

School hosts eminent researchers for week-long activities

By Dr. Edith Amuhaya

On Monday, February 26, Dr. Matthew L. Wallace (Senior Program Manager, International Development Research Center-IDRC), together with visiting professors, Prof. Juan Scaiano, Dr. Anabel Lanterna (both of University of Ottawa, Canada) and Prof. Tebello Nyokong (DST/NRF Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Nanotechnology, Rhodes University) met with top university officials for a high level meeting.

During the meeting, Dr. Wallace spoke about the IDRC's grant through the Trilateral Research Chair Initiative to Dr. Edith Amuhaya (Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry, School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences), Prof. Scaiano and Prof. Nyokong. The grant worth C\$ 1,000,000, involves the use of nanotechnology and light interactions to clean water and make it safe for consumption.

Another point of discussion was the possibility of initiating a link between USIU-Africa and University of Ottawa, Canada, which would see exchange of students between the two universities.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. James Ogolla (Director of University Advancement), and attended by Prof. Munyae Mulinge (Associate DVC – Academic Affairs), Prof. Njeri Wamae (Dean, School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences), Prof. Valerie Adema (Dean, School of Science & Technology), Prof. Amos Njuguna (Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research & Extension), Mr. Robert Onsarigo (Dean of Students), Dr. Edith Amuhaya and Mr. Eannes Ongus (Principal Fundraising Officer).

In his remarks, Mr. Ogolla appreciated the good working relationship the University has enjoyed in the past and highlighted its



Visiting professors, Prof. Juan Scaiano (left) and Dr. Anabel Lanterna (standing) both from the Center of Advanced Research Materials at the University of Ottawa in Canada, hosted a luncheon for 16 Bachelor of Pharmacy juniors at the Science Center Boardroom on Friday, February 23. The luncheon provided the visiting faculty with an opportunity to brief the Pharmacy students on their Center's (and Canada's) research and graduate study opportunities. Also present were Dr. Edith Amuhaya (Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry) and Dr. Betty Mbatia (Assistant Professor of Biochemistry). PHOTO: VICTOR MSHINDI

commitment to supporting the research project.

Later that day, a seminar was hosted by the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at the Science Center, and attended by faculty, staff and students from USIU-Africa, as well as faculty and students from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT), Karatina University, Kenyatta University, Multimedia University and the University of Nairobi. Dr. Wallace, Prof. Nyokong, Prof. Scaiano and Dr. Lanterna, spoke about the research project involving Prof. Nyokong, Prof. Scaiano and Dr. Amuhaya, and opportunities for funding through IDRC, as well as research and student exchange programs at the University of Ottawa and Rhodes University.

The seminar ended with a presentation by Prof. Njuguna about his School's activities

as well as graduate programs at USIU-Africa.

From Tuesday, February 27 to Friday March 2, Dr. Amuhaya convened a *Light Matter Interactions* Workshop at the Science Center, which was attended by students from Jomo Kenyatta University of Science & Technology (JKUAT), Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya, University of Nairobi and USIU-Africa.

The workshop which comprised a series of short lectures covering the areas of photochemistry, nanomaterials, and photocatalysis, and delivered by Prof. Nyokong, Prof. Scaiano and Dr. Lanterna, aimed at increasing student knowledge on interactions of light with matter and their applications, including the numerous opportunities for research in this area.



52 participants attended at a regional training workshop in Biorisk Management and Biosecurity Exam Certification held in the Science Center from February 26-27 and hosted by the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

School hosts Biorisk Management and Biosecurity Exam Certification Workshop

By Dr. Betty Mbatia

The School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences hosted a regional training workshop in Biorisk Management and Biosecurity Exam Certification from February 26-27, organized by the Biorisk Management Association of Kenya (BMAK), of which the School is a registered associate.

Prof. Njeri Wamae (Dean, School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) welcomed the 52 professional participants drawn from Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya to the workshop, which was officially opened by Mr. Albert Bunyasi - a representative of the Director of Medical

Services in the Ministry of Health.

With the world becoming a global village, increased travel has meant an increased risk of spread of diseases and thus a biosafety lapse in one country can now become an immediate threat to the health and economy of another country. The increase in infectious disease research throughout the world and the improved access to advanced technologies means that laboratories must be made as safe as possible to contain possible biological threats.

From March 6, the HeForShe Club under the theme “*Consent awareness*”, organized a Gender Equality Awareness Week to sensitize students on the importance of consent in sexual relationships, and inform them of the various support systems offered by the University and other organizations if and when sexual assault does take place.

The HeForShe Club which was formed to create awareness on gender equality, discrimination and bias in order to challenge stereotypes on gender roles and embrace a more gender-balanced world, also partnered with the Young Diplomats Club, who organized a debate on sexual harassment in the auditorium’s seminar room on Tuesday, March 6.

For instance, in May 2016, the Kenyan police service foiled an anthrax scare in one of the major Kenyan public hospitals while in 2017, two patients were admitted to Nyeri Level V Hospital with symptoms of anthrax. The certification workshop therefore aimed at providing training on fundamentals of biorisk management systems whose overall goal is to protect employees, the community and the environment from risks associated with biological agents handled in the laboratory as well as securing valuable biological material from theft and misuse that would pose a biosecurity lapse.

BMAK is an affiliate member state of the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), a global community of 41 national and regional biosafety associations with the mission of “*Safe, secure and responsible work with biological materials*”. Currently, the Federation is engaged in a project with BMAK and the Biosafety & Biosecurity Association of Uganda, to help develop strategic plans for strengthening biosafety and biosecurity in East Africa, in addition to expanding competencies and certification of professionals in biorisk management and biosecurity.

The Federation is also a vital Global Health Security Agenda partner, facilitating partnerships between its worldwide network of biosafety associations and national governments in the implementation of biosafety and biosecurity goals and objectives as outlined under Action Prevent Package Three.

The International Women’s Day 2018 was marked on Thursday, March 8 with a discussion panel, convened to explore the issue of “*Sexual Assault and Consent Awareness*” at the auditorium, and which also included a skit by USIU-Africa’s drama club - Michezo Afrika.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza stressed the importance of equal participation of women in education, policy and development. Thereafter, Ms. Minky Wanja (*Co-founder, Amazing Women Dialogues*) drew from her experiences as a former Gender Secretary at Kenyatta University, to affirm the prevalence of sexual assault on both sexes on campus,

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HeforShe Club celebrates International Women’s Day 2018

By Joy Nyokabi

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Club tackles sexual violence during Gender Awareness Week

while Ms. Faith Wafula (*Program Director, Brydges Skills Development Center*) shared her experience with sexual assault and provided a legal perspective of how to react to sexual assault.

Principal Counselor Mrs. Lucy Kung'u, whose Department of Counseling Services provides support services to victims of sexual assault on campus, expounded on

provisions of the Student Handbook, and the Sexual Harassment Policy launched in July last year. Both documents, she explained, underlined the significance placed by the University in preventing all forms of sexual violence, as well as protections for victims.

Finally, Ms. Wangeci Kahuria (*Program Analyst - Gender Based Violence, UN WOMEN*) provided the students with a

gender-based violence manual and shared various helplines (*116 - the Child helpline, 1195 - sexual and gender-based violence helpline*) that are useful in the unfortunate event of sexual assault.



Some of the students who participated in their the Fall 2017 CJS 4136 International Criminal Law and Procedure field trip to the Dutch city of The Hague, address fellow students during the debrief organized by the Criminal Justice program. PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

Criminal Justice program organizes debrief on Hague visit

By Dan Muchai

On Friday, March 2, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Simeon Sungi organized a debriefing session by the ten students who participated in the Fall 2017 CJS 4136 International Criminal Law and Procedure field trip to the Dutch city of The Hague.

The students visited the **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia** (a United Nations court of law

that dealt with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s), the **Special Tribunal for Lebanon** (established on 1 March 2009 to try persons accused of carrying out the 14 February 2005 attack which killed 22 people, including the former Lebanese Prime minister Rafik Hariri), the **International Criminal Court** (founded in 1998 in Rome, Italy, to investigate and prosecute individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern

to the international community - genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression) and finally the **Embassy of the Republic of Kenya**.

The Criminal Justice undergraduate program offers this course to provide students with a theoretical perspective on international criminal law and procedure, as well as address aspects of investigations, trial and punishment in the international criminal justice system.

Students undertaking this course acquire a practical knowledge on aspects relating to the international criminal justice system, and gain knowledge and skills that meet the program learning outcomes of *Higher Order Thinking; Literacy; Global Understanding and Multiculturalism; and Preparedness for Career*.

During the debrief, Ms. Marie Kimalyo, one of the students who participated in the field trip had this to say about her experience, "The field trip allows us to learn how outstanding global institutions established to safeguard human rights go about protecting these rights. We also toured parts of the Netherlands - a country full of diverse cultures, and a much more organized transport system."

This session provided the first opportunity for the participants to share their experiences and lessons with the university community.



263 staff, faculty and students turned up on Thursday March 1 to watch Dante Masia (International Business Administration Freshman) execute a dance move during the Dance Club's USIU-Africa Got Talent competition.

PHOTO: VICTOR MSHINDI

Journalism freshman bags talent show title

By Ashley Kamau and Victor Mshindi

The Dance Club in conjunction with the Fashion Club and the Music Club, raised KES 26,300 during the first edition of USIU - Africa Got Talent, on Thursday, March 1 at the auditorium.

The event, whose theme was "Rhythm of our Souls", aimed to grow and celebrate all artistic disciplines within the USIU - Africa community, and provide artistes with a platform to showcase and nurture their talents.

33 applicants underwent a series of auditions from February 26 - 27, resulting in a shortlist of 20 performers, who would rap, sing, dance and recite poetry, on Thursday, March 1.

Among those who turned up to witness the talent showcase were Mr & Miss Africa Nazarene University and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology.

Invitation to bid for disposal of assets

In an announcement to be published on Tuesday, March 20, the Department of Procurement will invite interested bidders for the disposal of assorted old or obsolete items for the year 2017-2018.

Bidders will be requested to view and verify the items since the sale is offered on "as-is where is" basis and make their own assessment before making their final bid.

Following much deliberation, the judges Miss USIU - Africa Akual Chan (*Criminal Justice Sophomore*), Mr. USIU - Africa Erick Onwen (*International Relations Freshman*), Miss Talent USIU - Africa Mercy Onyango (*Journalism Junior*), USIU-Africa's Mr. Talent Arief Adan (*Accounting Sophomore*) and Mr. USIU - Africa 1st runners up Feizal Ahmed (*Hotel & Restaurant Management Freshman*), declared Wesley Casmir (*Journalism Freshman*), the winner of USIU - Africa Got Talent for his awesome rapping skills. Dante Masia (*International Business Administration Freshman*) emerged second for his "double-jointed" dance performance.

The Dance Club plans to organize a similar event during the spring and summer semesters, to encourage the utilization of talent within the University community.

Viewing time will be Friday, March 23 between 9:00 a.m - 12:00 noon at USIU-Africa, where items shall be located and stored in lots (Bidding will be done in lots).

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to inspect and obtain the Bid Document from the University's Procurement Office.

Media Mentions

Compiled by Diana Meso

March 15: Business Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "*What research tells us about participative leaders.*"

March 14: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Kass FM in an article titled "*Ambassador Godec & U.S. Embassy Counter Fake News with Media Literacy Campaign.*"

March 12: China Daily mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "*Kenya stability good for region security, say experts.*"

March 12: Scrummage mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "*Championship week 12 review:JKUAT registers second win as Pirates,USIU fall.*"

March 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by The Standard newspaper in an article titled "*University Games: Visitors hand Maseno students bitter lessons.*"

March 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Scrummage in an article "*USIU held by UoE in a rescheduled Championship clash.*"

March 10: Scrummage mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "*USIU suffers heavy defeat in Nakuru as Bulls thumps Pirates.*"

March 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Scrummage in an article titled "*New date for USIU-UoE match.*"

March 9: Scrummage mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled "*USIU names 29-man squad for double assignments in Nakuru.*"

Upcoming Events

March 19: Guest Lecture by Journalism alumna Ms. Asha Mwilu

March 20-22: Drug Awareness Week

March 22: Kenya Institute of Special Education Conference

March 23: Publication Symposium