

## Prof. Alondra Nelson, member of USIU-Africa's Board of Trustees nominated to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) at the White House

By CTW Team



Prof. Nelson during the announcement of nominees of the White House science office. She will step down from her membership of USIU-Africa's Board of Trustees once her appointment is confirmed. Photo courtesy of C-SPAN.

Prof. Alondra Nelson, one of the members of USIU-Africa's Board of Trustees has been appointed to the White House science team, announced recently by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The science team will be led by Eric Lander, who is the nominee for Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which will be elevated to a Cabinet-level position. Prof. Alondra will serve as the Deputy Director of the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology, and will work alongside Frances Arnold and Maria Zuber, who will serve as co-chairs of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

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## USIU-Africa takes part in Japan-Kenya cultural exchange luncheon

By Dr. Quin Awuor



The Embassy of Japan in Kenya recently celebrated their annual Japan-Kenya Cultural Exchange at the Japanese Ambassador's Nairobi residence, and invited the University in addition to two professors from the University of Nairobi. The purpose of the invitation was two-fold: to promote cultural exchange between Kenyan universities and the Embassy, and to have a forum at which there could be an exchange of views and information on matters relating to university education, control and prevention of COVID-19.



Madam Yuko demonstrates the Japanese Tea Ceremony, known as Chado.



The Japanese delegation also performed an array of songs in Japanese, Kiswahili and English for the guests.

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The delegation from the USIU-Africa team was led by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Amb. Ruthie Rono, who was accompanied by Dr. Katsuji Nakamura, a lecturer in Japanese Language, and Dr. Quin Awuor, the Acting Chair of the Chair Department of Languages & Literature.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Rono noted that the event was significant in the strengthening of ties between the embassy and the University. [Read more >](#)

## What to know about cervical cancer: Risks, treatment and prevention

By Lucy Kung'u



The COVID-19 virus has shaken the whole world and shifted the focus of everybody, putting the world in a position where people can easily turn a blind eye to other equally fatal diseases like cancers, communicable diseases, HIV & AIDS among others. January is world cervical cancer awareness month and as such, it is important to note that cervical cancer is still here with us.

Cervical cancer is a type of reproductive health cancer that occurs in the cells of the cervix — the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. It is the fourth most common cancer in women ranking after breast cancer (2.1 million cases), colorectal cancer (0.8 million) and lung cancer (0.7 million). In 2018 alone, approximately 570 000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide and about 311 000 women died from the disease which is quite on the higher side. Moreover, cervical cancer was the leading cause of cancer-related death in women in Eastern, Western, middle, and Southern Africa. Specialists state that 75% of cervical cancers are preventable through cervical cancer screening that leads to early diagnosis. [Read more >](#)

## Restructuring African Universities post-COVID-19

By Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza and Dr. Paul M. Okanda

COVID-19 has devastated and upended the world economy and healthcare systems and Universities across the globe have not been spared. The pandemic has posed enormous challenges and accelerated profound changes in higher education that were already underway. In response, universities need to change their priorities, operations, and service delivery, which affects their organizational structure and governance.

Seven key transformations are particularly pertinent: reduced resources, growing competition, the impact of the Fourth industrial revolution, the changing nature of jobs, shifts in university demographics, growing public demands on universities, and of course the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

### Changes in the Higher Education landscape

The reduction in resources is engendered by, and evident in, four main ways:



first, declining government support, a phenomenon that started at the turn of the 1980s with the triumph of neo-liberalism, which manifested itself in Africa through draconian structural adjustment programs; second, student tuition pressures as universities adopted 'cost sharing' measures; third, increased competition for research

grants and donations as the numbers of universities expanded and pressures for academic productivity intensified; and fourth, the persistent under-development of cultures of philanthropy for higher education institutions across Africa notwithstanding the explosion of high net-worth individuals.

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