

The three-year research SToRM is clearing up

Eleven (11) partner universities involved in the Strengthening of Collaboration, Leadership and Professionalisation in Research Management (SToRM) project, recently gathered in Lithuania for a conference on the role of research management in Higher Education Institutions. NUST is part of this three-year, N\$14 million Erasmus+ funded project, which started in 2016. The event served as a platform for partner institutions to share best practices on research internationalisation strategies, as well as to make a comparative analysis of the Higher Education research management and administration landscape. The conference formed part of the events that will conclude the project, which will end in October 2019. SToRM also enabled participants to take part in staff exchanges and mentorship programmes between SADC and EU higher education institutions. Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, Director: Project Services Unit at NUST, placed emphasis on deliverables, saying staff participating in the internships had the responsibility of making sure that they put what they learnt to practice.



Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, Director, Project Services Unit: NUST (far right); Dr Hileni Kapenda, Director, Centre for Research and Publications: University of Namibia (standing, sixth from left); and Dr Therina Theron, Senior Director, Research and Innovation: Stellenbosch University (crouching, fourth from right), pictured with other consortium partners.



Study on financial mismanagement

Teckla Shipulwa, Acting FLI Manager (left), and Prof Pramanathan Govender, NUST Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation.

NUST and the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will see the two parties collaborating in the areas of research and financial education.

FLI is a project that was established by the Ministry of Finance in 2012, and it seeks to promote financial inclusion in the country. The research project titled: 'A Study of Consumption and Saving Behaviours among the Three Social Economic Segments of the Population

in Namibia,' will investigate what drives overspending amongst Namibians from low, middle and high income groups.

The overall objective of the study is to inform policymakers responsible for the development of programs that promote financial literacy. Through this MoU, the University community will undergo free financial wellness programmes.

Making Windhoek a more liveable environment



Stephanie Roland, Lecturer: Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning.

After living and working as an architect and urban planner in Hong Kong for a decade, Stephanie Roland, a lecturer at the Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning, took a keen interest in the vast difference in the built environment of that Asian city and Windhoek.

This prompted Roland to conduct research titled 'A Living City for Everyone,' which aims to understand issues affecting Windhoek's inner city, specifically focusing on the lack of density and walkability. She presented her paper at the Faculty of Natural Resources and Spatial Sciences Research Day that was held earlier this semester. Roland recently answered some questions during an interview with Helena Fudheni, a Bachelor of Communications student at NUST.

Q. What is your research mostly focused on?

A. It is about understanding how the urban morphology in Windhoek has evolved, and how regulations, political systems and technological advances have affected and shaped the city. The research looked at making Windhoek a more liveable environment. The project is in line with a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Windhoek and NUST, which seeks to guide the municipality in their regulatory framework development and urban design guidelines.

Q. What lessons can Windhoek draw from Hong Kong?

A. Hong Kong is very robust and every inch of space is used by its citizens, who spend most of their free time exploring this bustling

city. The place is an extension of their living rooms, a place where neighbours socialise, communities are formed and children are raised. This creates a vibrancy and social connectedness that gives rise to many opportunities for the residents. Contrast to this, Windhoek as a city actively discourages interaction between its people by creating cellular suburbs and far-flung areas that are only accessible via private transport.

Q. How can this situation be remedied?

A. The current planning regulations actively exacerbate the problem. Single-use zoning is the regulatory framework by which cities are planned and expanded in Namibia – this creates mono-functional and sterile areas, separating housing from shops and workplaces. On the contrary, the mixed-use densification, which would be the ideal framework, focusses on creating great streets and public spaces to allow mono-functional areas of a city to develop into denser, more sustainable neighbourhoods.

The mixed-use densification also enables planners to focus on designing for a variety of economies of scale, allowing people of different income groups to co-exist and give rise to opportunities that are created by this adjacency. Furthermore, in a country with limited resources like Namibia, locating amenities like schools and hospitals centrally, makes more logical sense.

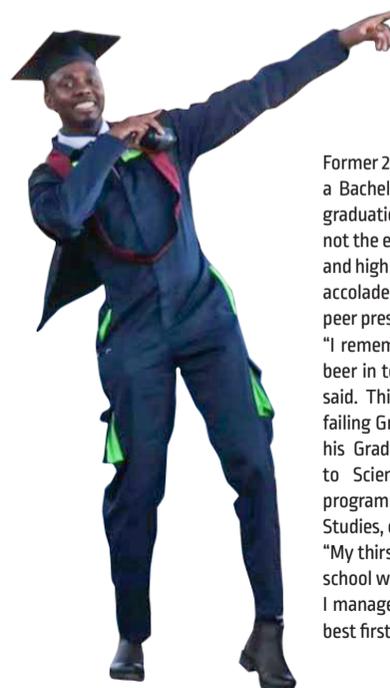
Expression of Gratitude

Morné du Toit, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and the entire University community, would like to express gratitude to all the sponsors who pledged their support for top achieving students at the recent Academic Awards Ceremony.

Annually, the 'cream of the crop' receive sponsored prizes, at an event that enjoys generous support from industry players and goodwill ambassadors. Without this unstinted generosity, this Ceremony would not be noteworthy. Therefore, the entire NUST community would like to thank the following sponsors:

Air Namibia; Andre Christensen Architects; Bidvest; Book Den; Coca Cola; Confidante; Crossfit Damascus; Development Bank of Namibia; First National Bank; Genmed; HUAWEI; Huster Machine Tools; Ingaba Biotechnical Industries; La Finesse Body and Skin Care Clinic; Malaysian Embassy; Mapping SA Studio; Medlab Service; ; Namibia Blood Transfusion Services; Namibia Breweries Limited; Namibia Central Pathology; Namibia Central Pathology; Namibia Institute of Town and Regional Planners; Namibian Ports Authority; Nashua; National Housing Enterprise; Nina Maritz Architects; NUST Health Information Systems Management Staff; NUST Spatial Planning Lecturers; Ohorongo Cement; OKA Investment; Onguti Foundation; Oshakati Premier Electric; PriceWaterhouseCoopers; Standard Bank; Stauch + Partners Architects; TN Mobile; Triangular Construction CC; Veya ICT; Virtua Technologies, and Windhoek Hilton Hotel.

Hosea Hashili is headed to the top!



"I failed my Grade 12, but today I stand tall as a Cum Laude graduate,"
Hosea Hashili.

Former 2016 SRC Vice-President, Hosea Hashili, graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering 'Cum Laude,' at last month's graduation ceremony. However, a few years ago, Hashili was not the exceptional performer he is today. He attended primary and high school in Grootfontein, where he received a number of accolades from Grade 8 to 10. However, in Grade 11 he gave in to peer pressure, and started drinking alcohol.

"I remember my math teacher caught me red-handed with a beer in town, a day before we wrote a math examination," he said. This behaviour and attitude ultimately resulted in him failing Grade 12. Still very determined to succeed, he improved his Grade 12 results and later enrolled for the Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (InSTEM) programme, formerly known as Introduction to Engineering Studies, offered at NUST.

"My thirst for success was at its peak since my peers from high school were already ahead of me. With this change of attitude, I managed to change my life around and be recognised as the best first, second and third year student in my course," he said.