On Friday, March 2, the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences invited Dr. Carrie Waterman, an Assistant Researcher in the Department of Nutrition at University of California Davis to speak at the School’s second colloquium this semester.

Dr. Waterman spoke on the wide-ranging benefits of the Moringa Tree (Moringa oleifera) to over 30 members of staff, faculty and students from the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at the Science Center’s Lecture Theater 5.

Her current collaboration with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya on the Moringa Tree (Moringa oleifera), is in line with her research interests in the expansion and improvement of the use, production, and processing of the Moringa tree worldwide, including community involvement and development.

Dr. Waterman enlightened participants on the tree’s therapeutic applications such as in malnutrition, diabetes, and HIV; as a nematocide and biofertilizer in agricultural uses; and in livestock feed for improved animal nutrition and milk production.

She specifically addressed students of Pharmacy, asking them to not limit their career options to pharmaceutical organizations, but to expand them to include community outreach, capacity-building, basic research, business development, and entrepreneurship.

She further invited interested students to join her in designing research projects on the Moringa tree, which included funding proposals.

The colloquium was organized by Dr. Caroline Kahiri (Assistant Professor of Human Physiology), and follows the first Colloquium on “Contemporary Advances and Precincts of Biopharming as Drugs’ Production Systems” by Dr. Apollo Maima (Assistant Professor of Pharmacy) in January 2018.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has every intention of continuing to highlight and promote interest in Pharmacy students urged to expand research interests

By Dr. Caroline Kahiri and Diana Meso

Mr. Javier Serrano (Assistant Professor of Spanish & Literature) was invited by His Excellency Martin Gomez Bustillo - the Ambassador of Argentina in Kenya - to deliver a talk about the literary universe of the famous Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges on Wednesday, March 7.

The talk was to mark the official launch of the Jorge Luis Borges Cultural Centre, which was attended by several Latin-American Ambassadors (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico), the Kenyan Spanish Speaking Association (SSA) and the Association of Teachers of Spanish-Kenya (ATS-K).

Three USIU-Africa students of the Spanish Minor (Esther Mwanza, Moses Muchoki and Ryan Saffideen) accompanied Mr. Serrano on this occasion and had the opportunity to put their Spanish into practice with the Spanish-speaking community in Nairobi.

Mr. Serrano is the current President of FIAPE - the largest association of teachers of Spanish worldwide - as well as Vice President of the Association of Teachers of Spanish in Kenya (ATS-K).

Spanish lecturer delivers inaugural talk at opening of Argentinian cultural center

By Dan Muchai

Dr. Carrie Waterman (Assistant Researcher, Department of Nutrition, University of California - Davis)

PHOTO COURTESY OF UC-DAVIS

School’s research areas from within and outside the university, by hosting two colloquiums every semester.
HR announces vacancies in four divisions

By Dan Muchai

On Friday, March 9, the Department of Human Resources announced vacancies in specific roles in various departments.

The Department of Procurement is looking to hire a Chief Manager, who will be responsible for leading and managing procurement efforts throughout the university, and report to the Director of Finance. Within the same Division, the Department of Finance is looking for a new Principal Accountant who will be responsible for management of the Accounts Receivables Section and the Credit Control Office, and report to the Chief Accountant.

The Department of Health Services has a Clinical Officer vacancy. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing medical health care, counseling and support services to members of the University, and will report to the Principal Medical Officer.

The ICT Division is looking to hire an ICT Officer in the Multimedia Unit of the Service Delivery department. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing direction for all hardware and software systems that deliver multimedia services to the university community.

The same department also has a vacancy for an ICT Assistant, who will be responsible for capturing incoming hardware and software calls from various user stations and resolving them.

The University is also looking a hire a Telephone Operator/Receptionist, who will be based at the reception area in the Administration Building, and report to the Chief Admissions Officer.

The University is also looking a hire a Teaching Lab Technologist, whose primary responsibilities will be maintaining the smooth running of teaching laboratories, as well as ensuring users receive maximum benefits from available resources.

Further details regarding key responsibilities, minimum educational and professional qualifications, as well as desirable personal attributes and competencies are to be found on our website at www.usiu.ac.ke/jobs.

Applications are to be delivered to the Director of Administration on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.

In an appended notice, the Human Resources Department sought to warn potential candidates against unscrupulous individuals purporting to secure interviews and/or appointments in return for financial or other considerations. The Director of Administration affirmed that all communication regarding vacancies emanates from the Human Resources Department’s official address (hr@usiu.ac.ke).

Finally, vacancies now exist for Teaching Lab Technologists, whose primary responsibilities will be maintaining the smooth running of teaching laboratories, as well as ensuring users receive maximum benefits from available resources.

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BAT launches prestigious global internship competition

By Dan Muchai

Students have been invited to participate in a global internship competition, where the grand prize will be a prestigious three to six-month paid internship at British American Tobacco (BAT), and a trip to the global firm’s London headquarters, where they will have the opportunity to network with senior BAT professionals and gives them the opportunity for a massive career kick-start!

The competition dubbed “Battle of the Minds” involves formation of a team, which then research a market, develops a product idea, then prepares an original business plan.

BAT will be looking for participants who not only possess leadership qualities and have a strong desire to be top performers, but also can build strong teams that work well with people who have different abilities and perspectives.

Participants will be asked to accurately assess markets to discover what they are missing, and thus present a plan on how BAT can remain competitive in saturated markets and revolutionize customers’ experiences.

Interested undergraduate students are requested to register at www.battleofminds.com on or before Thursday, March 15. I

Interested participants may also contact Career Services (0730116796) or the Internship Office (0730116780) between 8am and 5pm from Monday through to Friday, for any further clarification.

Insurance Health Talk this Wednesday

By Dan Muchai

The Department of Insurance is hosting this year’s first Health Talk on Wednesday, March 14 in the auditorium from 10am - 12pm.

The talk which has been organized by Jubilee Insurance Company, in collaboration with Mayfair Health Services, will specifically tackle lifestyle diseases such as cancer, diabetes and hypertension, among others.

General education on the existing medical cover will also be undertaken, while related questions will be answered by Jubilee Insurance representatives.

Tests for Blood Pressure/BMI will freely, be offered thereafter at the Health Services Center, while all other tests will be charged and deducted from the medical check-up benefit in the Jubilee Insurance Cover.

Students will only be eligible for the free services due to the limitations on their existing medical cover.
The IT club organized the second edition of the USIU-Africa Spring Hackathon, on Saturday, March 3 at the Science Center.

The hackathon which was sponsored by Africa’s Talking and the Moringa School, attracted student technologists, programmers and network analysts, from 10 universities.

Students from Dedan Kimathi University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Laikipia University, KCA University, Riara University, St. Paul’s University, Strathmore University, Technical University of Kenya, University of Nairobi, USIU-Africa and Zetech University ran for seven hours and required two kinds of participation: creative software application development and a Capture The Flag network penetration testing competition.

The latter competition sufficed as a test of the participants' ability to find and use computer network vulnerabilities to acquire an obscured message, the flag. The former demanded an application of a combination of creative, context-driven thinking and sharp programming skills.

The theme of this year’s event, Research to Market Challenge: ICT Supported Science and Technology Innovations for Africa’s Development, made the hackathon rubric more colorable in that participants were required to conceive promising solutions in fields ranging from e-business and e-health to data-mining and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Upon completion of the event’s hacking activity, a team of panelists (School of Science and Technology Representative, Lochemem Bruno Michael, Africa’s Talking developer leads Calvin Karundu, David Afam Osemene and Steve Okwi, as well as Dr. Patrick Wamuyu (Assistant Professor of Information Systems) and Moringa School’s Ms. Betty Asava) evaluated the project-centric presentations, and declared the project team from Dedan Kimathi University winners of the grueling seven-hour programming contest.

Their Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) application, typically built to interact with telecommunications service providers - dubbed LEJA - was predicated on providing simple ledger interactions for Small and Medium Enterprises.

Other podium winners, the Auto-Chem team from Dedan Kimathi University, and the USIU-Africa Google Home project.
team developed a smart pharmaceuticals directory and a voice-powered message sending utility for Google’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) assistant respectively. Also awarded were the creators of the IoT-centric smart-farming project which monitors moisture levels in soil.

Standouts from the network hacking contest which included a Dedan-Kimathi University-USIU-Africa partnership and Riara University contingent.

The hackathon evoked a coalescence of ideas - it featured many ebullient individuals of debutant, intermediate, and modestly advanced disposition intent on showcasing their talents. Despite the rigors of the hackathon the most challenging of which are plan and personnel management under stringent time conditions, the participants were able to learn lessons and create blueprints for contextually-aware project enhancement.

USIU-Africa’s cultural extravaganza finally kicks off from March 13-15, right here on campus.

For years USIU-Africa has celebrated Culture Week, as a way of bringing members of our diverse University community together. Currently, the 74 nationalities represented in our student and faculty communities, make USIU-Africa truly unique as authentic perspectives from all over the world are shared during the three-day fete.

This year’s showcase begins on Tuesday with a walking parade by the participating nationalities, followed by presentations of dance, music, food, attire, and a research paper.

In line with this year’s theme - A glimpse of the world in our own backyard - 25 nationalities will present their respective cultures during the two-day exhibition in the tents behind the cafeteria, followed by a grand concert on Thursday evening in a mega dome located next to the hockey pitch.

Advance tickets to the grand concert are available in front of the cafeteria and at entrance to the Freida Brown Students Center, for KES 2000 (VIP) and KES 300 (regular).

On Thursday, tickets will be available along the road leading to the dome KES 2500 (VIP) and KES 350 (regular).

Everyone is encouraged to attend the concert and appreciate not just the exceptional culture performances, but the hard work the communities and Committee have put in preparing for this Culture Week finale.

“It’s rare that you get such an opportunity to physically interact with people from all over the world. It’s a beautiful thing to see.”

- MS. IVY WANDIA, Culture Week Committee Vice-Chairlady
Media Mentions
Compiled by  Diana Meso

March 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by China Daily in an article titled “US accusations ‘hold no water’.”

March 8: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Jubilee: Insurance Taps Telkom Head of Sales to Lead Retail Business.”

March 8: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “More women in teacher training institutions but less in decision-making positions.”

March 7: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Savannah CEO in an article titled “SSU Students Bring Home Award from International Conference.”

March 6: USIU-Africa was mentioned by 4-traders in an article titled “Jubilee: Insurance Taps Telkom Head of Sales to Lead Retail Business.”

March 5: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Business Daily in an article titled “Let us walk the talk in Kenya’s quest for innovations hub.”

March 5: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Jubilee Insurance taps Telkom head of sales to lead retail business.”

March 1: Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kenyan tribes more alike than different.”

Upcoming Events
Compiled by  Dan Muchai

MARCH 13-14
Culture Week 2018 Exhibition
[All Day] Behind Cafeteria

MARCH 14

Insurance Talk 10am | Auditorium
Media Roundtable on “Fake News”
10am - 12pm | Incubation & Innovation Center

MARCH 15
Deadline: BAT Global Intern Competition
Culture Night Concert | 6.30pm | Megadome (next to hockey pitch)