VC announces senior appointments

**Professor Wangari Mwai**

*Associate DVC - Student Affairs*

Professor Wangari Mwai (Professor of Literature) is the new Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of the sub-division of Student Affairs. She is the first substantial holder of the position, which was previously held in an acting capacity by Dr. Josephine Arasa (Associate Professor of Psychology).

She reports directly to the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic and Student Affairs Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono, and will oversee the Departments of Admissions, Students Affairs, Counseling Services, Career Services, and the Office of the Registrar.

Prof. Mwai received her Bachelor of Education and an MA (Education) both from the University of Nairobi, while her Doctor of Philosophy (Literature) degree was granted by Maseno University. She also holds an Executive MBA in Business and Leadership from CBS/SMI based in the Swedish capital - Copenhagen.

Her extensive experience in higher education includes serving as Chair of the Department of Languages and Literature at Maseno University for 9 years, and at Kenyatta University as Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science, Director of Kenyatta University’s satellite and offshore campuses, and Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration.

She has also served as Chair of the Association of African Women on Research and Development for 10 years, and as Chair of the Technical Committee for the African Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership, a position she held for 3 years.

A distinguished scholar, Professor Mwai has published six books, numerous research papers in peer reviewed journals and book chapters, and organized and participated in many academic conferences. She has also supervised and mentored dozens of masters and doctoral students, and undertaken several consultancies.

She has received numerous grants for projects such as the establishment of the United Nations Women African Centre for Transformative and Inclusive Leadership and the Young African Leadership Initiative at Kenyatta University. In 2014, Kenya’s President bestowed on her the national honor of the Order of the Grand Warrior.

**Dr. Judith Nyakundi-Obura**

*Director of Finance*

The new Director of Finance is Dr. Judith Nyakundi-Obura, a member of our community for the last few years. Indeed, her Doctor of Business Administration degree was conferred upon her during the 39th Commencement Ceremony held this August. And that’s not all; her BSc in Business Administration (Accounting, graduated Cum Laude) in 2008, and a Master of Business Administration (Finance) in 2010 were all granted by USIU-Africa.

Dr. Obura is a Certified Public Accountant (K) and is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya. Her extensive professional experience includes serving as Divisional Accountant at Capital Group (1999-2000), Forensic Auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick (2001) and in several positions at the Mater Hospital in Nairobi (Senior Financial Accountant, 2001-2005; Management Accountant, 2006-2008; and Financial Accounting Manager, 2008-2015).

In her last position as Finance and Commercial Manager at Business Connexion - Kenya, she was responsible for overall coordination and control of the company’s policies and resources, planning and budgeting functions, assessment and contribution to overall commercial activities of the company, managing the company’s investment portfolio, ensuring organizational compliance with professional and statutory requirements, conducting due diligence in partnership recruitment processes, managing financial and operational risk by establishing and maintaining effective internal control systems, goal setting, and performance appraisal and staff development.

Dr. Nyakundi-Obura has also been an adjunct lecturer at USIU-Africa teaching Cost Accounting, Managerial Accounting and International Managerial Finance courses.

Dr. Obura takes over the Directorship from Chief Accountant Ms. Edith Guchu, who held the position in an acting capacity, and will oversee the Departments of Finance and Procurement.
IE Business School makes presentation on big data

By Victor Mshindi and Dan Muchai

By Leah Ngechu

13 contestants selected for pageant final

By Leah Ngechu
The Emerald Knowledge Ambassadors Best User Institution Trophy awarded to USIU-Africa.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants, Ugandan Mercy Onyango (Journalism, Junior) and Somali Adan Mohammed (Accounting, Sophomore) pose during the ‘couple catwalk’ at the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Freshmen David Kimani (Psychology) and Michelle Wang’ondu (Journalism), pose during the ‘couple Catwalk’ at the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Talent show finalists Mercy Mwiti (IBA Senior), Mercy Onyango (Journalism Junior), and Akual Awer (Criminal Justice Studies Sophomore) presented by the judges to the audience at the conclusion of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants pose as judges announce the names of finalists at the conclusion of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants execute a dance routine choreographed by Dance Club member Ashley Kamau (IR Junior), during the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants execute a dance routine choreographed by Dance Club member Ashley Kamau (IR Junior), in front of a packed auditorium, during the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestant and APT Junior Aakash Barot (right), spurs with a friend while presenting a Gatka demonstration (Sikh martial art) during the talent segment of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants pose during the introduction walk of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants pose during the introduction walk of of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

From left to right: Ruth Muchuki (IBA Sophomore), Joycekayla Kiarie (IR Sophomore), Mercy Mwiti (IBA Junior), Blessing Bakashaba (IR Junior), Mehreen Ahamed (Pharmacy Sophomore), Gebremariam Ecubaygorgis (IR Junior) and Michelle Wang’ondu (Journalism Freshman).

Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa 2017 contestants pose during the introduction walk of of the beauty pageant’s pre-judging event held on Thursday, November 2 in the auditorium.

Photos: Antonio Longangi
Memo: How to Complete Research and Write-Up on TIME

By Azenath Ateka

As a library we are your partner in your academic journey. We care enough to ensure that we have the right books and papers, in the right format and that the library spaces make your learning and research experience enjoyable.

In addition to the resources we provide, your ability to focus on the right tasks at the right time, the capacity to work quickly to meet your targets, and the knack of seeing each job through to a conclusion will determine your success. In short, you need good time-management skills.

As a student or up-coming researcher, you will need to balance the time you devote to your research, family, paid work and social activities.

Time management is a skill that can be developed like any other. Relatively simple routines and tips could help you improve your organization, prioritization and time keeping. The following are some ideas you may find useful:

1. Diaries/Calendars

Whether maintained as a hard-bound book or in an electronic device, a diary or a calendar is the obvious way to keep track of your day-to-day schedule and deadlines.

- For lengthy tasks, work your way back from key dates, creating milestones such as finish library work for ... prepare first draft for section...
- Refer to the diary in advance to stay on track and plan out each day or week.
- Try to get to the habit of looking at the next day's activities the night before.
- Number the weeks so that you can sense how time is moving over long periods e.g. term or semester.

2. Timetables

When you have a lengthy task like researching or writing up a paper/thesis, constructing a timetable of activities can be useful. It helps to ensure that you take into account all the aspects of the project by:

- Breaking the task to be done into smaller parts
- Spacing these out appropriately
- Scheduling important work for when you generally feel most intellectually active (e.g. early morning)

Tip: To avoid rushing things because the unexpected has happened, introduce empty slots into your timetable.

3. Listing and Prioritizing

Sometimes, you may have a number of activities that need to be done. To have a good picture of what needs to be done:

- Write the task down as a list each day.
- Rank the tasks by numbering them 1,2,3... from 'important and urgent' to 'neither important nor urgent'
- Each day try to complete as many of the listed tasks as possible, starting with number 1.
- Carry over any uncompleted tasks to the next day and add new ones to the list, and start again.

***This technique works best for the practical aspects of researching. Once you get to the writing phase, it becomes less easy to apply list-making.

Tip: To decide on your priorities distinguish between important and urgent. Important implies some assessment on the benefits of completing a task while urgent relates to the length of time before the task must be completed.

4. Routines and Good Work Habits

Many people find that doing specific tasks at special periods of day or week helps them get things done on time. You may have to add research related activities to your list of routines e.g making Monday evening a time for literature searching in the library.

Good work habits can help with time management:

- Do important work when you are at your most productive.
- Make the most of scraps of time like when travelling or before going to bed to jot down ideas, edit work or make plans.
- Keep your documents organized to avoid wasting time looking for stuff.
- Make sure you always have a plan. Having a plan for academic research or writing helps to clarify the likely structure behind your efforts.
- Extend your working day. Rising earlier or sleeping later can provide extra hours to help you achieve a short term goal.
- Allocate a specific day each week for 'housekeeping' your research. Taking time to audit your achievements and progress of the past week and anticipate your next steps can stimulate your planning for the next week.

Tip: Set yourself an artificial deadline that is well before the submission deadline. That way you will have ample time to review, correct and improve the quality of your work.

Best-selling author addresses alumni

By Beatrice Munyiva

The Alumni Association led by the Chairperson, Ms. Dorothy Sagwe-Onyoni (IBA '98) invited Carlos Gomez, an international best-selling author, to give a talk on authentic leadership to alumni at a roundtable forum held on Tuesday, October 24 at The Mint Hub. The talk was attended by around 25 alumni in senior managerial positions across several graduating classes.

In his talk, Mr. Gomez highlighted the importance of purposeful living and reiterated that individuals should make changes and choices that bring about clarity of purpose in their lives. He also pointed out that leaders should be able to understand and lead themselves first in order to lead others. He encouraged those in attendance to develop a habit of reflecting on their life, so that they can become better leaders to others. He said that thinking selflessly about oneself gives an individual more energy to lead others.

The participants were also addressed by one of their own - Moses Mwaura (MBA, '97) - whose talk was on the four quarters of life. He clearly explained that each quarter that one goes through in life is different from the other and has its own experiences and challenges. During the first quarter, decisions are made for an individual, while subsequent quarters provide individuals with a chance to make their own decisions. He also emphasized that changes and choices made in each quarter, have a direct impact on the next quarter and thus the need to make informed decisions.

The forum provided alumni with an opportunity to network with their fellow alumni, make new friends as well as rekindle old friendships.

Tip: If you are not sure you are using your time optimally, you might want to keep a detailed record for a short period so as to identify less productive time and how it happened.

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Career services available to all

By Cecilia Mweru

USIU-Africa promises an “Education to take you places”. This means that students benefit from exposure not only to outstanding programs and faculty, but also to career advising and placement opportunities which enable them practice what they have learnt and grow to become game changers.

Whether it’s in the area of choosing a major, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, job search skills training, mentorship, placement and networking events, the Department of Career Services, is a one-stop shop for these and more.

Many students enroll into university undecided about what subject to choose as a major, and even if they have already declared a particular program during their matriculation, doubt still exists in their minds as to whether the program they have chosen is truly the “right” one for them. Other students enroll into university with a sense of direction and purpose only to change their minds when they delve more into the subject area or when they are exposed to options they never knew existed. Such situations are critical and need to be managed professionally. Career advisors are willing and available to take you through such moments.

There has been a tendency for students to postpone consulting Career Services until their senior year when there is inadequate time to fully benefit from the programs that Career Services has designed towards increasing their employability.

It is important for students to realize that the choices and experiences they engage in during their campus journey, will greatly impact the career options available to them after graduation. Since it is impossible to mention all of the services available at Career Services, students are encouraged to make time and visit their offices at the Freida Brown Student Center.

Becoming a ‘familiar face’. Volunteering during the annual Career Fair, attending our workshops, activation of a CareerLink profile, CV review or simply reviewing job vacancies emailed by Career Services all count towards preparing one for life after campus.

There are a couple of oft-quoted sayings, “Opportunity meets preparedness”, and “Failing to plan is planning to fail”. Guess what - we have a four year plan for how to spend one’s time on campus! All members of our community are welcome to drop in at our offices at the Freida Brown Student Center, where our staff will provide them with information and assistance to plan for a career they love. Career counselors are available on email (careeroffice@usiu.ac.ke) or phone: (0730116778/796/803), every weekday between 8am and 5pm.
The Sport Office will be launching the first ever Open Runs basketball development program this Monday, November 6 at the USIU-Africa basketball court. The Open Runs development program was designed to train students with or without prior skills, to achieve proficiency in playing basketball.

The Open Runs consist of 12 classes where students will be introduced to the history of basketball, the rules of the game, then they will head to the court for basic and fundamental skills, and the execution of tactical plays. Beyond just the game, the program is designed to facilitate learning and personal development, building lasting friendships and networks, freeing exclusive strength, and developing team dynamics applicable to any other career path.

According to the coach, Mr. Harrison Kaudia, the program is expected to appeal to first-time freshmen, given the low entry requirements, and encourage them to begin a journey of self-discovery, as well as expose them to the potential opportunities presented by sports in general, and basketball in particular.

Coach Kaudia’s added that the expansion of the American National Basketball Association (NBA) programs in Africa is one step to greater career promises in basketball on the continent. “Through this program USIU-Africa will discover and nature more talents not only for the university but for the future of basketball in Africa” he concluded.

The program will engage alumni, playing professional basketball, in some of its activities every Monday and Wednesday at the campus basketball court, while clinic, games and tournaments will be held on Fridays. It will also prepare students for the 2018 D-League (in March 2018) and/or the 2018 College team tryouts (February 2018), and plug into the Junior NBA International Program following the work already undertaken by the Sport Office with officials from the NBA.

### MEDIA MENTIONS

Compiled by Diana Meso


- **20 October:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Kenya sides off to Egypt for Nations Cup.” [http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1188-daily-nation-kenya-sides-off-to-egypt-for-nations-cup](http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1188-daily-nation-kenya-sides-off-to-egypt-for-nations-cup)