

## USIU-Africa successfully bids to offer life skills training to thousands of youth

By Dan Muchai

USIU-Africa together with two other firms, has won a bid to train 34000 youths on a 10-day course on positive behaviour and employability, over a period of three years. The Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP) is funded by the International Development Association (IDA) through the Ministry of Public Service Youth and Gender Affairs Participants to address the challenges experienced by the youth in seeking employment opportunities.

The training is targeted at young people living in 6 counties in Kenya namely; Nairobi,

Kiambu, Machakos, Kitui, Nyandarua and Nakuru, and who are aged between 16 and 29 years of age. They must also have only completed their high school education, be without jobs and have experienced extended spells of unemployment or who are currently working in vulnerable jobs.

While signing the contract, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, lamented the challenges experienced by young people in seeking employment, observing that the 15 to 35 age group is rapidly converting to adult population having increased from 62.7% in 1979 to 66.6% in 2009. He therefore

hailed the program as a game changer in improving the livelihoods of the youth and improving Kenya's economic growth.

Prof. Zeleza further commended USIU-Africa for building on its long history of delivering soft skills training to the youth, having been the only University that won the bid to offer the program.

The project, will be executed in 9 cycles; the first one commencing in October 2018, where USIU-Africa will train 1613 youths in a non-residential setting using experiential

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Reaccreditation team wraps up on-campus visit

By Dan Muchai

The WASC Senior Colleges and Universities Commission reaffirmation of reaccreditation team to USIU-Africa ended their visit on Thursday, September 20, following an exit meeting with the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, senior university officials and leaders of the university's re-accreditation preparatory process.

The team was on campus from September 18-20, to assess the vericity of documents submitted as part of the university's reaffirmation of accreditation process.

While here they met with all constituencies including governing bodies, administrative officials, faculty, staff, students and alumni in order to receive direct feedback along the lines of inquiry they had earlier indicated.

Writing to the University at the conclusion of the visit, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza expressed his gratitude to all those



*Prof. Nancy Marlin (Professor of Psychology and Provost Emerita, San Diego State University) meets with Doctor of Business Administration students at the Research Training Room in the Incubation and Innovation Center on September 18, 2018, as part of the on-campus visit of the WSCUC reaffirmation of re-accreditation process. This is our first re-accreditation since we received accreditation as an independent institution in 2008.*

*Looking on are Associate Professor of Accounting Dr. George Achoki (second left) and Associate Professor of Strategic Management Dr. Paul Katuse (third left). PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI*

who prepared for the visit noting that the WSCUC team had been impressed by, "...the exceptional hospitality and the thoroughness and quality of the materials we submitted throughout the process."

He also mentioned that the various meetings

had left a very favorable impression with the WSCUC team who were "...impressed by the high levels of engagement in the various meetings, and the evident expression of pride and passion for the university's past,

*(continued on page 3)*

# USIU-Africa feted at Employer of the Year Awards

By Ernest Anguru

On Friday, September 21, 2018 USIU-Africa was among the top ten overall winners of the 2018 Employer of the Year Award, hosted by Federation of Kenya employers at Radisson Blu.

This award means that as USIU-Africa we are geared towards a demystified reward and remuneration process, flexible working environment, making the work place a new home for all and adoption of strategic HR dashboards and metric measurements. This reward is also a clear indication of our quest and commitment to academic

excellence, operational excellence and service excellence in pursuit of an education that takes our students places.

The Employer of the Year Awards (EYA) is an initiative by the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) that is geared towards promoting and encouraging best practices in Corporate Performance, People Management and Industrial Relations practices amongst employers in Kenya. This is in a bid to raise and sustain productivity, enterprise performance and responsibility.

The selection of winners entails a vigorous four stage survey process that entails;

survey administration, site visits, subject matter experts' review; and reporting and awards.

Organizations are rewarded for; Leadership and Governance; Corporate Performance; Innovations & Productivity; Responsible Business Conduct; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Work-Place Environment and Learning and Development.

This year, a total of 127 organizations including six Government agencies participated in the survey.

# USIU-Africa collaborates with Harvard, UoN to host annual African languages conference

By Dr. Naom Nyarigoti



Prof. Frederick Iraki, Professor of French and (Ag.) Chair, Department of Languages and Linguistics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences addresses the 9th Annual African Languages in the Disciplines and Professions (ALDP) Conference on August 23, 2018 at the USIU-Africa auditorium. PHOTO:ANTONIO LONGANGI

The Harvard African Language Program in the Harvard University Department of African and African American Studies, in collaboration with USIU-Africa and the School of Law, University of Nairobi organized the 9th Annual African Languages in the Disciplines and Professions (ALDP) Conference on August 23, 2018 at the USIU-Africa auditorium under the theme: Law and Language.

The Honorable Chief Justice (Retired) Dr. Willy Mutunga, delivered the 4th Neville Alexander Lecture - a series dedicated to the ALDP Conference - at the venue.

The conference brought together lawyers, linguists, academics, policy makers and students, to begin framing the subject on the intersection between Law and Language, and more particularly, the hidden interface between legal expression and meaning.

Participants discussed the idea of language as the carrier of legal norms, the primacy of language in the process of law making, interpretation and the interactional resourcefulness of language in legal processes. Critical questions were raised over decolonizing and indigenizing law to secure its transformative potential and the value-addedness of both language and law.

Some of the conclusions drawn from the conference include; *Critically interrogating the relationship between Law and Language is critical in addressing the challenges facing Kenya and Africa as whole in the areas of family, marriage, governance, religion, security, poverty environmental concerns and democracy; Synergy between linguists can help bridge the gap between law in the book and the law in action; and Encouraging multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary and cross disciplinary can help strengthen our understanding of the Kenyan practice system.*

The three collaborators expressed the need to establishment a journal as a medium for critical reflection on the subject, and to have this conference annually to continue the conversation with the aim of impacting policy.

## USIU-Africa lands life skills training for Kenyan youth

*Continued from page 1)*

learning in venues convenient to youth in each of the six counties. The training covers contemporary domains affecting the society such as gender violence, alcohol and drug abuse, human sexuality and HIV/AIDS, emerging forms of violence and integrity, amongst others.

Commenting on the significance of the project, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension Prof. Amos Njuguna, noted that the project will increase the number of programs targeting youth employability in USIU-Africa to four - the other three being the Launch Pad, which offers core business skills to enable youths to start their businesses; Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation (ESI) that is sponsored by Devki Group of Companies to provide critical entrepreneurial and work ethic skills to fresh graduates; and the Metro-Agribusiness Living Lab that focuses on young people interested in agri-business.

## Pharmacy Skills Lab stirs World Pharmacy Day celebration

By Dr. Were L. Munyendo

Members of the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences joined the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK) and the Pharmacy & Poisons Board (PPB) to commemorate the World Pharmacists Day 2018 through a walk from the PPB offices to PSK offices along Lenana Road, on Tuesday, September 25.

The annual World Pharmacists Day was designated by the International Pharmaceutical Federation in 2009 to “*promote and advocate for the role of the pharmacist in improving health in every corner of the world.*”

Speaking on behalf of the University at the event, Dr. Munyendo underscored how the Bachelor of Pharmacy program at USIU-Africa is at the fore of embracing the global shift in pharmacy training from ‘Pharmaceutical products-based’ to ‘patient based’ through operationalization of the first and only Pharmacy Skills Laboratory in

## Accrediting body officials complete on-campus visit

*Continued from page 1)*

*present, and future by the USIU-Africa community.”*

Other areas that drew the team’s commendation included the university’s financial health, effective incorporation of community service and internships in General Education, the contributions to improving higher education in the region, program assessment, and the university’s “*extraordinary commitment to students.*”

The team’s recommendations identified items already covered as areas of improvement submitted earlier as part of the self-study report, such as fundraising, restructuring of General Education, program assessment, recruitment of permanent faculty, and clarifying roles and

responsibilities of different governance bodies in light of new legal and regulatory mandates.

The WSCUC team will share a draft report with the University in about three weeks, and subsequently submit their report to WASC Senior Colleges and Universities Commission in February, 2019.

The Accreditation Liaison Officer who is also Dean of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences Prof. Angelina Kioko shall accompany the Vice Chancellor to the Commission’s meeting in March 2019, where they expect to receive an action letter - a formal document to convey the University’s accreditation status.



*Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK) President Dr. Louis Machogu poses for photo with USIU-Africa Pharmacy majors during the World Pharmacists Day 2018 at PSK offices, along Lenana Road in Nairobi. Photo: Courtesy*

Kenya. The Lab drew overwhelming interest from the gathered pharmacy professionals community, many of whom expressed their eagerness to tour and possibly use this unique facility at USIU-Africa.

The President of PSK Dr. Louis Machogu in his speech also reiterated the need for pharmacists to emphasis patient-based practice such as the Medication Therapy Management (MTM), recognizing USIU -Africa for its foresight in equipping a Pharmacy Skills Lab, as well as expressing the PSK’s interest in exploring avenues of partnerships for fruitful ventures that

will benefit the entire pharmaceutical community in Kenya.

Dr. Wilfred Ochieng, the Training Director at Pharmacy Poison Board used his speech to relay the ongoing preparations for policy change that shall see among others, the replacement of PPB with a Kenya Food and Drug Administration Agency, and a Pharmacist Council that shall mainly deal with licensing pharmacists to practice.

He also expressed his delight at schools of pharmacy for remaining up to date on international pharmaceutical practice and training trends.

# SPORTS UPDATES

By Antonio Longangi

The inaugural phase of the Nairobi Kenya Universities Sports Association (NAKUSA) league dominated the weekend of September 22 and 23. USIU-Africa was represented in 6 games that concluded in 3 victories and 3 losses at Kenyatta University.

In hockey, the ladies' team won 4 – 0 against Mount Kenya University (MKU) on Saturday, September 22. On same date their volleyball team counterparts won 3

– 0 against Kiriri Women's University. The soccer ladies' team lost 0 – 3 against Greta University while their male counterparts won 1 – 0 against Mount Kenya University (MKU) Thika, and finally the men's handball team lost 15 – 43 against Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

On Sunday, September 23, the men's soccer team lost 2 – 4 against Pan African Christian University (PAC University).

In the Kenya Basketball Federation (KBF) Premier League, the ladies' team lost 28 – 56 against Kenya Port Authority (KPA) basketball team in the first leg game held in Mombasa on Saturday, September 22. Same fate befell the men's team who lost

58 – 68 against the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) basketball team!

In other games played over the weekend, the men's rugby team lost 5 – 8 against Entebbe Mongers Rugby Club in an invitational game held in Kampala on Saturday, September 22, and in the Kenya Hockey Union (KHU) Premier League, the men's team lost 0 – 1 against the Kenya Police hockey team on Sunday, September 23 at the City Park Hockey Stadium.

## Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

**September 26:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Mediamax in an article titled *"Former champions gun down KPA in thriller."*

**September 26:** Mediamax mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Defending champions chase top placing in league."*

**September 25:** Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Debutants Lakers inch closer to women's top tier."*

**September 24:** Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Police return sends shock-waves in Hockey League."*

**September 24:** USIU-Africa was mentioned in article titled *"Storms, Equity enhance title chances."*

**September 24:** Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Gallant Warriors halt KPA's unbeaten run."*

**September 24:** Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Scorpions sting Vikings: KCAU hold Wazalendo to a 2-2 draw."*

**September 24:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Standard Digital in an article titled *"Zetech dribble closer to playoffs slot."*

**September 22:** Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Ruthless Telkom, Police enhance title chances."*

**September 22:** Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in article title *"KPA, Strathmore register wins."*

**September 22:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled *"KPA take on Ulinzi in KBF showdown."*

**September 22:** Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Police target*

*double victories: Defending champions long to narrow 12-point gap with league leaders Butali Sugar Warriors."*

**September 22:** USIU-Africa was mentioned by Citizen Digital in an article titled *"USIU-A men and women's teams chase points away in Mombasa against champions KPA."*

**September 22:** The Star mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Police look to intensify chase for the leaders Butalii."*

**September 21:** USIU-Africa mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Hosts KPA face stern tests in Mombasa."*

**September 21:** Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled *"Champions Police begin catch up game."*