

## Marketing whizz a breath of fresh air with new ideas for NMMU

# New generation Chancellor

**"NMMU is destined to be one of the top universities in South Africa. We have a great vision, values and a strong leadership team to make our vision come alive," says Santie Botha (below) who, at 46, is also the youngest chancellor of a university in the country.**

Ms Botha was inaugurated as the university's titular head during Graduation on 12 April.

However, the former MTN marketing head is not limiting her obligation to that of solely capping students at each graduation ceremony. The 2010 Businesswoman of the Year is already sharing her networks and expertise as an entrepreneur to ensure that NMMU becomes recognised both nationally and internationally.

With a string of national and international business marketing achievements behind her, Santie's prediction has great clout.

After all, as part of the leadership team, they managed to grow a cellular giant from a local to an international player in a matter of years and dealt with a potential customerbase of 500 million in Africa alone.

"I would like Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to have global appeal and attract some of the best academics and students across the world."

One of her main goals for the university is to put



**STAFF GALORE ...** Group Dynamics again boasted a number of colleagues from different departments putting in the many hours after work to graduate this year. Joining programme manager **Prof Frans Bezuidenhout** (centre) are from left Graduate Placement's **Ronel Rizzo**, Master's graduate Extended Studies' **Alexis Pillay**, ICT Services' **Wendy Cameron**; Cooperate Education former colleague **Anelisa Ngcana**, Sociology and Anthropology's **Clint Allie** and Faculty Administration's **Ren Vosloo**.

NMMU on track to become a leader in science and technology in the southern hemisphere.

Executive management is equally pleased with her appointment, knowing full well that Ms Botha's connections, insight and enthusiasm will greatly benefit NMMU.

"Santie's exposure as a corporate leader in a highly cosmopolitan, globally-linked and multicultural industry will be invaluable to NMMU's own strategic interests going forward," says Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

**Shuttleworth inspiration**  
**SA ASTRONAUT** Mark Shuttleworth who could not attend Graduation to receive his honorary doctorate because he was in Russia attending celebrations for Yuri Gagarin's first space journey, said to graduates: "Your future success depends ... on your future willingness to break new ground and to learn as much, and as quickly, as you have here, but without the benefit of textbooks and teachers."

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GRADUATION and accompanying honorary doctors, the chancellor and staff and students in gowns bring back that old-world feeling of a true university.

And we should indeed celebrate graduation because behind the scenes for many a lecturer, student and even colleagues who also study there are numerous sacrifices for that qualification.

In this edition we focus not so much on the statistics but more on the stories behind our core business, namely research and



# Celebrating success

teaching. In addition we bring you a feature on honorary doctorate recipient Sir David Attenborough who ensured wonderful media coverage and an overwhelming public support for his lecture.

Going green is our theme behind the value "respect for the natural environment" in May and June so please do your bit for planet earth,

saving electricity and water and recycling where you can.

We also cover the annual big sport events for staff such as Ironman where two of our colleagues have excelled in reaching third place in their age group, Two Oceans, the Argus and the Cape Epic.

Please send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker

## EDS needs to be staff-driven and HR-enabled 'Our full support'

**VICE-CHANCELLOR Prof Derrick Swartz (below) emphasised the importance of buy-in from all staff into the Excellence Development System (EDS) to assess staff performance and its link to staff development and reward strategies, as well as broader institutional goals.**



Through interactions with the Human Resources Department the vast majority of staff accepted the need for a performance system however complex it might be, Prof Swartz shared in a communiqué with staff early in May.

To be efficient EDS has to be simple and clear, sufficient training and support are needed to all levels of staff; and its implementation needs to be properly monitored and evaluated. All this needs to be done by the HR Department.

"But it is also crucial for EDS to be staff-driven and HR-enabled. For EDS to work, it must enjoy full and committed support by all of us.

"EDS is a collective responsibility for the simple reason that no-one other than colleagues in a direct working relationship can assess performance. EDS, by its nature, is a participatory and collective process, and is inherently built on trust, transparency and fairness, Prof Swartz said.

### For staff EDS will:

- ▶ provide a practical way to align personal development goals and performance with institutional objectives;
- ▶ create a structured way of communicating your personal development with your manager;
- ▶ enable an objective way of ensuring employee recognition, reward and developmental support. Managerial and supervisory staff have to ensure a fair, consistent and transparent implementation. They have been informed about the process over

the past two years and HR will continue to provide on-line and face-to-face support and assistance to managers and employees.

An EDS Audit and Moderation Task team has also been convened, auditing and moderating both 2010 and 2011 performance contracts and their implementation, including a survey of employee experience on EDS thus far.

Prof Swartz appealed to staff to be available for support and training and to get to know EDS and its application. Managers have received guidelines and

have to communicate regularly about EDS.

"I look forward to your commitment to and full participation in this very important venture and would like to extend my sincerest gratitude for all who have made this possible," he said.

## EDS task team

**THE Audit and Moderation Task Team ensuring that objectives, ratings, assessments and evidence have been fairly rated are Human Resources' Brett Botha and Leo Doria, Statistical Consultation Unit's Danie Venter, Human Resource Managements' Drs Amanda Werner and Michelle Mey and Strategic Planning and Information Analysis's Prof Heather Nel.**

**The audits should be completed on both 2010 and 2011 contracts by July this year.**

**In the end a "Lessons Learnt" survey will be conducted to be used for training, education and improving the system.**

**Staff members who need more information about the EDS system can contact Leo Doria or Brett Botha by e-mail.**

## Briefs

### Biennial winner

STUDIO Arts' **Ethna Frankenfeld** (below) is the winner of the 2010 Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum Biennial Exhibition and Award.

First local winner, printmaker

Ethna's work deals with gender and power relations in modern and colonial society. For her Award exhibition, Ethna plans to draw on images from the Art Museum's collection of historical paintings and sketches of 18th and 19th century South Africa. Ethna's work was selected from the seven finalists of whom three others are also alumni of the School of Media, Art and Design namely Meshack Masuku, Lisa Walker and Gerhardt Coetzee. Ethna's winning exhibition will be on view at the Art Museum in March 2012.



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### Cricket chair

SPORT Director **Dr Richard Stretch** is the Chairperson of the Cricket Chapter of the World Commission of Sport Science for his fourth term. Dr Stretch also presented two keynote addresses on batting and safety equipment in cricket at the successful fourth World Congress of Science and Medicine in Cricket held in Chandigarh, India recently.

### Video-editing stars

JOURNALISM, Media and Philosophy's **Francois du Plessis** and **Hann Koster** have both qualified as international accredited Apple Final Cut Pro 7 lecturers. They both scored 93% at the week-long course on professional video-editing software and can share the latest information and fastest skills to students.

# Ugandan graduate completes PhD in 2 years Science miracle

**PHD GRADUATE** and Uganda's Makerere University academic **Winston Ireta** worked day and night on his thesis to finish his studies under two years.

He was also a resident student assistant and helped in the Govan Mbeki Maths Programme assisting grade 11 and 12 students.

Winston arrived at NMMU at the beginning of January in 2009 and submitted his PhD thesis in Physics at the end of November 2010.

He says he's never had such a good promoter in his study life as Dean of Science **Prof Andrew Leitch** who was "like a parent who has supported and guided" him to this point of his achievement.

He decided to study at NMMU after hearing a



**SPEEDY PHD ...** International Ugandan PhD graduate and Makerere University academic **Dr Winston Ireta** who finished his PhD in less than two years.

presentation by Physics' **Prof Ernest van Dyk** who visited Makerere University in 2008.

Winston's study investigated aerial optical fibres in telecommunication systems, monitoring and tolerance. "Optical fibres have become the major means of transport of information from one place to another and I wanted to be one of the researchers in this area which is embraced worldwide," he said.

Dr Ireta is very proud of the fact that his PhD certificate has the name "Nelson Mandela" on it and views this certificate as his life document.

After two years in South Africa

Winston has now returned to his wife, Doreen, and his son and would like to start a research group in Fibre Optics at Makerere University.



**TRENDSETTER ...** BTech Textile Design graduate **Laduma Ngxokolo** wears one of his creations for his graduation. Laduma, who was the 2010 winner of the London's Society of Dyer's and Colourists award, was also invited to the International Design Indaba conference in Cape Town earlier this year and recently to Milan Design Week, where he stunned audiences with his culturally inspired Xhosa knitwear. Laduma's upcoming projects include exhibiting a collection at this year's SA Fashion Week in Johannesburg and sending knitwear to Paris to be sold at Heartwear, a store which showcases a unique mix of African designs.



**SKY'S THE LIMIT...** BMus graduate **Marga Butterworth** has never let her deafness stand in her way.

## Near deafness no hurdle for songbird

**SHE fought for and achieved the ability to speak; then she took it a step further: Marga Butterworth learned to sing, and this year, the ambitious 22-year-old graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in music.**

Just before her third birthday, doctors declared Marga almost completely deaf, with only 15 per cent hearing in her left ear and no hearing in her right ear

With the help of a hearing aid

she started singing. Marga sings soprano, reaching high notes that theoretically should be impossible for her to reach.

"If you look at my audiogram (a graph depicting her hearing), I'm not supposed to be able to hear the notes I'm singing, but I can! It's an unexplained mystery."

She is currently completing her master's degree in musicology and expanding her new business,

Drumkidz. This is a music development programme which goes from school to school and uses drumming to tell stories, sing songs and play games targeting children between the ages of three and eight.

"It is wonderful to spread joy to others, especially children and to serve as an inspiration to others," says Marga, who believes she is proof that you don't have to be held back by your circumstances.



**HONORARY DOCTORATES ...** World-acclaimed scientist and cinematographer **Sir David Attenborough** (from left), President of the Supreme Court of Appeal Judge **Lex Mpati**, businesswoman and social-minded entrepreneur **Tembeka Nkamba-Van Wyk** and for his contribution to the accounting profession and governance practices **Prof Suresh Kana**, celebrate with (back) Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, new chancellor **Santie Botha** and Council Chairperson Judge **Ronnie Pillay**. Internet whiz-kid and afonaut **Mark Shuttleworth** could not attend the ceremony and former Dean of Education the late Professor **Wally Morrow** was posthumously awarded an honorary Doctorate in Education.



**MATHS WHIZZ ...** Pretoria-based IT programmer **Laurie Butgereit** recently improved her MXit tutoring service, **Dr Math**, through her master's studies at NMMU. Today, 19 000 children from various provinces are registered on their server, which last year made use of 30 volunteer tutors – from South Africa, the United States and Europe – for its online tutoring services. Photo: Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research.

# Teacher, researcher and inspiration to students and colleagues NMMU's first double doc

**TYPICAL of his personality Computing Science's Prof Andr Calitz has not chosen a blue sky research project for his DBA but an educational topic, promoting ICT as study field and career.**

His thesis unpacked the alignment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Education with Business ICT Skills requirements, and focused on how education can address the ICT business skills shortage in South Africa.

He believes that his research which took two-and-a-half years to complete, is of utmost importance both in SA and globally, as the ICT skills shortage is of international concern.

"Students, parents and teachers are unaware of the magnitude of ICT career opportunities available in the ICT industry. The industry requires more qualified graduates," says Prof Calitz.

He completed his first doctorate, a PhD in Computer Science and Information Systems, in 1997.

His next challenge:

getting the Minister of Higher Education and Training to acknowledge the ICT skills shortage and to change the computer subsidy levels to universities.

*I love my work, learning new technologies and working with intelligent people and seeing them achieve*

The single father of Martin (20) and Michael (17) said one of his biggest challenges of completing the qualification was finding a balance between parenting, working and conducting research.

"I've been a single parent for eight years, and yes, I cook, buy groceries and do homework, and then late at night I work and study," he says, adding that he'd since met a "lovely woman who supports me and loves my boys".

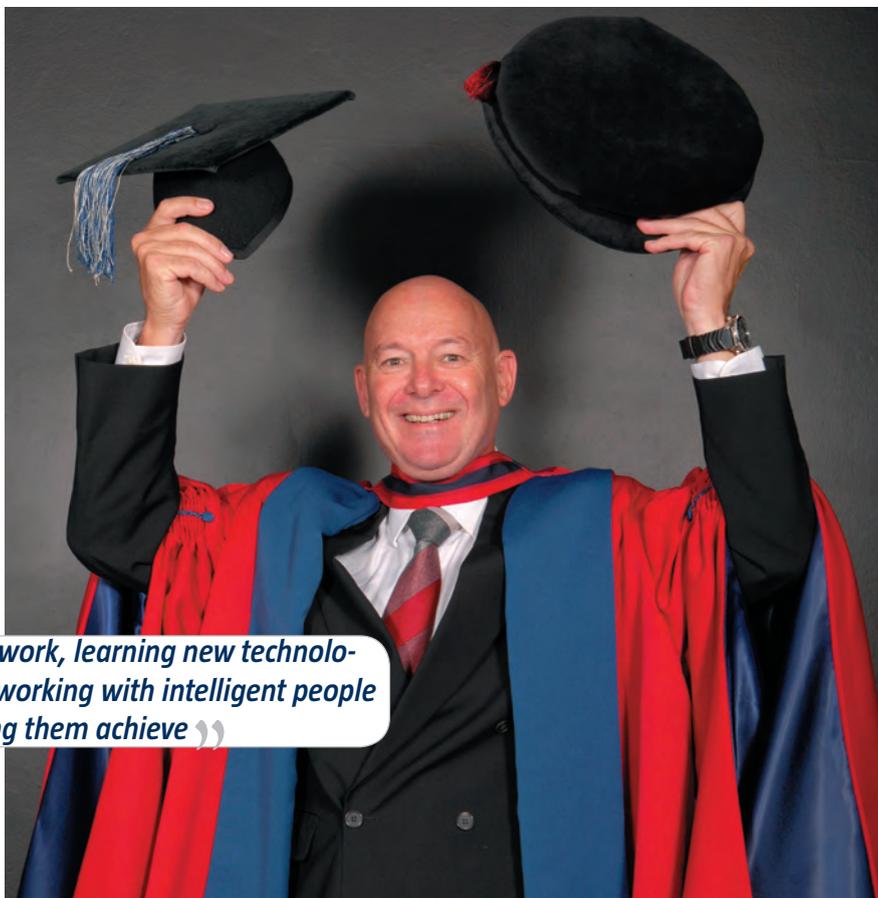
Yet to the outsider it seems that André has coped very well.

This former pilot still holds his pilot license and hires planes at the flying club when he feels like taking a trip through the clouds. He started studying computer science because he believed that one needs a formal qualification and backup if you're a pilot. And he stayed and continued studying.

André's students also never do "boring" nerdy computer stuff. "My first student project was creating a database for recording the tagging of penguins on St Croix Island. I loved it, because we had to visit the island regularly. I assisted in a project visualising the movement data of Rag-gie sharks (tagged by transponders) in the bay", he said.

Other projects involved virtual campus and shopping centre tours which have now moved on into a second life.

Another nice topic in sync with one of André's



*INSPIRATION TO ALL ... "People are what make this university tick", Computing Sciences Prof Andr Calitz says who never has a dull moment filling his days with academia, teaching, research and endless hobbies.*

hobbies was the development of a wine recommender system.

The latest are mobile applications and research on sustainability reporting for SMEs.

When asked why with his personality and skills, he has not left academia long ago for the private sector for much more money, he says: "I love my work, learning new technologies and working with intelligent people and seeing them achieve. I have helped students achieve distinctions by motivating them. I would have gone to industry, but my kids were number one in my life. Being a single parent and leaving them was not an option".

About what the university can do for academics and the other way round, he says: "I believe in academic freedom and my latest passion is to motivate people to publish in all faculties. For example the MBA and DBA students who I'm working with must be motivated to publish their research. It would be great if the university can reduce the administrative workload of academics."

André was Chairperson of the Staff Association from 1999 to 2008 and still forms part of the committee. He loved the functions in the Feather Market Centre and the support from staff. "People are what make this university tick", he says.

He also served on the UPE and NMMU Councils from 1999 to 2007 as an academic representative.

Another doctorate? "After Comrades athletes say never again, but maybe rather a new hobby," says the man who already has a lot on his plate.

His motto in life? "Lifelong learning and sometimes just do it, you can always ask for forgiveness".

His role models include a number of people including his academic colleagues.

On top of it all André seem to have endless energy for hobbies after hours. He belongs to Toastmasters where he won the SA International speaking competition, is a member of the Pinmac Wine club, does ballroom dancing, has started photography and yes he has eight motorbikes, of which two are superbikes.

My latest one a 1000cc Suzuki GSX can do 300+km/h "and she can do it - ask me," he says.

Over weekends André can often be seen with his beloved Dalmatians. He has had six in total, currently Ananzi and Delphi form part of the family.

# Stories of hope, innovation, firsts and joy Success, hardship and celebration

Graduation also brings many stories about successes and hardship, long hours of study and celebrations afterwards. **talk@nmmu** shares a few with you:

- ▶ Economics' lecturer **Noluntu Dyubhele** (right) became the first Xhosa woman to graduate with a doctorate in Economics. Noluntu is also the main author of the Text book **Isigama Sezoqoqosho: Economic terms made simple** and President of netball in Nelson Mandela Bay. This widowed mother of three has received numerous sport awards such as service excellence, awards for excellence in netball from the mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay and MEC of sport in the Eastern Cape in 2008 and 2009.
- ▶ Faculty Admin manager **Ren Vosloo** had reason to smile. Both she and her daughter Chrislie received their honours degrees at this year's graduation. René studied Group Dynamics and says Accounting student Chrislie, was a great form of



moral support. Rene, who last studied in 1980, has been working at NMMU for the past 19 years.

- ▶ Award-winning fashion design graduate Simpiwe Gwebusha wants to build the businesses of women in the local Jansenville dressmaking community. Simpiwe developed innovative three-in-one fashions for his final year studies, which are unique to South Africa, and have already turned heads in the Bay. While he would like to expand his range and see it in boutiques both here and abroad, his immediate focus is his project in Jansenville.

Wouter Hensens' thesis titled: "Hotel rating through guest feedback" has earned him a PhD in Business Management. His research identifies the nature of the customer-review website TripAdvisor, the largest guest feedback platform for hotels. It focuses on its reliability, how its ratings compare with conventional ratings, and what criteria are used in guest reviews when assessing the quality of a hotel.



**WORKING AWAY ...** Behind the scenes of graduation and the gowns are examination staff putting in long hours (from left) **Nolundi Fumba, Cynthia Hustler, Chantal van Heerden** and **Petro Kritzinger**. It is because of high levels of commitment by various support structures at NMMU that graduation does go so well. From Horticultural Services through to the exams office team, the overall result elicited a string of compliments. New Chancellor Santie Botha only had high praise for all those involved, while graduation photographer Derek Nel cited NMMU as his "favourite place". "You guys work so well together. It's like a family here."



**EIGHT GRADUATES ...** Of the 57 staff members graduating this year, eight belong to the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration. Department head **Prof George de Lange** (centre back) is joined by (from left) **Amy Butler, Ronel Rizzo, Tracey Dissel, Noxolo Gqirana, Sedayne Jansen, Nicole Baartman, Sibulele Mkosana** and **Anelisa Ngcana**.

## Graduation 2011

Congratulations to all our staff who have received degrees, diplomas and certificates this year.

- ▶ **DBA:** Prof Andr Calitz, Ann Lourens
- ▶ **DCom:** Economics **Noluntu Dyubhele, Ronney Ncwadi**
- ▶ **DTech:** HR Management **Osmond Ngalo**
- ▶ **DEd:** **Issa Badenhorst, Chris Dali**
- ▶ **PhD:** Education **Pam Austin, Les Meiring**
- ▶ Pharmacy **Gareth Kilian**
- ▶ Nursing Science **Portia Jordan**
- ▶ Mathematics **Pragashni Padayachee**
- ▶ Botany **Anusha Rajkaran**
- ▶ Business Management **Chantal Rootman**
- ▶ IT **Johan van Niekerk,**
- ▶ **MA:** Health and Welfare **Linda Dalton**
- ▶ Anthropology **Stephanie Gouws (cum laude), Barbara Kritzinger (cum laude)**
- ▶ Group Dynamics **Alexis Pillay (cum laude)**
- ▶ **MBA:** **Andre Louw**
- ▶ **MCom:** Business Management **Francine du Plessis (cum laude)**
- ▶ Economics **Greig Menzies**
- ▶ **MSc:** Built Environment **Wayne Draai**
- ▶ Forestry (Wood Science) – Stellenbosch **Richard Muller**
- ▶ Computer Science **Christiaan Pretorius**
- ▶ **MTech:** Mechanical Engineering **Shaun Pretorius**
- ▶ **BA Hons:** Group Dynamics **Clint Allie, Wendy Cameron, Anelisa Ngcana, Fundiswa Qangule, Ronel Rizzo, Gary Stevens, Ren Vosloo**
- ▶ Psychology **Dr Logamurthie Athiemoolam, Francisco de Vega**
- ▶ Applied Languages **Roslyn Baatjies, Carol Christie**
- ▶ **BCom Hons:** Business Management **Garth Manthe**
- ▶ Marketing Management **Andrew Marriott**
- ▶ Industrial & Org Psychology **Kirsten Warneke**
- ▶ **BSc Hons:** Computer Science **Clayton Burger (cum laude)**
- ▶ **BCom:** Financial Planning **Bomikazi Zeka**
- ▶ **BTech:** Fashion Design **Marietjie Sharp**
- ▶ PR Management **Nicole Baartman, Amy Butler, Nadine Marupen, Monalisa Ndwayana, Eunice Nortje, Suzanne Vermeulen**
- ▶ **Diploma:** Nursing Education **Karin Gerber**
- ▶ **NDip:** **Sedayne Jansen, HR Management Tamzon Pyne, Stacy-Lee Warren**
- ▶ Information Technology **Thabo Gongxeka**
- ▶ Internal Auditing **Banele Ngoza**
- ▶ Journalism **Lisa-Jo Lai Wing**
- ▶ Logistics Management **Tracey Dissel**
- ▶ Management **Ronel Hiles, Cindy Serfontein**
- ▶ Software Development **Rolihlahla Pityana**
- ▶ **Postgraduate Diploma:** Financial Planning **Tony Matchaba-Hove**
- ▶ **Postgraduate Certificate:** Archival Studies (UNISA) **Megan Louis**
- ▶ Higher Education **Prof Reinhardt A Botha**

# Music, dance and film variety

OUR Arts and Culture Department has treated audiences to a host of cultural experiences including the staff variety concert to a packed auditorium boasting the new NMMU staff choir, a dance show with an international dancer and an acclaimed film.

## ► Moving Africa

A LUNCHTIME audience at the Goldfields Auditorium was treated to an international dancer forming part of a dance sequence painting a picture about life and its challenges. The Moving Africa production on 22 March hosted by Arts and Culture and the School of Music, Art and Design showed the First People Dance Troupe united with the Bethesda Arts Centre and Berlin state ballet guest dancer, Constanze Karl-Ruchert in action. The unique form of dance incorporating ballet into contemporary dance illustrated Africa, Conflict and Reconciliation, The Soul Bird and Faces of Love.

## ► National Film Tour

DEVELOPMENT Studies students from all campuses were part of the audience watching the film: **Have you heard from Johannesburg?**, showcased by the National Film Tour. The broadcast on 31 March in the South Campus Auditorium during lunch hour was hosted by Arts and Culture in collaboration with CANRAD and the Department of Development Studies. The 60 minute documentary showcased the USA's divestment campaign that assisted in the termination of Apartheid whereby students and citizens of America took on university management and large corporations with sit-in protests to divest from South Africa. This film shows how SA leaders of the Boycott-divestment such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke at events in the USA.



WINNERS ...The 'Umngungqu Wakwantu' dance group lead by Raymond Mhlaba Institute of Public Administration and Leadership's **Ndileka Jacobs** was the winner of the Staff Variety Concert. The second place at the concert in the South Campus Auditorium on 7 April went to Music's **John Edwards** who performed a classical piece on piano and the third place to the NMMU staff choir. This second Staff Variety Concert organised by Arts and Culture together with Marketing and Corporate Relations had people sitting on all the seats including on the steps applauding the shows and set the stage for future events.



## First staff choir

HOME GROWN... Our own NMMU staff choir had the audience roaring in applause with their first appearance at the lunch time Staff Variety Concert. The choir, which according to Arts and Culture Head **Michael Barry** is the first tertiary education institution staff choir in the country, sang "Plea for Africa" and a traditional Xhosa song "Jabula Moya Wam". Conducted by alumnus Bulelani Koyo, the choir consists of 88 staff members from a wide variety of departments from technical services to lecturers. "The choir has set a standard for fellow tertiary institutions to follow," Michael said.



AWARENESS ... First-year Fine Art students created an awareness poster for the Cerebral Palsy Association (Eastern Cape), supporting the association and opening their own eyes to the cause. Students James Davies and Alisha Gathercole (centre) are joined by lecturers **Jonathan Hansford** (left) and **Thys Cilliers** (back) and the Association's Sensitisation head Shane Clark (far right).

## Creativity for a cause

FIRST-YEAR Fine Art students linked their studies with a worthy cause by creating an awareness poster for The Cerebral Palsy Association (Eastern Cape) which they exhibited at the National Cerebral Palsy Conference at the Summerstrand Hotel from 9 to 11 May.

The students had to interpret information on cerebral palsy and how it affects people after a presentation on the topic, linking it to any art medium for the poster and came up with creative, thought-provoking slogans and designs.

Head of the sensitization programme at the Association, Shane Clark, said: "It was amazing to see what the students came up with and how they all brought

across their message differently. It was also wonderful to see how they had all grasped and understood the message we had shared. This was evident in all the work."

"We are pleased with the results, the students took the project very seriously, and although they are just first years with just a few months of training - it looks good. I think the talk was the key as it really opened their eyes and made them think," says lecturer **Thys Cilliers**.

The Fine Art Department has shown support to the Cerebral Palsy Association since last year.

The students artwork will also be exhibited at the Cerebral Palsy Awareness week in August at the EPSAC Art Gallery.

# Cambodian adventure

**“MOST of all I was impressed by the Cambodian people who are most polite and gentle, the smile they give you is one we in South Africa save only for a very special occasion”, Mathematics’ Prof Halina France-Jackson says.**

Prof France-Jackson recently spent three weeks in Cambodia, where she presented a lecture on ‘Alpha-like radicals’ at the 4th International Conference on Science and Mathematics Education in Developing Countries in Phnom Penh.

The conference focused on the necessity of science and mathematics education in a developing country and shared common experiences. Later these findings were shared with the Minister of Education.

She also lectured algebra at Khmerak University and promoted her research to staff and students.

Prof France Jackson has conse-

quently been invited to participate this year in the Asia-Pacific Mathematical Academic Seminar in China and the South East Asian Mathematical Society Conference in Indonesia

Interesting facts:

- ▶ Cambodian students approach abstract algebra with enthusiasm, creativity and professionalism.
- ▶ The Khmer language has the largest alphabet which consists of 33 consonants, 23 vowels and 12 independent vowels, but Prof Jackson learnt a few words which the students appreciated.
- ▶ Cambodia is studded with outstandingly beautiful temples dating from the 6th to the 15th centuries.
- ▶ Khmer cuisine is like Thai food, but less spicy, with excellent breads and cakes and the best ever green tea ice cream. Amok, a fish curry steamed in banana leaves, is Cambodia’s national dish.



*BIG ROOTS ... Mathematics’ Prof Halina France-Jackson admires the roots of the banyan and kapok trees at the Ta Phrom temple during her visit to Cambodia.*

## Celebrating Chemistry

**A “CHEMISTRY Spectacular Show”, a quiz, public lectures as well as a competition on “The Ten Most Important Molecules” are in the bag for learners and students this year celebrating the International Year of Chemistry.**

“Chemistry plays a very important role in our everyday living and without it we would not have many of the essentials we are accustomed to: medicines and life-saving drugs, safe drinking water, fridges, soaps, fertilizers, metals and steel, pool chemicals, nylon, plastic bags, rubber tyres, paint and the chemical industry, to name just a few,” says NMMU’s International Year of Chemistry coordinator at NMMU **Prof Peter Loyson**.

A blog has also been set up at <http://nm->

[muchemistry.blogspot.com](http://muchemistry.blogspot.com) which contains interesting information about chemistry.

It’s also the centenary of physicist-chemist Marie Curie receiving her second Nobel Prize for chemistry, the first was for physics.

The first public lecture on Chemistry in Ancient Egypt by Prof Loyson took place on 31 March followed by “A world of polymers” by Chemistry’s **Fanus Gerber** on 18 April while **Dr Nicole Vorster** will address Cosmetics and chemistry on 26 May from 17.30 – 19.00 in the Goldfields Auditorium on North Campus.

During the second semester public lectures on vehicle batteries and fuel cells, swimming pool chemistry and water purification, chemistry and climate change and Marie Curie will be hosted.



*MSC CHEMISTRY student Khwezi Mkentane attended a course on Human Hair / Cosmetic Interactions: Fundamentals and Methodology in the USA in April. The course covered new knowledge on how cosmetic products interact with human hair which is important for her research. She works on the development of a formulation to facilitate the process of removing three-way synthetic braids from ethnic hair.*



**SPEAKERS ...** The Computing Sciences Department recently hosted their first symposium for industry. Colleagues and industry representatives including Robert Stewart (Aculocity), Marco Pretorius (Western Cape Government), **Prof Janet Wesson**, Andre Witte (Open Box), **Brenda Scholtz**, **Prof Andr Calitz** and Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling** addressed delegates. A second symposium is planned for later this year. The department also hosted a Meet & Greet evening with 185 students’ parents attending as well as Career Day visited by 300 learners. Robert, an alumnus and former staff member, flew in from Chicago and presented a number of talks at all the events.

# Boost for info health system

**HEALTH Information Systems research received a boost with the appointment of Eastern Finland University's Prof Mikko Korpela as honorary professor in the Institute for ICT Advancement. Prof Korpela is a postdoctoral researcher with the Healthcare Information Systems Research and Development Unit (HIS R&D Unit) at Eastern Finland's School of Computing.**

Prof Korpela has been collaborating with our Institute for ICT Advancement through the Health Informatics Research Group (HIRG) since 2007 and has played a central role in fostering part-

nerships between this research group and South African, African and European Universities as well as industry and government stakeholders. Prof Korpela is also part of the group of researchers from NMMU, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and Pretoria University working on developing custom socio-technical methods for software design and development for the local software industry. Moreover, he is the co-promoter of two NMMU PhD students working on the Socio-Tech SA project, with School of ICT Director **Prof Dalenca Pottas** as leader.



*HONORARY PROFESSOR ... Dean of Engineering, the Built Environment and IT **Prof Henk de Jager** (centre) and School of ICT Director **Prof Dalenca Pottas** welcome honorary professor Prof Mikko Korpela of Eastern Finland University.*



*INTERNET ... The Zambia Macha people have access to ICT and Internet through technology installed in sea containers connected to a satellite dish. A wireless network then distributes the Internet to the rural community. School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** is investigating a similar project for South Africa.*

## Internet access in rural Zambia

**INTERNET connectivity can indeed be achieved in rural areas. Once a community embraces the use of technology to solve every day issues, the opportunities are endless.**

These are the findings of a truly inspiring visit to Macha, an isolated rural community in Zambia, by School of ICT's Prof **Darelle van Greunen**, leader of the User Experience research group.

Prof Van Greunen spent a week visiting the successful Netherlands-based community-owned Macha Works project, inspiring talented youngsters to use technology to solve everyday issues.

The project also creates opportunities for talented locals to be of value to their own community and not migrate to cities for a better future where in many cases

they don't succeed.

Macha is 380 km by car from the capital Lusaka. With a tropical climate and a rainy season lasting five months of the year, there are several power cuts per day and only a few people have access to electricity.

The people, however, understand technology is the key to a better future. They can not only further their studies but it also introduces a world beyond the rural community to them.

Most importantly, it encourages the community to create new and unique ways of generating money.

Prof Van Greunen is investigating the success of the project and is working with Macha Works to identify a suitable area in South Africa for a similar project.

## Innovation for industry

**WHAT STARTED off as the dream of one person has now mushroomed into a fully-fledged engineering innovation unit at NMMU called eNtsa consisting of 23 engineers, academic and professional staff members.**

eNtsa meaning 'new' in Xhosa focuses on innovation through engineering and originated from the Automotive Components Technology Station (ACTS) with **Prof Danie Hattingh** as director and Engineering, the Built Environment and IT Faculty Executive Dean **Prof Henk de Jager** as the first board chairperson.

The unit actively transfers research results into technology solutions for the direct benefit of industry.

ACTS was also rated the best technology station twice by an independent auditor and classed as 'world class' according to a benchmark exercise and has over the past nine years delivered multi million rand projects to the power generation and transport industry.

Due to the expertise, knowledge and infrastructure available within the unit, and at NMMU, the unit is now capable of taking on a variety of engineering related projects including supplier development, technology transfer, research and development for commercialisation and large scale engineering projects with a number of commercial projects in the pipeline.

The drive is supplier development, developing and supporting SMMEs, not losing focus on the automotive sector but expanding it to include broader engineering manufacturing industries.

The team combines their specialised skills in design, automation and manufacturing with their friction processing research to test new boundaries in platform, process development and technology transfer relating to friction processing solutions for industry.

In 2010 they won the National Innovation Competition's first prize for their friction processing technique, trademarked as WeldCore, which has led to the development of a spin-off company known as Mantacor.

Friction processing produce a high quality joint or repair, processed in the solid state below the melting point of the material.

These processes are of major interest for applications where the original material characteristics are required to remain unchanged as far as possible.

# First MSc graduate

**SIX MASTERS degrees, including the first MSc, formed part of the 73 degrees conferred at the George Campus graduation on 8 April where 131 national diplomas were also awarded.**

First MSc graduate Fiona Koch was supervised by Natural Resource Management's **Dr Jaap Steenkamp** with Botany's **Prof Eileen Campbell** as co-supervisor. Dr Steenkamp also supervised the work of MTech Forestry graduate, John Eggers.

The other four MTech degrees were awarded in Agriculture and Nature Conservation.

Other interesting facts are that:

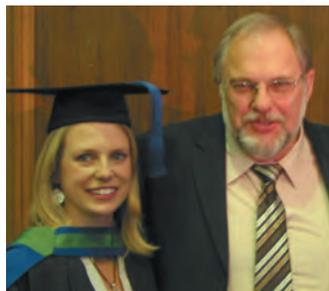
- ▶ George Campus for the second year nabbed the prestigious Schlich Forestry medal in gold with top third-year Forestry student Nonkululeko Ntinga as winner. She had



**WINNER ...** Top third-year Forestry student Nonkululeko Ntinga won the prestigious Schlich Forestry medal and is congratulated by Natural Resource Management School Director **Prof Jos Louw**.

to maintain an average of at least 80% throughout all three years of her studies in Forestry. Last year's winner Muedanyi Ramantswana, continued and received his BTech-degree this year with distinction.

- ▶ The dissertations of the six Masters' students bear testimony to the symbiotic relationship which exists between the university and industry. These topics included certification and conservation value of species diversity, managing giraffe, monitoring exploited coastal fish, performance testing of rams and sale price, canola yield response, and comparing debarking technologies.
- ▶ The Forestry Programme accounted for about one third of all graduates, with one MTech, 20 BTechs and 39 National Diplomas.



**FIRST MSc ...** The first MSc degree at George Campus graduation has been awarded to Fiona Koch (left) supervised by Natural Resource Management's **Dr Jaap Steenkamp**.



*GOING GREEN ... The School of Natural Resource Management had a "green" float in tune with the need for sustainable environmental practice to ensure the preservation of our Planet for future during the George 200 celebrations.*

## George 200 – joining town celebrations

**NMMU's two floats and its trolley dash showed our values clearly while staff and some 130 student joined festivities at the George 200 year celebrations.**

Sustainable business practice and commitment to world-class standards was the main theme of the Business and Social Sciences School's float.

With weeks of planning and hard work the campus joined the George 200 street procession on 16 April.

"I am overjoyed at the level of participation, innovation and re-

sponsible behaviour displayed by our students on Saturday and throughout the preparations for the project", Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** said. "The history of NMMU George is firmly intertwined with that of George."

Nine NMMU George student societies, under the auspices of the Student Council members, were responsible for the trolley race, with trolleys decorated to depict any one of NMMU's six values – responsibility, integrity, *ubuntu*, excellence, respect for diversity and the environment.

## News in brief

### Hosting Business Chamber:

- ▶ MORE than 130 guests attended the monthly networking session of the George Business Chamber at our campus. Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** shared the growth of the George campus and called for a strategic alliance or coalition between civil society, schools, academic institutions and the business community around a vision for the southern Cape of Education-driven Development. "If everyone worked

together, Southern Cape could become the centre in Africa for quality education. The region is ideally positioned to achieve this", he said.

### New associate professors:

- ▶ NATURAL Resource Management School Director **Dr Joshua Louw** and Nature Conservation and Game Ranch Management Programme Principal Lecturer **Dr Laurence Watson** have both been promoted to associate professor.

### New talent:

- ▶ **ARTHUR Peters** (below) from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology has been appointed as Lecturer: Business Manage-



ment. Arthur completed a MBA degree at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia and is also busy with a Master of International Business degree. He is a recipient of the Nelson Mandela-

Australia scholarship and serves on various professional committees, amongst others as National Committee Member for SAAF – the Student Accounts Association of Universities.

- ▶ **Greig Menzies** (right)

has been appointed as a lecturer for the BCom Economics programme and holds an honours in Economics from Rhodes University and will also receive his MCom in from NMMU in April.



# Legendary producer attracted over 2 000 people to public lecture EC connections and heroes

**THE honour bestowed by a university is the best of all since it does not succumb to external pressures.**

So says Sir David Attenborough, the man who engineered the successful marriage of science and entertainment and is as fascinated as ever about our natural world. He highlighted the importance of universities as bastions against the realities of commercial and political pressures.

"That's why the award from a university, such as this one, is so important to me.

Sir David's visit to Port Elizabeth is particularly poignant as he came in memory of his long-time friend, Patrick Niven, who had regaled him with stories of the animals of the Eastern Cape during their time at university in Cambridge in the mid-1940s.

"I would love to hear Patrick's stories and always hoped to come here," he said in his public lecture.

The late Patrick, whose family still live in the Sundays River Valley, is the grandson of Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, who wrote *Jock of the Bushveld*. Patrick's wife, Marina,

**Celebrated natural scientist Sir David Attenborough, 84, received an honorary doctorate at our April graduation but from his side also contributed immensely to NMMU with extensive media coverage and putting our name on the map for many of his fans. We share more about Sir David in line with our value respect for the natural environment. Marketing and Corporate Relations' Debbie Derry and Nicky Willemse gave their impressions of this well-known, yet humble man.**



**FAMOUS STORYTELLER ...** Honorary doctorate recipient Sir David Attenborough took PE and NMMU by storm and also addressed Science Faculty staff and post-graduate students in a packed Zoology lecture theater.

was in the audience which overflowed into five different NMMU venues viewing a live crossing, including one in George.

Sir David shared the story behind

his "childhood hero" Alfred Russell Wallace whom he described as important as his 19th-century contemporary Charles Darwin. The two had collaborated on the theory of evolution,

though Darwin had been accorded all the accolades.

Wallace had instead spent much of his time pursuing the then legendary birds of paradise found in the rain forests of Papua New Guinea and surrounding islands.

While there, and having contracted malaria he penned a theory about the origins of the species by natural selection. He sent it to fellow botanists in England, including Darwin, who was still working on a similar theory but had not yet published it.

When Darwin did eventually publish his theory of evolution, Wallace praised his colleague's theory for its insight and detail.

But in Sir David's view, Wallace deserved to stand right alongside him, not only as a scientist but as a philosopher and human being.

## A glimpse into Sir David's wild world

**While he wishes there were new lands still waiting to be explored, he has probably seen more of the earth's natural treasures and creatures than most of the intrepid explorers of old – and arguably any person living today.**

The deep connection he feels with the natural world shines through when Sir David recounts his earliest expeditions and most memorable experiences in the wild – and has cemented a belief that what human beings can learn about animals for their own sake is infinitely more important than what we can learn about ourselves through studying them.

His most memorable, he said, was in Madagascar last year, searching for the shy Indri lemur, a large black and white primate that he last saw after a long search in the 1950s, at a time when "not a single natural history shot" had ever been taken on the island.

Last year, he returned to the same Madagascar forest, now much reduced, where he met an

old Indri hunter, who had since had a change of heart and become a guide. He led Attenborough to one of these animals and handed him a tub of leaves. "I held out a leaf, and the Indri came out of the tree and gently took it from my hand. It made my heart bound. It was a moment I will cherish for the rest of my life."

He has a soft spot for primates. "They have a special quality. You can't look at a praying mantis and know what it feels. But if you look at a gorilla – exchange glances with a gorilla – that is very special."

Attenborough said he hoped that his many documentaries had given the viewing public an idea of the complexity of the natural world, "from below the ground to the top of the atmosphere", as well as an appreciation for its "glory".

He said 50 per cent of the world's population – according to United Nations estimates – was cut off from the natural world. "Some people don't see a wild creature from dawn till dusk, excluding

mice and pigeons. Yet, never, paradoxically, have we been able to have more knowledge (about the natural world)... I hope my programmes talk about conservation, and the problems with conservation, and also make people realise what a treasure the natural world is."

Asked whether he had ever found himself in a life-threatening situation, Attenborough replied that he had not. "My job is to eavesdrop on the natural world, to show it as it is – not as it is when it is angry... If an elephant puts its ears up and trumpets at you, it's clearly cross, and you'd be sensible to get out of its way."

Before Attenborough begins filming anywhere, he links up with local natural scientists, to glean their expertise and ask advice about the best places to film. "Never once have they said: 'You come, take the shots, leave and get all the glory!'" They are satisfied, he said, as long as "you're honest and prepared to be truthful".

- NW



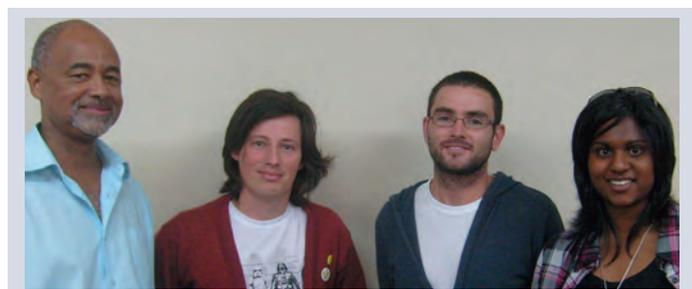
**WELL CONNECTED ...** International executive search firm director Anne Pratt (from left), magazine doyenne Jane Raphaely and eTV's Pat Pillai (right) join their friend, marketing whizz Santie Botha, at her inauguration as chancellor.



**CONTRIBUTION ...** Dean of Students and gala evening guest speaker **Thoft Soga** (left) was acknowledged for his contribution to The Association of Colleges, Universities Housing Officers – International - Southern African Chapter (ACUHO-I-SAC) at the recent seminar in March at NMMU. ACUHO-I-SAC Founding Member & Director Student Housing Tswane University of Technology (TUT) Eric Sebokedi joins him. The seminar celebrated the association's fifth birthday and worked on the development of best practises in food services and private accommodation as challenges to most institutions. Visiting institutions included Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Cape Peninsula, Western Cape, Rhodes, Tswane, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein and Walter Sisulu. Student life officer **Beverley Willemse** will accompany five student leaders living in our residences to an ACUHO-I-SAC Rezlife and Leadership Seminar hosted by TUT in Pretoria in July.



Co-operative Education Unit's **Johan Steyn** inspected the new main entrance ramp at Missionvale Campus. "Thank you for going the extra mile to consider the needs of our students and staff that are differently challenged and will be using these facilities in future," he said.



**FUTURE POETS ...** Language and Literature's **Dr Marius Crous** hosted a writing workshop for learners and students by much awarded Afrikaans poet Loftus Marais on South Campus recently. Eight learners from St Dominic's Priory under the leadership of their Afrikaans teacher MA student Dewald Koen participated as well as five students. The best poems were awarded with copies of Loftus Marais award-winning collection of poems **Staan in die algemeen nader aan vensters**. Student prize winner Charles Tait (second from left) and learner winner Kimita Ramulingum (far right) are congratulated by workshop presenter Loftus Marais (second from right) and Vincent Oliphant (left).



**21 DOCTORS ...**The Science Faculty had an all-time record with 21 doctorates conferred at this year's Graduation.



**STALWART ...** Senior faculty administration manager **Reinette Strydom** (left), who sang the national anthem at many a graduation attended her last graduation as she will be retiring later this year. She is joined by Marketing and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart**.

# Thuthuka makes a difference

**BCOM ACCOUNTING** honours student **Rolivhuwa Maluma** nearly missed out on his dream of pursuing a career in Accounting, because his maths marks were too poor. A year later he became the best Thuthuka first-year student.

Initially he had to settle for a straight BCom but his top class accounting marks in the Centre for Access Assessment and Research (CAAR) test impressed a sympathetic faculty officer and later that year he was accepted into the School of Accounting's Thuthuka programme based on his June results.

This year he graduated with a BCom Accounting degree.

Rolivhuwa is banking on a career in the financial sector, after completing his articles.

The Thuthuka Programme, through which he attained an Allan Gray Scholarship, covered all his expenses, the programme's daily study sessions have encouraged a disciplined approach, while his mentors have helped him to identify potential problems and nip



**SKY'S THE LIMIT ...** Thuthuka programme honours student **Rolivhuwa Maluma** who was initially not accepted, became the best first-year Thuthuka programme student with the help of the programme.

these in the bud.

"I failed just one test in the three years of my under-graduate studies. It was a learning curve for me." - **NW**



**MEETING EXCELLENCE ...** Top Accounting Thuthuka students during graduation met honorary doctor **Prof Suresh Kana**, a Trustee of the Thuthuka Bursary Fund and an ardent supporter of the Thuthuka programme. In front second-year students **Nteleko Khuselo** (from left) and **Sazikazi Mzileni**, third-year student **Birichka Smith** and honours student **Christopher Strydom** joins **Prof Kana** (centre). Thuthuka honours students also recently discussed on campus with **SAICA** (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants) their placement in sponsoring firms for their compulsory internship training after completing their academic programme this year. Earlier all 200 students in the Thuthuka programme attended the annual **Umbala** (colour) Day learning more about leadership styles, ethical leadership and sustainability reporting. SAICA's Thuthuka programme addresses the racial imbalance in the chartered accounting profession.

## Building a better SA – together

**YOU are guilty of a crime if the whistle blows and you do not respond to it.**

Or so Business School chairman and National Planning Commission member **Bridgette Gasas** agrees when it comes to those who do not respond to the call of becoming agents for societal change in South Africa.

**Bridgette** was addressing recipients of the short learning programme qualifications at the annual Business School graduation at South Campus auditorium earlier this month.

"I dare you to respond to the call," **Bridgette** said of the Xhosa saying, adding that the recipients needed to seek solutions to create a winning nation.

She told the packed auditorium where students received various certificates and diplomas that South Africa was still emerging from a divided past.



**THRILLED RECIPIENT ...** Top overall student **Heidi Vermaak** (right) who completed a **Management Development Diploma Programme** is congratulated by Executive Dean of Business and Economic Science **Prof Niekie Dorfling**.

"17 years into our democracy, the struggle still remains. South Africa is leading from behind as the most unequal society and so much work lies ahead."

**Bridgette** who is presently completing a doctorate in construction management at **NMMU**, urged the recipi-

ents to look beyond the benefits that their new-found knowledge for themselves and their companies, and help because their country needed them.

"In shaping South Africa you take the responsibility mentally in tackling the country's ills. You must work for the greater good of society."



**INSPIRATIONAL ...** **NMMU** Construction Management doctoral student and National Planning Commission member **Bridgette Gasas** challenged recipients of the Business School's short learning programme qualifications to be change agents for South Africa.

# People's participation in health



**OUR Community Development Unit (CDU) based at the Bird Street Campus succeeded in establishing and training 52 community health committees in the metro in just nine months.**

Community health committees operating at each clinic in the metro involve communities in the planning and provision of health services, promoting public accountability and encouraging communities to take responsibility for health.

The CDU trained the committees in understanding their roles and responsibilities, their legal operational framework and developing an action programme for their 12 months of tenure.

The project is the result of the CDU winning the tender from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, the first in line with new policy guidelines set by the Eastern Cape Provincial legislature in 2009 to establish community health committees – and people's participation in health.

Community organisations put forward their representatives to support the work of the clinics by promoting health and healthy lifestyles in their local communities.

It is only from within the community that early warning signs of diseases



**TRAINED COMMITTEE MEMBER ...** Community Health Committee member Joseph Blaauw from Chatty Clinic is one of a large number of trainees who received a certificate of completion for a course on Strengthening Community Health Committees presented by our Community Development Unit.

can be detected and further health problems prevented.

The CDU set up mobilisation teams of community members, health professionals and volunteers who elicited support from churches, youth structures, women's organisations, home-based care groups, traditional healers and NGOs.

The CDU team also established a coordinating committee of stakeholders namely the NMBM Public Health Directorate, the District Health Department, Councillors, the Constituency Office, NMMU and consultants.



**CLOSE SHAVE ...** Raising awareness with her shaven head CA honours student Natalie van Antwerpen contributed R20 000 to these needy children at Dora Nginza Hospital.

## Raising R20 000 with a hair shave

**CHARTERED Accounting honours student Natalie van Antwerpen managed to raise R20 000 for young cancer patients by shaving off her trademark long brown locks.**

"I lost close family members to cancer and wanted to bring the community together to support those who have lost loved ones to cancer", she said.

To create awareness she shaved off her long brown locks which she has always had, and raised R20 000 in one month on top of her busy schedule.

The hair she donated to Locks of Love, for a wig for a cancer patient.

Natalie wanted her donation to be given to CHOC, a countrywide voluntary organisation that brings together parents and children who suffer from cancer or life-threatening blood disorders.

She worked together with KICK's (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) Dare to Care campaign and requested a needs list from CHOC PE.

Natalie and her friends then handed over the goods at Dora Nginza Hospital where CHOC works mostly with children between 2 and 16 years old from disadvantaged and poor backgrounds.



**ENHANCING COMPUTER SKILLS ...** Our Office for International Education recently donated a computer to one of its community projects, Masifunde at the Xolelani Youth Centre in the Walmer Township as part of our continued support. The computer will assist the multimedia centre to improve students' computer skills. Our international students have assisted with Learn4Life programmes at this community centre, initiated an arts programme and are involved in the Home-work Club. At the handover were (from left), Lavel'inganga Educational Centre Coordinator Shane Mangcangaza, International Education office Director, **Dr Nico Jooste**, DVC Research and Engagement, **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** and Masifunde Director Lubabalo Valisa with learners Anathi Makasika and Zanele Xayimpi in front.

# Sexual harassment cases on the rise Know what to do

**DO YOU know what to do if a colleague harasses you, especially in an inappropriate way? Can you assist a student telling you about such an incident happening to him or her?**

Our Office for Transformation Monitoring and Evaluation and staff union NTEU say the number of sexual harassment reports and queries have increased over the past year.

Maybe this is positive indication that more staff knows about our Sexual Harassment Policy on the staff portal and are aware that cases can be reported.

Watch out for inappropriate comments and gestures which could be perceived as harassment. In more serious cases victimisation from especially more senior staff can have severe consequences.

Harassment could lead to staff having to leave the institution which is very unfair to both themselves and the university.

There also seems to be a trend of more complaints coming from students, especially about in-

appropriate comments about sexual orientation.

These are sometimes even passed on via cell phone messages leaving the victims severely traumatised, says Transformation Monitoring and Evaluation Director **Ruby-Ann Levendal**, who addressed residence students on sexual harassment.

In another case a landlord made inappropriate suggestions to a student.

The office appeals to staff to be aware of the possible ways in which cases can be dealt with.

Many people are not aware of the informal process which can be followed whereby the victim reports the case and the matter can be discussed and mediated with the alleged perpetrator.

Obviously there is also the formal grievance procedure which could lead to disciplinary action if that is what the situation warrants.

Ruby-Ann says that the NMMU policy and processes have been applauded as best practice among universities.



**FATHER AND SON ...** Chemistry's **Prof Peter Loyson** (right), who is just as well-known for his ancient history talks, has now been joined on our staff by his son **Richard**, a senior lecturer in Financial Accounting. Richard has a Masters in Tax and worked for Price Waterhouse in PE before joining NMMU. Prof Loyson has been at NMMU for 35 years specialising in physical and analytical chemistry and especially electrochemistry. His interest in ancient history comes from his school days in Belgium, where he studied Latin and Ancient Greek. His specialty is Egyptology, ancient Greece and Roman civilization. Prof Loyson also founded the PE Ancient History Society in 2008, meeting monthly on ancient history, technology, science, civilization and archeology. Prof Loyson and his Italian wife Loredana, vice-consul for Italy in PE, have another son, Lawrence, who works



**BAREFOOTED ...** Computing Sciences was one of the departments joining the Law Faculty's One Day Without Shoes project on 5 April. The global project inspired people to come to work barefoot and donate a pair of shoes to be sold to raise money to buy shoes for children. From left, Master's student **Cornel Ferreira**, **Mildred Zomba**, **Thando Teyise**, Profs **Janet Wesson** and **Andr Calitz**, Master's student **Clayton Burger**, **Carol van Onselen**, **Charl van der Merwe**, **Louwrens Feyt**, **Prof Jean Greyling**, Hons student **Marinthea Snyman** and **Hayley Irvine**.

## 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 March/April competition winners: **Liesel van Wiling** of Finance, **Gail Pause** of Continuing Education, **Karian Williams** of Finance and **Lennox Menemene** of the Library.

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

1. To be efficient EDS has to be simple and clear and sufficient **t.....g (8 letter word)** and support are needed to all levels of staff.
2. NMMU staff choir had the audience roaring in applause with their first appearance at the Staff **V.....y (7 letter word)** Concert.
3. A "Spectacular Show", a quiz, public lectures and a competition on "The Ten Most Important Molecules" celebrate the International Year of **C.....y (9 letter word)** this year.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to [elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za) by **3 June**.

Schuinville 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.

## Condolences

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

- Physics' **Dan O'Connor**
- Retired Technical Services' colleague **Lovell Mey** (father of HR Management's **Dr Michelle Mey**)
- Retired Biochemistry Department Head **Professor Willem Oelofsen**

# Travelling with HIV

**AN INCREASING number of our staff and students travel to other countries for research visits, to present papers and on exchange programmes. Persons living with HIV may face some barriers when trying to enter certain countries for any purpose.**

Some countries place restrictions on temporary visits, or visits of an extended nature, while others completely ban entry of people living with HIV. Certain countries may require you to disclose your HIV status before travelling. The most reliable way of finding out if a country you want to visit has entry restrictions for people with HIV is to contact the embassy or consulate.

There are a few things to consider when planning a trip abroad

- ▶ If you are taking Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), avoid starting a new treatment combination within a month of your trip, as you have to be monitored for side-effects or allergic reactions. Get some advice from your medical practitioner.
- ▶ If you are going to another country, check if there are restrictions about HIV+ visitors traveling with medication. Embassies and consulates should be able to help you locate appropriate healthcare providers. Ask whether or

not they can facilitate communication between you and local doctors/hospitals who could monitor your welfare should this be necessary. Take along the package insert from your ARVs so that medical personnel will know what you are taking. Drugs in other countries may be distributed under a different brand name or may not be the same.

- ▶ Some HIV positive travelers post their medication ahead of them, to a friend in the country or the hotel where they will be staying. Remember that international mail can be delayed or lost altogether, so you should post it well in advance to someone who can verify it has arrived. Customs officials inspect posted items. If you do post medication ahead, you should fill out and include a customs declaration stating the parcel contains prescribed medication, for personal use only, without any commercial value. Also remember to enclose a letter from your doctor advising the medication is for personal use. The letter does not have to detail your condition.

When you are in transit, consider the following:

- ▶ If you are taking your medication with you, always carry your medication in your hand luggage, in case your checked luggage is lost or delayed. Airplane cargo compartments are unpressurised and unheated, so liquid medication may freeze or

leak during the journey.

- ▶ It may be a good idea to take snacks along if you have to take medication with meals. Some airlines do not always provide adequate meals. Only drink bottled water and be careful when choosing where to purchase food during a vacation, especially if you are not eating in a restaurant or hotel.

- ▶ Always carry a letter from your doctor stating that it is prescribed medication for personal use. The letter doesn't have to say it's for HIV. You might ask your doctor to list medications by name with daily doses.

- ▶ Take enough medication for your trip, as well as a few days' extra in case your flights are delayed or you decide to change your travel arrangements. It is however not advisable to carry an excessive amount of medication, as customs and immigration officials may treat this as evidence of intention to overstay your visa.

For more information visit the following links:

<http://www.plwha.org/meds-and-traveling/>  
<http://www.nat.org.uk/Living-with-HIV/Useful-information/International-travel.aspx>

Please share this information also with students who are on their way to other countries.

**Greg Smith, Campus Health Services**

## ▶ Sport

# New centre, further boost for cricket

**SPECIALISED coaching and leadership and life skill programmes for primary school to university level cricketers will be the focus of our new Cricket Performance Centre launched on 20 April.**

"What make this performance centre unique is the fact that it will mainly be funded by contributions from alumni who played cricket between 1965 and 1990" said NMMU Trust Director Legacies **Prof Kotie Grov**.

"More than 100 alumni have already contributed and at the launch it was announced that two alumni are making contributions of R100 000 each from their personal funds and three more will follow soon.

The Royden Vice Fast Bowling Programme and the Peter Amm Bating Programme were consequently named after them.

The centre was established as a direct result of the cricket reunion taking place in May 2010, attended by more than 200 cricketers from all over



*CELEBRATION ... Rejoicing in the success story of NMMU cricket over the years are from left, Coordinator Legacies and Cricket Performance Centre Manager **Shafiek Abrahams**, NMMU Council Chairperson Judge Ronnie Pillay, alumnus and Wacko International CEO Royden Vice, Director Legacies **Prof Kotie Grov** and Manager: Student Cricket at CSA (Cricket SA) and alumnus Maxwell Jordaan.*

the world.

At the reunion it was decided to create a Legacy Fund to establish a Cricket Performance Centre and a memorabilia room in a revamped cricket club house.

The centre is housed in the Legacy Department of the NMMU Trust with **Shafiek Abrahams** as manager.

"As centre for excellence it will undoubtedly assist in ensuring that the NMMU Cricket Club remains the powerhouse it is with **Riaan Osman** as manager who has done such an outstanding job, said Kotie.

The performance centre also launched its first outreach programme on 3 May in Jeffreys Bay benefiting

12 schools in the area with alumnus Morne Strydom as coordinator.

CricketSA was represented at the launch by Niels Momberg and alumnus Maxwell Jordaan who handed over 12 full kits to schools worth more than R100 000. Warriors CEO Dave Emslie also attended with whom the centre will work closely.

# Staff sporting successes

**TWO** staff members came third in their age category in this year's Ironman on 10 April, qualifying for the world championship in Hawaii.

A number of staff and students participated in the annual competition involving a 3.8km swim at Hobie Beach, a 180km cycle and a 42.2km run. The corporate competition is one tenth of the actual Ironman and attracts teams and individual athletes.

A number of staff and students also ran in the first IronGirl 10km race on 8 April.

Other ultra-marathon and long distance sport events in which our staff competed included the Two Oceans, Cape Epic and Argus Cycle Race.



► Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre's **Prof Theo Van Niekerk** (above) completed his first Iron Man Challenge in less than 15 hours!



**ENDURANCE ...** The NMMU Saasveld team, Sport Management's **Pieter Breytenbach** (left) and Wood Technology's **Richard Muller** finished the ABSA Cape Epic 165th out of 600 teams and 43rd in the master's category. Their time in the world's biggest Mountain Bike Stage Race was 41hours 40minutes 35 seconds.



► Third in his age category 45 to 49 was Chemistry's **Dr Fanus Gerber** (above).  
 ► 2010 FIFA/CIES/NMMU Certificate in Sport Management *cum laude* graduate Graham Terblanche successfully completed his third Ironman in 12 hours and 38 minutes.



► Marketing's **Andrew Marriot** (above) came 60th in the Individual Corporate Ironman in 1hr 7min 32sec.  
 ► Visiting Fulbright Scholar Prof Meredith Harris from Northeastern University, Boston Massachusetts,

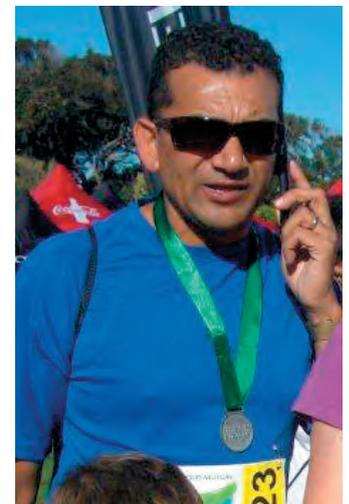
USA, completed her first triathlon, the Corporate Triathlon as individual in 1:59:51. The previous day she also ran the IronGirl 10km race together with her visiting student Stephanie Koweek.

### Argus Cycle

Auditing and Taxation's **Prof Gerrit Radder** clocked 3 hours and 20 minutes in his 9th Argus Cycle tour over 109 kilometres in Cape Town.



► **Zuko Nakasa** (above) (runner), **Andre Calitz** (cyclist) and **Yonwaba Speliliti** (swimmer) finished 140 overall out of 371 teams, in 01:13 in the Corporate Triathlon.



### Two Oceans

► Education's **Vernon Naidoo** (above) completed his seventh 56km Two Oceans Marathon in 5:57. He also walked the 5km walk with his wife, sons and mother-in-law the day before.  
 ► Technical Services' **Melea Williams** ran a fast 4 hours 40 minutes.  
 ► Accounting's **Johnathan Dillon** (left) clocked 5hr 16min.  
 ► Sport Bureau's **Zuko Nakasa** finished in 06:04:48.



**TRIUMPH ...** Human Movement Science's **Dr Maryna Baard** (above) came third in her age category, despite fracturing her right arm twice which meant limited cycling training. She could also only run for seven weeks before the event. It seems though that her swimming training in the ocean and her overall fitness paid off.

