

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA NEWSLETTER

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Division organizes campus technology week

The ICT division ran a series of events from 20-22 September, aimed at educating members of the university community on services offered by the division. Students, staff and faculty interacted with the IT team, had their questions answered, issues addressed and also offered feedback. Freshmen benefited from on-site training on our online learning platform – Blackboard.

The kick-off event was a Microsoft East Africa presentation on certification courses offered through the Microsoft Imagine Academy as part of the three-day Tech Week.

A social media activism forum was also held at the auditorium on Wednesday, September 21 featuring Mr. Paul Oyier (Strategic Communications Specialist & Media Practitioner), Mr. Robert Alai (Chief Blogger at Techmtaa.com) and Dr. Paul Okanda (DVC-Information Communications Technology/Chief Information Officer).

Speaking at the event, Dr. Okanda acknowledged the role social media has played in ensuring that students get the best service as key stakeholders of the university. On his part, Mr. Alai encouraged his audience to be courageous in standing up for what they believed in, while Mr. Oyier shared his 3 As for social media activism success: Awareness, Action and Attitude Change



Students participate in the cleanup exercise at Roysambu Primary School during activities to mark the annual Freida Brown Day on Friday, September 23.

PHOTO BY DIANA MESO

Congratulations: Assistant Professor of Spanish elected head of international federation



Congratulations are in order for Mr. Javier Serrano (Assistant Professor of Spanish & Literature), who was elected the third President of the International Federation of Association of Teachers of Spanish

(FIAPE), during a plenary conference in Salamanca, Spain. FIAPE is the largest worldwide umbrella institution representing 14, 000 teachers of Spanish as a Foreign Language across 19 countries and regions scattered across four continents.

Mr. Serrano, who serves as Vice-President of the Association of Teachers of Spanish-Kenya (ATS-K) has been a FIAPE board member since 2012, when ATS-K became the first African association to join the federation.

His election is credited to his expertise on the teaching of Spanish in Africa; in 2014 he edited the first comprehensive survey of Spanish in Sub-Saharan Africa, made possible through a KES 3 million grant from the Embassy of Spain in Kenya.

During his three-year term in office, Mr. Serrano will be involved in organizing the 2018 International Conference of Spanish Teachers, and will closely interact with cultural, governmental and related educational institutions in coordination with member associations.

University to host process and performance certification program

USIU-Africa has partnered with the African Process and Performance Institute (APPI) to offer a USIU-AFRICA / APPI Certified Process & Performance Professional (CPPP) program beginning October 24, 2016.

The first-of-a-kind 9-week training program is designed to empower participants with recognized credentials attesting to cutting-edge skills and knowledge in Business Process Management (BPM) and Performance Analytics to make better decisions that drive innovation, efficiency, and productivity across all industry sectors.

The program expects to produce professionals able to implement business process and performance global best practices in the context of Africa's cultural, social, political, economic, and business environment.

A one-time heavily-discounted offer for the twenty slots in the initial cohort, is available until the application deadline. All applications must be emailed to the Executive Director at marie@appiinstitute.org on or before Friday, September 30, 2016.

Dr. Ileri publishes paper investigating journalists' role conceptions

A research paper by Dr. Kioko Ileri, an Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, has been published in the current issue of *Journalism Practice* – a leading journal in journalism field. The paper, "A National Survey On The Professional Role Conceptions Of Journalists In Kenya" investigates the professional role conceptions that Kenyan journalists perceive to be the most important in their work.

Based on a representative sample of 504 journalists drawn from 62 media outlets in Kenya, the findings indicate that "providing citizens with information" is the most important role (61.3%), followed by "advocate for social change" (51.7%), "support official policies" (46.9%), "motivate people to participate in civic activities" (45.6%) and "act as watchdog of government" (35.3%).

The research paper is one of the ten variables that Dr. Ileri examined in his Indiana University-Bloomington doctoral dissertation – "Constructing A Portrait of Kenyan Journalists In The 21st Century: Demographics, Job Satisfaction, Influences On News Values and Autonomy, And Standards of Journalism Training".

Two other papers from his dissertation have already been published in top global journals. They include: "A National Survey of Demographics Composition of Kenyan Journalists (Journalism)" and "High Job Satisfaction Despite Low Income: A National Study of Kenyan Journalist." in the *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*.

Students invited to join law competition



The annual International Humanitarian Law (IHL) competition will be held from October 6-7, 2016 at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation Office in Nairobi. The premier event brings together local and regional university teams that debate a preset topic involving international humanitarian law. This year's theme references challenges posed to IHL by new technologies.

Winners from the Kenyan edition will meet their East African counterparts in November at Arusha, where they will make their submissions before a panel of esteemed judges from various international tribunals. Additionally, participants take part in IHL lectures followed by simulations that test their knowledge on IHL.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to form groups of three, then apply by emailing Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Simeon Sungi (ssungi@usiu.ac.ke) on or before Tuesday, September 20. Interviews for slots in the competition, will be conducted on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Cafeteria to accommodate class schedules in new dining times.

The university cafeteria amended its new dinner times this semester to further accommodate academic schedules for its mainly student clientele. Patrons can expend to enjoy lunch service up until 4.30pm during weekdays, with dinner being served an hour earlier at 6pm.

The new change comes hot on the heels of the introduction of new African cuisine that will be served on a rotational basis every Thursday as part of the lunch offering.



GAME Center to hold second ToT Seminar

The Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (GAME) Center will be conducting the second Training of Trainers (ToT) seminar from Monday, September 26 at the GAME Boardroom (former classroom T).

The five-day seminar targets agribusiness entrepreneurs working with farmer groups across various sectors along the agricultural value chain, and aims to sharpen the entrepreneurs' business growth skills and enhance their leadership capacity.

Club to train student leaders to become counselors

On Friday September 30, the Peer Educators and Counseling Club (PECC) in partnership with the Counselling center will host a training session at the Library Bookshop from 8.30am to 4.30pm to train various student leaders to counsel, guide and educate their fellow students on life skills, reproductive health and substance abuse.

Any other student interested in becoming peer educator or counselor is also encouraged to apply at the Counseling Center.

Media Mentions

September 22: USIU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled "ASENTI entrepreneurship platform to kick off in Kenya" by Ventureburn. <http://ventureburn.com/2016/09/asenti-platform-kick-kenya/>

September 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned in an article titled "State-funded USIU students stay home in fee dispute" by the Daily Nation newspaper. <http://www.nation.co.ke/news/USIU-students-protest-high-fees/1056-3387722-tyojnmz/>

September 21: The Star newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in article titled, "State-sponsored students in USIU to pay for extra units." http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2016/09/21/state-sponsored-students-in-usiu-to-pay-for-extra-units_c1423850

September 21: USIU-Africa was mentioned in a sports article titled "Warriors March on" by The Standard newspaper.

September 20: The Daily Nation newspaper mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled, "USIU fees causes uproar." <http://www.nation.co.ke/news/USIU-students-protest-high-fees/1056-3387722-tyojnmz/>

September 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned in a sports article titled "USIU-A, Co-op reap" by The People Daily newspaper.

September 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned in a sports article titled, "Police return to form, clobber Park Road in league" by The People Daily newspaper.