

## Vice-Chancellor Welcomes New Members to Senate

During the Senate meeting held on Wednesday June 24, 2020, the Vice-chancellor, Prof Laban Ayiro welcomed six new members to the Senate. These included:



**Dr. Samuel Muriithi**  
Director, Academic Programs



**Dr. Caroline Ayuya**  
Deputy Director, ODEL



**Mrs. Serah Wachira**  
HOD, Nursing Education



**Prof. Abraham Waithima** – returning to Daystar



**Mr. Joseph Munyao**  
HOD, Department of Commerce



**Dr. Molson Omchomba**  
Coordinator, Commerce Department, Main Campus

At the same time, the Vice-Chancellor also announced new appointments in the University:

### **Sr. Prof. A.L. Lando - Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies**

In her acceptance speech, Sr. Prof. Lando acknowledged God's help in her recent appointment to serve Daystar University as Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies.



She also thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Laban P. Ayiro, and through him, the University Management and panel that interviewed her for the position, and the Dean, School of Communication, Prof. Levi Obonyo, for encouraging her to apply for the position when it was internally announced.

Speaking to the Infospot, Sr. Prof. Lando further shared her vision for the Directorate.

"I seek to demystify scientific research and publication," said Prof. Lando as she welcomed the cooperation and collaboration of faculty colleagues, staff, and students towards improving the University's research output.

"I feel the heavy weight of the position but with God's help, I believe I will deliver. Thanks to the Vice Chancellor's challenge to embrace the office with boldness and passion; I received the appointment running," said Sr. Prof. Lando.

Sr. Prof. Lando interviewed for the position on Friday June 12, 2020 and received her appointment letter on June 15, 2020.

### **Students, Faculty congratulate Sr. Prof. Lando for appointment**

Reacting to the news of Prof. Lando's appointment, Wangeci Kanyeki said: "I am eternally grateful for Sister Lando's life changing mentorship. She opened up the academia world to show us how to use theories we learn in class to offer global solutions that improve humanity but even more importantly she was instrumental in opening up the academic world to what Africa scholar have to offer."

In 2015 along with other students, Wangechi attended and presented papers at the Global Communication Association conference in Berlin. Her paper on Media Convergence in East Africa was published as a book chapter by Springer in a book titled Digital Transformation in Journalism & News Media. Under the International Communication Association, Prof. Lando's student mentees have attended conferences in Sandiego, Washington DC, Prague, Accra and Uganda, the latter organised by ICAfrica conference.

Wangeci noted that publishing gets one's degree off the shelf and expands their study to global level. The other great advantage of attending conference workshops is the opportunity to network with academic book authors and scholars.

She appreciated opportunities students get to serve in the local organising committee of the ICA conferences, which she admits also gives them skills in professionally organising global events.

"We wish her all the best in her new position, may her candle keep lighting others," said Wangari.

Prof. Lando has also received an outpouring of congratulatory messages from Faculty members, Senate and the Management Board.

### **PhD. Candidate, Mercy Omoke hails Sr. Prof Lando as a Don who goes out of her way to bring out the best out of her students**

If I were to describe Prof. Sr. Lando in a phrase I would say 'Don't judge a book by its Cover'. In 2015 I enrolled for a PhD in communication studies, a step I took as a recovery plan from Major Depressive and Anxiety Disorder, which I suffered after the delivery of quadruplets in 2013. This illness made me a shell of myself, timid and unable to function in my full capacity. Along my PhD journey, I encountered people, emphasis on a senior lecture and teacher who alluded to the fact that I was not PhD material and suggested that I embark on a less advanced qualification (MPhil), as I did not, in their opinion meet the expectations of a PhD student.

It is through this experience that I discovered that El- Shaddai 'God all mighty' is a very present help in times on need.

I met Prof. Sr. Lando in a Doctoral colloquium class in October of 2015 and by the end of the first lecture, everything turned around. Having shown interest in research, Prof. Lando took it upon herself to be my mentor. It is from this time that everything turned around; not only did my confidence increase but also my worldview towards life. I started to have interest in things that normally did not matter, given that I believed my PhD journey was a fulfilment of a doctor's prescription.

From just one encounter, I was able find my footing, improving my writing skills and submitting numerous research papers with supervision and guidance from the Professor to various International Conference both academic and professional, over a period of 3 years. Her spiritual guidance and prayers also played a huge role to my recovery. My grades tremendously improved, and the doctors gave me a clean bill of health, I was promoted three times at my work place, was recognised and picked out as a chair

in one of the sessions in the prestigious ICA conference in Washington D.C. and also given numerous opportunities in different International conferences to meet scholars and mentors that built my academic and professional career.

Prof. Sr. Lando is a book that should never be judged by its cover. She may blend in and look like a regular lecturer, teacher and supervisor, but behind the scenes is a very powerful force to reckon with, bringing change internationally and regionally to her students in the communication field and also influencing growth spiritually and professionally.

### **Kenya Film Commission awards Daystar Kes 0.5 million for Research**

Daystar University has received Kes 0.5 Million research grant from the Kenya Film Commission (KFC) courtesy of the newly appointed Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Sr. Prof. A.L. Lando.

On June 19, 2020 soon after her appointment, Sr. Prof. Lando submitted two research proposals to the Kenya Film Commission. The proposal titled **“ To Examine the Extent of Kenyan Artists’ Knowledge and Practice of Rights”** received favorable consideration for funding.

The second proposal was titled: **“How Can the Kenya Film Commission Push the Good News Agenda?”**

With the financial year coming to an end at the time of submission, KFC awarded the first grant, with promise that funding for the second research proposal would be considered in the new financial year which begins in July 2020.

“This indeed is great favor from God! I pray that it’s an indication of the great wonders the good Lord is going to perform in the Research Directorate.

Prof. Lando’s vision for the Directorate is to steer Daystar University into becoming a research-oriented University. This, she says, is embedded in her personal commitment to developing scholars through mentorship programs. Prof. Lando aims to demystify scientific research and publication - for staff, faculty and postgraduate students.

“To achieve this vision and mission, I am in the process of putting together a committee that has critical thinkers and active representatives from every School & Directorate,” she noted.

The Directorate of Research and Postgraduate Studies will also support Schools and Directorates to create a culture of research in Daystar, initiate end of year evaluation of the University’s research output, foster collaborations with other institutions especially private sector, and increase the University’s visibility through publication.

“I have noted that at the moment, research funding for staff and faculty in Daystar University ends with the researcher going to the field to collect data. Ideally, it should end with the dissemination of the research findings in a high-end Conference and/or publication,” she said, adding that this will be the new trend.

For postgraduate students, Prof. Lando plans to review the editing of student manuscripts and associated fees following the final defense and just before binding the work.

“It is my prayer and hope that at the end of the three years, we will have managed to have as our core functions: research, teaching and community service, in that order. So that research informs our teaching and community service. Research makes a university active and that is our focus,” she underscored.

Sr. Prof. Lando is an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies; and advisor to the Catholic Church (Kenya and beyond) on communication & media related matters.

She obtained her PhD in Social Communication from La Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma, Italia, in 2008. Lando holds an MA in Human and Intercultural Communication and BA in Audiovisual Productions, from Daystar University.

Prof. Lando became the first African to be elected Board Member-at-Large of the coveted International Communication Association (ICA); a more than 70 year-old global body that brings together communication scholars, practitioners and researchers.

She is the recipient of the 2013 George Gerbner Excellence Award. In 2016,

Prof. Lando also serves as external examiner for Makerere University's, St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and Nelson Mandela University, South Africa.

She has assessed Senior lecturers for Associate Professor promotion consideration for Pan Africa Christian University and the University of Ghana.

Extensively published, Prof. Lando has, to her name: 11 refereed journal articles, 13 edited book chapters and 5 books.

Among other achievements.

### **Rev. Dr. Patrick Musembi - Dean, School of Arts and Humanities**



During the same Senate meeting, the VC announced the appointment of Rev. Dr. Patrick Musembi as Dean, School of Arts and Humanities.

Thanking the Vice-Chancellor for the appointment, Dr. Musembi said "I promise to support your vision and will work with Deans and the departments in the School to harness the low-lying potentials."

Meanwhile, in an interview with the Infospot shortly after the announcement by the VC,

Rev. Dr. Patrick Musembi reminisced over his journey in Daystar since 1999 when he joined the University as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Theology, and later served as Head of Department from 2007-2010.

After Daystar adopted the School system in 2010, Dr. Musembi fulfilled his dream for growth by establishing the Department of Peace and International Studies, which he headed until his appointment as Dean.

As he assumes the leadership of the School of Arts and Humanities, Rev. Dr. Musembi is counting on the great, talented and passionate team in the School. He is grateful to the outgoing Ag. Dean, Dr. Scholastica Githinji, and looks forward to close collaboration.

"Working with the entire team, we shall dream together and chart new paths. My leadership will be collaborative and aim to tap the immense potential from each individual and department within the School. We will continue designing market-driven programs to be offered through the regular system as well online to drive the school's growth," he said.

Rev. Dr. Musembi further added that through the Department of Education, he and his team will position Daystar as a center of excellence in Competence Base Curriculum (CBC) refresher courses and training as well as explore funding opportunities for such refresher courses through partnerships and proposal writing.

He also promised that the Department of Theology and Pastoral Studies will continue to design programs to serve the needs of the Church in Kenya and beyond.

As pertains Peace and International Studies Department is optimistic to launch a second Master's program, culminating with a PhD in International Studies.

"We will work to position our School to become acclaimed both nationally and internationally for excellent technologically-driven education, cutting edge research and

community service," he concluded."

Rev. Dr. Musembi holds a PhD (2018) in Peace and Conflict Studies from Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology; a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Africa International University (1997); MA in Peace Studies and International Relations from the Catholic University of East Africa (2008); and a BA (Economics and Geography) from Egerton University, Njoro (1992).

His research interests are in Conflict Analysis, Peacebuilding, and Human Security. He is also an ordained clergy with 27 years in active pastoral ministry.

### **Dr. Duncan Irungu – Director, Planning and Entrepreneurship**



The newly appointed Director of Planning and Entrepreneurship Dr. Duncan Irungu thanked the University leadership for expressing confidence in

him through his appointment.

"I accept this responsibility with exceeding humility. As I settle in the new office and establish the Directorate, I am aware of the enormous task that lies ahead. I will fully depend on God's guidance and your support," said Dr. Irungu.

The Planning and Entrepreneurship Directorate (DPE) will support the University's planning function under DVC FAP, and to generate alternative revenue streams for the university through entrepreneurship and innovation.

The planning arm of the Directorate will focus on providing technical support towards the implementation of the university strategic plan (SP), ensure delivery of the University strategic objectives as well as coordinate SP monitoring and evaluation. The Directorate will also be responsible for development of the University masterplan.

DPE will also spearhead establishment of the ISO certification and establishment of a quality management system by June 2021. The Directorate will also focus on development of a risk management register to help identify, classify and mitigate strategic and operational risks for the university.

On the other hand, the enterprise arm of the directorate will focus on generating alternative revenue for the University. This will enhance sustainability and ensuring the University remains as a going concern.

DPE is currently assessing the feasibility of University enterprises that have been outsourced in the past. DPE will work with schools, directorates and other units within and outside the University to jointly seek opportunities for grant making, donor funding and other profitable ventures.

In the medium term, DPE envisions to establish an innovation center to incubate innovative business concepts, mentor and develop entrepreneurial skills to enable students earn as they learn.

Dr. Irungu holds a BED (Business & Mathematics) from The University of Nairobi, an MA in Planning & Project Management from the same university and a Doctorate in Business Administration and Management from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology.

He has published/co-published fifteen articles in reputable peer-refereed journals and his research outputs have been presented in international conferences.

He has coauthored four books among them, Mastering the Art of Developing Strategic plans; a practical approach.

Duncan has consulted widely for public & private sector and development organizations both locally and internationally.

He is an expert in strategy development & implementation, Organizational Development (OD) and project management

& planning. He has been a member of think tank, technical advisor and lead consultant for projects funded by GOK, World Bank, Global Fund, UNDP, USAID and European Union.

He has passion for youth of Africa which made him cofound Mentor Africa Network, an organization whose mission is to empower and transform the youth of Africa through life skills development, coaching and mentorship.

### **Dr. Leah Komen - Deputy Director, Research and Postgraduate studies**

Following the appointment of Sr. Prof. Lando



as the Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Komen has been substantively appointed the Deputy Director, Research and Postgraduate studies.

Previously, Dr. Komen served as Theses Coordinator for the School of Communication, Deputy Director Research and Postgraduate studies for 2 years, and Ag. Director for one and half years.

Dr. Komen holds a Doctorate degree in New Media and Development from the University of East London, UK, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and MA in Development Communication from Daystar University.

She has supervised 22 Masters students to completion and currently supervising 3 Doctorates from the University for Nairobi and Daystar.

Dr. Komen is a PhD external examiner for the University of Fort Hare in South Africa, and a reviewer of Mobile Communication Journal of the Sage.

She is a published researcher and a scholar, and serves as Membership and Internationalization member and clearing house for public statement of the International Communication Association (ICA), as well as

the Africa Ambassador for the International Association of Media and Communication research (IAMCR).

## **DLPDI Short Courses go Online**

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and continuous adjustments to the new normal, the Daystar Leadership and Professional Development Institute (DLPDI), has taken its short courses online, via Zoom and other digital platforms such as YouTube.

On Monday, June 22, 635 participants in the 2020 ex-candidates program resumed classes following disruption in March, and hope to complete in mid-July 2020.

The ex-candidates cohorts include: Pathway (CITAM Karen), Pathfinders (CITAM Valley Road), Mentor Me (CITAM Buruburu), Unashamed Transformers (CITAM Woodley), Deservio (Deliverance Church Zimmerman) and Trailblazers (Missions of Hope International in Mathare North and Kosovo).

The Ex-candidates program is tailored to suit fresh high school graduates to equip them with ICT, Career Choices and Life-skills as they transition to college. Seeing that some of them have already joined campus, some of the ex-candidate classes run in the evenings and on Saturdays. Moreover, the lectures are recorded and distributed through a shareable link to those who may miss class sessions.

On Friday, June 26, 2020, the DLPDI Director Dr. Solomon Nzyuko, Program Coordinator Mrs. Jane Irungu and the Corporate Affairs Manager, Mrs. Damaris Kimilu, took turned to attend the CITAM Valley Road session.

The topic of discussion was: Worship and Celebration. Exploring how people have been worshipping at home while at the same time finding reasons to celebrate and be thankful to God during this trying time of lockdown. Pastor Ferdinand Ponga, the facilitator, noted that time away from physical church meetings was a big opportunity for

people to work on their family and personal relationships with God.

“YouTube has become the most common social media platform where worshippers listen to sermons and praise and worship music,” he noted. Pastor Ferdinand urged everyone to always try and find a reason to be happy while making worship a lifestyle and not just something to be done once in a while.

Speaking to the participants after the session, Mrs. Kimilu, observed how Covid-19 had presented new approaches to doing things and encouraged everyone to appreciate and take advantage of the opportunities regardless of the challenges.

The Program Coordinator Mrs Jane Irungu observed that salvation was personal, and urged students to continue learning despite the struggles.

The session was productive and helped participants to understand how to use this time to work on their personal relationship with God while still building on personal values.

Hillary, the Cohort Assistant Coordinator concluded by thanking everyone for taking their time to participate while also inviting them to the next session of the day.

The Destiny Program which is in its 5th year, prepares ex-candidates for life after High School.

## FROM THE ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS DESK

### January 2020 Semester Grades

The University Registrar last week announced release of January 2020 Semester grades following Senate meeting on June 24, 2020, and further advised students to log into their portal to access their grades.

In case of login difficulties, students are advised to contact Admissions and Records on [admissions@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:admissions@daystar.ac.ke), or ICT: [helpdesk@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:helpdesk@daystar.ac.ke) or Finance: [finance@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:finance@daystar.ac.ke)

For any missing grades, students should get in touch with their respective Schools through the Head of Department or the Examinations Officer.

### Application for Degree Audit and Transcript

Application for transcript & Degree Audits is now open; from 25th June, 2020.

#### Transcript request:

Follow the steps below to apply:

1. Pay ksh.300 per copy to finance through Mpesa Paybill No. 209800
2. Send Transcript Request email to [hkahiu@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:hkahiu@daystar.ac.ke) attaching the Mpesa payment message and copy [finance@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:finance@daystar.ac.ke)
3. Once the transcript is processed, Mr. Kahiu will notify you when to collect it from Nairobi Campus.

#### Degree Audit Request:

1. Send Degree Audit request email to [mkioko@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:mkioko@daystar.ac.ke). Make sure you indicate your details, Students number and Major.
2. Mr. Kioko will get back to you. You will receive your Degree Audit through your email.

Students are encouraged to use Daystar student email only. Those having issues with their student emails should contact [helpdesk@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:helpdesk@daystar.ac.ke)

## Special Examination Application

The Registrar has also announced Online application for Special Exams from 25th June to 25th July 2020. To apply for special exams, students should use the link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZU8LnmS5eU-3AoDjzg5YEdmZ1aPDi7xEpNi0DidM7FhUMVZQVjhGOEtHWIdIQVNCVURNTIc3SE84My4u>

As you apply, please confirm that the particular course is on offer during this blocks semester.



To the University Librarian wishes to appreciate all students and Faculty who are patronizing the e-Library to access full text e-books and e- journals for teaching, learning, and research. Please take note of the following information:

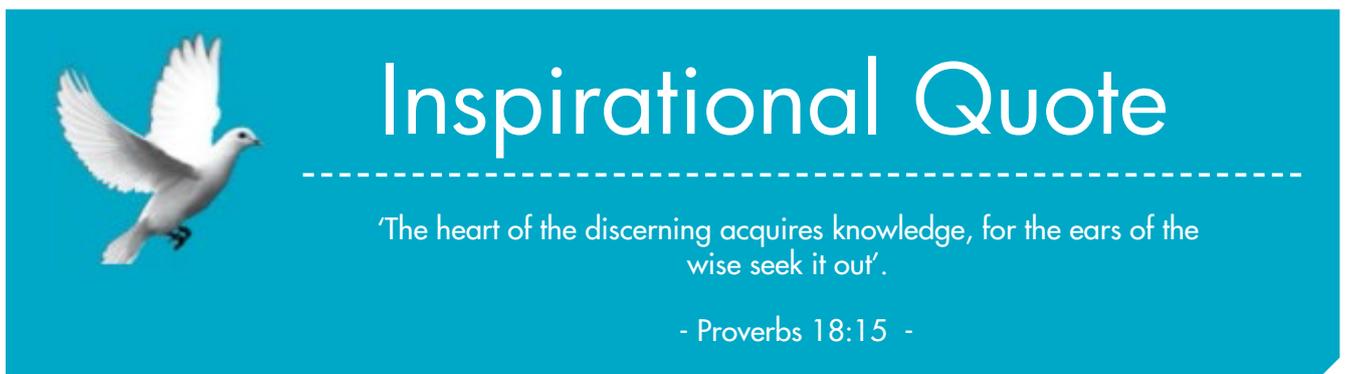
### 1. Extension of due date library books

The Library department has extended the borrowing period for **all library books due on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2020**. As indicated in previous communication, please note that this extension does not apply to books that were due for return to the

Library by the **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**. Patrons shall be required to pay overdue library fines for such books accordingly. However, the books shall not accrue additional fines.

### 2. Off-Campus access to the online library

The Library has so far created and emailed accounts to most of our new students. I request all new and continuing students or faculty who for any reason still do not have their Library off-campus access credentials to kindly email their national ID or passport numbers to [library@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:library@daystar.ac.ke)



LEARNING  
IS A TREASURE THAT WILL  
FOLLOW ITS OWNER  
EVERYWHERE.

Chinese Proverbs  
[InspirationBoost.com](http://InspirationBoost.com)