Trustee applauds faculty research contributions at USIU-Africa

USIU-Africa hosted the first ever Annual Scholars’ Bazaar presided over by University Trustee Dr. Kevit Desai and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza on Wednesday, June 14 in the library bookshop. The event also recognized the research efforts of the 103 faculty members and their publications in over 70 international referred journals and books in the academic year 2015-16.

While opening the event, Professor Zeleza pointed out that USIU-Africa is committed to pushing the research agenda and such initiatives are key to putting Kenya and Africa on the global research map especially now that academic impact assessments are no longer confined to the use of citation indexes as altmetrics emerge involving social media measures and data mining tools.

“African governments and regional economic communities should develop deliberate policies that designate some universities as research universities that drive the higher education sector to meet national development objectives, and that are considered as national and continental assets with full operational and administrative autonomy” said Prof. Zeleza.

In his keynote address, Dr. Desai expounded on how technology has impacted teaching and learning, research and publications, libraries, disruption of academic profession and work. “Libraries

Continued on the next page
are moving from silent repositories of information into vibrant nerve centers for digitized information communication, necessitating the provision information and digital literacy for students. Changes in academic publishing are emerging from the acceleration, commercialization, and digitization of scholarly communication,” he concluded.

Dr. Desai is not only a member of the University Board of Trustees, he is also Chairman of Linking Industry with Academia (LIWA) a body formed to facilitate and coordinate effective linkages between the private sector and academia, as well as engage government on issues of mutual interest.

Top faculty researchers were recognized for their contribution in the period under review, and received cash prizes totaling KES 160, 000. The top prize of KES 50000 was awarded to Dr. Amos Njuguna (Associate Dean - Chandaria School of Business, and Associate Professor of Accounting) while Dr. Kioko Ireri (Assistant Professor of Journalism & Mass Communications) received the runner-up prize of KES 30000. Others who were recognized were Dr. Timothy Oketch (Associate Professor of Economics), Dr. Angelina Kioko (Professor of English and Linguistics), Dr. Dana Basnight Brown (Associate Professor of Psychology and Research Scientist), Dr. Stephen Kimotho (Program Director - Communication Studies & Journalism, Assistant Professor of Journalism), and Dr. Naumih Noah (Assistant Professor of Analytical Chemistry).

The bazaar was organized by the academic research office to showcase faculty research output and foster collaboration between students and faculty, with the goal of incorporating research and co-curricular activities for holistic education. The Vice Chancellor also announced the university is increasing internal financial support for research, through an additional budgetary allocation of KES 5 million, bring the total funds available for internal research grants to KES 15 million for the 2017-18 academic year.

Photo Credits: Ronald Ollimo
On Thursday, June 15, USIU-Africa signed two Memorandums of Understanding with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and the Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC) creating a partnership in hospitality management, education, research and other development activities between the three institutions.

The first agreement between BHIC and USIU-Africa provides for students at Boma International Hospitality College to join and complete a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management program in the Chandaria School of Business in one year. Boma Hotels Limited, a majority shareholder in BIHC, will also partner with USIU-Africa to provide internship opportunities, at the Boma Hotel or its affiliates, to USIU-Africa students pursuing a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management as well as conduct and promote collaborative research and development activities.

The agreement between USIU-Africa and Kenya Red Cross Society further creates a framework for the Society to engage the Red Cross Chapter at USIU-Africa and extend internship opportunities to USIU-Africa’s psychology programs. Both KRCS and USIU-Africa anticipate further research collaborations and a partnership in improvement of emergency medical response and disaster preparedness.

On Thursday, June 15, USIU-Africa signed two Memorandums of Understanding with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and the Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC) creating a partnership in hospitality management, education, research and other development activities between the three institutions.

The first agreement between BHIC and USIU-Africa provides for students at Boma International Hospitality College to join and complete a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management program in the Chandaria School of Business in one year. Boma Hotels Limited, a majority shareholder in BIHC, will also partner with USIU-Africa to provide internship opportunities, at the Boma Hotel or its affiliates, to USIU-Africa students pursuing a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management as well as conduct and promote collaborative research and development activities.

The agreement between USIU-Africa and Kenya Red Cross Society further creates a framework for the Society to engage the Red Cross Chapter at USIU-Africa and extend internship opportunities to USIU-Africa’s psychology programs. Both KRCS and USIU-Africa anticipate further research collaborations and a partnership in improvement of emergency medical response and disaster preparedness.

By Jackline Chirchir and Dan Muchai

Dr. Abbas Gullet (Secretary General - Kenya Red Cross Society) speaks prior to the signing of two Memoranda of Agreement between USIU-Africa and the Society, and between USIU-Africa and the Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC), on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

Photo Credits: Dan Muchai
The School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted the first Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference from June 15-16, 2017, themed “Challenges in the Administration of Justice and Emerging Crimes in East Africa”. The two day conference was well attended by scholars and practitioners in the local and regional criminal justice system.

The conference aimed at creating a platform for attendees to come up with solutions relating to crime and justice, especially at the time that many countries faced with problems in responding to crime and especially emerging crime. The keynote speakers were the Director of Criminal Investigation (DCI) in Kenya, Mr. Ndegwa Muhoro and the honorable Justice Prof. Joel Mwaura Ngugi Judge of the High Court of Kenya.

Mr. Ndegwa Muhoro addressed challenges in the administration of justice and responding to emerging crimes in the region and beyond. “To effectively deal with issues of crimes different jurisdictions have established institutions that are specifically mandated by the constitutions and specific enabling legislations to deal certain aspects of crime within the criminal justice chain,” he said in his speech.

The Director also explained that today's crime is mainly transnational, organized and technology-based and explored the causes, opportunities, challenges and risks Kenya has in dealing with transnational crime.

Professor Joel Mwaura on the other hand drew on his vast experience in legislation and examined how classical law helps to deal with emerging crimes. He also emphasized that law alone cannot fight transnational crime and systems have been put in place to fight it.

Conference organizer Dr. Simeon Sungi (Associate Professor of Criminal Justice) indicated that this first-of-its-kind conference provided an opportunity for staff and students to explore research areas on the various activities and sub-themes presented by the various speakers.

About 100 undergraduates are currently enrolled in the six-year old Criminal Justice Studies program at USIU-Africa. The multidisciplinary field of study draws upon psychology, sociology, law, science, history and political science, to address issues pertaining to crime and victimization such as causes, consequences and prevention of crime, in the context of the Criminal Justice system’s three main components: law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections.
The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza delivered the keynote address at the UNESCO Sub-Regional Workshop on “Mobilizing higher education and distance learning assets, capabilities and networks to help accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the Agenda 2063 literacy targets in sub-Saharan Africa” from June 13-15 at the Nairobi Hilton.

In his speech titled “Building the Higher Education Assets and Capabilities for African Development”, Prof. Zeleza dwelt on the six key capacity challenges facing African higher education: institutional supply, resources, faculty, leadership, outputs, and research - and how they impact creation of inclusive, integrated, innovative and sustainable democratic developmental states and societies envisioned in the AU’s Agenda 2063 and their numerous national equivalents, as well as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

In his speech titled "Building the Higher Education Assets and Capabilities for African Development”, Prof. Zeleza dwelt on the six key capacity challenges facing African higher education: institutional supply, resources, faculty, leadership, outputs, and research - and how they impact creation of inclusive, integrated, innovative and sustainable democratic developmental states and societies envisioned in the AU’s Agenda 2063 and their numerous national equivalents, as well as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking forward, Prof. Zeleza underscored the need for expanded enrollments without sacrificing academic quality; increased and improved funding and financial management; strengthening of the training and employability of graduates; raising the volume and value of research productivity; enhancing the quality of institutional leadership and governance; advancing more productive forms of regional and international engagements; and development of institutional and regulatory cultures of quality assessment and improvements through interactive, collaborative and iterative processes.

Finally, he concluded by requesting his audience to maximize on the untapped resource that is the African academic diaspora in the restructuring and repositioning of African higher educational institutions. “Instead of lamenting the deficits of the ‘brain drain’, real as they are, let’s galvanize the assets of ‘brain gain’ and ‘brain circulation’ represented by Africa’s vast diaspora” he said, pointing at the success enjoyed by the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP).

Since 2013, CADFP has so far funded 274 fellows selected from 640 project requests from 164 accredited African universities.

The Chandaria School of Business has introduced to 2 new concentrations in the existing Master of Business Administration program, to replace widely-popular Global Executive Master of Business Administration program.

The new concentrations namely Global Business Management and Health Leadership Management, are in line with recommendations made by the Commission for University Education, that will enable holders of these concentrations to pursue doctoral fields of study.

The Global Business Management (GBM) concentration is designed to meet the needs of those seeking a world class education focused on globalization, and while the Health Leadership Management (HLM) concentration appeals to those in the health service industry looking to upgrade their management and leadership skills.

In another significant departure, the two concentrations will now be taught at the Chandaria School of Business, away from their previous location at the Sarova Panafric.

All other aspects of the course offering will remain unchanged including the signature Global Study Tour, whereby students visit key business/health centers around the world chosen annually for their relevance to current global business issues.
Journalism lecturer sworn-in to appeals tribunal

By Dan Muchai

Congratulations are in order to Mr. Isaiah Cherutich (Lecturer of Journalism), who was sworn-in as a member of the Communications and Multimedia Appeals Tribunal on Friday June 16, by Deputy Chief Justice Hon. Philomena Mwilu, at the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Other members of the tribunal sworn in with Mr. Cherutich include Mr. William Oketch (Chairperson), Ms. Janet Wekesa, Ms. Annette Okello and Mr. Ibrahim Mutembei. The five members were appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Information Communications & Technology Mr. Joe Mucheru, on 31 March via a Kenya Gazette Notice Vol. CXIX - No. 40 of 31st March 2017, to serve for a three-year term.

Speaking at the ceremony, Justice Mwilu requested the newly-formed tribunal to ensure that the freedom of expression, freedom of the media, and right to access information are respected and protected, emphasizing the role the tribunal played in arbitrating disputes involving members of the fourth estate.

The tribunal is established under the Kenya Information and Communication Amendment Act 2013, to adjudicate complaints against journalists and media enterprises as well as entertain appeals against decisions of the Communications Authority of Kenya and communication service providers.

Find local solutions to fund good causes here at home

By Kodi Barth

The founder of a charity program for orphans in Homabay County has told USIU-Africa students to find local solutions to fund good causes here at home, because foreign sources are certain to eventually dry up. Ms Consolata A. Kunyada, director of the 10-year old, UK donor funded Mango Tree Orphan Support Program, was a guest lecturer in the CFD 6180 Resource Mobilization class taught by Assistant Professor Kodi Barth in the MA in Communications Studies program at the School of Science and Technology.

Ms Kunyada manages a full-time staff of 21 and a network of 101 volunteers serving over 4,000 orphans. She holds a master’s degree in project management from the University of Nairobi and a bachelor’s in social ministry from Tangaza University College. She was accompanied to class by her Director of Finance Mr. Peter Kunyada, who urged students to manage procured resources cost-efficiently by employing officers with multiple skills and always seeking value addition in every activity.

CFD 6180 Resource Mobilization is a practical course in which students work with a real-world client to learn fundraising, writing proposals, grant seeking and writing strategies to enable them to submit competitive proposals to funding agencies.

This semester, 11 students are working with two organizations to help them prepare for potential funding using a new fundraising paradigm; namely, to align with where philanthropy is heading, from the traditional passive donor solicitation to a business approach where donors increasingly require demonstrated return on their investment.

Assistant Professor of Journalism Kodi Barth returned to USIU this summer as adjunct faculty in the MA Communication Studies and Journalism programs at the School of Science and Technology. Mr. Kodi was full time lecturer at USIU-Africa until Summer 2006 when he relocated to the United States to design and teach the first new media courses at the University of Connecticut. He later went to work for the United Nations in New York and then transitioned to business school to complete an MBA at the University of Texas at Dallas, before enrolling at Walden University in Minnesota for a PhD in Policy and Development Studies.
Students organize tribute to fallen comrade

By Dan Muchai

Students, faculty and staff gathered on the evening of Wednesday, June 14 to mourn the passing away of Moses Adoyeji Mohammed on Friday, June 9. Mr. Mohammed took ill during soccer practice that afternoon, but was pronounced dead on arrival at Aga Khan University Hospital shortly thereafter.

Friends, soccer team colleagues and members of the Nigerian community at USIU-Africa got together to offer their tributes during a brief ceremony also attended by the soccer team coach, the Dean of Students Mr. Robert Onsarigo, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza accompanied by his wife Prof. Veney Cassandra.