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Academic Programmes	Minimum Entry Requirements	Tuition Fees Per Semester
<p>Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) Specialization Options: Accounting, Business Administration, Credit Management, Human Resource Management, Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development, Finance, Marketing, Procurement and Supply Chain Management <i>Exemptions at no charge for ATD, DCM or part II CPA/CPS/CCP/CSIA to join in 2nd year while part III CPA/CPS/CCP/CSIA join in 3rd year.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCSE Mean Grade C+ or Business Diplomas from an accredited University, KIM, KNEC or KASNEB (ATD, DCM, CPA/CPS/CCP/CSIA-Part II) to join in the second year of study or KNEC Higher Diplomas in Business & CPA/CPS/CCP/CIM /CSIA-Part III join in the third year of study or KACE with minimum of 2 principal passes and 1 subsidiary 	<p>Kshs.51,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.45,000 (Distance Learning)</p>
<p>Bachelor of Science in Computer Science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCSE Mean Grade C+ (plus) or KACE Certificate with a minimum of 2 principal passes and one subsidiary pass or KNEC or University relevant Diplomas 	<p>Kshs.55,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.45,000 (Distance Learning)</p>
<p>Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management</p>		<p>Kshs.55,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.45,000 (Distance Learning)</p>
<p>Bachelor of Arts in Community Development</p>		<p>Kshs.50,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.45,000 (Distance Learning)</p>
<p>Bachelor of Education (Arts) Teaching Courses: English and Linguistics, Literature, Geography, History, Religious Education, Kiswahili, Mathematics and Business Studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCSE Mean Grade C+ (plus) and C+ (Plus) in two teaching subjects, D+ (Plus) in Mathematics and C (Plain) in English or KACE Certificate with a minimum of 2 principal passes and one subsidiary pass and a minimum of a principal pass in each of the 2 teaching subjects or Diploma in Education (Arts) from accredited institutions 	<p>Kshs.50,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p>
<p>Diploma and Certificate Programmes in:-</p> <p>Business: Accounting; Banking & Finance; Agricultural Enterprise & Project Management; Business Information Technology; Business Management; County Governance & Management; Credit Management; Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development; Human Resource Management; Marketing Management; Sales Management; Project Management; Public Administration; Public Relations; Procurement & Supply Chain Management; Quality Assurance & Standardization.</p> <p>Computing: Computer Science; Desktop Publishing & Graphics Design; Information Technology; Software Development; 3D Animation and Modelling</p> <p>Education, Humanities and Social Sciences: Education Arts (In any of the following subjects:- English, Literature in English, Kiswahili, C.R.E, History, Geography, Mathematics, Business Studies, Agriculture) Early Childhood Education; Special Needs Education; Journalism & Mass Communication; Social Work and Community Development; Counseling Psychology and Diplomacy and International Relations</p> <p>Health Sciences: Environmental Health; Community Health; Health Records and Information Technology and Nutrition & Dietetics</p> <p>Hospitality and Tourism: Food and Beverage Management; Food Production; Hotel and Restaurant Management; Travel and Tourism Management</p> <p>Library and Information Science: Library and Information Science; Records and Information Management</p>	<p>Diploma in Education (Arts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KCSE Mean Grade C+ (Plus) and C+ (plus) in two teaching Subjects, D+ (plus) in Mathematics and C (Plain) in English <p>Other Diplomas KCSE Mean Grade C- (minus) or a certificate qualification</p> <p>Certificate Programmes KCSE Mean Grade D (Plain) or an artisan certificate qualification</p>	<p>Diploma Programmes Kshs.25,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.22,000 (Distance Learning)</p> <p>Certificate Programmes Kshs.25,000 (Full-time, Evenings & Weekends)</p> <p>Kshs.22,000 (Distance Learning)</p>
<p>Duration of Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree Programmes: 8 Semesters (2 1/2 Years) Diploma Programmes: 6 Semesters (2 Years) Certificate Programmes: 3 Semesters (1 Year) 		
<p>Modes of Study Full Time, Distance Learning, Evening and Weekends</p>		
<p>For more information Call: 0711 949006, 0703 917 155, 0712 959 293 or Email: admission@gretsauniversity.ac.ke, gretsauniversityadmission@gmail.com SMS the word GRETSA to 20133 free of charge, Website www.gretsauniversity.ac.ke</p>		

I was Molded by Gretsas, You Too Have a Future!

By Samson Gichia
Gretsas University Alumnus

Hats off to our Class of 2020 graduands! Your hard work deserves some warm and thoughtful words of recognition. It is indeed a great honor, joy and privilege to speak with you today; first I want to thank God for this wonderful day. In a special way, I want to appreciate Gretsas University for contributing to the person I am today, both in my social and career life by giving me the skills and knowledge that has continued to shape me.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 for not giving up at this trying time of the pandemic. I have to be frank with you; I struggled to come up with best word of advice due to the uncertainty of the current times that we are in. Having worked for about 6 years since my graduation from Gretsas, I had not been in such an uncertain business environment as the one created by the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic.

Picture this: this year alone, conservative estimates show that more than 1.7 million Kenyans have lost their jobs and several businesses closed. However, much as the business environment is very challenging, I believe legends are made in such times and I have no doubt in my mind that with the skills and knowledge acquired from Gretsas University you shall prosper.

May I share with you some basic lessons that continue to guide my day-to-day activities. It is my hope that these principles will inform your future undertakings and help in the realization of your potential.

- Put God first, never doubt His power and believe His grace is sufficient.
- Be grateful every day because that's the source of true power. The most important power lies in a grateful heart. Practice turning your thoughts toward appreciation and thanksgiving, because that is where you will find your gifts, strength and power.
- When given a task, do it in the way possible such that no dead or alive person can do it better than you could.



*Samson Gichia –BCom, Class of 2014
Schemes Administrator, Housing Finance (HF) Group*

I believe hard work works and working hard is what successful people do; at least that's what I practice every day.

- The best way of approaching everything is by combining knowledge and wisdom.
- In whatever you do always remind yourself that giving up is not an option as you have to fight through the bad days to earn the best days of your life.
- Never compromise your morals. Currently our country is experiencing a lot of corruption and a lot of young people are in it. It is a fact of life that easy come, easy go. So, build your reputation to be a person who your community will be happy to be associated with.

I wish to conclude with a proverb that says 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going. May the Almighty God lead and bless you as you proceed to the next chapter of your life. Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!

TRUTH

By Mugambi Frankline
Department of Library and Information Science

The goal of education is to build, strengthen and sustain the society. Unfortunately, we often forget or take for granted the privilege of attaining university education. It is a big achievement worth celebrating. I therefore wish to congratulate the Class of 2020.

University education enables you to think and exercise some degree of control over your thoughts. Our thoughts affect how we perceive realities, and the ability to “create meaning from experience” will influence the lenses from which you see the world. Greta University has been preparing you for the real world. As you step out to the real world, it calls on you to uphold integrity which is one of our core values. To achieve integrity, you need to speak the truth.

At no time has it felt as urgent as now to protect and value truth. Before I tell you about not lying, I must admit that I am not perfect. I may have lied about being stuck in the traffic as the reason for not attending a meeting on time while the truth is that I was at that particular time still at home. But I know I have felt my best when I



Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance wheel of the social machinery.”

- Horace Mann, 1848.

told the truth and my biggest regret is when I did not have the courage to tell the truth.

Telling the truth doesn't mean everything will work out, actually sometimes it doesn't so am not telling you to tell the truth because it will always workout for you but because you will sleep well at night and there is nothing more beautiful than to wake up every day holding in your hands the full measure of your integrity.

Sometimes the hardest truths are those that we have to tell ourselves. It is hard to tell ourselves truth about our failures, our fragileness, that maybe we haven't done our best. It is hard to tell ourselves the truth about our emotions, that maybe what we feel, it is hurt rather than anger. That maybe it is time to walk away and close the chapter. Today as you step out to the real world, I urge you to make truth your companion and always bend towards the side of truth.

Challenges Will be There, Yes, But You Have What It Takes to Excel

By Stella Marete
Student Welfare Office



On your graduation day, the day that marks the apex of your academic efforts, I congratulate you for making it to the end to receive the award for your hard work. The sustained hard work over many years has made you eligible to graduate. With good reason, we consider our job done and complete on your attainment of a university degree/diploma/certificate qualification. The next step that awaits you is no doubt challenging and unpredictable. Having spent the better part of your life in the cloistered surroundings of academia, you are now about to face what is deservedly called the 'outside world' This 'outside world' in the words of the philosopher Thomas Hobbes, is very frequently 'short, nasty and brutish'.

The first obvious thing you ought to know as a matter of fact is that you are not the first person to graduate. Worse, you will discover that in the discipline in which you graduate in, there are thousands of people holding the next higher qualification in your discipline. And it does not get better; you will discover that the market out there has seen your degree, or its identical likeness, in the hands of thousands of bright, young and eager graduands before you. In other words, the crowning achievement of your academic life will be celebrated and inflated today, and become mundane and deflated tomorrow.

You will discover that the statistics on national unemployment are not just figures and numbers in an academic assignment that has to be handed in to one of your lecturers as part of your course work. You will realize that the phrase "economic growth" or the lack thereof, has direct consequences on you, very personally and individually.

Numbers and statistics will suddenly begin to make incredible sense, such as the statistics that 60% of Kenya's population comprises the youth. Translated, this means

that you are swimming in the same economic waters, looking for the same limited opportunities and competing directly with about 20 million other Kenyans, a good number with your similar qualifications.

Some of you will be fortunate to have family businesses to join and help run. A few others will have influential relatives who can make phone calls that will catapult you into your first positions in employment. However, the vast majority of you, I suspect, will enter the job market armed only with an academic qualification, hope and character.

These, dear graduands, are the odds that you will shortly be facing.

But as the philosopher in *Desiderata* alludes, you are a child of the universe, and you have the right to be in this world and realize your full potential and dreams. The world out there awaits your unique contribution that only you can provide. Your personal philosophy, academic qualifications, experiences, dreams and aspirations uniquely define you making you very different from the multitude of others you will find yourself sailing in the same waters with.

So why should the world give you the space and attention? It is because you are capable of creating value and making a difference. With a positive personal philosophy, training at Greta coupled with the many experiences you have had so far in your life, you surely can create value in whatever undertaking you resolve to engage in. That is what will attract employment opportunities or drive you to business venture undertakings that will earn you a livelihood, progress in life and all you desire. Forget the unemployment statistics, multitudes of youth, tall relatives, born to suffer, disadvantaged background and all such talks. You have what it takes to excel in your next phase of life. And the good thing is that it is all within your control. Congratulations Class of 2020!

This is Your Day!

By Susan Wanjiku
Administration Department

Graduation is a time of completion, of finishing, of an ending; however, it is also a time of celebration of achievement and a beginning for you. Congratulations on your outstanding achievement.!

You worked so hard for it and now the results are here. You deserve every bit of it. Your determination, persistence and handwork have paid off. You deserve a huge pat on the back. Well done!

I wish you happiness, and all good things that life can offer. May this day be a milestone that will bring you fond memories and may your future be brighter than this day. You are officially graduates-alumni of Gretsas University.



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Reflections

by the Class of 2020 Graduands



*Shadrack Moses Momanyi
BSc (Computer Science),
Class of 2020*

Tragedy is when the only thing that is growing in your life is your age; no knowledge, no wisdom, no investments, no money, no promotion, no capital, no honor, no social networks. ONLY AGE. Grets University gave us the opportunity to pursue our dreams. I have grown steadily that sometimes I sit and think ... if I hadn't been here, I would have avoided the fear of failing, but if I had not been here at all, I would have missed how beautiful and wonderful people are. So, it's really a blessing being here that even trying isn't scary.

Congratulations classmates, Class of 2020!

I have this to say: If you're a Graduate, spend some time talking to a Student. And if you're a Student, have a chat with a Graduate, maybe you'll find some common ground, maybe you won't. But if you honestly engage with an open mind and an open heart, I guarantee you'll learn something. And goodness knows we need more of that, because we know what happens when we only talk to people who think like we do, we just get more stuck in our ways, more divided, and it gets harder to come together for a common purpose.



*Yvonne Francis
BEd (Arts), Class of 2020*



Reflections

by the Class of 2020 Graduands



*Ombati Josphat Isanda
BSc (Computer Science), Class of 2020*

To be successful in life you need to plan just as you do for a journey. It takes long to get what you want but at the end you enjoy as you get your way. It does not matter how you get to have that life you desire, if determination and hard work combined, trust me you will have that what you desire in life. Campus life is the best and GRE TSA has given me the experience. The end doesn't always justify the means. TRUST THE PROCESS

It has indeed been an unforgettable journey which will remain in my heart forever. My campus life was filled with lots of excitement and love. It made me understand the value of time and became an excellent chapter in my life. It is the period where I found myself and learned a great deal about myself. Grets a University helped me learn dedication and self-actualization. My lecturers motivated me and pushed me to achieve my best which is a big part of what I am today. I entered Grets a University weeping, and even while leaving, I have the same tears in my eyes. The difference being the former was for not wanting to go, and the latter is for not wanting to leave. The joy of my school life has been unquestionably countless and will remain to be the best days of my life.



*By Jemeli Mercy
BEd (Arts), Class of 2020*



Reflections

by the Class of 2020 Graduands



Kitur Elvis King'eno
BEd (Arts), Class of 2020

To all students, I urge you to set aside your labels and explore what your principles say about the world you wish to serve. Beliefs are our anchors. Be Bold Be Courageous Be your Best!

Montana Blessed
BEd (Arts), Class of 2020

First let's observe a moment of silence in the memory of Faith Kamau, the University's Head of Student Recruitment and Customer Experience Management Department, who passed on in June this year. She was a great mentor and a huge loss to the Gretsia community.

Being a comrade in Gretsia University has been the most amazing experience. It's a cosmopolitan institution of higher learning that not only nurtured my dreams but also motivated the growth of my talents. I'm a now great teacher, netball player, actress and above all God fearing because of this great campus. I'm proud to be a product of the quality education for the real world today.



By Sylvia Chepkonga
BCom, Class of 2020

Memories have been part and parcel of my life, much like everyone else. We remember the good days which have gone by and the bad ones as well. One of the good memories in life is definitely of campus life. A student knows the importance of school life, and they consider it the golden period of their life. And why should it not be? It is the first genuinely impactful thing in one's life, and the importance of it can never be disapproved. My campus life was surely a learning experience. The confidence and motivation it gave me, I couldn't get it anywhere else. Most importantly, it is the place where I recognized my uniqueness and individuality. My school life is no less than a treasure for me which gave me invaluable joys in life.





An Encounter with a Pandemic and Virtual Learning

Covid-19 Pandemic: The Musings of an Undergraduate Student

By Prof. Wabuke Bibi
Academic Dean

I am *Alexandrina Kivindu*. I am taking a degree in a health-related discipline in a Kenyan university. Let me share with you my experience and reflections about the COVID-19 pandemic on the life and welfare of a university student.

When the pandemic first broke out and the schools and universities were ordered closed, I was secretly elated at the god-sent holiday. Of course, it was not politically correct to express this excitement publicly, so I simply stifled my gratitude as I hurriedly packed my stuff and headed home. For the first few weeks, it was all unparalleled bliss: I slept as long as I wished. In fact, my daily routine started at 1.00 pm (wake up) to 4.00 am (go to sleep!). In between I watched movies non-stop: the Vikings, Cursed, the Queen of the South, Godfather, Godfather of Harlem, the Barbarians, No Man's land, Teheran, Designated Survivor, Rise of the Empire, the Insightful, The Good Doctor*ad infinitum*. Soon this routine started to bore me. As can be imagined, there was little physical activity. The soon-to-come lockdown made

matters worse. Movement anywhere was restricted; even visiting the local gym was not possible. I noticed my father's concern about this. He tried to trick me into some physical activity by insisting I walk to town for shopping, to no avail. The boredom arose from removal of the familiar social contact; the noise and boisterousness of campus life; the challenge of wits from colleagues, who made me discover my self-worth. I missed, in some inscrutable way, even the guys who "rubbed me the wrong way". I missed the familiar campus sounds. The maxim: "I am because you are" took on a clearer meaning – our colleagues help us define ourselves.

Then came the news that we would continue our studies on something that soon became a household term: "Virtual Learning". An immediate personal benefit from this is that I, my two sisters and brother had a perfect excuse to extract a smart phone from Dad. Now each of us has the latest version of the Samsung Galaxy series! This of course fueled furious activity on the social platforms. Our father was furious in a different way: When we were all at home, there would be near absolute silence: everyone was busy browsing! He instituted stringent house rules: no phones at the table, on pain of forfeiture. As we embarked on the virtual learning platform, new challenges emerged. There were many technical hurdles. A lot of our colleagues were exasperated by unstable networks, high cost of bundles, and a host of other issues. And many of our lecturers seemed to be also just learning: COVID-19 was indeed the equalizer; nobody seemed to know more than the other. We were all learning "on the job".

Although virtual Learning was plausible, one noticed certain drawbacks. Most students learn on the basis: "I hear, I forget; I see, I remember; and I do, I understand". With the virtual platform, many of us could only "hear", meaning that we would readily forget. It was therefore a wise move to recall students to the physical classroom for them to "see" and "do". In addition, dependence on single platform (social media) for information and exchange, in contrast to access to the library, lecturer consultation and discussions/group work, diminished the effectiveness of learning. Further, virtual learning demands a certain degree of self-discipline for the student. It is therefore probably more suited to advanced, as opposed to primary or lower level, students. This is probably why my colleague, *Felix Obongita*, a DL (Distance Learning) student was so grateful for this

turn of events. For him, the COVID-19 pandemic was a cloud with a silver lining. Having been forced by the lockdown to stay at home, he was able to access Virtual classes, and he enjoyed them thoroughly. It really added value to his DL learning materials. And all at NO EXTRA cost! No wonder he hopes that this will be a permanent feature of alternative modes of learning. A more serious concern, however, is the way examinations were run virtually. Suffice it to say that it created a lot of room for *creativity*. Our social media, especially *What's App*, platform exploded with hilarious tales of creativity gone wrong. My colleague *Omondi* related that, during one of the oral presentations, one of the students had impressed the panelist a lot. That is, until one of them said: "by the way, as you leave, can you please turn on the Webcam for us"? The chap helplessly turned on the Webcam, and: Lo and behold: a total stranger was revealed. The poor student who had outsourced this service has to date not contacted the University. The universities need to invest more in infrastructure and systems to run examinations virtually.

At another level, COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant move to alternative mode of learning served a bigger purpose. It gave everyone a change to "come out of the comfort zone", and explore novel ways of living. We take many things for granted, necessarily because there is no incentive to explore. In fact, some young people have been spurred into creativity, and a few have experienced the so-called "light bulb moment": an explosion of new, bright ideas. In any case, as some environmentalists have demonstrated, while humanity was ruing financial and livelihood catastrophes, the slowdown in industrial and other human activity gave mother earth much needed breathing space! It has been demonstrated that there has been a remarkable re-generation of aquatic, marine and forest life. Not to forget: everyone now knows how to keep clean!

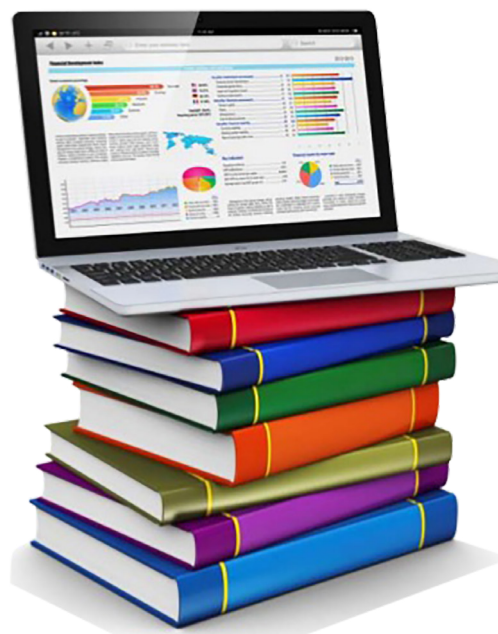
The future? I would cast my lot with leveraging on the advantages and possibilities learnt from this experience. It IS possible to conduct virtual learning. Let's not abandon it. It offers flexibility to multi-task. Colleagues of mine who have landed jobs or other hustles can actually, with discipline, fulfill their dreams concurrently. Invest more in infrastructure for virtual delivery of education. The world has shifted to the virtual space for a large number of vital services: we should not slide back to our previous comfort zones.

Virtual platforms have opened the opportunities for us to expand access to education. Let's exploit it.

The Successful Adoption of Virtual Learning by Gretsia University

By Mugambi Frankline

Department of Library and Information Science



The Government confirmed the first case of Coronavirus in Kenya on 12 March 2020. Immediately thereafter in a bid to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, the Government banned public gatherings like rallies and weddings in addition to directing the closure of all schools, colleges and universities.

Owing to the uncertainty on how long the pandemic would last, the Gretsia University Senate resolved to have the resumption of learning on virtual platforms commencing 4 May 2020 with the KENET customized Big Blue Button (BBB) web conferencing platform adopted as the official Learning Management System (LMS) for conducting virtual classes. Training for staff and students to ensure easier adoption of the new normal was continually conducted.

The University also got invaluable support from the leading mobile service providers in the country namely Safaricom. Airtel and Telkom who offered data bundles to all registered students at highly discounted rates that reduced the costs of acquisition of such bundles to merely a third of the prevailing market rates. This enabled most students to afford the continuous attendance of the virtual classes.

While traditional, on-campus learning will inevitably return to prominence once the coronavirus abates, the pandemic as offered us an opportunity to learn more about new digital tools and how to best use them. At least for now, everyone; both lecturers and students need to get a lot better at online learning. Students will not have issues from a technology perspective. These are “digital natives” after all. It will be more about discipline and finding ways to provide them with the structured accountability that comes with being in a physical classroom.

The most valuable skills we can all learn from this pandemic are what some call enduring skills. These are distinctly human skills like empathy, emotional intelligence, creativity, working in teams, and critical thinking. We have learned that the world can change far too fast and there is need for each one to develop his/ her enduring skills, and know there is no one right pathway or perfect trajectory in life or work, or anything really.

There is your pathway, and although at times crooked with lots of twists and turns, every turn or twist is an opportunity to learn. Indeed, most of the best learning comes from the twists and turns, often from our stumbles. Those are the occasions when enduring skills are often learned. Those are the occasions when your enduring skills allow you to shift, get off the cliff, adjust, and move on and thrive.

Virtual Classroom as the New Normal

By Prof. Wabuke Bibi
Academic Dean



When the country-wide CORONA-19 pandemic-induced lockdown was announced just over 100 days ago, the majority of university students (and staff?), had no idea what to expect regarding their studies. Most likely a large number of them simply assumed, and hoped, that this was just an unscheduled (and welcome?) break, that would soon be over. So when, after a few weeks of this involuntary leave the announcement was made that classes would be conducted on virtual platforms, there was wide spread skepticism. This was probably to be expected as fear of the unknown and insecurity about change. Many had no idea what this entailed, let alone how it would impact them individually. Many simply figured that it was not feasible, and would probably fizzle away. Thus, the exercise had a very slow take off. Indeed, 4 to 5 weeks into the May-August semester, only slightly 30%-35% of the eligible students had registered to continue their studies on the Virtual platforms.

Then set in a period of trial and error about the choice of platforms and service and service providers. A large number of the stakeholders (both students and staff) had simply no idea what was going on. A period of serious learning (and re-learning) now set in. A number of them simply could not cope, and sought to camouflage their dilemma in a plethora of excuses and procrastinations and foot-dragging.

Of these excuses, the ones that were most politically respectable was the cost of the infrastructure: the devices, (laptops, smartphones *udgl*) and something that for some had eluded clear definition till now: something called “data bundles”. At one point a lecturer heard the anguished cry from the student user over the faceless laptop screen: *Aiihi... Hii kitu*

inanyonya bun-dles sana!). This cry eventually reached those that were responsible for this tribulation, and it was decided to subsidize the purchase of this utility. But still a substantial proportion of resource-challenged students (read poor); backgrounds have simply not overcome this barrier. This threatens to inadvertently exacerbate exclusion.

This intervention provided some relief. However, other goblins emerged to torment the students. Those who were using the largest service provider soon started experiencing unpredictable and often frequent interruptions, ranging from internet speed and stability, overload “hanging” of devices, power fluctuations, to device configurations. Sometimes users ran into inexplicable incompatibility issues of the different service providers.

As combined and individual solutions were found to these challenges, a substantial number of the previously reluctant students rushed to get on board. This created a wave of (very) late registrations for the May-August semester. This has exerted extra pressure on the lecturers, who must ensure that these late comers are brought up to speed. The specter of the Make-up lectures was borne. The proportion of students on the virtual platforms has grown to 40-45%.

There is increased confidence in the virtual modes of learning: It is likely that it will be the mode of choice for many hence. This optimism received enthusiastic support by DL students. The University Management wisely allowed the DL students to join the classes (at no extra cost), which significantly improved the appeal of the virtual mode to them. In fact, this is likely to significantly alter the proportions of students in this mode.

This welcome development has now generated a new set of concerns. Many students are uncertain about the contemplated format of assessments - assignments, CATS and semester examinations. What is clear is that the University Managements will need to review policies and practices regarding testing and examinations to uphold the credibility of virtual modes of learning. Some exciting options are on the table, including the use of intelligent (spy!) software to beat the scourge of cheating. This is crucial to the survival of alternative modes.

Whatever happens, it is clear that academic experience will never be the same again. The new normal is bound to include some version of virtual learning. This in turn has implications on perceptions and as-sumption about life at the university. What is even clearer is that NOBODY has the answers. Solutions have to be generated from the experiences we have now. Thus, it is crucial to ensure that the students give effective feedback of their experiences. Their input is essential in setting sustainable, widely acceptable ways of teaching and learning.

WELCOME TO THE NEW UNIVERSITY LECTURE ROOM!



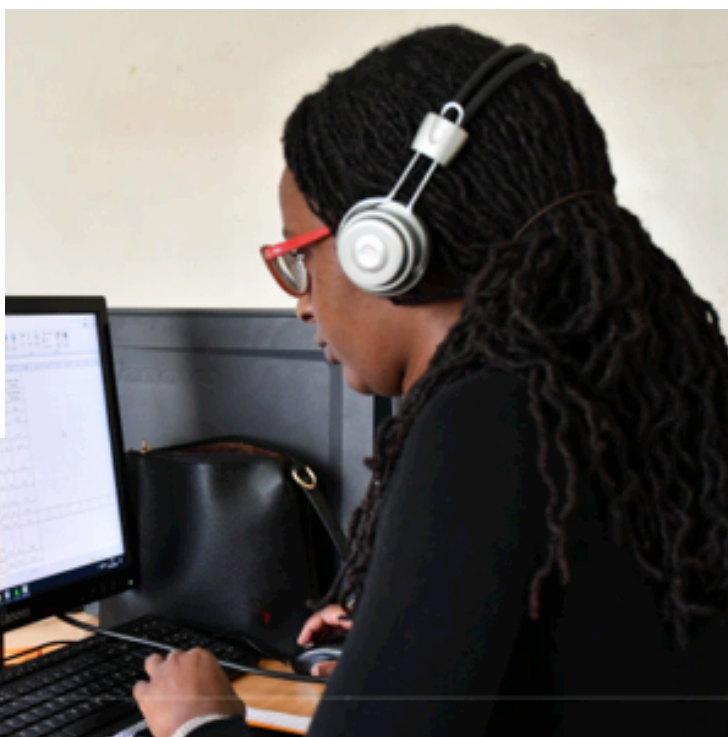
George Mugwe, Lecturer in the School of Business Streams live a Business Mathematics class



Hillary Mutugi and Bonface Muthomi, Lecturers in the School of Health Sciences facilitate virtual classes



Catherine Karani, a lecturer in the School of Hospitality conducting a virtual lecture



Yvonne Tidi of Quality Assurance Office monitors the performance of Virtual Learning Platform

Teaching Using Online Methodology: Reflections by a Lecturer

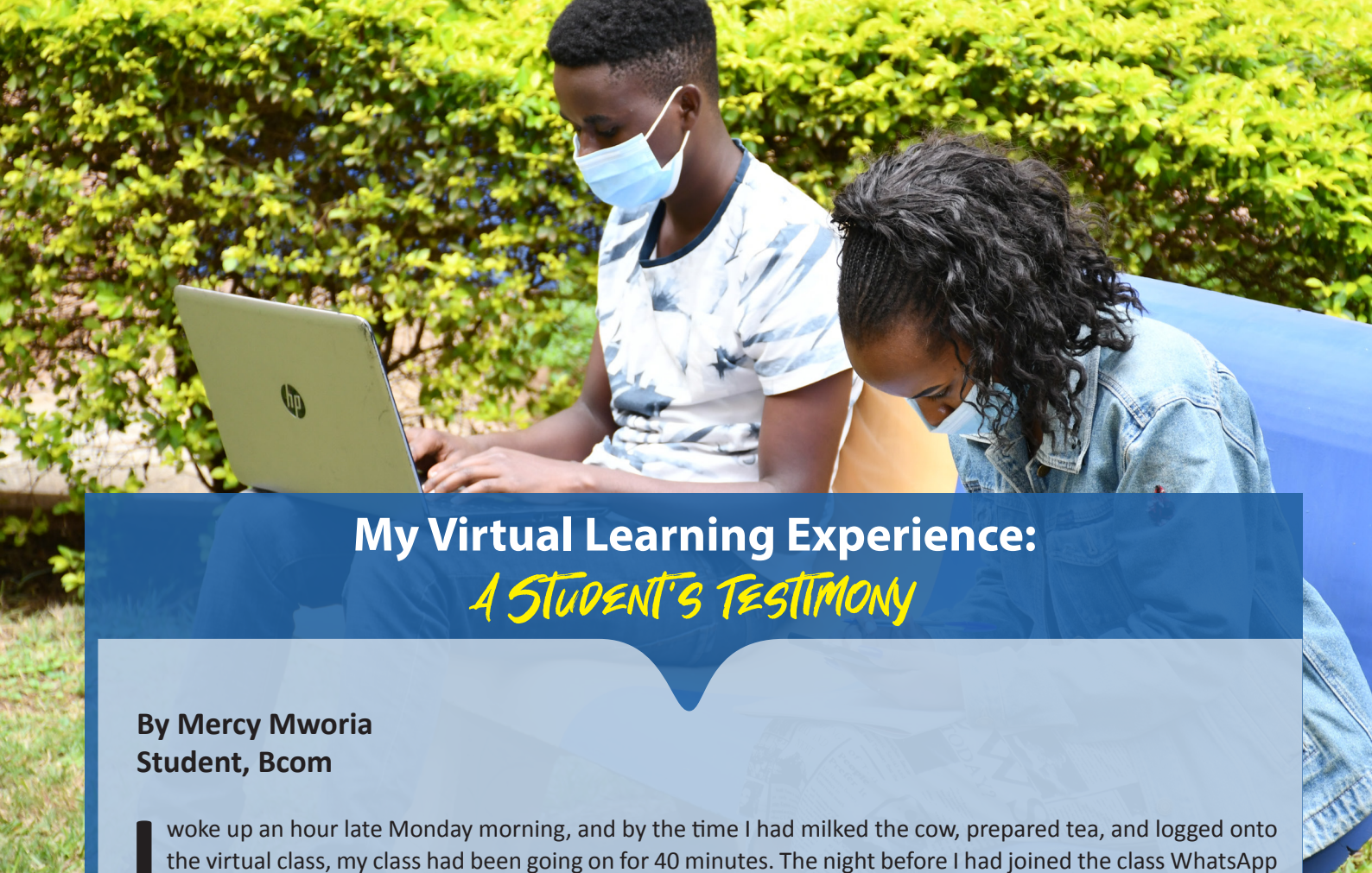
By Prof. George N. Reche
School of Education

A few days before embarking on teaching my virtual classes, I recalled the fable by John Potter's book entailed *Our Iceberg is Melting* whereby the penguins were confronted with inevitable change. Comparable to the fable; the Coronavirus epidemic has necessitated most educational institutions into using online teaching instead of in-class teaching. Except for the lack of face-to-face engagement with the lecturers since the closure of universities' there is learning using computers and mobile phones. Nonetheless there are challenges that lecturers encounter as they facilitate learning in the online classes. My Reflections are focused on four areas of concern: The learning/teaching enrolments, Network overload, staying connected to students, and students' motivation.

A few students learn in environments which are not supportive such as the bedrooms and kitchen tables, and noisy surroundings. It is important that the University lecturers should also operate from "University" ideal environment in teaching the online classes. Market Cybers are not suitable environment(s) to neither the lecturers nor the students for effective teaching/learning. Network overload was also an issue of concern to both students and lecturers. There was one instance where the Network was too busy and consequently the network quality was not good enough for effective teaching/learning. Student(s)

engagement is critical so that they can express their opinions, during the teaching process. Hence the need for students' participation. Students at-attendance was not encouraging at the initial stages of online classes. However, the attendance improved when students realized that their attendance and participation was taken into account in the formative evaluation of their courses. The other challenge during the teaching in the online classes was lack participation by some students who rarely got involved in Chats. It is important to note that University lecturers have gained a lot in their professional development by the introduction of online classes.





My Virtual Learning Experience: *A STUDENT'S TESTIMONY*

**By Mercy Mworira
Student, Bcom**

I woke up an hour late Monday morning, and by the time I had milked the cow, prepared tea, and logged onto the virtual class, my class had been going on for 40 minutes. The night before I had joined the class WhatsApp group where I received the link to join the class, and this was the first day I was learning virtually. Over the course of the three-hour class, I noticed my puffy eyes and became self-conscious. I became distracted with the noise of the cows demanding to be fed and neighbors coming to say hello and muted my speaker, only to then realize: by the time you're done muting-and-unmuting, the right moment to join the conversation or even ask a question has already passed. I found myself texting on my phone, stepping away to cut a few banana leaves to give to the cows to at least stop mooing and give me a piece of mind, running to the bathroom, answering phone calls, staring at my classmates' charts on the public chart etc. I didn't think my experience is unique; I imagined my colleagues are going through the same experience.

In the wake of the novel coronavirus as a pandemic in Kenya on March 12, universities were ordered to shut down in an attempt to slow its spread. On May 18, Greta University took the lead and shifted into virtual classrooms. While the initial shift to online created a flurry of chaos, there are benefits to a virtual classroom. For example, I have found immense relief in not having to pay for rent, avoiding food budget or using the little remaining hand sanitizer. I have learned to be disciplined and strictly follow the class; a special and crucial skill, I have learned to plan a head especially now that am learning from home and you know mum can't resist the urge of assigning me tasks.

However, the reality is that some subjects are much harder to learn online. For example, learning entrepreneurship online is easier than learning business mathematics, even though our lecturer in business mathematics has gone to great extent to ensure we fully understand the concepts including use of whiteboard to give examples, the screen still creates an emotional remove that makes it difficult to have back-and-forth dialogue between students and the lecturer. And hopefully, these experiences will serve as preparation for future challenges that come with life.

Meanwhile, am trying to make a lemonade out of the lemon that life has thrown our way. I can't say I lack something specific or that the quality of virtual learning is worse. I only miss being physically at the university, going for lunch with my colleagues and telling jokes especially knowing it is my last semester.

Positioning for Successful Job Search and Interviews: The Role of Personal Branding

By Gibson Ngari
School of Business

The School of Business organized the Job Search and interviews forum on February 20, in Hall1. The forum covered the concept of personal branding. Mr Johnson Mwakazi, a renowned media personality was the guest speaker. After a session of entertainment from Modern Dance Crew, the Academic Dean opened the well-attended event officially on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. Mr Mwakazi talked about three key pillars of personal branding: personal change, responsibility and the power of training. Personal change is not about the answers you give but the questions you are responding to. People should realize the ability inside of them. There is something in every person that is unique.

Mwakazi noted that we should learn from our experiences to change our perspective in life for the best, giving his personal experience where having worked for Citizen TV for 8 years he quit and starting his own TV station. But the TV station didn't work and he lost his investment! However, that did not put him down, although he had lost his investment, he realized that he still had his talent and valuable lessons so he picked up his pieces and started all over again. He advised that people should look and make use of what they have. If people can use the little they may have to do something, they can use resources given to them to do what is expected of them. Trust will be one of the major assets in the future. Putting your house in order, being responsible for your mistakes, being real and picking yourself from where you are some of the aspects that bring personal change.

If you desire to be successful in life, then you must be responsible for your actions or inactions, for example, investigators of the Titanic tragedy, attribute the accident to lack of binoculars because someone went with the key used to open the box storing the binoculars. Mwakazi noted that if you have the ability, you have a responsibility and messing up your responsibility means messing up a whole generation, people and things that depend on you.

On the power of training, Mwakazi gave examples of Dr Julius Kipng'etich who is viewed as a turnaround manager and even though he failed to lift Uchumi out of its financial troubles, he still landed a new high-profile job as regional CEO of Jubilee Insurance Company because his achievements and qualifications spoke on his behalf. Mwakazi urged the students to work on their qualifications so that those qualifications can speak on their behalf in the time of job searching. He reiterated that jobs won't come to job seekers; job seekers have to go to the jobs. He encouraged the students when searching for jobs to make calls, safeguard their story, give their service wholeheartedly and avoid hiding in the bush that already has eyes.

In conclusion, Mwakazi reminded the audience that they are the brand ambassadors of Gretsia University and Kenya as a whole. They should work hard so that their generation will work less hard. He noted that a person's story will tell more than his/her papers about his/her potential.



Johnson Mwakazi addressing Participants of the Career Talk



A group photo of the participants of the Career Talk Forum

Effective Handling of Trauma by the Student Community



**By Josphat Muriuki,
Chairperson, Staff Community Outreach
Thematic Group**

The Community Outreach Thematic Group successfully hosted a counselling session for students on 30th January 2020 at the University premises. The colorful event which was well attended by both the students and staff focused on the topic “The Impact of Trauma on University Students”.

Dr. Susan Gitau, a renowned international Counselling Psychologist was the facilitator, she observed that people go through trauma because of different experiences throughout their life including nasty childhood experiences.

Fear is another source of trauma for students in universities. Fear may result from the following; failing exams, not clearing exams, peer pressure, heartbreaks and lack of money for upkeep. There are major health challenges facing the youth and students in our modern society such as schooling, peers, social media, community and faith-based organizations. According to Dr Gitau, there are many traumatic experiences such as; violence at home, school, community, children involved in crime, personal failures, teenage pregnancy, expulsion from school, divorce, separation, chronic illness, poverty, addiction trauma, death of parents, accidents, disability and discrimination.

The session had a powerful impact on students who shared their personal experiences and asked several questions which were thoroughly addressed. Students promised to make a difference and transform society by sharing knowledge and encouraging each other.



Participants during the counseling session



Dr. Susan Gitau addressing the session participants



The University's Community Outreach Members

Kikao Cha Mazungumzo Chuoni

Na Phoestine Naliaka Mkuu wa Shule ya Elimu

Shule ya Elimu iliandaa Kikao cha Mazungumzo chuoni tarehe 13 Februari 2020 na kuwaalika wahadhiri na wanafunzi kutoka katika shule zote za Chuo Kikuu cha Greta. Kikao chenyewe kilihudhuriwa na kuhutubiwa na Mkuu wa Masuala ya Elimu, Prof. Waluke Bibi, Prof. Reche (Msimamizi wa Utafiti chuoni) pamoja na wa-hadhiri kutoka katika shule mbalimbali chuoni. Wanafunzi watano waliwasilisha hoja ambazo walikuwa wameziandaa kuhusu mada zifuatazo:

1. Mtaala Mpya wa elimu nchini Kenya
2. Matumizi ya lugha ya Kiswahili kufunzia shuleni
3. Ufaafu wa kozi zinazofundishwa katika vyuo vikuu

Kikao hiki kilihirimiwa kuwapiga msasa wanafunzi katika stadi zao za kuzungumza mbele za hadhira. Vilevile, walipata fursa ya kupata ufahamu muhimu kuhusu mada za kikao hiki. Jopo la waamuzi lilioongozwa na Bw. Kimathi (mhadhiri katika Shule ya) iliwatathmini wawasilishaji kwa kuzingatia vigezo vya ujasiri, us-ikivu wa sauti zao, umuwala wa mawasilisho na uelewa wao wa mada hizi. Walituzwa alama ifuatavyo:

	Jina la Mwanafunzi	Mada	Alama %
1	Vincencia Akoth	Mtaala mpya wa elimu nchini Kenya	77
2	Philip Nyongesa	Ufaafu wa Kozi zinazofunzwa katika vyuo vikuu nchini Kenya	74
3	Ronald Kiplangat Sang	Matumizi ya lugha ya Kiswahili kufunzia shuleni	72
4	Nathan Mogire	Mtaala mpya wa elimu nchini Kenya	62
5	Collins Gichuki	Matumizi ya Kiswahili kama Lugha ya kufunzia shuleni	81

Washiriki wote katika kikao hiki walipewa cheti.



Vincencia Akoth awasilisha mada



Mkuu wa Shule ya Elimu afungua Kikao cha Mazungumzo



SPORTS

The Importance of Sports and Exercise

By Dominic Korir | Sports Coordinator

Importance of exercise and sports in one's life cannot be overemphasized.

Sports and exercise play a big role in our life as it keeps us healthy, wealthy and active. We can have a healthy mind only when we have a healthy body. Great achievements come our way when we maintain our physical and mental well-being. "Sports is a powerful tool that brings people together and creates a sense of community and develop connections that bond together people from all walks of life." - Amir Ianis 2015.

The belief that the intense exercise of playing sports will leave you exhausted has been proven wrong by research. Because exercise pumps more oxygen through your blood and makes your entire system more active, the benefits of playing sports actually include giving you more energy to accomplish

everything else you need to do to manage your busy daily schedule.

In Gretsa University, we understand the value of staying healthy and physically active. Thus, we provide exercise, sporting and recreation opportunities for all, irrespective of gender, age, religion, abilities or body conditions in: Football, Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball, Handball, Netball, Rugby, Athletics, Lawn tennis, Table tennis, Badminton, Squash, Swimming, Chess, Scrabble, Darts and Pool games.

Over the past few years, we have widened our scope into new sports - Woodball, Roll ball and Rugby, with a view to create more opportunities to accommodate persons with different abilities.

We also have programs that cater for staff members' fitness needs throughout the calendar year.



THE DRAMA TROUPE ADVENTURES

By Hezron Manyasi | Patron Music and Drama Club

The Gretsas Drama Club participated in this year's Central Colleges Drama Festivals held at Kenyatta University Kitui Campus. The Drama Club was well prepared with blazing hot items in all genres, especially the play "locusticity", the play was inspired by the recent locust invasion in our country and unraveled the moral responsibility we all have in fighting calamities that we face as a society. The play was articulated by experienced Drama members like Mercy Barbra, Eggans Wandera, Bolton Luchivya and many others, the play was outstanding with the audience left awed into silence by the stunning performance.

Other items presented included: Oral Narrative "Mbayambaya" the script tells a story of a drama student who takes advantage of his good acting to harass his female counterparts, Choral verse "Jaa-Jalalani" it's a Kiswahili script that highlights the level of corruption in our country, Solo Verse "My Album" the script focuses on a set of students in universities with wrong priorities who end up engulfed in lamentation, Spoken



Word "Twa-Nyamaa" it is a Kiswahili script that highlights the challenges job seekers in Kenya are going through and Modern dance which tells the story of love breakup. The festivals did not come to a closure due to the Government directive burning all public gathering because of Corona Virus outbreak.



Snapshots of Gretsas University Drama Club Members Performing during the National Drama Festivals (Central Region Competition) at Kenyatta University Kitui Campus

Showcasing Culinary Skills

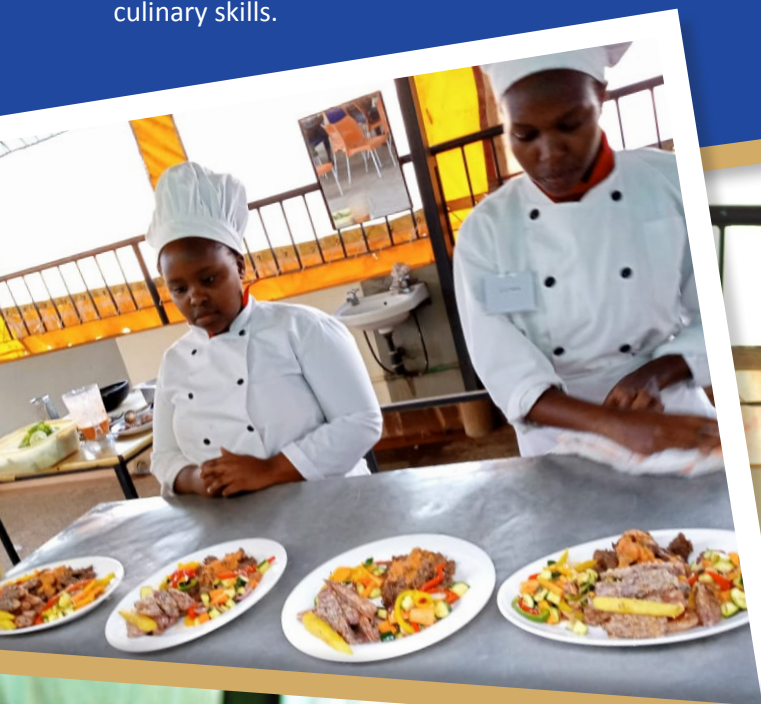
By Peter Irungu | School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management hosted its 2nd Inter-programmes Annual Food Challenge at Exotica Restaurant on Friday 13th March 2020 targeting all students in the university who had the passion in food production and service regardless of the academic programmes they were pursuing. The theme of the event was “Showcasing Creativity in Culinary Skills” and was aimed at encouraging team spirit among the participants when handling practical-based challenges and providing a platform for the participating students to harness their culinary skills.

A total of four groups participated in the event and were assessed on the following aspects:

- Professional napkin folding
- Professional wine service
- Creative preparation of salads

The winners of the event were team Njengas (Stephanie Njeri Maina and Esther Wairimu Kararu) while team Empire (Ian Kimani Maina and Yvonne Muthoni Mwangi) scooped the 1st runners up position. The winners were awarded cash prizes



- Team Njengas Showcase Salads Presentation Skills
- Judges Inspecting Napkin Folding Skills
- Team Empire Showcasing Wine Services
- Contestants Showcase Food Preparation Skills

Career Advice for High School Students

By Faith Kamau
Head, Student Recruitment and Customer Experience Management

Gretsa University has embarked on a drive to help high school students acquire knowledge on career opportunities as they plan for their future. During the January-April 2020 semester, the university hosted Ngaita Girls Secondary School from Tharaka Nithi County. Speaking during the event, Prof. Wabuke Bibi advised students on career choices and how their education and talents can fit into their career choices. They also learnt about entry requirements for university courses and other post-secondary institutions. On his part Philip Kilonzo, the Head of University Exams and Timetabling Department, cautioned the students not to let peer pleasure influence their career choices as this may lead to wrong choice. The event gave the students the opportunity to learn about the several opportunities and careers offered by the university. The students also had the opportunity to interact with the Gretsas students and ask queries related to their career of choice.



A Group Photo of Ngaita Girls Students with the Academic Dean



Nurturing High School Students with Modelling Skills



A Group Photo of Mr. and Miss Gretsas with the winners

Mr. and Miss Gretsas University organized a beauty pageant competition at Bygrace High School Ngong. The idea was to mentor and teach students with interest in modeling the necessary skills. One of the skills emphasized during the competition was confidence. The difference between a pageant competitions and any other competition is that in pageantry, confidence key to being successful. You can't fake it till you make it here; the judges can

tell who really feels good about themselves. Pageantry teaches that defeat is okay if you gave your best effort. It teaches the value of handwork, patience and the need to be creative in doing things. These are important life lessons that Bygrace students learned at a young age as pageant contestants and that will help them increase their overall self-esteem. Mr. and miss Gretsas were able to crown the A Group Photo of Mr and Miss Gretsas with the winners.

Transition



TRIBUTE TO FAITH KAMAU

By Susan Wanjiku | Administration Department

A good heart has stopped beating, but a heart that has touched so many lives can't help but live on, in those it loved.

Even though, it's part of life we were never ready to say goodbye. How we wish you could stay longer but God called you home. He loved you so much; we painfully accept God's will with much disbelief.

You were a great Gretska Ambassador and an icon everybody wished to be associated with. We like how you brought situation to life even those that were outside your core department.

To Joel & the family thank you for raising such a beautiful, kind, full of energy soul and sharing with her us. It will be the little things that we will live to remember the smiles, laughter and although it is hard right now, the memories of these things will become tools to push away the pain.

*We will miss you. Till we meet again,
Rest in Peace Faith Kamau.*



*The late Faith Kamau, formerly Head of Department,
Student Recruitment and Customer Experience
Management who passed on in June 2020*



Poetry

A Zero-Sum Algorithm

By Dennis Githaga
Student, BSc (Computer Science)

*Two roads diverged in the woods
and i take the one less travelled by,
The one that has made all the difference,
To try restore the mindsets,
Of the blind fools of fate,
Of the youths enslaved by circumstance, The
idle buzzers of the day.*

*I act no judge & in no position to blame,
For i know how it feels being nothing but a
commoner,
I support emm that life sucks!!!
It's all a dream in the night, A fear among
fears,
A place where only a few get lucky,
The rest of us settles for what's left over.*

*“Connection” is the juggernaut,
The algorithm transforming the world into
wilderness,
A weapon of the capitalists,
A standard set to thin the herd,
“Who sent you?” Is the nominative
determinism.*

*Welcome to life under the microscope,
In an economy where education is meaningless, where
getting a chance to set up yoh plate, depends on some
degree of relationship with those who sail the main.*

*Tell me!!!
What happens to the young man with a dream? That youth
with a first-class honors degree,
The one that “**knows no people who know people**”
Has no connection to anyone in high places.
It's sad how in such solitude
He ends up ravaged like a naked runner in a storm of
spears.*

*In a political rally!!! I'm this guy seated in front,
Foolish man that I am, in a red giveaway T-shirt printed
“**House of lords**”.
Wowed by so called democratic testimonials. In time,
myopia reigns supreme and am lost in the mantra “**its
time for change**”
In zero-sum thinking i consent and vote in.*

*Few years down the line,
I fathom into constellations,
Drums of time have rolled and ceased,
I haven't heard from the scam bag yet.*

*Only scandals of **misguided policies
Nepotism, Corruption & governmental
malfeasance.**
He whose voice was venomed melody,
Came back for **donors** then went dark
& left constituents holding the bag.*

*In generations of a mortal man,
I suspend this to thee,
I do not approve of political jokes,
I have seen many get elected,
So, I sit spinning still, round this decaying form
The fine threads of rare and subtle thought
Of how funds meant to deflate unemployment, Benefits
capitalists at the expense of the youths.*

*I **king of the asset**
A pencil in a writing hand of **God**
stand still as a leftist.
Not until the voice of the constituent is heard
I won't refer to this king of capital as
royal anymore.*

*°**KING OF THE ASSET** °*





Quality Education for the Real World

GRETSA INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (GITEPS)

Skills for the Workplace

VISION

To be a Centre of Excellence in Technical and Professional Training.

MISSION

To provide students and practitioners with relevant Technical and Professional Training in the fields of Business, Computing, Hospitality, Health and Social Sciences in order to enhance their skills and enable competitive contribution in the workplace and advancement of humanity.

TVET Approved Programmes

COURSE NAME	LEVEL	MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT	EXAMINING BODY
Diploma in Supply Chain Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Sales & Marketing	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Cooperative Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Business Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Investment Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Tour Guiding Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Tourism Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Food & Beverage Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Housekeeping Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Baking Technology	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Catering & Accommodation Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Information & Communication Technology	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Dietetics Management	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Nutrition & Dietetics	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Child Care & Protection	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Counseling	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Social Work & Community Development	Module I, II and III	KCSE C- Minus or Craft Certificate	KNEC
Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education (ECDE)	• KCSE Mean Grade C (Plain) or PTE certificate or KNEC ECDE Certificate		KNEC

KASNEB Approved Programmes

COURSE NAME	LEVEL	MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT	EXAMINING BODY
• Certificate in Accounting and Management Skills (CAMS)	Level I and II	KCSE D+ (Plus)	KASNEB
• Accounting Technicians Diploma (ATD)	Levels I, II and III	KCSE C- (Plus)	KASNEB
• Diploma in Information Communication Technology (DICT)	Levels I, II and III	KCSE C- (Plus)	KASNEB
• Diploma in Credit Management (DCM)	Levels I, II and III	KCSE C- (Plus)	KASNEB
• Certified Public Accountants (CPA)	Parts I, II, III,	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB
• Certified Secretaries (CS)	Parts I, II, III,	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB
• Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (CIFA)	Parts I, II, III,	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB
• Certified Procurement and Supply Professional of Kenya (CPSP-K)	Parts I, II, III, IV	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB
• Certified Information Communication Technology (CICT)	Part I, II and III	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB
• Certified Credit Professionals (CCP)	Part I, II and III	KCSE C+ (Plus) and C+ in Maths and English	KASNEB

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GRETSA UNIVERSITY

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019



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