



Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)

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Prof Elizabeth S. Abrams
Provost, Merrill College, University of California, Santa Cruz
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95064

Dear Madam,

REF: COMPLIMENTS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA¹) extends its warmest greetings to your esteemed office, the Merrill College staff, members of the Merrill Society (chaired by Mr. Peter Braun) and to students, alumni and faculty. We celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Merrill's founding and give thanks for the historic associations that have been enjoyed between Merrill and the African Continent throughout this past half-century.

The names of **Dr. Noel Q. King**, **Dr. Phillip Bell**, (former Merrill Provost and African Studies Association President) **Dr. John A. Marcum**, **Dr. A.B.K. Kasozi** and others who played important roles in establishing and maintaining the unique character of Merrill College will long live in our hearts and minds. In the coming years, we look forward to deepening these ties and to further enhancing our multifaceted friendships.

It is the intention of KDA and its affiliated institutions to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Merrill College and the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) at the earliest possible opportunity. We welcome the pursuit of equitable, two-way student and faculty exchanges between East African institutions and Merrill/UCSC. We encourage the use of modern communications technologies for the benefit of students, lecturers, researchers and librarians on both sides of the Atlantic.

We applaud Merrill's commitment to experiential education and invite students in the **Focus on Africa** program to visit Kenya this December - as interested observers and citizen journalists during our annual **Kenya Diaspora Homecoming Convention (KDHC)**.

Congratulations, friends, on 50 years of educational excellence!

Sincerely,

Dr Shem J. Ochuodho
KDA's Chairperson

¹ KDA is a Federation of 41 diaspora organizations across the globe.