

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Alumni Association is guided by the Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee. The Committee is dedicated to developing programs and benefits of interest to alumni, to increase membership in the Alumni Association and to develop a strong alumni base.

The following members are currently members of the Executive Committee:

Chair & Council Member

Ms Nora Ndopu, B Com 2001

Deputy Chair

Mr Linus Hamunyela, B Econ 1999

Treasurer & Council Member

Mr Jerome Kisting, B Econ 2001

Member

Ms Ina Asino, B Arts 2000

Member

Mr Alois Fledersbacher, B Arts 1989

Member

Ms Annelie Van Den Hoeven, Dipl. Nursing 1988, MBA MSM 2004

Member

Mr Mao Shaetonhodi, BA 2004, MBA MSM 2006

Member

Ms Othilie Kanguvi, Dipl. Education 2003

Member

Mr Edwin Tjiramba

Director Communications & Marketing, PLU BA 1994 , PLU MA 1997

GOVERNING OBJECTIVES OF THE UNAM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

- I. To serve as a formal link between the University of Namibia and UNAM graduates as well as graduates of the University component of the former Academy.
- II. To keep alive friendships made at the University and to provide opportunities for social interaction amongst alumni.
- III. To provide a channel for alumni to establish and maintain useful business contacts with one another, and to establish new contacts through one another;
- IV. To complement the activities of the Court of Convocation of the University of Namibia.
- V. To promote interest in and support for the University among its graduates, other stakeholders and the public.
- VI. To provide an avenue by which graduates of the University might influence University policy on academic and other matters.
- VII. To act as a channel for reciprocal communication between UNAM and members of its Alumni Association.
- VIII. To reach alumni with news and information via regular newsletters.
- IX. To carry on other activities of a similar or incidental nature, including, from time to time, raising assistance for any development-related cause at UNAM that members of the Alumni Association may elect to support.
- X. In general, to further the objectives of the University of Namibia.

YEAR IN REVIEW BY CHAIRPERSON

The University of Namibia Alumni Association was inaugurated in September 2002, by Honourable Dr Sam Nujoma, Founding Father of the Nation and Chancellor of the University of Namibia.

Membership is open to all graduates of the University of Namibia – living within and outside the borders of Namibia. Your contribution towards the Alumni Association, be it financial or in-kind, is wholeheartedly welcome as it makes a difference to the implementation of the activities of the Alumni Association.

We have so many dreams we would like to come to reality but all these need financial resources. Over the last year, we have managed, in collaboration with the Marketing division, to organise one public lecture. The work plan for 2006 and 2007 has been prepared as have several proposals for funding. Several private and public sector institutions have been approached and most of them have made commitments to assist not only financially but also by partnering with them to make their products accessible to graduates at discounted rates. This will form part of the benefit package for being a member of the Alumni Association.

2006 saw about 900 students graduating and obtaining various qualifications ranging from certificates to degrees and even a couple of doctorates. This again marks another milestone as the number of graduates of the University of Namibia keeps on increasing. Congratulations to all graduates.

The Alumni Association EXCO has been working very hard for this and the past years to recruit and register members. It boasts a membership of about 2600 graduates including international professionals who have graduated from our esteemed University.

I call upon all graduates of the University of Namibia to take seriously the Association as it is through this we too can make a difference to society and economic development.

We have a lot of plans lined up for 2007 and we continue to count on the support of the graduates to make these plans come to fruition and also to see the Alumni Association grow to greater magnitude. Some of these are mentorship programmes in which we can partner with certain schools to ensure we improve the Grade 10 and Grade 12 schools particularly in formerly disadvantaged schools and regions.

INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF ALUMNI

Out of a total number of 12, 600 graduates, about 2,600 are registered members of the Alumni Association. Plans are underway to upgrade the university's database with a more extensive management information system. The system will enable the office to efficiently capture information and find lost alumni. Measures to evaluate activities of the alumni office will be implemented through a questionnaire that will be provided at the annual general meeting. The association hopes that through research and input from its members, a better foundation will be set for "friend-raising".

THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

The external publication of the university in the name of *UNAM Forum* serves as a valuable tool for communications with alumni. The publication focuses on major developments and activities at the University, and has recently introduced a section for alumni activities. The University has committed itself to have copies of the *UNAM Forum* delivered to each alumnus on its mailing list, as part of its efforts to improve relations with its alumni.

Efforts to revamp the University's website have reached an advanced stage, since the formation of a committee tasked to improve the website. The committee has come up with a new website which is expected to be launched before the end of the year. The new website will have a separate Alumni link which will enable greater interaction between Alumni and the University. Alumni will among others be able to register online, get information on benefits of registering as alumni. They will also be able to access the *UNAM Forum* and update their contact details on a regular basis.

All communication with alumni is geared towards building a reputable association geared towards advancing the University of Namibia.

DEVELOP INCENTIVES FOR MEMBERS

The issue of developing a benefits structure for members was a concern for most graduates. The alumni association since ventured into a partnership with Infinity Namibia to establish its own membership cards, brochure and reward system. The agreement was signed in the beginning of 2006 and packaged for graduation in April 2006. Paid up members are able to enjoy cash-back rewards when using their alumni infinity card at Infinity accredited shops and outlets.

Infinity partners are working on a roll-out plan, to make the service available at major strategic points around the country such as Maerua Mall in Windhoek.

In addition good partnerships were formed with the Professional Provident Society and the NEDBANK group who generously made financial contributions to the tune of N\$55,000 towards the annual general meeting for 2006 and the graduation gifts.

The Alumni Coordinator attended the South African Higher Education Sector for Alumni Relations Consortium at Wits University in Johannesburg in August 2006. The session attracted about thirteen Universities, and focused on comparing practises with other alumni associations. Best practises were recommended against current practises and are to set the basis for future planning of alumni activities.

HIGHLIGHT OF EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

The annual general meeting for 2005 took place on the 28th of October 2005. The meeting was attended by 34 graduates from the University. The chairperson of the Alumni Association, Ms N Ndopu welcomed her fellow alumni and emphasised the importance of participation and commitment. She further reiterated the importance of building institutional support for the University.

The AGM deliberated on a number of topics among them, activities throughout the year, the constitution, membership fees, election of two executive committee members to the University Council and activities for the year 2006. The adoption of the constitution and the nomination of co-opt members on the executive committee namely Mr. M Shaetonhodi and Ms K Kanguvi formed the highlight of the congress. An amount of N\$100 was also agreed upon as membership fee for a calendar year payable by the end of March each year.

DINNER FOR ALUMNI

The AGM was followed by a dinner at Wanderers Sports Hall and was attended by about 125 people, the majority of them alumni. Comedian Lazarus Jacobs and musician Wanii Jansen kept the audience entertained with lively jokes and music. The dinner provided a great opportunity for alumni to interact with one another and the University, in a less formal fashion. A lucky draw also took place at the dinner with items such as UNAM bags, t-shirts, caps and a lunch for two at Wanderers being won.

Of particular importance is that alumni occupying management and leadership positions pledged to avail their expertise to the Alma Mater as part of their contribution to academic excellence.

COURTESY VISIT TO CHANCELLOR

The University of Namibia Alumni Association paid a courtesy call on the Chancellor of the University of Namibia, His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma on the 23rd of March 2006.

The association briefed the Chancellor about some of its activities such as the fruitful AGM and Dinner held last year. The importance of the association's contribution to economic development was raised. The association requested support from the Chancellor's office particularly in the form of advise and fund raising initiatives. The Chancellor was also assured that the association was looking at ways of contributing to the current state of education. Two members of the association serve on the University Council and are able to contribute to better management of the University.

The Chancellor urged the association to conduct fundraising activities as it cannot depend on government. He also emphasised the importance of the association expanding its activities to other regions of the country. He at the same time expressed concern about the current state of education, and encouraged that greater efforts be pursued to encourage the youth to take up science and engineering related studies. He stressed that these fields will enhance the country's economy. The Chancellor noted with concern, that most government engineering related projects were being outsourced due to a lack of expertise. This he said was very costly.

This year's graduation saw 1,200 students receiving various undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. Four doctorates were bestowed this time around. The association will aggressively work towards getting all graduates to register. The association currently has 1,700 active members.

The issue of corruption among some staff members and its negative impact on the University's image was raised. In his response, the Chancellor remarked that relevant legislations are in place to deal with corruption and as such university activities should continue as normal.

The Chancellor concluded that the University has been rated one of the top in Africa. He singled out exceptional work done by people such as Prof. Mshigeni as having paved the way for UNAM's recognition on the continent. Prof. Mshigeni has done research in the field of coastal marine resources with particular focus on mushroom and sea weed topics. The Chancellor further noted with pride that UNAM enjoys recognition from the United Nations University.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

The University of Namibia was the proud host of the science week this year in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Polytechnic of Namibia, during the first week of September. The event was opened by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Nahas Angula.

Grade 12 students were addressed by an alumna, Miss Theopolina Thomas who is currently employed as a Tutor by the University of Namibia's Chemistry Department. She related her own experience as a student while pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree at the University. She highlighted the benefits of studying science. Her presentation was followed by various questions from pupils.

PRINCIPALS' & GUIDANCE TEACHERS' OPEN DAY

The Office of the Registrar hosted a Principals Day on the 15 September 2006. As part of the programme, the Alumni Association gave a presentation to over 50 principals and guidance teachers who came from various secondary schools around the country. A number of presentations focusing on academic disciplines and registrations procedures were made by various staff members.

By show of hand, about 10 of the principals and guidance teachers who attended the event indicated they graduated from the University. Application brochures were distributed to them to handover to their students. They were also encouraged to take up further studies with the University.

THE FUTURE

These programmes and others will build on the strong foundation of alumni service. Despite alumni relations being a lengthy and sometimes cumbersome process, the association remains firm in its belief that it will achieve its objectives with active participation of alumni. The long term objectives of the alumni association are:

- I. To see a self sustaining association contributing to the advancement of the University on a large scale;

- II. Formation of an active convocation and outreach through formation of alumni chapters regionally. This also includes the continued active participation of the executive committee at Council level;
- III. Continued recruitment of lost alumni to reach the target of all the graduates since the inception of the University in 1992;
- IV. Massive awareness raising campaigns from first to final year students, through encouraging visible participation in student activities on campus.
- V. The association will have a social responsibility component, currently being researched on, which will focus on mentoring programmes, job placements, public debate on relevant issues and HIV/AIDS awareness.

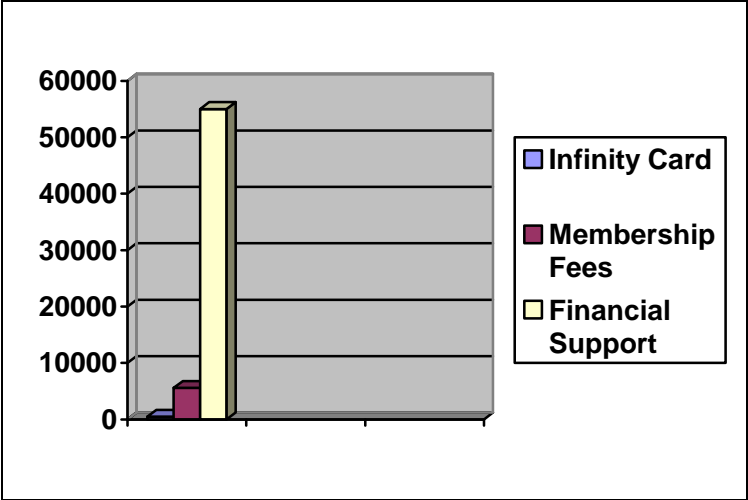
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Association has received revenue from the following sources for this financial year:

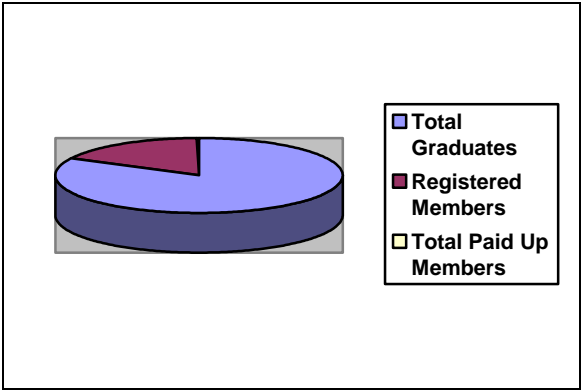
- I. Membership fees N\$5,600
- II. Infinity Partnership N\$500
- III. Sponsorships N\$55,000

The association wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions towards the association's activities:

- I. Nedbank Namibia
- II. Mutual & Federal
- III. Old Mutual
- IV. Professional Provident Society



a) Chart Of Revenue Sources



b) Membership Ratio