

## NUST grooms high school learners

The first NUST Brain Match Quiz Competition organised jointly by the Faculties of Engineering, and Health and Applied Sciences, was a huge success.

The competition, in which a large number of local high school learners participated, was held as part of NUST efforts to grow its relationships with the high schools in Namibia and to encourage them to cultivate a culture of excellence in Mathematics and Science.

"The future of Namibia rests in the development of Science and Technology. In our University that particularly hinges on our Faculties of Engineering, Health and Applied

Sciences, Computing and Informatics, and Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences. These are the centres that are producing Science and Engineering graduates for the nation," NUST Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, said when he welcomed the participants last week.

NUST engages the high school community in many ways and just two weeks ago, a large number of high school learners participated in the Institution's annual HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign. Career Guidance Days are also organised regularly during which different companies are invited to offer career guidance especially to high school learners. In addition, NUST regularly participates in career fairs across the country and visits high schools in all regions to showcase the various interesting career paths that students can potentially follow. The Brain Match Quiz Competition was initiated to engage learners in Science and Maths in an interesting and non-intimidating way, yet facilitating a lot of learning.

Tjivikua said universities need the talent of



Dr Samuel John, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering left, and Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, centre, are pictured with a teacher and members of the winning team, St. Georges's Diocesan College. From left: Michelle Dhlamini, Miriam Da Conceição, Kerstin Eysselein (teacher), Nanaya Joseph and Ndupunikwa Dongwi.

local high schools to produce the high-level skills required to drive economic growth.

"As the nation embarks on a developmental path guided by key enablers embedded in the national development plans, it is becoming extremely urgent that we are able to produce the expertise required to accelerate this development. We cannot grow as a nation without the critical mass of engineers and

scientists, and we cannot adequately address development challenges if the Science and Mathematics subject offerings in our high schools are inadequate," Tjivikua said.

The competition was co-sponsored by the Network of Energy Excellence for Development (NEED), a European Union financed project that promotes renewable energy, education and applications in a holistic approach.



Dr Tjama Tjivikua

## Keep NUST clean, Namibia green

The NUST Clean-Up Campaign was held on campus last week in an effort to encourage cleanliness at the Institution and surrounding residential areas and to contribute to the City of Windhoek's waste management efforts. The launch of the day included several performances by drama students and local musicians in line with the event's theme, "Keep NUST clean, keep Namibia green."

Health experts agree that there are numerous benefits for preserving a clean environment, such as curbing infections and diseases which include cholera and food poisoning. It is for this reason that NUST Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, spoke passionately about hygiene and accountability when he opened the event. "I get appalled by the dirt I see in our cities, towns and communities. Why have our communities turned into waste dumps and why have leaders at all levels largely remained silent?" he asked. Tjivikua further stressed that uncleanliness is a social disease which we have to nip in the bud.

The Marketing and Customer Education Officer in the Solid Waste Management Division at the City of Windhoek, liue Kauta, said the cleanliness of the capital has taken a nose-dive, a situation which is unacceptable.

Kauta emphasised that Windhoek has always been known as the cleanest city on the continent, but that this is no longer the case. "We have lost this title to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. It is therefore, for this reason that we should intensify the clean-up campaigns with just one aim - to claim back our status," she said.

As part of the campaign, various student clubs cleaned the campus and surrounding areas. The first prize was awarded to the Transport and Logistics Society for working in the most efficient and effective manner. The Environmental Health Society and the Human Resources Management Society secured the second and third places respectively. The event will be held annually with the aim to foster a culture of hygiene on and beyond the campus.



From left: Bianca Tjizumaue, Lecturer; Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor; liue Kauta of the City of Windhoek and Rohan Louw of Rent-A-Drum.



From left: Willem Dewulf, President: Namibia Institute of Architects; Philip Lühl, Lecturer; Dr Rolf Becker, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences; Prof Sampson Umenne, Head of Department: Architecture and Spatial Planning; Ndeshipanda Iita, Student; Elao Martin, Student; Dr Tjama Tjivikua, Vice-Chancellor, and Oliver Quarmby, Lecturer.

## Architecture Department grows steadily

The Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning (DASP) held a week-long exhibition of this year's models produced by Architecture students that they submitted to the Murray & Roberts Des Baker Design Competition which was open to students in Southern Africa.

The exhibition, which was open to the campus community as well as the general public, also honoured the two NUST students who won the competition.

The event showcased the 16 entries to the prestigious competition, most from South African Universities. The project aimed to encourage students to suggest and devise different solutions to challenges facing different cities, such as homelessness and crime, from an architectural perspective.

Launching the exhibition, NUST Vice-Chancellor, Tjama Tjivikua, went down memory lane and highlighted the challenges faced in establishing the Department in 2010. He was elated that despite the tremendous challenges, the Department is excelling among universities that were established many years ago. "Even if we come from humble beginnings, we can still make an impact. This Department is certainly competing with internationally recognised

institutions," he said.

Over the years, the young Department has won a number of accolades, locally and internationally. The Namibia Institute of Architects (NIA) has opened its doors to students who may now become members of the non-profit statutory institution. Previously this status was exclusively for registered architects.

Willem Dewulf, the President of NIA, who made the announcement at the exhibition, said the decision will enable the young people to forge partnerships with industry and build much-needed networks for their careers.

Prof Sampson Umenne, the Head of the DASP, welcomed the gesture and urged students to grab the various opportunities. He applauded the Namibia Council for Architects and Quantity Surveyors (NCAQS) for endorsing the Professional Master of Architecture programme to be introduced at the University in 2017.