University to host third edition of Fun Run

By Dan Muchai

The annual Fun Run will this year be held on Saturday, July 8 at the university’s soccer pitch beginning at 7am. The event has been billed as a family fun affair with activities for all age groups and corporate organizations.

A single individual entry can be obtained for KES 1000, while a family of four can register for the event for on KES 3000, at the campus registration point (in front of the cafeteria) or online (www.usiu.ac.ke/funrun), or at the Office of Fundraising (1st Floor, Finance Wing, Administration Building). Every entry will receive a t-shirt, a running number and a certificate of participation.

For the first time ever, corporate organizations have been invited to participate through a corporate football tournament, with teams registering for KES 100 000 that will cover ten team members.

The organizers have made special arrangements to keep children entertained for the duration of the event. Treasure hunts, bouncing castles, swings, slides, face-painting, and a hoopla dance competition will be part of day’s activities.

While sending an appeal to support the fun run, University Advancement Director Mr. James Ogolla, urged the university community to give as they have received, "...It is important that we support those among us who seek to complete their education here, as it is only a small measure of the various benefits we have enjoyed here over the course of our professional and personal lives."

The registration fee can be paid in cash, credit/debit card, debit note at the Finance office (A/C 10-1316-4308) or through MPESA (PayBill:516900 A/C Name: FunRun). Employees have access to a check-off facility available at the Finance Office as well.

Further details are available at the Office Of Fundraising, or phone (0730116640/326/205), or email (fundraising@usiu.ac.ke), or online (www.usiu.ac.ke/funrun).
Three undergraduate and graduate International Relations students (Kevine Ineza Maina, Maureen Wamuyu and Maisun Omer), and two faculty advisors - Dr. Elijah Munyi and Dr. David Mwambari, both Assistant Professors in International Relations - participated in the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights Workshop Series at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Switzerland, whose focus was "Global Ethics and Refugee Policy".

The workshop was organized to better understand humanitarian law and ethical systems of international refugee policy and deepen the connections of policy to people via service and fieldwork in a refugee camp. During the workshop, Dr. Mwambari delivered a lecture on "Lived Experiences of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants after Conflicts".

Apart from lectures and service learning in Greece, the prestigious workshop also included a lecture on emergence of Geneva as an International Relations city and a tour of the United Nations. Aside from USIU-Africa, participants were drawn from the University of Oxford, University of South California, University of Oregon, Yale University, Quinnipiac University, University of Utah among others.

Both Dr. Munyi and Dr. Mwambari also hosted a meeting with the Oxford Consortium board and faculty to update them on the preparations of the Fall Series of the Oxford Consortium Workshop Series to be hosted by USIU-Africa during the fall semester. The weeklong workshop will focus on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, and will feature 20 undergraduate and graduate students from Brazil, India, the United States and the United Kingdom, and a maximum of 20 USIU-Africa students, who will be selected through a competitive process.

After the Geneva workshop, the three students will spend the next ten days in service learning and meetings with refugees and staff at Elpida Home outside of Thessaloniki in Greece.

In October 2016, USIU-Africa sent a similar but larger delegation of seven students from Kenya, Rwanda, Somali, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and United Kingdom as well as Dr. Munyi and Dr. Mwambari, to make presentations and benchmark the conference organization of the Fall 2016 edition of the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights Workshop Series held at the United Nations, Quinnipiac University and Yale University, themed "Human Rights and Development: Institutional Responsibility and Community Action". Another delegation also attended the Spring 2017 edition.

The Oxford Consortium for Human Rights, is a partnership between the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, Yale University, Quinnipiac University, the United Nations Development Program and the University of Southern California’s Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.
The School of Science and Technology (SST) recently welcomed Prof. Nancy Muturi from the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Kansas State University, as part of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP). Dr. Muturi, who heads the PR sequence at Kansas State, will spend her three months at USIU-Africa providing support to faculty and graduate students of the Master of Arts in Communication Studies, and will be hosted by Dr. Dorothy Njoroge (Assistant Professor of Journalism).

During her stay, Prof. Muturi will guest edit the School’s African Journal of Communication and Media Studies, as well as review and revise the Master of Arts in Communication Studies Thesis Handbook. With her wide experience in graduate thesis assessment, Prof. Muturi will lead graduate seminars in thesis writing with a focus on ensuring that participants can conceptualize a research project, select resources and conduct literature review, apply communication theory in research, report findings and write theoretical and practical implications.

Additionally, her experience in curriculum development, will be essential in developing the M.A. Communication Studies’ curriculum in terms of thesis structure, expectations, advising and examination. Prof. Muturi will also take lead on training staff regarding the identification of national and international research resources to support and enhance their research portfolios and collaborations. As a specialist in public relations, health communication, gender and diversity issues in the media, and communication for social change, Prof. Muturi is teaching a graduate corporate communications course focusing on the intercultural understanding and adjustments necessitated by globalization, as well as the planning, implementation and evaluation of ideal corporate communication programs.

Prof. Muturi is also expected to collaborate on Dr. Njoroge’s research project on “Analyzing Key Features of Public Relations Practice in Kenya”, and review the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communications curriculum currently under development by the School of Science and Technology.

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.

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 support 10,000 diaspora academics from around the world 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.
On Saturday, June 3, 2017 the School of Science and Technology in conjunction with the Mekatilili Program and Foondi Workshops hosted a Design and Internet of Things Workshop at the Innovation and Incubation Center. The workshop introduced 19 participants to the integrated design thinking methodology - a methodology used by designers to solve complex problems, and find desirable solutions - developed at the Stanford D. school.

The Workshop is organized by Foondi Workshops - an African product design & engineering company focused on developing products for emerging markets - against the backdrop of the Chancellor’s Public Lecture, where Safaricom’s CEO Mr. Bob Collymore challenged Africa, and universities, to ride the change brought about by the rapid digital disruption enveloping the world.

Participants were taken through human centered design principles to build prototypes through a thoughtful process of collecting information and then synthesizing it to form insights, which then create the framework and constraints of the design thinking process.

The design thinking session was followed by an electronics lab where they gained skills in basic Internet of Things (IoT) programming in which participants were introduced to basics of electronics, software and embedded sensors using the Arduino board. The electronics session culminated in a mini hackathon in which participants utilized all the skills gained, to rapidly prototype their ideas along the 4 major areas: food security, energy, road safety and public security.

The food security team had as their goal to build a system that can collect information environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, and soil conditions such as pH and nutrient content from certain areas, to inform farmers about suitable agricultural practices. Using a temperature sensor, the team demonstrated a system that informs farmers about temperature rises changes in the environment.

The energy team’s goal was to design a smart environment that could be monitor, control and conserve energy consumption to improve efficiency and cut costs. The team used a PIR motion sensor to demonstrate a lighting system that is triggered by movement.

The team dealing with road safety had as a goal, to build a speed detection system that can be installed in vehicles. The system the team designed could detect when the car is being driven at a speed above an acceptable range by measuring the rotations per minute, triggering an LED alert. Alerts could also be disarmed through a manual override.

For personal safety, the goal was to develop a quick response security system to better secure public areas. In this regard, the personal safety team designed a system that incorporated camera surveillance to detect motion and monitor and record activities. The recorded footage would then analyzed by relevant security personnel to determine the severity or validity of the security claim.

The Food Security team, which was adjudged the best team based on their ingenuity, design and engineering, will receive free R Programming training from the Mekatilili Foondi Design Program. This program was created to inspire young people to explore entrepreneurship and innovation by developing their own products and solutions using an educational platform incorporating a knowledge-sharing setting to explore design-thinking-centered product development.
Dr. Njoroge elected chair of media women association

BY Jackline Chirchir

Assistant Professor of Journalism Dr. Dorothy Njoroge is the new chair of the Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) following the association’s Annual General Meeting held in Nairobi on Saturday, June 17. She takes over from career broadcaster Pamela Mburia, following a fierce contest between her and Kenya National Human Rights Commission's Patience Nyange.

In her acceptance speech Prof. Njoroge pledged to bring the members together, prioritize their needs and develop plans to improve the lives of members by professionalizing the organization.

“My focus will be on building the capacity of members through training and building mentoring relationships so they could be competitive in the workplace and rise senior management levels. With their help, we would work on the sustainability of the organization to ensure it will be there for future generation of media women all over the country,” she concluded.

Dr. Njoroge was part of the team that developed USIU-Africa’s Master of Arts in Communication Studies in 2014, and has had extensive experience in the communication industry.

The Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) is a national media Association established in 1983 and registered under the Societies Act as a non-profit membership organization for women journalists and students from the print, electronic and other areas of media and communication.

University to remain closed for Eid holiday

BY Dan Muchai

The university will remain closed on Monday, 26 June 2017 and resume classes and reopen offices on Tuesday, 27 June 2017. The day has been gazetted by the Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for the Interior and Coordination of National Government, as a public holiday to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan. “It is notified for general information that Monday 26th June 2017 will be observed as a public holiday to mark Idd-Ul-Fitr Day pursuant to section 3 of the Public Holidays Act,” said Hon. Joseph Nkaissery.

Ramadhan is the ninth month of the lunar-based Islamic calendar, and according to Islamic belief, denotes the first revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad. Muslims around the world, observe a-dawn-to-dusk fast for 30 days, concluding the period with a celebration named Eid-ul-Fitr translated as ‘festival of the breaking of the fast’.

Eid-Ul-Fitr is celebrated for three days beginning with communal prayers followed by shared feasts at family gatherings, donations to the poor and exchange of gifts between family and friends.

Japanese minor open for application

BY Jackline Chirchir

Intermediate and Upper Level Japanese Courses as a minor offered through the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) begin in the Fall Semester of 2017. The Japanese Minor is facilitated by Mr. Katsuji Nakamura and runs through five consecutive semesters. These courses aim to provide students with an experience of cultural diversity with which to enrich their university education and attain a change of world view.

With 65 nationalities represented at USIU-Africa this minor program provides students with a platform to interact with major global and multicultural perspectives and gain an understanding of a complex and interconnected world through close study of historical, political, economic, legal and cultural topics.

Interested students can reach out to Fenny Muthusi (fmuthusi@usiu.ac.ke) or Katsuji Nakamura (knakamura@usiu.ac.ke) for further information.

SPORTS UPDATES

By Diana Meso

Rugby

The men’s rugby team was crowned Kaimosi 7’s champions after beating University of Nairobi (10-7) and Kenyatta University (24-14), in the ongoing Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) Kings of Rugby tournament that took place at the Kaimosi Friends University College on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18. The team had previously defeated University of Eldoret (7-5) in the Nyeri 7s, following a humbling 24-0 loss to Kenyatta University during the Tahta Taveta 7s leg of the tournament. The victory sees them through to the next round taking place from July 1-2 at Maseno University in Kisumu County.

Soccer

The soccer ladies team narrowly defeated Thika School of Medical and Health Sciences (TSMHS) 1-0 in the Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL), while the men’s team were held to a goalless draw by TSMHS. Both teams will travel to Kabete this weekend to play against teams from the National Youth Service and the University of Nairobi.

Taekwondo

The USIU-Africa Taekwondo team clinching the third overall position behind teams from the Kenya Police and the Kenya Defense Force in the USIU-Africa Taekwondo tournament held at the auditorium on June 17-18, and organized by USIU-Africa in collaboration with the Kenya Taekwondo Federation. The team is set to participate in a kickboxing tournament this coming weekend at the auditorium.

Basketball

USIU-Africa basketballers had a rough weekend after losing all the three matches they took part in. The ladies team lost 33-65 to Equity Bank as the men’s team recorded a 62-65 loss against Strathmore University in the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Women and Men’ Premier League on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18 respectively. In addition, the men’s Division III team was beaten 38-46 by the Slums Dunk in the ongoing Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) league.

The men’s team will meet Ulinzi Warriors on Saturday, June 24, while the ladies team will battle Western Delight and Strathmore University this coming weekend at the Nyayo gymnasium.

Hockey

The men’s hockey team lost narrowly to Kenya Police in the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Men’s Premier League that took place at City Park Nairobi on Sunday, June 18. The team will next meet their counterparts from the Technical University of Kenya this coming Sunday June 25.
MEDIA MENTIONS
Compiled by Diana Meso


June 19: NTV mentioned USIU-Africa “NTV Sports” segment titled “Police maintain lead after beating USIU 3-1 in men’s hockey league.”

June 19: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Police, Orange tighten grip on leagues’ top spot.”

June 18: The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “AMWIK elects new board members.”

June 18: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Nairobi’s Sailors secure victory in Mombasa.”

June 17: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article “Champions Orange and Police in action: Hockey League Fierce battle expected this weekend.”

June 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Equity Bank teams cruise to victory in basketball leagues.”

June 17: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “11-0! Ommalla bags hat-trick as Orange humiliate Multimedia.”

June 16: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Ulinzi Warriors, KPA renew rivalry in Mombasa.”

June 16: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KCB Coach Curtis Olago banned for seven months.”

June 16: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Telkom Orange, Kenya Police out to tighten grip on top spots.”

June 16: The Mummy Tales website mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Getting into this University was a Far-Fetched Dream. I was Even Advised to ‘Stick to my Lane’ – Regina Mugure Mwangi’s Story.”
http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/939-mummy-tales-getting-into-this-university-was-a-far-fetched-dream-i-was-even-advised-to-stick-to-my-lane-regina-mugure-mwangi-s-story

June 15: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Morans battle Sharks for Cities crown.”

June 15: People Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Students urged to adapt to new science and technology.”

June 14: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Nairobi impress, but Mogadishu favourites in Africa Cities Cup.”

June 12: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Enterprising USIU close in on leaders Orange.”

June 11: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Poetry act grows from cafeteria to theatre.”

June 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Wazalendo hit Western Jaguars at City Park.”

June 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in article titled “Unbeaten Ulinzi face Blades test.”