

## USIU-Africa hosts Evidence to Action Conference

By Salome Asena and Diana Meso

USIU-Africa through the School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension hosted the first Africa Monitoring and Evaluation conference -Evidence to Action, themed "Bridging the Gap: Strengthening the connections between Research, Evaluation and Evidence-based Policies and Practices in Sub-Saharan Africa" from Thursday July 26 to Friday July 27.

The two day conference which was held in partnership with International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED), the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, the National Treasury and Ministry of Planning among other institutions, brought together over 400 participants including top government officials, researchers, institutions of higher learning, embassies and agencies from across the globe.

The conference provided a platform for participants to discuss issues surrounding credible research and relevant evidence to inform policies and decision-making processes, as well as discuss the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

Present at the opening ceremony on Thursday, July 26 at the auditorium, the Treasury Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mr. Henry Rotich said that the government has set aside at least Sh6 billion aimed at enhancing transparency in government operations and hold those in charge accountable for taxpayer money through monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, the CS said that this will strengthen efficiency in utilization of resources and timely realisation of results leading to speedy development in the country.

The Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria, in his welcoming remarks said that it is important for institutions and organizations to make policy based on evidence adding that anything without evidence does not work. He further said that through evidence, the process of policy making will be efficient.

Concurring with the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza pointed out that the university recognizes the importance of making decisions based on research evidence. He said that through the School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension, the university is able to increase research capacity,



Photo: Antonio Longangi

Treasury Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mr. Henry Rotich speaks during the Evidence to Action Conference opening ceremony at the Auditorium on Thursday July, 26.

monitor and evaluate and contribute to the research agenda both internally and externally.

Dr. David Amweyaw, Chief Executive Officer -ICED, said that the conference will bridge the gap between the researchers, the evaluators and policy makers hence the theme of the conference. He further said that the conference aims at increasing policy relevance, demand driven research and the adoption of evidence into policy making decision.

Also present at the event was Dr. Julius Muia, Principal Secretary for Planning, The National Treasury and Planning, Hon. Dr. Makali Mulu, Kenya National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Anthony Akoto Osei, Cabinet

Minister, The Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation, Ghana.

Other partners in the organization of the conference included; Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana Feed the Future Innovation Labs for Assets and Market Access, University of California Davis (AMA Basis), Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative (ATAI), Tegemo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development (Egerton University), African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and Campbell Collaboration.

# Prof. Paul Zeleza scoops a prestigious award

By Ernest Anguru

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza has yet again bagged a prestigious award “The Thabo Mbeki Award for Leadership”, which was conferred to him by the Board of Toyin Falola Annual International Conference (TOFAC), the Board of Pan-African University Press and the Ibadan Cultural Group, University of Ibadan in July this year.

The Thabo Mbeki Award for Leadership honors an African of a high caliber with unblemished record of public service or in the private sector, committed to the project of African Renaissance and African Unity and who has distinguished him/herself in the public or private sector.

This award adds to the many accolades the Vice Chancellor has received including Africa’s most prestigious book prize, the Noma Award, for his books; *A Modern Economic History of Africa (1993)* and *Manufacturing African Studies and Crises (1997)*, Choice Outstanding Academic Title (2003) and Honorable Mention, Conover-Porter Award (2004).

Prof. Zeleza has made a measurable impact through his research and academic work in intellectual history, African studies, gender studies, diaspora studies, human rights and African literature that has crossed traditional boundaries.

His impact as Vice-Chancellor includes the infrastructural expansion of USIU-Africa, the building of a Research Park and medical hospital, extensive linkages with programs in the United States, a green environment, and the involvement of students in the day-to-day management of the campus.



Photo: Dan Muchai

*Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul T. Zeleza (second left) puts on the ceremonial gown assisted by the Chair of the Board of Trustees Mr. Linus Gitahi (center) and Chair of the University Council Dr. Lola Odubekun (left). Looking on are the Chancellor Dr. Manu Chandaria (second right) and former Vice Chancellor Prof. Freida A. Brown during his inauguration in April 2016.*

## Placement & Career Services office hosts annual career fair

By Antonio Longangi

Over 40 local and international organizations took part in this year’s annual Career Fair organized by the Placement and Career Services office from Tuesday, July 24 to Thursday, July 26 on campus. Themed “Harnessing the millennial potential”, the fair consisted of a series of activities purposed to connect USIU-Africa students and Alumni with various organizations operating in the region and globally.

Attended by over 2000 participants, the event provided a platform for students and alumni to align their skills and talents to the current job market through three stages; self-assessment of skills, exploration of career options in various industries and organizations and connecting students to work opportunities where they submitted applications for hiring considerations.

The event featured an exhibition at the Graduation Square, a series of workshops, panel discussions and seminars held at the Auditorium and the library bookshop that focused on technology, banking, humanitarian work, professional training, human resources and more.

Some of the organizations present included Aga Khan University Hospital, Brighter Monday Kenya, KCB Bank, Lori Systems Corp, National Oil Corporation of Kenya, United Nations World Food Programme, Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK) and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) among others.

# PICTORIAL: Placement & Career Services annual Career Fair



# School of Pharmacy holds inaugural breakfast meeting

By Eugene Otoo and Diana Meso

On Friday, July 20, the School of Pharmacy and Health Science hosted its staff, faculty and students for an inaugural breakfast meeting in LT4, to discuss the current state of the school, new developments and provide a platform for staff, students and faculty to interact.

The breakfast was also held to celebrate the leadership of the former program director Dr. Betty Mbatia, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry & Biotechnology and welcome Dr. Lincoln Munyendo the Inaugural Chair, Department of Industrial and Analytical Pharmacy.

Prof. Njeri Wamae, Dean, School of Pharmacy and Health Science, pointed out that apart from launching the new program, B.Sc. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the school plans to introduce two other innovative programs; B. Tech Analytical Chemistry and B.Sc. in Applied Biochemistry in the next academic year.

Moreover, Prof. Wamae further said that the school is working to introduce B.Sc. Medical Laboratory Sciences and B.Sc. Nursing in the near future, adding that as the school expands, new innovative market driven health science programs will also be introduced.

The Dean pointed out that the Mentor/Mentee initiative where students are matched with faculty to ensure that all students get professional attention from faculty has been successfully completed with each member of faculty being allocated 17 students to mentor.

Prof. Wamae applauded the school for the great research work and publishing and encouraged participants to take part in research activities. She also pointed out that the Kenyan Government is gradually supporting high quality research since it has commitment 2% (amounts to 45-60 Billion KSH) of the country's GDP towards research, as indicated in the Science Technology and Innovation Act (2013). Prof. Wamae further said that the government established the National Research Fund (NRF) body to manage the



Photo: Antonio Longangi

*Pharmacy students pose for a photo during a practical class session.*

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research fund where some members of faculty and staff from the school have been awarded research grants.

Prof. Wamae said that in the 2018/2019 academic year, the school plans to hire new faculty and staff, purchase state of the art equipment, construct Animal House to house and care for laboratory animals and continue

with the renovations in the Pharmacy Skills Laboratory.

The incoming chair, Dr. Lincon Munyendo said that he is grateful for his appointment and added that he will work together with faculty, staff and students to grow the school in accordance to the University's strategic plan.

# SPORTS UPDATES

Photo: Antonio Longangi

In all finesse this semester, a series of victories in basketball marked the weekend of July 28 and 29 as the men's team thrashed University of Nairobi (UoN) 74 – 49 in the Nairobi Basketball Association (NBA) Division 3 League, while their senior colleagues beat Worldhope 60-51 in the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League. The team however lost to Saints 42 – 55 in NBA.



However, the match between the ladies' team and Equity Bank which was scheduled to take place on Sunday, July 29 was postponed due to bad weather.

In Soccer, the men's and ladies' team drew against the Nairobi Institute of Business Studies (NIBS) and NYS Vocational Training Institute on Saturday, July 28 at the Kabete Community Field.



Finally, in the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League, the men's team drew against KCA University on Sunday, July 29 at the City Park Hockey Stadium. The men's and ladies' teams are set to play against Wazalendo and Telkom on Saturday, August 4, and Sunday, August 5, at the City Park Hockey Stadium

# MEDIA MENTIONS

Compiled by Diana Meso.



**August 2:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Hard Talk Kenya in an article titled [“President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga Have a Long History Together; as Family and Brothers!!” – Prof. Macharia Munene.](#)

**August 2:** Mediamax mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled [“Simba mau! jaguars to jump two places on KHU standings.”](#)

**August 2:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Tuko in article titled [“How to get a sponsor for education.”](#)

**August 2:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by AllAfrica in an article titled [“Kenya: Woman Assaulted By Taxify Driver Declines Free Rides Worth Sh3,000 in Compensation.”](#)

**August 2:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Bloomberg in an article titled [“Company Overview of Olympia Capital Holdings Limited.”](#)

**July 31:** Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled [“Maureen Midwa: The lady who is dedicated to making women feel good about themselves.”](#)

**July 31:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by AllAfrica in an article titled [“Kenya: Oil Discoveries in Turkana Six Years Ago Haven't Delivered Benefits for Women.”](#)

**July 30:** Mediamax mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled [“State banks on M&E bill for targeted development.”](#)

**July 30:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Uncova in an article titled [“Malawi: The Challenge of Low Enrolments in Malawi's Higher Education System.”](#)

**July 29:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by AllAfrica in an article titled [“Malawi: The Challenge of Low Enrolments in Malawi's Higher Education System.”](#)

**July 28:** Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled [“WOMAN OF PASSION: A childhood dream realized.”](#)

**July 28:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Xinhua in an article titled [“Xi's speech at BRICS summit highly praised by int'l observers.”](#)

**July 27:** Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled [“Red-hot Umoja tackle Trailblazers in basketball league.”](#)