

UB NEWS

Official University of Botswana Newsletter



in pursuit of academic excellence

High Performance CENTRE

Delivering Cutting-edge Sporting Development Expertise

The University of Botswana recently launched a P500 million state-of-the-art High-Performance Centre (HPC). The HPC was officially launched by the Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Dr Douglas Letsholathebe. The first of its kind in Botswana and one of the world's best, the UBHPC is poised to transform the landscape in human performance from a sports science, health and lifestyle perspective in Africa and even globally.

▶ **Full story on Page 11**



2 LAW DEPARTMENT PROMOTES INCLUSIVE JUSTICE

6 PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENT GETS AWARD

14 LLC GAMES RETURN



LAW DEPARTMENT EMBARKS ON P13 MILLION PROJECT TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE JUSTICE IN BOTSWANA



Industrial Court judge and IAWJ Botswana Chapter representative, Justice Annah Petje.

The project follows a partnership the Law Department entered into with the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and its Botswana Chapter in November 2020. Since commencement of the project 18 months ago, the department has conducted three human rights seminars during which students were trained on the Yogyakarta principles, a set of human rights imperatives for LGBTI people. Landmark cases on LGBTI rights have also been discussed in addition to conducting two moot

court sessions. The third session is scheduled for April 2024.

Further, the department has received 11 clients at its Legal Clinic with various matters. Consequently, Professor Norris said as a free legal service which has assisted thousands of Botswana navigate their legal challenges, the clinic served as an important arm of legal training in Botswana.

"We are training these young lawyers to go out and defend the individual rights of others," observed the Vice Chancellor, adding "I am encouraged to see that this grant has also impacted positively on our Legal Clinic through provision of equipment and supplies and through making it possible to assist members of the LGBTI community resolve their legal challenges".

Professor Norris was speaking at a Round Table on Promoting Inclusive Justice the University of Botswana Department of Law

organised at the UB Campus Indoor Sports Centre on March 24, 2022. The Round Table was also attended by the US Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Craig Cloud who was invited to come and appreciate the various activities and experiences students had been engaged in.

Professor Norris said he was happy to see the Law Department seeking out opportunities for meaningful partnership that enabled students to extend their legal education and engage in legal problem solving. The Vice Chancellor added that he was also excited to learn that the IAWJ was keen to work with the University of Botswana on this groundbreaking project through its local chapter.

"We value these partnerships. I trust that this engagement will continue to bear fruit," noted Professor Norris underlining that the Promoting Inclusive Justice in Botswana project came at the most opportune time given that the rights of sexual minorities were currently some of the most challenging issues facing Botswana.

As such, he said this was the most ideal time to inform UB law students about such



US Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Craig Cloud (right) with Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris. Looking on (left) is Director of Legal Service, Mr Benbela Rwelengera.

developments and train the next generation of lawyers so that viewed human rights as indivisible and inalienable.

Industrial Court judge and IAWJ Botswana Chapter representative, Justice Annah Petje, said the aim of promoting inclusivity was to foster the capacity of the justice sector to protect the rights of the LGBTI community and prepare future generations in the legal profession to view LGBT rights within the human rights framework.

Justice Patje stated that even after Botswana courts pronounced on the rights of the LGBTI, they still faced constant discrimination hence the justice sector's response to such issues

was critical in making social inclusion a reality for the LGBTI persons in Botswana. She also highlighted the need to raise awareness in the community to bring it on board on such issues. Justice Patje revealed that they had come up with a training manual for judges with input from a variety stakeholders to addresses critical issues facing LGBTI individuals in Botswana.

Head of the Department of Law, Dr Elizabeth Macharia-Mokobi, said the department was conducting human rights seminars for students through which learnt about recent case and legal developments on LGBTI issues. She said so far they had successfully trained two cohorts of 100 students each and the aim was to have

trained 300 students on LGBTI rights when the grant period ends.

Sharing their experiences, Ms Keatleretse Sebeso, a fourth-year law student, underscored the importance of laws that fostered equality, universality and non-discrimination for all while Ms Basetsana Salani, fifth year law student, said research showed no support for the LGBTI given that same sex was criminalized in Botswana. As such, there was still a long way to go, she added. Sharing his experience at the LGBTI Clinic, Mr Ame Pelekekae, highlighted how difficult it was for individuals to change their gender marker. Not only was it expensive in private health facilities but Mr Pelekekae lamented that it was also a hurdle in public sector as a result of complex administrative procedures.

US Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Craig Cloud, said his attitudes towards the rights of the LGBTI community changed gradually with time, noting that was how things generally evolved in life. He said the new generation bore a huge responsibility of liberating minorities. He expressed optimism and delight at the way both the students and UB Legal Clinic in pursued human rights issues.



US Ambassador to Botswana, Mr Craig Cloud (pink tie) with Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris (third left), Acting Vice Chancellor for Student Welfare, Mrs Motsei Rapelana (2nd row right) and other University of Botswana staff members.

BOU CHANCELLOR URGES RESEARCHERS TO SHARE FINDINGS WITH GOVERNMENT



ORI Director, Professor Joseph Mbaiwa (right) with BOU Chancellor, Professor Sheila Tlou (middle) and Vice Chancellor, Dr Daniel Tau.

Botswana Open University (BOU) Chancellor, Professor Sheila Tlou, has advised researchers to always share their research findings with government and other stakeholders.

Professor Tlou shared this during her visit to the Okavango Research Institute (ORI). She was accompanied by BOU Vice Chancellor, Dr Daniel Tau. She emphasised the need for collaboration between ORI and BOU.

Professor Tlou further highlighted the need for a research informed policy making process. She called upon ORI and BOU researchers to make sure decision makers constantly received information.

In addition, Professor Tlou encouraged researchers not to aim at making their research

findings available in journals only but to make sure they disseminated them in local newspapers that everyone read as well. Another critical area that Professor Tlou said Botswana should cater for was research funding.

She was keen on tropical diseases in that she would like to see ORI involved in research that aimed at eradication of diseases such as malaria, bilharzia as well as HIV/AIDS. For his part, Dr Tau highlighted the long history that the University of Botswana and BOU shared hence the need for collaborative research between the two institutions.

He noted that from the onset, BOU had involved UB staff in some of its key committees such as that of the Appointment

and Promotion of Academic staff. He also noted that BOU and ORI had developed a joint graduate programme on Climate Change which would involve collaboration of the two institutions on supervision of students.

Meanwhile, Professor Tlou and Dr Tau were taken on a guided tour of ORI during which they expressed gratitude for having been welcomed at ORI.

On the other hand, Ori Director, Professor Joseph Mbaiwa, said he also felt honoured to have hosted such a high-powered BOU delegation. Professor Mbaiwa shared with the delegation a brief history of ORI and its mandate.



Mr Chull-joo Park

SOUTH KOREA AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA VISITS UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA'S KING SEJONG INSTITUTE

South Korea's Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Chull-joo Park, on March 16, 2022 visited the King Sejong Institute at the University of Botswana. King Sejong Institute was officially opened in October 2018 as part of efforts to promote Korean culture in Botswana as well as to offer short courses in Korean language.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Dr Thulaganyo Mogobe, explained the impact the Korean culture and media has had on Batswana youth which he said had become part and parcel of their daily routine besides cultural artifacts such as pop culture music, drama and telenovelas that are regularly broadcast on Botswana Television.

Dr Mogobe further revealed that prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 45 students had enrolled at the King Sejong Institute to study Korean language and culture.

In response, Mr Chull-joo Park expressed the desire for more Batswana to visit and experience Korea either as tourists, students or researchers. He observed that the University of Botswana could in collaboration with the embassy organise seminars either in Botswana or Korea for the benefit of both countries in a

number of areas of mutual interests.

Mr Chull-joo Park said were the Korean course at the University of Botswana could become an accredited programme, it could open doors for many Batswana especially on exchange programmes, scholarships and employment in Korea. He added that such an opportunity also had the potential to trigger investment and trade between Korea and Botswana.

Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, said during his recent visit to South Korea, he established some student exchange programmes. Professor Norris added that it would be of great benefit to students if the Korean language course at the University of Botswana were to become an accredited programme.

Regarding the proposition for seminars, Professor Norris welcomed the idea, noting that partnerships and collaborations were critical to the advancement of the university. He acknowledged the impactful contributions that Korean universities have had on their country's economic growth which could promote prospects more collaborations.

Also present at the event were Faculty of Humanities Dean, Professor Fidelis Nkomazana and Deputy Dean, Professor Thapelo Otlogetswe.



Professor David Norris

PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENT GETS PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF BOTSWANA AWARD

The Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana has awarded Ms Queen Gopolang, a Level 500 Pharmaceutical student at the University of Botswana, a certificate of excellence.



Speaking at the award ceremony, a lecturer in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Joyce Kgatlwane, said Ms Gopolang obtained an outstanding Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.7, making her the best pharmaceutical student in the University so far. Dr Kgatlwane stated that the decision to award Ms Gopolang was announced at the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana's 32nd Congress in Francistown.

Dean of the Faculty Health Sciences, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve, also congratulated Ms Gopolang for her outstanding achievements. Professor Kasvosve thanked the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana for recognising excellence within the University of Botswana.

He said one of the strategic goals of the University of Botswana was stakeholder engagement with key stakeholders such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana. He added that such a move was intended to foster

a better learning experience for students. He encouraged Ms Gopolang to maintain her good performance.

School of Pharmacy Coordinator, Professor Paul Chukwuemeka Adiwuku, said among the good attributes that the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana recognized in Ms Gopolang were not limited to intelligence only but good character as well. Professor Adiwuku, therefore described Ms Gopolang as exemplary

▶▶ to page 12



Ms Queen Gopolang (black shirt) posing for a photo with members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana after receiving the award.



AN EMPIRICAL CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS-SOCIETY RELATIONS

Corporate citizenship is the latest of a plethora of concepts that have been used to describe the relationship between business and society. Scholarship on corporate citizenship in Africa generally lacks empirical evidence. This book therefore is a significant empirical contribution to business-society relations in Africa, with a focus on Botswana. It begins by discussing the broader context using other African countries before focusing on Botswana.

EDITORS:

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Maphosa



Maunganidze

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John Moores University. Her doctoral research investigates the factors that inhibit or impede the regional police cooperation against transnational organised crime (TNOC) in Southern Africa.

Nonofu Mokwakwa is a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Botswana. He has been working

in the area of research, monitoring and evaluation for the past ten years. He is one of the founding members of the Botswana Association of Monitoring and Evaluation and is currently an executive committee member of the association. He was part of the team that crafted Botswana's Vision 2036, which is Botswana's long-term development strategy.

Olivia Nthoi-Molefe is a Senior Lecturer at Botho University, Botswana. She is currently a PhD candidate. Her research interests include community empowerment, heritage

management, and sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

Oanthata Jester Sealetsa is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Industrial Design and Technology, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, at the University of Botswana. His research interests are in ergonomics and design, occupational health and safety, user-centred design, human centred design and technology transfer.

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UB ONLINE RADIO
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UBRadio hosts with some members of staff of the Department of Media Studies during World Radio Day held at Letlhakeng on February 11, 2022. The theme for this year was: Radio and Trust

CHEF LAURENT CHAUVET HOSTS FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE STUDENTS FOR CULINARY ART SESSION



Chef Laurent Chauvet demonstrating how to prepare Cholate Mousse.

Alliance Française de Gaborone and Chef Laurent Chauvet recently hosted University of Botswana Family and Consumer Science Students to a Chocolate Mousse class treat.

The event was part of the Francophone culture celebration. Alliance Française de Gaborone invited Chef Chauvet to showcase French cuisine.

The event was hosted at Alliance Française de Gaborone as part of the University of Botswana Industry Mentorship initiative and students had the opportunity to gain practical skills on how to prepare French onion soup and Chocolate Mousse dessert.

Chef Laurent demonstrated how to prepare the internationally acclaimed Chocolate Mousse using a simple recipe of chocolate bars, eggs and butter. The students and lecturers who attended the session had the opportunity to taste the dessert and give feedback.

Welcoming guests, Dr Segametsi Maruapula,

Head of Department Family and Consumer Science, said the initiative was to promote, cultivate and nurture an Entrepreneurial culture among students. Dr Maruapula stated that there was boom of vendors in the culinary sector but most of them were less qualified and were only pushed by passion. She observed that with the right expertise, the students stood a better chance in the market.

Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, spoke about one of the goals of the University of Botswana strategy which he said was to develop skilled and passionate students who can penetrate the international market with ease.

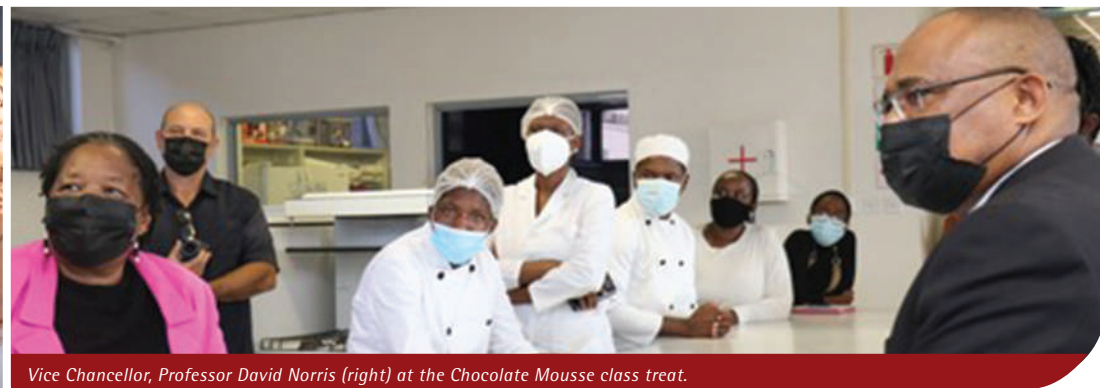
Consequently, he urged the students to think globally and become internationally renowned chefs. Professor Norris also encouraged the students to introduce Tswana cuisine to the industry. He also expressed His appreciation for the culinary arts and told the students to

follow their passion with vigour.

Chef Laurent said it was high time they demystified culinary arts as male dominated hence more women should be actively involved and included in the industry as well.

Based in South Africa's Hogsback in the Eastern Cape, Chef Laurent revealed that all his knowledge was gained through interactions with people of different nationalities globally through his travels. He encouraged the students to be passionate about their culinary work and to pour out their love into the art. He advised the students to make it habit to create recipes from scratch and be more organic to bring more flavor to the dish.

Dean of Faculty of Education, Professor Lily Mafela, urged the students to take heed of Chef Laurent's advice. Professor Mafela observed that a chain of success could only be achieved if they too developed their own recipes. That would also help develop the local market.



Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris (right) at the Chocolate Mousse class treat.

High Performance Centre LAUNCHED at UB



The UBHPC has been established as a regional destination of choice for all-round human and sports performance. Located within a multifunctional University of Botswana Indoor Sports Centre, the Centre is home to some of the world's leading experts and boasts state-of-the-art equipment.

Having played host to the men's 4x4m Tokyo 2020 Bronze medalists, the UBHPC also boasts a 3 418-seater arena, performance laboratories tailored to conduct tests specific to muscular endurance and strength, power, agility, aerobics as well as anaerobic endurance, speed, acceleration, bio-mechanical analysis

and psychomotor.

In addition, the UBHPC offers ancillary consulting services to corporate entities on work-related fitness, rehabilitation, injury prevention, health and wellness activities, and sport event management. Notably, the UBHPC has provided expertise to five national teams since inception as well as more than 120 elite athletes among them Amantle Montsho, Isaac Makwala, Christine Botlogetswe, Nijel Amos and Baboloki Thebe.

Officially launching the Centre, Minister Letsholathebe expressed delight that the University of Botswana was now counted

among institutions that offer the best of services to elite athletes and their trainers though cutting-edge technology and expertise.

Dr Letsholathebe observed that over the years, the UBHPC would inspire more downstream activities in the sporting arena and unlock opportunities for the agricultural sector and food industry. Other areas include sports-related marketing, sponsorship, advertising, funding and third-stream incentives poised to make Botswana a sports startup and sustainable gateway in SADC.

"I can imagine the experience gained from this Centre feeding into accident and injury rehabilitation, reshaping our physiotherapy, our high care and our better understanding of healing and restoring processes," said the Minister.

In her welcome remarks, UB Chancellor, Ms Tebelelo Seretse, said the launch of the UBHPC was testimony to the unique value that the University of Botswana offered to the constantly growing sports sector in Botswana, SADC and the rest of the world.

"This university has been our most reliable source of expertise for forty years now and so it is with great excitement that we watch our alma mater venture into this new role in the sports sectors, which are the biggest



Dr Douglas Letsholathebe presenting national athlete and UB student, Pheny Majama, an award.

▶▶ to page 13

UB PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENT....

to other students.

Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana former President, Mr Bathusi Kgosing explained that the Society endeavoured to collaborate with as many industry stakeholders as possible and one of its goals was to identify excelling individuals at university level.

Mr Kgosing advised pharmaceutical students to register with the society as early as in second year. He said the Pharmaceutical Society of Botswana was a platform upon which members got recognized at the highest professional level.

Giving her acceptance speech, Ms Gopolang thanked the Department of Pharmacy for its contribution towards her studies. She said her mother also played a pivotal role in her success in that she always encouraged her to take heed of what her lecturers said because they recognized her potential.



Faculty of Health Sciences Dean, Professor Ishmael Kasvosve.



UB High Performance Centre Launched...

entertainment, celebrity and employment creators of all the leisure industries," said Ms Seretse.

She highlighted that only a university with the strongest commitment to the biosciences and to task-integrated learning would dare to enter into dialogue with the sports world, with its extreme and endlessly evolving hunger for improvement and innovation.

"It gives me great pride to see our National University venturing into this competitive but highly rewarding science and arts discipline," added Ms Seretse.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, also highlighted the difference between a regular gym and a high-performance centre, noting that the UBHPC was a sophisticated facility with modern technology to provide high performance testing to elite athletes. He underscored the need to develop sport in Botswana and said the UBHPC was poised to do just that. Thus, the UBHPC with its interdisciplinary functions, was a one stop shop for a holistic development of elite athletes and other stakeholders.

Association of High-Performance Centres Vice-President for Africa, Dr. Kevin Subban,

said the advantages of being a member of the association was that it gives UBHPC access to best practices, expertise and collaborations around the world. Dr Subban further emphasised the importance of providing a comprehensive environment and knowledgeable staff to run a high-performance centre successfully. He said the UBHPC was another welcome addition to the once Eurocentric association of high performance centres.

Gaborone Central Member of Parliament, Mr Tumisang Healey, observed that the establishment of the UBHPC would bridge the gap between theory and practice to deliver an integrated approach to the development of athletes. In addition, he said UB's many disciplines would also become integral parts of globally competitive growth strategies once their value was discovered by different sports sectors through the UBHPC.



Award recipients with Dr Letsholathebe (4th left) and Gaborone Central MP, Mr Tumisang Healey (2nd left).

Okavango Research Institute Donates Old Newspapers to Maun Secondary Schools

Okavango Research Institute (ORI) has donated old newspapers to two secondary schools in Maun. The secondary schools that received the donations for their libraries and art departments are Tsodilo and Maitlamo Junior Secondary Schools.

ORI made the donations as part of its quest to create institutional linkages through partnerships and promotion of school libraries in the Northwest District. The schools normally

use old newspapers to make sculptures. Art teachers at the two schools also said they used the newspapers for research as part of final junior certificate projects.

Receiving the donations, Tsodilo and Maitlamo JSS Deputy School Heads expressed gratitude, saying that the material would become handy during their Form Three class initiatives especially for intensive reading training and comprehension.

They noted that the donations were timely given that they needed material to set questions from stories from old newspapers as well as to guide students on how to answer questions across subjects. Both the Art students and teachers thanked ORI for the donation and asked for more.



Students and staff receiving the newspapers.



LLC GAMES RETURN

After Two-Year Layoff due to COVID-19

After a two-year layoff due to COVID-19, the Department Student Welfare finally managed to host this year's Living and Learning Community (LLC) Semester Volleyball and Netball Games. The Games were last held in 2019 but could not be held in 2020 and 2021

due to Covid-19 restrictions.

However, on March 18, 2022, action returned to the netball and volleyball courts as on-campus students faced off in dormitory duels and reigniting the enthusiasm and the spirit of competition that have always been

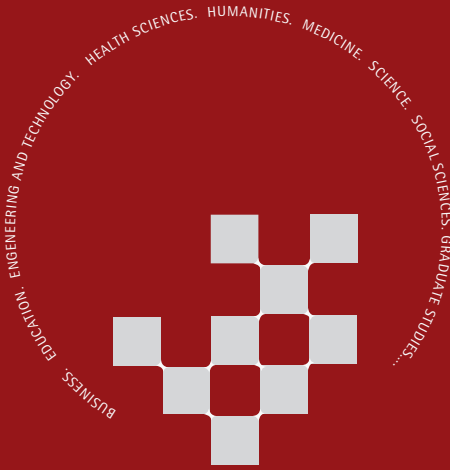
characteristic of such games. Six men's and four women's volleyball teams participated in the games while in netball there were seven teams.

▶▶ to page 15

In netball, Dom 480 were crowned champions of the 2022 LLC Games after edging out Dom 444-446 by 16 to 8 points while in the men's volleyball category Dom 478 captained by Thabo Lechaena snatched the title after beating Dom 402-415. In the women's category, Tetelo Moeleng captained her team, Dom 474, to victory beating Dom 448-470 by 18 to 11 points in the final.

Overseeing the event was Student welfare administrative assistants, Mrs Margret Monareng, Mr Keoagile Lebotha and Mr Motsietsi Basima.





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Graphics: UB Publications

Published by the University of Botswana - Public Affairs, P/Bag 0022 Gaborone BOTSWANA
Direct enquiries and contributions to: The Editor, UB Newsletter, Tel: 3555645, e-mail: nkhomatt@ub.ac.bw