Understand the root causes of conflict, says conference keynote speaker

By Dr. Simeon P. Sungi

On June 19 and 20, scholars and practitioners from the East African region and other parts of the world were hosted by the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, to deliberate on issues relating to “Access to Justice and the Enforcement of Rights in Criminal Courts in East Africa.”

The USIU-Africa Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference is an annual conference established by faculty in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, to respond to the new direction spelt out in the University’s Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020, which focuses on research and bridging the gap between industry and academia.

The Organizing Committee received 40 abstracts, addressing the seven sub-themes: Development of penal reform in East Africa and beyond; Non-lawyers and justice delivery; Promoting international humanitarian law through the criminal justice system; Corrections and rehabilitation; Access to justice and human rights; Gender and access to justice and Accessing legal aid in the criminal justice system in East Africa and beyond.

Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nairobi, Mr. Olivier DuBois delivered the keynote speech on the opening day, which dealt with the importance of fighting against impunity by responding to international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. He emphasized the need for national jurisdictions to develop processes that are able to respond to the needs of victims of such crimes, while understanding the root causes of conflict in society. Such an understanding, Mr. DuBois said, enables society to devise alternative methods of social control, without an over-reliance on court processes. According to him, (continued on page 2)
society is the most important organ that can influence a paradigm shift in how individuals socialize, thus avoiding conflict as well as inculcating respect for the rule of law.

During the last day of the conference, delegates moved to a plenary session moderated by Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Dr. Simeon Sungi where members of academia and industry engaged in a dialogue on the real meaning of access to justice and its application in society. The panelists, who included Associate Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Ngure wa Mwachofi, ICRC Communication and Liaison Officer, Mr. Hillary Muchiri Kiboro, Mzumbe University, Tanzania, Ms. Rosemary Mukama, Ms. Valentine Njogu (Advocate), Ms. Rahma Ramadhan (Lawyer and Junior Research Fellow, Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies) and Mr. Emmanuel Pirimba, Prosecutor, Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution, Uganda, were of the uniform view that “access to justice” is an important norm in any society because it dictates competing values, namely peace and justice.

The conference papers presented shall undergo a double-blind peer review process, and be published in a special issue of the Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa bearing the Conference theme. The next USIU-Africa Criminology and Criminal Justice Conference will be held on June 19 and 20, 2019.

Howard professor speaks on perceptions contributions made by African women judges

By Simeon Sungi

On June 18, the USIU-Africa Institute of Public Policy and International Affairs, and the Criminal Justice and International Relations programs invited Dr. Josephine Dawuni, Assistant Professor of Political Science from Howard University, in Washington D.C., to give a talk related to her recently edited book titled “International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Unveiled Narratives”, published this year by Routledge.

Dr. Dawuni’s book expounds on the contributions of African women in international institutions, especially courts and tribunals, which she argues are always underreported and unexplored. Thus her research focused on demystifying the Western narrative that gender parity is a result of pressure from donors through foreign aid.

Dr. Dawuni also spoke about her experiences as a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADF) fellow, at the Faculty of Law in the University of Ghana. She emphasized how the research collaboration between African scholars in Africa and those in the diaspora, can produce empirically driven policies that could benefit the continent and empower Africans.
Dr. Ireri’s research on corruption among Kenyan journalists published in new book

Research show media discriminated against female Kenyan athletes at Rio Olympics

By Dr. Kioko Ireri

Dr. Joseph Nyanoti (Assistant Professor of Journalism) presented a research paper at the International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) titled, Photographic Representation of Kenyan Female Athletes in the Kenyan Press During the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Using a quantitative and qualitative analysis of photographs published by two Kenyan national newspapers (Daily Nation and The Standard) covering 2016 Olympic Games, the study indicates that men got better coverage than their female counterparts. The findings exposed how the photographs from the two newspapers, were replete with ideological nuances that supported a patriarchal status quo.

Importantly, men were not only allocated more photographic space than the women, but the latter were also treated as less serious in sports. Instead, their feminine traits were exaggerated, further demonstrating how Kenyan media promotes patriarchal hegemony. The conference was held at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon in the U.S. from June 20 - 24.
in companies, centered on sustainability and innovative future-proof solutions.

“I co-founded Great Minds Challenge because I believe young people are the next frontier into unlocking the pan African dream” said Mr. Ndung’u.

According to the program’s framework, companies should acquire the capacity to promote personal development, continuous innovation, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities. The program is designed to allow the private sector to work with talented young people, to ensure that corporate operations uplift the wellbeing of people and the planet.

Nudge is a social enterprise based in The Netherlands with programs that aim to train and inspire leaders in sustainability, and thus create agents who will lead positive impact through and in their respective organizations.

The Sustainable & Inclusive Business (SIB) Conference, held on campus in May this year, was the first product of the collaboration between the Incubation and Innovation Center and Nudge, based on shared interests for sustainability and inclusivity in the world of business.

By Antonio Longangi

Mr. Peter Ndung’u (International Relations ’15) has been nominated for the Nudge Global Impact Leadership Awards 2018, an honor he has received for co-founding a top performance and process acceleration program The Great Minds Challenge.

Mr. Ndung’u, who is one of the top 10 finalists selected from among 90 young nominees from all over the world, will attend the award ceremony scheduled for October 16, 2018 during the Nudge Summit at the Peace Palace at The Hague.

The Great Minds Challenge was created to train young and innovative global thinkers, thought leaders, scholars, entrepreneurs and change-makers, on the future of work in companies, centered on sustainability and innovative future-proof solutions.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza represented the University at the International Conference on Higher Education in the 21st Century, held from June 27-29 at Mangochi, in Malawi. PHOTO COURTESY OF PROF. PAUL ZELEZA
USIU-Africa celebrating ‘Father of African cinema’

By Tracy Munene, Eric Musembi and Diana Meso

The School of Communication, Cinematics and Creatives Arts screened Sembène and Xala on Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12 at the auditorium, as part of the Sembène Across Africa project.

The project features a series of free public screenings in 130 venues across Africa and several cities in the Diaspora, in celebration of the legacy of the Senegalese film director, producer and writer the late Ousmane Sembène. In Kenya, the two films were aired at USIU-Africa and Alliance Francaise.

Ousmane Sembène is considered Africa’s pre-eminent cultural hero, who used the mediums of film and literature to re-tell the African story from an Afro-centric point of view. Apart from Xala and Sembène, he produced many other films including Black Girl, Mandabi, Emitai, Ceddo, Camp de Thiaroye, Borom Sarret and Moolaade.

Sembène is a documentary film focusing on the life of Ousmane Sembène - his journey and milestones from birth, from fighting in World War II, to working as a dockhand, before becoming a novelist and a pioneering filmmaker. It further illustrates his film career spanning over 50 years and which earned him the title of “Father of African cinema”. The film, which was directed by Samba Gadjigo and Jason Silverman was first aired during the Sundance Film Festival in January 2015.

Xala on the other hand depicts El Hadji, a businessman in Senegal, who is cursed with crippling erectile dysfunction on the day of his marriage to his third wife. The film satirizes the corruption in African post-independence governments as symbolizes by El Hadji’s impotence. The film was directed by Ousmane Sembène and Filmi Domireve - SNC.

The screening was followed by a brief discussion on the importance of the two films in Africa’s history, and the milestones in film production in Africa and was facilitated by Dr. Rachael Diang’a (Assistant Professor of Film). During the discussion, participants were encouraged to use film to tell those great African stories that for a long time have been globally sidelined.

A group of faculty led by Chandaria School of Business Dean Prof. Peter Lewa attended a training workshop on Business Process Improvement on Tuesday, June 12, held at the School. The training, which was conducted by Mr. Emeka Okonkwo (Managing Director, African Process and Performance Institute), focused on familiarizing faculty with CREPES thinking - an approach aimed at achieving smarter processes through Consistency, Responsiveness, Efficiency, Profitability, Effectiveness and Sustainability. According to the School, the training will soon be offered to all Chandaria School of Business students.

From left: Dr. Kefah Njenga, Dr. Joyce Ndegwa, Dr. Juliana Namada, Mr. Emeka Okonkwo, Prof. Peter Lewa, Dr. Teresia Linge, Dr. Timothy Oketh and Dr. Francis Gatumo.

PHOTO: DR. TERESIA LINGE
This year’s commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held for the first time in Africa, at the United Nations Office in Nairobi on June 26, where the inaugural World Drug Report 2018 was launched.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was established by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/112 of December 7, 1987 to strengthen global action and cooperation.

In delivering his keynote address, Nairobi Senator Hon. Johnson Sakaja, noted that the Government of Kenya is firmly resolved to respond to the illicit drug epidemic, even suggesting that Parliament should strengthen legislation dealing with drug abuse, for example, amending the Pharmacy and Poisons Act (Chapter 244) of the Laws of Kenya to seal all the loopholes that allow, for instance chemists to sell prescription drugs without proper prescription notes from a doctor. He also emphasized the need to focus on mental health in responding to individuals who are drug addicts.

The World Drug Report 2018 highlighted the following issues; the opioid crisis, the expansion of prescription drug abuse, as well as cocaine and opium use, and found that these hard drugs use had reached new record highs.

The report also highlighted the fact that Fentanyl and associated drugs remain a global problem. What’s more, opioid used to treat moderate and moderate-to-severe pain is now a growing concern in parts of Africa and Asia. The report’s findings also show that drug markets are expanding, with cocaine and opium production also hitting high records.

The report investigated inter alia, the correlation between drug use and age, finding a positive correlation between drug use and age. Drug use and associated health consequences were found to be high among young people (aged 12-40) than older people (aged 40 and above). Cannabis topped the list of illicit drugs as a drug of choice consumed by young people. In explaining the correlation, the report found two extreme typologies of drug use among young people: One, club drugs in nightlife settings, and two, inhalants among street children.

University students have been identified as a group that has been hit hard by the drug menace. The Standard Newspaper on April 13, 2017 ran an article titled “The painful reality about drug abuse in Kenyan Universities” which highlighted illicit drug abuse in college campuses in Kenya. In addition to prosecuting sellers and traffickers of hard drugs, establishments that expose students to drug use, should lose their business licenses and be permanently closed down.

Alcohol and drug abuse is not just a criminal justice issue, but rather a public health and a social problem. Instead of punitive responses to the drug addiction problem in college campuses, creation of policies that address the root cause of the drug addiction problem among young people will likely be most effective.

At USIU- Africa, a taskforce is already working to propose policies and strategies for effectively dealing with alcohol and drug abuse at institutional level. Additional resources for Counseling Services at university campuses, will also be more effective in ensuring implementation of such policies and strategies, once they are drawn up.
SPORT UPDATES
By Antonio Longangi

Swimming
The swimming team will be competing against swimming clubs from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania at the Invitational Championship organized by the Coast Amateur Swimming Association (CASA) from June 29 to July 2 at the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa.

Handball
In handball, the men’s team played in the Gretsa Open Tournament on Saturday, June 23 at Gretsa University in Thika. The team won 14 – 10 against Mount Kenya University, but lost 10 – 20 to Ulizi.

Rugby
On Saturday June 23 and Sunday, June 24, the men’s rugby team played in the Embu Rugby 7s Series at the Embu Stadium. On the first day, the team won 19 – 5 against Kiambu Rugby Club, then lost 7 – 19 to Makueni University, and 0 – 10 to Strathmore University. On the second day, the team defeated Meru School 12 – 5 in the quarter finals, then lost 0 – 25 to Northern Suburbs in semifinals. The team will play the Kings of Rugby 7s series from July 7 – 8 at Kaimosi Friends University College, in the Western county of Kakamega.

Basketball
In the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) Division 3, the men’s basketball team lost 0 – 20 against the University of Nairobi (UoN), and 36 – 46 against Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology. They are expected to play against Snipers and Footprints as their female counterparts take on Co-operative Bank this Saturday, June 30.

Upcoming Events
SATURDAY, JUNE 30
BASKETBALL: NBA Division 3
USIU-Africa (Men) vs. Snipers
Upper Hill
KBF Premier League
USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs. Footprints
USIU-Africa (Men) vs. Co-operative Bank
USIU-Africa Basketball Court
SOCCER: UCFL
USIU-Africa (Men) & (Ladies) vs Zetech University
University of Nairobi

JULY 3 - 5 (TUESDAY - THURSDAY)
The Eighth Toyun Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora (TOFAC) Auditorium
FRIDAY, JULY 6
Poetry Super Slam
11am - 1pm | Library & Information Center

Media mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

June 25: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Africa News in an article titled “Tunisian’s rags-to-riches story symbol of Africa’s enrichment from China’s reform and opening-up.”

June 24: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled “Thunder strikes KCA as Blazers silence the Blades.”

June 23: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Harlequins, Leos off to flying starts at Embu 7s.”

June 22: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Thunder favourites against KCA in KBF League encounter.”