Alumni Affairs Department pays courtesy call to Rusinga Group of Schools Managing Director, Wairimu Njage

By Beatrice Munyiva

Last week, Principal Alumni Relations Officer, Mr. Michael Kisilu and Alumni Relations Officer, Ms. Beatrice Munyiva accompanied by Associate DVC – Student Affairs Prof. Wangari Mwai and Principal Fundraising Officer, Mr. Eannes Ongus, paid a courtesy call to USIU-Africa alumna, Wairimu Njage (PSY '93) who is also the Managing Director of the Rusinga Group of Schools.

The visit provided an avenue for the USIU-Africa delegation to update Wairimu on the program and infrastructural growth and developments at her alma mater and explore mutually beneficial areas of collaboration while appreciating her for continually raising the USIU-Africa flag high.

Wairimu reminisced on her time at USIU-Africa, having been among the students who attended their classes at Mayfair, and was really impressed by the growth from strength to strength of her alma mater. She also cited that she had received many useful connections from USIU-Africa that had resulted into meaningful partnerships. Wairimu mentioned that she was willing to support the school by sitting on the Advisory Board for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, collaborating in research activities with the University and offering internship opportunities to USIU-Africa students. USIU-Africa would organize an open day for Rusinga Group of Schools through the Admissions office.

Other highlights from the engagement were that USIU-Africa should consider introducing short programs targeting Executives.

The visit marked the beginning of a series of visits planned by the Alumni Relations Office to different target groups within the Alumni Association as part of its engagement strategy.
PsyD student completes clinical psychology internship in New York

By Bernice Nderitu and Brenda Odhiambo

Bernice Nderitu, a fourth year doctoral candidate has completed a one-year-clinical psychology internship in New York, USA in partial fulfillment of the degree of Doctor of Psychology, Clinical Psychology. This makes her the first student to undertake a clinical psychology internship outside Kenya since the PsyD program began in 2013.

She completed her internship between September 2018 and August 2019 at the Community Assistance Resources and Extended services (CARES), a specialty clinic in Manhattan that offers services to individuals diagnosed with Neurodevelopmental Disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Disability.

The main modes of intervention used at the clinic were social skills training groups, behavior therapy, and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). ABA is an evidence-based intervention that utilizes principles from behavioral theories to change socially important behaviors. It is commonly used with persons diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder but is applicable to any population and context such as organizational behavior and behavioral economics.

By the end of the internship, Bernice was trained in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA); administration, scoring, and interpretation of nine psychological tests and screening tools; and in conducting a social skills group for this population. She also accrued over 1,950 supervised hours of clinical training under licensed psychologists and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts. She contributed to the institution by providing them with feedback on how they could improve the internship program, as well as with insights on how to design an evidence-based social skills group.

During her internship, Bernice partnered with Deborah L. Vietze, a professor of psychology and urban education at City University of New York, who now becomes her second dissertation supervisor alongside Dr. Dana Basnight-Brown from USIU-Africa.

USIU-Africa’s public speaking club emerge winners in the Zanzibar Opens tournament.

By Lucy Irungu

The public speaking club emerged winners at the recently concluded Zanzibar Opens tournament, held at the State University of Zanzibar. The tournament brought together participants from Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda. USIU-Africa was represented by four teams in the debate category, three public speakers, and two judges in the public speaking category.

The debaters included: Lucy Irungu (IR senior), Eunice Njagi (IR sophomore), Grace Kinyua (IR sophomore), Calvin Ganza (IR senior), Stecy Onyango (Psychology sophomore), Kagia Samuel (Finance sophomore) and Mary Kibe (IR freshman). The public speakers were Grace Kinyua, Stecy Onyango and Mary Kibe while the judges in the same category were Eunice Njagi as the Chief Adjudicator and Kagia Samuel as a panelist judge.

After four preliminary competitive rounds in the debate category, all USIU-Africa teams made it to the semifinals, with two teams making it to the finals. Grace Kinyua and Calvin Ganza emerged as the first runners up while Kagia Samuel and Stecy Onyango were fourth. In the Public Speaking category, Grace
International Relations Department hosts
Dr. Dan Kliman, renowned U.S.-Asia-Pacific strategist

By Dan Odaba

USIU-Africa recently hosted Dr. Dan Kliman, a renowned Asia-Pacific strategist. Dr. Dan Kliman. During the interactive session, over 30 International Relations students in attendance had an opportunity to cross examine Dr. Kliman with critical questions touching on the status quo of African nations that have closed development ranks with China.

Dr. Kliman, who is the Senior Advisor for Asia Integration at the U.S. Department of Defense, was accompanied by Ms. Abigail Ross, the Public Diplomacy Associate at the US Embassy in Nairobi, has launched a leadership development initiative focused on understanding great power competition not only between world powers but also their influence on African countries. He has been doing so through his extensive research which he summarized with seven points during the talk.

“Our research revealed that African countries should adopt a serious criteria based on major issues oscillating from sovereignty erosion,
The International Symposium on Social Media hosts industry experts to a two-day forum

By Ernest Mwanzi

The event was aimed at exploring Social Media Trends and Practices in Kenya, where both academic and industry experts got an opportunity to build strong connections between researchers and social media enthusiasts.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, USIU-Africa’s Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza emphasized on social media’s impact on information sharing and community relations. In his keynote address, Prof. Martin Emmer from Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Freie Universitat, Berlin, noted that compulsion to inform on social media as a form of contribution.

The key thematic areas highlighted during the event included Digital Activism, Behavioral approaches to Social Media, Governance, and Social Media Data mining. This year’s event was held on September 11 and 12, 2019 and promises to be better and bigger in the subsequent years.

Panelists drawn from different industries discuss social media versus mainstream media during the international Symposium on Social Media event at USIU-Africa.
The Chief HR Manager, Mr. Yusuf Saleh has been appointed to the Membership and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) committee of the Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM), the professional body of Human Resource Management practitioners in Kenya.

USIU-Africa was ranked in position 7 overall under the Responsible Business Conduct category at the annual Federation of Kenyan Employers (FKE) awards held on September 20. USIU-Africa was the only university and non-profit institution to be recognized and ranked in this category. The other companies in this category included Tata Chemicals Magadi Limited (TCML), Standard Chartered Bank Kenya Limited, Kenya Electricity Generating Company, Bamburi Cement Ltd., Safaricom Plc., East African Breweries, Bollore Transport & Logistics, L’Oréal East Africa and Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Ltd. The responsible business conduct category focuses on high community involvement, impact and thorough community needs assessment.

In a communiqué sent to the USIU-Africa community, the Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Zeleza expressed his joy and pride for the recognition especially considering the university was recognized in this specific category two years in a row. His communiqué read in part “this is a tribute to all of our employees who work so hard to ensure the delivery of high quality education and services to our students.” This recognition is timely as it comes at a time when the university is observing its 50 year anniversary celebrating a legacy of excellence. This is truly a true representation of legacy of operational excellence that has been observed over the last 50 years.

In 2018, USIU-Africa emerged among the top 10 best Employers of the Year and was among one of ten institutions of higher learning that participated and recognized. It was also recognized under the workplace environment and responsible business conduct categories respectively.

The employer of the year award was established to honor the best employers in Kenya. It promotes and encourages best practices in corporate performance, people management and industrial relations practices amongst employers in Kenya. This is in a bid to raise and sustain productivity, enterprise performance and responsibility. The survey was conducted by FKE and audit firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) between May and September this year and surveyed 135 organizations.

Appointments

The Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary, Ms. Helen Ambasa has been appointed as part of the selection panel to replace three commissioners at the Teachers Service Commission (TSC).

The Chief HR Manager, Mr. Yusuf Saleh has been appointed to the Membership and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) committee of the Institute of Human Resource Management (IHRM), the professional body of Human Resource Management practitioners in Kenya.
Pictorial: 2019 Freida Brown Day
## Sport Updates

**By Ernest Mwanzi**

### Soccer
In the Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL) on Saturday, September 21, 2019, the men's settled for a barren draw with KCA University at Kenyatta University (KU) grounds and later on the same day lost 3 – 0 to Kabete Technical. The following day the team drew one all with NHS.

### Basketball
During the Nairobi Basket Ball Association league matches on September 21, the men's team (Marines) beat to KU 61 – 60 at KU's Basketball court and later on beat Dagoretti High 64 – 57 at Jamhuri High School.

Same day in the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) league matches played at Nyayo Gymnasium the men's team lost to Thunder 62 – 80 while the ladies’ team beat Tangit Sparks 72 – 64. On Sunday, September 22, still on KBF, the Men’s team lost to Umoja 59 – 64 while the ladies’ team lost to University of Nairobi 52 – 54 at Nyayo. The Marines beat Multi Media University 60 – 57 at Jamhuri High School in a Nairobi Basket Ball Association league match.

### Volleyball
The ladies’ team lost by three sets to one against Gretsa University in a game that was played at Kenyatta University in the Kenya Universities Sports Association (Nakusa) Nairobi Conference games.

### Handball
During the Western Handball Extravaganza tournament at Kaimosi Friends University College the Handball team lost to Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology 5 – 7.

### Hockey
The Hockey ladies' team lost to Amira Sailors 1 – 2 while the men’s team beat Greensharks by a solitary goal at City Park during the Kenya Hockey Union league matches on Sunday, September 22.

## Media Mentions

**Compiled by Taigu Muchiri**

**September 22:** The Standard newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Thunder strike USIU-A Tigers in KBF league tie at Nyayo.”

**September 22:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Sailors stun USIU to move fourth.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1394/daily-nation-sailors-stun-usiu-move-fourth

**September 23:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Star in an article titled “Sailors rock Spartans to leave Mucheni a happy man.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1393/star-sailors-rock-spartans-leave-mucheni-happy-man

**September 23:** The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Lakeside edge World Hope in thriller.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1392/lakeside-edge-world-hope-in-thriller

**September 23:** The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Lionesses in favourable pool for Olympic Sevens qualifiers.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1391/star-lionesses-in-favourable-pool-for-olympic-sevens-qualifiers

**September 24:** The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Titans banking on varsity derbies for survival.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1390/star-titans-banking-varsity-derbies-for-survival
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:

- 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