Ride the wave, Safaricom CEO urges lecture audience to embrace digital disruption

By Jackline Chirchir & Dan Muchai

Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom Chief Executive Officer) delivers the Keynote Address during the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

USIU-Africa hosted Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom Chief Executive Officer) who delivered the Keynote Address of the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7 in the auditorium. The Lecture gathered industry leaders, policy makers, government, researchers, academia, civil society and students to discuss how to leverage the digital disruption and design their preferred future.

Prior to the Lecture, the Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria hosted senior members of faculty and those faculty involved in applied research in DVC - Academic & Student Affairs boardroom, where those present briefly elaborated on their respective areas of specialty and research activities that they are currently undertaking. The Chancellor on his part provided an industry perspective on applied research and prospective areas in need of research.

During the plenary session in the auditorium, four students described their perspectives on digital disruption. Ms. Michelle Wanjiku (M.A. Psychology) tackled the effect digital devices have had on human behaviour and relationships, while Mr. Prescott Muonza (MBA - Strategic Management) who
described the effect digital disruption has had on his workplace, pointing out the new challenges posed to corporate leaders to adapt and capitalize on disruptive change. Mr. Paul Bombo (Applied Computer Technology Junior) followed with a challenge to institutions of higher education to prepare students for the rapid changes in their future personal and professional lives, by proofing educational systems for digital disruption, while Mr. Ngatia Muhoya (Psychology Junior) described a social enterprise network he has set up that connects millennials with industry decision makers.

In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Zeleza underlined the university’s need to embrace new technology and use it as a force to impact the institution positively, “we are at the forefront in partnering with industry leaders to identify gaps in the market and equip our students with skills to not only effectively navigate the present landscape, but also anticipate future trends and drive the change,” he concluded in his opening statement.

USIU-Africa’s Chancellor, Dr. Manu Chandaria in his introductory remarks pointed out that it is not only his but the university’s ambition to reclaim the place of public lectures in catalyzing thought and debate on key societal issues, and emphasized the importance of universities in providing evidence-based solutions to our society. “We also want to create an avenue for serious discussions between the private sector, government, the media, civil society, the general public, researchers, lecturers and students to discuss key issues that affect society,” he added.

Chronicking the phases of disruption, Keynote Speaker Safaricom CEO Mr. Bob Collymore urged the audience to ride the wave of change and be part of defining Africa’s future. “Digital disruption is no longer a novel phenomenon. It impacts each industry and economic sector in myriad ways. Every sector has experienced upheaval in one form or another and disruption is currently transforming the business world in a myriad of ways…disruption does not always mean adopting the latest technology – sometimes it means simply re-using existing technology for new purposes” he said.

A vigorous Question and Answer session moderated by Ms. Paula Musuva Kigen (Lecturer, Forensic Information Technology) followed where various members of the audience reacted to the Keynote Address, such Mr. Collymore’s view of artificial intelligence’s role and importance in the future, Safaricom’s reaction to digital disruption, among others.

Mr. Collymore and Dr. Chandaria both planted commemorative trees next to the Library, before heading to the Freida Brown Student Center to view student projects touching on innovation. Ms. Kalpavrikshika Slavakumar (Applied Computer Technology Senior) showcased a Green House Sensor System to meet the first Sustainable Development Goal - Zero Hunger - while her freshman colleague Mr. Leonard Githinji presented his Virtual Reality for Education project that will enable students and instructors enhance the education experience through an immersive feel of the subject using virtual reality technology. Mr. Ankit Chhatbar (Applied Computer Technology Junior) described his vision of why Kenya needs a national space program, while the IT Club exhibited their development work on augmented reality demonstrating the blur of lines between what is real and what is computer generated.

Dr. Chandaria concluded the day with a marathon “life chat” student session, during which he encouraged his audience to embrace challenges and have faith in their own abilities. He also advised them to fully utilize the resources available all around them, including at USIU-Africa, and even go on to create collaborations between themselves and industry.
The audience gathered in the auditorium for the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Ms. Michelle Wanjiku (M.A. Counseling Psychology) offers her views on digital disruption prior to the keynote address, during the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Mr. Ngatia Muhoya (Psychology Senior) gives his views on digital disruption prior to the keynote address, during the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza (left) and the Keynote Speaker Safaricom Chief Executive Officer Mr. Bob Collymore (right) following the proceedings prior to Mr. Collymore’s address, during the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Ms. Paula Kigen (Lecturer, Forensic Information Technology) moderates the Question and Answer segment of the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture following the delivery of the Keynote Address by Safaricom CEO Mr. Bob Collymore on Wednesday, June 7.

Scott Bellows (Assistant Professor of Management) poses a question during the Question and Answer segment of the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture following the delivery of the Keynote Address by Safaricom CEO Mr. Bob Collymore on Wednesday, June 7.

Keynote Speaker Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom CEO) plants a tree commemorating his visit to USIU-Africa for the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza presents Keynote Speaker Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom CEO) with a gift commemorating his address during the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Ms. Kalpa Vrikshika (Applied Computer Technology Senior) demonstrates her Green House Sensor System project during a tour by Keynote Speaker Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom CEO) following the delivery of the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.

Mr. Leonard Githinji (Information Systems & Technology freshman) demonstrates a Virtual Reality for Education project during a tour by Keynote Speaker Mr. Bob Collymore (Safaricom CEO) following the delivery of the Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture on Wednesday, June 7.
Speak out! Sexual Harassment Policy officially launched

By Jackline Chirchir

The USIU-Africa Sexual Harassment Policy was launched on Thursday June 8, by the Vice Chancellor Professor Paul T. Zeleza, in the company of members of the Management Board, students, faculty and staff.

The Sexual Harassment Policy was developed following a report from a university-wide sexual harassment survey which was administered to USIU-Africa students, staff and faculty in early 2016 by the Institutional Research Office. The survey was done to assess the extent and prevalence of sexual harassment at the institution, knowledge of university policies, and the processes, the resources and structures related to the issue of sexual harassment.

Findings from the survey pointed out the need to review existing sexual harassment policy and procedures and to develop a comprehensive policy that would address all issues related to sexual harassment.

The formulation of the policy involved a consultative process with representation from staff, students and faculty, and made reference to best practices from all over the world, the Kenyan Constitution and legislation, United Nations conventions and - due to the university’s American accreditation – Title IX (a comprehensive United States federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity).

The policy aims to create a conducive learning and working environment for quality education that is safe and promotes positive and meaningful interactions free of unlawful sexual harassment by any of the USIU-Africa employees or students, including supervisors and co-workers, as well as any person doing business with or for the university.

The policy also provides protection of all individuals in the university from any form of sexual harassment and violence; prevention of abuse of personal authority or power in interpersonal relationships in all university dealings and amongst all stakeholders; ensuring a learning and working environment in which every member of the university is safe, fully supported without infringement of their rights regardless of their culture, ethnicity, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, ability or socio-economic status and all are treated with dignity, courtesy and respect.

It also clearly outlines the reporting, investigation and adjudication process in case of violation of this policy. Disciplinary or corrective actions in case of violation of this policy are also stipulated.

The launch included a discussion of panelists who shared their perspectives on sexual harassment, such as Kebedech Ambaye Nigussie (Gender Expert, United Nations), Wangechi Seilane (Program Analyst-Gender Based Violence of UN WOMEN Kenya Country Office), Everlyne Vosevwa (Head of Human Resources, Kenchic-Africa), Fred Gituku (Human Resources Manager, Vivo Energy Kenya), Dr. Oscar Githua (Associate Professor of Forensic Psychology), Ms. Rida Raheel (Vice Chair, Student Affairs Council), Daniel Sifuma (Senior Associate at Nyachae & Ashitiva Advocates), Ms. Roseline Odede (Director, Federation of Women Lawyers - FIDA) and Ms. Janes Amondi - Owuor (International Business Administration Junior).

Following the policy launch, an awareness campaign to include detailed training sessions for the various university constituencies, will be rolled out. Every member of the university will subsequently be required to assent to the policy.
CARNEGIE AFRICAN DIASPORA FELLOW RETURNS TO COMPLEX CYBER SECURITY CURRICULUM

By Dan Muchai

Associate Professor of Computer Science Dr. Charlie Obimbo from the University of Guelph, in the Canadian city of Ontario, has returned to USIU-Africa for a second time as a Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Program Fellow.

Prof. Charlie Obimbo is being hosted by ICT Director Dr. Paul Okanda and the School of Science and Technology, to co-develop a curriculum for a graduate degree in Information Security, a project he began during his last visit in 2015. In that respect, Dr. Obimbo will lead School faculty in discussing course outlines, as well as carrying out a stakeholder survey to include in the program proposal.

The university is anxious to introduce a graduate program in Information Systems Security given the growing cyber security threats faced by firms around the world. According to Mr. William Makatiani (CEO, Serianu) in his Africa Cyber Security Report 2016, due to the growing number of African organizations that digitize their business processes and connect to the internet, there is growing risk of cyber-attacks, and thus the need to “build capacity to anticipate, detect, respond and contain such attacks”.

In March this year, at the Conference on the Role of the Diaspora in the Revitalization of African Higher Education, which took place at Harvard University’s Center for African Studies, the Consortium of African Diaspora Fellowship Programs was formed to spearhead the 10/10 initiative to supports 10,000 diaspora academics from around over the next 10 years.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza - himself a former diaspora academic - chairs the Program’s Advisory Council which has approved 140 fellowships in the current cycle expected to last for two years beginning October 2015. Dr. Obimbo’s arrival in May brings to four the number of Carnegie African Diaspora Fellows on campus this semester.

Dr. Obimbo’s extensive experience as Chair of the Curriculum Committee, as member of the Cyber Security Program Committee and the School of Engineering Programs Committee at the University of Guelph, is expected to be invaluable in developing the comprehensive curriculum that surpasses the new program requirements of our accrediting bodies (American WASC Senior College and University Commission, and the Kenyan Commission for University Education).

The Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Program is a scholar fellowship program, offered through the Institute for International Education and hosted by USIU-Africa, where Scholars are hosted by African higher education institutions, as they engage on a wide range of projects designed to foster collaboration and build capacity at the host campuses.

Currently 35 universities in six African countries are hosting 46 African-born academics working in North America, bringing to 282 the number of diaspora fellows awarded over program’s last four years.
Spanish ambassador visits USIU-Africa

By Dan Muchai

The new Ambassador of Spain to Kenya His Excellency Javier Garcia de Viedma paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and members of the Management Board on Tuesday, June 6. His Excellency, who was on his first non-diplomatic visit since his recent accreditation to Kenya, was also on campus to explore the relationship between his embassy and one of its most important academic partners, given the long and fruitful relationship between USIU-Africa and the Spanish Embassy in Kenya.

The Ambassador who was hosted by Javier Serrano (Assistant Professor of Spanish and Literature) was also briefed on efforts to draw up a multinational strategy to spread the teaching of Spanish throughout sub-Saharan Africa, following which he offered his support and that of the Embassy in fulfilling that vision.

The Ambassador who has held varied diplomatic postings around the world and has extensive experience with the United Nations, also offered to support the International Relations programs at USIU-Africa having hosted many model United Nations conferences in the course of his colorful career.

First Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference to be held this Thursday

By Dan Muchai

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences will this week host the region’s first Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference from June 15-16 in the auditorium. Based on the theme “Challenges in the Administration of Justice and Emerging Crimes in East Africa”, the conference will bring together academics and practitioners in criminal justice to discuss challenging issues pertaining to the administration of justice and the response to emerging crimes in the region, such as money laundering, organized crime, human trafficking, terrorism and other related mutual assistance issues.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza will invite the Director of Criminal Investigations Mr. Ndegwa Muhoro to deliver the keynote speech at 9.30am on Thursday, June 15, followed by a presentation by the conference organizer Dr. Simeon Sungi (Associate Professor of Criminal Justice) on “Understanding Crime andVictimization”. The final day’s session will begin with a keynote speech by the honorable Justice Prof. Joel Ngugi, Judge of the High Court of Kenya at 9.30am.

Research Office to host first annual research bazaar

By Susan Muchai

The Academic Research Office is hosting the first annual Research Bazaar on Wednesday, June 14 in the library bookshop. The event has been organized to recognize the contribution of individual faculty to research in the 2015-16 academic year, through celebrating their research, scholarship, creativity and innovation.
Students celebrate world environmental day

By Diana Meso

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and National Youth Green Growth Secretariat (NY2GS) of Kenya partnered with the USIU-Africa Environmental Society (ENSO) club to host university students from Nairobi to usher in the World Environmental Day 2017 themed “Connecting People to Nature” on Sunday June 4 at the auditorium.

The participants planted more than 100 trees next to the rugby pitch which will then be monitored by the ENSO club. Present at the event were representatives from Water Resources Users Association (WRUA), NY2GS and UNEP who encouraged the participants to protect the environment saying that human life depends on environment.

World Environment Day began in 1972 and is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action involving various groups taking part in clean-ups, taking action against wildlife crime and replanting forests.

Intel developer program to host Artificial Intelligence Workshop at USIU-Africa

By Leonard Githinji and Max Musau

The School of Science and Technology in conjunction with the Intel Student Developer Program and the IT Club of USIU-Africa are set to host an Artificial Intelligence workshop on Saturday, June 10 at the Innovation and Incubation Center.

The workshop is part of the Intel Student Developer program created by Intel Corporation, the world’s largest semiconductor chipmaker in partnership with universities across the globe, to assist students in telling their story and share their expertise with other student data scientists and developers. Students inducted into the Intel Student Ambassador Program are provided with technical support, resources, and marketing to advance their own work through Intel software, tools, and hardware.

The event will include a theoretical talk on all things artificial intelligence followed by a discussion on current trends in artificial intelligence, which will lead up to data science and machine learning hands on exercises where the attendees will be introduced to these technologies, how they work and are being used in the tech world today.

The hands on training will include use of technologies such as Google’s Tensor Flow tool and The Intel Machine Learning SDK.

18 students join ranks of peer counselors

By Jackline Chirchir and Dan Muchai

The Peer Educators and Counselors Club (PECC) held a graduation ceremony for 18 students on Friday, June 2. The annual ceremony concludes two and a half semesters of training - a journey that this time round began in during the Fall 2016 semester.

Peer Educators and Counselors Club draws its membership from students interested in engaging their fellow students on HIV/AIDS issues, life skills, behavior change, drug abuse and other issues of student concern.

To successfully complete their training, students had to attend five days of counselor-led group sessions, ten hours of personal supervision, as well as lead five peer group sessions. Other requirements included participating in community outreach and USIU-Africa Counseling Center events.

The new Peer Counselors will join the Red Cross Club at the Citibank annual Community Service Day at Friends School Dandora on Saturday June 10, and hold their first official training at Braeburn School on Friday, June 16. They will also be running the Peer Educators and Counselors Week in the second week of July.

Further information on the club is available from the Counseling Center's Senior Counselor Ms. Noel Khayanje (nkhayanje@usiu.ac.ke).
The USIU-Africa Chapter of the Kenya Red Cross Society in conjunction with Blood Link Foundation carried out a blood drive within the campus on Wednesday June 7. The drive is held every semester to replenish blood banks at local hospitals and emergency care units.

Recently the club participated in a medical camp organized by Out of the Street Foundation, at Pangani’s Mlango Kubwa slum on Thursday, June 1. The Foundation was formed to provide free medication and education to the destitute.

This Saturday, June 10, the students will join Citibank as they commemorate their 12th Annual Global Community Day at Friends Secondary School in Dandora. The bank has organized a reading camp, a book donation, mentoring and career talks, rehabilitation of the school’s library, and tree planting.

Sport Update

By Diana Meso

Basketball

The ladies basketball team have had low blows in the ongoing Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Women’s Premier League since the beginning of this year, this according to their coach George Mayienga is because they have lost five key players. Sarah Chan (team’s top scorer) left the team because of injuries while Cynthia Irankunda (point guard) is away in Uganda. In addition Georgia Adhiambo joined Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) while Zipporah Adhiambo has been training because work commitments.

The team has so far lost four games and won two games this season, last weekend they lost to Storms 41-55 at the Nyayo gymnasium. Despite this, the coach is still hopeful that the team will pick up once the new members Josephine Achieng from Tigoi Girls and Rachel Wangari of Kerugoya Girls get enough training. The team is further planning to recruit two players from Zetech University to beef up their squad. The coach is confident that they will perform better in their match against Strathmore University at Nyayo Gymnasium this weekend.

Last weekend, the men’s basketball team recorded a 68-56 win against Umoja in the ongoing Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premiere League that took place in City Park Nairobi.

In the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) league, the men’s Division III basketball team lost to both Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA) and KCITI on Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4 respectively at the University of Nairobi sports ground.

The men’s premiere team are set to meet K.C.B.U Lions at Strathmore University as the men’s Division III team play against Daystar University at the University of Nairobi (JON) grounds.

The men’s rugby team lost to Kenyatta University 24-0 in the ongoing Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Kings of rugby tournament that took place in Taita Taveta last weekend. The team will travel to Kaimosi Friends University in Kakamega County to take part in the tournament.

The ladies hockey team beat Amira Sailors 2-0 while men’s team lost to Greensharks 1-2 in the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League at City Park on Saturday June 3. The ladies are set to meet Multimedia university (MMU) this coming weekend as the men’s meet Kenya police on June 18 at City Park Nairobi.

The men’s rugby team lost to Kenyatta University 24-0 in the ongoing Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Kings of rugby tournament that took place in Taita Taveta last weekend. The team will travel to Kaimosi Friends University in Kakamega County to take part in the tournament.

The ladies soccer team recorded a 2-0 win against National Youth Service (NYS) in the University and College Federation League (UCFL) in Kabete last weekend. This weekend, they will meet THMSH in Kabete.
MEDIA MENTIONS

June 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Kenyan in an article titled “Bob Collymore Highlights Digital Disruption at USIU’s Public Lecture.”

June 9: Scoopnest mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Bob Collymore Highlights Digital Disruption at USIU’s Public Lecture.”

June 9: Capital Campus mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Bob Collymore Highlights Digital Disruption at USIU’s Public Lecture.”

June 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “We are the change that we seek.”
http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/904-daily-nation-we-are-the-change-that-we-seek

June 7: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Loss of stars haunts USIU.”

June 6: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Kenya Buzz in an article titled “First Chancellor’s Public Lecture (Speaker: Robert Collymore) at United States International University.”

June 6: Eventsoja mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Inaugural Chancellor’s Public Lecture (Speaker: Bob Collymore).”

June 6: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Whats-on-nairobi.com in an article titled “First Chancellor’s Public Lecture (Speaker: Robert Collymore).”

June 5: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Mwangi, Omaido keep Orange ahead of pack.”

June 4: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Telkom Orange hit six past students.”

June 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Butali Sugar Warriors hit Parkroad Badgers at City Park.”

June 3: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU Spartans sink Amira Sailors in hockey league.”

June 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Business cooked in the kitchen.”

June 2: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “JKUAT next in line for Telkom Orange’s firing squad.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 10 & 11
St. Paul’s Annual Tournament
(Soccer, Karate & Taekwondo)
@ St. Paul’s University Limuru

JUNE 10
Intel Student Developer Program
(Artificial Intelligence Workshop) 9am
Auditorium/Innovation & Incubation Center

HOCKEY: USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs Multimedia University
@ City Park

BASKETBALL: USIU-Africa (Men) vs Lions
@ Strathmore University

SOCcer: USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs TSMSh @ KabeBe
USIU-Africa (Men) vs TSMSh
@ KabeBe

JUNE 11
BASKETBALL: USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs Strathmore University
@ Nyayo Gymnasium

JUNE 14
Annual Research Bazaar
[8.30am]
Library Bookshop

JUNE 15-16
Criminal Justice and Criminology Conference
[9am]
Auditorium