



UPDATE

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EDITORIAL

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MOTIVATIONAL THOUGHTS



American political delegation shares ideas

A group of young political leaders from the United States of America (USA), who visited a number of African countries as part of a political study tour, recently met with Poly Rector, Prof Tjama Tjivikua, to share views on developmental issues.

Six delegates from the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACPYL) visited Namibia as part of a world-wide study tour to gain knowledge and understanding of national political systems. The delegation included three representatives each from the Republican and Democratic Parties. The delegates were Niya Moon (Democrat), an analyst for Global Issues Management and Public Policy at Kraft Foods, Michael Watson (Republican), a member of the Mississippi State Senate, Ardashes Kassakhian (Democrat), a clerk at the City of Glendale, California, Beth Lewallen (Republican), a Legislative Liaison Officer, Maricopa County, Laura Askelin (Democrat), a Political Organiser for the American Federation of State,

County and Municipal Employees, and Robert Johnson (Republican), a member of the Oklahoma State Senate.

The group, accompanied by Dustin DeGrande, Political Officer at the USA Embassy in Windhoek, met with Prof Tjivikua and Neavera Olivier, the Poly's Director for Planning and International Relations, who provided the delegates with specific background information on the Poly before updating the visitors on the more general aspects of the Namibian education sector.

The ACPYL delegates shared information with the Poly representatives about their study tour that aimed to equip the young politicians with a more comprehensive understanding of the multitude of structures and functions of governments that exist in countries throughout the world, as well as to gain a deeper appreciation for people's diverse cultures and histories.



The visitors are, from left, Robert Johnson, Neavera Olivier (Poly), Ardashes Kassakhian, Tjama Tjivikua, Beth Lewallen, Michael Watson, Laura Askelin, Niya Moon and Dustin De Grande (US Embassy in Namibia).

Cheryl Williams visit PON

The Poly's Department of International Relations continues its policy of internationalising education as the institution recently hosted Professor Cheryl Williams, Vice President: International and Cultural Relations at Concordia University, Irvine, in the United States. The discussions focused on possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions.

During her brief visit to the Poly, Prof Williams was met by Vice-Rector for Research and Academic Affairs, Dr Andrew Niikondo, the Deans of the Poly's different Schools, including Dr Sarala Krishnamurthy (Humanities), Kofi Boamah (Management), Mwewa Lameck (Natural Resources and Tourism) and other members of the Poly's management.

Prof Williams gave a brief overview of Concordia University, Irvine, a regional Christian university which offers undergraduate, postgraduate and adult degree programmes and has a strong Lutheran heritage which operates along the motto: "Grace Alone. Faith Alone." Dr Niikondo gave a presentation on the Polytechnic, highlighting the institution's growth, its academic departments and the partnerships which the Poly has established with international universities.

Prof Williams, who is tasked with creating and establishing international partnerships between Concordia University, Irvine, and other tertiary institutions, said that she would love to establish an official study-abroad exchange programme with the Poly.

She was largely impressed with the manner in which the Poly has been able to grow its student numbers and the accompanying growth in academic programmes which the institution offers.

Williams also expressed a willingness by her university to assist Poly students who wish to undertake a study exchange to her university, but who lack the financial means to do so. She added that students and academics from Concordia University, Irvine, who will potentially visit the Poly on staff and student exchanges, will focus on rural youth development in Namibia as well as educational and leadership development.



Credit Suisse continues to host Poly Interns

Two third year Bachelor of Technology degree in Economics students, Ilona Shikongo and Ndapwa Kwedhi, have been selected to complete their Internship at Credit Suisse 2013.

The two proved themselves to be academically and emotionally suitable to be selected and to act as ambassadors for both the Polytechnic and Namibia. The School of Management and the School of Economics and Finance have benefited tremendously by the B360 Education Partnership that promotes and secures Internship opportunities for Polytechnic students in the Schools of Management and Economics and Finance respectively. This will be the third time that Poly students will complete their internship at Credit Suisse.

The B360 education partnership is growing as an organisation and is considering further partnerships in Africa, in addition to the very good cooperation with the Polytechnic of Namibia. B360 Education partnerships was founded in June 2009 and is a non-profit Swiss organisation that arranges assignments for retired professionals and experts in their different disciplines. In 2011 at least 15, B360 education partnership experts completed special assignments by teaching for three to six weeks at the Polytechnic.



Ms Ndapwa Kwedhi (left) and Ms Ilona Shikongo (right), selected candidates for 2013 Internship at Credit Swiss, Switzerland pictured together with Ms Dioné Izaks, International Relations Officer at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Poly graduates full of praise for student exchange programme

Two Poly graduates who travelled to Germany for internships and part-time studies have praised the institution's international study exchange programme that enabled them to gain valuable international exposure and experience.

Lee Helena Schwarz and Tunomukumo Shaanika, both Bachelor of Logistics (Honours) graduates, visited Germany earlier this year for an additional semester of study and an internship at the Hellmann Worldwide Logistics Company in Frankfurt. The two graduates gained valuable experience at the German logistics firm. The two students hope to plough back the knowledge gained into the Namibian market.

While in Germany, Schwarz and Shaanika also attended a number of part-time courses at Master's and Bachelor's levels at the Maritime Faculty of the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences, one of Poly's partner universities. These courses included subjects such as Business Intelligence, International Logistics, Maritime Business and Strategic Management as well as Exploring Foreign Markets. Transworld Cargo (TWC), one of the partners of the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics (NGCL), facilitated their internship placements at the Hellmann Worldwide Logistics Company.

"At Frankfurt Hellmann Logistics, we were attached to the Air Freight and Consolidation Department where we learnt about booking and tracking of shipments. We were also exposed to different aspects of warehousing and the consolidation of shipments. These are critical components of the logistics and freight forwarding industry," Schwarz said.

"We would like to thank the Poly, TWC as well as the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for the study and work attachment opportunity they have made possible. The exchange programme really helped us a lot to become more competitive at the global level. We have learned to be more conscious about how people do business internationally," they said. The couple advised Namibians to follow the German example and work with passion in whatever they do in order to succeed.

The partnership between the Poly and the Flensburg University of Applied Sciences commenced in 2003. In terms of the student exchange programme, the two institutions aim to send at least four Poly students to Germany on internship attachments every year. The Namibian-German Centre for Logistics facilitates the programme on behalf of the Poly.



Tunomukumo Shaanika (left) and Lee Helena Schwarz (right) pictured with Albin Jacobs, Director of the Namibian-German Centre for Logistics.

Exchange Student
STEFAN Zehm from TU Clausthal,
Germany: EXPERIENCING NAMIBIA



Ashipala invited for Winter Exchange Semester

Reiner Ashipala, a fourth-year student in Software Development at the Polytechnic, has been invited to participate in an exchange for the winter semester at the Faculty of Computer Science, Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Germany. The invitation to Ostfalia is based on the cooperation agreement between Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences and the Polytechnic of Namibia.

Ashipala, who has been enrolled at Ostfalia since 1 September 2012 to 28 February 2013, was granted a scholarship which covers his expenses during his six-month stay. Reiner has expressed his gratitude for this amazing opportunity awarded to him and emphasised his intention to be a good ambassador for Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia.



Reiner Ashipala is pictured with Dioné Izaks: International Relations Officer at the Department of Planning and International Relations, prior to his departure to Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences.

School of Health and Applied Sciences students benefit from B360 internship opportunities

Two students in the School of Health and Applied Sciences have been granted the opportunity to complete an internship in Switzerland at two Swiss companies, Coop Zentrallabor and Swiss Quality Testing Services.

Saara Shatumbu, a third-year student in Biomedical Science, and William Kaimbi, a fourth-year Environmental Health student, will be gain practical experience and be exposed to practical issues within their field of study during their internships in Switzerland.

The Cooperation through this Agreement was made possible under the B360 Education Partnership which contributes enormously to capacity building efforts in higher education in Namibia by establishing knowledge-sharing partnerships between the Polytechnic of Namibia and companies and institutions in Switzerland.



From left to right: Ms Saara Shatumbu and Mr William Kaimbi during their briefing session with Ms Dioné Izaks: International Relations Officer at the Department of Planning & International Relations.



Second Semester Students share their Experiences

During the second semester of 2012, PIN hosted 23 exchange students mainly from Europe and the USA. Below is an extract of the experience of Johannes Redlich, Daniel Reimann, Marcus Treammer (all from Jena University, Germany) and Julius Janssen from Gelsenkirchen, Germany:

“We all have the same opinion: Namibia is awesome! We saw so many great things, sights and landscapes. We are impressed by the country, the nice, polite, friendly and very helpful people and we are all sure, that this will not be our last visit to this terrific country.

Some of the places we have already seen, include:

- the Fishriver Canyon, Hot Springs in Ai-Ais, Lüderitz, Kolmannskoppe, Tiras Mountains
- Caprivi Strip, Chobe National Park, Okavango Delta, Bushman Land, Victoria Falls
- Arnhem Cave, Kalahari Desert,
- Swakopmund, Wavis Bay,
- Spitzkoppe, Brandberg, Twyfelfontein, Burnt Mountain, Petrified Forest, Organ Pipes, Damaraland, Grootberg Pass, the Etosha National Park and Waterberg.

“We also plan to visit Soussusvlei, Sesriem Canyon and Farm “Jena.” We just passed it the first time when we found it. It is very interesting that there is a farm here named after our hometown, therefore we decided to contact the former owner, Reimar von Hase, to get to know more about the farm and its origin. We did meet him and he allowed us to visit the farm that is now owned by his daughter.

“We are also very satisfied with the Poly itself. We selected some very interesting courses that are suitable for us. We are able to cope with the English language and the requirements of the courses most of the time. Furthermore, we have some great lecturers who support us wherever they can. They include: Lutz Steinbrück, Jana Jagodick and Victor Somosu, who are all very helpful to us and try to support us when we miss some classes because of our trips through Namibia. We are very lucky to have lecturers like them!”





LOVE photography + POLYTECHNIC!

Polytechnic's Department of Planning and International Relations teamed up with Barbara Graf Horka, B360 Photography Expert & Guest Lecturer....



...to encourage Polytechnic Students to capture their "Poly Moments" with passion & skill



PHOTOGRAPHY 2012 COMPETITION

The Department of Planning and International Relations, in collaboration with visiting Swiss guest lecturer and photographer and B360 expert, Barbara Graf Horka, launched a Photo Competition for Polytechnic students in the month of September.

The aim of the competition was to give students the opportunity to express their moments and experiences at the Polytechnic of Namibia under the theme "My Poly moments." Another aim of the competition was to create a platform where students could highlight their understanding and perception of true "Poly Moments."

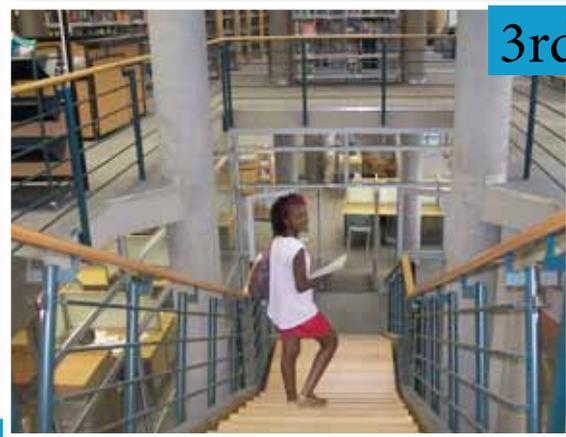
Neavera Olivier, Director of Planning and International Relations and initiator of the photo competition, strongly emphasised that it would be aligned with the mission and priorities of the Department, such as creating a student-centred environment as well as an international stimulating campus. The competition attracted a number of entries from interested students. Three winners received cash prizes and the opportunity to attend a workshop conducted by Barbara Graf Horka.



1st PRIZE



2nd PRIZE



3rd PRIZE



Barbara Graf Horka, Swiss Guest Lecturer (B360 Education Partnerships), Christalin Mushongo (Second runner-up), Shikongo Akwaake (Winner), Rejoice Soul (Third runner-up) and Cherley du Plessis (Department of Planning & International Relations).