Conference seeks effective approach to work integrated learning

By Taigu Muchiri

United States International University-Africa (USIU), Linking Industry With Academia (LIWA), Cresco Skills Development (CRESCO) and Southern African Society for Cooperative Education (SASCE) held the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Conference in Kenya from November 21 – 22.

The WIL conference which was supported by the Ministry of Education’s State Department of Vocational and Technical Training (TVET) seeks to ignite the employability revolution in East Africa and provide an effective approach to implement Work Integrated Learning and in the process, improve student employability aligned to the needs of industry and East Africa’s development agenda.

Speaking during the conference, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza emphasized the importance of investing in graduates and ensuring that they are well prepared to effectively deliver in the job market. He said reports on graduate employability show that there are glaring mismatches between what universities are producing and what the economy needs, resulting in graduates spending years searching for employment, unemployed and underemployed.

According to data from the Federation of Kenya Employers at least 70% of entry-level recruits require a refresher course in order to start to deliver in their new jobs. To mitigate this, he mentioned that the University is engaged in several initiatives that will improve on the employability of its graduates. One of these initiatives includes the Placement and Career Services that assists students make a smooth transition from the academic world to the professional work space.

Another initiative is the partnership between USIU-Africa and the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) that seeks to equip 20 million youth with skills for employability. He mentioned that said that USIU-Africa was chosen as the only private University in Kenya to participate in this program and will be hosting the Coding for Employment training project in Kenya.

According to a report published by the British Council on universities, employability and inclusive development, Kenya faces a growing problem of what has been referred to as the ‘youth bulge’, with 80% of its population under 35 years old. The youth, aged 15-34 years form 35 per cent of the population and have the highest unemployment rate of 67 per cent. Even though not all in this age group have joined the labor force, the unemployment rate amongst those that have is extremely high.

The recent expansion of the university (Continued on page 4)
The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTM) has awarded the Dean, School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Prof. Njeri Wamae the 2018 Clara Southmayd Ludlow Medal, during an award ceremony held on October 28 in New Orleans, USA.

ASTM is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health.

According to the Society, the Clara Southmayd Ludlow Medal recognizes honorees for their inspirational and pioneering spirit, whose work represents success despite obstacles and advances the field of tropical medicine.

Dr. Clara Southmayd Ludlow (1852-1924) was an entomologist with scientific zeal and tenacity who battled the odds of age, gender and skepticism of women in the sciences to advance the understanding of tropical medicine. Thus, the Award Committee selects an individual who “...represent, through their work in clinical tropical medicine, teaching or scientific research in tropical medicine, the best and the brightest in the field.”

Prof. Wamae is Professor of Parasitology and Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, a position she has held since December 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.

Speaking during the award ceremony, Dr. Wamae noted the great honor bestowed upon her as the second recipient of this award which was started in 2017, given her status as a non-physician and an African. She reflected on the legacy of Dr. Ludlow and the underrepresentation of women in the sciences - “I can’t underestimate the importance of giving women a chance. Women are important and are often left behind.”

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 which 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.

Most recently as Chairperson of the Guinea Worm Eradication Certification Committee, Prof. Wamae led a team of eminent researchers and representatives of various non-governmental organizations in conducting a four year campaign to stamp out guinea disease from Kenya.

Prof. Wamae was in July this year conferred with the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award by the Board of the Toyin Falola Annual Conference, which noted her notes “…her commitment to research, integrity, productivity, and sincere passion for everything that is good about Africa.”
By Ernest Mwanzi

The Chandaria School of Business in conjunction with the Global Business School Network (GBSN) hosted the 13th Annual GBSN Conference in Nairobi. The focus for this year’s conference was transforming traditional sectors by educating entrepreneurial leaders to drive systemic change.

The conference which was held from November 7 - 9, 2018, examined four broad enablers of entrepreneurial leadership namely; technology and big data; responsible leadership; cross-disciplinary collaboration; and teaching the tools of innovation.

The Global Business School Network was formed to foster cross-border connections between business schools and engage members in building capacity in the developing world. The network is also tasked with the responsibility of advancing and advocating for management education impact on development efforts.

The Chandaria School of Business joined GBSN in 2005 when five faculty members were selected from the School to participate in a capacity-building initiative on case teaching, which resulted in their cases being published in the European Case Clearing House, and which are still in use at the School and at other business schools in Kenya.

Making his remarks at the Conference, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, underscored the importance of business schools connecting and engaging on educational matters and benchmarking globally.

While appreciating the role GBSN played to broaden the skill set of faculty in the Chandaria School of Business in the school’s early years of membership, Prof. Zeleza noted that this year’s theme was timely because it focused on innovative, interdisciplinary and collaborative ways of educating entrepreneurial leaders to transform traditional sectors such as mining and petroleum, agriculture, tourism and healthcare.

“The conference theme resonates well with Kenya’s Big 4 Agenda, Vision 2030, the African Union’s Africa Agenda 2063 and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,” he added.

This year’s conference saw deliberations on a number of contemporary issues ranging from management education, leadership and Innovation in driving the systemic change needed to leapfrog Africa’s economic growth, transforming agriculture for development and food security, health challenges through different problem-solving approaches and integrating innovation into the mining and petroleum industry through partnerships between industry and academia.

The conference was preceded by a members meeting at USIU-Africa led by Associate Dean Dr. Teresia Linge and supported by Chair - Department of Business Administration Dr. Kefah Njenga and Chair - Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics Dr. Timothy Okech on Wednesday, November 7, where the members discussed various member-led initiatives, member to member partnerships and the GBSN value proposition.

Thereafter, the members were taken for a campus tour and later hosted for a cocktail reception at Safari Park Hotel.
On Monday, November 19, the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences held its second and final colloquium for Fall 2018, on solar disinfection.

Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow from the Sage Colleges New York, Dr. Emilly Obuya, is currently working on a Environmental Protection Agency-funded project that is seeking to develop solar disinfection as a reliable water treatment technology for residents of Obunga informal settlement situated in the northwest part of Kenya’s third largest city - Kisumu, on the edge of Lake Victoria. The region is known for its poor water distribution, poor sanitation infrastructure, and high density of housing.

In her presentation, Dr. Obuya noted that despite water being essential to life, its inequity in distribution has rendered it a very scarce commodity in some regions. In 2015 according to the World Health Organization, 2.1 billion people are without ‘safely managed drinking-water services’ - that is, improved water sources located on premises, available when needed, and free from contamination.

According to Dr. Obuya, this situation has been largely caused by the absence of infrastructure and economic ability for large scale adoption in communities that lack centralized sanitation and water distribution systems, adding that human activity has worsened the situation by polluting available water.

She gave an example of communities living around Lake Victoria, which do not have access to clean water yet the lake is the second largest fresh-water lake in the world.

Dr. Obuya is convinced solar disinfection will help in treating the water and make it viable for household consumption. Her research includes a study to assess the ability of solar disinfection to completely remove pathogenic E.coli from contaminated drinking water, and the reliability of E. coli in monitoring the bacteriological quality of drinking water.

By monitoring the water bacterial colony at hourly intervals, results indicated that there was a reduction to within the WHO acceptable levels of E.coli permitted in drinking water.

This study is the first technical study in Kenya that evaluates the effectiveness of solar disinfection. The research has involved working with undergraduate and graduate students from USIU-Africa, on a longer-term collaboration in this area, while faculty participate in mentoring the students.
Prof. Zeleza briefs key program backers at CADFP Advisory Council meeting

By Evelyn Musa

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, chaired a Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) Advisory Council meeting from October 4 – 5, in New York, which was attended by Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) President Dr. Vartan Gregorian, and Institute of International Education (IIE) President Allan Goodman, their staff, program fellows, alumni, consultants and other stakeholders.

During the meeting, Prof. Zeleza expressed deep gratitude to CCNY on behalf of CADFP, for the continued funding support of the program, while Dr. Gregorian acknowledged that the program is enabling the African academic diaspora in the United States and Canada to stay academically connected with the African continent, and pledged to see this initiative grow in the coming years.

The Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program (CADFP) is a scholar fellowship program for educational projects at African higher education institutions. Offered by IIE in collaboration with USIU-Africa where it is hosted, the program is funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY).

CADFP, which is now in its fifth year, has to date awarded 385 fellowships to enable diaspora scholars go to universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa, to support the various needs of universities. It has had a transformative impact on individuals and their institutions which has led other stakeholders with interest in Africa to adopt the model.

USIU-Africa and other stakeholders interested in the continent are leading this commitment to engage the diaspora.

To further create impact, USIU-Africa has set up a program similar to CADFP, which is providing an opportunity for diaspora scholars to be hosted at the institution for up to three months, as well as provide the selected scholars with a round trip air ticket, food and accommodation.

During the meeting, Prof. Zeleza also shared some of the ongoing initiatives on program funding and collaboration opportunities which include a partnership with the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and the Bosch Foundation. CADFP is also holding discussions with governments on how diaspora scholars can contribute to the needs of higher education in Africa.

The Vice Chancellor identified some of the challenges facing African higher education that CADFP can address. They include low higher education enrolment rates, financing of higher education, limited pool of qualified faculty, unavailability of leadership training for higher education institutions leaders, weak research productivity, and high rates of unemployment among graduates. He implored the diaspora community to take on the challenge and invest in universities back home to address some of these challenges.

In elaborating how USIU-Africa is taking the lead in addressing some of these challenges, Prof. Zeleza informed the meeting about the skills for employability project rolled out by the African Development Bank (AfDB). The project focuses on equipping 20 million youth with skills for employability in the four pilot countries namely Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. USIU-Africa was chosen as the only private university in Kenya involved in this roll out program and as such will be hosting the Coding for Employment training project in Kenya.

He also described how MasterCard Foundation’s study on youth employability has presented CADFP with an opportunity to mobilize the diaspora to provide their skills and knowledge, noting that such organizations as AfDB, the World Bank, MasterCard Foundation are supporting these initiatives at the university and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) levels.

The Vice Chancellor informed the meeting that the Kenyan Government is keen to establish synergy between education and industry, and is championing this through the Chair of the USIU-Africa Board of Trustees Dr. Kevit Desai, who is also the Principal Secretary in the State Department of Vocational and Technical Education in the Ministry of Education, and the founding chairman of Linking Industry with Academia.

He concluded by informing the meeting that CADFP has resolved to form a Consortium for African Fellowship Programs to establish and implement the 10/10 program that will sponsor 1,000 African diaspora scholars, across the globe in all disciplines every year, for 10 years, to African universities and colleges for collaboration in all disciplines. The expanded scope will open up opportunities for CADFP to work with key funders and stakeholders in Africa, North America, Europe and elsewhere with large African academic diasporas.
The School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension organized a colloquium that focused on road safety in Kenya featuring presentations from Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Simeon Sungi and Associate Professor of Information Systems Dr. Jimmy Macharia on Wednesday, November 21 2018. Their research focused on the perspectives of the law on drunk driving and the perspectives of innovations that influence behavior of Matatu Drivers.

Dr. Sungi, who is the current Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice and an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and the High Court of Tanzania, dwelt on the effectiveness of legal sanctions in dealing with drunk driving in Nairobi County. Reminding his audience about the wildly contentious breathalyzer introduced to respond to road carnage and curb drink driving in Kenya, Dr. Sungi had set out to find out whether the deterrence theory - that is, that punishment effective in modifying behavior must be certain, swift and severe, had the effect of reducing drunk driving in Nairobi County. It did not happen.

According to Dr. Sungi’s research, 30% of arrested for violating the Traffic Act (Cap 43) of the Laws of Kenya were repeat offenders. Furthermore, these offenders had no difficulty paying fines, were likely to be caught again, used social media to escape a police dragnet, and finally were set free due to inept enforcement of the law.

Explaining how the deterrence theory posits that punishment effective in modifying behavior must be certain, swift and severe, Dr. Sungi concluded that these punishments were ineffective, and the government was probably better off coming up with alternative punishments such as use of rehabilitation centers since Driving under the Influence (DUI) is a public safety and health issue.

Dr. Macharia presented on a technological innovation used as a means of monitoring a vehicle and influencing driver behavior to reduce speed related to acceleration. He explained that prior research shows that the escalation of traffic road accidents can be attributed to driver fatigue, stress, perception and sleepiness among others. His research intended to shed light on such factors that contribute to traffic accidents as vehicle category, ownership, and aggressive driver behavior on the road had received little attention.

The research also involved the installation of 30 Global Positioning Systems car tracking devices in public transport vehicles. Using these devices, Dr. Macharia compared aggressive behavior on the road for drivers of personal vehicles, cab, mini-buses and heavy commercial trucks, and further analyzed driver aggressive behavior on the road using the owner - employee category of drivers.

According to Dr. Macharia’s research, among the five category of vehicle drivers under this study, minibus drivers presented the highest aggressive violations on the road. Further employee category of drivers exposed a higher level of aggressive violations on the road, while 8.5% of the time drivers drove above the speed limit.
International Relations students undertake last field study tour of the year to Rwanda and Uganda

International Relations Lecturer Mr. Dan Odaba recently conducted two Field Study classes of International Relations seniors, to Uganda and Rwanda respectively.

The first group of 33 students, which was accompanied by Assistant Professor of International Relations Dr. Njoki Wamai, travelled from October 26 to November 4, while the second group of 48 students successfully toured the region from November 9 through to 18, accompanied by Assistant Professor of International Relations Dr. Mercy Kaburu.

The Field Study class aims to transition International Relations students whose concentrations are drawn from Peace and Conflict Studies, Development Studies as well as Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, from academic to the professional field research environment of systematic gathering of data and information, and its analysis for advancement of practical knowledge and skills.

Among the venues the groups toured in Rwanda included; the Kenyan Embassy, the Gisozi Genocide Memorial; The National Unity and Reconciliation Commission; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Never Again Rwanda; Rwanda Development Board; Presidential Palace Museum; Ministry of Youth (Youth Connekt) and finally the Upper Chambers of the Rwandese Senate.

In Uganda, the students visited the Buganda Kingdom’s Parliament and the King’s Palace in Kampala.

Media Mentions

November 21: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Equity, KPA turn focus to quarters in Africa event.”

November 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Long-serving Telkom head coach contemplates exit.”

November 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Daily Nation in an article titled “Peerless Telkom set sights on women’s African title.”

November 19: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali, Police keep the battle tight as Telkom bag the women title.”

November 19: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Sikhs revive hope of survival in KHU Premier League”

November 19: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kisii RFC run over debutants Kitale in season opener.”

November 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Telkom clinch historic league title.”

November 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Strathmore seek to reduce Telkom’s lead to three points.”
Rugby
The men’s rugby team defeated Egerton University’s Wasps Rugby Football Club 15 – 6 in the Kenya Rugby Union (KRFU) Championship on 17 November at Egerton University. The team will meet Coast Pirates during the league match on Saturday, November 24 at the USIU-Africa rugby pitch.

Tae Kwon Do
The Kenya Universities Sport Association (KUSA) Tae Kwon Do championship was held at USIU-Africa on last weekend November 17-18. USIU-Africa emerged second overall in the women’s category, and third in the men’s category. Out of the 13 universities represented, USIU-Africa bagged a total of ten medals with three gold, four silver and three bronze, while Mercy Were (IBA, Junior) and Fredrick Kiche (IBA, Junior) clinched the best female player and most dedicated player awards respectively.

Karate
The Kenya Universities Sport Association Karate Championship was also hosted at USIU-Africa on November 17-18. The University emerged second overall in the men’s category and third overall in the women’s category. The men’s team won one gold, three silver, and two bronze medals, while the ladies’ team bagged two gold, one silver and three bronze medals. The captain of the ladies karate team Ms. Agnes Karanja (International Relations Senior), was also awarded Best Captain of the Championship.

NAKUSA: Soccer
During the ongoing conference phase of the Nairobi Chapter of the Kenya Universities Sport Association (NAKUSA) held on Saturday, November 17, the men’s soccer team defeated Mount Kenya University (Nairobi campus) 2 – 0, while the women’s team lost 0 – 4 against Kenyatta University, and managed a goalless draw against the Technical University of Kenya at Kenyatta University.

The men’s team defeated Daystar University 2 – 0, while the ladies’ team drew 0 – 0 against Kenyatta University (Ruiru campus).

UCFL: Soccer
The Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL) matches were held on Saturday, November 17 at Kenyatta University, where the men’s team lost 0 – 5 to the National Youth Service team, before narrowly losing 1 – 2 against the Technical University of Kenya a day later.

The Universities and Colleges Football League, the men’s team will meet the Technical University of Kenya on Saturday, November 24 at Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC), while their female colleagues will clash with KMTC on the same day. It will be the men’s turn on Sunday, November 25, against the National Youth Service team at KMTC, while their female colleagues will be facing University of Nairobi in a NAKUSA game at Kenyatta University.

Hockey
In the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League, the ladies’ team defeated the Sliders 3 – 0 on 17-18 November at the City Park Hockey Stadium, while their male colleagues replicated with a win 4 – 0 against JKUAT in the NAKUSA league and 2 – 0 against Mount Kenya University.

Basketball
USIU-Africa ladies’ team won 26 – 21 against Kenyatta University, 31 – 25 against Mount Kenya University during the NAKUSA league that was held on 17 November at Kenyatta University. The men’s team beat Kenyatta University (City campus) 49 – 46, but lost 39 – 43 to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

On Sunday, November 18, the ladies obliterated Kenyatta University (Ruiru campus) 46 – 6 and JKUAT (Nairobi campus) 47 – 23. The men’s team winning streak continued with a 24 – 12 win against Saint Paul’s University (SPU), but ended with a 34 – 43 loss against JKUAT (Nairobi campus), all games taking place at Kenyatta University.

NAKUSA League action will continue this weekend, when the men’s team meets Pan-African Christian University, while the ladies’ team faces Kenyatta University on Saturday, November 24 at the USIU-Africa basketball court.

NAKUSA: Handball & Volleyball
The handball team was thrashed 17 – 51 by Kenyatta University before winning 19 – 13 against Daystar University in the NAKUSA league on 17 November at Kenyatta University.

In volleyball, the ladies team won 3 – 1 against Mount Kenya University and 3 – 0 against Daystar University on Sunday, November 18 at Kenyatta University.