

talk@nmmu

November 2010 *The Staff Newsletter*

Increasing commitment to serve society by staff, students

Living out ubuntu



NMMU is living out the value of xas evidenced by an increasing number of initiatives and activities by both its staff and students.

The Hang out 4 Ubuntu project in which the NMMU community contributed about half a kilometre of clothing – or 41 black bags and boxes – is but one of many outreach initiatives undertaken to show that we care and are prepared to reach out to others.

The clothing collected and hung along the fence from Admiralty Way along University Way in a visible effort to create awareness of this value has already been distributed to four charities in the Bay. Those who contributed each received an ubuntu button.

This initiative to give everyone a chance to get involved follows in the wake of the Faculty of Law's outreach for clothing, toiletries and food, and a string of others by various faculties, schools and units.

Students too are becoming increasingly involved in serving the needs of others either through their studies or through various societies at NMMU.

There is definite increasing goodwill at NMMU. We see it in the many projects that are happening



CONTRIBUTIONS GALORE ... Students Donna George (from left) and Lauren Coetzee helped Marketing and Corporate Relations Jo-Ann Daniels to hang donated clothing as part of the Hanging out 4 Ubuntu campaign. Altogether 41 bags and boxes – or half a kilometre of clothing along University Way outside North Campus - were collected for charity.

"Ubuntu represents a cardinal value of what it means to be human – that I am what I am in and through you, and you are what you are in and through me," says Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz**.

NMMU is also increasingly sharing its knowledge expertise with others. Many faculties offer extra lessons and tuition especially to learners affected by the recent teacher strikes. The School of Engineering, the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Computer

Science are among those that come immediately to mind.

Students are increasingly giving of their time and talents. Human Movement Science students spent their September holidays transforming playgrounds at three disadvantaged schools, while Academic and

Life Management students have taken on a number of social responsibility projects. (see page 10)

"There is definite increasing goodwill at NMMU. We see it in the many projects that are happening," said Director: Marketing and Corporate Relations **Pieter Swart**.

► **Next edition:** 2010 highlights ► Physics students excel

RACING **3**
We've joined the fast lane

OUTREACH **8**
Serving society

VALUES **10**
Doing the right thing

SPORT **16**
Success of staff

IN AN era where some people are proud to “beat the system”, it’s hard to do the right thing. But that’s what integrity is all about – doing the right thing even when nobody is looking.

Deep down, beating the system boils down to selfishness and entitlement because if you, for example, don’t hand in your library books on time, it means they are not available to others. If you don’t pay your traffic fines, why should

Integrity above all

others? See our discussion on NMMU’s value of integrity on page 10.

Integrity links with *ubuntu* – thinking about others as we witnessed with the successful Hanging out 4 Ubuntu project. Thank you to those who contributed to this



clothing collection. We have much good news to share – like the lunch break for all from next year. Although South Campus will not break at the same time, they will at least have a lunch break – something they have never had. Online applications are now

also a reality and our new ePal peer-assisted learning programme is going well.

Last but not least talk@nmmu, which recently just won an excellence award at the industry’s annual awards, thanks you for the part you play in our success.

Send us your ideas, and we’ll write the stories.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker

Editor: talk@nmmu.ac.za

Lunch break for all in 2011

FROM 2011 staff and students will be able to attend lunch time concerts, talks and spend time out together as NMMU is introducing a lunch hour for everyone.

Central Timetabling’s Rachel du Plessis and Henk Erasmus told talk@nmmu that in the spirit of “creating a living and learning environment” a lunch break for all campuses will be enjoyed from 2011.

Following numerous requests, and

some careful planning, Senate gave the thumbs up for an hour-long break. The lunch break on South Campus will be from 12:05 to 13:05. On the

students and staff will have free time every day to engage with each other and to build a new vibrant NMMU culture ...

other campuses it will be from 12:25 to 13:25.

Before the institutions merged, some campuses had lunch breaks while the lecture timetable made a lunch break impossible for others.

Furthermore, classes on all campuses, except South Campus, will be 45 minutes long with a 10-minute break in between to enable everyone to get to their next lecture venue on time.

There will be a five-minute break between evening lectures.

On South Campus lectures could potentially end later as it operates on a separate framework with 35 minute periods and 10 minute breaks.

“Only once it is possible to generate a new lecture timetable for South Campus from scratch, will the same lecture period framework be applied,” says Henk.

“The rationale is that students and staff will have free time every day to engage with each other and to build a new vibrant NMMU culture on all our campuses.”



FINE AFFAIR ... Patron of the annual event to celebrate the visual and performing arts activities Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swart was joined by local architect Gillian Adendorff (left) and Education Faculty Executive Dean Prof Denise Zinn at the annual VC Arts and Culture Evening on 14 October at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum.

Diary

20 November
Human Race 42km mini marathon
Nelson Mandela Stadium
9am

3 December
Staff Association AGM and Year-End-Function
Indoor Sports Centre South Campus
12:30

7 December
Staff Long Service and Year-End-Function
Indoor Sports Centre South Campus
11:30

NMMU supports matrics

MORE than 2000 learners registered for the Grade 12 Learner Support Project run on our Missionvale Campus. The initial target was 400 learners.

Through this programme, matriculants who lost valuable learning time due to the teacher’s strike, received additional tuition Mathematics, Accounting, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, English and Mathematical Literacy.

The classes will run until 20 November 2010.

According to Missionvale Campus principal Khaya Matiso the project

received huge support from community leaders, the Department of Education (DoE) and some NMMU departments and units.

The number of subjects offered was also increased, along with the number of educators, from 21 to 23 and the number of tuition hours.

“Once again, the message from young people is that they want to learn, and they need our support,” said Mr Matiso.

He said that he is grateful for the contributions of NMMU, Masakhane Security, Nedbank, DOE (Uitenhage and PE Districts), and Aurecon.

Online applications soon a reality for future NMMU students Almost ready to push the button

APPLYING online to study at NMMU will soon become a reality for prospective students.

The project planning committee led by ICT Services' **Lynette Williams** has been hard at work putting everything together to ensure a smooth and seamless approach to applying online.

NMMU – along with many other universities around the country – uses ITS (Integrated Tertiary Software) as its record-storing system,

and an interface had to be designed which would “talk” to ITS but at the same time, be user-friendly.

This proved to be quite a challenge, but with a team of IT whiz-kids at the helm, we are just days away from pushing the “go live” button.

Prospective students will simply go to our website and click on the “Diba” icon – taking them to the online application’s page where they can complete all the necessary details.

If prospective students have all their

supporting documents in an electronic format, they will be able to complete their application totally online without having to stand in queues or hand in any documentation.

This online applications tool will make a considerable difference to prospective students and staff alike in speeding up the process of applying for study.



Students set sights on international racing competition in 2011 Debut race for home-grown car

AND we're off! NMMU Racing successfully completed its first event in Knysna last month and is now focused on international competition in 2011.

The team's participation in the Knysna Hill Climb notched up a number of firsts for NMMU, namely the first South African university to successfully run a Formula Student racing project and design, build and race a Formula Student racing car.

“We are thrilled with what we have achieved,” said Formula Student project manager and NMMU mechanical engineering lecturer **Trevor Stroud**.

“There were many obstacles to overcome and times when the team felt overwhelmed by the challenges, but through sheer determination we did it.”

The success of the Knysna Hill Climb follows two hard years of work by a team of mainly mechanical and engineering students whose goal was to develop and manufacture a single-seat formula type car with a 600cc motorcycle engine according to special design guidelines.

The project is part of an international competition between students all over the world, and this is the team's next goal – to participate in Germany in 2011.

“We're well on our way. We have a great deal of work ahead, but with the support of our sponsors and the commitment of our team, we will get there,” said Trevor.

October's event gave the students an ideal opportunity to test the capabilities of their work.

“When the car slowly rolled down the road under its own power for the first time, it was followed by shouts of excitement and tears of joy and relief!”

Driver Hiten Parmar, who is an electrical engi-

NMMU Racing's recent successful outing at the Knysna Hill Climb notched up a number of firsts for the Formula Student car – and signaled the start of greater events to come.



Participating students gain real-world engineering and project experience so desperately needed in South Africa

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED ... The jubilant NMMU Racing team (back from left) Neil Strydom, Ahsan Ahmed, Saleem Noorshib, Geoffrey Jones, Heinrich Kritzing, Alison Richter, **Trevor Stroud**, (front) Peter-Ben Johnson, Simon Adams, Hiten Parmar and Andre Labuschagne after the racing car's first outing.

neering master's student, is the only student at NMMU registered as a racing driver with Motorsport South Africa.

His master's project was to develop the engine management system for the racing vehicle.

NMMU Racing has also involved the services of

marketing, photography, design and business students.

“The project gives participating students the opportunity to gain real-world engineering and project management experience so desperately needed in South Africa,” said Trevor.

Marketer inspires primary school, Uitenhage community to read

PASSIONATE about reading, marketing practitioner Louise Solomons, launched a project last year to instill a love for reading in a Uitenhage primary school – the one she once attended, Jubilee Park Primary School.

Not only have the children there improved their reading skills, but Louise has been announced as the regional winner for the Eastern and Western Cape in the education category of the Jet Community Awards.

Louise had once had big dreams of becoming a reporter, but her father refused to let his only daughter pursue a career in journalism in the

Reading is fun

It only takes one person to make a difference as evidenced by NMMU's Louise Solomons, who has just won a regional award for her efforts in raising literacy levels in an impoverished sector of Uitenhage.

The project is one way of getting children off the streets

volatile political climate of the 1980s. Then, Louise - born and raised in Uitenhage - decided to study teaching at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

Even though Louise is a marketer at NMMU today, she is still a teacher at heart and has always been concerned about the declining level of literacy among children and the subsequent generation of students who cannot read.

Daily media reports on the subject, along with the motivating words of former rector of UWC Prof Richard van der Ross to "use your qualification to help others", jolted Louise into action.

"Reading is fun" was started in August last year after Louise identified Jubilee Park Primary to launch the project. There are currently 158 registered learners on the project ranging between eight and 14 years. According to Louise 74% of them joined the library because of the project.

After talks with the principal, she got the support of the teachers. They promised to market the project by regularly talking about "Reading is fun" in their classes. She also motivated the Allanridge librarians to get involved.

"Most of the learners at the school and in the



READING AND BOOKS ... "I believe that a love for reading and books can greatly contribute to better overall scholastic performance," says Marketing and Corporate Relations' Louise Solomons.

area are from impoverished homes and the project was one way of getting them off the streets," says the forty-something go-getter.

Before joining the former University of Port Elizabeth's Advancement Programme, Louise was a guidance teacher at her *alma mater*, Uitenhage High School, for 16 years.

These older learners were asked to assist the Allanridge librarians in marking the reflection forms the younger learners completed.

According to Louise after the youngsters aged have read and returned their books, they are expect-

ed to complete a form providing the title, author, and characters of book. "They are also encouraged to share what the story is about – they can even draw a picture about it.

"Because I wanted the project to be fun, they always receive a gift after completing the form."

Louise funded the project herself while her physician, Dr Andre Hugo, donated money.

"I believe that a love for reading and books can greatly contribute to better overall scholastic performance. Improved performance is good for a child's self-esteem; especially for those children from disadvantaged backgrounds."

With an honours degree in psychology and teaching experience of close to two decades, Louise knows what she is talking about.

"I would not have been able to embark on this project without the teachers at Jubilee Park Primary School, the volunteers of Uitenhage High School and Chantelle Andrews, Margaret Gongo and other librarians at Allanridge Library.

"I am excited about the future of the project and how it can be expanded. I hope that other schools can start similar projects."

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.

Literacy top of mind

WITH South African school children coming last out of 40 countries on reading assessments at primary schools, educators have reason to be concerned.

No wonder a total of 14 NMMU academics including some from Fine Arts, Education, and CTLM presented papers at the recent Reading Association of South Africa's conference at NMMU.

Topics included raising learners with news knowledge (Dr Jacqui Dornbrack and Debbie Derry), the writing process as teaching and learn-

ing method (Dr Hilda Israel), writing practice in Grades 11 and 12 (Rod Townsend), literacy and language (Dr Marcelle Harran), teaching and learning literacies (Anne Knott), diversity and linguistic identities (Sharon Rudman and Jacqui L ck), academic writing practices (David Bignaut), reading research (Eileen Scheckle), early literacy practice (Dr Margie Childs), creating a print rich pre-primary environment (Robin Anne Notshulwana) and academic and visual literacies (Mary Duker and Michele Fuller) (see page 6).



LITERACY LOVERS ... Among those to attend the Reading Association of South Africa's conference at NMMU early in October were (from left) Applied Language department's Dr Marcelle Harran, Jacqui L ck, Sharon Rudman, former NMMU applied language lecturer Dr Jacqui Dornbrack, who is now at UCT, and Rasa chairperson Eileen Scheckle.

NMMU cited as a leader for its bold new approach to publications



*TOP SPOTS ... Marketing and Corporate Relations represented by **Lyndall Sa Joe-Derocks, Jo-Ann Daniels, Elma de Koker, Debbie Derry, Beverley Erickson** and director **Pieter Swart** won six awards at the higher education's annual conference for marketing, advancement and communication specialists.*

National award for talk@nmmu

OUR staff newsletter talk@nmmu has been ranked as one of the top three staff newsletters in the country together with those of Unisa and Wits.

NMMU won another five awards at the higher education's annual conference for marketing, advancement and communication specialists in October.

We took top spot for our annual review – a fold-out, visual account of the year's events – as well as the innovative internal blogging site, Soapbox, which gives staff and students a safe space to share anonymously online.

The other excellence awards (75% and above) went to external newsletter *In Touch*, the Return to Learn marketing material produced during the 2010 Fifa World Cup and the recently-launched postgraduate campaign with its theme of "a brighter future".

Only UNISA won more awards.

"NMMU's consistent performance

and delivery in marketing, communications and branding has made it a force to be reckoned with in higher education," said Severus Cerff, convener of the annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) excellence awards which took place in Johannesburg.

Twenty of the country's 23 institutions of higher education participated in the event.

Last year NMMU won five awards, again excelling against the long-established traditional universities.

NMMU was cited by judges as "a leader" with its bold new approach. Its publications and campaigns reflected "excitement and dynamism" in tune with the university's vision to be "a dynamic African university".

Further praise was heaped on NMMU for its responsible sustainable design by using environmentally paper, its avoidance of long-winded publications and move towards new media.

Our new chancellor Santie Botha was the keynote speaker at the event as was cartoonist Zapiro.

ePal doing well

MORE than 500 students have already benefitted from ePal, our new electronic peer-assisted learning programme, launched in August.

"We are quite pleased with the outcome. The initiative has gone so well," says Supplemental Instruction's **Celeste Barker**, one of the drivers behind the programme.

Students log on to ePal and download modules covered in class, then chat online to qualified leadership facilitators who are able to assist in areas of difficulty.

At present ePal focuses on seven qualification areas with courses in the fields of engineering, mathematics, business management, accounting and economics. As a result of the success, staff are keen to expand the programme.

Celeste believes one of the reasons for ePal's success is its emphasis on small group communication. "Students can chat to facilitators on a one-on-one basis and don't feel intimidated to ask questions."

A further advantage is that students can access ePal anywhere with internet access.

They log onto NMMU's student portal, click on the ePal icon in the top right corner, log on, choose the



*ASSISTANCE ... Students can now supplement their learning electronically by using our new ePal system with Supplemental Instruction's **Celeste Barker**, one of the drivers behind the initiative.*

module that you are assigned to, and let their fingers do the talking.

Should students struggle to log on to ePal, they can contact Education's **Jackie Hitchcox** who will assist them. - **Genevieve Civico**

Business School rankings on rise

OUR MBA takes pride of place in the student supervisory support and value for money categories according to independent market research conducted by IPSOS Markinor which recently ranked 14 accredited business schools.

NMMU ranks third in the number of customised programmes, with Gibbs and Wits in first and second spots respectively.

The Business School also rates third for its open-enrollment programmes.

It also rates among the top five in South Africa for customised executive education and open courses for employees.

The findings are based on the responses of 100 companies polled by IPSOS Markinor.

"We are very pleased with the progress made in our vision to become one of the top schools in South Africa and Africa.

"These results are only possible due to superior team work," said Business School Director **Prof Piet Naude**, adding that "serious note" had been taken of areas for improvement.

Laduma scoops top design award

BTECH Textile Design and Technology student Laduma Ngxokolo, 23, is the second NMMU student to scoop top place at the Bradford-based Society of Dyers and Colourists' (SDC) Annual International Design Competition which this year took place in London on 5 October.

Last year BTECH Textile student, Moipone Qekisi, won this award.

The Xhosa people with their rich cultural heritage inspired Laduma's entry, titled "The Colourful World of the Xhosa Tribe".

Laduma's love for textiles and knitting was inspired by his late mother. His designs are inspired by Xhosa beadwork and traditional foods.

The Society of Dyers and Colourists hosted nine finalists for three days in London where they also participated



COLOURS ... The Colourful World of the Xhosa Tribe" inspired BTECH Textile Design and Technology student Laduma Ngxokolo who recently won first prize at the Bradford-based Society of Dyers and Colourists' (SDC) Annual International Design Competition in London (photograph Shanna Paxton).

in a series of workshops on textile techniques and technologies.

Laduma received the SDC Colour Design Award 2010, with a cash prize of £1000, plus the Veronica Bell Tro-

phy. Earlier this year Laduma's sister Tina, second-year fashion design student, was the toast of the Eastern Cape after winning the regional judging of the Vodacom Durban July Young

Designer Award.

"Laduma has a fabulous combination of creative, intellectual and technical abilities," said Music, Art and Design School Director **Mary Duker**.



DAILY IMAGES ... Second-year photography student Liesl van Niekerk shares photographs taken with the children of Red Location which is now part of an exhibition at the Red Location Museum. (Photo Gerhard Coetzee)

Giving back to the community

SECOND-YEAR photography students who recently visited Red Location daily for several weeks to document the lifestyle and day-to-day activities of local residents, are also raising funds, collecting toys, blankets and clothes for these residents.

Their collective images evoking positive change in the poverty-stricken anti-Apartheid hot spot in New Brighton, are being showcased at Red Location Museum until 29 January 2011.

With the guidance of photography lecturer **Nina Joubert**, these students have built a strong body of informative images to raise awareness about the community.

Red Location derived its name from a series of corrugated iron black buildings, which rusted into a deep red colour.

They used material from South Africa's early war structures to build the sheds, which have since become home to many generations of people.

"Documenting real life situations taught the students how rewarding it can be to give something to the community. They approached this project with care needed to make a positive change," Nina said.

"I was humbled to see that even though the people who live in Red Location don't have the luxuries, they are so happy and content with what they do have," said student Kathleen van der Merwe.

To make contributions or donations please contact Nosikumbuzo Hoza on 041-408 8400 or e-mail nhoza@mandelametro.gov.za or Nina Joubert on 041-50423983.

Artists writing better

THEIR students may win award after award with their artworks, but our School of Music, Art and Design is not resting when it comes to theorizing about art either.

Instead they have implemented a string of positive initiatives to improve the academic and visual literacy and writing skills of their students, as was relayed during a presentation at the Reading Association of South Africa's annual conference at NMMU in October (see page 4).

The school's director **Mary Duker** and art lecturer **Michelle Fuller** shared what they're doing to ensure that students' writing abilities match the outstanding results they already achieve in their studio work.

Working with their own in-house academic literacies practitioner **Nicole Collier Naidoo**, and with advice from the Writing centre's **Anne Knott**, they have implemented the Wi (Writing Intensive) Weeks.

Wi is a writing programme for first-year students, wherein the students research and write in class in week-long sessions, interspersed over the academic year, and supported by their peers and their disciplinary lecturers.

They are already seeing the results of this alternative teaching method in the improved levels of academic literacy and critical thinking abilities.

"We are proud of what has been achieved so far and we know that this can only benefit our school's research profile in the long run," said Mary.

"The Wi Weeks also provide us, as lecturers, with an opportunity to engage in very vigorous discussion with students about the subject matter, in a way that is just not possible when you are standing at the front of a lecture theatre, and students are sitting passively listening to you."

Art success

THE School of Music, Art and Design continue to win accolades. These are among the latest successes:

- ▶ Third-year graphic design students Jessica Pullen, Lauren Hayward and Anke Weyers were winners in the Goldpack SA competition.
- ▶ Photography alumni Gerhard Coetzee and Natalie Field are finalists in the Elle fashion photography competition.
- ▶ BTECH alumnus Reiner Swanepoel has won a silver Pendoring award - a first for NMMU.

MONEY attitudes and materialism among Generation Y South Africans (18 to 25-year-olds) and the effect that especially single-parent/income homes has on these attitudes, is the topic of PhD student Helen Duh's research.

The Western Cape University Marketing lecturer who hails from Cameroon has Management Sciences School Director **Prof Miemie Struwig** as her promoter. Business

Show me the money – or else!

Management Department Head **Prof Eileen Mazibuko** is her co-promoter.

Helen is currently in Port Elizabeth working on her literature review and research questionnaire.

Helen's research is based on the fact that one in four Generation Y children in South Africa has been raised in single-parent/income homes.

From the results, Helen hopes businesses will better understand these attitudes and values, along with the history in childhood family experiences.

"Consumer research on the impact of past childhood family experiences on spending is very limited. Businesses generally focus on current consumer behaviour," says Helen.

Helen also plans to go to Belgium for research exchange.

"We expect that this study will yield a number of publications and conferences. We are collaborating with international leaders in this field," says Prof Struwig.

Helen has lived in South Africa for ten years.

New unit will help to improve businesses success

Keeping it in the family

OUR newly formed Family Business Unit is set to help improve the present survival rate of just 30% to 33% when it comes to taking a family business into the next generation.

"Family businesses face complex challenges. We believe we can create a platform to share knowledge and best practices to assist family businesses," says **Prof Elmarie Venter**, who along with **Dr Margie Cullen**, are the co-directors of this new hands-on unit.

Along with the knowledge that between 70% and 80% of SMEs fail, the formation of the Family Business Unit will be hugely beneficial not only to businesses in the Eastern Cape, but around the world.

While family and business affairs

are closely linked and there is generally better communication, higher trust, lower monitoring costs and consolidated decision-making, there are other issues specific to family businesses with which to contend.

These include family conflict, emotional issues, sibling rivalry, autocratic paternalistic cultures and nepotism.

"But succession management is usually the bigger challenge," says Prof Venter.

NMMU, and in particular our Business School and Business and Eco-



Dr Margie Cullen

nomics Faculty, is renowned for our cutting-edge research in this field. Until the mid-1980s, very little research existed in this field despite the fact that the majority of businesses worldwide (65% to 90%) are family-owned.

NMMU is changing all this.

Dr Cullen, who was the first person to obtain a doctorate in Business Administration at the NMMU Business School examined family businesses in South Africa's wine industry. Prof Venter's doctorate was the first to cover family business succession providing



Prof Elmarie Venter

an alternative succession business model for families.

The other two Family Business Unit members, **Dr Shelley Farrington** and **Dr Chris Adendorff**, have also concentrated their studies in this field, while both the Business School and the Department of Business Management have innumerable students now completing their master's and doctoral research in this area.

"Our hope is that we can play a crucial role in serving the South African economy by ensuring that family businesses are healthy and well governed," said Prof Venter.

Winning across disciplines

*TEAMING UP ... Business Management Honours students Ilze Visser (left) from the winning team and Thamsanqa Gampu (second right) and Pearl Phoolo (right) joined in InnoVenton's algae-to-fuel project by producing business plans to market the water as by-product commercially. They are joined by Business Management's **Dr Shelley Farrington** (second left) and InnoVenton's **Otto Lessing** (back centre). In return for the hands-on experience the winning team Entrepreneurship students each received R2 000 thanks to Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director **Jaci Barnett**.*



Hands-on inspiration

THE critical role of customer relations in any business was recently highlighted during a guest lecture to second-year BCom students by prominent young businessman Jaco Rademeyer of JRE Estates.

Sharing how he started his own business, Rademeyer emphasized why building relationships with clients is so important and shared strategies for ensuring valuable, long-term and profitable customer relationships.

Module coordinator and lecturer **Chantal Rootman** says the customer relationship module which started with 40 students in 2006, has grown to almost 200 students this year, including BCom Financial Planning and Marketing students.

She says the module is very popular among international students, adding that guest lecturers formed a critical part of the module as they shared real-life business experiences.

First ISOE accreditation with merSETA

THE merSETA Chair in Engineering Development can in future apply for additional funding for specific projects earmarked especially the previously disadvantaged areas.

"This agreement will enable the Chair to collaborate with the Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit (GMMDU), managed by Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department Head **Prof Werner Oliver**, to establish a Math, Science and Engineering incubator school in the rural ar-

reas of Somerset East in the Eastern Cape," said **Karl du Preez** of the merSETA Chair in Engineering Development.

As a first for a university, NMMU has gained the status of being an Institute of Sectoral or Occupational Excellence (ISOE), accredited with merSETA, with the cooperation agreement recently signed.

The implementation of the merSETA Chair in Engineering Development was initiated by Executive Dean **Prof Henk de Jager** and merSETA's Carmen Adams.



COOPERATION ... merSETA's Zwelethemba Ngayeka (back from left), Engineering's Karl du Preez and Sarel Schoombie and Carmen Adams of merSETA joined (front) merSETA's Christo Basson and Engineering, the Built Environment and IT Executive Dean Prof Henk de Jager at the signing of the cooperation agreement between NMMU and merSETA.

Staff share skills, resources and time to help others

Assisting schools in need

A NUMBER of positive initiatives to improve the lot of others, but especially schoolchildren affected by the strikes, are underway in the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology.

And more are planned too.

From 2011, for example, two major mathematics and science programmes for high school learners will join forces to have a bigger impact on schools in the metro.

The Saturday School programme for Grade 10 and 12 learners will be rolled out in collaboration with the programmes provided by the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit.

Prizes were recently awarded to achievers in the former programme with Mary Mount High School winning the most supportive school award. Timothy Heynes of Uitenhage High School was singled out for his cooperative nature and management skills.

The programme in collaboration with the Department of Transport and ENGEN identifies and trains potential engineering and technology students from previously disadvantaged schools with knowledge, skills and insight in mathematics, science and English.

"NMMU is looking for achievers and for this you need the right attitude as your attitude determines your altitude," said Executive Dean **Prof Henk de Jager**.

Similarly, EBEIT's Trac lab has assisted learners from Walmer High School.

The feedback has been excellent.

"The level of motivation and enthusiasm among the learners has sky rocketed. I am confident that they are at an advantage for their final examina-

NMMU is reaching out more and more to serve the needs of society. The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology has a number of such projects.



... enthusiasm among the learners has sky rocketed

REACHING OUT ... Engineering's Technology Research Activity Centre (TRAC) represented by Walmer High School principal Lunga Dyani (far left), Physics teacher Irefaan Langeveldt, Civil Engineering department head Johan Barnard, Amlindile Mapathiza (first place), TRAC EC Lab Manager Tarin Roberts, Civil Engineering's Andre Nagel, Mzukisi Tshekela (second) and TRAC EC Regional Manager Beauty Kotela provided six sessions at their facilities to support Grade 12 Science learners from Walmer High School prepare for the final exams.

tions," said principal Lunga Dyani.

The faculty has also been assisting Masibambane Senior Secondary School, identified in 2008 as having the lowest matric pass in the metro, with tutoring by our students.

"The University Collaborative Learning tutors

have sacrificed their valuable time in order to make a difference in the lives of our learners," said Masibambane principal Bongani Gade. He added that the programme had minimised the effect of the numerous disruptions such as strikes, protests and the Soccer World Cup.

A NEW research Chair for South African Mathematics Education headed by Professor Werner Olivier and funded by FirstRand Foundation will ensure that the initiatives of the proactive Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit (GMMDU) will be further enhanced.

"The Chair gives us a wonderful opportunity to expand the existent innovative practical strategies," says an excited Prof Olivier, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics department head, who will take up the position from 2011.

Over the past eight years entities attached to the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics have taken maths (and science) to society at large – providing effective learning strategies to both learners and teachers that have received national recognition.

With maths and science identified as one of South Africa's biggest challenges, the awarding of the Chair to NMMU is particularly significant.

"The decision to award the Chair will take us further towards the GMMDU vision of empowering educators and learners in the Eastern Cape with critical problem-solving skills and a better understanding of the important role that maths plays in our mod-

Maths Chair will enhance research



OPPORTUNITY ... The new Maths Chair will give us a wonderful opportunity to expand the existent innovative practical strategies," says Prof Werner Olivier, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics department head, who will take up the position from 2011.

ern society," says Prof Olivier.

The Maths Incubator School Project for Grade 12 learners (200 learners selected annually from previously disadvantaged schools) has been particularly gratifying with its promising results, along with the Maths Skills Upgrade Programme aimed at

teachers. Both these programmes are based on an innovative National Senior Certificate maths DVD series.

A similar science DVD series is now also being shared.

"We are very excited about this. We can truly see the benefits of our efforts," says Prof Olivier.

Creating a garden together

MORE and more departments, even those across faculties, are working together and learning from one another.

One of these examples is a vegetable and herb garden which will benefit Missionvale Primary School with a feeding scheme with it's 1 370 students.

The project started in May when the extended second-year BSc (Geo-Science) students at Missionvale Campus asked the Botany Department for assistance to set up a community garden at the school.

The garden formed part of the greater Academic and Life Management project under lecturer **Ghauderen Coetzee**.

The Botany Department saw this as "an ideal opportunity" to combine the charitable efforts of the Geosciences students with the second-year Botany students' Economic Botany and Biotechnology module taught by **Anusha Rajkaran** on South Campus. This



IN UNION ... Second-year Geosciences and Botany students worked to provide this vegetable garden to Missionvale Primary School to sustain a feeding scheme at the school.

module includes plant production that benefits society.

The botany students tested the soil characteristics, germinated seeds in the botany greenhouse and determined the layout for the garden, while the geosciences students looked for sponsors and arranged with the school.

The area was first graded and the soil turned by civil engineering company Civils 2000 and then topsoil and compost was added.

Third-year botany student Tim Vink

donated worm tea to water the newly-planted seedlings. Botany Department staff and postgraduate students donated materials, seeds and gardening equipment.

On 12 October the students and staff planted 16 kinds of vegetable seeds and herbs in the 80 square metres at the school.

"The students were excited about the project and expressed how rewarding it can be to help communities less fortunate with the skills they learnt during the module," says Anusha.

Briefs

Best student paper

COMPUTING Science PhD student Bradley van Tonder won the best PhD student research paper award at the annual South African Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists conference in October.

His paper discussed the use of tilt interaction compared to keypad interaction in mobile map-based applications. His supervisor and co-author is **Prof Janet Wesson**.

Maths for predators

THE predator-prey relationship was discussed through mathematical modelling by NMMU PhD student Hassan Ddumba at the annual Eastern Cape postgraduate Mathematics seminar.

The graduate from Uganda's Makerere University was the keynote speaker at the two-day seminar attended by various academics in the province.

Algebra research

TOP academic and leading Algebra researcher Prof Michael Henning (right) recently presented a talk on graph and hypergraph theories as part of the annual Mathematics and Applied Mathematics seminar series in the department.



A National Research Foundation A-rated scientist Prof Henning recently moved to the University of Johannesburg from the University of Kwazulu-Natal.

Top young farmer

AGRICULTURE alumnus Brad Turner, 27, has been announced as the regional Toyota Young Farmer of the Year.

Brad, who farms in the Queenstown district turned the deserted family farm Mountain Glen into a profitable business within five years.

IN THE fourth and final game, at match point, racquetball ace Reuben Gonzales, made a super “kill” shot into the front wall to win it all. The referee called it good. One of the linesmen affirmed that the

shot was in. But Gonzales, after a moment’s hesitation, turned around, shook his opponent’s hand, and declared that his shot had “skipped” into the wall, hitting the court floor first. As a result, he lost the

match. He walked off the court. Everyone was stunned. Why had Gonzales, a player with everything officially in his favour, with victory in his hand, disqualified himself at match point, and lost!

When asked why he did it, Gonzales said: “It was the only thing I could do to maintain my integrity.” (Being the Best by Denis Waitley as featured in The Best of Bits and Pieces).

Living out NMMU’s new value of integrity Doing the right thing



IF YOU want to be known as a person of high integrity, simply have your actions equal your words ...

Having integrity is as simple and as difficult as this.

It’s about doing the right thing – even when no one is looking.

It’s about high morals.

It’s about being true and loyal.

It’s about living up to expectations and it’s about taking responsibility for yourself and your actions.

Men like our university’s name-sake Nelson Mandela, and the recently retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, are immediately synonymous

Soapbox debating integrity

WHAT does integrity mean to you? What can we do at NMMU to live out the value of integrity? Have your say on SOAPBOX – your anonymous online platform for sharing. Simply press on the SOAPBOX icon on the portal. Let’s share our ideas and learn from one another.



with the word integrity. These are men who do not make decisions because they are easy, cheap or popular, but who make them because they are right.

But knowing what’s right doesn’t mean much until you do what’s right ... It’s about doing.

So what can we do at NMMU to live out the value of integrity?

You can:

- Hand in overdue library books
- Pay outstanding fines
- Pay that TV licence
- Pick up that piece of litter – even if it isn’t your own
- Switch off your lights when leaving your office
- Switch off the dripping taps in the toilet

- Stop plagiarising
- Stop cheating
- Report wrongdoing
- Come to work on time
- Pay outstanding fines
- Have the courage to say no and face the truth
- Return money if you have been given too much change.

In order for NMMU to be a leader, it must have unquestionable integrity. Without it, staff and students will not have confidence.

And so the university must constantly strive to ensure that its promises and actions square up with one another.

This is integrity.

Reaching out to others is life-changing

PROGRAMMES that include social responsibility as part of the curriculum are, in many chances, having a life-changing impact.

More and more students are discovering the benefits of reaching out to others by sharing of their time, talents and even material possessions.

Among them are third-year Human Movement Science students who not only painted and upgraded play areas at three disadvantaged schools in Nelson Mandela Bay during the September holiday, but returned to play with the learners from these schools, as well as Academic and Life Management students at both Missionvale and North campuses.

The latter undertook social responsibility projects in the surrounding communities.

Missionvale Primary School was identified as a school in need.

Integrity fits comfortably with *ubuntu* – as reaching out to your fellow man is the right thing to do as more and more NMMU students are discovering.

“We chose to help this school because we want these learners to have the same opportunities that we had at school,” said Stefan Kruger, of the school close to his campus.

“We also realised that the university is a beacon of hope in the area and that when these children see our campus they have dreams and aspirations to one day be a student there too.”

For Stefan and his classmates the outreach initiative had made them see the world with different eyes. It had, in short, been life-changing.

We also realised that the university is a beacon of hope in the area and that when these children see our campus they have dreams and aspirations to one day be a student there ”

The group identified a number of needs and responded by providing the schools with a first-aid kit, food from the local supermarket and even computers.

They also organized a health talk and security for the computer area and a training session at Missionvale Campus’s new library.

The school now also has a vegeta-

ble garden (see page 9).

Other groups have focused their energies on Save-a-Pet, the House of Resurrection Aids Haven, Animal Welfare Society, Kideo Kids Pre-Primary School and Provincial Hospital children’s ward.



Mail box

Get R100 for winning letter

PUT yourself in line to win a R100 Greenacres gift voucher by sending us letters with your concerns, ideas and comments about life at NMMU.

Send your letters to: elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

Leading with initiatives for lasting green economy

New sustainability unit

STRENGTHENING existing network of scientists and practitioners concerned about sustainability; applied action research; and working closely with decision makers and practitioners are among the aims of the new Sustainability Research Unit (SRU) recently launched on George Campus.

With respect for the natural environment one of NMMU's core values, George Campus is more determined than ever to integrate sustainability principles into our academic practices and business.

As a result the new unit is already working with more than 38 practitioners, scientists and officials from Eden District Municipality, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), SANParks, Tsiba College, Agri SA and government departments on various projects (see adjacent story).

"There can be no green economy without addressing poverty and inequality," according to Water Affairs: Natural Resource Management Programmes' Dr Guy Preston, who was the keynote speaker at the launch.

Another key challenge was the eradication of invasive alien plants in the Garden Route.

The unit will focus on:

- ▶ Enabling decision-makers to under-

stand the long term consequences of land and water use plans, policies and strategies;

- ▶ Doing research on the causes, impacts, consequences and good ecosystem management practices related to climate change, and sharing this with decision makers and practitioners;
- ▶ Working with stakeholders on prac-

tical strategies to promote sustainability in urban development, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and biodiversity conservation, and the long term use of land and water and food production.

- ▶ Offering training courses, such as the unique conservation stewardship and extension course offered on George Campus.

SRU projects

- ▶ A workshop with farmers and Government discussed the vulnerability of the dairy industry.
- ▶ Complex Adaptive Systems Management was discussed with the Applied Research directorate of the National Research Foundation (NRF) attracting participants from Sweden and Kenya.
- ▶ Unit members have been working closely with the George Campus Student Council (SC) to establish an environmental forum for "green" initiatives among students.
- ▶ The unit motivated the recycling "Green Campus" initiative on campus, and have provided inputs on incorporating green technologies in new infrastructure.
- ▶ Research outputs include invited papers at the Resilience Alliance science meeting in Vancouver, a keynote address at the Southern African Wildlife Management Associations national conference on sustainability in the wildlife industry, a book chapter on co-management under resource-poor conditions among others.
- ▶ The Tierkop Action Research Project tests and monitors energy and water-saving technologies in student resident houses using solar geysers and catching rainwater. Behaviour and attitudes have also been determined involving students.



CROWNED ... Mr & Miss NMMU George 2010 are BCom student Eugene Geldenhuys and Nature Conservation student Nadine Vencencia.



FIRST LEADERSHIP AWARDS ... George Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** congratulated the first recipients of the annual Leadership Awards – BTech Forestry and Dux student Muedanyi Ramantwana and Botany Master's student Fiona Koch. These students have distinguished themselves in upholding the NMMU values of respect, excellence and humaneness. Fiona as Supplementary Instruction leader gives guidance to undergraduate students and promotes harmony and belonging through the Green Campus initiative and forum and the recycling programme. Muedanyi is treasurer and chairperson of the Christian Centre; class representative during all his years and chairperson of the Saasveld Forestry Association. No less than 20 merit awards were also made to students leading in Residences, Arts and Culture, Student Governance and Development, and Sport.

Briefs

Agri Mega Week

Agricultural Management lecturer **Maryna Lehmann** (below) presented two talks daily at the recent Agri Mega Week in Bredasdorp.



Maryna was invited by the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) to share on various aspects of the dairy industry.

Marketing and Corporate Relations staff also used the opportunity to assist learners with study opportunities.

Adventure hosts

GEORGE Campus recently played host to the 2010 SA Schools Adventure Race National Championships.

Fifty teams of four learners from 20 schools participated in a variety of outdoor activities including abseiling down a dam wall, mountain biking, paddling, black water tubing and trail running.

First prize

NATURE Conservation student Alex Braczkowski (below) received the best student presentation prize at the recent South African Wildlife Management Association 40th symposium in North-West. Alex, the only diploma student among the postgraduate students, presented his paper on the dietary composition of leopards in the southern Cape forests.



He is currently doing his practical in-service training at the Landmark Foundation Leopard and Predator project under the supervision of George Campus graduate Janine McManus.

Drastic increase in demand for free legal services

Justice for the poor

IN THE heart of the disadvantaged community of Missionvale is a fully-fledged Legal Aid Office providing on-the-job-training to candidate and prospective attorneys, and giving hope to the poor and destitute with legal problems.

Our Law Clinic leads the way in exposing law students to community service and the dire need for access to justice for the poor.

The increasing numbers who flock to the office highlights the need with more than 2 700 cases handled for the first seven months of 2010 compared to just over 2 500 for the entire 2009.

Law Clinic director **Dolf Coetzee** says the facility not only provides free legal services to the needy, but also offers training opportunities for law

students and candidate attorneys. Law graduates from previously disadvantaged communities are especially assisted to qualify as attorneys.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Department of Justice, 10 candidate attorneys register at the clinic each year.

"They are qualified attorneys when they walk out of here at the end of each year," says Coetzee.

Practical work at the clinic once every week for 90 minutes is compulsory for all final-year law students.

The clinic is well known, even though its services are not advertised.

"We handle mostly civil cases. People come because others have told them of the high quality of service we provide. "We assist them as they walk in; they don't need to make appoint-



*SERVICE ... Students and candidate attorneys realise what the law is through working at the Legal Aid Office, says director **Dolf Coetzee**.*

ments. A needy person who cannot afford a lawyer should use his money for necessities, not for a telephone call to make an appointment.

"Where can these people go to for help if they are being sued?" asks Coetzee, a qualified attorney who has been with the clinic since 1992.

People earning below R2 500 a month or those who have children and earn less than R3 500 a month qualify for free legal assistance at the

clinic. A small deposit is required in certain instances to cover disbursements, such as sheriff's fees and revenue stamps.

Coetzee says that through working at the clinic, students and candidate attorneys realise what the law is. "It's a poor man's law. They realise that not everything is about money.

"It is important for them to realise the impact that working at a law clinic has on so many lives."



MAJOR SPEAKERS ... Our HIV & AIDS Education Research Chair recently hosted a national research symposium with speakers including (from left) Prof Claudia Mitchell (McGill University, Canada), Dr Gail Andrews (HEAIDS Programme Director), Prof Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya (Director of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance, HSRC, PE) and Prof Naydene de Lange (NMMU Chair of HIV & AIDS Education Research).

Community of practice established

A "COMMUNITY of practice" in HIV & AIDS and Education research established at a recent national symposium at NMMU was welcomed by the 52 delegates as a major outcome of the event.

Education Faculty's **Dr Logan Athie-moolam** also showcased a series of student performances in theatre, poetry, music and dance related to HIV and Aids.

Dr Logan explained how he used drama as an educational tool in his classroom to teach teachers-in-training.

Education Faculty's **Prof Naydene de**

Lange, Lesley Wood, Bill Holderness, Christina Jordaan and Pam Austin presented papers.

Hosted by our HIV & AIDS Education Research Chair in the Education Faculty the event was presented in collaboration with the Higher Education AIDS Programme Director.

Delegates included teacher educators from South African universities as well as Tanzania, Germany and Canada, with teachers living and teaching with HIV in Kenya as honorary guests.

Proud progress for top world sport programme

A STRUGGLING amateur football club achieved new heights thanks to the influence of a FIFS/CIES/NMMU alumnus (see adjacent story).

This and other success stories were related to the latest batch of intakes for the international sport management programme presented by the Department of Human Movement Science.

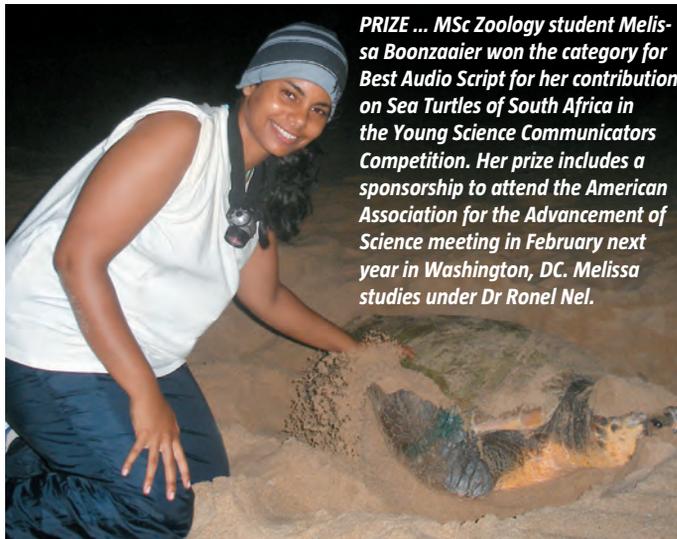
The latest intake also boasts some international students including Romanian Antoniu Geormaneanu, who works in Austria.

Coordinator **Vernon Oosthuizen** also arranged a number of top speakers for the September sector of the programme.

Top speakers:

- International sport security expert and Director of Nicholls-Steyn and Associates Rory Steyn shared pointers about the dynamic face of event security with specific reference to the FIFA 2010 World Cup.
- SA Premier Soccer League CEO Kjetil Siem spoke about the PSL and its recent successes and strategies to manage football on a more professional basis and how to build and grow the sport in South Africa.
- Eastern Province Cricket and Warriors CEO Dave Emslie gave students an insider's view of managing major events. Under his leadership they have captured two national trophies this past season and the Warriors also played in the final of the Twenty20 international champions' league final.

The students also visited the Herald newspaper and Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.



PRIZE ... MSc Zoology student **Melissa Boonzaaier** won the category for **Best Audio Script** for her contribution on **Sea Turtles of South Africa** in the **Young Science Communicators Competition**. Her prize includes a sponsorship to attend the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** meeting in **February** next year in **Washington, DC**. **Melissa** studies under **Dr Ronel Nel**.



AMBASSADORS ... Congratulations to second-year BCom Marketing Management student **Lethu Poltine** crowned as **Mr NMMU** and third-year BA Media, Communication and Culture student **Tracy Qwabe** as **Miss NMMU** on 17 October.



GOOD BOSS ... The **Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre (AMTC)** celebrated **Bosses Day** with **Bronwyn Moodaley** (left) and **Meera Parshotam** (right) spoiling boss **Prof Theo van Niekerk**.

RELATIONSHIPS ... Business Management's **Prof Madele Tait** discussed banking and customer issues at her professorial inaugural lecture on 5 October. Though banks expend much time and money in attracting new customers, very little effort was spent on retaining existing customers despite research which indicates that existing clients want a personal and face-to-face relationship with their banks and will easily change to another bank. This highlights the need for effective relationship marketing in an area where direct benefits are not easy to measure.



WINNERS ... The **Industrial Psychology** team (from left) **Masechaba Letsela**, **Christopher Kimberley**, **Industrial Psychology lecturer Anton Botha**, **Alex Kizito** and **Jan-Louis Werner** ended the **Law Faculty's** winning streak to become the **interfaculty quiz champions** during **Academic Success Week**. Seven teams including a **BCom** group, **Missionvale** and **North Campus ICT**, **Extended BCom** and **EBEIT** battled it out answering questions on **current affairs**, **arts and entertainment**, **history**, **geography** and **science**.

Watch out for the tell-tale signs Beat burnout

AS THE year nears its end many of us can relate to burnout, feeling as if we just don't have the energy to continue. But what is burnout all about?

Burnout refers to long-term exhaustion and decreased interest which could influence your job performance, increase stress hormones, coronary heart disease circulatory issues and cause mental health problems such as depression.

Usually it's as a result of stress over a long time.

Physically, people with burnout feel tired and drained most of the time, they feel sick, have frequent headaches, back pain, muscle aches and their appetite and sleep habits change.

Emotionally they feel a failure; they feel helpless, trapped and defeated and alone in the world. They are without motivation, satisfaction and any sense of accomplishment.

Burnout victims withdraw from responsibilities, isolate themselves from others, they procrastinate, use food, drugs (including prescription drugs) or alcohol in order to cope, take their frustration out on others and skip work, coming in late or leaving early.

What is the difference between stress and burnout?

Stress	Burnout
Over involved	Not involved at all
Overactive emotions	No emotions
Urgency and hyperactivity	Helplessness and hopelessness
Loss of energy	Loss of motivation, ideals and hope
Primary damage is physical	Primary damage is emotional

Personal characteristics that can contribute to burnout include: high achieving type A personalities, perfectionists, a pessimistic view of the self and the world, control and reluctance to delegate and poor lifestyle habits.

What can you do if you think you suffer from burnout?

- Slow down and get support – don't be afraid to ask for help
- Re-evaluate your goals and priorities
- Focus on resolutions and fight resignation
- Challenge and don't accept overload, inconsequentiality, role conflict and lack of control and support.
- Address your personal weaknesses and build your strengths. Adopt a healthy lifestyle by reducing the intake of alcohol, increase your fitness levels and lose weight with healthy eating habits.

Burnout can be prevented and it's every person's own responsibility to fight the different factors that contribute to this condition, a condition that seem to steal one's soul. - **Greg Smith, Campus Health Service**

Parking: do the right thing

WHEN Health Sciences student Bardrone van Aswegen received a new car, she did not bother to change her campus parking disk. Nor did she provide a cell number when registering her car on the parking system.

So when campus security staff found that the registration number of the car did not tally with that of the parking disk, they thought something was fishy. The infrastructure projects office did not have cell

phone number linked to the disk and so the car was presumed stolen and its wheels were clamped.

Later of course, Bardrone identified the car as her own, and very quickly rectified the wrongs.

According to **Tracy Ebel** of Infrastructure Projects cell phone numbers are especially valuable in case of accidents on campus, when cars are left unlocked or with their lights on, and when staff and students need to be contacted urgently.

Trolls and hot springs



School of ICT's Prof Darelle van Greunen recently visited Iceland to present User Experience workshops at the NordiCHI conference but also took some time about to take in the sights like this statue of an Icelandic troll and the world famous Geysir high temperature geothermal area named Nesjavellir with its hot springs, gushing geysers and bubbling mud pools. Trolls are Icelandic folklore creatures, which as legend would have it, turn to stone if exposed to sunlight.

Condolences

THE university staff and students extend their condolences to the family and friends of the following staff and students who passed away recently:

- Business and Economics first-year student **Ziphiwo Pereira**
- Retired Chemistry staff member **Wessie van der Westhuizen**

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 **October** competition winners: **Madaleen Bernardo** and **Dalene Harris** of Finance, **Nobathembu Mafanya** of Campus Health Services and **Sisanda Nkoso** of Research and Engagement.

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

1 Our newly formed Family Business Unit is set to help improve the present s.....l (**8 letter word**) rate of just 30% to 33% of these businesses.

2 Applying online to study at NMMU will soon become a reality for p.....e (**11 letter word**) students.

3 If you want to be known as a person of high i.....y (**9 letter word**), simply have your actions equal your words ...

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **19 November**.

Schuinilla Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members. Tel: 041 3642109 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.

Breast cancer awareness

SIXTEEN NMMU Glam Squad Society students dressed in heels and pink and black attire joined the rest of Nelson Mandela Bay in support of the Journey of Hope Breast Cancer Ride campaign in October.

The NMMU students handed out leaflets and pink bows at major intersections on 26 October in the city in support of the 18 breast cancer survivors travelling on Harley Davidson motorbikes from Durban to Cape Town. The group raised funds for a portable mammogram machine to take into communities to advocate breast cancer awareness.

Locals were invited to race on high heels to support the campaign.



AWARENESS ... Staff were welcomed to work by men and women clad in pink, waving banners and handing out pink ribbons as part of the Residence staff and students initiative in University Way on 26 October.



SUPPORT ... Former stray dog Sam who now belongs to Animal Welfare Society (AWS) Home Manager Nicky Roe (centre) both came to say thank you to NMMU staff (from left) Arts and Culture's Michele du Preez, Political and Governmental Studies' Dr Derek Taylor, Finance's Yvette Hamilton and Denise du Preez, who collected change and dog food for the animal shelter. Nicky says more than 100 dogs and cats are looking for homes.

Student pregnancy a real problem

SECURITY problems, substance abuse, eating problems, pregnancy, homesickness, fights and crime are the most prevalent problems among students.

These were highlighted in a needs assessment exercise and informal interviews among residence and on-campus students by a group of second-year Social Work students.

The students also obtained information from Campus Health Services.

The group wanted to encourage responsible living among students as part of their prescribed community development project.

"We found that programmes were already in place for most of these problems, but decided to address student pregnancies," student Masego Lecha said.

The highlight of their campaign was an information hub in the Veritas residence study centre on 14 October where four speakers addressed pregnancy among students.

"We would like to leave a structure so that the awareness campaigns are carried out annually," she says.



LEADERSHIP AWARDS ... National Universities Debating Championship convener and chairperson BA student Thoriso M Afrika (left) is the female winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Leadership awards made at the Annual Achievers Awards ceremony on 20 October. The male winner is BCom student Curtis Young who has been Xanadu House Committee member for two years and the 2009 Student Affairs "All Rounder of the Year". The awards are made to a male and a female student, who have distinguished themselves as outstanding leaders in co-curricular activities at NMMU. Other awards included the Society of the Year, AIESEC; the Arts and Culture Society of the Year, Debating; House Committee Member of the Year, Hamandla Mzizi and Student Housing Living and Learning Achiever of the Year Neo Magdalene Mbulawa.

Staff swamp sports awards

NO FEWER than six staff members took top honours for sports awards at the annual Achievers Awards function at the Indoor Sports Centre last month.

Our congratulations go to:

- **Zanele Mmodana**, NMMU Sport Manager and SA netball player, is the Sportswoman of the Year, having represented the national senior team in a Test series against Samoa, the World Cup qualifiers in all African countries, the Commonwealth Games in India and the COSANA Games.
- **Melinda Goosen** as Netball Club Chairperson and Sport Manager and **Theresa le Roux** as Netball Sport Manager played an integral part in Spar Netball Club's victory as Club of the Year. The A team has been unbeaten in the A section league and Grand Challenge.
- Head coach Lana Krige, a former national player, was elected con-



Melinda Goosen and Theresa le Roux

venor of the Eastern Province Coaches Association.

- In addition Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Andrew Kock** is the Sport Coach of the Year (Athletics). The Team of the Year is the Toshiba NMMU Cricket Team with NMMU Trust's **Shafiek Abrahams** as coach.
- Sport Administrator of the Year is



Sportsman of the Year Kevin Paul

Sport Manager **Michelle de Bruyn** for the Athletics Club.

- The 2010 Sportsman of the Year is swimmer Kevin Paul, who has broken his own 50m breaststroke world record three times to a new mark of 30.96.
- In April, the Eastern Cape Premier's Awards named him Sportsman of the Year, Sport Personality and Disabled



Sportswoman of the Year Zanele Mmodana

Sportsman of the Year.

In June 2010 he won a gold medal at the German International Invitational Gala 400m Individual Medley and in August a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke at the International Paralympics' Committee (IPC) Swimming World Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands.



WINNERS ... Proud student team The Tigers - (from left) Conrad Schultz, best bowler JP Stander and JP Schuin, (front) Lee-Wyn Arends, Clynn O'Reilly and Jacques Doubell - beat the 46664s in the final of a six-a-side cricket tournament for staff and students. According to organiser Sport Manager **Riaan Osman**, 16 teams participated in the successful day-long social event run by first team players on 20 October. The best batsman was Etienne Venter, who scored 79 runs, and the best bowler JP Stander, who took seven wickets.

Top cricketer

BCOM HMS student David White (right) of the Toshiba NMMU cricket team representing Eastern Province at the National Club Cricket Championships in Pretoria was named player of the tournament after scoring 279 runs at an average of 93 with four successive half centuries and a top score of 78 not out.

It's the second year that a Toshiba NMMU player has received this coveted award.

The team won four of its matches but scored one bonus point less than Kwazulu Natal's Crusaders, who



were beaten by Free State University in the final.

Earlier this year, David was a member of the SA u/19 World Cup squad that competed in the ICC u/19 World Cup in New Zealand.

Going for gold

SECOND-YEAR Human Movement Science student Mandi Maritz (right) has done it again, winning gold in the beach sprints at the World Rescue Lifesaving Championships in Egypt.

Mandi is also a top pole vaulter for the university and province.

"It was a tough race," the diminutive sprinter recalled. Mandi also won two bronze medals, including



one for her speciality event, flags.

In January 2011 Mandi will participate in the Six Nations Lifesaving tournament in New Zealand.