

Vice-Chancellor Appoints Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODEL) Board

During the third eLearning seminar held on June 2, 2020, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro announced the appointment of the Daystar Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODEL) Board to champion the University's efforts to upscale e-learning.

Each School/Directorate seconded their best Faculty/staff as their eLearning Champions. The Champions are part of the ODEL Board which comprises the following:



Dr. Sylvia Tuikong –
Director Q & A (Chair) –
proposed



Dr. Caroline Ayuya –
Deputy Director - ODEL



Mrs. Alice Muraguri –
Senior Information
Systems Analyst



Dr. Martin Munyao –
School of Arts and
Humanities



Mr. Joseph Munyao –
School of Business &
Economic



Dr. Rosemary Kowuor –
School of Communication



Dr. Jared Menecha –
School of Human and
Social Sciences



Dr. Lois Musikali -
School of Law



Ms. Serah Wachira -
School of Nursing



Mr. Anthony Wambua –
School of Science,
Engineering & Health



Dr. Solomon Nzyuko –
Director DLPDI



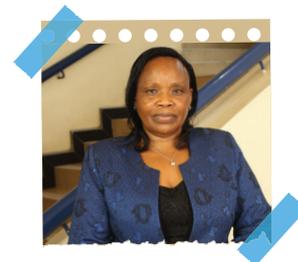
Rosemary Gitachu-
University Librarian



Dr. Paul Mbutu,
University Registrar



CPA Phylis Mutua
Chief Manager Finance



Mrs. Damaris Kimilu,
Corporate Affairs and
Marketing Manager

The board was appointed through a series of eLearning workshops organized by the DVC-Academic Research and Student Affairs, and chaired by the Vice-Chancellor. The new body has its job well cut out and begins work immediately.

Meanwhile, Daystar University will soon move from Moodle to real online platform in partnership with Beulah Heights University, following an MOU that was signed between Daystar and Beulah Height University in May 2019. The Daystar ODeL Board will work with a similar body from Beulah Heights University.

The two Universities will soon begin training Faculty on the new platform to ensure complete content and student migration by August.

Daystar Faculty undertake training on eLearning

Speaking soon after training Faculty from the School of Communication, School of Business and Economics, and School of Nursing on June 3, 2020, the newly appointed Deputy Director for Open, Distance and Electronic Learning Dr. Caroline Ayuya observed: "These are just part of a series of trainings lined up for Faculty and students. We (ODeL) promise to ensure that students get quality, interactive and exciting learning. We focus on building a world class 21st virtual class on Daystar Online learning."

The ODeL Directorate and Board have mounted a series of trainings for Faculty

members, both full-time and part-time, on effective online teaching via Moodle Learning Management System.

The eLearning training series are co-facilitated by Dr. Caroline Ayuya and Mr. Thomas Makunda from the ICT Department, and are geared towards enhancing faculty and student teaching and learning experiences.

The training for the School of Law and School of Arts and Humanities was conducted on June 4, 2020



In her introduction, Dr. Ayuya lauded all seven Schools for inviting their teaching staff to the trainings. She encouraged the Faculty to explore the platforms and click on the least used icons to discover what they can use to improve their teaching experience. On his part, Mr. Makunda took the Faculty through the basics of eLearning: how to set up classes, upload teaching materials, assignments and exams on the eLearning platform, as well as how to get feedback from students among other things.

He too stressed the importance of familiarizing with the least used icons and encouraged the Faculty to click on other information, for example site news which gives general announcements to platform users.

Some departments have also taken individual initiative to explore ways to make eLearning better. DLPDI for instant, held their training on Friday, 22nd May, to prepare their Faculty, most of whom are part time, for the semester. The training was facilitated by Dr. Nzyuko, Mr. Makunda and Dr. Ayuya. ICT focused on technology, Dr. Nzyuko handled lesson preparation and the difference between face to face and eLearning instruction, while Dr Ayuya focused on how to make the eLearning experience exiting for both Faculty and the learner.

The DLPDI has further initiated peer learning among its Faculty every Wednesday evening on Zoom. The idea is to harvest experiences of the week and individual challenges, and discuss how to overcome them. The discussions also help Faculty learn from each other.

Daystar demonstrates e-Learning resilience in the face of Covid-19

The global spread of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) has disrupted every aspect of life, education included. Learning in institutions of Higher Learning.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in China and subsequent attempts by national governments to institute containment measures; educational institutions closed and sent students home.

In order to remain relevant, universities the world over have looked for ways to keep operations going in an effort to avoid disrupting their academic calendars. Here in Kenya like elsewhere in the world, universities found themselves in unfamiliar grounds,

forcing them to either close or transition to e-learning.

Daystar University closed on Monday March 16, 2020 in response to Government directives issued the previous day.

The University Senate immediately took a decision to move classes to the University's eLearning platform to complete the January semester. Lecturers and administrative staff were advised to work from the safety of their homes and support. The Library would extend its eBook and eJournal resources to students remotely for course readings and research.

Teaching staff also swiftly adapted themselves and revised course outlines to accommodate the changes besides addressing emerging eLearning capacity gaps.

Daystar University is one of the first institutions in Kenya that seamlessly transitioned to e-learning. Through the use of its existing ICT capacity, all 1,095 classes and over 4,000 students enrolled for the January 2020 semester were moved to the Daystar e-learning platform. Instructional content and assignments were quickly uploaded on the platform as students and lecturers adjusted themselves to the new normal.

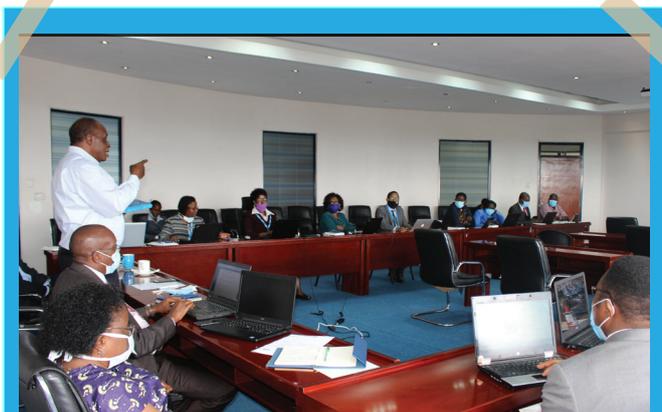
A survey taken towards the end of the semester revealed the blended combination of Daystar eLearning with Zoom, KENET web conferencing, while others moved to Google Meet.

As the semester came to a close, exams were successfully conducted on the Daystar e-learning platform.

But the whole process was not without hitches. Seeing that the pandemic has taken the world by surprise, immediate transition was important despite challenges in adopting to the new normal.

Studying from off-campus, some students did not have the technology and internet data to enable them continue with online classes.

To mitigate this, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro promised not to leave any student behind. Out of 4,339 students registered for the January Semester, 4,285 students attended classes online while 4,113 sat exams. The University will organize catch up seminars for those who were unable to do exams and give them special exams at no extra cost.



The Vice-Chancellor addresses Deans and Managers during an e-Learning workshop

Daystar was so encouraged by its resilience for the January semester that the Senate once more resolved not to interrupt the University calendar. The recruitment campaign for new students ran alongside the second half of the January semester, giving way to the New Student Orientation as the January semester wound down. For the first time in its history, Daystar University pulled off a highly successful NSO from May 18-22, while continuing students took a one week break from the rigors of a grueling online semester. On May 25, 2020, the May Semester began as the government extended the 21-day inter-county lockdown for the third time. The 7:00pm to 6:00am curfew which has prevailed in Nairobi over the same period shows no let up signs.

University extends Discount on Tuition Fees

Correspondingly, the Management Board made consideration to extend a 15% discount on Tuition fees for the May Semester for both new and continuing students. Further, the Finance Department has since refunded Ksh 1,000 to 4,285 students who attended classes online between March 17 – May 16, 2020.

Moreover, the ICT has negotiated a subsidized internet bundle plan with Safaricom to enable Daystar students to purchase 10GB internet data at Kes 500.

All these measures are geared towards mitigating the impact of Covid-19 and enable the student to continue learning as we pray that a cure or a vaccine for Corona virus will soon be found.

ICT has also discussed a package with KENET to enable Faculty and Staff to use the KENET web conferencing to work and run classes from home. With this, the Faculty will be able to schedule classes and invite the students to join.

In the meantime, the May Semester has begun and new students have been introduced to online learning, with amazing uptake.

Continuing students who did not want to take the long holiday have also resumed and successfully registered for online classes.

Meanwhile, although most of the Administrative staff of the University continue to work from the safety of their homes, University operations have continued as usual.

The second private university to be chartered by the Kenya Government in 1994, Daystar has demonstrated resilience and unmatched tenacity in a challenging global business environment, proving itself a destination of choice for many young and middle agers seeking to chart new career paths and enhance existing ones.

Daystar offers a wide range of opportunities from certificate to doctoral study.

Daystar Faculty and Students Present Papers Online

Daystar cohosts Webinar on Educating Nurses in an online environment

Daystar teaching staff and students have continued to make themselves relevant even as the Covid-19 pandemic persists forcing many universities to remain closed. At Daystar, Academic staff and postgraduate students are still carrying out research and presenting papers, online.



On 16th May, Daystar's School of Nursing in collaboration with Calvin University and The Nairobi Hospital hosted a Webinar on Educating Nurses in an Online Environment: Lesson Learned. The session was opened and closed by the DVC-Academic Research and Student Affairs, Prof. Faith Nguru. The Webinar was hosted by Dr. Adejoke Bolanle Ayoola of Calvin University School of Nursing and co-moderated Daystar University Dean, School of Nursing, Mrs. Susan Njuguna, and the Ag. Principal of The Nairobi Hospital College of Health Sciences, Ms. Joyce Mbedha. It attracted some 50 participants

The topics of discussion included:

- Opportunities for online teaching and learning for direct entry Nursing students
- The challenges of online teaching and learning for direct-entry Nursing students
- How we can mitigate the challenges for effective teaching and learning.

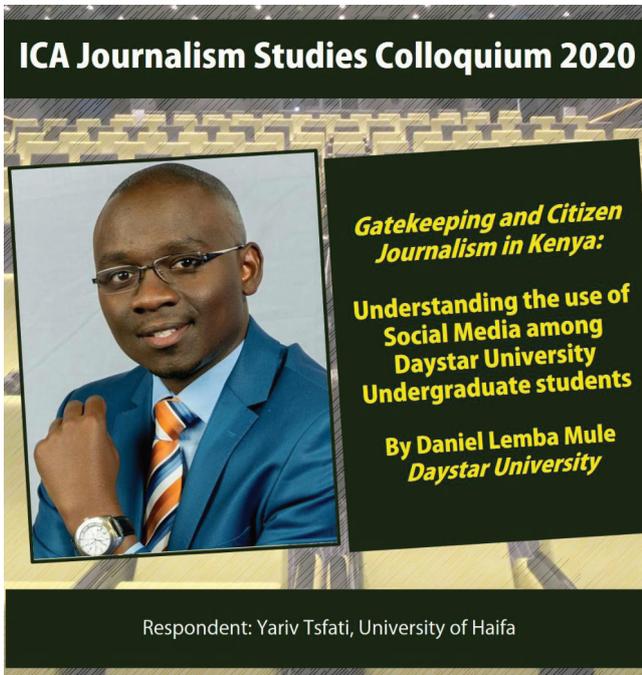
Mrs. Susan Njuguna, Ms. Serah Wachira and Dr. Beda Oladu all faculty of Daystar brought in the African perspective into the discussion.

According to the Dean, School of Nursing, Mrs. Susan Njuguna, the Webinar was a very rich learning experience; especially enriching the e-learning programmes for the country.

Faculty and Student Present papers online at ICA Journalism PhD Studies and Colloquium

Daystar University was among 12 universities that participated in this year's ICA Journalism Studies Colloquium 2020. PhD Communication student, Daniel Lemba Mule, presented a paper titled. **Gatekeeping and Citizen Journalism in Kenya: Understanding the use of Social Media among Daystar University Undergraduate students.** The respondent to his paper was Yariv Tsfati from the University of Haifa. The Colloquium was coordinated from Gold Coast Australia.

Other participating universities included: University of Minnesota in USA, Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, Stirling University in UK, University of Sabatier in France, University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa, Roskilde University, Denmark, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, University of Jyväskylä in Finland, University of Lugano in Switzerland, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and Communication University of China.



Journalism, University of Pennsylvania (Annenberg School of Communications), University of Minnesota (Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication), Michigan State University, University of Oxford (Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, The University of Texas at Austin (School of Journalism/Moody College of Communication), Cardiff University, University of Stavanger, USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, Stockholm University, University of Oregon (School of Journalism and Communication), Hong Kong Baptist University and Griffith University.

The 2020 Journalism Studies ICA PhD Colloquium was sponsored by Karlstads University, UBC Graduate School of

“We could not travel to Australia because of COVID-19 so we did it virtually,” said Daniel. Daniel was the only student from Kenya who participated in the pre-conference.



(L-R) The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro, Company Chair, Rev. Matthews Mwalw’a and Immediate Former Company Chair, Rev. Macmillan Kiiru visit with the Smiths at their residence in Athi River Campus

Daystar Company Board Chair Rev. Dr. Mathews Mwalw’a and Immediate Former Company Board Chair Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru Visit the Main Campus

On 8th May 2020, The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro hosted the Company Board Chair Rev. Dr. Mathews Mwalw’a and the immediate Former Company Board Chair Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru at the Main campus, Athi River.

The visit commenced with a private courtesy call to the University’s Founders Dr. Donald Smith and his wife Mrs. Faye Smith.

The team was taken on a guided tour of the Athi River Campus by the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the Ag University Services Manager Ms. Caroline Mwangi and the foreman, Simon Kimani.

During the tour, Ms. Mwangi noted that the new borehole yielded 24,000 cubic meters per hour, which was sufficient for the Athi River campus. They also passed by the revived old

borehole that serviced the university before the new one was sunk.

The team also visited the Vice-chancellor's livestock project, which began in January 2020 with the purchase of 54 female goats, 23 male goats and five cows acquired at a cost of kes.400,000.

The herd was acquired from Kitui by Susan Mbaluto and Simon Kimani of Campus Services, with the help of Mr. Mailu, a Daystar neighbor. The guests rejoiced at the news that the herd was already increasing.

The guests were excited to witness how the Vice-chancellor's beautification project had transformed the Athi River campus with almost 100% survival of the trees.



Beautiful Athi River Campus dotted with the newly planted trees



Vice-chancellors trees are growing well making the Main campus-Athi River green and beautiful

At the proposed Chapel construction site on the Rock, the guests, both ordained clergy prayed for the successful completion of the Kes 350 million project.



Current and Immediate Former Company Chairs, Rev. Matthews Mwalw'a and Rev. Macmillan Kiiru, and the VC Prof. Laban Ayiro pray at the proposed Chapel construction site. Hosting the team is the Ag campus Services Manager Caroline Mwangi (right) and PRO Jean Murungi (Left).

The next stop was at the students' Gym whose construction is near completion, before surveying the perimeter wall marking the periphery of the Main Campus which is also under construction, and confirmed that the work was progressing well, before heading to the Vice-Chancellor's residence for lunch.



The Vice-chancellor, Prof Laban Ayiro, Company Chair Rev. Dr. Matthews Mwalw'a and Former Company Chair Rev. Dr. Macmillan Kiiru inspect the progress of the Gym construction. Showing them around is the Ag Campus Services Manager Ms. Caroline Mwangi

Present also to host the guests was the Vice-Chancellor's Protocol, Mrs. Grace Mbogo-Liyai and Public Relations Officer Ms. Jean Murungi

Recent Staff Appointments



Dr. Caroline Ayuya from the School of Human and Social Sciences has been appointed Deputy Director, Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODeL).



Dr. Duncan Irungu from the School of Business and Economics has been appointed Director, Planning and Entrepreneurship for a term of three years effective June 1, 2020. Dr. Irungu will report to the Vice-Chancellor while supporting the DVC Finance, Administration and Planning with the aspects of Monitoring and Evaluation of the Strategic Plan, Establishment of ISO System, Institutional Risk Management, Innovations and growing alternative sources of income through entrepreneurship and the establishment of Business Plan for the University.



The ICT Manager **Mr. Solomon Mburu** has resumed duty effective June 2, 2020.

We congratulate all as they take up their assignments and new deployments.

Coming together as Daystar to help our own - Daystarians For Daystar

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, Daystar University Crisis Communication (postgraduate) students came up with a campaign targeting Daystar faculty, staff, students and alumni to raise support for students and staff who might find themselves in dire need of basic necessities.

The team leader is Julia Ayieko under the supervision of the class lecturer Sr. Prof. A.L Lando.

The campaign is on-going hence the team would like to encourage anyone willing be part of this great undertaking to donate foodstuff and non-food items to help our DU friends in need.

COMING TOGETHER

As Daystar to help our own

Due to the COVID-19 global and national pandemic, some members of Daystar University students, staff and faculty are in dire need of essential supplies. Therefore, COM 639X in collaboration with Daystar University are appealing to students, staff, faculty, alumni and all people of good will to provide for our brothers and sisters in need.

What to contribute:

<p>BONGA POINTS</p> <p>You can donate bonga points to the number below to buy food</p> <p>0725 472 590</p> <p>Dial *126#</p>	<p>DRY FOOD STUFFS</p> <p>Such as: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maize Meal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green grams</p> <p>Non-food items e.g</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soaps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tissues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooking oil</p> <p>DROP OFF POINTS</p> <p>Daystar Athi River & Nairobi campus reception</p>	<p>FUNDS (MPESA)</p> <p>Send your contributions to this till number</p> <p>5139563</p> <p>A/C name: Master Communicators Welfare Association</p> <p><small>Send the acknowledgement message to 0725 472 590 to confirm contribution</small></p>
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If you are Daystar student, staff or faculty in need of:

- Food provisions** – visit the campus nearest to you (from Morning of Tuesday 5th May 2020) or call the University Chaplain: **0724 433 163** (Rev. Josphat Musili)
- Physical, emotional or mental health support** – Call: **0721 677 904** (Grace Karanja) **0722 824 584** (Allan Ball)

"...yes they will know we are Christians by our love..." (John 13:35)

So far, the KES 38,500 raised has funded two food runs that have reached 40 beneficiaries through the Chaplaincy. Nairobi Campus Assistant Chaplain Pastor Rachael Ngugi and Athi River Campus Assistant Chaplain Rev. Josphat Musili helped to generate and distribution required food items. They also compile a report on the number of beneficiaries reached with the food donations.

We expect to have a third food distribution run next week as we wait for more friends to join us in contributing to enable reach more people in need.

We assure you that whatever you give will be given to someone who really deserves it.

Our accountability is real-time on the WhatsApp group, but also each contributor

receives a thank you message and acknowledgement from the leaders steering this group.



Allocation per person in the first batch of items



Contributions by Daysterians. We await yours!



Martin Kamau, Former DCF Chair, Athi River Campus presents a package to one of the beneficiaries.

Digital Library Off-Campus Access for May-August 2020 Semester



The Library Department appreciates all the new students who registered for the May 2020 semester. We too wish to assure them of our best support with the required library

information resources as they embark on their academic journey through the E-Learning platform.

The Library has so far created and emailed new accounts to most of the students who had included their national ID or passport

numbers when they registered with the University. We are in communication with students who are yet to confirm their national ID or passport numbers. Students who do not yet have their ID numbers are requested to contact us on the Library email below. This shall enable us to complete their registration with the Library.

We request all new and continuing students or faculty who do not have their Library off-campus access credentials to kindly email their national ID or passport numbers to library@daystar.ac.ke



Dr. Leah Komen, Ag. Director of Research and Post Graduate Studies lost her brother Mr. Sam Sang on Friday 29th May 2020 due to cardiac arrest. Sam was diagnosed with Rheumatic heart disease and in 1982 had an open heart surgery. He has since lived with an artificial heart valve till his demise. Sam left behind a wife and four children, between ages 8 and 20. Sam was laid to rest on Friday 5th June 2020 in Trans Nzoia, Cherengany.

Let us keep our colleague in prayer and give her support during this difficult season

She can be reached on: 0722 461 396