

More NUST programmes accredited



From left: Prof Sylvester Moyo, Director: Biomedical Sciences Programme; Corneels Jafta, Registrar; Himeesora Kaimu, Director: Quality Assurance; Dr Andrew Niikondo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs; Hon. Dr Itah Kandjii-Murang, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation; Dennis Fredericks, Section Head: Office Management and Technology Department; Dr Onesmus Shuungula, Head of Department: Mathematics and Statistics, and Dr Reway Makamani, Senior Lecturer: Communication.

NUST received Certificates of Accreditation for eight programmes from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in consultation with the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA). The handover ceremony took place last week in the capital.

The programmes that were accredited at the event are: *Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences Honours, NQF Level 8; Bachelor of Environmental Health Sciences Honours, NQF Level 8; Bachelor of Journalism and Communication Technology, NQF Level 7; Bachelor of Journalism and Communication Technology Honours, NQF Level 8; Bachelor of Office Management and Technology, NQF Level 7; Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics Honours, NQF Level 8; Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics and Statistics, NQF Level 7 and Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics Honours, NQF Level 8.*

Programme accreditation is a quality indicator that protects the interest of students and academic institutions by ensuring that the qualifications offered have been scrutinised and are of an exceptional standard. The Minister of Higher Education,

Training and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murang handed over the certificates and applauded NUST for the hard work and dedication to excellence.

The NUST Director of Quality Assurance Department, Himeesora Kaimu expressed gratitude for the recognition. She said: "I would like to thank the NCHE and the NQA for their dedication in the enhancement of the quality of higher education in the country. Our University is working round the clock to ensure all the programmes are accredited, not only by the NCHE but other professional bodies as well."

Last year the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences NQF Level 8 was accredited by the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia (AHPCN), while the Bachelor of Architecture NQF Levels 7 and 8 was accredited by the Namibia Council for Architects and Quantity Surveyors (NCAQS) earlier this year.

Human Sciences Faculty hosts third Research Seminar

Five research papers were presented by staff at the Faculty of Human Sciences' (FHS) third Research Seminar Series. The FHS's niche research areas include Applied Linguistics and Human Capital Development, Information Communication Technologies for Development, Social Justice and Society, Public-Private Partnership and Economic Development.

Research output is a key area for the university, and enormous effort and investment has been put into setting up structures to create an enabling environment for researchers, inclusive of staff and students. The reporting of research outputs is thus an important initiative that all Faculties adhere to periodically throughout the year by hosting seminars of this kind.

The FHS Dean, Dr Sarala Krishnamurthy gave insight into the research activity of her Faculty, at the same time mapping the way forward. The five papers presented covered various topics namely: Namibian Photographers and the Use of Social Media for Activism; the Use of Morphemes

in Spoken and Written Communication by students at NUST and UNAM; Whistle-blowing Mechanisms in the Motor Industry; The Idea of "Place" as a Central Construct for Re-imagining Community Engagement and Higher Education Epistemological Transformation and a Legal Analysis of the Proposed Framework of the National Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEF) Bill.

Last year, the FHS research and publications output was 36, thereby surpassing the goal of 25. This year the target is 30, with anticipation that this figure will also be exceeded.



The Dean of the Faculty of Human Sciences, Dr Sarala Krishnamurthy (centre) pictured with researchers at the Seminar. From left: Benhardt Tjatar, Dr Nkosithando Mpofu, Tulha Frans and Hugh Ellis.



Three members of the NUST Karate-Zen pose with their medals in Ongwediva. From left: Ombili Aukongo, Damian Kapinga and Mateus Angula.

Karate team strikes gold

A team of ten NUST students participated in the Karate-Zen National Open Championships that was held in Ongwediva, and majority of the students won gold medals in various divisions. Additionally, the team secured four bronze medals and a silver medal at the tournament that saw participation from more than 50 contestants nationwide.

A female fourth year Business Administration student, Ombili Aukongo said: "Karate is not a violent sport as perceived by many. It is a very safe sport in the sense that when we are in the competition ring, we use semi-contact techniques. It is very rare for injuries to occur." Aukongo won gold in Kumite, which is the part of karate in which a person fights against an opponent, and bronze in Kata, which is a detailed choreographed pattern of movements.

It is common for the sport to be dominated by men, but this is changing as more and more females haven shown interest, be

it for fitness, discipline or self-defence purposes. At present, the NUST team is made up of 20 members and nearly half are female.

Aukongo, who is also a judge for the Namibian Karate Union, added that she has witnessed a significant number of women who attained black belts, the highest rank that one can achieve in karate.

Interest in karate is growing on campus despite infrastructural limitations Transport is provided weekly by the University for students to train at the Karate-Zen headquarters in Khomasdal.