SCCCA student films bag 36 awards at national festival

By Dr. Rachael Diang’a, Taigu Muchiri and Racheal Muthoni

USIU-Africa’s students participated in the 60th edition of the annual Kenya National Schools and Colleges Drama and Film Festival at Kibabii University in April, 2019. The festival registered participation from all categories of learners such as: pre-primary, primary and secondary schools, special needs education and post-secondary institutions including universities. USIU-Africa’s participation was limited to the University category.

With five entries in five categories, USIU-Africa students’ films won 34 awards in all the five categories, namely: Short Film (Universities), Short Documentary (Universities), Cultural Screen Dance (Universities), Screen Solo verse (Universities) and Advertisement (Universities). The short film Mad Love, which won two awards in Eldoret Film Festival (Best Cinematography) and 72 Hour International Film Competition in 2018 continued its winning streak and was crowned the overall winning short film for universities. It also won in Best Actress in a leading role, Best cinematography, Best costume design, Best set design, Best visual effects, Best Editor, Best short film, Best producer. The film was 1st runners up in Best sound effects and Best director categories respectively. This is a love story produced by Achleus Barrys, Collins Akunga, Rachael Muthoni and Andrew Ogonji who are all BA Film Production Majors.

In the Cultural Screen dance category, Bijen Gudhka (Sophomore, IBA Major) impressed the judges with her Kuchipudi Dance getting awards for the most original music track and she was named the best female screen dancer. Furthermore, the dance emerged as 1st runners up in best dance choreography,
In efforts to foster better health for university employees, the Health Services department in partnership with our medical service provider First Assurance Company Limited, launched a wellness program to help students, staff and faculty members increase their knowledge about health matters, explore fun ways to encourage a healthier lifestyle and improve levels of physical fitness.

During the camp, employees had the option to choose from three packages to suit their individual needs and had a choice of sharing the package with their spouses.

In an interview the Principal Medical Officer Dr. Tasneem Yamani explained that inculcating healthy habits and lifestyles are paramount in leading healthy lifestyles but the benefits and importance of wellness checks must not be under emphasized. Routine wellness checks and tests help detect high risk and existence of disease in its early stages and it is recommended to have a wellness check done annually.

She added that the right type of health check-up is important and factors like age, lifestyle, family history and high risk are parameters that are taken into consideration when choosing the right wellness package for each individual. Opting for a right health check-up, screenings, and treatments means one is taking steps to help one live longer and healthier life.

“A wellness screening provides information for necessary lifestyle adjustments to be made to improve on disease outcomes”, said Dr. Yamani

The wellness camp took place from Monday, May 20, 2019 all through to Friday, May 24. However, due to employees demand the camp was extended by an additional day to end on Monday, May 27. Employees together with their spouses had the opportunity to get expert opinions on topical issues touching on matters fitness, nutrition and stress management, talks on the practical aspects of setting and meeting new health improvement goals and finally got medical checkups that included general physical examination.

The exam assed the eyes and teeth, functioning of the heart, lungs, digestive system, liver, kidneys and immune system status, specific tests like Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) for men and mammography and some gynecological examinations for women.

In conclusion Dr. Yamani stated that in an era where non-communicable diseases are on high rampage, the focus for the Health Center has been shifted to preventive care.
Sanlam Kenya Plc has appointed Dr. Grace Mwai to the board effective May 9, 2019. She will serve as a Non-Executive and Independent Director. The announcement was made pursuant to Regulation G.05 (1) (f) and (2) of the Capital Markets (Securities) (Public Offers, Listing and Disclosures), Regulations 2002, promulgated under the Capital Markets Act. Dr Mwai holds a Doctorate in Business Administration (class of 2017) from the United States International University-Africa.

Dr. Mwai is an accomplished program development and implementation expert with over 15 years of experience overseeing several complex donor-funded projects and private companies in Eastern and Southern Africa. She currently serves as a Compliance officer at AGRA for the Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA) ensuring compliance to the policies and procedures, fiscal oversight and grants management.

She has vast experience and expertise leading both private sector companies and donor-funded program management, strategy development, proposal writing, and financial management, including budgeting, grants, subcontractors, compliance, system development, procurement, and capacity building for local organizations.

New student leaders take oath of office

The new Student Affairs Council leaders were sworn in on May 15, 2019 during a ceremony attended by Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs Prof. Ruthie Rono, Associate DVC Students Affairs, Prof. Wangari Mwai, student leaders and students. The oath was administered by the Director, Legal Services, Ms. Helen Ambasa.

Clubs officials and sportsmen leaders were sworn in May 17, 2015 during a leadership training facilitated by Olive International. The objective of the training was to impart knowledge and leadership skills to the new office bearers in order to effectively execute their mandates. They were trained on understanding the principle of positive youth, personal development and professional responsibility, personal evaluation and reflection. The training will take eight weeks and the students will be issued with certificates once they complete the course.

The elections of the new office bearers were held in March 2019.
School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension hosts a knowledge exchange workshop

By Shadrack Lomoywara and Ernest Mwanzi

On Monday, May 20, 2019, the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension through its partnership with Emerging World (a firm that specializes in leadership development) and Maersk Global (World's largest shipping company) hosted students on a learning and knowledge exchange forum.

The event took place at Chandaria School of Business where 68 graduate students had an opportunity to interact, learn and exchange knowledge with peers from other countries across the world. The half day event gave participants leadership skills, critical thinking, connection to global partners and cultivate a working relationship with the partners from around the world.

Students were paired with their fellow colleagues from other countries for purposes of sharing experiences and networking.

The MAERSK leadership development forum is a global initiative that seeks to provide experiential learning.

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APT and IST students meet Black Googlers Network

By Dr. Patrick Wamuyu and Taigu Muchiri

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, a team from Google visited USIU-Africa as part of their new Google initiative called Black Googler Network whose main focus is to empower the black community within Google and beyond. In order to achieve this, Googlers from all around the world devote their time to make trips to various communities with an aim of providing professional development and mentorship programs.

The team was drawn from Google’s different offices such us Dublin, London, South-Africa and other locations and were joined by students mainly from the APT and IST majors.

The visiting team from Google engage with APT and IST students
The Googler team started gave a brief background of the Black Googler Network and explained how they are helping Black communities from around the world. The moderator engaged the panel of speakers during a questions and answer session where the team from Google explained to the students the benefits of working with Google and how the students could get an opportunity to work with one of the biggest IT companies in the world. The students received very insightful answers from the panelists and they were given an opportunity to ask more questions that relate to their personal advancement as they continued with their studies at USIU-Africa.

As the question and answer session came to an end, the Googlers formed focus groups with the students to network and share with them on other important aspects such as CV writing and career building.

**Solutions to ICT challenges in universities discussed at global forum**

By Diana Meso

While universities across the world have moved a step higher in integrating ICT in their learning experience, there are still major setbacks that hinder this incorporation to realize its full potential.

This was discussed during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum themed “New teaching approaches for higher learning institutions in the digital era” that took place in April in Geneva, Switzerland where Assistant Professor of Information Systems Dr. Collins Oduor was part of the panelist.

The forum aimed to demystifying how capacity building, using ICTs, supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030, narrowing down to target 4a, which aims at ensuring, building and upgrading education facilities that are child, disability, gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Some of the key ICT achievements in universities pointed out include introduction of information theory and coding in their curriculum, introduction of digital syllabi and curriculum, e-management of classrooms and e-office hours and interactive lab simulation.

On the other hand, the challenges identified include increased competition from other forms of learning and knowledge production, difficulties in measuring knowledge received from the virtual classrooms, commodification of higher education and lack of online solutions to manage large classes among others.

In his presentation, Dr. Oduor emphasized that implementation of ICT based teachings ought to begin from basic ICT training of faculty and students, procuring hardware, software and maintenance of the equipment. Giving an example of USIU-Africa, he pointed out that lectures are not only delivered through classroom interactions, but also through Blackboard (e-learning platform) and LAN School where students are able to interact, carry out group work and share presentations.

In conclusion, it was recommended that institutions of higher education should create an international network of professional collaborators that can help sustain institutional partnerships between the university, industry, government and civil society, adapt curricula to new ICT tools and interactive technologies, design curricula to ease students’ entry into the workforce among others.

WSIS Forum is a global United Nations (UN) multi-stakeholder platform and the world’s largest annual gathering of the ‘ICT for development’ community, facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing SDGs, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.
New students urged to explore American football as an option

By Myles Gicheru and Taigu Muchiri

American football, which is also known as football in the United States is a team sport played by two teams made up of eleven players on a rectangular field with goalposts similar to rugby but T-shaped at each end. Each team divides its players into two teams, the offense and defense teams each having 11 active players on the field. The offense team is made up of the quarterback (throwing the ball), running back (runs with the ball after being given the ball by the quarterback), receiver (receives the ball when the quarterback throws the ball), linemen (protect the quarterback not to be tackled). The defense team is made up of the linemen (attacks the quarterback of the other team so as not to enable him to catch the ball), cornerbacks (ensures the receivers don’t catch the ball), linebackers (behind the defensive linemen, and therefore back up the line) and safety (defensive backs who line up from ten to fifteen yards in front of the line of scrimmage.)

The offense team, which is the team controlling the oval-shaped ball attempts to advance down the field by running with or passing the ball, while the defense, which is the team without control of the ball, aims to stop the offense’s advance and aims to take control of the ball. The offense must advance at least ten yards in four downs, or plays, otherwise they turn over the football to the defense; if the offense succeeds in advancing ten yards or more, they are given a new set of four downs. Points are primarily scored by advancing the ball into the opposing team’s end zone for a touchdown or kicking the ball through the opponent’s goalposts for a field goal. The team with the most points at the end of a game wins.

American football in USIU-Africa started in fall 2017 and is known as USIU Panthers. The team has a total of 22 players, 5 seniors, 6 juniors, 7 sophomores, 4 freshmen. The team took part in two leagues of which the second league started in fall 2018 and ended in Spring 2019. The team training as it prepares itself for the next season which is starting in June. The USIU Panthers train every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sport Updates

By Ernest Mwanzi

Basketball
On Saturday, May 18, 2019 during the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) league match, the men's basketball team (Marines) beat Woodley 51 – 36 at Upperhill School while their colleagues (Tigers) in a Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) league match lost 47 – 74 to Kenya Ports Authority at Nyayo National Stadium.

The following day the ladies' team lost 33 – 71 to Sparks in a KBF match at the same venue. The Marines continued with their winning streak beating Mt. Kenya University 66 – 62 still at Upperhill School.

Soccer
In Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL) soccer, on Saturday, May 18, 2019 the men's team lost by three goals to one against Thika School of Medical and Health Sciences and by two goals to zero the next day against Technical University of Kenya. All the matches were played at Jomo Kenyatta University of Sciences and Technology.

Hockey
In hockey, both the men's and the ladies' team settled for barren draws against Western Jaguars and Lakers respectively, during the Kenya Hockey Union league matches. The men's team played their match in Kakamega while the ladies' team in Kisumu. Both matches were played on Saturday, May 18.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

May 22: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Okumu, Okeyo land training opportunity in Germany.”

May 21: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Handshake disoriented the civil society, forum told.”

May 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Wazalendo topple champions Butali Warrior.”

May 20: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Women the main target of fake news – forum.”

May 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled “KPA skipper aims perfect first leg finish after win over Blades.”

May 20: Pulse Live mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “List of 14 pieces of land that courts have found Mzee Moi to have grabbed.”

May 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Land cases bedevil Moi 17 years on.”

May 20: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA need two more quality guards, says Kiki.”

May 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Telkom rally from behind to deny Lakers win.”

May 20: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Zetech Sparks edge Africa Nazarene University.”

May 19: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Champs KPA reap maximum points in Nairobi.”

May 19: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Lakers coach Aduda confident ahead of Telkom test.”

May 18: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Basketball league champs KPA skin Tigers at Nyayo.”

May 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Public varsities’ financial mess: Smart management, industry links and research needed.”

May 18: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Mugambi expects Police to arrest Parklands at City Park.”

May 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “KPA eye double victory in Nairobi.”

May 17: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Busy basketball weekend with 28 league matches on the cards.”

May 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled “Determined Lakers out to topple league bigwigs.”

May 17: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Blunt Blades face KPA test in KBF.”

May 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Lakers upbeat ahead of USIU and Telkom test.”

Upcoming Events

MIKTA Film Festival
May 27-29, 2019 - Auditorium

Public Lecture: Africa in the 21st century
May 28

Talk/Lecture: Moving to Online Learning: Perspectives from the USA and Southern Africa
Thursday May 30, 2019

Workshop: Using Blackboard to Enhance Student Learning and Reduce Lecturer Workload
May 31, 2019

2019 Agripreneurs Conference
June 27-28
Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) holds Adjunct faculty orientation workshop

Adjunct faculty members soon after attending the second session of their Summer 2019 Orientation Workshop held on Friday, May 17 at the Science Center and organized by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). Also in attendance was SHSS Dean Prof. Martin Njoroge and CELT Director Dr. Atieno Adala.

The Tanzania Alumni community host the Vice Chancellor

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Zeleza takes a photo with the Alumni community in Tanzania

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Zeleza takes a photo with the Alumni community in Tanzania