



NEWS @ NUST

A newsletter of the National University of Science and Technology

October 2018

TEASERS



New SRC President Elected

Page 2-3



Elevate Trust Lauches STEM Club

Page 3-4



Publishing Students Launch Book

Page 5

ARCHITECTURAL STUDENTS TO DESIGN ZIMBABWE PAVILION AT THE DUBAI 2020 WORLD EXPO



Architectural students to design Zimbabwe Pavilion with VC and their mentors

ARCHITECTURAL students won a competition to design the Zimbabwe Pavilion at the Dubai 2020 World Expo. They secured this prestigious national project after shugging off stiff competition from other tertiary institutions.

Dubai 2020 is part of the World Expo held every 5 years in different parts of the world. This edition of the Expo requires a total design of pavilion buildings from the ground up to be used for showcasing purposes. Different nations will compete for the most outstanding or memorable structure.

This expo will run under the theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' which offers creativity, innovation globally. It is underpinned by three subthemes namely "opportunity, sustainability and mobility". These themes were seen as fundamental in addressing the most pressing global issues.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology hosted this competition where students were required to design the Zimbabwe pavilion based on the expo's theme. NUST came first

scoping a first prize of \$4000 against designs from Bulawayo, Harare and Mutare Polytechnics. Their model will be further refined and conceptualised at the Dubai 2020 Expo.

According to Dalubuhle Moyo, from the NUST winning team, the competition was quite challenging because other team members are on attachment in different parts of Zimbabwe. The team endured a number of sleepless nights while having to communicate via Skype or emails.

"On an academic level the competition was an eye opener as it helped us put into practise the theories we learn throughout our courses," Moyo said.

Mr. C. Manyepa a lecturer, from the Architecture department, who was one of the mentors for this competition said the students who represented NUST in this competition were chosen based on merit as well as gender balance. He added that though all students were assigned mentors, they were responsible for generating their own ideas.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Eng. Mqhele Dlodlo speaking during the luncheon to congratulate the students emphasized that these students have placed a challenge for their fellow university mates. He was excited to note that these students have also placed the university on the world map.

Prof. Eng Dlodlo said, "Our Architecture Department has not only done us proud in this competition but has a collection of accolades recognizing their exceptional talents and skills, especially for designing exhibition stands."

The Architecture students are yet to modify their project for their final execution at the Expo. The Dubai 2020 Expo aims not only to showcase global innovations but to also engage the global community through networking and sharing of ideas.

Ropofadzo Mataruse who is also part of the team said she was excited to represent NUST in the world's best city of architecture. She stated that she looks forward to working with her team and planning more creative designs in preparation for the actual construction of their project.

NUST PARTICIPATES IN THE BETA HOLDINGS ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS

TEN Architecture students again this year took part in the 3rd Annual Beta Architectural Holdings competition. The awards ceremony was held at Avondale in Harare on the 5th of October.

For the first time this edition of the competition saw Polytechnics taking part. It was held in partnership with Institute of Architects of Zimbabwe, Harare and Bulawayo Polytechnics as well as the Faculty of Built Environment as a tribute to Zimbabwe's greatest architect Vernon Mwamuka. Mwamuka is credited as being one of the driving forces behind the call to establish the Department of Architecture at NUST.

The competition brief for 2018 required university students to design a hypothetical Environment and Tourism office using locally produced construction materials. Polytechnic students were tasked to design low and middle income housing units.

Tinotenda Nyamukapa a part 4 student took the first position bagging a Vernon Mwamuka Floating trophy and \$2000, whilst first runner up was Titus Muranda receiving a \$1,000 prize and second runner up was Thengenisani Zhou receiving

\$750 only. NUST student, Vivian Mahlangu received a special commendation for being the only female student in the competition.

In attendance was Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr Nduduzo Phuti who applauded the organisers for their commitment in promoting the profession of architects.

According to Dr Phuti the competition affords architectural students a chance to showcase individual skills, network and share ideas. The competition also promotes high standards of communication between tertiary education institutions and practitioners in the industry.

"The university is looking forward to more exhibitions and more involvement in such competitions," said Dr Phuti.

The Chairperson of the Architectural Department, Mr T.Nyamande added that, the competition gives back to the community by promoting the use of locally produced construction materials in Zimbabwe.

New SRC President Elected



Dennis Mwashita the Winner of the 2018 SRC Presidential Election

THE National University of Science and Technology held Student Representative Council (SRC) elections where six presidential candidates contested to be voted in for the Presidential post recently. Dennis Mwashita an accounting student proved to be the best as he outran his contenders and attained more votes making him eligible to sit in the office of the President.

This year's election marked a tight run where the contenders prevailed with a slight win. The results published revealed that Mwashita garnered 686 votes followed by his nearest rival Billy Muchipisi who got 627 votes, automatically qualifying him to be the Vice President while Ryan Katayi came third with 447 votes.

The voters' turnout in the elections seemed to be slightly lower than the previous elections where about 2278 students participated compared to the 2627 in the previous election.

"I would like to thank all the Nustians for responding to the call of change," Mwashita said.

The elections began as early as 0800hrs where supporters joined different parties' President and vibed the atmosphere with chants. Presidents from all parties received support from their supporters who even campaigned on their behalf.

At the end of the race everything went well for Mwashita and Muchipisi who had tremendous support from the students. Mwashita was joyful at his victory and promised the students the change they awaited for in a long time.

Mwashita noted that he aims to uplift the girl child and make sure the students are included in the running of the SRC through their participation.

Elevate Trust Launches STEM Club



Elevate Trust's members

ELEVATE TRUST an organisation founded by NUST Alumni members, Ms. Scelo Dube and Mr. Velile Dube, launched an Innovations Hub Club at the Ceremonial Hall on the 19th of October this year. The aim of the club's launch is to create an innovation hub which would help students to find opportunities through solving problems in their communities.

The club also aims to be a platform where students would learn and exchange ideas amongst themselves. This would help the students to practice their theory knowledge by making it come to reality.

During the launch students were encouraged to have an entrepreneurial mindset and use their innovations as business

opportunities. According Ms. Dube, the co-founder of Elevate Trust and Stem Projects Director, successful businesses make it through scientists' work who execute duties behind the scenes. She highlighted that the club would open students' mindset in thinking of themselves as entrepreneurs rather than researchers.

Ms. Dube used herself as an inspiration to the students. She started her company at 23 years while studying towards her MSc. in Biology and Bio-Chemistry at NUST. She noted that because of her entrepreneurial mindset she started LEC bio-tech company, which is into manufacturing and supply of science laboratory equipment, chemicals and consumables for schools.

The Elevate Trust also targets High schools whose aim is to guide students into discovering their passion and making it a career. According to Mr. Dube, the Director of Mentorship, this would help students to avoid a midlife crisis where they find themselves stuck in a job they do not love.

Mr. Dube also noted that the club would elevate students in three steps which are to inspire, innovate and aspire. The elevate trust club would inspire students in showing them how other people succeeded through their innovations so that students aspire to follow a similar route.

“The club would go beyond inspiring students as it will invite guests in different business sectors to assist students in their different aspirations.”

Ms. Dube said.

She added that there would be an annual summit where

innovators would have a chance to pitch their innovations in front of a panel of investors with an aim of get funding. This would enable innovators to contribute toward Zimbabwe's economic growth and create a bridge between them and industries.

According to Ms. Dube girls should take advantage of such opportunities as a way to uplift themselves in the STEM sector. She highlighted that STEMFEM, one of the organisations under Elevate Trust, and has a mandate of nurturing females and would ensure that girls are to be empowered through the Innovators Hub activities.

The Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor, Innovation and Business Development Prof. Yogi Naik, applauded the initiative by Elevate Trust as it ties well with the University's current outlook. He added it is a good initiative for both the students and university. He also noted that the Club should encompass all fields including Arts and Commercial students as they also play a vital role in the success of innovations.

According to Prof. Naik social science field is important for scientists to communicate their ideas hence Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics (STEAM) would ensure that the club functions more efficiently. He advised that Commercial and Arts students should work with Science students to co-work together to ensure the importance of their co-existence.

Students Affairs, Director of Residences, Campus life & Catering, Mr. P. Z. Khumalo highlighted that the university will assist the club's functionality and open the space for it to be registered as one of the university's existing clubs.

NUST HOSTS 6th ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY

THE NUST Research and Development Board hosted the 6th Annual Research Day at Ceremonial Hall recently. The board offers funds that aim to support the publication of researches which will uplift the University's name as a centre of research.

Researchers were urged to collaborate with different faculties so as to produce quality researches that stand a higher chance to attain funding.

“The research and development board has set US\$20 000 to support researches. Therefore, it is important for people to account for these funds,” Prof Y. S. Nalk said.

Accountability is vital because it creates transparency and makes the board aware on how the researcher used the funds to enhance their research.

Prof. Nalk emphasised the need to empower women in research. He noted that 30% of applicants should be females.

Lecturers from various faculties in the university presented their researches to a panel of judges made up of deans from different departments. According to Prof. Nalk, this was the last time deans would be

judges, going forward outside professional judges will be invited to partake on this duty.

A total of 15 researchers from five different faculties which include, Commerce, Communication and Information Science, Industrial Technology, Applied Sciences, Science and Technology Education took turns to pitch their researches to the judges. Some of the researchers appreciated the NUST board on helping them to purchase equipment needed for their researches.

A Sport Science Lecturer whose research focused on, “Selected release parameters of the clean shots executed by male league Zimbabwe basketball players,” expressed his gratitude to the board. He added that the camera for his research was funded by the board as well as his presentation at the South African Sports Medicine Association.

The judges highlighted how they were impressed by the Phd lecturers' presentations. However, they also noted that in future researchers should know their presentations by heart and avoid reading their slides.



Attendants of the book launch

PUBLISHING STUDENTS LAUNCH A BOOK

Two Publishing students officially launched their first book titled “The Curse of Red Bottom Heels.” The book launch was held in the Council Chambers on the 17th of October.

The ‘Curse of Red Bottom Heels’ is a fictional story based on real life troubles faced by two female students during their university life. The book explores the lifestyle chosen by these students due to financial troubles and the urge to live a lavish life.

The authors who are part of Zimbabwe Academic and Non-fiction writers Association stated that they used the book as a medium for addressing real life socio-economic issues. According to Mr. Ndabezinhle Mpfu the book also addresses adultery in marriages and consequences faced.

He added that they faced difficulties while writing the book as they initially pondered the book idea in 2016. However, on their industrial attachment year they made efforts to complete the book as they used the time to share ideas and compile the chapters.

“The whole experience was exciting because you learn new things when you are writing,” Mpfu said.

Ms Fikile Nyathi also added that writing the book was a long journey and there were times when they’d feel like giving up but they helped each other to finally finish the book.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Eng. Mqhele Dlodlo applauded the authors for their determination to write and finish a book while


they battled with school work. He advised them keep up their momentum and continue writing more books even in different languages.

Dr. Ndabezinhle Dlodlo, a lecturer in the Publishing Department, became an outstanding contender who bought the first copy of the book for \$250 along with Prof. Eng. Dlodlo who matched his amount for a similar signed copy. Authors present at the launch had signed the copy which was auctioned for sale.

Dr. Dlodlo, stated that when the Department of Publishing studies was created in 2008 the main objective of the programme was to train a cadet of professionals that would cope with freelance editing and design in a digital era. He said that he was proud of the authors who went beyond the departments expectations by creatively and skilfully writing a book while they were still studying for their degrees.

Social media pages:

 National University of Science and Technology

 @nustzim

 NUST zimbabwe

NUST RED CROSS SOCIETY RECRUITS STUDENTS

NUST Red Cross Society held a club promotion week in which they recruited students who were interested to join the club. The club which had 140 members received an additional 62 students who signed up to be a part of the society.

The Red Cross Society is a Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Organization that is part of a global Red Cross Movement with presence in 187 countries. Its mission is to save lives and alleviate human suffering wherever it is found and however it is caused.

The NUST Red Cross Society holds their meetings on Mondays and Fridays, every Fortnight. They attend

most sporting activities such as Inter-Faculty games offering their free services to those who many need it.

According to the club president, Robin Mudaro they train members on first aid care and make use of various campus events for practical application of the knowledge gained during these training sessions.

The club currently requested to be part of the First Aid team for the 2018 Graduation Ceremony. They hope that a team of at least 10 members will be chosen to represent their club.

MISS CURVY SELECTED



MISS CURVY - Vimbai Nicholet Mauchaza

The National University of Science and Technology held its first Miss Curvy contest at the Ceremonial Hall 13th of October. The event was organized by College Youth Art Club and Club Vision NUST as a promotion of their 'No to Body Shaming' campaign.

The main aim of the event was to boost confidence levels amongst plus sized women. The event took a turn from the model traits of Miss NUST beauty pageantry by allowing girls of different sizes and heights to participate.

First year Computer Science student, Vimbai Nicholet Mauchaza was crowned Miss Curvy after shrugging off stiff competition from 12 other contestants. She won a cosmetics hamper and \$200.

According to Mauchaza, the event helped her to gain modelling skills and also overcome her greatest fear of facing big audiences.

"I feel great and amazed as I did it with no experience, the little that I learnt a few weeks before the event helped me win," Mauchaza said.

Nkosikhona Sibanda who was part of the organizers added that, "We hope that this will become a yearly event that will attract bigger crowds and more participants."

The Notable Alumni

Profile: SICELO DUBE

Sicelo Dube is the Founder of Elevate Trust, a youth empowerment foundation focused on STEM education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

She holds an MSc in Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology from National University of Science and Technology (NUST), an MBA from the University Gloucestershire (UoG), a BSc in Biological Science and Biochemistry from the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). Ms. Dube also has a PDM in HIV/ AIDS from University of Stellenbosch (AFRICA Centre for HIV/AIDS Management).

She did her secondary education at Minda Mission School and Mtshabezi High school respectively.

LEC Biotec, is a company she founded at the age of 23 while studying her Msc in Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Ms Dube is an active member of the Young African leaders (YALI) and Women Advancing Africa (Graca Machel Trust) and strongly believes that she has a huge role to play in the rebuilding and re-imagining of Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole through STEM lenses.

She is the President of the Zimbabwe Science Laboratory Technicians Trust whose goal is capacity developments for STEM education and Industry Professionals.

Ms. Dube believes that increasing the participation of women in the STEM field

generates faster income growth and improves livelihood in families. She is passionate about helping young girls attain education as she also got sponsorship to complete her education therefore, strongly advocates for girls interested in pursuing STEM careers.



COUNT DOWN TO 2018 GRADUATION

Remember:-

- ⇒ Graduation will be held on Friday 09 November 2018.
- ⇒ Each graduand receives three cards, one for graduand and two for guests.
- ⇒ Collection of cards at the Admissions (Dates to be advised).

DATE: 09 NOV 2018 | TIME 0900 | VENUE: CEREMONIAL HALL

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Nkosana Masuku Holding a cheque for his innovation funding at Senegal

FundoVR nominated amongst top Innovations

A PART two BScEd in Computer Science student, Nkosana Masuku, was among the selected top 10 innovators for the Innovating Education in Africa Expo held in Senegal by the African Union. The Expo is aimed at establishing a multisectoral platform for experience sharing on relevant innovations that address education challenges in Africa.

Masuku's innovation called FundoVR, empowers the use of virtual reality (VR) technologies at improving education in Zimbabwe by offering low cost field trips. His innovation was funded US\$4000 by African Union at the Expo.

According to Masuku his company (Phenomenon Technologies) will be creating a series of VR content (educational field trips) for example a learner can tour a chemical plant all in the comfort of their class.

"We are providing the experience to them so that they can have a better appreciation of education," Masuku said.

The use of virtual reality technologies will introduce a new dimension of learning in the Zimbabwean sector which is educative whilst entertaining.

FundoVR aims at providing educational content which enable students to familiarise themselves with real life experiences, whilst enhancing their understanding of theoretical and practical concepts as viewed during these virtual tours.



NOTICE

- ∨ The First Semester break will begin on Saturday 3 November 2018 and end on Sunday 11 November 2018.
- ∨ Therefore lectures will end on Friday 2 November 2018 and resume on Monday 12 November 2018

NUST STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION HOLDS A HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

THE Student Affairs Division held a three day Health and Wellness program which saw the participation of hundreds of students. This wellness program was meant to help students improve their eating habits, physical exercise and general well-being. The following organisations and clubs were present for this program, Zimbabwe Diabetes Association (ZDA), Fhi360, Ingutsheni Central Hospital, The NUST Environmental Club, Minerva Medical Aid Insurance and Bulawayo City Lions.

They undertook the following activities during the expo:-

1. Zimbabwe Diabetes Association (ZDA), representing the interest of the growing number of people with diabetes, those at risk and their health care givers. Students who visited their exhibition stand had their blood pressure and BMI checked. They were also taught on how to improve their health and advised to restrain from bad eating habits such as junk food.



2.  Fhi360 is an international non-profit organization working to improve the health and well being of the people in Zimbabwe. The organisation seeks to implement the DREAMS program in Bulawayo. DREAMS is an abbreviation for Determined, Resilient, Empowered, Aids Free, Mentored and Safe. The organisation targets young girls and youth in order to disseminate information on HIV prevention and cultural practices that abuse human rights. Students were taught about different sexually transmitted diseases and ways of preventing them. They were also taken through the various contraceptive methods available at their disposal.



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3. Ingutsheni Central Psychiatric Hospital representatives taught students about the effects of drugs on people's mental and physical wellbeing. They explained that drug addiction is a disease that affects the body and the mind therefore they must resist all peer pressure to do drugs. They were also told the names of street drugs that are abused in Zimbabwe and the effects that these drugs have had on the youth that have ended up in the hospital.



4. The NUST Environmental Club which are advocates of a safe environment. They gave students tips on how to keep the environment around them clean and safe for living. They focused on the current cholera pandemic in Zimbabwe and ways that the disease can be avoided. Those who visited their stall were taught not only to keep the environment clean but to also practise good hygienic habits.



5. Minerva medical aid/insurance was also available to issue out medical aid cards and to teach about nutrition. They showed people the types of food which they must eat in order to stay healthy. Students who had problems with their medical aid cards were assisted.



6. Bulawayo City Lions in Partnership with Pink Awareness took time to educate visitors on their stand about breast cancer. They enlightened people about the importance of early screening, testing and treatment. Girls who visited the stand were taught how to self check for breast cancer.



**News Letter Design and Stories Compiled by:
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