Journalism faculty hosts domestic violence workshop

By Dr. Dorothy Njoroge

Journalism faculty Dr. Dorothy Njoroge and Ms. Robi Koki Ochieng, hosted representatives of seven NGOs working in the area of domestic violence at a one-day workshop at the Frieda Brown Student Center on Tuesday, February 6.

6. The Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Men for Gender Equality Now (MEGEN), The Cradle, Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC), Integrated Initiatives for Community Empowerment (ICEP) Kenya, Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW) Organizations were selected based on their engagement in elimination of GBV in Kenya.

They came together to discuss trends in gender-based violence work in Kenya today and to assess gaps in advocacy work that would be the foundation for an advocacy training program to be offered by the two faculty through an Amplify Change grant.

The Amplify Change Strengthening Grants support time-limited projects that seek to engage and contribute to bringing about change in one or more of the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights areas. Domestic violence being one of the priority themes, this grant is expected to strengthen the advocacy capacity of the major organizations working to address the gender-based violence scourge in Kenya.
By Wanjiku Mbugua

USIU-Africa students of Chinese language in conjunction with the Chinese Club ushered in the Chinese New Year also known as the Spring Festival with pomp and color on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

The Spring Festival is a massive annual event held in China and in Chinese communities around the world characterized by happy gatherings and close family interaction. Since it is based off the lunar calendar, the dates tend to shift from year to year.

This time round, the Chinese bid farewell to the Year of the Rooster and ushered in the Year of the Dog - the Chinese zodiac sign of the Dog is a symbol of intelligence and protection and is the 11th animal in 12 Chinese zodiac signs.

During the celebration, students of Chinese language and members of the university community were shown how to properly hold and eat with chopsticks through a chopstick competition of picking cereals and were awarded gift prizes thereafter. Club members also demonstrated how to apply opera make-up. Chinese operas continue to exist in 368 different forms - the best known being Beijing opera, which assumed its present form in the mid-nineteenth century, and has been extremely popular ever since.

There was also a display of paper-cutting - one of the most important types of Chinese folk art) Chinese calligraphy, Chinese cuisine (longevity noodles, dumplings, jiaozi, tofu, Chinese green tea, jasmine tea, iced tea, etc.)

The event also reeled in a few of the Chinese natives on campus, thus offering students of the Chinese language an opportunity to mingle and share some of their experiences.

The day before, our Chinese language students had been invited to celebrate the Spring Festival with their counterparts at Kenyatta University.

Gong xi fa cai! Wishing you a Prosperous New Year!

Performance management system to be revamped

The University has contracted KPMG Advisory Services Ltd to carry out a review of USIU-Africa’s Performance Management System.

This is in line with the university’s objective of promoting a performance driven culture of excellence, and in particular, the implementation of effective performance management strategies.

The review, which is expected to take 9 weeks, will involve one-on-one interviews whereby various members of staff and faculty will share their views on challenges experienced with the current performance management system, as well as what would be the expectations of a new system, with the KPMG team.

The project will be overseen by the Chief Manager - Human Resources Mr. Yusuf Saleh.
On Friday, February 16, 488 students, 35 teachers and 10 parents from six secondary schools, converged on campus for the annual Admission Open Day organized by the Office of Admissions.

The annual event provides guest schools with a showcase of learning opportunities provided by the University through its programs, facilities, and services.

Presentations provided insight into academic and extra-curricular programs, the experiences of current students, and the success of alumni in different industries.

DVC - Academic and Student Affairs Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono provided a background of the university and unique facts about the university, pointing out the importance of interacting with universities before completing high school, as it enabled each student to choose their educational pursuit from an informed position.

Class of 2013 alumnus, co-founder and Director at Hifadhi Africa Mr. Collins Nakedi, delivered a keynote address on his inspiring journey to and through USIU-Africa, that equipped him for his entrepreneurial adventures.

Mr. Nakedi, who is a Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Network’s Mandela Washington Fellowship Fellow, co-founded Hifadhi Africa Organization (HAO) to promote access to water, quality education, health care, and youth mentorship, particularly among underserved pastoralist and slum dweller communities.

Dr. Eliab Some (Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics) represented the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Dr. Michael Kirubi (Associate Professor of Business Administration and Management) represented Chandaria School of Business, Dr. Gerald Chege (Information Systems & Technology/Applied Computer Technology/Maths Program Director) represented the School of Science and Technology, and finally Dr. Fatma Ali (International Relations Program Director) represented the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
The MGT4020 Organizations and Organizational Behavior class marked the launch of their for-profit organization named ‘Campus Connect’ on Wednesday, February 7.

Campus Connect, which will operate from the Incubation and Innovation Center of the 3rd floor of the Freida Brown Student Center, intends to provide the USIU-Africa community with access to a wide range of products that members of the class perceive the university community requires. The products range between on-campus events, beauty products and a convenience store, all of which try to ensure the customer’s convenience by making the products and services available, as and when they are needed.

The aim of the class project is to provide students with a practical feel of launching an organization and how various organization developmental stages require different management and leadership styles.

Campus Connect will operate throughout the semester, with possible extension of organizational life dependant on performance.