

PAC University

An Annual Publication
Issue 30, 2021

Pacesetter



Thriving in Adversity



Celebrating Our 40th Graduation Ceremony
Where Leaders are Made



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- Bachelor of Arts in Transformational Church Leadership
- Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Leadership
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- Counselling Psychology
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- Entrepreneurship Development
- Transformational Church Leadership
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Where Leaders are Made

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Managing Editor's Note



The Graduating Class of 2021 has deservedly joined the ranks of men and women who have beaten very tight odds to achieve their goals, even when all bets were off. As a matter of fact, their victory is even bigger and sweeter as this achievement comes in the midst of the sharp vicissitudes of fortune caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Class of 2021, you have proven yourselves worthy of being celebrated- savor this moment.

This year's graduation theme "Thriving in Adversity" is divinely inspired as it comes when PAC University is in a unique season. We are celebrating the 40th Graduation Ceremony- a very significant event going by the inference of number 40 in the Christian faith. Throughout the Bible, the number 40 marks a period of rigorous, and more often painful preparation before a major event or an undertaking happens. As a Christian University celebrating its 40th Graduation, we strongly believe that we are about to enter a major phase when our wings will spread out fully to positively impact individuals and corporates around the world.

As a matter of fact, this new phase is already in motion. In the recent past, we've spread-out our tentacles wider through bigger and better trainings and conferences, and also through major international collaborations that have undoubtedly elevated our status. Indeed, the full attainment of our vision is now within sight. This is just but the beginning, and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us!

I wish to thank all the contributors who have made it possible for us to have this publication. To you, our reader, I wish you a nice read. Blessings!

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Thriving in Adversity

By Bishop Calisto Odede (Rev.)



Bishop Calisto Odede (Rev.)
Chancellor

"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. (2 Tim 4:17 NIV)"

Perhaps one of the most forlorn images of the Bible is that captured by the final words of the apostle Paul as recorded in 2 Timothy Chapter 4. In a Roman jail and feeling like the end was imminent, he had run out of luck for friends and other options. Those he had hoped to stand with him had deserted him as he awaited his second trial before the imperial court. It looked like the kind of challenges that would make one give up. That is why the words he writes to us are remarkable. He turns around and informs us that he felt a presence next to him: it was the Lord who strengthened him so that he was still able to accomplish his mandate irrespective of the adversities. That is why the theme we have chosen for the Graduating Class of 2021 is so appropriate.

There are certain challenges that everyone encounters in their life as a student: the assignments, the exams, the deadlines, the projects, the thesis, the dissertation, etc. These are necessary, and are more or less part and parcel of the academic journey. However, the kind of adversity that the

**Class of 2021,
we rejoice and celebrate
with you as we take
note of the fact that the
oysters that are rubbed
and irritated by sand
form pearls**

world is going through right now is in a class of its own. We have seen drastic challenges that require drastic measures. Schools have been closed; the economy is not doing well; we are struggling to pay rent and to put food on the table; some of us have lost our jobs because the company cannot stay afloat in the midst of these circumstances; some of us have closed our businesses. Even Churches have temporarily suspended their in-person services on and off.

On top of this, the schooling environment has changed. We have had a quantum leap into the future where both the workstation and schooling have moved to the home. All these are because of COVID-19. Some of us have been sick, while others have lost their loved ones.

Subsequently, the patterns of living have changed as we have to stay more indoors and create social distance, both with our friends and colleagues.

We do want to express gratitude to God for preparing PAC University fraternity beforehand to enable a smooth shift from in-person to online learning. We are also grateful to Him that the Class of 2021 showed great determination and conquered these adversities such that they are were able to graduate.

Looking at the Bible, we see that men and women of God were made in the school of hard knocks or adversity. This goes to show us that adversities, difficulties, and hardships are often the raw materials from which heroes and saints alike are made and therefore, we do not want to waste our problems. We are taking advantage of these circumstances to thrive. Innovation, creativity, and wider impact at a global level will be part of PAC University as we position ourselves to be competitive with the other world-class universities. Our digital library, access to resources, and personal engagement with the students will be enhanced even in a "socially distancing" world.

Class of 2021, we rejoice and celebrate with you as we take note of the fact that the oysters that are rubbed and irritated by sand form pearls. We pray that you will continue to thrive even in the midst of challenges, just like Apostle Paul.

How to Thrive in Adversity

By Prof. Emmanuel Bellon



Prof. Emmanuel Bellon
Chair of Governing Council

Life's experiences of hardship, misfortune, affliction, and calamity have become too familiar with us, and yet with God's help, we can thrive in these adversities. In the last 100 years, the world has suffered polio, Spanish flu, Asian flu, HIV/AIDS, Swine flu, Ebola, and Zika. We are currently fighting desperately to control the Coronavirus and its disastrous effects on our communities, nation, and world. We hold no sway over life's adversity and when it occurs, but the choices we make during a crisis are critical to how we prevail. Thriving in the COVID-19 pandemic requires adherence to godly principles that build resilience and promote flourishing despite the complexity of the crisis. To thrive in adversity is to blossom and prosper in crisis.

Honest recognition that we have a crisis is pivotal to how we overcome the problem. Ignoring the crisis, calling it a hoax or propaganda undermines our ability to assess the enormity and dire consequences of the situation. As the adage goes, denial is not a river in Egypt but a subtle force that can undermine our ability to cope and thrive in adversity. Surrounded by the armies of the Moabites and Ammonites, Jehoshaphat did not deny his crisis but recognized the threat and his inability to tackle it. He was powerless against the great horde marching against him and did not know what to do except fix his eyes on God (2Chron. 20:12). It

“Thriving in the COVID-19 pandemic requires adherence to godly principles that build resilience and promote flourishing despite the complexity of the crisis”

takes courage and humility to recognize the reality of our crisis, and when we do, we set ourselves up for solutions to thrive. Once we recognize our crisis, we need to seek divine intervention from the creator and sustainer of life. We do not need to understand every aspect of our crisis in order to cry for help. Lifting our eyes to God, the most excellent deliverer should be our first response when encountering adversity. When Peter was sinking in the sea after a few steps of miraculous walk on water, he cried out to his Master for help, and Jesus reached out his hand and caught him (Matt.14:30-31). Ultimately, our help comes from God, and his intervention is crucial to our attempts to thrive in a crisis. During adversity, a call for divine intervention is as regular as a call for first aid treatment when an athlete suffers an injury. It is not a sign of weakness or foolishness, rather an acknowledgment that God reigns in the affairs of the world. God admonishes us to call for help in times of trouble, and he will answer, for he is our hiding place and strength, a very present help when we face a crisis (Ps. 46:1).

God's scientific wisdom to overcome a crisis like a coronavirus is revealed to humankind through diverse institutions because all truth is God's truth. Failure to observe hygiene standards, social distancing, or quarantine guidelines rooted in scientific wisdom that God has

already provided can be costly. For this reason, God directed the priests in Israel to quarantine people with infectious diseases to shield the general population from epidemics (Lev.13:4-5). We cannot be careless about practical, godly wisdom and thrive. As leaders, following public health wisdom and helping others to observe the same during pandemics demonstrate our social responsibility to God. There is nothing new under the sun. For every adversity we face, God has provided wisdom to overcome it and continues to do so. Ours is to follow the guidelines diligently as we seek divine intervention.

Having recognized our crises, called for divine intervention, and have followed the practical wisdom of God, we need to place total trust in the one who helps us thrive. Total trust in God is to be at peace with what God does in our lives in times of adversity, knowing that he works in mysterious ways. Our reasonable efforts, strategies, and plans are bound to fail without total trust in the immutable God. We thrive in adversity when we acknowledge God in all our ways and do not lean on our understanding. We thrive in adversity when we surrender to God's plans and purposes for our lives. More importantly, we thrive in adversity when we follow God's guidance with patience, faith, and humility.

Behold, God is Doing a New Thing

By Prof. Margaret J. Muthwii



Prof. Margaret J. Muthwii
Vice Chancellor

A hearty congratulations to the graduating Class of 2021 for this remarkable achievement. Looking at the challenging times that we are living in, you deserve to be applauded for working hard and staying focused to the point of graduating today. I couldn't be prouder of you. Well done.

Every day, life is full of lessons. Last year, we were all taught a very

important lesson about planning ahead and moving into action when the season is ripe. In 2021, one of the biggest and most practical lessons that we've learnt at PAC University is that when you stay focused on your goals and stay closer to God, you will thrive, even in the midst of adversity. Without a doubt, it's been a difficult season globally marked with adversities such as financial, emotional, psychological, and social constraints. In spite of that, as a

graduating class, the 2021 cohort has kept their focus. I celebrate them you and the faculty for rolling up their sleeves and getting the work done successfully to completion.

PAC University is celebrating its 40th Graduation Ceremony. Administratively, this is a historic event as it marks the first ever official assignment of our new Chancellor, Bishop Rev. Calisto Odede, who was installed on 21st May 2021. Out there, it is widely said that life begins at 40, and if we were to take this premise into account, then this is just but a beginning of better and greater tidings for the University. By extension, the premise then makes the graduating Class of 2021 become our "first born". Coincidentally, they will be the first lot to be given powers to read and do all that appertains to their degrees by the new Chancellor, Bishop Calisto Odede.

Celebrating an event for the 40th time is no small fete. The number 40 has a great significance among the Christians, and the world at large. Consider the following examples:

- a) Before He began His Ministry, Jesus spent 40 days praying and fasting in the Judean desert;
- b) The great flood during Noah's time ended after forty days;
- c) The children of Israel spent forty years in the desert before God gave them a place of their own;
- d) During the middle ages when the Bubonic plague hit Europe, all ships were required to stay at the harbor for 40 days before their passengers could disembark.

Looking at these few examples, there appears to be a clear message that something good comes forth after 40. I strongly believe that PAC University is entering into a new season of growth and uplifting. My prayer is that all the graduating students, and indeed the entire community of PAC University will have an open mind to discern and receive that which God is bringing our way in this new season.

Over the last one year, the University has grown in many fronts. For instance, in line with the market demands, we

have introduced new academic programs. These include Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, Master of Arts in Community Development and Social Protection, Bachelor of Science in IT, and Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Leadership. Through these new programs, we believe that we will keep impacting the market place in great ways that will bring glory to God. Within the year, we have also had three faculty members graduate with Doctoral Degrees in their respective areas. They include Dr. Elizabeth Kamau, Dr. Wilkins Muhingi, Dr. Amos Alumada, and Dr. Solomon Munyao. Still within our faculty, two Deans have been promoted to Associate Professorship. They are Professor Nathan Chiroma, Dean-School of Theology, and Professor Margaret Mwenje, Dean-School of Humanities and Social Sciences. These are some of the great things that we celebrate and praise God for; things that indeed speak loud to this year's theme "Thriving in Adversity".

In this season of COVID-19, government decisions affecting the learning institutions and many other sectors have become extremely unpredictable. An example of this is the two-time sudden closure of schools/universities in the middle of a semester. Many universities have been having a difficult time adopting to the changes, with some resorting to total closure until in-person classes resume.

However, by God's grace, we are glad to say that at PAC University, all academic activities and administrative functions have been going on uninterrupted even when such sudden decisions to close learning institutions came about. This is majorly because a few years back, we invested in online learning infrastructure that has allowed us to teach and conduct academic activities virtually, and seamlessly. In retrospect, we are grateful to God for having given us the wisdom to prepare early in advance for what many are now calling the new normal. Such decisions to plan ahead are in line with achieving our vision which is to be a world-class Christian University, characterized by high quality, transformative, and value-based education. Every day, we challenge ourselves to do that which is world-class and will cause a positive transformation among our students, and ultimately bring glory to God.

I think of the story of Peter as a classic example of what it means to thrive in adversity. Peter gave Jesus his word that

he was ready to stand by Him, and would even go with Him to prison and to death. (Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ~ Luke 22:33). Soon after this, Peter denied Jesus three times, and after realizing what he had done, he wept and repented with a sincere heart. Mark 14:72 says that "he broke down and wept". This, in itself, was a great victory for Peter in that particular season. He realized his mistake and did the right thing with a sincere heart. It is no wonder that later on, Jesus restored him as told in John 21:15-25. Class of 2021, as you go out there to serve God and the society at large, keep it in mind that thriving in adversity is not just about excelling under difficult circumstances. It is also about owning up your mistakes and failures, atoning for them, and also learning from them. As a child of God, you have a responsibility to live by faith through actions that will inspire hope and courage among those around you. Therefore, when you fail, pick yourself up and soldier on- you will have thrived.

"Over the last one year, the University has grown in many fronts"

For those graduating today with a Certificate, I urge you to go ahead and start your Diploma. For those graduating with a Diploma, register for a Bachelor's Degree. For those graduating with a Bachelor's Degree, plan to enroll for a Master's Degree, and for those graduating with a Master's Degree, go for a PhD. For the PhD graduands, plan to continue doing research and publishing. In other words, this must not be the end of the academic road for any of you. Keep re-tooling yourself for the wonderful opportunities God will bring your way. Learn what there is to learn about each opportunity or task, and you will excel. Always remember that PAC University is your alma mater, and that our doors are always open for you. While out there, you have a responsibility to remain a good ambassador of Christ and your alma mater, and we have no doubt that you are up to the task.

God bless you; keep on thriving even in the midst of adversity.

Maintaining Academic Excellence even in Adversity

By Prof. Dionysious Kiambi



Prof. Dionysious Kiambi
DVC-Academic Affairs

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2021! Your academic journey at PAC University has no doubt taken commitment, hard work, focus, and faith in God. The Lord has indeed been Ebenezer. You have emerged as victors, and to echo the words of Napoleon Bonaparte, "Victory belongs to the most persevering". As your Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs, I can attest to the fact that PAC University, with great pleasure, is releasing into the society yet another group of graduates who are God fearing, transformed, knowledgeable, and have cut a niche for themselves as determined and resilient change agents. Taking a cue

from the this year's graduation theme, "Thriving in adversity" drawn from 2 Timothy 4:17, it is my strong conviction that having survived the rigours of your academic journeys and thrived in the midst of adversity, you now have the strength and resilience to engage in the noble task of contributing to the much needed transformation in the society. In the words of Andy Andrews, "Adversity is preparation for greatness." We are also reminded in the word of God that adversities make us stronger. 1 Peter 5: 10: "And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you

and make you strong, firm and steadfast". Therefore, it is my prayer and conviction you will thrive even in adversity and rise to greatness in the duty stations of life that God will post you.

In accordance with our mission, you have been developed as godly transformative Christian leaders through training, research, and innovations so that you can effectively serve the Lord in the Church and in the community. We at PAC University believe that high quality, value-based, and transformative education is what will distinguish you, our graduands, in the market place. It is my hope that you will put the knowledge you have gained into practice for the good of fellow human beings

“It is my hope that you will put the knowledge you have gained into practice for the good of fellow human beings where you will be placed to serve”.

where you will be placed to serve. Bear in mind the words of Edwin Louis Cole that, “Knowledge is the acquiring of facts, understanding is the interpreting of facts, wisdom the application.”

In the Academic Division, we continue to celebrate God’s goodness with very grateful hearts for the many victories we have had despite the COVID-19 disruptions. As well said by Napoleon Hill, “Every adversity carries with it the seed of an equal or greater opportunity”. This is affirmed by Albert Einstein who states that, “In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity.” The constant closures of the University have created an opportunity for us to move all our academic delivery processes and systems fully online, and even take them to a higher level through our dynamic, versatile, and robust Learning Management System. The following components of academic delivery processes and systems are now fully online:

- **Online learning and teaching** - All our programs are now being offered fully online, except a few that were offered in blended mode due to components requiring use of physical facilities. Our fully online programs are now attracting students from all over the world, with 17 nationalities in Africa and beyond being represented in our student community;
- **Online admission, orientation and matriculation** of new students;
- **Administration of exams;**
- **Defenses of Masters Theses and PhD Dissertations;**
- **Monitoring and evaluation of online learning and teaching through generation of analytics;**
- **Online supervision of postgraduate using our versatile Integrated Online Graduate Mentoring and Supervision System (i-OGMSS);**
- **Numerous webinars, short training courses and workshops;**
- **International conferences.**

In the course of the last academic year, our programs portfolio has grown significantly with an addition of four Masters and Bachelors programs. This includes our very first science program.

The new programs are:

- **Masters of Arts in Counselling Psychology**
- **Masters of Arts in Community Development and Social Protection**
- **Bachelor of Science in Information, Computing and Technology**
- **Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Security Leadership**

Three of these programs are already on offer and they have continued to grow, attracting students from Kenya and beyond. The quality of our faculty has also continued to grow, with two faculty members rising to the position of Associate Professors while four attained their PhDs. The University is now on course to rise to a higher level of excellence in delivery of academic programs through the recently established Centre for Online Learning and

Teaching.

The Academic Division has continued to make significant progress in the implementation of the “Big Five Agenda”. In this regard, several MOUs to have partnership with industry and international centres of excellence been signed. This includes an MOU with the Hindustan College of Arts and Sciences (HCAS) which has been operationalized through joint activities including short training courses and an international conference that attracted presenters in Africa and Asia. Our MOU with KwaZulu Natal University has helped to advance our research agenda with a partnership on a multinational research project on the psycho-social impact of COVID-19 on undergraduate students.

Class of 2021, during your academic journey at PAC University, you have benefitted from all the innovations accorded through the Academic Division. As you go out into the world, allow the Lord to use you mightily wherever He will position you. I trust that you will be inspired by the word of God in Colossians 3: 23-24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving”.

In Matthew 5:41 Jesus encouraged His disciples to always go an extra mile. The extra mile in service is what will distinguish you as an outstanding servant leader and a great role model.

May the Lord who has faithfully seen you through your academic journey continue to walk with you, bless the work of your hands, and grant you the grace to serve Him with excellence, all for His honour and glory.

Once again, congratulations, and may the Lord bless you abundantly.

Resolving to Overcome Adversity through Christ's Help

By Prof. Nathan H. Chiroma



Prof. Nathan H. Chiroma
Dean, School of Theology

The School of Theology warmly congratulates the Class of 2021 on its graduation. It's time to celebrate all the hard work that led to this joyful occasion. The road to graduation is a long and steep climb, so take a moment to be proud of your accomplishments.

If one thing is certain about life, it is that adversity is inevitable — the times we live in are no exception. When adversity comes, we are forced to face problems and pressures that are too big for us to resolve. In this way, God gets our attention. One of the ultimate purposes of adversity is to cause us to desire more of Christ's power in our lives. Troubles reveal that on our own we can't live in a way that honors God. We need to rely on God and receive His grace. The School of Theology offers cutting

edge programs that prepare leaders to take on the challenges of ministry in order to be relevant. They include Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological studies, Master of Arts in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies, Master of Arts in Children and Youth Ministry, Bachelor of Bible and Theology, Bachelor of Transformational Church Leadership, Diploma in Transformational Leadership, Diploma in Youth Ministry, Certificate of Transformational Leadership and our popular Certificate in Youth Development (YDP). In order to accomplish our mission and vision effectively, the School is divided into three teaching Departments: Department of Children and Youth Ministry, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, and

Department of Transformational Church Leadership.

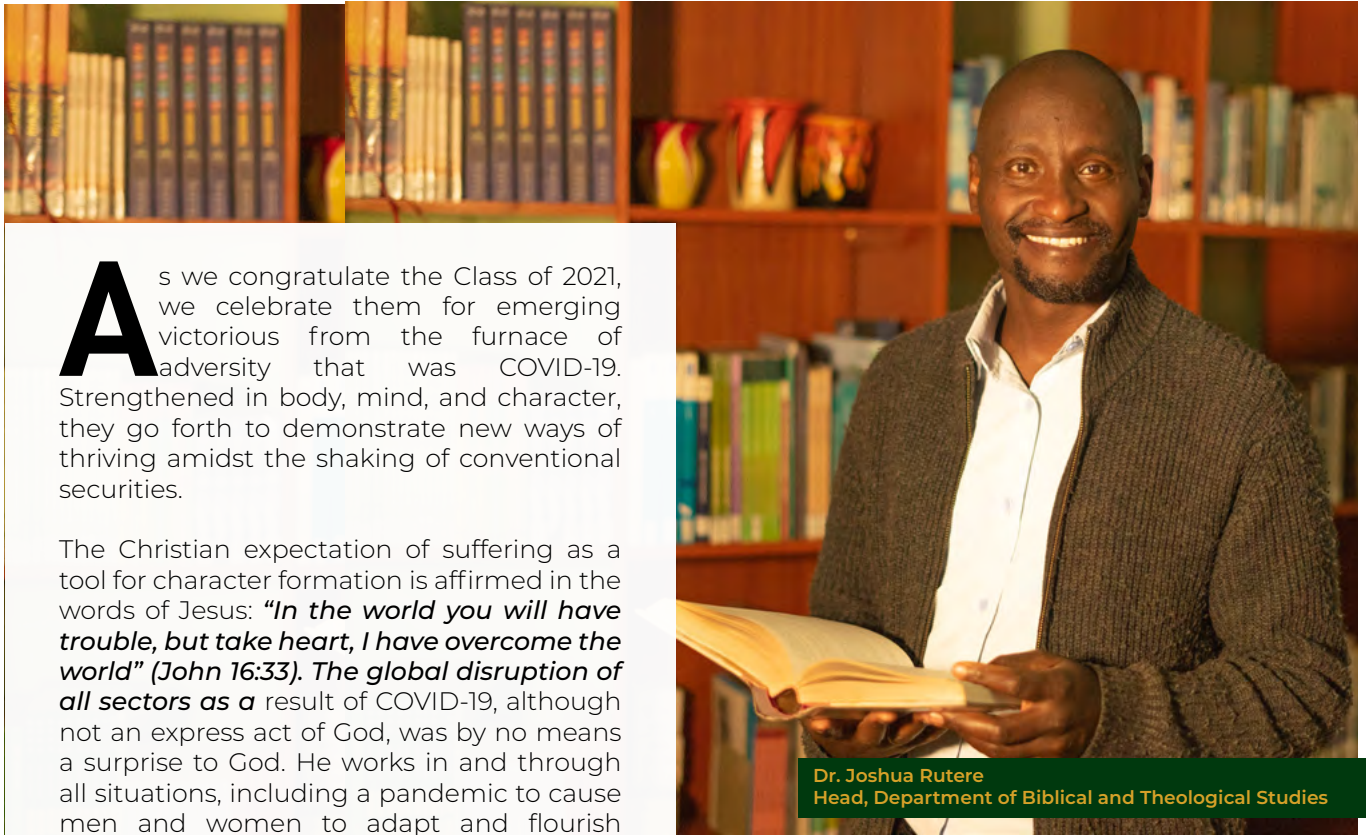
May you be reminded that one of your earthly roles is to become an expert in dealing with adversity, to triumph over difficulty, and to rise above the challenges of day-to-day life. Keep your thoughts on where you're going, not on where you've been. Keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and the finisher of your faith. Resolve in advance that you will meet and overcome every difficulty, and then, no matter what happens, don't give up until you do. His grace is sufficient for you.

Congratulations Class of 2021! Cutting edge programs that prepare leaders to take on the challenges of ministry in order to be relevant. They include Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological studies, Master of Arts in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies, Master of Arts in Children and Youth Ministry, Bachelor of Bible and Theology, Bachelor of Transformational Church Leadership, Diploma in Transformational Leadership, Diploma in Youth Ministry, Certificate of Transformational Leadership and our popular Certificate in Youth Development (YDP). In order to accomplish our mission and vision effectively, the School is divided into three teaching Departments: Department of Children and Youth Ministry, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, and Department of Transformational Church Leadership.

May you be reminded that one of your earthly roles is to become an expert in dealing with adversity, to triumph over difficulty, and to rise above the challenges of day-to-day life. don't give up until you do. His grace is sufficient for you.

Take Heart - We Know How the Story Ends

By Dr. Joshua Rutere



Dr. Joshua Rutere
Head, Department of Biblical and Theological Studies

As we congratulate the Class of 2021, we celebrate them for emerging victorious from the furnace of adversity that was COVID-19. Strengthened in body, mind, and character, they go forth to demonstrate new ways of thriving amidst the shaking of conventional securities.

The Christian expectation of suffering as a tool for character formation is affirmed in the words of Jesus: *“In the world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).* The global disruption of all sectors as a result of COVID-19, although not an express act of God, was by no means a surprise to God. He works in and through all situations, including a pandemic to cause men and women to adapt and flourish through it. As the saying goes, the darker the night, the brighter the light. Like Paul (2 Tim: 4:17), the Class of 2021 has exemplified this kind of hopeful resilience, and for that reason we are glad to be associated with them.

As the Department of Biblical and Theological Studies, we are pleased to commend to Kenya and the world all those graduating from our graduate and undergraduate programs, fully confident that they have been formed to lead godly transformative change in our Churches and communities. It gives us great reassurance that they represent a resilient generation that has triumphed against the odds to achieve their desired goals in the midst of adversity.

All that remains for us now is to pray for them that they may carry this spirit of hopeful resilience into the communities that they go to serve. That they will be energized by the words of Jesus to become agents for justice and advocates against all forms of injustice. That though they face trouble, they will be steadfast, immovable in representing the Kingdom of light which ultimately wins

“As the saying goes, the darker the night, the brighter the light”

over all forms of darkness. We pray they will be daily reminded that though the arc of the moral universe be long, it ultimately bends towards justice (Martin Luther King Jr.). We pray that they will build on the heritage of godly men and women in the various sectors of society; that while recognizing the opportunities of their own season they will steward faithfully and build strategically to leave a godly inheritance for posterity. We are thus delighted to commend the Class of 2021 for service to God in the Church and in the community.

Programs offered in this Department:

- Master of Arts in Biblical Theology
- Master of Theology in Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies
- Master of Divinity
- Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology

Transformed Lifestyle, Service, and Leadership to Thrive in Adversity

By Ms. Abigael Demesi (PhD, IP)



Ms. Abigael Demesi (PhD, IP)
Head, Department of Transformational Church Leadership

Programs Offered In This Department:

- Bachelor of Arts in Transformational Church Leadership
- Diploma in Transformational Church Leadership
- Certificate in Transformational Church Leadership

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2021. In these challenging times, we may agree with Dr. Tim Crowley that “Thriving in a world full of challenges and uncertainties requires more than just being oneself. It requires building your resilience to a level that can counterbalance the adversity and challenges that life can bring.” Here, the Church is not left out.

Christians have many great spiritual strategies to build resilience and strive victoriously. Thriving through faith tops the list. A key anchor to a Christian’s thriving is faith in God. ***‘The just shall live by faith.’*** Jesus assured His followers that “in the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Living a transformed life is another essential for thriving. The Apostle Paul reminds us that the secret to triumphant living is to be transformed by the constant renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2), surrendering to the Holy Spirit’s dominion over our will and action by reestablishing the firm truths and principles of the Kingdom of God.

Thriving is enabled by application of Biblical principles. To stay on course to the very end, one must be intentional about being developed. The Department of Transformational Church Leadership (TCL) helps Church leaders to thrive during adversity by applying the Word of God in every situation of life.

Thriving must continue in all seasons. Paul’s life and charge to Timothy in 2nd Timothy 4:4-7 was that despite the hardships of the day, he was to remain prepared, preach the gospel, and correct, rebuke, and encourage others. In other words, never give up even in difficulties.

When we thrive, we become triumphant and win a prize. Paul’s triumphant declaration at the end of his life in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8 stirs us to work hard to finish our individual races well. He lived sacrificially, shared God’s Word faithfully, disciplined others, battled constantly, and endured to the very end. Though we all experience moments of adversity in our lifetime, we can gain strength and comfort by turning to God in fervent prayer.

It is our prayer that transformed TCL graduates are not only able to counterbalance the challenges of life, but are also equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to thrive in adversities of every kind.

Adjusting the Sail to Reach the Destination

By Prof. Margaret Mwenje



“Look for ways to solve the problems you can, and let go of things you have no control over.”

Prof. Margaret Mwenje
Dean, School of Humanities
& Social Sciences

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences congratulates the Class of 2021, especially those from the three teaching Departments within the School. This great achievement could not have been realized without resilience. The graduates had every reason to give up and put their studies on hold during this difficult season of the COVID-19 pandemic, but they opted to soldier on. Today is a historic and exciting day for us as we celebrate the first student to attain a PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy, Dr. Evans Onsando.

The pandemic disorganized the normal teaching and learning environment that we were accustomed to. As a School, we echoed the words of Jimmy Dean that “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination”. We adjusted our sail, and today we can confidently say that we are glad we did. Offering our programs online has attracted international students from countries such as Nigeria, Canada, USA, Uganda and many more. Postgraduate students have been able to present concept papers, defend proposals, theses, and dissertations online.

Through the Department of Community Development, the School initiated collaboration with India, and an MOU was signed virtually. We have since been involved in online collaboration activities with them, and also with KwaZulu-Natal University in South Africa. Still during this season,

three of our Lecturers managed to attain their PhDs: Dr. Wilkins Muhingi (PhD in Social Work), Dr. Elizabeth Kamau (PhD in Child Psychology) and Dr. Amos Alumada (PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy). The School also implemented MA Counseling Psychology and MA Community Development and Social Protection during this season. Lecturers in the School have also been involved in research and community outreach activities even in the midst of the adversity. We have kept thriving.

As you step out into the job market, try to remain resilient so that you thrive in adversity. Maintain a positive attitude. Look for ways to solve the problems you can, and let go of things you have no control over. Look for opportunities in the midst of adversity. When the wind blows, some people build walls while others build windmills (Ancient proverb). Be innovative and create new avenues where you can use the competences that you have gained from PAC University. You have been prepared to be a global citizen- go change the world.

Nelson Mandela said that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Do not underestimate your abilities. Do not create excuses for not trying. Do not procrastinate, and do not magnify every setback as a proof of failure. Be tough-minded and refuse defeat. Find a positive role model in your field. Be a goal oriented person and stay focused. Keep the faith. Do not focus too much on the mountain of adversity, but keep your eyes on the mountain mover, God.

Creating a Thriving Community through Skillful Psychosocial Interventions

By Dr. Elizabeth Kamau



Today, as the Department of Psychology, we are proud to be releasing into the world, equipped counsellors from various levels of qualification – Diploma to PhD. Congratulations graduates of 2021 from the Psychology Department. The faculty members that have labored to get you to this moment stand confident to beckon you into the waiting world. On their behalf, I wish to express how proud we are of your sterling performance in your academics. We affirm that you have what it takes to undertake the critical mission that lies before you. Never before in our world has there been such a great need for people with your skill set to support our populations as they navigate various adversities.

Allow me to remind you two things that make the theme of this graduation ceremony absolutely relevant. To start with, you have gone through a rigorous process of acquiring knowledge and skills to support the psychologically wounded and those who are stuck because of interference in their developmental process. These are not able to capture their potential and live their dreams without skillful interventions. The courses you have studied, and for some research undertaken, has grounded you in well researched techniques in psychotherapy. The Psychology Department has given you opportunities to do thorough supervised practical experiences to attest that you can translate the knowledge acquired into practice. Today's participation is a testimony that we are satisfied that you are able to go out there and support men, women and children to thrive in their adversity.

Apart from the science of human dimensions and therapeutic techniques, you have also been recurrently drawn to interrogate spirituality as an asset for your life and for your clients. A French philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin in 1959 wrote ***"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience."*** (Robert & Kelly, 2015). It must never be lost to us that our human woes stem from our fallen world and our human experience is far removed from what God originally intended. This is true for us as helpers and also for our clients. The Department has endeavored to support a worldview of human issues bearing integration of psychology and spirituality. This is one of the many strengths of PAC University programs. We must tap into the redemptive provision that God has already given for us to leverage a healthy human experience. In recognition of this, Christian therapists have innovated ways of integration that are more effective in human support. For instance, CCBT is a combination of traditional Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with God's eternal truth as an effective way of supporting Christian clients suffering from depression to reformat their thought system (Pearce, 2016).

Speaking about spirituality, research in human treatment now shows that engaging clients in Christian-disciplined exercises of selected Bible verse meditation and prayers impact a change in their neural structure that results into healthy ways of experiencing self and behaving (Copan, 2016; Pearce, 2016). You, our graduates, are familiar with these admonitions in your various classes. I wish to assert that this will give you the necessary stamina to thrive in your own adversity. I adjure you, do not depart from it. A wholesome you will be able to lead many others to wholesomeness. Go out there and display the wealth of treasure you have gleaned from PAC University, and may God cause you and your clients to THRIVE IN EVERY ADVERSITY.

Programs offered in this Department:

- PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy
- Master of Arts in Marriage & Family Therapy
- Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology
- Bachelor of Arts in Counselling Psychology
- Diploma in Counselling
- Certificate in Counselling

When Adversity Knocks

By Mr. Isaac Oyuga (PhD, IP)



Mr. Isaac Oyuga (PhD, IP)
Ag. Head, Department of Communication,
Languages, & Linguistics

The 40th graduation ceremony is a special event that marks a new beginning. Indeed, the celebration ushers in new beginnings born out of strife and adversity. We have learnt to appreciate adversity as a precursor to greater and better things. The year 2020 taught us to do much with less. The adversity that was embodied in the global COVID-19 pandemic opened our eyes to the possibilities and opportunities we had not seen or embraced before. We were pushed to seek solutions to various challenges to survive. For instance, we were moved from the comfort of having only 20% of our courses online to 80%. We have learnt to use whatever the Lord has put in our hands to turn our gratitude and energy to forge ahead. We are opening ourselves to new challenges and opportunities. We are opening a new chapter to reach out, step out, and soar. Using the tools we

built during the period of adversity, we will document our arduous journey that brought us where we are. Indeed, when adversity knocks, opportunity is right behind. We now see opportunities to work with the tools we have and to teach others to do the same – document community and individual success stories of triumph in the face of adversity in formats that are readily accessible; walk with our sportsmen and women to showcase their talents; build hope, grow talents and nurture dreams to reality for the youth who want to pursue journalism and communication at different levels. We are ready to walk with individuals from wherever they are.

A New Hope

We will perceive adversity as a call to do more and better rather than a stumbling block to progress. Even more, as an opportunity to embrace more grace, as that substance of God that will yield in us the capacity to fulfil His assignment at such a time as now. We will build hope rather than despair, for we have risen out of the ashes of adversity with a cloak to

provide footprints to those who come behind us, that they too may develop hope in adversity and survive to thrive hereafter. We hope to be a bridge to reach others in our communities to seize the opportunities that have come with adversity. We are buoyed with a new energy drawn from God's provision and sustenance over the past years. There are mountains we must conquer, new places we must go, more lives we must enrich, and by God's abundant grace we will.

Resilience for the Future

Adversity is a shifting shadow defined by vague boundaries of challenges that morph into each other. One challenge begets a myriad others and the chain keeps growing. However, with hope, optimism, and faith, we conquer each level of adversity, develop and use strength, insights and stamina to face the next challenge. As we allow God to mould us, clear our vision, and help us to see things from His perspective, we know we will make it. We will take the next fall as a lesson learnt and prepare better to take on tomorrow. No matter what we may face, we are confident that we will not only survive, but we will also thrive.

The Department of Communication, Languages, & Linguistics is set to go to the community to document experiences of adversity turned motivation. The Department is also set to open the door when adversity knocks again in order to allow opportunities that trail it to enter.

Programs offered in this Department:

1. Bachelor of Arts in Communication
2. Diploma in Communication

Finding Opportunities During Moments of Adversities

By Ms. Mary Maseno (PhD, IP)

Congratulations to the graduating of Class 2021. Without a doubt, you can attest to God's faithfulness as manifested in your academic journey that was recently rocked by obstacles such as sudden closure of learning institutions right in the middle of a Trimester. We are proud that you did not give up. Instead, you embraced full online learning and kept moving forward. As a result, you have now emerged victorious. May this experience serve to strengthen not only your will, but also your faith in God and ability to confront future adversities.

Adversities in life are inevitable, but they can be overcome. The myriad of challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic did not hinder us from thriving. The Department of Community Development can attest and acknowledge God's gracious presence throughout this difficult season. We launched the Master of Arts in Community Development and Social Protection program, the first of its kind in the country, focusing on social protection. This involves learning how to develop and design policies and programs to reduce poverty and vulnerabilities among communities, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks. The shift to offering our courses fully online presented a good opportunity for our programs to attract students from all over the country, especially those in full-time employment, to join us and advance their studies which would have been technically difficult if we were engaging in face-to-face classes. We successfully launched a one week short course training in Child Protection that drew participants from various organizations working with children. We also signed an MOU with Hindustan College from India to partner in research, and capacity building seminars and workshops. By the Grace of God we affirm Napoleon Hill's words that *"Within every adversity is an equal or greater benefit. Within every problem is an opportunity. Even in the knocks of life, we can find great gifts."*

Class of 2021, my prayer is that each and every one of you will continue to thrive through all adversities. With the knowledge and skills that we have imparted in you, I am certain that you will grow professionally in order to bring about the much needed changes for better communities in our country and around the world.

Congratulations
On your New Chapter of Life.



Ms. Mary Maseno (PhD, IP)
Head, Department of Community
Development

**"Adversities
in life are
inevitable, but
they can be
overcome"**

Programs offered in this Department:

- Master of Arts in Community Development & Social Protection
- Bachelor of Arts in Community Development
- Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Security Leadership
- Diploma in Community Development & Social Work

Creating Leaders who can Withstand Adversity

By Prof. Dionysious Kiambi



Prof. Dionysious Kiambi
Ag. Dean, School of Leadership,
Business & Technology

“Our hope and desire is that the Lord will work in and through you to accomplish His purposes in the lives of His people”

The School of Leadership, Business and Technology congratulates the Graduating Class of 2021 upon successful completion of your academic programs at PAC University. In the midst of adversity, the School has endeavoured to equip and empower you with the requisite skills, knowledge, and training needed for effective service to God and in the community. However, the power of knowledge is in its application, and it is our hope that the acquired knowledge will be applied to bring the much needed transformation in the society. Our hope and desire is that the Lord will work in and through you to accomplish His purposes in the lives of His people.

The School, through its three Departments, i.e. Leadership, Business, and Computing & IT, continues to provide high quality, transformative, and value based education to our students, guided by the University's vision and mission. In the Leadership Department, our premier fully online postgraduate leadership programs (MA and PhD) have continued to grow and attract students from all over the world.

The registered students span across a wide range of disciplines, as leadership is needed in every sector of the society. The sixth

cohort of 30 students in the PhD in Organizational Leadership Development, who joined the program in April 2021, are well settled in their academic journeys.

The Computing & IT Department recently launched the BSc in Information Technology. This is the first science program in the University and it has already attracted many students in this field. The Diploma and Certificate programs in this Department have continued to grow, as some of the students progress to the BSc IT program and the BA in Business Information Technology (BBIT). The Business Department offers two BA programs (Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Arts in Business Leadership) as well a wide range of Diploma and Certificate programs that prepare students for entrepreneurship and business engagements.

The Master of Arts in Business Administration continues to grow and it is currently being reviewed to make it more relevant and responsive to the market needs.

Going forward, the School aims to strengthen the programs by partnering with the industry to inform the development and review of curriculum in order to churn out graduates that are more “market-ready” and meet the human capital needs of the industry.

It is our hope and prayer that the graduating students will find their place and impact the society in their specific areas of specialization for the honor and glory of God.

***Once again,
congratulations to the
Graduating Class of
2021! God bless you all.***

Making Leaders Who Can Withstand Adversity and Thrive

By Dr. Truphena Oduol



Dr. Truphena Oduol
Head, Department of Leadership Studies

The Department of Leadership Studies heartily congratulates the graduating Class of 2021. We wish to single out the great milestones attained by the Ph.D. and Master's Degree students. We cannot forget the Diploma in Leadership and Management graduates too, whose numbers continue to rise each year due to the quality and commitment of our lecturers—we acknowledge and appreciate the trust bestowed upon us to inculcate skills for transforming the world. We are incredibly proud of these achievements. We thank God for His grace and for sailing us through the Covid-19

pandemic. We know it created an unfamiliar environment for all. Nevertheless, we have learned from the challenges. It proved to us all that the following qualities: agility, resilience, adaptation, and thriving are not a choice we can make in times of adversity, but are mandatory. It allowed the Department to learn about our surroundings, and we challenged ourselves to think outside the box and not just sit pretty.

Indeed, the adversity taught us that we should trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our understanding; that we must acknowledge Him continually, and He will make our paths straight (Proverbs, 3: 5-6). As leaders, remember that “whether you have

setbacks or not, the role of a leader is to display a winning attitude” (Colin Powell). So, as you go out there, always find time to pause, take a look outside the window, and reflect on the great lessons. The question of what leadership learning is in every activity, should be answered. Then, apply the knowledge all the time.

The Department of Leadership Studies remains committed to providing only the best and to continue nurturing minds and leaders with a Christian foundation

“We acknowledge and appreciate the trust bestowed upon us to inculcate skills for transforming the world ”

from across the world for different spaces— the US, Rwanda, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Burundi, Ethiopia, among others. There is no doubt that the quality offered by this Department is receiving international attention.

We are proud that our lecturers have planted a seed of leadership through our compulsory leadership course in all the graduands sitting here today. We are confident that these skills will be handy in the future. So, go out and serve diligently, and impact the world as servant leaders by fulfilling the Great Mission of PAC University. Also, consider coming back for another leadership program.

Congratulations to you all, and may God bless you as you go forth to impact the world.

Programs in this Department:

- 1. PhD in Organizational Leadership**
- 2. Master of Arts in Leadership**
- 3. Post Graduate Diploma in Leadership**
- 4. Diploma in Leadership & Management**

Exploring the Concept of Creativity and Assertiveness in Uncertain Times

By Ms. Beatrice Oduor (PhD, IP)



Ms. Beatrice Oduor (PhD, IP)
Head, Department of Business Studies

The Department of Business Studies is extremely proud of the graduating Class of 2021 for remaining focused and finishing the race. Indeed, you have truly thrived in the midst of adversity.

In the face of adversity, business leaders can boldly respond to challenges facing their enterprises by being creative and assertive in achieving their objectives. COVID-19 pandemic has pushed most firms to deliberately make bold decisions that have led to their successful survival. The Department of Business Studies has realized its full potential because of the decisions taken to continue with teaching and learning in uncertain times.

The Department of Business Studies is under the School of Leadership, Business, and

“The Department has realized its full potential because of the decisions taken to continue with teaching and learning in uncertain times.”

Technology, and is engaged in various collaborative efforts with other institutions of higher learning and industry players so as to produce graduands that are market-driven. Due to this, the Department has experienced a robust growth in both student numbers and faculty members. This increase has led it to partner with National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA) to assist students incubate and nurture their talents and innovations.

Once again, we congratulate the Class of 2021 for their hard work and unrelenting spirit since joining PAC University. May Numbers 6:24-26 be your portion.

Programs offered in this Department:

- Master of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Business Leadership
- Diploma in Entrepreneurship
- Diploma in procurement and Supplies Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Supply Chain Management

Thriving in Adversity through Technology and Innovations

By Ms. Sheilah Mirenja (PhD, IP)



Ms. Sheilah Mirenja (PhD, IP)
Head, Department of Computing & IT

The Department of Computing and IT congratulates the Class of 2021 for the hard work and resilience that they have demonstrated. It is our joy that they are going out 'fully-baked' and ready to make an impact in the society.

The Department is an academic wing of the School of Leadership, Business and Technology that is concerned with teaching the sciences of computing systems and practices of information technology.

The Department has seen tremendous growth in student and faculty numbers. The increase has led to a burst of innovations and technical skills among the PAC University community. We are partnering with the industry with an aim of having hands-on-skills on the emerging trends in the field of ICT. This puts our students a level higher and gives them an edge over their peers on matters job creation and employability. We have conducted seminars in collaboration with ICT-related

organizations such as KENET, Zalego, ISACA and IBM. Our students have been absorbed by the industry on attachment where they have demonstrated quality service through technology. Some of the notable organizations where our students are placed on attachment include KENGEN, NHIF, and State Department of Public Works among others.

By the grace of God, the

"The Department has seen tremendous growth in student and faculty numbers"

Department has unveiled a new program, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSc IT). Registration for this program is already open. Programs in this Department:

1. Bachelors of Science Information Technology (BsIT)

- The BSc IT program is a market driven, highly relevant program that combines the essential aspects of computer science with key facets of business as they relate to IT and Christian Leadership. This produces technically proficient graduates who also understand business issues in the precincts of Christianity

2. Bachelors of Business Information Technology (BBIT)

- BBIT is a market driven, highly relevant program that combines the key principles of the Business world and responses from the Information Technology world to produce a well-blended Business Information Technology professional.

3. Diploma in Information and Communication Technology (DICT)

- The DICT program lays a solid ICT foundation with strong emphasis on practical application of ICT technologies required to deliver a market ready solution implementer

4. Certificate in Information Technology (CIT)

- CIT is a three months program available to any person who desires to start using a computer. The program provides the fundamental skills needed to operate a Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Presentation, Database application and some skills on using the Computer and Internet space.

We urge the Class of 2021 to be great ambassadors of PAC University.

**Congratulations,
and may God bless
your efforts.**

Graduate School Continues to Thrive Despite the Tough Times

By Dr. Jane Kinuthia

Graduate education provides students with more advanced learning in a specialized discipline or sub-discipline. Graduate studies provide an in-depth understanding such that the student becomes something of an expert in the topic of study. A good graduate program also teaches advanced skills in such areas as problem-solving, analytical skills, writing, oral presentation, and use of technology, each as applicable to the particular field of study. Towards this endeavor, PAC University graduate school has continued to support its post graduate clientele through capacity building research training webinars on topical issues that are of interest to this academic community.

This year, we have been able to link up with scholars from different parts of the world in virtually held academic contexts where scholarly conversations were held through webinars and one international conference. During the conference, over ten of our students and a good number of our faculty members used the opportunity to disseminate their research findings through presentation of papers.

Similarly, the webinars which have been held this year have addressed a number of topical issues such as; Principles of academic writing, proposal writing aspects such as conceptualization of the research problem, designing objectives, theoretical and conceptual frameworks, literature review, methodology and the designing of research tools. Likewise, later this trimester, we have planned for a series of research clinics on issues related to publishing: the publishing process, developing a publishable paper, the dynamics of audiences and language considerations as well as how to convert a thesis/dissertation into a publishable book.



Dr. Jane Kinuthia
Dean, Graduate School

The school has continued to uphold the academic rigor of graduate studies through ensuring quality supervision of thesis and dissertations, internal and external examination of the same and ensuring that the research outputs are disseminated through conference presentations and journal publications. Our team of supervisors, very highly committed and experienced scholars, have continued to mentor and evaluate our students as evidenced by all those graduating with Masters or PhD degrees here today. Our processes though conducted largely online since the pandemic struck, have continued to be meticulous in conforming to expected standards and program requirements. These are in no way inferior to face-to-face processes.

To ensure that we improve on the completion rate of our students and in full recognition that the research part of the academic journey can at times be lonely, we have gone out of our way to reach out to most of the continuing students who have stalled in this process. Reaching out to them through emails, use of voice calls and text

messages is bearing fruits since we are witnesses to such students having resumed their studies and are now making significant progress towards completion. Since our last graduation, graduate school has superintended over forty defenses for both proposals, theses and dissertations and while some were not able to complete fully in readiness for this year's graduation ceremony, we thank God for each individual's effort and trust that we shall be joining them in subsequent graduation ceremonies as they celebrate their successes.

Looking back at the year that was since we last congregated in a graduation ceremony, we can only give credence to the grace of God, for his enablement and sustenance as we navigated through the adversities of COVID-19, harsh economic times and turbulent social-cultural highs and lows. On this 40th Graduation ceremony, as we celebrate the class of 2021, we truly confess that "we are more than conquerors through Christ, who is greater than all adversities"

Circumventing the Pandemic Challenges to Continue Offering Library Services

By Ms. Josleen Soita (PhD, IP)



Ms. Josleen Soita (PhD, IP)
University Librarian

Congratulations to the Class of 2021. Many of you spent hours in the physical as well as the Digital library interacting with the thousands of resources that are available in the Richard Ondeng Library. Your achievement is well deserved.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic caused a lot of changes in the traditional ways that libraries operate. Globally, no one saw the pandemic coming but despite the lockdown, learning was supposed to continue. Libraries were obliged to continue with their services during

the lockdown period when physical buildings were closed. Libraries needed to make modifications so that library services and materials could still be accessed by users in order to ensure that research, teaching, and learning continued taking place in an unfamiliar, largely digitally-moderated, low-contact, semi-virtual environment.

“The social area which is usually like a camp fire site is still active, but in a new way, and patrons can still enjoy a cup of coffee”

To support the online teaching and learning at PAC University, Richard Ondeng library has invested in premier databases that contain thousands of titles of E-books and E-journals. The library has adapted to our changed world, and our main goal has been to maximize the electronic accessibility of our resources and provide virtual research and digital learning support. The library has been providing guided online tours of any of our online resources, searching strategies, referencing tools, and a wide variety of other topics. Capacity building in small groups has been very helpful to faculty and students. Virtual information literacy sessions have helped students develop skills in finding, evaluating, using and managing information. As a library, we have a renewed mission to help learners in the online space to become both information rich and digitally competent. Covid-19 has provided us with the opportunity to revamp our digital library.

The manner in which the physical library operates has changed significantly. Students can now come to the library but can no longer interact freely without observing the recommended physical distance. The collaborative furniture in the library commons has been rearranged to ensure physical distancing. The social area which is usually like a camp fire site is still active, but in a new way, and patrons can still enjoy a cup of coffee. The hybrid model of offering library services has ensured that our students and faculty continue to enjoy their library experience despite the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Word from the Chaplain

Rev. Josh T. Amwago, PhD.



Rev. Josh T. Amwago, PhD
University Chaplain

period leading to a major development. Comparably, the Class of 2021 arrives at the acme of their educational pursuit after an ambivalent experience of the last academic year. Just like prophet Elijah had to walk 40 days and 40 nights before arriving at Mount Horeb while fleeing the wrath of Jezebel, you have finally arrived and only you can best narrate your passage.

Adversity is inevitable, and considering the times

“God always gives us the strength to accomplish what He has commanded even in the hardest times”

we live in are no exception, rescue from it lies in discrete tenacity to thrive. Throughout the COVID-19 great stress and adversity season, you kept busy and plowed your anger and energy into something positive and survived it. The challenges you faced never disadvantaged your stoic resolve to harness and to finish strong since adversity was never a stumbling block but a stepping stone. PAC accorded you the serene atmosphere to thrive spiritually, psychologically, and academically and you dismantled the negative thoughts that online learning is not plausible.

We can now proudly commend you back to the society by our motto that we have developed Godly Christian leaders. Cognizance that this world is in desperate need of what you were made for here at PAC, step out and thrive. May your connections, the wisdom you have accumulated, and the knowledge you obtained over the years be the gifts that would continually stand you before opportunities. In many ways you were a great gift to PAC and may you continue to be so by sharing with others what you received and what we offer.

Dear 2021 Graduates... We are extremely glad to witness the 40th graduation of this great University. Congratulations to you, the Class of 2021 for finishing well! Apart from this graduation marking the culmination of years of hard work and an academic journey across mountains and valleys, it is also happening amid the shattering effects of COVID-19. Akin to the prevailing disruptive circumstances, this year's Graduation Committee arrived at 2 Timothy 4:17 (a)... “but the Lord stood with me and strengthened me” to draw the theme, “Thriving in Adversity.” Here, Paul wrote Timothy a second time from prison for his lack of brevity in a tumultuous church subtly encouraging him to keep up the work.

God always gives us the strength to accomplish what He has commanded even in the hardest times. This strength may not be evident until we step out in faith to the task. The number 40 is widely used in Scripture as a probationary

Building Efficient and Sustainable Leadership Practices

By Dr. Cavens Kithinji



Dr. Cavens Kithinji
Registrar, Admin and Planning

As you graduate, Class of 2021, you are unique in that besides the normal hardships associated with learning, you also had to contend with the effects of COVID-19 in critical areas of your lives such as work, family, and social engagements. You are partakers in the adversity unknown to mankind before, situations unexperienced, paths un-walked, yet you have thrived. By the grace of God, you have come to see this day.

So, yes, God is present even in hard times. During adversity, we learn, our thinking is refined, our belief system is tested, and we are convinced of our purpose and God's will in our lives in a unique way.

**“Our programs
are designed
to inspire
creativity...”**

We proudly reflect on God' doing as we see you, the Class of 2021, graduate today. Congratulations on your graduation. Any person who's alive today is a witness of the hard times that we have gone through, and most of us, if not all, have come to conclude that God is present even in hard times. It would only be fair for us to reflect on the following: How do hard times shape our thinking and beliefs? How is such thinking and belief aligned to God's will? Is there any progress made during adversity?

Adversity is a constant phenomenon in life. It represents the 'downs' of human lives and organizations. Leadership is critically important in adapting to these circumstances. However, it is not exciting leading during these times as there is immense pressure from every corner. It goes without saying that during hard times, your survival is dependent on systems that you built before. Therefore, developing efficient and sustainable leadership practice is a path that all leaders need to walk. The success of this system is tested during adversity.

As you go out to offer services to God and humanity, the following practices will help you build efficient and sustainable leadership: rethink strategies at strategic times; model good leadership values; listen and add value; learn to build from current opportunities systems that are futuristic; be concerned about people's welfare; build people who will build organizations; understand that creativity is not easy but it is rewarding; and always be clear of where you are going.

At PAC University, we have witnessed your resilience as we trusted God to shape your thinking and outlook in the profession you are trained in. Our programs are designed to inspire creativity, innovativeness, adaptability and transformation of situations while appreciating that God is the author of all wisdom due to mankind. Today, we affirm that you are a product of careful and calculated academic journey and we are proud of you.

**Congratulation Class of 2021.
You have won a great battle; you have
thrived in adversity.**

Maintaining Quality in Higher Education During the Pandemic

By Dr. Daniel Mulinge



Dr. Daniel Mulinge
Director, Quality Assurance

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the challenges therein fundamentally altered the global higher education landscape since the beginning of the year 2020. This has had an impact on a range of elements within the higher education sector. The new challenges have led universities to rethink their QA procedures and mechanisms. Universities around the world have been forced to significantly restructure assessments and other student learning experiences as stop gap measures in the face of this adversity. However, this has never been the case with PAC University. The University had earlier opted for a blended mode of program delivery by putting in place a robust e-learning management system that has high caliber interface features that enable teaching and learning experiences with academic integrity.

The Directorate of Quality Assurance heartily congratulates the Class of 2021 for coming this far.

Quality Assurance can be described as a means by which an institution is able to confirm that the standards of teaching and learning set by the institution itself or other regulatory bodies are maintained and enhanced.

High academic standards are essential to a university in order to bring out high-quality research and teaching outcomes, leading to delivery of high-quality graduates. The purpose of maintaining high academic standards can be manifold; not only to meet standards set by the Ministry of Education, professional and statutory bodies, or the Commission for University Education (CUE), but also to provide confidence and convey that the quality of education meets the current and future competencies and needs of the wider society.

“All signals point out that e-learning is the future of higher education globally”

Consequently, Quality Assurance (QA) has an important role in monitoring an institution's own processes and performance of achievements. Quality in higher education is considered multifaceted with a broad range of inter-related activities such as curriculum development, teaching and learning, assessment, students' enrolment and experience, and research.

Due to the adverse effects of COVID-19, the University had to rethink her internal QA procedures and mechanisms in order to navigate this crisis while maintaining consistency in course delivery, ensuring strong student recruitment, and providing clear communication to staff and students.

All signals point out that e-learning is the future of higher education globally. To maintain standards in the new normal of online learning, PAC University's Directorate of Quality Assurance endeavors to explore new approaches regarding development of sector skills relevant programs, assess long-term knowledge retention and practical application, as well as inculcating the University's values and ethos.

Research Blossoms at PAC University

By Dr. Jane Kinuthia



Research, one of the core functions of the University, has made momentous strides over the last academic year. Working with a team of dedicated members of two significant committees; the Departmental Research Committee and the Research Ethics Review Committee, remarkable research undertakings have been achieved.

Earlier this trimester, we held a successful international conference under the theme, “Innovative research discourses for sustainable development”. The virtual event was organized in collaboration with Hindustan University in India, The Peoples University in Bangladesh and Hope Africa University in Burundi. Besides these, there were delegates from six local universities, both private and Public as well as some from a few other African countries. Over 60 attendees graced the three day event with about 45 papers being presented. It was an awesome experience as scholars engaged on how to influence and impact sustainable development using the lenses of their specializations. While reflecting on the SGDs, different presentations underscored the role of academia in contributing to sustainable social, economic,

cultural, religious and political development within the different sectors of our communities.

Another great milestone is the transitioning of the PAC University Journal of Arts and Social Sciences (PACUJASS) into the online, open access space. This has provided the researchers in this community of scholars with an opportunity through which they are able to disseminate their research outputs.

We aspire to maintain the quality of the articles published as well as improving its visibility through ensuring that we observe markers of credibility in publishing such as provision of DOI's for published articles, ensuring a credible double blind peer review process and releasing the work under the creative commons license. Our first online issue, 2021 (1), is to be released in the next few days and is to be accessible through <http://pacujass.pacuniversity.ac.ke/index.php/PACUJASS>. As you celebrate this achievement with us here today, we wish to extend an invitation to you all to consider publishing with us.

On the research front, faculty members have continued to be actively involved in research activities such

as writing of grant proposals, research partnerships with scholars from other Universities such as an ongoing one research with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and PAC University Department of Psychology. Other activities by faculty include; supervision of postgraduate research, participation in capacity building webinars as well as publishing individually or in groups. We are more active in research than ever before irrespective of the tough times. We are also witnesses to great growth among our students with regard to research and publications even among the undergraduate community where one student has been working hard in order to participate in the East African Inter-university essay writing competition and another has published an article out of his project work. Similarly research and publications among the postgraduates continues to improve in terms of quality and quantity.

Furthermore, our Research Ethics review committee is at the tail end of the accreditation process by NACOSTI where soon it will be recognized as one of the IERCs (Institutional Ethics Review Committee) in Kenya. This means that we shall have a forum for review of ethical concerns in our students, faculty or any other researcher's proposals. It has been a journey but we are grateful to God that we have thrived in all these fronts.

Moving forward, we desire to see greater growth in research and innovations as we seek to develop Godly Christian leaders. We look forward to working with all who could be interested in impacting or contributing to the growth of research and publications at PAC University. To the class of 2021, congratulations! We urge you to continue flourishing in all seasons of life.

EPH Sees God throughout the Storm

By Mr. Musyoki Muli



Class of 2021, this graduation must be one of those great breakthroughs that God has taken you through and you are wordlessly smiling back at Him and time! Why? COVID-19 swept through the entire final year, and financial resources dwindled for most, yet God made it for you to graduate in 2021, without any delays! He is Ebenezer for sure.

We at Evangel Publishing House (EPH), a company limited by guarantee and operated as a business unit of PAC University, join you in giving thanks to God. Our core mission of providing high quality, accessible, and value-based Christian literature was threatened by COVID-19 too. We prayed for God to sustain us to deliver our transformative and value-based publications and reach out to diverse communities in Kenya and other parts of the world such as Korea, Uganda, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and South Sudan among others, like we have always done.

“God was clear that He would take us through, if only we embraced the core values of Teamwork, Innovation, Integrity, and Excellence”

EPH had just begun expanding her publishing mandate to embrace the school market in a bold diversification strategy. We had set out to publish supplementary and core texts in the primary school curriculum, spicing each title with stories, morals, and values of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The entry into the school market had enabled EPH to introduce great Christian moral - loaded essays, story lines, motivation, and the Lord's assurance in a creative style, then the COVID-19 hit!

When the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (PAOC) launched EPH in 1952, they never imagined that some virus could threaten the

mission so divinely packaged. Memory reminded us that by 1963 Evangel was already printing Christian literature in twenty-six languages spread across the African continent. We were reminded that we have over 400 titles in our backlist. This backlist includes Theological Education by Extension (TEE), leadership, marriage and courtship, contemporary issues such as child abuse, and HIV/AIDS among other relevant topics that meet today's life challenges.

We sat and asked God for a second chance as people stopped in-person meetings, customers stopped ordering, and sales came to a sudden nosedive. We thought of changing our calendar and deleting the year 2020 from our strategic plan, but the EPH Board would hear none of it. As a company supervised by the PAC University Council through a Board of Directors, we obliged. We turned to God, who in His silent counsel, took us back to the essence of our vision, mission, and core values: To be the leading Christian publishing house in Eastern and Central Africa (For God's glory); To equip and nurture readers through provision of differentiated Christian literature and academic publications, again, for God's glory.

God was clear that He would take us through, if only we embraced the core values of Teamwork, Innovation, Integrity, and Excellence. We humbly followed on with prayers every Monday, shaken, but persuaded that God would not forsake nor leave us.

That is how, like you in 2020/21, we thrived through the adversity that was the COVID-19 landscape, to even have our Agriculture Grade 6 book approved for use in schools come 2022! Isn't God faithful!

**Congratulations
The Graduating
Class of 2021.**

Finding Success in Times of Adversity

BY CPA/CS Nicholas Chepkoiwo



It is with great joy and pleasure that I take this opportunity to congratulate the Class of 2021 upon your graduation. We all go through difficulties and setbacks in this life, and it only takes resilience to overcome them. Being resilient means having the courage to bounce back and take risks despite the present adversity and initial setbacks.

As Barabara De Angelis said, "We don't develop courage by being happy every day. We develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity." As you graduate, I hereby wish to encourage you to see beyond the obstacles lying on your way and always purpose to see the bigger picture in any situation. In return, this will help you handle stress better.

"I have fought the good fight" is also significant for believers today because it serves as a stark reminder that the Christian life is a struggle against evil—within ourselves and in the world (John 15:9; Romans 8:7; James 4:4). The Christian life is a fight in that Christians face a never-ending struggle against evil—not an earthly military campaign, but a spiritual battle against Satan. We are exhorted always to put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11)

In order to achieve great success and overcome adversity, you must clear your mind and discover your pillars of character. It is only by contending with challenges that seem to be beyond your strength to handle at the moment that you can grow more towards the stars and build upon your pillars of character.

It is a reality that many successful people had problems that were actually beyond what most of us face today. We can learn a great deal from some of them as outlined below:

Franklin Roosevelt- He was paralyzed from the waist down by polio before running for office. However, he went on to become a four-time President of the United States of America. Albert Einstein-Nobel Prize winning physicist; created special and general relativity, major contributor to quantum mechanics, statesman. His great intellectual achievements and originality have made the word "Einstein" synonymous with genius. However, Couldn't get a job in physics for two years after graduation. He worked as an assistant patent examiner, was passed over for promotion until he "fully mastered machine technology".

People who rebound from adversity begin by believing that they are capable of finding a way forward. If you feel hopeless and powerless, it's unlikely you'll find a way to be successful.

As you set out in your new phase of life, I urge you to have self-confidence and a strong belief in your capabilities to overcome difficult times ahead of you knowing that God is always with you. You have to be open minded and willing to leverage your talent, knowledge, and ingenuity to overcome adversity.

**Congratulations
Class of 2021.**

Class of 2021, You Have Conquered!

By Dr. Josh T. Amwago



Dr. Josh T. Amwago
Ag. Dean of Students

We do not have enough words to really articulate your achievement. The Class of 2021 is exceptionally special for rising to the challenges of dealing with the manifold proportions of the calamitous COVID-19 pandemic. You can be referred to as the COVID-19 class! You were gone from the physical classrooms yet you were simply adaptable to the online classes, proving beyond measure a resilience to thrive in intense adversity. As you straightaway chart your professional lives headed for great success, may the wisdom you have garnered continue to light your path even if it ends up being dark, long, and winding.

Having been all found in an extraordinary situation that has affected the whole world, this 40th graduation equally comes at a trying yet celebratory moment that marks the end of an era for you. With nostalgia, you will reminisce your enriching time on campus especially through your work and relationships that have made and built you to persevere any adversity for the immediate days ahead, as well as longer futures.

All of us remaining at the University do thank you for the meaningful contributions you made. You

have left PAC University better than you found it with aplomb that not only did you go through PAC, but also that PAC went through you. For this, we shall always be available for you because we are one family. As you go out, continue to optimistically look ubiquitously at the available opportunities knowing that you can do great things with the knowledge you have received. Never allow adversity of any kind to blind your vision for possibilities.

Remember graduates, you are forever part of the PAC University community. After the graduation ceremony, you will join our alumni association that consists of a special group who share a common past with a strong connection into the future. It is now your responsibility to go shine in your work, serve the community, make money, and apologize to nobody. However, make sure that PAC will continue to enjoy your support in recruiting students within your reach. This way, others will be able to follow in your footsteps and that together we shall contribute to the long-standing history of this prestigious institution.

As you go out, continue to optimistically look ubiquitously at the available opportunities

Congratulations
Class of 2021!

The Power of Resilience

By Ms. Esther Nduta

Congratulations Class of 2021 on your achievement. The entire student body is extremely proud of you. Your graduation leaves a significant mark behind for us to admire your resilience and determination in the COVID-19 era. Truly, thriving in adversity is not for the faint hearted. It takes courage, boldness, and discipline to finally get to the finish line. You have proven yourselves strong by remaining unshaken and overcoming the challenges that came your way.

PAC University provided several coping mechanisms with regard to our learning. Online learning was key, and within a short time, contrary to many people's expectations, we found ourselves in a convenient zone that allowed us to study from anywhere. This has finally bore fruits for you.

Everything that is happening around us is a constant reminder that we are in a fast changing world that demands for flexibility. We need to acknowledge that flexibility in our work spaces, careers, family time, and education is paramount.

In a world characterized by lack of jobs, a falling economy, and moral decadence, we are confident that you will thrive in all that you do. You have been well equipped to take hold of the opportunities that life presents, and to position yourselves as those ready to engage and thrive. Take every adversity as an opportunity to grow in your God-given skills and abilities, and be a ray of hope to many that are stuck within your reach.

We wish you the very best in all your endeavors. May your resilience set you apart from the rest.



Ms. Esther Nduta
Chairperson, PACUSA

Congratulations

**once again, and
may God Bless
you.**

PICTORIAL



Ms. Deborah Mideva making remarks on behalf of the Undergraduate students during last year's graduation ceremony



Renowned gospel musician, Mercy Masika, leads the University community in worship during a Chapel service



We take our health seriously, so once in a while we invite medics to come and check on us



Part of the 2021 YDP cohort pose for a photo with J-Blessing who had been invited to address the class



Staff members and students taking part in the weekly small-groups fellowship



Students going about their business at the open space within the Ken Birch Academic Building



Our library commons is a unique space within the Library where students can sit and have group discussions, prepare presentations, shoot videos, etc.



Our cultural week only happens once a year, and so we make it colorful, literally!

PICTORIAL



Bishop Calisto Odede being Presented to The University Community on 21st May 2021 as the 3rd Chancellor



Immediate former Chancellor, Bishop Dr. David Oginde, making remarks during the installation ceremony of Bishop Calisto Odede as the 3rd Chancellor of PAC University



Renown Christian apologetic, Reuben Kigame, speaks during a Chapel service at the University



Dr. Henry Kosgey after being awarded with Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Organizational Leadership during last year's graduation



Joseph Murimi, our Senior Studio Technician, smiles for the camera together with the VC, Prof. Margaret J. Muthwii



Meet Pastor Peter Mchomvu, our student from Tanzania who is immensely talented in music



The University's 3rd Chancellor, Bishop Calisto Odede, on the day he was installed (21st May 2021)



From South Sudan with love! This is an international pose



Meet our former and current Chancellor: Bishop Emeritus Dr. David Oginde (immediate former Chancellor), Bishop Calisto Odede (current Chancellor), and Bishop Emeritus Boniface Adoyo (first-ever Chancellor)

Pan Africa Christian University



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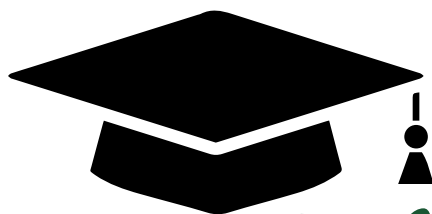
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Congratulations

Graduates

2021