

## Etosha SS learners inspired by UNAM students

A group of 55 learners and 7 teachers from Etosha Secondary School in Tsumeb, recently undertook a 400 km trip to Windhoek to explore and familiarise themselves with the University of Namibia, Hage Geingob Campus. The Hage Geingob Campus is currently home to the School of Dentistry, School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine, all within the Faculty of Health Sciences.



"So much inspiration comes from these Campus visits, and we believe it will help in the learners' determination to come back as students next year," said Richard at the end of the tour. Learners were pleasantly surprised to learn that UNAM offers a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy (Hons) and Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (Hons) at the Campus, amongst other programmes.

Generally, a campus visit includes an information session, campus

grounds tour and the opportunity to speak to admission officers. The total time of a visit is approximately 1hr 30min. Delegations from universities, high schools, government agencies, research institutions and other organisations are welcome to visit the University campuses.

If your School is interested in visiting a University of Namibia campus, drop us an email at [tvelikoshi@unam.na](mailto:tvelikoshi@unam.na) for visiting appointments.

The exciting group of grade 12 learners were shown the Campus grounds and held talks with students from the Campus. Richard Eiseb, Hage Geingob Campus SRC Vice President, directed the campus tour. "The best way to see what life is like at the University of Namibia is to visit our campuses. The guided campus tour gives prospective students and their teachers the opportunity to see campus-life first-hand and discover the many opportunities the University has to offer," explained Richard.

## A joint Carbon Garden Project by UNAM and University of Turku

The Carbon Garden Project is one of the envisaged research projects under the MoU between UNAM and University of Turku (UTU) in Finland.

The project aims to establish a Carbon Garden using fresh water produced from the desalinated plant and will be developed by UTU and its Finnish partners at Sam Nujoma Campus. Carbon Garden is a forest plantation for carbon sequestration

aiming at commercial carbon credit production especially for lowering carbon footprint. Namibia, being a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has adopted the Paris Agreement 2015, and therefore required to jointly share mitigation targets and cooperate with other countries efforts to tackle climate change. UNAM and University of Turku and its partners in Finland are therefore collaborating in piloting

a study on Carbon Garden at Sam Nujoma Campus, using water from a desalination plant.

The purpose of a visit by a joint team that took place in March 2019 was to familiarise with the site and surroundings. Additionally, the team consulted stakeholders, including the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Sam Nujoma Campus Management and private farmers, that are successfully farming with olive trees and other fruit trees (Seal Products Company and Farm Shalom) in the area. The main objective of the consultation was to solicit inputs for the envisaged Carbon Garden. The team consisted of Dr. Sanna Huttunen (Researcher at Biodiversity Unit, UTU), Dr. Simon Angombe (Dean of Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UNAM); and Mr. Isak Kaholongo (Lecturer in Department of Integrated Environmental Science, Ogongo Campus, UNAM).



## Palliative Care Knowledge and Skills amplified through Work Integrated Learning

A designated pair of bright and curious UNAM third-year undergraduate social work students recently undertook a palliative care clinical Work Integrated Learning opportunity at the Namibian Oncology Centre (NOC), under the direct supervision of the Clinical Social Worker, Ms Angelique Kotzee.

The two students, Hazel de Klerk and Ashley Sinonge were placed in the state-of-the-art Private Cancer Treatment Centre at Namibian Oncology Centre founded by Spitz Healthcare Investments, which aims to provide the highest quality services for cancer diagnosis and treatment for all Namibians.



Ms Hazel de Klerk, 3rd year UNAM Social Work student.

of palliative care, which served as the basis for their placement at the facility. This opportunity allowed the students to practically learn about holistic care and the importance of palliative care for patients diagnosed with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses.

The students' academic supervisor, Dr Rachel Freeman, emphasised that, "there is a lot of added value in the Work Integrated Education teaching and learning method as it enhances students' academic outcomes beyond the classroom in an effort to prepare them competently for the world of work".



Ms Ashley Sinonge, 3rd year UNAM Social Work Student.

According to De Klerk and Sinonge, the clinical placement "granted them a learning opportunity to apply critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills, which allowed for accelerated learning", under the direct supervision of a clinical social worker. By moving beyond theory to the realm of "learning by doing," the students got a first-hand experience of practicing what has been taught in class. The pair, who experienced practical exposure of two hours per week on rotating days, experienced the clinical placement site as a utopia for palliative care, especially in terms of the integration of Ethos

Both students said they were impressed by the clear rules and regulations of NOC and by how each staff member, whether an oncologist or cleaner, plays an integral part in the daily operation of the facility. The multi-disciplinary team approach impressed them so much that they described it as, "a jigsaw puzzle, whereby if one aspect of care is not there, then there is no total care of the person".

The Namibian Oncology Centre is based in Windhoek, and is a strategic partner of the University of Namibia.

