USIU-Africa hosts the Eighth Toyin Falola Annual International Conference (TOFAC)

By Diana Meso

USIU-Africa in partnership with the Toyin Falola Annual International Conference (TOFAC) hosted the Eighth Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora themed “Beyond History – African Agency” from July 3-5.

The three-day event which was the first to be held in Kenya, aimed at demystifying and identifying ways in which Africa can innovate the future for itself based on a progressive embrace of a young, productive, optimistic and endowed Africa. It was attended by over 200 participants representing at least 15 countries.

During the opening session at the auditorium, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza welcomed the participants saying that the conference plays a key role in Africa’s redefining itself as the driver of its destiny, by harnessing the productive energies of its ample youth and capitalizing on the synergies of its diaspora and making peace with the necessity of forging global alliances.

Prof. Toyin Falola- after whom the conference is named - also welcomed the delegates describing the conference as a platform to engage on the need to produce knowledge at the highest levels of excellence.

In her keynote speech, Professor of Security Leadership and Development at King’s College, London, Prof. Funmi Olonisakin, urged participants to change the way Africans are being listened to as part of a transformative process.

“Those who matter most are not speaking overtly, if we do not look for answers, by looking beyond that which is presented to us, we might actually in essence be sustaining the very inequalities and inequities that create the kind of continent in which our agency is hijacked, and appropriated,” she said.

The subsequent breakout sessions held on the second and the third day of the conference, covered important themes surrounding cultural dynamism and creative arts in the 21st century African development, Africa and China relations, Africa and globalization, human rights, democracy and leadership issues in Africa and African diaspora, education and Africa, communication and innovation, gender, youth and transformation in Africa, health issues in Africa among others.

The conference further involved presentation of research papers, which together with the discussions held brought to light key elements required for Africa to rise. These include; the imperative to reflect more deeply on innovations that engage African young minds on what it means to be African and a conscious reminder of the contributions that African people have made to global civilization, the need to strengthen democratic institutions, work for the emergence of good leadership, and promote the ethics of non-corruption, the emergence of African media outlet to counter negative narratives coming from outside the continent of Africa and the radical approach to address Africa’s developmental challenges.

Moreover, the conference participants came to a realization of the importance of culture as an agency of empowerment, the rejection of new forms of imperialism and neo-colonization either coming from the West, Europe or Asia, the expansion of private and public universities as centers of great research and learning to transform the continent among others.

The conference was organized by the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension and spearheaded by Professor of International Relations Prof. Cassandra Veney and Prof. Amos Njuguna (Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension) together with the organizing committee.
USIU-Africa signs MOU with coaching experts
By Cecilia Mweru and Ernest Anguru

USIU-Africa and Rise and Learn Mentorship Group (RLM)- a product of Rise & Learn Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide mentorship to graduate students aimed at equipping them with skills needed for their career progression. The event was held on Friday, June 22 and was attended by USIU-Africa Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, DVC Academic and Student Affairs Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono and Director of Rise & Learn Mrs. Emily Kamunde.

The partnership provides a platform for RLM Group to compliment and support the Placement and Career Services (PACS) Student Mentorship Program through various trainings that will enable graduates explore their career options, identify and prepare for opportunities in the job market and access internship, volunteer and job openings in partner organizations.

The event was also graced by Human Resource Segment Head at Safal Group Mr. Stephen Olieka, Founder and Director, Solution Finders Development Center Ms. Bernice Nasimiyu, Director University Advancement Mr. James Ogolla, Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary Ms. Hellen Ambasa, and Placement and Career Services officers Ms. Mina Kaburu and Mrs. Cecilia Mweru.

RLM Group is a consortium of Human Resource professionals from well-established HR firms in Kenya whose objective is to provide mentorship to young people.

Rise & Learn Limited is a HR Consulting and Training firm aimed at impacting lives and multiplying the impact through training.

Interested participants may register through contacting Career and Placement Officer Mrs. Cecilia Mweru on cwaihenya@usiu.ac.ke /0730 116 778 or through visiting the PACS office, 2nd Floor, Freida Brown Student Center.

"The partnership provides a platform for RLM Group to compliment and support the Placement and Career Services (PACS) Student Mentorship Program"
Students trained on digital marketing

By Peter Mbwana & Antonio Longangi

On Thursday June 28, USIU-Africa’s AIESEC and IT club hosted the Digitalk Campus Tour- an initiative of Eyeballs Marketing firm aimed at sensitizing and training young people on ways to access and exploit opportunities provided by the development in technology.

The event entailed a panel discussion comprising of Safaricom Digital and Social Media Manager Ms. Vivienne Ethangatta, Brighter Monday Chief Executive Officer Mr. Emmanuel Mutuma and Local artiste Mr. Anthony Gitau famously known as Anto Neosoul.

Ms. Ethangatta encouraged participants to keenly take up internship opportunities adding that they act as a leeway to the next big step in their career life.

“I was able to turn my passion into a career by proactively rejuvenating the social media platforms of the companies I interned with, through practical learning, I was able to set myself on my current career path,” she said.

Mr. Mutuma pointed out that with the current technology advances, there is easy access to digital platforms which makes the digital space one of the most competitive in terms of capturing and maintaining the attention of an audience, adding that it is crucial for participants to identify their competition to help in curving out one’s niche audience in order to effectively stand out.

In conclusion, Mr. Gitau gave three key elements of surviving in the digital space; practicing self-awareness, identify primary audience and being resilient. He also encouraged participants to take advantage of networking opportunities as they expose one to industry experience.

Ginger Ink donates 200 copies of Kenya’s award-winning film

By Dr. Rachael Diang’a and Diana Meso

The School of Communication, Cinematics and Creative Arts (SCCCA) received a donation of 200 copies worth Ksh. 100,000 of the Kenyan award-winning film Nairobi Half Life from Ginger Ink- a Kenyan-based film servicing and production company on Thursday July 5.

The donation presented by Kenya Film Commission’s Ms Grace Kago and Ginger Ink representative Mr. William Wakasiaka was received by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and Assistant Professor of Film Dr. Racheal Diang’a. This will be used as training materials for students taking Film Production and Directing and Animation courses and help the students appreciate and support local films.

In his remarks, Prof. Zeleza thanked the donors and pointed out that USIU-Africa aims at positioning SCCCA as one of the best film school in the region by responding to industry needs and economy’s demand through tapping into the vast creative talents in the University and the increasing realization of the place of creative industries in Kenya’s economy.

The film will be screened at the Old Gym-TV Room on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 from 5 pm.

Nairobi Half Life is a 2012 Kenyan drama film that tells the story of an aspiring actor who travels from his rural home to Nairobi with the hope of achieving his dreams but instead ends up tangled with a mob of criminals.
SPORTS UPDATES

By Antonio Longangi

Members of the staff volleyball team present a trophy won at the Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) National Tournament held on June 23-24, 2018 in Nyeri County where they emerged champions.

From left: Ms. Leah Gichuki (Clerk of Works, Maintenance), Mr. Peter Muthui (Machine Operator, Maintenance), Mr. Bernard Lamonya (Room attendant, Hostels), Mr. Saphan Omari (Assistant technician, Maintenance), Mr. Julius Kyuli (Technician, Maintenance Operations), Mr. Mohammed Basho (Room attendant, Hostels), Mr. Michael Macharia (Assistant technician, Maintenance), Mr. Nicholas Musembi (Room attendant, hostels), and Mr. Yusuf Saleh (Chief Manager, Human Resources).

BASKETBALL
The ladies team defeated Footprints 64-32 during their Saturday, July 30, match in the ongoing Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League at the USIU-Africa basketball court. Their male counterparts won 77-73 against AllStars during the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) Division 3 at Upper Hill on Sunday July 1.

The ladies team is set to play against Eagle Wings and Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) on Saturday July 7 and Sunday July 8 respectively as the men’s team tackle KPA on Saturday July 7, at the USIU-Africa basketball court.

SWIMMING
The USIU-Africa team finished at the 7th position with 64 points out of the 8 teams present during the Invitational Championship organized by the Coast Amateur Swimming Association (CASA) from June 29 to July 2 at the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa. This is after the men clinched the 6th position with 33 points while the ladies were at position 7 with 11 points.

SOCCER
In soccer, both the men and ladies team lost to Zetech University 0-3 and 1-5 respectively, during the University and College Football League (UCFL) that took place at the University of Nairobi on Saturday June 30.
I.B.A major Kezia Midwa, crowned the best bridal make-up artist of the year during the Inaugural Kenya Wedding Industry on Monday, June 18, 2018. The Award was launched by Samantha Bridal to recognize excellence across 45 categories within the wedding industry. The voting was done by the public, industry peers, and past brides and grooms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 7 (Saturday)
KBF Premier League
USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs. Kenya Ports Authority
USIU-Africa (Men) vs. Kenya Ports Authority
USIU-Africa basketball court

July 7 – 8 (Saturday – Sunday)
Greensteads International School hockey tournament
Nakuru
KUSA Rugby 7s Series
Kakamega

July 9 – 13 (Monday – Friday)
Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Week
9 am- 9 pm behind the cafeteria

July 13 (Friday)
Mr. & Miss Life Beauty Pageants
Auditorium

July 26–27 (Thursday & Friday)
Evidence to Action Conference and Exhibition.
USIU-Africa.

MEDIA MENTIONS

Compiled by Diana Meso.

July 5: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KU’s Blak Blad seek KUSA boost in Kaimosi.”

July 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled “New association formed to advance interests of HE.”

July 2: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KDF robes Backlay’s as Blazers upset 4-Christ.”

June 30: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Champs KPA out to stretch unbeaten run.”

June 30: USIU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled “Support for the beard gang.”

June 30: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Tuko in an article titled “Funny trending USIU memes.”

June 29: Business Today mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Former People Daily journalist lands top USIU job.”

June 25: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Experts give proposals to fix Nairobi.”