

THE DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY WEEKLY

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Daystar Installs Third Chancellor



Outgoing Daystar Chancellor Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime (right) and Daystar Council Chair Prof. George Khroda (left) robe Prof. Mary Murimi during her installation ceremony as the 3rd Chancellor of Daystar University

Prof. Mary Murimi was on June 23, 2016, officially installed as the third Chancellor of Daystar University in a ceremony held in Athi River campus. Prof Murimi comes to Daystar from Texas Tech University College of Human Sciences, USA.

Her appointment follows completion of eleven-year tenure of the former Chancellor, Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime, and her predecessor Dr. James Kamunge.

She holds a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition with an emphasis in community nutrition and behavior change from Iowa State University. She is a registered Dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and a member of the Society of Nutrition Education, and has published over 35 works. Further, she has made international memorandum of understanding between Texas Tech University and Kenyatta University, The Kenya Medical Research

Institute, The Vaal University of Technology in South Africa, Rwanda College of Public Health and The Jigjiga University in Ethiopia.

Prof Murimi is currently a full professor of Nutrition at Texas Tech University in the department of Nutritional Sciences engaged in teaching, grant writing, and research at the local and international level.

Key dignitaries at the installation ceremony included the Chairman of the Commission of University Education, Prof. Henry Thairu, The Archbishop-elect of the Anglican Church of Kenya, Bishop Jackson Nasoore Ole Sapit, former and present Daystar University Company and Council members, representatives from Daystar U.S., Daystar University Parents Association board members, DUAA Board members, representatives of Private and Public Universities including the Founder Chairman of Mt. Kenya University, Dr. Simon Gicharu, Government officials, guests,



Daystar University's First Chancellor Dr. James Kamunge (left), second Chancellor Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime (right) together with the newly inaugurated Chancellor Prof. Mary Murimi (centre)

family and friends of the incoming Chancellor, faculty, staff and students.

As he recognized the Clergy, Vice-chancellor, Dr. Timothy Wachira narrated that the Daystar's origin and sustenance is anchored within the realms of the Church.

During the installation sermon, Senior Pastor A.I.C. Milimani, Rev. Dr. Matthews K. Mwalwa felt nostalgic about his time in Daystar University as the University Chaplain. "Those 15 years of ministry here at Daystar were very enriching for me. I have wonderful memories of my time with the faculty, staff and students," he said. His message stressed on empowering our society through education. "Daystar University stands at the epitome of empowering students by providing knowledge, Daystar is a gold mine for generations to come," he impressed.

The outgoing Chancellor Dr. Muli-Musiime was full of praise to everyone who supported her in her 11 years of service at the university. "The installation of the 3rd Chancellor of this university is a public demonstration of leadership transition and change management," she highlighted. "We should not take this lightly as we live in a continent where imminent transition opportunities can make or break people and their institutions, and more often than not can stifle the growth of nations or break them with dire consequences for their citizens," she went on. She concluded by pointing out the significance of servant leadership as being both a high calling and an adventure.

Daystar Company Chair, Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru echoed the words of Dr. Muli-Musiime on transition as he acknowledged everyone present who played a role in laying the foundations of building Daystar University. He affirmed that the process and the journey to appoint the Prof. Murimi as third chancellor were credible. "In a time of intense prayer and seeking God, I can confirm without doubt on behalf of the Daystar Company members that Prof. Murimi is God's choice for us in this institution."

Daystar Council Chair, Prof. George Khoda presided over the citation and this was followed by the long awaited installation of Prof. Mary Murimi as the third Chancellor of Daystar University. Speaking with a distinct sense of belonging, Prof. Murimi offered sincere thanks to the search committee and nominator for showing confidence in her. "Ladies and Gentlemen, after much prayer and consultation, and with a great sense of humility and honor, I am delighted and enthusiastic to accept this appointment as the chancellor of Daystar University," she proclaimed.

"While the rest of the world is just waking up to the importance of women's education and gender equity, Daystar has defined the process," she emphasized, "a majority of our students are female and that proportion is reflected in the teaching staff, administrators and stakeholders," she continued. She promised to start her term by learning the culture of Daystar, listening and observing.

Homecoming for the Class of '96



Alumni Representatives from the Pioneer class of 1996 pose together with family and friends during their recent campus visit

Daystar University on Saturday 18th June hosted the Class of 1996 in Athi River Campus. The day was marked with a lot of nostalgic memories as the pioneer class for Athi River Campus came together exactly two decades later, in recognition of their roots.

The team spent the day planting trees, walking down memory lane through the Campus, and then sat together with the DVC Academic Affairs Rev. Prof James Kombo, Resource Mobilization Officer Mrs. Coretta Ndunda and Administrative Officer Mrs. Nita Kihiro, representing Daystar University, and DUAA Board represented by Mr. Omeno Suji, Ms. Catherine Butaki, and Mr. Robert Romo, to enjoy a meal.

Mrs. Judy Munyinyi Mumo from Class of '96 was happy to announce "we have raised over three hundred thousand shillings towards tuition scholarship for two bright students; a lady and gentleman for a whole year." She revealed that an anonymous sponsor has promised to match every shilling raised by the class of '96.

During the discussion session, the different representatives had time to share their thoughts. DVC Academic Affairs Rev. Prof James Kombo pointed out the progress made in infrastructure. He revealed that the University is set to graduate its first batch of eight PhD Clinical Psychology candidates and revealed that the University will be absorbing four of the eight. Class of '96 also suggested that Daystar considers offering online courses. This was well received by the University as Prof Kombo promised the launch of a big online platform starting in the August

2016 semester, to host degree and diploma programs in Education and Communication. This will be followed by other programs later on. He also stated that the university will be starting the Law Program in August semester.

The Class of '96 further requested that the University embraces DUAA as they will be of great help in reaching out to the alumni who have a massive potential of transforming the University. Mr. George Mudhune announced an employment opportunity for a bright fourth year student in the School of Business. The uniqueness and distinguished nature of Daystar graduates, their influence in various fields in the job market and their impact in the society and job industry was also lauded. DUAA Board also shared their plan of launching a business incubation hub and innovation Centre as well as starting honey farming for Community Development students at Athi River campus.

Prof Kombo unveiled an honorary plaque dedicated to the class of '96 at the PAC court. He pointed out that the class of '96 was special given that it was the first group to revisit the University in large numbers. In addition, he gifted each one of them with a study bible, in which he has contributed in its compilation, and urged them to read and practice the word as disciples and servant leaders of Jesus Christ.

The visit culminated with a lunch and cake cutting ceremony as the group celebrated two decades of being alumni of Daystar University. It was truly a happy homecoming and a day to mark the beginning of an annual journey of triumphant servant leadership.

Class of 2016 Feted in Style



The Graduating Class of 2016 Committee members cut their celebratory cake

It was pomp and color as the graduands of the class of 2016 celebrated their last dinner as Daystar University students at Public Service Club, Upper Hill. The five course meal catered for by Sarova Panafric did not disappoint.

The Vice-chancellor, Deputy Vice-chancellors, Deans of Schools, Faculty members and staff were also present to celebrate with the graduands.

In his keynote address, Christian entrepreneur Mr. Eric Kinoti encouraged the graduands narrating how he rose from nothing to become a multi-millionaire. "I started small but today I am a CEO" said Mr. Kinoti. He narrated how after college, at the age of 21, he sold eggs in addition to his regular clerical job. He surprised everyone when he revealed how he worked in the night and sold eggs during the day, and how he eventually got into tent manufacturing business which was his big break. His advice to those intending to pursue business was to follow the process and exercise patience. "You will not start as a manager, but you must do your job very well, and stand out so that you can be a person of excellence," advised Mr. Kinoti adding if anyone wishes to be employed he/she must strive to be the best.

"We believe we have done our best in preparing you for the society," said the DVC Academic Affairs Rev. Prof James Kombo. He called on the graduands to not only make their contribution to the society but also remember their identity in Christ, and the role that Daystar University has played in getting them to where they are today.

Speaking on behalf of the graduands, Mr. Nick Kariuki thanked the faculty and administrative staff for their input in molding them into what they are today, and the parents, guardians and sponsors for giving them the best education possible. He further called on the graduands not to forget the principles taught by their parents and the values that Daystar has instilled in them. "The ultimate test of integrity is doing the best thing when no one is watching," he said.

The Daystar University Alumni (DUAA) Board was also present to usher the graduands into the Alumni association. Led by their Board Chair, Mr. Omeno Suji, the association honored some of the most outstanding Alumni of Daystar University, among them Dr. Nancy Booker, who received the Academia Award, Mr. Ronald Arao, who went home with the Business Progression-Corporate Award, Evelyne Serro, Corporate Communication Award, Elizabeth Muema Community Service Award, Moses Gitonga who scooped the Business Progression-Entrepreneurship Award and Rev. Tom Otieno, who went home with the Church & Ministry Award.

The event ended with a cake cutting ceremony, assisted by the students' graduation committee. The cake was courtesy of Sarova Panafric.

Infospot congratulates the class of 2016!

Graduation Chapel

A constant theme from everyone who spoke during and about this years graduation Chapel was that they all recognized God's hand throughout their time at Daystar.

On behalf of all the candidates, Monica Gitonga PhD Clinical Psychology graduand shared her appreciation. 'We all began an academic journey albeit different levels, but we had not been through a journey of this kind before.' They were green, expectant and excited. 'With smiles we came in, hoping to be the best when we leave. As time progressed, the excitement faded, seriousness kicked in when our minds begun getting challenged. We went through struggles and changes. But we made it through! All of us have one testimony, not by might or our goodness, but by God's grace. God has provided financially with committed faculty that hold very high standards. Thank you Daystar, thank you Graduates, and thank you God. Glory, honor and praise! Amen.'

Dr. James Karau, Dean Community Life gave a short but very inspiring message 'Congratulations to all graduands for never giving up! For completing this journey, you are all heroes! You may ask, why get the power to read yet I know how to read? Because knowledge opens your mind to see how little you know and how much more you need to learn.'

He further emphasized that the worst tragedy in knowledge is thinking that you know it all that you end up blocking your mind. In his conclusion, he acknowledged 'unless you go back to the Author of all knowledge, you will only have fixed one part, the academic, therefore stay close to God!'

The sermon was given by Prof. Abraham Waithima, ILPD Director, on the pitfalls of rooftop. He stated that the three enemies of success are Self, Peer pressure, and the urgency of now.

'At the height of one's success, it is very easy to feel like you have done it, forgetting that God enabled you. In all your ways acknowledge God.' True servant leadership is when we do not trust on our own abilities but allow God to lead us.

'We shall all graduate together, but we go different ways. Peer pressure is real in all ages, try not compare yourself to others, we all have different journeys that we shall be taking.' Ephesians 2:10

On his part, the Vice Chancellor's address was brief and straight to the point was: 'Focus your minds beyond the degree. It is a steppingstone to what you desire, yes, we have been called to be servant leaders.'

The Vice Chancellor, DVC Academics and Director ILPD (on behalf of the DVC Finance and Administration), in moment filled with humility, knelt and washed the feet of the graduands, this as a tradition that goes beyond the act of washing feet but signifies servant leadership. Three graduands served as a representatives for the graduating class, From the words of our Chaplain, Rev. Steven Nduto, 'We are sending you to the community to be responsible men and women of God who will take responsibility, walk tall and reflect the character of Christ - this is the order of the towel.'

Picking the expression of Winnie Waiyaki, a PhD graduand, '... being there, was a myriad of mixed emotion. I was elated, humbled,



Vice Chancellor Dr. Timothy Wachira (above) and Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Rev. Prof. James Kombo (below) both humbly wash the feet of representatives of the Class of 2016 graduands



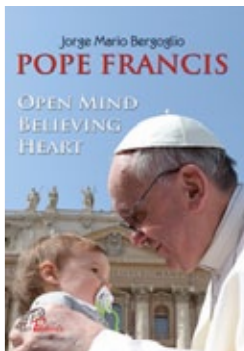
and blessed to be a representative of the other candidates. I wished that they could all hear what the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Wachira said to me...' The order of the towel is to show you humility, sending you to find others that you will serve in humility as a leader that stands out.

The closing prayer was made to present the graduands to God. That His favor will shine on them and a beautiful song sung to commit to dedicate all the graduates:

*Then my soul... Shall fear no ill...
Let him lead... Me where he will...
I will go without a murmur,
And His footsteps follow still.*

LIBRARY UPDATES

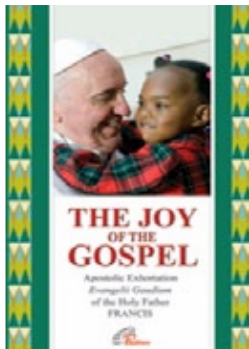
NEWLY ACQUIRED BOOKS THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR SHELVES



Open Mind, Believing Heart

by Cardinal Jorge Mario, Bergoglio SJ - Pope Francis

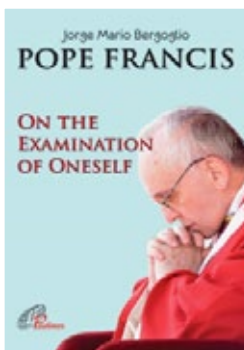
This book combines depth and relevance with simplicity and pleasant reading, looking forward to involving the reader in a journey of spiritual reflection for the improvement of one's life.



The Joy of the Gospel

by Libreria Editrice Vaticana

The Apostolic Exhortation emphasises the varied faces of the Church in the light of inculturation, and the importance of a well prepared homily that is not a speech or a lecture but a heart to heart communication with the people of God.



On the Examination of Oneself

Cardinal Jorge Mario, Bergoglio SJ Pope Francis

This book introduces a profound meditation about some writings of St Doroteus of Gaza, and orients us in the way of humility and love necessary for forming true Christian communities.



Healing From Corruption and Sin

by Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ – Pope Francis

Throughout these pages, Card. Bergoglio makes a clear distinction between sin and corruption, and invites us to apply it, so that our life may be enlightened by the prophetic message of the gospel.



Weekly Inspiration

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence".

Vince Lombardi

Chapel Diary

SEMESTER THEME:

"PEACE OF GOD "

... Guarding Our Hearts and Minds..." Philippians 4:7

Athi River Campus

Tuesday, June 28th

Worship Chapel

by Chikwanza & Mannasse

Sunday, July 3rd

'Peace Makers or Peace Keepers'

by JM Musili

Nairobi Campus

Tuesday, 28th June

'Sowing Peace among the Brethren'

by Rev. Ken Aringo

Friday, 1st July

'Recommending Jesus, the Prince of Peace'

by Rev. Rebecca Imende

