DEDAN KIMATHI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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DeKUT holds her 10thGraduation Ceremony



On 28th May, 2021, the University conferred degrees and awarded diplomas and certificates to 1, 312 graduands (now graduates) in a Virtual Graduation Ceremony that marked the University's 10th Graduation. The ceremony was virtual in light of the directives on social distancing following the corona virus pandemic that hit the country last year. This was the second virtual graduation ceremony the University has held with the first one, which was held in May last year, being the first of its kind in the country. Just like last year, the University Senate resolved to hold this second virtual graduation to maintain the student-centric approach and ensure timely completion of their studies. The graduating class will receive their certificates in two weeks to enable them venture into the job market.

Speaking at a meeting after the graduation, Ms. Mumina Gallo Bonaya, the Chief Administrative Secretary, State Departments for Early Learning & Basic Education and University Education and Research, at the Ministry of Education; representing the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Education, Prof. George Magoha, commended the University for going over and above to pull off the graduation, while strictly adhering to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 protocols.

The graduation ceremony was streamed live on our Digital Channel; DeKUT Channel (dekutchannel.dkut.ac.ke), University's official YouTube Channel (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology) and the Facebook Page (Dedan Kimathi University of Technology).

Congratulations graduating class of 2021! We wish you all the best as you begin your professional journey.

Training on Gender Based Violence Prevention

Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) is committed to ensuring that all our students and staff are treated equitably. Although there exists some entrenched ways of supporting Persons Living with Disabilities, recent legislations and international conventions have required that the University improves yet further on our provision and reappraise all our practiwces to ensure that they don't unintentionally discriminate or present unnecessary barriers to these persons.

It is in line with this that the University tasked the Directorate of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs (GD & EA) to come up with initiatives to ensure that mainstream agendum happens. The directorate achieves her mandate by supporting students who are parenting, students and staff members with disabilities, creating awareness and sensitizing the DeKUT community on Gender and Disability issues. The Office of the Director of Gender, Disability and Equity Affairs works closely with the Gender Mainstreaming Committee and the Disability Mainstreaming Committee.

In an effort to mainstream gender and disability affairs, the directorate trains both students and staff members on issues of gender and disability. On Wednesday 24th May, 2021, the directorate trained 50 students from different departments to be champions of gender based violence prevention.



The Kenya Alumni Engagement Program holds its 11th Alumni Speaker Series at the Technical University of Mombasa

The Kenya Alumni Engagement Programme is a partnership between Cultural Vistas, United States and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology. This programme aims at recruiting alumni of U.S. government-funded programs to help Kenyans address challenges that are in the way of the nation's progress.



The project's main objective is to engage alumni of U.S. government exchange programs in enhancing peace andsecurity,economicempowerment, health and the rule of law in Kenya. In the month of May, the program held its 11th Alumni Speaker Series at the Technical University of Mombasa. The day's theme was Enhancing Peace and Security in our Communities, with the speaker being Ms. Shamin Juma, an alumna of YALI.



The program will also strengthen county alumni chapters. The project calls on alumni to join the speaker series and develop mentorship programs in locations where the Embassy has American Spaces – Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Lamu and Kisumu. The project will also launch a competition among U.S. government alumni to carry out community service projects.

Courtesy Visit by a Team from Meru University of Science and Technology to explore possible areas of collaboration



On 21st May, 2021, a team from Meru University of Science and Technology paid a courtesy visit to the University to explore areas of collaboration in the endeavor to source for locally manufactured electronic devices.

This happened weeks after the President launched the Semiconductor Technologies Limited Factory at the University.

The factory, which is the only one of its kind in Africa, manufactures nanotechnology products such as integrated circuits and sensors used in electronic gadgets for the global market. The products from this factory; such as the semiconductors which are tiny chips that control the most critical functions of any electronic apparatus have a high demand as are used in electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, televisions and computers. These products have been on high demand globally especially during the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic that has led to most people working from home and students learning virtually hence pushing high the demand for smartphones, computers and high-resolution screens. Other countries that produce the chips are Thailand, South Korea, Japan and the United States of America.

The establishment of the Semiconductor Technologies Limited (STL) in the University is a major milestone in the development of Dedan Kimathi Science & Technology Park (DeST-Park). The Park is an important venture that brings together professors, innovators, capital and business experts to work together to support the development of new innovations and the creation of new commercial enterprises to create employment and increase the wealth of the society hence contributing to improved standards of living.



DeKUT Students privileged to Participate in the 2021 Intervarsity 'Capture The Flag' (CTF) Competition held at AFRALTI Center

Capture The Flag commonly going by the initials CTF is a special kind of cybersecurity competition designed to challenge participants to solve computer security problems and/or capture and defend computer systems. This year, a team of three students from DeKUT were privileged to represent the University at the 2021 Intervarsity CTF Competition that was held at the AFRALTI Center, Nairobi. The competition brought together ten teams from different universities across the country who had earlier qualified at the semi-finals that were held on 12th and 13th February, 2021.

The 2021 Intervarsity CTF Competition aimed at bringing together college and university students passionate about cyber security in Kenya. Members from each team had to combine their knowledge and skills to find flags then submit through the Cyberspace website profile to earn points.

The challenges were designed from real-life systems and scenarios. By solviwng the challenges as a team, the participants gained much experience of what is expected of cyber-security experts. "The night was long with a lot of struggle and thinking trying to penetrate the virtual systems to find the flags designed for the competition, but at around midnight, we were able to find our first flag, which placed us at position 5 out of 10 on the leaderboard. The competition went on all night and ended in the morning" – expressed the participants.

The event ended with an awarding ceremony for the top 3 teams at the leaderboard and a closing speech by the guest speaker Madam Catherine Masinde from AFRALTI. She talked about the importance of practicing ethical cyber security activities at a professional level as well as taking certification courses in that field. She welcomed anyone who may be interested to book a chance at Cisco Kenya. Although the night was long and cold, the experience gained was amazing as well as educational. Each member of the team had their most outstanding and memorable experience. The following quoted remarks were from each member of the DeKUT team.

"Having a chance to participate as an individual and as a team representing the University was a great honor for me. The most incredible moment was meeting young students from different universities. We shared the same ambitions and dream of becoming cyber-security experts and exercising it as a profession. The experience gained from solving the challenges was an enlightenment of what is expected of us in the industry. I also have to thank the University for the transport and accommodation expenses facilitation."

~~JAMES GICHIRI, Team Captain.

"We had two weeks to go for the finals at AFRALTI and we all knew that we had to do our level best. It was all about practicing our skills online on various platforms on the web for the two weeks. We also occasionally met at the school and shared skills and ideas on resolving the security problems. The toughest challenge for me was in the reverse engineering category, namely: "magic". Having no experience in reverse engineering, I had no clue how to go about it. This has given me the motivation to explore it, and I have currently started by writing .asm code focusing on 86_64bit assembly. I have also delved deeper into other areas. I would like to thank the University for facilitating us with the opportunity to attend the event."

~~FESTUS GICHOHI, Team Member.

"For a first live Capture The Flag event, we did great. Since the event will now be held annually, we are aiming to improve next year. We learnt a lot of skills and techniques and new ways to approach various challenges. The event was more than what we expected as we were spoilt for choice with delicious meals and lots of coffee throughout the night. We would like to thank the University for the financial support."

~~ ALLAN NJUGUNA,

The general feeling of the participants was that the experience was amazing. They reminisce the great feeling that came with sharing ideas and training each other on various attacking vectors, exploiting handling and assessment techniques, and many more. Together with Mr. Njihia, the Innovations and Incubation Coordinator at the University's Innovation and Incubation Hub (DeHUB), the team had a chance to have a chat with Ms. Catherine Masinde; the Cisco Academy Support Administrator and Cisco Academy Instructor at African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) who inspired them to continue working as a group and further form a cyber-security club at the University.