

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA NEWSLETTER

4 JUNE - 10 JUNE 2016



Charge D'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq Mr. Mohammed Husham Al-Fityan (center) listens to a student pose a question during the talk by the Embassy of Iraq to IR students on Thursday, 8 June 2016. Looking on is International Relations Program Director Dr. Fatma Ali (extreme right) and Dr. Tom Onditi (Dean – School of Humanities and Social Science (extreme left).

DIPLOMATS SPEAK ON IRAQ CONFLICT

...IS cannot be defeated without international cooperation including going after IS's sources of financial support.

Mr. Mohammed Husham Al-Fityan – Charge D'Affaires Embassy of the Republic of Iraq spoke to students of International Relations on Wednesday June 8 on his country's current struggle with the international terrorism network known as Islamic State (IS). Describing the insurgency racking his country, he enumerated the victories as well as the challenges, pointing out that IS cannot be defeated without international cooperation including going after IS's sources of financial support.

The talk organized through the offices of the School of

Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Tom Onditi and the International Relations Program Director Dr. Fatma Ali, brought out the shared similarities between IS and Somali terror group Al-Shabaab, as well as their links to the Asian global terror network known as Al-Qaeda.

Mr. Al-Fityan, accompanied by his deputy Mr. Jamal A. Khudair and Administrator Mr. Basem Abdulatif, concluded with an invitation to the Young Diplomats Forum to further develop their relations with USIU-Africa's future diplomats.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, June 11:
Michezo Afrika Play: The Unfortunate Fortunate
6pm | Auditorium

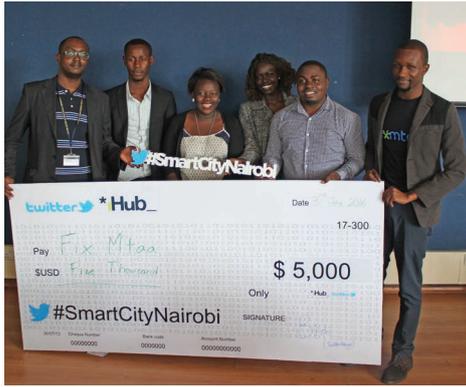
Monday, June 13
USIU-Africa & Kenya Film Commission
Stakeholders Forum
9.30am | School of Science & Technology

Monday, June 13
Brown Bag Public Lecture:
Surrogacy: Kenyan Wombs for Rent - The Tension
Between Family Values and Reproductive Rights in
the Kenyan Constitution
12.20pm – 1.30pm | SHSS Conference Room

Wednesday, June 15
CPS Sports Research
9.30am | Sports Office

Friday, June 17
'CHE' Movie Screening & Interdisciplinary Panel
Discussion
10am | Auditorium

STUDENTS WIN BIG AT SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATION DEVELOPER CONTEST



Last Friday, June 3, two Information Systems and Technology majors and an Applied Computer Technology won US\$ 5000 when they came third in the final of a competition organized by the Twitter Kenya at iHub – Nairobi.

The three phase competition sought to cultivate technology solutions incorporating the twitter platform, that can help make Nairobi a better place for people to live. The team defeated thirty-four other teams in the competition that was part of Twitter's #SmartCityNairobi initiative – a project that began on April 29, challenging Nairobi's developers to use Twitter API to solve local problems.

Left: Max Musau (SST Technologist), Ian Bwana (IST Senior) Grace Owiti (APT Sophomore), Lydia Taban (APT Sophomore), Kevin Hungai (APT Senior) and Nigel Nindo (IST Senior), on receiving their cheque following their victory on Friday, June 3.

Twitter - one of the world's largest online social networking services - enables hundreds of millions of users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets".

FixMtaa is a reporting tool using artificial intelligence techniques, to analyze tweets based on the hashtag #FixMtaa, figure out what problem the tweet is about, and subsequently forward the tweet to the relevant authority via twitter or email.

Going forward the students expect to use their combined US\$ 9000 winnings to develop a workable business model.

RESEARCH FIRM TO DEVELOP VARSITY SPORTS RANKING

The Sports Office will be hosting a team from CPS Research International - a local market and social research company - looking to develop a university ranking based on each institution's sports activities. The aim is to create a body of data useful to prospective students all over East Africa. Sports officials at university and team level are expected to take part in the exercise scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 from 9.30am.

SCHOOL TO HOST 'CHE' MOVIE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION

On Friday, June 17, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is hosting a screening of the first part of the movie - Che - and an interdisciplinary panel discussion on the concepts of Marxism, Revolution and Leadership; themes that central to the life of Ernesto "Che" Guevara - the famous Argentine guerilla leader whose visage continues to be a global symbol for revolution almost half a century after his death.

Assistant Professor of Spanish & Literature Javier Serrano will discuss the "Latin American Cultural Context" while Assistant Professor of International Relations Dr. David Mwambari will deal with the "Cold War as a Political Context". They will be followed by Associate Professor of International Relations Dr. Fatma Ali who will delve into "Marxism as an Ideology" while Assistant Professor of Journalism & Communication Dr. Maria Canudo will conclude with a discussion on "African Leadership".



IT PROFESSOR OFFERS DIGITAL LITERACY TO MATHARE RESIDENTS



Fourteen residents of Mathare - a low-income settlement in Nairobi - were on campus on Wednesday, June 8 to familiarize themselves with our online exam facilities as part of their digital literacy training. The women are part of a USIU-Africa project run by Assistant Professor of Information Technology Dr. Patrick Wamuyu. The project, whose seed capital is funded by the university to the tune of US\$ 4000, aims

to develop a cohort of women trainers who will set up a Technology Learning Center that is expected to be at the heart of a sustainable digital eco-system. The system is in turn expected to support the uptake of digital skills and services in the community leading to effective participation in the knowledge economy, as well as electronic advocacy of issues dear to Mathare residents.

USIU-AFRICA OFFICIALS PAY COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY DIRECTOR



Dr. Fatma Ali (International Relations Director) and Associate Professor of International Relations and Internship Coordinator Ms. Pauline Laibon paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi (Director - Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to appreciate the institution's long-term partnership with the university's International Relations programs.

The Institute which as the ministry's training arm, is responsible for providing quality practical experience to trainee diplomats a good number of whom are from USIU-Africa. Both Dr. Ali and Ambassador Nabukwesi agreed to formalize the relationship between the two institutions, through a memorandum of understanding, as well as expand it to include guest lectures from diplomatic officials in the ministry.

Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi (Director - Foreign Service Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Fatma Ali (International Relations Program Director) and Ms. Pauline Laibon (Internship Coordinator).

STAFF AND ALUMNI PROGRESS TO NEXT STAGE OF AGRIBUSINESS TRAINING

On May 18-19, ten judges from Ecobank, Agriprofocus Kenya, Umati Capital and Michigan State University selected twenty entrepreneurs from a class of thirty-nine small-holder farmers, to progress to the next stage of the year-long training being undertaken by USIU-Africa's Global Agribusiness Management (GAME) Center.

Academic Advisor Virginia Thuku, ICT Administrator Erickson Kimiti, alumni Priscillah Wahome and Wanjira Gitagia will together with the other sixteen selected entrepreneurs, continue with GAME Center's unique research project designed to identify and field test innovative business models for taking agricultural innovations to scale, and support Kenya's youth to

actively engage in profitable agri-businesses.

The project is funded to a tune of KES 33 million by Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF), a joint program of the International Development Research Center of Canada (IDRC) and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).