Tom Olang, a Daystar University Master of Communication student was among more than 80 students who participated in the Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change in Austria, in July 2017.

During the three-week programme participants created a series of interactive exercises to educate others about global populism and extremism in Salzburg, Austria. This year’s Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change was entitled Voices Against Extremism: Media Responses to Global Populism. The focus was to reflect on media coverage of global populism and create new tools to combat misinformation.

Tom Olang won a scholarship from the Salzburg Academy, through Daystar, to travel to Austria. He was accompanied by Dr. Rosemary Nyaole, Head of Communication Department. Daystar is the only University in Africa that partners with Salzburg Academy on Media.

Themes explored in this year’s publication are children’s rights, climate change, reporting on extremism, the
protection of journalists, the power of photo manipulation, the history and future of populism, violence against women, and freedom of information.

“After experiencing the programme, I can confirm that I made the best choice in my academic life, said Olang, adding that the opportunity had enabled him to network with faculty and students from diverse cultures; made friends and useful contacts and learnt a lot in the process.

I am now really media literate! My cultural fluency has also soared considerably,” he noted.

The Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change was launched by Salzburg Global Seminar, an international non-profit organization, in 2007 in partnership with leading universities on five continents.

Over its 11 years, more than 700 alumni have taken part in the three-week programme at its home, the palace Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria.

The Academy has taken a pioneering lead in media education, tackling issues of global concern with a focus on media literacy and civic engagement. Alumni from the Academy have been inspired to become change-makers and leaders, taking pro-active positions in education, media, technology and politics.
Daystar Mourns Prof. Samantha Ramsay

Nutrition Researchers Pay Tribute To Departed Colleague

The Daystar University community has joined the Faculty and staff of the University of Idaho to mourn and pay tribute to Prof. Samantha Ramsay, who died on July 30, 2017.

Prof. Ramsay, an associate professor of Food and Nutrition at the University of Idaho in Moscow was part of a global team of researchers and faculty that delivered a two-day workshop on Grant Proposal Writing and a one-day Health and Nutrition conference at Daystar University from May 21-23, 2017.

The research team was assembled courtesy of Daystar University Chancellor Prof. Mary Murimi, a professor of nutrition at the College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University in USA.

News of her death was broken to Daystar University by Dr. Chris Taylor, a Faculty member at Ohio State University who was also part of Prof. Murimi’s team of international speakers at the Inaugural Chancellor’s Forum 2017 last May.

Media reports from the Daily Mail (UK) and Moscow-Pullman indicate that Prof. Ramsay was hit by lightning on Sunday July 30 after she was reportedly caught up by surprise thunderstorm while climbing the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps. Her climbing partner quickly called rescue but she was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

By the time of her death, she was an assistant professor of nutrition at the Margaret Ritchie School of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Prof. Ramsay lost her husband, Rob Ramsay, only a year ago on August 4, 2016, following after a year-long battle with brain cancer. The couple is survived by two sons, Ryan, 12, and Reidar, 9.

Wrote Dr. Chris Taylor: “It is with a heavy heart that I share some sad news with our Daystar family. Professor Samantha Ramsay, my close friend and our partner in the grantsmanship workshop and Chancellor’s Forum, had a fatal accident mountain climbing in Switzerland a week ago. This has been a difficult time for all who knew her. Despite our brief time in Kenya this summer, it is clear to know the impact she had on the people she met.”

Dr. Taylor further to have spent time with Prof. Ramsay at a meeting organized by Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
in Washington DC, USA. “She lived her life to the fullest with an infectious impact on all of the lives she touched,” he noted.

He appealed for prayers for the late Prof. Ramsay’s family, especially her two sons, who are dealing with this loss.

Within minutes of receiving the sad news, messages of shock, grief and condolence poured in from the Daystar University leadership, other speakers and those who worked with the deceased during the Grant Proposal Writing workshop and the Chancellor’s Forum.

Daystar University Vice Chancellor Prof. Timothy Wachira wrote: “I acknowledge and appreciate her role in [the] Daystar Faculty development initiative. We condole with her family and friends, including our Chancellor.”

Condolence Messages

“It is with shock that we receive the sad news of the resting Prof. Ramsay. We pray that the Lord will give you comfort and grace as you and family mourn the loss. Peace of Christ be with you at this time,” Mr. Jomo Gatundu, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration, Daystar University.

“Shocking indeed!!! May the good Lord comfort and strengthen us, and also strengthen all those saddened by her demise. We have been working together on the post-Chancellor’s conference to bring our research grant writing to fruition..... God help us!” Prof. Sr. A.L. Lando, Chair, Local Organizing Committee, Daystar University Chancellor’s Forum, May 23, 2017.

This is very sad news indeed. [It is] hard to swallow and believe that Prof. Ramsay is no more. May the peace of God surround her children and the whole family,” Dr. Martha Kiarie, School of Science, Engineering and Health and a Member of the Organizing Committee.

“Very sad and shocking news. We pray God to comfort the family, friends and relatives.” Prof. Michael Bowen, Director of Research and Publication and Convener, Grant Proposal Writing workshop, May 21-22, Daystar University.
“What? This is so sad. May God rest her soul in eternal peace and give comfort to the children, family and friends.”

Dr. Judith Kimiywe, Associate Professor and Certified Nutrition Specialist, Department of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics at Kenyatta University.

“So sad indeed. I remember her infectious and indeed engaging discourses. She was thoughtful and passionate in all she did. This is a great loss to the family, colleagues, the global nutrition body and friends at large. I can only pray for peace during this hard time, especially to the boys. Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!”

Mr. Joab Namai, Organizing Committee Member.

“This is very sad news. May the Lord rest her soul in eternal peace and comfort all those who knew her and especially her kids; and may the good and faithful God indeed be the Father to the orphans. Only Him can bring meaning to this meaningless situation. It was great interacting with her during the conference.”

Prof. Abraham Waithima, Director, Daystar Leadership and Professional Development Institute (DLPDI) and Organizing Committee Member.

“This is deeply painful. May the peace of God that exceeds humans be shared among all her loved ones and them that knew her. It was great meeting her… although I couldn’t tell that I was seeing her for the [first and] last time. May God’s peace reign upon our hearts.”

Rev. Steven Nduto, Daystar University Chaplain.

“Oh my God! This is such a shock after a weekend of mourning and burying another colleague who was close to me. My deepest condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. May the Almighty God rest her soul in eternal peace and may those close to her be consoled and find peace.”

Dr. Violet Wanjihia, Research Scientist and Head of Nutrition Unit, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

“Oh no! This is terrible. I am so sorry to hear this. My prayers are with the family and her boys especially.”

Dr. Wilna Oldewage-Theron, Prof. of Nutrition, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University.
Back home, fond memories shared by her friends indicated that Dr. Ramsay was rarely anything less than enthusiastic, active and energetic.

Samantha Ramsay seems to have always maintained a high level of activity, having played volleyball for Penn State for two and a half years before finishing up her degree – and college volleyball career – at Washington State University, where she met her husband.

In a news report filed by Shanon Quinn in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, Shawn O’Neal, a family friend said that Samantha was always on the go.

“She was the most alive person I ever knew. She and Rob both were,” said Shawn.

Aside from her passion for outdoor adventures, Dr. Ramsay is reported to have had her focus was on her two sons.

“She was the kind of mom that wanted her kids to be like her, to be active and always doing something,” added Shawn.

UI President Chuck Staben also addressed the loss in a university statement.

“We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Samantha Ramsay, a highly regarded faculty member in our College of Agricultural and Life Sciences,” Staben wrote in the emailed statement.

Staben offered the university’s thoughts and condolences to Samantha Ramsay’s family, friends and colleagues.

“We join the entire Vandal family in mourning the loss of a talented instructor, respected colleague and caring member of the UI community,” he wrote.

Shawn, who said he hadn’t yet had time to process the death of his friend, four days short of a year after her husband died, called the relatively short time he had the couple in his life “a blessing.”

“These were … sterling, active people,” he noted.

During her three-day engagement at Daystar University, Dr. Ramsay displayed unequalled drive and energy as at the Grant Proposal Writing workshop soon after the team arrived in Nairobi.

Sources:
Daily Mail Online: www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article
Moscow-Pullman Daily News: www.moscow-pullman.com

5th Annual Pacemaker Graduation

Annual Pacemaker’s International held its 5th graduation on Friday 3rd August, 2017 at the Daystar University Auditorium. The graduation saw 100 students graduating from the six-month Volunteer programme, which is held in the various schools where students are placed.

Pacemaker International targets students who have just finished High School before joining university. They are trained to teach in various primary schools in Kenya, bridging the teacher shortage experienced in the country.

During the six-month Volunteer programme students are distributed to various underserviced schools in the country where they are challenged to mentor young primary school pupils as well as become teaching assistants based on their subject strengths.

The graduation was filled with inspiring speeches from the Founder, Ms. Peggy Mativo, a graduate of the programme, AIESEC President Elect Ms. Lorrain Syumit, and Daystar University student President, Mr. Aloys Otieno.

Peggy Mativo encouraged the students to not let fear bar them from achieving their dreams. She also congratulated the students for their good work and determination during the duration, stating that what they did was extraordinary.
During the ceremony the students were treated to short movie clips challenging them to see that they are bigger and greater than their fears, and to shine their light so as to unconsciously motivate others to do the same.

AEISEC President Elect, Ms. Lorrain Syumit congratulated the graduates for participating in a programme that positively impacts the society. She compared the programme with AEISEC because both institutions encouraged young people to join such volunteer programmes and help the community.

Daystar University Student President Mr. Aloys Otieno shared his story on the journey to his coveted presidential seat, confessing that his victory was all thanks to putting God first and being visionary.
Weekly Inspiration

“Less ego more excellence, less talk more do, less rude more polite, less fear more wins.”

- Robin Sharma -

SEMESTER THEME: STANDING UP TO BE COUNTED

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)

Chapel Diary

Athi River Campus – Chapels

Tuesday 15th August

8:30am-10:00am

Amphitheatre

Nairobi Campus – Chapels

Monday 14th August

5:30pm – 6:30pm

DAC Auditorium

BEREAVEMENT

Mr. Kevin Maina from Admissions and Records department lost his Father on Thursday, 3rd August 2017. The burial took place on Wednesday 9th August 2017 at Ng’arua, Nyahururu, in Laikipia County.

Let’s support and keep Kevin and his family in prayer during this difficult period. You can get in touch with Kevin through 0720852552.