

Welsh Government share funding expert

UNAM has received a resource person, highly skilled at project management, from the Welsh Government to assist with various training and support needs. This arrangement falls under the auspices of the Phoenix project, a joint partnership between Cardiff University and UNAM.

Karl James, a funder for European projects, is married with 5 children, lives on an island called Anglesey, where he keeps horses. However, for the last few weeks, Karl has been calling Windhoek home, providing project management training and business case writing training to UNAM staff, both of which is being delivered through workshops.

"I am here in Windhoek for 8 weeks, until the 5th of April" he says, with a

notably Welsh accent. Further adding that he was seconded here under the International Learning Opportunity Programme, which forms part of the Phoenix project.

Karl mentioned that so far, he has taken the approach of dedicating time to understand the key priorities of UNAM. "One that stood out immediately was the lack of external funding through research opportunities", he said. A conversation with the Deputy University Librarian revealed that there is an untapped resource that can deliver on this. Consequently, after various consultations, they designed

a delivery workshop and taster session to bring together as many academic staff across campuses as possible. "This will allow them all to have information at their fingertips, and notifications bespoke to their area of expertise as soon as they are advertised", he explained.

Karl has also been looking at mapping the various processes across the university, especially those that have interaction with and inter-dependencies with different units/faculties and Divisions. The aim is to provide a tool that is able to look at key areas for improvement in efficiency,

effectiveness and economies.

"There are many more, smaller areas of help that I am providing, that have come out of the various conversations around the organisation and, whilst I am trying to maximise my offer of help whilst I am here, those friendships and networks that have been built during my stay will continue to flourish remotely on my return to Wales", he noted.



Karl James

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Dean secures research grant

Dr Simon Angombe, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources and a staunch academic is one of three grant recipients from The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 105 Universities in 37 Countries in Africa. His project title is: *Enhancing Community Adaptation through Climate Resilient Agriculture: Encroacher bushes value chains initiative in the Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia*



Dr Simon Angombe

Dr Angombe's project posits that Namibia is home to the driest climate in sub-Saharan Africa characterised by recurrent droughts with detrimental effects on local farmers. The country is predominated by extensive farming with livestock mainly depending on rangelands for feed resources. It has been estimated that about 45 million hectares of land in Namibia has undergone bush encroachment leading to reduction in the availability of desirable and palatable grasses and browse, loss of biodiversity as well as loss of ecosystem functions and benefits.

This project seeks to sustainably utilise and add value to encroacher bushes through selective thinning as a mechanism to rangeland restoration, creation of economic opportunities and increasing food security as well as enhancing drought resilience.

Specifically, the project will: 1) determine the nutritional and anti-nutritional content of selected encroacher bush species at

different phenological stages of growth; 2) determine the charcoal and biochar yield potential of different encroacher bush species; 3) evaluate the effect of treatment with wood ash, biochar and PEG on the nutritive value of bush feed with special focus on tannin contents, feed intake and digestibility; 4) evaluate the effectiveness of biochar on preventing plant poisoning to ruminants; 5) determine the ensilability of bush feed using different silage enhancers (lactic acid bacteria (LAB) inoculants, molasses, grain malt; and analyse the effects of three different preservation methods (pelletizing, drying and ensiling) on the nutritive value of bush feed; 6) evaluate the effect of feeding encroacher bush silage on milk yield, milk composition and milk products quality in dairy goats; and further evaluate its effects on growth performance, blood metabolites, and carcass characteristics of Kalahari Red kids; 7) support the production of oyster mushroom, and mushroom value addition.

The project will utilise a holistic value chain approach taking advantage of the opportunities that the different parts of the bush confers.

Alumni elect new leadership

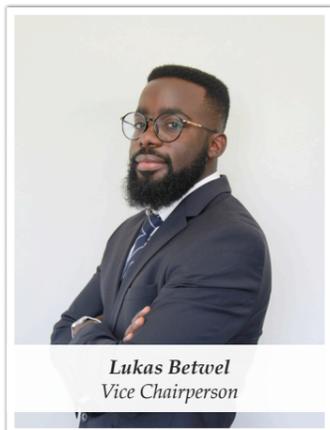
The University of Namibia's Alumni Association recently elected new executive members at the last Annual General Meeting.

Executive members are voted in every three years. All former students of the University of Namibia are eligible to run for executive positions, as well be a normal member. Being part of, and election to the Alumni executive, allows for various opportunities to influence the governance of the university and assistance with operations.

The new executive members are:



Paulus Andreki
Chairperson



Lukas Betwel
Vice Chairperson



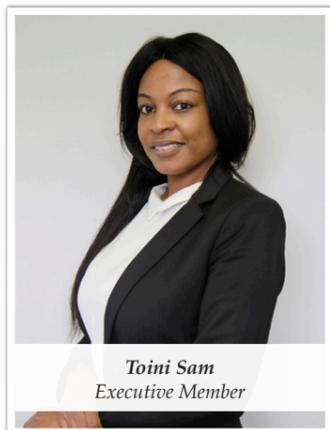
Jesaya Hamukoto
Treasurer



Eino Mvula
Representative to Council



Fanuel Uugwanga
Representative to Council



Toini Sam
Executive Member