



German Ambassador visits NUST

The German Ambassador to Namibia, HE Herbert Beck, paid a courtesy visit to the NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab. The purpose of the visit was to exchange views and ideas, and to further strengthen the long-standing relations between NUST and the German government. The discussions between the two parties focused on German-funded projects at NUST, and the strategic mission of the Institution to become an applied research-intensive University.

Moreover, one of the main highlights of the visit, was the tour of the Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC), where postgraduate students shared their research work focusing on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

"Conservation and responsible use of biodiversity are national activities that require trans-disciplinary solutions. Postgraduate students in different faculties conduct applied research to support these needs from different angles. They are the heartbeat of the Centre," said Prof Morgan Hauptfleisch, the Centre Head and an Associate Professor, in the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences.

Some noteworthy achievements emanating

from the BRC are that Johnson Kaulinge, a Honours in Geoinformation Technology graduate, who is now employed as a Geographical Information System assistant for the EU-funded SCIONA project.

The Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organisation that works on protecting and studying giraffes across Africa.

Equally impressive is, Milciades Chicomo's admission to Oxford University, where he will continue his studies.

Chicomo, a Masters student (Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences), is conducting research on Angola's small population of Hartmann's mountain zebras, and their hybridisation with domestic donkeys to produce 'zonkeys'.



Johnson Kaulinge, showing a wildlife survey based on high-resolution aerial photos to HE Herbert Beck, the German Ambassador to Namibia (left, standing), and Dr Eroid Naomab, NUST Vice-Chancellor (right, standing).

"NUST endeavours to be a leading, research intensive University that is responsive to socio-economic needs with a strong focus on capacity, knowledge and technology transfer with student development and mentoring

at its core," Dr Naomab proudly said to the Ambassador.

The German Ambassador was pleased with NUST's willingness to enhance collaboration in key development areas.

Postgraduate student determined to save every drop

As part of a new water management system, all manual water metres were recently replaced with smart metres in the NUST's Mining and Engineering, and Architectural buildings. Since the installation of the new readers, water leakages have become more manageable in the buildings, both logistically and financially. The project was initiated by a postgraduate student in the Biodiversity Research Centre (BRC), under the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences.

"Within the first week of the system being installed, I was able to detect a leak speedily, which would not have been so easy in the past," Annie Symonds, a Masters student in Natural Resource Management said.

Symonds is working on a research project that has helped NUST to cut back on high water expenditure.

Symonds' study resulted in the finding of a faulty main water metre on lower campus



One of the new smart water metres that were installed on lower campus.

that has been out of order for a while. "Since COVID-19, our student numbers have drastically reduced, yet we were still being charged the high-use estimate," Oliver Quarmby, Director of Facilities at NUST said.

To successfully introduce this initiative campus-wide, all municipal metres will be replaced to allow for self-readings, while additional metres will be placed strategically across upper and lower campus. This will speed up the billing process and ensure that future water readings are accurate. Initially NUST only had two main metres, one on the upper campus and another on the lower campus.

The smart metre system will be able to analyse water readings online via an application in real-time. It also has a feature that immediately notifies one if there is a leak detected. "With this envisaged system in place, one can shut down the entire institution's water system, or segments of it, if a massive leak is detected to prevent further losses and wastage," Symonds explained.

The Facilities Department is in the process of introducing and replacing current sanitary water fittings with water wise fittings. This will aid in more water savings for the Institution.



Annie Symonds

NUST students take part in virtual WACE project

Through a partnership with the World Association for Cooperative Education (WACE), NUST took part in a virtual internship project last year. Four students from the Faculties of Computing and Informatics; Management Sciences; and Human Sciences, were selected to be part of a cohort of 40 participants.

WACE is an association that is dedicated to developing, expanding, branding and advocating cooperative and work-integrated education programmes. In collaboration with Practera, an Australian education company, universities in Namibia, Germany, USA, Japan, Australia, Canada, Ireland and Kyrgyzstan, piloted a two-week virtual global collaborative student Project Based Learning (PBL) internship project.

Students were also trained by NUST's Cooperative Education Unit (CEU) on work readiness, while Practera offered them a cross cultural workshop. NUST students were assigned to four international, interdisciplinary and intercultural teams with students from around the globe. Through the collaboration, students were required to

collectively solve real-world work challenges.

"The programme provided a platform where I could apply my training and theory from an Informatics perspective, in a real-world setting," Kashe Mayavero, a Bachelor of Informatics student explained. Some of the soft skills that students gained are teamwork, adaptability, market analysis, research, problem solving, leadership and cultural consciousness. In addition, Halleluya Ndimulunde, a Bachelor of Economics student said: "the project gave me a better understanding of what I am learning in university, specifically regarding the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals."

This initiative forms one of many projects that CEU is involved in, aiming to prepare students for the labour-market.



From left to right: Halleluya Ndimulunde (Bachelor of Economics), Kashe Mayavero (Bachelor of Informatics), Helena Paulo (Bachelor of Informatics) and Kabamba Chimfutumba (Bachelor of Public Management).