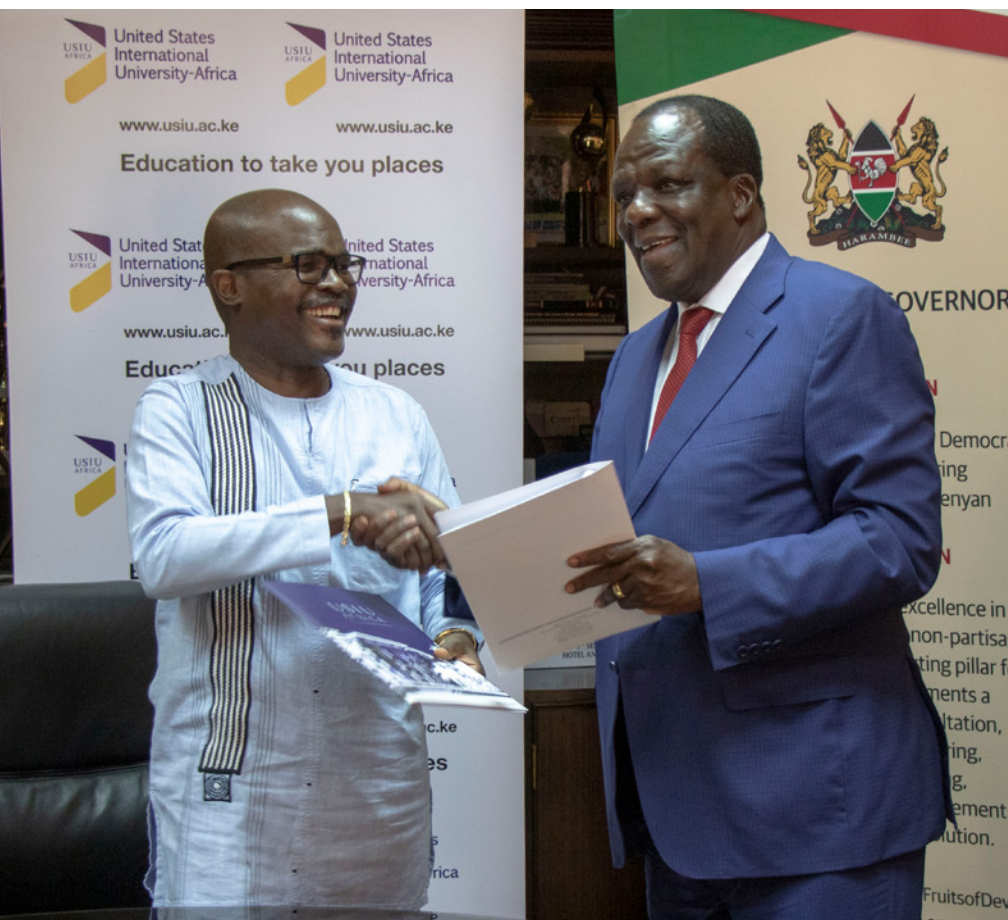


USIU-Africa signs agreement to enhance knowledge sharing among counties



Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza exchanges the Memorandum of Understanding he just signed with the Chair of Council of Governors and Kakamega County Governor Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya at a ceremony in the VC's Boardroom on Friday, February 22. PHOTO:TAIGU MUCHIRI

By Taigu Muchiri

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza on Friday, February 22 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chairman of the Council of Governors and Kakamega Governor Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, that will document county experiences, good practices and service delivery at the county level.

USIU-Africa is the first University to sign the MoU through with the Council of Governors with support from the World Bank will collaborate with Universities to document county solutions (innovations, best

practices, initiatives that are transforming service delivery in counties).

This collaboration will serve as a win-win initiative for connecting students and Universities to industry, by assigning students to document a number of county solutions and initiatives. USIU-Africa will undertake a Training of Trainers on knowledge capture methodology under the guidance of World Bank and the Maarifa Center which is a knowledge sharing and learning platform for capturing lessons and experiences on Kenya's devolution from the

47 Counties.

Speaking during the signing, Governor Oparanya touted devolution as a success despite numerous challenges. "These challenges continue to threaten devolution which is still very young. For it to work effectively, we need to prioritize financial growth, invest in human resources and urge the national government to fully support us," he said. On his part, Prof. Zeleza pledged the University's support in supporting Kenya's devolution process by ensuring information at the county level is easily available.

This initiative is part of the Council's mandate under Section 20 of the Intergovernmental Relations Act (IGRA) 2012, which includes addressing issues of common interest to counties as well as sharing of information on performance of counties for the purpose of learning and promoting best practices.

This agreement is unique in that it sets precedence for a structured collaborations between counties and the academia; ensures sustainability by integrating documentation of county solutions; engages students and faculty to document solutions that make devolution work; enables universities to understand research needs of counties; challenges universities to review their contribution towards realization of the objects of devolutions as outlined under Article 174 of the constitution and ensures effective management of youth in strengthening devolution.

Initial priorities under the agreement include documenting experiences, innovations and good practices of counties in public participation, agriculture, health, public finance management, revenue generation and good practices in social risk management in counties.

USIU-Africa to partner with government in tackling food and nutrition security in Kenya

By Taigu Muchiri

USIU-Africa in partnership with the Kenya School of Government (KSG) held a two day symposium to deliberate on innovative knowledge management practices for sustainable food security in Kenya at the KSG campus in Lower Kabete. The objective of this symposium was to provide an avenue for practitioners and stakeholders in food security and knowledge management to evaluate the problem of food insecurity and how to resolve it through application of knowledge management practices.

Agriculture has been known as the backbone of Kenya's economy for many years. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that agriculture contributes 26 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and another 27 per cent of GDP indirectly through linkages with other sectors. The sector employs more than 40 per cent of the total population and more than 70 per cent of Kenya's rural people.

According to Global Report on Food Crises 2018, 3.4 million people in Kenya are food insecure and need urgent assistance. The report also identifies Kenya to be among the countries with climate shocks that

contribute to its' food insecurity. In addition, figures from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics indicate that the sector recorded a slowed growth of 1.6 per cent in 2017 compared to 5.1 per cent growth in 2016.

Despite several initiatives that have been put in place by the government to overcome food insecurity such as the Galana Kalalu project, fertilizer subsidy project, strategic grain reserve and livestock insurance program among others, a lasting solution remains elusive. The country continues to witness significant post-harvest losses, low agriculture productivity, lack of diversity in food products, and weather shocks constraint. Consequently, there is growing need for Kenya to exploit knowledge management practices to achieve the long desired goal of food security.

Knowledge management practices can be used to improve food availability, increase access to food, promote food utilization and its' stability. Application of knowledge management to achieve food security leverages on Information, Communication and Technology to increase food production, distribution, mapping and planning, weather predictions and a host of other innovations that will ensure that we

achieve food security.

Speaking to the gathering, Senior Resident Magistrate Hon. William Oketch, mentioned that there is an enabling policy environment that promotes the agricultural sector in Kenya. Agriculture is a devolved function and the County government is mandated to implement this docket and work with the National government in achieving food security. He urged farmers to take advantage of this enabling legal framework to achieve maximum benefits.

One great threat to achieving food security is overreliance on traditional farming and food preservation practices. Fatha Aden from Garissa University mentioned that deep seated religious beliefs among the communities in Garissa County are hindering both National and County government initiatives of attaining food security. Some of these methods include sun drying meat as a means of preservation, outdated grazing practices, and traditional preservation of milk. She urged the government to educate the locals on the advantages of adopting modern food preservation methods and that could benefit them immensely.

Student Council holds awareness week

By Ernest Mwanzi

Members of the Student Council held a week-long awareness event from February 4 – 8 with the main aim of enhancing teamwork and fostering unity among students. The event focused on drawing attention to student leadership in light of upcoming elections for student government and other student organizations beginning February 25.

The Council hosted insightful discussions on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, campus life evaluation, exhibitions of clubs activities & sports teams, as well as student mentorship and coaching facilitation. These demonstrations, the Council hoped, would provide a platform for clubs and sports teams to recruit new members and encourage their fellow

students to take part in extra curriculum activities.

During the Council's Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, February 14 in the auditorium, the Chair Ms. Kisenet highlighted key achievements and strides made during the Council's term, and also pin pointed areas where improvement was sorely needed.

The week's activities climaxed with a visit to L'Arche Kenya, - home of a group of differently abled youth located in the mountain town of Nyahururu in Laikipia County on Friday, February 8. The visit was inspired by the Council's participation at the University Scholars Leadership Symposium (USLS) in Thailand, Bangkok, during with the members decided to start an initiative focusing on SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities

and Communities.

Council members together with Mr. Community Service 2019 and Ms. Congeniality 2019 got a chance to interact with the differently able youth, and delivered home care products purchased with the KES 28000 they raised. In an interview Ms. Hadgu described their stay at the home with people living with developmental disabilities as an eye-opening experience, adding that it was a privilege to be part of a group that was promoting inclusive communities regardless of differences in life experiences.

"As the outgoing Student Council, we would like to urge the incoming team to build on this initiative and hopefully touch more lives in the spirit of community service and implementing SDGs," she concluded.

Alumni Affairs pays courtesy call on Strathmore and UoN alumni associations

By Susan Muriuki

On Thursday, February, the Alumni Relations Department led by Principal Alumni Relations Officer, Mr. Michael Kisilu paid courtesy calls on two local alumni associations, accompanied by Alumni Relations Officer Ms. Joanne Alividza and Alumni Relations Intern Ms. Susan Muriuki.

Having recently been appointed to head the Department of Alumni Affairs, Mr. Kisilu sought to learn from his counterparts at Strathmore University and the University of Nairobi executed their mandates. Discussions held centered around key areas including organizational structure of the alumni department/association, alumni engagement initiatives, membership,



Principal Alumni Relations Officer Mr. Michael Kisilu paid a courtesy call on the University of Nairobi Alumni Association, accompanied by Alumni Relations Officer Ms. Joanne Alividza and Alumni Relations Intern Ms. Susan Muriuki.

L-R: Emmanuel Kiprotich (ICT Technician), Ms. Joanne Alividza (Alumni Relations Officer, USIU-Africa), Mr. Kenneth Sawe (Executive Director, UoN Alumni Association), Ms. Immaculate Mueni (Secretary, UoN Alumni Association), Mr. Michael Kisilu, Mrs. Jane Mogaka (Office Administrator) and Ms. Susan Muriuki (Alumni Relations Intern, USIU-Africa). (PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS)

data management, and fundraising aspect of alumni community.

A notable take away of the courtesy calls was that both University of Nairobi Alumni Association and Strathmore University's Partnerships and Alumni Relations Department emphasized alumni engagement initiatives such as establishing alumni chapters, organizing workshops/trainings for alumni development, involving alumni in mentorship programs, collecting views

from alumni on institutional governance, and hosting social activities such as gala dinners and cocktail parties.

According to the discussions, these initiatives, would make alumni feel part and parcel of their alma mater, creating stronger relationships, and promoting pride and affinity towards the University. Furthermore, the initiatives would provide platforms for alumni to give back to the University.

Record-breaking generosity: Project Finje exceeds targets in Spring 2019 drive

By Christine Kamala

Educate Your Own (EYO)'s Project Finje has reported record breaking collections during this semester's drive. Volunteers who visited over 90% of both graduate and undergraduate classes, with the support of faculty, raised KES 356 476 compared to last semester's collections which stood at KES. 156,000.

The Project *Finje* initiative was launched to give USIU-Africa students an opportunity to contribute a minimum of KES. 50. The week-long campaign is a partnership between the Department of Fundraising, students and faculty, to plug communication and

collaboration loopholes and ensure impact is achieved on a steady scale.

Meanwhile contributions received from students and faculty in Fall 2018 have enabled the initiative to provide 50% tuition fee scholarships to three more students, bringing the total number of students receiving financial support from the fund to 27.

The team hopes to maintain this unprecedented support from the University community, when it hosts a week-long car wash fundraiser to meet EYO's target of raising KES 500 000 before Spring Break on April 15, 2019.



EYO volunteers during a previous car wash.



Students take part in the art therapy exercise during the Counseling Services Department's Open Access Week held from February 11 - 12 on campus. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

Counseling Services in awareness drive

By Lydia Winda and Ernest A. Mwanzi

The Department of Counseling Services hosted their annual Open Access Week from February 11 to 12 on campus, to provide the University community with an opportunity to interact directly with departmental staff in an outdoor setting and to demystify some of the general assumptions about counseling services, especially those associated with a certain stigma.

This year the department was able to engage more than 300 students, staff and faculty, with exciting activities that included art therapy whose purpose is to

help participants express themselves and enhance their creativity through art work for instance painting, drawing, coloring and making artistic story lines.

Couples were guided through relationship tests to enhance their awareness of each other, including assess their needs and personalities. Other games such as jig-saw puzzles, scrabble, Rubik's cubes, memory tests, hoola hoops and punching bags, focused on learning, teamwork and just plain fun.

Students and staff were also taken through personal development exercises such as the Wheel of Life and SWOT analysis to bring out the whole-life balance and awareness of personal strengths weaknesses, opportunities and threats, together with personality and life skills tests mainly for self-awareness, clarity on one's identity and life skills areas such as time and money management, assertiveness and self-esteem.

The department also conducted mental health checks, and perception tests to help enhance and appreciate the different worldviews and perspectives that participants may hold.

Among the services offered was a voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) desk that informed clients on reproductive health matters and HIV & AIDS, through demonstrations and distribution of communication materials on HIV and AIDS, different types of cancers. The "No Glove No Love" campaign held on Valentine's Day in partnership with Trust for Indigenous Culture & Health (TICAH), focused on conversations about sex and condom use. Conversations on safer sex were initiated through classroom, cafeteria and pathway visits in addition to distribution of condoms, candies and more than 100 roses.

Black History Month Series

Major voices and what they said

By Azenath Ateka and Charles Wanjala

INTRODUCTION

Black History Month majorly covers the areas of motivation, determination and the final destination of the African-Americans. With their strong-will, conquering feats such as coming out of slavery, earning the right to vote and fighting for civil rights, solid foundations have been created to build an ongoing legacy for the future.

This history was majorly archived in the speeches of key orators, many of whom have since passed on, but their legacy is firmly established and lives on for generations to come.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we look at some of the men and women who left their mark in history through noteworthy speeches.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

SPEECH TO THE ATLANTA COTTON STATES AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION (1895)



Booker T. Washington was one of the last major black leaders born in slavery as posited by David Lewis in the book titled *Biography of a Race*, he epitomized the American ideal of a self-made man, escaping poverty through relentless work and pursuit of education, and achieving international fame.

David Lewis narrates that Washington became a national figure with his Atlanta speech. He urged African Americans to discard reconstruction-era notions of social equality. Instead, he argued, most Southern blacks should pursue a modest, methodical program of self-improvement through service and labor.

"...may I repeat that nothing in thirty years has given us more hope and encouragement, and drawn us so near to you of the white race, as this opportunity offered by the Exposition; and here bending, as it were, over the altar that represents the results of the struggles of your race and mine, both starting practically empty-handed three decades ago, I pledge that in your effort to work out the great and intricate problem which God has laid at the doors of the South, you shall have at all times the patient, sympathetic help of my race; only let this be constantly in mind, that, while from representations in these buildings of the product of field, of forest, of mine, of factory, letters, and art much good will come, yet far above and beyond material benefits will be that higher good, that, let us pray God, will come, in a blotting out of sectional differences and racial animosities and suspicions, in a determination to administer absolute justice, in a willing obedience among all classes to the mandates of law."



MARCUS GARVEY

"THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION" (1922)

In his book titled *Black Moses: The Story of Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association*, David Cronon describes Marcus Garvey as a fiery Jamaican who created the largest black organization in America, as well as a popular movement for African American self-reliance, racial pride, and economic power.

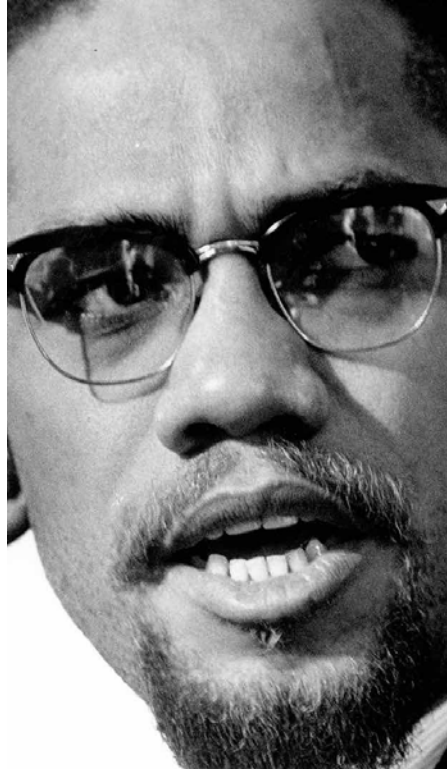
Cronon observes that Garvey inspired millions of African Americans with the dream of a separate, parallel society built on black-owned business and industry. He also preached about the need for international unity among peoples of African origin.

In this speech, delivered in New York City on November 25, 1922, Marcus Garvey (1887–1940) explains the objectives of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the organization he believed would lead the worldwide movement toward black liberation.

(Continued from page 7)

"We represent peace, harmony, love, human sympathy, human rights, and human justice, and that is why we fight so much. Wheresoever human rights are denied to any group, wheresoever justice is denied to any group, there the UNIA finds a cause. And at this time among all the peoples of the world, the group that suffers most from injustice, the group that is denied most of those rights that belong to all humanity, is the black group of 400 million..."

We represent a new line of thought among Negroes. Whether you call it advanced thought or reactionary thought, I do not care. If it is reactionary for people to seek independence in government, then we are reactionary. If it is advanced thought for people to seek liberty and freedom, then we represent the advanced school of thought among the Negroes of this country. We of the UNIA believe that what is good for the other folks is good for us."



MALCOLM X

'THE BALLOT OR THE BULLET' (1964)

Malcolm X as described by theologian James Cone, was one of the most dynamic, dramatic and influential figures of the civil rights era. He was an apostle of Black Nationalism, self-respect, and uncompromising resistance to white oppression.

Malcolm X was a polarizing figure who both energized and divided African Americans, while frightening and alienating many whites. He was an unrelenting truth-teller who declared that the mainstream civil rights movement was naïve in hoping to secure freedom through integration and nonviolence.

On April 12, 1964, Malcolm X gave his "Ballot or the Bullet" speech at King Solomon Baptist Church in Detroit.

"The Ballot or the Bullet" became one of Malcolm X's most recognizable phrases, and the speech was one of his greatest orations.

"The political philosophy of black nationalism only means that the black man should control the politics and the politicians in his own community. The time when white people can come in our community and get us to vote for them so that they can be our political leaders and tell us what to do and what not to do is long gone."

By the same token, the time when that same white man, knowing that your eyes are too far open, can send another Negro in the community, and get you and me to support him, so that he can use him to lead us astray, those days are long gone too."

CREATIVE CONFLICT IN AFRICAN AMERICAN THOUGHT

FREDERICK DOUGLASS,
ALEXANDER CRUMMELL,
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON,
W. E. B. DU BOIS,
AND MARCUS GARVEY

Wilson Jeremiah Moses

CAMBRIDGE

From the University Library Collection

Creative Conflict in African American Thought

Frederick Douglass,
Alexander Crummell,
Booker T. Washington,
W.E.B. Du Bois, and Marcus
Garvey

Author: Moses, Wilson Jeremiah
Publication date: 2004

Wilson Moses analyzes contradiction in the thought of such prominent black intellectuals as Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, and W. E. B. Du Bois in relation to the fundamental conflicts in American political culture and the human condition, including racism versus egalitarianism, Jeffersonian democracy versus Hamiltonian federalism, Idealism versus materialism, and free will versus determinism. (Review by Norman Kelley)

SPORT UPDATES

By Ernest.A.Mwanzi

Basketball

It was a fabulous weekend for both the men's and ladies' basketball teams when they emerged victorious in all the matches played in the Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) - Nairobi Universities League at Kenyatta University.

The men's team hit Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) 43- 41 and were awarded a walkover score (10-0) against Pioneer University who failed to show up for the game on Saturday, February 16, and topped it with a 27-24 win against JKUAT on Sunday, February 17.

Their female counterparts thrashed Mt. Kenya University 21-6 and Kenyatta University Ruiru Campus 40-31 on Saturday, February 16 and Sunday, February 17 respectively.

The men's team are set to face Mt. Kenyatta University and Pan Africa Christian (PAC) University as the ladies take on Kenyatta University and JKUAT Nairobi Campus this weekend.

Soccer

In Soccer, the men's team recorded mixed results after they beat Daystar University 1-0, but lost to Kenyatta University 0-2 and Kabete 1-4 in the KUSA Nairobi Universities League, and University and Colleges Football (UCFL) League respectively on Saturday, February 16 and further lost to JKUAT Nairobi Campus 0-1 on Sunday, February 17.

Meanwhile, the ladies' team won against Kenyatta University Ruiru Campus 1-0 and received a (10-0) walkover score against Pioneer University who failed to show up

for the game, played on February 16 and February 17 respectively in the KUSA Nairobi Universities League.

Both teams will be traveling to Maseno this weekend to play against various teams in the Maseno University Tournament.

Hockey and Rugby

The men's hockey team emerged winners after thrashing Western Club 3-0 as their female counterparts lost 0-1 to Technical University of Kenya in the semi-finals of St. Anthony Tournament that took place in Kitale last weekend.

The men's hockey team are set to face Daystar University while the ladies face JKUAT in the KUSA Nairobi Universities league scheduled to take place in Kenyatta University.

The men's rugby team drew against Kisii University in the Kenya Rugby Union Champions League that took place at the USIU-Africa rugby pitch last weekend.

The rugby men's team will face Kakamega and Homeboys RFC in Kisumu.

Volleyball and Handball

The ladies' volleyball team recorded a 0-3 loss against St. Paul's University while the men's handball team lost 32-42 against Mt. Kenya University in the KUSA Nairobi Universities League that took place in Kenyatta University last weekend.

Both teams will be traveling to Maseno this weekend to play against various teams in the Maseno University Tournament.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

February 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Standard in an article titled "Ongeza mzigo: Is referendum push really about Wanjiku?"

February 16: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in article titled "International Indasi among five dropped by champs Equity."

February 15: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled "This is what matters to us above all else."

February 12: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "Zetech teams register mixed results in university leagues."

Upcoming events

Community Cooking Event - Kenya	February 26	12.30pm	Training Kitchen and Restaurant, 3rd Floor, Freida Brown Student Center
Black History Month Closing Ceremony	February 28	11am	Auditorium
Community Cooking Event - Tanzania	February 28	12.30pm	Training Kitchen and Restaurant, 3rd Floor, Freida Brown Student Center
Culture Week 2019 Exhibition	March 5-6		Behind Cafeteria