

From Kianda to City Mayor



The Kisumu City hall. Inset: Her Worship the Mayor of Kisumu City, Mrs Prisca Auma Misachi

Patient, tolerant and not easily fazed are the words that came to mind as soon as I was ushered into the office of Her Worship the Mayor of Kisumu City, Mrs Prisca Auma Misachi. I was an hour late for the appointment, and I was sure one of her assistants would turn me away. It came as a pleasant surprise when I was told the Mayor still had time for the interview. Prisca is the second woman Mayor of Kisumu after Grace Onyango, who served between 1965 and 1966.

Prisca had just finished chairing a councillors' meeting yet she looked very calm and relaxed, nothing like the picture of a harassed busy politician I had in mind.

Prisca, a Kianda College graduate, -- Kianda College merged with Strathmore College in 1993 -- was born in Uyoma, Rarieda Division in Bondo District in 1949. She attended primary school in her home area and then came to Nairobi to pursue

secondary education. She enrolled in what was then called The Church Army School where she studied up to Form 2. She left school to work for the family of the great trade unionist, the late Tom Mboya. She was later to become Tom Mboya's receptionist.

Prisca reminisces, "I remember holding Mboya's first born, Rose Mboya. And while working at Mboya's house, I met Olga Marlin, then the Principal of Kianda College. Tom Mboya arranged for me to enroll in a secretarial course at the College where I trained for about one and a half years".

She graduated with a typing speed of 50 words per minute (wpm) and shorthand speed of 80. Prisca was posted to Kericho Planning Office and then moved to the Ministry of Planning in Kisumu. Later on she joined the Provincial Planning Office in Nyanza as a secretary.

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A word from the Vice Chancellor



On the 6th of August 2005, we celebrated 3 years since receiving the Letter of Interim Authority from the Commission for Higher Education.

Prof. Odhiambo This period has been a time of planning and progress in physical facilities, academic structure, co-curricular activities and enhanced governance.

In April 2005 we launched the Strathmore Business School (SBS). The School is a designated member of the Global Business Schools Network which is sponsored by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). We expect to begin Executive Education and MBA programmes in the year 2006. The University has also developed several graduate programmes, namely: Master of Commerce, Master of Information Technology, Master of Computer Based Information Systems, and a postgraduate Diploma in Education Management. We hope to begin these courses in the near future.

The University has introduced a sports scholarship scheme. These scholarships give needy young sportsmen and women with outstanding academic abilities a chance to get a good university education and at the same time participate competitively in sports.

We have been guided by our own vision and by the guidelines provided by the Commission for Higher Education. We look forward confidently to the day - in the very near future - when we will receive our University Charter and take our place among the more established universities in Kenya.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 4th Issue of our Newsletter. In it we wish to continue telling you news about Strathmore University, its staff, alumni and friends.

This issue is special. Our primary story is of a Kianda College alumna. We want to reach out to the many Kianda College alumnae who are now part of the Strathmore University Alumni. Another wonderful story is that of Mike Keefe, an alumnus whose story is also inspiring and entertaining.

Other features include stories about the University's academic development, sports, tributes and pictures of various activities our alumni have had round the globe. We also feature some photos of our youngest Alumni from the recent Graduation 2005.

Our next edition of "Letter from Strathmore" will be a special one. In it we will bring you scenes from the Alumni Reunion that takes place on 7th to 8th October.

Remember, we value your suggestions and comments and we are grateful for whatever contributions you make.

Happy reading!

Martin Mundia
Alumni Relations Officer

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In 1971, she joined the Kenya Commercial Bank as a secretary for one year before moving to BAT as a Personal Secretary to the Divisional Marketing Manager in Kisumu. She worked for BAT from 1972 to 1983. While in BAT, Prisca went back to Kianda for about six months to train and increase her typing speed to 100 wpm.

In 1983, she joined politics as a Councillor for Kisumu Stadium Ward, which she represents to date. Her inspiration is the late

Tom Mboya. "I remember how people would visit Tom and how he would solve their problems". She decided that she wanted to be a part of it too.

"The unexpected assassination of Tom did not take away my dreams," she says. She found support in Mboya's family. The late Peter Mboya sponsored her campaigns and after Peter's death, Susan Mboya, Peter's widow, continued supporting her.

It hasn't been smooth sailing all the way though. Prisca lost in the 1992 elections, which she vied on a KANU ticket. But she soldiered on. She recaptured her seat in 2002 and went on to be elected as the Mayor in August 2004. Talk of patience: for 20 years she waited to be

the Mayor of Kisumu!

Her devotion to the Mboyas is evident. Of her four children, three bear



Her Worship the Mayor of Kisumu City, Mrs Prisca Auma Misachi

names from the Mboya family. Her first born, Pamela, is named after Tom's wife. Her two sons are named after Tom Mboya and Tom's father-in-law. As a mother, she advises professional women to always set aside time for their family.

Her job is full of challenges. Take for example, the HIV pandemic. There is a street in her ward that

has 525 homes and most of them are headed by 12 or 14 year old children with a number of younger siblings to look after since their parents died of AIDS.

Her view is that the awareness campaign is overemphasized and that more needs to be done for those living with HIV/Aids and those affected by the pandemic. There is need for more antiretroviral treatment, and better care for the orphans for example, says Prisca.

She fondly remembers her days in Kianda and some of her friends like Marcella, Koki, Matilda and Ruth Gatei. She is especially grateful for having met Miss Marlin whom she still meets occasionally, for instance when they visit Mrs Pamela Mboya.



Prof. David Sperling (Back row, 5th right) with Strathmore Alumni in Atlanta USA.



Former Kianda teacher Elise Rockart admires a gift from Strathmore as David Mwangi looks on.

Participant-Centered Learning for Strathmore Faculty



Participants of the 'Teaching the Practice of Management' workshop pose for a group photograph

Training lecturers in practice-based teaching methods enables them to develop judgement and problem-solving skills in the classroom. Practice-based teaching, which encompasses discussion, participant-centred and case teaching methods, was the focus of a 7-day workshop held at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) Johannesburg, from 8th to 14th May 2005. It was attended by six faculty members from Strathmore University. The workshop: *Teaching the Practice of Management: A Workshop for African Faculty*, targeted African faculties in management and business schools and was hosted by GIBS in collaboration with the Lagos Business School (LBS), with funding from the International Finance Corporation's Global Business Schools Network (GBSN).

The workshop addressed the changing needs of teachers of Management for Africa's new generation of business and community leaders. It focused particular attention on the efforts required to introduce into African management education curricular, practice-based teaching and learning methods, often involving classroom discussion of case studies. Dr. Ruth Kiraka is the GBSN/IFC Project

Leader at Strathmore University.

The Workshop was facilitated by a team of seven professors from Harvard Business School, Columbia Business School, Gordon Institute of Business Science, Lagos Business School, IESE Business School and the Graduate School of Management, University of Pretoria. Also present at the Workshop were Professors Guy Pfeffermann, Director of GBSN, and Albert Alos, Vice Chancellor, Pan African University, Lagos.

It was the first Africa-wide business schools workshop. It brought together 63 participants from seven countries, representing nineteen African business schools. Strathmore University was represented by Dr. Ruth Kiraka, Mr. George Njenga, Dr. Margaret Kobia, Dr. Freddie Acosta, Mrs. Beatrice Dimba and Mrs. Hellen Otieno.

Prior to the workshop, the deans/directors of the participating business schools had a two-day meeting on 6th–7th May. The meeting focused on the institutional issues associated with participant-centred teaching methodologies and curriculum development. The Deans learnt strategies of revising curricula, training faculty and supporting the cultivation of these teaching methods at their schools.

Good Start for Microfinance Course

The Microfinance diploma class started in February 2005 at Strathmore University. The class has a great mix of students with a broad range of experiences to share.

They include professionals in the industry ranging from Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies (SACCOs) and other microfinance non-governmental organizations.

There are also those working in various commercial institutions like banks, forex bureaus, airlines, parastatals, the Central Bank and business enterprises. This variety adds to the lively debates in class, as well as putting forward new ideas of how things can be done in the industry.

The MFI course teaches the practical skills of managing an institution's portfolio as well as meeting the very specific needs of low-income earners with products and services tailored to this end.

SU Introduces Leadership and Management Diploma

The School of Administration and Management started a Diploma in Leadership and Management in September 2005. This diploma is unique as it has been developed by the University to meet the need for practising and potential middle level managers, team leaders or supervisory staff in the Kenyan market. The diploma started as an evening course and will eventually be offered full time.

The course focuses on exploring and understanding contemporary management issues and lays emphasis on action, observation, analysis and reflection, thereby offering participants a unique opportunity to integrate what they are learning to their places of work.

It is structured to reflect the changing business world and to provide a firm foundation for the world of work.

Strathmore Triumphs !



SU Blades Voted Team of the Year 2005

The Strathmore University Basketball team, *the Blades*, scooped the *Team of the Year Award*, while their coach was awarded the *Coach of the Year Award* at the Universities and Colleges Basketball League (UCBL)

This is the second season SU has taken part in this league. The men's team made it to the play offs after finishing third out of 12 other universities and colleges. In the play offs, the team lost to Kenya Christian Industrial Training Institute (KCITI) but went ahead to defeat Kenya Polytechnic and was crowned the runners up of the UCBL 2005.

Turkey, here we come ...

Three basketball players: Kevin Oruko, Godfrey Abuya and Kennedy Shiundu from Strathmore University were selected to the national universities' combined basketball team that will represent Kenya Universities in the world University games in Turkey later this year.

Action!

The SU ladies basketball team finished this year's Universities and

Colleges Basketball League (UCBL) in 4th position, ahead of five other teams. This was a remarkable performance as this was the first time the ladies team took part in the UCBL. Last season the ladies team was voted *the Most Disciplined Team* in the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) League.

Great Rift Rugby Tournament

The SU Rugby team traveled to Nakuru for the Great Rift 10-a-side rugby tournament in April. This was the team's first major competition since winning a bronze medal during the East Africa University Games held in December 2004.

This was the first time the SU rugby team took part in a Kenya Rugby Football Union (KRFU) organized tournament.

Due to their impressive performance in this event the team was invited to the national Under-21 tournament circuit that was held at KCB grounds in May.

The Strathmore University captain caught the eye of the scouts and was called up to the National Under-21 team. The team is preparing for the Kenya Universities Games to be held later in the year at Moi University.

More Action!

The hockey team had a busy schedule on 1st May as they started their Vaisakhi tournament fixtures at Parklands Sports Club. The team was pooled alongside such experienced sides as Karate Axiom, Wazalendo, and Nakuru Athletics.

Their first game was cancelled due to heavy rain, while in their second game the SU team defeated Karate Axiom 6-2 to top their pool with a maximum 3 points and 6 goals. In the second game the team traveled to Nakuru where they lost 2 - 0 to Nakuru Athletics. The team later beat Parklands before losing their final game to Wazalendo.

Soccer

The soccer team took part in the Kenya Universities Sports Association annual tournament at Egerton University. The team reached the finals after eliminating Egerton University, Moi University, and Kabarak University where they met the University of Nairobi. The team scooped the runners up trophy in a game that was decided through a penalty shoot out.

Mike Keefe in the Isle of Man

Mike Keefe had a very special 60th birthday celebration in Rome with his wife, son and youngest daughter smack in the middle of the election of Pope Benedict XVI! They were planning a quiet evening out when the bells of St. Peter's Basilica started tolling and people thronging towards St. Peter's Square. Very few people celebrate their birthdays like this and even less for their 60th. Imagine if such a crowd started singing Paul McCartney's version of Happy Birthday after the *Habemus Papam*.

Mike, an alumnus of Strathmore College, left Nairobi 24 years ago to settle in The Isle of Man, a small island in the Irish Sea with a population of about 75,000 people. He remembers some of his classmates who include the late Mathias Keah, Jim McFie, Joseph Ouma, Ives Mascarenhas and Palmasio Getecha.

After completing his A-Levels in Strathmore in 1963, Mike joined university and qualified as an electrical engineer specializing in high voltage distribution, generation and transmission.

He worked for 4 years with a local engineering consulting company, East African Engineering Consultants, based in Nairobi and in the next 12 years, he worked with ABB (formerly Brown Boveri & Co, Switzerland) based in Nairobi. His role was



Mike Keefe

General Manager for the group covering Eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands. His office was in Kijabe Street and his favorite joint was Norfolk Hotel's verandah bar. He vividly remembers the "Tusker Baridi".

Mike who got married at St. Paul's Catholic Chapel at the University of Nairobi has three children. His eldest daughter teaches English in Mexico; his son is a qualified fitness instructor, while the youngest daughter is still in college.

Mike set up and is now running the consultancy management of a local branch of a UK based electronic security company, Tyco International. Parallel to the consultancy work, Mike Keefe set up a trading company, Chornco LLC (visit www.chornco.com) primarily within the engineering field, for the export of aftermarket fuel and lubricant additives to overseas markets.

Through associate organisations, he is also involved in the marketing and promotion of certain refined petrochemical products manufactured in the US but internationally traded through the Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man, where he has been living with his family and doing business, is not his last stop. Mike plans to settle in Spain some day and has already gone into Spanish Property business (visit www.jpshomecare.com). He hopes to be able to attend the Alumni Reunion Day in Nairobi on 8th October 2005 and looks forward for a Strathmore alumni reunion in Spain.

People

"Best Kept Secret in Kenya" - Leakey



Richard Leakey
Secretary and Head of the Civil Service

Does the name Richard Leakey ring a bell? Of course it should! The renowned conservationist who was appointed to Kenya's Dream Team as Cabinet

paid Strathmore University a visit in July. Prof. T.C.I. Ryan, Chairman of the University Council and Mrs. Bernadette Musundi, a member of the University Council received him.

The University Librarian, Mr Fidelis Katonga and the Director of Strathmore Business School (SBS), Mr George Njenga, gave him a tour of the new library and auditorium. After the tour, he

remarked, "this is the best kept secret in Kenya...to see this is a breath of fresh air."

He said he wants to help the university in its development plans by introducing it to people in Kenya and abroad. He has also agreed to be a member of the Advisory Board of the Strathmore Business School. The university will greatly benefit from his experience.

St. Josemaria Escriva remembered



Rt. Rev. Silas Njiru, retired Bishop of Meru, leads the Opening Prayer



A section of the congregation follows the proceedings



Students from Kianda School dance at the beginning of the entrance procession



Rt. Rev. Silas Njiru, retired Bishop of Meru, addresses the congregation before concluding the mass

Thousands of people gathered at the Strathmore University graduation square on 25th June 2005 for a Solemn Mass in memory of the founder of Opus Dei, St. Josemaria Escriva. The Mass marked 30 years since he departed from this world on 26th June 1975. During the Mass the faithful also

remembered St. Josemaria's teachings and ideals on how to live a life of service to God and all mankind.

In their remarks during the Mass, the celebrants spoke about the effect St. Josemaria's message has had and is having, in the Church and the world.

St. Josemaria Escriva inspired and

encouraged the founders of Strathmore University to establish an educational institution in Kenya where young people could receive quality education regardless of race or tribe. He followed Strathmore's early steps very closely until his death in 1975. He was canonized (declared a saint) by Pope John Paul II on 6th October 2002.

Family Congress



Left to right: Luis Franceschi of Strathmore University, Her Excellency Jacqueline Mendoza, Ambassador of Venezuela to Kenya, His Excellency Archbishop Alain P. Lebeaupin, Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya, Prof. J.Odhiambo (Vice Chancellor Strathmore University), Mrs. Undurruga and His Excellency Mr. Pedro Undurruga (Ambassador of Chile to Kenya), His Grace Raphael Ndingi Mwana a'Nzeki, Archbishop of Nairobi, Mr Raymond Mutura, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Family Congress and of Voice of the Family in Africa pose for a photograph after the opening ceremony of the Family Congress which took place from the 19th to 21st August 2005 at the University Auditorium. The theme of the congress was "Towards Strengthening the Family in Africa".

In Memoriam - Constance Gillan

Principal Kianda College 1979 – 1987

By *Cuca Canel*

I first met Constance when I went to collect her at the Airport on 4th January 1964. We had been waiting for over a year for the teacher who was coming from Ireland to teach in Kianda Secretarial College and I wondered what she would be like. On that bright morning, I encountered for the first time the deep blue eyes of Constance Gillan.

Constance was a born teacher. She riveted the students with her steady eyes that could inspire fear, until you got to know her. At other times they sparkled with humour. She brought great fun into the staff room with her dry wit and her capacity to enjoy a good joke.

Constance was determined that all of her students should succeed. She did not put up with mediocrity, with the result that her students not only did well in the classroom, but also in life. She was concerned about her students as persons, not only as candidates for exams.

A proof of this is how she followed them afterwards, continuing to take great



Miss Gillan (left) with a Kianda School Student

interest in their spiritual welfare and their different paths in life.

How often I found her knitting booties for the newborn baby of a past Kianda student! As a result, Constance became a beloved institution at Kianda and on meeting past students they would invariably ask me: "How's Kianda?" followed by "and how's Miss Gillan?"

For the Kianda College 25th Anniversary Book Miss Gillan wrote some memorable words:

"I have watched the College grow and I have grown with it in experience, in understanding, in the joy of witnessing the development of the students—professionally, humanly, spiritually. I have become identified with Kianda and the country it serves.

Successive generations of students are parading before my memory—all nations, all colours, all shapes and sizes, all levels of intelligence. The slow ones—generally pronounced unteachable—now holding important posts; the clever ones and the average—each one carving her niche in the world, giving others the benefit of her skills and her education; all of them building up the prestige and reputation of Kianda."

Constance celebrated her 87th birthday on June 6th 2004 surrounded by friends. On June 15th 2004 she was admitted to Nairobi Hospital where her family and friends accompanied her 24 hours a day until 1 am on Tuesday 6th July 2004, when she quietly passed away.

Nuptials



Vincent Nyauma and his bride Denise during their wedding in Kigali in June. Mr. Nyauma, a lecturer in the School of Accountancy is teaching at the Kigali School of Finance and Banking (KSFB) as part of Strathmore's collaborative venture with KSFB

Has something special happened in your life? A wedding, bundle of joy, graduation or job appointment? Please send a photograph and a short write up about the event and when it happened to

The Editor, Letter from Strathmore, PO Box 59857, 000200 City Square, Nairobi or Email alumni@strathmore.edu

Promotion to Glory

Hon. Mathias B. Keah



Hon. Keah

Hon. Mathias Benedict Keah, an Alumnus of Strathmore College (1962/63) passed away on Monday 25th July 2005. The late Hon. Keah, a former Kaloleni Constituency Member of

Parliament was a gifted passionate sportsman who loved rugby (he was voted Sportsman of the Year at Strathmore College in 1963). A trained accountant, Hon. Keah was widely known for his Kayamba playing prowess in church and public gatherings. Hon Keah is survived by a widow and five children. His body was laid to rest at his home in Kizingo, Kilifi District on August 6, 2005.



Above are scenes from the 2005 Strathmore University Graduation that took place on 26th August at the Graduation Square

1. *Left to right: Strathmore University's Prof. Sperling, Dr. Oloo and Prof. Onyango-Otieno, follow the proceedings*
2. *Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) graduates share a light moment*
3. *Strathmore University's Chancellor Delegate, Mgr. Albert Pampillon and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. John Odhiambo*
4. *Bachelor of Commerce (BCOM) graduate, Anita, poses for a photograph with her father*
5. *Strathmore University's Registrar (Academic), Mr. Shabaya, leads the Academic Procession*
6. *Lagat Epapra, an IMIS Diploma graduate poses for a photograph with his family*
7. *An elated Bachelor of Commerce graduate, Jane Christine Wamuyu*
8. *School of Accountancy graduants follow the proceedings*
9. *Bachelor of Business Information Technology (BBIT) students share a light moment*
10. *Left to right: The Chancellor's Award recipient Laura Temesi and BBIT graduates Vimal Parmar and Brian Omwenga pose for photographs*
11. *Strathmore University's Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Paul Mimbi leads the Opening Prayer*
12. *Master of Ceremonies Ms. Roseline Lubulellah*
13. *BBIT graduate Oliver Madara with his mother*