10,000 Women is a global initiative supported by The Goldman Sachs Foundation that provides women entrepreneurs around the world with practical business education, business advising, and networking. To date, the initiative has reached over 10,000 women from 43 countries. Applicants selected for the 10,000 Women program in Kenya receive a world-class business education at USIU-Africa, and connections to a professional support network.

USIU-Africa’s digital repository jumped nine places to emerge third in the latest rankings of the Webometrics Institutional Repository rankings released this month. The repository, which is home to all academic writings produced by students, staff and faculty.

Congratulating the library and information center on this remarkable achievement, the Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Zeleza noted such progress is possible because of the university’s focus on growing its research output as evidenced by a research budget that will increase by twenty percent in the new financial year 2017-18.

He also noted that graduate research output has increased significantly due to policy support provided by the schools, urging the entire university community to take advantage of increased funding to undertake and publish further research that provides solutions for the social-cultural, political, economic or environmental challenges facing our society.
National media publish political communication research funded by USIU-Africa

By Dr. Kioko Ireri

A political communication research conducted by Dr. Kioko Ireri, Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication and Jimmy Ochieng, a graduate student (MA in Communication Studies) has been featured in three national newspapers (Daily Nation, People Daily, and The Star) – in the last one week.

The research investigated the visibility of Kenyan politicians in four national newspapers (Daily Nation, The Standard, People Daily, and The Star) over a 4-year period – from April 9, 2013 to April 9, 2017. Specifically, the research investigated five major things: First, the visibility of members of the National Assembly, senators, governors and women politicians. Second, the study examined pictorial news visibility of the three categories of politicians (National Assembly members, senators, and governors). Third, it investigated the visibility of female politicians (elected members of the National Assembly, county women representatives and nominated members). Fourth, the study examined the negative coverage of the members of the National Assembly, senators, governors, and women politicians. Finally, the research investigated variables that predicted the appearance (visibility) of the members of National Assembly, senators, governors and women politicians in the news section of the four newspapers. The research data was collected using quantitative content analysis, and six constructed weeks sampling technique, which allowed for the generalization of the findings.

Those findings revealed that overall, the most covered politicians were Nairobi Governor Hon. Dr. Evans Kidero, Bungoma Senator Hon. Moses Wetangula, Bomet Governor Hon. Isaac Ruto, Leader of the Majority in the National Assembly Hon. Aden Duale, and Kakamega Senator Hon. Dr. Bonny Khalwale, respectively.

In pictorial coverage, the most visible politicians were Governors Hon. Isaac Ruto (Bomet), Hon. Peter Munya (Meru), Hon. Dr. Evans Kidero (Nairobi), Hon. Hassan Joho (Mombasa), and Bungoma Senator Hon. Moses Wetangula, respectively. The strongest predictor for the members of National Assembly in news was negative coverage, while criticizing the government determined coverage for senators. Commenting on devolution matters predicted the visibility of governors and the appearance of women politicians in news was predicted by commenting on corruption-related issues.

The research was funded by through a grant for the Academic Year 2015-2016, from the Office of Academic Research.
In pursuit of a core university outcome – preparedness for career - the Placement and Career Services Office organized for two guest lectures for members of the Senior Experience (SENEX 4800) and the Investments (FIN4030) classes, on Thursday, July 11.

Mr. Patrick Huang, Chief of Staff at agrifinance firm Umati Capital, spoke on opportunities in his organization and across the financial sector, to members of the Investments (FIN4030) class taught by Mr. Sammy Lio (Lecturer in Accounting & Finance). Mr. Huang urged his audience to apply for entry-level rotational programs available through his company’s portal (https://umaticapital.com/join-us).

Later that evening, Vivo Energy Human Resources Manager Mr. Fred Gituku, spoke to members of the Senior Experience (SENEX 4800) class on “Ethics at the Workplace”. He challenged students to display integrity at the workplace by developing and maintaining a strong values system.

Other services offered by the Placement and Career Services Office include job search planning, interview preparation, as well as curriculum vitae and cover letter writing. Students and faculty are encouraged to get in touch with the office through their email (careeroffice@usiu.ac.ke) to avail themselves of these services and more.

Dr. Rob Marchant, a member of the faculty at the University of York delivered a public lecture on “Human-Environment Interaction in East Africa: Past Changes and Future Challenges” on Wednesday, July 19 in the auditorium. Dr. Marchant described how the decrease of the elephant population in East Africa from the sixteenth to the twentieth century influenced human population migration, as well as cataclysmic wildlife and environmental decimation, whose effects are felt to this day.
USIU-Africa radio hosts mentorship session with media personality

By Antonio Longangi and Joy Ruguru

Radio and television journalist Mrs. Amina Abdi Rabar, was hosted at the Lillian K. Beam’s TV studio by the USIU 99.9 FM team on Wednesday July 26, as part of the station’s Radio Mentorship Program.

Mrs. Rabar who hosts the Hits Not Homework Show at Capital FM and the K24 television morning talk show Alfajiri, was speaking to journalism students regarding their career choices. She recalled her interest and training in media which began as a backup plan, when her efforts to work in humanitarian organizations did work out.

When she emerged top of her class at the HomeBoyz Radio training school - Music Technology Academy – she was offered and accepted a position at the radio station, and then focused on pro-bono gigs to build her reputation.

Urging her audience to draw inspiration from her story, Mrs. Rabar encouraged them to take risks, be quick at exploiting opportunities, be determined and ready to work hard to make their dreams come true. This, she said, is the only way to have create a winning work ethic.

Counseling Center hosts final semester art therapy session

By Antonio Longangi

The final session of this semester’s art therapy was held on Tuesday, July 25 in the Counseling Center’s group meeting room. Art therapy is a form of self-expression utilizing the creative process of drawing, coloring and other forms of modeling, as a way of improving a person’s physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

This form of therapy was introduced on June 27 by the Counseling Center to change perceptions student have towards the Counseling Center.
AIESEC to launch mentorship program

By Antonio Longangi

AIESEC USIU-Africa will be holding its first Stakeholders Dinner on Saturday, July 29 at Park Inn by Radisson Westlands.

The dinner is an appreciation evening to members, partners, alumni, parents and supporters of AIESEC, for individual and organizational contributions to projects AIESEC have undertaken this year. It will also host the official launch of a mentorship program expected to run from Fall semester 2017.

The mentorship program aim to build AIESEC members’ capacities in leadership development, soft skills acquisition and professionalism, to increase the community impact of their projects and activities.

It also comes hot on the heels of an AIESEC Kenya conference held from July 20-24 at the ACK Guest House in Mombasa. The conference – where AIESEC USIU-Africa was declared best delegation - aimed to equip members of AIESEC with skills for drafting activity plans before the upcoming AIESEC elections.

AIESEC was established at USIU-Africa in 1994 linking hundreds of students to an international network of young people from 128 countries around the world. The network purposes to strive for peace and fulfillment of humankind's potential through opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges.

USIU–Africa participates at local school thanksgiving ceremony

By Diana Meso

On Friday, July 21, Principal Fundraising Officer Mr. Eannes Ongus represented the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza during the thanksgiving ceremony at Roysambu Primary School. The annual event is held to thank the School’s parents, teachers, students and other partners for their support during the previous 12 months.

USIU-Africa, through the Kasarani Neighborhood Association (KNA) sponsored Loice Mumbi the top 2015 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education candidate at Roysambu Primary School, through her first year at Pangani Girls High School in 2016. In addition, the university following commitments made during the 2016 Freida Brown Day celebrations, repaired the school’s fence at a total cost of KES 200,000, and further planted trees and cleaned classrooms in partnership with Shule Yangu.

KNA brings together institutions in the Kasarani sub-county such as USIU-Africa, Thika Road Baptist Church, Pan Africa Christian University, Safari Park Hotel, Kenya Institute of Special Education, Mountain View School and Ruara Academy, to jointly address local challenges.
USIU-Africa crowned Kings of Rugby

By Dan Muchai

The USIU-Africa rugby team collected their first universities rugby title this year when they reached the semi-final of the University of Nairobi round of the Kings of Rugby tournament. The team’s two wins and three semi-final appearances were more than enough to lead the squad to their first ever Kings of Rugby tournament title, displacing 2016 winners Mount Kenya University.

The tournament involved sixteen universities playing in five rounds hosted by participating universities throughout the country over a six-week period beginning May 2017. USIU-Africa won the first round played at Dedan Kimathi University of Science and Technology in Nyeri, while the University of Eldoret won the next round played in Voi at Taita Taveta University. The next three rounds were played at Kaimosi Friends University College in Vihiga, Maseno University’s main campus, while the final round was played at the KCB sports club in lieu of the University of Nairobi grounds.

By Dan Muchai

The men’s hockey team has completed the first leg of the Kenya Hockey Union Men’s Premier League with a win against Chase Sailors (2-1) on Wednesday, July 26 at the City Park Stadium.

IBA freshman Brian Kiplimo who set up Victor Chidi’s two goals, and Kenya international goalkeeper Linus Sang were instrumental in sealing the three points for USIU-Africa. Though they are now level with Sikh Union with 22 points each, they remain on sixth position based on goal difference.

By Antonio Longangi

The team has been on a winning streak since their loss to Nairobi Simba a few weeks ago. Since then they have beaten Kenya College of Accountancy (2-0), Western Jaguar (1-0) and were held to a goalless draw against Park Road.

The league’s 32 teams began this season in April, playing 12 matches in the first leg with the final 12 matches for the second leg expected to commence in 3 weeks’ time. Brian Kiplimo is the team’s top scorer with a record of 6 goals.
FEATURE

Importance of an institutional repository ranking

By Eric Charchi

The Ranking Web of World repositories is carried out by the Cybermetrics Lab, a research group that is part of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), the largest public research body in Spain. The objectives of the ranking is to support open access initiatives & free access to academic materials & scientific repositories.

Every six months in January and in June, the Cybermetrics Lab publish their findings on the Webometrics website. Institutional Repositories from all over the world are listed and ranked based on Country & Continent. The most recent edition was released in July 2017, and eight university repositories in Kenya were captured in the rank.

A Treasure Trove
Institutional repositories serve not merely as a bibliographic database, but as a treasure trove of the academic and scientific output of its hosting institution. In other words, the repository should be regarded as the byproduct of academia within the institution as well as the beacon that attracts researchers both within the host institution and in the rest of the world to the academic activities in the institution.

Institutions that tend to score highly in this ranking disseminate a large volume of research outcomes that are then cited and relied upon by scholars. Dissemination may be through publishing in multiple highly re known journals, or presentations at high profile academic conferences. A research oriented institution that produces high quality outcomes attracts the best and brightest research students who as a result add into the institution’s repository leading to a higher profile and rank.

Factors
Factors that Cybermetrics look at include the size of the repository, its visibility and number of subnets referring to it, number of rich files as well as social media shares, as well as amount of indexing on Google Scholar. Therefore institutions that find themselves ranked in a position that is not favorable may need to review their open access policies as well as web policies with a view to increase the volume and quantity of electronic publications.

Institutions that do have repositories, but are not listed may also have to re-think their hosting and domain arrangements to ensure that they are visible and easily reachable by the Webometrics website. Institutions that do not have a repository in place may need to consider setting one up using any number of open source repositories available and utilizing the best practices outlined on the Webometrics website to be ranked.

A vibrant and continuously updated repository containing impactful research that is of high interest and easily cited leads to a higher ranking on the Webometrics website, and thus can be a positive indicator of high research outcomes and output from an institution.

The author is Senior ICT Officer (Webmaster) deployed in the department of Marketing & Communications. He can be reached on email (echarchi@usiu.ac.ke).

MEDIA MENTIONS

24 July - USIU-Africa was mentioned in a story by the Standard titled "Hockey: USIU Spartans in big league victory". 

27 July - USIU Africa was covered in a story by Daily Nation titled "USIU drown Sailors in hockey league". 

EVENTS

Monday, 31 July

Intel Presentation on the Node
10:00 am to 10:30 am
Innovation and Incubation Center, Freida Brown Student Center

Final Semester Exams Begin
9 am