

UB NEWS

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UB GRADUATION CEREMONY 2018 ...a graduation with a difference



HE President Mokweetsi Masi (left) and Chancellor, Ms Lenah Mhohlo, sandwiching Vice Chancellor, Prof David Norris.

The 36th University of Botswana Graduation Ceremony may have come and gone but it will be remembered for many years to come.

For the first time in the 36-year history of the University, three former students notched up some of the highest honours in a university setup in a single day. That was October 13, 2018, a special day for the trio.

First, the University conferred a Doctor of Laws Honorary Doctorate on President Mokweetsi Masi. The conferment was the icing on the cake for the 36th University of

Botswana Graduation Ceremony which was held at the UB Stadium. President Masi is the 16th person to receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Botswana since its establishment in 1982.

President Masi received the Honorary Doctorate owing to his dedicated service to the nation as well as internationally. Among his notable contributions to Botswana was during his service at UNICEF where he worked as Education Project Officer responsible for initiating policy and programme reforms for

Botswana.

During this period, President Masi initiated a number of reforms among them developing and implementing education for children of Remote Area Dwellers, focusing on access, retention and improved performance.

In addition, he advocated for pregnant young mothers to continue with their education through the Diphilana Programme. President Masi was also part of a team of experts that contributed to Educational Development in

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CHIEF JUSTICE PROUD TO BE UB ALUMNUS

Not many have passed through the gates of the University of Botswana but those who had that rare opportunity never forget the exciting experience of life on campus.

One such person is the Chief Justice, Justice Terence Rannowane, who on October 11, 2018 was filled with nostalgia and pride as he reminisced about his academic life in the University. He was excited to have been invited to officiate at the three-day 2018 African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL) Biennial Conference at the University of Botswana on October 11, 2018.

"I must add that it gives me great pleasure to be back here at the University of Botswana, Law department where I earned my stripes to later become the person that I am today," said Justice Rannowane with a countenance that obviously harked back to his student days in the late 80s.

Justice Rannowane who was appointed Chief Justice in May this year holds a Law Degree (LLB) from the University of Botswana obtained in 1990 and a Master of Laws Degree (LLM) from the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom obtained in 2003.

He started his career, which now spans 28 years, in 1990 as Magistrate Grade II and went through the ranks until 2005 when he was appointed Regional Magistrate. He was appointed as a judge of the High Court in 2008.

Justice Rannowane could not help paying glowing tribute to the University of Botswana for the transformation it had undergone since his days as an undergraduate student.

"The transformation that I have noticed so far is really consistent with the University of Botswana's commitment to academic excellence and I am more convinced that it is this unwavering commitment that has seen us gathered here today," said Justice Rannowane.

Meanwhile, speaking about the conference whose theme was *Courts, Power and Constitutional Law in Africa*, Justice Rannowane described it as a very important meeting of legal minds given that it afforded them the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge in the assessment of the work of various courts in Africa on matters of constitutional law.

"The ANCL and the Department of Law have done a great thing indeed by convening us and



Chief Justice, Justice Terence Rannowane.

giving us an opportunity to ponder over issues relating to the courts, power and constitutional law in Africa," he noted.

He further observed that the conference was critical given the fact that courts played a crucial role in the development of democracy in Africa. The courts, he said, were a constant in a democratic setup in that when governments changed, they, consistent with the principle of the rule of law, were not supposed to be affected by any such change.

In addition, Justice Rannowane underlined the importance of the conference in affording participants the opportunity for a frank, honest and objective assessment of African courts in relation to constitutional law.

He advised judges to be mindful of and take advice academics rendered because he believes the latter spent more time and effort understanding different areas of law. The Chief Justice also spoke about importance of constructive criticism to the judiciary, saying "we must be slow to rejecting it when it is offered."

UB ALUMNI CHALLENGED TO TRIGGER BOTSWANA'S KNOWLEDGE REVOLUTION

University of Botswana alumni have been challenged to be the torch bearers of Botswana's knowledge revolution as the country strives towards becoming a knowledge-based economy.

Debswana Managing Director, Mr Balisi Bonyongo, made the challenge at the 18th University of Botswana Foundation Dinner Dance held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre on September 14, 2018. The theme of the dinner was *Nurturing a Knowledge-based Economy through Alumni Engagement*.

"This theme should resonate with most, if not all of us here, for we are either direct or indirect products of the University of Botswana," observed Mr Bonyongo. Consequently, he said such lineage imposed an unavoidable responsibility upon the alumni to be the initiators of a knowledge revolution that moved Botswana forward with a sense of formation and urgency.

He said given the vulnerability of an economy heavily dependent on finite mineral resources, it was imperative for Botswana to chart a new development trajectory into the country's second half of its century post 1966.

While he lauded Botswana's economic success through diamonds, Mr Bonyongo decried the fact that the country was caught up in a middle income trap characterised by high unemployment levels, income disparities, and poverty besides a more complex cocktail of social stressors and ills that threatened society's moral fabric.

Notwithstanding, he said Vision 2036 provided opportunities for resolving such problems as Botswana aspired to be a high-

DR NKOMAZANA IS ACTING DVCA

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, is the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Dr Nkomazana assumed duty on October 1, 2018. She has been the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.



Debswana Managing Director, Mr Balisi Bonyongo.

income country with an export-led economy underpinned by diversified, inclusive and sustainable growth driven by high levels of productivity.

Provoking thought and stimulating debate, Mr Bonyongo challenged the UB alumni to ask themselves questions so that they were able to provide practical ways of implementing a knowledge-based economy.

One of the questions posed was whether Botswana, once having identified problems that if solved could trigger disruption to the way society, industries, governments and economies function, had the skills to solve such problems.

"We need to develop the capacity of our people, especially our entrepreneurs, and then support them to innovate and solve these problems," said Mr Bonyongo. In addition, he called on the alumni to ensure there was a systematic and dynamic process of knowledge creation, development and sharing between entities to improve decision-making and innovation.

"The same way our iconic University of Botswana was built through contributing cattle, we can co-create new prosperity for all by contributing intellectual cattle in the form of commercialised knowledge assets. We need to execute, execute and execute," added Mr Bonyongo, challenging the alumni to renew their commitment to translate Botswana's vision of a knowledge-based economy into reality.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of the UB Foundation Chairman, Ms Linah Mohohlo who is the deputy chair, outlined the mandate of the Foundation and thanked Investec for continuing to play a leading role as platinum sponsor of the annual dinner.

Other contributors of note Ms Mohohlo recognised were the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Dynamic Insurance, Letshego, AON, IDM, BOCRA, Motor Centre, Stanbic, Hollard and Debswana. She said through their efforts and other activities, the Foundation endowment fund had grown to just about P8 million while over 300 students had been awarded scholarships to undertake Masters Degree study programmes through the interest generated from investing the money.

Ms Mohohlo appealed to the alumni to make contributions as well. "The need to engage alumni draws from the attested spirit of the Botswana University Campus Appeal of 1976, *Motho le motho kgomo*, which Batswana contributed handsomely towards building the Gaborone campus of the University of Botswana and Swaziland...", she added.



Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana

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OUR ALUMNI, OUR PRIDE.

Eastern and Southern Africa for UNICEF.

He was also active in community development initiatives through the Village Extension Team. He was also involved in sports, fundraising for development and the Parent Teachers Association in his constituency as a Member of Parliament.

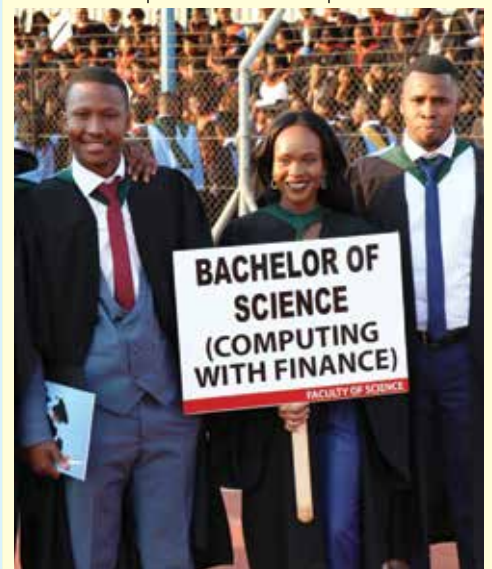
On the same day, the University of Botswana also inaugurated former Bank of Botswana Governor, Ms Linah Mohohlo, as the fifth Chancellor and first woman to hold such a position. Ms Mohohlo also became the third none head of state Chancellor.

Ms Mohohlo is an experienced leader, having served in different capacities locally and internationally. Further, Ms Mohohlo has a firm and grounded understanding of the University which she served in various capacities over the years, notably the UB Foundation.

Following Ms Mohohlo's inauguration, next on the podium was Professor David Norris who was inaugurated as the sixth Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana. Professor Norris is a renowned scholar who has published widely in reputable journals.

His notable strengths are in Innovative Teaching and Learning; Curriculum Development and Review; Research Development and Innovation; and Higher Education Administration and Management; Change Management, Process Management and Strategic Leadership; with a notable record in research collaboration and fundraising.

Meanwhile, the pomp and fanfare wrapped up with the Chancellor, Ms Mohohlo, conferring degrees and diplomas on 2 273 graduands. The number comprised 16 PhDs, five Mphil, 221 Masters Degrees, 1 702 Degrees, 189 Post Graduate Diplomas and 140 Diplomas.



PRESIDENT MASISI REAFFIRMS HIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO UB



Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris and HE President Mokgweetsi Masisi at the UB graduation.

The President, Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, has re-assured Batswana that he would do all in his power to re-energise the University of Botswana to realise its vision and mission of becoming a leading centre of academic excellence.

President Masisi made the assurance after the University of Botswana conferred him a Doctor of Laws Honorary Doctorate in a ceremony that preceded the University's 36th Graduation Ceremony and that also saw the inauguration of former Bank of Botswana Governor, Ms Linah Mohohlo as its fifth and first woman Chancellor. Also on the same day, Professor David Norris was inaugurated as the sixth Vice Chancellor while 2 273 students graduated with different qualifications.

"I pledge to use all means available to me to develop national and international links that will help advance the vision and mission of the University of Botswana to be a leading centre of academic excellence in Africa and world," said President Masisi.

He said that was in recognition of the fact and his strongest belief that the University of Botswana held the key to Botswana's economic development and diversification process. He added that his acceptance of the honorary doctorate was a demonstration of his trust in the leadership of the University, the incredible academic rigor, quality of staff and students, besides the enriching experiences UB offered.

"I can attest that the University of Botswana has been the training ground for thousands

of captains of industry and the civil service who actively participate in the economic development of our country," said Dr Masisi.

The former Chancellor also reminisced about his inauguration as chancellor during which he promised to help the University to transform. "I still stand on that promise as an alumnus of the University of Botswana and promise to immerse myself into helping the University become relevant to the demands of a knowledge-based society," said Dr Masisi.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor, Ms Mohohlo, also expressed delight at being the first woman chancellor. "The appointment of women chancellors in universities is gaining momentum and needs to be sustained," added Ms Mohohlo.

She noted that her appointment would not only shine a spotlight on the issue of faculty appointments but would also encourage true reflection on the matter (lackluster appointment of women) because she said more needed to be done for the challenge to be addressed sustainably.

She regretted that women remained underrepresented in decision making positions both in the public and private sectors notwithstanding evidence women not only had ability to deliver at the highest levels but could also make decisions for the progress of the country.

UB, UPENN EMBARK ON RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

The universities of Botswana and Pennsylvania's 13-year collaboration reached yet another milestone recently when the two institutions once again collaborated to offer UB students in the medical field, grant writing and research training.

The two-day training aimed at equipping participants with research skills with particular emphasis on the impact of cancer on HIV, attracted experts from UB and UPenn with vast experience in mentoring, research methodology, viral oncology, cancer therapeutics, and behavioral studies.

The participants were trained and mentored on how to apply for UPenn research grants. Candidates were mentored on how to write a pilot grant, as well as to design and implement a research study.

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, said UB, government and UPenn boasted 13 years of working together building capacity in health care, education and research in Botswana.

UPENN UP-

The universities of Botswana and Pennsylvania Schools of Nursing recently brought together nurses from various medical institutions across Botswana under one roof to equip them with knowledge and skills on evidence-based care of trauma patients.

The four-day Trauma Nursing Workshop held at the University of Botswana exposed participants to principles of trauma care, systematic primary and secondary assessment of trauma patients and evidence-based trauma nursing care contingent with the capacity and resources of different health facilities.

They were also mentored on how to apply trauma guidelines besides identifying psycho-

"Through this, we will introduce two novel programmes, including year-out options for medical students to participate in mentored research projects, and career mentoring for students interested in biomedical research. We also offer pilot grant funding for two mentored research pilot projects annually at P125,000 each that link a faculty member with a scientific mentor from UB and UPenn," said Dr Nkomazana

Meanwhile, participants were also capacitated on ethical conduct of research, protection of human subjects, manuscript and grant writing skills, research methodology, data analysis, and biostatistics. Other activities that unfolded during the event included reviewing



Dr Billy Tsimba, UB lecturer.

of research methodologies for UB staff members who had been offered UPenn grants to conduct the study on Cancer in HIV Subjects in Botswana.

Highlighting the background on cancer and HIV in Botswana, UB Department of Family Medicine and Public Health lecturer, Dr Billy Tsimba, said risk of cancer was not only seen in immunosuppressed HIV patients but in organ transplant patient as well.

Dr Tsimba added that HIV may not necessarily be the direct cause of the cancers as it was not

known to be oncogenic. However, the virus was known to induce the production of various cytokines and growth factors, which could act as growth promoters.

He also said HIV immunosuppressed patients seemed to have higher rates of virus-associated cancers (compared to general population). HIV immunosuppression reduces patient's ability to fight other viruses including oncogenic virus and thus leading to cancers such as cervical cancer and liver cancer, noted Dr Tsimba.



Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana.

-SKILLS LOCAL NURSES ON TRAUMA CARE

social issues affecting patients, caregivers and health care providers.

Speaking at the official opening of the workshop, UPenn Chief Nursing Officer, Mr James Ballingoff, highlighted the increasing impact of trauma as a leading cause of death in the 1-35 ages in the United States of America despite mitigation efforts.

Such has seen a close working relationship between the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Division of Trauma and Critical Care. "Together we deliver the highest quality of care to the entire spectrum of patients from

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Participants with their workshop facilitators.

CHIEF JUSTICE APPLAUDS UB LAW DEPARTMENT, ANCL

The Chief Justice, Justice Terence Rannowane, has applauded the University of Botswana Department of Law and African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL) for organising the 2018 ANCL Biennial Conference on Constitutional Law in Africa at UB.

"I want to also note that I and my fellow compatriots, judges from other jurisdiction, have been invited here to drink from the same cup of knowledge with some of the finest legal minds in Africa," said Justice Rannowane giving a keynote address at the three-day conference at UB on October 11, 2018.

Justice Rannowane said conferences of such nature were without doubt a great reference point to judiciaries the world over. He said that was because they were usually a platform for robust discussions and critical reflection on important issues.

The Chief Justice observed that it was during such conferences that critical studies, research and literature on the work that courts did were in fact conceived.

"As a result, conferences of this nature should be encouraged, supported and nurtured by all those who are involved in this project called democracy, democratisation, the rule of law and state building," observed Justice Rannowane.



Justice Terence Rannowane and Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana.



Mrs Keboitse Mchangana, Professor Enyinna Nwauche, Justice Terence Rannowane and Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana.



Participants of the 2018 ANCL Biennial Conference on Constitutional Law in Africa.

He expressed optimism that the 2018 conference would result in influential literature that would be of great value to lawyers, law students, policy makers, justices of today and of future generations.

Speaking at the same event, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr Oathokwa Nkomazana, said she was delighted that the conference came at the right time because constitutionalism was becoming an important part of governance in Africa.

Dr Nkomazana also lauded the UB Department of Law for organising the conference, an effort she said was in line with

the University's internationalisation policy. She said UB was striving towards striking collaborations and reaching out to industry so that the education, research and training it embarked upon were of high quality and relevant to society.

Giving an overview of the conference, ANCL Chairman, Professor Enyinna Nwauche, said this year's conference was held in Botswana in recognition of the country's celebrated democratic ideals. Professor Nwauche described Botswana as Africa's success story in terms of democracy, rule of law and constitutional law.

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UPENN UP-SKILLS LOCAL NURSES

minor lacerations and sprains to major multi-system trauma," said Mr Ballinghoff.

UB Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Johana Mashalla, said collaboration between UB and UPenn came as a result of routine consultative meetings between the two institutions. Consequently, Professor Mashalla

said the workshop on trauma was a response to a number of issues raised during such meetings to alleviate trauma problems in Botswana.

"The trend of trauma in Botswana is at an increasing state which is perpetuated by a high number of road accidents. However, we train you to become trainers of trainers to decrease trauma instead of trauma traumatologists," quipped Professor Mashalla.

He said it was important for the nurses to

work together and further encouraged them to conduct research on trauma to increase knowledge and influence policies to improve the situation.

UB School of Nursing lecturer, Dr Mariam Sebege, also urged the participants to use the skills they acquired to improve the quality of trauma services in their respective health care service centres.

KUHLMANN ADVOCATES FOR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE IN HEALTH CARE

Health care professionals should, in collaboration with family and chaplain, play an active role in meeting spiritual needs of their patients, says University of Botswana Nurse and PhD Candidate in Educational Foundation and Curriculum Instruction, Ms Janet Kuhlmann.

Ms Kuhlmann was speaking at a public lecture at UB under the theme: *Calling Back the Spiritual Heritage of Caring by Health Care Professionals*. The objective of the lecture was to create enlightenment and awareness that spirituality and care were essential for holistic patient care.

She said spirituality in health care was that part that gave meaning and purpose to the person's life. It is also belief in a higher power that may inspire hope, seek resolution, and transcend physical and conscious constraints.

Ms Kuhlmann observed that spiritual care was an important part of overall health care. Although nurses may recognise the value of spirituality to their patients, many were unsure of how to best address such needs, she noted.

Besides, she regretted that health care professionals also blamed lack of spiritual dimension in care to time limitations, work overload and lack of resources. "Spiritual care is defined by literature as recognising, respecting, and meeting patients' spiritual needs and facilitating participation in religious rituals, communicating through listening and talking with clients," said Ms Kuhlmann.

She underlined that it also meant being with the patient, caring, supporting and showing empathy, thus promoting a sense of wellbeing by helping them to find meaning and purpose in their illness and overall life.

She added that the outcome of spiritual care was found to enable patients to count their blessings in life and achieve inner peace



Ms Janet Kuhlmann says spirituality in health care is key in a patient's recovery from ill-health.

and explore coping strategies to overcome obstacles during illness and crisis situations.

"There is rise in the prevalence of new diseases, cancer including HIV/AIDS in our society, leading to increasing need for spiritual care and for many people a sense of hope can be a powerful motivator towards new ways of coping. If a person believes in God then hoping in Him is the ultimate source of strength," said Ms Kuhlmann.

She noted that distressed patients should not earn love by being good or attractive but should be loved as they were. Distressed persons may worry about financial status of family during hospitalisation, separation from

family and separation from others after death hence it was critical to help them spiritually to cope with the situation, said Ms Kuhlmann.

Ms Kuhlmann advised health care professionals to develop caring values of patience, kindness, compassion, unselfishness, loyalty, conscientiousness and honesty. She expressed hope that such could be achieved through periodic retreats and engaging of reflection mentors and spiritual directors.

Shanghai Normal University donates books



Part of the donation.

China's Shanghai Normal University has donated 138 books to the University of Botswana as part of strengthening relations between the two institutions. The books will further assist in the teaching and learning of Chinese history and culture to both teachers and learners.

Presenting the books, Shanghai Normal University Library Director, Professor Liu Mingang, said they hoped to establish a

Botswana Information Centre at the University library to provide more information and support research and studies on Botswana.

Professor Mingang further said cooperation between the two institutions would also help teachers and students from both institutions

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Part of the University of Botswana and Shanghai Normal University management.

from page 8 SHANGHAI NORMAL UNIVERSITY DONATES BOOKS

to learn about each other through exchange programmes. He noted that China developed rapidly in recent years owing to learning from other countries' experiences including Botswana and its people.

"After returning to Shanghai, we will report to the relevant departments of our University and actively promote the exchange of teachers and students," said Professor Mingang.

He also expressed gratitude towards UB Library management for the arrangement and virtuous operations of the library including the work of the librarians.

UB Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Professor Andy Chebanne, expressed gratitude towards Shanghai Normal University for strengthening the collaboration by donating books.

He said it symbolised a good and healthy relationship between the two institutions and represented knowledge they wanted to treasure.

"It is a good investment because books are the heart of the library and those who love knowledge must also love the library. It is the gesture which is significant not the number," said Professor Chebanne.

UB Library Services Director, Mr Edwin Qobose, said UB and Shanghai Normal University enjoyed a long investment agreement aimed at strengthening their collaboration. He also said it was an excellent donation given the difficulty to find suppliers of such books locally.

CHINESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR HELPS PROMOTE BOTSWANA IN CHINA

A University of Botswana Mandarin Chinese language instructor, Mr Gracious Tshepisio Masule, recently enjoyed a rare opportunity to travel with a Botswana delegation to Beijing, China to provide on-site interpreting.

Mr Masule from the Chinese Studies Programme participated in the China-Botswana Business Forum in Beijing, at the invitation of Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC). President Mokgweetsi Masisi led Botswana's delegation to the forum.

Mr Masule whose key role was to ensure smooth communication between members of the Botswana trade mission and their Chinese interlocutors at the forum even had the opportunity to interpret during President Masisi's meeting with the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) chairman. CCPIT partnered with BITC to organise the Forum.

The aim of the Business Forum was to explore investment and trade opportunities and to facilitate joint-ventures and partnerships between Botswana and China.

Botswana's delegation comprising government officials and business people represented a range of key sectors in the country's economy from agriculture, agro-processing, energy and power, infrastructure and construction, finance and business services to manufacturing, mining beneficiation and tourism.

Accordingly, Mr Masule assisted in all activities that formed part of the forum from welcome speeches to individual business meetings and company site visits.

The Business Forum was organised back-to-back with the Summit of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that gathered leaders from 53 African countries, including Botswana. The success of the Business Forum together with the positive outcome of the FOCAC Summit, raised hope of seeing more companies, investors and tourists from China finding their way to Botswana.

Many Botswana are already learning Mandarin Chinese through the Chinese Studies

Programme and at the UB Confucius Institute. The Confucius Institute offers part-time evening classes in Mandarin to the general public while the Chinese Studies Programme offers a full-time four-year undergraduate degree programme.

The programme combines the study of Mandarin Chinese with various aspects of Chinese culture, history, economy and foreign policy.

The Chinese studies courses are also taken as electives by students from other fields in the University such as business, sciences, statistics, medicine and engineering, who have taken note of China's growing presence in Africa and wish to be part of this unfolding story.

Botswana-China relations are set to grow and so is the need for Botswana with a solid understanding of China and Chinese language. As the main anchor point for the study of China in Botswana, UB stands ready to meet that need through its Chinese Studies Programme and Confucius Institute.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATE STUDENTS WIN 2018 SANTHE AWARDS

Two University of Botswana PhD students in the School of Allied Health Professions, Faculty of Health Sciences, Kaelo K. Seatla and Leabaneng Tawe have won awards for 2018 Best Oral Presentation and 2018 Best Overall Student, respectively.

They received the awards at the recent Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/HIV research Excellence (SANTHE) Annual Consortium Meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda from 26-27 September 2018. The students received trophies for their excellent work. The special awards are aimed at supporting emerging professionals in the field of research and academics.

Each year SANTHE honors students who demonstrate excellent academic achievement, strong character, leadership skills and community involvement during their annual meeting.

SANTHE is a multinational research network of multidisciplinary experts, working together to empower African scientists, and combat HIV, Tuberculosis and HIV/TB co-infection through pioneering basic, clinical and translational research. SANTHE participating institutions are in South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia.

The Network aims at strengthening



Mr Leabaneng Tawe.

South-South cooperation, creating enabling environments for excellence in research in Africa and training the next-generation of African leaders in science. The Consortium focuses on HIV and TB research, as this 'syndemic' is a public health crisis in Africa that requires the full weight of basic science, translational/clinical research, and political and social mobilisation. SANTHE has 74 fellows in total (12 intern, 27 Masters, 26 PhD and nine Post-doc) representing 10 African nationalities.

Kaelo Seatla works under the supervision of Professor Ishmael Kasvosve, University of Botswana; Dr Simani Gaseitsiwe and Dr. Ava Avalos, Botswana Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP). Leabaneng Tawe works under the supervision of Prof. Ishmael



Dr Kaelo K. Seatla.

Kasvosve, Dr Mohan Narasimhamurthy, University of Botswana; Dr. Giacomo M. Paganotti and Dr. Surbhi Grover, Botswana -University of Pennsylvania Partnership; Dr. Simani Gaseitsiwe, Dr Sikhulile Moyo, BHP.

Kaelo's project focuses on virological and clinical responses to Dolutegravir combination antiretroviral treatment regimens in Highly Treatment Experienced patients in Botswana, enrolled in the "Test and Treat" programme - specifically investigating the development of novel HIV drug resistance mutations. Leabaneng's project focuses on exploring the possible impact of HIV infection on the distribution of human papillomavirus (HPV) subtypes and host epigenetic changes and HPV genetic variation associated with cervical cancer progression.

DR. VELEMPINI RECEIVES NAAEE FELLOWSHIP



Dr Kgosietsile Velempini.

The North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), in USA, has awarded Dr Kgosietsile Velempini a Fellowship through the Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP), commencing November 26 ending on December 20, 2018. Dr Velempini is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Botswana. He teaches Environmental Education courses in the Department of Languages and Social Sciences Education.

Dr Velempini was awarded the Fellowship given his research background in environmental education, specifically in Africa. His Fellowship will take place at NAAEE headquarters in Washington DC, USA. The mission of the GEEP is to create a vibrant and inclusive learning network designed to strengthen environmental education globally to create a more sustainable future for all. The President of NAAEE Judy Braus, in applauding Dr Velempini for his achievement had this to say: "As a leader in environmental education, with a particular focus on linking environmental education to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as curriculum and instruction, we will benefit tremendously from your expertise."

The Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Botswana, Professor Lily Mafela, had this to say:

"As the Faculty of Education we are extremely excited that one of our up and

coming scholars and the 'new kid on the block' has been given this wonderful opportunity. This is an opportunity that will provide him with the platform not only for personal and professional growth, but will also benefit his Department, the Faculty of Education, the University of Botswana and the nation of Botswana at large."

While in the US, Dr Velempini will engage in (1) Research and writing support (including GEEP country profiles, e-book and case studies, contributing newsletter content, writing blogs. (2) Making connections between GEEP and EE organisations in Botswana and beyond (3) Conducting research on how to link EE to the SDGs and (4) Conducting a webinar for NAAEE staff to highlight his academic work.

During his time in the US, Dr Velempini will be offered opportunities to tour Washington DC and to network with other environmental education professionals.

EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS

Jocelyne Mary-Jane Dogley from the Seychelles was this year's University of Botswana Graduation Ceremony valedictorian.

The honour is given to a student who has demonstrated an overall academic excellence and leadership qualities for the duration of his/her studies at the University.

Jocelyne attained 4.9 CGPA in Bachelor of Education Secondary (Humanities). She received Vice Chancellors Prize and the Faculty of Education's Dean Prize.



UNFPA DIRECTOR MULLS COLLABORATION

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Resident Director, Ms Beatrice Mutali accompanied by Assistant Representative, Ms Mareledi Segotso, visited the University of Botswana recently and met with then Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor David Sebudubudu, during which they discussed plans to explore areas for collaboration.

Ms Mutali said as a global institution, the UNFPA was keen on working with an academic institution such as the University of Botswana especially on capacity building of youth on issues of sexual reproductive health.

On the other hand, Professor Sebudubudu assured Ms Mutali that the University of Botswana was willing and ready to work with the UNFPA as part of its engagement strategy with industry, government and community.

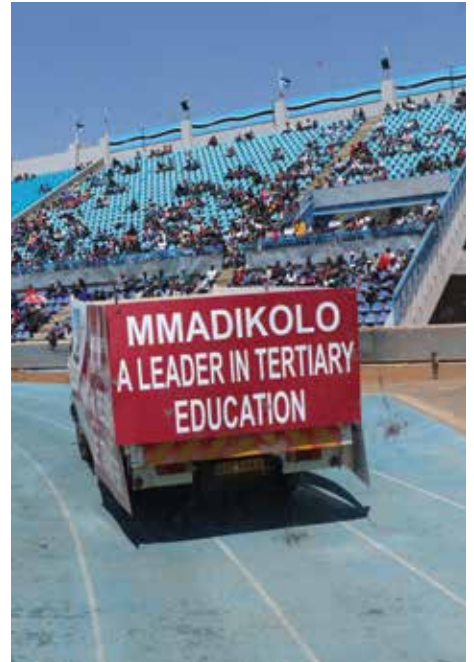


A PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

As Botswana celebrated 52 years of independence, the University of Botswana was among public institutions that were showcased at the National Stadium to mirror progress the country had achieved in different areas of the economy since 1966.

Many of Botswana's captains of industry including President Mokgweetsi Masisi are products of this great University which was built through the spirit of self-reliance as Botswana each contributed a beast for its construction.

Mmadikolo has played a key role in the development of the human resource that built Botswana from scratch to be the pride she is today with unparalleled socio-economic development anchored on enduring peace and stability for 52 years.



PROF NORRIS MEETS DR BARCHI

Prof David Norris meets Rutgers (The State University of New Jersey) President, Dr Robert Barchi. The two discussed a number of issues among them possible areas of

collaboration. Botswana is among countries that Dr Barchi sees potential for strong collaboration towards a knowledge-based society.



A PROUD UB ALUMNA

Mrs Keboitse Machangana is the Director of Global Programmes at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). She earned her stripes at the University of Botswana and says she is proud to be the product of this great University.

International IDEA is an intergovernmental organisation that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. IDEA is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

The organisation is governed by its Statutes, the latest of which entered into force in November 2008. Membership in International IDEA is open to governments which demonstrate, by example in their own state, their commitment to the rule of law, human rights, the basic principles of democratic pluralism and strengthening democracy. Botswana joined in 1997.

Mrs Machangana was in Botswana attending a three-day African Network of Constitutional Lawyers (ANCL) Biennial Conference at the University of Botswana Library Auditorium on October 11, 2018.

The ANCL Conference is a platform for African lawyers and academics with an interest in constitutional law, democracy, human rights, governance and generally the rule of law in Africa.



Mrs Keboitse Machangana.



Professor Hay-Swemmer and Professor David Norris.

BA ISAGO UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT PAYS VC COURTESY CALL

Ba Isago University President, Professor HR (Driekie) Hay-Swemmer paid UB Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, a courtesy call on September 27, 2018, to explore ways through which the two universities could forge links in different areas of study and research.

The two leaders were upbeat at the suggestion that leaders of different local institutions of higher learning should establish a forum where they met to share ideas on how to improve Botswana's education system besides identifying joint research projects.

Professor Norris and Professor Hay-Swemmer said collaboration between local institutions could help in pooling their scarce resources together to come up with tangible results.

They noted that universities could no longer afford to work and run as isolated entities because it was expensive.

Professor Norris observed that the tendency with local institutions was to hasten to forge links with foreign institutions instead of helping each other before looking outside.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY INEVITABLE - VICE CHANCELLOR



Africa's exploding youth demographic, warns University of Botswana Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, has simply outgrown the resource economy. The challenge, adds Professor Norris, forces us to take very seriously, the long-standing aim of diversifying Botswana's economy into a knowledge-based economy.

Professor Norris was speaking at the 36th University of Botswana Graduation Ceremony during which he was inaugurated as the sixth Vice Chancellor. He said with an 800 000 under 35 years population, Botswana could no longer afford the state of business as usual.

"Universities, policy makers and the private sector have to immediately engage to ensure

that we can contain the aspirations and the talents of the 800 000 Batswana currently under 35," he urged.

He added that given that the University of Botswana held the nation's knowledge capital in a way that such could be transformed into the core of a knowledge economy, the University was, therefore, best positioned to become the continent's leading repository of African intellectual property.

"As such, providing the economic and skills diversification required by Vision 2036 becomes an obvious role for this university," said the Vice Chancellor.



PERFORMANCE by Tiro and Casey, (UB Ballroom Dance Club). The first youngest professional couple in Botswana, also finalists at the Rumble in the Jungle Championship.
#ViceChancellorsAddress
#August032018
#UBIndoorSportsComplex

