By Antonio Longangi

His Excellency Ambassador Stefano Dejak, the European Union Ambassador to Kenya was on campus on Tuesday, July 17 for the European Film Festival Plus screening of the documentary “Europe at Sea” on Tuesday, July 17, hosted by USIU-Africa’s Young Diplomats Forum.

The event was part of the European Film Festival Plus aiming at providing a different image of Europe to the rest of the world through films and documentaries.

The documentary produced by award-winning film maker Annalisa Piras, features the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Federica Mogherini, who provided a unique insight into challenges threatening European security. “Europeans need to take responsibility for their own defence,” she says, expressing her concern that if Europe did not wake up to its global position, “we could sleepwalk into a conflict”.

The documentary explores issues of migration, terrorism, cyberwarfare and the instability of the European Union, which in her defence strategy demand an historic shift in European security and defence cooperation.

The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring Ambassador Dejak, Professor of History and International Relations Prof. Macharia Munene, Assistant Professor of Film Dr. Rachael Diang’a (Chair, Department of Cinematic Art), and Ms. Joan Kimani (International Relations Lecturer). Associate Professor of International Relations Dr. Fatma Ali (Young Diplomats Forum Club Patron) moderated the discussion.

The panelists shared historical, diplomatic, cinematic and gender perspectives on the documentary, followed by an engaging, interactive question and answer session that mainly dwelled on the European Union’s attitude toward Africa in light of its colonial past and aftermath. Addressing that issue, H.E Ambassador Stefano Dejak urged Africa to take charge of its future, which he felt every citizen should do by asking the question “What am I doing for my country?”

On the other hand, he emphasized the need for European Union partner states to understand the priorities of the European Union and its foreign policies - an objective the documentary attempted to achieve.

“Europe at Sea” had earlier been screened during the Eighth Toying Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora (TOFAC) held at USIU-Africa from July 3-5, 2018.
The Hoja Youth Summit held its second youth caucus on Friday, July 20 at the auditorium. Under the theme “Youth Participation in Leadership, Accountability and Governance: Towards a Youth-Led Africa”, academicians, professionals, entrepreneurs and Members of Parliament, engaged more than 250 delegates from USIU-Africa, other local universities and non-profit organizations, on the role of the youth in decision making.

In his remarks the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, described how scholars will contribute to the future of society. “Since education will remain a key factor in human development, it will need people to drive it. You can and should be one of those people” he said.

Nominated Member of Parliament Hon. Gideon Keter, himself a former President of the national youth organization – Youth Senate – urged his audience to get involved in the running of their country. His sentiment was supported by Embakasi East Member of Parliament Paul Ongili (Babu) Owino who observed that “Leadership starts right where you are, on your campus.”

Other panelists included Prof. Wangari Mwai (Associate DVC - Student Affairs), Mr. Adams Tuva (USIU-Africa alumnus and Chairman, Kenya Chamber of Commerce), Dr. Simeon Sungi (Chair, Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology), Mr. Dan Odaba (Lecturer, International Relations), Dr. Maurice Mashwama (Executive Director, Sereno Africa) and Mr. Prince Reinhard (Author and International Business Administration Freshman).

Hoja Youth Summit is a student organization focused on youth involvement in developing practical solutions for African challenges. “Hoja Youth Summit is action oriented and serious about getting involved in solving the problems of our mother land,” insisted Summit Coordinator Mr. Eddy Musoke (International Relations Junior). The caucus was one of the preparatory activities for the upcoming Hoja Youth Summit to be held from October 24-27, 2018.

The summit will provide a platform for delegates from across Africa to learn from experts, exchange ideas on building sustainable development projects in their local communities and elsewhere on the continent. Discussions will evolve around several subjects such as, peace building and conflict resolution in Africa, social entrepreneurship, innovation and technology, women empowerment, gender equity, among others.
Carnegie Fellow teaches students to think critically

By Philip Machoka and Dan Muchai

Prof. Onesimus Otieno, Professor of Biological Sciences at Oakwood University, was a guest lecturer at Mr. Philip Machoka’s SUS1010 Strategies for Success class, on the topic of critical thinking.

Prof. Otieno, was awarded a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship, in June 2018 to assist in the development of active learning tools for a graduate program’s online learning environment at Adventist University of Africa.

Before he guided his audience on how to use a critical thinking tool, Prof. Otieno explained that the best thinkers “think about their thinking” do not take thinking for granted, and do not trust fate to make them good in thinking. He also added that the best thinkers notice their thinking, reflect and act upon it.

He took the SUS 1010 class through a number of hands-on activities using a critical thinking tool, *Elements of Thought Wheel*, to help them work through their thinking process. They were shown how the tool can be used to tackle assignments such as term papers, reading assignments, among other academic activities. The tool, he said can also be used to assess reasoning through intellectual standards for clarity, accuracy, fairness, relevance, depth, logical and breadth.

Critical thinking, according to Prof. Otieno, is a soft skill everyone should possess in life to guide one even beyond college to come up with solutions to everyday problems.

Later, the same day he made a presentation to faculty and staff on *Optimizing the Use* of Online Platform & Integrating Critical Thinking into Curriculum Development and Classroom Instructions.  

-The presentation highlighted strategies faculty can use to incorporate critical thinking during design and curriculum development; and eventually integrating the techniques in delivering classroom instructions. Present during the afternoon presentation was Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program Coordinator Ms. Everlyn A. Musa.
USIU-Africa signs new agreement with Aga Khan University

By Dan Muchai

On Friday, July 20, USIU-Africa signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Aga Khan University for the promotion and expansion of collaborative research and grant-writing.

The agreement provides for Bachelor of Pharmacy industrial attachments at Aga Khan University Hospital, while on its part USIU-Africa will provide locum positions for nurses and pharmacy technicians at USIU-Africa.

The agreement also extends a March 2018 initiative between the two institutions, whereby Aga Khan University Hospital agreed to enable students undertaking the Bachelor of Pharmacy participate in an on-site training program at the hospital.

This arrangement would enhance the students’ theoretical knowledge and clinical skills, expose them to the diverse roles that pharmacists play in an actual hospital setting, and familiarise them with international benchmarks in relation to clinical skills, quality, and ethical practices.

Library among finalists for Green Library Awards 2018

By Ernest Anguru & Dan Muchai

The USIU-Africa Library and Information Center has been named among the top five finalists in the IFLA Green Library Awards 2018, which will be presented at the World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Monday, August 27, 2018.

The award seeks to reward the best Green Library submission that communicates a library’s commitment to environmental sustainability, as well as creating awareness of libraries’ social responsibility and leadership in environmental education.

USIU-Africa was recognized for its “Garden in the Library” where trees and plants exist in a garden environment that provides fresh air for library users and staff. Additionally, the Library was also commended for using its roof to harvest rainwater that is then used to water the garden thus providing an ecofriendly method of sustaining the garden.

The 11-year-old library is now held up as a perfect example of how libraries in Africa have embraced the green movement and demonstrated innovativeness in library practice.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. The IFLA Green Library Award was established in 2016 by IFLA’s Environmental Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group, and generously sponsored by De Gruyter publishing. Among IFLA’s objectives in offering this award is to reward the best Green Library submission that communicates a library’s commitment to environmental sustainability, as well as create awareness of libraries’ social responsibility and leadership in environmental education.

A total 32 submissions were received from around the world, including Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Croatia, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Spain, Ukraine, USA, and Uzbekistan.

USIU-Africa Library & Information Center made it to the top five finalists of the IFLA Green Library Awards 2018. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

The Vice Chancellor poses with the senior USIU-Africa and Aga Khan University officials following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences and USIU-Africa on Friday, July 20. From left: Ms. Helen Ambasa (Director, Legal Services / Company Secretary), Dr. Carl Amrhein (Provost & Vice President, Academic), Prof. Robert Armstrong (Foundation Dean, Medical College, East Africa), Dr. Kweku Bentil (Vice Provost - East Africa), Prof. Paul Zeleza (Vice Chancellor), Mr. Shawn Bolouki (CEO, Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi), Prof. Njeri Wamae (Dean, School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences) and Dr. Munyendo Lincoln (Chair, Department of Analytical and Industrial Pharmacy). PHOTO: DIANA MESA
USIU-Africa hosts endangered languages workshop

By Angelina Kioko

Acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science Prof. Angelina Kioko is participating in a “Documenting Endangered and threatened languages of East Africa” project workshop, which began on Monday, July 23 and ends on Saturday, July 28 in the Freida Brown Student Center. The project, which is sponsored by Alliance for African Partnership - an initiative of Michigan State University - is a collaboration between Prof. Kioko; Ann Biersteker and Deo Ngonyani of Michigan State University; and Josephat Rugemarila of Tumaini University in Dar es Salaam.

The workshop’s objectives included initiating a program to mentor young researchers in East Africa in field research, language documentation, authorship and publishing. Creating a network of scholars who will work with communities in recognition, appreciation and documentation of cultural heritage of different communities; and Dissemination of research and contribution to the creation of knowledge that springs from the study of the languages.

The 13 participants are drawn from Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenyatta University, Tumaini University, University of Dar es Salaam, University of Nairobi and USIU-Africa.

WSCUC is an acronym which stands for WASC Senior College and University Commission. It is one of six regional associations that accredits colleges, and universities in the United States. It is recognized by the Department of Education of the U.S. federal government, and is in fact one of the most prestigious commissions in the North American continent.

WSCUC accredits all the universities and colleges in the Western side of United States, including Stanford University, the nine-campus University of California system and the 23-campus California State University system, making up a total of 210 institutions. USIU-Africa is the oldest among the nine universities outside United States which are accredited by WSCUC, and it is the only one in Africa.

WSCUC accreditation confirms that an institution possesses the resources, policies, and practices to achieve its educational goals and that the university has provided evidence of the quality of its educational programs. Degree certificates from WSCUC accredited institutions open many doors thus providing great advantages to USIU-Africa graduates.
Global Study Tour provides valuable lessons for MBA students

By Dan Muchai

From June 2018 17-23, MBA (Global Business Management) students visited Solbridge International Business School (of Wosong University) in the city of Daejeon in South Korea for their Global Study Tour and lectures accompanied by the Dean Prof. Peter Lewa and the Dean of School of Graduate studies, Research and Extension Prof Amos Njuguna.

Solbridge is an accredited member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and is thus in the premier club of the best business schools in the world.

The students had a week-long global experiential learning as part of the course requirements. While there, seminars were tailored to various areas of interest and later hand delivered to international business experts and faculty.

The first lecture was from Prof. Aye Mengistu about The East Asian Development Experience: Policy Lessons and Implications for Developing and Emerging Economies. He explained why East Asia has been a global case study for economic development and why many developing economies have embraced East Asian development models.

The second lecture was by Dr. Umer Zaman on Strategic Mindset in Today’s Corporate World. Dr. Umer Zaman discussed why organizations should have strategic mindset in order to survive and break out from the vicious circle of poverty and instability to realize high growth.

The group’s last lecture was by Dr. Reagan, who presented on Creating Innovative Solutions for Social Issues. He also spoke on design thinking, which he said was a structured process with a set of skills, tools and methods to solve problems and identify new opportunities by combining empathy, creativity and user experience.

The students also visited various organizations including KIA Motors and Samsung where interactive discussions were held with senior staff.

By superimposing theory on practice, the group was able to benchmark what they had learnt in class and in Solbridge, and what is currently being practiced globally. Many indeed acknowledged that they had learnt a number of important lessons.

The students also visited the Kenyan Embassy in Seoul, where they held interesting discussions with the Ambassador and his staff. Finally, at the end of the trip, the students were awarded a certificate of participation by the President and Vice Chancellor of Wosong University who is also the Vice Chancellor of the University.

Undisputed Champions: Cricket team retain title

By Antonio Longangi

In an official ceremony on Sunday, June 24 the USIU-Africa cricket team was crowned Champions of the Universities Cricket League organized by the Kenya Universities Sports Association (KUSA) from January 1 to March 18, 2018.

The team, comprising of a majority of freshmen and sophomores took up the task from their predecessors completing the League confidently on top of the chart. The

Continued on page 7
Wazee Vijana

By Antonio Longangi

The annual Wazee Vijana rugby game was held on Saturday, July 14 at the Rugby Football Union of East Africa (RFUEA) grounds on Ngong Road. Alumni (and former members of the USIU-Africa men’s rugby club) played against current members of the team in a game that was dedicated to rugby players who have passed away.

While Wazee scored tries in three of the five quarters played, the Vijana were unable to break through the Wazee’s strong defence game, thus concluding the game in favor of the Wazee.

“This is a tradition for us to reunite, play, reflect and have a good time together,” said Mr. Joel Karubiu (IBA, 2000) officiating the awarding segment of the event.

“I see potential in you, and with the support of alumni we will make sure you play the Kenya National Rugby League next year,” said Mr. Dennis Mwanja, rugby coach, speaking to both teams.

The Most Valuable Person MVP award went to Mr. Samuel Muchai (IBA ’05), while Mr. Martin Juma (IR Sophomore) received the award on behalf of alumni.

Left: Mr Samuel Muchai receives his MVP award from Mr. Joel Karubiu (IBA 2000). Right: Mr. Martin Juma (IR Sophomore) receives his award. BELOW: The match in progress at the RFUEA grounds on Ngong Road. PHOTOS: ANTONIO LONGANGI
Rugby
In the KUSA 2018 season, the men’s rugby team emerged 4th overall out of 14 teams participating in the Rugby 7s Series held from Saturday, July 21 to Sunday, July 22 at the Egerton University’s main campus in Njoro town, Nakuru.

In the pool phase, USIU-Africa thrashed Kabarak University 21 – 12, Moi University 29 – 5, and Zetech University 21 – 19. In semifinals they lost 5 – 14 against the host Egerton University and lost the playoffs 12 – 19 against Zetech University.

Basketball
The USIU-Africa ladies’ team was stronger than Sliders during the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier league game that concluded on a score of 5 – 1 on Saturday, July 21 at the City Park Hockey Stadium.

Their male colleagues lost 2 – 4 against Strathmore University on Sunday, July 22 after defeating Wazalendo Hockey Club on a 1 – 0 score on Sunday, July 15, and winning 2 – 0 against Kenya College of Accounting on Saturday, July 14 in the Premier League game held at the City Park Hockey Stadium.

The next game for men is scheduled for Sunday, July 29 when they will hopefully soundly defeat the Kenya College of Accounting (KCA) at the City Park Hockey Stadium.

American Football
In a series of friendly games held on campus on Saturday, July 14, the USIU-Africa team defeated the University of Nairobi (UoN) on a score of 36 – 18, before losing 20 – 22 against Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology.

Basketball
After losing 50 – 52 against Equity Bank on Saturday, July 14, the men’s team defeated Kisumu Lakeside Basketball Club 56 – 54 in an ongoing Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League match held on Saturday, July 21 in Kisumu.

Their colleagues in the Nairobi Basketball Academy (NBA) Division 3 also lost 39 – 49 against Sharks on July 14, then drew 49 against Sharks on July 14, then drew 24 – 24 against Dagoretti High School on Sunday, July 15, won 40 – 31 against Jamhuri High School on Saturday, July 21, and finally lost 31 – 40 against Strathmore University on Sunday, July 22 at the Upper Hill School Outdoor Courts.

The trip to Mumias, Kakamega County, paid off with a ladies’ team victory that won 50 – 21 against their host Western Delight on Saturday, July 21 in a Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League match.

On July 28 and 29, USIU-Africa will confront the University of Nairobi and Saints in the Nairobi Basketball Association, and in the KBF Premier League, the men will play against World Hope on July 28 and ladies will play Equity Bank on July 29 on campus.

Soccer
Bumpy adventure for USIU-Africa in the Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL) with the men’s team losing 2 – 4 against the Kenya Medical Training College on Saturday, July 21 in Kabete. Same score for the ladies’ that also played against the Kenya Medical Training College on the same day.

Media mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

July 26: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kenya’s Monitoring and Evaluation department to get Sh6b in new policy shift.”

July 26: Yallafrica mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kenya’s Monitoring and Evaluation Department to Get Sh6 Billion in New Policy Shift.”

July 24: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Sauce in an article titled “It’s a change of guard for Zetech University’s School of Business.”

July 23: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Spartans move a place higher after mauling Sliders.”

July 23: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Iran Project in an article titled “National Library of Iran among winners of 2018 IFLA Green Library Award.”

July 21: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Warriors stab Umija in league battle as Morans fall in Nakuru.”

July 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned by KBC in an article titled “Volleyball tourney: KPA extends good run.”

July 20: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Jaguars face Nakuru in relegation battle.”

July 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by WIL Conference in an article titled “WIL East Africa Conference USIU Interview.”

July 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Platform in an article titled “MANU CHANDARIA: A Role Model for the World?”

July 20: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “WOMAN OF PASSION: Helping people dream.”