



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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International Relations News

Official Newsletter of the Department of International Relations



2019

Message from the Office of the Director



Dr Kudumo

Greetings from the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Department of International Relations! It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Department, to inform our partners about the activities of the Department during the 2019 Academic Year.

We are happy to report that the University in general and the Department in particular has continued to position the University internationally through various and diverse international engagements. The expected outcome of internationalization at our University is to produce graduates with the requisite knowledge,

skills, values and attitudes, and who can function efficiently and effectively, and with confidence, in global competitive and cultural diverse contexts.

We are proud to inform, as highlighted in this Newsletter, that we have received high-level visiting international delegations, academics and other experts, and students on our campus during 2019. The purposes of these visits included, exploring collaboration opportunities, to teach and thereby, promote internationalization on campus and diffusion of best international practices into our teaching, learning, research and services.

It was also for international exchange students to study for a Semester at our University. Our academics and students also have visited partner universities for the same purposes namely, to lecture, and to attend classes for a Semester or internships in companies and organizations. We would like to express sincere gratitude to our international partners for funding the costs of our outgoing visiting academics and students. The visits and exchange of experiences and sharing of knowledge should not have been possible without your financial support.

The Department looks forward to continued and strengthen partnerships in 2020 and beyond with the objective to advance internationalization of higher education and global citizenship education, intercultural learning, and tolerance and mutual respect. We wish you all best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Summer School Thrives On

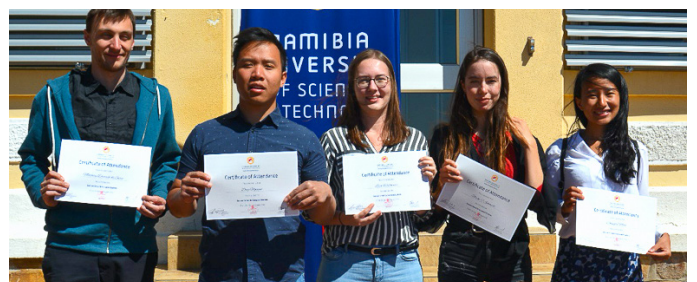
Fifteen years ago, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s predecessor, the Polytechnic, signed an agreement with the Organisation for African-European Culture and Educational Exchange (VAEA) aimed at co-operating academically in the area of hosting a Summer School annually at NUST.

The Summer School is aimed at promoting intercultural integration whereby VAEA organises European students and expose them theoretically and practically to various Namibian industries. This year's Summer School took place from 28 July to 24 August 2019. Students who participated were from Germany, France and China.

The Summer School syllabus is tailor made specifically for international students and includes subjects such as, "A Profile of Namibian Economy, State, Government and Politics, Doing Business in Africa" with emphasis on Namibia and SADC countries.

During the certificate handing over ceremony, Dr Harold Campbell, Dean of the School of Management Sciences urged the students to be ambassadors of NUST wherever they go.

Dr Marius Kudumo, Director of International Relations in his remarks, emphasized the importance of student mobility in the context of internationalization of higher education and global citizenship. Mr Markus Strasser, VAEA organizer, thanked NUST for successfully organising meetings and visits with national industries as well as lecturing the students.



European Summer School graduates [from left]: Mathieu Droesh de Sury, Duy Nguyen, Lisa Widmaier, Ulrike Carolina Schmidt, Chenglu Miao.



First Year International Students Orientation

For the first time in the history of the Department of International Relations, an International Student Orientation was held for all first year international students at NUST. The Department has been hosting welcoming functions for international exchange students over the years. These functions were previously limited to international exchange students. After reflections, a decision was made to include all first year international students with effect from the 2019 Academic Year. The objective of the all first year international students' welcoming orientation is to welcome them to NUST in particular and Namibia in general. The ultimate objective was to contribute to creating positive learning and staying experiences while at NUST and in Namibia", explain Dr Marius

Kudumo, Director of the Department.

Taking into account that new international students have special needs that require a targeted session to assist them in adjusting to environments with the least possible difficulties.

Representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the City Police of the City of Windhoek, Gondwana and FNB Namibia provided necessary information to the international students during the orientation. The students concluded the programme with a City Tour. They were also showered with NUST branded small gifts in a form of a power bank, a bag and sticky notebooks.

Meanwhile, Mr Gari Bindu, an international

students from Zimbabwe, sent a moving thank you email to Dr Kudumo thanking the staff for honouring its promises conveyed during the first year semester. In his end of the year farewell message, Mr Bindu said, "we are happy, you manage to accomplish everything you promised us as a Department on orientation day".

He added, "we know there were challenges with issue of study permits but your Department, through your great leadership managed to push the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration to approve our permits. He concluded by saying, "it only takes a Department with students at heart to go through all these processes".



Prof Pramanathan Govender, Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation, [middle] flanked by Constable Cillie Kapolo [left] from the City Police Crime Prevention with IR staff, NUST faculties and all first year international students registered during the Second Semester.

Farewell to H.E. Schlaga

This year, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) community and the diplomatic corps in Namibia bid farewell to His Excellency Christian-Matthias Schlaga, former German Ambassador to Namibia. H.E. Schlaga has been serving as Ambassador from June 2015, when he presented his credentials to H.E. President Dr Hage Geingob. The German Embassy plays a pivotal role in facilitating international partnerships between NUST and Germany.



Mr Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor [left] and HE Christian-Matthias Schlaga, former German Ambassador to Namibia [right].

Managing Internationalisation

Each year, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in partnership with the German Rectors Conference (HRK) accepts applications for various training courses under its Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) programme. The DAAD DIES Programme offers training courses, dialogue events, projects and partnerships to assist universities in developing countries to tackle challenges such as quality assurance, university leadership and management, research funding, and internationalization.

This year (2019), Ms Paulina Haikola, was accepted to the DAAD DIES Managing of Internationalisation (MoI) training course. Out of 140 applicants, 30 professionals from Africa, Asia and Latin America were selected based on the relevance, clarity and feasibility of their proposals for an 18-month long project to improve internationalisation at their universities. Ms Haikola's project focuses on improving the visibility of the Department of International Relations by hosting a series of on campus activities.

The activities implemented thus far at NUST are the International Friendship Day best friend contest in July, the International Youth Day community service at Family of Hope Services in Havana in August, and the International Education Week (IEW) in September. IEW has been hosted on campus since 2013 with a maximum three days of activities. Ms Haikola's DIES project expanded the activities of IEW 2019 with innovations such as the cultural display and quiz on September 9 and the Movie Night on September 13 to make it a week-long event for the first time. While the Study Abroad, Taste the World Fair in front of the library had been implemented since 2017, this year the number of participating scholarship organisations was expanded to seven, welcoming the American Cultural Centre, the Indonesian Embassy, and the Indian High Commission. The planned activities for 2020 include commemorations of International Day for Women and Girls in Science in February and International Jazz Day in April.

In addition to developing and implementing internationalisation projects at their universities, participants also receive training in topics such as globalisation, internationalisation of higher education institutions, intercultural communication, and project management over the course of three workshops.



Ms Haikola presenting a poster on the status of internationalisation at NUST



Ms Haikola with fellow participants from Asia, Africa and Latin America in a Project Planning workshop at Leibniz Universität Hannover, the coordinating institution in Germany in March 2019.

First Graduates of Civil Engineering Double Degree

Six (6) students from FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany, were awarded the Bachelor of Civil Engineering Double Degree programme under the Faculty of Engineering. This was made possible through an international partnership Agreement between NUST and FH Aachen.

Under the Civil Engineering Double Degree programme, students are afforded the opportunity to take part in exchange opportunities and obtain qualifications endorsed by both universities.



Prof Ing Thomas Krause, Professor in Civil Engineering: FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences, Germany (fourth from left), and Prof Victor Kamara Associate Professor, Structural Engineering Civil and Environmental Engineering: NUST (fifth from left), pictured with the double degree graduates.



Graduate Employability Skills Sharpens

NUST, B360 Education Partnerships and Bank Windhoek this year offered a leg up to unemployed university graduates by combining to host two Career Starter Week Workshops (CSW) to help them sharpen their employability skills. B360 Experts, Michel Aebischer and Claudia Hovan facilitated the two workshops, which were sponsored by Bank Windhoek. They involved Namibian professionals regarding content delivery.

Professionals from Bank Windhoek, Old Mutual, Capricorn Wealth, Cymot Namibia, Standard Bank and NUST participated in the Career CSW. A total of 37 participants attended the two workshops.

The university graduates who attended the CSW workshops were exposed to a range of topics including, CV preparation and drafting of covering letters, interview training, organizational structure, entrepreneurship, project management and governance and ethics. The workshops ended with participants being divided

into groups to work on a business case and deliver a presentation thereon to a panel of judges. "This was an excellent experience, I have learned so much and have gained a new appreciation for the way employers think when they are recruiting," said Helen Kamenye, one of the CSW participants. These sentiments were echoed by all other participants, saying that their expectations had been exceeded. Aebischer and Hovan reflected on the involvement of national professionals, saying that the combination of their context specific professional knowledge and experience proved to be a key value-addition for the CSW.

B360 Education Partnerships and the Cooperative Education Unit (CEU) first piloted the CSW in 2017. The five-day workshops aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to improve their marketability and employability. The workshops have since been hosted several times for NUST students and alumni and used Swiss Industry Experts to deliver content.



B360 Expert, Michel Aebischer, sharing some thoughts with the Career Starter Week workshop participants



Career Starter Week workshop participants doing a group activity on the importance of communication while B360 expert, Michel Aebischer, observes.

NUST Hosts German Federal Council

The Office of the Acting Vice-Chancellor hosted a delegation from the German Federal Council, led by Mr Daniel Günther: President of the Council and Minister-President of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein. The delegation, consisting of about 30 people, included academics and captains of industry in various fields such as business, health and innovation. During the deliberations, one of the topics that was given prominence was Information Communication Technology. It was brought to the fore that Germany is in dire need of human resources in this sector, specifically system developers.

"Many economies and societies in Africa are developing at a commendable speed and so is the technology. This results in great opportunities for people and enterprises to grow. This is why I believe that is important for German and African institutions to

seek closer corporation," emphasised Günther. NUST has long-standing partnerships with assortments of German institutions that have resulted in fruitful outcomes in research and innovation, amongst other key areas.

"Internationalisation of higher education and global citizenship education are critical strategic objectives in producing graduates with the requisite knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to function efficiently and effectively in competitive global and culturally diverse contexts," said Morné du Toit, Acting NUST Vice-Chancellor. The visit included a campus tour to the Namibia German Centre for Logistics (NGCL) and the Innovation Design Lab. NGCL was established through a joint collaboration between NUST and the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany.



Internationalisation At Home

IEW 2019 A Resounding Success

For the first time ever, the Department of International Relations (IR) celebrated International Education Week (IEW) with a full week of activities. The objective of IEW is to raise awareness among the University community about internationalization of higher education and global citizenship, and to promote internationalization on campus. The activities included a cultural display on Monday, followed by the Study Abroad, Taste the World Fair, then a Public Dialogue, followed by a Luncheon for international students and staff, and ended with a Movie Night.

The theme for IEW 2019 was "Promoting Partnerships and Internationalisation in Preparing Graduates for Industry 4.0". It is on this topic that invited speaker for the Public Dialogue, Prof Louis Fourie, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Knowledge and Information Technology Services at

Cape Peninsula University of Technology, delivered his address. The event attracted audience from within and outside the NUST community. To the organizers' surprise, His Excellency, President Dr Hage Geingob attended, sitting discreetly at the back of the Auditorium.

The Study Abroad and Taste the World Fair also attracted many students who have learned about scholarship opportunities and sampled various international cuisine prepared by the Hotel School students. A boost was the participation of three new international scholarship providers, the Indian High Commission, The American Cultural Centre, and the Indonesian Embassy.

The international lunch was a heartfelt event, with students and staff expressing gratitude for the convivial atmosphere and acknowledgement of their contribution to

the NUST community. Mr Maurice Garde, the Registrar, gave remarks thanking the international academic staff for "the value that you bring to the Institution, from an academic perspective, the personal and professional perspective, which cannot be quantified."

To conclude the week, students were treated to free popcorns, cool drinks, and a free screening of "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind", an uplifting film by Chiwetel Ejiofor. The film recounts the story of William Kamkwamba, a Malawian innovator who at the age of 15, saved his village from starvation by engineering a windmill. The new IEW 2019 activities, the Cultural Display and Movie Night were both successful based on student participation, and are worth repeating in the future.



Public Dialogue [L-R]: Prof Louis Fourie [keynote speaker]; Prof Pram Govender, DVC: Research and Innovation; His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia; Dr Marius Kudumo, Director: International Relations; and Prof Anicia Peters, Dean: Computing and Informatics.





Astronauts On Campus

The Namibia University of Science and Technology had the honour of hosting two Chinese astronauts, Ms Liu Yang and Mr Chen Dong, who came to share their experiences in the development of Space Science. The event attracted many staff and students from NUST and the University of Namibia as well as learners from around Windhoek.

Mr Dong is the record-holder of the longest stay in space (33 days), amongst all Chinese Astronauts, whilst Ms Yang is the first Chinese female to go to space. The Astronauts engaged the audience and shared their in-depth 'out of this world' experiences. Students were keen to know the benefits of going to space and Namibia's role in China's missions. The Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (HETI), Honourable Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, addressed the audience and spoke highly of the ongoing



(Left to right): Dr Samuel John – Dean: Faculty of Engineering, Dr Alfred van Kent - Executive Director: Min. of HITI, Mr Chen Dong - Chinese astronaut, Hon Dr Becky Ndjoze-Ojo, Deputy Min. of HETI, Ms Liu Yang - Chinese astronaut, H.E..... Zhang Yiming - Chinese Ambassador to Namibia

collaborations between the two countries.

An agreement centred on the development of Space technology between China and Namibia was signed in 2000, and this resulted in the construction of the Swakopmund tracking station which monitors Chinese manned space vehicles. Space Technology is applied in services such as weather forecasting, remote sensing and satellite transmissions.

10 NUST Students Participate in B360 Internship Programme

Ten NUST students from four Faculties participated in the B360 Education Partnerships Sending North Programme in 2019, which saw them undertake industry internships at companies in Switzerland.

The opportunity for NUST students to undertake internships in Switzerland is made possible through an agreement between NUST and B360 Education Partnerships. The latter is a Swiss-based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that contributes to skills and knowledge transfer and capacity development in Southern Africa. The partnership between NUST and B360 was established in 2009, and to date more than 70 NUST students have undertaken internships in Switzerland through the B360 Sending North Programme.

During the First Semester of 2019, Ashely Tjikune, Uvatera Mahua and Hileni Wilbard did their internships at Credit Suisse AG from February to April 2019. Ashley, a Human Resources Management student, and Uvatera and Hileni, both Economics students, were all based at the Swiss multinational bank's offices in Zurich. "Working at Credit Suisse gave me an opportunity

to explore what a working environment feels like, and coming to Europe was the most beautiful thing that ever happened in my life" Wilbard said of her time abroad. Tjikune, Mahua and Wilbard visited Paris (France) and Milan (Italy) and also travelled extensively throughout Switzerland during their time abroad.

During the Second Semester of 2019, seven NUST students undertook internships at various Swiss organisations from the start of August 2019 until the end of October 2019. Romeo Shilunga (Engineering), Victor Nendongo (Informatics), Kristine Naikaku (Computer Science), Modesta Amulungu (Environmental Health Sciences), Hilaria Ishindwa (Environmental Health Sciences), Lauren Philander (Medical Laboratory Science) and Bradley Lisao (Environmental Health Sciences) were the largest contingent of NUST students to travel to Switzerland at one time for internships. Romeo was based

at Ferrum Ag, Victor at Julius Bär, Kristine at Bob Finance, Modesta at Haco, Hilaria at Migros, Lauren at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Bradley at Zweifel. The seven NUST students therefore, stayed in different towns in Switzerland.

"This has been an eye-opening and life changing experience," Victor said of the internship abroad, adding that he now fully understands what is meant when people refer to the broadening of the mind that results from international exposure. The six other NUST students echoed these sentiments. "With this experience behind us, we can now confidently go forward in life no matter what direction we decide to head into, whether this is further study, developing a career or starting a business," Hilaria said.

In August this year another round of selection was held at NUST for the B360
(continue on page 6)

Sending North Programme with six students from the Institution chosen. Ronnie Philander, Rakkell Teofilus, Tawanda Dzinomwa, Halleluya Ndimulunde, Immanuel Shilongo and Rosalie Kahambundu will do their internships in Switzerland during the First Semester of 2020.



International Relations Buddies

The Department of International Relations (IR) at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) has awarded certificates of service and gratitude to outgoing Buddies after having been “friends” to various intakes of exchange students.

The IR Department introduced the Buddy System in 2016. The Buddy System bonds international students with NUST students with the objectives to ensure smooth integration of international students into the University and in Namibia.

Handing over their certificate Dr Marius Kudumo, the Director of International Relations thanked the Buddies for volunteering in assisting exchange students on behalf of the Department. “I urge you to encourage your peers to be **(continue on page 9)**





part of the Buddy System in order to acquire various soft skills and be able to manage cultural diversity”, he stated.

Meanwhile, 22 new buddies were recruited for the 2020 Academic Year. They went through a training workshop in October . During the workshop they were informed in depth, about the objectives of the Buddy System at NUST, and their responsibilities during their tenure was also outlined. They were also informed about the role

of the Departments of IR and Students Services.

Buddies were also given some important Safety Tips, of which they are expected to immediately communicate to their prospective “friends” on their arrivals.

Incoming International Relations Buddies for 2020.



Volunteering for International Youth Day

International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August. This year, the Department of International Relations encouraged NUST students to participate in an outreach programme that took place on 9 August 2019 in Havana, Windhoek.

Ms Paulina Haikola, International Relations Officer, is participating in DAAD/DIES funded professional development programme focusing on “Management of Internationalisation”. The competitive 18-month long programme requires applicants to create and implement a project to improve internationalization at their home university. Ms Haikola’s project focuses on improving the visibility of the Department of International Relations through hosting a series of on campus activities commemorating United Nations International Days.

International Day of Friendship was commemorated with a Best-Friends-Forever Contest, hosted on the NUST International Relations FaceBook Page on July 30. The commemoration of International Youth Day took students from the yellow benches of NUST into the dusty and vibrant streets of Havana, Katutura for community service.

A group of 24 students and 4 NUST staff members spent a day at Family of Hope Services, a social and educational welfare community based organization that cares for children aged

4 to 14 years old. The purpose of the volunteer activity was to inspire NUST students to think of themselves as mentors, to encourage them to give back to their communities, and to fulfil one of NUST values, namely Community Engagement.

The students interacted with the children in two groups. The younger children were provided with art supplies and encouraged to draw things that made them happy. The older children, (9-14) were given a “Personal Bill of Rights” booklet and held group discussions facilitated by the NUST students. After the discussions and art session, the NUST volunteers served soup for lunch to about 200 children. The soup was prepared with ingredients donated by the NUST volunteers along with the art supplies.

To conclude the day, some of the children put on a cultural performance to demonstrate their appreciation for the NUST volunteers. Many of the NUST students expressed joy and a desire to be involved in more NUST led Community Engagement activities.



A group of 24 students and 4 staff members from NUST carried out the volunteering activity.



Mentorship: A NUST student volunteer works with the younger group of kids to express themselves through art.

International Collegiate Cyber Defence Invitational

Over 100 Computer Science students and professionals in the field participated at this year's International Collegiate Cyber Defence Invitational (ICCDI). The event is hosted annually by the Namibia University of Science and Technology's (NUST) Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI) in collaboration with Highline College, based in Des Moines, Washington, in the United States of America (USA).



The Competition mimics 'real-world' scenarios where the participating teams run, maintain and secure networked computer systems to defend their cyber environments from attacks. "NUST, the University of Namibia (UNAM), International Training College Lingua, and USA's Evergreen College competed simultaneously for 12 hours. The teams were under immense pressure as they had to apply their critical thinking skills under strict time constraints," remarked Dr Attlee Gamundani, Senior Lecturer, FCI.

The winners of the various categories are:

- Best Uptime: NUST and UNAM**
- Best Injects: Evergreen College (USA)**
- Red Team Nominee: International Training College Lingua (Namibia)**
- Best Collaboration: NUST**

Photo: Staff and students at the 2019 International Collegiate Cyber Defence Invitational.

2018 Researcher of the Year Awards

In March this year, the 2018 Researcher of the Year and Teaching Excellence awards ceremony was held at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). Various awards were awarded and amongst the key accolades, were the Established Researcher of the Year and Upcoming Researcher of the Year, which were awarded to Prof Heike Winshiers-Theophilus and Evert Strydom, respectively.

Prof Winshiers – Theophilus is a Professor of Computer Science in the Faculty of Computing and Informatics, and a pioneer in co-designing technologies with indigenous and marginalised communities. Mr Strydom is a lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering and his expertise is in bush and biomass utilisation through sustainable harvesting.

At the same event, H.E. former Jana Hybášková, former EU Ambassador to Namibia, handed over an award of excellence to NUST. She commended NUST for being a problem solving Institution. She added that the EU seeks further collaboration with NUST in areas of climate change, biodiversity and natural resource management. The European Union (EU) has funded various programmes at the Institution. In addition to awarding competitive grants since 2001. Furthermore, between 2012 and 2019, the volumes of capacity building and research projects awarded to the University, is estimated at N\$150 million.

Dr Tjama Tjivikua, NUST former Vice-Chancellor, expressed his gratitude for the continued support. "The EU recognises that education is an important enabler for economic development and NUST has benefited greatly from their generous support over the years."



Her Excellency Jana Hybášková, European Union Ambassador to Namibia (left), handing an award of excellence to Dr Tjama Tjivikua, former Vice-Chancellor of NUST.



Prof Pramanathan Govender, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation (left), congratulating Prof Heike Winshiers-Theophilus on her award.



NUST Visitors

Seychelles Officials Explore Opportunities at NUST

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) hosted the delegation from the Seychelles Government institutions consisting of Mrs Nadia Lauricourt: Chief Executive Officer, Agency of National Human Resources Development (ANHRD), Mr Channel Quartre, Senior Scholarship Administrator, (ANHRD), Dr Susan Fock Tave, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, and Mr Josephraj Xavier, Principal Research Officer and Innovation, National Institute of Science and Technology and Innovation (NISTI).

The aim of their visit was to evaluate the possibility of enrolling undergraduate and potentially post graduate Seychelles students

at our University.

"These students will be Seychelles scholarship recipients, and this initiative is fully supported by Seychelle's SADC High Commissioner, HE Mrs Rose-Quatre" explained Mr Quartre, who is in charge of awarding scholarships to Seychelles nationals.

The delegation had a one-on-one discussions with the Deans of the Faculties of Health and Applied Sciences, Engineering and Management Sciences.

CUT SRC Visit NUST SRC

Ten (10) members of the Central University of Technology (CUT) Student Representative Council (SRC) this year, visited their counter parts at NUST.

The CUT SRC delegation was led by Mr Steven Leepa, CUT Student Development Officer. The purpose of the visit was for the two student bodies to discuss challenges faced by students such as the available support structures, safety on campus, and funding models, amongst others.

Student funding is one of the most common challenges faced by the youth across the Continent therefore, this was discussed at length.

"As student leaders, it is up to you to be at the forefront of shaping funding models, because at the end of the day, it is about your education and that of future generations," remarked Dr Donovan Zealand, Director of Student Services at NUST.

Mr Sabelo Ngwenya, SRC President at CUT, highlighted that it was a great privilege for the two Universities to come together and engage in various discussions. "This visit opened doors of opportunity for our two Universities to collaborate in future,

in various projects that are beneficial to current and prospective students," said Mr Juno Angula, NUST SRC President.

The two technological universities, which have approximately the same student populations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise the ongoing collaborations such as staff and student exchange, and joint research initiatives and to facilitate widening the collaboration to include electrical Engineering and Sustainable Energy.



FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Juno Angula, SRC President (NUST); Sabelo Ngwenya, SRC President (CUT); Dr Donovan Zealand, Director: Student Services (NUST); Miriam Dikuua, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Administration and Finance (NUST), Morné du Toit, Acting Vice-Chancellor (NUST); Steven Leepa, Student Development Officer (CUT), and Tsholofelo Baanyang, Deputy SRC President (CUT), pictured with other staff and students from both universities.

Salzburg University and NUST Collaborate

The Salzburg University of Applied Sciences in Austria and NUST, signed two agreements this year. One is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enabling both institutions to participate in joint research and cultural programmes in the Tourism and Hospitality field, whilst the other, is an Erasmus+ Mobility programme that facilitates staff and student exchange between the two Institutions.

The two Universities have previously worked closely together, and the signing of these Agreements formalised the cooperation. Prior to the Signing Ceremony, a Symposium on Sustainable Tourism was hosted by the two Universities, where topics ranging from Wildlife Conservation, Over-tourism and Climate Change were addressed. "Tourism is a vital area for growth, especially in the economic climate that we are currently experiencing," remarked Morné du Toit, Acting Vice-Chancellor of NUST.

Tourism is a major contributor to Namibia's Gross Domestic Product and the sector creates employment for hundreds of nationals. Dr Erling Kavita, Head: Department of Hospitality and Tourism in the Faculty of Management Sciences said, "This collaboration is quite global in context as it goes beyond initiatives with

Salzburg University of Applied Sciences to other European Union academic and research institutions. It also creates opportunities for other faculties to create mutually beneficial partnerships."

The Chief Executive Officer of Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, who is also the President of Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria, Mr Raimund Ribitsch, applauded Namibia as an ideal tourist destination. He further urged the country to uphold the highest sustainability rationale given the fragile nature of its beautiful natural resources. This, he said, could be achieved through local capacity building and awareness, adoption of new technologies, new product innovation and the promotion of e-tourism.



Mr Raimund Ribitsch, CEO: Salzburg University of Applied Sciences and President of Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria (centre, front row); Prof Pramanathan Govender, NUST DVC: Research and Innovation (third from left, front row); Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor (third from right, front row); Dr Erling Kavita, HoD: NUST Department of Hospitality and Tourism (far left, front row), pictured with other senior staff from the two universities



2019 Fulbrighters

Fulbright Scholars narrate their stay at NUST

The Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is hosting two Fulbright Scholars this year (2019), Prof Steven Jones and Prof Obed Norman-Kaunozondunge.

They are Prof Steven Jones from the University of Alabama and retired Prof Obed Norman, President and CEO of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Performance Enhancement Obtained through Positive Learning Environments (PEOPLES). They are all from the United States of America (USA).

Prof Jones who is being hosted by Namibia –German Centre for Logistics (NGCL), and teaching at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), describes his stay at follows:

Arrival

It has been a long a time and an all too short time since I arrived in Windhoek 21 January to begin my year as a Fulbright Scholar at NUST. And it has been a really wonderful and productive year.

Curving a Research Proposal

The early days of my work comprised helping the Director with a DAAD proposal for research capacity development and finalizing some road safety research I had started with NGCL before I arrived in Namibia at NGCL (that was the reason I chose to spend my Fulbright year in Namibia in the first place.)

Since, that road safety research has resulted in an article entitled "Road crashes in Namibia: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development" published in the Journal Development Southern Africa and a related one under review in Scientific African. This work was a collaboration between my home institution, the University of Alabama, and NUST that is ongoing and, indeed, one I hope to strengthen and formalize going forward.

Meeting Researchers

In March, the Department of International Relations organized a

meeting with key members of the NUST faculty for me to present and explore ideas on how transport relates to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting was an excellent way for me to meet a range of NUST academics and resulted in several interesting interactions and conversations with people from different parts of campus.

Real work begins

One of these conversations was initiated by Dr Rewai Makamani in the Faculty of Human Sciences around his interests relating to youth empowerment. Several meetings and a thorough literature review later, we are working together on a project to assess how transport issues impact NUST students. This effort involves an internet-based survey that has been distributed to the email and SMS addresses of 4000 NUST students is currently underway. Dr. Makamani and I hope to jointly produce at least two refereed journal articles from the work and at least as many conference presentations.

Teaching at CEE

Around the same time in March, I began to gravitate more toward the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) as that is my home academic department at the University of Alabama. I was immediately welcomed by the CEE faculty and have since gone on to teach a postgraduate module on Sustainable Urban Traffic Engineering and am currently advising the 4th year research papers of three BEng students in CEE.

Collaborative Research

One of the key things I wanted to do when I came to NUST was to engage in collaborative research. In June, I led the development of a proposal to the Roads Authority that included NUST, the University of Alabama, and the University of Cape Town. Just recently, I assisted the Faculty of Managements Sciences with a proposal submitted to the Volvo Research and Education Foundation (VREF) on public transport issues. And at the same time, I led the development of a separate VREF proposal on road safety that was a collaborative effort between NUST, the University of Alabama, and the Kwame

(continue on page 14)



Prof Steven Jones



Professor Norman fourth from left, with a group of NUST lecturers who attended one of his workshops.



Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. I should say that throughout all of my efforts to engage in research at NUST, I have been supported (and impressed by) the professionalism of the Project Services Unit staff.

The future for Prof Jones

My Fulbright tenure is ending soon, I hope that this is just the beginning of a long-term relationship. I look forward to exploring the opportunity to execute an official MOU between NUST and the University of Alabama that will pave the way for new collaborative opportunities ranging from future joint research proposals to formal exchanges of faculty and students – all of which will keep me coming back to Namibia as often as possible.

Prof Obed Norman-Kaunozondunge is a Namibian born academic who has worked in the United States for the past 30 years. He has worked at various American Universities including the University of California Berkeley and Morgan State University from which he retired in 2014. He holds the following degrees. BA. BSc. H.Ed. (UNISA). B.Sc (Hons) (UWC). M.Sc. (Penn State) PhD (Iowa). He is being hosted by the Teaching and Learning Unit (TLU) and the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences.

Dr Norman-Kaunozondunge describes his stay as follows:

Defined Visiting Objectives

My visit to NUST had a very definite goal aligned to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM] education research I had conducted in over 20 years as a Professor in the United States. Over my 20 years of research as a Science Education Professor, my research on the problem of improving success in STEM studies for Black students at all levels has been funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the tune of more than One Million US Dollars. Out of this research I have developed a highly successful strategy for teaching STEM to Black and other students from communities under-represented in STEM. The strategy is called the Assessment Towards Motivation Mastering STEM (ATOMMS).

Developing ATOMMS

I retired in 2014 and have been working on refining this intervention in association with a Non-Profit Organisation in Oakland, California, called the African Scientific Institute (ASI). The purpose of the ATOMMS intervention is to assist students from under-represented communities to overcome stereotype threat and stigmatized identities through regularly experiencing mastery in STEM disciplines. The first component of the ATOMMS strategy is the incorporation of mastery and effort goals into the course assessments. The second component is to develop classrooms with a discourse matrix and video clips that constantly invite students to engage science and to be motivated to persist and excel as learners (Building Our Successful Science Selves, or BOSSS).

The challenge: Can the ATOMMS intervention improve student academic outcome at NUST?

There is no reason why NUST STEM instructors on implementing the ATOMMS strategy cannot also obtain the same significant levels of improvement in student outcomes as was the case with my students. That remains the challenging goal of my visit to NUST. In pursuit of this goal, I have engaged a number of instructor groups from the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering in seminars on the ATOMMS strategy.

The Solution

There is a short and a long-term solution. The short-term solution is for NUST lecturers to implement the ATOMMS with the limited resources they already have at hand. Past examination papers can be used as sources for practice quizzes randomly generated from as little as a total of just over a thousand multiple-choice questions and/or calculations and made available online for student self-testing.

The long-term solution is that the TLU team and I have come up with a plan to assist NUST instructors to develop question banks with answers, that can be placed in their e-learning spaces in such a way that students can do their repeated self-testing in those e-learning spaces.

Engaging in research

Part of my work here also involved engaging the NUST academic community in research and scholarly publications. To this end I co-authored a publication on the ATOMMS project with Mr. Maurice Nkusi, the Acting Director of TLU. That manuscript has been submitted to the flagship tier one journal in STEM Education research for review and possible publication.

Similarly, Mr Geoffrey Shakwa, who heads Professional Development at TLU and I, are co-authors on an invited manuscript submitted and accepted for publication in the Journal of Negro Education.

Thankful for Invitation

I would like to express my gratitude to the NUST administration and lecturers for extending this invitation to me. Special thanks to former Vice-Chancellor, Dr Tjama Tjivikua and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Andrew NiiKondo. Also thanks to the Deans and Associate Deans for Instruction in both Health and Applied Sciences and Engineering. A special thanks also to the team at the NUST Teaching and Learning Unit who took the lead in doing all the planning for the Professional Development Seminars associated with my visit. A word of thanks to the Office of International Relations who facilitated my visit. Also my thanks to all the NUST instructors with whom I have had the pleasure of working with during my stay here at NUST. The Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences generously provided office space, secretarial assistance and a computer for my use.



NUST Travels

NUST Staff Attends International Networking Week

One of NUST's long-standing partners, Justus–Liebig University (JLU) Giessen in Germany, hosted an International Networking Week in May 2019. The aim of the event was for JLU to engage its partners from around the world on matters pertaining to student and staff mobility, as well to discuss topics within the field of internationalisation

One topic which interested most of the Universities was the issue of Internationalisation of Administrative Staff. Explaining the need for all Universities worldwide to internationalize their administrative staff, Julia-Sophie Rothmann, Deputy Director at JLU International Office said in an academic set up , “administrative staff are the third leg of a chair and is not possible to be left behind while implementing internationalisation to students and academic staff.”

Rothmann explained that Administrative University staff in Departments such as Finance, Library, Registrar, Students Services, Legal Office and Information Technology are interacting on a daily basis with international students, visitors, institutions and various bodies, hence the need for them to be sensitized about internationalisation.

“These staff should at least have basic understanding of intercultural skills”, she explained. She added that each University should have internationalisation embedded in its Strategic Plan.

Rothmann said Universities should avail funds to implement internationalisation of administrative staff by means of sending out their staff for job shadowing, allow them to attend language courses outside their countries and invest in in-house training.

NUST and JLU have been partners for more than 10 years, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) exists between the two Universities. The MoU enables collaboration in areas that include research and teaching, common supervision of doctoral student projects and the exchange of scientific publications.

Emphasizing the need for Internationalisation in Universities, the Director of International Office at JLU, Julia Volz, said: “Internationalisation of Education should not simply be a nice to have activity, but rather a strategic enabling objective.” She added that: “In the 21st Century, excellent research and teaching are impossible without exchange.”

NUST Study Tour To Europe

Fifteen (15) students and a lecturer this year travelled to Berlin, Germany, as part of a partnership Agreement between NUST and the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts as well as the Aachen University of Applied Sciences. The group was from the Department of Marketing and Logistics in the Faculty of Management Sciences.

The aim of the visit was for the students and the lecturer to learn best practices from the two German universities in areas such as; marketing, logistics, manufacturing, intercultural communication and business strategies, amongst others. Their itinerary largely consisted of the students attending various workshops and lectures on these topics.

The 11-day study trip was facilitated by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). NUST currently has numerous memoranda of understanding with German universities, of which the DAAD has been instrumental in the establishment and funding of many

partnerships and projects. This is one of the biggest groups from NUST that has travelled to Europe through these partnerships.



Ms Bianca Tjizumaue, Lecturer: Department of Marketing and Logistics [front row, far right], pictured with students in Berlin, Germany.

Ronaldo Goes To Russia

Ronaldo Kathjiheve, a third-year Bachelor of Hospitality Management student was selected to represent Namibia at the 45th WorldSkills Competition in Kazan, Russia under the cooking category. This is after participating in, and winning at the National Skills Competition in Namibia, an initiative of the Namibia Training Authority (NTA).

The WorldSkills competition, which took place in August 2019, brought together more than 1000 competitors from 63 countries who have competed in 56 vocational fields. Ronaldo was competing with 45 other students, of which, only one was also from the same continent in his category. He was accompanied by 10 other National Skills Competition winners, and NUST is extremely proud to have Ronaldo wave the NUST and Namibian flag in Russia.



"My biggest dream is to change the way people perceive local ingredients and get them to appreciate them. I want to be a part of creating proudly Namibian cuisines and then write a book about it,"
- Ronaldo Kathjiheve

"It motivated me to be the best in what I am doing. You should really not waste your time whilst you are young and take any opportunity that come your way. If you love what you are doing, you should not always be worried in getting a monetary reward as these experiences are invaluable and often cannot be paid with money alone," said Kathjiheve.

Five NUST Students To FH Flensburg



FROM LEFT: Kleophas Nampadhi, Transport Management student; Magdalena Nangolo, Logistics and Supply Chain Management student; Rosalia Hamunyela, Transport Management student; Tokolo Kashupi, Business Informatics student, and Trust Mhlanga, Logistics and Supply Chain Management student, pictured in Berlin, Germany.

Five NUST undergraduate students, Tokolo Kashupi, Kleophas Nampadhi, Rosalia Hamunyela, Trust Mhlanga and Magdalena Nangolo, spent five months on a semester exchange at the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) sponsored the students.

"I attended lectures that were delivered by different business experts and academics from both Europe and Africa. This made me look at business and education in Namibia from a different perspective. I feel Namibia needs to be on par with developed countries, especially in the public transport sector. I am confident that Namibian computing, and transport and logistics students can make a difference if we work together," said Kashupi, a Business Informatics student.

"For me, this trip highlighted the value of learning new things and making friends from other countries. The world is a global village, hence networking is important," remarked Nampadhi, a Transport Management student.

NUST Delegation Visit Flensburg

A delegation from the Namibia University of Science and Technology, led by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Morné du Toit, visited the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences (FUAS) this year to strengthen the existing collaboration between the two Universities.

During the visit, the delegates held discussions centred on five major themes namely, educational and media technology options, e-health, logistics and supply chain management, maritime technologies, and management.

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The essence of the benchmarking trip was based on sustainability and long-term collaboration. Furthermore, the need to ensure research and technology transfer and address institutional contributions towards research for sustainable development, was discussed at length by the President of FUAS, Dr Christoph Jansen, together with Prof Thomas Schmidt and Janntje Böhlke-Itzen, also from the host University.

FUAS and NUST have a long-standing partnership that particularly played a key role in NUST's transformation from a polytechnic to a university. A project supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) under the DIES framework, was established to support this transition in areas such as research capacity and the

integration of technologies in teaching, learning and assessment. The strategic discussions held ended with the Universities agreeing on the development of a long-term plan, to ensure the collaboration continues beyond the DIES project. The partnership is based on mutually beneficial networks that will result in promoting staff and student exchange and joint research projects, leveraging from expertise from both parties.

Moreover, the delegation was privileged to have HE Andreas Guibeb, Namibian Ambassador to Germany, in their midst. He emphasised the importance of regional integration and the role that universities of applied sciences play in ensuring economic impact through public and private partnerships.



Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor [fifth from left], Prof Anja Vest, FUAS Vice President: Academic Affairs [second from left]; HE Andreas Guibeb: Namibian Ambassador to Germany [sixth from left], pictured with senior management from the two universities.

First Exchanges With Romania

In July, three lecturers from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism and an International Relations Officer, through an Erasmus+ Staff Training Mobility had the opportunity to visit the University of Oradea in Romania.

The trip was part of the Erasmus+ Agreement that was signed earlier in the year between the University of Oradea and the Namibia University of Science and Technology. The objective of the mobility was transfer of knowledge, developing relationships between the two Institutions and the sharing of best practices.

The first phase of the Agreement involved four NUST staff going to Oradea and three staff coming to NUST. The Inter Institutional Agreement will end in July 2020, with further staff exchanges and one student exchange expected in the first semester of 2020.



Left to Right: Mrs Petrina Haufiku, Ms Uaarukapo Tjitunga, and Mrs Isobel Green all lecturers in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, take in a tour of the City of Oradea. Here they stand in front of the Citadel, the oldest structure in town, dating to the 1300s

"Visiting the University of Oradea and the city has been a great learning experience as to how other Departments of Tourism facilitate their programmes" explains Ms. Petrina Haufiku.

"It allowed us to gain exposure to an array of Romanian cultures and best practices in their teaching styles that we brought back home for our students," added Ms Uaarukapo Tjitunga. "Overall the experience was exciting, and we learned much which we are now eager to share with our colleagues."



Alliance of Four Universities in Spain wants to Collaborate with NUST

A delegation from the Alliance of four (4) Universities in Spain visited the Namibia University of Science and Technology this year. The Alliance is a strategic partnership of four (4) Spanish public University known to be in the forefront of research, academic excellence, and teaching and innovation.

The aim of their visit was to explore possibilities of collaborating in research and joint projects, development of double degrees, organisation of joint seminars and exchanging visiting professors.

The delegation consisting of Prof. Màrius Martínez, Vice-Rector for International Relations Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Prof. Matilde Sánchez, Deputy Vice-Rector of International Relations Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M), Prof. Pablo Pareja, Vice-Rector for Students welcome for the Universitat

Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Prof. José Pazó, Delegate of the President for Internationalization of Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and Ms. Glòria Rehues, International Relations Coordinator for the Alliance.

Acting Vice-Chancellor of NUST, Mr Morné du Toit thanked the delegation for having chosen NUST as one of their first university to visit in Africa, adding that "NUST welcomes to partner with the Alliance and start a long and fruitful partnership."

Noteable Events

NUST Scientists Share Expertise in Ghana

A European Union funded wildlife-counting project that was launched in 2015 at Ghana's Mole National Park, was successfully completed.

The project leaders included Dr Morgan Hauptfleisch, Research Coordinator in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, Dr Vera de Cauwer, a Spatial Science Expert; Bushskies Aerial Photography, a Namibian aerial surveying company, and Dr Chris Brown, a Namibian Ecologist. Since 2015, NUST and Bushskies Aerial Photography have collaborated in developing specialised techniques to count wildlife over large areas.

"Knowing the sizes of wildlife populations is important for conservation and sustainable management strategies. Our experience and knowledge in this field made us the ideal candidates to survey a premier national park of this kind. It is encouraging to be recognised for the strides we have made in Namibia. Being selected to assist another African nation with wildlife conservation work is an honour for us," said Dr Hauptfleisch.

As project team leader, Dr Hauptfleisch coordinated ground and aerial wildlife counting operations and analysis. Additionally, he trained staff on the use of technology in wildlife monitoring based on extensive research in Namibia by the NUST-Bushskies census team. Dr Vera De Cauwer trained park management on the use of Geographic Information Systems to analyse wildlife monitoring data in order to track the health of wildlife populations.

Through the deployment of infrared camera traps, the team was able to confirm the presence of a number of carnivores, including leopards, spotted hyenas and civets. An aerial count was last done in 2006, and therefore, an aircraft was also used to survey the entire park. The team counted more than 9 000 animals over the month-long project and found that wildlife populations were mostly

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growing in numbers, which supports healthy carnivore densities.

The park is hoping to use the data gathered to apply for UNESCO World Heritage status. NUST is hopeful that the project will lead to a long-term relationship, where students and researchers from Namibia and Ghana can share expertise



Dr Morgan Hauptfleisch with project participants in Ghana

Protect Preserve and Promote Indigenous Cultures and Languages (P3ICL) Project

A team of researchers from the Faculty of Human Sciences visited San communities in the Otjozondjupa Region to launch the Protect, Preserve and Promote Indigenous Cultures and Languages (P3ICL) project this year.

The aim of this N\$ 3.9m project, funded by the European Union, is to enable researchers to gather data from community elders in the form of cultural expressions such as; folktales and songs, dances, myths, proverbs, jokes, riddles and superstitions in order to revitalise these cultures and languages.

The data will also contribute to preserving indigenous cultures and languages. The team consisted of Professors Sarala Krishnamurthy and Ms Haileleul Woldemariam as well as Ms Jeanne Hunter and well-known local poet and author, Mr Keamogetsi Joseph Molapong. The launch was attended by several chiefs and community leaders such as Chief Tsamkxao of the Ju/'hoansi San and Chief Glony Arnold of the !Kung Traditional Authority.

The three-year research project is currently in its second year. Additionally, the team has begun digitising the collected cultural expressions and creating data for a repository. They will further co-design contemporary cultural products, raise cultural awareness, and advocate for the integration of the three indigenous cultures

under study in national policy documents and development plans. At the end of the project, a conference will be held to disseminate the outcomes, the lessons learnt and to map the way forward.



Prof Sarala Krishnamurthy, Researcher: Faculty of Human Sciences (right), pictured in the field.

A Rare Moment Draws To a Quick Close

Frances Sumner Jones, the wife to the Fulbright Prof Steven Jones spent a year as a visiting Social Worker in the Department of Student Services (DSS), and below, she describe her experiences:

Rare are the moments in life where growth in intellectual pursuits, career objectives and personal relationships work in synchrony – As

a Social Worker, I am well versed in communicating that usually we have to make trade-offs and learn to seek balance between these areas as best as possible. My year working with the DSS at NUST, however, has been one of those rare moments, and it is regrettably drawing to a quick close.

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Welcomed with a bouquet of open-ended opportunities

I arrived in Namibia in January 2019 from Alabama with my husband, a Professor of Civil Engineering, who came to NUST as a Fulbright Scholar. I was completing my Master's degree in Social Work, and by some stroke of luck was able to convince DSS to allow me to complete my field work in their office. Armed with a checklist of tasks and learning objectives to complete for my degree, I was welcomed by the Department of Student Services and given open-ended opportunities to collaborate with and contribute to their mission and programs.

Zooming on Mental Health Issues – Look Deeper Campaign

My immediate focus, as identified by Dr. Donovan Zealand and counsellors Lizelle Miller and Alta McNally, was on mental health issues among students. My biggest project thus became organizing a Mental Health Awareness Campaign to serve the student body. We formed a student advisory committee to help shape the content and design of the campaign, as well as supporting events. This LOOK DEEPER campaign resonated deeply with many students and became very rewarding work for us in the Department as well as the students on the advisory committee.

Tackling Different Mental Health Topics at a Time

The campaign covered a different mental health topic every month, promoted with posters around campus, which reflected student comments on each topic. Information on each topic was posted weekly on social media. The LOOK DEEPER campaign culminated with events surrounding World Mental Health Day on 10 October. Our final event was a performance called Mental Health Monologues, where students performed their own stories as well as other students' anonymous stories about their experiences with mental health issues. The performance was very well attended and proved to be a great example of the power of storytelling in creating community awareness and support. Enthusiasm for the campaign has grown and LOOK DEEPER will resume next year with new topics and a larger student advisory committee.

The #MeTooNamibia Movement

In addition to the Mental Health Awareness Campaign, I was able to contribute to numerous other projects in the Department of Student Services. As one of the organizers for the startup of the #MeTooNamibia movement, I contributed to the development of public forums discussing sexual and gender-based violence. My final

project here is developing a #MeToo student awareness campaign to run alongside the LOOK DEEPER campaign next year, bringing awareness, discussion and support surrounding the issues of sexual harassment and violence experienced by students.

Supervising Surveys

Students on campus have received many requests to complete surveys this year, several of which I have worked on in relation to my projects in the Department. We have now completed pre-test and post-test surveys of students' mental health awareness, as well as a survey on alcohol and drug use and one on students' transport needs and concerns (run in collaboration with my husband's research). It is my hope that these surveys will be useful to NUST in planning for student services, as well as to the research community in general.

Venture into Projects:

It is as a result of the DSS generous allowances to me that I was able to be involved in so many additional projects: leading and contributing to student workshops; providing individual counselling to students; working with vital student societies such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex (LGBTQI). In addition I was also entrusted to write draft content for student codes and administrative planning such as Diversity, Equality & Inclusion; developing course content on consent for the core SDG course; contributing to planning for World TB Commemoration Day; and assisting with the Mr & Miss NUST competition. In August, the International Relations Department enlisted me to develop a program for International Youth Day on children's Personal Bill of Rights, which involved working with student volunteers and participating in the event at a community centre in Katutura.

Intellectually, Personally and Professionally Enriched

It has indeed been a busy year, and I am enriched by my experience intellectually, personally and professionally. I will carry my experiences with me back to the U.S. and undoubtedly draw from them as I continue in the field of Social Work, drawing not only from my practical experience but also from ideas generated by my work here and the people I was fortunate to work alongside. And it is my relationships forged with students here which will stay with me forever. The students I worked with and got to know have taught me not only about their experience as Namibian youth, but how universal the human experience really is, and how closely linked self-development and community are. It has been a privilege to be a part of this NUST community.



Mrs Frances Sumner Jones (left), at the Mental Health Monologues with Department of Student Services Social Worker, Ms Lizelle Miller



Doing it for the kids: Mrs Frances Jones trains the NUST volunteers on how to facilitate discussions with children on their rights at Family of Hope Services, during the International Youth Day volunteer activity.



Dr Mwewa Studies Biofuels

The Associate Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, Dr Lameck Mwewa, completed his PhD study on biofuels value chains development, food security, and sustainability. The overall aim of the study was to develop a robust diversion-based evaluation framework (DBEF) for assessing potentials, conditions, risks, and challenges of agro-based biofuels production systems in the SADC region.



According to Dr Mwewa, when the biofuels agenda gained momentum globally, as a mechanism to reduce carbon emissions, the SADC block considered initiating biofuels programmes. They saw biofuels as an opportunity to attract investment, diversify the agriculture sector and foster rural development. Several *Jatropha* projects, driven mainly by foreign investors, were proposed and some implemented in several countries, but failed miserably to deliver on the promises.

“This left many target beneficiaries desperate and significantly eroded the trust governments had in biofuels and their potential. As a result, most countries condemned biofuels (especially *Jatropha*-based) and even pronounced measures to stop its introduction altogether as they feared that it would have negative impacts on food production, the environment, economy, and the people,” remarked Dr Mwewa.

Dr Mwewa added that the SADC region possesses biophysical conditions that are suitable to grow most of the common biofuel feedstock crops commercially. With a comparatively low population density coupled with most members being net importers of

petroleum, it is technically and economically feasible to develop biofuels and still produce enough food sustainably.

“Even Namibia, as arid as it is, can implement sustainable biofuels strategically without causing an imbalance in the agro-ecosystems, if the right location and feedstock choices are made. *Jatropha* plant is not a viable option currently, but other energy crops are more viable than tobacco, a lesson we can get from Malawi,” he remarked. His study recommended that an integrated local approach in designing policies and programmes with local needs and context at the centre and triangulated with national or Africa sub-continental macro socio-economic factors, is a pre-condition for sustainable biofuels value chains. Neoliberal top-down approaches tend to create dependencies that may cause disruption of food production systems, markets and irreparable dent to livelihoods, food production and the environment in medium to long terms.

“There are enough programmes that have created skewed dependencies that one can look at to avoid falling into a similar situation,” he concluded.

SToRM Discuss the Role of Research Management in HEI

The Strengthening of Collaboration, Leadership and Professionalisation in Research Management (SToRM) project, this year met in Lithuania for a conference on the role of research management in Higher Education Institutions. Eleven (11) partner universities, including NUST, participated in the conference.

NUST is part of the three-year, N\$14 million Erasmus+ funded project, which started in 2016. The conference served as a platform for partner institutions to share best practices on research internationalisation strategies, as well as to make a comparative analysis of the higher education research management and administration landscape. SToRM also enabled participants to take part in staff exchanges and mentorship programmes between SouthernAfricaDevelopmentCommunity(SADC)andEuropeanUnion (EU) higher education institutions. The conference formed part of the events that concluded the project, which ended in October 2019.



Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, Director, Project Services Unit: NUST [far right]; Dr Hileni Kapenda, Director, Centre for Research and Publications: University of Namibia [standing, sixth from left]; and Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director, Research and Innovation: Stellenbosch University [crouching, fourth from right], pictured with other consortium partners.

Early Career Teaching Excellence Recognized

Ms Jennilee Kohima, a lecturer in the Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning, won the 2018 Institutional Early Career Teaching Excellence Award.



She holds two Master Degrees, one in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of the Free State, South Africa, and another in Land Management and Land Tenure from the Technical University of Munich Germany. Ms Kohima completed her Bachelor of Technology in Land Management at the former Polytechnic of Namibia.

Asked how she feels about winning the award, she replied, "Getting recognition for my teaching techniques so early in my career means that I have to set the bar much higher for myself in the years to come."

When she won the award, Ms Kohima had only been at NUST for about a year. She realized she had a deep passion for teaching early on, and embraced her role as mentor to her students. In addition to her excellence in teaching, she has an array of research interests that includes urban informality, land use

management/planning, planning practices and urban governance.

A Town and Regional Planner, Ms Kohima is currently undertaking doctoral studies. She is a member of the Namibia Institute of Town and Regional Planning and the International Society of City and Regional Planners. In terms of the future of her field, she "would like to see town and regional planners taking charge of planning and development in urban areas."

"As Namibians, we need to become aware of land use management and what is required from us as good citizens. We need to understand that urban informality is a growing phenomenon that needs to be addressed and accommodated positively in light of existing planning mechanisms and regulations," she concluded

A Year of Achievement for the Dept. of Mining and Process Engineering

The Namibia University of Science and Technology's Department of Mining and Process Engineering (DMPE) achieved a number of important milestones during the year under the leadership of Prof Harmony Musiyarira, Head of Department and Prof Dick Groot, Deputy Head of Department.

In terms of partnership engagement and international relations, Prof Musiyarira, was a keynote speaker at the Sustainable Development in the Minerals Industry (SDIMI) 2019 Conference, which took place in Sydney Australia. His address was titled "An Interrogation of Social Licence to Operate (SLO) on the African Continent" and it was well received, as it gave useful insights about SLO in the African context.

Another notable paper presented at the conference was "Role of Mining Companies in contributing to sustainable development goals: A case study for Namibia". Prof Musiyarira also had the opportunity to visit the Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) and discussed

capacity building in the DPME in cooperation with industry with Mr Neville Plint, Director of the Institute.

Towards the end of 2018, Prof Musiyarira was appointed as President-Elect Designate for the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) at the 29th Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Beijing, China. He will become the SOMP President in 2020. His election signals the global minerals education fraternity's growing confidence in Namibia in general and in NUST in particular, as a key destination for minerals education in Africa. Consequent to this unanimous election, the next SOMP international conference will be hosted by NUST through DMPE in 2021. **(continues on page 23)**



The international conference will draw participants from the entire globe and will be a landmark event for minerals education in Africa.

Prof Musiyarira also found himself a part of the Namibian Delegation to Finland to solicit the views of various Finnish organisations ranging from industry, government and academia concerning the beneficiation of minerals and the plans that Finland has with regards to regional and global value chains as well as policy and economic instruments related to promoting beneficiation and industrialisation. The international benchmarking exercise was to gain a deeper understanding of beneficiation of minerals and also to get ideas, advice and the challenges and pitfalls to be aware of in developing the beneficiation strategy. As part of the strategy development process, benchmarking visits were conducted at government institutions, companies and research and development institutions.

In terms of Teaching and Learning, Research and Innovation and Community Service, the DMPE achieved significant milestones. A programme for the qualification in Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering was introduced and due to demand, the second year of study was successfully implemented a year ahead of schedule. Research in the Department resulted in a number of outputs in the form of published papers and conference

contributions. The Fourth Year student research projects led to successful participation at the annual Student Symposium in Johannesburg organized by the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

The research activities of the Department have also impacted on a broader front. The Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, appointed the Department of Mining and Process Engineering at NUST to develop a mineral beneficiation strategy for Namibia. The strategy aims to facilitate the realisation of full socio-economic potential that can be derived from Namibia's vast mineral endowment. The proposed strategy is defined on three levels, namely:

1. **Overarching strategy** that addresses broad and cross-cutting issues of all the mineral commodities considered in the study;
2. **Grouped mineral commodities strategies** addressing issues that apply to the seven groups of mineral commodities as defined in the formulation of the strategy outlined herein; and
3. **Individual mineral commodities strategies** addressing the individual mineral commodities identified in this study.

The project was successfully concluded in September 2019 and the strategy is expected to be implemented in 2020.



Group photograph of the participants at the Beneficiation Workshop

Two research projects were concluded this year on severe corrosion problems encountered by the Namibia Water Corporation Ltd (NamWater) in their pipeline systems. These problems affected the reliability of water supply to a number of communities and companies in the Khomas and Erongo Regions.

The Department provides services to students and companies

through valuable research instruments and staff expertise. In this regard, Ms J Kurasha, Mr K Chigayo and Mr S Kanalelo underwent advanced training on the Scanning Electron Microscope. This instrument, with its staff, is a valuable resource for Namibia. Mr B Sillilo also underwent training in India on Nanotechnology. Ms F Uahengo successfully applied for a bursary to study for her PhD at the Copperbelt University, Zambia. **(continues on page 24)**

The Mining and Process Engineering Student Society initiated the collection of donations from students and lecturers that wished to support the Saved to Serve Orphanage in Hakahana. The Orphanage cares for about 200 children and young adults. It is managed by Mr and Mrs P. Mutombo, who dedicate their lives to serve the Lord in this way.

Donations made included non-perishable food, clean used clothes, sanitary pads, toiletries and financial support. The donated money was used to buy food for the Orphanage. The aim of the outreach was to provide support to the community, especially the vulnerable children and help them realize there is still a future for them despite their circumstances. A part of that initiative was to motivate them and inspire them, thereby giving them hope for a better future. A presentation was given to the 16 to 18 year olds about the life as an adult and all issues pertaining to teenage pregnancy, as most of the teenagers from within the suburb fall victims of pregnancy. Moreover, the Society will be giving Maths and Physics classes to the grade 11 and 12 learners, as these are the subjects they have difficulties in.



NamWater and NUST staff on a field trip to investigate pipelines damaged by corrosion, from the left: Mr M Mutandwa (NamWater), Prof S Mitropolskya (NUST), Ms A Nakale (NamWater) and Prof D Groot (NUST)



IR Important Dates for 2020

04 February - Orientation: All International Students

05 February - Official Opening of Academic Year (lectures begin)

11 February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science

01 March - Application Open for 2nd Semester Exchange Students

14 April - 17 April : Mid-semester Break

30 April - Visa Application Closes: Incoming Exchange Student for 2nd Semester

30 April - International Jazz Day

15 May - NUST Application Closes: 2nd Semester Incoming Exchange Students

12 June - End of 1st Semester



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International Relations Newsletter

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