

Visiting of Stalls; Upfront, From Left to Right-Morupule Plant Manager, Ms Mokgethi, BIUST-NSW Chairperson Dr Murape, BIUST Vice Chancellor, Professor Totolo and other dignitaries



BIUST SATELLITE EVENT **Shaping Tomorrow's Future**

By Gofaone Motswagole

The BIUST Satellite event to celebrate the 2022 National Science Week commenced with an activation at Kediretswa grounds, Palapye where BIUST hosted a two day event held under the sub-theme “STEM, advancing life for sustainable development.”

The target audience and beneficiaries of the satellite event were; families, students (primary and secondary), parents, teachers, researchers, innovators, and policy makers. Other groups targeted were out of school youths, and the entire community (local and international). The target audience was treated to science demonstrations conducted by BIUST students and showcasing of projects.

Morupule Coal Mine Plant Manager Ms Botlhe Mokgethi who was a guest speaker at the event highlighted that the National Science Week initiative precipitated from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) initiative wherein SADC Science and Technology Ministers in 2008 resolved that SADC should commemorate science, technology and innovation at-least a week annually.

She explained that that this came about after the region realised that awareness in science, technology and innovation in the region was low, resulting in low investment in research, science,

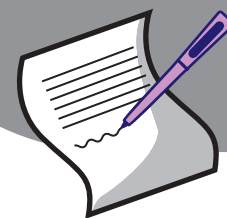
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Greetings to all the BIUST community, our stakeholders and our esteemed readers. We welcome you to our August edition of the BIUST newsletter. We also embrace the warm spring season, a season that symbolise a new beginning. Despite the economic hardships experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we at BIUST are optimistic that 2022 shall be a year of prosperity and will never cease to commemorate the days in our varsity calendar.

Having declared August the month of science, BIUST hosted different activities across the country in an endeavour to celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM). For Botswana to compete globally in the knowledge economy, critical human resource development in the fields of STEM is vital. The commemoration is geared towards stimulating such latent potential were hosted by the North East District in Masunga. On the other hand Satellite events were held in a bid to activate the mood of STEM). BIUST is also strategically positioned to transform the mind set of young people by nurturing aspiring scientists, engineers, and innovators thus the University held its second, Campus Open day for a select group of top achieving students from senior schools in Botswana.

As we look forward to a prosperous 2022/23, we thank everybody who contributed positively to this edition and also encourage others to share information with our readership.

If you wish to contribute to this edition, please submit your information to barutir@biust.ac.bw and gachalaw@biust.ac.bw

technology and innovation (RSTI) and ultimately low RSTI outputs and outcomes. Though the National Science Week (NSW) was launched in Mauritius in October 2009 to commemorate Science, Technology and Innovation, Botswana designated the month of August for that commemoration in 2015.

The BIUST Satellite event focused on Astronomy and Mining sectors with the aim to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovations nationally, stimulate interest in STEM subjects at primary and secondary school levels, and exposed the public to scientific and technological advances.

Chairperson of the BIUST NSW Dr. Davison Murape explained that the purpose of the event was to provide a platform for showcasing research and innovation products with a view to expose, and commercialise potential entrepreneurs zooming into Astronomy and Mining sector.

Dr. Murape confirmed that BIUST had the most powerful telescope, urging the community to make use of it. He also called for the need to put up more Satellite structures in Palapye.



Students under the Departments of Physics and Astronomy



Engineering student

Press conference held in Thapama Hotel in Francistown on the 22nd August to brief media on the expected NSW events



BIUST CELEBRATES STEM

The Botswana International University of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications Knowledge and Technology and other key stakeholders celebrated the year 2022 National Science Week (NSW) from 23rd to 26th August in Masunga village.

Held under the theme “STEM – Advancing Life for Sustainable Development,” the four day event was aimed at promoting awareness, appreciation and understanding of Science, Engineering and Technology (STEM).

The Minister of Communications, Knowledge and Technology Mr Thulagano Segokgo who officiated at the event, together with other dignitaries, Minister of Education and Skills Development Dr. Douglas Letsholathebe, the BIUST Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo and other senior government officials graced the important event.

BIUST marked this day by providing training to teachers in the North East District on effective interactive student centred learning for Science and Mathematics. Through her presentation on STEM Open Education Resources (OER) for educators, BIUST Manager for Pre-University Academic Programmes Ms. Leapotswe Bantsi urged teachers to use experimental learning to enable to participate in STEM related subjects. With some schools facing lack of Science and Mathematics tools, she encouraged teachers to use available materials as part of the OER and to make learning more meaningful, fun and experimental. She said that as Botswana pushed towards being a knowledge-based economy, it was very critical that students were encouraged to think for themselves and develop research problem-solving



Mr Bagwasi from the Department of Computer Science training students on hackathon.

and reasoning skills.

Bantsi also emphasised on the use of demonstrations during Mathematics lessons through Enquiry-Based Learning (EBL) which called for students to take active roles in learning with the assistance of their teachers. “It is important for them to be mindful of science process skills through asking questions, making a guess, doing experiments, record analysis and come up with a conclusion,” said Bantsi.

Minister of Education and Skills Development Dr Douglas Letsholathebe also expressed gratitude to the BIUST community for their kind gesture and turning a young man’s dream into reality. He urged Sekoto to take good care of the motor vehicle and to never stop dreaming and innovating. He was hopeful that Sekoto would replicate his motor vehicle and make money out of it. Dr Letsholathebe said that the innovations such as Sekoto’s proved that Botswana youth had the capability to manufacture quality locally produced goods.

The event was also graced by Masunga residents who came in large numbers to witness the auspicious occasion in which the University launched its very own talented amateur craftsman Mr. Batshani Sekoto's revamped motor vehicle prototype. The vehicle was handed to BIUST's Department of Mechanical, Energy & Industrial Engineering in 2020. "Our intention was not to make the car differ from the original concept. All we did was to add value from what he had from engineers to a scientific point of view," said the BIUST Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo during the launch.

This year's NSW featured makeathon and hackathon activities which attracted 130 participants, 67 males and 63 female students from different schools in the North-east region. The team that was led by Dr. Boyce Sigweni gave the winners various exciting prizes. Dr. Sigweni expressed delight over the eagerness and commitment the young learners showed throughout the training. He further urged teachers to always invite them for further engagements with the students in a bid to bridge the technology gap.

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Ledumang Senior Secondary School

BIUST STIMULATES STEM INTEREST

By: Wandipa Gachala

In its exertion to nurture aspiring scientists, engineers, and innovators the BIUST held its second Campus Open day for a select group of top achieving students from Ledumang Senior School, Mogoditshane Senior School, Moeng College, Selibe Phikwe Senior School, and Shashe River School. The aim of this visitation was to familiarise the students with the unique programmes offered at the university and the diverse careers available for them.

The prospective students got an opportunity to tour the University facilities to appreciate the tertiary education environment and interacted with their prospective lecturers. The open day initiative was held under the theme “Converting raw materials into sustainable and high-performance products”.

“This is a beginning of a new relationship, an introduction to a life in STEM. We are looking forward to seeing you here next year,” said the Director-Registry Services Mr. Donah Lekwati whilst welcoming the prospective students to BIUST.

Representatives of various faculties took to the podium to present what their faculties had in offer for prospective students. Dr. Orapeleng Keletso from the faculty of Engineering and Technology and Dr. Otlhapiile Dinakenyane from the Department of Computer Science & Information Systems shared on career opportunities offered by programmes under their respective departments.

For her part the Actuarial Science and Mathematics Instructor and a BIUST alumna Ms. Sefiso Mothudi described BIUST as a place where opportunities and

dreams were realised. Mothudi explained attributed her success to hard work and group discussions, encouraging prospective students to have study partners. “Hard work pays. I was not the brightest student in our department but going an extra mile to achieve good grades. Never cease to work hard and set high targets for yourselves,” she said.



Prof Otlogetswe Totolo giving ka keynote address



Mr Kaone Nkwe giving vote of thanks

THE NEW BIUST STUDENT LAPA TO STRIKE BOTH RECREATION AND INCOME GENERATION MARK.

By: Tshegofatso Teseletso



The Vice Chancellor and the SRC

One of the projects that University prides itself with is the LAPA project which is a collaborative effort between the BIUST management and Student Representative Council.

The two parties were urged work show commitment and dedication to the success of this project which was envisaged to generate third stream income.

Giving an overview of the project, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and administration Mr. Davis Tele explained that the project was instigated by the university management and student representative council with a view to set up an outdoor multi-use student facility or a recreational spot for learners.

Funded in December 2021, he explained that the Student Representative Council designed the structure of the student LAPA, the simplicity of this building “stands to accommodate diverse events that will be hosted here.”

Still on this note Mr. Tele explained that the phase two stage of the project was on the pipeline and the vision was to improve the Lapa and ensure proper management as well as utilisation.

The project was also supported by the BIUST Vice Chancelor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo who officially handed over the project to student representative council president Mr Kaone Nkwe.

"It is a great pleasure and honour to be standing here today to deliver another milestone in our strive for an exceptional student experience – an outdoor multi-use student facility appropriately called the Student Lapa”, said the elated BIUST Vice Chancellor Professor Otlogetswe Totolo as he officially handed over the student LAPA to Mr Nkwe.

He explained that the Lapa would not only serve as a functional meeting place for the BIUST community but would also give them an ambience and arrogance of choice adding that students Lapa fit any occasion for

Students’ fun and recreation.

"Delivering this project today adds to our efforts to enhance our Students’ learning environment with complementing facilities,” he said. The renowned leader stated that the importance of attending a University with breathtaking surroundings can never be over emphasised adding “if learners are really going to thrive throughout their university studies and stay, then they need to be in a comfortable, learner-friendly environment.”

Professor Totolo shared his ambition to make this area a “special economic zone” for student recreation and entertainment as it neatly complemented the envisaged Student Centre as an extension of its outdoor wing for student activities.

“I therefore encourage you to meaningfully use this facility, take care of it, and enjoy its proximity to your Student Residence. I further encourage you – Mr. President- the Student Representative Council, and the whole Student body, to start looking at our vast land as an available avenue for creative adventure and leisure. "Leisure activities like hiking, bush walks, mountain biking are some examples that we may derive from the beauty and vastness of our land” he said.

He emphasised that activities should be done within the confines of the usual campus etiquette, rules and regulations because it was a communal space that must be shared by different students and student groupings.

In closing Mr. Kaone Nkwe appreciated the BIUST management team and student representative council members for working tirelessly to ensure that the project materialise successfully. Kaone alluded that aside from recreation the place would cultivate entrepreneurial skills and generate more funds

BIUST GEMS MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP PROMPT FOR A LIMITLESS MINDSET APPROACH.



The guest speakers from Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) Trust's very own Mrs. Esther Kanaimba Senai



GEMS Girls listening attentively

By: Tshegofatso Teseletso

If you educate a woman you educate a nation. To acknowledge this truth, Botswana International University of Science and Technology through the office of Pre-University Academic Programme (PUAP) held a five-day mentorship workshop for girls excelling in Mathematics, Science and Engineering (GEMS). The enlightening program is aimed at celebrating the choice made by young women to participate in high level science courses and impart learners with broad career choices, support services, mentorship and scholarships available to them in advancing their journey.

The profound initiative also stands to sensitive students on possible challenges that they might encounter on their career journey and equip them with knowledge on how to overcome those.

"A limitless mindset will expose you to a world of endless opportunities, where anything and everything is possible", said the Director of PUAP Dr. Haniso Motlhabane when welcoming girls from Senior secondary schools; Mahupu Unified, Tsabong Unified Secondary, Matsha College, Gantsi, Shakawe, Maun

and Swaneng Hill to the BIUST GEMS mentoring workshop. This imperative program also attracted women speakers excelling in their STEM professions.

To unravel GEMS mentorship workshop, BIUST's Communications and Public Affairs officer Ms. Tshegofatso Teseletso conversed with the PUAP program coordinator, Mrs Leapotswe. Bantsi.

1. Kindly introduce yourself to our readers and the specific roles you play in the GEMS program?

Answer: My name is Leapotswe B. Bantsi, the PUAP Program Coordinator. My role is to coordinate the GEMS program, from submitting a proposal until it reaches our sponsor Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL) as well as overseeing all the activities that pertain to the program.

2. How many students were present, and will this profound initiative reach other schools?

Answer: We had a total of 46 students, six from each of the six schools: Mahupu, Tsabong, Matsha, Gantsi, Shakawe and Maun Senior Secondary Schools and an additional 10 girls from Swaneng Hill School. The program was sponsored by Botswana Insurance Holdings Limited (BIHL). The programme is being done in collaboration with North Carolina State University (NCSU) as part of a research project aimed at developing an e-STEM application for long distance mentorship. Whether or not

the program will continue, will depend on the availability of sponsorship and success of the research project in developing the app and perfecting it.

3. Take us through the speakers, their biography, why those particular experts and their main roles during the workshop?

Answer: BIUST Alumni, Ms. Keleadi Ruda and Ms. Maduo Mosothwane take the centre stage to inspire GEMS students. These are vibrant, fascinating and talented young ladies who are currently taking the Energy Engineering industry by storm. The duo are also the Founders of Energy Engineering Trust.

BIHL Trust's very own Mrs. Esther Kanaimba Senai is also our member and her role is to breakdown leadership skills to our female visionaries. Her insightful deliberation addressed the following key areas; Who is a leader, Who can be a leader, and How can one become a leader. Senai implored GEMS girls to dream big and set high targets for themselves. On behalf of BIUST I would like to appreciate BIHLTrust for the continuous support in supporting the GEMS mentorship program.

The first black female Aircraft Propulsion Engineer from Samara National Research University, Russia; Ms. Natasha C.S.T Moleele and also the multilingual, space fanatic and science mentor beseeched GEMS students to believe in themselves and to never allow their current setbacks to derail them from their STEM dream.

4. Which criteria was used to choose students who got to be part of this mind-shifting workshop?

Answer: The workshop was for girls who had already been chosen by their principals to participate in the GEMS program.

5. Would you say this workshop is somehow transforming our future leaders, if yes how so?

Answer: The best that I can do is to post one or two responses from the girls themselves; " Like I said I got inspired by women in STEM throughout the week and I know that the experience is going to push me to my level best"

"I was exposed to a lot of career opportunities and got to be comfortable with Engineering as a career which is very accommodative to woman"

"It helped me to change my perception about science and I got to realise that science is impactful."

6. There is a huge gap when it comes to girls excelling in Science, Math's and Engineering career. What could be the possible problem and how can initiatives as these fill that gap?

Answer: There is a myriad of reasons why girls and women are not well represented in the STEM space, (I believe none of them is inherent) which include upbringing, societal expectation, attitude towards girls, time spent in household chores, culture in a male dominated society, and the list goes on.

7. Five years from now how do you want this program to have shifted the space of engineering, science and mathematics amongst girls, ladies and women in general?

Answer: One would hope that the performance of girls in STEM subjects would have significantly improved to the extent that there would be a lot more women participating and being retained in STEM professions and careers.

8. What are some of the topics that were covered and extra actives; what was the objective when choosing them?

Topics: Talk on different careers in STEM, shifting the focus of your career, Technology and Innovation, Leadership and preparing yourself for your next chapter: character, leadership skills, Tour of Science and Engineering Blocks etc . The topics were meant to achieve the objectives of the program as stated above. (for information see the program)

9. Any additional information?

Answer: Though the GEMS program is coordinated by BIUST it also involves women in STEM professions from other entities. We have a mentor who is a female engineer from Botswana Power Corporation, a female lecturer from BUAN who majored in veterinary science, Lecturer at Botho University with a Microbiologist qualification and a recent graduate from Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine who holds an MSc in Molecular Medicine. From BIUST the mentors are Dr Lemme Kebaabetswe and Dr Bokani Mtengi.

10. Lastly a word of advice to the youth specifically girls who would love to pursue a career in Math's, Science, and Engineering?

Answer: I would say that girls can do very well in STEM if they do not doubt their ability and potential. If they put their mind to it they can excel in the STEM space and close the glaring gap as far as performance, participation and retention in STEM is concerned.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY BIUST CAMPUS EXPEDITION IMMERSSED ON ELEVATING BOTSWANA NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FIELD.

By: Tshegofatso Teseletso

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Project Management Officers (PMOs) for Botswana recently visited BIUST on a mission to review technical cooperation programmes with the project counterparts at BIUST, Ministry of Health, Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory, and the National Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

The visitation was fixated on reviewing progress on ongoing projects, Finalising the Country Programme Framework for 2023 – 2027, reviewing and improving proposed project designs for the 2024 – 2025 cycle funding applications.

On the 25th of August 2022 the two PMOs for Botswana, Mr Neil Jarvis and Ms Özlem Esengin, together with the Director of Botswana's Radiational Protection Inspectorate (RPI), Ms Tshegofatso Zwikula, explored the BIUST Campus.

The expedition started with a courtesy call at the office of Prof. Abraham Ogwu, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research, Development and Innovation. Prof Ogwu welcomed the team and conveyed his gratitude to the IAEA's for their continuous funding support towards BIUST projects like the BOT1001 Design Project titled "Developing National Nuclear Science Training Programmes and Research Capacities".

Ogwu emphasised on the important role of nuclear science and technology in addressing problems in the mining, agricultural, and health sectors. He implored the project counterparts, Prof Gregory Hillhouse and Dr Oscar Kureba, to work closely with the Ministry of Health in developing education/training programmes in radiography and medical physics for the next funding cycle.

The honorary delegates got to visit the proposed BINST site, followed by a meeting with representatives of the Applied Nuclear Science and Technology Research Group to deliberate on the next steps of the BOT1001 Design Project. The outcome of the discussion includes procuring equipment for a multidisciplinary teaching and research laboratory in the area of Applied Nuclear Science and Technology; host workshops led by IAEA experts to develop new education/training programmes in radiobiology and



IEA Delegates Mr Neil Jarvis and Ms Özlem Esengin, together with the Director of Botswana's Radiational Protection Inspectorate (RPI), Ms Tshegofatso Zwikula, at the proposed BINST site



BIUST TEAM AND IEA Delegates striking a pose for a group photo

chemistry and funding opportunities for specific nuclear based projects and develop the costed business plan for establishing BINST.

The informative event was cemented by an engagement where Prof Hillhouse and Dr Kureba engaged with the IAEA representation and the RPI Director regarding information required for the submission of a new proposal in Nuclear Science and Technology Education and Research for the 2024 –2025 funding cycle.

BIUST INDUCTS COHORT OF FRESHMEN

As a globally recognised institution, BIUST takes pride in its inclusive culture and environment that enables learners to achieve their dreams. The university continues to drive change through imparting relevant knowledge and skills, in its quest to develop the country's economy.

On August 9th 2022, the University hosted an orientation to officially welcome the freshmen to its campus, an initiative aimed at making students acquainted with the culture and norms of the institution. The freshmen induction introduced students to life at the university, the academic procedures, various platforms, and opportunities that will be made available during their time in the university.

“Let me congratulate all the new students for first passing your previous examinations (BGCSE/IGCSE/A-level) and managing to secure an admission to our BIUST. Some of you are transferring in from other universities both locally, regionally, and internationally to join BIUST. We applaud you for choosing BIUST, it shows we are doing something right. I applaud you for choosing us as your university of choice – you made the right decision and I welcome you to BIUST” said the BIUST Vice Chancellor Prof. Otlogetswe Totolo during his welcome remarks.

He alluded that BIUST's commitment in preparing world class researchers is espoused by the creation of a teaching and learning environment of world class standards.

The elated Vice Chancellor further highlighted that the voice and aspirations of the students are heard through the Student Representative Council and other Council's associated structures such as Clubs and Societies. He urged the freshmen to prepare themselves to play a meaningful role of student leader and contribute to creating the BIUST that they desired.

Furthermore, he noted that the University provided a platform and offered support through various ways to ensure that the student's ultimate objective of getting their university qualifications was achieved. He urged the learners to enquire, learn and share any knowledge they may have with their mates and professors. Totolo encouraged the students to make learning and studying their lifestyle.

“There is no elevator to success – you must take the stairs, challenge yourself and you will realise your dream”, he said.

In his conclusion Prof. Totolo advised the learners to choose friends wisely and know their purpose. He urged them to obey both Academic and campus life rules and regulations as prescribed by the university. “We are an international university, you are going to interact with other nationalities, respect and learn their culture. We can only improve services we offer through your input and feedback as espoused by the University's values and mission statements. I trust to see you graduate in four or five-years time as per your different programmes of study”, he concluded.

When giving a vote of thanks the student representative council President, Mr Kaone Atang Nkwe explained that the university had the potential to turn students into people of note. He thanked the students for choosing BIUST, adding that university was the where dreams were lived. He highlighted the importance of this induction and encouraged the freshmen to gather all the information they were going to need during their duration of study.

WHY INTERNAL AUDIT?

By: Segolame Baiphethi

Internal Audit Function (IAF) is deemed a very crucial part of governance as per several governance codes around the world. Why so, you may ask! The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Global in its framework describes the IAF as ‘an independent, objective assurance, and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation’s operations,’ through the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF 2017).

The IAF was set up as an independent assurance provider to the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the Council that the daily operations undertaken by the BIUST community will lead to achievement of set goals. The standards that guide the operations of the function and the code of ethics that govern the conduct of the internal auditors will assist BIUST in the achievement of the set goals. The Director of the IAF should report to the Council Audit and Risk Committee (CARC) and internal auditors must conduct their work freely and objectively to ensure their independence. The function should be supported by the BIUST SMT, CARC, and the Council.

The IIA on the other hand was formed in 1941 with its headquarters in Lake Mary, Florida (USA). It is now established in over 170 countries serving over 200 000 members worldwide. To ensure that internal auditors operate in the same manner worldwide, the institute developed the “Holy Grail” of the profession known as the International Professional Practice Framework (IPPF)®. This is a story for another day but in short, the IPPF provides a structural blueprint of how a body of knowledge and guidance fit together to assist internal audit practitioners and stakeholders in operating effectively in the current market and future. All in all, as Christians lean on the Bible, Muslims lean on the Qur’an for their respective religious practice, Internal auditors delve into the IPPF to provide a systematic and professional service.

achieve quality work. Internal Audit results are communicated to the relevant stakeholders through quality audit reports.



INTERNAL AUDIT PUZZLE

Internal Audit is a system that scopes and tests records by looking at the procedures and standards in place to identify risks that must be controlled to