

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA NEWSLETTER

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USIU-Africa joins international varsity associations

The university recently became a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) - the world's first and oldest international university network with over 500 member institutions in the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth is an inter-governmental organization of 53 nations formerly members of the British Empire.

The ACU administers scholarships, provides academic research and leadership on issues in the sector, and promotes inter-university cooperation and the sharing of good practice - helping universities serve their communities, now and into the future.

The university also successfully applied to be a member of the International Association of Universities (IAU) - a worldwide association of higher education institutions from 130 countries, for reflection and action on common concerns. Member institutions are availed opportunities to collaborate with various national, regional and international bodies active in higher education.

Joining such associations is of great benefit to the university, in that they provide opportunities for contribution to the formulation of advocacy positions in higher education, participation in top-level international dialogues with various institutions, and the building of informed partnerships with leading global networks of higher education institutions.



Students and staff demonstrate along Thika Road on Wednesday, July 13 to draw attention to the grabbing of forty acres of university land in Nairobi's Muthaiga North suburb. An online petition has started collecting signatures to demand action by the Kenyan government, to protect property rights, secure investments in land and take down land scam cartels.

STORY ON PAGE 2

University officials attend university leadership conference

The DVC - Academic Affairs Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono and the University Legal Counsel/Company Secretary Ms. Hellen Ambasa represented USIU-Africa at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Conference of University Leaders in Accra, Ghana from 27-29 July, 2016. The biennial conference whose theme is "Defining the responsible university: society, impact and growth", provides a platform for senior university staff to debate key issues in higher education, and explore shared solutions with a diverse range of international colleagues. Some of the areas addressed included scholarships as a tool for engagement, universities and tolerance, private universities: shared responsibility, and responsibility in undergraduate education.

Ghanaian President H.E. John Dramani Mahama, former UN Secretary - General Kofi Annan and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Education Dr. Fred Matiang'i also graced the event.

Ambassador details his nation's search for freedom



H.E. Mr. Bah El Mad (Saharawi Ambassador to Kenya) spoke on options available to the disputed territory of Western Sahara in their pursuit of full independence during a public lecture held on Friday, July 29 in the Lecture Theater I.

On Friday, July 29 the School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted His Excellency Mr. Bah El Mad (Saharawi Ambassador to Kenya) for a discussion on the options available to the disputed territory of Western Sahara in their pursuit of full independence.

Western Sahara is a contested territory in the Maghreb region of Northwest Africa, bordered by Morocco to the north, Algeria to the northeast, Mauritania to the east and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The two-hour lecture held in the Lecture Theater I, featured other panelists including renowned scholar and USIU-Africa Professor of History and International Relations Prof. Macharia Munene, who spoke on the United Nation's role as a source of legitimacy for the various claims made on the territory. Mr. Javier Serrano (Assistant Professor of Spanish & Literature) - who also organized the lecture - contextualized the Saharawi conflict, while Dr. Fatma Ali (International Relations Programs Director and Associate Professor of International Relations) spoke on her experience in the Tinduf Refugee Camp in Morocco, home to Saharawi refugees since 1975

Prof. Campbell speaks on NATO's role in shaping international affairs

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted Prof. Horace G. Campbell for a guest lecture on "NATO, the Destruction of Libya" on Monday, July 25 in Lecture Theater I. Prof. Campbell, who is Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at Syracuse University and a noted international peace and justice scholar, spoke to a packed audience, detailing the evolving role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) within the context of the intervention by the military alliance in the Libyan civil war of 2011.



Prof. Horace Campbell (right) speaks to students of International Relations during a public lecture held in Lecture Theater I on "NATO, the Destruction of Libya", and hosted by the International Relations programs of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Looking on is Professor of History and International Relations Prof. Macharia Munene (center), who moderated the event.

SAC launches online petition against land grabbing

On Monday, July 25, the USIU-Africa student community launched an online petition to the Kenyan Ministry of Lands to register their displeasure regarding the abuse of their rights through the grabbing of university land, located in Nairobi's Muthaiga North suburb.

Noting that grabbing of land from innocent land owners has become endemic, the petition brings to the fore the need to protect and respect property rights and investments in Kenya's future.

Through the petition, the Student Affairs Council invites other members of the university community and the general public to make their voice heard, whose signatures will be then presented to the Ministry.

The petition can be accessed through the following link (<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/357/778/601/>) then shared on social media sites.

Dr. Kimotho publishes biographical story of hope and courage

Journalism and Communication Studies Programs Director Dr. Stephen Kimotho recently published a biography on a Chronic Kidney Failure (CKF) patient titled "Emmanuel: Life Without Kidneys". The book tells the story of 32 year-old Emmanuel Gitau, and his determination to live through three kidney transplants, fourteen major operations and a 14 - year dialysis treatment regime.

Mr. Gitau's story of hope and courage inspired Dr. Kimotho to undertake biographical research to create awareness among various stakeholders, including parents, caregivers, policy makers and the general public about kidney ailments; the plight of the people who suffer from Chronic Kidney Failure (CKF), and the social, psychological and financial burden as well as the stigma associated with CKF.

Dr. Kimotho's principal research areas are in corporate communications, specifically in risk and crisis communications. The book is available on amazon.com.

Health Services urges clients to collect cards

Members of the university community who have yet to collect their insurance cards from the Health Center are urged to do so as soon as possible. This will enable them access medical services easily and efficiently.

For security purposes, once collected, holders of such cards will be required to undergo biometric registration to reduce incidences of fraud especially when such cards are misplaced.

The Health Center avails card collection and registration services between 8am and 5pm from Monday to Friday.



Ms. Esther Passaris speaks during an Albinism Awareness Seminar held in the auditorium on Monday, July 25. The event was organized to sensitize the university community on people living with albinism – a skin disorder characterized by the complete or partial of melanin pigment from the skin, hair or eyes – thereby reducing societal stigmatization. The event was also attended by Head of Counseling Mrs. Lucy Kung'u

UN Women to launch HEFORSHE club

On Thursday, August 4, UN Women will launch the HeForShe movement at a ceremony to be attended by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza in the auditorium from 10.30am.

HeForShe is a global movement driven by UN Women – the United Nations entity formed to promote gender equality and empower women among member countries. The global effort will seek to engage each gender in removing the social and cultural barriers that prevent women and girls from achieving their potential. At USIU-Africa, the movement's activities will be undertaken by the Amka Dada club, which henceforth will be known as the HeForShe Club.

Senior UN Women and Student Affairs officials will be in attendance, as well.

Alumni to hold sports day

On Saturday, July 30, the USIU-Africa Alumni Association has organized a sports day to offer a platform for alumni and current students to meet and reminisce as they support their respective teams. Current members of USIU-Africa hockey, football and basketball teams will compete against alumni teams at the hockey and soccer pitches, as well as the basketball court, with matches expected to begin from 2.00 pm.



Athletes in Action, an American Christian sporting foundation was on campus on Friday, July 29, for a training session with our men's and ladies' basketball teams. Members of both teams received tips from experienced coaches, who are in the country to run a training camp in conjunction with the Kenya Basketball Federation.

Media Mentions



July 28: USIU-Africa was mentioned in article by The Star newspaper titled "Security firm denies grabbing land bought from Moi"

July 26: USIU-Africa men's hockey team was featured in a sports feature titled "Green Sharks bite Western Jaguars" by The Star newspaper.

July 26: Capital News featured USIU-Africa in an article titled "Closure of land registries has consequences: ISK"
<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2016/07/closure-land-registries-consequences-isk/>

July 25: The People Daily newspaper featured USIU-Africa men's basketball team in a sports feature titled "Ulinzi, Co-op Bank maintain winning streak"

July 23: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa men's hockey team in a sports feature titled "Kenya: Impala Edge Dedan Kimathi Lads in Thriller"
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201607230360.html>



Teaching Photography: Professional photographer Mr. Murage Murimi (center) poses with participants in a photography module during a media forum organized by the Journalism Club on Thursday, July 28.