By Beatrice Munyiva

Over 300 USIU-Africa alumni, faculty, staff and friends of USIU-Africa came together on Friday August 3, to give towards establishment of an Alumni Endowment Fund, that will benefit bright but disadvantaged students in acquiring a world class education at USIU-Africa.

The Endowment Fund launch at Movenpick Hotel and Residences in Nairobi, featured Daisy Wanzala (IR ‘15) and Ogutu Muraya (IR ‘11) - alumni who previously benefited from financial aid during their college career at USIU-Africa - describing the life-changing impact the aid had on their lives.

IR Sophomore Antonio Longangi, the arduous journey to undertaking his academic career at USIU-Africa beginning in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a journey that continues in no small part thanks to the University’s various financial aid programs.

The Chair of the Alumni Association, Ms. Dorothy Sagwe, in her remarks emphasized that need for individuals to build legacies for themselves by offering chances to other people, urging her audience to “plant a seed in someone’s life through the endowment fund.”

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Zeleza in his speech acknowledged alumni as key stakeholders in the growth of their alma mater. “The value of social responsibility and care for others within the community is integral in our culture. To see you today demonstrate that value is quite gratifying. Establishing this Endowment Fund will go a long way in positively impacting the lives of young promising students in Kenya, Africa and the whole world,” he said.

Chief Guest Dr. Kevit Desai, who is the Principal Secretary - Ministry of Education, State Department of Vocational and Technical Education, and Chair of the USIU-Africa Board of Trustees expressed his appreciation for the launch an endowment fund citing it as a unique occasion where alumni have come together to support their own.

"In the Eastern Africa region, USIU-Africa has set the pace, which other universities have emulated, to support needy students within their community. To her record USIU-Africa has provided financial aid to more than 3,600 students. Annually, USIU-Africa sets aside more than Kshs.100 million to support neediest students."

Rhodes Scholar Elect 2018 Ruth Nyakerario (IR ‘17) elaborates how her educational career at USIU-Africa and soon to be at Oxford University would not have been possible without financial aid. Looking on is Master of Ceremony Mr. Ernest Wamboye (Journalism ‘11) PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI
Alumni turnout to launch endowment fund

support needy students. It is therefore quite a delight to see the alumni saying, through this event, that they too want to make an important difference," he said.

Several fundraising activities were held during the day such as auctions, silent bidding, sale of artworks as well as pledges and cash which were able to raise close to KES 2.5 million during the event.

The endowment dinner is the beginning of a journey towards raising KES 30 million by December 2018 to continually support gifted but underprivileged students. Those present at the event were able to make weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual commitments to continually give towards the fund in order to reach or even surpass the target.

Information on how to contribute towards the Alumni Endowment Fund can be made through our website: www.usiu.ac.ke/pledges

Prof. Njeri Wamae wins the 2018 Mandela Award

Dean, School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Prof. Njeri Wamae (center) receives the 2018 Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award from DVC - Academic & Student Affairs Prof. Amb. Ruthie Rono (left) in the presence of Prof. Toyin Falola (right). The award was conferred by the Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora (TOFAC) Board at a ceremony presided over by Associate Dean, School of Humanities & Social Sciences Dr. Michael Kihara, on Thursday, July 5. PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

By Dan Muchai

Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Prof. Njeri Wamae is the recipient of the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award conferred by the Toyin Falola Annual International Conference on Africa and the African Diaspora Board during a ceremony held on campus on Thursday, July 5.

To receive the award, a nominee must be a leader who has distinguished him/herself in public leadership positions, be known for the promotion of freedom for Africans both at the national and international levels, and must have shown resilience, courage and determination in the pursuit of African liberation.

In endorsing the nomination of Professor Wamae, the TOFAC Board noted her "commitment to research, integrity, productivity, and sincere passion for everything that is good about Africa."

Prof. Wamae obtained her Bachelor of Science in Parasitology and Medical Entomology at Bowling Green State University, in the USA, her Master of Science in Public Health and PhD in Parasitology both at Tulane University, the latter in 1995. She is Professor of Parasitology and Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a position she has held since December 1, 2017. Prior to that she held the Professorship of Parasitology at the Mount Kenya University School of Medicine. Before then, she was the founding Dean - Directorate of Research and Development at Kenya Methodist University.

Over the course of her illustrious career, Prof. Wamae has become a widely-respected researcher, administrator and teacher.

She has published over sixty peer-reviewed journal essays, supervised numerous postgraduate students and continues with research activities in neglected tropical and zoonotic diseases as well as examining theses/dissertations and supervising graduate students at local and international universities.

Outside the academy, Prof. Wamae has set several professional benchmarks; she is the Founding Director, Eastern and Southern Africa Centre of International Parasite Control (ESACIPAC); Chief Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and first and only female Director, Centre for Microbiology Research (CMR), KEMRI.

Prof. Wamae also serves as a consultant to the World Health Organization (WHO) as an advisor on tropical diseases, in the course of which she has attended numerous international meetings in she served as a keynote speaker.

She has also held several senior management positions in various academic institutions, including a visiting Professorship at Nagasaki University, Japan as well as Guest Researcher, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, USA.

Expressing her surprise on receiving news of her nomination, Prof. Wamae thanked the Board noting she was "absolutely humbled."

The award, she said, reminded her of why she chose her career and why her task is far from complete.

“I strongly commit myself to leading us all to the next level of transformation in freeing our fellow Africans from diseases of poverty and giving them an equal chance in realizing their full purpose and potential.”
By Everlyn Musa

On Friday, July 27, Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, who is the Chair of Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) Advisory Council and Program Coordinator Ms. Everlyn Anyal Musa, hosted eleven CADFP fellows and alumni currently hosted by various universities in Kenya. Accompanying some of the fellows were their hosts from Chuka University, Kenyatta University and St. Paul’s University. This was the first opportunity for fellows, alumni and hosts to meet outside of the United States. The idea conceived by a few fellows as a “Meet and Greet” event turned out to be a great opportunity for the group to know one another, share information and experiences, network and initiate collaborations. Apart from knowing one another, the group desired to hear the vision of the program from Prof. Zeleza, whose research on “Engagements between African Diaspora Academics in the U.S. and Canada and African Institutions of Higher Education: Perspectives from North America and Africa” resulted in the CADFP that has, since its inception in 2013, awarded 355 fellowships to diaspora scholars hosted by universities in six African countries namely, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa.

Prof. Zeleza also shared CADFP’s current focus of launching the 10/10 program that will mobilize 1000 diaspora scholars of African descent per year from all over the world to serve universities and colleges in the whole continent for the next 10 years. The fellows and alumni concurred that they were having a great experience at their host Universities and felt valued. They acknowledged the dire, deprived situation in most universities including inadequate number of faculty especially at graduate level of study, and for research, equipment, curriculum, teaching and training materials to mention but a few.

The scholars therefore announced their intent to expand their fellowship engagements beyond their host institutions in order to maximize on their visits to benefit wider populations. This, they believe, could be achieved through workshops, short courses and trainings especially in neighboring universities.

Alumni fellows underscored the Alumni fellowship opportunities that provide a good chance for strengthening the activities (Continued on page 6)
started during the first visit. They also expressed their desire to collaborate more closely among themselves, and hope to see more synergy between CADFP and other diaspora linkages programs in Africa; University of Ghana Legon, CODESRIA and Wits.

The team noted their appreciation for opportunities for alumni of these 4 programs, to work together towards a common goal of diaspora scholars’ participation in higher education in Africa. In their view, such an initiative will create more impact for the programs and reduce duplication of efforts.

Kenya Scholars and Studies Association (KESSA), represented by one of their members during the meeting, stated their willingness to support higher education institutions and recommended that a certain percentage of diaspora remittances should be channeled towards higher education. The Association, it was said, had put some effort into presenting this proposal to the Government of Kenya, and invited CADFP to assist them in advancing the proposal through the right government offices.

The team recommend the allocation of more discretionary funds to further strengthen the impact of the program. These funds would then enable the scholars to host their hosts at their home institutions for deeper collaboration which they miss when they come to the continent due to heavy workloads.

Such funds would also support field work and research activities, purchase of specialized equipment for example for film editing, conference attendance and networking.

Although CADFP has allocated additional funds beginning this current fellowship period, it was pointed out that these are not adequate for example for research materials that are usually expensive. It was however noted though, that some fellows have managed to bridge the gap through support from their home institutions and other sources.

The hosts expressed great appreciation to CADFP for supporting their institutions in areas of great need including curriculum co-development, supervision and mentoring of doctoral students and collaborative research. They acknowledged the fellows’ role in strengthening their collaboration activities with both local and international institutions and for injecting new strength to their institutions, and boosting confidence in students especially through conference participation.

In conclusion, both fellows, alumni and hosts appreciated the initiative to invite them to the collaborative session, since it enabled them to learn a lot from each other and will go a long way in enriching their networks.

(Continued from page 5)
On Friday, August 1, the student fundraising initiative - Educate Your Own (EYO) - held its second annual appreciation luncheon, celebrating the efforts of the organization and its donors in helping students, in need of financial support, pay a portion of their tuition.

In line with its mission of reducing the rate of student dropouts from the University, EYO has been supporting students in need, by raising funds through various activities that engage the entire USIU-Africa community. Indeed this semester, EYO awarded a KES 50,000 grant to each of the five students selected.

In her remarks, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic and Student Affairs Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono hailed the efforts of student EYO members and the rest of the university community who have supported the initiative by donating or offering assistance during EYO’s fund raising activities.

Since its inception in 2015, EYO has supported 21 students selected through a rigorous process, facilitated by the Financial Aid Office. The selection criteria incorporates a matrix that is informed by the financial need of the applicants and their potential contribution to the university community and the world in general. Applicants must undergo a rigorous interview, to ascertain financial need and societal impact. Offers of grants are then made depending on the funds available.

The luncheon also marked the departure of the executive team led by Ms. Lubna Elmahdy (International Relations Senior) and ascension of the new team chaired by Ms. Martina Kasuku (Psychology Junior).
From Tuesday, July 24 to Thursday, July 26, the Internship Office held a series of orientation activities at the Freida Brown Student Center. The orientation was aiming at making students aware of internship policies, procedures, preparation, and opportunities available through the Internship Office.

“Since internship is part of degree program academic requirements, we felt it was important for students to be aware of the services availed through our office before commencing an external search for internships,” commented Internship Coordinator Ms. Christine Nzyoka.

Students were provided with guidelines and insights into the current state of economic sectors, in line with the university’s focus on bridging the gap between industry and academia, by equipping students to innovatively and sustainably participate in the careers they have elected.

Discussions covered subjects such as work environment, attitude, etiquette and performance, and also the frequently asked questions that can be found on the University website.

Internship Coordinator Ms. Christine Nzyoka (right) speaks with students undertaking Psychology, International Relations and Criminal Justice majors. Looking on is Internship Coordinator Swabra Soud. PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

Internship or industrial attachment is offered as a course at USIU-Africa designed for seniors and graduate students in all academic programs at the university.

This is in accord with the overall mission of USIU-Africa to provide an environment of growth, knowledge and work experience for its students. It also prepares students for a smooth transition to the work environment by assisting them secure internship positions.
Miss Congeniality crowned Miss Tourism Nairobi

By Antonio Longangi

International Business Administration (IBA) Senior and current Miss Congeniality, Mercy Mwendwa, was crowned Miss Tourism Nairobi County at the conclusion of pageant's finals held on Saturday, August 4 at The Carnivore.

Ms. Mwendwa emerged top out of 21 contestants angling to be the face of activities and campaigns that aim at promoting tourism opportunities within Nairobi City County.

The pageant organized under the patronage of the Kenya Tourism Board, received over 200 applications out of which Ms. Mwendwa was selected as one of the 27 finalists, before emerging among the top 5 finalists for the crown.

This is not Ms. Mwendwa first stab at pageants; she was crowned Miss Congeniality - a title awarded to the most supportive and socially outstanding contestant in the 2017 Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa charity beauty pageant - on Thursday, November 23, 2017. She then set her sights on the county tourism pageant title.

"Contesting for the Miss USIU-Africa crown in 2017 laid the groundwork for this beautiful adventure," she said, adding that "As my first experience with pageantry, most of what provided me an extra edge over my rivals in the Miss Tourism contest derived my participation in the Mr. & Miss USIU-Africa charity beauty pageant."

The journey to the Miss Tourism Kenya finals, continues to the regional level where she will take on pageant winners from Kiambu and Kajiado counties. Should she be successful, Ms. Mwendwa may very well make history as the first USIU-Africa student to win the national Ms. Tourism title.

University targets improved enrollment numbers

By Diana Meso & Dan Muchai

On Saturday, July 28, the Admissions and the Marketing and Communications team represented the university at the Nation Media Group’s My Network Universities and Tertiary Institutions Career Fair held at the Kenya International Convention Centre (KICC).

The Fair, which was attended by over 500 participants drawn from local high schools, colleges, universities sought to provide guidance on career choices to high school students and graduates, as well as link university graduates with the job market.

Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension Prof. Amos Njuguna, participated in a panel discussion where he emphasized the need for institutions of higher learning to offer market relevant degree programs.

USIU-Africa recently unveiled four new degree programs at undergraduate and graduate level.

The three new undergraduate programs include the university’s first foray into cinematic and creative arts through the Bachelor of Arts in Film Production and Directing, and the Bachelor of Arts in Animation, both of which will be offered through the School of Communication, Cinematic & Creative Arts.

The Bachelor of Science in Epidemiology & Biostatistics underlines the University’s intention to deepen its commitment to offering STEM programs, a good portion of which will be in the health sciences.

The Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy will be the third graduate program offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and is a testament to the University’s commitment to advance the use of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people’s lives.
Joyce Njiri (MBA '13) and Njoki Kiama (MBA '13) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Vivian Lipsa (IR Sophomore) and Faith Mugambi (Admissions Officer) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Its mirth all around as Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza and Prof. Matthew Buyu (Professor of Literature) indulge in a light moment.

Mr. James Ogolla (University Advancement Director), Ms. Dorothy Sagwe (Chair, Alumni Association), Dr. Kevit Desai (Chair, USIU-Africa Board of Trustees) and Prof. Paul Zeleza (Vice Chancellor) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Alumni Ms. Jolynn Chepkurui (APT ’15), Mr. Daisy Wanzala (IR ’15), Ms. Jessica Githii (Journalism ’17), Musa Mutetwi (APT ’17) and Mr. Joshua Ngigi (IBA ’13) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Kendi Thaguambi (IR ’15) engages with fellow guests during the dinner held at Movenpick Hotel and Residences in Nairobi’s Westlands suburb.

Mr. Victor Mshindi (IST ’17), Ms. Helen Ambasa (Director/Legal Services & Company Secretary; EMOD ’14), Mr. Juzer Yunus (IBA ’16) and Ms. Victoria Mbugua (BA, ’16) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Mr. Dan Odaba (IR Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences), Dr. Kevit Desai (Chair, USIU-Africa Board of Trustees) and Ms. Christine Muthamia (Adjunct IR Lecturer; IR ’06, MAIR ’07) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

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The Alumni Endowment Fund Fundraising Dinner volunteer team poses for a group photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Joyce Njiri (MBA ’13) and Njoki Kiama (MBA ’13) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.

Vivian Lipsa (IR Sophomore) and Faith Mugambi (Admissions Officer) pose for a photo at the conclusion of the dinner.
USIU-Africa Hostels’ Dean’s Resident Advisory Board and the Entertainment Committee organize one overnight trip to Kenya’s only coastal city - Mombasa - annually. This year, on June 29 residents were hosted by Travellers Beach Hotel in Mombasa, where they engaged in such fun outdoor activities as snorkeling, and visiting historical monuments in the city’s old town quarter. PHOTO: BONFACE INGANGA

Media mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

August 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “Dancing Shoes.”

August 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Capital FM in an article titled “USIU-Africa shortlisted in IFLA Library Awards 2018.”

August 7: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Nairobi Simba, USIU gather pace.”

August 7: USIU-Africa was mentioned by People Daily in an article titled “Bankers see off Strathmore to stay in contention for KBF league.”

August 7: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Daily Monitor in an article titled “Hockey: Routine wins for title chasers Wananchi, Weather head in league.”

August 5: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Omaido strike settles Telkom-USIU thriller.”

August 4: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Title-chasing Blades aim sharp end at Trailblazers.”

August 4: People Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Testing times for basketball league second leg.”

August 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “USIU stalk Telkom in hockey league.”

August 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by AllAfrica in an article titled “Kenya: Our Hands Are Tied, Cries Taxify as More Abuse Victims Speak Out.”

Upcoming Events

- **Summer Break:** Sunday, August 12 - Sunday, September 2
- **Fall 2018 Graduate Orientation:** Friday, August 24
- **Fall 2018 Undergraduate Orientation Begins:** Monday, August 27
- **Fall Semester 2018 Instruction Begins:** Monday, September 3
- **WSCUC Accreditation Visit:** Tuesday, September 18 - Thursday, September 20
- **Freida Brown Day 2018:** Friday, September 21
- **Graduation Dinner 2018:** Thursday, September 27
- **40th Commencement Ceremony:** Saturday, September 29