

CAMPUS **THIS WEEK**

Bridging diplomacy and academia: USIU-Africa hosts simulation exercise on climate change

> Caleb Mukhwana

The United States International University Africa (USIU-Africa) became the epicenter of a groundbreaking collaboration between academia, government and the diplomatic corps as it hosted a simulation exercise on climate change. This flagship event was a mimic of the African Union Committee of Heads of States and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). It was marked by dynamic discussions and insightful deliberations, aimed to foster a deeper understanding of global climate challenges while exploring innovative solutions. The simulation exercise was themed 'Advancing the Future of Sustainable Development: Unlocking Innovative Development in the Context of Climate Change in Africa.' Distinguished guests, including Ambassador (Rtd) Salim Mohamed Salim from the Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Mr. Pius Ogolla and Ms. Ivy Mburu (both from the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany) among others joined the International Relations faculty to grace the occasion with their presence. The presence of these delegations from the diplomatic circles together with members of faculty and scholars emphasizes the importance of bridging diplomatic expertise with academic inquiry.

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Prof. Steve Biko (second from left) with Ambassador (Rtd) Salim Mohamed (fifth from left) and student delegates take a group photo after the simulation exercise on climate change held at School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Photo: Kahiyo Muturi.

Welcoming students to the summer semester at USIU-Africa: A guide to success

> By Fredrick Adika

Welcome to the summer semester at USIU-Africa! As the campus bustles with energy and anticipation, both new and returning students embark on a journey of academic exploration and personal growth. In this vibrant community, success hinges on effective time management, cultivating good study habits, and embracing key principles to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Effective time management is essential for students to thrive in the condensed summer semester. By creating a schedule that balances classes, study sessions, work commitments, and other activities, students can optimize their productivity and stay on track. Prioritizing tasks, setting deadlines, and minimizing distractions are key strategies to ensure timely completion of assignments and projects, aligning with the rigorous academic standards upheld at USIU-Africa.

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Students interact after attending a class on campus. Photo: Strategic Marketing and Communications Department.

CAMPUS THIS WEEK

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa hosts a delegation from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC)

> By Brenda Odhiambo



The WUSC team pose for a photo with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program team at USIU-Africa. WUSC was on campus to engage with Mastercard Foundation Scholars with backgrounds of forced displacement that are enrolled in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa. Photo: Victor Aine.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa welcomed a delegation from the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), one of the Program's technical partners that supports and facilitates access to higher education for refugee and forcibly displaced (RDP) young people.

Led by WUSC CEO Steve Mason, alongside Janice Bothello, Country Director for Kenya, and Chiedza Pasipanodya, Deputy Director of the DREEM Project and Ian Mwangi, Higher Education Inclusion Coordinator, the delegation engaged with Mastercard Foundation Scholars with backgrounds of forced displacement that are enrolled in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa, underscoring the impact of strategic partnerships in fostering educational opportunities for vulnerable populations.

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The Spoken Arts and Debate Society successfully hosts the 2024 East African World Schools Debate Championship

> By Wanjiru Karugu

The 2024 East African World Schools Debate Championship unfolded as a thrilling annual tournament hosted at USIU-Africa from May 10-12. This prestigious event aimed to unite the young budding debaters of East Africa in healthy competition, honing their oration and critical thinking skills for their future debate careers. Furthermore, the tournament served as a crucial fundraising mechanism for the Spoken Arts and Debate Society (SADS) to host the East African Universities Debate Championship in August 2024.

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Students from the Zimbabwe National Debate team preparing for an impromptu debate round. Photo: Courtesy.

Mastering the art of personal branding with Hannah Githuki

> By Edina Gabriella Ngalasa



Hannah Githuki interacts with the students who attended the personal branding workshop. Photo: Kahirot Muturi.

On May 16, the Placement and Career Services Department hosted a highly insightful and transformative Personal Branding workshop. The event featured Hannah Githuki, a renowned Personal Branding Coach and Head of Training at Insideout Development, who shared her expertise and personal journey with an eager audience of students.

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CAMPUS THIS WEEK

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences holds initiation and White coat ceremony summer 2024 edition

> By Selina A. Atarah

Friday, May 17 was a remarkable day for the students in the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (SPHS) at USIU-Africa, especially for the freshmen who had joined the various programs at the start of the summer semester. It was the day they were officially recognized as members of the prestigious SPHS community. For those who had chosen the path of studying pharmacy, they were adorned in white coats during a symbolic ceremony known as the White coat ceremony, a tradition in the pharmacy profession that ushers in new members.

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USIU-Africa pharmacy students take the pledge of professionalism during the White coat ceremony held last Friday. Photo: Wilson Wafula.

James Madison University and USIU-Africa sign MOU to foster educational collaboration

> By Jacqueline Lidonde

USIU-Africa and James Madison University (JMU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will foster collaborative educational activities between the two esteemed institutions. The primary objective of this MOU is to authorize the exploration of opportunities that will facilitate potential collaborative educational initiatives. These initiatives may encompass a wide array of subjects and areas of mutual interest, all of which will be formalized through further written agreements as necessary. The MOU paves the way for a dynamic partnership aimed at enhancing the academic and cultural experiences of students and faculty at both universities.

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Dr. Besi Muhonja, the Associate Vice President for Research and Scholarship at JMU (left) and Dr. Lola Odubekun, the Interim Vice Chancellor of USIU-Africa during the signing ceremony. Photo: Jemima Oloo.

The Confucius Classroom at USIU-Africa participates in the 23rd Chinese Bridge competition finals

> By Wanjiku Mbugua



USIU-Africa students attend the 23rd Chinese Bridge competition at the University of Nairobi. Photo: Victor Aine.

On Tuesday, May 14, three (3) Confucius Classroom at USIU-Africa students competed at the finals of the 23rd Chinese Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition for non-native university students' Kenyan division.

The competition highlighted student's proficiency in Chinese language and culture. It covered three (3) areas, which include: Chinese speeches question and answer session and a talent show. This year's theme was 'one world, one family'.

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CAMPUS THIS WEEK

Exness team visits USIU-Africa to strengthen ongoing partnership

> By Jacqueline Lidonde

Recently, key members of the Exness team—Jacob Wissum, Head of Government Affairs; Martin Thorvaldsson, Head of Community; and Paul Margarites, CEO of Exness (KE) Limited—visited the university to engage with Exness scholars and explore opportunities to enhance the Exness scholarship program. During their visit, the Exness representatives met with Dr. George Lumbasi, Chief of Admissions, and Lizbeth Ngeeta from the Financial Aid office. These USIU-Africa officials provided a comprehensive briefing on the current status of the Exness scholarship program and discussed potential strategies for its expansion.

[Read more](#)



The teams from Exness and USIU-Africa during a meet and greet session with Exness Scholars. Photo: Kahiho Muturi.

The Transitions Office in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa hosts mentorship session on employment

> By Brenda Odhiambo

Last Friday, the Transitions Office in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa hosted an engaging mentorship session for 100 Scholars focused on navigating the job market, featuring industry experts who shared their personal journeys, insights, and advice. The panel featured experts from various institutions, including Mr. Daniel Ngugi, Head of Inclusion and Development at Next Step Foundation, Mr. Eugene Muchai, Community Manager at AMREF, Mr. Alan Were, Head of People, Diversity and Culture at Next Step Foundation and Mr. Denis Lucas, Operations Director at Home of Hope - Uganda.

[Read more](#)



Mr. Eugene Muchai, Community Manager at AMREF during the mentorship session held last week. He urged the Scholars to embrace learning throughout their career to build their work experience. Photo: Kahiho Ngamau.

The Languages and Literature Department issues certificates for various languages

> By Lynnette Nzioki



Students receive their certificates after successfully completing the several courses on offer at the Department. Photo: Spencer Muthusi.

The Languages and Literature Department in the School of Humanities & Social Sciences held a certificate awarding ceremony for students who completed certificate courses in English, French, Chinese, Spanish, Swahili, Basic Kenya Sign Language, and Advanced Kenya Sign Language. This significant event marked a culmination of rigorous study and practice, celebrating the achievements of students as they expand their linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding.

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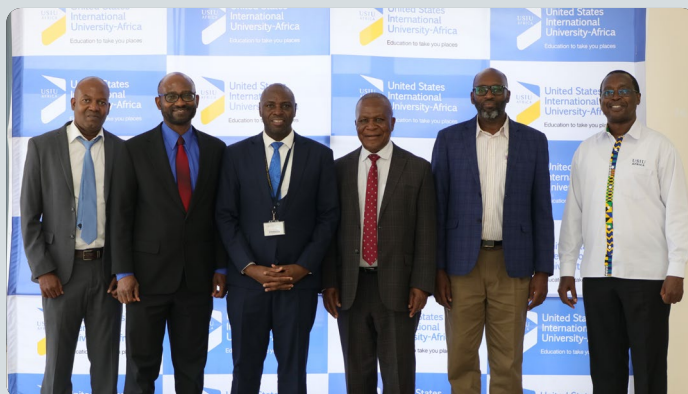
CAMPUS THIS WEEK

Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) consortium host a showcase event at USIU-Africa

> By Diana Meso

On Monday, May 6, Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) held a showcase event aimed at raising awareness about the AAP consortium, its activities and the impact it is making on member institutions. The hybrid event provided a platform for faculty, staff and students to interact with the AAP leadership in Africa, as well as showcase research projects and other interventions undertaken with AAP support.

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L-R: Dr. Tony Milanzi, Assistant Director AAP, Prof. Titus Awokuse, Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Partnerships at Michigan State University's International Studies and Programs, Prof. Amos Njuguna, DVC, Academics - Transformative Teaching, Learning, and Research, Prof. Richard Mkandawire, Director AAP, Dr. Patrick Wamuyu, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Prof. Martin Njoroge, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Science. Photo: Kairo Muturi.

Empowering Change: Insights from the NIERA 'Gamified Savings as Problem Gambling Intervention Dissemination Workshop'

> By Laura Were

The Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa (NIERA) recently held its first dissemination workshop for the "Gamified Savings as a Problem Gambling Intervention" research project, one of the flagship projects under NIERA's Demand Driven Research Initiative (DDRI). The event which took place in March this year, brought together policymakers, government stakeholders, and representatives from the gambling industry, and researchers eager to engage with the study's findings.

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Participants during NIERA's first dissemination workshop for the "Gamified Savings as a Problem Gambling Intervention" research project held at Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts. Photo: Kairo Ngamau.

SPORTS UPDATE

> By Nyariana Oluoch

Kickboxing



The USIU-Africa kickboxing team comprising Edward Wanjohi, James Mang'ana, Mina Visavadia, and Lisa Nyariana Oluoch proudly display their certificates of participation awarded after the tournament. Photo: Courtesy.

The kickboxing team demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment, impressing the audience and emerging victorious during the Nairobi Open Kickboxing Championship Tournament, earning a stunning total of four gold medals. Edward Wanjohi, James Mang'ana, Mina Visavadia, and Lisa Nyariana Oluoch stood out as the most successful individuals in their respective areas, earning them the greatest recognition, Gold. Edward Wanjohi and Coco Hawi demonstrated their exceptional skill and determination, earning silver medals that further established USIU-Africa's superiority in the competition.

The Nairobi Open kickboxing Championship not only honored the physical prowess and determination of the participants, but also demonstrated the strong sense of fair play and friendship that resonated throughout the venue.

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USIU-AFRICA IN PICTURES



The newly minted USIU-Africa cheerleaders, "The Iconics" debuted at the 2024 Summer Semester Freshmen Bash held on May 17 at Sahara West hotel. The freshmen had an opportunity to meet the cheerleaders as well Mr & Miss USIU-Africa, SAC representatives, club leaders and staff from the Student Life Department as part of their induction into the university community. They also learned about the various events, activities and clubs that USIU-Africa has to offer. Photo: Victor Aine.



Members of the Criminal Justice Club were privileged to attend the Fireside Chat with Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch at the U.S Embassy. She shared how she advocated for married women working as civil servants to receive housing allowance, established the Family Division at the High Court of Kenya as some of her notable achievements during her term. The students were accompanied by the club patrons, Ms. Terry Odhiambo and Ms. Racheal Ngumi as well as the club Chairperson, Stacie Mwangi. Photo: Courtesy.