From January 9-12, the University hosted a workshop organized by the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Program sponsored by the USA Social Sciences Research Council, together with the African Leadership Center, and the African Peacebuilding Network. It brought together dozens of doctoral students from Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa, as well as faculty facilitators from these countries and the USA.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza welcomed participants to the University, and thanked the SSRC for choosing USIU-Africa as the venue for this important workshop for the second year in a row. He shared with them a brief history of the University and what makes it distinctive. This includes the fact that it is the oldest private secular university in the region, its dual accreditation in Kenya and the USA, and its diversity as evident in its composition of students who come from more than 70 countries around the world.

He then outlined some of the key challenges facing African higher education. They include institutional supply as reflected in the continent’s enrolment ratios that are still much lower than the world average (12% compared to 33%) despite the rapid growth in the number of universities. There are also resource constraints both financial and physical. Another challenge concerns the quality of outputs in terms of the employability of graduates and skills mismatch with demands of the economy.

Moreover, there are severe shortages of faculty in general and those with terminal degrees. For example, according to CUE data, out of 16,318 faculty in Kenya’s universities only 34% have PhDs. The continent lags behind in research indicators and outputs. It accounts for only 1.3% of global R&D expenditures; allocates an average 0.5% of GDP to research, compared to a world average of 1.7% and for the developed countries of more than 60%; its share of world researchers is 2.3% compared to the global leader, Asia, with 42.8%; and it accounts for 2.6% of scholarly publications compared to 39.5% for Asia.
Other challenges center on the processes of appointing, preparing, and training university leaders, as well as those of governance in terms of regulatory regimes, role of governance bodies, and intra-institutional relations between different constituencies. However, he concluded, problems are the flipside of opportunities. In providing solutions to the prevailing challenges, innovative African universities and the next generation of scholars can establish institutions fit for the 21st century.

Later that afternoon, Prof. Zeleza participated in a panel on “Africa and the World” together with Professor Alondro Nelson (President of SSRC), and Dr. Tade Aina (Executive Director, Partnership for African Social and Governance Research - Kenya) and a member of the USIU-Africa University Council. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Thomas Asher (Director of the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa program - NGSSAP). It focused on such issues as the dynamics of partnerships between African scholars and their counterparts abroad, especially in the academies of the global North, the imperatives of academic rigor and ethics in research, the changing cultures of knowledge production, the connections between theory and practice in academic research, the interface of research and development, and the linkages between the academy, the economy, and society.

Professor Zeleza also shared with the participants, the work of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) that sponsors African born academics in the USA and Canada to the six countries where the NGSSAP operates as a model of mutually-beneficial, effective and innovative international scholarly exchange. The CADFP Secretariat is based here on campus, and Professor Zeleza, whose research sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 2011-2012 led to the formation of the program, chairs its Advisory Council.

Since 1923, the Social Science Research Council has awarded more than fifteen thousand fellowships to researchers around the globe. These target specific problems, promote individual and institutional change and expansion of networks.

USIU-Africa signs landmark agreement with Aga Khan University Hospital

By Diana Meso

USIU-Africa and Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi (AKHUN) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate and establish programs of professional academic, cultural and scientific exchange in areas of interest including human health, health sciences, culture, education, environmental sciences, architecture, human development, business and the humanities among others.

The event was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, and attended by USIU-Africa Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, AKUHN Chief Executive Officer Mr. Shawn Bolouki, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Dr. Apollo Maima, Director Legal Services and Company Secretary Ms. Hellen Ombima, among others.

Through this agreement, both USIU-Africa and AKHUN will provide joint supervision for the undergraduate and graduate students, jointly conduct research, development and innovation, jointly facilitate and permit use of partner facilities and institutional exchange of faculty and staff, as well as organize training programs.

In addition, USIU-Africa will provide locum places for nurses and technicians from AKHUN, while AKHUN will provide internship opportunities for pharmacy students.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and Mr. Shawn Bolouki, Chief Executive Officer – Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi, display the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the University and Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi, on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.
USIU–Africa and partners conduct crime and violence prevention training workshop

By Dan Muchai and Antonio Longangi

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences in partnership with the National Crime Research Center, Kenya School of Government (KSG), Open Society Initiative East Africa (OSIEA), World Bank and Coffey International organized a Crime and Violence Prevention Workshop from January 15-19 at the Kenya School of Government.

The workshop which is sponsored by the World Bank sought to build the capacity of stakeholders in crime and violence prevention in the country to conduct crime and violence prevention training in their places of work and residence.

The workshop targeted current practitioners of crime and violence prevention including key national and county government officials from relevant ministries/departments including but not limited to Internal Security, Children’s Welfare, Judiciary, the National Police Service, and Correctional Services, as well as representatives of non-state actors including the private sector, religious organizations, community groups, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media.

The Executive Director of the National Crime Research Center, Mr. Gerald Wandera, provided insight on crime in Kenya, expounding on its various features, patterns and consequences. He also illustrated how the fear of crime and violence shapes social behavior, while emphasizing the equal rights enjoyed by both victims and perpetrators.

Dr. Kennedy Agade (Assistant Professor of International Relations), also expounded on elements of crime and prevention, the old adage - prevention is better than cure. Explaining how desire, ability and opportunity form the three pillars of violence, he cautioned his audience that, “These pillars act best in an environment with weak institution, fiscal constraints and political resistance”.

The workshop is part of the Crime and Violence Prevention Training (CVPT) program run jointly by the University, KSG and NCRC, and seeks to redress the vacuum in and lack of sophistication of the crime and violence prevention discourse in Kenya. It seeks to promote policy and public discourse on crime and violence prevention and safety in Kenya, to explore strategies, tools and methods of crime and violence prevention and to facilitate the emergence of a multi-sector group of actors engaged in crime and violence prevention in Kenya.

The program also takes advantage of the opportunity provided by the promulgation of the 2010 Kenya Constitution, particularly the decentralization of the system of government (devolution), to sensitize administrative cadres in Kenya and policy makers on the need to engage community actors and indigenous local assemblies in crime and violence prevention initiatives.

Participants were drawn from the national and county governments, civil society and academia to learn about crime and violence prevention in Kenya.

Alumna is new head of IMF Internal Audit Unit

By Beatrice Munyiva

Dr. Nancy Asiko Anyango, a member of the inaugural class of the Doctor of Business Administration, was appointed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December 2017, to be the new Director of the monetary body’s Office of Internal Audit and Inspection (OIA) effective February 2018. The unit is charged with conducting independent examinations of the Fund’s internal control and governance processes.

Dr. Anyango, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), holds several additional international certifications from global institutions including the Information Systems Audit and Control Association and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Before her appointment, Dr. Anyango was the CEO of Reliance Risk Advisory Solutions, and has also been previously a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (Kenya) as well as Ernest & Young’s Governance, Risk and Compliance Leader for Africa. She currently sits on the boards of KCB Bank Group and Cytonn Investments.
He was particularly pleased by the partnerships he spearheaded on behalf of the Council, with various private universities, which he hoped would help drive a common agenda, to the benefit of all parties.

Describing his successor as a “go getter who will stop at nothing to accomplish the task set ahead of her”, he predicted that Ms. Raheel will single-mindedly pursue and complete the Council’s agenda as envisioned eight months ago.

Speaking during the ceremony, the soft-spoken new Chair pledged to “...serve the welfare of students at the best of my abilities”, aided by the remaining members of the SAC Senate, as well as other student leaders.

The Student Affairs Council Senate sits at the apex of student governance, as is elected for a one -year term through universal suffrage. The next elections due in March 2018, are expected to herald significant changes based on amendments made to the Universities Act (2014).

Alumnus appointed to UN Committee of Experts

By Beatrice Munyiva

USIU-Africa alumnus Mr. George Omondi Obell (International Business Administration-Accounting ’01) is the first Kenyan to be appointed to the United Nations Economic and Social Council’s Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax matters (ECOSOC).

Mr Obell, a Chief Manager at Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)’s International Tax Office, joined 24 other members who were selected from a pool of 60 nominees from across the world to be part of the committee for a period of four years. The new membership of ECOSOC, includes individuals from India, Japan, China, Brazil, Singapore, Russia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Colombia, Poland, Vietnam, Thailand, Jamaica, Argentina, Switzerland, Ecuador, Sweden, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Djibouti and Zambia.

ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the global organization established by the UN Charter in 1946. It is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. It is also responsible for updating important UN international tax documents, which form the basis of many countries tax laws and tax treaty negotiations. The documents include the UN’s model double taxation convention between developed and developing countries, the practical manual on transfer pricing for developing countries and the manual for the negotiation of bilateral tax treaties between developed and developing countries.

IR Senior sworn-in as new Student Affairs Council Chair

By Dan Muchai

Miss Rida Raheel (International Relations Senior) was sworn-in as the new Chairperson of the Student Affairs Council following the resignation of her predecessor Mr. Chad Naggi, in line with the Council’s Constitution.

Mr. Naggi, who is emigrating to continue his studies abroad, handed over to his erstwhile deputy, following the ceremony in the Freida Brown Student Center on Thursday, January 18, 2018. Among those present were DVC-Academic and Student Affairs Prof. Ruthie Rono, Ms. Helen Ombima (Director of Legal Services & Company Secretary), Associate DVC-Student Affairs Prof. Wangari Mwai, Dean of Students Mr. Robert Onsarigo, among other senior university and student officials.

Reminiscing on his term in office, Mr. Naggi identified increased student activity as one of the signature successes of his administration, adding that the Council had established various committees to pursue matters of interest to members of the student body.

He was particularly pleased by the partnerships he spearheaded on behalf of the Council, with various private universities, which he hoped would help drive a common agenda, to the benefit of all parties. Describing his successor as a “go getter who will stop at nothing to accomplish the task set ahead of her”, he predicted that Ms. Raheel will single-mindedly pursue and complete the Council’s agenda as envisioned eight months ago.

The new Chairperson of the Student Affairs Council Ms. Rida Raheel, shakes hands with the immediate former Chair Mr. Chad Naggi following Ms. Raheel’s ascension to office.
Parents and guardians are guided through a tour of the library as part of the Spring 2018 Undergraduate Orientation, on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Members of the Class of 2022, Miss Nasra Swai (IR, Freshman) and Mr. Anthony Neugebauer (IBA, Freshman) pose for a photo during the Spring 2018 Undergraduate Orientation on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at the auditorium.
Staff End-of-Year Party 2017

TOP: Assistant Financial Aid Officer Ms. Christine Missoy and Record Assistant Ms. Ruth Kiguta pose for a photo during the annual Staff Party held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

LEFT: Prof. Mathew Buyu (Professor of Literature) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Prof. Wangari Mwai (Associate DVC-Student Affairs), for his 20 years of service to the university, during the annual Staff Party held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017.

Photos: Antonio Longangi
Two students added to EYO Scholarship Fund

By Anderson Karige & Antonio Longangi

Concluding an eventful 2017, members of the Educate Your Own (EYO) student initiative held a self-evaluating exercise on Friday, December 1, 2017. The exercise aimed to present a report to their partners who they worked together throughout the year, and also gear up for the year 2018.

Targeting to raise KES 2 Million, the initiative had organized car washing activities and a thrift market held consecutively on campus. Contributions received from members of the university community enabled the initiative to provide scholarships to two students to bring to a total of 14 – the number of students receiving financial support from the Fund. EYO's vision for the New Year was reenergized following the release of a report, containing alarming statistics with regard to the rate of school drop-outs nationwide. The report which was published in the Daily Nation, revealed that 600 students dropped out of universities in Kilifi County in 2017.

The initiative will soon launch the 2018 edition of "Project Finje", as well as seek monthly subscriptions from members of the university to be channeled directly to the scholarship fund.

Miss USIU-Africa spends Christmas at pediatric hospital in Juba

By Dan Muchai

The reigning Miss USIU-Africa Akual Awer (Criminal Justice, Sophomore) spent Christmas Day 2017, participating in a charity event in her hometown and South Sudan’s capital - Juba. Miss Akual, accompanied by her sister and former USIU-Africa and continental basketball champion Miss Sarah Chan, brought holiday cheer to the patients and their families at Al Sabah Children’s Hospital.

Established in Juba in 1983, Al Sabah Children’s Hospital remains the only facility in South Sudan specializing in a number of pediatric services, including expanded immunization, treatment of malnutrition, and general outpatient medical services. The hospital treats children with malnutrition and the vulnerable within the age bracket of 0 to 6 months.

South Sudan – the world’s youngest country – has been embroiled in civil war for most of its brief five year history. Millions of citizens have fled across its borders as refugees in neighboring Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya, in what Amnesty International has described as the largest mass exodus of people on the continent since the Rwandan Genocide.

Media Mentions

By Diana Meso

January 12: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Telkom, Police on brink of hockey titles.”

January 11: The Standard newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Sharon Momanyi: Some bible classes in campus were too theological for me.”

January 10: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Date set for USIU, KPA semis.”

January 8: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Chipu squad for Rugby Africa U-20 Championships named.”

January 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Hivisasa.com in an article titled “Bad outing by national teams leaves Kenya out of hockey World Cup.”

January 1: The Star newspaper mention USIU-Africa in an article titled “XBF play offs resume January 27.”

December 26: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Technical University lads seal games slot, St Paul’s shine.”

December 22: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Java opens new branch at Imara Daima turnoff.”

December 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Telkom saves Kenya the blushes with club championship title.”

December 19: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Police, Telkom in own class.”

December 16: The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “TEDx Ridgeways: Eleven speakers converge to share inspiring stories.”

December 14: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Simon Mbugua, Ken Musyoka, 7 others to represent Kenya at Eala.”

December 10: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Draw lessons from USIU-Africa on hiring of university bosses.”

December 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Standard newspaper in an article titled “Rapper Fena Gitu explains why she never dated in campus.”

December 3: The Standard newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Amira condemn struggling Sliders to more misery.”