Ms. Ciru Waithaka, a member of the current cohort of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women program was recognized by U.S. First Lady Mrs. Michelle Obama on Tuesday, June 14, during remarks at “The United State of Women Dinner,” as part of the White House United State of Women Summit, at the U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C.

Currently, the 10,000 Women program is funded by Goldman Sachs Foundation through the International Finance Corporation, to train women entrepreneurs on how to enhance their access to capital. In Kenya the program is offered through the Center for Executive and Entrepreneurial Development (CEED) in the Chandaria School of Business. Ms. Waithaka’s Fun Kidz specializes in children’s furniture, accessories and educational tools based on African stories, with products sold in three East African countries.

The trained interior architect, who also owns interior architecture company Amber Africa Limited, a fashion house Dawn of Creation and label Spice, received a loan through the program, which enabled her to double her production capacity, hire new employees and expand outside Kenya.

But it is her determination to give back to society that drew the First Lady’s attention: “She stepped up and founded a program for struggling families to teach them about innovation and technology,” the first lady told the audience. “And she’s already reached more than 350 children.”

The Summit was a gathering of more than five thousand women whose key objectives was to map solutions to obstacles faced by women in various spheres around the world.
Organizers of Educate Your Own have reported raising KES 74,500 during the week-long Project Finje Initiative which saw them register over 600 members of the university community. EYO is an initiative formed and driven by USIU-Africa students to provide financial assistance to students unable to access support through standard financial aid programs.

Contributions are welcome through the Finance Office (MPESA Paybill No: 516300, A/C Name: EYO) or through cash to designated officials.

On Saturday, June 4, the USIU-Africa Cricket team were crowned champions of the inaugural Nairobi KUSA Cricket League following their unbeaten run to the title stretching from the league’s commencement in September 2015.

On Friday, June 10, Assistant Professors of Journalism Dr. Kioko Ireri and Dr. Dorothy Njoroge presented their research at the 66th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference in Fukuoka Japan. Dr. Kioko’s “Job Autonomy: How Kenyan Newspeople Perceive Their Journalistic Latitude” conducted between 2012 and 2013, examined job autonomy in news selection decisions, media freedom and predictors of journalistic autonomy. He also investigated the relationship between Kenya’s media freedom and journalistic autonomy.

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Dr. Njoroge’s “Communication Research in Africa: what is happening, where it is happening, and why it is not happening as it should” touched on the key thematic areas of communication research in Africa, the opportunities shaping up in this area and some of the challenges bedeviling the communication research enterprise in Africa presently.

The survey also shows that communication research in Africa is still in its infancy but is showing strong signs of growth as universities offering communication programs have sprung up across the continent opening up opportunities and locales for investigating interesting phenomena in the field as African scholars grapple with matters of leadership, technology transfer, governance and development among other issues and the role of communication in all of these trends.

International Communication Association is an academic association for scholars interested in the study, teaching, and application of all aspects of human and mediated communication. Began over 50 years ago, the UN-affiliated association now has more than 4,500 members in 80 countries.
USIU-Africa has hired a local consultancy firm – Novatek Ltd - to run a periodic job evaluation, salary and organization structure review exercise. In announcing the start of the exercise, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza emphasized the primary outcome was to ensure “our various functions, roles, departments and units are suitably aligned to deliver the core mandate of the institution in an effective and efficient manner.” Additionally, he expects the exercise to result in Human Resource policies and procedures that conform to best practices.

He also announced the constitution of a Job Evaluation, Salary and Organization Structure Review Committee to be chaired by the Company Secretary/Legal Counsel Ms. Helen Ambasa, which will oversee the entire exercise expected to be complete by August 2016. Other members of the Committee include representatives from the Staff and Faculty Councils, the division of Finance and Administration, the department of Human Resources and a faculty member with expertise in organizational development.

### MEDIA MENTIONS

**June 2, 2016:** How We Made It in Africa Online magazine featured USIU-Africa alumnus Hassan Bashir in an article titled “Insurance CEO discusses Somalia’s misunderstood business environment” [link](http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/insurance-ceo-discusses-somalias-misunderstood-business-environment/54607/)

**June 4, 2016:** NTV featured the USIU-Africa women’s basketball team and their coach on a news segment “Fun with Friends- USIU-Africa girls’ basketball team”

**June 8, 2016:** Standard Digital featured USIU-Africa alumna Adelle Onyango in an article titled “In the Cottage With: Adelle Onyango - Beauty for ashes and surviving rape” [link](http://www.sde.co.ke/article/2000204458/in-the-cottage-with-adelle-onyango-beauty-for-ashes-and-surviving-rape?pageNo=1)

**June 10, 2016:** How we Made it in Africa Online magazine featured USIU-Africa Alumni Hassan Bashir in an article titled “Meet the Boss: Hassan Bashir, CEO, Takaful Africa Group” [link](http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/meet-boss-hassan-bashir-ceo-takaful-africa-group/54713/)

**June 17, 2016:** How we made it in Africa online Magazine featured USIU-Africa Alumnus Hassan Bashir in article titled “From hardship to insurance CEO: Hassan Bashir’s extraordinary story” [link](http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/extraordinary-story-hassan-bashir-launched-kenyas-first-shariah-compliant-insurance-firm/)