Legal services division holds annual legal awareness workshop

By Division of Legal Services and Company Secretary

The Legal Services Division held its annual Legal Awareness Workshop on 8-9 May under the theme ICT and the Law: Ethics, Rights & Limitations.

The workshop has become a lasting tradition since the division held the inaugural workshop in May of 2017. Attendees included faculty, staff, students and guests from other institutions of higher education. This year’s workshop attracted participants from as far as Eldoret. In her welcome address, the Director-Legal Services, Ms. Helen Ambasa highlighted the division’s mandate and the topics covered in previous workshops. She noted that the division curated the workshop program with all demographics in mind and with a deep awareness of the responsibilities and freedoms borne by all, both as individuals and corporate citizens. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Zeleza, echoed those sentiments in his opening remarks where he reiterated the special significance of the legal workshop by underscoring the importance of utilizing human capital for development in this information age.

Participants had the honor of hearing from a panel of experts over the two day period. Topics of focus included: Constitutional rights & limitations in the cyber space; An employer’s role in training employees on online conduct; Activism on the cyber space (social media); Intellectual property rights in the cyber space; Internet jurisprudence and sexual harassment - the legality of reporting cases online; An employer’s perspective on employees’ use of social media; data protection; and digital marketing – How to use it to combat negative public perception. The facilitators, drawn from various
USIU-Africa and Save the Children roll out graduate trainee program

By Philip Mwembi and Taigu Muchiri

USIU-Africa has partnered with Save the Children to enhance a graduate trainee program as part of the process to attract and develop top talent in education. While signing the partnership Save the Children Regional Director Ian Vale said the program which focuses on faculty of business graduates, aims at building professional skills in the business and operational support.

Vale said the program which will be a joint venture between the two institutions will provide unique opportunities and equip the students with the right set of skills that prepares them for a competitive job market.

USIU-Africa Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza lauded Save the Children for its gallant effort in improving the children’s lives through better education, health care and economic mitigation and manage negative public perception. This session was facilitated by the Senior Manager PR & Communications at Safaricom Limited, Mr. Chris Karanja. Mr. Karanja cited the Safaricom experience in combating negative public perception on digital platforms and outlined five strategies that are useful in this regard, including driving brand love and owning & shaping brand narrative.

The second day of the workshop was commenced by Technology and Intellectual Property Advocate, Ms. Nzilani Mweu who expounded on activism on social media and the balance between public interest and defamation. Ms. Juliet Maina, the Advocacy & Regulatory Manager at GSMA, thereafter handled data protection particularly in the wake of regulation, emphasizing the need to protect one’s data even in cases such as registration for the Huduma Number, which is a government initiative. In emphasizing the significance of personal data and its protection, Ms. Maina pithed that if data is the new oil then trust has to be the new currency.

Mr. Morris Kimuli, an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Managing Partner at M. M. Kimuli & Co. Advocates, discussed internet jurisprudence in relation to sexual harassment, highlighting the provisions of the law that define sexual harassment and the penalties prescribed for the offence. The final speaker at the workshop, Mr. John Mwendwa, the Director-Human Resources, Nairobi Bottlers Ltd., spoke about an employer’s perspective on employees’ social media usage and protection afforded to employees who are cyber bullied. Mr. Mwendwa stated that employers have an obligation to protect employees against cyberbullying in the workplace and put in place policies to protect against misuse of social media. He also stressed the importance of organizations having a zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment so as to encourage reporting of cases. This was further reiterated by the Director-Legal Services who urged students to report cases of sexual harassment so perpetrators are identified and appropriate action taken against them.

Attendees who included students, staff and faculty lauded the workshop as informative and well organized, proposing to have the same extended to a duration of one week in the coming years. The Director-Legal Services in her closing remarks thanked participants and facilitators for their audience and assured participants that the division welcomes their feedback and will do all it can to accommodate their requests.
opportunities. He said USIU-Africa will play its rightful role in enhancing the development of graduates by promoting the discovery and application of knowledge besides the acquisition of skills required for the job market.

The Graduate Program is part of the Save the Children Talent Development strategic objective of being an organization that attracts and develops top talent. It aims to build professional skills in the Business and Operational Support Functions in an INGO setting. The program focuses on attracting fresh faculty of business graduates with a passion for working in non-profit sector, to spend a year in the Save the Children Regional Office supporting the Finance, IT, Supply Chain, Administration and Human Resources Management functions. The graduates learn on the job and benefit from mentorship from the diverse and highly experienced team of professionals.

At the end of the program the trainees will be well equipped with a set of skills that will prepare them to be competitive in the job market. High achieving trainees will get a great opportunity to apply for ongoing roles at Save the Children at the Regional Office, Kenya Country Office or the Somalia Country Office (based in Nairobi).

Save the Children is one the world’s leading independent and non-profit organization for children with operations in 120 countries globally.

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10 key pointers for a winning CV

By Cecilia Mweru

The internship office receives truckloads of CVs every year in response to advertisements for opportunities but only a quarter of those CVs, if not less, meet the standard for consideration. This article, therefore, is directed to students in support of their CV writing towards internship or job applications.

Your CV is the first interaction between a candidate and a potential employer. According to a recent research published in the Business Daily, if applying for a position in the retail industry, your CV would be up against sixty nine others in the longlist (sifted list/pre-shortlist). The quality of your CV can therefore not be emphasized enough. It needs to stand out. Here are a few pointers to get you started.

1. Use an appropriate email address.
   An email address in your name is sufficient and poisonivyshiks@gmail.com won’t cut it. Keep it professional.

2. Every CV should be targeted.
   Never send out multiple identical CVs to recruiters and employers. Tailor each resume to each job you apply for so as to relate and highlight specific skills relevant to the job you’ve applied for.

3. Always include a skills summary.
   This is your value proposition to a potential employer and helps to quickly sell your capabilities relevant to the job you’ve applied for.

4. Ensure that your information is accurate.
   For example, confirm the title of your degrees, your job title and current titles of your references. Make sure all your dates are current, especially when detailing your most recent/current work experience.

5. Highlight your accomplishments.
   For every role you have held, either in leadership or as part of a general team, mention any measurable achievements that can be verified during a reference check. This is what makes you stand out.

6. Avoid spelling mistakes.
   This is a common pitfall and an embarrassing error which speaks to the candidate’s lack of attention to detail. Use spellchecker to avoid such mistakes.

7. Check the look and feel.
   Font sizes make a significant difference to the look and feel of your CV. Size 12 is largely accepted as the normal font for legibility. Avoid serif fonts, the ones that have curly ends, and instead, opt for more formal fonts such as Calibri, Verdana, and Times Roman. Additionally, avoid using too many bullets so as to soften the look of your CV.

8. Include the names and contacts of your references.
   Some recruiters don’t take ‘references available upon request’ kindly. Ensure that you include your references names and contacts in addition to their job titles.

9. Honesty is the best policy.
   Never give inaccurate or misleading information. Remain consistent and uphold integrity.

10. Hold off on the money.
    Unless you have been asked to specify how much you expect to be paid, do not include this information in the CV.
USIU-Africa and University of Houston–Clear Lake (UHCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during a virtual signing ceremony meeting which was held on May 8, 2019. The MoU will focus on faculty exchange, establishment of joint institutes focusing on professional development in Africa, and student exchange programs.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Prof. Paul Zeleza reiterated the importance of partnerships to both institutions and it will enhance collaboration and enable the sharing of resources between the two institutions. The President of UHCL, Dr. Ira K. Blake mentioned that this was an exciting time for both universities and is excited to see this partnership to fruition.

Present during the signing ceremony was Prof. Martin Njoroge, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences who is looking forward to link the goals of the college of Human Sciences and Humanities at UHCL and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at USIU-Africa. The Dean, School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts, Prof. Valerie Adema said that the two universities will to develop programs in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to enhance the capacity of students and faculty.

This partnership will enable both institutions enhance collaboration and provide international experience for their respective students. The partnership is also aimed at developing collaborations in programs where there are faculty interests in study abroad program, collaborative teaching, administrative staff exchange, and research activities.

Windows to the World program tours China

The Windows to the World program visited China in April as a part of their Chinese studies. The 18 students were accompanied by their lecturer Wanjiku Mbugua who teaches Chinese Language in the department of languages and literature. The Windows to the World program aims to provide students with an experience of cultural diversity in order to enrich their university education. It is organized once in a year and students visit the countries of origin of the foreign languages that are taught in the university to learn and have hands-on experience of the culture, communication, social system, infrastructure, technologies and customs of the people.

During the visit, the group paid a courtesy call to the Embassy of Kenya in Beijing, China where they were received by several
USIU-Africa and Kent Law School co-hosted a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya titled ‘After the ICC Intervention in Kenya: Reflections and Alternatives’. The interdisciplinary workshop was supported by USIU-Africa’s departments of International Relations, Sociology and Criminal Justice, and co-facilitated by Dr. Sara Kendall (Kent Law School) and Dr. Njoki Wamai (USIU-Africa, International Relations Department). The workshop was funded through Kent’s Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) ‘Fortuity Fund’, which supports joint projects. Terry Odhiambo from the Sociology and Criminal Justice Departments was also actively involved in organizing this one day workshop.

The workshop discussed the aftermath of the International Criminal Court (ICC) intervention in Kenya, which was meant to address crimes against humanity that occurred in the wake of the 2007 elections. The ICC’s accountability efforts generated high hopes, political tensions and grave disappointments before it withdrew from the country in 2016. Although many Kenyans have moved on, whether politically or professionally, the victims of the violence in 2007 have continued to deal with the aftermath of the ICC’s dramatic appearance and rapid departure from the country. The court brought with it a particular vision of accountability and promises to reconcile affected communities while also changing the Kenyan political landscape. The workshop brought together academics who focus on the ICC, advocates, human rights activists, journalists, and victim activists from Nairobi, Eldoret and Nakuru. USIU-Africa faculty Prof Simeon Sungi, Dr. Duncan Ojwang and Dr. Njoki Wamai presented their research work on the ICC in Kenya among other scholars and activists.

The objective of the meeting was to reflect upon the ICC’s work in Kenya and its legacy, moving beyond the court to consider other avenues for accountability and redress. Sessions included discussions of the ICC’s work in Kenya and eventual withdrawal; domestic criminal justice initiatives (cases on sexual and gender-based violence and police violence); local reconciliation initiatives beyond criminal justice; and current priorities for accountability and redress in Kenya. Participants brought a range of experiences with accountability projects, including grassroots advocacy for internally displaced communities and victims of sexual and gender based violence, assistance to victim representatives before the ICC, and bringing cases in the domestic court system. The organizers will publish a report of discussions and findings that may be used for future academic work and advocacy efforts in Kenya.
USIU-Africa Library introduces LibFind

By Azenath Ateka

USIU Africa library has announced that it has moved all users to a new, smarter search interface called USIULibfind. This improved functionally helps users to find books, journal articles, AVs material in a fast and easy manner. In the past, to find it, users had to search the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), then Emerald, then EbscoHost, then Jstor.

With USIULibFind, users do not have to visit each of the 52 databases to find information. USIULibFind helps users find content based on key words, and browse PsychArticles, Sage, Taylor & Francis, Oxford, Cambridge Journals and all the other 48 databases with peer-reviewed scholarly content.

As a discovery tool, USIULibFind makes it possible to get to the most specific and relevant item because it uses filters. With USIULibFind, users can filter search results along Fulltext, Subject, Source Type, Publisher, Journal Title, Geography, Language etcetra.

To start using the new functionality, visit the library OPAC page on https://library.usiu.ac.ke

Uganda Christian University crowned 3X3 Varsity challenge winners

By Taigu Muchiri

The third edition of the continental universities 3x3 basketball tournament known as the Afro-Varsity 3 X 3 challenge was held on April 27 and 28, 2019 at the USIU-Africa basketball court. Uganda Christian University (UCU) emerged winners in both the men’s and women’s categories. In the men's final, UCU Canons defeated the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Management (ISEG) 14-13 in a closely contested encounter while the women's finals, the UCU Canons defeated ISEG 13-8 points.

The event attracted a total of twelve teams from Africa. Two teams from South Africa were be represented by Stellenbosch University and University of Johannesburg, Senegal was represented by the International University of African Diasporas (UNIDAF) and the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Management (ISEG), while Uganda was represented by Makere University, Ndeje University and Uganda Christian University. Kenya was represented by five universities drawn from Kisii University, Technical University, University of Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and USIU-Africa.

This event was organized by the Federation of Africa University Sports (FASU) and hosted by Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA).
Sport Updates

By Ernest Mwanzi and Susan Muriuki

Basketball
On May 11, 2019 during the Nairobi Basketball Association league, the men’s team lost 38 – 61 to Stanbic Bank.

Hockey
In Hockey, the ladies team beat Chase by a solitary goal while the men’s team drew with Butali by three goals, during the Kenya Hockey Union league matches played at City Park. Both matches were played on Saturday May 11, 2019.

Rugby
The Rugby men’s team lost to Western Bulls 16 – 22 in the Kenya Rugby union, semifinal championship match played at USIU-Africa on Saturday May 11, 2019. Eliud Mulakoli, the Martials team captain led the team in scoring 1 try and a conversion followed by 3 penalties which were converted to 9 points bringing the total points for the team to 16. This match marked the end of the season for the able Martials who have continuously demonstrated hard work and commitment for the game. A win for USIU-Africa would have seen them join Kenya Cup-the country’s top rugby league.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

May 17: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA teams expected in Nairobi for first away fixtures.”

May 16: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Storms eye redemption against KPA.”

May 16: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Okwemba leads Kisumu in glory quest against former side.”

May 16: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “Microsoft has launched an African Development Centre in Nairobi.”

May 15: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Lakers facing goalkeeping crisis ahead of duel.”

May 13: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Silverstone Kisumu, Western Bulls relish Kenya Cup return.”

May 13: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Former Centum executive headed for Kenya Orient.”

May 13: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Warriors drop points as league battle gets tougher.”

May 12: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali rally to avoid defeat, Police cruise.”

May 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Capital Fm in an article titled “KCB, Kabras to clash again in Kenya Cup final.”

May 11: The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU target Kenya Cup return.”

May 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Standard in an article titled “KRU Championship: Bulls, Kisumu target promotion in league.”

May 11: The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Police seek to redeem themselves as they confront Greensharks.”

May 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Capital Fm in an article titled “KCB, Kabras to clash again in Kenya Cup final.”

May 11: Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Western Bulls, Kisumu make a return to Kenya Cup.”

Upcoming Events

Health Week
May 20 - 24 | Freida Brown Student Center, Health Center
Pictorial: Summer Graduate and Undergraduate orientation

Parents and students register during the Summer Semester orientation

New students tour the campus

Prof. Paul Zeleza welcomes students and parents to USIU-Africa

Students are joined by their parents in the Auditorium

Pictorial: Costa Rica Ambassador visits USIU-Africa

USIU-Africa Vice chancellor, Prof. Paul Zeleza (center) hosts the visiting team from the Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica

Prof. Paul Zeleza gifts the Costa Rica Ambassador, Ms. Marta Eugenia Juárez Ruiz as the DVC, Academic and Student Affairs, Academic & Student Affairs, Prof. Ruthie Rono looks on