aloo-Obudho and the Vice President to Hubei University of Economics Professor Fu Hong.

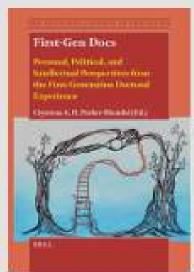
The collaboration bores: exchange programs for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, enhancing joint conferences, workshops and seminars; boost research outputs among other academic oriented mutual benefits.

The colourful ceremony was held at the Maasai Mara University Conference Hall, witnessed by members of the university senate led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Students Affairs Professor Bulitia Godrick Mathews and tens of delegates from Hubei University of Economics.

Unique gifts that have high value and admiration to each partner were exchanged as a sign of goodwill and affirmation to implement and uphold terms of the collaboration.

BOOK LAUNCH





Register (free) for Zoom link









Co-sponsors include above

Please join us for a virtual celebration and launch of Dr. Crystena Parker Shandal's new edited collection First Gen Docs: Personal, Political, and In tellectual Perspectives from the First Generation Doctoral Experience. This is an inspiring anthology of personal nar ratives that explore authors' unique paths and challenges as first-generation doctoral students in education. Join us for this event featuring:

- Thought-provoking reflections by doctoral graduates and advisors from diverse back grounds, cultures, and educational disci plines.
- Twelve presenters include Nur Diyanah Anwar, Miguel Baique, Kathy Bickmore, Brent Bradford (Series Editor), Elizabeth Montaño, Newton Asakhulu Mukolwe, R. Nanre Nafziger, Yecid Ortega Paez, Crystena Parker-Shandal, Rosaisela Rodriguez, Janel Janiczek Smith, and Zora Wolfe.
- Other chapter authors are Nina Bascia and Jinny Menon.
- For further information about this event, please contact Renison Events: renison.events@uwaterloo.ca
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 08 | 6:00 PM EST Virtual | Zoom Renison University College







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