



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

Co-Creating Sustainable Futures

MKSU Newsletter



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Machakos University Alumni Association (Mksuaa) Outreach Exercise In Nyanza Region (Kisii County)

On the 28th of December 2024, a delegation from Machakos University Alumni Association Executive Committee, met with Alumni from different years of Machakos University at Kisii County for a brief outreach exercise.



The Alumni Outreach Event aimed to reconnect former students, raise awareness about the association, and boost engagement in upcoming initiatives such as fundraising drives and mentorship programs. The event drew enthusiastic participation from the southwestern region alumni, fostering meaningful discussions and interactions.

Positive feedback and active participation indicated a strong interest in future initiatives encouraging the Alumni Executive Committee to invest more in member outreach initiatives and more interactive components and hybrid event formats to further increase alumni involvement.



Mr. Kevin Aming'a, the Organizing Secretary addressing the alumni delegation

Machakos University Staff Undergo Transformative Change Management Training

Machakos University recently held an intensive two-day Change Management training for its staff members, aimed at fostering adaptability, personal development, and professional excellence in the face of evolving professional and technological landscapes. The training, conducted on January 29th -30th 2025, at the University Amphitheatre, targeted non-teaching and teaching staff separately.



The session was graced by the Chairman of the University Council, Dr. Christopher Gatama Gakahu, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Joyce Agalo, Deputy Vice-Chancellors led by Prof. Mugendi M'Rithaa, members of the University Management, and Senate. The training was facilitated by two dynamic speakers, Mr. Martin Muteti and CPA Moses Mwariri, who engaged participants with insightful discussions on governance, accountability, personal development, and professional excellence.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Agalo emphasized the importance of embracing change both personal and professional spheres. She urged staff members to uphold integrity, commitment, and accountability while navigating change, stressing that adaptability is crucial for institutional and individual growth. Dr. Gakahu reinforced this message by encouraging staff to develop annual work plans, enhance governance structures, and continuously build both professional and personal skills.

Mr. Muteti highlighted the significance of positive perception towards change, emphasizing the 'KASH' formula—Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, and Habits—as a key tool to success. He challenged staff to overcome fear, embrace innovation, and foster a culture of generosity in idea-sharing. CPA Mwariri underscored the role of effective workplace communication, time management, and collaboration in driving institutional excellence.

On the second day, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Agalo lauded teaching staff for their commitment to academic excellence and research. She encouraged them to be mentors and role models while supporting students in their research endeavors. Dr. Gakahu reiterated the need for strategic planning and integrity in academia, urging staff to embrace a proactive approach to professional growth.

The training concluded with an invitation to the Masters' Design Exhibition, where students showcased innovative projects in Interior Textile Design, Fashion Design, Branding Identity, and Interdisciplinary Design. Dr. Gakahu praised the outstanding work and encouraged other departments to organize similar exhibitions as a way of fostering creativity and sustainable innovation.

This impactful training reinforced Machakos University's commitment to professional development and continuous improvement, equipping staff with the necessary tools to navigate change effectively and contribute to the institution's success.

Second Training on Grant Proposal Writing and Sourcing of Funds

Machakos University, through the Directorate of Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer (RITT), hosted the Second Training on Grant Proposal Writing and Sourcing of Funds on Wednesday, 29th January 2025. The one-day training, was specifically designed to enhance the capacity of academic staff and postgraduate students in developing credible grant proposals to attract research funding.

The event was officially opened by Prof. Stanley Makindi, representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Joyce Agalo. In his opening remarks, Prof. Makindi highlighted the importance of research funding in driving innovation and academic excellence, urging participants to leverage the knowledge shared during the training to advance their capacity to develop fundable research proposals.



The training featured distinguished facilitators, including Prof. Solomon Mumah from the Technical University of Kenya and Dr. Philip Mayeku from the Institute of Primate Research. The sessions covered key aspects of grant proposal writing, including:

- **Team Formation and Conflict Management** – Prof. Solomon Mumah provided insights into building effective research teams and strategies for conflict resolution to foster collaboration.
- **Developing Budgets and Work Plans** – Dr. Philip Mayeku guided participants on crafting realistic budgets and structured work plans for research projects.
- **Personal Experiences in Grant Writing** – Prof. Zachary Getenga and Dr. Hezborne Tindih shared their practical experiences in securing research funding, providing valuable lessons for aspiring researchers.



The training served as an interactive platform for both academic staff and postgraduate students to gain hands-on knowledge and skills and engage with experienced researchers. By equipping researchers with essential skills in grant proposal writing and fund sourcing, Machakos University re-affirms its commitment to fostering a robust research culture and academic excellence.

Master Of Design Exhibition Showcases Innovative Student Projects

Students pursuing the Master of Design program at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Machakos University, held an exhibition from 30th January to 5th February 2025 at Fashion Design Studio 2. The event, open to staff, students, and the public, showcased projects across Interior Design, Fashion Design, Branding Identity, and Interdisciplinary Design—the first of its kind in the university. The exhibition followed a successful mini-exhibition held on 17th December 2024, which laid the foundation for this exhibition showcase.

The official opening was graced by Dr. Christopher Gakahu, the Chairman of the Machakos University Council, alongside the University Management led by Prof. Joyce J. Agalo, the Vice Chancellor of Machakos University. During the visit, the Chair of Council commended the students for the exceptional creativity and urged them to continue striving for excellence. The Council Chair acknowledged the dedication of the first-year Master of Design students, emphasizing the innovative impact of their work on both the department and the university.



Exhibition Highlights

The exhibition featured a variety of design projects that reflected students' mastery in different areas of specialization, including:

dye techniques

- Maasai beaded wall hangings
- Geometrically shaped wall hangings

2. Technical Textile in Fashion Design

1. Interior Textile Design Projects

- Complete bed sets
- Hanging wall art inspired by Jacaranda seeds
- Upcycled quilted table mats featuring tie-

- Comfort-enhanced sportswear
- Smart accessory garments designed for amnesic individuals
- Raincoat casual wear
- Eco-friendly dresses
- Modified reflector jackets

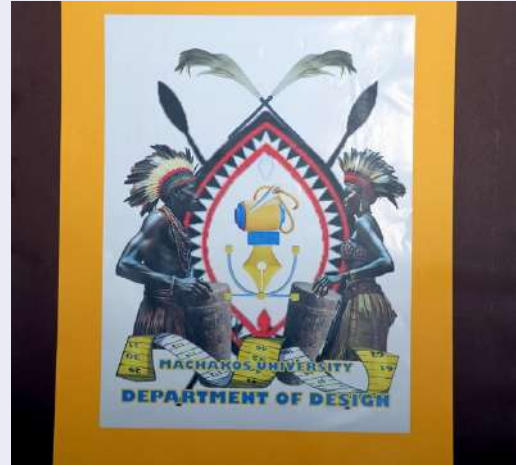


3. Advertising Design & Branding Identity

- Kaya African-inspired perfume packaging
- Refillable maize flour containers

4. Interdisciplinary Design

- Department of Design Coat of Arms integrating Interior Design, Graphic Design, and Fashion Design elements



5. Textile Surface Design

- Embroidery, patchwork, and tie-dye techniques
- Surface design for fashion collection accessories
- Upcycled designs for bags and shorts



The exhibition successfully met all its intended objectives, providing a platform for students to present innovative ideas and gain valuable feedback from, prospects, industry experts and academia. This exhibition marked a significant milestone in the Master of Design program, demonstrating the students' ability to merge creativity with functional design solutions.

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