Kenya Women’s and Children’s Wellness Center

ABOVE: The award-winning original architectural rendering of the Kenya Women’s and Children’s Center by global architecture and design firm Perkins+Will. The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza announced the start of construction of the Center to the University community, in an email sent on Monday, April 9. The Center, which will be located across the Northern Bypass, will contain healthcare research facilities and a hospital. Prof. Zeleza also announced the ground breaking of the new Humanities Center, which will take place in Summer 2018. PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL + PERKINS

Nyeri Governor nominates Global Executive MBA alumna

By Dan Muchai

Current Doctor of Business Administration candidate Ms. Caroline Karugu (Global Executive MBA ‘13), was on Thursday, April 12, nominated to the office of Deputy Governor of Kenya’s County of Nyeri, by Governor Kahiga Mutahi. The position became vacant upon the ascension of the then Deputy Governor, following the untimely demise of the late Dr. Wahome Gakuru.

Ms. Karugu is the current Chief Executive Officer of financial services firm, Jabali Microserve - a wholly owned subsidiary of Jitegemee Trust, which is a leading wholesale microfinance institution that focuses on social investments.

She is also a Non-Executive Director of Geothermal Development Company - the state corporation charged with the rapid development of geothermal resources in Kenya - where she chairs the Board Technical Committee.

The nomination follows a Supreme Court of Kenya judgement in March 2018, that empowered sitting governors to nominate replacements in the event of vacancies in the office of Deputy Governor, in their respective counties.

Ms. Karugu’s nomination will now be presented to the County Assembly of Nyeri, and upon ratification, the 39-year-old will be sworn in as the county’s third and first female Deputy Governor, in accordance with the dictates of the Constitution of Kenya.

Left: Global Executive MBA Class of 2013 alumna Ms. Caroline Karugu.
African businesses poorly prepared to tackle cyber security threats

By Dan Muchai

On Tuesday, April 11, Serianu Limited in partnership with the School of Science and Technology, published the fifth edition of the Africa Cyber Security Report, at Hotel Intercontinental, Nairobi.

Serianu Limited has and the School of Science and Technology’s Center for Informatics Research and Innovation have been partners in the preparation of the last four annual Cyber Security Reports.


It revealed the poor cyber health of the vast majority of African businesses, with insider threats and fake news posing the biggest cyber risks in 2017.

Liquid Telecoms Group Chief Technical Officer Mr. Ben Roberts speaking during the event urged his audience to take responsibility for the increased threat of fake news, "All of us are responsible for assessing information before passing it on."

Most businesses based in Africa, the report revealed, especially small and medium enterprises, do not have the skills or resources, to "protect, detect, respond to cyber security threats".

In fact, the report reveals that ninety percent of African businesses fell well short of baseline security practices, due to a poor understanding of cyber risks to which the enterprise is exposed, and thus lacked an effective strategy to address those risks.

The top three priorities for cyber security professionals in 2018 according to the report, were to secure organizational databases, restrict access to privileged information, and ensure software patches are applied on time.

Looking at the future, the report underlined the need for businesses to properly assess their cyber security risks and thus adopt effective strategies to neutralize rapidly evolving threats.

Journalism major among winners of World Bank blogging contest

By Dan Muchai

Rwanda and Uganda, between the ages of 18-28, were invited to describe to the World Bank what it would take to end gender-based violence (GBV) in their countries. The eight winners from the three countries were chosen from hundreds of what Ms. Diariëtou Gaye (World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Eritrea) described as “the outpouring of innovative, feasible solutions from young men and women who want to end this human rights crisis.”

Gender Based Violence can rightly be described as an epidemic - estimates indicate one in every three persons across the globe are affected. It encompasses all forms of violence that are physical or sexual; forced and child marriages; human trafficking; female genital mutilation, as well as discrimination based on gender.

The eight bloggers have been invited to join the World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C. from April 16 -22, where senior government, private sector, civil society and academic officials gather to hold conversations with the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG). Subsequently, they will be offered opportunities to share their thoughts, on preventing Gender Based Violence to senior government officials in the three countries.

23-year-old Journalism major Ms. Janes Ombok (above) is the Kenyan winner of the World Bank funded 2018 #Blogs4Dev contest. In November 2017, citizens of the three East African nations of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, were invited to describe to the World Bank what it would take to end gender-based violence (GBV) in their countries. The eight winners from the three countries were chosen from hundreds of what Ms. Diariëtou Gaye (World Bank Country Director for Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Eritrea) described as “the outpouring of innovative, feasible solutions from young men and women who want to end this human rights crisis.”

The World Bank launched the writing competition four years ago, as a way of testing creativity and innovation among young people, who will also be tasked with describing scalable solutions in no more than 500 words. The contest has also provided young people an opportunity to participate in the formulation of policies that tackle prevalent challenges.
Two Journalism students and one International Relations major won six awards at the 59th edition of the Kenya National Drama and Film Festival which began Tuesday, April 3 in Nairobi’s Lenana School.

Student documentary scoops six national awards
By Nashon Owano

Nashon Owano (Journalism), Fiona Githieya (Journalism) and Tamati Mauti (International Relations), submitted Hope Raisers: Classroom and Beyond in the University Film Competition category, where they were received six accolades: Best Short Documentary; Best Presentation; Best Cinematography (1st Runners-up); Best Production Design (1st Runners-up); Best Director (1st Runners-Up) and Best Producer (1st Runners-up).

The documentary highlights the role of Hope Raisers Initiative - project that seeks to impart life skills, mentorship and financial educational assistance to children living in Baba Dogo, Korogocho and Lucky Summer informal settlements.

Assistant Professor of Film Production Dr. Rachael Diang’a supervised the class project, as well as took up the role of Director of Production. Ms. Githeiya directed photography and wrote the script, Mr. Owano produced and edited the documentary, while Ms. Mauti assisted with editing and narration.

On Wednesday April 4, the soon-to-be-launched School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts, hosted over 40 Journalism majors, staff and faculty for a four-hour workshop on DSLR camera operations at the Incubation and Innovation Center.

The workshop was led by Mr. John Wambugu; an MA Communication Studies student who is also a Canon Certified Trainer and Ambassador. The event is part of the School’s plan to encourage engagement by Journalism and Communication students with industry professionals, in order to equip them with professional technical skills.

The workshop was organized by Assistant Professor of Film Dr. Rachael Diang’a, and also featured Mr. Chris Kamau (Chairman, Kenya Actors’ Guild), Ms. Nduta Sialo (Secretary General, Kenya Actors Guild) and Ms. Matrid Nyaga (President of Dada Trust - organisers of Udada International Women’s Film Festival).

The soon-to-be-launched School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts is offering two new programs in Summer 2018.

The Bachelor of Arts in Film Production and Directing will present students with the opportunity to master the fundamentals of film making using world-class labs and sets, equipped with industry leading equipment.

The Bachelor of Arts in Animation will empower creatives with a passion for visual arts, drawing and storytelling, to innovate, experiment, imagine, and create, to produce animation art that stands out in the global industry.
TED Foundation donates 70 books to library

By Charles Wanjala

When Laura Boykin, a computational scientist at the University of Western Australia and TED Fellow paid a visit to the USIU-Africa Library in 2016, she was amazed at the beauty and wealth of information resources and spaces. That is how the TED Books journey commenced.

A step forward from the famous TED Talks - those 18-minute speeches full of inspiring and thought-provoking ideas - TED Books pick up where the speeches end. According to the TED Foundation - a non-profit, non-partisan Foundation - such reads are "Long enough to explore a powerful idea but short enough to read in a single sitting".

The Library received a donation of 5 copies each of 14 TED books, that cut across most academic disciplines offered on campus (including leisure reading), through the networking efforts of Principal Librarian (Acquisitions) Ms. Azenath Ateka.

The total cost of the entire donation was US$1769 paid for by the TED Foundation, whose generous gift marks a key milestone in the growth of the Library’s collection.

KPMG invites applications for elite graduate trainee program

By Leah Ngechu

The Office of Career Services hosted six employees of regional professional financial services firm KPMG East Africa, on Thursday, March 29 at the Incubation and Innovation Center.

KPMG is seeking highly motivated and talented young professionals to join as Associates as part of its Graduate Recruitment Program. They are interested in working with “team players, progressive thinkers and can communicate their ideas with passion. People who are keen on learning, who want to be leaders in their profession and who want to make a difference.”

However applications would only be considered if the deadline of Monday, April 16 was met, and if the applicants would graduate with honors (GPA of 3.5 and above).

The KPMG representatives insisted that the best way for an undergraduate to present themselves to potential employers, is through a resume that is expressive of their character, and also detailed in their achievements throughout their student life.

A curriculum vitae, according to the KPMG team, represents who you are before you are called for an interview. Thus, every applicant must be certain, it places them in a favorable light. Additionally, referees must be individuals who the applicant is certain, will vouch for them.

They also conducted a mock interview to demonstrate how students should conduct themselves during an interview. The key point here was that the candidate should be self-aware, and engage with the interviewer in a way that expresses their values and standards.

KPMG East Africa offers financial services across its tax, advisory and audit divisions.
**IT Club holds Version Control Workshop**

By Advait Joshi

The IT Club organized a Version Control workshop on Friday, April 7 at the Incubation and Innovation Center. Students were taken through a brief history of version control, its importance, and a practical guide on how to incorporate version control in their projects.

Version control, sometimes called source control, is the management of changes to large collections of information such as computer programs. While managing different revisions of program files may not be critical in smaller projects, complex software development requires complex systems of source control that also allow a team of people to access and change the same files.

Source control allows for the ability to revert documents/programs to previous states, which is critical for allowing editors to track each other’s edits, correct mistakes, and minimize spamming and vandalism.
A section of members of various sports teams pose for a group photo at the conclusion of their semester-long training program in the Strength Training Gym on the second floor of the Freida Brown Student Center. The program, which is run by rugby coach Mr. Dennis Mwanja (left), enables members of various sports teams to maintain an optimum level of fitness, and thus improve performance and avoid field injuries. Each team is allocated a training slot between Monday and Thursday, while Friday is an open session for any member of any team. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

Media mentions

By Diana Meso

April 13: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Governor Kahiga picks Carol Karugu as his deputy.”

April 13: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Eve Woman magazine in an article titled “Meet Caroline Wanjiru Karugu, the newly nominated Nyeri County Deputy Governor.”

April 13: USIU-Africa was mentioned by HapaKenya in an article titled “Renowned academic Prof. Paul Zeleza on his plans for USIU, academia & his ties to Kenya.”

April 12: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Caroline Wanjiru nominated Nyeri deputy governor.”

April 12: USIU-Africa was mentioned by EnvironmentGuru in an article titled “Announcing the 2018 World Bank Number Blog4Dev contest winners.”

April 12: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Hakipensheni Blog in an article titled “Microsoft Unveils New Appfactory in Kenya.”

April 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Hakipensheni blog in an article titled “How fairness, trust give leaders honour.”

April 12: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Nyeri Governor Kahiga appoints Carol Karugu his deputy.”

April 12: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Governor Kahiga picks Carol Karugu as his deputy.”

April 12: K24 mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Nyeri Governor appoints Caroline Karugu to deputize him.”

April 12: The Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali Sugar Warriors bolster team with new players.”

April 11: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Telkom begin new season on a high.”

April 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Michezo Afrika in an article titled “Big win for Telkom as Kenya Hockey League Starts.”

April 6: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Capital Campus in an article titled “USIU launches social media research lab thanks to 20M American funding.”

April 5: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali Sugar Warriors bolster team with new players.”

April 4: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Pulse Live in an article titled “Student sues USIU for not having elevator in lecture hall.”

April 4: The Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Justice boosts loyalty among co-op members.”