



Unbound And still we rise...

As COVID restrictions eased up, RU celebrates its 3rd Cultural Extravaganza

The 14th to 18th of March 2022 marked Riara University's third cultural week and the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic. The Riara University Students Association (RUSA) organized event had been on demand since the last one held in 2019 and with Covid-19 regulations being relaxed, the school did not hesitate to deliver.



CLIFF BRUTONE - MR. RU

WHAT INSPIRED ME IS THE LOVE AND PASSION I HAVE FOR MODELLING SINCE I'M AN OUTGOING PERSON I'VE ALWAYS WISHED TO BE IN THE MODELLING INDUSTRY AND ONE DAY BE ON THE BILLBOARDS, MAGAZINES AND EVEN FLIERS. I DID NOT EXPECT TO WIN BUT I HAD HOPES OF WINNING SINCE I FELT THAT I WENT EXTRA HARD ON THE TRAINING. I WILL USE THE TITLE IN REPRESENTING THE SCHOOL IN DIFFERENT LEVELS E.G MODELLING FOR THE SCHOOL AND HELP THE SCHOOL IN MARKETING & ADVERTISEMENTS. I WILL ALSO USE THE TITLE IN JOINING BIG MODELLING COMPANIES IN KENYA AND ALSO AROUND THE WORLD.

ALAKIJA DAU - Miss RU

I joined the pageantry mainly to fight against colorism. I am a dark skinned girl who has experienced discrimination from way back. Joining this pageant was a way of proving to myself and others like me that we are beautiful inside out and that we are so much more than what people say about our skin. With this title I hope to inspire girls out there to chase after their dreams despite what people think.

The event kicked off officially on the 15th of March with a Pajama dress theme, fun games, music and great food. On the 16th of March, the students and staff celebrated our different cultural backgrounds with attire, food and dance. The last of the in-school events was the color fest which saw an explosion of color for self-expression from the entire RU body. The day was crowned by a sunset GT within the school grounds.

On the 18th of March, the entire week was wrapped up with an extravagant Gala at the Stademark Gardens in Karen. Both students and staff showed up dressed to the nines to crown Mr. and Miss Riara 2022. There were performances from reknown music artistes Boutross, Brandy Maina and Lil Maina, as well as from talented RU students. The highlight of the night was the crowning of Miss Alakiir Dau as the reigning Miss Riara and Cliff Brutone Daniel as Mr. Riara 2022.

The Judges panel included Ms Lilly Asigo- CEO Asigo Beauty, Ms Susan Kirui- Miss Earth Kenya 2019 and Mr. Nick Ogada- Mr. University Kenya 2021 and the criteria included the precision in their walks & turns, personality on stage which entailed their creativity, talent, audibility, overall confidence, and ability to coherently answer questions and engage the crowd. Beauty was evaluated in terms of the outfits, smiles as well as grace on stage. Contestants were also evaluated on non-beauty aspects including their community service engagement as well as academic pass grade limit.

Cultural Week served not only as a much-needed reprieve from what has been a hectic semester but also as tangible evidence of RU's cohesiveness and teamwork. We sure do look forward to doing this again come 2023.

RIARA UNIVERSITY'S

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

RIARA UNIVERSITY

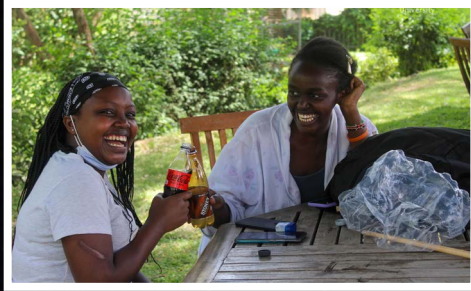
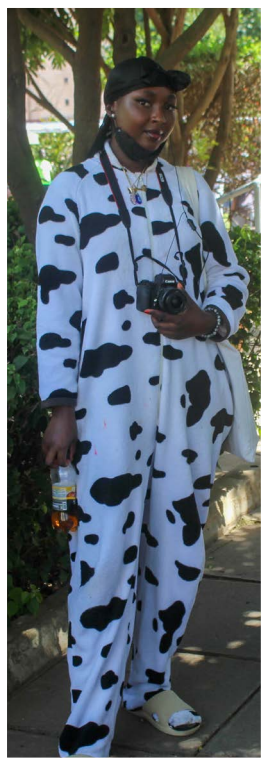
RIARA UNIVERSITY'S

FOR THE CULTURE III

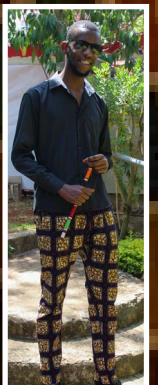
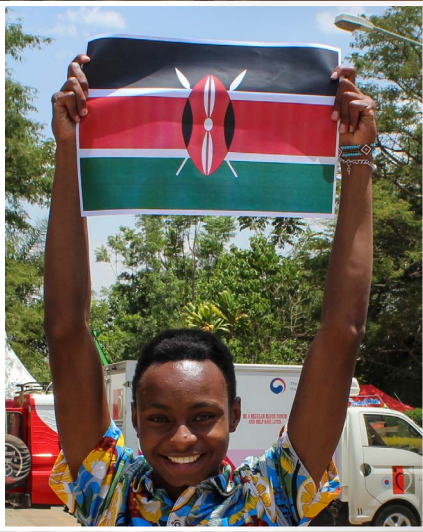
- MOCKTAILS & HOOPS
- CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA
- COLOUR FEST & DRIFT
- GALA NIGHT

MARCH
15TH-18TH
2022

PYJAMA PARTY

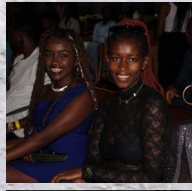


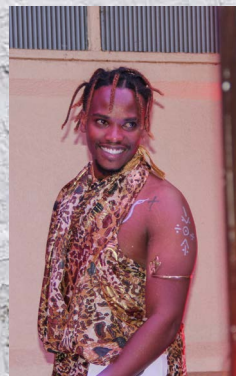
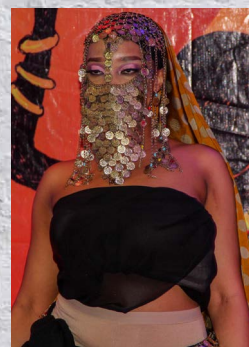
CULTURAL DAY

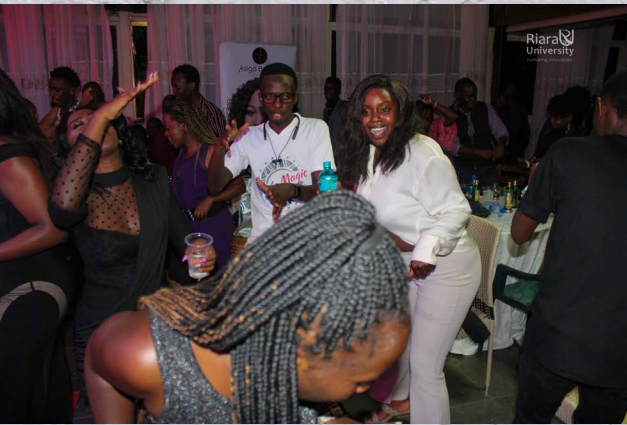


COLOUR FIESTA











It was no walk in the park for the participants of this year's Mr. & Miss Riara University. Judges criteria included the precision in cat walks & turns, personality on stage which entails their creativity, talent, audibility, and overall confidence, their ability to coherently answer questions and engage the crowd, their beauty which is looked at in terms of the outfits, smiles as well as grace on stage. Participants were also evaluated on non-beauty aspects including their community service engagement as well as the minimum academic pass grade limit of 2.5 GPA. The panel of judges consisted Ms Lilly Asigo- CEO Asigo Beauty, Ms Susan Kirui- Miss Earth Kenya 2019 and Mr. Nick Ogada- Mr. University Kenya 2021. Lilly Asigo was also a sponsor to the event under the Asigo Beauty brand. She gave awards to the top 4 girls as well as the trainer

Guest lecture on Conflict Management by Professor Christopher Cooper

The Centre for Ethics & Public Life (CEP) at the School of International Relations & Diplomacy was founded for the purpose of exposing students to industry experts as well as important information for career development. CEP held a public lecture on “How to Conduct Mediation in Fragile and Conflict Situations”, which took place on September 21, 2021. The Guest Speaker, Professor Christopher Cooper is a renowned International Mediator, a Fraternal Order of Police. Legal Defense Plan Attorney and a Professor of Law in the US. Students were exposed to insights on conflict mediation in the international arena. Questions regarding studying and publishing opportunities in the US were also addressed.



ASHESI

Riara University is proud to be a member of the Ashesi University’s Education Collaborative initiative. The Initiative which kicked off in 2017, engaged institutions from east, west, and southern Africa to buy into a shared vision, to share successful models and approaches, and mentor each other to improve educational outcomes. The initiative brings together practitioners and thought leaders from across the continent to improve institutional, student and regulatory outcomes of higher education in Africa. RU is one of the committed partners and is organizing the Employability Track at The Education Collaborative Annual Convening taking place 13 -17 June 2022. We are glad to be a part of a network that seeks to transform approximately 1.1million students across Africa by 2030 through various programs that will improve graduate career and employability, entrepreneurship, and ethics and leadership. The collaborative nature of the Annual Convening sessions allows participants to identify gaps in their institution, partner with others to bridge those gaps and implement their solutions with funding support from an implementation grant accessible to all participants. Riara University, Educators and higher-education stakeholders, join ASHESI this June to learn and share tools and successful models in the development of student entrepreneurship, employability, ethics, and leadership. One can learn more and register here: [bit.ly/EduCollab2022](https://educationcollab.ashesi.edu.gh/), or by visiting <https://educationcollab.ashesi.edu.gh/>.



The 5TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

It was a cold day but it did not dampen the spirits of the 450 graduands who were graduating during Riara University's 5th Commencement ceremony. The day was July 9, 2021. They were all eager to celebrate a great milestone in their lives – being awarded degrees and diplomas.

The event which was hybrid (both virtual and with a limited physical attendance) started at 9am with a procession led by the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellors, the Chancellor and faculty all dressed in their academic regalia. A few graduands who had made outstanding achievements in various fields were in attendance physically. The emcees of the event were Mike Ogutu and Edith Njage an alumni of Class of 2018. The event was also streamed live on NTV and on YouTube and there was an outpouring of goodwill messages, likes and congratulations to the Class of 2021.

Entertainment was electric. 2018 LLB alumnus, Sheila Juma, thrilled the crowd with her songs titled, 'Faithfulness' and later 'Jiwe'. In her performance, she appreciated God's favours and faithfulness that saw the graduands complete their studies. The second performance was by Abinash Deep who showcased his prowess on the electric guitar. Graduands, faculty and guests sang and danced along, which kept everyone warm as the temperatures kept dipping.

The students who had made great achievements along the way in their academic journey were recognised and awarded. Mitchell Wambui In her valedictorian speech, revealed she was graduating the same day with her brother, Mathew Mbelenga, who was following the proceedings virtually. There were shouts of joy and jubilation from the crowd in appreciation of the two. Miracle Ephraim, who delivered the second valedictorian speech, appreciated RU for the education he had received.

During the event, speaker after speaker lauded the graduands for their resilience and determination to complete their studies despite the challenges occasioned by Covid-19 pandemic. This was the university's third virtual graduation in a row. The first was held in May 2020, a few months after Covid-19 struck in Kenya. Riara University was the first to hold a virtual graduation in the country in the year 2020.

Indeed the Riara University #Classof2021 had a commencement of its kind

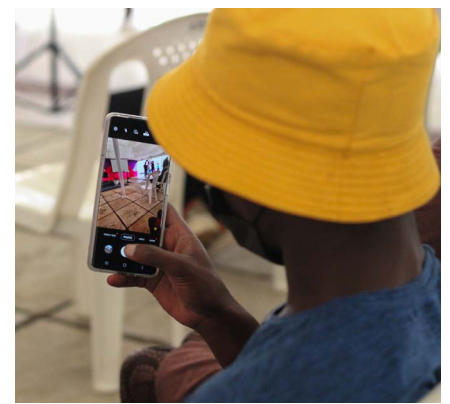


Career Mentorship

Career mentorship is all about getting help to navigate career paths, identifying and growing skills, unlocking new perspectives, setting goals and making the right career choices in life. The university regularly creates opportunities for students to discover themselves, craft a vision and outline a career path that aligns to their personal goals and values. Corporate world skills is one such successful initiative undertaken by faculty to assist students visualize and explore career possibilities. Students were asked to research on various world trends and the future of work. Industry players were then invited to evaluate each students CVs and presentations. They also shared knowledge, experiences and undertook mock interviews.



New Students Orientation September 2021



Riara University, Accredited by the Teacher Service Commission (TSC) as a Service Provider of The Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Programme

Riara University is one of the four institutions of higher learning to have been accredited by the Teacher Service Commission (TSC) in the facilitation of the Teacher Professional Development (TPD) Programme to be offered to the over 340,000 TSC registered teachers in the country. The University is tasked with the responsibility of equipping teachers with 21st Century innovative competencies for provision of quality education. This award affirms the Riara heritage of providing quality education that is well known nationally and internationally, having been in the sector for almost half a century. The university is proud to be part of this national role of enhancing teacher professionalism in Kenya.

Seen in the Photo is Riara University, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Robert Gateru together with other members of faculty during the award of the contract done at CEMASTE A.



CMJ talk with- Mr. Nicholas Siwatom of SMG

October 2021 saw the School of Communication & Multimedia Journalism host Mr. Nicholas Siwatom, The head of talent acquisition at the Standard Media Group. Mr Siwatom shared invaluable insights on Opportunities across media, desirable Skill Sets, Internship Process in the media and communications sector. This was part of the initiative the school does to expose budding journalists to the real world of work.



CISCO Boot Camp

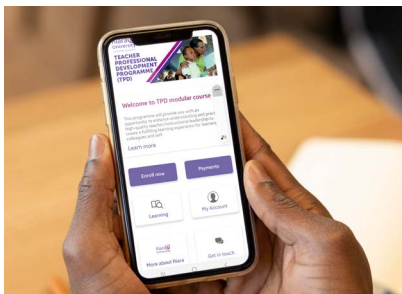
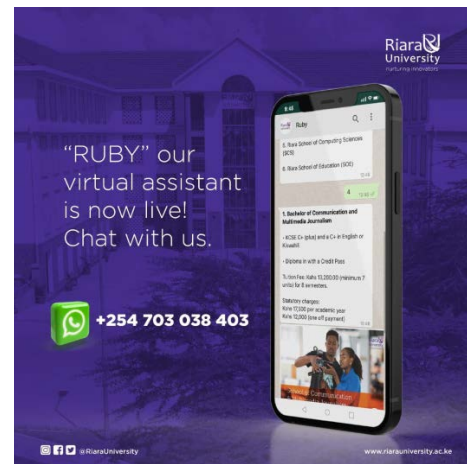
The School of Computing Sciences hosted a three day Cisco Boot Camp in October 2021, intended at sensitizing students regarding courses available under the Cisco Academy. The camp provided insights on today's technological advancements in Cyber Security, Internet of Things (IoT), Programming, and Coding amongst others. The future work space requires increased IT literacy/knowledge and professional skills and virtually in all fields of specialization. It is in this line that Riara University partnered with Cisco and Afralti Academy to facilitate the boot camp, impacting a broad range of IT, Computer, and business/entrepreneurship knowledge and skills.

Riara University is a certified Cisco Academy.



WhatsAPP BOT - RUBY Launch

Superior customer service means being able to provide prospective customers with prompt answers to all their enquiries without limitation of time or geographical location. Part of the initiatives the university is undertook was the development of a virtual assistant available on all our online platforms. This is part of a wider strategy by the university to automate most processes for effective service. The virtual assistant is able to provide visitors on our online platforms with relevant information eg. Brochures, videos and links at the clique of a button anytime of the day. Ruby is the Riara University virtual assistant and is available on 0703 038403.



TPD APP Launch

As part of ensuring a smooth and seamless learning experience for teachers, RU developed a dedicated APP for the teacher professional development program. One is able to log in from the comfort of their homes, register for the program as well as study at ease from handheld devices and laptops.

Publications by Staff 2021

Isabella Osiemo (June 2021), Situating the role of youth in indigenous African Peace building interventions: The question of spoilers versus menders” in the “African Journal on Conflict Resolution”. Volume 21, Number.1, 2021 p84.

[Click her to read the article online](#)

TPD Launch

The Centre for Ethics & Public Life (CEP) at the School of International Relations & Diplomacy was founded for the purpose of exposing students to industry experts as well as important information for career development. CEP held a public lecture on “How to Conduct Mediation in Fragile and Conflict Situations”, which took place on September 21, 2021. The Guest Speaker, Professor Christopher Cooper is a renowned International Mediator, a Fraternal Order of Police. Legal Defense Plan Attorney and a Professor of Law in the US. Students were exposed to insights on conflict mediation in the international arena. Questions regarding studying and publishing opportunities in the US were also addressed.



New Students Orientation January 2022



Guest Lecture on the Influence of Personality on Diplomacy and Politics by Amb. Dr Christian Fellner

Tuesday 8th Feb 2021 was a remarkable day for the School of International Relations & Diplomacy as they played host to the Austrian ambassador to Kenya and United Nations representative, Dr. Christian Fellner, for a guest lecture themed "Influence of Personalities on Diplomacy and Politics". The lecture focused on the impact that people traits, backgrounds, religions, education have in work place settings and especially the International arena. Participants learnt to appreciate that people are different, and aspects like beliefs, norms, statuses and culture should be taken into consideration in matters of international relations and diplomacy. The ambassador also shared his perspective and outlook on various topical issues in a video interview carried out after the main plenary session.

Dr. Fellner also officially unveiled the WALL OF FAME at School of International Relations & Diplomacy that features past and current heads of the United Nations (UN), East Africa Community (EAC) and The African Union (AU).



The Riara Legal Talk Series

The Riara Legal Talk Series is a collaborative project organized by Riara University (Law School) and Triple OK Law Advocates LLP, an acclaimed and robust African law firm, with over twenty years of practice in dispute resolution, commercial obligations, finance disputes, and corporate matters. The project has two overarching aims.

Firstly, the project aims to bring together law students, lawyers, and various stakeholders in the legal sector in practical discussions of various legal topics selected by the students, to be conducted by seasoned legal professionals identified by the project partners, who also incorporate passive mentorship.

Secondly, the project aims at increasing awareness on the need to provide quality legal education. Legal education inculcates techniques, skills, ideologies, philosophies, and competencies to create a just society.

The collaboration successfully launched three talk sessions under the theme “Legal Education in an Era of Change: Bridging the Gap Between Study and Legal Practice for the 21st Century and Beyond” Three major topics were covered i.e.

- Recent developments in properties/ real estate law and practice. By Jattani Boru TripleOK Law Advocates LLP,
- Law as Career. Delivered by Steve Mallowah TripleOK Law Advocates, & Ann Gitau- Bank of Africa, Exploring Digital Lawyering:
- Legal Trends in 2022 and Beyond. Delivered by Joyanne Njau-TripleOK Law Advocates LLP, Rose Mosero – Office of the Data Protection Commissioner and Dorcas Ogan- DataGroupIT.

All the three forums were very well attended and proved to be of great public interest. The collaboration will continue to deliver public forums on national and international topics of high interest as a way of preparing the next generation of lawyers.





Peer Counsellor's Graduation

Peer counselling is a helping process with one-on-one intentional interaction between members of a cohort who share several common experiences. Student Peer Counsellors are the initial responders to students in need. The university counseling office found it necessary to train and equip students with counselling skills as the university population grows and because of their proximity to each other. This is the 3rd cohort to receive training which then culminated in a graduation ceremony to officially flag off the peer counsellors. The students become their peer keepers and whenever necessary, guide fellow students to the University Counselling Therapist for professional help. The cohort is expected to actively reach out to their peers through sensitization on mental health, lead from the front on matters mentorship and availability in University functions as ushers.



Zumba/ Health Screening

The health and wellbeing of every individual had been put on test since the start of the pandemic. Riara University health department conducted a health screening session and Zumba targeted at building immunity and physical well-being. Basketball Coach Zeddy and Fitness trainer Collins seen taking participants through the motions.



Sports Reloaded

After a long break due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, sports activities at the university resumed with a bang in October 2021. The Vice Chancellor together with DVC FA, DVC AA and the students' leadership RUSA presided of the launch of the newly installed basketball half court. Also launched were Swimming, Football, Table Tennis, Darts, Chess, Scrabble, Monopoly and Badminton all for improving the social wellbeing of the student community.



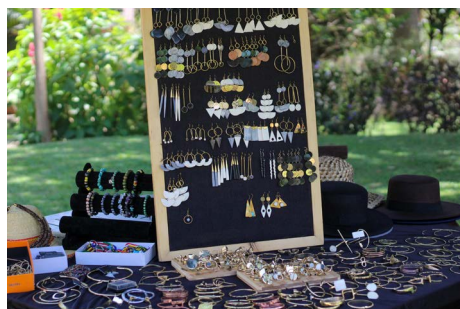
Health Drive- Cancer Screening, Covid-19 Vaccination

The month of October is celebrated world over as the Breast Cancer Awareness month. The University Health department organized a health drive which included Cancer Screening, Covid 19 vaccination as part of the Breast Cancer Awareness initiatives. Health and wellness remain a core part of the universities focus.



Market Days

Inspiring trade and entrepreneurship amongst students.



Enterprise Innovation and Clubs' Week

The Enterprise, Innovations and Clubs Week (EIC) took place on the 16th to 19th November 2021 and was organized by the Riara University Students Association (RUSA) in the spirit of nurturing innovators. The official opening ceremony was conducted by Ms Josephine Etenyi, The Director, Youth Development Policy, Research and Youth Mainstreaming who was the representative of Mr. Charles T. Sunkuli, CBS Principal Secretary State Department for Youth Affairs, Ministry of ICT, Innovation and Youth Affairs the Chief Guest to the event.

The event was inspired by a notable budding of innovations, businesses, side hustles and a vibrant entrepreneurial culture amongst students. The goal of this week long event was to showcase the various businesses and innovations, discover new talents, and expose participants to mentors, social & business networks necessary for nurturing startups. This was the singular major event of the last semester of 2021 and it attracted sponsorships from corporates such as Safaricom, Liberty Assurance, Bidco Africa, Alltyme Tents & Events, Power Horse Energy Drink, Arielle Africa amongst others. The event ended on a super high note with treat from Sunset GT motoring society who showcased super pimped rides and motorcycles of all kinds.



Red Cross Community Service at Majengo



Kenya
Red Cross

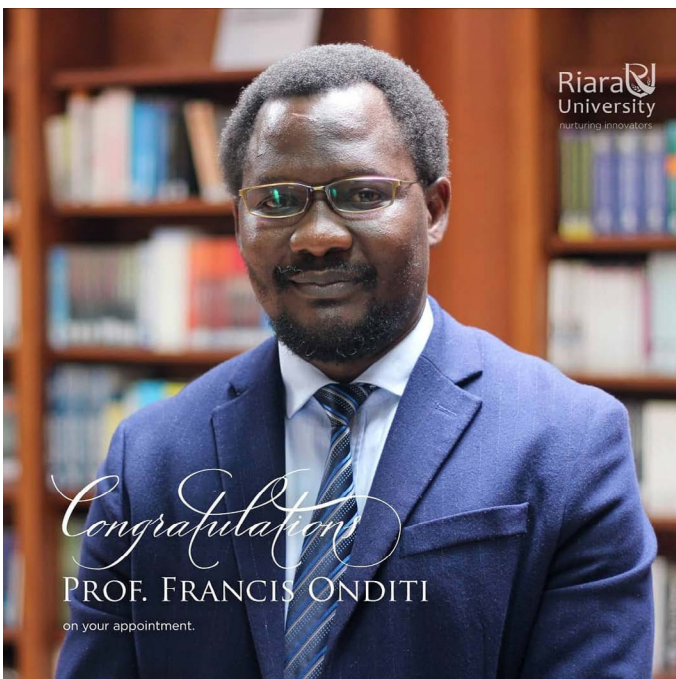
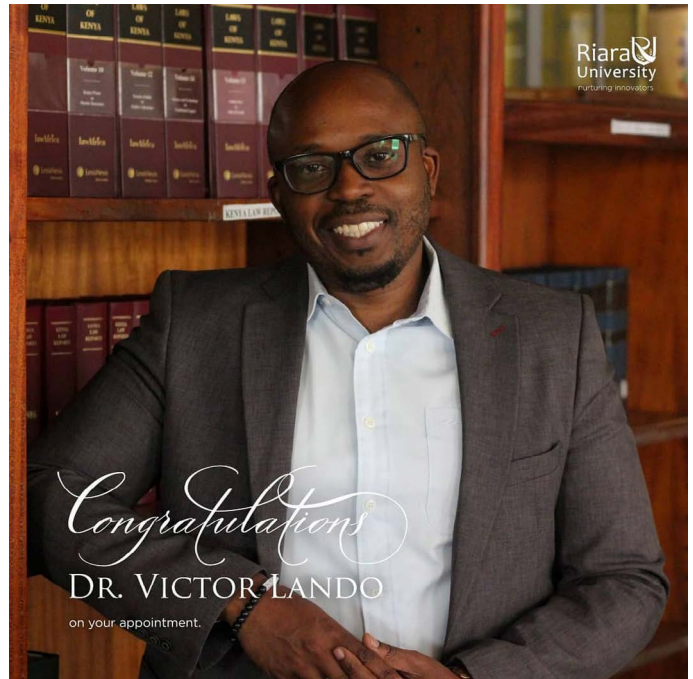
The whole idea to learning and acquiring skills is for individuals to at the end of the learning begin to bring solutions to society. RU Red Cross team is seen here visiting the poor in Majengo. This was an opportunity to expose RU students to the real life challenges facing communities around us. Perhaps this would inspire solutions.

Love Out Loud Fest

Human beings are about relationships. Every human being wants to be loved. Love Out Loud set out to express love to those we meet every day. A few were bold to declare their love/ secret admiration for each. It's all about Valentine's Day.



Awards/Accolades



Prof. Francis Onditi

Congratulations to Prof. Francis Onditi, Dean-School of International Relations and Diplomacy for his recent appointment as an Associate Professor of Conflictology.

Dr. Victor Lando

Congratulations to Dr. Victor Lando on his appointment as a Senior Lecturer - Riiara Law School

Zephaniah Thaisayi Opati

Congratulations to Mr. Zephaniah Opati on being Listed as a Top Kenyan Scientist, University Ranking 2022

Partnerships

1. Arielle Roaring For Africa LTD

Nairobi, 24th August 2021: Arielle Roaring for Africa and Riara University signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking Riara University as an academic partner of Arielle Roaring for Africa. The MOU was signed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs of Riara University, Prof. Abel Kinoti and the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Arielle for Africa, Ms. Edith Njage. Arielle for Africa is a Social Enterprise that has worked with and empowered close to 6,000 entrepreneurs in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa in the last year. The company currently runs programs for entrepreneurs and corporate leaders as well as going a step further in providing Money Management programs and advisory. The core mission of the company is to create over 100,000 meaningful jobs through entrepreneurship, disruptive innovation, technology and sustainable business.

2. Pathways International

3. Open University Business School

4. Teacher Professional Development

5. Kenya Association of International Schools

6. Innovation For African Universities - IAU

7. Education Collaborative East Africa Hub

8. Tech Kidz Africa

Tech Kidz Africa and Riara University signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking Riara University as an academic partner of Tech Kidz Africa. The MOU was signed by the Vice Chancellor of Riara University, Prof. Robert Gateru and the Chief Executive Officer of Tech Kidz Africa, Mr. Paul Akwabi. Over 40% of the youths who enroll into universities undertake courses in Science, Technology and Engineering. Tech Kidz Africa, Kenya's leading technology academy, aspires to nurture and sharpen the often unexplored tech-skills in our children when they are still young (7 to 19yrs) by training them in Robotics, Animation, Gaming, Coding, App & amp; Web development, Design Thinking, Online Safety, 3D Printing, among others.



When people know that you smile a lot and have a kind heart, they tend to take advantage of that.

My name is Brian Kavalaji (Coverlary if you care to be artistic). My mother thinks I cannot approach a girl (she could be right. She is my mother and African mothers are always right).

I am writing this because few years ago I decided to try out photography. Life for comrades is hard sometimes. And because I have always desired to be independent, I started doing side hustles. I wrote for The Campus Lady Magazine, Deepin254, and Africanwow among many other media outlets. One time I was invited for an interview by a Kenyan insurance company for the position of a content writer. My mother always advised me to grab opportunities if they came my way. So on this day, with my mother's mantra, a mission to 'Jenga Nchi' and the spirit of adventure I attended the interview. Long story short, they offered to pay me 10 KES for a 500 word article. The audacity!

Back to photography. A friend, an Instagram babe, wanted photos for her social media apps. She asked if I could avail my services. People from my village know that when such opportunities come a long, you take them without thinking twice. We set up a date for a shoot. She chose Arboretum and off we went. I paid the 1500 KES camera fee and the entrance fee. I was determined to take her world class photos courtesy of a Sudhir Shivaram Photography tutorials on YouTube.

I think I might have underestimated how friends and people around us can be so manipulative by taking advantage of our kindness. In all honesty, I do not know how not to understand others. I am very accommodative unless you talk ill of chapatis and avocados, the two underrated staple foods of the world. I smile all the time. In pictures, when talking, and even in an argument. This must have misled my friend, who had initially told me "pesa sio shida," (money is not a problem) I should have known her budget before but in my defense, I did not know the 'inner wires' of the photography business.

While part of the fault was mine, I delivered what my client asked for. However, just like that friend or customer that keeps asking for a product/service and negotiating to a point you decide to sell them without gaining any profit and still not don't buy, she never paid for my services. This is the reality we live in.

I have since learnt how to separate kindness from business especially when dealing with friends and family.

As a parting shot, do not leave 'staying Taliban' to meme creators who have failed in their quest to finding romantic partners. Create boundaries and hold your friends accountable. Smile and smile some more. But know where to draw the line when it comes to your mental health, your business or your heart.

Brian Kavalaji



I AM LARGE

I am large,

I contain multitudes

Of feelings; Love and Pain, Anger and Peace

Not to be confused with oversensitivity

I contain multitudes

It's how I know to understand

I am beauty

I contain multitudes

Of grace and class, passion and style

Not to be confused with arrogance

I contain multitudes

It's how I know, to glow

I am human

I contain multitudes

Highs of confidence and self-worth, kindness and empathy

Lows of envy and anxiety, insecurity and doubt

Do I contradict myself?

Very well then, I contradict myself

I am large

I contain multitudes.

Joy Akinyi

Inspired by the Walt Whitman quote from "Leaves of Grass"

Career Fair/Activation

HIGH SCHOOL INTERACTIONS

The marketing department has over the years secured good relations with its stakeholders. Under its mentorship objective, the department enhances students' knowledge, attitudes and connections as they transition to universities in readiness for the world of work.

Thika Road Christian School

