Riara University
nurturing innovators

NEWS

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The Riara University Newsletter

STAND UP FOR THE CHAMPIONS!

Riara Bucks Crowned Winners in KBF Men's Div 2 while Scarlets take 2nd Place in the Women's Div 1 league.

It is December. It is a time to celebrate and make merry over the festive season. For RU Basketballs teams, its double celebrations as both RU Bucks & Scarlets move up the ladder after they were each promoted to the leagues above. December 2019 has seen RU Bucks break a three-year stay in the Kenya Basketball Federation Div 2 tier to enter into Division 1. Bucks dismissed a fighting Coastal Kings to clinch a win and become the league champions.

RU Scarlets become the first Riara University team to reach the Premier League, the top-most tier in Kenyan Basketball. This is indeed a national assignment for the young Scarlets.

Launch of the Riara University Robotics, Embedded Systems and Digital lab

On 13th November, 2019, Riara University launched their Robotics, Embedded Systems and Digital lab that is going to enhance the studies of students at the University while equipping them with the necessary skills needed for the ever changing job market. The event was graced by Mr. Rahul Chabbra - High Commissioner of India, in partnership with Airtel Kenya which helped towards equipping the lab. Other key guests at the event were Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chairman, Chandaria Industries and Mr. Tom Mulati, Acting Director, Technical Education from the Ministry of Education.

The Robotics laboratory answers to the need of the Fourth Industrial Revolution which is characterized by the convergence of breakthrough technologies – such as advanced robotics, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, virtual and augmented reality, wearables and additive manufacturing – which allows individuals to use connected technology to enhance and manage their lives.

Lauding Airtel's support on behalf of the Department of Advancement and Internationalization of Riara University, Ms. Sumita Mukherjee, Associate Director, expressed her gratitude to the Airtel team for partnering in the launch of the laboratory. "We are thankful to the Airtel team for helping us fulfill the dreams of Riara University by owning a high end Robotics lab which will be used not only for intrinsic use but also for extrinsic innovation."

The need for intelligent products and technologies has seen continuous growth in the world today. At the same time, as the world commits to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, there will be an increased demand for more environmentally-friendly and socially responsible products; for example, the use of intelligent controls to ensure reduced energy consumption or electric cars to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollutants. Therefore, the launch of this lab is geared towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals by equipping the students with the skills they require in order to work towards making the world a better and safer place.

In a statement, Airtel's Managing Director, Prasanta Das Sarma, said, "Airtel as a technology company, understands that the use and adaptation of the rapidly changing technological advancements in the education sector are impossible to ignore. Therefore, we are happy to partner and collaborate with like-minded institutions such as Riara University that share the same vision of empowering the youth through availing technological solutions that not only enrich their lives but also those of the communities that they come from."

On the other hand, the Vice Chancellor, Riara University, Prof. Robert Gateru stated: "This partnership is directly in line with our strategy of redesigning learning, to equip our learners with the knowledge, skills, and competences that enable them to work with emerging technologies such as Robotics. This lab will also be instrumental in equipping the youth within our neighborhood with the requisite skills to be even more productive. As you are aware, Riara University is located right next to Kibera, where many youths work in industries that could benefit immensely from Robotics and Automation. We are very grateful to Airtel for this immense support which further cements our partnership and their invaluable contribution to the empowerment of Kenyan youth towards greater employability. This is well aligned with Riara University's core purpose of "Empowering Lives; Impacting Communities". It is, therefore, a win-win partnership for all, more so the students to be trained with this state-of-the-art equipment."

The Robotics, Embedded Systems and Digital laboratory will play a central role in in driving the conversation on youth empowerment and enhancing positive impact in the society through the adaptation and use of technology.

Riara University

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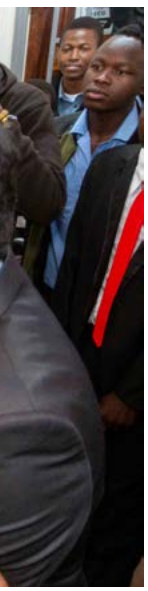
LAUNCH OF THE RIARA UNIVERSITY ROBOTICS LAB
Wednesday
13th November 2019



LET'S CREATE

Special Needs Training

Access to basic education for all students is an essential goal for many countries around the world. Also, as worldwide calls for providing inclusive education continue to intensify, access to basic education for many students with disabilities in Kenya remains a pervasive challenge.

Large class sizes, inadequate funding, limited teacher training, and lack of disability awareness exacerbate this challenge.

In 2009, the Kenyan government put forth a national Special Needs Education policy framework that provides comprehensive strategies and policies to improve services for people with disabilities. Creating advocacy and awareness, revamping the curriculum, incorporating technology, providing teacher training, and improving data collection are some of the recommendations included in the policy framework to enhance special education services and facilitate inclusive practices.

The above policy is one which RU has absorbed through the provision of the Special Needs Education Training. This year, two trainings have been held at Riara University, one in April and the second from the 25th to the 29th of November. The Competency Based Curriculum is one which advocates for the inclusion of all learners within the regular classroom set up. The main aim of this course is to equip the teachers with skills of identification, intervention and learning styles of learners with Specific Learning Difficulties; Emerging Disabilities, Gifted and Talented Learners. Areas that were covered included:

- Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia/ Dyspraxia)
- Autism
- Emerging Disabilities
- Gifted and Talented Learners
- Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Learners with Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties

The Department of Education partnered with Acorn Special tutorials to deliver this training sessions and the key facilitators were Eva Naputuni Nyoike, the Director of Acorn Tutorials and is a Special Needs Consultant and Dr. Davis Anderson, Professor of Education at Bethel University, USA.

RSE students develop a Curriculum for Senior Biologists for the National Museums of Kenya (NMK)

A group of three students from the School of Education, Abunde Wasonga Denish, Bianca Nyaruai and Marcy Ameyo Fundi developed a curriculum for Senior Biologists for the NMK. This project was undertaken as part of the group's Community Service course and will be used by the National Museums to train visiting students. The completed curriculum was handed over to the NMK on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the NMK offices. The class instructor, Charity Njimu, also participated in the handing over ceremony.

After only 1 year in Division 1, Scarlets trounced the mighty Strathmore in the semis before losing out to Kisumu Lady Bucks in the play off finals. They have no doubt proven their prowess in the sporting field and now join seasoned giants such as Equity Bank, KPA, USIU, ANU, Zetech Uni, Storms and KU Oryx amongst others in the coming 2020 season.

In football RUFC Mens team entered the FKF Regional League, while the Womens team make a debut into the Kenya Universities Sports Association League.

We can almost bet that the year 2020 will definitely be an exciting one for the sporting fraternity at Riara University. Lets watch the space.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Celebrations to all our fans.

RU COMMUNIQUE'

ICDL International Computer Driving Licence

ICDL is the world's leading computer skills certification. To date more than 14 million people have engaged with the ICDL programme, in over 100 countries, through a network of over 24,000 ICDL Accredited Test Centres (ATCs).

The programme defines the skills and competencies necessary to use a computer and common computer applications. It offers a wide range of modules including Computer Essentials, Word Processing and IT Security. Candidates take tests in the modules which are most relevant to their educational and professional requirements, thereby creating their own profile. Whether in campus or in the workplace, ICDL offers the basic skills one needs to succeed.

Create your ICDL Profile today by joining RU's ICDL programme which will place you a notch above other candidates globally, in certifying your computer skills to international standards.

Riara School of Business

- Positioning Corporate Communication to drive Business Strategy
- Personal Management & Development Programme
- Executive Leadership Development Programme
- Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Public Speaking and Business Writing Skills
- Events Management, Etiquette and Protocol
- Essentials of Public Relations Writing
- Coaching for Stellar Customer Service
- Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) in Conjunction with NSE
- Diploma in Digital Marketing
- Certificate in Digital Marketing

Riara School of Education

- Certificate of Teaching International Curricula – (CTIC)
- Certificate in Special Needs
- Certificate in Leadership and Management in Education
- Certificate in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Certificate in Kenyan Sign Language

Riara School Of Computing Sciences

- Diploma in Embedded Systems and Robotics
- International Computer Driving License
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA 1-4)
- Huawei HCIA Routing and Switching Certification
- CISCO IT Essentials
- IBM Certified Mobile Application
- Certificate in Information Technology
- Certificate in Web Development
- Certificate in Big Data Analytics
- Certificate in Robotics
- Certificate in Mobile Application Development

Riara Department of International Relations and Diplomacy

- Language courses in Kiswahili, English, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, German, French, Kenya Sign Language.
- Certificate in Diplomatic Etiquette and Leadership

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

As we come to the close of the year, I celebrate each and every one of you our most valued stakeholders for the journey we have walked together in 2019. The year was not an easy one by all means, but it ended up being a very successful one, thanks to you. Together, we will make 2020 an even more remarkable year.

I wish you and your dear ones a wonderful holiday season, and urge that we all spend time touching the lives of others and spreading good cheer and love, during this season and always. We are RU!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Professor Robert Gateru, PhD