

As I come to the end of nearly five years as Principal of Tangaza, I am first of all filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. To be able to dedicate yourself to a cause greater than yourself is one of life's greatest blessings, and I am deeply grateful to the Board of Trustees for having giving me such an opportunity. I am also thankful to the Governing Council and my administration team, especially the Deputy Principal Academic (Dr. Beatrice Churu), the Deputy Principal Student Life (Dr. Andrew Lujuo), the School of Theology Dean and all of the Directors. Likewise, we wouldn't have accomplished anything had it not

failed merger negotiations with Marist were a blessing in their own way, because Tangaza and the Marist International University College got to know and understand themselves and each other much better in the process.

At the same time, I recognize my many shortcomings as Principal and I apologize to anyone whom I might have disappointed during the past five years. Thanks to the combined efforts of so many of you, many positive changes occurred. But of course we never manage to achieve all that we hope for. The biggest disappointment is that, despite our best efforts, we have not yet obtained the university

## *Asanteni Sana!*

been for the middle management and other staff, the lecturers, the superiors and formators, and of course the students themselves. I want to say "thank you" to each and every member of the Tangaza family, and I am confident that you will continue to offer the same support and encouragement to our successors, the new VC and DVC Academic.

I began in August 2012 with the reassurance that my term would likely be uneventful, since we were not expecting any big changes or crises. The BOT just told me to focus especially on promoting the unity of Tangaza. So I did my best during my first year to meet as many Tangaza family members as possible and to be present at every Tangaza gathering in every Tangaza institute, whenever I could.

In November 2013, however, everything changed when the Commission for University Education (CUE) gave us an ultimatum, either to apply for a university charter or else to hand over Tangaza to become a campus of CUEA. The Board of Trustees chose the charter path, and since that moment the process of transition to university status has become nearly all-consuming. I am grateful to the Transition Coordinator (Dr. Joseph Mwangi) and the Transition Committee for their tireless work. Even the

charter. As I prepare to step down, I have often joked that I feel a bit like Moses on Mount Nebo, able to see the Promised Land close at hand but not allowed to lead the people into it. Still, I truly believe that the charter will come soon.

Finally, I feel honoured to have served Tangaza as a member of the Discalced Carmelites. We are not the largest or most influential among the 22 corporate member congregations, but we are proud that you have entrusted our members, including myself, with various roles of service to the college. Our friars hope to continue as lecturers, student leaders, and sponsors of the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation for many years to come.

Meanwhile, I will be taking a sabbatical for some months. My provincial has not yet said where he will assign me afterwards. But whether I continue in some other capacity at Tangaza or return to the USA, Tangaza will always be in my thoughts and prayers. I truly believe that Tangaza is a work of God, and that therefore it will continue to go from good to better in the years ahead. *Asanteni sana* to the extended Tangaza family, and may God bless you all!

**Steven Payne, OCD**  
**Principal**

Graduation Day 2017

# Empowering to Become *Holistic Transformers*

This year's graduation theme was "Be Holistic Transformers". Coined from Faustin Ntamushobora's book *Education for Holistic Transformation in Africa*, the theme refers to holistic transformation as a process of becoming critically aware of ones' personal, historical, cultural, social, relational and spiritual context which leads to changing the assumptions and frames of reference resulting in perspective transformation of meaning which in turn empowers the learner to respond to his or her life circumstances with a wider repertoire of possible actions.

In his keynote address, Hon. Mohammed Gabbow, the Guest of Honour and Executive Director of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities, congratulated the students and advised them on what it means to

be a transformer, his experience in public service and practical perspectives on being a transformer. He said one has to avoid tribalism and corruption, as corruption has a negative effect on transformational goals. He also talked about his role as a director of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities. To conclude, he pledged to assist Tangaza University College in making the university a conducive place for persons with disability.

The ceremony saw a total of 221 students graduate with certificates and diplomas in social communication and media production, counseling psychology, youth studies, leadership and management, leadership and resource management, religious formation, science of human development, philosophy, Franciscan studies and theology.

To the graduates, now that you have received intellectual rights on the 19th May 2017: kindly be true ambassadors of what you have received today and beyond. In the midst of your journey remember to follow our motto: *Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts, Transforming Lives* with those entrusted to your care and ministry for the betterment of the society as they too look forward to your concrete contribution.

Marketing/PR Office

Opening photo, Hon. Gabbow, centre, with a graduant and TUC Principal, Rev. Steven Payne. Below, the cutting of the cake at the end of the graduation ceremony.





# Graduation in CUEA



From top clockwise, Bishop Muhatia presiding over the graduation ceremony at CUEA. Mr. Oscar Mapopa, left, and Fr. Joseph Caramazza. A group of graduants from Tangaza. Fr Remigius Ikpe in full regalia.

More than seventy TUC students were given their degrees during the 35<sup>th</sup> Graduation ceremony of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia, bishop of Nakuru and Chair of the Council of CUEA, presided over the ceremony. In addition to our students, two members of TUC staff also received their degrees.

Fr. Joseph Caramazza, MCCJ, received his doctor of philosophy degree in religious studies with a dissertation on *Influence of Religious Ideologies and Religious Leaders on Politicians' Ethical and Transformative Choices with Special Reference to Kenyan Members of Parliament*, with first class honours.

Fr. Remigius Ikpe, OCD, received his masters of education in educational administration and planning, with first class honours. Congratulations to all.







Security and sustainable peace is ever more urgent for the development of the continent. In Africa, there are many successful peace building efforts taking place and yet we also note an increase in violent conflicts that claim people's lives and hinder development. There is little effort in place to create synergy among peace building practitioners to share successful practices and stories that can be replicated across the globe and Africa in particular. The Institute of Social Ministry in Mission (ISMM) educates graduates who can promote a social change that is just and democratic. ISMM also prepares future scholars and transformative agents to address complex social problems and become tomorrow's leaders.

As part of this journey of shaping the new leaders of tomorrow, ISMM organized an international conference on sustainable security and peace on our continent. The conference took place in Tangaza on 25th-26th May. The main theme was: Moving Africa Towards Sustainable Security and Peace.

The main objectives of the conference were:

1. Engaging peace practitioners and academia in security and peace building initiatives to dialogue.
2. Creating an alliance for successful peace practices in Africa.
3. Exploring adaptable and appropriate strategies for peace and security initiatives.
4. Designing a methodology for security and sustainable peace.

The thematic areas covered during the conference were: politics and governance; contestations of violence; global source and circulation of violence; socio-economic factors of conflicts; climate change and conflicts, and management of democratic elections in Africa.

The conference was started off by a peace caravan on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This involved the institutes of higher learning within the Langata area. The caravan was flagged off at Tangaza, went to Marist where the participants had a sit-in with the students, moved to other institutions and ended up in Kibera. This was organized in conjunction with the Administration Police initiative of Community Policing, *Hello Kenyan*. The caravan was meant to sensitize the communities around Tangaza to maintain peace before, during and after the elections.

The conference involved experience sharing from persons who have been in conflict zones and helped mediate peace between the warring communities. There were warriors from the Borana and Rendille communities. These have been involved in mediating peace in their communities. The Horn of Africa Peace Forum, a grassroots organization started by an ISMM Alumna Elizabeth Kanini, has been working with the two communities. A Samburu - Pokot group also shared its experience. They have been working with the Children Peace Initiative, a grassroots organization managed by Monicah Kinyua, an ISMM alumna, who through children friend-







Opening page, top, a birdview of the conference hall. Bottom, Br. Jonas Dzinekou, director of ISMM. Above, the panelists. In the centre, Bishop Paride Taban.

ship and exchange programs has seen the two communities co-exist in peace. Two groups from South Sudan also shared their experience in mediating for peace. Supported by Justice Africa, a partner organization, the two have seen peace initiatives grow in the communities.

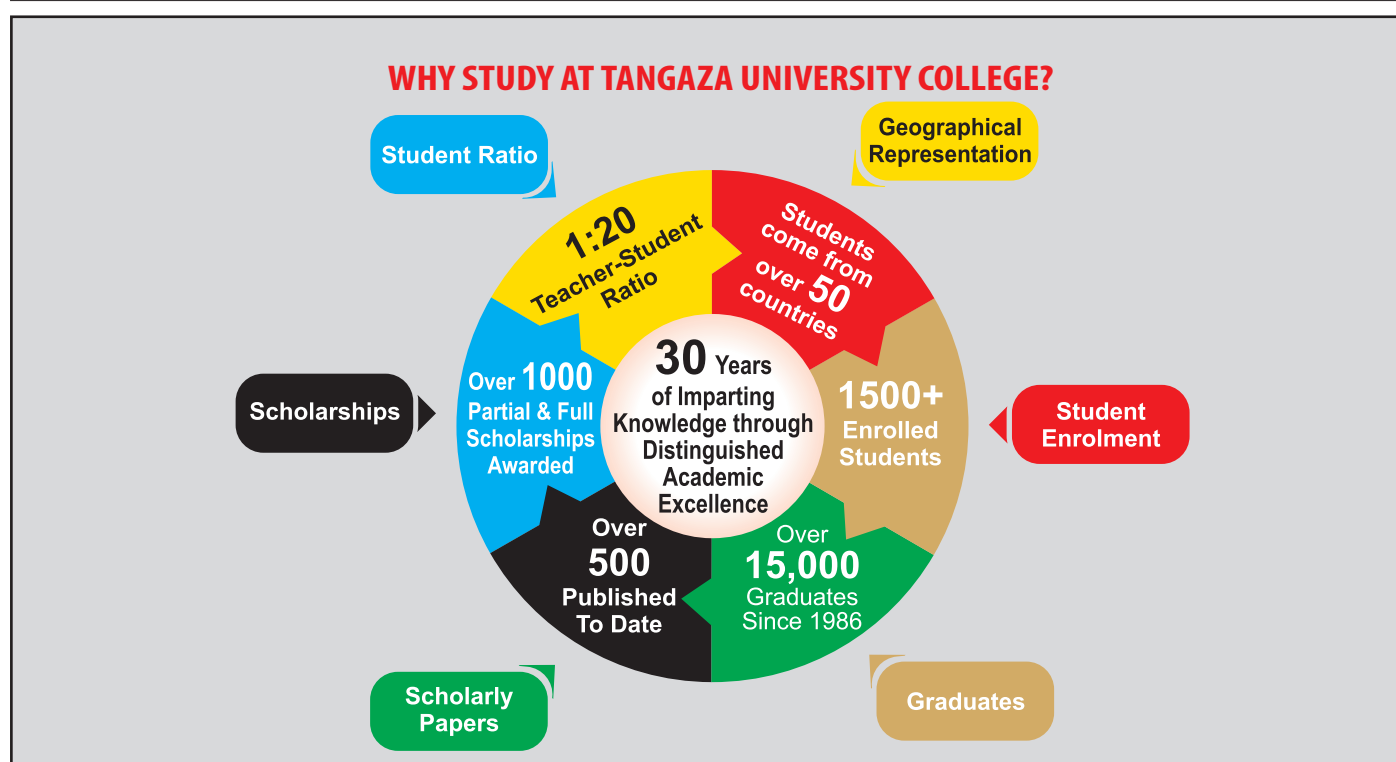
The conference also had paper sessions that addressed the different thematic areas of the conference. This gave the participants the opportunity to discuss specific areas of interest. Bishop John Baptist Odama of the Catholic Archdiocese of Gulu, and Chairman of Episcopal Conference of Uganda, called upon Kenyans to maintain peace before, during and after the August 8, general elections. “My advice to you Kenyans is that never again should you go the 2007 way where violence broke out. You will shame us as East Africans. You need to maintain peace during the preparations for elections and after,” said he.

Paride Taban, bishop emeritus of Torit and founder of Kuron Peace Village, a peace organization in South Sudan, called on African leaders to preach peace and uni-

ty. “African leaders should preach peace and unity. I have never been and will never be pessimistic about this. I am very optimistic that there will be sustainable peace in Africa,” he said. Stella Sabiiti, who has worked with the African Union for over ten years as a conflict and peace consultant, called upon the participants to prevent conflict in their small ways which translates in to transformation. The first conference outcome is the creation of a working group which will help bring together institutions and organizations that work for sustainable security and peace in Africa.

The following Organizations were involved in the planning of the conference: CUEA (Center for Social Justice), World Vision Kenya, Justice Africa, UNIDO, Hello Kenyan, NIC Bank, HAP Forum, Children Peace Initiative, Caritas Kenya, Civil Peace Service, AGEH, KCCB and CJPC.

**Benedetta Kariuki**







**Fr. Kirwen with graduating students.**

**T**he MIASMU method of appropriating and articulating African cultural knowledge consists of progressive stages. If one is unable to experience, understand, and accept these elements during the first phase of the study, it becomes difficult to reach the next levels of understanding, insight and appropriation of African cultural knowledge during the second phase. This short reflection highlights the three foundational elements that students encounter in phase one of their study at MIASMU.

### **Comprehending the nature of culture**

Culture is a communication system, like an operating system on a computer, a neural network within the neo-cortex of one's brains that has been learned through a complex process of socialization by a living community. It makes a person to be a human being, promotes behaviour, interprets experiences, and creates artifacts.

### **Accommodation to another's cultural world**

The first stage is to expand one's comfort zone, to familiarize with the ideas and material of the course one is taking, both in the classroom and in the field. It is a time to establish a professional working relationship with one's field assistant and to put into practice the professional research methods and techniques being taught. The student is asked to put aside prejudgments about topics and issues being studied, and not to let the "normal" ideas and reactions of one's culture of origin be the matrix by which one analyzes what is heard, seen

and reflected on. One is to draw the conceptual framework underpinning African cultures out of the field research, and not to impose a non-African framework.

### **Relating as equals – rite of passage**

One begins studying African Cultural Knowledge in a particular course at point "A", not knowing in any structured way the patterns, deep seated values and points of density that underpin the ordinary person's mentality and behaviour in the area of the study. By the end of the first week, students begin to experience and figure out the values, ideas and patterns that give the area of study coherence, and reveal the meaning given to the issues and events under consideration by local people: the terminus of point "B." This understanding enables students to relate to the behaviour and mindset of people from other cultural background as equals, as they realize that there is no "dominant" or primal culture competent to judge and evaluate other cultural systems worldwide. In this year's graduation, 29th March, 2017, twenty-four MIASMU students graduated with Masters, Diploma and Certificates. The students were drawn from various fields including the School of Theology and Non-Governmental Organizations. They are now set to live and work in a multicultural setting.

**Joseph Ouma Oindo**  
**Maryknoll Institute of African Studies**