

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY - AFRICA NEWSLETTER

MAY 27 - JUNE 3, 2017

Vice Chancellor announces new academic leaders

By Dan Muchai



ABOVE: Professor Munyae Mulinge (incoming Associate DVC-Academic Affairs) during a previous class session. ABOVE RIGHT: Prof. Sarim AL-Zubaidy, the incoming Dean of the School of Science and Technology.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza has announced a slew of new leaders of the Academic Affairs sub-division. Prof. Munyae Mulinge, Professor of Sociology in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, is the new Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Following the re-organization of the university management structure, the former division of Academic Affairs merged with the Division of Student Affairs to form the new division of Academic and Student Affairs, which is headed by Prof. Amb. Ruthie Rono.

Prof. Mulinge, the second such holder of the office, is no stranger to senior academic leadership, having previously served a three-year stint as Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences until 2014. He joined USIU-Africa from the University of Botswana in 2008, where he was Head of the Department of Sociology.

Prof. Mulinge received his PhD from the University of Iowa (USA) in 1994 and his MBA from North West University (South Africa). He also holds an MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Nairobi. He has also authored or edited seven books, about three dozen journal articles and book chapters, and scores of workshop and consultancy reports and conference presentations.

Dean (Chandaria School of Business)

Prof. Zeleza's announcement also included the appointment of Professor Peter Lewa (Professor of Strategy & Management) as the incoming Dean of the Chandaria School of Business. Prof. Lewa joined USIU-Africa in 1997 as an Assistant Professor, and rose to become a full Professor in 2006.

Prof. Lewa holds a PhD in Development Administration and a Master of Social Science in Development Finance from the University of Birmingham. He is also the author of over 80 publications including articles in international scholarly journals, several books and book chapters, and research and consultancy reports.

At the moment, he is a Board member of the International Child Resource Institute since 2005, and a Board member of the World Association of Case Research and Application in 2004.

Dean (School of Science & Technology)

Professor Sarim Al-Zubaidy is the new face on this list, with his most recent appointment being as founding Dean for Academic Affairs of the Military Technological College in Oman. Prior to that he was Founding Vice-Dean and Professor of Engineering, School of Engineering at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan in 2011-2013, and Academic Leader and Operations Manager, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Hariat-Watt University (Dubai Campus).

Professor Al-Zubaidy is a member or fellow of about twenty professional engineering and scientific organizations, has held numerous public service and consultancy appointments, and has provided professional service to various journals, research councils, professional associations, and learned societies. He is also the recipient of several awards and distinctions and major research grants, and has also served as an external examiner at universities in Norway, Vietnam, Fiji, Egypt, Australia, Jamaica, Cuba, Malaysia, and the United States. Prof. Al-Zubaidy has published over 140 scientific papers.

The incoming Dean received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hertfordshire in England, and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Liverpool John Moores University.

In his communication, Prof. Zeleza described the process of recruitment for the new Deans and Associate DVC as "robust, inclusive and transparent", adding that it closely mirrored the process of recruiting a Vice Chancellor. He congratulated the search team led by ICT Director Dr. Paul Okanda, adding that the entire process of candidates meeting key stakeholders during the interview process, was part of the University's commitment to excellence.

The new officials report to Amb. Prof. Rono, and will take office one week to Commencement 2017, on Friday, September 1.

Prof. Macharia's new book offers perspective on nationhood

By Dan Muchai

Professor of History and International Relations Macharia Munene has authored a new book of short essays and commentaries titled, *"Kenya: A Political Test of Nationhood"*. From the Kenyan struggle for independence, to the rise of what he calls the the First and Second Republic, Prof. Munene traverses the dynamic and complex nature of nationhood by offering his perspective on national politics, international relations and diplomacy.

Prof. Munene who is an established scholar and eminent historian uses his book to tackle rising national threats juxtaposed against the expansion of democratic space, as well as the 'continuous struggle against imperialism'.

The book is published by History Works Limited, and is available through local bookshops.

Career Office launches student tutorship program

By Dan Muchai

In a bid to improve the overall knowledge and grades of students, the Office of Placement and Career Services (PACS) has launched a student tutorship program to provide academic assistance to students (tutees) who join the program.

It has been designed as an intervention for students who for one reason or another are facing difficulties grasping educational content, and will provide a low pressure environment for students to master course work, process materials, sharpen reasoning and investigative skills and become independent learners.

PACS is also announced recruitment of eligible students interested in providing extra academic help to their fellow students. Applicants, who must, however, currently have a 3.3 Cumulative GPA to qualify for the program, may get in touch with the office for further details through the program's email (pacsintern@usiu.ac.ke).

Students to receive research training in run-up to Fair

By Dan Muchai

This year, the Academic Research Office will for the first time hold a student research fair. The fair which is a joint project of the Academic Research Office and the Student Affairs Council, will bring together student researchers, to showcase their findings from July 12-13 at the Innovation & Incubation Center.

The fair will be the culmination of a series of research workshops organized to equip participants with skills in investigating research subjects, and presenting their findings. The workshops will run from June 9 to July 13, with the first workshop orienting participants, while subsequent workshops will deal with Design and Prototyping, Project Layout and Marketing, and Fundraising & Grant-Writing. It is expected a maximum of 15 projects will receive hands-on guidance from four Chandaria School of Business faculty. The top three projects will receive cash awards based on the level of innovation, scientific thought and qualitative study is evident in the project.

The Student Research Fair is expected to be an annual project, underpinning student research mobilization efforts across campus. All interested students are encouraged to register, by sending an email to studentresearch@usiu.ac.ke. All abstracts must subsequently be handed in by Friday, June 5.



Graduate Representative in the Student Affairs Council Senate Ms. Mumina Mohamed takes her Oath of Office during the Council's Swearing-In ceremony on May 11, 2017.

Photo: Dan Muchai

SAC leaders to attend leadership forum

By Jackline Chirchir & Dan Muchai

Five officials of the USIU-Africa Student Affairs Council (SAC) will attend a forum dubbed, *'Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow: Sustainable Growth through Ethical Leadership'* at Kenya School of Government - Matuga Campus in Kwale county.

The forum is organized by The Ethics and Integrity Institute (TEII) to promote *'value – driven leadership and moral behavior'* Among East African student leaders.

Mr. Chad Naggi (Chairman), Mr. Brian Juma (Welfare Representative - Social Services), Mr. Brian Wekesa (Chandaria School of Business Representative), Mr. Lochenem Bruno (School of Science & Technology Representative) and Ms Mumina Mohamed (Graduate Representative) will attend the forum as Council representatives.

The Institute, under the Centre for Cross Cultural Services (CCCS) strives to integrate a culture of ethics among students by organizing educational fora where young leaders are exposed to systems and ideals that inspire value-driven leadership, and hopefully arrest the decline of social cohesion and political stability.



Left: A student prepares to participate during a previous blood drive held on campus. This Thursday (June 8) and Friday June 9, the Red Cross club will once again partner with bloodlink Foundation to host a blood drive behind the cafeteria.

Photo: Dan Muchai/FILE

Teams to compete in sign language contest

USIU-Africa's newest student organization - the Sign Language Club will hold its first event on Thursday, June 8 from 2pm in the auditorium. This inaugural awareness and fundraising event, will highlight the unique opportunities and challenges of persons with disabilities with a special emphasis on the deaf community in Kenya with its unique culture and preferred language; the Kenya Sign Language.

18 students will form 6 teams of 3 students each to compete in 3 rounds of sign language learning including "fingerspelling bee, deaf culture and a deaf story pantomime skit. The club hosts to leverage the opportunity to raise funds towards adding facilities such as disability-friendly spectator benches, shade, washrooms and bins at the USIU-Africa sports field.

The Sign Language Club (SLC), which began in fall 2016, has a current membership of 65 students and has performed at campus events such as Culture Week, Black History Month, Freshmen Orientation, Counseling Centre Disability Week, among others.

Further information is available through signlanguage@clubs.usiu.ac.ke.

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

HOCKEY: USIU-Africa (Ladies) vs Chase Amira @City Park
 USIU-Africa (Men) vs Green Sharks @City Park
Basketball: USIU-Africa (Men) vs Umoja @Nyayo Gymnasium
 USIU-Africa (Men) vs Mustangs @Upper Hill - Nairobi.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

World Environmental Day 2017 celebrations
 9am | Auditorium

BASKETBALL: USIU-Africa (Men) vs Catholic University of Eastern Africa @ University of Nairobi.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Chancellor's Public Lecture 11am – 1pm
 Auditorium-

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Launch of Sexual Harassment Policy
 12.30pm | Auditorium
 Sign Language Club Contest 2pm
 Auditorium

IT Club begins Python Programming classes

By Diana Meso



The IT club has created a peer training program for its members, which has been scheduled for every Friday for five weeks in the Science Center's Lecture Theater V. Beginning Friday, June 2, APT major Advait Joshi will host a Python programming training class, to train students on the basics of machine learning, data visualization and data science.

Python is a general-purpose computer language with a wide range of applications from web development, scientific and mathematical computing, to desktop graphical user Interfaces. Its easy-to-use syntax, makes it the perfect language for programming novices.

On completion, participating students will develop and present programming projects to a panel of lecturers and thereafter receive certificates of completion. Other projects in the club's pipeline include, an artificial intelligence workshop, a women-in-technology seminar and a hackathon.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

June 1: *USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Daily Nation in an article titled "Orange won't concede this season, vows Jackline Mwangi."*

May 31: *The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Linda Shuma: Bring on the dirty politics, I'll clean it."*

May 30: *USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Daily Nation in an article titled "Telkom Orange battle Sliders in women's league."*

May 29: *The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Coach Meshack Senge feels the heat."*

May 27: *USIU-Africa was mentioned by the People Daily in an article titled "Tigers wary of sharp Blades as Co-op take on Thunder."*

May 26: *The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Will Gladiators shake off title hangover against Police?"*

May 26: *USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Daily Nation in an article titled "Co-op bank on shooting to take them to the top."*