



## RESEARCH OUTPUT IS A KEY REPUTATION DRIVER – PROF. ROTHMANN

Research has been identified as a major reputation driver for academic institutions, and UNAM should do all it can to increase its research output. This was the key message veteran academic and former Potchefstroom University Research Coordinator Prof. Ian Rothmann told staff members of the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences at a research seminar recently.



He further stressed the importance of peer review as well as the recruitment of international staff and admission of foreign students. Prof. Rothmann urged the university to provide more funding for research “to build a community of young researchers”. He remarked that the only way universities can meaningfully contribute to the knowledge economy was through increased amounts of postgraduate students, especially doctorate students. “A PhD can be such a meaningful contribution, so much that you can make money from it. This is the route many universities are taking,” he said.

He told the session that some universities were moving away from requiring PhD students to write “thick books” but instead required them to publish three to four articles. “Trust me, this is more difficult than writing a thesis.”

“A lot of my success comes from my colleagues research work and PhD articles of students.” He strongly urged the university to encourage staff members to publish saying “the university is only as good as we are”. He said this also enables the university to not only attract highly qualified staff but high performing students. The seminar was organized by the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Ian Rothmann was a professor in Industrial Psychology and leader of the Work Wellness Research Programme at North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus). He completed his B.Com (cum laude), HED (cum laude), B.Com Honours (cum laude), M.Com (cum laude) and PhD (Industrial Psychology) at the Potchefstroom University. Currently he is rated by the National Research Foundation as a C2-level researcher and is a registered Psychologist (Category: Industrial) at the Health Professions Council. A total of 121 Master’s and 31 PhD students completed their dissertations and theses under his supervision.

## UNAM MAKES AFRICA –US HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT COMPETITION

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Higher Education for Development (HED) announced today 40 paired winners of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. Paired winners will receive planning grants from USAID of \$50,000 each.

“This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa,” said Joseph Carney, director of USAID’s Office of Education. “This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants.”

The paired winning institutions include:

U.S. Higher Education Institution	African Higher Education Institution
Texas A&M University	University of Namibia
Calvin College	Milton Margai College, Sierra Leone
Cleveland State University	Copperbelt University, Zambia
Colorado State University	University Nairobi, Kenya
Michigan State University	University Malawi
North Dakota State University	University of Makerere, Uganda
Oklahoma State University	Hawasa University, Ethiopia
The George Washington University	University of Moi, Kenya
The Ohio State University	Gaston-Berger, Senegal
Troy University	University of Liberia
Tufts University	Muhimibili University, Tanzania
University of Alabama-Birmingham	University Zambia

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

## FORMER PRESIDENT MBEKI NO LONGER COMING FOR GRADUATION

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki will no longer be attending Friday’s graduation ceremony, as earlier announced. In a letter addressed Communications & Marketing Director Edwin Tjiramba, the former President said he was appointed by the African Union to chair a high level Panel on Darfur.

“Thereafter, the Panel will have to do a lot of travelling and hold a number of its own meetings at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Unfortunately the nature of the work we have to do makes it impossible for me to have any certainty about where I would be on any particular day until the Panel concludes its work around the middle of July,” he wrote. “You will however understand that necessarily the work of the AU has to take precedence, and especially such an urgent matter as the resolution of the conflict in Darfur,” the former South African President added.

Former President Mbeki apologized to the entire university community saying “I trust that everybody will understand the predicament which has obliged me to cancel my visit to Windhoek at this time”.

## M.SC. OPPORTUNITIES IN ZOOPLANKTON DIVERSITY

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences of the University of Namibia (UNAM) in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) in Cape Town, and the National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) in Swakopmund are now in a position to offer two M.Sc. opportunities in Marine Zooplankton studies. This regional programme based at UNAM is sponsored by the Norwegian Government through the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA). The collaboration between these institutions provides two M.Sc. opportunities which are solely through Research and students will be registered at UNAM:

1. M.Sc. opportunity to study the seasonal changes in the abundance and distribution of *Chrysaora ephyrae* off Namibia: a retrospective analysis of SWAPELS samples.  
*Principal Investigator: Prof. Mark Gibbons (UWC)*
2. M.Sc. opportunity to study the biomass of key zooplankton species (copepods and euphasiids) and their developmental stages using length (prosome and total length) and weight (dry-, wet-, ash-free dry- and carbon weight) measurements in fresh and preserved samples.  
*Principal Investigator: Dr. Hans Verheye (MCM)*

Successful applicants should be from SADC member countries, and will be eligible for financial support provided by NMFA to cover tuition and stipend during the two year M.Sc. programme at the University of Namibia.

Interested Applicants should send their CV and a completed University of Namibia M.Sc. application form including contact details of three referees, to:

- Mr. Ignatius Kauvee, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia (ikauvee@unam.na)
- Prof. Mark Gibbons, Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa (mgibbons@uwc.ac.za)
- Dr. Anja Kreiner, National Marine Information and Research Centre, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Swakopmund, Namibia (akreiner@mfmr.gov.na)

UNAM Postgraduate application form can be obtained directly from Mr. Ignatius Kauvee or by downloading UNAM Students Guide for Postgraduate Studies 2009/2010 available at [http://www.unam.na/applying\\_unam/postgraduate\\_guide2009.pdf](http://www.unam.na/applying_unam/postgraduate_guide2009.pdf) All applications must be sent by 08h00 18 May 2009.

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### ACADEMIC GOWNS FOR GRADUATION

University staff members wishing to attend Friday’s Windhoek graduation ceremony are urged to pick up graduation gowns from Ms. Rita Olivier at the Office of the Registrar from today until Thursday, the 23rd of April 2009 from 08h00 to 15h30.

Sale of Defy Oven, Hob and Extractor Fan for N\$4000.00 (still new in boxes).

Contact: Gift (3528/0812708355)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Goethe-Centre/NaDS proudly presents a series of films selected for this year’s WILD CINEMA WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. They will be running from the 20 to 24 April 2009 in the Goethe-Centre Auditorium, Fidel Castro St 1- 5 (Entrance fee is N\$ 10):

#### MONDAY, 20 APRIL

19:00 **4 Minutes/4 Minuten**  
Drama/Music, Germany, 2006, 112 min, German, Engl.ST, Director: Chris Kraus

21:00 **Cherry Blossoms/Kirschblüten – Hanami**  
Drama/Romance, Germany, 2008, 122 Min., German, Engl.ST, Director: Doris Dörrie  
Only Trudi (Hannelore Elsner) knows, that her husband Rudi (Elmar Wepper) is terminally ill. When Trudi suddenly dies, Rudi is completely devastated. He vows to make up for her lost life by traveling to Japan in an effort to reconcile the dreams that Trudi was never able to live.

#### TUESDAY, 21 APRIL

21:00 **Darling! The Pieter-Dirk Uys Story**  
Documentary, Australia, 2007, 54 min, English, Director: Julian Shaw  
Darling! is a stirring portrait of a man on a mission—using the double dagger of truth-telling and satire to save the future of his country.  
Tuesday, 21 April, 19:00 + Friday, 24 April,

21:00 **Basra**  
Drama, 94 min, Egypt, OV, Engl.ST, Director: Ahmed Rachwan

### STAFF URGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO NEWSLETTER

You are again kindly reminded to send contributions, story ideas on major developments and highlights in your faculties and departments and adverts for the next edition of the Forum On Line by next Wednesday 8th of April 2009 to: [uhoveka@unam.na](mailto:uhoveka@unam.na) and copied to [eaniceto@unam.na](mailto:eaniceto@unam.na)