



## Focusing on Excellence

The terms ‘quality’, ‘integrity’ and ‘academic excellence’ feature prominently in Tangaza’s statements of its Vision, Mission and Core Values. These attributes do not develop by themselves, but need our constant efforts to make them a reality. As you are aware, after the Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang’i recently managed to produce credible KCSE results in record time, he turned his attention to tertiary institutions, ordering that a “quality audit” of all universities and constituent colleges in Kenya be completed within one month. The Commission for University Education (CUE) was given the daunting task. On 19-20 January 2017 it was our turn to be inspected!

Overall, the five-member inspection team from the CUE was pleased with what they found: adherence to the requirements on class hours, academic work in courses, supervision of postgraduate students, and so on.

They were particularly impressed by the diversity of our students and academic staff. But at the same time they reminded us to be very vigilant in following the required admission standards, since it is one of the key areas they will look at in considering our application for a university charter. They also advised us to accelerate the approval of programmes in the pipeline for CUE accreditation; to clarify and standardize policies on credit transfers, supplementary exams, and other matters; to establish a director and directorate of postgraduate studies; and to improve the ratio of full-time to part-time academic staff. We assured them that, In fact, we are already hard at work on improving in each of these areas, and will redouble our efforts.

Throughout all of this, the process of applying for a university charter continues. We submitted our detailed response to the Commission’s Technical Inspection Report back in November, and we are awaiting a confirma-





tion visit. The CUE review of our draft charter and statutes should commence soon; we were fortunate to have someone from the CUE legal office on the inspection team!

But meeting the highest academic standards would mean little without a framework of moral integrity. That is one of the reasons why, at Tangaza, we are constantly trying to improve our system of checks and balances. It should be clear to everyone that Tangaza is a “corruption-free zone”, whether we have signs to that effect or not. More than that, we need to ensure an environment where everyone is treated with dignity, where everyone feels safe, respected and valued. We are diligently working on these issues as well.

I sometimes hear it said that Tangaza should not become overly preoccupied with following government rules and regulations but should focus instead on service to the poor and marginalized. After all, to paraphrase what Jesus said in the Gospels, the rules were made for human beings, not human beings for the rules! I would be the first to agree that we need to keep our priorities straight!

Still, I don’t believe we are faced with an “either-or” choice. The directives of the Commission and



**In these pages, shots from the last meeting between the CUE team and Tangaza representatives.**



other guidelines are intended to improve the quality of what we offer to our students, not to create unnecessary hurdles. And would we really be helping needy students, for example, if we were to be shut down because we had admitted some of them irregularly?

So I see it as a dialogical process. By working with rather than around the Commission and other regulatory bodies, while at the same time holding fast to our Gospel-based values, we can make sure that Tangaza’s ‘quality’, ‘integrity’ and ‘academic excellence’ do not remain mere words on paper.

**Steven Payne, OCD  
Principal**



# Leaders of Integrity



The half-day workshop on leaders' integrity, organized by *The Leaders Guild* at Tangaza University College on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, brought together 43 people. The main objective was to enlighten participants so that they may make informed decisions and elect leaders adhering to ethical principles, people who can influence positive transformation in society.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Tim M. Kiruhi, coordinator of Executive Leadership Network and director of International Leadership Foundation. Tim based his talk on the following sub-themes: priority of integrity, values for choosing leaders, and what you can do to influence your community. He defined integrity as what one is when nobody is watching or what we are in the dark. He further told

participants that integrity is the basis of trust and it leads to enduring leadership influence. It is nurtured from the family and it leads to prosperous nations.

Tim presented five biblical values that can be used as a criteria to vet for political candidates at the time of elections, namely:

B-Blameless

E-Empowering selfless servant leader

V-Visionary achiever

I-Inclusive and just community builder

P-Protector of family and human dignity

Peris Wakesho, Regional director of ASHO-KA East Africa, was also present at the event. In her address she said that it does not matter what one has, his age or wealth. People will remember him

for what he did for them. Peris posed a question to the audience: at the last day of your life, will the words said by others about you match your actions while you lived?

Participants evaluated the workshop positively, claiming it was a reawakening moment for them on their responsibility in choosing leaders and bringing transformation in their spheres of influence. Most attendees appreciated the presentations as close to their lives. They were fascinated by the case study examples and testimonials given by Tim and his team.

**Sr. Margaret Mutiso, DSH**



Opening picture, Dr. Tim Kiruhi addressing participants. Below, the panel which led the workshop on leaders' integrity.



World Youth Alliance

## *A Forum for the Youth*



World Youth Alliance | Africa



**WHERE** JKUAT Karen

**WHEN** Feb 23 (Thur), 9:30am-1:00pm

Register at [www.wya.net/africadignityforum](http://www.wya.net/africadignityforum)

For inquiries, email [africa@wya.net](mailto:africa@wya.net)

**This event is FREE.**

T/F: +254 202 508 626

Mobile: +254 713 906 471

[africa@wya.net](mailto:africa@wya.net)

#DignityForum

[www.wya.net](http://www.wya.net)

[fb.me/WorldYouthAlliance.Africa](https://fb.me/WorldYouthAlliance.Africa)

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World Youth Alliance Africa, in partnership with JKUAT Karen Law School, organizes the 2017 Dignity Forum to be held at JKUAT on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 9.30am to 1 pm. The topic of discussion will be “Human Dignity and Youth Innovation for Africa’s Development”. The core panel shall be constituted of some of Africa’s leading academics, Gestalt Guild and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Kenya.

The Dignity Forum is a programme activity of the World Youth Alliance under the education docket. It is hosted at least twice a year to encourage youth interaction on topical issues, with an emphasis on using the dignity lens to dissect critical issues that contribute towards young people’s desire to achieve human excellence.

World Youth Alliance (WYA) is a global coalition of young people aged between 10 and 30. WYA is committed to promoting the dignity of the person and building solidarity among youth from developed and developing nations. Through a lived experience of the dignity of the person, young people are able to affirm life at all levels of society. The organisation’s main areas of focus are advocacy, education and culture.

**Patricia Ahawo Gwambo**  
Regional Director, WYA





## Printing in Progress

**I**n the gloomy underground of Tangaza, there works Mr. Samuel Mwatha, store keeper. Those who go to the stores to have their papers duplicated, know that problems with the printer were a major nuisance to users, and to Samuel, who had to improvise solutions. Today, our store keeper is much more relaxed. Last December, the College acquired a new Canon Images Runner Advanced copy-machine. With an output of up to 85 pages per minute, the new copy-printer easily handles the most daunting printing jobs. The new machine also stitches papers.

Of course, Samuel's work goes far beyond printing. The stores must be kept well stocked and ready to respond the many requests that range from stationary to academic gowns. Nonetheless, preparing exams, printing and binding manuals, photocopying teaching materials and similar occupy many hours of Samuel's day. This is why these days, Samuel smiles more often than in the past.

J.C.



**Mr. Samuel Mwatha at work with the new copy-printer which was acquired last December.**



# Web Ranking

**W**ebometrics has released its latest rankings of universities. Among the list of Kenyan universities and colleges, Tangaza ranks 40<sup>th</sup> out of 137. Even before becoming a university, we rank ahead of many older accredited academic institutions in Kenya. This is great improvement from the previous years and it seems that we are making strides in the right direction with every new ranking. Every time a Tangaza student or member of staff uses web based services through our website, there is a positive impact on the ranking. On line services monitored by *Webometrics* include the library off-campus access to books and journals and catalogue system (Koha), the e-learning platform (Moodle), the central repository system (D-Space) to access Tangaza publications and papers, and the various portals. In the past year, we have seen an impressive growth in the number of students and staff accessing electronic books and resources outside campus. The portals traffic has also increased. As Tangaza continues to roll out the ERP, it will definitely be ranked better.

The original aim of the *Webometrics* ranking is to promote academic web presence, supporting the Open Access

initiatives for increasing significantly the transfer of scientific and cultural knowledge generated by the universities to the whole society. In order to achieve this objective, the publication of rankings is one of the most powerful and successful tools for starting and consolidating the processes of change in academia, increasing the scholars' commitment and setting up badly needed long term strategies



## WELCOME TO TANGAZA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE



Tangaza College is a Catholic University College jointly owned by the member religious congregations. It has its roots in Catholic Tradition, especially as planted and nourished in East Africa (the AMECEA region) through the missionary endeavors which spanned the late 19th and entire 20th centuries. Now in the 21st century, and in the spirit of the

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## PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

[Under Graduate Application Form](#)

[Post Graduate Application Form](#)

[Revised 2016 - 2017 Fee Structure](#)

[Application Procedure](#)

**Above, a screenshot of Tangaza's website. Below, students at work in the computer lab.**

The objective is not to evaluate websites, their design or usability or the popularity of their contents according to the number of visits or visitors. Web indicators are considered as proxies in the correct, comprehensive, deep evaluation of the university global performance, taking into account its activities and outputs and their relevance and impact.

In the end a reliable rank is only possible if the web presence is a trustworthy mirror of the university. In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century the web is key for the future of all the university missions, as it is already the most important scholarly communication tool, the future channel for off-campus distance learning, the open forum for the community engagement and the universal showcase for attracting talent, funding and resources.

*Read more at: [www.webometrics.info/en/Methodology](http://www.webometrics.info/en/Methodology)*

Compiled from various sources, with material taken from the webometrics website