USIU-Africa and the Cyber Security Institute (CSI) have signed a memorandum of understanding that will see both institutions offer research and innovation, training and capacity building programs in cyber security. In partnership both institutions will leverage on the existing infrastructure to grow the region’s expertise in cyber security.

USIU-Africa Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza said the partnership will see both USIU-Africa and Cyber Security Institute leverage each other’s resources, knowledge base and unique perspectives to innovatively solve cyber security challenges in the country as Kenya increasingly strengthens its capacity to respond to technology and data security issues.

“The recent launch of Kenya’s Huduma number and the reported opportunities and challenges bring to the fore need for concerted efforts in providing safe use of technology in driving national development. We believe this cooperation will see us advance cybersecurity education programs and research to enable us contribute to the technological growth in the region”, Prof Zeleza added.

“We cannot take lightly the fact that we live in an age fraught with digital and cyber risks. It is for this reason that we were keen to partner with USIU-Africa. Through the partnership, we look forward to working with USIU-Africa and its other partners in tackling the various cybersecurity issues facing our nation,” said Dr. Mark Matunga, Cyber Security Institute’s CEO.

Speaking at the launch, Continuity East Africa’s Country Managing Director, Mr. Eric Kariuki noted that cybersecurity had a close link with business continuity, noting that it was important for businesses to find a way to mitigate risks in the event of business disruptions.

Through the partnership, both USIU-Africa and CSI will establish a Centre of Excellence focused on cyber security services in training and capacity building for education. CSI will support USIU-Africa by bringing in industry expertise to develop a dynamic curriculum both as a concentration and as a certification course based on reputable IT industry standards and known best practices. In conjunction with the University, the Institute will identify potential areas of research in cyber security best practices and provide practical solutions in tackling the biggest challenge in use of technology.
USIU–Africa debate and public speaking club emerge winners in the National Intervarsity Right to Food Debate

By Lucy Njeri Irungu

Just two weeks after the first ever USIU-Africa Inter-varsity Debate, the Public Speaking Club retained the Debate and Public speaking champions title in the Right to Food debate held on 26 and 27 July at Strathmore University. The debate was organized by the Kenya National Debate Council and Route to Food with the aim of evaluating food security as a human right as stipulated in Article 43(1) (c) of the Kenyan constitution of 2010. The tournament comprised of three categories, debate, public speaking and the quiz challenge and had approximately 300 participants from different universities in Kenya. USIU-Africa was represented by two teams in the debate category, three speakers in the public speaking category and two adjudicators. In all categories, all the USIU-Africa participants made it to the finals after very competitive knockout rounds.

In the debate category, Grace Kinyua (International Relations, sophomore) and Calvin Ganza (International Relations, senior) emerged as the winners. Kagia Samuel (Finance, freshman) and Lucy Njeri Irungu (International Relations, senior) were the 1st Runners up. In the public speaking category, Grace Kinyua (International Relations, sophomore) was the 1st Runners up, followed by Kagia Samuel (Finance, freshman) and David Odhiambo (International Business Administration, freshman) among the best finalists.

In the adjudication team, Eunice Njagi (International Relations, sophomore and Chairperson Public Speaking Club) and Chantelle Mukabi (Finance, freshman and secretary public speaking club) were recognized among the best finalist adjudicators in the public speaking and debate categories respectively. After a series of 10 national debate championships since last year, the USIU-Africa team has earned the championship title at the national level. The team is looking to venture into regional debates namely the East African Universities Debate Championship (Kenya) in August, the Zanzibar Opens Tournament (Tanzania) in September and the Pan-African Universities Debate Championship (Ghana) in December this year. The end goal of the team is to earn an international championship status at the World Universities Debate Championship that will take place in Thailand next year.

USIU–Africa get opportunity to fly the Kenyan flag at the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) Conference

By Brenda Odhiambo

Fourteen students from USIU-Africa departed on Wednesday 31 July to represent the University at the 10th edition of the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) Conference that will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1st to 7th August.

The conference is organized by Humanitarian Affairs Asia, a civil society organization that has for years, been encouraging young people to be involved in humanitarian pursuits. Over the years, Humanitarian Affairs Asia has proven itself to be a unique and vibrant organization that nurtures young leaders to be socially responsible.

The conference is designed to develop the leadership and social change skills of emerging leaders from around the world. USIU-Africa has represented Kenya and East Africa in previous Symposia as one of the two delegations representing the Continent.

The USIU Africa 2018 USLS team was able to implement some of the important things they learnt about volunteerism and supporting the disadvantaged in our community by mentoring, donating books and food stuff to L’Arche Kenya, a home for differently abled youth located in Nyahururu.

Other than the delegation from USIU-Africa, the only other African country represented at this symposium is South Africa. The team is accompanied by the club coordinators Mr. Chris Ayuoyi and Ms. Jane Nyaga.
A New Dawn for the USIU-Africa American Football team

By Ernest Mwanzi and Myles Gicheru

The USIU-Africa American football team famously known as ‘Panthers’ received new kits on Friday, July 26, 2019 through a donation from the Kenya Federation of American football (KFAF). The new jerseys were officially unveiled on Wednesday, July 31, where the team showcased their prowess in the game through a light training at the Rugby Pitch. The new uniforms mark the start of the long-awaited journey for the team as they prepare for the American football league that is set to start in September 2019.

The team which was started in September 2017 comprises of 22 players, five seniors, six juniors, seven sophomores and four freshmen. The team has training sessions every evening on Tuesday and Thursday. The team continues to recruit more players in readiness for the league in September and encourage interested participants to join the team during their training sessions for recruitment.

The Panthers will now focus on having the team better equipped and prepared to compete in the international arena.

Part of the USIU-Africa American Football team pose for a group photo during the unveiling of their new uniforms.

USIU-Africa Library and Department of Languages and Literature hold Storytelling Night as part of USIU-Africa@50 celebrations

By Charles Wanjala

The Library in collaboration with the department of Languages & Literature held a Storytelling, Poetry & Dance Night as part of the USIU-Africa@50 celebrations. In the spirit of ‘having fun while learning’, the event themed ‘Living the Arts’ provided a stage for students, staff and faculty to share their written poetry or read some of their favorite poems, perform original/adaptations of songs and dances or tell stories on their personal experiences, real life, folk tales or fiction.

With USIU-Africa being a multicultural and intellectual community thriving through the exchange and sharing of experience and mutual support, this event arguably provided the most cohesive of platforms for liberal minds to converge and enjoy an evening of performing arts.
The Department of Languages and Linguistics hosts a Creative Writing Workshop

The Department of Languages and Literature through its initiatives to celebrate and inspire production of creative works, hosted a creative writing workshop on Friday, July 26 at Lecture Theatre two at the Chandaria School of Business. With the theme ‘Celebrating African Geniuses’ the event focused on discussing issues around creative writing and getting to meet celebrated writers to share insights and their experiences to enable USIU-Africa students and the community at large to get involved in creative writing.

Dr. Tom Odhiambo, a Senior Lecturer, department of Literature at the University of Nairobi led a discussion on writing in the arts and culture. He challenged the participants to do more writing because Kenya is a net importer of art and culture. He also emphasized on archiving the existing stories.

John Kamau, Editor, Investigations and Special Projects at the Nation Media Group talked about Creative investigative journalism. He gave a spellbinding presentation about his journey from an archeology student, to a recorded artist and award-winning journalist. “The beauty of writing is in the descriptions, there is a big market for creative writers. I advise students to pursue a degree that is specialized in the field of creative writing before pursuing Journalism,” he said.

Dr. Pablo Rubio, Assistant Professor of Spanish at USIU-Africa, had the arduous task of compressing decades of Spanish and Latin American Literature into a twenty-minute presentation and made a distinction between Spanish and Latin American Literature.

As the workshop came to an end there was a final presentation on writing and publishing in vernacular. Stephen Ndewa an Adjunct faculty at USIU-Africa drove the conversation focused on his first book, ‘Kihoto Mbere’, the first ever individual anthology of Kikuyu poetry, released in November 2018. It was a culmination of years of writing out his thoughts on different life experiences, both at individual and community levels.

He took the audience through the process of self-publishing, the merits and demerits of publishing in vernacular. Ndewa is in the final stages of completing his second anthology, this time with a collection of English poems. The book will be published later this year. The author also envisions a Kiswahili poetry book in the future.

The department will host another workshop in January 2020 where they will invite more participants, especially students to write short stories and have them discussed at the workshop.

By Ernest Mwanzi and Dr. Martin Mburu
Over 16 short films screened at the auditorium.

Over 16 short films were screened during the End of Summer Semester Film and Animation Screening event organized by the Department of Cinematic Arts chaired by Dr. Rachael Diang’a (Assistant Professor of Film) at the auditorium on Thursday, August 1.

The event, held at the end of every semester is aimed at showcasing various films produced by students to other students, faculty, staff and renowned professionals in the industry for criticism and support.

The short films included Oceania Boulevard, Punch, Love Is, Sound Design Video 3, Major Tom, Fisherman’s Tale, All Monkeys, Beautiful, Bendile and Akuchi, Cats and Vultures, Content, Cycles, Ratatouille, Vuvi, Birds, The Seedling and Kobole.

This initiative is among the many platforms including the African Film Night which is held every month where students showcase their creativity and present their works of arts.

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Sport Updates

By Ernest Mwanzi

Basketball
In the Nairobi Basketball Association League matches played on July 27 and 28, the men’s team (Marines) beat Knights 46 – 35 and MAB 47 - 32. All the games were played at Upper Hill School.

Hockey
The ladies’ team thrashed Orange Lioness by four goals to become bronze medalists during the AstroTurf launch tournament held from July 22 to 28 at Simba Union hockey pitch. Their male counterparts were not lucky as they fell to Strathmore University by three goals during a Kenya Hockey Union league game played at City Park on July, 27.

Still on hockey, the Kenya Hockey Union did a team selection for the national team pre-qualifiers matches, in preparation for the Tokyo Olympics games in 2020. USIU-Africa’s Samuel Silong and Sam Ratia got a call up in the men’s team while Beatrice Wangui, Harriette Night Akinyi and Roda Nyambura will feature in the ladies team.

American Football
The USIU-Africa American Football team (Panthers) held a Kenya Federation of American Football (KFAF) combined training at University of Nairobi (UoN) grounds together with Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology, Kenyatta University, Mount Kenya University and UoN on July 27.

Tournament (Nakuru Open) on Saturday July 13 and Sunday July 14 in Nakuru. The ladies’ team scooped a Silver and a Bronze while the men’s team won a Bronze. More than 40 teams across various counties participated in the tournament.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

July 31: Capital FM mentioned USIU-Africa an article titled “KCB Kenya customers to interact with bank on WhatsApp.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1322/capital-fm-kcb-kenya-customers-interact-bank-whatsapp

July 31: USIU-Africa was mentioned by online in an article titled “USIU-Africa Signs MoU with Cyber Security Institute for Training and Capacity Building.”

July 29: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Strathmore coach hails his side after win over Titans”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1320/star-strathmore-coach-hails-his-side-after-win-over-titans

July 27: MediaMax mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali face Jaguar in KHU league crunch.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1319/mediamax-butali-face-jaguar-in-khu-league-crunch

July 27: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article “Kenya Police win Astroturf tourney title at Sikh Union as India’s SAI lift women crown.”

July 26: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KHU names provisional squad for Olympic qualifiers.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1317/daily-nation-khu-names-provisional-squad-for-olympic-qualifiers

July 26: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “New-look squads to prepare for Games qualifiers.”

July 26: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Strathmore, USIU face-off at City Park.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1315/daily-nation-strathmore-usiu-face-off-city-park