

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

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11 - 17 NOVEMBER 2017

University leaders convene for annual retreat

By Helen Ombima



USIU-Africa Board of Trustees, University Council and Management Board at the 2017 Annual retreat at Windsor Golf Hotel and Country club.

USIU-Africa's leader convened for an annual retreat from 10-12 November at Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club, Nairobi to discuss various matters of strategic importance and enterprise significance. The theme for this year's Retreat was *"Enhancing Institutional Capital: Recruitment, Resources, Reputation & Responsibility."*

This year's retreat was preceded by the first ever in-house Orientation session for the Board of Trustees and members of the University Council. The session, held on Thursday, November 9 featured presentations from the members of the Management Board on various issues to warrant them a better sense of the university's points of lights (Distinctiveness, Successes and Challenges), provide clear separation of roles and fiduciary responsibilities, place the Management Board in a position that inspires confidence and encourage both the Board & Council members to empower and support the Management Board.

Vice Chancellor University of Witwatersrand, Professor Adam Habib engaged participants in an interactive session where emerging issues in the higher education sector like research, student aid and differentiation, arguments for and against the value proposition were highlighted. Director, Fundraising at University of Manchester, Mr. Alex Hyde-Parker gave a presentation on the university's preparedness for launching a capital campaign while the Vice Chancellor Radford University College, Ghana, Dr. Paul Effah walked the members through issues of governance and effective leadership pointing out the need to provide targeted information for strategic decision-making.

The members were also taken through a through an engaging and enlightening presentation on building an organization's reputation in the digital age by USIU-Africa alumni and Brand2D CEO, Dan Nduati and Nendo Founder ,Mark Kaigwa.

The retreat also marked a transition at the University Council where Professor Crispus Kiamba was elected as the Chair of the University Council. He takes over from Dr. Lola Odubekun who has successfully steered the University Council through the transition to a two-tier governance structure. Mr. Kris Senanu was elected Vice Chair of the University Council and retains his position as Chair of the Finance/Budget & Development Committee and Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng replaces Prof. Crispus Kiamba as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the University Council. This year's retreat also hosted a dinner in honor of USIU-Africa Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria and is the first in a series of activities aimed at celebrating Dr. Chandaria's immense contribution to the institution.

Eminent scholars and researchers gather for annual research conference

By Salome Asena and Carol Yogo

The School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension organized the fourth East African Multidisciplinary Applied Research Conference (EAMARC4) from November 14-16. The conference whose theme was “Sustainable Development Goals: Role of Research, Innovation and Capacity Building.” brought together distinguished researchers, different industry practitioners, professionals and students to share findings from their applied research along with experiences, achievements and challenges in their respective areas of proficiency

The conference was opened with a keynote address from former World Bank Director for Social and Political Pillars Prof. Gituro Wainaina, following brief opening remarks from the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, and the Conference Convener and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension Prof. Amos Njuguna.

The first day was dominated by a Professional Development Workshop, which was designed to facilitate researchers in publishing. A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Juliana Namada, Assistant Professor of Strategic Management, featured editors from leading journals, who provided insights into publication and submission processes of various journals. The panel comprised Prof. Zakary Awino Bolo, Editor in Chief, Africa Management Review (AMR), Prof. Ntayi Joseph, Editor and Reviewer of various International Journal in Emerald Network, in International Research for Public Procurement (IRPP); Innovation and Technology Management; Supply Chain Management, Prof. Vincent Bagire, Assistant Editor African Journal of Management (AJOM) and Africa Guest Editor for Transnational Journal of Business, Mr. Kennedy Auma: President of Medical Records Institute (MRI), Managing Editor: African Journal of Health Information Systems (AJHIS) and Prof. Barbara Hernandez, Director of Physician Vitality, Loma Linda University, School of Medicine, USA.

Another panel comprising Professor of French Prof. Kang’ethe Iraki (Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa hosted by African Journals Online), Prof. Jennifer Orwa (Director, Resource Development & Knowledge Management, Kenya Medical Research Institute; Editor in Chief, Pharmaceutical Journal of Kenya), Prof. Dickson Andala (Editor in Chief for Kenya Chemical Society Journal) and Prof. Brian Distelberg (Director of Research, Loma Linda University), shared their own successes and challenges, and provided their own experiences on scholarly and academic development.

To enhance the conference and fully engage participants to reflect on the Sustainable Development Goals, day two kicked off with a roundtable discussion on linking academia and industry. The panel of Dr. Habil Olaka (DBA, '17; CEO, Kenya Bankers Association,) Ms. Ruth Canagarajah (Associate, Busara Center for



Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono (Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic & Student Affairs) delivers her remarks during the closing session of the Fourth East African Multidisciplinary Research Conference held from November 14-16, 2017 at the Chandaria School of Business. Looking on are (from left): Prof. Amos Njuguna (Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension, and Conference Convener), Prof. Munyae Mulinge (Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs), Dr. George Achoki (Associate Professor of Accounting) and Ms. Flora Mutahi (Chairlady, Kenya Association of Manufacturers). Photo: Antonio Longangi

Behavioral Economics) and Mr. Fredrick Riaga (Chief Manager - Public Policy and Research, Institute of Certified Public Accountants), was moderated by Assistant Professor of Finance Dr. Elizabeth Kalunda and Assistant Professor of Strategic Management Dr. Joyce Ndegwa.

49 papers ranging from strategic management, entrepreneurship, health & welfare, ICT, leadership, governance, management, arts and culture, education, Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), environmental sustainability, finance and accounting were presented on day two and three of the conference, facilitated by faculty from four schools at USIU-Africa.

Keynote remarks at the closing ceremony were delivered by Ms Florah Mutahi (Chairlady, Kenya Association of Manufacturers) attended by Amb. Prof. Ruth Rono (Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic and Student Affairs; Professor of Psychology), Prof. Munyae Mulinge (Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs; Professor of Sociology), Prof. Amos Njuguna (Professor of Finance) and Dr. George Achoki (Associate Professor of Accounting).

USIU-Africa hosts local university officials for leadership training

By Maureen Ochola

USIU-Africa hosted a one of a kind Capacity Strengthening Workshop for University Leadership on Monday, November 13 at the Freida Brown Student Center. The inter-varsity workshop targeted newly recruited Deans, Associate Deans, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Associate Vice Chancellors and other senior university officials from Africa Nazarene University, Kenyatta University, Mt. Kenya University, Pan African Christian University and USIU-Africa.

The workshop was facilitated by Strathmore University Dean School of Management and Commerce Dr. David Wang’ombe, Radford University College, Accra Vice Chancellor Dr. Paul Effah, and USIU-Africa’s Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and focused on how universities identify challenges and opportunities for success to enhance their management and leadership competencies.

The training was structured along the highly successful Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) workshop held in October in Malawi, which attracted dozens of Deans and Vice Chancellors from universities across the African continent. RUFORUM is a consortium of 85 African universities operating within 35 countries in Africa, that aims to strengthen the capacities of universities by fostering innovations in response to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments.



Prof. Paul Effah (Vice Chancellor, Radford University College, Ghana) makes a presentation during the Capacity Strengthening Program for University Leadership Workshop on Monday, November 13 at the Freida Brown Student Center. Photo: Dan Muchai

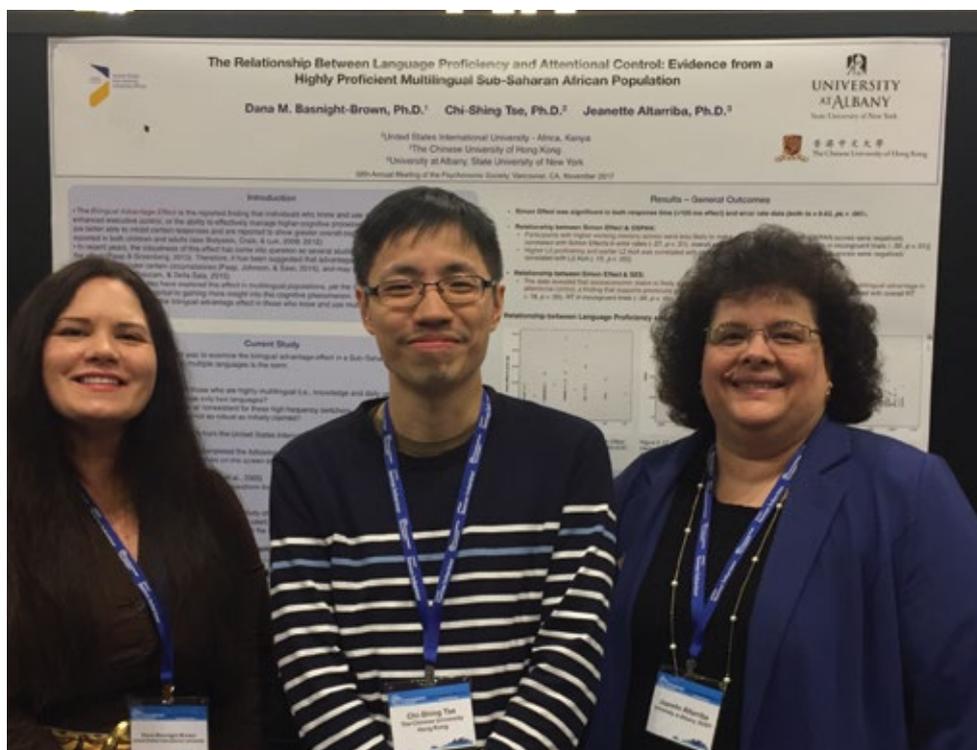
Dr. Brown presents collaborative research at psychonomics conference

By Jackline Chirchir

Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Dana Basnight Brown from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences made a presentation at the 58th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, held from November 9-12 at the Vancouver Convention Centre in Canadian city of Vancouver. The presentation titled *"The relationship between language proficiency and attentional control: Evidence from a highly proficient multilingual Sub-Saharan African population"*, focused on the controversial *"Bilingual Advantage"* effect.

"The conference represents the premier conference for cognitive researchers and brings together those who are using neuroscience, computational methods, and behavioral research to better understand mental processing," said Dr. Brown, adding that "Members of this society tend to focus on the science of behavior in areas like memory, decision making, learning, action planning, perception, and language."

The presentation was a joint effort between Prof. Chi-Shing Tse from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Jeanette Altarriba from the University of Albany, State University of New York. According to Dr. Brown, "...this reflects the role research has in bringing like-minded people together to make a global impact."



USIU-Africa's Professor Dana Basnight Brown with her co-authors Professor Chi-Shing Tse from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Professor Jeanette Altarriba from the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Graduate psychology program students meet alumni to discuss publishing

By Jackline Chirchir

USIU-Africa's alumni and students in the Graduate Psychology program held an interactive session on Thursday, November 9 at an inaugural PsyD students' peer-led forum. The informal meet and greet forum themed *"Get Published"* saw students receiving first hand tips on the steps to get doctoral dissertation and journal articles published. Those in attendance were also enlightened on how to merge clinical work with research so as to create intervention studies to resolve psychological problems in the society.

The PsyD program boasts of five cohorts to date of which Dr. Roselynn K. Webbo, PsyD, MA Counseling Psychology and Dr. Nancy Nyaga, PsyD, MA Counseling Psychology from the class of 2017 have been absorbed as adjunct faculty.

International Relations alumna named 2018 Rhodes Scholar

By Jackline Chirchir

Ruth Nyakerario (International Relations- Magna Cum Laude, '17) is one of two Kenyan recipients of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, where she has been accepted to pursue a Master's degree in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting outstanding all-round students at the University of Oxford, and provide transformative opportunities for exceptional individuals. The Rhodes Trust provides the Rhodes Scholarships in partnership with Second Century Founder, John McCall MacBain and other generous benefactors.

The scholars are chosen by selection committees who seek young women and men of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, and who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as leaders for the world's future. A class of 95 Scholars is selected each year. So competitive is the annual intake that, in Kenya, Ms. Nyakerario was one of 8 shortlisted candidates out of 150 applicants.

While in USIU-Africa, Ms. Nyakerario developed a keen interest in research on displacement, forced migration and homelessness, which led her to co-found in her sophomore year, Out of the Street



Ruth Nyakerario

Foundation – a community-based organization involved in the rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment of street children in Nairobi.

The selection committee also considered her involvement in several international relations forums here at USIU-Africa, such as the Harvard National Model United Nations. Currently, Ruth works as a Research Assistant in addition to running an online book club whose main goal is to read works from authors from all over Africa.



On Wednesday, November 15 H.E. Dr. Mohammed Khayat, Saudi Ambassador to Kenya paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza in his boardroom. The one-hour meeting discussed areas of mutual interest, including possible collaborations in the areas of research in agriculture, oil extraction, as well as scholarships programs offered by the Saudi Arabian government through universities from the Kingdom. The Vice Chancellor expressed his sincere hope that together the Saudi government and USIU-Africa will work together to develop higher education teaching capacity in Kenya and the region. Later on, the ambassador met with Prof. Amos Njuguna (Dean – School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension) and made a brief tour of the campus. From left: Mr Bandar Khalil (Consular Services Officer, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia), H.E. Dr. Mohammed Khayat, Prof. Paul Zeleza and Mr George Owidhi (Head of Section - Economic Affairs, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia). Photo: Dan Muchai

USIU-Africa hosts IBM Open Day

By Victor Mshindi

USIU-Africa IT Club on Friday, November 17 in partnership with IBM organized an open day for students, faculty and staff, which took place at the Science Center Lecture Theatre III. The IBM open day aimed to introduce participants to IBM technologies and inform them of opportunities available at IBM. Some of the opportunities discussed were the IBM academic initiative that provides students IBM resources such as IBM Cloud, IBM security, IBM Watson among others. These resources open new possibilities in research for students in fields such as cyber security, blockchain technology, artificial intelligence just to name a few.

In addition to this, a presentation by IBM was given on cognitive computing and cyber security, the speakers highlighted the importance of cyber security because of the rising threats that exist as a result of cybercrime and the possibilities in cognitive computing.

Cognitive computing is a term coined by IBM and is used to refer to the use of technology and algorithms to extract concepts, insights and relationships from data. Students were also provided with guidelines on applying for jobs at IBM Kenya, this advice included how to write a CV as an IT student, how to prepare for the workspace and what extracurricular activities to focus on while in campus that will help you stand out.



IBM's University Relations Lead, Mr. John Matogo speaks at the IBM Open Day held at USIU-Africa this Friday, November 17. Photo by Antonio Longangi

Ravalia & Advait Joshi, presented their air pollution project which uses sensors such as smoke detectors to detect air pollutants, the data is then processed to determine air quality, air pollution and gain other insights.

Another APT student Leo Githigi also presented his project which was a Facebook messenger chat bot that makes use of natural language processing and computer vision. Natural language processing is a

filed in computer science and a subset of artificial intelligence that deals with the application of computational techniques to analyse and synthesise natural language and speech.

Computer vision is similar to natural language processing but instead deals with analysis and understanding of information obtained from a sequence of images or a single image.

HR announces three vacancies



Senior ICT Officer (Multimedia Services)

The successful candidate will be charged with the responsibility of providing direction for all hardware and software systems that deliver multimedia services to the university community, and the management of unit members of the multimedia team. He/she will report to the Director of ICT.

Student Affairs Officer (Club Coordination)

The successful candidate will provide oversight of the implementation of approved club activities, collection and publishing of data on club activities and dissemination/enforcement of policies in a manner that will result in the development of life skills of the students engaged in club activities and in upholding the positive image of the university. He/She will report to the Senior Student Affairs Officer (Clubs).

Student Affairs Officer (Sports Coordination)

The successful candidate will be responsible for promoting sports and skills development, and oversight of student participation in sports. She/he will distribute information among sports participants and organize sport-related projects, classes, programs, coaching, club development and training. This position reports to the Assistant Sports Coordinator.

For details on the key responsibilities, minimum educational and professional qualifications, expected skills, personal attributes and competencies, please visit our website: www.usiu.ac.ke/jobs.

If you meet the requisite minimum qualifications and experience, please send a cover letter, a current resume, appropriate certificates and any other relevant testimonials addressed to the Director of Administration on email: jobs@usiu.ac.ke or, by hand to the Office of the Director of Administration, on or before Friday, November 24, 2017.

Model African Union simulation to be held on campus

By Antonio Longangi

The USIU-Africa International Relations program will be hosting a Model African Union Simulation on Friday, November 24 at the campus auditorium. The simulation organized by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS) provides a platform for students to enhance their engagement in diplomatic discussion as well as their debate skills in line with the African Union Rules of Procedure.

The simulation will discuss *“Youth for Africa: Addressing Issues That Hamper Development of African Countries”* and will facilitate diplomatic discussion on international issues with a focus on Africa, exploring the complexity of African issues in relation to development. It will also promote the awareness of global issues, the role of major international and regional organizations, with an emphasis on the African Union.

“The simulation is no different from a real life African Union general assembly, the only difference is that the

focus will be on learning” commented SHSS Representative to the Student Affairs Council Mr. Kadidi Adam.

Director of the African Affairs department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Purity Muhindi is expected to deliver a keynote address on *“The current position and role of Kenya regarding African issues.”*

Having been a significant player in the Kenya Model United Nations and the Harvard National Model United Nations USIU-Africa equips students with practical skills and expose them to diplomatic discussions aligned to a global perspective.

Students are encouraged to contact Mr. Kadidi on email: akadid@usiu.ac.ke for further clarification.

Beauty pageant hopes to raise KES 1.14 million for charity during final

By Antonio Longangi

This year's beauty pageant Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa finals will be held on Thursday, November 23 at the CK Square, Two Rivers Mall. Hosted by the Student Affairs Council, the event will seek to raise an additional KES 1.14 million that will get the team closer to this year's fundraising target of KSH 4 million. The proceedings will be directed to Al Tawoon Education Center located in the informal settlement of Korogocho, Nairobi that lacks basic infrastructure for proper learning

“The team is not close to the target and that's why we have to put all our efforts into this final event” said Sites and Logistics Officer of the organizing committee, Polly Gitau. “There was also lack of massive support from corporations that normally sponsor the pageant but we believe it is still possible to get closer to our target” she concluded.

Apart from the event being a conclusion of the fundraising activities, it also marks the end of the search for the next Mr. and Miss USIU-Africa and other

title holders of the beauty pageant. The other title holders will be the Mr. and Miss USIU-Africa first and second runners up, followed respectively by the Mistery and Misses Congeniality, talent and community service.

The evening will feature various presentations from the 16 contesting students who made it through the pre-judging on November 2.

Tickets to the event are available for purchase at the entrance to the Cafeteria, or by contacting the organizing committee on email: mrandmiss@usiu.ac.ke.

High Performance Computing for USIU-Africa

By Victor Mshindi

Can High Performance Computing change the way we do research in Universities and is it the future? High performance computing involves the use of super computers and parallel processing technology, with the aim of achieving higher performance in comparison to performance that could be delivered from a single computing device. High performance computing allows us to solve complex computational problems that makes it possible to harness data, advance research and find insights. Through data analysis, simulation and computer modeling we are able to solve these problems and implement solutions in different disciplines such as biosciences, oil and gas industry, media & entertainment among others.

High performance isn't the future but is a key part of it, this is because the world is becoming more data driven and is currently experiencing a data explosion- every day 2.5 quintillion bytes of data is produced (and that's 2.5 million to the power of six). To put that into perspective that is equivalent to five hundred and thirty million songs or one hundred and fifty million iPhones or two hundred and fifty thousand Libraries of Congress.

Businesses can analyze and harness such data by employing the use of big data and using insights gained to make business decisions, to research new products and increase efficiency.

Big data is enormously large data sets that can be analysed using computers and complex algorithms to reveal patterns, trends and associations in different areas from human behaviour to weather partners.

Secondly the world is about to experience a fifth industrial revolution and Artificial Intelligence is expected to be an integral part of this revolution. Artificial Intelligence (AI) stems from the idea of humans being able to create "smart" machines that mimic or simulate human intelligence. This is achieved through such processes as learning, reasoning, and self-correction. Examples of AI can be seen in speech and image recognition applications. Using High performance computing will therefore allow us to

make better algorithms, meaning more breakthroughs in the field, as well as democratize artificial intelligence by making it available to anyone who wants to learn or use it.

HPC also has an important role to play in academia by helping to solve complex research projects that require simulating large assemblies or analyzing large data sets. Not only is it important that students and faculty can improve their research but it is also key that students can begin to prepare for tomorrow's careers and solve some of the world's greatest problems. Beyond being used in student and faculty research HPC can also be used at USIU - Africa to solve some of our own problems, increase efficiency and drive decisions. One example of its potential use is at the transport department. All buses at USIU-Africa record speed & location in real time, this data is then stored on the cloud. Using HPC we could deploy data analysis algorithms that would allow us to gain insights on traffic and driver performance. This would then allow us to optimize routes used by drivers to save on time and fuel, help drivers improve their performance and even reduce minor accidents. This solution could then be applied to the transport industry to help improve fleet and traffic management while reducing minor and major accidents caused by poor driving.

Another example of potential HPC application on campus is at cafeteria. The cafeteria uses a POS system that manages sales and also stores sales data, manually analyzing this data to gain insights would either take too long or lead to weak assumptions and poor decisions.

However, using the HPC coupled with data analysis algorithms and models we could crunch all the data in a few weeks, analyze patterns and gain meaningful insights. These insights would allow the cafeteria to run their operations while optimizing for demand, thus ensuring customers get better service, quality food and therefore reduce losses experienced due to food wastage.

Feature: The importance of exfoliating

By Brigit Mulwa (B. Pharmacy Junior)

Technically, exfoliation is the act of scrubbing off dead skin cells and exposing the healthier skin underneath. It's a sort of 'Spring Cleaning' of the skin that can and should be done as often as your skin requires.

Though exfoliating is very effective in removing dry skin flakes from the surface of the skin, there is actually another plus to it. The process of exfoliation rids the skin of dullness by removing dead cells from the surface of the epidermis (skin). By removing surface flakes and dead cells, your pores become unclogged resulting in a smoother and cleaner appearance, smaller pore sizes and a glowing complexion.

Exfoliating also improves the skin texture by speeding up the skin renewal process allowing healthy cells to take their place. This makes your face to even appear brighter.

It also increases absorption capacity and this is especially key for those who use make-up. The unclogging of pores makes it easier for the skin to absorb substances like moisture. Exfoliation also enhances the functions of products such as skin serum and sunscreen.

What can be used to exfoliate?

When exfoliating one should always try go natural by using home-based exfoliators, such as the readily-available baking soda which is a perfect exfoliators for sensitive skin. Unlike other home

exfoliators, it's not mixed with other things. Honey is equally useful, not only for its antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties, but also for its ability to be readily combined with other exfoliators. Some of the combinations include honey and oatmeal, honey and sugar etc.

Sugar can be used as a home exfoliator too as it is a source of glycolic acid which boosts new cell production and breaks down the proteins that keep dead cells hanging onto skin. Sugar can be combined with massage oils (olive oil, jojoba oil, etc.) to make a paste.

Oatmeal is another perfect exfoliator for sensitive skin. It is an anti-inflammatory as well as moisturizer and works well when mixed with yoghurt or honey.

Chemical-based products should be avoided at all costs, as they tend to be harmful to delicate skin. Indeed, the facial area is quite delicate, and thus should not be subjected to physical scrubs.

A tip to remember

Without exfoliating, there is little point in applying a moisturizer to the skin. Think of your skin as a sponge. If a sponge is covered in residue, it will become less effective for absorption, and so is our skin. Only when the skin surface is free of dead cells and flakiness, can the moisturizer fulfill its purpose - retain moisture

MEDIA MENTIONS



17 October: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Play-offs action starts November 4."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1167-daily-nation-play-offs-action-starts-november-4>

16 October: UISU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled "MY HUSTLE: How I bounced back after losing my basketball dream."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1166-daily-nation-my-hustle-how-i-bounced-back-after-losing-my-basketball-dream>

12 October: The Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in article title "Local Comedy Mirrors Kenya's Political Drama."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1165-business-daily-local-comedy-mirrors-kenya-s-political-drama>

9 October: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Bounty Kenyan harvest from Fiba Zone 5 tourney."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1164-daily-nation-bounty-kenyan-harvest-from-fiba-zone-5-tourney>

8 October: UISU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled "University of J'Burg retains Kings of Rugby 7s crown."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1163-daily-nation-university-of-j-burg-retains-kings-of-rugby-7s-crown>

8 October: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Echenje finally makes cut as Nations Cup teams are named."

<http://www.usiu.ac.ke/on-campus/news/media-mentions/1162-daily-nation-echenje-finally-makes-cut-as-nations-cup-teams-are-named>