



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

# *Seku News*

SEKU's Pathways to Success



## 10<sup>th</sup> Graduation Edition, 2023

A publication from the office of the Vice Chancellor



SEKU IS ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

## *Vision*

To be a globally competitive centre of excellence in teaching, research, innovation and service.

## *Mission*

To provide quality education through teaching, research, extension, innovation and entrepreneurship with emphasis on dry land agriculture, natural resources and environmental management.

## *Philosophy*

Transforming lives and improving the environment from arid to green through innovative teaching, research and community service.

## *Core Values*

Professionalism  
Innovation  
Integrity  
Freedom of thought  
Teamwork  
Respect and conservation of environment

## *Our Motto*

Arid to Green---Transforming Lives

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## Editor's Note

Welcome to the *Seku News* Graduation Edition! In this edition, we celebrate the exceptional achievements of our Class of 2023 and illuminate on the diverse pathways to success at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). Amid the celebratory mood, our contributors showcase remarkable achievements in their respective fields. We, therefore, seize the opportunity to proudly introduce our new School of Law programmes and the Open, Distance and e-Learning Directorate. Our exciting new segments, *including Workshops, Exchange Programmes, Community Services, and Behind the Scenes*, offer insights into the diverse activities of our staff and students, with the aim of inspiring our readers.

We are thrilled to share inspiring stories of our students' innovations and determination while highlighting their journeys. Additionally, we acknowledge the Students' Governing Council's dedication in representing our vibrant student community. We are also delighted to showcase our alumni's impactful contributions in diverse fields and communities. In yet another special segment "Where are they now?" we gladly explore a notable alumnus' current endeavours.

As we revel in the accomplishments of our graduands, we also extend a warm welcome to our second Vice Chancellor. Your inauguration coincides with this momentous graduation, and we are excited to embark on this journey under your leadership. Welcome to SEKU.

Once more, congratulations, Class of 2023! We are immensely proud of your achievements, and for the support from our SEKU community. Thanks for celebrating with us. Here is to your bright futures!

*Norah Mose*

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The editorial team **acknowledges** the contributions from the various Divisional Heads, Deans, Directors and Coordinators, staff, students' body and the alumni.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



On behalf of the Senate and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to this special day when we are celebrating the culmination of our 2023 graduands' many years of hard work characterised by great sacrifices and resolve to excel. I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands. I also wish to express my most sincere gratitude to God for keeping us safe and enabling us to have this wonderful occasion of our 10th Graduation Ceremony. This is no mean fete.

This is my first graduation to preside over following my appointment as the Vice-Chancellor. It is, therefore, my joy and pride to present to you a total of 1190 students, who have satisfied the Examiners and Senate and have, therefore, qualified for various degrees and diplomas of South Eastern Kenya University. Out of these, there are 2 PhD, 29 Masters and 1156 Bachelors, and 3 Diploma graduands. I wish also to thank the parents, guardians and sponsors, who have made it possible for these graduands to complete their studies.

Our University has experienced tremendous growth over the last ten years and the current student population stands at 10,736. Despite this rapid growth, the University remains steadfast in its quest to provide quality education. The University Senate has put in place stringent academic quality assurance mechanisms that are fully compliant with the Commission for University Education requirements with regard to accreditation of our academic programmes.

As we grow our programmes, we remain alive to the fact that this has to be done in tandem with improvement in staff capacity. We have therefore continued to tap into our stable quality scholars in the various academic fields.

Besides teaching, our lecturers are active in research, attracting funding from various funding organizations locally and abroad. I thank our development partners, who have worked with us to enhance our teaching and research capacity.

I acknowledge the contributions of the University Council, Management, Senate, teaching and non-teaching staff. We also cannot overlook the crucial role that is played by our important support systems including the guardians, community partner organisations, sponsors and the institutions that collaborate with us. Our dedicated faculty has also played a major role in this accomplishment, not forgetting the Government that has given us the necessary resources to realize our core objectives. All these parties have tirelessly laboured to create a conducive environment that supports our success.

We are also glad to report that we continue to register high number of students in our Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes. We are also working on new academic programmes that meet the demands of the growing nation.

I thank the government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Education, for its continued support and guidance to South Eastern Kenya University.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2023. We hope that you are going to be ambassadors of the University and promote the rich ethos bestowed unto you.

Prof. Eng. Douglas Shitanda  
Vice-Chancellor

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM DIVISIONS

### Corporate Services Division Applauds the Class of 2023 for Academic Accomplishments and Inspiring Futures



The Division of Corporate Services is headed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Corporate Services. Its core function is to ensure optimal use and allocation of resources to support the University in implementing

its core mandate of teaching and learning, research and community outreach. The Division oversees all the Financial, Human Resource, Institutional Performance, ICT, Procurement, and Planning and Development activities in the University through the following Directorates;

1. Directorate of Finance and Accounts
2. Directorate of Human Resource Management
3. Directorate of Strategy, Quality and Performance Management
4. Directorate of Information, Technology and Communication
5. Directorate of Procurement and Supply Chain Management
6. Directorate of Facilities Management and Administration

The Division congratulates the SEKU Class graduating in 2023 for achieving the important milestone of successfully completing their study programmes. On behalf of the members of staff serving in the Division, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduands for their exemplary performance.

We are privileged to celebrate this special occasion with you as you graduate and we look forward to seeing you join preceding cohorts of SEKU graduates that are now serving our great nation and humanity in general. We believe that you will be impactful and make a difference to the communities that you will serve.

I note with pride that your cumulative experience at the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) has been one of self discovery and transformation. You are now adequately prepared to face the world and pursue your dreams while delivering positive impacts to society and the nation of Kenya.

SEKU has equipped you with important problem solving life skills that will serve you well in your future endeavours. As you formally exit from SEKU, I encourage you to take some time and reflect on your personal vision, passion and goals in life. In the event that you consider furthering your studies, I encourage you to seek enrolment at SEKU for an advanced degree. You can reach out to our experienced education and career guidance counsellors who stand ready to guide you through your journey of identifying a preferred career path and lifelong learning opportunities. I am certain that whatever path you take, SEKU will always remain close to your hearts. We all look forward to reconnecting with you as our alumni.

Once again, Congratulations and best of luck in your endeavours.

Prof. Francis Wachira  
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Corporate Services



## SEKU's 2023 Graduands Shine Bright under the Academic, Research and Innovation Spotlight



As we gather here today to celebrate your remarkable achievements, we embark on a journey through the captivating narrative of our Academic, Research and Innovation (ARI) Division. Your graduation is not just a personal milestone but a reflection of the exceptional contributions and relentless pursuit of excellence that define our division.

The journey to this day was not without its challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic added an unprecedented layer of complexity. Yet, in the face of adversity, you exhibited remarkable resilience and determination, proving that you can surmount even the most daunting obstacles.

I have seen you flourish not only academically but also as individuals who are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of the world beyond SEKU. Your participation in extracurricular activities, leadership roles, community service, and your support for your fellow students are a clear testament to your outstanding and winsome character, all of which have enriched our campus community. I encourage you to carry forward the values of intellectual curiosity and commitment to lifelong learning that you have cultivated during your time at our institution.

As you embark on the next phase of your journey, remember that you carry with you the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained during your time at SEKU. Your diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives will be instrumental in shaping a brighter future for Kenya, the East African Community and beyond.

Throughout your academic tenure, you have been the architects of outstanding achievements. From the laboratories to the lecture halls, your thirst for knowledge has ignited a series of academic breakthroughs. The research projects you undertook were not just academic exercises but transformative endeavours that have made a lasting impact on the world.

Your publications in prestigious journals and the recognition you received for your innovative solutions stand as a testament to your dedication. The Academic Research and Innovation Division has been privileged to witness your groundbreaking contributions across diverse fields, from agriculture to social sciences, humanities, education, health, environmental science, engineering, and to software development.

However, what sets you apart is not only your academic prowess but also your passion for innovation. You have displayed an extraordinary ability to turn ideas into tangible solutions. Your innovative spirit has led to the development of sustainable technologies, groundbreaking software applications, and novel approaches to address some of society's most pressing challenges as demonstrated in the local and regional shows and trade fairs.

Today, as you embark on exploring new horizons, remember that your journey is solely not about the accumulation of degrees. It is about carrying forward the legacy of academic excellence and innovation that you have cultivated within our division. The world eagerly awaits your creativity, vision, and determination to make a meaningful impact. Continue to be the leaders, innovators, and compassionate individuals you have become.

In conclusion, I offer my hearty congratulations to you, the graduands of 2023. May your journey ahead be filled with purpose, fulfillment, and the realization of your dreams.

Prof. Harrison Maithya  
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research  
and Innovation

## UNIVERSITY DIRECTORATES

### Graduands Ready to Take on the World



Congratulations to you all the graduands of 2023. It has been a great pleasure for all of us in the Directorate serving you during your studies at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). As seasons come and seasons go, yours that started a few years ago has finally come to fruitful end. We join you in celebrating this achievement as you graduate from our University. We enjoyed working for you at various levels in our catering facilities, our hostels of residence, in our fields, classrooms and all areas in our vast and serene environment with exhilarating sceneries. To us you have been a group to behold, a student body that is focused and responsible.

Starting today, you have officially joined the ranks of SEKU alumni. We know you will remember times when the tides were high and times when the tides were low. Times when things worked for you and times when life took you to rock bottom. Times when, occasionally, there were power outages and KPLC took a long time to reinstate the power supply. Times when, you together with us, experienced water shortage and KITWASCO could not meet the demand for the very much needed commodity.

Times when you rushed to the mess and found long queues and you found solace in Madondo as a suitable option. You will remember life in the Yatta, Magadi, Turkana, Athi, Baringo, Elementaita, Turkwel and Victoria hostels. We cleaned for you, maintained the facilities, provided security for you and ensured that your health was well taken care of. For those who stayed outside, your security and welfare was still our concern. These will forever remain a part of your history, shaping the person you have become today. We are grateful for your willingness to let us be a part of this journey.

As you gaze at the open gates of the future when you step out of our University, we impress upon you to be in the know that you are joining a competitive world where only the sterner stuff survives. We are sure that the academic and social life the University has shaped you through is sufficient to provide you with a pedestal on which to stand and face the world with confidence.

Remember that as soon as you step out of our gates today, the world will present you with a labyrinth of choices, choices which before you decide, you must stop and think twice. Be careful to seek advice from those who have trodden the paths in cases where you will not be sure of which way to go. Respect authority right from your homes, and in all other areas of your engagements, be responsible citizens and hold yourself accountable for every single decision you make. You have all it takes to favourably compete for available opportunities. Represent us well.

*Congratulations to all of you!*

Dr. David B. Namasaka, PhD.  
DDirector, Facilities Management and Administration

### Navigating Challenges, Embracing Success



I take this opportunity to sincerely pass my hearty congratulations to the Class of 2023 on your graduation amidst the global pandemic that interrupted your studies. The global economic recession notwithstanding, you have managed to complete your studies because of your resilience and hard work. You managed to maneuver the new dispensation of online learning and expeditiously acquired the necessary skills. You remained focused despite the challenges of your time and ensured you achieved your goals. Our gratitude to the parents, guardians and sponsors who supported the graduands throughout their studies by meeting the required financial obligations. We wish to pass our special regards to the National Treasury through the Ministry of Education; HELB, NGCDF and other sponsoring organizations for the support. On my own behalf and that of the Finance Department, I wish you continued success and happiness as you venture into the next phase of your life and all the best as you pursue your dreams.

*May God bless you all.*

CPA Ferguson Muthui  
Finance Director and Accounts CPA

## A Year of Achievements and Commitment to National Agenda



Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Your dedication and accomplishments are a source of pride for the entire university community. As you move forward, the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU)

Directorate of TVET extends its best wishes for your continued success. The Directorate was established in 2020 to provide training opportunities for the increasing number of school leavers to enable them to be self-supporting as well as providing manpower for both formal and informal sectors.

The Directorate caters for those school leavers who do not meet direct entry into the degree programmes. The year 2023 marked significant achievements, with TVETA accreditation granted to three new campuses: SEKU TVET Wote Campus, Migwani TVET Centre, and Mtito Andei TVET Centre. This was achieved due to the immense support of the University Management that is committed to expanding access to TVET students and offer them quality training within existing university facilities and academic infrastructure. Similarly, the Directorate has witnessed exponential growth in student population which now stands at about 500 taking different courses. Quality training with customer focus is our signature brand. Our inaugural group of students achieved outstanding results in the July 2022 Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) exams, and we eagerly await the upcoming 2023 results with high expectations for continued excellence.

Dr. Selpher K. Cheloti, PhD  
Director, TVET

## ODEL Directorate Opens New Horizons in Education



Globally, there has been a gradual paradigm shift from the traditional Face to Face modes of study, which take place in a conventional classroom setting, to online learning. Today, many universities have embraced

Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL) modes of study as a way of leveraging technology to open up opportunities for higher education and consequently achieve their core mandate of teaching, research and innovation. People who are geographically disadvantaged, formally or informally employed; and/or have time constraints are particularly advantaged by the ODeL modes of pedagogy.

Cognizant of the importance of digital learning in advancing educational opportunities, SEKU constituted a directorate of ODeL in December 2022. The Directorate is headed by a director, who works closely with an established board to ensure that the activities of the Directorate are run as prescribed in the University's ODeL policy. The board is chaired by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic, Research and Innovation) and is mandated to ensure quality delivery of e-learning programmes regarding instruction and learning; and in line with the SEKU's vision 'to be a globally competitive Centre of Excellence in teaching, research and innovation, and service'.

The Directorate has planned to start off its operations with Distance Learning, through a pilot programme focused on three-degree programmes namely Bachelor of Education-ARTS, Master of Education and Master of Business Administration. In October and November, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will be trained on how to write interactive e-content modules, after which they will engage in the actual writing of the same. The First Year, first semester modules will be ready and uploaded on the SEKUs Learning Management System (LMS) by end of March 2024 in readiness for the admission of the first cohort of students in May 2024.

*Welcome to SEKU's digital hub.*

*The Directorate of ODeL proudly extends a heart-felt congratulation to the entire 2023 class.*

Prof. Dorothy N. Mutisya, PhD  
Director, ODeL

## Celebrating a Legacy of Excellence in Performance



Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your academic journey! Today, we celebrate not only your hard work and dedication but also the limitless potential that lies ahead for

each one of you.

The Directorate recognizes your true spirit of strategy, quality and good performance. Throughout your educational journey, you have demonstrated resilience, commitment, and a thirst for knowledge. Indeed, you have faced challenges head-on, embraced learning opportunities and grown into the remarkable individuals you are today. This graduation is a testament to your determination and the support of your loved ones and mentors who have stood by your side.

As you step into the next chapter of your life, remember that learning is a lifelong endeavour. The Directorate reminds you to continue to seek knowledge, explore new horizons, and never stop chasing your dreams. Your education has equipped you with the tools and skills to make a positive impact on the world, and we cannot wait to see the incredible contributions you will make.

Take a moment to reflect on how far you have come and the exciting journey that lies ahead. Cherish this day and celebrate your achievements, for you have earned it. You are now part of a proud community of graduates who have gone on to achieve great things, and we have no doubt that you will follow in their footsteps. The University is proud of you and confident that you will carry with you the values of quality and excellent performance as advocated and promoted by this Directorate that has seen SEKU ranked among the top 10 parastatals in performance contracts. Expect that you will embrace the spirit of continual improvement as promoted by ISO 9001:2015 standard on which SEKU is certified.

As you embark on this new adventure, remember that success is not just about reaching your destination but also about the journey itself. Embrace every challenge, cherish every moment, and continue to strive for excellence in all that you do.

Once again, congratulations, graduands! The world is yours for the taking, and we cannot wait to see all the amazing things you will accomplish.

With pride and best wishes,

Dr. Casper Shikali  
Director, Strategy, Quality and Performance  
Management.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM SCHOOLS

### Reinforcing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Enabled Instructional Pedagogy through Holistic Education



The School of Education takes the opportunity to congratulate the 2023 graduands for an academic journey bravely endured and successfully completed. The School acknowledges the great work done by the graduands, the faculty, the parents and other stakeholders whose inputs have made this occasion a success to the graduating class as well as to the entire University. The School of Education is the largest School in the University and has a student population of over 4000.

The mission of the School is to provide competent manpower through quality training, research, consultancy and innovation for the transformation of the Education sector. The core mandate of the School is to respond to emerging trends in the implementation of educational reforms in the education sector.

The School has made milestones in pedagogical innovations. It has developed a curriculum on “Fundamentals of Competency Based Education” (CBE) to prepare teacher trainees on foundations of CBE as the roll out of CBE in the University gets underway. The School has reviewed the Bachelor of Education programme with emphasis on the skills that graduates need to acquire in tandem with the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) before the first cohort entry into the University in 2029, and thereafter in continuance with CBC dispensation.



*Faculty celebrating an award after successfully training teachers on Question Formulation Technique in Machakos.*

Recently, the School collaborated with Kenya Connect and Rotary International District 5040 Canada in developing a new pedagogical approach, the **Question Formulation Technique (QFT)**. QFT is a structured approach in pedagogy designed to help learners develop their questioning skills, spur curiosity and initiate the question-generation process in search of knowledge.



*Dr. J.F. Koga, Academic Registrar, Congratulates faculty at a mounting Teacher Professional Development course*

Through QFT learners take more responsibility and control over the learning process where the teacher and the learner become co-creators of knowledge. This innovative pedagogical approach facilitates the transition from Knowledge-Based Learning to Competency-Based Learning which aims at reinforcing the 21st Century pedagogical skills through the application of Curiosity Spurring Strategies and the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) in teaching and learning process.

Dr. Gideon M Kasivu  
Dean, School of Education

### Shaping Minds, Changing Lives: Congratulations, Graduands



Congratulations, Graduands on your remarkable achievement! As the Teaching Practice Coordinator, I have witnessed the dedication of Bachelor of Education students and passion for education.

Your journey in teaching is a noble endeavour, marked by the profound impact you will make on young minds. Embrace the challenges, cherish the successes, and continue to inspire others. May your classrooms be filled with curiosity, laughter, and endless possibilities. Wishing you all a fulfilling and enriching future. Congratulations once again!

To all the graduands, I wish you a fulfilling and enriching future. Congratulations once again on this momentous achievement!

Dr. Anthony Njue  
Teaching Practice Coordinator

## Embracing a bright Future



Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone! Your achievements at SEKU are a testament to your dedication and hard work. As you step into the future, embrace new challenges with confidence, knowing that your education has equipped you for success. Remember the values you have learned, stay curious, and keep pushing boundaries. We are immensely proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing the positive impact you will make in the world. Best wishes for your bright and promising journey ahead!

Dr. Rose Kithungu  
COD, Education Foundation

## Launching into Greatness



Congratulations on your graduation! We are very proud of your achievements and more importantly, the person you are going to become. Remember, wherever you go, whatever you do, always speak with honesty and act with integrity because these are the first steps to greatness. I wish you the best.

Dr. Leonard Mwathi Kamau  
COD, Educational Communication and Technology

## Empowering the Future



Congratulations, Class of 2023! Your hard work and dedication have led you to this significant milestone, and we are incredibly proud of your achievements. As you move forward, remember that your education empowers you to shape the future and make a difference. Embrace challenges with confidence, carry the knowledge and values you have gained, and be courageous, compassionate, and innovative in your pursuits. We believe in your ability to transform lives and create a better world. Best of luck in all your future endeavours.

Dr. Janet Mulwa  
COD, Education Administration and Planning

## Shaping the Future with Humanities and Social Sciences



The School strives to be on the cutting edge of successful interaction of teaching, research and innovation in Humanities and Social Science related areas. Our students are equipped with the knowledge necessary to excel in diverse fields, including teaching, social work, community and public service, international organizations, state corporations, community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as academic and research institutions. The School leverages on support and good working relationships with all other Schools in the University.

SHSS has collaborated and signed MoU's with Kyambogo University, Uganda, Ecole Normale Superieure du Burundi (Burundi Higher Institute of Education), University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Mkwawa University College of Education - a Constituent College of the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Areas of priority in the collaboration include writing of joint research proposals, co-supervision of post graduate students, hosting joint seminars, workshops and conferences. Further, we have staff participating in various exchange programmes in the region through the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).

We are also involved in community service, especially in Boards of Management in various secondary schools in the country as well as in state corporations. One recent success story has been the launch of a Kiswahili journal which so far has received over 40 articles from various universities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Cameroon. The School has also partnered with the SEKU office of Career Service in training and hosting seminars with prospective graduands in topics including, career and job opportunities, networking and strategizing for job opportunities, writing good CVs and presenting oneself during interviews.

On behalf of the School, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2023 on their graduation and wish the graduands success and good luck in all their future endeavours.

Prof. Felix Kioli  
Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Hats off to our Graduands: Language and Literature Department's Triumphs



The chair and members of the Department of Linguistics, Languages and Literature congratulate the class of 2023 on their graduation.

This is the Department that prides itself in servicing the largest number of students in the University. Indeed, students from all walks of life find languages and their respective literatures attractive, enlightening, and promising as the courses open vast career opportunities in teaching, media, publishing and public relations. The Department has over the years, made great strides, thanks to more than ten highly trained and experienced scholars who are committed in not only teaching and research but also in inspiring and mentoring the young souls who arrive on campus yearning for transformative knowledge.

During the 2022/2023 academic year, the Department, through the School, signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Mkwawa University College in Tanzania and Kabale University in Uganda. The MoUs are weaved to facilitate a rich interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge, skills and experiences that would be beneficial to the staff and students.

The Department has a growing postgraduate population. The Kiswahili section offers both master's and PhD; the Linguistics and Literature sections offer master's and will launch PhD studies in September 2024. There are, as well, plans to offer the following new courses as from September 2024: French studies; African Languages and Culture (Agikuyu, Akamba, Maasai, Dholuo).

**Dr. Wafula Yenjela**  
COD- Linguistics, Languages and Literature

## Well-Deserved Congratulations to the Class of 2023



On this momentous occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional Class of 2023. Your journey to this achievement has been marked by dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment, and today, we celebrate your well-deserved success. As you step into the world, carry your knowledge with pride, embrace challenges with courage, and continue to make a positive impact. We believe in your ability to shape a better future.

**Dr. Felista Muriu**  
COD, Sociology, Anthropology and Community Development

## A Step into Greatness



Congratulations on your achievement! Today marks the culmination of your dedication and perseverance. As you step into the next chapter, remember your potential to shape the world. Embrace the future with enthusiasm and curiosity. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to witnessing your continued success.

**Dr. Redempta Kiilu**  
COD, Geography, History and Religious Study

## A Bright Future Begins: Salutes to 2023 Graduands



The School of Business and Economics heartily congratulates the 2023 graduands for their success. Indeed, this is a significant milestone in your lives and marks the beginning of your next phase in your professional journey. We particularly applaud the five students from the School who scored First Class Honours in the various degree programmes offered by the School.

Undoubtedly, the success of the graduating class has resulted from concerted efforts from the students, the faculty members, parents, guardians, the University management and other stakeholders who contributed in one way or another to this success.

The School offers market driven programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Some of the new programmes recently approved by Senate include PhD in Supply Chain management, PhD in Project Management and MSc in Project Management. In the 2023/2024 academic year, the School launched the first cohort of Master of Arts in Economics.

On 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the School, in partnership with the Board of Postgraduate Studies and the University of Rhodes held a workshop on strengthening postgraduate supervision with support from the CPC Project. The event was attended by more than 30 postgraduate students and over 20 members of teaching staff from the School of Business and Economics.



*Workshop participants at Kitui Town Campus.*

As we congratulate the class of 2023 graduands, we welcome them to consider enrolling in one of these much sought-after postgraduate programmes offered at the School of Business and Economics.

**Dr. Joseph Nzomoi, Ph.D**  
Dean, school of Business and Economics

## **Journey towards Agricultural Excellence and Sustainability**



Congratulations to the graduands from the School of Agriculture Environment Water and Natural Resources. Your achievement reflects hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence. Despite challenges, your resilience is commendable. As you embark on nation-building, you have the knowledge and skills to address humanity's challenges in the job market.

SAEWNR is a crucial contributor to the University's mission in Agriculture, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources Management. This aligns with the Government's Economic Transformation Agenda, emphasizing the importance of enhancing agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. SAEWNR's expertise has played a pivotal role in activities such as research, education, community engagement, and projects aimed at achieving goals related to agricultural growth, food security, water supply, and rural development.

SAEWNR takes pride in its global collaborations, fostering partnerships with esteemed international institutions and organizations. These collaborations result in joint research projects and enriching mobility programmes for both staff and students. Notable projects include 'HSWT goes International,' uniting multiple universities in pursuit of excellence. Additionally, SEKU's Creating Postgraduate Collaborations Project, in partnership with Moi University and Maseno University, conducts various activities, such as specialized training and summer schools. In line with environmental conservation, SEKU's National Tree Planting Campaign, aligned with the Government's initiative, involves annual planting of diverse tree species across campuses to enhance tree cover and restore the environment.

**Dr. Matheaus Kauti**  
Dean, SAEWNR

*Our esteemed readers, find more achievements from the SAEWNR in our new segments titled Innovations and Exchange Programmes of this newsletter edition.*



## Ripples of Success: Advancing Hydrology and Aquatic Sciences



Water is undeniably the most valuable resource in any part of the world and there is an ever-increasing awareness in the wealth associated with the aquatic environments. In this regard, the Department of hydrology and aquatic sciences endeavours to equip our students with up-to-date knowledge, skills and expertise to manage, tap the benefits and ably tackle challenges in this area.

The Department has 3 undergraduate programmes: B.Sc. Applied aquatic science, B.Sc. Hydrology and water resources management and B.Sc. Fisheries management and aquaculture technology. The Department also offers the following post-graduate programmes: M.Sc. Integrated water resources and watershed management, and PhD in Watershed management. There are upcoming short (certificate) courses in “Fish feed and Nutrition” and “Best practices for fish pond development and management”.



*Students pose for a photo in front of the fish ponds they were preparing.*

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating classes of 2023. After years of hard work and dedication in your studies, you deserve this moment of celebrations! Hearty congratulations and my best wishes as you go out to make the world a better place!

Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo  
COD, Hydrology and aquatic sciences

## Unveiling Excellence in the School of Science and Computing



Congratulations on this significant academic milestone! As you embark on new adventures, we are thrilled to highlight the remarkable achievements of the School of Science and Computing. As you move forward, draw inspiration from these accomplishments, and continue to pursue excellence in your chosen paths. We take immense pride in your achievements and eagerly anticipate your future successes.

**Innovative programmes:** The School has introduced six new innovative and market-driven programmes designed to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge needed for today's dynamic job market.

**Engagement in meaningful projects:** Our dedicated staff members have actively engaged in impactful projects. Notable among these is the “Promotion of Moringa Tree Products for Improved Health and Nutrition.” This initiative, which includes water purification research and training, exemplifies our commitment to addressing real-world challenges. Additionally, our involvement in “Climate Smart Beekeeping” has not only benefited local communities but also contributed to sustainable agriculture practices. Furthermore, our efforts to transform traditional cassava production systems into sustainable food security strategies have yielded significant results, benefiting both rural communities and our M.Sc. students.

**Successful grant proposals:** Our accomplished staff members have secured funding for various projects. These include a substantial research grant of \$1,120,950 led by Dr. Daniel Mutyambai, a collaborative ASESANET Intra-Africa Mobility 2022 Grant worth USD 1600 led by Dr. Paul Ngumbi, and a grant of USD 35,000 for “Processing African Low Resource Languages Using Deep Learning” led by Dr. Casper Shikali and Dr. Andrew Omala, generously provided by Google Ireland Limited.

**Contributions to peer-reviewed journals:** Our faculty's commitment to academic excellence is evident through the publication of twenty papers in peer-reviewed journals this academic year. These contributions not only advance knowledge in various fields but also highlight the School's dedication to research and scholarship.

Dr. Kasili Sichangi  
Dean, School of Science and Computing

## First B.Sc. Nursing Cohort Graduates

On behalf of everyone at the School of Health Sciences, I would like to congratulate the 2023 class on your graduation. This is a significant milestone. We are all very proud of what you have accomplished. I applaud the first B.Sc. Nursing cohort that is also graduating today.

Today's graduation celebration symbolizes years of hard work, commitment, resilience, and determination. As new graduates, you are joining a pool of professionals in your respective areas of specialization. Your education has provided you with a firm foundation to broaden your knowledge and understanding of the world around you. Use this invaluable resource throughout your lives, wherever your education, career, passions, or travels may take you.

Wherever you go in the future, know that you have what it takes to build successful lives and careers. You carry within you your love of learning, your strong intellect, and the ability to use the knowledge you have acquired at South Eastern Kenya University to make a difference in the world.

Congratulations and my very best wishes to you in all of your future endeavours.

**Prof. Catherine Mwendu**  
Dean, School of Health Sciences

## Success Beyond the Sky



I want to start out by saying 'you finally made it!' Congratulations to 2023 graduating class. I thank God for keeping you healthy and safe during your four years in campus. You were a wonderful group of students who did not give the university a hard time. You ensured rules and regulations were followed as stipulated and this is the reason you were able to make it this far. Special congratulations to the student's leaders through their chairman of council who made our work easy by ensuring the student body was always in harmony.

Congratulations once more on this outstanding accomplishment. Your hard work has finally paid off. Bear in mind that you are destined for success. Nothing can stand in your way! They say the sky is the limit, but I say go beyond the sky and set your future goals to leave every place better than you found it.

**Dr. Sedina Misango**  
Dean of Students

## CAMPUSES

### Paving Paths to Excellence: Kitui Town Campus Salutes the Graduating Class of 2023



On behalf of the Kitui campus staff, we join the other university arms in congratulating our 2023 graduands for their success in their studies and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Kitui Town Campus is one of the satellite campuses of the University, situated in Kitui Town, within the Manyenyoni-BLI area, about 600 m off the Kitui-Mutomo road.

The Campus has the necessary facilities required for a conducive learning environment including, a computer lab and a well-stocked library, internet facilities, e-learning resources and adequate security.

Kitui Town Campus is the home of School of Business and Economics with three Departments, namely: Department of Business and Entrepreneurship, Department of Economics and Department of Management Science. In addition, the campus provides regular and weekend based modes of study for certificate, diploma and postgraduate levels in the following schools: School of Agriculture, Environment, Water and Natural Resources, School of Education, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and School of Sciences and Computing. Currently, the campus has a population of about 1200 Students.

The campus is a service and administrative campus that coordinates the formulation of university programmes, admission of students, student welfare matters and stimulates mutual engagement of staff and students in collaboration with the departments and schools in the University.

The Campus strives to promote university excellence in training, research and innovation. The mission of the campus is to provide high quality training opportunities with emphasis on Dry land Agriculture, Natural Resources Environmental Management, Science and Information Technology among other disciplines.

The campus visualizes itself to be nationally innovative in formulation and development of market driven programmes based on societal needs.

For more information on admission and courses offered, visit our website: <https://www.seku.ac.ke>. The entry requirements for each programme are clearly indicated for each course.

Prof. David M. Malonza, PhD  
Director, Kitui Town Campus

## Wote Campus: Shaping Futures and Inspiring Minds

Wote Campus is one of the 4 satellite campuses of the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). It is located 2.8 Kms from Wote Town, off Wote-Makindu road, along Makueni G.K Prison – Malivani road next to Makueni County Deputy Governor’s Residence. The Campus, which is a three storey ultra-modern building sits on a 28.27 acres parcel of land and is easily accessible by tarmac road from the Makueni County Commissioner’s Office.



*A front view of Wote Campus Office and Tuition Block*

Wote Campus location is not only strategic but also serene and, therefore, ideal for learning, research, knowledge production and dissemination. It has a well developed infrastructure with the necessary utilities such as water and electricity connectivity. The campus has state of the art kitchen and catering facilities, boardroom, and other facilities ideal for hosting meetings, conferences, and seminars. It is provided with round the clock armed and unarmed security. To enhance security, the entire 28.7 acres of land is fenced with a chain link.



*The seminar room at Wote Campus*

Since its inception in 2012, Wote Campus continues to offer academic programmes in line with those offered at SEKU’s Main Campus, Kitui and has over the years graduated students taking diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

SEKU’s Wote Campus was recently licensed to offer 21 TVET programmes: 14 Diploma and 7 Certificate courses thus broadening its training scope and offering more opportunities for learning. This is expected to attract and increase the number of students at the Campus.

The Director and staff take this opportunity to congratulate Wote Campus students graduating in October 2023 for their hard work and commitment.

Prof. Harrison Maithya,  
Former Director, Wote Campus

## MAINSTREAMING UNITS

### Celebrating Academic Accomplishments and Gender Advocacy



Dear 2023 graduands, The Gender Mainstreaming Unit congratulates you for successfully walking the academic journey, beating all odds thrown on your path, and finally the day of celebrating is here. I believe we have every reason to celebrate with you as we have walked together. We have guided you and mentored you and now we believe you are ready for the next task of delivering in the job market. The class of 2023 holds a special place in our hearts. Not only did they excel academically, but they also laid the foundation for the vibrant and thriving Gender Champions Club and unit that we have today.

This pioneering class nurtured and realized the dream of SEKU's Gender Champions Club under the capable leadership of Madam Joy Sang. Their unparalleled commitment to gender issues shone through as they actively engaged in all the unit's activities, conducted outreach both within and outside the University, organized seminars, and much more. Once again, the unit extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the 2023 graduands and wishes them a prosperous future in their careers.

Dr Harun Kiruki,  
Coordinator, Gender Mainstreaming Unit

### Building a Value-Driven Future



The Cohesion and National Values Mainstreaming Unit congratulates the Class of 2023 for their dedication and hard work during their transformative journey at the University. Our University is dedicated to promoting national values and principles of governance, fostering a cohesive and value-driven community, and instilling unity, integrity, and social responsibility in our students and staff.

We are also committed to collaborating with the government and the community for harmonious coexistence.

This September, SEKU and Kwa Vonza community, led by the area local administration, marked the International Day of Peace to emphasize coexistence, given our close interaction with the community.



*Tree planting session during the International Day of Peace celebrated at Kwa Vonza Chief's Office ground*

Graduands, as you step into the job market and industry, remember the values you have learnt in SEKU. Carry them with pride and integrity, being ambassadors not just for SEKU but for these values. Congratulations once again! May your future be filled with success, fulfillment, and a commitment to our shared national values.

Dr. Norah Mose  
Coordinator, Cohesion and National Values  
Mainstreaming Unit

## Staff Awarded Scholarship to Train in Kenya Sign Language



Two members of staff from South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU), Dr. Sarah Ndanu M. Ngesu ( Coordinator, Disability Mainstreaming Unit) and Ms. Gladys Mawia Muthengi (a committee member, Disability Mainstreaming Unit) were awarded a heavily contested award. With 1,300 applicants from

different institutions in Kenya, only 300 were awarded the coveted scholarship. Kenya Sign Language is a visual language that uses gestures and facial expressions to communicate.

The Kenya Sign Language (KSL) programme for Kenya National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) targets essential government workers including lecturers, teachers, nurses, front office workers, community social workers, chiefs, police officers, huduma centre personnel and other essential public workers. The objective of the programme is to equip trainees with basic sign language skills to enhance effective communication to the hearing impaired seeking services in public institutions. Over the years the Council has continued to support government workers to enroll in the programme through funding to training partnered institutions. In the last five years the council has invested a total of 47, 565, 000 in the programme. During the training, we were given field work assignment to visit NCPWD offices. During the visit, we interacted with the officers at NCPWD HQ's at Nairobi, who informed us that the programme has contributed immensely towards improving service delivery to the hearing impaired in public service by ensuring that the graduands are re-deployed in strategic areas to serve the hearing impaired. This is a great milestone!

The KSL training programme was managed by NCPWD who provide the funding or sponsorship to public service employees. However, the part of teaching and training was carried out by teachers/tutors from Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) who for many years have been training on special needs including KSL. The National Council for Persons living with Disabilities, as a government entity, has made it clear that every institution in Kenya should have at least two staff trained on basic skills on KSL at the minimum level of certificate. South Eastern Kenya University has three trained staff members with certificate in KSL ( Dr. Sarah Ndanu Ngesu, Dr. Redempta Kiilu and Ms. Gladys Muthengi). This is a great milestone for SEKU for inclusion.

The training covered many aspects such as: Historical development of KSL, the deaf culture, principles of signing, composition of a sign, elements of a sign, finger-spelling, etiquette and dialogue, the structure of KSL, practical sessions on how to sign words in many different fields and 3 weeks attachment in a deaf school just to mention a few.



*Hand shapes representing letters of alphabet (fingerspelling)*

The SEKU staff were placed in Mwingi Special School for the Hearing Impaired ( Dr. Sarah Ngesu) and Kitui School for the Deaf (Ms. Gladys Muthengi). These SEKU staff have since become ambassadors of SEKU in those schools. During the practical training at Mwingi School for the Deaf, I was astonished by the responsiveness of the hearing impaired learners. The learners had a high sense of acceptance. They accepted and interacted freely with each other, staff members, workers and visitors. This is such a strong character that is rare in hearing people who have so many issues that alienate each other like race, colour, sex, education, ethnicity, religion and economic status. At Mwingi School for the Hearing Impaired, learners interacted freely in a friendly manner without groupings of tribe, class or education status. Thus, it can be deduced that the hearing impaired community is deeply connected and supportive of each other, and their unity is evident in their oneness and collaboration. This is in sharp contrast to schools for hearing learners where students often group themselves according to their background, tribes and presumed status. I wish this can be emulated by all people in Kenya.

The KSL training was an eye opener, a learning process that left a remarkable impact to the trainees. On behalf of my colleague Ms. Gladys Muthengi, we highly appreciate the SEKU Management for granting us three (3) and half month's study leave to train on Kenya Sign Language. It is my prayer that a certificate in KSL will be taught in SEKU someday where all staff members and students will be able to learn basic skills on KSL for inclusion.

**Dr. Sarah Ndanu M. Ngesu**  
Coordinator, Disability Mainstreaming Unit.

## CAREER OFFICE

### SEKU Graduands Embark on their Professional Odyssey



From the Office of Career Services, we congratulate our graduands for completing this part of their journey in pursuit of their careers. A journey of a thousand miles starts with one step, and it is never easy. Therefore, we celebrate you for utilising your time in SEKU well and for your resilience and hard work that has enabled you to achieve this milestone. We applaud you for your perseverance and congratulate you for reaching this monumental achievement. Even as we applaud you for your good work, please note that your career journey has just begun. It is indeed the beginning of a long journey through life that is geared towards building a successful career in your areas of specialization, providing solutions to the problems affecting the society and the world in general.

It is time to strap up and engage a higher gear as you embark on the search for job opportunities. The world needs experts in different sectors to tackle different challenges facing humanity. Just recently we had the health sector struggling with the devastating effects of Covid-19. Again, the just concluded Africa Climate Week & Summit 2023 has brought to the fore the need for experts to explore climate change adaptation, resilience and getting solutions for climate change

On the same spectrum, the world of technology is moving fast with emerging jobs such as Software Engineering, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Systems architects and analysis. Other sectors such as Agriculture, Environment, Education, Manufacturing industries, Hospitality, transport and tourism are also facing a myriad of challenges that require experts with innovative solutions.

It is expected that the knowledge, skills and values you have gained in SEKU will therefore, be useful to provide solutions to the many problems facing the world today whether in the health sector, agriculture, engineering, computing, education, law or even on matters climate change. While this is the case, it should not escape your minds that out there in the marketplace, are many graduates who have gone through the same process, came to the University, did that programme and got the degree certificate. While earning that degree certificate is crucial, the million-dollar question should be, what can I do with the knowledge I have attained? What can give me a competitive edge in the marketplace? How do I enhance my employability locally and globally? Once again, we congratulate you for a job well done and wish you all the best in your endeavours to build a successful career.

Dr. Grace Mutia  
Career Unit Coordinator

### Empowering SEKU Graduands in Creativity, Innovation, and Networking

Your graduation from South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) symbolizes your dedication and hard work, marking the commencement of an exciting journey where creativity, innovation, and networking will illuminate your path forward.

#### The power of creativity and innovation

In today's dynamic job market and entrepreneurial landscape, creativity and innovation, like the groundbreaking work of Enock Nzioka from the School of Science and Computing, who has devised an Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation that monitors one's farm remotely, stand as the pillars of success. Your education at SEKU has nurtured your capacity to think critically and solve complex problems. It is time to harness that creative spirit to chart your path forward. Whether you are seeking a traditional job or envisioning your own entrepreneurial venture, innovative thinking will set you apart.

## Diverse opportunities await

It is important to recognize that there is something for everyone in the modern world if you embrace creativity and innovation. Industries are constantly evolving, and fresh ideas are in high demand. If you have a unique vision or a passion project, do not hesitate to pursue it. Entrepreneurship offers a canvas for you to bring your innovative concepts to life.

## Networking: The catalyst for opportunities

Networking is the bridge that connects you to a world of opportunities. SEKU has provided you with a valuable network of peers, faculty and mentors. Leverage these connections to explore various career paths and entrepreneurial ventures.

Attend industry events, join online professional networks like LinkedIn, and stay in touch with your SEKU community including the alumni. It is through these connections that you will discover hidden pathways to success.



*4<sup>th</sup>-year students attended a 2023 career talk organized by Dr. Grace Mutia (standing), Career Officer. The session was facilitated by Dr. Esther Chomba, Dr. Patrick Kiliku, Dr. David Yenjela, and Dr. Norah Mose from the Department of Languages.*

## Digital skills and beyond

In addition to creativity and networking, digital skills are indispensable in today's digital age. Whether you are interested in data analysis, coding, digital marketing or online entrepreneurship, mastering these skills will be your foundation for innovation. SEKU graduates should continuously enhance their digital literacy to stay competitive in the evolving job market.

## Adaptability is key

As you embark on your professional journeys, remember that adaptability is your greatest asset. Embrace change with open arms and maintain a growth mindset. The ability to pivot and adapt to new challenges and opportunities will propel you forward in your careers and entrepreneurial endeavours.

## Embrace failure as growth

In the tapestry of today's dynamic job market and entrepreneurship, challenges can test your resolve. Rapid technological changes, market uncertainties and fierce competition may seem daunting. But instead of viewing setbacks as roadblocks, see them as stepping stones to growth. Learn from each failure to adapt to a changing environment.

In this era of constant flux, resilience is crucial. Remember the story of the person who falls, rises, dusts off and keeps moving forward; it embodies the spirit needed to thrive amidst these challenges.

Equipped with creativity, innovation, and a strong network from SEKU, you are poised for success. Whether you pursue entrepreneurship or a traditional career, your unique skills and perspectives will make a difference. Embrace the opportunities and obstacles in the dynamic job market, knowing your SEKU education equips you to navigate them.

Congratulations, class of 2023! Embrace the journey ahead, guided by creativity, innovation and networking in this ever-evolving professional landscape.

Dr. Norah Mose  
Seku News

## ADMISSIONS AND STUDENT RECORDS

### From Welcome to Graduation

Congratulations Class of 2023 on your well-deserved success. You have demonstrated resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges and are prepared to contribute your unique skills to the workforce and your community.

Attaining an academic degree signifies the beginning of a new chapter in life. I have eagerly anticipated this moment to personally extend my heartfelt congratulations and celebrate your new endeavours on behalf of everyone at the Admission Office. Considering the challenges inherent in a student's life, this graduation day holds a unique significance for you.

I express my gratitude to you for enduring various challenges and successfully acquiring your degree. Despite these challenges, or more accurately because of them, you are stronger.

I extend my deepest gratitude to you for overcoming various challenges and earning your degree. These challenges, perhaps paradoxically, have made you stronger.

The Admissions Office serves as the initial point of contact when you first joined SEKU. It has been both a privilege and an honour for me to play a small role in your four-year journey. Witnessing your growth into responsible, resilient, and confident individuals has been truly inspiring. Your unwavering determination, hard work, and strength of character have brought you to this moment, poised to utilize your training and knowledge to contribute positively to the world.

I wish you nothing but the best in all your future pursuits, both in your personal life and career. Your dedication to completing your degree is a testament to your ability to achieve anything you set your mind to. We are thankful that you allowed us to be a part of your academic journey, and we hope for nothing but success in all your future endeavours.

*Congratulations on your graduation!*

Elvis Rono  
Admissions Office

## NEW PROGRAMMES

### The School of Law Opens Doors to Legal Excellence in South Eastern Kenya



The School of Law is situated at the Main Campus in Kwa Vonza, spanning across 10,000 acres of serene and tranquil land. This idyllic setting is enveloped by refreshing air, exquisite flora and fauna, and breathtaking

panoramic views, making it an exceptional and highly conducive place for learning, teaching as well as conducting research and innovation. The School of Law stands as a significant legacy of our Founding Vice Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey M. Muluvi, and a remarkable achievement attributed to the dedication of the first chairman of the Council, Prof. Raphael Munavu. This vision was nurtured from the days when the institution was a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi.

The School was accredited by the Council of Legal Education (CLE) on 29th November 2022 and was awarded a 5-year license for a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) programme. This was a culmination of a dream, not just for SEKU but for the region. The South Eastern Kenya region had been yearning for a School of Law to address some of the perennial legal challenges that are unique to the region. These include the niche areas of the programme: Electoral Law, Sustainable Development Law, Dryland Agriculture, and Management and Conservation of Natural Resources and Environment Laws. Domestic and gender-based violence and competition for natural resources such as water and pasture leading to intractable disputes, have also been perennial problems for South Eastern Kenya region, areas that the School of Law will cover in its quest for legal solutions for community resilience.

While legal education will not be a panacea for all these challenges, the local communities have identified the SEKU School of Law as a starting point in collaborating with them to come up with solutions and create jurisprudence that will eventually provide comprehensive and conclusive remedies and innovation. Many of the region's sons and daughters had to travel far to seek legal education, resulting in financial logistical challenges for many.



Therefore, the SEKU School of Law provides access to legal education for the region, Kenya, East Africa and beyond by focusing on transforming lives through its unique niche areas of study. Through legal education, research, innovation, commercialization and outreach services, it hopes to provide sustainable solutions and techniques to help address disputes and barriers to accessing clean energy, greening our institutions, homes, and environment, ensuring food security, and good nutrition, access to clean and portable water resources and to provide legal strategies for replenishing the earth in a sustainable manner. Providing legal solutions in a sustainable manner, and ensuring social justice, democracy, and good governance will contribute to building resilient communities and strong democratic institutions.

SEKU School of Law began offering the LL.B programme beginning September 2023. The School's vision is to be a globally competitive Centre of Excellence in Legal Teaching and Learning, Research, Innovation, Community Service, and Commercialization. Its approach is practical, participatory, skills-oriented, and learner-centred. To achieve this, its delivery methodologies and techniques integrate interactive lectures, seminars and tutorials, plenary and group discussions, simulations and moot courts, case studies, visits and study tours. The methodologies and techniques aim to equip learners with practical knowledge and skills to respond to the demands of the job market, both locally and globally, transforming learners into world-class legal professionals. Assessments are both formative and summative and are aimed at continually keeping track of each learner's progress, and timely redress of any gaps in the learner's academic progress in a personalized way.

SEKU School of Law has a staff establishment of legal scholars who possess a wealth of knowledge and global experience equipped to engage in legal discourse, research, and education at regional, national and global levels. To further enrich the learners' experience, SEKU has engaged highly trained complementary support staff to attend to the administrative, cultural, social, and welfare interests and priorities of learners.

The SEKU Law Library is distinctly state-of-the-art, and equipped to support learning, teaching, research, innovation, commercialization, and community services. The Law Library has adequate study spaces and a wide range of materials, equipment and resources. The library staff is well-trained and current and will provide support to learners and faculty in all aspects including guidance on the procedure for accessing and borrowing library resources, registration for library membership (physical and online), and online and physical library help services.

The School of Law has clear structures of governance distinguishing areas of responsibility, and a framework from which staff work to achieve its goals. The structure of governance of the School of Law is provided for in the SEKU Statutes and Strategic Plan, and the Organogram and consists of the Dean, three Chairpersons of Departments (Public, Private and Commercial Law), an Adjunct Professor, other lecturers and technical and administrative staff. We are excited about the future of the School and plan to turn it into a Centre of Excellence in Legal Education, producing the very best law graduates. We expect that once the School takes off, we shall seek licenses to offer various Diploma Courses such as a Diploma in Legal Studies and para-legal studies and programmes such as a master's degree in law (LL.M.) and a Ph.D. in Law. We also plan to be an excellent Research Centre and a great resource for the University, the Country, Africa and beyond. We also expect to grow in numbers of students, faculty and staff, infrastructure and even stand on our own buildings for the School, Law Library and other facilities. The future of the SEKU School of Law is indeed very bright as we have an opportunity to determine its future and destiny, and that is a great privilege.

Amb. Dr. FCS. Koki Muli Grignon, PhD  
Founding Dean, School of Law.

## Promoting Legal Education through Alternative Educational Methods

The Public Law Department at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) School of Law seeks to provide legal education to students through several exciting ways. The Public Law Department undertakes to provide legal education through vibrant ways such as short courses, moot court competitions, provision of legal aid and research and consultancies. The Department seeks to make a substantial contribution towards the improvement of legal education by building capacity with not only knowledge but practical skills as well.

The Department will be keeping the pace with emerging needs and concerns of stakeholders and constantly skimming the environment for opportunities to improve. Cognizant of the importance of practical skills in legal education, the Department seeks to enhance legal knowledge, improve practical skills as well as inculcate the imperative values and principles enshrined in article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya. The origin that necessitated the promotion of practical skills is the need to build capacity of students in the legal economy and thereby contribute to the objectives of SEKU.

The Department in conjunction with the Department of Computer science at the School of Science and Computing, conducted a webinar in April on the recently enacted Data protection Act for all SEKU Staff and Students. The webinar was keen to sensitise those who deal with institutional data and the obligation in the management of academic data. The University processes large amounts of data for academic purposes and the sensitization of staff and students was key to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act, 2019.

The Department has a clear vision and mandate to not only provide class teaching but outside of the classroom teaching to students for a more hands on approach to litigation, legal advice, structuring arguments, legal research and writing and legal project management.

Short courses provide both students and staff the knowledge on various emerging legal topics. The short courses will be conducted through webinars where all staff and students are educated and given practical examples. The Department seeks to conduct more webinars on new and exciting areas of law such as ICT and the Law, Climate Change Justice, Tax Law among other exciting areas of law.

Moot court competitions are a necessary element in the provision of legal education. The Department seeks to train students on moot rules and conduct internal moot court competitions for the students to practice their skill set on different litigation strategies such as presenting their case in court, drafting legal pleadings and relation to other court users and court administrators. This will further be cemented by the student's participation in Judicial and Clinical Attachment where the students will be placed in different courts around the country for 8 weeks to learn from the courts. Students will also embark on journeys across Kenya to other law schools to participate in nationwide law school moot courts. This not only provides practical skills but also allows the students to learn from their contemporaries in other law schools across Kenya.

Much of the duties of an advocate and a lawyer is the provision of legal advice to their clients. This is a skill best learnt in the formative years of legal education. Legal aid is essential in that students learn to listen to situations, analyse the matter, identify the issues and the relevant laws applicable and proceed to advise the client accordingly. The Department seeks to start a legal aid club where students will provide legal advice to practical situations. The Legal Aid Act, 2016 in section 2 includes universities as legal aid providers in the provision of legal advice to the public to ensure the furtherance of article 48 of the constitution on Access to Information.

Finally, research and consultancies assist students in learning and conducting research on new and emerging areas of law in Kenya. Through research, students can develop jurisprudence on various matters on the School's niche areas. Research and writing have countless benefits to legal education; they provide knowledge on empirical research, on carrying out literature review and on developing legal knowledge that is important to Kenyans.

In conclusion, the Department has exciting ways to engage students and staff. We look forward to receiving members of the public for engagements on the above plans by the Department and partnerships with key stakeholders within the Kitui Region and beyond.

Valarie Kutima  
COD, Public Law

## Insights from the Commercial Law Department



The Commercial Law Department at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) is one of the departments in the School of Law. It offers a comprehensive curriculum covering various Bachelor of Law courses, including Contract Law, Trust and Equity Law, Commercial Law, Business Associations Law, Company Law, Intellectual Property Law, Tax Law, Capital Markets and Securities Law, Competition Law, Accounting for Lawyers, Cooperative and Microfinance Law, Insurance Law, and Labour Law. The Department's vision goes beyond teaching and research; it aims to actively participate in law reform and influence the practical application of commercial law. Graduates from this Department can secure employment in diverse sectors such as banks, insurance companies, law firms, government departments like the Kenya Revenue Authority and Treasury, as well as foreign affairs and trade ministries.

Mr. Mathews Okoth is the inaugural Chair of the Commercial Law Department and possesses a diverse set of skills and qualifications. His expertise spans corporate practice, litigation in both public and private law, public finance litigation, conveyance, commercial transactions, and research consultancy. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Laws degree and holds a Master of Laws degree in Corporate Law from University College London. He is also a graduate of Moi University with an LLB (Hons) and the Kenya School of Law with a PGD. Additionally, Okoth is an active member of the Law Society of Kenya, contributing to the Editorial Committee and Practice Standards and Ethics Committee. He also serves regionally on the East Africa Law Society Committee on Capital Markets.

In his over twelve-year practice, Okoth has acquired experience in many aspects of corporate litigation. His areas of experience include (i) shareholder disputes; (ii) corporate financing disputes, comprising equity, debt and public-private partnerships financing disputes; (iii) public law litigation disputes, comprising constitutional petitions, election petitions and judicial review; and (iv) private law litigation, comprising contracts, tort, traffic accident claims, employment and labour disputes.

Other than litigation, he is experienced in conveyance and commercial transactions. He has also consulted for local companies and international organizations in corporate legal audits, including company-wide audit for regulatory compliance and legal risks assessment. He is the author of the seminal book *Law of Corporate Finance in Kenya* which offers a comprehensive analysis of corporate finance topics in Kenya, including regulations related to capital structure, debt financing, capital markets, and public-private partnerships.

He has also published peer reviewed articles in leading journals, including the article titled "The Interface between the new and previous land laws in Kenya" in the Africa Nazarene University Law Journal (Juta Company Ltd Publication: June 2013), at pages 107-121; the article titled "*From Template Drafting to Informed Drafting: Conceptualising Clauses in Bi-lateral Loan Agreements*" (Law Society of Kenya Journal: 2023); and is a contributing author for Hauser Global Law School Programme of New York University where he periodically updates the article "*Researching Kenyan Law*" available on <http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Kenya1.htm>.

His upcoming book projects include book titles, Corporate Insolvency Law and Practice in Kenya and Law of Secured Transactions in Kenya. Okoth is a Law Society of Kenya Continuing Legal Education Trainer, and on August 28th, 2023, he conducted a national Law Society of Kenya CPD Webinar Training for Advocates titled *“Legal Framework on Dividends and Company Distributions in Kenya.”*

Mathews Okoth  
COD, Commercial Law Department

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

### Fostering Agricultural Innovation with Ruforum Recap Project

The RUFORUM RECAP project has been a driving force behind agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). By incubating diverse value chains, the project has significantly boosted agricultural start-ups across Kenya. Guided by Dr. Julius Kilungo, SEKU established the Seku-Agribiz Incubation Hub for Innovations, focusing on training students in essential business skills to address youth unemployment



*Dr. Kilungo and Students displaying dried cowpea leaves (L) and mango Flakes (R) (Cohort 1).*

Over three years, the project has trained 114 students in business ideation, proposal formulation, and product development. Notable innovations include dried mango slices/flakes, dried cowpea leaves, and cassava and sweet potato chips. These initiatives have positively impacted mango, cowpea, cassava, sweet potato, and pineapple value chains. By procuring raw products from local farmers, the project supports start-ups producing a variety of processed goods, enhancing the value and profitability of these crops.



*Project PI and students (Right) and student mentors (left) display some of the developed prototypes/products (Cohort 2)*

In conclusion, the RUFORUM RECAP project at SEKU has been vital in developing agricultural value chains and promoting start-up businesses. This initiative not only enriches students' understanding of entrepreneurship but also contributes significantly to Kenya's economic growth. These impactful efforts continue to drive progress and innovation in the agricultural sector.

### Transforming Education through PBL-BioAfrica's Innovative Approach

South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) is revolutionizing agriculture education through its PBL-BioAfrica project, employing Problem-Based Learning (PBL) techniques to equip aspiring dairy producers with practical skills and creative problem-solving abilities. An exemplary initiative is the Dairy Profitability Student Challenge, conducted in collaboration with institutions like University of Nairobi (UON) and University of Zambia (UNZA).



*Students and mentors from SEKU, UON and UNZA on a field visit to Kitui Central Dairy Cooperative Society to collect data under the Dairy Profitability Student Challenge sub-Project, a component of PBL BioAfrica project. This is under the supervision of Dr. Julius Kilungo, local Coordinator/PBL*

This challenge engages students in real-world case studies, enhancing their understanding of complex issues in dairy farming such as market dynamics and production efficiency. By encouraging collaboration and critical thinking, PBL prepares students to tackle challenges in the ever-changing agricultural industry. Additionally, the program fosters multidisciplinary cooperation among students from diverse backgrounds, mirroring the complexities of modern agriculture. As students develop these skills, they are better equipped to ensure the sustainable success of the dairy industry.

## Climate Smart Agriculture Project

SEKU is promoting climate-smart agriculture practices, including water harvesting and conservation technologies to enhance food security in arid and semi-arid areas of Kitui County.



*The Negarim Micro-catchment rain water harvesting: Climate Smart Agriculture Project and Local Farmers Adaptation to the Changing Climate. Experiments set up at Kauwi/ Kabati in Kitui County*

Dr. Matheaus Kauti  
Dean, School of Agriculture, Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

## A Journey from Childhood Curiosity to Technological Triumph

Enock Nzioka's journey as an innovator began at a remarkably young age. In July 2005, when he was just 6 years old, his father, John Katiku Muli, introduced him to their first computer. Intrigued by the workings of both hardware components and software applications like road rash, he incessantly inquired about their functionalities. Guided by his engineer father, they dissected the computer, delving into the intricacies of each component, from the motherboard to the CRT monitor.

His curiosity only deepened, leading him to explore the world of software through CMD, expanding his understanding of the digital realm. Despite the lack of internet access, he relied on books and offline resources like Encarta to grasp the basics of programming. During high school, he immersed himself in programming, mastering various languages using a simple burner phone.

Post high school, he co-founded a startup with his friend Nehemiah Mutie, specializing in creating 3D printers. This venture exposed him to the nuances of components, assembly languages, and the creative art of constructing functional products.



*Enock Nzioka at the Governors' Devolution Conference in Eldoret in August 2023*

Upon entering university, during his second year, he delved into artificial intelligence as part of the semester curriculum. Armed with a well-formed concept, he pitched the Smart Farm using AI idea, impressing his lecturer, Dr. Casper Shikali. Dr. Shikali recommended him to the Chair of the Department, Dr. Andrew Omala, who further directed him to Dr. Sedina Misango, the Dean of Students, and subsequently to Dr. Vasdimus Ngemu. A meeting with the then Vice Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, was arranged by the Dean of Students. Presenting his project idea to the University Management, he secured funding for building the prototype.

He devoted a week of intense work to the Project and successfully developed a functional prototype. This prototype garnered attention at various events, including the Governors' Devolution Conference in Eldoret in August 2023. During this event, the President, Governors, and several cabinet secretaries were captivated by his innovation.

His collaborative efforts with Kitui County Government and SEKU earned them multiple awards. Humbly attributing his success to a higher power, he remains driven to achieve even greater heights in his innovative pursuits.

## Cultivating Innovation in Agriculture and Software

Meet Erick Chege Nyokabi, a young and passionate innovator and entrepreneur deeply immersed in the realms of agriculture and software development. Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics and Statistics at SEKU and Software Development at Moringa School, Erick has become a prominent figure in the African innovation landscape. His fervent belief in homegrown solutions has driven him to develop technologies aimed at addressing Africa's most pressing challenges.

Erick's innovative spirit has led to the creation of several groundbreaking solutions. He co-founded a company specializing in producing biofuel from corn, offering a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels for vehicles and generators.

Additionally, his upcoming projects include an autonomous weeding robot and a digital municipality framework.

Crucially, Erick emphasizes the importance of investing in Africa's talent and believes in the power of indigenous innovation. SEKU has been instrumental in supporting Erick's ventures, which have been showcased at prestigious agricultural events such as the Machakos National Show, the Kitui Agricultural Show, and the Nairobi International Agricultural Show.

Currently, Erick is dedicated to enhancing his autonomous weeding robot, making it more climate-smart and precise.

He attributes his success to the unwavering support of his loving parents, Rebecca Chege, and Rev. Simon Kinyanjui Chege, whose encouragement has been his driving force in pursuing his innovative endeavors.

## Innovating Futures: Fredrick Maina's Journey to Sustainable Agriculture and Economic Growth

Fred, a passionate innovator with a deep interest in agriculture and manufacturing is among the 1,200 graduands graduating today from the School of Business and Economics. Throughout his studies, Fred has developed innovative solutions that address contemporary challenges in agricultural economics, aiming to foster sustainable agriculture for economic growth and development. These innovations, supported financially by SEKU, have been showcased at various agricultural shows and trade fairs, highlighting the University's contribution to his entrepreneurial endeavours.



*Maina Fredrick showcasing his innovations at Kitui Agriculture and Trade Fair Show*

Fred was a key member of the SEKU's team that achieved first place for the best stand promoting higher education and learning institutions and second place for the best research project promoting climate-smart agriculture for economic growth and development at the Kitui Agriculture and Trade Fair Show in July 2023.

Currently employed at Progreen Innovations Limited, a company specializing in converting waste into fuels, Fred leads a team in producing cooking fuel from biomass waste. He also assists in the production of gasoline and diesel derived from waste plastics. Fred encourages young people, especially graduating students, to diversify their research efforts, exploring opportunities to enhance value in existing agricultural and economic trends. He advocates for becoming ambassadors of change through research and innovation.

**Dr. Sedina Misango**  
Dean of Students

In SEKU, the project is hosted in the Department of Agricultural Sciences in the School of Agriculture, Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SAEWNR). From April to July, 2022, two (2) SEKU BSc Agricultural Education & Extension students from the Department of Agricultural Sciences participated in a student mobility (Summer) programme at HSWT, Germany. During the same period, for two weeks, two (2) members of staff from the Department of Agricultural Sciences joined the students and participated in a Corporate Training workshop at HSWT, Germany.



*SEKU staff and students display certificates after successful training on Design Thinking at HSWT, Germany*

## EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

### Internationalization of SEKU Programmes.

Over time South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) has endeavoured to become a world-class institution in teaching and research. Consequently, SEKU has sought partnerships with international Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Organizations (ROs) and has participated in development and implementation of collaborative research projects. Besides, as part of internationalization of SEKU programmes, SEKU staff and students have been participating in international mobility programmes. An example of such initiatives is the collaborative project, 'HSWT goes international: Internationalising Best Practices (HAW. International), which brings together several Universities including: SEKU, The Evergreen State College (TESC), USA; Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT), Germany; Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand and Debre Markos University (DMU), Ethiopia.

From April to July, 2023, three (3) SEKU Agriculture students from the Department of Agricultural Sciences participated in a student mobility programme at HSWT, Germany. From 30th May to 9th June, 2023, Three (3) SEKU staff: two (2) from the Department of Agricultural Sciences and one (1) from the Department of Food Science and Technology) participated in staff mobility programme. During the mobility programmes, staff and students participated in a Design Thinking workshop.



*SEKU staff and visiting faculty from Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) during a photo session.*

The PI, Dr. Julius Kilungo, also participated in a similar workshop from 10th June to 18th June 2023, titled “Design thinking and storytelling” at HSWT in Germany. Two (2) members of the HSWT staff, Germany visited SEKU from 20th -23rd September 2023 as part of the staff and students’ exchange programme.

## SEKU Creating Postgraduate Collaboration (CPC) Project

SEKU Postgraduate Collaboration (CPC) Project, a part of the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2, CBHE, in collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation (CIS) of Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam, SEKU, Moi University, and Maseno University, has been actively engaged in various initiatives.

Notably, the recent Moi University Summer Schools on the Future of Postgraduate Supervision, held from 21st to 24th August 2023, marked a significant milestone.



**SEKU Team at Moi University during Moi Summer School on Future of Postgraduate Supervision on 6th October 2023**

Additionally, in collaboration with the SEKU CPC Project, the School of Agriculture, Environment, Water, and Natural Resources (SAEWNR) has organized a specialized training program on 'Management of Forests at Farm and Community Level for the South Eastern Kenya Region.' The project's first phase includes a five-day Training of Trainers (ToTs) workshop scheduled from 2nd to 6th October 2023 at SEKU's Kitui Town Campus.

**Dr. Matheaus Kauti,**  
Dean SAEWNR

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

### Participation in International Academic Conferences at Howard University – Washington DC USA

Academic conferences are an integral and critical part of the academic/research enterprise. In these August gatherings of the academe, academics who have converging research interests meet to share and disseminate scientific knowledge, among peers (Burgess, 2019). In the recent past, I have been honored to be invited twice to present my research findings at academic conferences at Howard University, Washington, DC – USA on Kiswahili and translation.

The first conference took place from 29th September to 4th October 2022 and was organized by Chama cha Ukuzaji wa Kiswahili Duniani (CHAUKIDU). CHAUKIDU is a global organization for the promotion of Kiswahili where I have been serving in the executive committee in the position of publicity secretary after being elected in competitive elections in 2020 and 2023. I am humbled to ably represent South Eastern Kenya University in this organization which is registered in the USA but which draws Kiswahili scholars and stakeholders from all over the world. The 2022 conference was entirely on Kiswahili and related disciplines like translation and interpreting. In addition to being in the organizing committee for this conference, I presented a paper entitled: Tafsiiri kama Nyenzo ya Ukuzaji na Uendelezaji wa Lugha za Kiafrika (Translation as Channel towards the Development of African Languages).

The second conference took place on 13th to 15th October 2022. The conference was organized by African Language Teachers Association (ALTA) which is registered in the USA. The organization's main objective is to mainly promote African languages taught in USA as foreign languages. Of these languages, Kiswahili is a major African language taught in the USA.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

In this conference, I presented two papers: *“Handling regional Kiswahili variations in Translation and Interpretation”* which was written in English. The other paper entitled *“Tafsiri na ubadilishaji msimbo kama mbinu za kifasihi: Mfano wa nyimbo za injili za Stephen Kasolo na Stella Mengele”* (Translation and Code-switching as literary stylistic devices: the case of gospel songs by Stephen Kasolo and Stella Mengele)

The two conferences were of great value to me as a scholar, researcher and lecturer of Kiswahili and translation. My participation in the two international conferences gave me a chance to stay at the forefront of my field. It was a great experience to commune intellectually with like-minded professionals to share and learn about how emerging technologies and inventive thinking can drive innovation on teaching African languages and other related disciplines. Also, I interacted with scholars from different universities in the world and was able to market SEKU. In addition, through interaction with other scholars I was able to lay foundation on future collaboration through MoUs. I sincerely appreciate the Management of South Eastern Kenya University for granting me the opportunity to participate in the above conferences. As Wiseman (2023) asserts when an organization sends an individual or a group to a learning and development conference, the ripple effect is felt far and wide. It not only empowers the attendees with new knowledge and ideas, but when they return to the office and apply the knowledge gained, they are better able to support their fellow employees. This impacts the entire organization’s development efforts and realization of her vision and mission.

Dr. Sarah Ngesu  
Lecturer



*Donations of Tree Seedlings from SAEWNR Tree Nursery to a neighbouring school*



*SEKU staff and Mwingi School for the Hearing-Impaired students and their teachers during a community service organized by the Disability Mainstreaming Unit in September 2023*



*A picture speaks a thousand words as evidenced by the impact of SEKU community service at Mwingi School for the Hearing-Impaired.*

## STUDENTS' AFFAIRS

### The Students' Governing Council

Embodying the spirit of transformation and progress, the student leadership team at South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU) stands as an inspiring force driving change. With a dynamic fusion of visionaries and organizers, the Student Governing Council (SGC) is dedicated to crafting an extraordinary student experience. Guided by Mr. Tony Muvengei as Chairperson, Ms. Ruth Misiko as Vice-chairperson, champions inclusivity and Mr. Tyson Letepelu as Secretary General, the body ensures seamless governance. Mr. Stephen Omondi serves as Academic Secretary, and Ms. Evaline Jeptoo as the Treasurer. Mr. Alex Nzioka, the Satellite Campus Representative, extends advocacy beyond the main campus, while Ms. Yvonne Mutembei serves as the Social Welfare Secretary.

United by a commitment to SEKU's betterment, this team embodies qualities of empowerment, empathy, and progress. They lead initiatives that resonate with SEKU's core values. We celebrate their unwavering dedication to leadership and invite all students to collaborate, contributing their passion and energy to craft the enduring legacy of South Eastern Kenya University.

### Welcome to the Vibrant SEKU Student Experience!

Welcome to the vibrant student life at South Eastern Kenya University, where the campus experience goes far beyond the confines of classrooms. Here, our campus serves as a lively hub for discovery, personal growth, and unforgettable moments. At SEKU, we are dedicated to nurturing well-rounded individuals who actively participate in diverse arts, cultural, and sporting activities, encouraging the unveiling of hidden talents. Immerse yourself in an array of students' recreational activities, including disco nights, culture week, talent night, and comedy night, among others. These events are designed to foster a sense of community and belonging among our students. Moreover, we urge you to engage in transformative community initiatives that create a positive impact beyond our campus borders.



*SEKU represented by staff and students in Clean Up the World Day 2023 in Kitui town. The event was spearheaded by Gender Mainstreaming Unit.*



*Facilities Management and Administration Director, Dr. David Namasaka, plants a tree at the Chief's Office Ground at Kwa Vonza during the International Day of Peace that combined SEKU staff, students and Kwa Vonza community.*



*Staff and students getting ready for the International Day of Peace that was celebrated at Kwa Vonza*

Embrace the inherent positivity of our community, seize the numerous opportunities available, and create lasting memories that will shape your future. Your journey here is not just about earning a degree; it is a transformative experience, shaping you into the person you aspire to be.

Welcome to student life at SEKU – where each day presents an opportunity to make a difference, leave a meaningful mark, and enrich your personal and academic journey.

Ruth Misiko  
Vice Chair, SEKUSA

## The Environmental Club

Witness the transformation of our campus and its neighboring landscapes as the Environmental Club takes the lead in planting trees. From our University grounds to the adjacent areas, the University's MOTTO 'Arid to green, transforming lives' is evident. The environmental club is a movement that goes beyond tidiness riding on their MOTTO 'Clean it up, Green it up' the club engages in several activities including cleanups, tree planting, waste disposal control and environmental campaigns. These activities are carried out within the University and in the surrounding Kwa Vonza community. The club is on a mission to enlighten not only its peers but also the wider community about the significance of environmental conservation, protection, and management. Let us create a legacy of environmental stewardship together!



*Some members of the club in a recent cleaning exercise*

## SEKU Catholic Students Association (SECASA)

SECASA's foremost goal as an association is to provide a holistic nourishment of the spirit, mind, and heart. Guided by faith and unity, we engage in a myriad of activities such as weekly mass celebrations led by our chaplain, reaching out to the society, embracing university events and prayerful communions. At SECASA, we believe in extending the hand of compassion. Through our Jumuiyas, we reach out to the less fortunate in society and offer support, donations, and encouragement. In the spirit of camaraderie, we organize vibrant fun-days that break the barriers of routine. We collaborate with other clubs, lending our energy and spirit to enrich the fabric of our campus through participation in various events. SECASA is more than an association; it is a pathway to a deeper connection with our faith, our peers, and our purpose.



*Members of SECASA*

## Games

The University offers several games and sports both internally and under KUSA Central (CEKUSA) championships and league, KUSA Nationals for both men and female. The University also participates in several tournaments both locally and regionally. The championships take place in every semester giving students several exposures.

Some of the sports and games at South Eastern Kenya University include roll ball, skating, soccer, basketball, hockey, lawn tennis, netball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, rugby and pool table among others.

Dr. Sedina Misango  
Dean of Students

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### Meet the Visionary Leader Behind SEKU's School of Law

Ambassador Dr. Koki Muli Grignon is the inaugural dean of SEKU School of Law, appointed after leading the School of Law Establishment Committee for over a year. Her efforts culminated in the approval of the LL.B. Programme at SEKU by the Council of Legal Education, securing a five-year license on 29th November, 2022.

With a distinguished career spanning 33 years, she has actively championed human rights, women's rights, academia, diplomacy, social justice, constitutional processes, democratization, and fair elections. Dr. Muli Grignon is an Attorney at Law, International Human and Women's Rights, and Constitutional Lawyer. She is also a Commissioner for Oaths, Notary Public, and a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICS). Her expertise extends to elections, democracy, and governance and is an accrediting facilitator of Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE – [www.bridge-project.org](http://www.bridge-project.org)). She has trained professionals globally and observed numerous elections across Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Previously, she served as the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations Headquarters in New York in December 2012, representing Kenya, the Africa Group, Group of Seventy-Seven & China, and UN member states.

Before her diplomatic tenure, she held various roles at South Eastern University College (SEUCO), including lecturer and Director/Dean of School of External Studies and Continuing Education and acting Legal Officer of SEKU. Dr. Muli Grignon played a pivotal role in SEKU's transition to an independent full-fledged public University, receiving its Charter in 2013.

Her extensive government roles included serving as the joint secretary of the task force reviewing Press Laws from 1993 to 1995, Commissioner/Board Member of the National Commission on Gender and Development from 2004 to 2007, and member of the National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005. She collaborated with international organizations such as the United Nations Peace Keeping Missions, UNDP, IGAD, International IDEA, and ICJ-Kenya Section. She also actively participated in the 2003 – 2004 National Constitutional Conference held at Bomas of Kenya.

Additionally, she has collaborated with numerous inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations (UN) Peace Keeping Missions, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), International IDEA, the Institute for Education in Democracy (IED), International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya Section), among others. Furthermore, she has been a regular columnist in the East Africa Sunday Standard since 2021. Prior to her departure for New York, she also contributed as a columnist to the Saturday Standard in 2011 and 2012.

Dr. Muli Grignon earned her Ph.D. in Law from the University of Dar Es Salaam School of Law, a master's degree in human Rights from the University of London, an LL.B (Hon.) from the University of Nairobi, and a Diploma in Law from the Kenya School of Law. She is deeply rooted in SEKU's growth, having witnessed its evolution since its days as a Constituent College of the University of Nairobi (SEUCO). Dr. Muli Grignon takes immense pride in her enduring association with the institution, contributing significantly to its remarkable milestones and achievements since 2011.

**Amb. FCS. Dr. Koki Muli Grignon Ag.**  
Corporation Secretary and Director of Legal Services

## SEKU Council Secretariat

Amb. Dr. Koki Muli Grignon is the Acting Corporation Secretary and Director of Legal Services at the South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). Her duties and functions include the following:- providing Secretariat and Corporation Secretary services to the Council of SEKU and overseeing the University's Directorate of Legal Services. These entail duties such as ensuring that new Council members undergo induction, facilitating the skills development of Council Members, adequately advising Council Members on their duties and responsibilities and on matters of governance and compliance, ensuring the Council complies with laws, rules, regulations, standards, and the University's constitutive documents, ensures regular review of the Board Charter and related policies. Also, the Council Secretariat ensures that notices, agenda, and Council papers are dispatched to Council members on a timely basis and that the proceedings and resolutions of the Council and its Committees are recorded accurately, adequately, and circulated on a timely basis. We also facilitate the preparation and implementation of the Council work plan. We ensure that each Council member is issued with the relevant organization's legal documents such as Strategic Plan, Board Charter, Code of Conduct and Ethics, and Mwongozo among other relevant documents. We also maintain and update the register of attendance and conflict of interests and facilitate the Board/Council evaluation process usually done by the State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC). We coordinate the governance audit process and maintain a cordial and professional relationship with the board membership. We also organize various Board/Council activities and facilitate their participation in university activities like graduation ceremonies, inspection of new campuses, and other important university events and activities. She is also in charge of the University's legal services including advising the Council, Management, various organs of the University, and the University at large.

It is therefore with profound pride and admiration that she joins the others to heartily congratulate the graduands of the 10th SEKU Graduation ceremony, 2023.

Amb. Dr. FCS Koki Muli Grignon, Ph.D.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### A Journey Through Music and Introspection: The Rise of Tuku Kantu

Tuku Kantu, a talented musician and SEKU alumni with the real name Philip Munyau Mutuku, has been making waves in the music industry. His stage name, Tuku Kantu, is a blend of inspiration from his father, Mutuku, and a pep talk that empowers him to believe in himself, echoing, "Tuku can too".

#### Early music experiences



*Philip Munyau Mutuku in a studio photo shoot*

Tuku Kantu's passion for music was ignited during his childhood when his mother introduced him to Lucky Dube's song "In Whatever you do Remember me." Inspired further by his mother's involvement in a successful quartet, he embarked on his musical journey

with the school choir at Valley View Academy, Mathare, Nairobi. Encouraged by his music teacher, Mr. Luka Robinson, he represented the school in national competitions and the Boys' Choir. During his time at SEKU, he formed an acapella group and performed at various events, both at the University and for the Kitui County Government. After graduation, he moved to Nairobi, where he discovered the vibrant underground music scene.

#### Collaboration and growth

In Nairobi, Tuku Kantu met Mwana wa Wambui, his music partner, and together they caught the attention of talent scout, DJ Pinye. Their blend of English and Swahili songs gained popularity through music competitions like Dreams to Beat where they emerged winners in 2018. Currently, they have a management team comprising of industry professionals such as their manager, Sam Carlos, Public Relations guru Mike Mutenyu and veteran DJ, now top Kenya talent scout, Peter Chuani commonly known as DJ Pinye.

## Diverse income sources

Tuku Kantu's music career provides diverse sources of income, including streaming platforms and online platforms that pay for their music. They perform at shows and events. At the time of compiling this story, they had just participated in the launch of Infinix Phone sponsored by Tripple P TV at Machakos University. Moreover, they engage in brand partnerships and marketing campaigns to promote products or services through their music and social media presence.



*Tuku Kantu and Mwana wa Maria in a photo shoot*

## Motivation and responsibilities



*Mwana wa Maria (L) and Tuku Kantu (R). They have released hits including Sasa Hivi, Ipo siku and Romance Call*

Tuku Kantu was born and brought up in the sprawling Mathare slums. His parents struggled to acquire the necessities for their children. The fear of poverty and the desire to uplift his family motivate Tuku Kantu to work hard in his music career. He strongly believes in giving back to society and mentors new musicians to

nurture the next generation of musical talents

## Greatest challenge

Vijana Barubaru's greatest challenge is time management in the whole gamut of music production. To overcome challenges and manage their time effectively, Tuku Kantu and his team break tasks into manageable activities, allocating specific times and days for completion. This approach has helped them balance their professional and personal lives.

## Fond memories of SEKU

Tuku Kantu values the creative freedom he had at SEKU, especially in organizing live gigs. He appreciates the support from former staff like Prof. Eliud Muli, Dr. Agnes Mulewa, and Mr. Isaiah Maingi. SEKU's recognition of their music meant a lot. He praises former Vice Chancellor, Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi, for his understanding and support. Tuku was pleasantly surprised when Prof. Muluvi, during graduation rehearsals, danced and had fun with them, a rare occurrence. This inclusive environment was vital, especially as music was not always positively perceived by older generations. Having SEKU support his passion empowered him to pursue his dreams with determination.

## Advice for aspiring musicians

Tuku Kantu advises aspiring musicians to stay honest and open to learning, emphasizing self-awareness and researching Kenyan music. Hard work, dedication, and responsible decision-making aligned with goals are crucial for long-term success. He strongly discourages drug abuse. Rising star Tuku Kantu's journey showcases his passion and dedication, making a positive impact on the music industry.

We are proud of his achievements and wish him continued success.

Norah Mose  
Seku News

## LUGHA YETU FAHARI YETU

### Seku sasa Inapaa, Nchini Kote Yang'aa

Nakusalimuni nyote, karibuni watu wote,  
Hili shairi la wote, nalileta kwetu sote,  
Hili lisomwe na wote, lisikilizwe na wote,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

Hivi SEKU kitu gani? Hiki kirefu cha nini?  
Ni Chuo kipo nchini, Kenya sio Marekani,  
Footnote tazameni, kirefu chake someni,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

SEKU taasisi makini, hili nyote sikieni,  
Walimu wapo makini, akili nyingi kichwani,  
Ni weledi darasani, wote wamoja kazini,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

Lugha yapiga hatua, lugha adhimu yang'aa,  
Kiswahili kinapaa, safi chapiga hatua,  
Jarida tumeandaa, la Kiswahili sikia,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

Viongozi wasikivu, hawatumi mabavu,  
Japo ni wavumilivu, hawautaki uvivu,  
SEKU ni chuo tulivu, hakitoi kozi mbovu,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

Wazazi kuwa makini, SEKU wote chagueni,  
Wanafunzi sikieni, vema nyie amkeni,  
SEKU ndo Chuo makini, kutoka kote njooni,  
SEKU SASA INAPAA, NCHINI KOTE YANG'AA.

Limetungwa na Dkt. Issaya Lupogo  
Chuo Kikuu cha Mzumbe, Morogoro  
Rafiki na shabiki wa SEKU kutoka Tanzania

## Lugha Zetu, Utambulisho Wetu, Fahari Yetu

Lugha ni sehemu muhimu ya utambulisho wetu na kijito cha fahari yetu kisichokauka. Lugha inaweza kufafanua tamaduni, historia, na jinsi tunavyoshiriki-ana na wengine. Ni njia ya kuwasiliana na kuelezea mawazo, hisia, na maoni yetu. Lugha ya asili yetu ina uwezo mkubwa wa kuunganisha wanajamii, kukuza utangamano na kuimarisha upendo, amani na umoja. Lugha iliyo na uwezo huo ni lugha ya Kiswahili na lugha asili nyinginezo zinazozungumzwa na wananchi wa Kenya, lugha zinazofungamana na utamaduni wetu, mazingira yetu na maisha yetu. Wahenga walina, *usiache mbachao kwa msala upitao!*

**Utambulisho wa kitamaduni:** Lugha hukulia katika utamaduni husika na huendeleza amali za utamaduni huo. Kupitia lugha, watu wanaweza kueleza desturi, mila, na maadili ya jamii yao. Maneno na misemo katika lugha mara nyingine hufafanua mambo muhimu kuhusu utamaduni, kama vile dini, historia, na maisha ya kila siku. Aidha, lugha ya asili ya watu kama zilizo lugha zetu adhimu kama vile Kiswahili na lugha asili nyinginezo zinazobeba na kueleza historia ya wanajamii. Kwa mfano, majina ya mahali yanasawiri historia maeneo mbalimbali ya kunakozungumzwa lugha hiyo: *Mwembe tayari, Mnazi mmoja, Madongoporomoka, Kisiwa chenye hazina, Toatugawe, Kwa Vonza, Kisumu ndogo, Wamunyu, Maili saba*, na kadhalika

**Kuunganisha jamii:** Lugha inawezesha mawasiliano kati ya wanajamii. Watu wanaweza kushirikishana hadithi, maarifa, na uzoefu wao kupitia lugha. Hali hii huimarisha uhusiano miongoni mwa wanajamii. Utambulisho wa Kijamii: Lugha inaweza kutambuli-sha jamii kwa viwango vya kijamii. Kwa mfano, lugha inaweza kutofautisha lugha ya wazee na vijana au lugha inayotumiwa na vikundi vya kazi tofauti. Hivyo, lugha hutumika kimuktadha na kimahusiano. Hivyo ndivyo ifanyavyo lugha ya Kiswahili ambayo ni utambulisho wa Mkenya na Mwafika kwa ujumla. Tujitahidi kuionea fahari lugha ya asili yetu wase-mavyo wana isimujamii kwamba lugha ya asili ndo lugha inayofaa kutolea maarifa kwa maendeleo endelevu.

**Kuunda Umoja wa Kitaifa:** Lugha ya Kiswahili pamoja na lugha nyinyine za asili nchini Kenya zina uwezo wa kuunganisha taifa au jamii nzima. Lugha rasmi ya taifa inaweza kusaidia kuimarisha umoja na kuwaunganisha watu wa mataifa tofauti katika eneo moja. Kwa muhtasari, lugha ni chombo muhimu katika kutambulisha na kujenga utambulisho wa jamii, na ina jukumu kubwa katika kuwasilisha tamaduni, historia, na uhusiano wa kijamii kwa njia inayo-eleweka.

Kuwa na fahari ya lugha yetu ni jambo muhimu sana. Lugha zetu zinaunganisha watu wetu na historia yetu, na zinaonyesha utajiri wa tamaduni zetu. Kwa kujifunza, kutumia, na kuhifadhi lugha zetu, tunaweza kudumisha utambulisho wetu na kuchangia katika kuenzi na kusambaza urithi wetu wa kitamaduni. Fahari ya lugha yetu inaweza kustawishwa kwa kujifunza, kufundisha, na kuwasiliana kwa kutumia lugha hiyo. Hivyo basi, wakareketwa na watumiaji wa lugha sote tujitoe kimasomaso katika kuenzi na kukuza lugha zetu. Tujitahidi kukumbuka kila mara kwamba mwacha mila ni mtumwa!

Na Mwalimu Brian Simidi, mwanafunzi mhitimu wa Kiswahili-SEKU (2023)

## MESSAGES FROM SEKU ALUMNI



Heartfelt congratulations, esteemed graduands! Your remarkable journey at South Eastern Kenya University has equipped you with the tools and knowledge necessary for a future brimming with boundless opportunities. Approach it with unwavering

courage and determination, and rest assured that your continued achievements will be a source of immense pride for us all.

Dr. Kezia Mbuthia  
SEKU Alumni Chair

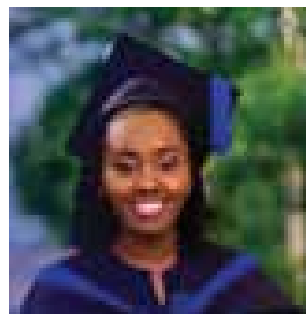


Oscar Matana Imoli, from SEKU's Class of 2019, earned a Bachelor's in Information Technology. He pursued CISCO certifications in Data Analytics and Network Security and is now pursuing a Master's in Cybersecurity at Michigan University. He's an

ICT Officer at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and runs a Digital/Data Analytics Services company.

Congrats, Class of 2023, for your remarkable achievement! Your journey reflects dedication and resilience, paving the way to this historic moment. As you enter the next phase, remember that growth never stops. Embrace challenges, follow passions, and keep impacting the world positively.

Embrace your potential, pursuing goals with determination. Experiences and connections shape future success. Trust abilities, envision contributions, seize opportunities confidently. Your impactful journey is beginning, the world awaits your influence. Congratulations again!



Gitonga Celestine Gatabi graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting. She holds a Master of Science in Commerce from KCA University. She's a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Currently an Accountant at Lema Girls

and a Private Auditor for secondary schools, she has also undertaken several short courses. Simultaneously, she's dedicated to her PhD studies in KCA University and Certified Internal Systems Audit.

Education serves to replace an uninformed mind with a receptive one. As you reach this milestone, remember that the knowledge you've acquired isn't solely a life necessity, but life in itself. This realization is not confined to classroom teachings; it is reflected in our capacity to perceive the world with new perspectives and continuously learn from it.





**Dr. David Muriuki Gikunju** Graduated in 2015 from SEKU with Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. He completed his Master of Science and PhD both in Pure Mathematics from

JKUAT in 2017 and 2022 respectively. Currently, he is a lecturer in the Department of Mathematical Sciences in Cooperative University, Nairobi. He has a message for the 2023 graduands and SEKU alumni:

To the 2023 graduates: Graduation marks the start of new opportunities and challenges, fueling growth and success. Embrace innovation and stay resilient. Congratulations, graduates, this is just the beginning. To SEKU Alumni, your exceptional achievements and contributions inspire us. Our connections grow stronger as we move forward together, shaping our University's future and supporting future generations.



**Phoebe Kalelwa Murunga**, obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Metereology in 2017. She is pursuing a master's in environmental science, at Kenyatta University while serving as the Senior

Administrative Assistant in the DVC-Academic and Students Affairs Department at Murang'a University of Technology.

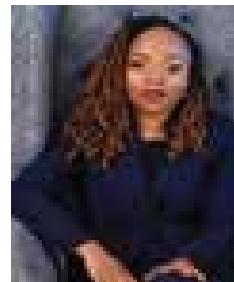
To the graduands, envision your journey's start into life. Embrace small progress steps, forming the foundation of growth. Challenges come, yet faith guides timing. Success values process, humbly embracing beginnings. Seize opportunities in your skill set. If scarce, start where possible. Remember, if others succeeded, you can too.



**Robert Wahome Kiruthu** achieved completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 2014. He further obtained a Certificate in Field Geoscientific Mapping through the Pan-African Support to the EuroGeosurveys – Organiza-

tion of African Geological Surveys [PanAfGeo]. Presently, he is the Senior Superintending Geologist in the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy & Maritime Affairs, State Department for Mining, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Congratulations on your four-year academic journey! Embrace your newfound knowledge and endless opportunities with dedication. Your potential is boundless; self-belief is the key. To alumni: SEKU transforms individuals into industry leaders. The Alumni Association aids recent grads in networking and career advancement.



**Consolata Gathoni Gitau** earned a Bachelor's in Range Management in 2017 and a master's from the University of Nairobi. She works at International Livestock Research Institute and Birdlife International and is involved in conservation

programmes in various organizations. Her notable projects received funding from the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife.

Congratulations, graduands! As you enter postgraduate studies, remember each new day offers fresh possibilities. Your efforts are valuable—explore short courses, volunteer, venture into entrepreneurship, intern, or pursue advanced degrees. Countless avenues await your exploration. Here's to your journey ahead, teeming with opportunities. Best of luck!



**Boniface Muthama Katumuta** graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Education in Science (Mathematics and Physics). He plans to pursue a master's degree in physics at SEKU. Currently, he teaches Mathematics and Physics at Ngoto Boys' High School in Makueni County.

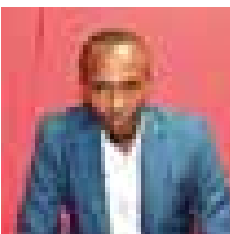
Congrats, Class of 2023! Your achievements inspire. As you progress, recall your dreams' importance. My example: I began "Shifting Grades" online tutorial platform, three years ago. It boasts 2.2 million YouTube followers globally, showcasing determination's impact. Faith guides your journey ahead.



**Joseph Njuguna** is a 2015 SEKU graduate of Bachelor of Science in Statistics. He is currently undertaking an MBA at KU Leuven in Belgium. He has also undertaken several short courses and training programmes. He is the Director of Policy at the

International Corporative Alliance Headquarter in Brussels, Belgium.

Congratulations on your graduation! In challenging times, keep moving forward, have faith in yourself, and embrace a growth mindset. Life is a journey to your best self; believe in persistence, learn from ups and downs, and never give up on your dreams. Best wishes for your next adventure



**Felix Musyoka Mumo** graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. He further obtained certification in project management, user experience in Software & currently he is pursuing MBA at Kenyatta University. He is an

ICT tutor and Head of Department at KIPS Technical College in Nairobi.

As you venture forth armed with knowledge and determination, remember your immense potential and the exciting possibilities ahead. Keep learning, have faith, embrace innovation, and view challenges as opportunities for growth. Congratulations, and may your journey be filled with faith, determination, and accomplishment

## Dreams Turning into Degrees for Siblings in SEKU



*Clockwise: Edward Kipchumba (Bachelor of Economics, 2016). Gladys Jeruto (Bachelor of IT, 2019), Meshack Kipkurui (graduating with 2023 class), and Januarious Kipkurui (Bachelor IT, Second Year).*

From Edward to Januarious and counting... How many have you ushered into SEKU? The educational journey of Edward, Gladys, Meshack, and Januarious is centred around SEKU's serene campus, which spans 10,000 acres. Edward Kipchumba graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Economics and works at the Cooperative Bank, Homabay. His introduction to SEKU in 2016 left a lasting impression; sure that the tranquil environment of SEKU will foster not only academics but also personal growth.

Edward's positive experience in SEKU inspired Gladys Jeruto, his first cousin, to join in 2014, eventually earning her Bachelor of Information Technology in 2019. Following suit, were Meshack Kipkurui, Edward's brother, who is graduating today with a Bachelor of Education (Mathematics and Physics), and Januarious Kipkurui who is in second year pursuing a Bachelor of Information Technology. They chose SEKU for its uninterrupted academic programmes, serene study environment, seamless course transfers, and of course for adventure from their Nandi home county where they all earned their basic education.



*Gladys and Kipchumba during the latter's graduation ceremony in 2019*

Hailing from Nandi County, Emgwen Sub County, Terige Location and the villages of Cheplasgei and Ndubeneti, they ventured across seven counties to attend SEKU, showcasing their dedication to quality education. This underscores SEKU's enduring appeal and reputation as an institution of choice.

As we celebrate Meshack's achievement today, we trust that Edward and Gladys connect him with the SEKU Alumni Association and job networks. Additionally, we believe they will all guide Januarious in his SEKU journey, further emphasizing the family's deep connection with SEKU.

Norah Mose  
Seku News

## A Graduan's Journal

In the hallowed halls of SEKU, our journey began in 2019, a vibrant canvas of exploration and youthful exuberance.

Our matriculation ceremony on 30th August was a pivotal moment, our dearest Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Research and Students affair, then, Prof. Zipporah, oozed her wisdom. For once, I thought she had some bloodline from Socrates. One of her most outstanding pieces of advice that shaped my academic focus was her warning of lurking snakes in the SEKU compound yet assuring us safety if we did not venture into the bushes.

It was later that I understood this was a literal but a philosophical matter. Additionally, she ignited a spark, reminding us that this was the beginning of a journey through which our stories and destiny will be rewritten.

But campus life was not to be a bed full of roses as we had thought despite the freedom hype. "Muchele kojolea" which was plain rice with bean soup became our everyday meal at the central Mess, a simple meal shared with roommates that bound us together. Besides, one of the major challenges I faced was not fully understanding what my course entailed. Initially, I thought I was enrolled to a Bachelor of Education Arts, however at a second and keener glance, I was to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree, a course whose outcomes I never fully understood. My attempts to transfer to education were rendered futile as I did not attain the required grade in mathematics that would make the transfer possible. My dream and passion for teaching seemed shattered as I was now trapped into pursuing a "Bachelor of Being Around" (BA). The course was almost not going to be offered due to quorum issues. I looked down upon myself and labeled myself as a terrible failure in life. I was depressed that I even contemplated suicide but thanks to friends like Evoslyne who I met in my first geography lecture. She made me feel encouraged and I braced myself to fight on.



*4th year Geography students' trip to Nanyuki*

Then, in 2nd semester, came the pandemic, forcing SEKU into distance learning which was tough to keep up with due to inaccessibility to laptops and reliable internet connectivity. Afterwards because of decongesting the hostels during the pandemic, reservations were made for first years. This made majority of students look for alternative accommodation at Kwa Vonza colloquially “Kwa Vumbi”. KV experience hardened most of us to be resilient. Living at Kwa Vonza was an adventure; being sent on an exile by roommates, loud music neighbors, early and late classes, and “Kuinama” which in the rich man’s language is to skip lunch effectively possibly by binge browsing in the free university Wi-Fi. Challenges varied from the scorching sun on most time of the year, inadequate transportation to campus and going to class on an empty stomach. Often without transportation to campus, we would walk roughly 7 km between the Central Administration and School of Education block and KV.

Through it all, one thing that stood out was a good University Management that ensured us a seamless learning experience, dedicated and seasoned lecturers who wholeheartedly imparted knowledge on us and an enduring friendships and team work among fellow students. Today, I stand tall, reflecting on the exciting yet tough journey at SEKU as one whose dreams seemed shattered now graduates with First-Class Honors. SEKU, with its snakes and all, taught us to navigate life's uncertainties. We have learned to rewrite our stories, and now, armed with degrees, we are ready to rewrite the world.

Congratulations, my fellow graduates. Let us carry SEKU's spirit of resilience and the bonds we have formed into the next chapter of our lives.

Wesley Omondi  
BA graduand and prospective alumnus

### **Congratulations our Valedictorian!**



Mercy Jesire Kiptui  
School of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing

### **Congratulations 2023 Best Students per School!**

1. Mercy Jesire Kiptui  
School of Health Science
2. Nicodemus Muinde Mutinda  
School of Education
3. Wesley Omondi  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
4. Chepngeno H. Mercy  
School of Business and Economics
5. Josephat Nganga Musyoka  
School of Science and Computing
6. Ezra Bett  
School of Agriculture, Environment, Water and Natural Resources

### **Congratulations 2023 PhD Graduands!**

1. Mercy Cheruto Kebenei  
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Management
2. Nancy Cherono Koech  
Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Water Resources Management

### **Congratulations our Master's Graduands!**

### **Congratulations our Undergraduate Graduands!**

### **Congratulations our Diploma Graduands!**

## PICTORIAL



*SEKU Team at Moi University during Moi Summer School on Future of Postgraduate Supervision on 6th October 2023.*



*SEKU staff and students display certificates after a successful training on Design Thinking at HSWT, Germany*



*SEKU staff and visiting faculty from Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) during a photo session.*



*Staff from HSWT (Germany) hold a meeting with SEKU staff during a visit at SEKU.*



*SEKU member of staff explains a concept to international students (participating in student mobility programme) during a Design Thinking workshop at HSWT, Germany.*



*SEKU staff and students showcase their innovation at an ASK show*



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