Unlocking doors from the past: Library launches University Archives

A guest reads a description attached to a portrait of USIU-Africa's first President Dr. William C. Rust, during the launch of the USIU-Africa Archives by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. **PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI**

By Bonface Odhiambo

The Library and Information Center joined the global community in celebrating the International Archives Day by hosting the first annual USIU-Africa Archives Week from June 12 -14, to sensitize the University community on the existence, scope and value of archival materials and archival repositories.

To this end, the Library prepared a thematic display of exhibits that focused on a wide range of subjects comprising rare collections, classical records, past newspaper editions, pictorials and artefacts at the library atrium.

The highlight of the three-day celebration of the University's documentary history, was the launch of the USIU-Africa Archives, as a new section of the Library and Information Center, at a ceremony presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza. In his remarks, Prof. Zeleza reiterated the necessity of archives as an important repository of institutional memory, and a link between the past, present and future, promising to donate his personal archives to add to the University's archival collection.

In her keynote address, Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service Deputy Director Mrs. Mary Kuchio, described archives as "*quiet voices with profound stories*". Using real-world anecdotes, she reminded the audience that archives ensure accountability, protect rights and property, and thus provide a pillar for effective institutional governance.

Gapman Publications' Mr. Godfrey Sang, also explained the opportunities and challenges faced in researching modern archives, while Ms. Imelda Kithuka from the National Museums of Kenya, provided an overview of heritage archives management at the state corporation.

By launching the Archives, the Library hopes members of the university community will identify and avail for preservation, records and artifacts of enduring historical value. Indeed speakers at the Archives launch ceremony, urged their audience to embrace archives as a key component of academic research and institutional memory.

Prof. Zeleza elected Chair of the KENET Board of Trustees

By Dan Muchai

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, has been elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Kenya Education Network (KENET), at its meeting on Friday, June 22.

KENET is the National Research and Education Network (NREN) of Kenya, and a not-for-profit membership organization registered as a Trust with five Vice Chancellors as Trustees. The network provides access to open education and research resources and databases to 130 universities and university colleges, as well as local and international research institutes in Kenya.

Having also been licensed by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) as a not-for-profit provider of affordable, cost-effective and low-congestion Internet bandwidth services to member education and research institutions, it serves as a gateway to the advanced e-infrastructures for research that are available exclusively within the research and education communities anywhere in the world. Such infrastructure includes providing shared services such as; co-location of servers, dedicated virtual servers for e-learning systems, video and web conferencing, and capacity building for technical staff. KENET is the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the academic community.

Apart from the Vice Chancellor, USIU-Africa is represented on the Executive Board which assists the Board of Trustees in managing the network, by Assistant Professor of Information Systems Dr. Gerald W. Chege. Additionally, the Board's Executive Director Prof. Meoli Kashorda is a Professor of Information Systems and a former Dean of USIU-Africa's then School of Business Administration for six years. He is charged with running KENET's day-to-day operations.

Language students appreciate Chinese culture through cooking exercise

By Wanjiku Mbugua & Antonio Longangi

Members of the Chinese I & II (CHI1000 /CHI1001) foreign language classes participated in an out of class Chinese cooking experience from Monday, June 4 to Thursday, June 7 at the Cafeteria. Given that Chinese as a language is best learnt through practice and interaction with rich elements of Chinese culture, students are exposed to hands-on preparation of traditional meals prepared in most households in China.

Therefore every fifth week of each semester, students of Chinese Language prepare and partake of Chinese cuisine besides learning what it's like to be part of a team. The meals students had to cook and have a taste of included dumplings, *baozi*, *tofu*, iced tea, green tea and Chinese stir-fried rice, which are more popular in Northern China, and are lighter in flavor and spices unlike Southern China dishes.

The advanced class learnt how to prepare a popular Southern China meal called *Kung Pao* - a meal loaded with spicy chicken, peanuts, vegetables and a delightful sauce *"Kung Pao Sauce." Kung Pao* chicken is a low-calorie healthy homemade dish which is more popular in Southern China particularly in Sichuan Province.

Such co-curricular learning experiences ensure that students receive exciting holistic training that increases their interest in learning. Chinese language students are immersed in a creative one-of-a-kind experience that further exposes them to valuable knowledge of the Chinese culture.

IT Club hopes training will spur innovation

By Sabilah Mwanga

The IT Club organized and hosted a Python programming class, every Saturday for three weeks beginnig May 19, where participants were introduced to Python - a high-level general purpose programming language created Guido van Rossum in 1991.

Today, it is used by millions of people for various purposes such as testing microchips Intel Corp, powering Instagram, building video games with the *PyGame* library and developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications. Owning to its user-friendliness, Python has been used to create some of the most popular websites such as Google, YouTube, Instagram, Quora, and Spotify, and is also implemented in LibreOffice, which is common in our classroom laptops and computer labs. The programming class' second module will be introduced later after the successful completion of the

300 participants gather for regional Andela Learning Community event

By Max Musau

On Saturday, June 9, the School of Science and Technology (SST) hosted over 300 participants for a regional Andela Learning Community event supported by Google. The event which served as a beginner and intermediate track for participants within Nairobi, featured U.S. based guest speakers who joined in via video call, and local Andela experts who guided participants through foundational training in either Android Software Development or Web Application Development.

The School of Science and Technology was represented by Mr. Max Musau, who while introducing the School's degree and specialized programs, described how the recently-launched Microsoft AppFactory program, accelerated developer learning much like the Andela Learning Community, at the Incubation and Innovation Center.

The Andela Learning community combines Andela's learning science with Udacity's online curriculum and Google's developer scholarships to provide a platform for developing world-class problem solvers. The Andela Learning Community events bring together groups of aspiring technologists to share, learn and collaborate, with the aim of thrusting Africa's developers to the forefront of world-class software development.

This cohort which comprised 30,000 participants across Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda, will be taken through a series of software development challenges, in order to whittle down its numbers to 5,000 who will undertake the Google Udacity Nanodegree in Web or Android Application Development.

Those on the Android track covered how to make their applications interactive by working with Github and Android studio, as well as using the new material design language specification. Those on the web application development track were taken through the syntax of Javascript, understanding the workings of functional programming in *Javascript,* as well as reviewing several libraries available to them through online package management repositories.

Club training for innovation

first module.

On Friday, June 8 at the Incubation and Innovation Center, the IT Club also held a Hardware Workshop for ten participating students, where they were taken through an introduction to *Raspberry Pi* and *Arduino* platforms. *Arduino* is an open-source platform used for building electronic objects. It consists of a microcontroller - which is a physical programmable circuit board - and software which runs on a computer used to write and upload computer code to the physical board.

During the workshop, the instructor Vishaal Ravalia illustrated how code written for Arduino can be used for the ubiquitous Light Emitting Diodes, whose real-world applications include traffic lights and vehicular indicator systems. The Arduino hardware and software was designed for anyone interested in creating interactive objects (such as with buttons, Light Emitting Diodes, motors, speakers, smartphones, television, etc.) or environments.

The club hopes the teaching modules will spur members to use these hardware technologies for their innovations.

Students prepare for model United Nations conference

By Antonio Longangi

Members of Young Diplomat Forum (YDF) Club hosted a preparatory mock debate on Saturday, June 16 at the auditorium, to prepare for the upcoming Sub-Saharan International Model United Nations Conference (SAIMUN). The debate brought together participants from 14 local universities registered for the conference, to discuss topics generated from the general conference theme *"Humanity at a Crossroads: Global Action for Sustainable Development."* The exercise also aimed at evaluating the preparations that have been conducted separately within respective institutions ahead of the conference that is meant to spur active youth involvement in the global development agenda based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The club, which has been holding its own peer-to-peer conference training since May 25, will present a delegation of 80 students at the conference, which will be held from July 2 - 6 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in Gigiri.

Having organized three model United Nations simulations, one position paper workshop and the mock debate, YDF Chairperson Hamza Atif *(International Relations Junior),* expects participants have been equipped with knowledge on how to engage in such simulation exercises and thus achieve a vibrant representation at this year's conference.

Since the organizing intervarsity committee is composed of senior students from various institutions of higher learning, the training presented an opportunity for YDF members to impart their experience to junior club members, and therefore ensure continuity and leadership training.

Other universities expected to join USIU-Africa at the conference including the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Daystar University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology, Kenya Methodist University, Kenyatta University, Moi University, Mount Kenya University, Pan-African Christian University, Pioneer International University, Riara University, Taita Taveta University, Strathmore University, the University of Nairobi, and Zetech University.

USIU-Africa hosts fourth Korea-Kenya Frontiers Forum 2018

By Dan Odaba

USIU-Africa hosted this year's fourth Korea-Kenya Frontiers (KKF) Association forum on Friday, June 9. His Excellency Ambassador Kwon Young-Dae, the Ambassador of Korea to Kenya officially opened the forum, whose agenda was '*Adaptability and Incorporation in the Development of Kenya'*.

The Korea-Kenya Frontiers (KKF) is an association comprised of members who have been to Korea, and who aspire to apply their experience to the development process of Kenya. The association holds an annual economic forum that is organized and hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, where a set agenda and various sub-topics relating to the agenda are discussed by an audience, comprising the Ambassador and Vice-Ambassador, government officials, as well as economic studies' students and faculty from local universities.

At the forum, topics such as, *Ability of the education and training system to adapt and promote the creation of a sustainable and inclusive economy; Impact of technological innovation on labor markets and socio-economic effect; Role of skill development in promoting economy and development of Kenya;* and *Importance of research and development in economic growth* were presented by Luseka Socrates, Lynne Kazi, Duncan Odanga and Bhavisha Patel respectively. Through comparing the two countries' situations, they explained the developmental policies and education systems that Korea successfully applied, and which can be adapted by Kenya to aid in national development.

The forum also discussed policies that may not suit Kenya's development process, thus providing a more plausible and realistic solution to Kenyan challenges, as opposed to idealistic solutions that might never come to fruition.

Such forums it is hoped, would encourage young people to contribute to national development through exposure to possible solutions to existing problems, as well as providing a platform for the introduction of ideas that would promote creative and innovative thinking. This way, traditional and innovative ways for overcoming political, socio-cultural and economic challenges that hinder national development can be explored.

Demystifying the Applicant Tracking System (ATS)

By Sarah Ngetha

Human Resources professionals are now using an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) to sift through, and track the numerous job applications they receive each time a new job is advertised.

The ATS works by scanning resumes for specific keywords as indicated by the recruiter, and then scores them mathematically for relevance, before sending resumes from the most qualified candidates through to Human Resources to review. The idea behind this technology is to save Human Resource professions the time and cost of sorting through applications that are poorly prepared or irrelevant, and to find the right candidates as defined by the job specifications.

To pass through this automated system, applicants are required to apply the following pointers while making their job applications on online portals;

The use of simple fonts and formatting - Although fancy formatting options might impress the human resource manager, the system will simply reject such a resume. A basic rule of thumb is to keep fonts and formatting simple, and use a basic word processing software such MS-Word or similar file format though the ATS is being continually improved to read PDF files.

Have correct section headings - The ATS software is built to sort experiences based on specific CV section headings. If a different heading is used, for example, "Major Abilities" instead of "Skills," it will skip over that section because it is unable to determine what the heading stands for. It is therefore encouraged that applicants use standard headings such as "Professional Experience", "Skills", to avoid the risk of the system placing qualifications under inappropriate categories.

Using targeted keywords - The ATS reads through each application and determines whether it has the requisite keywords and phrases to pass through the screening, as set by Human Resources. If the percentage such keywords and phrases is above a pre-determined percentile, the CV is added to the selections to be reviewed manually.

To sum it up: an application with clean, clear formatting and targeted language gets you through ATS screening. For further tips and advice, kindly schedule a session with a Career Advisor at the USIU-Africa Placement & Career Services (Phone: 0730116778/779 ; 1st Floor, Freida Brown Student Center).

Members of USIU-Africa's ladies' hockey team prepare for a friendly match against the University of Nairobi on May 6, 2018. PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

SPORT UPDATES
By Antonio Longangi

The Taekwondo team emerged second runners-up out of 17 teams competing in the 2018 KUKKIWON Cup taekwondo tournament held from Saturday, June 16 to Sunday, June 17 at the Africa Nazarene University. The ladies finished in third with a single gold, three silver and three bronze medals, while their male counterparts emerged sixth with a single silver medal. Their next tournament will be the Antoren Taekwondo League scheduled for June 11 and 12 at the Aga Khan Hall in Kisumu.

Basketball
Following the men's basketball team Nairobi Basketball Association Division 3 loss against Saints on Saturday, June 16 at Upper Hill, they hope to recover against the University of Nairobi's Cavs on Saturday, June 23, and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology on Sunday, June 24 at Upper Hill.

Hockey
In the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League, the ladies' hockey team defeated the Vikings 2 –0 on Saturday, June 16, but suffered a barren draw against JKUAT on Sunday, June 17 at the City Park Hockey Stadium in Parklands. They will be battling the Sliders on Sunday, June 24 at the same venue, while their male colleagues will be challenging Strathmore University's men's hockey team on same date.

Rugby
USIU-Africa's men's rugby team produced mixed results during the Kings of Rugby 7s series leg held at the Technical University of Mombasa from June 16 to 17. On the first day the team thrashed Pwani University 26 – 7, before suffering heavy losses against the University of Eldoret and Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. On the leg's second and last day, the team reversed their losses winning 14 – 7 against JKUAT and 7 – 5 against their hosts to lift the Plate. The next leg will take the team to Kaimosi Friends University College, in the western County of Vihiga from July 6 - 7.

Media mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

June 20: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"USIU-Africa partners with Devki Steel Mills to launch Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation."*

June 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled *"All universities, colleges to have career service offices."*

June 19: The Scrummage mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"USIU set to 'host' Rugby festival."*

June 19: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Stage set for Embu 7s as big guns confirm participation."*

June 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Mediamax in an article titled *"Varsity partners with steel mill in post graduate skills training course."*

June 17: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Rampant Police gun down Butali at the park."*

June 16: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled *"Charging Equity run past KU Oryx in league encounter."*

June 15: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Butali, champions Police clash in top-of-the-table duel."*