

talk@nmmu

September 2011



IN TRUE FORM ... This colourful rock band is our Disability Unit (from left) Noxolo Phongolo, Andrea Holmes, Sheri-Ann Kemp and Ruth Barends. They were one of the departments dressing like rock stars for this year's national Casual Day on 2 September. This team is also working on Disability Month September activities. See page 15.

Knowledge, cash injection as some 4 000 visitors arrive on our campus

Conferences abound

NMMU will be living up to its vision as "a dynamic African university" hosting hundreds of delegates at various conferences across its Port Elizabeth campuses as 2011 ends.

Most recently some 800 architectural students attended the "Sustainable Architecture in a Developing World", and slept in tents on campus in line with the theme of the week-long congress.

Their congress, which ends on 23 September, will be followed by four other high-profile conferences:

- ▶ Construction Management 40 Conference
- ▶ The Joint International Congress of the American and South Africa Mathematical Societies
- ▶ 6th SAHARA Conference 2011 (HIV and Aids)
- ▶ Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA)

It's a sure sign that NMMU is being recognised as a happening university

We will also be hosting the South African Junior Chess Tournament with about 2 000 competitors from 11 to 21 December, and may also host the National Conference of the Department of Social Development and its 350 delegates.

These conferences and the chess tournament alone will attract more than 4 000 people and provide the university with extra

finance as many of the delegates and competitors will also be making use of the residence facilities.

"It's a sure sign that NMMU is being recognised as a happening university for the role that it is playing, and that it has great facilities for accommodating large numbers of people," says Sport Bureau facility consultant Krish Williamson.

The 6th SAHARA Conference with its theme of "Are we turning the Tide on HIV/Aids?" and the social,

political and economic response it, is expected to attract about 400 delegates from sub-Saharan countries, Europe, Asia, US and Canada, while the Maths congress is anticipating up to 300 delegates.

The HELTASA conference at Missionvale and these two are all taking place at NMMU about the same time from 28 November to 3 December.

Many of the university's smaller venues will also be in use for various year-end functions and prize-giving events, such as the CIES/Fifa certificate ceremony and the Alumni breakfast.

New contact centre
NMMU is joining industry and leading universities from October with a new contact centre assisting callers at their first point of call to the university. See page 3.

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Diversity, rock stars and heroes

DIVERSITY Month brought colleagues and students from all campuses together in discussions, art, music, displays and cooking.

In this edition we look back at an August jam-packed with activities celebrating our differences as well as our unity.

As one of the discussions emphasised, it's on the personal level that we truly get to know one another and understand our differences.

Also in line with our diversity as a university community, we celebrated Casual Day raising funds for persons with disabilities and for one day we were all rock stars! See page 15. September is Disability Month so please support our other activities.

As the year races to the end there are still a



number of conferences coming-up, we have a new contact centre changing our enquiry systems and the Business School has opened a new office in East London.

It's also time to celebrate our achievers with research and teacher awards galore.

Read more about the role models and see who our students chose as their lecturers of the year as part of Diversity Week on page 11.

We are proud to have won intervarsity for the fifth time in a row and also celebrate individual sportsmen and women and lesser-known sports.

Please send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker



GETTING TOGETHER ... More than 100 alumni and friends attended the first cocktail social hosted by the Alumni Relations Office and the Alumni Johannesburg Chapter at The Country Club Johannesburg in July. Among the guests were (back, from left) Tibane Mpahlwa, Lwando Mahlasela, Cuan Baatjes, Janet Sharp, Kim Jensen and Khwezi Blose and (front) David Gibbons, Michel du Preez and Nyameko Lusu.

A healthy partnership

PRESENTATIONS on the role of fathers, collaboration on the provision of female health talks and the incorporation of life skills into soccer for boys from Gelvandale and Helevale are but some of the projects in a joint partnership between NMMU and Famhealth Medipark (FHM) in Gelvandale.

Each of the projects will benefit the community. A memorandum of understanding was signed at the beginning of August. Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** said NMMU's set of values (respect for diversity, excellence, integrity, *ubuntu*, respect for the natural environment and responsibility) meets those of FHM in its quest for community upliftment, transformation, development and sustainable enterprise through health promotion and education

for work and life.

He added that FHM is an example of "what can be done in other communities; restoring the dignity of the people."

"We have to reclaim the responsibility for your own life as a community. We have to reclaim power to build futures for generations to come," he said.

The agreement will also provide opportunities for student integration during experiential learning through discussion, and shared expertise towards meeting common goals.

FHM will also in terms of the agreement, be available its facilities to NMMU's academic staff and students. NMMU, in turn, will do the same for FHM if feasible and practical.

Briefs

Career advice

COMPUTING Science's Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling** and **Prof Andr Calitz** participated in the ETV Sunrise Show's careers slot from 06:15 on 26 August in a live interview about careers in computing sciences.

The two academics also chatted the day before on radio (RSG) with listeners phoning in from 8:10 till 09:00.

They discussed the shortage of computer science skills in the country and their experiences with parents and learners. Prof Calitz will also participate as speaker in October at the ICT Career Expo broadcast live from Cape Town Telkom Regional Centre with activities in Port Elizabeth, Durban and Bloemfontein.

Winning letter

A LETTER advising a grade 8 sibling on career options and opportunities won first-year BCom Accounting student Zoleka Mtila (right) top spot in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Student Leadership Summit last month.



The growing needs of people, roads, hospitals to be built and filled with nurses and doctors, inventions to better our standard of living and all of it must be generated by the world of commerce, was Zoleka's winning argument.

Alumnus winner

LIBRARY and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce** received Unisa's Department of Information Science alumnus of the year award.

Diary

11 October

HRTEM Centre Launch

19 October

NMMU Achiever's Dinner

2 December

Staff Association end-of-year function

6 December

**Long service awards
and
staff year-end function**

Top researchers and excellent teachers celebrated Making a difference

BOTANY's Prof Richard Cowling (below) is NMMU's 2011 Researcher of the Year.

The NRF A1-rated researcher who recently received \$1m for a collaborative project between NMMU and Arizona State University of which he is the principal co-investigator, was one of several dozen NMMU staff to be recognised at the annual Teacher and Researcher Awards evening at the Radisson Blu earlier this month.

Education's Dr Andr du Plessis (right) is the 2011



Excellent Teacher of the Year, honoured for the role he plays in teaching both primary and high school maths to students, and the ICT support he provides teachers, especially using Wikis and cyber hunts as a generative learning strategy.

There were two new awards. The



Teaching and Learning Excellence award went to Student Governance and Development's Kim Elliott and Deidre Potgieter (above), while eNt-

sa's Prof Danie Hattingh (right), won the first innovation award for his team's success in development of friction processing.



Science's Researcher of the Year was Prof Tommy Gerber whose research uses nuclear medicine in seeking solutions for cancer sufferers.

His fellow faculty Researchers of the Year are Prof Naydene de Lange (Education), Prof Christo Fabricius (George), Prof Avinash Govindjee (Law), Prof Piet Naud (Business and Economic Sciences), Prof Bert Olivier (Arts), Prof Rossouw von Solms (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT) and Prof Ilse Truter

(Health Sciences).

Two awards were made in the Creative and Performing Arts, with Mary Duker, head of the School of Music, Art and Design, and choir conductor Junita van Dijk, the two respective recipients.

The Excellent Teacher Awards went to: Janine Kruger (Business and Economic Sciences); Lynn Biggs (Law), Jane Fountain (George), Dr Russell Phillips (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT), and Dr Bennie van Brecht (Science).

The Emerging Researchers are:

Dr Theodore Petrus (Arts), David Abrahams (Law), Dr Diane Elkonin (Health Sciences), Dr Ernst Ferg (Science), Johan Jordaan (George Campus), Dr Christo Pienaar (Education) and Dr Chantal Rootman (Business and Economic Sciences).

Improving our customer service

FROM October 2011 NMMU will join industry and other universities such as Stellenbosch and Pretoria when a new contact centre will service incoming telephone calls and especially prospective student enquiries in much more detail.

This means that the previous switchboard system will be closed and no longer exist.

The benefits of a contact centre include an immediate service to callers about course applications, financial aid, student accounts, student housing and other services.

It will result in the year-end and beginning of next year's new student application process being more customer-friendly and streamlined.

Departments which had to handle routine enquiries can now focus on more detailed enquiries.

All specific enquiries that the centre will not be able to answer, will be transferred to the relevant departments and followed up by an e-mail logged on a tracking system.

Staff who do not have access to outside telephone lines will in future have to redirect their calls through their own department's lines.

The six contact staff members include Xhosa and Zulu speakers and are headed by experienced call centre manager Deon Barnardo.

Deon worked at Telkom for 17 years



Customer service is extremely important to us

allow quick access to student information on ITS, as well as work processes and compiling training manuals for the new staff.

He says the system is designed so

portant to us and to be able to resolve an enquiry on first contact.

"We will be able to monitor our success on how many enquiries we can resolve on first contact".



SMILING SERVICE ... The new Contact Centre staff (from left) Vatiswa Zwelibanzi, Gail Paulse, Somikazi Dyolivane, Siyasanga Booyens, Yolande Labuschagne and Thokozile Mcopela started their training programme in September. They are joined by manager Deon Barnardo (third from left).

where he was contact centre manager for national telemarketing and sales and more recently spent three years at Volkswagen SA as contact centre manager roadside assistance involved with after-sales customer service.

"The success of the centre relies heavily on the cooperation of all administrative and academic departments," says Deon.

For the past few months Deon worked on specifications for a front-end web-based application that will

that enquiries can be resolved in the shortest possible time, which is extremely important in a busy inbound Contact Centre as it has a direct impact on service levels.

The academic and technical experience will still reside in faculties, but during phase 1 of the Contact Centre roll-out the centre aims to service the more general questions for example, admissions, study records, forms and financial aid.

"Customer service is extremely im-

Clearly, the contact centre can only do its job if provided with correct information and changes timeously.

The newly-built contact centre is in L Block next to the Human Resources Department on North Campus.

The centre forms part of Marketing and Corporate Relations.

As with any business, whether it is in the engineering or banking sector, service delivery is what differentiates a great business from its major competitors.

Identifying success factors at achieving schools in challenging areas ‘Are community schools’ the answer to SA’s education crisis?

AS South Africa struggles to address its education crisis, there are a number of schools in the poorest areas – rife with crime and unemployment – that are achieving successes against all odds. These schools – termed ‘outliers’ – are the inspiration behind our new Community School Centre, launched on 26 August, which aims to contribute to education improvement across the country by identifying the success factors in these schools, many of which are situated in the Bay, and emulating them elsewhere.

Director **Dr Al Witten** says many theories were being debated on how to improve education in this country, but little attention had been paid to addressing the impact of the social environment on schools.

“How do schools deal with a child coming to school hungry, or sick – a child who is an HIV/Aids orphan, or running a child-headed household? How do schools address fear, frustration and insecurity – the psychological effects of poverty? These factors impact on what is happening inside a school, and how a child learns.”

Yet there are schools that are achieving excellent results despite these enormous challenges – and Witten has found their success to be attributed to the involvement of the community, from parents to clinics, faith-based organisations, NGOs, libraries, universities and even unemployed youth.

“They define themselves as community schools, and focus on two things: teaching and learning, the core functions of any school, and the social challenges affecting these core functions.

“They realise they can’t do everything on their own and bring in stakeholders to build a network of support around the kids.” This typically includes providing social support and nutrition programmes for pupils. A major spin-off is job creation for community members.

In the past three months, a network of successful Bay community schools has been formed to work on school improvement programmes in partnership with the new centre, which, in addition to research, aims to educate tomorrow’s teachers about the successful methods used in community schools, and create internships within these schools for students across a range of faculties, including education, social work, psychology, development studies and business.

This network, called the Manyano Community Schools Network, will host an annual community schools conference that will bring together

Heading up the our new Community School Centre is Dr Al Witten who says the centre aims to contribute to education improvement in South Africa by developing theory and practice-based models of school improvement, grounded in the reality of schools in this country. The centre will develop models by identifying what is working, and sharing this information with other schools.



LAUNCH GUESTS ... Community School Centre Director **Dr Al Witten** (second from left) is joined by Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, Education Dean **Prof Denise Zinn** and launch guest speaker **Prof Pedro Noguera** from the USA at the recent launch of the centre.

school-based practitioners, academics, and other education stakeholders. It is envisaged that this network will spread to other areas within the province and ultimately include schools across the country.

The new Community School Centre, based at Missionvale Campus, will convene conferences with similar organisations both nationally and internationally, and will work closely with government to ensure community schools are supported through policy, resources and training.

The centre is the culmination of a personal dream



BUDDING ARTIST ... Carlyn Daniels of the Greenville Primary School in Bloemendaal was one of six winners in the Manyano Schools Network postcard competition. The winning postcards were distributed at the Community School Centre launch.

for Witten, who spent 12 years as a principal at a primary school, serving Cape Town’s Lavender Hill and Vrygrond townships. “We were faced with overwhelming challenges, including crime and violence on the school premises.

“At one stage the situation in the townships became so bad, there was talk of bringing in the army and putting up electric fences, but I realised that the only way to create a safe school was not to turn the school into a prison but to open it to the community to create a sense of ownership.”

Witten went on to complete his masters and doctoral studies on community schools at prestigious Harvard University in the United States. He was then appointed as the interim director of Harvard’s Principal Centre, a role which saw him running training programmes for principals across the US and worldwide, including the University of Johannesburg.

He returned to South Africa last year, after nine years abroad, with the aim of establishing the centre at NMMU. “Most of my research was conducted in Eastern Cape schools. I felt I couldn’t walk away from them, as they have a lot to offer this country in terms of school improvement models.” **NW**

Providing leadership, business and management education

Business School opens in East London

AN increasing demand for our Business School's education programmes in the Border Kei region has led to the opening of an office there and a dedicated presence at 63 Devereux Avenue, Vincent, East London.

The Business School has been active in East London for a number of years but has now consolidated the Graduate School's formal academic programmes and the Leadership Academy's commercial educational activities.

Current stakeholders include Avusa (Daily Dispatch), Hemingways Casino (part of the Tsogo Sun group), The Office of the Premier, the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Education and Walter Sisulu University.

"The new facility will be used especially for the delivery of the flagship MBA block release programme, the Management Development Certificate Programme as well as open short learning programmes in business, management and leadership offered to adult students and organisations," says Marketing and Stakeholder Relations Head **JP Roodt**.

The training facilities - about 35 to 40 minutes' drive from Bhisho - can accommodate up to 60 people



WORKING TEAM ... The Business School's **Shalene Sogoni** and **Nonie Matshabane** (front) will look after client relations, new business development and operations in East London. They are joined by colleagues from the marketing division, commercial education and Graduate School.

and are centrally situated between Berea and the East London CBD, easily accessible from the N2 high-way. In addition, the training facility will also be available to hire.

"We will engage and align closely with trade, industry and local government over the next few months," says Business School acting director **Prof Kobus Jonker**.

High-ranking officials and executives from HR, skills development, talent management and organi-



NEW KID ... Our Business School's East London and Border Kei Office as seen from Devereux Avenue.

sational development sectors from local business, provincial government, commerce and industry attended a breakfast marking the opening of the new facility on 11 August.

Greener residences

IN LINE with our value respect for the environment and our quest for greener living, our residences are currently competing against one another to see which residence can consume the least energy during September and October.

The Residences Energy Challenge is run by the Residences Green Campus Initiative (GCI) and overseen by Technical Services, Safety Health and Environment and Residence staff. The house committee and GCI reps in each residence have to raise awareness and implement the energy saving measures.

Participating residences were metered beforehand to see how much energy they typically use during a month or historical data of the past year will be consulted.

The winner will be judged on the percentage as well as absolute energy saved (which takes into account other buildings attached to a residence), the number of students and the effort taken to sustainably reduce energy usage and raise awareness about energy efficiency.

The current challenge will also serve as a baseline for the future.



New technology library

IMAGINE the 600 000 books in the library soon fitting on three discs, each a little smaller than an A5 notebook.

This is just one of the new technology inventions for storage which emerged at a recent workshop by Library and Information Services and ICT Services.

A recent survey also revealed that students want our libraries to be open 24/7 throughout the year but it's highly possible that they want the library as a study area and not necessarily the services for that time.

Organised by the Systems and Quality Department of the library, 13 presenters gave a glimpse of future "shocks" to be expected in a rapid changing world at the workshop.

Topics included:

- ▶ Radio frequency identification
- ▶ FileDirector organising files in a user-definable

structure, storing compound documents with annotations and check-in/check-out of docs

- ▶ Eduroam, (Education Roaming), an international roaming service for staff and students to securely log on to the Internet from other subscribed universities
- ▶ Instant Messaging and conferences via Microsoft Lync
- ▶ The QR/2D code, a matrix barcode aimed at mobile phone users, termed mobile tagging
- ▶ InfoEd managing research administration and the national database, RIMS, standardising research reporting to assist Government with planning and budgeting
- ▶ The various e-book readers on the market (at least 40 at present) and future enhancements. Thousands of books will fit on one paperback-sized e-book reader.

Diversity through art

THE transformation of the artistic world was the theme of this year's Diversity Month annual Art Exhibition on display in the South Campus library from 15 August.

Portraits of self on display were the main attraction as old and new sculptures from students were displayed. Pieces by Robert Bains and Lemina Chifabza served as a motivation of how art evolved over time with each piece having its own intention.

Studio Art's **David Jones** said that art is "simply an after-thought, it does not have a soul".

"Art needs to be displayed so that people can be informed about new forms and the changing art form since each piece of David added that due to the revamping of most halls at the university, art would now be placed in those previously dark, empty halls for the public to view, to challenge their understanding of these pieces and make them question its purpose.

Art needs to be displayed so that people can get informed



SELF-PORTRAIT ... Student Joandri Vermeulen at a sculpture of herself as part of the Diversity Month's annual Art Exhibition opened on 15 August in the South Campus Library.

Focusing on the San

LANGUAGE and Literature's Prof Helize van Vuuren was among rock art experts, archeologists, anthropologist, linguists and even an astronomer to present papers at a recent interdisciplinary conference on the San in Cape Town.

The conference titled "The courage of //kabbo and a century of Specimens" commemorated the 100-year old pioneering work *Specimens of Bushmen Folklore* published in 1911 by WHI Bleek & Lucy Lloyd.

Prof Van Vuuren's paper was titled "Does the //gárraken flower open?": postcolonial approaches to the extinct |xam culture".

Some 12 San representatives included Reverend Kipo Iolo Mario Mahongo of Platfontein,

Kimberley (formerly Schmidtsdrift), *Voices of the San* author Willemien le Roux, storyteller Katriena Swartz and one of eight surviving mother tongue speakers of the !Ngo-language in the Kalahari, the 65 year-old Petrus Vaalbooi. Petrus' mother Elsie died a few years ago aged 112.

Experts included David Lewis-Williams and Megan Bieseles.

Special music composed for the occasion included "The voices of the stars" performed by the UCT choir, and exhibitions included "Literature into landscape", and "Rockart Made in Translation" in the Izuko museum.

Documentaries were shown about San "land restitution", the Kruipers and the Botswana San.

TOPS ... NMMU Music students selected for the National Youth Orchestra are (from left) Dylan Barker, David McCoy and Antonio Lottering.

Dylan was also selected to perform as a soloist with the Eastern Cape Philharmonic Orchestra at its upcoming Youth Concerto Festival.



Briefs

London Fashion Week

BTECH Textile Design alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo, exhibited his work at London Fashion Week to rave reviews.

Laduma recently also received other local awards, and was also nominated for VISI Designer of the Year with Li Edelkoort as the adjudicator. In addition, Laduma was named Best Emerging Designer at the Marie Claire Prix d'Excellence de la Mode Awards at an exclusive function at the Circa Gallery in Rosebank recently.

These awards salute the best in local and international fashion design.

Standing ovations

THE NMMU Choir was the only performer of 24 choirs at the recent 9th World Choral Symposium in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, to receive standing ovations from the audience.

They also performed two concerts in Buenos Aires which received rave reviews.

Maestro and friends DVD

FOUR Missionvale Campus students calling themselves The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Ensemble recently produced their first-ever DVD, *Maestro and friends*, following their successful CD with the same title.

The production of the DVD took place in East London, where according to lead singer and Staff Choir conductor, Bulelani 'Maestro' Koyo, the ensemble received a better deal than in Port Elizabeth. The DVD will soon also be for sale at local retailers. The choir was sponsored by Arts and Culture.

Art students in final

THE work of nine NMMU students and alumni has been selected for the National Sasol New Signatures Competition, one of South Africa's most prestigious contests among emerging artists.

The artworks were sent to Pretoria where they are judged along with the finalists of each of the nine regional selection centres.

The winner will receive R60 000 and hold a solo exhibition at the Pretoria Art Museum next year. Last year, NMMU alumnus Allyrian Laue won the overall prize, while three other NMMU students were among the seven national finalists.

The works by NMMU students and alumni - Tegan Sampson, Nompumezo Gubevu, Madelene van der Merwe, Wayne Matthews, Alison Jean Shaw, Gerhardt Coetzee, Arnoldus van Niekerk and Anva Chiazzari - include photography, mixed media work, glass, plaster-of-paris and wood and material sculpture.

Stained and Hot Glass Department's **Amanda Snyman** was among the local judges.

Kwezi set up two laboratories in Zoology for teaching and research

Ambassador ploughs back

AFRICA'S first black evolutionary physiologist Zoology's Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi does ground-breaking research on how small mammals cope with challenges posed by their environment.

She has now also been selected as an honorary ambassador scientist for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Her selection follows an earlier appointment when she was a Humboldt Fellow and spent a year conducting postdoctoral research at Marburg University in Germany in 2006/7.

As an honorary ambassador, Dr Mzilikazi is expected to raise awareness about the programmes and activities of the Foundation which promotes academic cooperation among scientists internationally.

As a result of her earlier work in Germany, Dr Mzi-



FELLOW SCHOLARS ... Joining the new Alexander von Humboldt Foundation honorary ambassador scientist Zoology's Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi are former Von Humboldt Foundation scholars, Chemistry's Prof Hans Rohwer (1976), DVC Academic Prof Piet Naud (1995) and Physics Prof JR Botha (2001).

likazi has set up two research and teaching laboratories and a surgery.

In the animal energetics laboratory a computerised system measures oxygen consumption, carbon dioxide production, water loss and activity levels in at least five individual animals at the same time.

"This assists us to predict which animals are at

risk and require conservation priority in global climate change", she says.

She also isolates mitochondria (sources of energy) from different tissues and measures metabolic rates. Her surgery enables her to implant dataloggers and transmitters into animals to monitor body temperature in the laboratory and the field.

TO THE RESCUE ... In future learners only need a cellphone to discuss their problems with trained counsellors. This is as a result of a joint project by FAMSA and Computing Sciences. Teacher Fundiswa Mfunda, FAMSA's Nicky Pillay, Computing Science's Department head Prof Jean Greyling, FAMSA chairperson Vusi Gwam and Joe Slovo Primary learner Mandisa Merafe attended the launch of the new lifeline for learners.



MXit helps learner problems

LEARNERS can now share their personal problems confidentially with trained counsellors at FAMSA (Family and Marriage Association of SA) via MXit and obtain advice in real time on Monday and Wednesday afternoons thanks to our Computing Sciences Department.

Department head **Prof Jean Greyling** shared the work of well-known social entrepreneur and IT specialist Marlon Parker with drug addicts in Cape Town via MXit with the local branch of FAMSA and introduced them to the MXit technology for this purpose.

Twenty schools from all over the metro were invited to send one teacher and one learner to the

launch of the programme in one of Computing Science's laboratories.

FAMSA and Computing Sciences jointly shared the idea with them and they could tune in on MXit via their cellphones.

For three hours on Mondays and Wednesday afternoons learners can text their problems from wherever they are and receive immediate advice.

At the launch, 5 000 "business card" flyers with the MXit application as well as Computing Sciences' own MXit applications were distributed to schools.

Jean believes this is an excellent way for their department to have an impact in the community as well as creating an opportunity for research.



TOP AWARD ... Physics' Dr Julien Dangbegnon (left) recently received the Goodfellow Award for the Most Outstanding Publication in a Scientific Journal from a PhD degree. This is the top award in Condensed Matter Physics/Materials Science (CMPMS) at the annual South African Institute of Physics (SAIP) conference. With him is Dr Peter Martinez (right), outgoing President of the SAIP.

Briefs

International winner

COMPUTER Science student Jonathan Schmidt won third place in an international competition to develop applications for the mobile operating system.

Jonathan developed an application for Windows Phone 7 called Wolfram 7 which uses the Wolfram Alpha search engine to return information on almost any topic and in response to almost any query.

Brewery achieves

BIOCHEMISTRY and Microbiology's microbrewery, the youngest in the country and launched in March, came second in two categories against seven other universities in the annual Microbrewery Competition.

Their second place was in the Ale and Speciality categories while one of their brews received fourth place overall. The microbrewery will also participate in the NMMU German Day Festival hosted by the Office for International Education this month.

HRTEM first

TWENTY researchers from Sasol, NMMU and other universities enjoyed the first two-day HRTEM (High Resolution Transfer Electron Microscope) workshop at the new building.

The workshop on Heterogeneous Catalysts was presented by international expert Prof Abhay Datye from Albuquerque University, USA. Prof Datye said: "The infrastructure housing the microscopes is better than the ones I have seen at any university and even better than the national labs like Oak Ridge and Brookhaven".

WHIZZ KIDS ... The top three achievers in Nelson Mandela Bay's first Commerce Incubator School (front, from left) Jennilee Oosthuizen (second), Sinoxolo Banda (third) and Faith Moyo (first) are congratulated by (back, from left) Deloitte's Carin Langner, Accounting School director Prof Frans Prinsloo and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' Gugu Makanya.



Commerce school a stepping stone

FORTY Grade 12 pupils from previously-disadvantaged schools recently graduated from Nelson Mandela Bay's first Commerce Incubator School (COINS) – increasing the number of school leavers for studies in commerce-related fields.

COINS – a co-operative project involving our School of Accounting, its Thuthuka bursary programme, accounting firm Deloitte's Project Siyakhula Programme and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) – was run by our Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit (GMMDU) from May until August at Missionvale Campus.

The 14-week Saturday incubator school provided extra mathematics classes using a DVD-based teaching model improving mathematics and accounting results.

Top pupil Faith Moyo – whose maths results soared to 92, 8% – said all the participating pupils had already seen an improvement in their maths marks.

"We have gained motivation and confidence in maths."

Within COINS, Deloitte ran a career mentorship programme, assisted by Thuthuka students, to build awareness about the accounting profession. "NW



DISTINGUISHED AWARD ... Nursing Science's Department Head Prof Dalena van Rooyen (third from left) with her fellowship award is joined by colleagues Herman Willemse (from left), Dr Portia Jordan, Prof Nita Strumpher and Ntombanya Rala.

New award

NURSING Science's Department Head **Prof Dalena van Rooyen** recently received a fellowship award from the newly formed Academy of Nursing in South Africa (ANSA) recognising her contribution to nursing at local, provincial, national and international levels.

A representative review committee considered nominations.

Only a few awards were made at the gala event at Sun City on 2 August.

Consumer protection and rights

"SELLING Happiness In A Meal: Serving The Best Interests Of The Child At Breakfast, Lunch And Supper?" and "Needletime: What's The Hold-Up" were but two of the topics discussed at Private Law's annual conference on 22 and 23 August.

Matters such as cyber stalking and cyber bullying, land rights, family law, liability law (contract, delict, unjustified enrichment) and consumer pro-

tection were also covered.

Constitutional Court Judge Yvonne Mokgoro delivered the keynote address with other speakers including Law Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**, NMMU honorary professor Amsterdam University's Prof Eltjo Schrage, Law faculty members, alumnus Mzukisi Kota and academics from the universities of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand, Kwazulu-Natal, North West, Cape Town and practising attorneys.

Briefs

Solomon continues to climb

HUMAN Movement Science and FIFA/CIES/NMMU sport management programme alumnus Solomon Mudege (right) has been appointed as a FIFA marketing alliances manager. He will be part of a team managing all marketing-related activities and events with the commercial affiliates of FIFA. "It's an exciting challenge as we strive to deliver innovative and valued opportunities to our affiliates. I am extremely grateful to FIFA, CIES and NMMU for putting in place the numerous programmes which have allowed me to achieve my career objectives," says Solomon.



Olympic Doping control officer

HUMAN Movement Science's **Pippa Nell** (below) has been selected as one of two South Africans as a doping control officer for the 2012 Olympic Games. Pippa has been involved with Drug-Free Sport for over ten years. She will join other officers from 40 countries in London in October for a training session where they will also write a competency test. They will be selected to work at the Olympics or Paralympics in 2012.



EP Cricket Coach

SPORT Administration alumnus Christo Esau (right) is the new Eastern Province Cricket provincial coach. Christo is also a talented player and represented EP in the B team in 2000/2001.



GRAND AFFAIR ... The elderly from communities in and around Port Elizabeth recently enjoyed the ACVV Golden Games, a sport event hosted by our Human Movement Science students and Social Development Professions. The participants fiercely competed in physical and ball skills activities in the Indoor Sports Centre and the athletics stadium. Lively participant Retha van der Merwe showed students Jarrod Nass (left) and Jarred Salzwedel how it is done.



DISCUSSION FORUM ... Engineering, the Built Environment and IT recently launched a Faculty Student Academic Forum as part of the Diversity Month celebrations. The forum will ensure that faculty management and student leaders provide an environment for quality teaching and learning and ensure student success. SRC members and Executive Dean **Prof Henk de Jager** (back fourth from left) join forum members here.

Briefs

IT Service Management expert

SCHOOL of ICT's **Prof Reinhardt Botha** (below) has recently passed an exam to certify him at IT Service Management Expert Level. Only about 60% of candidates pass the exam which requires a pass mark of 80%.



Career experience

ELECTRICAL Engineering students recently experienced "Career under Construction" sessions from industry presented by EHL Engineering Services Director Fred Knoetze. With 34 years in the mining industry, Mr Knoetze has vast experience in project management and power reticulation. Extended Studies and Electrical Engineering organised the sessions.

Double celebration for eNtsa

A TEAM of engineers of eNtsa successfully implemented the first commercial application of the patented WeldCore™ technology, bringing about major savings for Eskom.

The implementation developed jointly by NMMU and Eskom over the past eight years took place on 3 September at the Rotek facilities in Johannesburg

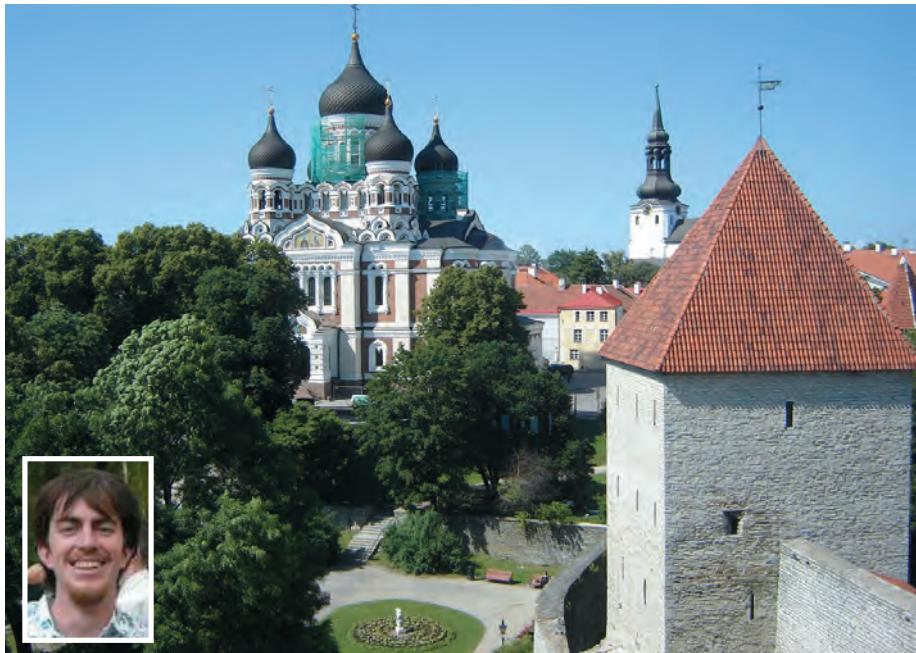
on a component valued at R1.2billion.

A Friction Taper Hydro Pillar Processing platform removed and repaired a core sample developed specifically for this application at eNtsa.

This allowed Eskom engineers to accurately determine sub surface creep damage and provided scientific evidence for extending the service life of

the current structure – leading to the postponement of capital expenditure.

The WeldCore Team at eNtsa was also short-listed as a finalist for the 2010/11 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Awards in the Category: Research for Innovation by a team or individual in a corporate organisation or institution.



SECURITY ISSUES ... MTech Information Technology student Ewald Stieger visited Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, known for its advanced IT infrastructure and this year's European Capital of Culture. He presented a paper at the European Conference on Information Warfare and Security titled: "Criteria for a Personal Information Security Agent". The paper deals with a software artefact influencing computer users towards more secure behaviour. "I had great exposure to other researchers from around the world. Tallinn is also a beautiful medieval town surrounded with most of its original town wall and is recognised as a world heritage site."



REAL WORLD ... Engineering students experienced the various aspects and dimensions of the automotive sector when former Managing Director of Volkswagen SA and current CEO of VW Slovakia Dr Andreas Tostmann addressed them. The lecture is part of VW's commitment to their relationship with our School of Engineering providing the students with an insight into the real world of automotive engineering. Mechatronics' **Prof Theo van Niekerk** joins Dr Tostmann.

Diversity Month addresses race and racism, women in society

Joining in discussions

CRITICAL issues of race and racism; women in society being treated differently; the struggles of our students; and learning from comparative experiences, such as how discrimination and exclusion are practiced in other societies such as India and the United States, were the main themes raised by Diversity Month celebrated in August at NMMU.

Some 600 students, staff and community members attended the main events.

From 15 to 19 August the Office for International Education had a week-long programme bringing popular events to campus such as cultural exchanges, clothing features, food tasting, and diverse dance performances.

talk@nmmu.ac.za asked CANRAD's (Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy) **Dr Jay Govender** which events they would view as the highlights of the month.

These included:

- ▶ A panel discussion on "Continental experiences of race, discrimination and identity" with Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, New York University's Prof Pedro Noguera, and India's Prof Yagati Chinna Rao and Adjunct Prof Enver Motala.
- ▶ "Challenges for women in today's society" and "Race identity and nation-hood" discussed at the two NMMU-Herald Dialogues
- ▶ The "Women in leadership seminar" hosted by the Business Women's Association of Port Elizabeth.
- ▶ The SRC Asikhulume – Let's Talk discussions with students on four PE campuses about their experiences of living and learning at NMMU.
- ▶ Students participated and attended in the "Separate is not Equal" exhibition at the Red Location Museum, followed by a seminar on the desegregation of



WINNERS ... CANRAD (Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy Diversity) ran a competition for the design of Diversity Month T-shirts and buttons. Displaying the winning T-shirt design are in front (from left) CANRAD's Sadiya Adams, T-shirt design winner Applied Design student Chris Gee and button design winner student Ray Snyman. At the back are Art and Design's **Dana Pullen and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.**

South African schools.

Positive spin-offs of Diversity Month included the fact that staff and students jointly organised events, staff

participated enthusiastically in events with the knowledge that NMMU's Vision 2020 is student-oriented and CANRAD are already planning key

events for next year's celebration such as the Diversity Walk and international guests, Dr Govender said.

WISE WORDS ... New York University's Prof Pedro Noguera (third from left) in action during Diversity Month's panel discussion on "Continental experiences of race, discrimination and identity" joined by (from left) Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz India's Prof Yagati Chinna Rao and Adjunct Prof Enver Motala.**



WOMEN LEADERS ... Diversity month's Women in Leadership seminar was hosted by PE's Business Women's Association (BWA). The panel consisted of Accounting student, Siliziwe Mapalala, Glamour magazine editor Pniina Fenster, EC Tourism and Parks Board Head Vuyo Zitumane, BWA Chairperson Michelle Brown and Herald Editor Heather Robertson.

Understanding one another on a personal level

International diversity



AS A society we have to start connecting with people on a personal level. This will enable us to start bridging the gap, and create a society rich in understanding and free from ignorance about issues such as oppressive language, race, homosexuality and special needs.

This message was strikingly apparent at "The People"; a lunchtime panel discussion on 16 August organised by the Office for International Education in conjunction with the International Student Association (ISA).

Ten speakers from a spectrum of countries and backgrounds discussed cultural differences and stereotyping.

This was just one of the activities hosted by the Office for International Education during their Diversity Week from 15 to 19 August which formed part of Diversity Month.

Other activities included:

- ▶ The Diversity Opening Campaign at the start of the week during lunchtime outside the Student Kraal on South Campus attracted students with background beats from African drums and prizes awarded during a question-and-answer session.
- ▶ The Golden Key Lecturer of the Year Awards took place on 18 August with overall winner Science's **Dr Lester Cowley** followed by Education's **Dar-rylin Bradley**, Law's **Advocate Razaana Denson**, Health Science's **Veonna Goliath**, Business and Economic Sciences' **Badroen Ismail**, Engineering, the Built Environment and IT's **Dr Russell Phillips** and Arts' **Janelle Vermaak**.
- ▶ A French cultural and language lesson work-



WINNING STALL ... The colourful winning stall with students (from left) Brigette Gbiloum, Astrid Leon and Chloe Jumeau from the Seychelles enticed audiences with their food and paraphernalia. Zimbabwe won the Fashion Show as best dressed country.



SINGING TOGETHER ... The only university staff choir in the country - our own one - represent a variety of departments and gave a lunchtime performance during Diversity Month.

shop ran for four days presented by the Alliance Française and Languages and Literature's **Dr Hilda Thomas**.

- ▶ The Study Abroad Expo shared study abroad opportunities for students at partner universities in the United States or Europe.
- ▶ The International Film Festival featured three films: the award winning "Themba, a boy called Hope", the hilariously fun "I now pronounce you Black and White", and the moving film, "God grew tired of us".
- ▶ The grand finale was the International Cultural Exhibition with stalls set up by participating international students exhibiting souvenirs, paraphernalia and a native dish. The VUDU Jazz band had the audience's feet tapping and hands clapping!
- ▶ The International Fashion Show showcased traditional dress. Countries represented were Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Lesotho.

Accounting records in 11 official languages?

Diversity Month saw students in Accounting's Thuthuka programme – which aims to grow the number of black chartered accountants – investigating the role of the country's many official languages in the accounting profession.

The second-year students discovered a few enlightening statistics – namely that 24 per cent of South Africans regard Zulu as their first language, compared with English at only 8%. Yet, almost all South African companies draw their financial statements up in English, even

though the Companies Act allows for them to be drawn up in any of the 11 official languages.

The students tried to translate specific accounting terms from English into the other languages, a challenge for most, as some of the English words could not be directly translated into their first languages.

Thuthuka project co-ordinator **Elize Naud** said: "The students realised that diversity is not merely a language or cultural issue, but also affects our academic and professional worlds." **NW**



SAY WHAT? ... Investigating language diversity in the accounting profession in Diversity Month were accounting lecturer **Marina Chalmers** (back, third from left) and second-year students in Accounting's Thuthuka bursary programme (back, from left) Aphiwe Puncu, Balungile Jakeni, Nonkululeko Mkhize and (front, from left) Faith Nazer, Dumisani Mapipa and Nikiwe Gumbanjera.

Education for Sustainable Development

NATURE Conservation lecturer, Bianca Currie (right), is one of only 20 participants selected by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to participate in the Advanced International Training Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The programme runs over a period of nine months to a year of which four weeks are interactive sessions. One session took place at Stockholm University and Chalmers University in Gothenburg, Sweden, in May while the next one is scheduled for Grahamstown next month.



Recipient of new Forestry bursary

FIRST-YEAR Forestry student Mbali Luthuli from Pietermaritzburg was selected as the first recipient of the new South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF) & William C. Teie Bursary Fund.

This bursary fund for South African forestry students was initiated by the author of the well-known *"Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires,"* William Teie, who donated all South African royalties from the handbook to the fund. Forestry's **Tiaan Pool** was the editor of the book.

"The bursary just motivated Mbali to further excellence to achieve three distinctions and an average of 73% during her first semester of study," Tiaan said.



SUPER ACHIEVER ... Forestry Student and first recipient of the newly established South African Institute of Forestry and William C. Teie Bursary Fund Mbali Luthuli receives a copy of the "Fire Manager's Handbook on Veld and Forest Fires" from Forestry's **Tiaan Pool joined by SAIF regional chairman and Forestry's **Andrew McEwan.****



RESEARCH VISITORS ... High profile researchers from Sappi, who recently visited George Campus, were introduced to the various programmes offered in Natural Resource Management. Seen here are (back from left) Forestry's **Dr Jaap Steenkamp, Sappi's **Geoff Galloway**, **Kgosi Mongwaketsi** and **Andrea Louw**, Nature Conservation's **Bianca Currie**, Sappi's **Dr Andrew Morris**, Forestry's **Andrew McEwan**, George Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius**, Sappi's **Dr Arnulf Kanzler**, and Natural Resource Management School Director **Prof Jos Louw** and (front, from left) Sappi's **Andre Nel**, Wood Technology's **Barry Muller**, Forestry's **Willie Louw** and Wood Technology's **Richard Muller.****

Briefs

First Abe Bailey

MTECH Forestry student Muedanyi Ramantswana (right) was selected by the Abe Bailey Trust for its bursary – the first time a student from George Campus has received the bursary.



Muedanyi also recently travelled to Finland to provide feedback on the International Forestry Student Association meeting hosted by George Campus in July and to visit international forestry organisations.

Ecotourism expert

Leonie de Witt (right) is a new addition to the Tourism Management programme. Leonie is completing her doctoral degree in Tourism Management at North West University and has lectured at Damelin College for three years.



A generic first-year programme in the Management Sciences (Management, Marketing and Tourism Management programmes) is also planned for next year.

International sport conference

Sport Management lecturer **Abrie de Swardt** will attend the Conference of the European Association of Sport Management in Madrid, Spain, in September as group leader for a number of training sessions for students in Sport Management. He was also the course director of an Advanced IAAF Athletics Training Course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, earlier this year.

New chairperson

ECONOMIST Prof Peet Strydom is the new chairperson of the George Campus BCom Advisory Board at a recent meeting.



WINNERS ... Marketing Management Diploma student Yusuf Rhoda (right) and BCom Business Management student Zimkitha Lumkhwana were crowned the 2011/2012 Mr & Miss NMMU George. Runners-up were Bongani Daba and Marchand Smith and Inge Theron and Zoxolo Danster. Photo courtesy of Photo Centre



WELCOME FUNDS ... The PPS alumni meeting room has had a good face-lift courtesy of PPS National Sales Director John Marsden (centre) who recently handed over a cheque for R27 650 to the Alumni Relations Office. He is joined by Alumni Relations Director **Paul Geswindt** (left) and NMMU Trust Acting Executive Director **Prof Kotie Grov**. PPS also donated funds for refurbishment to the Law and Business and Economic Sciences faculties.



CAREER EXPERIENCE ... Linkside High School learners Maryka van der Merwe (left) and Linda-Ann van Heerden (right) participated in the Business Women's Association (BWA) PE Youth Outreach Project to empower, motivate and expose young female learners to a day in the life of a career woman. Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director, **Jaci Barnett**, (centre) was their host. The learners experienced activities at the Technology Transfer Office such as a meeting between a patent attorney and an academic, and attended a seminar on Intellectual Property. The BWA arranged for 85 Grade 11 learners from Linkside to spend the day with a variety of companies across Port Elizabeth.



GREATFUL STUDENTS ... Accounting student Braam Greyling (left) is one of six honours students to receive bursaries from the Milde McWilliams Trust. The Trust has given bursaries to the value of R1,28 million for more than 80 undergraduate students this year, and focused on financially needy academic achievers. Braam is joined by trustees James Parker, Bill Allchurch and David Robertson. The trustees met and mingled with the students at a function in July.



INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE ... This group of how2 buddies who worked hard to assisting first year' students in their first few months at university, received their certificates earlier this year.



WARM WINTER ... Local primary school Excelsior learners now have warm knitted beanies thanks to Industrial Engineering adopting the school and providing the beanies to form part of the school uniform. The department bought wool and women at the Park Drive Retirement Village knitted the beanies. The department has also been collecting food parcels and other items from colleagues on a regular basis. "For quite some time now it has been a goal of ours to support a project or school and Excelsior's plight was brought to our attention," said Department Head **Dr Ann Lourens**. Despite being a relatively small department, they aim to make a big difference in the community.

► Staff



BIG GEES ... The Unions team (above) beat Management with a penalty shoot-out of 5 goals to 1, after a final score of three all. "The rain and a reduced playing field did not deter the two teams and small number of spectators with big gees from strutting their stuff," said Engineering, the Built Environment and IT's **Wayne Draai**. From the beginning the unions were more attacking than management. "Interesting enough, the unions had a member from management seconded to play for them as instructed. Despite this member trying to hijack the good work done by the unions the outcome was still favourable for the unions." When a man-of-the-match had to be selected, a spectator said "they were all average".



FINALIST ... Business and Economic Sciences Executive Secretary **Ronel Petersen** is one of only six finalists in the national PA of the Year competition. The finals will be held later this month in Johannesburg.

Excellent service

ONE must be doing something very well when you are applauded all the way from Edinburgh, Scotland, for your South African blog.

Library and Information Services' **Jean Thomas'** blog *The Faculty Librarian* was complimented by Roddy Macleod as "an example of a library blog which shows what you can do with some enthusiasm and good ideas".

Jean also received a Special Award from Engineering, the Built Environment and IT for excellent service to the faculty at its staff awards function.

The faculty will sponsor Jean to attend the 2011 Internet Librarian Conference in London, UK, since the conference is well suited to the needs of the faculty.

talk@nmmu was informed about this good news via a colleague in a different department saying that Jean "delivers excellent service".

Please send in more of these accolades about your colleagues.



TOP BLOG ... Library and Information Services' **Jean Thomas** received a special award from Engineering, the Built Environment and IT for excellent service to the faculty at their staff awards function. Here Jean receives the award from DVC (Academic) **Prof Piet Naud**.

Condolences

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

- Retired Arts' staff member **Silvia Edworthy**
- Third-year BA student Luthando Lukwe
- Third-year Education NPDE student from Lusikisiki Fundiswa Majali
- First-year postgrad LLB student Siviwe Ntsizi

► Second-year Education NPDE student Nokuthula Sandi

We also extend our condolences to the following staff members whose family members recently passed away.

- Education's **Dr Kathija Adam** (her mother)
- Education's **Asanda Mgcongo** (her father)

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 August competition winners: **Nombuso Nobongwana** of Admissions, **Michelle Fleur** of Protection Services, **Christine Phillips** of Finance and **Sue Sheldon** of Integrated Media Services.

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

1. Our new C.....t (7 letter word) Centre will service incoming telephone calls and especially prospective student enquiries in much more detail.

2. The C.....y (9 letter word) School Centre aims to contribute to education improvement in South Africa by developing theory and practice-based models of school improvement.

3. The People" lunchtime panel discussion during Diversity Week revealed that as a society we have to start connecting with people on a **p.....l** (8 letter word) level.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **3 October**.

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.

We rocked Casual Day



TOPS ... The team from the School of ICT won the Algoa FM Casual Day competition – from the back are **Claudette Le Roux, Margi Brittain, Cheryl Schroder, Andrew Rutherford, Ronald Leppan, Amber Share, Heloise Levack, Teri Campher, Gwen Kleinhans, Shaun Vincent** and **Dieter Steenberg** in front.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to Casual Day this year. We raised R4 860 which has been split between our three charities Cheshire Homes, Cerebral Palsy Association and PE Mental Health. We are also very proud of our students with the Society Casual Day Ambassadors raising R10 000 for the Association for the Physically Disabled.



OH SO HEALTHY??? ... Environmental Health's **Cheryl Swanepoel** (far left) and **Santa van Rooyen** (far right) roped in some students to join the band.



ELVIS AND THE TINA'S ... Procurement's **Nadia Liberty** (from left), **Cheryl Jew-narain, Zonge Mooi, Yolandi Kock, Thina Balakistnen and Magda Bosch** and **Dean Wasserfall** in front enjoyed their alter egos.



BEAN COUNTERS ... Finance went all the way as usual with Elvis and a few other rockers that we did not recognize ... (from left) **Denise du Preez, Yvette Hamilton, Hermie Oelofsen, Anita van Huyssen, Ren Kock, Hentie van Eck, Marinda van Wyk and Gareth Groener**.



Celebrating individuals and lesser-known sports

It's not always the well-known popular team sports excelling and bringing fame to our university. We are very proud of winning Intervarsity the fifth time in a row bringing accolades to a number of our team sports. This month the individuals and the lesser known sports took honours overseas, nationally and locally.

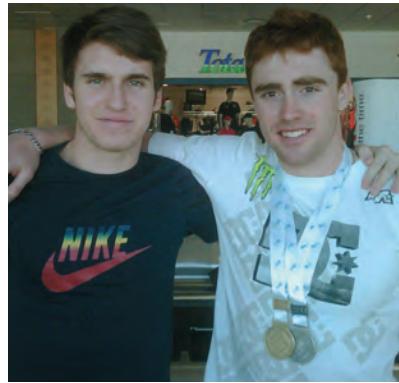
TAEKWAN DO CHAMPS ... Four NMMU students left as part of the South African team this month to compete in the Taekwondo Do World Championships in North Korea.

Mechatronics students Connor Scheckle (right) and Dylan Prinsloo were sponsored R3 000 each by the GMSA Chair of Mechatronics. The other two students are Rudi Nicholas and Janel Stoltz.



SA PADDLER ... NMMU student Greg Louw (left) recently participated at the World Canoe Sprint Championships in Hungary, where the SA relay team for the 4 X 200m finished sixth in the world, an excellent achievement. More than 40 000 spectators supported their athletes in Szeged, the paddling capital of the world.

SHORT COURSE SWIMMERS ... Law student Wesley Morris (far right) received a silver medal for the 50m breast stroke and a bronze for the 100m individual medley at the South African National Short Course Championships in Johannesburg. First-year Construction Management student Thomas Hansford finished fifth overall in the long distance events 400 freestyle, 400 Individual Medley and 200 butterfly.



BEST IN FIVE YEARS ... Second-year Nature Conservation student Thinus Prinsloo (left) and first NMMU student over the winning line also clocked the best time by a George Campus student over the past five years in the Saasveld Half-Marathon. He finished the 21.1km route in the overall eleventh position with a time of 1:26.54. The race, organised by NMMU and Outeniqua Harriers, was won by Lindel Tokota in a time of 1:12.05.



FIVE WINS ... Apart from our overall win for the fifth consecutive year, our men's and women's teams won rowing, squash, swimming and tennis in the latest Eastern Cape Intervarsity on 12 and 13 August at Fort Hare University. Cricket, chess, golf, netball, rugby and ladies soccer and waterpolo also won against Rhodes, Walter Sisulu and Fort Hare. NMMU Director Sport **Dr Richard Stretch** (left) is congratulated by Student Events FNB branch manager Thembisa Klaas, Vice-Chancellor Fort Hare University **Dr Mvuyo Tom** and NMMU Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso**.



PE GOLF OPEN ... First-year Sport Management student Siegmund Human (above) won the PE Golf Open in August and represents the EP Men's Golf team at the Inter Provincial tournament in Bloemfontein this month.

PRICE ON SONG ... First-year Human Movement Science student and NMMU Madibaz player James Price (right) has been representing the SA u/19 team on their two-month tour to the UK in July and August, and ensured that SA won the seven match one-day series 5-1. Earlier in April, he was named one of the best players at the Cricket Extravaganza in Potchefstroom in which the Warriors remained unbeaten. This month he will represent EP at the National Club Championships in Pretoria.



Briefs

Gold medals

SECOND-YEAR Law student Kevin Paul won a further two gold medals at the All Africa Games – the 200m individual medley and 100m freestyle in the physically disabled category. His times qualify for the able-bodied Olympic Games in England next year. In the interim, he's off to South America to swim in Brazil.

Strong man

THIRD-YEAR Wood Technology student Juan Fourie received a gold medal during the recent SA Powerlifting Championships. He broke a new SA Junior record and will compete in the World Championships in Canada, and the Commonwealth Games in the UK this year.

Hockey men EP tops

NMMU Madibaz mens' hockey team has clinched the EP premier league hockey title. The team won all their matches and defeated the title holders Gelvan Hurricanes 2-1.