

# Be part of the first NUST Golf Day

*...and better the lives of less fortunate students*

NUST is set to host its first Charity Golf Day next month. The event is scheduled to take place on 10 May 2019 at the Omeya Golf Club, and it will take the format of the 18 Hole American Scramble. The Golf Day is the primary fundraising mechanism for the newly established Student Welfare Fund.

The aim of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to differently abled and deserving students, who are pursuing their studies at the University.

"Many of our young people go without a meal for lengthy periods, while others live in areas where healthcare is limited. No person, let alone a student should live in these conditions," remarked Maurice Garde, the NUST Registrar.

He added that through this Golf Day and other activities, the University aims to raise funds of between N\$750 000 and N\$1 million, this year.

The Fund will render financial aid to underprivileged students from low-income backgrounds to meet their expenses. These include, tuition fees, purchasing of books and medical expenses, amongst others. Students are required to apply for assistance and provided their

need is genuine, in the opinion of the Committee that was created for this purpose, they will qualify as beneficiaries.

The governance framework of the Fund will be predicated on strong systems of accountability and administration, in order to create a responsive and sustainable intervention that will contribute genuinely to student welfare. Therefore, NUST appeals to the business community and all socially conscious corporate citizens to support this worthy and noble cause.

Sponsors that have pledged their support to date include Nashua, Coca-Cola Namibia, the United Africa Group, Epiroc, NBC and other media houses.

For more information, please contact Maurice Garde, Registrar, [mgarde@nust.na](mailto:mgarde@nust.na) or Donovan Zealand, Director: Student Services, [dzealand@nust.na](mailto:dzealand@nust.na)



FROM LEFT: Maurice Garde, NUST Registrar; Jaco van Reenen, Golf Director: Omeya; Miriam Dikuua, NUST Acting Vice -Chancellor: Administration and Finance; Niel Weitz, Finance Manager: Nashua; and Morné du Toit, NUST Acting Vice-Chancellor, pictured during the launch of the Charity Golf Day Event.



Students putting the ChatBot App to the test.

## Towards a smarter campus

NUST had launched a new Mobile Application known as a ChatBot, which is set to revolutionise the way the Institution attends to queries. This App is an automated platform which users can converse with via audio or text. The idea was born out of a longstanding partnership between NUST and AdaptIT, a South African IT solutions company.

During the launch, one of the concerns raised were that jobs done by human beings are now under threat given the advances in technology. The Managing Director of AdaptIT, Luxolo Rubushe, responded by emphasising that as we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is important for employees and companies at large, to reinvent themselves. "This is the chance for people to acquire different skills and perform at a different level. Certainly, some jobs will be replaced, but there are equally new opportunities in the market for people to do different things that are more fulfilling," he said.

The ChatBot allows NUST students to access fee balances, class timetables, exam results and enrolment details, amongst others. All that is required from a student, is a smart phone with internet access. Juno Angula, the SRC President put the ChatBot to test ahead of the launch. "I was very impressed with

this App. I asked the ChatBot a number of questions and I immediately received responses," he said.

AdaptIT's flagship product is the integrated campus suite, called the ITS system, which is used at NUST and other leading higher education institutions throughout Africa, Ireland and New Zealand.

AdaptIT serves customers across 42 countries and chose NUST to pilot this project. "We are very excited about this new endeavour and this serves as proof once again that NUST strives to maintain its leading role on the ICT front," said Juanita Frans, Manager, Business Systems and Processes, Department of ICT.

The App can be downloaded from the Google Playstore and the iStore. Moreover, this year, NUST introduced an improved IT platform for the University community, which promises noteworthy improvements in service delivery and operational processes.

## NBII launches the first Edtech Sprint Week

The Namibia Business Innovation Institute (NBII), in partnership with the Southern Africa Innovation Support (SAIS) and Injini Africa Edtech Incubator, launched and held the first Edtech Sprint Week at the innovation village during the last week on March 2019.

Injini is a community of education technology (EdTech) entrepreneurs, academics, investors, educators, NGOs and tech hubs, whose goal is to help realise and maximise the potential of technology education in Namibia.

During the 21st Innovation Circle session, which also took place during the week, the Deputy Director of Innovation in the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Nhlanhla Lupahla, stressed the importance of the role of educators in this initiative.

"It is important to have an educator to advise you, when you develop an App or startup in the educational technological field, because apart from content and technology it is vital to have pedagogical knowledge as well," she remarked.

"It is imperative to find a niche area for your research and to do it better than your competitors and also figure out how to keep your audience satisfied, because that is your word of mouth marketing," added Gabriel Nhinda,

a NUST Lecturer, Faculty of Computing and Informatics.

The top six Edtech startups were selected from a total of eleven entrepreneurs that took part in the Sprint Week event.

The week-long series of workshops and intense one-on-one consultations with experts saw the participants getting much-needed training in pitching their ideas, business model canvassing and ideation to boost their startups in the best possible way.

The top six finalists will receive mentorship and training, as well as advisory services from NBII in order to fast-track the establishment of their businesses.

The top six Edtech Startups are: Glowdom; Brightons Education Centre; Forster Digital; Cylon Web Development; Minds in Action; and Edification.

The second Edtech Sprint Week is set to take place in July, while a third event is slated for early next year.



FROM LEFT, Front Row: Hasekiel Johannes, Innovation Officer: NBII; Auri Evokari, International Programme Officer: Southern Africa Innovation Support; Ruth Hattersley, Injini: Head of Operations (sixth from left), and Silas Newaka, Innovation Marketplace Officer: NBII (seventh from left); pictured with the finalists.

### Centre for Enterprise Development - SHORT COURSE Cisco Network Academy

Course Name: CCNA1 - Introduction to Networks

Included in training: CISCO Approved courseware and Certificate of Completion

Starting Date: 06 May 2019

Time: 17h30 - 20h30

Enquiries: [fkashaka@nust.na](mailto:fkashaka@nust.na)

NOTE: A minimum of ten participants is required for a course to commence.

*Graduation Ceremony: 25 and 26 April 2019*