United States International University
Nairobi, Kenya
Commencement Ceremony
9th of December 2000

Vice Chancellor's Report

Our alumni and chief guest, Mr. Samuel Ncheeri, distinguished guests, board members, faculty, staff, alumni, graduates, family and friends. I would like to welcome you to the 2nd December Commencement Ceremony of United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya. We are here to honor the graduating class of 2000.

This time last year we were preparing for the Chartering of the University and tomorrow we will celebrate our first anniversary having received our Charter from His Excellency President Moi on the 10th of December 1999. We continue to be the only university in the Eastern Region that has dual accreditation, that is, we are recognized as a quality institution of higher learning by both the Kenyan government and the United States government. Rest assured that the graduates before you today are well equipped to meet the challenges that lie ahead of them.

Faculty
Our faculty has been involved in numerous activities this year. To mention a few: Dr. Samson Munywoki has had the following publications by Kenya Institute of Education: “Socialization for Development” and “The Role of Student-Teacher Identification in Education.” In August he also presented a paper at the annual conference of the American Psychology Association in Washington DC. Ms. Mohamed is attending a workshop in Cape Town, South Africa on Managing Small and Medium size enterprises. Dr. Meoli Kashorda attended AFRINET conference in Nigeria and presented a paper titled "Developing an Internet-based teaching and learning environment - The case of a Kenyan University." Faculty participated in a Teaching Improvement Workshop in September facilitated by Peter Seldin, a Distinguished Professor of Management at Pace University in New York. Faculty learned how to document their teaching activities using the Teaching Portfolio.

Within the Office of Academic Affairs, 4 new faculty members have been hired bringing our full time faculty number to 40.

STAFF
Staff have been involved in a series of workshops that focused on health issues. Supervisors have benefited from internal training on how to be better managers.

Students Affairs
Our Office of Student Affairs has been very busy this year as well. Career Counselling program was organised to enhance students' skills for movement into the job market. Prospective employers such as Safari Park Hotel, Unilever Kenya Limited, Proctor and Gamble, Capital F.M. have been on campus to talk to the senior students. Students have
been successful in being placed at the above as well as: Nairobi Stock Exchange, Coca Cola, Kenya Breweries, Citi Bank, Wananchi Online, Metro T.V.

Currently, several USIU graduate students are working as Research Assistants for a WHO Research funded program in Nairobi and Mombasa.

**SAC AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

Our students continue to be giving. The Student Affairs Council (SAC) and the sports teams organised and sponsored a Christmas party for children at **Mathare School For Special Children**. It was a very successful event that saw the children and their parents, teachers and the Board members enjoy the day. Br. Vincent and his Spanish students organised our annual Pinata Day, which involves collecting toys, sweets, clothes and even food to donate to disadvantaged children during the festive season of Christmas. The beneficiary was the Kwa Watoto Children's Home who were invited by SAC for the event.

The most glamorous event sponsored by SAC took place at the carnivore on the 9th of November 2000, the Mr. and Miss USIU contest. Mr. Anthony Ngatiari and Miss Esther Mumbi won Mr and Miss USIU respectively. Mr. Anthony Ngatiari of USIU went on to win the Mr. University title. He will be travelling to New York for the World event of Mr University

**Sports**

The USIU men's basketball team finished 2nd in Div II and represented Nairobi province in the inter-province league. The team won all the games in the league and has now been promoted to Div I. Harry Omondi Kaudia of USIU was voted the Most Valuable Player by the Kenya Basketball Federation National office.

The USIU soccer team participated in the Kenya Football Federation Nairobi Province Zone matches are now participating in the playoffs. If they win, they will be promoted to the super two league under the Kenya Football Federation.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum remains dynamic in order to meet the needs of our students and the changing global market. We have introduced a baccalaureate degree in Information Technology and a master's degree in International Relations this academic year.

**Library**

The library continues its aggressive expansion of resources. If you have time, please visit our multi-media center on the top floor of the library extension. This center provides students with online databases to over 6000 periodicals many full text as well as cd rom databases. These all facilitate student and faculty research for classes, project and papers.

**Technology**

Technology costs are never ending. There is always the need to upgrade software and hardware. We continue with this ongoing process of staying current so that our students can be competitive in the market place. We are in the process of expanding our computer lab to house 75 computers by next quarter. By next year there will be a total of 100 computers in the lab to meet the growing demand. Another lab is under renovation now to handle the number of Information Technology majors that have emerged. It also seems
as though more students are now taking advantage of our online registration...with a bit of a push from Academic Affairs.

**Facilities/Land**

We have continued to improve and expand our facilities. The road you used to enter the campus was completed about 8 months ago. Of all the projects we have completed, I think we get the most comments on the road. We are now completing the auditorium. We had hoped it would have been finished in time for graduation but alas.. not yet. With our drama club blossoming, it won't be long before you will be returning to see some wonderful plays written, produced and directed by our students and workshops and conferences to advance your desires for life long learning.

**Future Directions**

Every year the administration goes on a retreat to review and update our Strategic Plan with the input of various departments and the faculty senate. This year we revised our plan for the next five years. We have examined our growth and are looking at expanding over the next five years in the following ways:

1. Expand enrollment to 3000 by the year 2005.

2. Increase the number of full time faculty from 40 to 65 by 2005

3. **Curriculum**
   
   - establish an undergraduate science based program by 2004,
   - expand journalism to include electronic media and a master's in journalism by 2003,
   - revise and expand the psychology program by 2002
   - add two new programs in the School of Business and a doctoral program by 2003
   - seek professional accreditation for our business programs

4. **Facilities.**
   
   Last year, the University acquired an additional 60 acres of land in the Garden Estates area bringing our total land base to 80 acres. We will begin the master planning for this property in January

   Facilities will be expanded to include:
   
   - more playing fields and changing rooms
   - more classrooms and office space for faculty
   - technology and research center
   - hotel, restaurant and tourism management training facilities
   - more space in the library
To the Graduates

I'd like to close by saying a personal word to the graduates. Just as USIU has changed over the past year, you too have been transformed into a different person as a result of your educational experiences. As graduates of USIU, we feel you learned not only through the content of the classes you have completed but also through your social interactions with people from other nations. As the world grows smaller through technology, it becomes even more critical that we all understand and value the differences of others. USIU provides us with a microcosm of the new world order, you will lead. And as Machiavelli cautions there is nothing more difficult nor more uncertain of success than leading a new order of things. "Your education at USIU has equipped you for this challenge with higher order thinking, oral, written and technical literacy, global understanding and a multicultural perspective, preparedness for your chosen careers and a desire to be of service to your communities. We, the faculty and staff of USIU know that you are the future leaders of the new world order. As you prepare to meet your new opportunities, responsibilities, and challenges; I would like to leave you with excerpts from the poem, "On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou.

Lift up your eyes
Upon this day breaking for you.
Give birth again
To the dream....

... The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space
To place new steps of change
Here, on the pulse of this fine day.

Congratulations!