Workshop explores EU–Africa–China cooperation
The #IamCompassionate campaign to raise funds to alleviate the famine crisis in Northern Kenya concluded on April 8, with a presentation of a cheque for KES 1,533,333 to the Acting Secretary General Kenya Red Cross Society Mr. Ayaz Manji during a ceremony outside the Administration building.

The event marked the end of a three-week fundraising period where 12 classes, 485 individual donors and three corporate organizations contributed towards the crisis in the north, that has put at least 2.7 million Kenyans at risk of starvation.

Speaking on receiving the donation, Mr. Manji also observed how encouraging it is to see young people become concerned about the plight of drought victims. He reiterated his organization’s commitment to ensuring the funds reach those who are most vulnerable in line with existing efforts by the society.

Members of the USIU-Africa Chapter of the Kenya Red Cross Society, hand over donated dry goods to representatives of Kenya Red Cross, on Wednesday, April 12, following the conclusion of the #IamCompassionate campaign, that sought to raise funds towards famine relief efforts in Kenya. The campaign raised KES 1.533 million from the USIU-Africa community and partners, over a three-week period.

Story continues on the next page
#IamCompassionate began four weeks ago when Prof. Peter Lewa (Professor of Management) approached his Contributors to Strategic Management Class with a challenge to raise funds to aid in famine relief afflicting parts of Kenya. He also approached the Fundraising office for support in expanding the effort to include the rest of the university community.

The Red Cross Club then linked the university with the Kenya Red Cross Society, and assisted with mobilization efforts at class and school level, such as the #IImcompassionate Concert on April 6, the Donate-A-Meal drive on Thursday, March 23, as well as manning the two campus collection points, throughout the duration of the campaign.

Prof. Lewa’s Contributors to Strategic Management Class (BUS6150A) raised a record KES 326,646 through contributions from class members, their networks and partners. The contribution included the amount raised at class-organized Solidary Run on Saturday, April 1, where Prof. Lewa contributed KES 2000 for every student who beat him in a one-hundred meter dash at the athletics track.

Dr. Juliana Namada’s Business Research Methods Class (BUS6220) also raised KES 117,000, while the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences through the efforts of Dr. Betty Mbatia marshalled faculty, staff and students to raise KES 55,300. Other classes that also participated in this effort included Dr. Stephen Nyambegera’s Overview of Management Practices Class (KES 30,600), Dr. Kipkoech Ngeno’s Research Methods in IR (KES 22,420), Dr. Michael Kirubi’s International Business Operations (KES 17,450) and Dr. Timothy Oketch’s International Economic and Trade (KES 14,950).

Jumia Group – Africa’s leading online retailer, donated a total of KES 130,000, including a cheque for KES 100,000 presented to Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and the USIU-Africa Management Board on Monday, March 27. A further KES 30,000 from the company was contributed through Jumia’s participation in the April 1 Solidary Run.

Other corporate participants included SKF Kenya, which through the efforts of its Chief Executive Mr. Harris Karuki (IBA ’97) presented a cheque of KES 200,000 to Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono (DVC-Academic & Student Affairs), and Radio Africa’s East FM’s KES 50,000, which was part of the BUS6150A class donation.

Ms Lillian Gaitho (Head of PR & Communication, Jumia Travel) and Ms. Hellen Guthu (Head of Sales - Jumia Food) present a cheque of KES 100,000 to Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza on Monday, 27 March 2017 at the VC’s Boardroom. Looking on is from left: James Ogolla (University Advancement Director), Hellen P. Ambasa (Legal Services Director/Company Secretary), Eannes Ongus (Principal Fundraising Officer), Prof. Paul Zeleza, Jared Raburu (Administration Director), Lillian Gaitho, Hellen Guthu, Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono (DVC- Academic & Student Affairs), Ms. Edith Guchu (Ag. Finance Director) and Dr. Paul Okanda (ICT Director).

Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono (USIU-Africa DVC-ASA) presents a cheque of KES 1.532 million to Mr. Ayaz Manji (Ag. Secretary General – Kenya Red Cross Society) raised from contributions by USIU-Africa staff, faculty, students and partners, on Wednesday, April 12.Looking on is Jumia Travel MD Mr. Stanislas de Dinechin (left) and Ms. Esther Odongo (Regional Customer Service Manager, SKF Kenya Ltd).

Jumia Travel MD Mr. Stanislas de Dinechin (left) presents a cheque of KES 1,532 million to Mr. Ayaz Manji (Ag. Secretary General – Kenya Red Cross Society) raised from contributions by USIU-Africa staff, faculty, students and partners, on Wednesday, April 12.Looking on is Jumia Travel MD Mr. Stanislas de Dinechin (left) and Ms. Esther Odongo (Regional Customer Service Manager, SKF Kenya Ltd).
Members of the IRL3003B Research Methods in International Relations class pose for a group photo with members of the USIU-Africa chapter of the Kenya Red Cross Society, following a donation of KES 22,420 towards the #ImCompassionate Campaign, on Friday, March 31. The class is taught by adjunct faculty Dr. Kipkoech Ngeno.

Mr. James Ogolla (University Advancement Director) receives a cheque for KES 55,300 from Dr. Betty Mbatia (Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Biotechnology), Ms. Ruth Mwai (Principal Academic Advisor), Benjamin Mutfui (Pharmacy freshman) and Arnold Gitau (Pharmacy Sophomore) on Thursday, April 6 during a presentation in the Science Center.

Members of the Class of IBA4010 International Business Operations present KES 17,450 to Mr. James Ogolla (University Advancement Director) on Thursday, March 30. Looking on is Dr. Michael Kirubi (Associate Professor of International Business Operations, Leadership and Ethics).

Members of the Class of Overview of Management Practice present a cheque of KES 30,600 to Ms. Christine Kamala (Fundraising Officer) on Thursday, March 30. The class is taught by Associate Professor of Organizational Development Dr. Stephen Nyambega (right).

Members of the Business Research Methods – 6220D graduate class taught by Assistant Professor of Strategic Management Dr. Juliana Namada, presented a cheque for KES 117,000 to University Advancement Director Mr. James Ogolla, on Thursday, March 29, 2017. The group photo also included members of other classes taught by Dr. Namada, whose contribution was part of the total.
Class of 2014 alumna named to Forbes Top 30 under 30 list

By Jackie Chirchir and Dan Muchai

Twenty six year old Esther Lugoe - Mengi (IST, ’14) has been listed by Forbes Africa in their annual list of the 30 Most Influential Young Entrepreneurs in Africa under the age of 30.

Ms. Mengi is not the first alumna to make it to the list – that honor belongs to Ms. Hellen Dausen (IBA, 2010). She was included in the 2016 edition of the Forbes Africa Top 30 under 30 list as founder and organic skincare formulator of Nuya’s Essence; a natural bath & body care company based in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

In its sixth year, the annual list has become according to Forbes, “…an influential and definitive guide to the most exceptional young innovators and entrepreneurial leaders who are building the companies that will rewrite Africa’s future.”

The final list was compiled from over 250 entries received from 23 African countries - African entrepreneurs who have not just created a product or service that is filling a critical need, but are also ethically and socially responsible.

During her undergraduate career at USIU-Africa, 29-year old won the 2007 edition of Ms. USIU, went on to win the 2010 Ms. University Tanzania crown and thus represented her country at Miss Universe finals later that year.

Africa’s Talking train IT Club members on using new sandbox environment

By Max Musau

On Friday, March 24, members of the IT club in collaboration with the School of Science and Technology (SST) and Africa’s Talking, organized a technology workshop to train club members and Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) students on how to utilize Africa’s Talking’s newly-released sandbox environment and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) into application development.

APIs are a computer operating system’s tools and resources used by developers to create software applications, while a sandbox environment is a containerization technology similar to virtualization technology that allows the isolation of running programs from the operating system, allowing developers to develop and execute programs in a secure environment without risking harm to the operating system. Sandboxes are used by developers to test new programming code in a controlled environment and has quickly become industry standard practice for developers working in teams and on multiple projects, allowing them to compartmentalize different development environments, and thus reduce the risk of technical errors.

By the end of the workshop the forty students in attendance had successfully deployed two applications that made use of Voice and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) APIs in the sandbox environment.

This was the second workshop this year facilitated by Africa’s Talking - a mobile technology company whose goal is to unlock the potential of mobile communication networks across Africa by simplifying the process and technologies required to exploit them. Since October 2015, the company has partnered with the IT Club and SST to organize hackathons, training workshops and externships.

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The Black History Month Committee held an Appreciation Ceremony on Wednesday, April 5 at the Freida Brown Students Center, to recognize the work of students, members of the Committee and different divisions of the University involved with Black History Month 2017.

Members of the committee were presented with certificates of participation and thanked for their year-long service to the university, by the committees’ patron, Assistant Professor of Management Ella Dashanaba King. She expressed her satisfaction with the committee's efforts towards organizing this year's celebration, terming the outcome as positive. She requested the incoming team to make improvements in terms of participation by the university community - a challenge the incoming team promised to take up.

IBA Junior, Mr. Tut Marial Wenyin, was introduced as the Committee’s next president, taking over from Regional Director - Amnesty International, who completed a historic two successive terms of office.

The Black History Month Committee appreciated at Ceremony

By Antonio Longangi

This year’s Black History Month Opening Ceremony featured the Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria, who delivered the keynote speech, in which he underlined the role of individuals in shaping the world, while inviting his audience to take charge of their lives and communities.

Class of 2009 Journalism alumnus Abdi Latif Dahir, who is also a graduate of the Columbia School of Journalism presented his documentary “Diamond in the Rough” – a treatise on education in Somalia - followed by a discussion with his audience of 120 students.

The Pan-African Symposium was moderated by Dr. Maina Muchara and featured a panel of experts led by Ms. Muthoni Wanyeki (Regional Director - Amnesty International), who discussed the State of Human Rights in Africa and our Formal Education. Dr. Mari

Nelson (Lecturer, University of Nairobi) presented on The Role of Education in Shaping Culture and Identity; Prof. Macharia Munene (Professor of History and International Relations) discussed African Education in History; and finally Dr. Duncan Ojwang (Law Lecturer, University of Nairobi) elaborated on “Questioning the Appropriateness of Legal Research in Kenya”.

The Paa Ya Paa Art & Cultural Center played host to six primary schools from Kasarani, during the BHM Family Fun Day, while a Coffee Chat hosted by Assistant Professors of Management Dashanaba Ella King and Scott Bellows discussed the panelists’ experiences within the context of race issues in the USA and Africa.

Finally, Prof. Leah Marangu, Africa Nazarene University Vice Chancellor, concluded this year’s celebrations with a keynote speech on the role education should play in developing Africa, during the Closing Ceremony on Friday, February 28.

Black History Month Committee Appreciated at Ceremony

Celebrations Overview

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