

Cyber Security team secures top honours in USA

A team consisting of three Honours and five Masters students in Digital Forensics and three lecturers of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics returned from the United States of America (USA) with the first prize in the International Collegiate Cyber Security Competition. The competition, which was held for the first time brought together three tertiary institutions namely: Highline Community College, the University of Washington Tacoma and NUST.

The competition assessed the students' level of competency in protecting corporate network infrastructure and business information systems. The teams responded to a series of random cyber attacks which were issued by a pool of qualified industry experts. Maintaining speed during the competition was mandatory for the participants whilst they received instructions via their set corporate networks. Thus duplicating an ordinary business environment where communication is done through e-mails and telephone lines.

The magnitude of this competition

exceeded the challenges that the NUST team faced during their first Namibia National Cyber Security Competition in October last year. The team leader, Martin Hamukwaya said: "After encountering our international counterparts, I can indeed confirm that the quality of NUST's education is of an exceptional standard, which was evident in our performance."

The next local competition is scheduled for October this year and the Namibia National Cyber Security Competition Committee is appealing for more financial support from industry.



Faculty of Computing and Informatics cybersecurity staff and students. From left: Shadreck Chitauro, Muhinda Mudabeti, Nandotjitouwa Kavimaka, Naemi Gerson, Klaudia Uuzombala, Stanford Musarurwa, Joris Ikany, Viktoria Shakela, Martin Hamukwaya (team leader), Mercy Chitauro, Dr Fungai Bhunu Shava, Attlee M Gamundani.

Biomedical students reach out to Karas youth

Thirteen students of the Biomedical Sciences Student Society (BSSS) and two lecturers in the Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences, recently visited six schools in the Karas Region. This visit was part of an outreach programme themed, "BSSS for an HIV-free Generation."

Studies have revealed that Namibia is winning the battle of treating persons infected with HIV, as more and more patients are gaining access to treatment. However, the rate of new HIV infections remains alarmingly high due to a number of challenges such as stigma attached to the disease.

The BSSS interacted with more than 700 learners in grades 11 and 12, discussing issues regarding sexual behaviour, attitudes towards the virus and prevention methods.

Furthermore, the students used the opportunity to give learners career guidance, urging them to pursue studies in Biomedical Sciences.

The Public Relations Officer of the Society, Helalia Ndishishi said: "My experience in the South was really enlightening. I think we have changed the minds of many young people. We encouraged them to excel in their studies and reminded them that sometimes it is not the smartest people that get ahead in life, but the most hardworking."



Lecturers, Mukesi Munyaradzi (far left) and Tuna Brock (far right), pictured in Bethanie, Karas Region with students from the Biomedical Sciences Students Society.



From left: Dr Chris Brown, 2016 Cheetah Conservationist of the Year; Honourable Professor Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly and CCF's International Patron; Dr Peggy Oti-Boateng, Coordinator for the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions, (ANSTI); Dr Willem Jankowitz, 2016 Cheetah Educator of the Year; Johnson Ndokosho, Deputy Director for Parks and Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Dr Laurie Marker, Founder and Executive Director of Cheetah Conservation Fund.

Staff member honoured for conservation efforts

Retired Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Tourism and part-time lecturer at NUST, Dr Willem Jankowitz, is the 2015 Cheetah Conservation Educator of the Year. He received the Award from the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) at the organisation's 18th Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner.

Namibia reportedly has the largest cheetah population pegged at over 3 500, a number which is said to be on the rise because of ongoing conservation efforts. During the Gala Dinner, various people received awards for the work that they have done and continue to do towards saving the cheetah community. CCF has worked closely with NUST through the Natural Resources, Agriculture and Tourism Departments, training over 100 student interns in conservation projects in the past 15 years.

Jankowitz said: "The CCF is our valued training partner and has been accommodating our students doing their practical training and I am humbled by this recognition." Jankowitz studied at the University of the Free State where he finished a Masters in Plant Geography and a PhD in Plant Ecology. "He has done tremendous work over the years and we appreciate all his hard work in getting our students to fully understand plant ecology. He has also been instrumental in forging the strong partnerships we have with industry," says the Head of the Geo-Spatial Sciences and Technology Department, Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences, Celeste Espach who also attended the event.

Jankowitz started lecturing at the Academy in 1990, which later became the Polytechnic of Namibia, and subsequently transformed to NUST.

The Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, is a former recipient of the Award and in 2014 he was appointed to serve on the CCF Board.

Meet and greet



The U.S. Ambassador to Namibia H.E. Thomas F. Daughton (seventh from right), poses with the Dean of the Faculty of Computing and Informatics (far right) and the Cyber Security Competition Team before their departure for Seattle, Washington. Ambassador Daughton underscored the importance of Cyber Security in this fast paced information era, adding that the general deficiency of skilled manpower globally against the new cyber warfare has caused unprecedented disclosure of sensitive data and loss of crucial records.