

# The Maunatlala Times

June 24-July 4, 2025

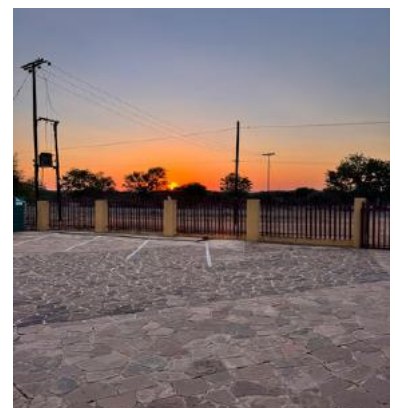


(clockwise) The group in Gabarone, at the Kgotla, and at the Tropic of Capricorn

## About BGHI

The Botswana Global Health Initiative (BGHI) is the core of research, education and engagement for Oregon State's Global Health department. BGHI works to address current health challenges affecting community populations in rural Botswana and to identify sustainable and appropriate solutions.

This year, four projects will be conducted from our team including sexual reproductive health (SRH), gender based violence (GBV), HIV and AIDS, and menstrual health and hygiene (MHH).



Our view from the Guest House

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# Meet the Team!

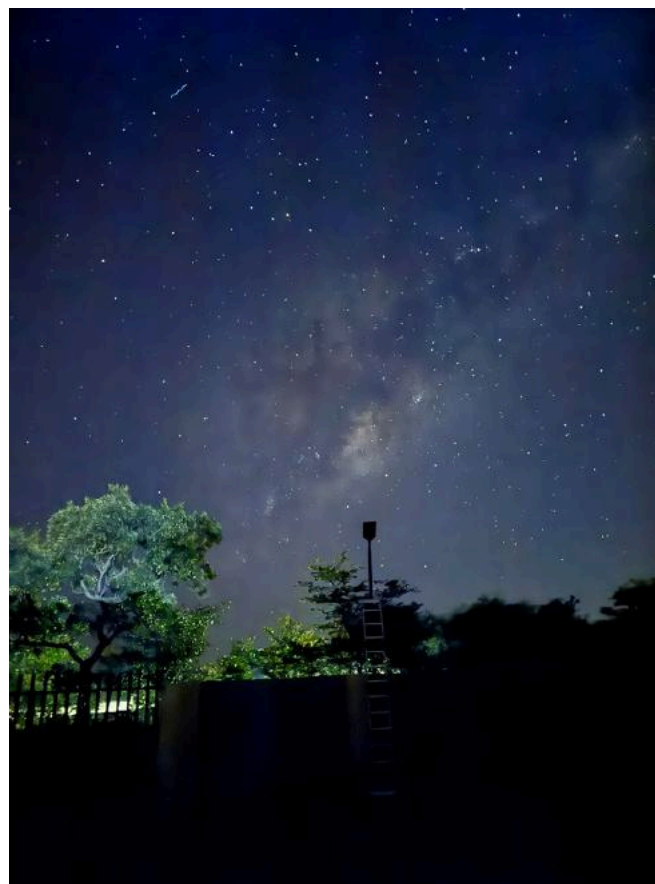
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Our team this year is comprised of PhD students Ben Roberts and Purva More, as well as Kylie Glover and Emma VanSickle, MPH students. Ben will be engaging with local health professionals to assess HIV service delivery and response. Purva is working to assess the feasibility of a peer-based sexual and reproductive education program. Emma is conducting an explorative study on current knowledge and education on menstrual health and hygiene. Kylie is assessing community attitudes towards gender-based violence, hoping to identify barriers to addressing this prevalent issue. As a team, we are working to complete a comprehensive household survey to form a clear picture the community of Maunatlala



Ma Prince took Kylie, Purva, and Emma shopping for skirts before the Kgotla meeting

The Milky Way from our backyard



Our team is led by Dr. Sunil Khanna, who has worked with BGHI since its beginnings in 2017. We are deeply indebted to our team of research assistants, who are serving as our community liaisons, translators, and facilitators – organizing interviews and focus groups in the community and providing cultural context to the information we are gathering. OT has worked with the program since 2017, Bonshetse since 2023, and we are excited to welcome Tumie for her first year as a research assistant aide. Our cooks Bontsi and Goitse are keeping us very well-fed, and Tulane is our designated flying bug-killer at our home base.

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