

Child Experts' Panel Discussion on School Arsons



From the left, Bernice Nderitu,, Sr Prof. Lando and Dr Munene keenly take notes as a participants make their contribution

In response to the recent stream of school arsons in the country, Daystar University, School of Human and Social Sciences hosted a discussion on Friday July, 29, 2016 at Daystar Nairobi campus, to explore possible sustainable interventions. The discussion, themed School arsons - sustainable interventions in the best interest of the child was sponsored by Daystar University and African Institute of Children Studies (AICS).

A panel of seven consisting of Dr. Alice Munene, Counseling & Clinical Psychologist, Sr. Prof. A. L. Lando, Associate Professor of Communication & Media Studies, Dr. Ciriaka Gitonga, Education Psychologist, PAC University, Dr. Loise Gichuhi, Educationist, University of Nairobi & Education Bridge-Africa, Mr. Ibrahim Alubala, Child Policy

Expert, Save the Children International-Kenya, Ms. Bernice Nderitu, Child Development Specialist, Nisela Group, and Mr. Enock Makanga, National Chairman for Protective & Safety Association of Kenya (PROSAK) led a team of about 100 participants, in examining possible considerations that can be adapted by the Ministry of Education and the public in addressing arson and other forms of unrest in schools. The panel was ably moderated by Sammy Kaihuri of Hope FM.

"What is important at the moment is not who is responsible for the burning of the schools but how to stop the burning." This was a general consensus by the panelists, who also seemed to agree that the older generation and our leaders have failed as role models to the children. "When we want IEBC to go, we go to the streets and burn tyres. When a congregation

does not like a certain pastor, they fight and throw chairs at each other. Our children are copying what they see us doing," regretted Dr. Gitonga.

Those present felt that everyone in the nation is to blame; the teachers, parents, government, the church and society at large. While Dr. Alice Munene was very vocal on the fact that the society is wholly to blame for the arson, Dr. Gichuhi felt that, "we are not telling the students that they are doing wrong, instead we are looking for who to blame". Echoing Dr. Munene, a participant from the Prisons department condemned the jailing of the students saying that this will destroy them instead of helping them. Others in the audience said that if anyone is to be blamed, it should be the principles, parents, teachers and the society because they have all failed in their duties.

The audience was also in agreement that the students should be involved in finding solutions to the crisis, instead of imposing solutions on them. "No one is asking these children why they are burning the schools rather, we are all busy looking for

solutions," lamented Bernice, a Child Development Specialist. According to Sr. Prof. A.L. Lando, the indicators were there but we waited till too late. Sr. Prof. Lando further noted with concern that the media has sensationalized the burning of the schools, thus encouraging other students to follow suit. The forum recommended a ban on live coverage of school arsons in all media houses, to stop the contagion theory of peer influence.

A three page memorandum, with the proposal that emanated from the panel discussion was presented to the Minister for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, during a consultative meeting held on Monday August 1, 2016, at the Intercontinental Hotel Nairobi, with the Civil Society Organizations' representatives. The purpose of the meeting was for Dr. Matiang'i to hear what the Civil Society Organizations think about the school arsons.

The Panel discussion was a precursor to a conference that will place at Daystar University, from 17th - 19th August, 2016 themed, "Best Interest for the child in the Justice System".

Prof Kidula calls for more Creative African Music Scholarship

Last week, Prof. Jean Kidula ended her Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship with a challenge to African scholars of Music to be more creative in their research and teaching.

The forum, entitled "The local and global for music education in Kenya," brought together music lecturers, lawyers and high school and university students. Among the institutions represented besides Daystar were Kabarak University, Technical University of Kenya, Kenyatta University and JGIP Consultants. Also present at the occasion was Dr. Wandia Njoya, the head of Department of Language and Performing Arts.

Prof Kidula began by talking about the Carnegie Fellowship which, she said, sponsors African-born scholars based in North America to strengthen post-graduate education in Africa.

The fellowship focused on postgraduate education out of concern that African Masters and PhD graduates were doing research projects that were not related to their fields or to the continent's needs. Part of the problem, she said, was that post-graduate students were allowed to study only topics their lecturers were familiar with, yet the purpose of post-graduate education is to "discover new ground."

She also said that in today's world, African scholars needed to be well versed in both local and global knowledge. However, there were huge gaps in the research on Music in Kenya. She drew examples from Kenya national music festivals, radio and TV music programs and history, and lamented: "there's so much research we can do in this country that I get shocked when I hear people say they don't know what to write on." If we Africans do not write research on our own societies, she added, others would do it to the exclusion of our own voices.

Prof Kombo, DVC Academic Affairs, reiterated the same point, recalling that one of the current experts on the Nyatiti is a Japanese woman. He said that we need to study the people who play similar indigenous instruments and music, so that "we leave something for the next generation," because as it is, many of our youth are not familiar with African indigenous music.

Prof Kombo thanked Prof Kidula for spurring the audience to think about research, and observed that Daystar has greatly benefitted from her visit.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

The HuR department would like to announce the following new appointments and welcome them warmly to the Daystar community.



Mr. Solomon Mburu:
ICT Manager



Dr. Martin Walela Matasi:
Senior Lecturer Law



Dr. Stephen Ndegwa:
Lecturer Counseling Psychology

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

The following are words of appreciation by our sister Jennifer Njaria for your supported during the sickness, death and burial of her mother:

"I want to tell you with all my heart that I am very grateful for all the help and support you have accorded me and my family over the period of my mother's ailment and in this sad moment of our life. Thank you for your full support in monetary contribution, gifts in kind and for being there to offer words of comfort. It has helped us through a difficult time, to know that we have friends we can count on. No words could ever express our appreciation for the love, concern and kindness you have shown. Mum was a source of great joy in our lives, and we will miss her fun-loving nature and keen sense of humor. Thank you for honoring her in such a sincere and heart-felt manner.

Please accept this as our personal "thank you" to each and every one who reached out to us in any way. We are deeply touched and appreciate you greatly". God bless you all.

Our sister Grace Karimi (Security office) was comforted after the loss of her father, recently. She has this to say:

"My sincere appreciation to the entire Daystar family for your prayers, support and encouragement, for the last one week as we prepared to lay our dad to rest. Daystar was adequately represented by a good number of staff at the funeral, and we as the family of the late David Makembo sincerely appreciate you. We shall forever be grateful to you all.

God bless you dearly.

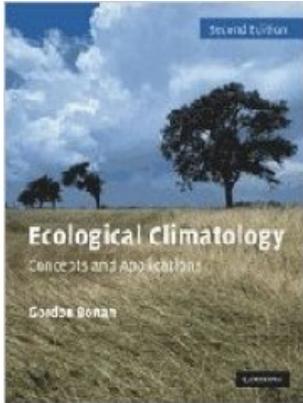
Dr. Jane Awiti (Department of Communication), who recently lost her brother-in-law wants you to know that she truly appreciated the care and concern you, expressed when she lost her brother-in-law. Below is her message of appreciation to the Daystar Community:

"I want to convey my hearty appreciation for your messages of encouragement and prayers when I lost my brother-in-law"



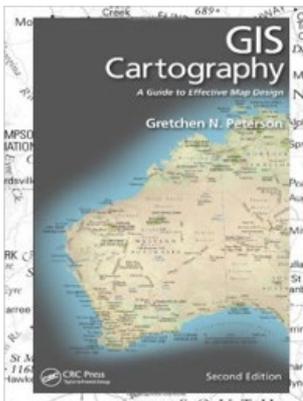
LIBRARY UPDATES

NEWLY ACQUIRED BOOKS ON GEOGRAPHY THAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE



Ecological Climatology: Concepts and Applications 2nd Edition by Gordon B. Bonan

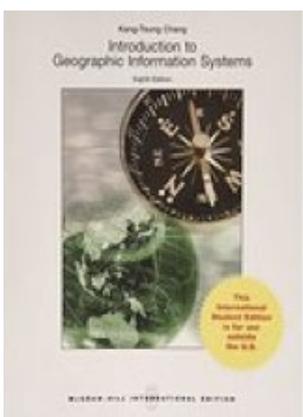
This book introduces an interdisciplinary framework to understand the interaction between terrestrial ecosystems and climate change. It reviews basic meteorological, hydrological and ecological concepts to examine the physical, chemical and biological processes by which terrestrial ecosystems affect and are affected by climate. The textbook is written for advanced undergraduate and graduate students studying ecology, environmental science, atmospheric science and geography. The central argument is that terrestrial ecosystems become important determinants of climate through their cycling of energy, water, chemical elements and trace gases. This coupling between climate and vegetation is explored at spatial scales from plant cells to global vegetation geography and at timescales of near instantaneous to millennia. The text also considers how human alterations to land become important for climate change. This restructured edition, with updated science and references, chapter summaries and review questions, and over 400 illustrations, including many in color, serves as an essential student guide.



GIS Cartography: A Guide to Effective Map Design, Second Edition 2nd Edition by Gretchen N. Peterson

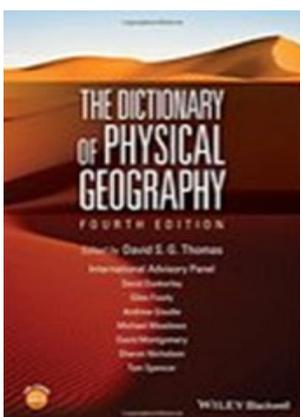
This book focuses on map design theory and technique rather than map design tools. It highlights new tools and their capabilities through visual demonstrations and explanations of new techniques such as hexagonal binning, big data point density maps, scale dependent design considerations, 3D building modeling, and so on.

The new edition has a much heavier focus on digital cartography and its best practices. It has also been redesigned so that it can be used as a textbook with study questions and an end-of-chapter exercise.



Introduction to Geographic Information Systems 1 May 2015 by Kang-Tsung Chang

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, 8th edition is designed to provide students in a first or second GIS course with a solid foundation in both GIS concepts and the use of GIS. Introduction to GIS strikes a careful balance between GIS concepts and hands-on applications. The main portion of the chapter presents GIS terms and concepts and helps students learn how each one fits into a complete GIS system. At the end of each chapter, an application section with 2-7 tasks presents students with actual GIS exercises and the necessary data to solve the problem.



The Dictionary of Physical Geography 26 Feb 2016 by David S. G. Thomas

This fully-revised comprehensive fourth edition covers the whole field of physical geography including climate and atmosphere, geomorphology, biogeography, hydrology, oceans, Quaternary, environmental change, soils, remote sensing and GIS. This new edition reflects developments in the discipline during the last decade, with the expert advisory group providing an international perspective on the discipline of physical geography.



Weekly Inspiration

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Psalm 32:8

Chapel Diary

SEMESTER THEME:

"PEACE OF GOD "

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

Athi River Campus

Tuesday, 9th August 2016

Time: 8:30am-9:30am

Nairobi Campus

Tuesday, 9th August 2016

Time: 8:30am-9:30am

Bereavement

Mrs. Margaret Munene (Evening programme office) is bereaved. Her mother, Mrs. Mary Gathoni, went to be with the Lord on Friday July 29, 2016. The funeral took place on Friday 5, August 2016 in Man'gu.

Kindly remember to commit Mrs. Munene and family to the Lord in prayer for peace and comfort. She can be reached on the following number: 0722854071.

END OF ANOTHER SEMESTER...

**To all students and faculty,
May God bless the work of your hands as you come to the end of this
Block Semester. Have a great holiday and remember...**

"There is virtue in work and there is virtue in rest.

Use both and overlook neither."

— Alan Cohen

