

# Botswana Global Health Initiative Newsletter

June 2023



## Ministry Of Youth, Gender, Sport, and Culture – Gaborone

The Oregon State University research team met with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Kagiso Kitso Kemoeng, and other MYSC officials to celebrate the seven-year joint partnership in youth development and other connected agendas pertaining to gender-based violence, sexual health education, and disability awareness with a focus on rural areas of Botswana.



## Community wellness day

Community departments came together to promote important health topics and spread awareness about the duties of each department. After the meeting, tents were placed nearby to provide accessible testing means for HIV and cancer screening. Everyone then came together for various physical activities such as 4x100 relay and egg race, where OSU graduate students participated with varying degrees of success. The day finished with an energetic football match, where Ivan, or Thebe, is shown above.

## Kgotla Meeting - Maunatlala

The OSU research team attended a Kgotla meeting, also known as a ceremonial village gathering, where many of the community leaders, such as the Kgosi, or Chief, the assistant Kgosi, and the Council women Maprince participated in warmly welcoming back the returning team. The two newcomers, Kamryn Lopez and Izabel Kickner, were introduced and received the following names from the group: Kamyryn received Boitumelo, or "Happiness," and Izabel received Masego for "Blessings."

The gathering continued by providing updates to the community members concerning progress on construction efforts toward the community engagement center and on the established commitment to build a clinic, maternity and staff housing in Maunatlala.

Setswana Word of the Week:  
Dumela, or Hello, comes from the Setswana word that means to believe. Adding "ma" to ending of this word transforms it to specify the greeting to a woman. Similarly, adding "ra" specifies it to greet a man.



Courtney celebrated her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 28. Happy Birthday Courtney!

## Spotlight of the Week

### US UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH IN BOTSWANA

A team of Oregon State University students recently arrived in the country to conduct research studies focused on youth development, particularly in rural areas. The team's research aims to address various aspects of youth development, including issues related to Gender Based Violence. The development which has been ongoing for seven years now, is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Youth, government of the United States, as well as the Robert and Sara Rothschild Family Foundation.

The OSU Research team was included in this week's *Midweek Sun*. This newspaper is from Gaborone, the capital of Botswana.

## Meet our Team

**Sunil Khanna**, Ph.D. is head of the Botswana Global Health Initiative and Robert and Sara Rothschild Endowed Chair in Global Health.

**Divya Yerram**, MPH is working on her Ph.D. in Global Health and leads the Sexual Reproductive Health project.

**Ivan Estrada**, MPH is working on his Ph.D. in Global Health and leads the Positive Youth Development project.

**Courtney Jost**, MPH is working on her Ph.D. in Global Health and leads the Mainstreaming Disability project.

**Marky Kowal**, MPH is working on her Ph.D. in Global Health and leads the Gender-based Violence project.

**Izabel Kickner** is working toward her MPH in Global Health and will assist in the Gender-based Violence project.

**Kamyryn Lopez** is working toward her MPH in Global Health and will assist in the Sexual and Reproductive Health project.

**Oteng Toteng**, or "OT," and **Kefilwe Segwat**, or "Fefe," are program coordinators who provide help with organizing collaboration efforts to implement all described research projects in Maunatlala.

**Kgosimore** or "Chief," is a Ministry of Health employee who aids the OSU research team in transportation.



**Oregon State University**  
College of Health