



PESP kicks off to a late start amid confusion over changes at NMDS - by OCM staff

The Pre Entry Science Programme (PESP) offered as a bridging course to students admitted in the faculties of Agriculture, Education [Science Education], Health Sciences and Science and Technology commenced with arrival of students from the 17th May.

Commencement of the programme was delayed by a week. Unlike previous years, where virtually all Basotho nationals who were admitted to the faculties and hence the programme, also all qualified for National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS) sponsorship, this year witnessed a change in how 'things are done' at the NMDS. As result, of the 690 students that NUL admitted, only 200 also received NMDS sponsorship. The number was later revised to 300.

On the 19th May, NUL held an orientation programme for all students able to produce sponsors' letter of confirmation or proof of payment. The activity was an opportunity to introduce students to staff and to explain the structures of the university. Further, the university invited representatives of the NMDS in a bid to assist the communication drive so direly needed to elucidate the new workings of the scholarship programmes.

When launching the orientation programme and welcoming students, Acting NUL Vice Chancellor Prof E.M. Sebatane described the current group of PESP students as a privileged one. "You, among many, have been given a chance by the [Basotho] taxpayer[s] to study at NUL." He

further urged students to be diligent in their studies and thoughtful in their ways.

Lectures kicked off on the 26th May. The new academic year is scheduled to begin in early August. The university faces an inevitable reduction in enrolment figures. NMDS-sponsored students normally account for more than three quarters of the student population. A decrease in the number of students results in a decline in revenue collected as fees.

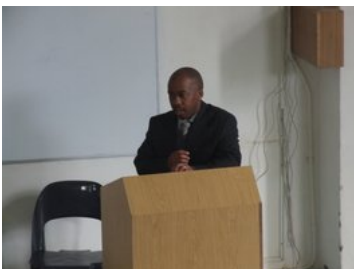
The current strategic plan recognizes diversification (and expansion) of revenue streams as a priority. Indeed, the trajectory of administration of Higher Education Institutions in the region and elsewhere in the world shows a move to embrace and not eschew healthy enterprise.



NUL, Acting VC addresses PESP students at Roma



NUL Registrar, Ms A.M. Mphuthing describing NUL structures



PESP Coordinator, M. Khobane as Programme Director



Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr S. Tlali welcomes students



Acting Bursar, J. Sekoere, Head, Dept of Physics & Electronics, Assoc Prof N. Rapapa, Dean, Faculty of Science & Technology, Dr S. Tlali, Registrar, A.M. Mphuthing, University Chaplain Rev L. Kheekhe, Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof M. Sebatane



A group of PESP students during the orientation programme

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NUL TAKES PART IN LEAP CAREER FAIR

The National University of Lesotho took part in a Career Fair organized by the Lesotho Educational Advancement Program [mme] (LEAP) of the GRO Foundation Lesotho, a Canadian headquartered charity organization on the 7th May.

The event was an avenue that enabled tertiary institutions and completing high school students to interact. It offered a unique opportunity for institutions to describe their programme offerings and students to gather useful information to aid their career choice decisions. It took the format of an outdoor event held at the grounds of the Lesotho Agricultural College in Leribe.

NUL's representation comprised of a multi-departmental team made of staff from the Office of Communications and Marketing, Admissions Office and the Institute of Education. The university's participation in activities of this nature augments steps taken through organization of the annual Open Day to: 'take the university (NUL) to the people.' Further, this is in congruity with the institution's strategic objective to: improve access to NUL programmes. Direct representation of faculties to present their programme offerings, perhaps on a rotating basis, would add depth to the university's contribution to these events



The career fair was quite a colourful event that brought together students, representatives of tertiary institutions and potential employers

NULSSA holds the torch high for NUL

The executive committee of the NUL Staff Sports Association (NULSSA) presented trophies and certificates of awards garnered in various tournaments and competitions to the management of the university on the 21st May. The event was held in the Senate Chambers of NUL and was attended by the Acting Vice Chancellor and his team which included the Acting Pro Vice Chancellor, the Registrar and her deputy, Bursar and the Director of Human Resources. The event was witnessed by a joyous, chanting group of NULSSA members.

NULSSA took the opportunity to provide a summary of recent activities in which NUL was represented through participation of staff. This included last year's Southern African Universities Staff Sports Association (SAUSSA) annual games which were held at the University of Namibia (UNAM) in December. NUL returned from the games with victory on several fronts: Athletics, Netball, Soccer, volleyball. Additionally, NUL received recognition for: having attended most games, best cultural display and its successful hosting of the 2004 games.

In his comments, the President of the Association Mr W. Nhlapo outlined the successes of the Association. He stated that NULSSA en-

abled staff to maintain good health through exercise and recreation. Further, he requested financial support from the university administration. He went further to cite organizations that have lent a helping hand to NULSSA in the past. These include Nedbank Lesotho, Metropolitan Lesotho, Standard Lesotho Bank and others.

More than just a sports association, NULSSA has served as an avenue through which staff have been able to participate in community development work such as planting of trees. In addition to this, the association has also performed philanthropic work such as provision of clothes to orphaned children.

In his remarks, the Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Molapi Sebatane commended NULSSA members for the achievements of the association. He emphasized the organizational benefits that NUL reaped from having a healthy workforce. He also recognized that by participating in games both within and outside Lesotho, NULSSA contributes to building the NUL brand. The benevolent work undertaken by members helps to create a favourable corporate image among the university's various stakeholders.



Colourful NULSSA members display well-won trophies



NULSSA President presents certificate to NUL Acting VC

Lesotho Library Consortium (LELICO) holds workshop to consider resource-sharing – by OCM staff

The Lesotho Library consortium (LELICO) a grouping of twelve libraries of various organizations ranging from tertiary institutions to government departments held a two day workshop at NUL from the 17th to 18th May. The main objective of the meeting was to consider the pros and cons of using a common library system in order to make an informed judgment on the suitability of such a model for members of LELICO.

The event was attended by representatives of member organizations, library system vendors, other consortia in the region and interested academics and members of the general public. Through presentations followed by questions and answer sessions, participants debated the benefits of a group of libraries coming together to procure a common system to benefit the entire group. Graham Woodruff (INNOPAC) tabled a candid picture of the workings of consortia in Southern Africa, Europe and elsewhere in the world. Other facilitators presented case studies from specific consortia with the view to share

useful lessons with LELICO members

One of the facilitators, Dr N. Taole shared her findings on a study carried out a few years ago exploring the efficacy of comparable consortia in Southern Africa. The meeting reached consensus that the key benefits to be derived by such collaboration include:

- Increased financial capacity that enables procurement of larger systems that members would otherwise not afford to procure as individual organizations
- Potential to partner on acquisitions
- Access to expertise across the consortium
- Greater bargaining power with suppliers

- Interloan arrangements

The workshop concluded on the 18th May with a consolidation of the main recommendations on the Millennium Pack and resource-sharing in gen-



LELICO workshop participants at NUL Library

NUL Hosts Volunteer Students from University of British Columbia, Canada — by OCM staff

On the 26th May, 2010, the NUL received a group of five students from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. The students are in Lesotho to take part in a cultural exchange programme through which they shall spend a maximum period of 6 weeks in Lesotho. Coordination of the project from an NUL perspective is in the hands of Dr 'Mathabo Tsepa of the Department of Science Education in the Faculty of Education. An alumnus of the University of British Columbia (where she obtained her PhD in Environmental Sciences in 2008), Dr Tsepa is the lynchpin of the project. The tripartite arrangement brings together NUL (through students and staff), Mohoma Temeng, a farmers' cooperative in the village of Waterfall, Qacha'Nek that was started by Dr Tsepa in xxx and UBC. The involvement of UBC is coordinated by Go Global – a programme that focuses on 'developing and facilitating international learning opportunities through [study](#), [research](#) and [service learning](#).'

This is the second group of UBC students that Go Global sends to Lesotho. The first group came around the same time last year. The current cohort comprises of students majoring in Mechanical Engineering, Chemical and Biological Engineering and Environmental Science. Their NUL counterparts are from the faculties of Education, xxx. The project to be undertaken is a multifaceted cultural exchange arrangement that will involve immersion of the Canadian students in sanitation improvement exercises among rural

communities in Qacha's Nek. Working alongside their NUL partners and the villagers, the students will build x Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines (VIP) in the project area.

More than just the technical dimension, the project also enables meaningful exchanges between the Basotho and Canadian contingents. During their 6 week stay in Qacha's Nek, the UBC students will live with families in xx. This is a unique opportunity for them to learn about Basotho culture and way of life. Even at this stage, the project has begun to have positive spillovers through links with other university activities. It has been selected as one of the case studies to be used in the Implementing the Third Mission of Universities in Africa (ITMUA) project led by Prof Julia Preece of the Department of Adult Education at IEMS. The ITMUA project is, in turn, part of a larger project: the Pascal Universities Engagement Project (PURE) run by Pascal International – an 'international observatory that promotes the exchange of cutting edge best practice research, ideas and policies about place management including regeneration and new growth areas, social capital and learning regions.'

The sanitation improvement project at Qacha's Nek is a classic exemplar of universities engaging in community service – their third mission. NUL is yet for formalize this aspect of its mission through policy-formulation and budgetary allocation. Pressure exerted by competing demands on

ever-shrinking budgets does not augur well for institutional support of projects of this nature. Perhaps the answer lies in creative partnerships such as the one between UBC (Go Global), Mohoma Temeng and NUL (through Dr Tsepa's tireless efforts).



UBC students in an orientation session at IEMS





Visitors to the university

Promotions

The University Community is informed of the following promotions. Hearty Congratulations to you all:

1. Associate Professor M. Machobane in the Department of African Languages of the Faculty of Humanities has been promoted to full Professorship.
2. Dr C.M. Matarira in the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Science and Technology has been promoted to Associate Professor
3. Dr N. Rapapa in the Department of Physics and Electronics of the Faculty of Science and Technology has been promoted to Associate Professor.

1. H.E. A. Villa—Ambassador of Cuba to the Kingdom of Lesotho
2. Dr Ali Bousaha—Director, International Atomic Energy Agency, Division for Africa
3. Prof A. Wright—UNESCO
4. Mr K.I. Melamu—Vodacom Lesotho
5. Prof J. Taylor—University of Dundee, Scotland
6. Joan Camara—University of Dundee, Scotland
7. Ariane Graff-Digler—Honorary Consul of Denmark to the Kingdom of Lesotho
8. Dr C. Bradley-Jones University of Dundee, Scotland
9. Dr F. Bongjoh—African Development Bank
10. Dr J. Mochache—African Development Bank

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Not so obvious...

The quality and quantity of information available to the university community is a direct function of our readiness to share such information. So, if your department/faculty/institute/unit has:

- An academic activity (lectures, workshops, seminars etc)
- Visitors here on academic-related activities
- Achievements (publications, recognition etc)

Please:

1. **Let the office of Communications and Marketing know about it.**
2. **Share relevant documentation.**