

NUST students join NASA project

Three NUST students, Senior Shimhanda, David Shipepe and Mercy-Thea Alugodhi, are presently in Walvis Bay, shadowing scientists from USA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and various American universities. Shimhanda is from the Faculty of Engineering, and Shipepe and Alugodhi from the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences.

The three are part of a group of six students from NUST, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and South Africa's North-West University. The US scientists, under the Observations of Aerosols Above Clouds and their Interactions (ORACLES) programme, are in the country to observe and measure the way aerosol particles interact with clouds and change their ability to warm or cool the earth.

Dr Nicola Knox, an Associate Professor in the NUST Department of Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology, said this is a very exciting collaboration. "Our students

will follow these remarkable scientists for three weeks and obtain a wealth of knowledge," she said. The field campaigns will take place at various times over the next three years, during the peak burning biomass season, which is between August and October. Aircraft with instruments that make measurements similar to those acquired from satellites will be used during the field campaigns.

In another interesting development, Prof Nenesi Kgabi, from the NUST Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, announced that NUST, together with NASA



Students involved in the project, from left: Danitza Klopper (North West University); Ben Nathanael (UNAM); Senior Shimhanda (NUST); Michael Shipepe David (NUST); Mercy-Thea Alughodi (NUST); Steve Broccardo (NWU) and Hilma Nghiyalwa (UNAM).

representatives and the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre, will conduct the Science Education Outreach during the Science and Technology Innovation (STI) Festival taking place from 12 to 16 September.

The event, organised by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), will be held at the Ongwediva Trade Fair venue in Northern Namibia. Hundreds of primary and secondary school

learners will receive science education through quizzes, videos and interactive talks, Kgabi said. She added that the focal point will be educating young learners from as young as Grade Four, about earth and atmospheric sciences in simple and easy-to-understand language. This forms part of the ongoing collaboration between NUST and NASA.

Prof Kgabi may be contacted at 061-207 2609 for further details about the festival.

Highline University President visits



Dr Jack Bermingham, President of Highline University, NUST's first International partner, paid a visit to the NUST campus recently to compare programmes and assess the continued benefits of the partnership. This year, in addition to presenting certificates to members of the Cybercrime Unit of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (FCI), Dr Bermingham also conducted talks with the Department of Student Services and gave a presentation to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. The FCI team won a Cyber Security competition held at Highline University earlier this year. Dr Bermingham is pictured with Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua.

New Doctoral programmes offered

The NUST Senate, the highest academic organ within the Institution, has approved the introduction of two Doctoral programmes in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences (FNRS). The programmes are the Doctor of Philosophy in Spatial Sciences and the Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources Sciences.

Both programmes are research-based and selected candidates are expected to start their projects in early 2017. All applicants must have qualifications from a recognised universities at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 9 in related subjects and/or cognate areas.

Dr Rolf Becker, the Dean of the Faculty, expressed his excitement about the development and added that this will contribute substantially to the Faculty's research output. "In many academic institutions worldwide, PhD students are the main drivers of research and innovation, because they are the ones who can fully focus on research activities. Graduates and established professionals in the public and private sectors with Master's degrees no longer have to go abroad for a doctoral degree in these

fields," Becker said.

The process of introducing doctoral programmes at the Institution started in 2012 when the Faculty of Computing and Informatics' first two PhD programmes were approved, followed by the Faculty of Engineering's programme in 2015. Plans to offer more qualifications at this level are in the pipeline.

Seven other new programmes will be introduced across the different Faculties, mainly at postgraduate level, next year. These are: Bachelor of Quantity Surveying, Bachelor of Business Management Honours, Master of Architecture, Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of English and Applied Linguistics, Master of Environmental Engineering, and Master of Health Sciences.



Dr Rolf Becker

Assistants share best practices

More than 30 Secretaries, Personal Assistants and Office Administrators from NUST and other institutions in Windhoek gathered for the fifth NUST Secretaries Convention held under the theme "Attitude Counts." The event seeks to create a platform where staff who hold these positions, share best practices and enhance their work performance.

The convention was opened by Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, who emphasised that Secretaries hold indispensable roles in any company and should be respected and honoured.

Various guest speakers delivered motivational talks and all addressed the importance of maintaining a positive attitude and professionalism in the workplace. Anne Thandeka Gerhardt, President of the Namibian Women Summit, and a business woman in the real estate sector, encouraged the participants to become movers and shakers in society and continuously better themselves personally and professionally.

The field is largely dominated by women, but

Silas Amutenya, the Secretary of the Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning, challenges the perception that this is not a career path suitable for men. Amutenya, who has been with the Department since 2011 and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree at the Harold Pupkewitz Graduate Business School, says: "There is a gradual paradigm shift taking place in terms of gender roles in the workplace, and this is one of them. I thoroughly enjoy what I do."

Sonja Samuels, the Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, described the event as a resounding success and said she looks forward to the tangible changes that will come about as a result of the convention.



Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, centre, front, is pictured with Hilda Basson-Namundjebo, Managing Director: Oxygen Communications on his right, and Anne Thandeka Gebhardt, President: Namibian Women Summit, on his left, and Mia Davids, extreme right in front, and participants in the Convention.