

USIU-Africa signs collaboration agreement with French business school

By Taigu Muchiri

USIU-Africa and Audencia Business School have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see the two academic giants conduct joint organization of scientific, educational, and cultural seminars, conferences, symposia, and workshops.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza signed the agreement together with the Dean, Audencia Business School Christophe Germain on March 14 at the Ministry of Education headquarters during French

President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Kenya, in the presence of French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique VIDAL.

The agreement, which also provides for the coordination of joint research projects, development of joint programs or double degrees, and special short-term academic programs, is expected to lead to visits and exchanges of faculty, students at the graduate level, administrative personnel, and other appropriate personnel.

Speaking during the event, USIU-Africa's

Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Zeleza touted this agreement as a milestone in the new development of aggressive research in emerging areas by higher education institutions. He underlined the significance of the agreement heralding the first partnership between a French-affiliated and a private University in East Africa, adding that "This opportunity gives our students, faculty and staff and opportunity to broaden their experience and knowledge in their areas of expertise."

(Continued on page 4)



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza led a group of staff and to a luncheon hosted by Kenya Women's and Children's Wellness Center, in celebration of International Women's Day on Thursday, March 7. From left: Ms. Evelyn Musa (Carnegie Africa Diaspora Fellowship Program Coordinator), Ms. Fenny Muthusi (Administrator, School of Humanities and Social Sciences), Prof. Damary Sikalieh (Professor of Management & Entrepreneurship), Dr. Oliver Amwayi (Director of Quality Assurance), Ms. Faith Mugambi (Admissions Officer), Dr. Teresia Linge (Associate Dean, Chandaria School of Business), Ms. Maureen Ochola (Chief Administrator), Dr. Margaret Munyae (Associate Dean, General Education) and Prof. Paul Zeleza (Vice Chancellor). PHOTO: COURTESY



Open Capital Advisors Group Communications Manager Ms. Corazon Wandimu (Journalism 2009) speaks to the students attending the first alumni mentorship forum. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI



A journalism major asks a question during the Q & A session of the Journalism Alumni Mentorship Forum held on Wednesday, February 27 in the auditorium. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

Department holds successful alumni mentorship forum

By Susan Muriuki

The Department of Journalism and Corporate Communication hosted several alumni as part of a interactive mentorship forum on February 28 at the auditorium.

The event, which attracted over 60 undergraduate journalism majors provided an opportunity for students to interact with such household alumni as Africa Uncensored CEO Mr. John-Allan Namu (Journalism, 2006), Open Capital Advisors Group Communications Manager Ms. Corazon Wandimu (Journalism, 2009), freelance videographer Austin Otieno (Journalism, 2017) and Nation Media Group Reporter Brian Wasuna (Journalism, 2012).

Others present were adjunct faculty and alumni Mr. Daniel Omondi and Mr. Fred Waga.

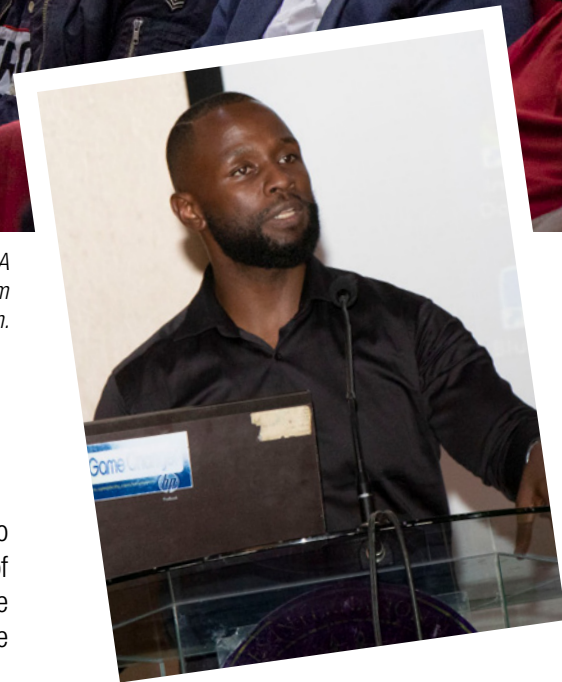
Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza who was the chief guest, emphasized the need to expand cinematics, film, and creative arts sectors which are critical areas in the creative economy, given that it accounts for 5.32% of Kenya's GDP. He also

reiterated the University's commitment to supporting the growth of the new School of Communication, Cinematics and Creative Arts, whose launch will take place in the summer semester.

Notable among remarks by alumni was the importance of bridging theory and practice where students upon graduation are able to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained in classroom.

They also emphasized the centrality of mentorship programs in nurturing and inspiring the current students as they prepare to join the competitive job market.

Faculty members led by the Department's Chair Dr. Kioko Ireri (Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication) underscored the importance of collaboration among the alumni, faculty, staff and students, to achieve a common agenda of providing mentorship and academic enrichment to learners. Further, they encouraged students to take advantage of the mentorship programs in order to shape their career paths.



Award-winning journalist and Africa Uncensored CEO Mr. John-Allan Namu (Journalism, 2006) speaks to the students attending the first alumni mentorship forum. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

The event was organized by the Students Advising and Mentorship Committee chaired by Dr. Joseph Nyanoti, and whose membership includes Ms. Robi Koki (Lecturer, Journalism), Mr. Silvester Mutua (Lecturer, Journalism), Dr. Geoffrey Serede (Assistant Professor of Journalism), Dr. Lucy Gichaga (Assistant Professor of Journalism), Mr. Isaiah Cherutich (Lecturer, Journalism & Public Relations) and finally Chair of the Department of Cinematics Arts and Assistant Professor of Film & Animation Dr. Rachael Diang'a.

Dr. Stephen Kimotheo (Assistant Professor of Journalism), Dr. Gichaga, Mr. Mutua, and Dr. Serede also attended the event, which the department hopes will henceforth be held every semester.

Culture concert winning performances showcased on live TV

By Diana Meso

On Friday, March 8, a group of 30 students who presented the top two performances during the 2019 Culture Week Concert were invited to showcase their cultural dances during a live recording of the *Sema na Citizen* show at the Citizen Television studios.

The Kenyan team which was awarded the best cultural performance led by Mr. Benjamin Waweru (*International Business Administration*) and Ms. Vienna Lidaguli (*International Relations*) presented a traditional song skit showcasing various

cultures in Kenya. This was followed by a rap song performance from Mr. Wesley Casmir (*Journalism*) and Mr. Peter Ngungi (*Finance*) showcasing their musical talents.

Meanwhile, the Indian team; second best in cultural performances were represented by Ms. Eesha Jobanputra (*IR Major*) who performed a rap mix of Sheng, Hindi and English, while Ms. Bhumi Patel (*International Business Administration*) and five of his fellow teammates showcased Indian attire worn on various occasions.

During the interview at the weekday show that airs between 10am and 2pm, both teams highlighted the significance of USIU-Africa's holistic education, which has helped them nurture their talents, preserve and appreciate their cultures as well as those of their fellow students.

The students were accompanied by Associate DVC - Student Affairs Prof. Wangari Mwai and the 2019 Culture Week Planning Committee Treasurer Abdi Hakeem Mohamed (*Finance*).



Members of the Indian and Kenyan communities who took part in a live recording of the *Sema na Citizen* TV show on Friday, March 8. They were accompanied by Prof. Wangari Mwai (Associate DVC-Student Affairs) and other members of the 2019 Culture Week Planning Committee. PHOTO: DIANA MESO

School hosts first ever mentorship forum for women in technology



Mr. Antony Kiplimo (Developer Lead, Africa's Talking) speaks to female students in the School of Science and Technology during a mentorship forum organized by the Department of Computing on Thursday, February 28 at the Incubation and Innovation Center, in the Freida Brown Student Center. PHOTO: TAIGU MUCHIRI

By Patrick Wamuyu & Taigu Muchiri

The School of Science and Technology hosted a mentorship forum for female students in its programs on Thursday, February 28 at the Freida Brown Student Center. The forum was aimed at engaging women in technology and providing them with support through exposing them to initiatives that enhance their career development.

The forum discussions were led by alumna Joylene Kirui (Applied Computer Technology, 2016), a Principal Cyber Security Assurance Officer at Safaricom, Mercy Wamalwa (Applied Computer Technology, 2016), Analyst-Risk Advisor at Deloitte East Africa, and Mr. Anthony Kiplimo, Developer Relations Lead at Africa's Talking.

The three speakers guided their audience through a discussion on the essential skills

that every IT student needs to acquire before graduation, the current market needs for computing experts in the Kenyan and global tech ecosystem, as well as how to build a code portfolio –integral to securing a post-graduation position.

Ms. Kirui and Ms. Wamalwa expounded on their post USIU-Africa-experience strongly urging the assembled students to build an online portfolio on content sharing sites such as *Github*, since a resume was insufficient in demonstrating technological ability.

The speakers emphasized that IT industry careers were still lucrative and such skillsets in demand around the globe, though they noted that women were still deplorably under-represented in the STEM fields especially in information technology.

This revelation reflected current studies that suggest women make up only 20% of the IT workforce, thus underscoring new initiatives by the Department of Computing to, according to the Departmental Chair Dr. Patrick Wamuyu to “...encourage participation and improve retention of female students enrolled in our programs”.

University signs agreement with French business school

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking during the signing ceremony, the Dean Christophe Germain concurred saying, “*Audencia Business School cannot be more honored to be entering into a comprehensive partnership with USIU-Africa.*” He further added that Kenya is considered as the educational and economic powerhouse of East Africa, and as such it was of strategic importance for Audencia Business School to establish a comprehensive partnership with a leading private university in the region. He termed this partnership as mutually benefitting both parties, given that USIU-Africa is aligned

with their values of innovation, cooperation and responsibility.

Prior to the signing ceremony, Prof Amos Njuguna, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension visited Audencia's campus from February 26 to March 2, to find areas of collegiate collaboration between the two institutions.

At the end of the visit, the Collaborative Institute for Global Agribusiness (CIGA) - which brings together academic, corporate and scientific partners to provide multidimensional education, consulting

and research for stakeholders across the global agricultural economy – was proposed as a partner to USIU-Africa's Global Agribusiness, Management and Entrepreneurship (GAME) Center. The collaboration envisages a multidimensional approach to explore, analyze, advice and train stakeholders within the agriculture sector and agri-food businesses, geared towards developing skills, imparting knowledge and developing programs for young farmers in the region.



Pictured: American Football Team Captain Mr. Myles Gicheru PHOTO:ANTONIO LONGANGI

SPORT UPDATES

By Diana Meso

Basketball

On March 10, 2019 both our ladies and men teams participated in the Tom Munyama Tournament played at YMCA Shauri Moyo. The ladies team lost to Equity Bank in the semifinals while the men lost to Posta in the quarters.

Soccer

In soccer the men's team held Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT) to a one all draw in the KUSA Nairobi Universities League at Kenyatta University (KU), and on the same day they lost by two goals to University of Nairobi's, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences at the UON Kabete Campus in the Universities and Colleges Football League (UCFL). All games were played on March 9, 2019.

On the same day the ladies team held Kabete Technical Institute to a one all draw in Kabete in the UCFL, and registered a similar result against Daystar University in the KUSA Nairobi Universities League, at KU.

Still in soccer on Sunday, March 10, the men's team registered a barren draw against Mt. Kenya University (MKU) in KUSA Nairobi Universities League at KU, and lost to the National Youth Service (NYS) by three goals to nil in the UCFL at UON. The ladies on the other hand lost by three goals to one against MKU in the Nairobi University League at KU.

Hockey

It was an all win weekend for Men's team as they won all their three matches; they beat MKU by one goal to nil and JKUAT by two goals in the KUSA Universities League at KU. In the National League, they thrashed Chase Amira by three goals to nil at City Park. All games were played on March 9, 2019.

Karate

In the Kenya Open of the Kenya Karate Federation League, both Lorraine Mbogo and Evans Mutui won bronze in the 67kgs category at MKU.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

March 14: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled ***"Captain Ocholla says KPA ready to defend KBF title."***

March 14: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"USIU rugby player Derrick Obiero dies, Kenya Rugby sends condolences."***

March 13: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled ***"Ethiopian Airlines crash: Mum sensed daughter's death."***

March 13: Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"Ways to raise capital for your business."***

March 13: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"Chipu squad narrowed down ahead of Barthes Cup."***

March 12: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Capital FM in an article titled ***"Odera narrows down Chipu squad to 36."***

March 12: The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"Olindi in Kenya under 20 squad."***

March 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard in an article titled ***"Kenya as the weakest link in Lapsset project."***

March 9: The Standard mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"ADMI, Microsoft launch skills lab to drive game and software development among students."***

March 8: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled ***"Uhuru Appoints City Billionaire as Egerton University Chancellor."***

March 7: KBC mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled ***"ADMI, Microsoft partner to open AppFactory in Nairobi."***