USIU-Africa welcomes new Board of Trustees and University Council Members

By Ernest Mwanzi and Justus Kisilu

On Thursday, November 7, the University, led by the Management Board welcomed new members to its Board of Trustees and the University Council. The new members were taken through an orientation of the University, which consisted of an overview of USIU-Africa's history, its Vision, Mission and Values, its organizational structures and its important statutory documents. The new members were also taken through their roles and responsibilities, as well as those of other governing bodies at the University.

The Board of Trustees is mandated to appoint members of the University Council, raise funds for the benefit of the University and appoint the University Chancellor among many other functions, while the University Council is tasked with appointing and approving the terms and conditions of service of the Vice Chancellor, approving the University’s annual budget and the supervision and administration of University assets in a manner that best promotes the purpose for which the university is established.

The new members of the Board of Trustees included Prof. Alondra Nelson, a Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, an independent research center in Princeton, New Jersey and Dr. Thomson Frank Mpinganjira, Chief Executive Officer of the FDH Financial Holdings Group in Malawi.

The new members of the University Council included Prof. Ihron Lester Rensburg, Chairperson of the South Africa UNESCO National Commission, Administrator of Vaal University of Technology, Prof. Ben Vinson III, Provost and Executive Vice President at Case Western Reserve University in the United States of America, Prof. Salah M. Hassan, Professor of Art and Visual Studies, and Founding Director of the Institute for Comparative Modernities at Cornell University, Dr. Denise M. DeZolt, Founder of DD and Associates Consulting, LLC., Dr. Chaloka Beyani, Associate Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Prof. Margaret Kasimatis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saint Mary's College of California.
USIU-Africa celebrates its 50th Anniversary in style!

By the CTW Team

More than 300 guests converged at the Villa Rosa Kempinski on Friday, November 8 to celebrate USIU-Africa’s 50th Anniversary celebration dinner, the finale of the year-long activities to mark the finale of the year-long celebratory activities.

Speaking at the event, Chief Guest, Dr. Kevit Desai congratulated the University on the milestone, noting that USIU-Africa’s aspirations as an institution of higher learning were in line with the five year Education Plan (2018-2022) that had been put in place to guide the realization of quality higher education in Kenya. Other speakers at the event, including the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Paul Zeleza encouraged USIU-Africa’s stakeholders to recommit themselves to the mission and vision of the University, in order to propel USIU-Africa to even greater heights over the next 50 years.
Students and faculty from the International Relations Department conclude successful field study

By Dan Odaba

The Spring 2019 Field Study class with students from 8 nationalities (Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, the USA, Pakistan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe), has completed a successful field visit to Rwanda and Uganda.

The week started with the team visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial, which was established in 1994 to give a decent burial to the genocide victims and to have a place where the family members of the victims could come and pay respect to their loved ones. The Memorial, which also acts as a place where people can come and witness what happened during the genocide, is aided by a museum that was put up in 2004 on the same grounds, where visitors can learn about genocide stories from other countries.

The team also paid a visit to the Kenyan High Commission to Rwanda and had a talk on the bilateral relations between the two countries. Other places visited by the students included The African Leadership University, where they got to interact with the students from the institute and listened to a presentation from the Dean of Students, Dr. Gaidi Faraj, the Campaign Against Genocide Museum at the Parliament buildings that has a detailed history on how the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi was stopped and Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), the Rwandan Senate Chambers where they were addressed by Sen. Margaret Nyagahura, the Chamber of Deputies, which is made up of members of Parliament as well as having a meeting with the Rwanda Parliamentarians Women Forum (RPWF), The Rwanda Development Board (RDB), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINAFFET), National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) and Never Again Rwanda (NAR) – a peacebuilding organization that has initiated several peacebuilding projects in the country.

In Uganda, the team visited the Buganda Kingdom and the King’s Palace to learn more about the operations of the largest Kingdoms in Uganda as well as learning about the dictatorial regime of the President of the Republic of Uganda, Idi Amin. The team concluded the tour on Sunday, November 10.

How to take back your learning

By Evan Kamau

The beginning of knowledge is the awareness of what you don’t know.

There is a “Learning Staircase” which includes four steps:

- **Unconscious incompetence** - you don’t know what you don’t know
- **Conscious incompetence** - knowing what you don’t know
- **Conscious competence** - knowledge that requires conscious effort
- **Unconscious competence** - knowledge that runs in your subconscious mind that you may or may not be consciously aware.

People try to impose on us what they think we want. Since we were little, people told us what we should and should not want, and what we can’t have. What do you want? Do not lower your goals because you think that you cannot have something. Do not lower your aspirations because of what people have told you can and can’t be done.

“Envisioning the future” is the way leaders are able to have vision, inspire others, and accomplish goals. Keep a drive to learn alive. Parents and others around you have probably destroyed the drive to learn, but you need to do all you can to keep it alive.

“Understanding” is the ability to assimilate knowledge and analyse facts and reality. Experience is how knowledge is assimilated. In order to understand you need both knowledge and experience. A lot of knowledge gets pushed around but we have very little experience to go with it.

Don’t believe something just because someone said it. Believe it if it matches your experience! “The application problem” - What people are learning in school is often not transferable into the real world.

A critical skill is being able to create visions in your head and then articulate them. Some things are only learned by creation.

For further insights, contact Evan on kamauevan@gmail.com
USIU-Africa observes the Annual Fun Run

By Solomon Mainye and Diana Meso.

Themed “Unity in Diversity: Promoting Academic Excellence through giving”, this year’s annual Fun Run charity event was held at the Rugby pitch on Saturday, November 2.

Through the event which attracted 190 participants including staff, students, parents, alumni and friends of the university, Kes 233,000 was raised to support the Freida Brown Scholarship fund that aids academically-gifted students in need of financial assistance at USIU-Africa.

Participants competed in the 6km and 12km races under three categories; men’s, ladies’ and kids. In the men’s category Kevin Tumbu (Strami Cleaning Ltd) emerged the winner while Duncan Ongule (Memtech) and David Kimeu (Memtech) emerged second and third respectively in the 6km race. In the ladies’ category, Benter Achieng (Strami Cleaning Ltd), Pauline Barasa (Strami) finish first and second while Irene Maina (Memtech) and Sarah Kerubo tied at third position. Nelson Ontita and Chester Bulinda took first and second place while Peace Apiyo Obel & Patience Apiyo emerging third in the kid’s category. Notably, Andrew Kinyua (USIU-Africa Alumni) was the sole outstanding performer of the 12km race.

Participants also engaged in other activities including bouncing castle, face painting and camel riding. Present at the event was Dr. Martin Njoroge (Dean SHSS), Dr. Sylvia Ogola (University Librarian) among others.
Did you know: Fundraising, Grants and Research at USIU-Africa

By Prof. Paul Zeleza

The Office of Fundraising within the Division of Advancement exists primarily to generate non-tuition revenue to support the University’s priority areas. The office works closely with the University’s different divisions and governance bodies to promote the diversification of revenue streams for the University. The work of the office is complemented by the income generating efforts undertaken by the academic schools and departments through faculty research and consultancies, as well as through grants and contacts.

The main sources of non-tuition revenues for the University include the following:

- Giving by the University’s internal constituencies (students, faculty, staff, administrators, and members of the University Council and Board of Trustees).
- Donations.
- Grants and contracts.
- Hosting conferences and workshops.

Faculty Publications

The School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension (SGSR&E) maintains a database for all the publications by faculty and students at the University. Altogether, there were 176 journal articles, 14 books, and 17 book chapters. Chandaria School of Business had a total of 85 publications, School of Humanities and Social Sciences had 63, School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences had 32, School of Science and Technology had 18 and School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts had 9.

Internal Grant Awards

In the year 2018-2019, internal grants worth KES 10.6 million were awarded to 15 faculty. They were distributed as follows:

- The Chandaria School of Business - 7.
- School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts - 3.
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences - 2.
- School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - 2.
- School of Science and Technology - 1.

External Research Grants

Ongoing research grants won in the previous academic year amounted to KES 191.4 Million. In the 2018-2019 academic year, new research grants amounted to KES 116.1 million.
Chinese students learn Chinese paper cutting in celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival

By Wanjiku Mbugua

Overhead disbursed to the university was KES 15.3 million. Each of the schools received grants as follows:

- The Chandaria School of Business - 3
- School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts - 3
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences - 3
- School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences - 1
- School of Science and Technology - 3
- School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension- 4

Workshops, Conferences and Public Lectures

Conference participation
During the 2018-2019 academic year, 84 faculty members were given financial support to attend conferences locally and internationally. A total of KES 14.2 million from allocated funds were utilized. Some faculty also participated in conferences using other sources of funding. Altogether, faculty members participated in 150 conferences. Staff also participated in 28 conferences.

Students minoring in Chinese Language (CHI 2000 and CHI 3004) recently learnt Chinese paper cutting as part of their studies to orient them in Chinese culture. As the name implies, the craft involves cutting out patterns from paper with the help of a scissor or a knife. The art is characterized by intricate designs and the creative use of negative space. The cut-outs can be used to adorn walls, mirrors, windows and doors.

Every year, during Spring Festival, Chinese people cut out patterns from paper to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Red is the most common color used as it represents good luck and prosperity. It’s also common to make cutouts of zodiac animals and the Chinese character “Fu” (福), which means good fortune.

During the Chinese New Year, people attach festive cuttings on doors and windows in an attempt to favor prosperity in the coming year. To date this art remains one of the country’s highly preserved intangible heritages. During the lesson, students learned how to cut out 福 (meaning good fortune) and a pig since 2019 is the year of the Pig according to the Chinese Zodiac. In the Chinese Zodiac, a pig represents luck, overall good fortune and prosperity.

In 2009, Chinese paper-cuts were added to the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Photo: Courtesy
Our sports teams had an eventful weekend as they competed in various ongoing tournaments in an outside Nairobi.

**Handball**
The men’s team recorded mixed results after they beat Kenyatta University 31-30 and lost 24-30 to Jommo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in the Nakusa Nairobi Conference games that took place at Kenyatta University on Saturday November 9 and Sunday November 10 respectively.

Meanwhile, the ladies team had a goalless match against Kenyatta University on Saturday November 9, but defeated Daystar University 1-0 on Sunday November 10 in Kenyatta University during the Nakusa Conference games.

**Volleyball**
The ladies team lost to KCA University 0-3 but defeated JKUAT university by the same measure in the ongoing Nakusa Conference games on Saturday November 9 and Sunday November 10 respectively.

**Basketball**
Both the ladies and the men’s team won gold medals during the Kenya Universities Sports Association National Open Tournament held at Moi University. This is after the ladies’ team beat Moi University 32-26 while the men’s team beat Maseno University 32-25 on Sunday, November 10.

**Woodball**
USIU hosted various teams from Kenya and East Africa to the Kenya Open Woodball Championship held from Wednesday November 6 to Saturday November 9. This is the first time the sport is being held in the university. Woodball is a sport played with a wooden mallet and wooden balls that has a lot of similarities with golf.

In other matches played on Saturday November 9 and Sunday November 10, the men’s rugby team thrashed Kisii RFC 24-0 in the Kenya Rugby Union Championship played at the Rugby Pitch. In Netball, the ladies’ team lost to 23-34 to Gretsa University in the Nakusa Conference games held at Kenyatta University.

Our sports teams had an eventful weekend as they competed in various ongoing tournaments in an outside Nairobi.

**Hockey**
On Saturday November 9, the men’s team beat Kenyatta University 3-0, they further beat St. Paul’s University 7-0 on Sunday, November 10 during the Nakusa conference games played at Kenyatta University.

Meanwhile, the ladies team had a goalless match against Kenyatta University on Saturday November 9, but defeated Daystar University 1-0 on Sunday November 10 in Kenyatta University during the Nakusa Conference games.

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Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

**November 13:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Star in an article titled “Musalia, Kalonzo, Weta & 2022 tough options.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1506/star-musalia-kalonzo-weta-s-2022-tough-options

**November 12:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Kisii RFC drop to bottom of the table after failing to honour game.”

**November 11:** The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Novices Oranje Leonas lead promotion race.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1504/standard-novices-oranje-leonas-lead-promotion-race

**November 10:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Blazers close in on record-extending title.”

**November 9:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “The secrets of Anita’s Siri Studio.”

**November 9:** KTN News mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “USIU 50th Anniversary: Improve training skills to meet ever growing demands.”

**November 9:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled “Masinde Muliro keen to maintain perfect start in league as they host Eldoret RFC.”

**November 8:** The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Unbeaten Blazers face tricky Lakers test.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1499/daily-nation-unbeaten-blazers-face-tricky-lakers-test

**November 8:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Egerton Wasps seek first win in KRU Championship.”

**November 7:** USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “Carnegie fellowship in Uganda leads to partnership.”
https://www.usiu.ac.ke/1495/online-carnegie-fellowship-in-uganda-leads-partnership