USIU-Africa hosts first TEDx event on campus

By Antonio Longangi

Last Saturday, November 25, the University hosted “TEDx Ridgeways” — a local self-organized event where live TED-like talks and videos previously recorded at a TED Conference are shared with the community. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, started as a four-day conference in California 30 years ago. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection.

TEDxRidgeways was themed “A cry from a silent room… ideas from untold stories”, and hosted by Ms Victoria Rubadiri (Senior Anchor, NTV). It offered a stage for nine speakers speaking on the following main topics: “Ideas that have been overlooked/ forgotten; Addressing challenges facing the audience that have not been shared or spoken of; and Addressing problems that exist but ignored.”

One after the other, speakers took the red carpeted stage in three interconnected sessions.

In the first session, 12 years old Alex Kariuki - a young boy passionate about science and history, spoke on the sub-theme “Lost in the Maze” where he advocated for a particular attention toward the issues faced by the boy child. He suggested a mentorship program and rehabilitation process that sets a new path for drowning in drug abuse.

From her talk - Beyond a Fairy Tale - Rozmina Rana, a DBA candidate and current Managing Director of Dormans Coffee Limited, shared her personal story through which she underlined her change of perspective as starting point for personal and professional success. 11 year-old Raniah Oyatta shared her progress toward leadership based on the willingness to help others, under the sub-theme My type of Leadership.

During the second session, alumna Wangari Muikia Director and Principal Consultant at Expertise Global), argued that young professionals are misunderstood, “All that millennials need is to feel valued and appreciated, pay is a secondary factor”. She emphasized that, instead, they should be well-mentored and valued.

Professional writer and blogger Njeru Mucheru during her session differentiated between “Worthless mentality versus (Continued on next page >>)
Priceless mentality”. According to Ms. Mucheru, a priceless mentality is what it takes to pull one out of a difficult situation- “With a Worthless Mentality I lived a life I thought I was supposed to live, with a Priceless Mentality I live a life I know I want to live.”

Mr. John-Allan Namu (Journalism, ‘09 and Winner, CNN/Multichoice African Journalist of the Year Award - 2009) is the CEO/Editorial Director at Africa Uncensored. His talk focused on “Why good journalism must be at the heart of our future”. In his view, the lack of objective truth raises a question “if the stories we are telling are not changing lives what are we telling them for?” Mr. Namu placed the onus for telling the African story on his audience, urging them to adhere to the three tenets of good journalism: to inform, educate, entertain. This, he concluded is the only way to “…build our identity as no one else will do it for us”.

Award-winning documentary photographer, Amunga Eshuchi, discussed the value of “Context is Freedom”, where he described how context frames content to emphasize the importance of a narrative’s base. Mr. Charles Murito (Country Manager for Google and Acting MD & Chief Commercial Officer, Programming at Wananchi Group’s Zuku), discussed “Be more selfish… and care for others”. He invited the audience to look at poverty from a solution-based perspective that benefits the community.

Next on stage was Oltesh Thobias, Chief Regional Procurement Officer of the African Development Bank. Mr. Oltesh shared lessons he learned from his five years struggle with high levels of cholesterol that he was able to beat in only three months. He based his success on consistency, sacrifice and support calling his audience to remember that their health should be their wealth.

Closing the series of talks on the same health subject, Dr. Nyachira Muthiga, medical doctor and host of the storytelling platform “Own Your Story” shared on the state of emotional preparedness in the medical field. “Feelings for Who made the little of the tale of her professional experience with emotions in the medical field. “With the right preparation there is a place for young female doctors, who can work and relate well with patients and society” she said.

At the end of the talk, Principal Alumni Relations Officer, Mr. Uvyu Mbole, thanked the participants before inviting the organizer and Curator, alumna Grace Mdemu to introduce her team. She added that more TEDx talks will be held at USIU-Africa, given the success of this first event.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has a new Dean – Prof. Njeri Wamae took up her new appointment from Friday, December 1, prior to which she was Professor of Parasitology, at the Mount Kenya University School of Medicine. Professor Wamae received her Bachelor of Science in Parasitology and Medical Entomology at Bowling Green State University, in the USA, while her Master of Science in Public Health and PhD in Parasitology were both received from at Tulane University, also in the USA.

She is a distinguished scholar - to date, Professor Wamae has published over seventy publications of which about sixty are in peer-reviewed journals, supervised nineteen post graduate students, engages in reviewing manuscripts for various local and international journals, and has served on consultations such as for the World Health Organization.

As an eminent researcher, Prof. Wamae has been the Chairperson - National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (2014-2017), founding Dean - Directorate of Research and Development at Kenya Methodist University, Founding Director - Eastern and Southern Africa Centre of International Parasite Control, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), as well as various other positions in KEMRI, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA, and Nagasaki University Institute of Tropical Medicine.

She also holds numerous professional certificates in such areas as strategic leadership and program development, scientific communication and publishing, impact evaluation, project management, corporate governance, and finance.

Professor Wamae is also the recipient of the Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) - one of Kenya’s top national honors - bestowed by His Excellency the President, for distinguished service to the nation, in 2015. Among the projects the new Dean will oversee is the introduction of the School’s second academic program - Bachelor of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics - who’s first intake will be in the Summer Semester, and which cements the university’s growing portfolio of health sciences.

She takes over from Dr. Apollo Maima, who has provided leadership to the School since its inception in 2015.
The USIU-Africa hostels hosted their annual award ceremony on Saturday, November 25 in the auditorium. The event was held to recognize outstanding residents and their contribution to the hostel environment.

Over 25 awards were offered in categories ranging from Best Resident Assistant, Best GPA for the different years of study, Most Valuable Player (male and female) in sport, and best members of the Dean’s Residents’ Advisory Board (DRAB) and Entertainment Committee.

Speaking during the ceremony Housing Manager Mr. Michael Kisilu commended the residents for making the hostel “a home away from home”, and for their collective contributions of KES 20 000 raised to support Compassionate Neighbors Children’s Home. He also introduced the Department of Housing’s newest member – Housing Officer Mr. Bonface Inganga.

The event concluded with a celebration of those residents celebrating their birthdays in November, and those departing the hostels at the end this semester.

The following are some of the interview tips gathered from the session that will help you prepare for and execute interviews:

**Arrive on Time, Relaxed and Prepared for the Interview**

There is no excuse for arriving late to an interview. One should always strive to arrive about 15 minutes before your scheduled interview to allow yourself time to get settled.

Arriving a bit early is also a chance to observe the dynamics of the workplace. The day before the interview, the candidate should pack up extra copies of their resume or CV and a reference list. If one has a portfolio or samples of one’s work, bring those along too.

**Conduct a research on the employer/company**

This entails the knowledge of the company’s culture, mission and values, products, services and their news and recent events. Furthermore, research on the skills and experience the company values, the key players and any necessary information. You’ll also be better prepared to answer questions and be able to position yourself as the best candidate.

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**Dress for the job**

It is important to know what to wear for an interview as well as to be well-groomed. One’s choice of dressing should reflect the culture of the company and the position one is seeking. If possible, the candidate should call before the interview to find out about the company’s dress code.

**Campus hostel residents recognized at annual award ceremony**

By Antonio Longangi

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Speaking during the ceremony Housing Manager Mr. Michael Kisilu commended the residents for making the hostel “a home away from home”, and for their collective contributions of KES 20 000 raised to support Compassionate Neighbors Children’s Home. He also introduced the Department of Housing’s newest member – Housing Officer Mr. Bonface Inganga.

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Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

1 December: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Unbeaten Police raid Jaguars’ territory as Sharks, Butali give chase.”

1 December: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “KPA start men’s title defense away to Equity.”

29 November: The Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Time up for companies violating labour rules.”

28 November: USIU-Africa was featured by NTV in sports segment “Telkom Kenya maintain their unbeaten record in the women’s Hockey Premier League.”

27 November: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Telkom’s Omaido, Mwangi lead hockey league scorers’ chart.”

26 November: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Champions Telkom march towards 20th title.”

26 November: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Footprints boot Nazarene out of basketball play-offs.”

25 November: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Kenya Police juggernaut rolls on.”

24 November: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Telkom test varsity students in hockey league tie.”

USIU-Africa Red Cross Chapter was awarded Most Outstanding Chapter Nairobi Branch 2017 during the Kenya Red Cross Nairobi Branch Volunteer Awards Gala on Saturday, November 25 2017. The award is especially significant, given that most Kenyan universities have a presence in the capital city, placing the club at the apex of Red Cross activities among universities in Kenya.

A group of residents pose for a photo at a wildebeeste migration crossing point along the Mara river, during a campus hostel resident’s excursion to the world-famous Maasai Mara National Park.

PHOTO:BONFACE INGANGA

16 residents of the campus hostels, visited Compassionate Neighbors Mission Children’s Home in Githurai, on Sunday, November 26, where they donated washing soap, sanitary towels, stationery, food items and clothing. The items were purchased following a fundraising drive by the hostel community, that raised KES 22 698.

The children’s home caters for 34 residents, most of whom are aged between one and five years old.

PHOTO:BONFACE INGANGA