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Teaching and
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Kenya

Strathmore University, founded in 1961 as Kenya's first multi-racial school, is a leading private university training over 4000 future African leaders and managers.

Strathmore University Foundation is a 501(c)3 U.S. nonprofit corporation in support of Strathmore University projects and alumni in the United States and Kenya.

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STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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Newsletter

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V.P. Moody Awori Opens New Strath Library

Kenya's Vice President, the Honorable **Moody Awori**, was guest of honor at Strathmore University's opening dedication ceremony for its brand new library on Friday, October 29 in Nairobi.

The Strathmore Library, capable of housing 100,000 titles, and a new auditorium with over 600 seats are the culmination of a Strathmore project generously supported by a \$2 million grant from the European Commission.

Vice President Awori presided over an opening ceremony, combined with Strathmore University's Second Annual Conference on Ethics, which focused on Legal Ethics

and was attended by over 400 lawyers from Kenya.

Strathmore Vice Chancellor Professor **John Odhiambo** noted the new building's significance to Strathmore's development. "This wonderful building and auditorium are key elements of Strathmore's expansion strategy", Odhiambo stated to the guests. "We are delighted with this important step in the expansion of our campus here in Madaraka. We are most grateful to the EC for its generous support."

EC Lauds Strathmore's Management

Completed under budget and ahead of schedule, the Library project won kudos from Mr. **Claus Darmstadt**, the Infra-

structure Section representative of the EC Delegation in Kenya.

"The EC Delegation is very satisfied with the highly professional approach evinced by Strathmore in design and implementation of the projects we have financed," wrote Darmstadt. "Strathmore has accounted for all funds in a transparent and professional manner and have worked within budget and adhered to timetables in difficult circumstances."



VP Awori with Strathmore Librarian Fidelis Katonga (right) on tour of library.



DVC Dave Sperling greets VP Awori as Governing Council Chairman Terry Ryan (right) looks on.

Strathmore Alumnus Aaron Thegeya Wins Rhodes Scholarship



Prof. Odhiambo with Strath Rhodes Scholar Thegeya

Mr. **Aaron Thegeya**, an alumnus of Strathmore University's IMIS diploma program, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study next year at Oxford University in the UK. He is one of two Kenyans to win the honor this year—and Strathmore's second alumnus to be thus selected.

Thegeya attended Strathmore College after graduating from

Strathmore School and before attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA, where he majored in Economics and Computer Science.

An economic consultant at The Analysis Group in Washington, DC, Thegeya plans to pursue a PhD in Economics during his three-year scholarship at Oxford, where he expects to attend Nuffield College.



Interview: Vice President Awori Speaks About Strathmore

In November, VP Moody Awori sat down with SUF's Tom Pyle to talk about Strathmore. Excerpts:

SUF: What is your vision for Kenya?

Awori: We have lost time in the last 25 years. We are trying to catch up. My vision for

Kenya is to see that people are really literate, not only in the sense of reading books, but literate in the way of governance and democracy.

SUF: That presumably includes management as well?

Awori: Correct. Where management is concerned, we are stressing meritocracy. We want to see in various organizations, whether they are government or parastatals, that the criteria is merit. In this way we will be able to grow.

SUF: Do you see a role for entrepreneurship and wealth creation in this vision?

Awori: Absolutely. In this country we have an informal sector, *jua kali*. We have young people who have skills in metal work, in woodwork, in dress making, in all sorts of things—except one thing, a business-



VP Awori receives gift from Strathmore University Foundation Exec. Dir. Tom Pyle as DVC David Sperling looks on.

like way of doing things. We want to train our people in entrepreneurship. That is important.

SUF: To achieve your vision, what does Kenya need Strathmore to be?

Awori: Now that it has become to a uni-

versity, Strathmore can help a great deal. What we need is not just passing of examinations, having certificates hanging on the walls. We want education that makes the whole person. Strathmore has played a major role in that. For instance, one of our governors at the Central Bank has his roots in Strathmore. We have a Minister of Finance—roots in Strathmore. When you look at those two, and many other examples, the system of Strathmore helps a great deal in producing leadership in Kenya.

SUF: How can our friends in North America help Strathmore and Kenya achieve your vision?

Awori: From time to time America has been known to be "God's own land". And I do believe that it is probably so, because God has given America practically everything. One way of helping Kenya through Strathmore is for America to say, "Thank you, Lord, for singling us out. Let us utilize some of this blessing to help a country like Kenya." Let them help Strathmore introduce profes-

sionalism and meritocracy to Kenya. Strathmore needs American assistance. In turn by helping Strathmore they will be helping Kenya.

SUF: Would you agree that there is a special link here between Americans and Kenyans?

Awori: Oh, yes! I think there has always been. In fact, in 1959 and 1960 America took in a lot of our young people. And a number of the people running this country got their education foundation in America. So there is a bond—a bond that sometimes has led the terrorists to terrorize Kenya! In the two bomb blasts in Kenya, it was not Kenya being targeted.

It was the friendship of Kenya with America. So you can say there has always been a bond between the two countries.

SUF: What role can Strathmore and Kianda alumni play?

Awori: I have visited America many times, and I know that great American institutions have been helped by members of their alumni. Kianda and Strathmore alumni, wherever they are, I call on them: they have a responsibility not only to Strathmore and Kianda, but to Kenya. These two institutions have produced excellent leadership. Let their alumni come forward. Kenya needs them. Let them come back and see what Strathmore has grown into, what Kianda has grown into, and with their help what they together can further grow into.



VP Awori (second from left) with other African leaders.



VP Awori celebrating Strathmore's prisoner outreach program with Prof. Odhiambo at a recent launch ceremony.



"My vision for Kenya is to see that people are really literate, not only in reading books, but in the way of governance and democracy."

"Strathmore helps a great deal in producing leadership in Kenya."

—VP Moody Awori



Early Days: Nicholas Nyongesa: Student, Teacher, Parent

Nicholas Nyongesa, one of Strathmore's first students, also become a Strathmore teacher. Some of his experiences:

On the hot-water system: I didn't know such things existed! Of the two taps in the washroom, I always used the green one on the right, since I am right-handed. One day, I ventured to see what the red tap contained. I almost ran out of the bathroom, as there gushed out a volcanic type of steam!...

Some time later, I returned to Strathmore as a teacher. My impression was that the students were frank with their teachers.

But soon I discovered that their open relationship brought enormous benefits. They held quite lively open debates with me.

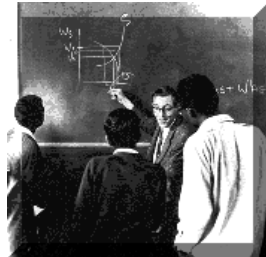
I attended Strathmore as a student in 1962. I have come back as an Old Boy with nostalgic memories; I have taught in the very classrooms where I once learned; and I have become a Strathmore parent.

In these different roles I have formed long-lasting bonds of friendship, and I have observed the many and varied backgrounds of students and parents alike. One realizes that life in the college is the greatest equaliser. After rigorous

selection students are admitted on aptitude and not on financial availability or influence. In the early years, bursaries were made available to the needy students through the very mobile Principal [Dr. Sperling] who traveled widely in search of donations; currently Old Boys, parents, and friends who value the Strathmore type of education donate to pull along the needy and deserving candidates.

After being at Strathmore for so long, and benefiting so much, I wish only to record my thanks to those who have made it all possible.

Strathmore Governing Council Chairman Terry Ryan teaching economics to old boys back in the "early days".



MBA's Njenga Gains Insights for Strathmore at Harvard Course

Strathmore's newly appointed MBA course coordinator, **George Njenga**, traveled to Boston, USA in November to attend the Harvard Business School course, "Governing for Nonprofit Excellence".

Along with 30 other senior nonprofit executives from all over the world, Njenga engaged in intensive executive education using Harvard Business School's "case method" classroom approach. "It was

really good to see the case method first-hand," Njenga noted. "We plan to use the



Case-method class at Harvard Business School

approach in part for Strathmore's forthcoming MBA program."

Long a popular accounting instructor and head of Strathmore's School of Accountancy, Njenga is now tasked with building Strathmore's MBA program. A large part of his work is making new connections for Strathmore worldwide. While in USA, Njenga's winning ways won many new friends for Strathmore.



George Njenga, formerly head of the School of Accountancy, is now developing Strathmore's MBA course.

UK Newcastle Profs Discuss Slum School Research With Strath



Univ. of Newcastle Professor James Tooley (right) and colleague Pauline Dixon (second from left) with DVC Dave Sperling and Community Outreach's Elizabeth Ng'aru.

Professor James Tooley of the UK's University of Newcastle visited Strathmore in November to explore areas of mutual interest.

With a grant from Templeton Foundation in the USA, Professor Tooley is researching to what extent private education benefits the poor in selected countries, including Kenya.

Through data collection in Mukuru, Professor Tooley is examining educational perform-

ance and cost effectiveness of private slum schools vis-à-vis government schools.

Professor Tooley met with DVC **Dave Sperling** and Strathmore's Community Outreach's **Martyn Drakard** and **Elizabeth Ng'aru**. They explored the possible cooperation and participation of Strathmore students as potential teaching associates and research assistants in slum schools that Professor Tooley is researching in Nairobi.



Professor Tooley signs the Strathmore University guestbook as Pauline Dixon and Strathmore friends look on. Professor Tooley is researching results of private sector schools in Nairobi's Mukuru slums.

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Strathmore Fosters Links, Partnerships with Corporations

In pursuing its campaign of “**What Does Kenya Need Strathmore To Be?**”, Strathmore University is working with several important multinational corporations.

Through its Industrial Attachment program, Strathmore arranges for students to intern with local corporations for school credit, enhancing knowledge and preparation. As part of its IT curriculum, Strathmore also trains and certifies for well-known international firms such as **Cisco Systems, Sybase, and Microsoft.**

Corporations in Kenya are also partnering with Strathmore for the provision of scholarships and bursary support for needier students. **East Afri-**



Sybase is one of the corporate partners teaming up with Strathmore University. Above, a Strathmore computer lab in which Sybase training takes place.

can Breweries, local producers of Guinness Beer, has each year graciously sponsored several “Guinness Scholars”, who are proving to be among Strathmore’s highest achievers.

“Corporate links are important to our outreach and effectiveness”, noted **Dave Sperling**, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Planning. “It is part of Strathmore’s vision to be an entrepreneurial university, focused on practical problems and working with industry partners to create new possibilities and fashion practical solutions.”



Strathmore also trains and certifies for **Microsoft, Cisco, and others.**



East African Breweries, makers of Guinness Beer in Kenya, has provided over KSh 10 million for Strathmore University scholarships.

Where Are They Now? Jim McFie quests for PhD in Scotland

As part of Strathmore University’s program of upgrading faculty skills and credentials, popular long-time Strathmore lecturer **Jim McFie** is on a three-year quest for a Ph.D.

Nearing the end of his studies, Jim is currently residing in Glasgow, Scotland, where he is studying accountancy at the University of Strathclyde, one of Scotland’s leading institu-

tions of higher education. Upon conclusion of his studies, McFie will return to Nairobi to teach at Strathmore.

Born and raised in Kenya and one of Strathmore’s early graduates, Jim is a dedicated and well-known accountancy specialist in Nairobi. Before leaving for Strathclyde, among other commitments Jim was a member of Kenya’s Capital Markets Association. Recently his commentaries on accountancies have been published in leading Kenyan newspapers.

Being in Scotland, Jim has been pleased to connect to his ancestral heritage. “It’s wonderful to experience Scotland”, he noted. But, he concedes to thinking of home. “I am also eager to get back to Kenya and Strathmore!” What does he miss most about

Kenya? “Why, all my friends, of course,” Jim said. “And, maybe even *ugali!*...” Jim expects to be back in Nairobi by summer.



Strathmore lecturer Jim McFie, at his dormitory, Dunreath, in Glasgow, Scotland. He is pursuing a PhD in Accountancy at University of Strathclyde.

Alumni! Friends!

Send us your email, phone, and mail addresses!

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