

Debmarine – Namdeb Foundation boosts e-Learning

Swelling student numbers in UNAM's second largest faculty- the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences recently benefited from a notable sponsorship by the Debmarine – Namdeb Foundation.

The more than 700 UNAM e-Lab students pursuing various programmes in the Faculty, proved a little too much for the facilities. When the Debmarine – Namdeb Foundation, a long-standing partner of the University, heard about this challenge, they swiftly got involved and ended up donating 35 computers, plus two air-conditioning units, and four CCTV cameras for the e-learning lab.

"As education is a particular focus area of the Debmarine – Namdeb Foundation and safety a fundamental value, it was important to us that the laboratory itself had extra air-conditioners and security systems to safeguard students and equipment in an environment that is conducive to learning", remarked Mrs Imme Hucke-McFarlane, Debmarine Namdeb Foundation Executive Manager.



Further adding that with such a social investment, the Foundation wishes to assist the university to bridge the gap between high school and 1st-year studies to ensure students can achieve international standards of scholarship.

"The total monetary value of the donation is estimated to be over N\$440,000, but the impact it will have on the quality of education is far greater", remarked Professor Kenneth Matengu, UNAM Vice-Chancellor. A leading UNAM Academic, Professor Roman Grynberg, added that, "This allows us to set exams and homework

assignments for first-year students in basic micro and macroeconomics while also being able to electronically monitor the results". Professor Grynberg further explained that the intention of the lab is to modernize teaching and bring it into the 21st century as well as provide students with on-going assistance.

Next year, UNAM plans to introduce e-Learning in the teaching of Business Mathematics- a compulsory first-year course with more than 1000 students. Other than Economics, the lab is also frequently used by other departments such as Accounting and the Library.

UNAM bestows first honorary doctorate in literature



Dr Alexander Theophelus Jarimbovandu Kaputu.

For the first time in the annals of UNAM's history, a second graduation ceremony took place, in which 255 students graduated at what has been dubbed the "spring graduation".

Many qualifications were awarded – 55 postgraduates and 200 undergraduates, but the key qualification was that conferred to an extraordinary honorary doctoral degree student, Dr Alexander Theophelus Jarimbovandu Kaputu.

As Professor Kenneth Matengu, the UNAM Vice Chancellor, quietly and solemnly read Dr Kaputu's citation, outlining his early life and accolades, the audience got emotionally absorbed and enthralled by Jari's exploits during the apartheid era and after independence. He went further and described him as "... a rare breed of the children born of the Ovaherero of Namibia. Jarimbovandu, referring to the genocide that scattered the people."

There was no doubt that Jari touched the hearts of many Namibians in oral literature (orature), oral history and broadcasting at SWABC and later NBC. He extended his programmes to educate the African people and left an indelible mark on their souls.

"Our candidate is special. Although described as a living archive, he does not belong to history. He belongs to the future ... as a life encyclopedia, he excels in oral literature (orature) and history ..." explained Prof Matengu. Therefore, Jari graduated with a

Doctor of Philosophy Honoris Causa in Literature, officially and befittingly earning the title "Doctor" – becoming Dr Kaputu after being capped by His Excellency, Vice President Dr Nangolo Mbumba, UNAM's Chancellor. As is the tradition with the award of honorary degrees, the recipient has to give an acceptance speech.

Dr Kaputu paid tribute to his late grandmother for being his source of oral history, herself having been a teenager at the battle of Waterberg (Ohamakari) in 1904. "Whenever I would offer contributions to authors of Namibian history, particularly the history of national resistance to colonial rule, and at a point I would start to feel unappreciated for the fundamental inputs would make to many doctoral theses in Namibian History, Customary Law, Religion, Anthropology, and Linguistics; my grandmother would only encourage me to continue, promising me that I would be handsomely rewarded someday. I can proudly say that today is that day," Dr Kaputu vivaciously read his speech.

A mesmerized audience sat at the edge of their seats, as Dr Kaputu, a seasoned radio personality – with a soothing, melodious and magical voice continued his speech. Finally, he impressed upon the audience by touching on a variety of societal issues that include the use of African languages in education.

Education experts assist Police Force with materials development

The Namibian Police Force had 80 of its finest members undergo a Materials Development Training programme, assisted by consultants from the University of Namibia, via the University's Central Consultancy Bureau.

The roughly, three-month training course took place at the Israel Patrick Iyambo College in Windhoek. The training was attended by two deputy commissioners, 19 chief inspectors, 23 inspectors, 25 warrant officers and 11 sergeants.

Driven by a commitment to ensure that new cadets are adequately skilled, the training sought to equip trainers within the Namibian Police with skills to develop materials for use in the training of their currently recruited cadets.

Dr Lydia Shaketange, the HOD for Lifelong Learning and Community Education (LLCE) and Dr Miriam Hamunyela, were the principal consultants for the project. The two senior lecturers are experts in material development and training of youth and adults.

"Since the police officers are living the experience of their duties, they know and understand their lines of duties. They were the content experts of the

modules they developed", remarked Dr Shaketange.

Together, Dr Shaketange and Dr Hamunyela worked with the police to develop the following modules: Basics of Law; Policing; Charge Office Administration and Management; Computer User Skills; Radio User Skills; Basic Public Order Management; Basic Traffic Law Enforcement; Basic Border and Installation Management; Physical Education and Drill Musketry.

