USIU-Africa is currently playing host to the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) Conference. This is the first time that the conference was convened in East Africa having successfully organized and held two other conferences in West Africa. This year’s theme, ‘African and Africana Knowledges: Past Representations, Current Discourses, Future Communities’ presented an opportunity to take stock of the knowledge produced by Africans in Africa and the Diaspora in various forms and to examine representations and current African realities and emerging futures with African knowledges. Although Africa has contributed more human and material resources to global welfare, it is ironic that it continues to be regarded as the poorest continent intellectually and materially.

Besides, the ‘African condition’ today is a result of those past representations and the production of knowledge that still represents Africa in popular media and scholarship as hopeless, poor, dark and devoid of knowledge.

The President of ASAA, Prof. Akosua Adomako Ampofo thanked the entire
USIU-Africa community for hosting the conference and acknowledged the Local Organizing Committee for their efforts to put this conference together. She emphasized that the goal of ASAA is to continually invest in the knowledge produced by Africans on the continent and beyond. “The knowledge that we will share in the next three days should empower our teaching, research, advocacy, art, performance, and politics. I would like us to reflect on our individual roles in this collective enterprise—as scholars, university administrators, teachers, cultural activists, artists, journalists, elected and appointed leaders and students,” said Prof. Akosua Adomako.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Tiyambe Zeleza challenged the scholars, researchers, faculty, students, staff and representatives from all over Africa to foster the culture and expand capacity of research in African universities. He mentioned that Africa’s research and development investment continues to be very low—the lowest as compared to Asia, Europe and the US. “In 2013, researchers from Africa were estimated to be at 2.4 percent and by 2014, research publications from Africa were still at an all-time low at 2.6 percent,” said Professor Zeleza. He however pointed out that there is still more that Africa can do to increase its research output. He said that this can be achieved through increasing resources allocated to research and development, establishing reward schemes for outstanding and young researchers from Africa, recruitment of faculty focusing and engaging in research, create retooling opportunities for researchers, conducting research in relevant and emerging fields and expanding university rankings by encouraging differentiation of institutions where some institutions can identify themselves as conducting research.

The African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) was established in 2013 during the climax of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon, to promote Africa’s own specific contributions to the advancement of knowledge about the peoples and cultures of Africa and the Diaspora. The ASAA is currently the only multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary professional association on the continent dedicated to the study of Africa from an Africanist perspective, what Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana, referred to as studying our societies and experiences in an African-centered way.

USIU-Africa announces search for Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

By Dr. Paul Okanda

USIU-Africa’s search for a new Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (A&SA) is underway. Leading the recruitment, The DVC Search Committee on behalf of the university contracted Maya Ranchod Kirkhope of Academic Search, Inc. who developed a position profile describing the key institutional needs and priorities, as well as a related set of desired characteristics for the next DVC A&SA.

Ms. Kirkhope also developed a job advert that was shared across The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, Daily Nation, The East African and the USIU-Africa Website. She is further expected to continue reaching out to a broad network of contacts and follow up on nominations submitted.

So far, the DVC Search Committee has spent time discussing and revising the position profile, taking into consideration the range of opinions and recommendations from the university community with regard to the qualifications, experiences and skills sought for the future DVC A&SA.

The DVC Search Committee further invites the university community to suggest people who could serve effectively in the position or who might recommend potential candidates. When nominating, one is required to complete the confidential online nomination form or forward the name(s) and contact information to the consultant.

Application reviews are set to start by mid-November this year where the DVC Search Committee is expected to identify a small group of candidates fit for the position and there after conduct initial interviews in January 2020. Finalists of the interview will then be invited on campus in February 2020 to present their qualifications and skills to faculty, staff and students who will then choose their preferable candidate through an internal survey. The successful candidate is expected to assume office by May 2020.

The USIU-Africa community is encouraged to take part in this process because the success of this search will depend on the involvement, support and interest of all the members.

For further information on the nomination and selection process, click here: https://www.usiu.ac.ke/search-for-deputy-vice-chancellor-for-academic-and-student-affairs/
Six USIU-Africa faculty were among the over 50 Researchers and Institutional Ethics and Research Committee (IERC) members who benefitted from The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) training. The five-day certification course on Institutional Research Ethics covered fifteen modules that included Ethical Principles in Research, Composition and Functions of IERCs, Review Process of the Research Proposals, Research Integrity, Monitoring and Evaluation among other key topics.

This training emphasized the importance of IERCs, IRB and IRCs in all the research institutions. In ensuring that all the research protocols are adhered to. Notably, USIU-Africa, through the School of Graduate Studies, Research and extension (SGSR&E) and the Institute of Higher Education and Leadership Development (IHERLD) oversees implementation research processes and quality checks in the University. They also offer training services to students, staff and faculty on applied research (proposal development, research methodology, publishing and dissemination of research output) which aligns NACOSTI's policies and guidelines.

This training reflects the University’s commitment to quality research and institutional support to both the existing IRB and Faculty professional development.

The six trained and certified faculty will not only support the Institutional Review Board but also join the USIU Faculty and Research team in training the students, mentoring fellow colleagues and playing a role in research proposal and project reviews as stipulated in the USIU-Africa and NACOSTI guidelines.
USIU–Africa featured in the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) report

By Brian Wekesa and Brenda Odhiambo

USIU–Africa, one of the universities representing the content at the 10th annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) held in Hong Kong, has been featured in the Symposium’s report highlighting the experiences of the delegates at the event. In the write up, Brian Wekesa, who was part of the USIU–Africa delegation to the symposium, noted that the event was eye-opening, especially in regard to the role of the youth in leadership.

“Taking part in the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium has been an opportunity for student leaders within the University to learn and apply leadership skills in the most efficient way. I participated this year with the aim of promoting the name of the University to the world and enhancing my leadership skills. The dream came true after I shared my experience with the USLS under humanitarian affair Asia,” he said.

“As we celebrate USIU–Africa at 50, the Student Council remains at the forefront of ensuring that the university’s presence is felt across the globe. All the leaders who took part in the symposium were very active and took active part in discussions which ensured that we were able to represent our institution properly,” he added.

How to Double Your Exam Scores in Less Time: Part 4 — How to Create Lasting Change

By Evan Kamau- Performance Consultant

Change doesn’t occur for one of four reasons:
1. The system does not allow change
2. There is no motivation to change
3. We don’t know what to do or how to do it
4. We aren’t able to do it

One approach to change is to learn the way an expert does something, then duplicate that through the system. This is called “modelling.” If the system does not work then it doesn’t matter who is working it, they won’t find success. If the system works, it doesn’t matter who is running the system - it will be successful.

One of the fastest ways to accomplish behaviour change is to find a master and say, “I am facing this challenge. Will you help me figure this out?”

The Pareto principle also known as 80/20 rule in application to behaviour change can be stated as: It’s what you’re doing, when you’re not doing what you need to be doing. That’s the problem. We have a limited amount of resources and most of us use those resources on things that don’t matter.

Focus is critical: The greatest enemy to focus is distraction. We often think that the more options, the more possibilities, the better off we are. This is not the case. People get caught up in the alternatives and are distracted from the most important possibility at hand. Don’t assume that because you have a lot of alternatives that you are in a safe place. You’re only as safe as your best alternative.

Learn to align the head and the heart: There is something we want to do, and we are capable of doing it… and yet we don’t do it. We don’t do it because a part of us wants to do it, while other parts don’t, and the “other parts” are in charge.

The last approach to change takes place inside of the individual. If learning equals behaviour change, then you need to understand that you are the vehicle in which that happens. How are you going about the change? In order to evolve and go to the next level you need to figure out where you are wasting your time, and re-purpose that time.

First things first. Second things not at all. What do you do on a regular basis that is the problem (and you know it’s not serving you)? What is the payoff from that behaviour?

This article completes the series we have been covering for the past 4 weeks on the subject: “How to Double Your Exam Scores in Less Time – Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and Part 4”

I encourage you to go through the previous four articles that we have covered in this series for better understanding and most importantly, I urge you to apply these time tested principles to enhance your student performance.

Next week we start on a new exciting series that will completely skyrocket your performance to excellence.

For further insights, please contact Evan on kamauevan@gmail.com
**Sport Updates**

By Diana Meso

**USIU-Africa hosts the first Inter University Chess Championship**

On Saturday, October 19, USIU-Africa hosted the first Inter University Under 25 & Blitz Open Chess Championship at the Freida Brown Student Center. The event which was in partnership with the Light House Chess Club saw over 70 players from various universities and Chess Clubs across the country compete. USIU-Africa was represented by 14 players from across the university community.

**Hockey**

The men’s hockey team emerged second while their female counterparts lost at the pool stage in the Annual Sanaa Tournament organized by the Kenya Hockey Union, that took place on Saturday, October 19 in Mombasa.

**Basketball**

The ladies’ team emerged winners while the men’s team were the 2nd Runners Up in the Annual BiroLich Mashujaa Tournament organized by Kenya Basketball Federation in Kisumu on Saturday, October 19.

**Rugby**

The men’s team emerged the fourth in the Federation Sports for African University (FASU) that took place in Kampala, Uganda on Saturday, October 19.

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**Media Mentions**

Compiled by Diana Meso

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**October 25:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Leos, Mean Machine start life in KRU Championship this weekend.”

**October 24:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Why KBF postponed play-offs.”
[https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1464/daily-nation-kbf-postponed-play-offs](https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1464/daily-nation-kbf-postponed-play-offs)

**October 24:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Daily Nation in an article titled “Kisumu, Western Bulls aim to stay up”
[https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1463/daily-nation-kisumu-western-bulls-aim-stay-up](https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1463/daily-nation-kisumu-western-bulls-aim-stay-up)

**October 24:** The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “MMUST vow to floor any opponent in new season.”

**October 22:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Lakeside and USIU Flames crowned 2019 Biro Lich champions.”

**October 21:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Lakeside, USIU win Biro Lich tournament.”

**October 19:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Ulinzi Warriors, USIU ready for Biro Lich title defence today.”

**October 18:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Sailors scent Cup success as Telkom miss out.”

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**Upcoming events**

USIU-Africa Alumni Homecoming - October 26
USIU-Africa Academic Symposium - October 31
USIU-Africa Fun Run - November 2