



Cover Story:
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B360 Interns Return

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2015 Departmental Overview



The mandate of the Department of International Relations is to position the institution internationally through the development of strategic international partnerships and facilitation of the integration of international best practices in the programmes, teaching, research and other services of the institution.

Consistent with the mandate and high-level strategic documents of the institution, the Department of International Relations will focus in 2015 on the development of new strategic partnerships in coordination with the schools, proactive identification of broad priority areas to be pursued in international engagements, strengthening of mechanisms to promote

efficiency and effectiveness in international engagements, resource mobilization to facilitate staff and student mobility and updating of the database with particular focus on international agreements, including the status of the agreements.

The highlight of the activities of the Department on campus is hosting the International Education Day, which will take place on 16 September 2015. The main objective of the day is to raise awareness on the importance of internationalisation in education in the context of a competitive globalised world, and to provide information on international educational opportunities. It is our sincere expectation that national students would see themselves as part of the events, and therefore, actively participate in the activities and gain knowledge on internationalisation of education and international educational opportunities.

The Department will also continue with its work of facilitating visa applications as well as facilitating, coordinating and supporting international activities and creating a positive learning environment for international students.

Inside This Issue

We are trying something new with our newsletter. This is our first IR News to be completely designed within the department. Inside this issue you will find different sections to guide your reading to the news items that are most interesting to you.

The “**Featured Partner**” section will be a permanent feature in the newsletter. Each time a country will be highlighted. In this issue our featured partner is the Federal Republic of Germany. Read stories beginning on **page 3** to see the depth and breadth of Germany’s investment in the Polytechnic.

The “**Student News**” section will also be a permanent feature and it aims to give voice to the experiences of our international students, outgoing, and incoming exchange students. Read about our best and brightest starting on **page 5**.

We have included a “**Fulbright Scholars**” section to highlight the contributions of the scholars we have hosted this year. Get to know our American visitors starting on **page 8**.

Finally, the “**Travellers & Visitors**” section talks about the various incoming visitors and outgoing travellers for international collaboration purposes. Read all about it from **page 10**.

We hope you will enjoy our first semester newsletter issue and we look forward to your continued readership.

Department of International Relations

Protocol and Business Etiquette Training

Staff members of the Department International Relations (IR) attended a Protocol and Business Etiquette Training Workshop in February 2015. The objective of the workshop was to familiarise and empower the staff members with the knowledge, skills and attributes expected in international interactions, including the political, social and cultural sensitivities of international relations.

Ms Christine Van Heerden, Director of International Protocol Consultants from Pretoria, South Africa facilitated the workshop, which was organised through SC Consultancy & Training Services CC. Some of the topics covered included: Definition and meaning of protocol and etiquette; Invitations, introductions, forms of address and acknowledgements; Business dress and the colour psychology; Environmental and business body language; Cultural contexts in international engagements; and General etiquette in a diplomatic environment.

One lesson that we have learned at the workshop was that any error in international interactions is interpreted as calculated or deliberate, hence the need to be conscious of protocol and business etiquette in any international engagement. The training was deemed so important and helpful that after learning about it, others at the Polytechnic expressed interest in receiving training and a separate training for managers was arranged.



Yatva Hinda, Christine van Heerden, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, Dr Marius Kudumo



Ms van Heerden in action during the protocol training session for managers.

Meet Our New Team Member: Nico Smit



Nico is the International Relations Officer for the School of Computing & Informatics and the School of Health & Applied Sciences.

Nicolaas Albertus Smit was born in Cape Town, South Africa in June 1982, and grew up in Windhoek. He attended high school at Paul Roos Gymnasium in Stellenbosch and studied at the University of Cape Town. Nico holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science, Industrial Sociology and Organisation Psychology, as well as a postgraduate Honours degree in International Relations. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Sociology, with a particular focus on the labour movement in Namibia.

Nico has been employed with the Polytechnic since May 2012 as a Journalist with the Department of Marketing, Communications and Alumni and prior to that he worked as a Journalist for The Namibian Newspaper. "My role as the Poly's journalist has allowed me to gain an all-round understanding of the institution; its programmes and activities and this experience and knowledge will definitely come in handy in my new job role."

"I believe education is the greatest equaliser, and I will do my best to ensure that as many Poly students as possible are able to undertake international academic exchanges opportunities in order to grow themselves and enrich their lives."

This year, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Namibia celebrates 25 years of diplomatic relations with Namibia. Through various agencies and ministries, Germany has provided consistent and broad support to the education sector in Namibia. As such, over the past 20 years, the Polytechnic of Namibia has benefited immensely from institutional partnerships, research funding, academic exchange, and donation of equipment. The stories below are some examples of the depth and breadth of Germany's commitment to developing the education sector in Namibia.

Poly Hosts Green Infrastructure Workshop

The Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning (DASP) hosted a workshop on Green Infrastructure and Urban Biodiversity (GUIB) in Sub-Saharan Africa recently. Some of the aspects explored included: diversity of habitat types, size of urban green space and intensity of land-use/disturbance of urban green space.

Prof Samson Umenne, the DASP Head of Department and the Polytechnic coordinator for the collaboration welcomed Masters in Environmental Planning students Sabine Krüger, Charlotte Waack, Susanne Schniete, Lisa Hübotter and staff members Professor Dr Ruediger Prasse and Professor Dr Gerhard Albert from Leibniz University of Hannover (LU) in Germany. The visiting scholars worked closely with DASP staff and visited industry partners such as Gammams Water Works, City of Windhoek and the Ministry of Works and Transport.

The workshop is part of a four year joint research project involving the Polytechnic of Namibia, the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC), the

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana and LU in Germany.

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) funded project is coordinated by LU and will operate until 2017. The aim of the research is to produce lecture modules, a bibliography and an instructional manual on GUIB in Sub-Saharan Africa for Masters in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning students.



Prof Samson Umenne with the visiting students from Leibniz University.

GIZ Donates Land Surveying Equipment



Prof Tjama Tjivikua, Rector; Albert Engel, GIZ Country Director; Dr Nashilongo Shivute, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Land Reform; and Mr Ullrich Kinne, Deputy Head of Mission.

The German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), donated high end equipment to the School of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences. The equipment will further research by the Polytechnic, the Ministry of Land Reform, and

GIZ under the Supporting Land Reform Project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project aims to implement a land reform strategy that ensures fair and equitable access to land in Namibia.

The equipment donated is worth N\$1.2 million and includes a fixed-wing surveying drone, high resolution cameras and high-performance computers used for aerial mapping. The drone, which was manufactured in Namibia, has potential usage in other fields such as nature conservation.

GIZ has been collaborating with the Polytechnic for the past ten years through capacity building and financial support to various projects, including the Masters in Integrated Land Management, and the Earth Observation Satellite Applications Research and Training Centre (EOSA-RTC). GIZ Country Director, Mr Albert Engel, emphasized the importance of producing quality research data and training students with sophisticated technology.

SASSCAL MoA Creates Joint Masters Programme

The Polytechnic of Namibia, University of Botswana, University of Zambia and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) that will create a joint Masters in Geo-information Systems, Remote Sensing and Earth Observation. The Masters programme will be housed in the Department of Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology, and will be the fifth Masters programme to be offered within the School of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences (SNRSS).

The signing of the MoA, which was preceded by two years of meetings and negotiations, is only the beginning, as the hard work of actual implementation of the programme begins next year once all the logistics and details are finalised. Speaking at the MoA signing ceremony, Mr Lameck Mwewa, Dean of SNRSS, decried the tendency of universities in the South to partner mostly with universities in the North and praised the departure of this programme in engaging in South-South collaboration.

The MoA is part of Task 303 under the capacity building thematic area of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) Project. Sponsored by the

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, SASSCAL is a €53 million regional project involving universities and governmental bodies in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Germany. The aim of the project is to address the impact of climate change on water, agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity as well as to develop capacity within partner nations. Since its inception in 2010, the project has issued 85 tasks/sub projects and afforded many post graduate students opportunities to engage in research, including 7 doctoral students in Namibia.



Representatives from the four universities and the SASSCAL country director sign the agreement.

BSEL Partnership Intensifies



Pictured L-R: Prof Dr Birgitta Sticher, Dr Stefan Schulz, Prof Dr Sabrina Schonrock, Mr Christian Matzdorf, Ms Delvaline Mowes and Prof Dr Claudius Ohder.

The partnership between the Polytechnic of Namibia and the Berlin School of Economics & Law (BSEL) has intensified this year with several activities having taken place.

Four students from the Polytechnic's School of Management Sciences were awarded scholarships for a semester exchange to BSEL. The scholarship, which is sourced from BSEL funds and a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) grant, caters for flight tickets and monthly living allowances for six months.

The scholarship recipients were: Mekukove Veii (3rd year Economics), Johanna Nautwima (3rd Year Economics), Shafohamba Augustus (4th Year Business Administration) and Bro-Mathew Niikondo (4th year Business Administration). The students travelled to Germany in March where they have enrolled in an intensive German language course before beginning the semester in April.

Shortly after sending students to Berlin, the Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies in the School of Human Sciences welcomed a delegation from BSEL. The delegation visited to fine tune the details of collaboration in the area of criminal justice. The partners previously applied for and successfully secured a DAAD grant to fund their cooperation. The grant provides €50,000 per year for four years to fund student and staff exchange and joint academic research and teaching in criminal justice and legal studies. Funds from this grant have already funded two of the students currently on exchange and it is expected that Polytechnic faculty will travel to Berlin during the second semester.

The Polytechnic and BSEL forged the partnership in 2013 as a result of a visit led by BSEL Vice President for International Affairs, Prof Dr Andreas Zaby.

B360 Interns Share Their Experiences in Switzerland



Leena Shipanga (4th year, Accounting)
Internship Period: February-April 2015
Company: Credit Suisse
Division: Private Banking and Wealth Management
Area: Asset Management Switzerland & MACS C.O.O
Unit: Performance Analytics

“I spent an amazing internship in Switzerland. I was honoured to be part of a very dynamic team. I worked a lot with the different team members, which was an interesting experience for me. I have gained the gift of believing in myself, knowing that I can achieve anything. Credit Suisse is a great company and I have gained a lot of exposure. I have learned the importance of business, how the business world works and to me this was the greatest experience. I have been involved in quite a number of projects, and my Excel skills have become impressive. I also learned how to work with database systems and many more technological tools.

Also, I collaborated with many different people, like our partners in India and elsewhere. Everyone had something different to offer. I have learned a lot about people. For me, this was amazing, because people are the core of business. In understanding this I was able to gain their trust and work independently since I showed my interest and capabilities.”

“From day one, everything was ready for me to get started at my new working place at Credit Suisse. I received my first task on my very first day, which was encouraging, as it made me realize that these people meant business.

In my first week, I was required to study online courses that would introduce me to banking practices and various aspects of the Wealth and Management Business. These courses sped up my understanding of what the department does and how they do it in an ethical manner. Later on I was exposed to different aspects of the business through various projects. I met with different team heads within the Index Solutions, Business Core and Management Department to get an overview of the overall business and how it operates. I learnt a lot in a very short period. I improved my Excel, communication and analytical skills. I also learnt how to behave in an ethical manner within the work place.

I worked on projects such as cross border certification and year-end agreement and I was responsible for monthly cost reports and monthly business highlight reports. I loved working with my two line managers, Daniel Tretheway and Marisa Rondinelli. I met a lot of role-models within my department that greatly inspired me. I was astonished how much people know and how far they have gone with their academics. This was a great opportunity for me, and serves as platform to start my career in banking and finance. It made me realize that one is only limited to achieve more, by one’s own choice.”



Jason Kaindume, (4th year, Economics)
Internship Period: February-April 2015
Company: Credit Suisse
Division: Private Banking and Wealth Management
Area: Index Solutions and Business Core Management

Hospitality Students off to Finland



Dr Erling Kavita, HOD for Hospitality & Tourism Management with Kuliwoye Shitundeni, Salome Nguaike and Melissa Coetzee.

Three students from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management in the School of Management Sciences will spend their second semester in Finland attending classes at the Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK). The exchange is part of the partnership agreement between the Polytechnic of Namibia and TAMK, which has allowed eight Polytechnic students to travel to Finland over the past two years.

In addition to the tuition fee waiver provision in partnership agreements, TAMK will generously pay for the students' visa fees, flight tickets and provide a monthly living allowance of N\$5,000. The students, who are all in their final year, were selected by the Department through a competitive application process.

Informatics Students Travel to Cameroon



Mr Josphat Mukabi, Deputy HOD for Informatics (far right) pictured with other workshop participants.

Mr. Josphat Mukabi, Deputy Head of Department for Informatics and six students travelled to Douala, Cameroon where they participated in the Spring School workshop. The workshop titled "IT-enabled business trends & towards a digitalized world" was also attended by students from Germany and Cameroon. Apart from the workshop, the students visited the SONARA Oil Refinery and CAMLAIT Soya factory. They also had excursions to the cities of Limbe and Buea.

The visit was sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which covered all the costs for the trip. The Polytechnic of Namibia, Flensburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and The Institute of Technology and Management (Cameroon), signed a Cooperation Agreement in the areas of faculty and student exchange, curriculum development and joint research in 2012.

STREAM Beneficiary Graduates

The European Commission funded Intra-ACP STREAM academic mobility scheme has begun to produce graduates as the first cohort of students begins to complete their academic exchange. Six masters and one doctoral student from four of the partner universities have graduated with degrees in fields as diverse as information technology, agriculture, microbiology, education and physics.

In addition to the seven graduates, another eight students are due to graduate before the end of the year. Alongside those who have graduated, other students have also completed their mobilities. To date, 36 masters and 15 doctoral students have successfully completed their mobilities and returned to their home countries and universities to complete their degrees.

Ms Lucia Fortune Mukanya, a Polytechnic graduate from Zimbabwe, was enrolled in the Masters of Information Technology programme. She is the first of six students hosted at PoN to graduate. Speaking on her momentous achievement, she says, "In this world you need to be progressing academically if you are going to remain competitive. This qualification gave me the opportunity to be competitive, opened my eyes and allowed me to join the league of academics."

A hardworking and brilliant student, Ms Mukanya received an award as top student in her Masters programme. She is by no means finished with her education, stating: "Getting a PhD is my next step in life, hence I have applied for several scholarships and research positions. I hope to be one of the researchers to advance the improvement of educational technology."



Ms Mukanya being capped by Corneels Jafta, Registrar and receiving an award from Dr Shuwulu Nggada, HOD for Computer Science.

B360 Alumnus Advances to Rhodes



"My name is Ndapewa Kaapangelwa. I completed my Bachelor in Accounting and Finance at the Polytechnic of Namibia and a 3 month internship at Credit Suisse Bank in Switzerland in 2014. I am currently doing a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy at Rhodes University in South Africa. I feel challenged and inspired to take this step and further my education beyond a Bachelors degree and to strive towards Chartered Accountancy in order to contribute to the development of my country.

My experience in Switzerland

Experiencing the traditions, customs and lifestyle of another culture has enhanced my own personal horizons. I also got the opportunity to travel to Germany, France, England and Italy and this helped me to develop a more sophisticated worldview. The experience has helped increase my self-confidence, maturity and got me out of my comfort zone to learn new things like skiing and golfing.

The internship at Credit Suisse was insightful and a great learning curve for me. I had the opportunity to work with different teams and learn from experts who have been in the accounting field for many years. I improved my organization, oral and written communication skills, my Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint and Access skills as well as my professionalism. Working in a team helped me recognise the importance of teamwork. I am sincerely thankful to Credit Suisse, B360 and the Polytechnic of Namibia for granting me the wonderful internship opportunity abroad."

Interview with: Prof Heather Throop



The Polytechnic is hosting Prof Heather Throop (HT), a Fulbright Scholar, in the School of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences. International Relations News (IRN) interviewed her:

IRN: Tell us about yourself and your home university.

HT: It is wonderful to be here in Namibia and at the Polytechnic. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to spend the year in Africa and to work with students and faculty at the Polytechnic. I was born at the same latitude as Windhoek in Queensland, Australia. However, my time in the Southern Hemisphere was pretty short as my family moved to the United States when I was a young child. I spent most of my childhood in the State of Oregon in the northwestern US. I moved to the middle of the country to go to university in Minnesota, then east to get a doctorate in ecology in New York and back to the middle to teach at a small university in Wisconsin. I then moved to Arizona, in the southwestern US, for a postdoctoral fellowship to study bush encroachment and climate change in deserts. It was a big change to move from the northern, wet parts of the country to the southwestern deserts. I thought I would stay for just a short time and move north

again as soon as I could, but I fell in love with deserts. I was lucky in 2006 to get a job as a professor at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The landscape of New Mexico shares a lot of similarities with Namibia. It has very low human population density and the climate is very dry and hot. Free-range livestock are an important part of the economy. It is a beautiful place: low-lying dry deserts punctuated by rugged mountains. The similarities in climate, vegetation, and bush encroachment between New Mexico and Namibia create lots of opportunities for comparative research. When I found out about the US Government's Fulbright Scholars program for U.S. professors, I was immediately excited about opportunities for research and teaching in Namibia!

IRN: Where did you hear about us and why did you decide to come here?

HT: Once I decided to apply for a Fulbright fellowship, the decision to come to the Polytechnic was easy! I started looking around for universities in southern Africa where there was active research on bush encroachment and clear ways where I could contribute to research and teaching programs. I got in touch with two Polytechnic staff members who do great research with clear connections to my research interests: Dr Mutjinde Katjiua (Integrated Land Management) and Mr Dave Joubert (Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences). They were both enthusiastic, had great ideas for research collaborations and also suggested that the timing was good for me to help with research development to support the new research-based Masters programmes with which they are involved.

IRN: What courses are you teaching at the Polytechnic?

HT: For the first semester, I am contributing to several different courses in the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences. I am co-teaching Research Methodology for the Nature Conservation Honours programme. I am also contributing lectures to Ecology I and Natural Resource Management I in the Bachelor of Natural Resources Management programme and the Masters programme in Integrated Land Management.

IRN: What is your impression of the Polytechnic thus far?

HT: I am impressed by the enthusiasm and hard work of students and faculty. It is an exciting time to be here at the Polytechnic and to watch the institution transform into the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). I look forward to watching the research capacity of the institution, and Namibia as a whole, grow. I look forward to establishing long-lasting research and teaching collaborations that will persist beyond my short one year here.

Fulbrighter Evaluates InSTEM Programme



In its efforts to promote internationalisation on campus, the Department of International Relations hosted a Fulbright Specialist, Dr Dante Tawfeeq, an Associate Professor from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Dr Tawfeeq is also the Coordinator of the Math Foundation & Quantitative Reasoning Program in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. He was seconded to the Polytechnic under the US Government sponsored Fulbright Scholar Program. He joined the Polytechnic as a short-term Fulbright Scholar for two weeks and was attached to the School of Engineering.

During his attachment, Dr Tawfeeq assisted with gap analysis in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. The Polytechnic currently offers the bridging programme Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (InSTEM) for students who do not comply with the entry requirements in various programmes in the STEM areas. During his short stay at the institution, Dr Tawfeeq was entrusted to evaluate the curriculum of InSTEM and to give recommendations for enhancing the programme.

He was also given the task of assisting with the development of a multimodal student academic support system that will be designed to identify at risk students early in the semester and align them with the proper tutorial assistance. According to Dr Tawfeeq, he used the two weeks to gather more information on the InSTEM programme and will only recommend appropriate actions on his second return to the Polytechnic in August 2015. During that time, he will spend another two weeks in the School of Engineering.

Apart from being involved with the InSTEM programme, Dr Tawfeeq delivered a presentation to students and faculty on the topic of College and Career Readiness in the Area of STEM during a Teaching & Learning Session.

Scholars, Experts, and Guest Lecturers for All

Would your Department or School like to host a Fulbright Scholar? Do you need an expert or specialist in a specific or new academic field your school or department is offering? The Department of International Relations can assist in identifying partners known for their excellence in your field and request experts, scholars and exchange lecturers to help you. Simply contact your International Relations Officer with details of what you need and let us work magic for you!

International Relations Officers:

Ms Paulina Haikola
School of Management Sciences AND School of Natural Resources & Spatial Sciences
Phone: 061 207 2403
Email: phaikola@polytechnic.edu.na

Ms Yatva Hinda
School of Human Sciences AND School of Engineering
Phone: 061 207 2709
Email: yhinda@polytechnic.edu.na

Mr Nico Smit
School of Health & Applied Sciences AND School of Computing & Informatics
Phone: 061 207 2793
Email: nasmit@polytechnic.edu.na

Book for Future Journalists Launched



The Department of Communications hosted a seminar and book launch to celebrate the conclusion of the Journalism for Civic Involvement, Democracy and Development (JOCID) Network, a joint media education initiative between universities in Finland, Namibia, Tanzania and Ghana. The book, titled “Shaping the Perspectives of Future Journalists”, recounts the experiences and challenges of teaching media across cultures. Articles in the book were written by exchange students, lecturers and experts and touched on topics as diverse as gender in media and setting up a new radio station.

The JOCID Network was active since 2007 and included Turku University of Applied Sciences (Finland), Metropolia University of Technology (Finland), Ghana Institute of Journalism (GIJ), University of Iringa (Tanzania) and the Polytechnic of Namibia. JOCID was funded by the North-South-South Higher Education Institution Network Programme of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO) in Finland.

Emily Brown, Head of the Department of Communications, recalled the long journey from when she first approached the Finnish Ambassador to Namibia with an idea for a newsroom to the negotiations with partners and the various activities the Network engaged in over the years. Through the Network, University of Iringa and GIJ were able to set up campus radio stations that enabled students to have practical industry experience before graduating. Other activities of the JOCID Network included student and staff exchange, donations of media equipment and curriculum development. Two Polytechnic alumni, Jethro Kwenani and Selma Moses-Sakaria, benefitted through exchange and were present at the seminar to express their gratitude for the international exposure and learning opportunities they gained through the JOCID Network.

While the JOCID Network has concluded, partners seem energized to maintain the relationships forged over the past eight years.



Ms Marika Matengu, Programme Coordinator for Development Cooperation, gave remarks on behalf of the Finnish government.



Mr Kodwo Boateng, representing Ghana Institute of Journalism, speaks of the benefits his institution reaped from JOCID.



Ms Pia Alanko, representing Turku University of Applied Sciences in Finland, is also one of the editors of the book.

STREAM Coordinator Visits East Africa

The Coordinator of the project “ Strengthening African Higher Education Through Academic Mobility (STREAM), Mr Lameck Mwewa and the Polytechnic Local STREAM Coordinator, Paulina Haikola, travelled to Hawassa University in Ethiopia and Ardhi University in Tanzania as part of project implementation monitoring and evaluation.

Apart from Ardhi and Hawassa Universities, other consortium members are; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana, University of Buea in Cameroon, Makerere University in Uganda, University of the Free State and Northwest University, both in South Africa, and the Polytechnic of Namibia. During the visits, several meetings were held with university management, national STREAM coordinators and the scholarship recipients.

While the trip was mainly an evaluation of project implementation, it revealed the many challenges, successes and innovations in implementing a trans-Africa mobility scheme. Officials at both universities cited the benefits of intra-African tertiary institution partnerships, especially in terms of academic programme benchmarking. They also shared the unique challenges and opportunities that have resulted in their participation in STREAM. Dr Riziki Shemdoe, the national STREAM coordinator at Ardhi, indicated that his institution’s prior involvement in implementing similar MOUs meant that systems were in place, which resulted

in a smoother implementation of STREAM activities. He also praised the involvement of university management officials such as the director of post graduate studies, which he says raised the profile of STREAM on campus.

Partners at Hawassa highlighted the boon their institution received from being part of the consortium. Dr Fikre Dessalegn Boshe, Vice President for Academic and Research, stated that in addition to the professional development gained by junior academic staff who have taken up mobilities as masters and doctoral students, hosting STREAM students has contributed to their institutional goal of internationalisation and has brought broader cultural exchange to the surrounding community.

Mr Mwewa and Ms Haikola also met with the scholarship recipients at each university to learn on their personal adjustment, academic progress and experiences with the STREAM project implementation unit. Overall, the students expressed gratitude for the opportunity granted to them through the scholarship and they felt welcomed in their host countries. Regarding academic matters, all six students were determined to make the most of their scholarship and some are engaged in impressive and globally pertinent research topics such as development of a new solar cell, a new breed of drought resistant bean and measuring carbon sequestration in soil.

The visit to Hawassa and Ardhi was the first of its kind and will likely be followed by trips to other partner institutions before the project officially ends in 2016.



Ardhi University (L-R): Dr Riziki Shemdoe, local STREAM Coordinator for Ardhi University; Ms Paulina Haikola, International Relations Officer; Prof Gabriel Kassenga, Vice Chancellor of Academics & Research; Yeluma Ntali, masters student from Cameroon, Mirabel Ntali, masters student from Cameroon; Nsani Toamukum, masters student from Cameroon.



On campus at Hawassa University (L-R): Mr Abebe Zelleke, national STREAM Coordinator for Hawassa University; Mr Lameck Mwewa, STREAM Project Coordinator; Kwabena Darkwa, masters student from Ghana, Ms Paulina Haikola, International Relations Officer; Rogers Chia Wainkwa, masters student from Cameroon; James Tetteh Nyumutsu, masters student from Ghana.

Student Research Tackles Community Needs

The Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, USA sends a group of students and two supervisors annually to Namibia for six weeks to conduct project-based research. These research projects are set up by local sponsors to solve issues faced by the sponsor. This ensures that the students' research has a direct impact on the communities they are researching. At the end of the six week period, the students present their findings to the supervisors, the sponsor and the community. This year the students tackled seven projects for various communities in and around Windhoek. The topics were as follows:



Lighting the Way to Fire Safety: Reducing the Fire Risk in Informal Sector Housing in Namibia

Students: Connor Gillespie, Brian Hard, Casey Rota & Saloni Sachar

Sponsor: Men on the Side of the Road



Putting the "Pro" in Prosopis: Community Development Through Invasive Plant Species Management

Students: Kelly Beisswanger, Jessie Ciulla, Ryan Clark & Raquel Mendoza-Cabral

Sponsor: Desert Research Foundation of Namibia



On the Right Track: An Analysis of Human Factors to Improve Reliability and Safety in Operations at Namibia's Railway Company, TransNamib

Students: Emily Doherty, Nicholas Engle, James Gruenbaum & Jessica Larsen

Sponsor: TransNamib Holdings Ltd.



Focus on POCUS: Namibia's Need for Medical Imaging Technology

Students: Brynn Cardozo, Hannah Hill, James Pierce & Nathalie Zakrzewski

Sponsor: PoN School of Health & Applied Sciences

The Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse & Regulate

Students: Timothy Dow, Kathryn Howard, Javier Mazo-Nido & Sarah Monteith

Sponsor: City of Windhoek, Department of Infrastructure, Water & Technical Services





Maximizing Mirabib: Creating a Culturally and Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Destination in Namibia's Namib-Naukluft Park

Students: *Katie Candiloro, Julian Dano, Jaime Espinola & Daniel Thiesse*

Sponsor: *Gobabeb Research & Training Centre*

Sustainable Movement: Developing a Mobile Environmental Education Curriculum for Rural Schools in Namibia

Students: *Emily Dunham, Benjamin Hawks, Alexandria Lyles & Amy Misera*

Sponsor: *EduVentures Trust*



Coming Attractions:

International Education Day



16 September 2015