The HeForShe Club, in collaboration with the Black History Month 2018 Committee, hosted a colloquium on “Gender & War” on Thursday, February 8 at the Lecture Theater II.

The colloquium’s topic, which explored the dynamics of gender in one of Africa’s most unstable countries – Somalia, was based on the Black History Month 2018 theme “Impact of War on the African Youth.”


Ms. Gardner’s presentation was based on a research she conducted with colleague Judy El-Bushra, on “The Impact of war on Somali men and its effects on the family, women and children.” She started by demystifying the mainstream media portrayal of gender dynamics in Somalia. “These images do not represent the reality of gender dynamics in Somalia,” she said. “Instead they sustain the ignominy of that country being ranked one of the worst places in the world to be a woman, a mother or a child.”

Her research confirmed the vulnerability of Somali women and girls, boys and men as inextricably entwined. Since the collapse of the Somali state in 1991, there has been little enquiry on the reality of Somali men, nor a possible linkage between men’s experiences and situation of women and children.

Somalia’s collapse reinforced a clan-based structure built on male dominance and patriarchy, while the state of war expanded inequalities between men and reduced their opportunities to fulfil their gendered roles and responsibility.

Noting that the situation evolved into a victimization of women and children while in reality women have proven to be more resilient and men more dependent on women. Ms. Gardner advocated for an intervention that considers the well-being of the family as a whole. “A positive engagement with the issues confronting Somali men should be part of any attempt to address the need of women and children in the country” she concluded.

HeForShe patron and International Relations Program Director, Dr. Fatma Ali, in her closing remarks insisted on correcting the prevalent perspective of the situation in Somalia. “Women are not only victims, some are actors in the crisis.”
By Diana Meso

On Wednesday February 7, the School of Science & Technology in partnership with Microsoft Skills4Afrika launched the I²C AppFactory program at the Incubation and Innovation Center.

The AppFactory is designed to be an engine for development of skilled talents, capable of responding industry needs and effectively contributing to the regional entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The program is also expected to serve as a research and development lab for developing innovative ICT projects, and forming part of the digital transformation program for small and medium-sized enterprises.

During the launch, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza pointed out that the AppFactory is important because it fits into the university’s learning philosophy, values, missions, priorities and research endeavors stressing that the AppFactory will link students with industry and society.

“Such initiatives further enable the university to actively participate in key developmental agendas like the Vision 2030 for Kenya, Agenda 2063 for the Africa Union and the United Nations Sustainable Development,” he added.

In the same vein, Prof. Valeria Adema (Dean, School of Science and Technology) noted that the program will provide a new approach to learning and creative thinking. She said it would encourage reflection on practice and allow students to develop new skills and attitudes.

Mr. Lutz Ziob (Dean, Microsoft 4Afrika Academy) said that the beneficiaries of the program will act as accelerators of digital transformation and revolutionize how government offers services to its citizens.

Also present at the event was Dr. Paul Okanda (Director, Information and Communication Technology) Mr. James Ogolla (Director, University Advancement), Prof. Amos Njogu (Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension), Mr. Samuel Gikandi (Chief Executive Officer, Africa’s Talking), among others.

By Dan Muchai

The Chandaria School of Business Executive on Thursday, February 1 held a meeting with Dr. Siri Terjesen, who is Dean’s Research Fellow in Entrepreneurship at American University’s Kogod School of Business and Director of the American University’s Center for Innovation. The meeting discussed faculty and student exchanges, accreditation processes, and linkages to other universities, all of which are expected to be included in a forthcoming agreement between the two schools.

One of the immediate proposed benefits of such an agreement would be the realization of a new Global Study Tour destination for the current cohort of MBA (Global Business Management) students, to the U.S. capital of Washington D.C. where the American University’s campus is located. The Tour is held every summer semester.

Other senior Chandaria School of Business officials who attended the meeting included Prof. Peter Lewa (Dean), Dr. Teresia Linge (Associate Dean), Dr. Francis Gatumo (Program Director - Finance & Accounting Programs), Dr. Kefah Njenga (Assistant Professor of Organizational Development), Mr. Patrick Mulindi (Program Director - Tourism Management, Hotel & Restaurant Management Programs), Prof. Kang’ethe Iraki (Professor of French) and Ms. Kellen Njagi (International Students Officer).

Chandaria School of Business to collaborate with American University

By Dan Muchai

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A delegation from Linnaeus University in Sweden were on campus to meet university officials and make a partnership assessment on Tuesday, February 6.

The delegation, which was received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, discussed areas of common interests including faculty exchange, collaborative research, and other such channels for knowledge exchange, before holding further meetings with School Deans and faculty members.

Student government was represented by Miss Rida Raheel (Chairperson, Student Affairs Council) and Mr. Brian Juma (Welfare Representative, Student Affairs Council).

Linnaeus University officials were led by Ms. Anki Wood (Project Manager, Institute for Further Education of Journalists), accompanied by Mr. Jonas Ewald (Faculty, Social Sciences), Ms. Kristina Hellberg (Faculty, Social Sciences), Prof. Peter Gierow (Head of Department, Medicine and Optometry), Mr. Gudrun Borgudd (Faculty, Health and Life Science), and Ms. Lena Kulmala (Senior Internationalization Officer, External Relations).

"This was simply an introductory phase for a big project that we are glad to be part of," said Ms. Kellen Njagi (International Student Officer noting that it will contribute to increased research activity.

Linnaeus University is a Swedish state university, established in 2010 through a merger between Vaxjo and Kalmar universities. It has been USIU-Africa’s student exchange partner since 2009.

Linnaeus University officials pose for a group photo with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza on Thursday, February 6, following discussions regarding expanding the current student exchange program, to include other areas of collaboration such as faculty and knowledge exchange. Photo: Antonio Longangi

Ms. Wanjiku Mbugua (Lecturer, Chinese Language) takes her class through the art of eating Chinese meals cooked by her students on Tuesday, February 6 at the university’s cafeteria. Photo: Antonio Longangi

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Learning how to eat Chinese cuisine

By Wanjiku Mbugua

Think you know Chinese cuisine based on what you’ve often eaten from a “Chinese” restaurant? Chances are that maybe you may never even have tasted authentic traditional Chinese cuisine. An excellent way of experience Chinese cuisine is through preparing various dishes.

For this reason, every fifth week of each semester, students of Chinese language are provided with an opportunity to prepare Chinese cuisine they are taught in class. This experience creates a platform for the lecturer to impart Chinese cuisine tips in a much more fun atmosphere, where teaching emphasis is largely based on action rather than observation.

During this week’s hands-on cooking classes, students prepared delicious meals which include: dumplings, steamed stuffed bun, tofu, longevity noodles, stir-fried noodles, Chinese rice porridge, oolong tea, green tea, jasmine tea, iced tea, etc. which they found to be extremely fascinating.

This out-of-class leaning experience goes a long way to ensure that our graduates receive holistic training, creates a one-of-a-kind experience for our students, as well as bringing creativity and impeccable knowledge of the Chinese culture, collectively providing the students with excitement and increasing their interest in learning.
Incubation Center hosts entrepreneurship boot camp

By Scott Bellows

The Incubation and Innovation Center (I2C) has launched a new format for USIU-Africa entrepreneurs to receive targeted training. The boot camp, which held its first sessions from February 2-3, targeted students and alumni desirous of going into business for themselves, but who had not yet settled on a business idea.

The training is built around the concept of guiding participants through the investigation of pain points in a market and how to find solutions. Thus participants are able to develop the ability to build better business models that are more in touch with what customers actually want.

On the first day, participants learned as much as they could regarding a certain topic, while on the second day they formed communities in which they interacted with their potential customers, and utilized their learning.

Later on in the day, the entire group gathered and shared the results from their field interactions, in order to then make informed plans or changes to their business models.

The next boot camp will take place on Friday, February 16 at 6pm, and on Saturday, February 17 at 2pm. It will again be hosted by the Incubation and Innovation Center. Participants will be trained on how to survey customer desires in order to sell better products and services.

Those interested in attending are requested to show up promptly without need for pre-registration and best of all, no payment is required, as the training is entirely free of charge.
Journalists for a very long time have had the important responsibility of disseminating information to the general public. It is a profession said to stand out as well as assume a key part in the improvement and development of a country.

With the development of the new media, the world is winding up more interconnected with millions of people in constant communication. Because of this, the journalism career has been advancing. There is also a huge presence of social media thanks to the change in technology as opposed to journalism, which has helped journalists directly interact with their readers and viewers and find out what kind of stories appeal to them.

Journalism is a demanding and highly responsible career since journalists have the ability to impact the masses with the information that they have.

There are certain skills that one ought to have to be successful as a journalist:

**Communication Skills**
This stands out amongst the most important skills that any journalist ought have, since they are in constant communication with everyone around them.

**Technical Skills**
Such skills may include video and photography, audio editing and computer knowledge. It may include taking quality photographs, videos and being able to edit one’s content.

**Good Organizational skills**
As a journalist, you need to be organized and have the capacity to make sense of what is important while prioritizing different tasks. If given an article or story to feature you may want to find credible sources that you would interview or follow up for accuracy. One also ought to be able to work under pressure and in the end be able to meet all deadlines.

**Creative thinking**
Always think outside the box and come up with new fresh ideas. For instance, piecing up stories in a creative imaginative manner that grabs the readers’ attention and finds a way to make ‘exhausting’ pieces become more captivating and fascinating.

One must always remember to keep one’s skills updated because learning extra skills is always an advantage. The more skills one has, the better because this may give one an advantage over others in the same field.

As a journalist, one can work as an editor, a foreign correspondent, a photojournalist, a reporter, a writer, etc.

For information, please visit the USIU-Africa Career Services Office or email careeroffice@usiu.ac.ke.

**ALUMNI PROFILE: ERIC BETT**

**USIU-Africa equipped me with leadership skills**

By Beatrice Munyiva

During the last general election, Eric Kipkirui Bett (IBA ‘10) was elected as Member of County Assembly of Kericho County, Kipchobor Ward on 8th August 2017 with over 70% valid votes beating four other contestants for the seat.

After graduating from USIU-Africa, Eric briefly worked in a sales position at KCB before joining Chase Bank as a Finance Assistant. He later joined G4S Kenya Limited as Graduate Management Trainee rising through the ranks to become an Assistant Operation Manager and later Nairobi Operations Manager in the same organization. In 2016, he was transferred to Kericho branch as an Operations Manager and later on in that year he started planning to contest for an elective seat.

Eric credits USIU-Africa for instilling public speaking, negotiation and leadership skills which are required of any kind of leader. This, he says, was through exposure to various leadership positions and class assignments that demanded team work and delivery of results, thus igniting his passion for leadership right here on campus!

“I was an active member of Business Association Club and SIFE [Students In Free Enterprise]. I became the Organizing Secretary for the Business Club in 2007, before serving as Chairman from 2008 to 2009. In 2009, I was awarded the ‘Best Club Leader’ award during the inaugural edition of the Campus Choice Awards. This was a defining moment for me having organized two successful business conferences and participated in an investment competition organized by Nairobi Securities Exchange,” he said.

His greatest achievement so far is the motion that he sponsored on Regulation of gambling businesses in Kericho County. According to him, the gambling menace had reached its peak level and that is what prompted him to come up with the motion which was unanimously adopted by the assembly.
Ladies hockey team to represent Kenya continental championship

By Diana Meso

Despite having a goalless match against Strathmore University, the ladies hockey team has qualified for their first ever Africa Cup of Club Championship competition. This is after they emerged second in the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Women’s Premier League on Saturday, February 2 at City Park. The team will represent Kenya in the Championship alongside national champions Telkom later this year.

The Africa Cup of Club Champions is a tournament organized by the Africa Hockey Federation for Clubs in Africa, which seeks to bring champions and runners up of various national hockey leagues.

USIU-Africa’s taekwondo team clinched the 7th position in the just concluded 2018 Antoren Taekwondo League organized and sponsored by the Mombasa County Taekwondo Association. This is after the ladies team won a silver and a bronze medal, while the men’s team won 2 silver and 1 bronze medal bringing the total to 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

In swimming, 15 members of the USIU-Africa swimming team are set to compete in the upcoming Kenya Swimming Federation (KSF) National Gala on Thursday 22 and Friday, 23 February at the Moi International Sports Center Kasarani. The Gala is for swimmers who have never won any medal and are first-time participants.

The men’s hockey team beat Western Jaguars 1-0 to finish 4th in the just concluded KHU Men’s Premier League this year. In the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) League, the men’s basketball team beat Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) 34-30 on Sunday, February 3 at JKUAT. The team will host Kenyatta University this coming weekend on the basketball pitch. Subsequently, the ladies soccer team defeated Gretsa University 2-0, while their male counterparts lost to both JKUAT and KCA University in the league. The men’s team will travel to Kenyatta University this weekend to meet Pan Africa Christian University and Kenyatta University (Parklands Campus).

Meanwhile, the men’s handball team recorded mixed reactions after thrashing Gretsa University 23-11 and losing to St. Paul’s University 19-33. The team is set to meet Kenyatta University Parklands Campus this weekend at Kenyatta University. The men’s rugby team lost to South Coast Pirates in the ongoing Kenya Rugby Union (KRU) Championship. This coming weekend, hope to recover against the University of Nairobi at our rugby pitch.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

February 9: Disrupt Africa mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Microsoft 4Afrika launches AppFactory in Kenya.”

February 8: USIU-Africa was featured in KTN Prime news segment in a news bit titled “USIU collaborates with Microsoft for Africa to launch the first IT App factory.”

February 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned by iTWeb Africa in an article titled “Kenya: Skills initiative launched to support local software development.”

February 8: Life Today Magazine mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU-Africa and Microsoft 4afrika in partnership to host the first AppFactory in Kenya.”

February 7: USIU-Africa was featured in NTV’s Tonight Business segment in a news bit titled “Microsoft and USIU to launch innovation & incubation centre.”

February 7: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Business Daily in an article titled “Microsoft, USIU partner to set up tech hub to plug job skills gap.”

February 7: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU to host first AppFactory center in Kenya.”

February 7: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “We’ll slaughter you, Strathmore warn rivals KPA.”

February 7: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Strathmore University lads book slot in KBF play-offs final.”

February 6: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Coach Okeyo elated as USIU prepare to debut Africa Club Champs in Nigeria later this year.”

February 4: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA teams enter finals.”

February 4: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Kenyatta University Vultures relegated.”

February 3: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Sleek Sliders outwit JKUAT students at City Park.”

February 2: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Battered Strathmore battle USIU in must-win hockey league tie.”

February 1: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA ready to seal playoff semi-final win against USIU.”