



Riara 
University
nurturing innovators

NEWS

8TH ISSUE
APRIL 2019



CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2019



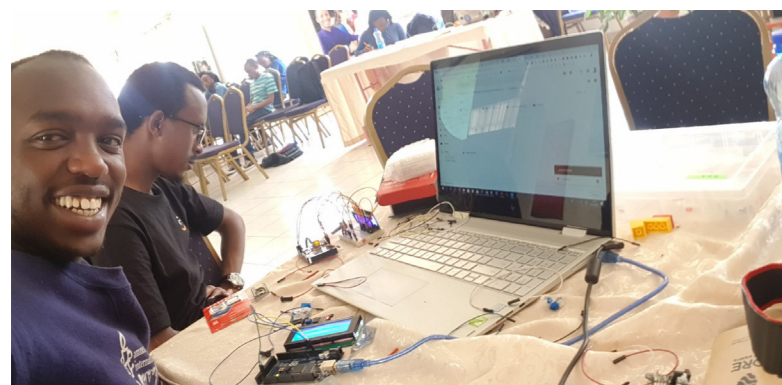
#InnovativeGenius.

On the 15th of March, RU was more than delighted to hold its 3rd Commencement Ceremony. The event was themed "Stir Up Your Innovative Genius". This was a great milestone in the university as we saw 267 students graduate. It was an amazing ceremony that hosted friends and family of the RU community. This year's occasion was graced by Dr. Wilfred Kiboro, Chancellor- Riara University. The Riara Community would like to congratulate the class of 2019 on this great achievement. All the best as you venture into the world!

Mekatilili Fellowship

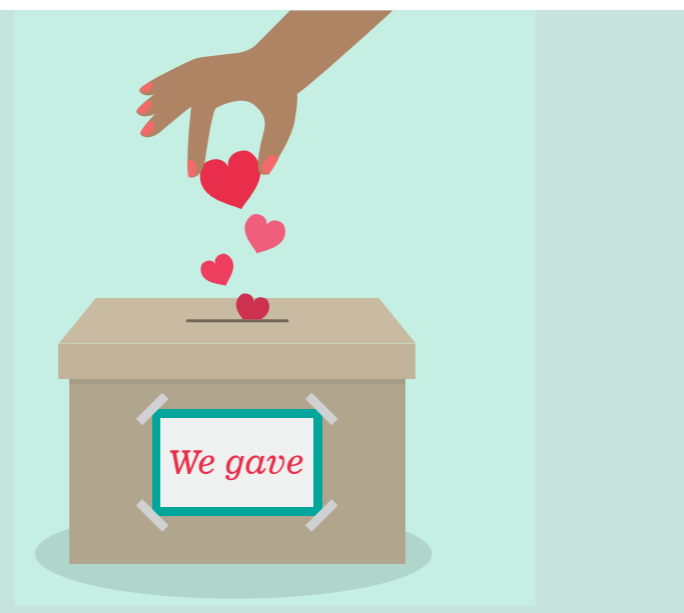
Riara University was delighted to host its first conference of the year dubbed Mekatilili Fellowship Program. A total of 50 participants were on campus. This event ran from 14th to 16th January. The Mekatilili Fellowship Program is a learning opportunity in collaboration with the Technological Innovations for Inclusive Learning and Teaching (TIILT) Lab at Northwestern University and is supported by the Lifelong Kindergarten research group at the MIT Media Lab and The Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The program is also focused on Design Thinking, the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and professional development.

Riara University in partnership with the TIILT lab fellows, aged 18 - 24 had a unique opportunity to collaborate with peers and faculty of Northwestern University and local partners to co-design solutions with specific communities in Kenya based on three themes: accessibility, agriculture and inclusive design. The guests had an awesome RU experience and in turn we had a chance to tap into the knowledge that was shared during the conference.



Valentines Week

The traditional week of love, popularly known as Valentine Week was ushered by the Riara University Students Association under the patronage of the Dean of Student's Office. This was a 3-day event where roses and chocolate were exchanged amongst lovebirds and friends. As an expression of love to the surrounding community, a charity drive for Bosco Boys Kuwinda Home collected a donation of clothes, books, money and foodstuff. Proceeds from the sales were donated to Bosco Boys Kuwinda Home for Needy Street Boys.



RU's Tripartite Collaboration

Riara University, through the Department of Education, signed a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with supermarket chain Tuskys and JKLP Global (Joram Kamau Leadership Programme) on 15th February, 2019, to provide training in Retail Management among several other areas. The colorful signing ceremony was officiated by our Vice Chancellor, Professor Robert Gateru, Tuskys CEO, Dan Gathua and JKLP CEO, Joe Kamemia at Tuskys, Karen Branch.



Shuttle Diplomacy

RU would like to congratulate Dr. Francis Onditi, Head of Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, on his appointment as the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Fellow (African Research Fellow) in South Africa. The prestigious Fellowship targets accomplished African researchers dedicated to pursuing research aimed at supporting policy and evidence-based decisions for the African Union (AU) and other African regional organizations. The Fellowship focuses on African Governance, Peace and Security. Dr. Onditi is among only three scholars who were awarded the Fellowship from across the globe to join other distinguished researchers in Pretoria, South Africa. He will be working directly with the African Institute in South Africa (AISA), a component of HSRC, to build on the research work he has been conducting for more than a decade on "Positioning of the African States in the New World Order."



Some of the benefits of the Fellowship to RU include: Joint implementation of research projects between RU and HSRC researchers, Enhancing publication capacity of RU faculty through peer reviewed journal articles and policy briefs development and publication; Supporting joint planning and participation of RU faculty in the annual African Unity Renaissance Conference (AURC) and the African Young Scholars Conference and Development of RU fund raising capacity through joint development of fundable research proposals.

RU's flag continues to soar higher.

RU in Worship

On 6th March, Riaru University Christian Union presented the RU Worship Experience. This was a wonderful time that enabled us to connect spiritually and fellowship with our fellow brethren.



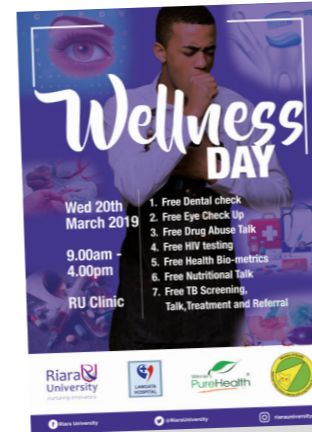
Blockchain and Crypto Currency

Business today is inconceivable without the internet, and the countless software tools that we use to manage the modern enterprise. The School of Computing Sciences hosted a Guest Lecture on 19th March at the RU iCentre which covered topics on: Introduction to Blockchain, Basic Crypto Primitives, Bitcoin Basics, Consensus in Blockchain, Permissioned Blockchain and Blockchain Components and Concepts.



The Guest speakers during this session were: Trilochana Chary, a Senior Software Developer at Belfrics; Uday Senan - Head of Belfrics Academy; Djibril Wachie, Business Development, Belfrics Kenya and Justus Kimasyu, the Director, Belfrics Kenya.

This was a very informative session for staff and students that attended.



RU Wellness

Reba McEntire once said that all the money in the world can't buy you good health. Riaru University is keen on ensuring the wholesomeness and wellbeing of her students and staff. Organized by the RU Clinic was a day's line of health related events where Free Dental checkups, Ophthalmic/eye screening, Drug Abuse talks, HIV testing, (BMI) Bio-metrics screening, Nutritional Talks, TB Screening, Treatment and Referral were conducted, all sponsored by the Langata Hospital, Winnie's Pure Health and the Ministry of Health under the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program.

Riaru University would like to thank the above healthcare providers for their acts of generosity and invaluable information during the Wellness Day.

Staff Publications

RU would like to congratulate Dr. Ken Walibora, Senior Lecturer at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy on his newspaper article, titled, "Ajabu ya kuonea fahari Kiswahili chenye mabaka!", in Taifa Leo on March 13th, 2019 and "Kiswahili kitakua tu kwa kwa ushikirikiano, si ushindani mkali!" in Taifa Leo April 3, 2019.



The 21st Century Teacher and Life-long Learning

Traditionally, once a person graduated with a Degree, a Diploma or Certificate in Education, one easily settled into a routine career that has largely entailed teaching and examining of students. As long as one got the nationally-prescribed syllabus covered, one could count the job well done.

Today, however, the world has changed and there are new dynamics being experienced globally. The core academics, while still relevant in the market place, are no longer the only determinant of one securing productive employment or engagement in the market place and society in general. Rather, the academics must today go hand-in-hand with other relevant 'out-of class' competencies. The 'global village', as the world is commonly referred to as today, is highly digitized, therefore demanding workers who are technology savvy. Employers globally are also emphasizing more than ever the need of soft skills including excellent communication, critical thinking and creativity in problem solving, ability to engage in team work as well as possession of social and emotional intelligences. All these are skills that enable a person enrich the work place experience-beyond getting the technical work done.



Author: Dr. Margaret W. Njeru : Senior Lecturer and HoD | Education| Riaru University. (Daily Nation January 31, 2019)

Leverage path finding solutions

Toba Beta once said, "Competition is a rude yet effective motivation." True to its motto 'Nurturing Innovators,' Riara University opened its gates to different universities on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd February, 2019 for its Annual Aspiring Innovators Intersvarsity Competition. The event's aim was to showcase different ways of innovation among students. The event garnered over 10 sponsors including MasterCard, Spenomatic DK Healthcare among others who donated gifts in cash and kind to the participants.

This event was organized by Riara University's Directorate of University Advancement under the leadership of Sumita Mukherjee and the Leading edge team which comprises of: Saad Khambiye, Wilson Mukhaye, Manish Halai, Damaris Muthoni, Irine Brenda, Faith Okinyi, Alviana Waceke, and Owden Peter.

Amongst the guest speakers were, Paul Nunda aka JuaCali -Artiste and Celebrity, Irungu Waggema- Capital Markets & Innovation Specialist and Janice Kemoli- Marketing Strategist.

Some of the universities that participated in the competition included: Strathmore University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya Methodist University (KeMU), Multimedia University, Kenya Institute of Computer Studies (KICS) and Pioneer University. Competition categories included: Digital Presentation, Web Presentation, Robotics, Coding, Debate, Share Knowledge, Biashara Bunifu and Symposium.

Hearty congratulations to Riara University for scooping first position, Strathmore University taking Runners up and all participants during this fun-filled event.



The Last Dance!

During the last strides of the Class of 2019, the Riara University Student Association thought that it was best to cap it with a memorable night. Graduands were invited to attend the commencement dinner on the 8th of March 2019 at the Weston Hotel. This was a special year as for the first time it was themed as a Masquerade Ball. The wining and dining was graced by lots of entertainment and dance.



Stir up your Innovative Genius
3rd Commencement Ceremony



Hold My Hand, Ignite My Hope

Chriswel Neliang and Nathan Letoluo, members of the Riara University Wildlife Club, on Saturday 30th March, 2019, had an amazing experience as guests at the Ole Tuya Primary School, Masai Mara-Narok County, where the two addressed over 600 residents from the constituency, on the importance of environmental conservation. In addition to that, they gave out 51 seedlings as a donation on behalf of RUWC. This was a memorable day that touched the souls of young and hopeful children.

Hearty thanks to Prof. Robert Gateru VC, Dr. John Muriithi, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Nicholas Mwaura, Dean of Students, Dr. Margret Njeru, Head of Department – School of Education, Hellen Kiarie, Patron – RUWC, RUWC members and the entire RU Community for their continuous support towards the initiatives of the Wildlife Club.



WISHING
YOU A VERY
HAPPY
EASTER



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