



*Building faith and training Christian leaders
around the world through affordable, accessible
higher education utilizing distance learning.*

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®

www.nationsu.edu

A JOURNEY OF FAITH IN QUEST FOR EDUCATION: From Nairobi to Harvard University

What a joy and a privilege to walk closely with God in our pathways of success.

This has been a reflective thought which transpired my thoughts in year 2016. It is so rewarding when we engage God in our thought process and trust Him alone in our journey of faith. The flipside is that often times darkness may surround us and we may fail to recognize that we are wired with a seed for greatness. When I recall my early years as a high school graduate, the hope for advancing my education in an institution of higher learning was shuttered with a cloud of darkness. I remember leaving my rural home after high school with only \$50 (USD) to the urban areas of Nairobi. Life was so hard and miserable in the city but I kept reading my Bible and this verse often encouraged my soul: "Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after so many days."

Well, tough times require taking strategic measures. I developed a passion of working closely with the young people and I became engaged in training them on character education. The magnitude of the work which was before me especially participating in educating Kenyans on healing and reconciliation after the disputed general election of 2007-2008, pushed me a step forward to research on more knowledge from the Internet. Later, challenges of professional qualifications hit my life as I started working with high school teachers and principals in helping them to develop a transformative school culture of ethics and excellence. God heard my prayers and the door was opened for me to register as a student at NationsUniversity—an institution which have



Peter King'ori (right) stands with a friend at Harvard University

provided me with a strong foundation for my spiritual growth and progression of my intellectual capacity.

Heaven has abundant blessings for each of us! If so, let us not give up when we are being tested. Currently, I am so excited of my achievement as recently I was honored to attend and present a paper on "An Evaluation of 'Bridge to Success' program" during the 42nd Association for Moral Education Annual Conference. The conference took place on December 8-11, 2016 with the theme "Civic engagement: A cultural revolution" and was being hosted by Harvard Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. The conference brought together delegates, scholars, educators and policy makers from 36 countries across the world. I was delighted to meet, listen and reason with academicians and professors who have over the years inspired my thought process based on their research, practice and policy on moral and character development.

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Send Us Your Videos and Tell Your Story!

Imagine explaining your experience at NationsUniversity to a friend. What would you say? What might they ask you? And how would you express what you learned, and why you are grateful for the experience? Your video is your chance to tell people around the world that story: who you are, how NationsUniversity "changed your world," and why? Here is your chance to give back and inspire others with your accomplishments. Turn to page 4 to learn how.



Rachel Smith, Tennessee

Current Enrollment

Current through 1/1/17

Total Students: 1,948

Male - 1,640
Female - 308
Undergraduate - 1,640
Graduate - 326

Total Countries: 120

Top Ten Countries

United States	765
South Africa	247
Nigeria	125
Kenya	105
Ethiopia	75
Ghana	60
Turkey	36
Zambia	34
Cameroon	32
Haiti	24

A Journey of Faith, continued from page 1

News of my travel to USA and especially Harvard University was received by my family members, colleagues and friends with a lot of jubilation. My younger brother could not hide his joy as he said "Kudos brother you have taken our family to great heights. Thanks be to God." An elated church member said, "Congratulations my brother and may our good Lord take you and bring you back safely." I am also grateful that during my visit I was able to meet with the staff of NationsUniversity including Dr. Mac Lynn—a hero, role model, visionary leader, founder and Chancellor of NationsUniversity.

Let us not despise our humble beginnings but fix our eyes on Jesus since He has the solutions to our problems. I am now focused on disseminating the knowledge which I have gained and best practices in character education through the Centre for Character and Leadership—a non-profit which I have founded together with my colleagues with the objective of promoting peace and good governance. To God be the glory!

*Blessings,
Peter King'ori*



NATIONSUNIVERSITY®

Voice of Nations

Mac Lynn

Chancellor

macl@nationsu.edu

Chris Lynn

Executive Vice Chancellor

chrisl@nationsu.edu

Herman Alexander

Vice Chancellor

hermana@nationsu.edu

Ingemar "Lloyd" Woods

Vice Chancellor-Strategic Initiatives

ingemar@nationsu.edu

Marty Lynn

Director, Student Services

martyl@nationsu.edu

Jon-Roy Sloan

Director of Communications

jonroy@nationsu.edu

Mary Virginia Mabery

Registrar

registrar@nationsu.edu

John Casteel

Faculty Advisor

jac@nationsu.edu

Glenn Beville

IT Administrator

glennb@nationsu.edu

Gail Heiderich

Director, Student Advisors

gailh@nationsu.edu

Jan Evett

Student Records Officer

student.services@nationsu.edu

Allen Thyssen

Chaplain

chaplain@nationsu.edu



Above and below: Mac Lynn (right) asks Peter (left) questions about education, growing up in Kenya and other topics in front of a Bible class.





Christmas in Music City

It was my joy and pleasure to host Peter and have him as a guest in my home. What Peter did not talk about in his article was his reaction to seeing snow for the first time while he was staying in Boston (*pictured below in the corner*). His visit to Tennessee was almost as cold, we had our own snowfall shortly after his departure. I had a great time showing him around Music City, U.S.A. (Nashville, Tennessee) and how we celebrate Christmas in my hometown.

We visited many places, such as the Tennessee State Museum and the Civil War battlefield at Franklin, Tennessee (*pictured below with the canon and the cabin*). There were churches, friends, and at the Sunday School Christmas party we played "Dirty Santa." This is a tradition where everyone playing the game brings a wrapped gift so there is no indication about what is inside. The gifts are placed together under the tree or on a table. The host writes a number on scrap pieces of paper for every gift and places them in a basket, bowl or hat. Each person draws a number. Getting a higher number is actually better because you will have more opened gifts to choose from. The person with #1 picks a gift to open from the pile. The person with #2 can choose to open another package or steal the gift from #1. If a gift is stolen, the person who had it then steals from someone else or picks another gift to open.

The game continues like this until everyone takes a turn opening or stealing a gift. The last person to go can steal from anyone in the game or open the remaining gift. Once a gift is stolen three times, it is retired from the game. Peter lost no time learning how the game was played and "stole" a blanket this way and it was retired. Some of the gifts can be downright silly, like funny hats or gadgets. Other gifts were tickets to the movie theater or a nice restaurant.

Peter, like many others in Kenya and around the world, is a shining example of what our students can achieve. It was a great pleasure to have him visit.

—Jon-Roy Sloan

Above: Peter visits the lights at the Gaylord Opry Land Hotel. Below: Peter presents Mac with a gift from Kenya.



Three Practical Tips for Distance Learners

We all know that studying online can be difficult. It is you, your computer, and the faceless instructor. Since the classroom is virtual and there is no face-to-face interaction with classmates or the professor it can feel lonely and at times intimidating. So how can you make the most of your online studying experience? These tips can be used for other distance learning schools and not just at NationsUniversity.

Mine the syllabus. This more true for online learning than even at a traditional university. The course syllabus is the controlling document of the course. Not only does it tell you the course goals, the readings, the projects, and the assignments, it also lays out the specifics of what you are supposed to do. Be sure to go over each point of your syllabus, and if something is not absolutely clear to you, e-mail the professor or your advisor to ask for clarification. You can't do it right if you do not have clear understanding of the course expectations.

Establish a relationship with your advisor. Your first line of communication is with your advisor. The advisor is there to help you with questions that pertain to procedure

and technical problems. When communicating with your advisor, always identify yourself by name and username. When asking about a given course, identify the course and module. State the issue clearly. This will hasten the response and eliminate confusion. When you have a question that demands a professor's response, your advisor will put you in touch with the professor who is best equipped to respond.

Back up your work. Since all your assignments—essays, reports, and projects—are going to be submitted electronically, you wouldn't want to lose all your hard work just because your computer crashed. Also, work you submit can become lost or misplaced. We especially recommend external backups, either on an external hard drive or on an online service, just in case your computer crashes.



Jon-Roy Sloan
Director of Communications

How to share your stories, pictures and videos with NationsUniversity

Just be yourself and tell your personal story, with as many details as you feel comfortable sharing. Say something about why you chose NU, and then share about what you learned. How are you going to apply what you learned in your professional and personal life? How did NationsUniversity "Change Your World?" Your story can inspire others and your story is worth sharing!

Technical Guidelines

1. Keep it short. Please submit only one video that is 3 minutes or less in length.

2. Record quality sound. We want to hear what you have to say—so make sure your video has good sound quality! Choose a quiet place to make your video, and speak slowly and clearly. If you are using your computer's built-in microphone, you may need to adjust the input levels.

3. Quality video—do not backlight. Get good video quality by making sure that light is in the foreground—on you. Choose a setting without a bright window or other light source in the background. If you are using a webcam, here is some information on improving the quality of your webcam video. A smart phone camera will work just fine. And you may want a friend or family member to help you!



4. Upload to YouTube or other video-sharing account. Any video sharing website will be fine, as long as they allow embedding of videos on other websites (most video sites can do this). Zoom in enough so that we can really see your face, and look into the camera.

5. Title and tag your video. Use "Thank You NationsUniversity" and "NU Changed My World" in the title of your video, and begin with stating your name, location, or another defining feature of your story.

For example, "Thank You NationsUniversity and all those who support their mission." Use the tag "Thank You NationsUniversity" or "changeyourworld" and any other tags that describe your story.

Be sure to email me and include the link to your video. You may also be able to upload your video to Google Drive or other cloud sharing site. Find a solution that works best for you. As

a final option you may copy this link into your browser and upload your video there, <http://cwok.me/u/v5M7>.

Once you enter your submission NU will send you a talent release form giving NationsUniversity permission to use your video. This only requires a digital signature. You may contact me by writing to jonroy@nationsu.edu if you have any questions.



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NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
650 Poydras St. Suite 1400
PMB 133
New Orleans, LA 70130