

Vivianne Nganga Ngugi '85 Distinguished Achievement Citation

The Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to present **Vivianne Nganga Ngugi '85** with the Distinguished Achievement Citation, the most prestigious award bestowed by the university to alumni, for her exceptional contributions to the field of communications and for improving the quality of life for at-risk women and children in Kenya.

Vivianne graduated from OWU with a degree in interdisciplinary studies and international studies. Her OWU legacies include husband **Anthony Ngugi '86**, brother **Michael Nganga '86**, and niece **Ariana Njoroge**, a current student. After Ohio Wesleyan, Vivianne completed foreign service diplomat training and a master's degree in communications from the University of Nairobi.

Vivianne is the director of communications and the head of press for Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the first lady of Kenya. Among her many projects, she has worked closely with the First Lady's Beyond Zero Initiative, an effort to ensure women's safety during childbirth. In January 2020, Ngugi planned and implemented the fifth edition of the Beyond Medical Safari, which is the anchor activity of Beyond Zero. The Safaris offer free medical services to marginalized and vulnerable communities around the country, and the event coincided with the Global Elimination of Cervical Cancer Month. Thousands of women and girls were screened for prevention and early testing of cervical cancer, which is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in Kenya.

Vivianne spent 10 years as a communications and partnership officer at Canada's International Development Research Centre and has held positions at Riara University and Daystar University. She is the executive director at Partnership Advisory Strategy—PAS Consultancy.

Vivianne has received two Kenyan Presidential Medals, the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS) and Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (MBS). The Order of the Burning Spear was instituted in 1966 to award Kenya's top distinguished services to public dignitaries and service members.

Vivianne has been a volunteer director at the St. Peter School for the Special Child in Nairobi for nearly 30 years. The school offers support to families who have children with intellectual disabilities who otherwise cannot afford care.