Faculty from USIU-Africa’s School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts participate in the African Women in Media (AWiM) Conference

By Dr. Dorothy Njoroge

Dr. Dorothy Njoroge addresses the audience during this year’s African Women in Media (AWiM) conference held at the University of Nairobi. The Conference brought together various stakeholders from the Kenyan media scene.

In her keynote speech, Dr. Njoroge discussed her research titled Exploring News Coverage of Domestic Violence in Kenya’s Print Media in which she highlighted the tendency of the news media to cover domestic violence as a private issue rather than a social problem. Her research also made note of how the media humanized the perpetrators while dehumanizing the victims as some of the problematic elements of news coverage in Kenya. The over-reliance of police and relatives as news sources defined domestic violence in limited ways as voices of human rights activists and health professionals remained muted thus depicting this vice as a sporadic issue rather than a pervasive social problem needing a broad-based approach to stem its tide.

Ms. Robi Koki Ochieng, also of the School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts, presented a paper entitled The Screen-fit Phenomena: An Interrogation of Unspoken Rules that Guide the Career of Women Anchors in the Kenyan Media. Her paper explored challenges faced by female anchors due to demands placed on them to look and behave in certain ways rather than focusing on their professionalism as journalists.

Dr. Rachel Diang’a, Chair, Film and Animation Department, moderated a panel on women in East Africa film. Mr. David Biwott, a Masters of Communication student, and Ms. Karoline Kanyeria a graduate of the Masters in Communication program worked as interns documenting some of the sessions during the conference.
USIU-Africa’s first Millennial Fellows work on projects to advance SDG’s

By Hudson Amenyaa

USIU-Africa will for the first time host the Millennium Fellowship, a program designed for uniting and educating youth with an aim of advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The fellowship is sponsored by the Millennium Campus Network as well as the United Nations Academic Impact program and is aimed at helping students administer a project that will further one or more of the United Nations’ SDGs. USIU-Africa being one of the 6% of the campuses across the world that were selected to host the fellowship, has 19 students participating in the global fellowship that encompasses over 450 fellows in total.

The team has unanimously agreed to pursue a group project in one of Nairobi’s low income estates, preferably a struggling institution of learning to help the dwellers live in comfortable conditions.

“I am convinced that we will be able to do a project that will have a recognizable social impact in Kenya and across the world. We are committed to this course and we look forward to playing our part in making sure that the SDGs are a success,” said Ms. Joyner Mongare, who is one of the campus directors for the USIU-Africa’s 2019 cohort.

Joyner will work hand in hand with Ms. Berryl Akinyi, a senior IR major to lead the fellows in the four on-campus meetings (a prerequisite for graduation) which will focus on education, the sustainable development goals, as well as leadership training.

“Our first cohort of fellows is extremely diverse given the nature of USIU-Africa as an international university,” said Berryl Akinyi.

The cohort entered the fellowship as individuals and had the options to work on individual projects or group projects. The team, will however be working on a group project

Sandy Joan selected SDG 4 which addresses Quality Education and SDG 5 Gender Equality to create a cohesive project called KIKE.

“Swahili for female, KIKE aims to make learning stress-free for underprivileged girls in the community,” said Sandy. The project will go a long way in providing sanitary towels for those who cannot afford them. Her project intends to raise funds through a viral drive for sanitary pad and menstrual cup collection.

This year’s fellows are a team of enthusiastic, vibrant, steadfast and ready-to-learn students whose passion for community service and social impact speaks for their desire to be part of the fast changing world.

Journalism Adjunct publishes research on television stations switch off during Odinga’s “swearing-in”

By Dr. Kioko Ireri

Daniel Mule, adjunct faculty at the Department of Journalism and Corporate Communication has published a research paper on Kenya television stations switch off during the “swearing-in” of Raila Odinga on January 30, 2018. The paper is titled The Alternative Platform: Kenya’s Television Stations Navigation during the Switch Off of Raila Odinga’s “Swearing-In”. Using the Government ban of selected television stations in Kenya during and after the symbolic “swearing-in” of opposition presidential candidate in the 2017 general election, the study investigates
USIU-Africa’s Public Speaking Club clinches two regional championship titles

By Lucy Njeri Irungu

USIU-Africa’s Public Speaking Club emerged winner of two regional debate championships, following its participation in the pre-EAUCD Mashujaa Debate Tournament held at Strathmore University and the East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC) held at the Cooperative University of Kenya, Main Campus. In the pre-EAUCD Mashujaa tournament, USIU-Africa was represented by four debate teams and two adjudicators. In the novice category, Faith Musumba (IR Senior, and Vice Chairperson of Public Speaking club) and Kagia Samuel (Finance Sophomore, and treasurer of the Public Speaking club) emerged as the first runners up. Grace Kinyua (IR Sophomore, and Inter-Club Coordinator of the Public Speaking club) and Chantelle Mukabi (APT Sophomore, and Executive Secretary of the Public Speaking club) were semi-finalists in the open category.

Other representatives from USIU-Africa included Stecy Onyango (Psychology Sophomore, and Logistics officer of the Public Speaking club) and David Odhiambo (IBA Freshman) as well as Shalom Kihara (IBA Senior) and James Wandui (APT Sophomore). In the adjudication team, the school was represented by Rose Macharia (IR Sophomore) and Lucy Irungu (IR Senior). During the East African Universities Debate Championship (EAUDC), USIU-Africa had four debate teams and seven public speakers. After seven preliminary rounds of debate with forty four teams, all the four teams proceeded to the quarter finals. Following this, two teams went further to proceed to both the semi-finals as well as the finals. The four teams included Faith Musumba and Kagia Samuel, Chantelle Mukabi and Grace Kinyua, Shalom Kihara and Stecy Onyango, Eunice Njagi and Lucy Irungu. Of all the forty four teams present, USIU-Africa emerged second position and forth position in the finals, being the only institution with two teams at the finals. At the first runners up position were Kagia Samuel and Faith Musumba while in fourth position were Grace Kinyua and Chantelle Mukabi. Additionally, 5 of the USIU-aFRICA debaters ranked among the top 10 best speakers of the championship, with Grace Kinyua 9th, Eunice Njagi 7th, Lucy Irungu 6th, Chantelle Mukabi 5th and Faith Musumba 4th.

In the public speaking category, five of the public speakers broke to the quarter finals, followed by three of them to the semi-finals as well as the finals. The five speakers included David Odhiambo, Shalom Kihara, Eunice Njagi, Stecy Onyango and Grace Kinyua. Of all the forty nine public speakers in the tournament, USIU had three finalists with Grace Kinyua in fourth position followed by Stecy Onyango and Eunice Njagi. The tournaments brought together participants from different universities from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and the influence of communication technologies by the affected TV channels to circumvent the Government crackdown.

The findings of the study revealed that throughout the switch off period, the newsrooms remained operational but forced to develop alternative strategies fundamentally buoyed by new media technologies to disseminate contents.

Though the strategies produced unintended and unexpected effects as the findings indicated. The main challenge with technology, was news verification, since the stations were using guerrilla tactics to source news which was not easily forthcoming. In addition, there was economic implication, some advertisers demanded for a refund and potential advertisers refused to patronize the stations which according to one of the editors was hinged on fear of being targeted by government.

Mule has co-authored the paper with John-Bell Okeyo, Ruth Aoko Owino and Laura Anyasi all from Daystar University where he is a doctoral student. He joined the Department of Journalism and Corporate Communication as an adjunct faculty in Fall 2018. He is a news anchor and reporter for NTV.

Photo: Courtesy
Dann Mule, from the Department of Journalism and Corporate Communication
USIU-Africa’s School of Science and Technology represented at South African Conference

By Philip Machoka

USIU-Africa’s School of Science and Technology was represented at the Southern African Computer Lecturers’ Association (SACLA) 2019, where Philip Machoka presented a paper titled “Enhancing Computer Students’ Academic Performance through Explanatory Modeling”.

The paper was authored by Leah Mutanu and Philip Machoka from the Information Science department, School of Science and Technology.

The paper focused on key challenges facing universities today with growing attrition rate of computer studies students, which is attributed to poor academic performance. Performing data analytics on student data through explanatory modeling, it creates an opportunity to adopt a proactive approach to enhancing the performance of computer studies students.

The paper recommended strategies for enhancing student performance including an emphasis on building student’s mathematics background, providing a strong teaching approach to foundational computing courses, re-structuring and aligning courses in the computing program, and linking courses across the curriculum.

The objective of the SACLA conference is to promote co-operation among South African and Southern African Universities, specifically in order to further the method and contents of university education in the field of computing. The annual conference brings together lecturers, researchers, students, industry and society interested in the field of computing education, and for this reason it provides an opportunity to network and learn from one another.
Dr. Manu Chandaria congratulates Communication Studies student for publishing book chapter

By Dr. Kioko Ireri

USIU-Africa Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria has congratulated graduate student Jimmy Ochieng on being an author in a book chapter published in The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Politics.

In his congratulatory letter delivered through Professor Ruthie Rono (Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic & Student Affairs), Dr. Chandaria writes: “This is a great achievement both for you and for USIU-Africa”. Jimmy is pursuing MA in Communication Studies in the Department of Journalism & Corporate Communication. He is expecting to graduate in September.

Published early last month, Jimmy’s chapter is titled East Africa: Regional Politics and Dynamics. It is co-authored with Walter O. Oyugi, a retired Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at University of Nairobi. Focusing on Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the authors point out that the three countries inherited similar political systems and all governance institutions at the sub-territorial level operated in line with centrally determined guidelines.

The encyclopedia is a collection of best scholars working on Africa on a variety of issues within the rubric of politics in the continent. It provides a comprehensive examination of the key issues and debates within the study of African politics.

In January this year, Jimmy jointly with Dr. Kioko Ireri (Chair, Department of Journalism & Corporate Communication) and fellow student Alex Roberts published a research paper titled An Exploratory Study on Knowledge Gap in Public Affairs among Kenyans in African Journalism Studies.

He is also a co-author with Dr. Ireri (his thesis supervisor) of a forthcoming research paper titled Politicians in Newspaper News: Who Attracts Coverage in Kenyan Politics to be published International Journal of Press/Politics published by Sage and previously owned by Harvard University.

USIU-Africa among participants at the 2019 HOJA Africa Summit

By HOJA Africa Summit Team

USIU-Africa was among the institutions represented at this year’s Pan-African Summit held at Africa University, Zimbabwe. Sixteen African states were represented, including Angola, DRC, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, and Botswana among others.

The Summit, whose theme was Youth, The Drivers of a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa: AU’s Agenda 2063, was attended by prominent Zimbabweans, including Hon. Mr. J.M. Busha, an Entrepreneur Founder and Executive Director of J.M.Busha Company, Prof. Furusa, Vice Chancellor of Africa University, among others. Several Universities, including USIU-Africa, were also in attendance. The University was represented by Isaac Bugeri, Chairman of HOJA Youth Summit, Grace Mpala Alphonsine and Prisca Bwiza.

The Summit saw delegates make commitments to build the African continent, with the next Summit expected to be held in Kenya at USIU-Africa or at University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.
The Housing Department hosted a hostel residents’ orientation for the incoming class of the Fall Semester. The orientation is held to welcome all new residents to Kenya and to USIU-Africa.

Among the issues discussed included check in – check out of residents, room reservation, upcoming hostel events, resident’s behavior, visitors, alcohol and drugs, the residents’ handbook and other students’ rules that would govern their stay on campus. The orientation was attended by a total of 28 students.
**Sport Updates**

By Ernest Mwanzi

**USIU-Africa bags top honors at the KUSA Awards**
The ladies and men’s hockey teams, taekwondo men’s team and the ladies basketball team emerged gold medalists at the recently concluded Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) Nairobi awards. Other winners included the University’s karate teams and the men’s basketball team, who emerged silver and bronze medalists respectively.

**Basketball**
In the Kenya Basketball Federation Premier League matches played on September 14 the Men’s team “Tigers” lost to Blades 42 - 57 and the following day lost to Equity 35 – 72. The ladies team also lost to Zetech University 45 – 53 on September 14. All the matches were played at the Nyayo National Stadium Gymnasium.

**Hockey**
The Ladies hockey team beat Sliders by a solitary goal while their male counterparts lost by two goals against Butali Warriors on September 15, during their Kenya Hockey Union National league matches played at City park.

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**Media Mentions**

Compiled by Diana Meso

**September 17:** Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kenyans using Whatsapp, social media more than ever, cite addiction – report.”

**September 17:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Ulinzi displace Thunder to claim top spot.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1387/daily-nation-ulinzi-displace-thunder-claim-top-spot

**September 16:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Okeyo wants Spartans to up the game despite win.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1386/star-okeyo-wants-spartans-up-game-despite-win

**September 16:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Butali hit USIU, return to summit.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1385/daily-nation-butali-hit-usiu-return-summit

**September 15:** Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Ulinzi Warriors edge World Hope to go top.”

**September 14:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Hunt for playoff spots starts.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1383/standard-hunt-for-playoff-spots-starts

**September 14:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali seek extend dominance as they face USIU.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1382/star-butali-seek-extend-dominance-as-they-face-usiu

**September 13:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Ulinzi Warriors continue chase for top spot.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1381/daily-nation-ulinzi-warriors-continue-chase-for-top-spot

**September 10:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “USIU coach puts on brave face despite teams’ poor displays.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1380/star-usiu-coach-puts-brave-face-despite-teams-poor-displays

**September 9:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Ulinzi vow to reclaim top spot after shooting down USIU.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1379/star-ulinzi-vow-reclaim-top-spot-after-shooting-down-usiu

**September 9:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Unbeaten Warriors maintain top spot.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1378/daily-nation-unbeaten-warriors-maintain-top-spot

**September 9:** The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Equity Hawks put off USIU-A Flames in Kenya Basketball Federation tie.”

**September 6:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Champion KPA in the city for double Premier League fixtures.”

**September 6:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KPA teams in tricky league assignments.”

**September 6:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Unbeaten Warriors put record on the line.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1374/daily-nation-unbeaten-warriors-put-record-line

**September 4:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Blow for USIU as Kiptoch suffers fracture ahead of duel.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1373/star-blow-for-usiu-as-kiptoch-suffers-fracture-ahead-duel
USIU-AFRICA @50 LIST OF EVENTS

As part of our 50 year celebrations, please note that we will be carrying out the events listed below over the next few months:

- USIU-Africa Graduation Dinner
  September 26

- 2019 Commencement
  September 28

- USIU-Africa Alumni Homecoming
  October 26

- USIU-Africa Academic Symposium
  October 30

- USIU-Africa Fun Run
  November 2

- USIU-Africa@50 Commemorative performance
  November 6

- The USIU-Africa Gala Dinner
  November 8

- Mr. and Miss. USIU-Africa
  November 14