Remarks by:
Ms Carole Wallace
Chair of the Board of Trustees of USIU
On the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of USIU's new Library and Information Center
On Monday 24th of September 2007

Written by
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Introduction:

Our Guest-of-Honour, Your Excellency Honourable Mwai Kibaki, C. G. H. M. P., President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya;
Your Excellency First Lady Mrs. Lucy Kibaki;
Honourable Dr. Moody Awori, Vice-President of the Republic of Kenya;
Cabinet Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, ambassadors, distinguished guests, board members, faculty, staff, alumni, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed:
I would like to welcome you all today to this commemorative and long-awaited occasion of the Opening Ceremony of USIU’s new Library and Information Center!

**Vision:**
The vision of United States International University is: to be the premiere institution of academic excellence with a global perspective in East Africa.

Indeed, the Board’s mandate is to motivate, inspire, guide, stimulate and give fresh impetus to the fulfillment of this vision.

Most assuredly, the Board is strongly committed to working closely with the Management Council of USIU in designing new programs and projects that will provide ample academic space and books for optimum performance and creativity.

This morning we are all gathered here to witness the opening ceremony of one such project that has taken us 20 months to build!

Today, the 24th of September, 2007, we mark the opening of our new Library and Information Center that will serve national, regional and international development goals by providing information for enhancing and building human capacity. In this regard we hope that this new Library and Information Center will enhance learning both inside and outside the classroom. We trust that this new Library and Information Center will contribute to the knowledge economy of Kenya, Africa and the world at
large. We are confident that this new storehouse of knowledge and information will produce our future leaders.

You must be wondering why we are calling it not just a library but rather a library AND information center. Well, allow me to explain:

This new library replaces the concept of a traditional university library where students come to borrow books and periodicals or come to study. The library replaces the old concept of a traditional library in the sense that it is not just a BUILDING but also a RESOURCEFUL PARTNER: an inspiring, cutting-edge, synergetic and innovative partner that will encourage its users to thirst for fresh knowledge, understanding, skills and innovative ways of doing things.

Funding:
Your Excellency, distinguished guests:

On behalf of the Board of USIU, I would like to acknowledge the raising of 95 million Kenya Shillings for this new Library and Information Center by the Africa-America Institute through the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program of United States Agency for International Development. I would also like to acknowledge the PARENTS of USIU for the rest of the funding through tuition revenue. Parents and guardians of USIU are part of the USIU family and are our development partners too. I understand that some students said their parents expressed the desire to be here today as they have been eagerly looking forward to the finalization and opening of
this great project. However, due to security constraints and seating space, we were not able to invite parents but we hope to invite them to tour the Library and Information Center in the near future.

President's Writing and Speeches:
Your Excellency, Honourable Mwai Kibaki, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya:

USIU would be greatly honoured if you would consider giving USIU your writings, speeches and memoirs to this new Library and Information Center when you retire. This collection of your presidential writings would be a valuable resource for USIU and the first collection of this nature for USIU to hold. Your presidential writings and memoirs will be a PRICELESS COLLECTION that will bring a sense of inspiration and guidance to those that may want to glean from their hidden wisdom. Your Excellency, your written 'Words of Wisdom' will be given PRIDE OF PLACE in our new Library and Information Center and we hope that USIU will be your first choice as you give this issue some thought. We look forward to holding this special collection.

In conclusion Your Excellency Mr. President, distinguished guests:

I am absolutely convinced, beyond a shadow of A doubt, that our students, will not only view this new Library and Information Center as an outstanding resource, but will also take advantage of it and enjoy it to the fullest. I look forward to sterling work from our students.
And to the students, I am sure Professor Brown expects you ALL to be on the Deans' Lists. You have absolutely no excuse to fail your term papers. There is room in a library this size for EVERYONE!

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellency Mr. President, and to all our honoured guests for taking time to come and be with us today. It is indeed a great privilege for USIU to host the HEAD OF STATE and on behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to say AHSANTE SANA MHESHIMIWA RAIS, THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED YOUR EXCELLENCY for coming and "May God Bless You All"!

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