

GERMAN UNIVERSITIES SEEK TO RE-WRITE HISTORY WITH UNAM

A German delegation of 11 from Freiburg/Baden-Wurttemberg this week, visited the University of Namibia on a fact finding mission for possible cooperation between various German universities and the University of Namibia. The main areas of collaboration will focus

on Namibian and German History, culture and heritage.

"We have 15 active agreements with German universities, and are excited at the prospect of having more impactful partnerships" voiced UNAM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kenneth Matengu during his welcoming remarks.

The German delegation was led by State Secretary, Petra Olschowski from the Ministry of Science, Research and Arts. She expressed that they have in July launched a Namibia Initiative, in which they want to focus on re-writing Namibian-German history with the help of Namibian partners to ensure that not one voice dominates. "We think that this is



important for re-conciliation, and it is important for people to understand what happened", remarked Olschowski.

practitioners from archives and Museums.

The agreement hopes to enhance dialogue between different cultures and combine different disciplines such as history, anthropology, literature linguistics as well as

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof Jairo Kangira, praised the initiative, mentioning existing partnerships and some of the good work by the German Language Section at UNAM.

DIFFERENTLY ABLED STUDENTS SHOWCASE ABLE TALENTS

The just ended Disability Awareness Week at UNAM's Main Campus had lots of surprises, but eventually culminated in a talent show, in which differently abled students demonstrated that being disabled does not deter a person from having a fulfilling life.

Appropriately themed, "Have You Ever Imagined", the function attracted members of the University of Botswana's Disability Unit. They were eager to share their experiences about making universities more friendly for students with certain types of impairments and ensure that they are not excluded from higher education.



The keynote speech was delivered by a representative of Deputy Minister, Disability Affairs, Hon. Alexia Manombe. The main message was "Do not diss my ability" emphasising that disabled people are able and thus should be given the right support in order to enjoy their lives as able human beings"

Two high school pupils Kertu and Romeo were particularly impressed with the event.

Kertu, wants to be a nurse because "I just want to help people" she says.

Romeo, hopes to become a lawyer. "I have seen a lot of people going to jail who are innocent"



PROFESSOR ZAPPEN-THOMSON SETS OFF TO ROLLINS COLLEGE

A senior academic from the German Department, Professor Marianne Zappen-Thomson has been invited to speak at the Thomas P. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Scholars Programme at Rollins College. Her talk, titled "Return to the Unknown: Namibian children return from East Germany" focuses on the socio-linguistic re-adjustment process of Namibian children who returned to Namibia then, a home they did not know, from Eastern Germany (the former German Democratic Republic).



During her visit, she will interact with other academics and students from German Studies and International Relations.

The Thomas P. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Scholars programme is a prestigious initiative with a global footprint and serves this community by inviting the most accomplished academics to share their expertise.

MOVER AND SHAKER IN ONLINE LEARNING

UNAM Director of the Centre for Open and Distance e-Learning, Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss made it on the list of the one hundred most influential people in online learning in Africa.

