Celebrated academic provides tips on scholarly writing

Prof. Nic Cheeseman (Professor of Democracy and International Development) delivered a guest lecture on “Writing a Scholarly Paper for Publication and how to get Published” on Tuesday, August 1 in the DVC-ASA Boardroom. Looking on (standing) is Prof. Macharia Munene (Professor of History and International Relations).


To date, he has raised over £2 million in research funding for a range of projects. At the same time, he runs a collaborative research program with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy on the Political Economy of Democracy Promotion and is part of the Media, Conflict and Democratization research consortium that is funded by the European Union.

Prof. Nic Cheeseman was invited to speak to the graduate and doctoral students who are commencing their process of preparing academic papers for publishing in peer-reviewed journals. In his lecture, Prof. Cheese-

man began with emphasizing the importance of choosing a topic that is within the author’s niche, and a style that matches the topic being tackled. He requested his audience to select a journal that focuses on the selected area of interest, based on the journal’s previously published articles, and its editors’ published interests. Finally, Prof. Cheeseman underlined the need for a strong introduction if the academic paper is to be seriously considered for publishing.

The Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Tom Onditi who also attended the lecture, thanked Prof. Cheeseman for sparing the time to speak to the students and faculty, while International Relations Program Director Dr. Fatma Ali agreed that there was a significant need for further seminars on academic writing, inviting Prof. Cheeseman back on campus to share his broad academic publishing experience with the students and faculty.
SST host IT stakeholders forum for proposed graduate program

Dr. Njuguna promoted to full professor

During its meeting on July 13, the University Council approved the appointment of Dr. Amos Gitau Njuguna as Professor of Finance in the Chandaria School of Business effective September 1, 2017.

Dr. Njuguna holds a doctorate degree in Finance from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa, an MBA (Finance) from Egerton University, is a Chartered Public Accountant registered in Kenya, and has undertaken post-doctoral studies at the University of California Berkeley.

Dr. Njuguna joined the Chandaria of Business in 2007 as a lecturer, before rising through the ranks of Assistant Professor then to Associate Professor in 2010 and 2013 respectively. Currently, he is the Associate Dean in the Chandaria School of Business.

Dr. Njuguna’s research interests revolve around savings and development of financial products. In the last seven years, he has undertaken seven national research projects in the Kenyan financial services industry as the principal investigator and had the work published in reputable journals. He has also raised research funds, presented papers in conferences, published a book on practical cost accounting and is an editorial board member of the International Journal of Financial Research and the International Journal of Innovation and Business Strategy.

He has also supervised five doctoral students and over one hundred graduate theses and projects, and has been an external examiner of theses and dissertations at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Dr. Amos Njuguna
Associate Dean, Chandaria School of Business

[Photo: Dan Muchai]
University to close during election period

In an end-of-semester email message to the university community, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza announced that the University will remain closed for the first week of the summer break. This will allow members of the university who are Kenyan citizens, to exercise their democratic right to participate in the General Elections scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

From Monday, August 7 to Saturday, August 12, all university offices will remain closed with the exception of the Health Center, which will be partially open on Monday August 7, Thursday, August 10 and Friday, August 11 between 8am and 4pm. However, a clinician will remain on call from August 8-9 to deal with any emergencies.

Employability Report presented to Management Board

Dr. Amos Njuguna elaborates a point during the presentation of the employability report to the Management Board on Wednesday, August 2, 2017. Dr. Njuguna was part of a committee commissioned by the Management Board to investigate how well our graduates are prepared for employment, among other objectives. Among the characteristics USIU-Africa students exhibited most generously were personal organization, basic IT and communication skills. The Employability Report will be officially launched during the Fall 2017 semester.

Security Tips

Cooperate with security agencies which will conduct periodic and random searches on people, vehicles and various hotspots. Do not abuse, obstruct or resist security agents, unnecessarily to avoid unfortunate repercussions.

Observe and comply with these directives restricting movement of people, for personal safety.

Stock required food items during the election period to aid in the unlikely case of emergencies, imposed curfews or other threats that may arise after the elections.

Do not cluster around polling centers and stay away from groups of people, no matter the discussion or incident that brings them together.

Study your polling center and if you notice any disorderly behavior or activities by hooligans then steer clear. Remember that your life matters more than the vote.

Avoid wearing politically branded T shirts, caps or bearing handbills, posters, pamphlets and banners of candidates, especially once the campaign period has closed. This is for your personal safety.

Avoid joining in on inciting discussions at the polling center which may be capable of fanning the embers of political discords amongst the political parties and their agents.

Do not buy drinks, snacks, etc. around polling centers, nor should you share/receive consumables or gifts from anyone at the polling centers.
Intel engineer speaks on high performance computing

Intel Software Engineer Mr. Frederick Odhiambo makes a presentation on High Performance Computing to students, staff and faculty on Monday, July 31 at the Innovation and Incubation Center. The university will host an High Performance Computing Conference themed, Accelerating Research and Innovation in Africa from October 3-5, 2017.

USIU-Africa faculty addresses globalization of Spanish at Chicago Conference

By Javier Serrano

Assistant Professor of Spanish & Literature, Javier Serrano, delivered a keynote address at a plenary session of the Centennial Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) held at the Chicago Hilton Hotel from 6-9 July.

Mr. Serrano, who is the current President of the International Federation of Associations of Teachers of Spanish (FIAPE) – a conglomeration of 18 associations of teachers of Spanish scattered among Africa, America, Asia and Europa, including the Association of Teachers of Spanish-Kenya (ATS-K) – spoke on the impact of the Spanish language has in the United States. The 58 million Spanish-speaking Americans comprise the second-largest language group in the U.S., which in effect makes the United States the second-largest Spanish-speaking population, right after Mexico, and thus the extensive influence of the United States on the future of Spanish.

Since its founding 100 years ago, AATSP has grown to become the oldest and largest of the associations of teachers of Spanish around the world. FIAPE, AATSP and the University of Salamanca are now preparing an International Spanish Conference that will gather over six hundred experts in Salamanca (Spain) from 25-29 June 2018. Mr. Serrano is part of the organizing committee.
Alumnus loses brave battle with brain tumor

By Dan Muchai

Former Mr. USIU Mr. Kevin John Ombajo passed on on Saturday, July 29 after an eleven-year battle against a recurrent brain tumor. Mr. Ombajo joined the university in 1995 as an International Business Administration major, before captaining the bludgeoning USIU-Africa Rugby Football Club in 1996, the same year he was crowned Mr. USIU. He went on to win the national Mr. University title, before representing the country at the Mr. University International pageant in Japan.

In 2001, he founded and became the Chief Executive Officer of event management agency True Blaq with specializing in event management/marketing, concert and party production, video and audio production.

After completing his undergraduate degree in 2006, Mr. Ombajo was back on campus in 2014 when became a member of the Global Executive MBA (now MBA - Global Business Management) program, attending his last class in the Spring semester of 2016.

Multiple surgeries to remove the tumors not only disrupted his studies and occupation, but also eventually led Big Kev – as he was known in the entertainment industry - to lose his sight.

His death led to a huge outpouring of condolences from his fellow alumni, members of the entertainment industry, and the general public including His Excellency the President Uhuru Kenyatta. A service was held at the Nairobi Chapel (Ngong Road) on Thursday, August 3, while the burial ceremony will be held this Saturday, August 5 at his home in Gem, Siaya County.

He is survived by his wife, Tracy and their daughter Shana.
Rest in peace.
Ms. Esther Muchiri 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 Science Center on Thursday, July 13. Ms. Muchiri is the Vice-Chairperson of the Kenya Information Technology and Services (KITOS) and CEO of Adest Bites, an Information Technology Enabled Services/Business Process Outsourcing (ITES/BPO) company that develops web and mobile applications for the SME sector in Kenya. She is also the the founder and Executive Director of eMentoring Africa (eMA), a not-for-profit organization formed to build the capacity of students and youth in Kenya and Africa through online and face to face mentoring platforms.

Members of the Business Association Club attended the Annual Accounting Conference organized by Oshwal College and the Association of Charted Certified Accountants (ACCA) on Friday, 28 July at Oshwal Academy.

Experts from audit firms KPMG East Africa, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Sage One, spoke on the theme “Sculpting our future the hybrid way” with a focus on the correlation between accounting and rapidly-evolving information technology (IT) industry. The theme was developed through sub-topics addressing specific aspects of accounting.

Speaking at the close of the conference, Accounting junior Natalina Leila, described how much the conference meant to her, saying that she, “learnt how to adapt and remain relevant in the accounting industry, in light of the dynamic professional landscape”.

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Media Mentions

2 Aug- The Standard featured one of our students in article titled ‘Dial-A-Dinner: I chased my dreams, tasted failure – but I've got back up’

31 July- The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in article titled ‘Kenya Police ramp up title pressure: Law enforcers, Butali lead the pack in KHU premier league title chase’

30 July– The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in a story titled ‘Vultures scavenge on Sailors: Kenyatta University students get much needed win’
https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/sports/article/2001249703/vultures-scavenge-on-sailors-kenyatta-university-students-get-much-needed-win

28 July- USIU-Africa was mentioned in an article by Daily Nation titled ‘MKU improves its digital publication ranking’

Upcoming Events

Friday, 25 August
Graduate Orientation and Registration
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

August 28 - September 1
Undergraduate Students Orientation
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, 7 September
Graduation Ball
7:00 pm
Villa Rosa Kempinski

Saturday, 9 September
39th Commencement Ceremony
8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Graduation Square, USIU-Africa