

## BRIEF ON UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

AND

## KALAMAZOO COLLEGE COLLABORATION

Kalamazoo College (K College or K) is a private liberal arts college located in Kalamazoo in Michigan, USA. It was founded in 1833 and is one of the 100 oldest academic institutions in United States. The Kalamazoo College enrolls 1,340 students and for more than 30 years, it has offered a curriculum called the *Kalamazoo Plan* (often nicknamed the "*K*" *Plan*), an undergraduate experience of rigorous liberal arts scholarship and opportunities for experiential education in both domestic (through civic engagement, career development internships and Senior Individualised Project) and international settings (through study abroad under the slogan – The world as our campus).

The Centre for International Programmes at Kalamazoo College celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008. The Centre supports the College's mission by providing experiential opportunities in international education through study abroad, university exchange programs, and service for international students and scholars in collaboration with its international partners. It is noteworthy that Kalamazoo College's study abroad program is ranked #1 in the USA. Over 85% of Kalamazoo students spend either one, two or three quarters studying in a foreign country. There are 19 Kalamazoo College study abroad program sites located in 11 countries all over the world with two programs in Africa – in Dakar, Senegal and at the University of Nairobi. The Centre for International Programs is currently directed by Prof. Joseph Brockington - the Associate Provost for International Programs and Interim Dean for Experiential Education.

### **Kalamazoo College's Links with the University of Nairobi**

The College opened a program at the University of Nairobi way back in 1965 and for many years the program was managed on and off the University of Nairobi. In 1995 the program "returned" to the University of Nairobi with Prof. Judith Bahemuka as the Resident Director. Dr. Kaendi Munguti took over when Prof. Bahemuka was appointed Kenya's representative to the UN. The programme is currently managed by Lillian Owiti.

## **Study Abroad Program**

The Kalamazoo College study abroad goals are 'to provide students with opportunities to learn what it takes to be an enlightened leader in a richly diverse and increasingly complex world'. Every year an average of 10 Kalamazoo students come to the University of Nairobi for their study abroad program. Most of the students come for 6 months - from September to February - but have the option of an extended stay of 9 months. The students registered in the Faculty of Arts and the courses taught include African Religion, Oral Literature, Political Science and Gender and Development Elementary and Intermediate Kiswahili. The students undertake a 3 month internship under the supervision of University lecturers after which they write a dissertation.

Another core course tailor-made for the Kalamazoo students is Geographies of Development. This course is intended to give students an understanding of "development" in Kenya and is part of their experiential learning during their study abroad. The course combines guest lectures on various development issues and excursions to Kenyan communities outside Nairobi. The Geographies of development course aims at looking at development in "reverse" from the more Westernized urban areas like Nairobi to the disadvantaged rural communities in Kenya. The experiential learning is aimed at enabling students to identify and choose a cultural/social area for the dissertation. The guest lectures which are given by university lecturers cover; Underdevelopment, Poverty and Marginalized Groups in Kenya; Current Health Status in Kenya; Civil Society and Political Development in Kenya, 1990 to date; Education for All? The Current Status of Education and Links to Development; Culture and Development; Current Economic status in Kenya; Role of NGOs in Community development.

The programme organises 3 educational excursions: to Mombasa for a Kiswahili language camp, Nyanza Province for the upcountry excursion and work camp and to the Rift Valley Province to learn more about the human/wildlife conflict and the impact of tourism.

The Kalamazoo students are housed by Kenyan families for the whole duration of their stay in Kenya. The homestay experience is a very important part of the students' study abroad experience as it immerses them into the Kenyan cultural experience and it is in the families that they practice their Kiswahili.

## Kalamazoo University Partner Exchange Program (UPEP)

Every year 2 undergraduate University of Nairobi students join over 30 other international exchange students at Kalamazoo College through the UPEP scholarship. The scholarship is for 9 months and covers tuition fees, meals and board. The scholarship recipients are expected to cater for their air-fare and pocket money. The University of Nairobi students who have gone to Kalamazoo College on this program benefit from the College's Kiswahili Teaching Fellowship and are paid to work as teaching assistants during their free time. Some of the students who have benefitted from the programme include

| ACADEMIC YEAR | FEMALE RECIPIENT AND FACULTY         | MALE RECIPIENT AND FACULTY                                   |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2006/2007     | Catherine Ichungwa (Faculty of Arts) | Mathew Mburu (Faculty of Commerce)                           |
| 2007/2008     | Margaret Cheptile (Faculty of Arts)  | The male recipient was unable to travel to Kalamazoo College |
| 2008/2009     | Brenda Otieno (Faculty of Arts)      | Rufus Karanja (Faculty of Arts)                              |
| 2009/2010     | Sharon Musee (Faculty of Arts)       | Noor Mohamed (Faculty of Arts)                               |
| 2010/2011     | (School of Business)                 | Lewis Ngigi (Faculty of Arts)                                |
| 2011/2012     | Irynne Kwamboka (Faculty of Arts)    | The male recipient was not granted a visa                    |
| 2012/2013     | Juliet Ronoh (Faculty of Arts)       | Moses Odhiambo (School of Economics)                         |
| 2012/2013     | Ekrah Waithera (Faculty of Arts)     | Dave Mainga (Faculty of Arts)                                |

## Faculty Exchanges

A number of University of Nairobi staff have visited Kalamazoo College through the College's Faculty Exchange program. Some of the staff that have benefitted from this program include Prof. Fridah Karani, Prof. Kenneth Mavuti, Prof. C. Chesaina, Prof. Peter Wanyande, and Prof. Pricilla Kariuki.