

talk@nmmu

May 2010

The Staff Newsletter

NMMU staff eager to grow in knowledge

Education doctorates tops

SOME 50 staff members were among close to 5 000 students to receive degrees, diplomas and certificates at the 10 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 14 to 22 April, where 39 doctorates and 182 masters degrees were awarded.

Although the Science faculty lead the way with the most postgraduate degrees - 16 doctorates, 44 masters and 63 honours - the Education Faculty boasted the most staff members receiving doctorates, namely **André du Plessis, Raj Kurup, Mary-Grace Villanueva** and **Lyn Webb**, all having **Prof Paul Webb** as their promoter. These colleagues are all involved in science, maths and technology education.

"Mary Grace worked on scientific literacy, Lyn on language and mathematics, Raj on understandings of the nature of science and Andre on promoting IT in schools using cyberhunts. Mary Grace, Raj and Andre all had external examiners from the USA and Canada – all of whom praised their work highly, as did Lyn's external examiner from the University of South London, Prof Webb told *talk@nmmu*.

The colleagues based their research on community engagement projects in disadvantaged schools - Lyn and André worked with teachers and schools in PE townships, Mary Grace in the Tyumie Valley and PE townships and Raj worked with teachers in schools in and around King Williams Town.

A further four doctorates also came from this faculty. The Education faculty has also seen a 25% increase in graduates, from 971 in 2009 to 1292 this year.

This year we celebrated a number of firsts like:

- ▶ the first three PhD IT graduates, including ICT lecturer **Mariana Gerber**, and
- ▶ the first Xhosa-speaker in NMMU's history obtained his honours (*cum laude*) in Afrikaans and Dutch literature, namely Nathan Vrolick.



*COLLEAGUES CELEBRATE ... Education Faculty staff specialising in science, maths and technology education (from left) **Raj Kurup, Lyn Webb, André du Plessis** and **Mary-Grace Villanueva** celebrated their graduation with promoter **Prof Paul Webb** (second from left).*

Seven staff members received their doctorates, eight their masters' degrees, 12 honours degrees (five in Group Dynamics – see article on page 3), 14 B degrees and nine diplomas. Public Relations Management seems to be a popular choice among staff for diplomas and BTech degrees.

Read more on page 3

Online success

NMMU's online video streaming of graduation was a huge success with people watching their loved ones from around the world.

From New York right back to neighbouring North and South campuses, interested individuals tuned in to what was probably a first for Africa – the first time a university has given viewers the opportunity to share in the special occasion of graduation.

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Colleagues excel

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100 minutes

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FIFA expert

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Staff doing it

Colleagues empower themselves



IN this edition we share the stories of two groups of staff members who put in the extra hours to study while working to improve their knowledge and skills.

Five colleagues from all over NMMU have graduated with the BA Honours in Group Dynamics while four education faculty staff

members all graduated with a PhD in Science and Technology education with Prof Paul Webb as promoter. As education is our core reason for existence it is good to hear that our staff walk the talk.

In a totally different context, three students in our TESOL (Teaching English to speakers of other languages) programme have put a new spin on this programme, normally used to teach abroad. These students want to use the programme locally to

improve illiteracy in schools, mentor entrepreneurs and improve their teaching skills at NMMU.

The other events overshadowing the news at the moment are the FIFA Soccer World Cup, Ironman and the Ironman Corporate Triathlon as well as our Comrades participants. In the spirit of our wellness campaign which has been received very positively we encourage getting involved with physical wellness and supporting these events.

The year is getting busier as we are nearing June exam time. To our academic colleagues, good luck for the hours of invigilation and marking papers.

Remember to read both the shorter electronic edition which focuses on more immediate news, as well as this monthly print edition, where we share more information in greater detail.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker

Editor: talk@nmmu

Changing campus security firms

YOU may have noticed a change of faces in campus security personnel checking your car boot and welcoming you into your building. On 1 April Masakhane Security replaced Zama Security and many of the personnel we have come to know have left.

Security personnel like Wendy Scheepers in Embizweni, who has worked at NMMU since the merger, left when her contract ended with the takeover of a new security firm.

Talk@nmmu approached Protection Services Head of Department **Derek Huebsch** to find out more.

According to Derek, based on good procurement practice and transparency, most contractual appointments such as security services are made for a fixed period after which a new tender process starts.

The current service group is entitled

to re-tender, if their service has been satisfactory and they could be re-awarded the tender.

"If a new company is appointed, NMMU provides them with a list of creditable officers recognised for good service. However, these officers must meet the same appointment criteria as any other applicant. In some cases post grade levels may change

If a new company is appointed, NMMU provides them with a list of creditable officers recognised for good service

or candidates do not meet the new criteria and they fall out," he said.

He said that a change of firms was necessary as contract tender appointments are based on developing and improving service levels - better service levels can be negotiated and a "com-

fort zone" approach can be avoided.

He said that there may be a drop in service levels initially, placing pressure on Protection Services, but they prepare themselves and work towards a smooth transition and rely heavily on the understanding and cooperation of staff and students.

Derek said best practice at other universities include:

- ▶ Spending more money by topping up salaries of the contract security firms to have the best candidates employed.

- ▶ Another institution employs 80% in-house full-time and only 20% contract service employees, assuring more commitment and ownership.

- ▶ Most universities in Europe and the USA employ internal security staff with none or a very small number of contract security staff on lower levels.

"I feel that moving forward, we need to look at appointing more in-house full-time officers.

Briefs

Chemistry prof honoured

Retired chemistry **Professor Jan du Preez** has been selected as a finalist for the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards. The awards encourage and reward excellence in scientific research, technological innovation, education, capacity building, and science communication. Winners were announced at a gala dinner at Gallagher Estate in Midrand.

Better schools book

Education's Economics and Leadership **Prof Prakash Singh** recently launched his book *Innovative Strategies to Develop Better Schools* published by Common Ground Publishing. The book presents innovative strategies in education to develop better school and ultimately better learners.

We own University Road

A section of University Way alongside the North and South campuses has been transferred to NMMU. The transfer of the road from Gomery Road to the southern boundary of the institution means NMMU can more effectively control traffic, especially public transport, enhancing road safety. Construction and repair work is taking place on University Road near the South Campus entrance. Please be patient.

Pro-active 'hey bud' crime initiative



If you find a bright yellow piece of paper attached to your windscreen, you are being warned - in the nicest possible way.

The "Hey bud" campaign is a pro-active initiative by NMMU's protection services team to try to help you from not becoming a victim of crime.

"We noticed so many doors left open, windows undone and valuable items left in cars, that we realised we needed to be pro-active in this

matter," said head of the university's protection services **Derek Huebsch**.

And so the "Hey Bud" campaign was conceived - a friendly warning initiative highlighting that "you are guilty of an offence".

These offences include failing to lock your car, or its windows or parking in a badly-lit area. The punishment?

You're to tell friends and colleagues of your misdemeanor, and to warn others not to do likewise.

"We believe it's better to be pro-active than to wait for something bad to happen," said Derek.

Diary

7 - 8 May

Open Day, PE

14 - 15 May

Open Day, George

19 May

Staff Association lunch time function

Indoor Sports Centre, South Campus

Group dynamics honours course popular with staff

Growing yourself, and those around you

Five colleagues from different departments at NMMU embarked on a journey towards knowledge of themselves, and groups around them in a popular postgraduate degree.



ALL ABOUT GROUPS ... Five colleagues from NMMU know what group work is all about after receiving their BA Hons in Group Dynamics (from left) Societies Officer **Leonie Beckett**, sport manager **Bernard Petersen**, Leadership Academy Corporate Learning Manager **Joey Staphorst**, course leader **Prof Frans Bezuidenhout** (centre) of Sociology and Anthropology, Graduate School academic programme coordinator **Danielle McEvoy** and SRC Officer **Msondezi Matyila**.

WHEN you understand yourself and others, you're at a distinct advantage as five NMMU staff discovered during their Group Dynamics honours class.

The five – Societies Officer **Leonie Beckett**, SRC Officer **Msondezi Matyila**, Graduate School academic programme coordinator **Danielle McEvoy**, sport manager **Bernard Petersen** and Leadership Academy Corporate Learning Manager **Joey Staphorst** – graduated in April.

Apart from their own diverse backgrounds, **Prof Frans Bezuidenhout's** class of 2009, also benefited from the presence of four students from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany. In total, there were seven women and seven men.

The NMMU contingent is particularly excited about applying their new-found knowledge and skills in the workplace, and agreed the popularity of the course derived from our natural fascination with people.

They revelled in dynamics within groups, problem solving, decision-making and conflict management.

"Working with students can be challenging and a broader knowledge and understanding of human behaviour, especially in groups, can assist you in shaping that behaviour," said one of the group.

"This course is a must if you're working with people or students, and it helps you cope in those challenging times," said Leonie.

All worth it

Personal sacrifices such as giving up holidays, and Saturdays for group assignments, and going without sleep were well worth the effort.

And, in the case of Joey Staphorst, seeing her partner put his own studies on hold too.

For apart from obtaining another degree, the NMMU staff members also benefited from new-found camaraderie, having a common goal and each other for help and guidance.

Course leader Prof Frans Bezuidenhout said because all the students were already working, they could contribute work experiences and insight. Furthermore, the German students could add a new perspective on issues relating to South Africa.

This group of NMMU graduates also won an award for their interactive stall at Open Day 2009. The stall was used as an experiential team learning tool for planning, implementation and team effectiveness.

Joey will assist this year's team of students with the Open Day project.

Literature and law



Language, Media & Culture School Director **Prof Michael Somniso** graduated with an LLB.

Prof Somniso decided to study law to enhance his managerial skills and help him make informed decisions.

Tree doctor



And then there was the "tree doctor". Management and Entrepreneurship lecturer **Jo Zeelie** made news with his doctorate in Business Administration, which he "wrote" in the family's tree house giving him a feeling of "freedom" because it was quiet and the broadband reception was best there.

Graduation 2010

Congratulations to all our staff who have received degrees, diplomas and certificates at Graduation 2010.

Doctorates

Andre du Plessis, PhD Education
Mariana Gerber, PhD Information Technology
Raj Kurup, DEd
Mary Grace Villanueva, PhD Science Education
Lyn Webb, PhD Education
Saralene Williams, PhD Biochemistry
Joe Zeelie, DBA

Masters degrees

Tembisa Befile, MA Development Studies
Carey Eybers, MCom Business Management (*cum laude*)
Tracy Geyer, MA (Research Psychology)
Minty Nopote, MA Educational Psychology
Luan Roodt, MTech: Cost and Management Accounting
Heloise Sathorar, MBA (*cum laude*)
Dieter Steenberg, MTech: Business Information Systems
Rod Townsend, MA (English) Applied Languages

Honours

Roslyn Baatjies, BA Hons
Leonie Beckett, BA Hons Group Dynamics (*cum laude*)
Valencia Benjamin, BCur Hons
Roy de Kock, BSc Hons Geology
Riyaadh Lillah, BCom Hons, Business Management
Msondezi Matyila, BA Hons Group Dynamics
Danielle McEvoy, BA Hons Group Dynamics
Michelle Paddey, BA Hons Industrial & Organisational Psychology (*cum laude*)
Bernard Petersen, BA Hons Group Dynamics
Joey Staphorst, BA Hons Group Dynamics (*cum laude*)
Nicola Taylor, BCom Hons Labour Relations & Human Resource Management
Dimitri Veldkornet, BSc Hons Botany

B degrees

Duane Booysen, BPsych (Counselling)
Ryno Boshoff, BTech Information Technology
Jadey Bosman, BTech Public Relations Management
Visha Coopasamy, BA (Psychology)
Qaqamba Diko, BTech Marketing
Yonela Dube, BTech Human Resources Management
Willize Groenewald, BTech Tourism Management
Simlindlele Manqina, BTech Public Relations Management
Bronwyn Moodaley, BTech Public Relations Management
Zandile Maqoko, BTech Public Management
Nombuso Nobongwana, BTech Public Management
Louis Pietersen, BTech Communication Networks
Prof Michael Somniso, LLB
Asanda Tele, BTech Human Resources Management

Diplomas

Sihaam Baboo, Diploma Nursing Education
Jessica Ehlers, NDip Public Relations Management
Thabisa Makolota, NDip Human Resource Management
Nadine Marupen, NDip Public Relations Management
Deshantha Moodley, Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning
Pamela Nyokwana, NDip Library and Information Studies
Janet Sharp, NDip Public Relations Management
Pumeza Tube, NDip Library and Information Studies
Suzanne Vermeulen, NDip Public Relations Management (*cum laude*)

Campus Health Services' leader a role model for dedication

Committed and driven to help others

YOU will find her hard at work whenever someone needs medical assistance close to or on any of NMMU's campuses.

"I wanted to be a nurse since I was a child. When we played games, I was always the nurse and my sister always played the role of the patient," says the woman who has a passion for midwifery and the rendering of quality care.

"I credit my mother for instilling it in me. She was a fantastic, nurturing woman," says Antoinette.

After matriculating from Framesby High School, Antoinette studied Nursing Science at the former University of Port Elizabeth.

"I lived in G-flat, Room 8 in Melodi and remember the dances we had with Xanadu. I can totally identify with residence life."

It was during her third year of study that she met her husband, Danie. They married during her fourth year, but had to part temporarily during her fifth year when she completed her practical work in Queenstown. "It was difficult."

Antoinette worked at various hospitals in Port Elizabeth and because of her love for young people she also taught Nursing Science.

When she moved out of the teaching sector, Antoinette continued her love for young people by getting involved in establishing the campus health services at the then UPE.

From a small room on the eighth floor of the Main Building on 1 May 1994, Campus Health Services was officially opened three years later in the lower ground level of the Embizweni Building.

"The three years that we have to make an impact on students' lives fly by and at Campus Health Services we strive to make a lasting positive impression on the lives of young people. It is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in this way."

But it isn't always easy.

Our own Florence Nightingale is Sister Antoinette Goosen who immerses herself in her work out of love for others, especially young people at Campus Health Services. 2010 has been declared the International year of the Nurse, with 2010 also being the centennial year of the death of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale (1820-1910).

"I've seen trauma with the deaths of students like Vanessa Baldwin and Jason Kruger (both of whom died in taxi-related accidents close to the university).

"All 24 000 students feel like they could be my own children. If nobody else can be there for them, I want to be there. Sometimes I wish that I could cut my body



All 24 000 students feel like they could be my own children. If nobody else can be there for them, I want to be there.

into five pieces to be available to our students," says Antoinette.

As a committed Christian, Antoinette often has to deal with the conflict between her love for babies and young mothers and students' unplanned pregnancies.

"I am pro-life and want to ensure that the young mother and baby have the best possible care. I will, on the other hand, not judge any girl who falls pregnant while she is still studying."

Together with colleague **Sister Linda Dalton**, she recruited staff, did all the planning and purchasing of equipment – and then witnessed their service grow.

"In our first month we saw 23 patients. Three years later 500 patients came through our doors."

Staff members were not left out either. She recalls

a day when a staff member – who was allergic to bee stings – was stung by bees and how the campus health service assisted him.

Antoinette says she was honoured to be part of the merger process of the former institutions to the present NMMU.

"NMMU started out with two clinics. We now have five. Our staff complement increased from four to 20. External funding also helped us to grow the service. We now have a fully-fledged Occupational Health Service as well as an HIV/Aids Unit.

"We also do our bit in uplifting the community. Together with Tiger Brands, people in four areas are fed with the aid of our nutrition programme," she adds.

Antoinette and Danie, who works at Technical Services, have two sons. Gerrit is a mathematics lecturer at Wits University and Andre works at the Sports Science Institute at the University of Cape Town.

She "de-stresses" by going to weekly painting classes. "It is my way of offloading." She also loves gardening with Danie and simply sharing the day's happenings over a cup of tea.

100 minutes, 100 nurses

NMMU's Nursing Science Department will join the celebration of the International year of the Nurse as well as Nursing in South Africa with the Eastern Cape's Western Region on 12 May.

The programme entitled '100 minutes with 100 nurses' aims to have 100 nurses spending 100 minutes supporting nursing and nursing related activities at Dora Nginza

Hospital in Zwide.

The Dora Nginza Hospital was named after a contributory nurse in this region, Dora Nginza (1891 – 1916). She made a difference in the lives of people who otherwise would have suffered the detrimental effect of disease and poverty. This active hospital is a remembrance of her exceptional contribution to nursing in the region and therefore the activities will take place here.

Every month, *talk@nmmu* will focus on a particular individual, unit, support service or research project to grow our understanding and appreciation of the many facets of our university.

Even stronger prevention programmes to fight HIV/Aids

Complacency not an option

NMMU will be initiating even stronger prevention programmes in its fight against HIV/Aids.

This follows the first comprehensive study of the epidemic in the higher education sector in South Africa to better understand the threat posed by HIV/Aids.

Though the HIV prevalence among students at NMMU was 1.8% - far lower than rates found in annual public HIV surveys - where the prevalence in the Eastern Cape is 15,2% for the ages 15 to 49 years - the university is determined to play an even stronger role in fighting the "scourge of Africa".

"This low rate does not mean we can be complacent. We have to do all that we can to ensure that our figures are improved and that NMMU becomes part of the solution in the global fight against HIV / Aids," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Planning and Technology **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**.

"Only when the rate is 0% can we be happy."

As a result, NMMU will be embarking on an even more aggressive HIV testing campaign, among other efforts, to support the target of having 15 million South Africans tested by June 2011.

NMMU was one of 21 institutions of higher education to be surveyed by the Higher Education HIV and Aids Programme (HEAIDS) and funded by the European Union in terms of HIV prevalence and knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice.

More than 23 000 students and staff members were surveyed nationally.

At NMMU 830 people participated in the research, which looked at all aspects of the effects of the epidemic, between August 2008 and February 2009. Apart from completing a questionnaire, participants completed an HIV test and some took part in focus groups as a means

of understanding the result of the quantitative data.

The NMMU survey further found that the HIV prevalence rate among academic staff was 1.7%, while administrative and service staff was 2.7% and 3.9% respectively. All these figures are lower than those found in surrounding communities.

While authorities attributed the low HIV prevalence rates at NMMU to ongoing prevention campaigns on campuses, including the option of free voluntary testing and counselling, the survey's findings indicate a need for campaigns aimed at the specific needs of various audiences.

"I believe we need a more systematic approach in addressing HIV positive staff and students. We also need improved communication strategies in order to reduce risk-taking behaviour," said Dr Jill van der Marwitz, Director of the HIV/AIDS



RESEARCH FEEDBACK ... The HIV/AIDS Unit recently hosted a research seminar where Health Sciences masters students **NomaChina Kubashe** (left), **Dawne Jackson** (third from right) and **Lineo Maama** (second from right) presented their HIV/AIDS research findings. These students were supported by research scholarships made available by European Union Funding provided by HEAIDS. VWSA Corporate Health and Safety Services Manager and HIV/AIDS workplace programmes specialist **Dr Alex Govender** (right) was the guest speaker. They are joined by Health Sciences Dean **Prof Raj Naidoo** (second from left) and Director: HIV/AIDS Unit Director **Dr Jill von der Marwitz** (third from left).

Unit at NMMU.

This meant, for example, that there was a need for campaigns specifically targeted at those who were HIV negative so that they remained that way, and ones to meet the needs of those who were positive in various sectors of the university, be they staff or students.

Other challenges at NMMU and across the sector include ensuring that students are "critically engaged" with the realities of HIV/Aids.

The survey found, for example, that condom use among students was more about preventing unwanted pregnancy than possible HIV/Aids transmission. Furthermore, 76% of NMMU students surveyed were found to be sexually active before coming to university.

Dr Von der Marwitz said NMMU would continue to do all that it could via the HIV/Aids Unit, Student Counselling and Health Clinic Services to assist those who worked and studied at the university with regards to HIV/Aids concerns. Furthermore our research into HIV/Aids would be ongoing.

"We want to do all that we can to fight this disease," said Dr Von der Marwitz.

Read more on page 14 in Health Talk about the facts around HIV, Aids and VCT.



Meet NMMU's first CIO

TASKED with providing strategic ICT leadership in pursuit of NMMU's vision 2020 priorities, Samuel Bosire has been appointed as first Chief Information Officer (CIO) at NMMU.

Being a general manager at the Eastern Cape Provincial Treasury, Mr Bosire, was responsible for financial information systems. He also spent eight years at the Eastern Cape Technikon (now Walter Sisulu University) where he lectured and managed ICT.

NMMU welcomes Mr Bosire and wishes him a pleasant stay.

Only when the rate is 0% can we be happy.

Plant friendly methodology used to reduce down time and costs

New process for power generation

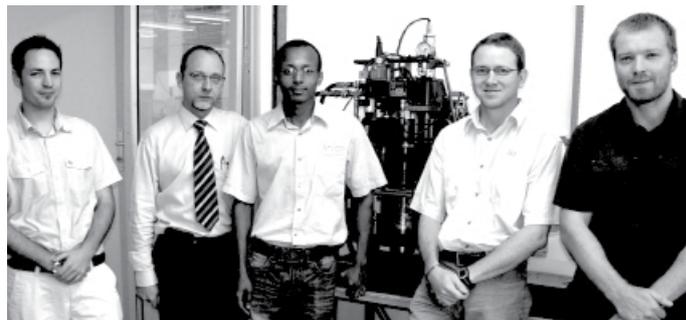
ENGINEERS and researchers at our Automotive Components Technology Station (ACTS) have developed a power generation process that uses plant friendly methodology to accurately monitor degradation, reduce down time and save substantially on costs.

This repair and sampling process was done in conjunction with the Innovation and Sustainability Division at Eskom and will reduce the risk of unexpected catastrophic power failure.

"The WeldCore™ process – as it is

known - is seen by the power generation industry worldwide as a unique future solution to material sampling and repairation of high pressure steam lines within its operating environment," says ACTS head **Prof Danie Hattingh**.

The process involves the removal of a representative cylindrical metallurgical sample from the side wall and the repair of the removal site in the steam line using Friction Taper Stud Welding (FTSW), a new solid-state welding technique. The first commercial trials will be conducted later this year.



PIONEERING TEAM ... Engineering students and ACTS staff involved in the new power generation process included (from left) **Dirk Odendaal**, ACTS head **Prof Danie Hattingh**, MTEch student **Maijen Hamed**, and DTEch students **Ian Wedderburn** and **Daniel Bulbring**.

Briefs

New Automotive Engineering leader



VWSA-DAAD International Chair in Automotive Engineering co-initiator and Mechatronics **Prof Theo van Niekerk** has been appointed as Chair to the entity in the place of Prof Hinrich Holdack-Janssen, who has left NMMU. The Chair is a university-industry co-operation, established in 2006 between Volkswagen South Africa (VWSA), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), NMMU, UAS Braunschweig/Wolfenbuettel, and IFBW Wolfsburg. Its aim is to enhance technology transfer opportunities from higher education into small and medium enterprises in the automotive component supplier sector.

International secretary



ICT School lecturer **Dr Kerry-Lynn Thomson** has been appointed as secretary of the IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) technical committee. The Working Group focuses on any aspects of information security that relate to the attitudes and behaviour of people, and how human characteristics or technologies may be positively influenced and modified to improve the level of protection provided.

Scholarships for Finland studies

ICT School PhD and MTEch students **Fiona Wilson** and **Alexi Yeratziotis** have been awarded scholarships to study user experience and usability at Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland. Their study leader **Prof Darelle van Greunen** is working on collaborative research projects with Aalto's Prof **Marko Nieminen**. The students will spend six months in Finland doing both course work and research projects.

Spaza owners gain from ICT research

SPAZA shop owners, rural clinics and health care systems are benefiting from ICT lecturer **Darelle van Greunen's** research on mobile business applications.

These projects, involving 10 MTEch and PhD students, form part of an agreement between the School of ICT and SAP Research and are funded by the European Union, the German Government and DEG bank in Germany.

The research mainly entails user experience, mobile user experience and human computer interaction, and benefits communities in Limpopo's Kgautswane and Bushbuckridge regions.

"Spaza shop owners often have to travel long distances, even on foot sometimes, to purchase stock. Instead they could use a cell phone to order their goods and have it delivered," Darelle says.

Darelle and her team determine the requirements of the rural communities, design the user interfaces of applications, evaluate the



NEW BUSINESS IDEAS ... ICT **Prof Darelle van Greunen** (left) and her research team provide Spaza shop owners such as **Sanna** (right) with new ideas to run their business.

user interaction and assess how this technology enables these communities.

"The project is truly inspiring and humbling at the same time," she says.

Darelle also trained Western Cape Provincial Government IT development teams to design and implement usable e-Government systems.

Valuable technology training

OVER the past four years our Advanced Mechatronics Technology Centre (AMTC) has trained more than 300 people, 40% of whom were from the designated group that did not actively pursue this level of technology in the past.

The centre facilitating training for engineering students and industry in advanced factory automation and drives technologies, is headed by Mechanical Engineering's **Karl du Preez**.

"Supported by the NMMU Trust and Siemens South Africa, this has been one of the most successful university industry partnerships to date," says Karl.

Courses include training for electricians into the service and maintenance aspects of technology to advanced programming, industrial networking and

supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) for technicians and engineers.

In 2008 various courses offered by the centre were accredited by the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE). These courses are presented by Hennie van Rooyen. Advanced programming expertise is provided by Mechatronics' **Prof Theo van Niekerk**.

Martin Taverner, regional manager of Siemens SA Industry Automation & Drive Technology, says the programme facilitates Siemens' drive to upgrade educational institutions with the latest electronic technology.

"Our objective is to ensure that when students complete their studies they have been trained on the latest equipment available to Industry," he says.



GREEN MOTOR DONATED ... Zoology researcher and qualified boat skipper **Dr Nadine Strydom** (left) received a sponsored low emissions 50 hp Suzuki 4-stroke motor from East London Marine Centre's Dewaal de Kock.

Estuary research boosted with new technology

ESTUARY research projects will benefit hugely by an eco-friendly latest technology outboard motor donated for Zoology's research boat, Noctiluca.

The boat will be used for research from the Mbashe estuary in the former Transkei to the Palmiet estuary in the Western Cape.

The research project will examine how fish use these nursery areas, where they feed and take refuge. Threats to these ecosystems include the removal or diversion of freshwater from rivers supplying these habitats with nutrients, habitat destruction such as removal of vegetation, pollution from storm water, septic tanks and sewerage overflow as well as the effects of over-fishing.

The boat will be docked in the small boat harbour in Port Alfred where it will service smaller estuary research projects on the heavily utilised and

environmentally threatened Kowie estuary.

"One of the most critical functions of estuaries is to provide nursery refuge and feeding areas for the young of many species of coastal fish such as dusky kob, spotted grunter, white steenbras, garrick or leervis and mullets.

"These fish are now under severe threat of population collapse as a result of the loss of nursery habitat in estuaries, over-fishing in nursery areas and the deteriorating water quality in our estuary ecosystems as a result of pollution and sewerage leaks" says researcher Dr Nadine Strydom.

Dr Strydom said assistance from industry is vital and the sponsorship is very welcome especially since the motor supports their ethos of low carbon footprints to the environment, as well as the boat fuel bill halved with the new technology.

Tracking units used in ecotourism

IN A FIRST for postgraduate scientific research, Altech Netstar has shown that their vehicle tracking device is not just handy for finding stolen vehicles, but can be used to effectively gather scientific and environmental information as well.

The Altech Netstar tracking device will be installed in 30 game viewing vehicles in protected areas in the Eastern Cape, and programmed to record daily patterns of game drives in these areas for six months

The project, run by our Centre for African Conservation Ecology will analyse the landscapes in nature reserves and how they vary between seasons, tourism peaks and reserve size.

"For conservation and ecotourism purposes, all levels of biodiversity need to be assessed. Many areas of national parks and private nature reserves are inaccessible or rarely visited by tourists, in contrast to other areas being heavily utilised, leading to overcrowding and conservation problems. This knowledge will guide management decisions regarding location of tourism roads," says project leader African Conservation Ecology Centre Director **Prof Graham Kerley**.

Research leader and prestigious SANPAD RCI bursary recipient **Kristine Maciejewski** will use the information in her PhD studies.

Prof Kerley further notes that this study will focus on landscape level use by ecotourism operators in national parks, particularly the Addo Elephant National Park, and five private nature reserves.

Pedal-power for 'green' campus

DOING justice to its growing reputation as an environmentally-friendly campus George Campus students are going "green" by pedalling to class instead of driving.

Twenty bicycles were recently donated to the campus after participation in a community project.

These bicycles are available to students who live in houses on campus, not close to the lecture halls.

The bicycles are supplied free of charge to the students, who sign contracts to use them.



GREEN CYCLISTS ... Residence manager **Vuyiswa Gozongo** (centre) with a group of students and their donated bicycles.

How to save electricity

WITH the increasing demand on our electricity resources, Marketing and Corporate Relations has made some minor adjustments to lighting in their offices in a bid to save electricity.

"Each office has a number of fluorescent tubes lighting the space – in some cases, up to 12 tubes in one office. We asked Technical Services to "disconnect" a few of these tubes in each office as well as in the passage. This doesn't make a difference in terms of the light you need to do your job, but it does make a difference to our bottom line," says **Bev Erickson**, who drove the process.

This is how:

- ▶ A fluorescent tube consumes 36W per hour
- ▶ We have disconnected 79 tubes out of the 221 in the office "block", without sacrificing needed light
- ▶ Therefore 36w x 79 = 2844W/2.844 KW per hour.

▶ The university pays 36.6 cents per KWh thus we are saving R1.04 per hour.

▶ This equates to R196.56 per month (9hours /day and 21 days per months) or R2 358.72 per year.

If we can save over R2 000 per year in one department – imagine how much we could save if every department disconnected a few tubes.

And what if we switched our office lights off, when attending meetings or switched aircons and heaters off, unless absolutely necessary?

Remember, if you are the last to leave the office, switch off the light switch controlling the block of lights. Many offices in the Main Building on South Campus operate in this way.

It wouldn't take much to SAVE A LOT of money and resources and considerably reduce our carbon footprint!

Eybers prize for Helize



AWARD WINNER ... *Language and Literature Professor Helize van Vuuren is a recipient of the Elizabeth Eybers scholarship.*

LANGUAGE and Literature Professor Helize van Vuuren is a 2010 recipient of the Elizabeth Eybers scholarship which aims to strengthen language and cultural links between South Africa and the Netherlands and Flanders.

"It is an honour for me as a woman to receive this prize, especially as it bears the inspiring name of Elisabeth Eybers, doyenne of Afrikaans female poets. She published poetry since her debut in 1935 till her death in 2007," Helize says.

The prize which is administered by the SA Science and Arts Academy and the Albert Wessels Trust, has been earmarked in 2010 for a recognised

South African researcher.

Helize will use the travelling scholarship to work with NMMU research associate Prof Luc Renders at the University of Hasselt in Belgium in June and July. The comparative study will focus on the representation of Africa and Africans, in Afrikaans, Dutch and Flemish literature.

She will also present a paper at the Association of Commonwealth Literatures Conference in Cyprus in June. Her paper will focus on the need for meticulous and scientific interpretation of indigenous culture in our time where globalisation tends to wipe out traditional and cultural differences.



AUTHOR, poet and Library and Information Services' staff member Selwyn Milborrow wrote a poem entitled Elisabeth Eybers in honour of Prof Van Vuuren's award. The poem has been published under new poetry on litnet.co.za. Selwyn is the author of two poetry anthologies entitled Poësiepalet and Drieluik which has been used as prescribed books by the Gauteng Education Department.



LOCAL STAR ... Second-year music student Liske Potgieter (right) with world-renowned German tenor Andreas Post when she performed the solo soprano role for JS Bach's St John's Passion, staged in Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

Solo soprano excels

SECOND-YEAR music student Liske Potgieter did NMMU proud in the solo soprano role for JS Bach's *St. John's Passion*, staged in Cape Town and Stellenbosch earlier this year.

Liske was invited to perform in this role with the *Würzburg Tiepolo Ensemble*, the *Würzburger Dom Chamber Choir* and the Stellenbosch-based *Schola Cantorum*, alongside nationally and internationally renowned soloists Minette du Toit-Pearce (alto), Barend van der Westhuizen (baritone) and the world-renowned German tenor, Andreas Post.

The work was performed on period instruments, a first for South Africa, under the baton of German conductor Martin Berger.

Packed audiences at the St Georges Cathedral in Cape Town and the Endler Hall in Stellenbosch showed their appreciation with resounding applause and standing ovations.

"At 19 years old, Liske is exceptionally young to have been included in such an illustrious line-up of performers. The excellent manner in which she acquitted herself with her task has won many hearts," said her mother and NMMU music lecturer **Prof Zelda Potgieter**.

She studies voice under lecturer **Lionel van Zyl**. Aside from excelling as a singer, Liske has maintained an overall 87% average across all subjects in 2009.

Dates to diarise

▶ **Piano Studio Lunch Hour Concert**
12 May 13:00, South Campus Auditorium

▶ **Brass Studio Lunch Hour Concert**
19 May 13:00, South Campus Auditorium

▶ **Choir Concert**
22 May 19:00, NMMU Choir and Texas State Chorale, Dutch Reformed Church, Summerstrand.

Empowering learners with English and new cultures

THE latest TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) course offered by our Applied Language Department included a diverse group of students and learners from various backgrounds.

The interesting mix of learners, included Persian immigrants and women from Walmer Township. Some students, again, want to use their newly found knowledge to empower local entrepreneurs and improve literacy.

Ten students qualified after the four-week course, incorporating three and a half weeks of two-hour practice teaching sessions per day.

Normally students enrol for the course to teach English abroad

but this time three students want to make a difference in their own country, South Africa.

Dance teacher Heather Gilfillan is excited and feels the course has given her "wings". She already teaches Polish German learners and wants to get involved with illiteracy projects in schools.

Former flight steward trainer Matthew Adams teaches Business Mentoring incorporating English language skills to entrepreneurs wanting to start their own businesses.

CTLM's **Nadine Felix** wanted to improve her English grammar skills and is using the skills in her part-time teaching.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... Three TESOL students using their new knowledge and skills to empower local learners include CTLM's Nadine Felix (third from left), former air steward trainer Matthew Adams (centre) and dance teacher Heather Gilfillan (second from right), who are joined by course presenters (from left) Jacqui Lück, Sharon Rudman and Eileen Scheckle (right).

Student houses form part of on-campus action research project

Green campus initiative boosted

THE Green Campus Initiative on the George Campus has received an extra boost with donor funding specifically in support of an on-campus action research project – the Sustainable Campus Project.

George Campus supports energy and waste management, and the *Sustainable Campus Project* monitors and compares the daily energy and household water consumption of students in houses on campus.

Three houses equipped with solar energy geysers and a rain water harvesting system, are compared with identical houses using conventional water and energy systems.

This action research project scrutinises both the technologies and its social aspects, pulling together the expertise of on-campus staff and researchers.

The student homes were fitted with the solar panels water heating



ROLEPLAYERS ... Technical and project team members involved in the George Sustainable Campus Project, in front of a student house fitted with a solar energy geyser, include colleagues (from left) **Jonas Kerspey, Gerald Lourens, Clyde Booysen, Fiona Koch, Bianca Currie and Dr Laurence Watson.**

and simple mechanisms to ensure the recycling of household water. Data is collected on a weekly basis, and compared to water and energy consumption patterns based on existing data and future audits.

The information gathered will be used to raise awareness about the benefits of “sustainable living” among students, municipalities, industry and communi-

ties. A practical model of sustainable living could be applied to other campuses or institutions such as hotels or hospitals in the Southern Cape and beyond.

Data will be collected over a period of six months and is anticipated that the final results and recommendations will be announced by September.

“We are proud to be part of this

noteworthy research project and are confident that it will prove that, indeed, it is possible to tread much lighter on Mother Earth,” says Neil Moll, owner manager of Solartech Garden Route, supplier of the solar water heating systems used in the project.

Solartech has also planted an indigenous Spekboom tree as a visible reminder of the value of conservation.



AMBASSADORS ... Students living in Oudtshoorn (from left) **Kirsten Lewack, Nadine Grootboom and Brandon Claassen**, shared information about NMMU’s programmes with a prospective students during the 2010 KKNK held in Oudtshoorn. NMMU also participated in the KKNK’s klap! project – an initiative aimed at arts and culture development among learners who are first, second and third language Afrikaans speakers. Over 400 learners and teachers from Gauteng, the Western Cape and South Cape regions received relevant NMMU marketing material in their “goodie bags”, as part of this development project.



ROCK CLIMBER ... Stefan Oosthuizen in action at De-Hoek in the Swartberg Mountains where six student members of the NMMU George Rock Climbing Club recently braved this rock-climbing mecca to put their skills to the test. The main aim was to expose new climbers to climbing on actual rock faces, enabling each to benchmark the grade they are currently climbing.

Tears and jubilation at the 2010 Cape Epic



FIRST-TIME RIDERS ... George colleagues Academic Administration’s **Dekker Vermeulen** (left) and Nature Conservation and Game Ranch Management’s **Stefan Hattingh** (right) attempted the Western Cape’s beautiful, yet gruelling Cape Epic mountain bike race.

GEORGE Campus staff and some 60 students assisted in the beautiful but gruelling Cape Epic – the world’s largest full-service mountain bike stage race which took place from 21 to 28 March.

Nature Conservation and Game Ranch Management’s **Stefan Hattingh** and Academic Administration’s **Dekker Vermeulen** attempted their first Cape Epic, while Forestry’s **Tiaan Pool** and Sport Management’s **Abrie de Swardt** took responsibility for some 60 students who formed part of the crew.

After disappointingly missing the 2009 race due to a broken collarbone Stefan was determined to compete in this year’s race and together with Dekker they averaged around 15 hours per week on their mountain bikes.

Unfortunately Dekker fell ill during the first two stages and was forced to withdraw, leaving Stefan to face the rest of the race solo, as an unofficial rider.

“The Cape Epic crew is one big, happy family and NMMU is a firm part of that big, happy family,” said Dekker.

We take a look at another of NMMU's new values: integrity

Do the right thing even when no one's looking

IT IS quite difficult to explain exactly what a person of "integrity" looks like. The same holds for explaining how organisations with "integrity" function. There are, nevertheless, a few good clues.



Mention the word integrity and the likes of former President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu immediately come to mind. Integrity is one of NMMU's new values. But what does integrity mean to you? Business School Director Professor Piet Naudé gives his take on doing the right thing even when no one is looking.

Let's investigate.

Integrity refers to a person's character and specifically the fact that he or she acts consistently on the basis of sound inner values.

The Greek word for "character" has a link to early writing. The writer would use a sharp object to make a mark on clay or papyrus material. If you write well, you make good, readable letters or characters.

Transferred to ethics, this means that a person with integrity "makes a good mark" on other peoples' lives. You know what to expect from such persons - they are dependable and reliable. You can "read" them easily, as they do not have hidden agendas. They write clearly, and imprint good things on everyone who crosses their path.

In a negative sense, a person without integrity would be someone from whom you never know what to expect in the moral



ETHICS EXPERT ... Business School Director Prof Piet Naudé asks: "Do you walk the talk?"

sense of the word. There is no reliability and therefore no trust. In some cases, people have acquired negative values: "good" then becomes "bad", and "wrong" become "right".

We are not born with integrity.

We develop a sense of right and wrong as we grow up in our specific environment. To make a diverse community work together, we need to reach some agreement on core values that we share and on which we will act.

maine stayed late twice to accommodate printing and no time was lost for our processes. Bruce and Zach assisted us to secure a 'brand new' printer for which we are very grateful.

It is due to staff like yours that we are able to achieve "miracles" to get the payroll out on time each month. Thank you to all of you for making our jobs so much easier. You are all stars!

From a very grateful Salaries Department.

Eleanor Williams

Does NMMU walk the talk?

IF not, what can we do to ensure that as an institution of higher education we become an organisation where the general perception is that NMMU is a good place to work because

students and staff feel safe and respected.

Go to the SOAPBOX icon on the portal and have your say.

Let's hear your voice as we strive to be a better university.

These may be positive values like honesty, reliability, and respect for others and the environment.

South Africans included values like unity, dignity, forgiveness, and openness in the preamble to the Constitution, and added a long list of human rights in the second chapter of our Constitution.

Integrity means that we act according to these values, and that we hold each other to them.

Organisations like big businesses, government or the university also acquire a "character", normally called a corporate or organisational culture. This refers to "the way things are done here".

Many organisations have good values written up somewhere in a mission statement. An organisation with integrity will actually embody those values in its everyday activities. Employees and customers will know what to expect. There is high reciprocal respect, and "it is a good place to work" because people feel safe and respected.

The shortest description of integrity would perhaps be to say: It is the consistency with which a person or organisation does what they profess.

In simple, ordinary language: Do you walk the talk?

Mail box

talk@NMMU would like to hear your views on issues affecting your life at our university. Write to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

ICT shining stars

Dear Chris and ICT colleagues

Our heartfelt thanks to the awesome ICT staff who always excel in their service to Payroll. For the past two months we had terrible problems trying to get our month end reports printed. Thanks to **Greg Saunders, Charmaine Frew, Zach Howard and Bruce Smith** (and the others in the background that we are not even aware of) the payroll could run on time.

This meant that Greg and Char-

Ubuntu debate sparks ideas, moans

A RECENT online SOAPBOX debate about NMMU's new value of ubuntu has elicited a whole spectrum of responses – from downright disdain to hearty congratulations – for choosing this distinctly African value.

There were also many suggestions for taking ubuntu forward, and ensuring that NMMU is able to "walk the talk".

"NMMU can have a variety of team building exercises for all faculties so that students can bond with other students they never knew existed," wrote one, while another suggested that lecturers attend workshops on ubuntu as they must set the example.

Senior management and particular sectors within NMMU were likewise

urged to set a better example, and "practice what they preach".

Or to quote one of the many disgruntled individuals: "Excuse the cynicism, but before we can talk about ubuntu we first need to eradicate the superficial relations between the different races ..."

Ubuntu as emphasized in an article by **Prof Narnia Bohler Muller** of the Law Faculty in last month's *talk@nmmu*, underscores our dependency on one another, our humaneness or to quote the phrase ... "I am because we are".

Regular debates are posted on SOAPBOX. If you have discussion ideas please contact elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za



EDITOR ... Business Management's **Prof Madele Tait** (centre), the South African editor of *Principles of Marketing: Global and Southern African Perspectives*, attended the book's launch at Kirstenbosch with Pearson Education's **Judy Spoor** (left) and **Fatima Dada**. Prof Tait and fellow-lecturer **Chantal Rootman** are among 17 authors who contributed to the South African adaptation of the book originally written by Philip Kotler "the father of marketing"



GLOWING WINNER ... NMMU pharmacy student **Bianca-Ann Harper**, 24 was crowned *The Herald Spec-Savers Miss Port Elizabeth 2010*. Bianca has chosen the Missionvale Care Centre as the charity she will support during her reign. Her prizes include the use of a Volkswagen 1,4 Polo for the year and a cruise on the Sinfonia to Mozambique's Portuguese Island. She is currently an intern at *Klinimed Pharmacy* and studying towards her masters. Picture courtesy of: *The Herald*.



SOUTH CAMPUS DISPLAY ... NMMU joined in the celebrations of the annual National Library week from 22-27 March. This year's theme was: "Reading changes lives". The displays set up by the Library Marketing Committee in all campus libraries, acknowledged our Nobel literature laureates, local writers and authors and indigenous languages and texts.



COLLABORATION ... Library and Information Services senior managers (from left) **Christina Dookran**, Director **Robert Pearce** and **Bonga Makrwe** attended the launch of the Centre for Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) in March. CANRAD and the Library and Information Services are planning a collaborative project in the form of a specialised library or reading room for CANRAD for academic use.



CELEBRATIONS ... Pharmacy staff made a toast to themselves, celebrating the 2009 Pharmacy graduates' 100% pass rate and 21 distinctions in the pre-registration pharmacy council exams in June and October 2009. Despite being short staffed, the department has consistently produced high quality graduates. Academic, technical and all other staff recently rewarded themselves with a champagne breakfast at Madibaz Fine Dining, (from left) **Gareth Kilian**, **Mbali Keele**, **Sue Burton** and **Brent Knoesen**.



WATER AWARENESS ... As part of the *Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme*, students including (from left), **Molusi Mokgosi**, **Sisanda Mbele**, **Neo Mbulawa**, and **Siyanda Sindikola** embarked on a "go-green" project using images of NMMU's mascot, *Diba*, on water awareness posters put in campus cloakrooms.

Send your pictures to the NMMU gallery.
E-mail: elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

Important signing to benefit students

OUR Faculty of Law celebrated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between themselves and Spoor and Fisher, a large Gauteng-based intellectual property (IP) law firm.

LLB alumnus Shanaaz Tiry, a partner at the Johannesburg firm, signed the MoU, along with Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**, in what was described as a unique and mutually beneficial partnership.

"This collaboration is an important channel for sharing the experience of Spoor and Fisher with academics and students, and to advance the next generation of potential IP practitioners," said Shanaaz, who was personally thrilled to be able to give back to her alma mater and be part of the historical occasion.

The legal firm, established as an IP firm in 1920, has grown to its present complement of over 50 lawyers and IP specialists and 250 staff members.

The MoU expands the two parties' present tradition of cooperation with a formal framework that would be beneficial for both, as well as the growth and knowledge of intellectual property law in the country.

Prof Adriaan van der Walt, HOD of the Mercantile Department, and **Gary Richards**, Intellectual Property Law lecturer, signed as witnesses.

PARTNERS ... LLB alumnus Shanaaz Tiry (right), who is a partner of top Johannesburg firm Spoor and Fisher, signed the MoU, along with Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids, to advance the next generation of potential IP practitioners.



Anti-racism, street law discussed at Human Rights celebration

THE Faculty of Law in conjunction with the newly-launched Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD), celebrated Human Rights Day with a highly-successful array of events.

From a public lecture on xenophobia to a colloquium on anti-racism under the auspices of the Anti-Racism Network in Higher Education, the three-day flurry of activities highlighted NMMU's commitment to improving race relations.

CANRAD has been established specifically to

provide an intellectual and social platform for debate on the complexities of post-apartheid South Africa.

The launch of the new centre brought together a number of academics and transformation practitioners from throughout the higher education sector. They came to discuss and hear speakers like Prof Sechaba Manhlomaholo, Dr Gertrude Fraser and Prof Norman Duncan.

Senior Law lecturer **Lindi Coetzee** held a great interaction Street Law session on equality and the law.

Participants saw how human rights can be discussed so that a lay person is able to understand his or her rights without being subject to legal jargon.

Another popular event was hosted by Law advocate Jacob van Garderen, the National Director of Lawyers for Human Rights, who highlighted the realities of xenophobia – since only a quarter of attacks ever reach court.

In continuing the debate, **Prof Itumeleng Meko** of CANRAD, facilitated further discussion around xenophobia.

► Business and Economic Sciences

Increasing Bay municipality performance

SOME 15 Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) officials, directors and councilors registered for a customised training programme at the NMMU Business School at the end of March.

This specially developed Municipal Management Development Programme (MMDP) aimed at enhancing performance is also a pilot programme for other local governments.

The advanced certificate qualification (NQF Level 6) develops leadership and management skills within local government to serve communities and stakeholders more effectively.

"We were commissioned by the NMBM Corporate Services Directorate to develop and present a holistic leadership and management training

programme, supporting effective skills development in local government. The advanced certificate qualification is offered over a year-long period till March next year," NMMU Business School's Leadership Academy deputy director **Leon Mouton** said.

"It is foreseen that NMMU's Business School will, in future, schedule this programme as a public programme as well as offer it to other municipalities in South Africa as an in-house training and development programme, with acknowledgement of the NMBM initiative," said Business School director **Prof Piet Naudé**.

Delegates will be able to obtain certain credits for our Management Development Diploma, the National Diploma in Management and the BCom Business Studies.



MARKETING PARTNERS ... Business Management's Dr Oren Dayan (left) will present a paper written jointly with Management Sciences School Director Prof Miemie Struwig at the annual EMAC (European Marketing Academy Conference) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The paper entitled "Research in Marketing to the Senses – Current status and future challenges" is the only one from South Africa that was accepted for the conference. EMAC is a professional society for people involved in marketing theory and research.

FIFA expert delights with presentation

FIFA player status and governance expert Marco Tobar from Guatemala, shared detailed information on players' agents, representation, litigation and disputes with the 2010 group of FIFA/NMMU/CIES sport management certificate students. The presentation was also attended by some Human Movement Science and Sport Management students and staff.

Marco is in charge of all matters pertaining to player's agents on a world-wide basis for FIFA. The audience was excited by Marco's lively presentation which he labelled as being about "money" and the controversies around players, clubs and agents.

He cited an example of a top ranking player receiving an income of 12 million Euros per year, a 22 million Euro sign-on fee for joining the club, on top of four luxury cars, two houses and other bonuses.

Licensed agents are entitled to



INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER ... FIFA player status and governance department's Marco Tobar (third from right) was the guest speaker at a presentation to FIFA/NMMU/CIES sport management certificate students and staff, (from left) Jenevieve Fabré, Cheryl Walter, Vernon Oosthuizen, Gail Halforty, Management Accounting's Gavin Hustler, CIES representative Vincent Monnier, NMMU Legal Advisor Advocate Daryl Newton and Human Movement Science and Sport Management department head Prof Rosa du Randt.

negotiate from three to 10 per cent payment of this income, but in some cases players have to cough up, up to 50 per cent of their earnings, in which case FIFA acts in the players' interest to prevent this exploitation.

Using many actual examples he related how FIFA protects and

regulates not only top players from clubs such as Barcelona, but also looks out for the interests of minor players from Latin America and Africa being

transferred to European clubs.

The role, responsibilities, rules and regulations around licensed agents were discussed in detail.

International Pharmacy doctoral student



INTERNATIONAL TALK ... Pharmacy PhD student George Dranitsaris (centre) from Canada presented a talk on his research to staff, students and interested persons including (from left) PE Provincial Hospital Oncology Pharmacist Anila Daya, George's promoter Prof Ilse Truter, his co-promoter Prof Martie Lubbe of North-West University and Health Sciences Dean Prof Raj Naidoo.

INTERNATIONAL Pharmacy PhD student George Dranitsaris is not only based in Toronto, Canada, but will also collect data for his studies from five countries.

He recently visited his promoter, Pharmacy's **Prof Ilse Truter**, presenting a talk to staff and postgraduate students.

His co-promoter is North-West University's Prof Martie Lubbe.

George is a pharmacist and consultant in Health Economics and Biostatistics.

His research in Pharmaco-economics investigates the development of an index to determine an optimal price for new cancer drugs based on societal value thresholds.

His project forms part of the research conducted in NMMU's Drug Utilization Research Unit.

First white jacket ceremony

IT WAS a first for South Africa and a first for NMMU when this year's 44 pharmacy graduates participated in a white jacket "Induction into the profession" ceremony on the night before their graduation.

AlphaPharm retail marketing representative Clive Stanton initially suggested the induction ceremony after he experienced the ceremony in America. Mr Stanton explained the symbolism of the white jacket in pharmacy and the ethical and professional responsibilities which come with the title of pharmacist.

Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**

challenged the graduates to reverse the trend of declining professionalism seen in so many of the professions in South Africa.

The graduates were then asked to put on their white dispensing jackets and pledge the pharmacist oath, witnessed by academic staff, peers, family and friends.

The new white jacket induction ceremony was followed by a graduation dinner for pharmacy staff and graduates. Both the jackets and the graduation dinner were sponsored by pharmaceutical wholesaler AlphaPharm EastCape Holdings Ltd.



FIRST ... NMMU Pharmacy graduates were the first in South Africa to follow the American custom of a white jacket induction into the profession ceremony on the evening prior to their graduation (from left) Nasreen Isaacs, Nabilah Jhurry and Craig Johaar.

Wellness programme meets realities



STAFF have welcomed a new wellness campaign driven by Human Resources and other departments, including Campus Health Services.

Wellness@NMMU is aimed at assisting staff to take control of their health and overall well-being, which is often neglected under work pressure. Human Resources Specialist Services

Deputy Director **Johan Strydom** (left) said he had received plenty of positive feedback about the programme.

Johan said that sometimes personal and work-related concerns prevented an individual from attaining his or her full potential.

“This can be detrimental for both the individual and the university,” he said, adding that with this in mind, a wellness programme was devised.

“It offers staff a resource to assist in resolving any personal difficulty which

may jeopardise either wellbeing or work performance,” Johan told *talk@nmmu*.

He said HR had partnered with independent company, Wellness at Work, to support the provision, implementation and management of the wellness services.

A journal named Wellness@NMMU: Your Road to Wellness encouraging staff to achieve personal goals, was recently distributed via the internal post.

Topics like safe sex, contraception, healthy nutrition, exercise, depression,

alcohol, drugs, stress and financial control, dealing with change and domestic violence are discussed in the journal.

Qualified therapists and professionals in among others, psychology, social work, legal matters and financial matters (including debt counselling) are available free of charge, subject to conditions.

Read on page 16 about our colleagues participating in sports events to contribute to their own health and wellness.

More about HIV, AIDS and VCT

What is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)?

HIV is a virus known to be the cause of Aids. Once it has entered the body, it attacks the immune system, the body's defence mechanism. It causes this system to be deficient and malfunction, hence the term, immunodeficiency. It is called 'human' because it can only be found in humans and needs human cells to reproduce.

What is Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)?

Because one is not born with this virus but acquires it from someone else, it is termed acquired. It is a syndrome because it combines a number of signs and symptoms characterising a certain disease. When HIV destroys the body's immune system and causes it to malfunction, it gives other infections the opportunity to attack the body and cause disease. During the Aids stage, the person suffers from more than one infection at the same time. The strongest of those infections causes the person's death.

How is this virus passed on from the one person to the next?

Through sexual contact with an infected person

Sexual transmission can take place if a person who is infected has unprotected sex with an uninfected person. The chances of infection are further increased if exchange of body fluids takes place during sexual intercourse.

Blood

Any activity, such as sharing contaminated needles, razor blades and tattoo needles which can transfer one person's blood to another, is very likely to cause cross infection. Accidents where a number of people get injured and bleed into each other's wounds, can also cause cross infection.

Body fluids

Only certain body fluids, such as semen, vaginal secretions, blood and breast milk, contain enough concentrations of this virus to cause infection to take place. Other body fluids such as saliva have properties in them making it difficult for the virus to multiply. One would need very large

amounts of these fluids to be able to infect another person.

The virus can NOT be transmitted through casual contact like working with someone who is HIV positive. It cannot be transmitted through toilet seats, telephones, swimming together, sharing clothing, eating utensils or being on the same bus with an infected person.

What is the window period?

The window period refers to time between infection with HIV up to the appearance of antibodies against HIV. It takes about six to 12 weeks before the body starts to produce antibodies. The antibody test looks for the presence of antibodies to confirm whether the

person is infected. If antibodies have not yet been produced, the person may test negative when in fact he or she is actually infected. In this case the person has been tested before antibodies have been produced. For this reason people who test whilst still in the window period need to repeat the test after three months.

What is VCT?

VCT stands for Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV/AIDS which is offered free of charge by NMMU's Campus Health Services (Clinic). Be Empowered and Know your Status.

Read more on **page 5** about the higher education HIV/Aids findings.

Marelize Olckers,
Campus Health Services

You can win

LUCKY readers can win two R100 Greenacres Shopping Centre vouchers and two R100 University Shop vouchers. Just read your *talk@nmmu*!

Congratulations to our April competition winners: **Charmaine Button** of the Sport Bureau, **Merle Petersen** of Finance, **Hombakazi Mzingelwa** of Admissions and **Pat Hector** of Procurement.

Answer the following questions (from articles in this edition):

1. NMMU will be embarking on an even more aggressive HIV **t.....g (7 letter word)** campaign, among other efforts, to support the target of having 15 million South Africans tested by June 2011.
2. Some 50 **s...f (5 letter word)** members were among the close to 5 000 students to receive degrees, diplomas and certificates at the 10 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 14 to 22 April. .
3. ENGINEERS and researchers at our Automotive Components Technology Station (ACTS) have developed a power **g.....n (10 letter word)** process.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to *elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za* by **17 May**.

Schuinville Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members.

Tel: 041 364 2109 or George Campus - Pacaltsdorp Pharmacy: Tel: 044 878 1707.

Rules ► Only NMMU employees may take part in this competition ► Only e-mail entries qualify for this competition. Staff who do not have access to e-mail may ask a colleague to submit their entry – just include the correct name, department and phone number of the person entering the competition ► Your full details must appear on the e-mail entry ► Only one entry per person is allowed ► The judges' decision is final.

Condolences

► The university staff and students extend their condolences to **Basheera Brooks** of Educational Psychology and her family with the passing away of her mother.

► Phelophepa Health Care Train Manager Sister Magdeline Ntikinca has passed away after a short illness. Sister Ntikinca worked on the train for 13 years where she started as Health Clinic head in 1997. “She was more than the nursing sister in charge – she was the mother of Phelophepa” says Transnet Foundation's Dr Lynette Coetzee. Our condolences to her family and friends. NMMU's Community Development Unit works closely with the Phelophepa Health Care Train as well as Health Sciences faculty students.

Grade 12 learners' pass rates significantly increased with student support

Student's brainchild brings wonderful results

MECHANICAL engineering student Mphathisi Colwana wanted to make a difference and help Grade 12 learners improve their pass rates. Today Masi-bambane High School in Kwazakhele's pass rate has increased from 19% in 2007 to 56% in 2009.

With the help of other enthusiastic students, Mphathisi started the University Collaborative Learning outreach programme, at first targeting only Masi-bambane High School and in 2009 including learners from Loyiso High in Zwide as well.

The students felt that with the improvement in pass rates, doors would open for the learners and encourage them to follow career paths they would normally believe to be out of their reach.

As an incentive, learners also received certificates for the first three positions in the subjects the programme offered, based on their June and trial exam performances.

"We are very proud of the learners we have been able to assist through this programme and of their achievements," Mphathisi said.

"Through strategic partnerships with role players

and other key stakeholders, we hope to reach a far greater audience and drastically improve the overall Matric pass rate for the Bay," he added.

Mphathisi has been the chairman driving the project, getting new recruits, consultation and sponsors, and organizing events. This year he helped the current students take over the project and also tried to integrate the faculties involved to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

This programme has received support from the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology; our Centre for Teaching and Learning providing tutoring, project management, leadership and media training as well as local companies such as Pick 'n Pay, MTN and AIDC.

Mphathisi graduates next year with his NDip Mechanical Engineering. Apart from his involvement with the programme he also worked on the NMMU Formula Student Racing Car Project. Even though Mphathisi will soon start working at a company in Pretoria, the programme is continuing with accounting students now also involved.



GIVING BACK ... Mechanical Engineering student Mphathisi Colwana started giving back in his second year when he organised tutoring to improve high school learners pass rates.

Charity initiative raises more than just awareness



STREET CHARITY ... Ten men, including NMMU's third-year architecture student Angus Southwood, honours construction management student Terence de Beer and economics honours alumnus Marius Jacobs raised more than R100 000 for charity by living on the streets for five days.

TEN men braved the elements, spending five days living on the streets to raise money and awareness for the plight of street children in Port Elizabeth.

The response from the public was "overwhelming" enabling the group of NMMU alumnus and students to raise over R100 000 for various charities in just five days. NMMU alumnus and AlgoaFM radio jockey Lance du Plessis also formed part of the initiative.

The men made a 'shelter' from cardboard boxes and plastic refuse bags and experienced what it would be like to go without the luxuries taken for granted in everyday life.

"Although we had an idea of what to expect, we never realised how bad living under these conditions

would be. The first night was the worst, going from a mattress to a cold hard floor was a nightmare," said third-year BSc construction management student Brett Tapson.

Brett said another challenge was raising money for food every day, some days they only managed to raise R5 each.

"Anything is possible if you work hard and stay motivated. If 10 men can raise over R100 000 in five days, just think of how much we can raise if we have more people to help us. The possibilities are endless," they say.

The group also thanked AlgoaFM for their support, marketing the initiative.

Race relations – first of series of talk shops

THE Office for International Education together with the International Student Association (ISA) and Golden Key Society have started hosting debates, called talk shops, on campus each month. Local and international students as well as staff attended the first one on Race Relations.

"Race has always been a sensitive and controversial issue worldwide, but in this first talk shop the issue was tackled in an open, passionate debate, giving a serious challenge to stereotypes as well as past perceptions," said student Pretty Mubaiwa.

ISA president Placide Mbella-Ebongue showed a video clip about the disparities between white and non-white communities in South Africa and the legacy that Apartheid left behind.

The debate characterised Apartheid as separation according to skin color up to 1994. The still prominent racial divide in South Africa as well as in America in terms of earnings, economic standing and living conditions was discussed.

One person responded about the sidelining of the white community through the government's introduction of BEE (Black Economic Empowerment), encouraging the history of separation.

Similar to South Africa, many from non-white communities in America are still disadvantaged and live in "ghettos".

In South Africa, affirmative action means government's employment legislation reserves 80% of new jobs for black people and favours black-owned companies.

Some students believed affirmative action was not the right answer and recommended introducing equality of opportunity regardless of race or social standing. Many students expressed their appreciation in having participated in the debate and felt it had opened doors to a variety of issues to be discussed in future.

Our Iron men and women

In line with our quest for wellness we are proud of colleagues who participated in the city's Corporate and Ironman challenges.



IRON STATUS ... InnoVenton's **Ockert Fourie** and Business Management's **Prof Elmarie Venter** completed the full Ironman consisting of 3.8km swim, 180km cycling and 42.2 km run. **Prof André Venter** of the Department of Physics also completed the event.



UP A GEAR ... Engineering's **Prof Theo van Niekerk** and **LeRoi Grimbeek** (right) were among dozens of NMMU staff to participate in the Corporate Ironman (10% of the full Ironman). Others included Education's **Prof Lesley Wood** (who came 7th in the individual women in 1:07:12) and was the first NMMU individual home, Accounting's **Johnathan Dillon** (above left) and Business Management's **Dr Oren Dayan**.



GIRL POWER ... Marketing and Corporate Relations's (from left) **Michelle Bothma** (run), **Elma de Koker** (swim) and **Bev Erickson** (cycle) did well too.



GOING PLACES ... Industrial Engineering's **Rikus van Eeden** (swim) (from left), **Jaco Snyders** (cycle) and **Niel Snyders** (run). **Derick Bosch** (swim), **Andrew Murray** (cycle), and **Andre Koekemoer** (run) also of Industrial Engineering took part.



TEAM WORK ... **Mark Kerspays** (cycle), from left, **Bridget de Villiers** (run) and **Hassan Mohamed** (swim), all of Second Avenue Campus.



GOING STRONG ... **William Fick** (cycle) (from left) **Paul Tai-Hing** (run) and **Hussein Mohamed** (swim) were another successful NMMU team.

Briefs

Gold for Kevin



FIRST-YEAR Law student Kevin Paul (above) not only won four gold medals and a silver medal at the SA Senior Championships in Durban, but also broke his own world 50m breaststroke record in his disabled category.

His latest tally of medals, however, was against able-bodied swimmers. Like distance champion Natalie du Toit, Kevin swims against the best able-bodied swimmers in the country, despite his disability.

Kevin broke his 50m breaststroke world record at the recent SA Disabled Games in Port Elizabeth in March, but broke it again on Friday with a new record time of 30.96.

He now holds world breaststroke records in the 50m, 100m and 200m.

Top women's cricketer

Human Movement Science alumnus Erne Webber is one Eastern Province's top women's cricket players.

As part of the team, Erne received a personalised fitness programme from alumnus and biokineticist Runeshan Moodley, who is the sports coordinator at Muir College in Uitenhage. The new season starts in October.

Winning team

Our Toshiba NMMU cricket team won the Nelson Mandela Bay Cricket Board's T20 Super League on 28 March.

Rudi Second was the T20 Player of the Tournament and Sisanda Magala picked up figures of 4/5 while bowling in the semi-final.

Earlier, members of the NMMU cricket club played a leading role in the EP Amateur team winning the CSA 3-day amateur competition.

Playing a significant role in the team's success, Kelly Smuts averaged 42 in scoring 816 runs, Matthew Kennedy snapped up five wickets in the final must-win match against Natal, Pite van Biljon scored 77 and 96 in the same match against Natal, Reece Williams (collected 50 wickets for the competition) and Simon Harmer (collected 22 wickets in five matches and averaged 90 with the bat).

Sean Adair, Umar Abrahams, Corbyn Dolley and Jon-Jon Smuts also all represented the EP team during the season.

We're involved

OUR university was actively involved in this year's events as evidenced below:

- Science masters student Gwenivere Sims is conducting research on the plantar foot pressures of the participants before and after the Ironman event, supervised by department head **Prof Rosa du Randt** and **Dr Pierre Olivier**.
- Sport Management students worked at the Corporate Ironman as part of their studies with some students also participating in the corporate event. Biokinetics and Sports Science students also assisted in the VIP tent, while interns worked in the medical tent.
- French and Media students created a multimedia blog on the Ironman event.
- Cooperative Education arranged 60 volunteers from all campuses for the Ironman Event requested by Vodacom.
- CPID's **Sugnee van der Vyver** assisted with the cycling division from mid afternoon until midnight on both evenings prior and at the end of the race.

Good luck for Comrades

GOOD luck to our Comrades athletes, George Marketing lecturer At Schoeman, who will be running 19th Comrades, Education's Dr Sylvan Blignaut his 16th Comrades, Dr Mary-Grace Villanueva, also from Education, who will be doing her first and Development Studies' Candice Bezuidenhout who will also take on the long road on 30 May.