

# talk@nmmu

October 2011

**GREEN CAKE ...** The Boks may have failed in their quest for World Cup glory, but it never stopped Computing Sciences' **Ntembeko Jafta, Mildred Zomba, Department Head Prof Jean Greyling, Marinthea Snyman and Hayley Irvine** from celebrating Bok and Green Fridays. The department's all-green tea party follows the many academic successes it has enjoyed in recent weeks, including that of "best paper" at two computing sciences conferences. What do you do to celebrate your successes?



The only atomic transmission microscope on African continent

## Launch of a new era

**OUR NEW centre enabling scientists to analyse materials right down to atomic level and put Africa on par with its international counterparts in terms of cutting-edge research, is now officially open.**

Minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande cut the proverbial ribbon of the R120m Higher Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) Centre on 11 October 2011.

He also switched on the only atomic transmission microscope on the African continent in front of a small group of dignitaries from around the world and a large press contingent.

Scholars from Oxford, the Japanese scientists responsible for building the high-powered microscopes along with NMMU's key partners, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the National

Research Foundation (NRF), and Sasol, were also at the launch.

The official "switching on", which marked the culmination of a personal 20-year dream by the centre's director **Professor Jannie Neethling**, was followed by lunch and a seminar highlighting the benefits of the new centre.

The custom-made microscopes mean South Africa, and indeed Africa, now has the tools to conduct cutting-edge research covering national priorities such as clean water, energy, mineral beneficiation and manufacturing, in what will be a major boost to South Africa's international competitiveness.

Until now, South African scientists have had to travel overseas to conduct such research.

"Without doubt, this new centre for nanoscience and nanotechnology is going to mean big business

for South Africa," says Prof Neethling, one of the country's foremost electron microscopists and a past head of the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa.

For starters, vibrant mutually-beneficial partnerships will be extended with the NRF, DST, DoHET and Sasol as well as with Oxford University, and various manufacturers in Europe, Asia and America.

The official opening was followed by a seminar focusing on the various aspects of nanoscience which can be applied to almost any discipline with a physical component.

The suite of microscopes can, for example, be used in synthetic fuels technology, nuclear energy materials, diamond cutting and drilling tools, metal alloys used in the automotive industry and optical sensors and electronic devices. This is a global success story. See page 5.

► **Next edition: Highlights 2011** ► **Achievers Dinner**

**ARCHIVES**  
New centre

3

**HEADS**  
In focus

5

**AWARDS**  
Arts achieve

5

**GEORGE**  
Green week

11

# Celebrations and awards

FOR one professor at this university this month is particularly special – after 20 years Physics Prof Jan Neethling has seen his dream come true with the official opening a high resolution transmission electron microscope facility.

Another new centre for our archives exhibitions, which brings together the past and present of three merging institutions, is in a modern facility on Second Campus, where further building is expected.

We are also very fortunate to have lured a second A-rated scientist, Prof Maarten de Wit, to NMMU, and we've profiled him this month.

Another newcomer is Prof Steve Burgess who joins us as director of the Business School.

In the spotlight this month is Fine Arts Prof Cleone Cull whose artwork was exhibited at the VC's Cultural Evening and as a stand-alone exhibition thereafter.



On the national front, our marketing and corporate publications and campaigns won 15 awards, the most of any of the country's universities: students from Arts and Computing Sciences won national awards, and our cricketers are the national club champions again.

On the provincial level our chess champion is number one, DVC (Academic) Prof Piet Naud won a columnist award and our hockey men's team, won the EP premier league.

And then there's the greenies – George Campus once again pulled off a stunning Green Campus week raising awareness for green living and sustainability, our architecture students hosted guests in tents, and the Bok / Green Fridays proved popular with staff. Read more in our second last edition of talk@nmmu for the year.

Send us your stories and photographs.  
Kind regards  
Elma de Koker

## Briefs

### Columnist winner

DEPUTY Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs **Professor Piet Naud** was selected as the 2011 columnist winner in the Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards for the Eastern Cape region.



There were 30 entries in the Eastern Cape columnist category. Prof Naudé writes a weekly column in The Herald.

The National Awards ceremony takes place in Johannesburg on 4 November.

### Best Paper

COMPUTING Sciences Bradley van Tonder and **Prof Janet Wesson** (right) received the Best Paper award at the recent South African Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists (SAICSIT) conference in Cape Town. SAICSIT is the premier national research conference in this discipline.



### Psychometric Committee

HUMAN Resources' **Justin August** has been appointed to the Psychology Board's Psychometrics Committee of the Health Professions Council of SA. Justin worked in CAAR (Centre for Access Assessment Research) before joining HR as Organisational Development Consultant.



AWARDS GALORE ... NMMU's team who scooped 15 awards at the recent national marketing, advancement and communication in education conference showed off their awards for publications and campaigns.

## 15 awards for NMMU

**NMMU is the top university in South Africa when it comes to corporate publications, branding, and marketing campaigns.**

We won 15 awards, the most of any other tertiary institution, at the recent Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards outside Johannesburg.

Stellenbosch University received the second highest number of awards (six) which cover branding, communication, marketing, fundraising and events management.

"The NMMU team has shown great imagination in carrying the values of the institution through into both tangible and intangible areas," said campaign judge Anthea Grant-Broom.

Four of our awards were for the university's staging and filming of a flash mob by the NMMU Choir

at Greenacres Shopping Centre which was uploaded onto YouTube and has since been viewed by well over 100 000 people around the globe.

Other award-winning projects included the Hang out for Ubuntu campaign, when staff and students pegged out clothing for charity on the University Road fence, and marketing to students in rural areas via MXit. See page 10.

NMMU publications - In Touch, Directory of Experts, Frequently Asked Questions in three languages, Way To Go and the International Office's Undergraduate Guide – all received excellence awards by scoring 75% or more.

The Better U undergraduate closing date campaign won its category with the values campaign as well as the electronic newsletters workshops for staff also receiving awards.

## Diary

27 October

**Milde McWilliams Lecture**

8 November

**Tea for retirees**

18 November

**Arts and Culture Staff Christmas Concert**

2 December

**Staff Association end-of-year function**

6 December

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

talk@nmmu is published by NMMU Marketing & Corporate Relations. The deadline for contributions to the November edition of talk@nmmu is 28 October 2011. Please e-mail your contributions in MSWord and photographs separately in jpg format (no smaller than 800kb) to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za. Opinions expressed in talk@nmmu are not necessarily those of the editor or NMMU.

Modern new archives exhibition centre a tribute to history

# Sharing the NMMU past

**HONOURING the Past – Harnessing the Future...** was the theme of the recent opening of our state-of-the-art Archive Exhibition Centre on Second Avenue Campus.

These new facilities are certainly the pride of this campus and as shared by Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** in his opening address, the first of many major upgrades planned for Second Avenue Campus in the near future.

The centre, which also houses the offices of the Registrar and the governance section, is home to exquisite pieces of art and furniture, all depicting a piece of our university's history. Old and new artifacts are also displayed, creating a sense of past and present.

The centre houses a temperature-controlled archive storage room where old documents and memorabilia such as paintings, photographs, sculptures, academic dress etc. are stored under optimum conditions.

The *piece de resistance* in the centre, however, is the exhibition area. In a space of less than 75m<sup>2</sup>, international exhibition designer Josef Greeff has beautifully captured 129 years of history – going back to the PE Art School which opened its doors in 1882.

"As you make your way into the exhibition area, your eye is drawn to a simple graphic representation of our historical timeline in the form of a tree – it needs to be seen to be understood," writes Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Bev Erickson**, who penned this article.



**LEADERS ...** Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and former PE Technikon Vice-Chancellor **Prof Hennie Snyman** look at a portrait painting of former NMMU Vice-Chancellor **Dr Rolf Stumpf**, which is part of the new Archive Exhibition Centre on Second Avenue Campus.

A glass display cases shows off some very old Vista University memorabilia donated by the first Principal of Vista, Dr Michiel Levin.

On loan to NMMU for a period of two years and displayed under glass, are letters written by our namesake, Nelson Mandela, while imprisoned on Robben Island.

A selection of photographs and videos continuously run on a public display system, giving viewers

an idea of where we come from and what we do at our university.

The timeline, which begins with the PE Art School, continuing through the three predecessor institutions and the merger, culminates in a magnificent framed, beaded NMMU logo, given to the university by 2011 honorary doctoral recipient Thembeke Nkamba-van Wyk.

## University exhibition

The exhibition is open during working hours and should be viewed by every NMMU staff member and student

## 30 Years in fine art

**FINE Art Prof Cleone Cull has been active in developing visual arts and visual arts education in the Eastern Cape for 30 years.**

Prof Cull's later work continues to explore ways of expressing the mystical energies of the sacred and shamanic. Landscape remains the focus, but it is the notion of the interior world, the transpersonal or spiritual aspects of the human experience that dominate.

In her recent exhibition *Walking Between the Worlds* four interlocking series of drawings work broadly with the theme of the Divine Feminine. The final two series *Return of the Goddess* and *Ascension Manuals* show her experimenting with new directions in style and technique.

**IN COLOUR ...** Fine Art Professor in the School of Music, Art and Design **Cleone Cull** exhibited her work as part of the annual Vice-Chancellor's Cultural Evening, last month showcasing art and music to business and other stakeholders in the city. The event at the newly-renovated the Athenaeum in Central consisted of a number of musical performances after which guests could view Prof Cull's colourful work, *Walking Between the Worlds*, which she produced during her sabbatical in 2010.



Earth Stewardship Science includes humanities, sciences

# Confronting the bigger picture

**JUST about every inch of the earth has its own multitude of existing and future problems – ranging from climate change and pollution to poverty, poor health care, education and more.**

There are countless experts confronting each of these areas – but almost none are investigating the bigger picture as a science on its own, encompassing all the problems affecting a particular piece of the earth and its people.

For some years, former University of Cape Town chair in geology and mineralogy **Prof Maarten de Wit** has been working to define this trans-disciplinary field of research as a completely new discipline termed Earth Stewardship Science – and is now bringing his expertise to NMMU, from where he is also planning to launch the world’s first courses in Earth Stewardship Science.

“As a planet, we are not on the right path. The question is how do we get back on the right path? My vision is to get young people involved in this and drive it forward.”

The concept of Earth Stewardship Science was birthed in De Wit’s Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON), which he founded at UCT 10 years ago, giving rise to hubs at universities across the country. “This institute was set up by 18 scientists in different disciplines, from the humanities to hard physics. Our aim is to solve the planet’s future and emerging problems – this can only be done as a team.”

In addition to its extensive African links, AEON’s international partners include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States, the Institute Physique du Globe in Paris (IPGP) and Germany’s National Research Centre for Earth Sciences (GFZ) in Potsdam.

Through AEON, Prof De Wit set up Inkaba yeAfrica, an ongoing capacity-building earth systems exchange programme between South Africa and Germany.

Prof De Wit said the Eastern Cape presented a unique “laboratory” for Earth Stewardship Science, with a range of problems to solve, including those affecting the coastline and wetlands, as well as poverty and rural development.

“How do we transform this into a sustainable society? Nelson Mandela Bay is part of a microcosm of what’s going on in the rest of the world.

**Born in Holland, schooled in Ireland, and having worked in Chile and Ethiopia, before settling in Cape Town and now at NMMU, newly-appointed NRF A-rated scientist Professor Maarten de Wit is defining a completely new discipline – linking science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and the humanities – to holistically tackle problems affecting the planet, its commons (shared resources) and people.**



*As a planet, we are not on the right path*

**WORLD RESEARCHER ...** Scientist **Prof Maarten de Wit** has travelled the world, cycled for a year around Europe and has now joined NMMU with his vision of interdisciplinary research looking after the earth.

We can set an example here of how it can be done elsewhere ... The exciting thing is that this is already being tackled by a number of leaders at NMMU, for example, in the life sciences and engineering faculties.”

Prof De Wit aims to work with these faculties and a number of others, including NMMU’s agricultural school, conservation, and even its business school.

Prof De Wit completed his PhD in Geosciences at

*I’ve always been interested in understanding how the earth worked when it was young*

Cambridge University. From there, he spent four years at Columbia University in New York, conducting most of his field work in Chile, trying to understand the origin of the Andes and how this mountain range connected with Antarctica.

“I spent half the year in crowded Manhattan and half in deserted Tierra del Fuego.”

He then left academia to join the United Nations, training geologists in Ethiopia for two years.

A chance meeting with an inspiring South African professor in a pub in Amsterdam was the catalyst for his coming to South Africa in 1979.

He spent 10 years at the University of the Witwatersrand’s Bernard Price Institute of Geophysics researching rocks – some 3.5-billion years old – in Mpumalanga’s Barberton area.

“I’ve always been interested in understanding how the earth worked when it was young ... South Africa is a phenomenal geological laboratory for early earth and life studies, and later times when the earth’s landmasses were one supercontinent (Gondwana) ... I became obsessed with Gondwana.”

Prof De Wit moved to UCT in 1989, and spent 22 years there.

Prof De Wit’s partner Lynne Ferguson manages a computer software business in Cape Town. They have two children, Thandi Gondwana, 26, who is completing her medical internship in Pietermaritzburg, and Tjaart, 24, who is finishing his master’s degree in applied maths and the earth’s magnetic field at UCT and the IPGP. - **NW**

WITCHING ON ... Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande (front) turned on the 20-year dream microscope of Physics **Prof Jannie Neethling** (far right) at the opening of Africa's only High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope Centre on 11 October. They are joined by (from left) Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, NRF President Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, and Council Chairperson Judge Ronnie Pillay. Prof Neethling also explained uses for the microscopes saying that if you want to use platinum alloys in a Boeing engine, for example, you must know the micro and nano (atomic) structure of that material, as they determine the properties of that material. You need to know how these properties will change when the materials are subjected to normal operating conditions, like high temperatures or stress. See page 1.



## Assisting with access and development for students, staff

# HEADS in focus

**NMMU's Higher Education Access Development Services (HEADS) is going from strength to strength as it expands and refines its many offerings to staff and students.**

This umbrella department headed by Dean of Teaching and Learning **Prof Cheryl Foxcroft**, houses the Centre for Access Assessment and Research (CAAR), the Centre for Teaching, Learning & Media (CTLM), the Centre for Extended Studies (CES) and Student Counseling & Career Development Centre (SCCDC).

▶ Student Academic Development headed by CTLM's **Dr Sarie Snyders** runs the Writing Centres, Academic Success Teams, Supplemental Instruction and ePAL to help students develop the skills they need to succeed.

What they do?

- ▶ The Writing Centres on all campuses provide feedback on students' draft writing to develop critical thinking and also work with lecturers
- ▶ The Academic Success Teams present In-classroom workshops, keys to success seminars, support for academics to integrate academic skills into the curriculum as well as mentoring and tutoring.

- ▶ Supplemental Instruction or SI targets high risk courses and provides support through peer-facilitation and voluntary attendance.
- ▶ ePAL is the latest enabling learning opportunity where students learn online via the internet from one another by asking questions facilitated by a senior student or staff member.
- ▶ CTLM offers a wide range of teaching development initiatives free to academic staff.
- ▶ Student Counselling assists students with problems including career issues, personal / emotional issues such as depression, bereavement, pregnancy, suicide, rape and domestic violence as well as learning skills concerns.

An online survey resulted in 84% of respondents agreeing that Student Counselling was effective in meeting their needs and 81% felt they would do better academically as a result of the counselling.

- ▶ CAAR has been around since 1999 and has an online test booking system on the NMMU portal. Applicants can be tested in nine local sites (Port Elizabeth, George, Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg, Polokwane, Mthatha and three international sites, (Uganda, Kenya and Namibia). Applicants can be assessed

### Did you know?

- ▶ Moodle is the new buzz word and part of the new blended learning support programme launched by CTLM for all academic staff.
- ▶ NMMU is the only South African university offering a Scholarship in Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Certificate programme to academic staff.
- ▶ More than 70% of our students do not speak English as their primary language and allowances should be made for them in class and during assessment.
- ▶ Student Counselling has already helped almost 4 000 students across all campuses this year: about 40% received individual counselling and 60% were assisted during group sessions.
- ▶ CAAR (the Centre for Access Assessment and Research) tested over 8000 applicants for this year's intake and 52% of local first-time undergraduate students who registered this year for first-year studies were tested.

on computer-based or pencil and paper tests and CAAR makes developmental recommendations as well as admissions and placement decisions for first-year tested students. First-year academic performance is also researched.

OUTREACH ... Eight SRC members including Hlumelo Ncoco and Banele Ngoza toured rural Eastern Cape along with Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Ntosh Gwaqa** (left) and **Nomsa Xubani** (far right) to share information with some 2000 Grade 12 learners in Port Alfred, King Williams Town, Queenstown, Lady Frère, Cofimvaba, Mthatha, Lusikisiki, Bizana and the like. Presentations about NMMU, along with information on APS scores and financial assistance, were shared through the student initiative called Operation Sangena.



# Arts winning all the way

OUR School of Music, Art and Design students have once again been on a winning streak taking top prizes in textile design, graphic design and music contests.

► BTech Fashion student Kelly Esterhuyse (right) won the Elle New Talent Design award at SA Fashion Week recently. Her first prize of R25 000 to launch her career also comes with an internship with Mr Price to design a range for them.



► Graphic Design students Lubabalo Mtati (right) and Michelle Hoch (below) bagged three Loerie Awards at the recent national competition. Lubabalo took two golds – one in the campaign section and one in the craft section, while Michelle won a bronze award in the campaign section.



Lubabalo's work - Kultured: A way of Learning - is a series of illustrated posters that expresses pride in South African black youth culture, particularly the Xhosa culture in the Eastern Cape. Indigenous language, customs, rituals and identity are addressed through hand drawn typography and illustrated images. Lubabalo has also been selected as a finalist in the prestigious national Pen-doring competition. Michelle's project - Mis-



TOP HONOURS ... Third-year Graphic Design students Claudette Steyn (left) and Milla Theron took five awards at the Institute of Packaging (IPSA) Goldpack Awards function with Claudette winning the overall gold award and Milla silver in the design category. Their work will now be submitted to the world packaging awards in China. "Our winners produced really professional, well-researched design solutions that had the judges waxing lyrical," said Applied Design head **Mike Swanepoel**.

sionvale Care Centre - uses unsettling statistics and a simple narrative to generate an abundant supply of food for Missionvale. A ticking clock will greet the consumer at the entrance of a Spar store, informing them of the immense need for food. The campaign will be implemented in Port Elizabeth.

► Music master's student Devandré Boonzaaier (right) won the master's



bursary from the Southern African Church Organists Society, the second organist in the country to receive this bursary introduced in 2010. Devandré was also one of 40 participants invited to participate in the ATKV Muziq competition at the University of the Free State, where he reached the second round. Devandré is also a member of the NMMU Choir and a past Golden Key President.

## International distinguished fellow

**RESEARCHER of the Year Prof Richard Cowling was recently awarded the title of Distinguished MEDECOS (International Conference of Mediterranean-Type Ecosystems) Fellow.**

The award recognises his "decades of service to MEDECOS and contribution to the advancement of Mediterranean-region ecology, biodiversity and conservation".

Prof Cowling received the award together with four other leading researchers from Mediterranean-climate regions at this year's conference at the University of California at Los Angeles.

He presented a paper titled "Evolution of diversity in the world's five Mediterranean-type ecosystems: the role of climatic and topographic dynamics".

Prof Cowling also visited Harvard University's Prof Richard Wrangham and his group at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology discussing research collaboration on the nutritional impacts for early humans of cooking bulbs.



TOP AWARD ... Botany's **Prof Richard Cowling**, NMMU Researcher of the Year, is congratulated by Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

At Arizona State University in Tempe he worked on proposed research with colleagues on the palaeo environments of the Cape coastal plain. Here his lecture was titled "Mediterranean-type ecosystems of the world. Evolution and conservation in extra-tropical hotspots."

## Briefs

### Missionvale library award

OUR Missionvale Campus library building received an award of commendation by the Eastern Cape Institute of Architects last month

### Visiting professor

ECONOMICS' **Prof Charles Wait** is spending five months as visiting professor at the Warsaw School of Economics in Poland.

### Law alumnus achiever

LAW Master's degree alumnus Arthurnatious Muzuva, has just completed a six-month internship at the International Court of The Hague in The Netherlands. He plans to continue his studies in Law abroad next year.



**ROLEPLAYERS** ... Architect and alumnus Tim Hewitt-Coleman (from left), Architecture Department Head **Stephen Lear**, judge and architect Nina Maritz, Des Baker competition co-ordinator Architecture's **Donald Flint**, Department of Education representative Angi Jones, student congress coordinator Sheldon Jennings and architect and judge Cape Town University's Prof Joe Noero attended the annual Des Baker National Architectural Student Competition hosted by our Architecture Department and the National Architectural Student Congress. NMMU's team of three final-year Bachelor of Architectural Studies students was represented by Hyacinthe Tonga, Robin Watson and Stephanie Briers. (Inset) Some 700 students were accommodated around the Vodacom Indoor Centre in tents in line with the theme of the congress "Sustainable Architecture in a Developing World".



## Conference emphasises sustainability in architecture worldwide

# Delegates camp in tents

**SUSTAINABLE Architecture in a Developing World was the theme of the recent national architecture student congress hosted on our South Campus.**

Characterised by a tent town accommodating some 700 students around the Vodacom Indoor Centre, the congress exposed students to architects from Brazil, Mexico, America and Namibia.

The speakers focused on architecture and its relationship to a sustainable way of living, cities, culture and society, African architecture in transition and the most important recent technical developments

in relation to sustainability.

Delegates from Free State, UCT, Wits, Pretoria, Kwa-Zulu Natal and NMMU also visited the Red Location Museum designed by Noero Wolff Architects whose firm won the Lubetkin Prize from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2006.

Keynote speakers included UCT's award-winning Prof Jo Noero, Namibian architect Nina Maritz, who grew up in PE and whose work reflects local building strategies and uses local labour.

Mexican experience and architectural critique

were presented by architects Oscar Hagermann and Paloma Vera, while Jack DeBartolo from Phoenix, Arizona, spoke about community architecture.

Students also heard more about the Bio-Architecture and Intuitive Technology (TIBA), an institute in Brazil's Mata Atlantica jungle building environmentally sustainable housing in poor communities. Local speakers included architects Dorelle Sapere and Hedwig Crooijmans.

Tours were taken to the Donkin Memorial area and the Ubuntu Centre.



**CELEBRATIONS** ... Art and Culture's **Leniqu Bossr** (left) handed a token of thanks to Political Economy Head the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection Mcebisi Ndletyana who as guest speaker spoke about our heritage from Post-Apartheid times at a gala evening jointly organised by the SRC and Arts and Culture. Guests at the evening held at the Feather Market Centre included Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Institutional Support **Dr Sibongile Muthwa**, George Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** and 2011 SRC President Hlumelo Ncoco. The Vudu Jazz Band played the night away.

## Briefs

### Philharmonic experience

MUSIC students Dylan Barker, Elanie Kok, Liske Potgieter and JF Viljoen recently performed with the ECPO (East Cape Philharmonic Orchestra) as part of the ECPO's Youth Orchestral Experience.

### Student Diversity Concert

PERFORMANCES challenging viewers' perceptions of culture, diversity, social acceptance and the definition of African beauty marked the student Diversity Concert held in Diversity Month.

Arts and Culture hosted and funded the concert, showcasing the diversity of talent in our students. Respect for diversity is one of NMMU's six values.



**PROUD OWNERS ...** Mechanical Engineering has just bought a new measuring instrument, a Rototest dynamometer which will assist with testing, research and teaching as well as industry commissions. Admiring the new instrument are (back from left) Engineering's **Ruan Muller**, **Sarel Schoombie** and **Mervin Knoesen**, Rototest AB's **Jonny Färnlund** and Engineering's **Gys Kleyn** (in front) and Rototest's **Christian Engström** and Engineering's **Herman Fiddler**.

## High speed performance vehicles to be tested

# A step ahead

**HIGH speed performance vehicles can now be tested without any slippage occurring between the wheel and drum thanks to a new Rototest dynamometer which Mechanical Engineering purchased from Sweden.**

"To our knowledge, no other university has this type of dyno available to their undergraduate and postgraduate students for testing, practical and research work," says Mechanical Engineering's **Mervin Knoesen**.

"This equipment will be invaluable for our students, particularly when they enter the working world as it will stand them in good stead against other candidates."

Christian Engström and Jonny Färnlund travelled from Rototest in Sweden to train staff as they are the only manufacturers of this specific type of

equipment.

The team is currently determining the full extent of the capabilities of the machine.

The dynamometer will be used for performance testing by industry role players and the department will do commission work from the performance and racing market as the dyno can test up to speeds of 350km/h and 1000kW in total.

"This dyno will allow us the opportunity for world class teaching. It will also open doors for countless research opportunities, says Engineering School Director **Sarel Schoombie**.

"Through this purchase, we hope to join hands with automotive and related manufacturers, as well as the motor racing fraternity to ensure world class competitive development, testing and tuning of modern automobiles and racing cars."

## Briefs

### Top awards for students

BTECH student **Norman Addis** (right), received the award for the best academic student in all disciplines of engineering at a University of Technology for 2010 with 21 distinctions and an overall aggregate of 92% at the 2011 ESKOM Chairman's Award evening, *Saluting the Stars*, at the Sandton Convention Centre on 22 September.



The award for the Best Eskom University of Technology bursary-holder in all disciplines of engineering went to **Sibulele Mtakati** (right), another NMMU student.



### Accreditation panel

BUILDING and Quantity Surveying's **Dr Franco Geminiani** (right) was recently appointed to the accreditation panel of the SA Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP). The panel will visit SA tertiary institutions that offer Project and Construction Management programmes for accreditation in consultation with the SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Council on Higher Education.



## FabLab for the future

**OUR ENGINEERING students will in future gain practical experience in a simulated environment with the construction of a fabrication laboratory (FabLab) starting this month.**

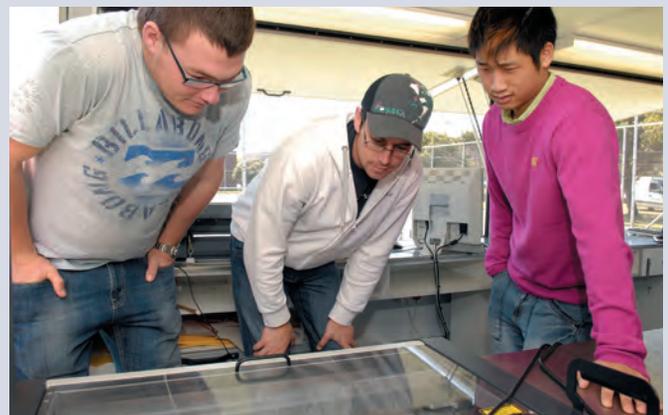
Industrial Engineering recently joined hands with the SA FabLab Network, managed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), for the construction of the seventh physical FabLab in the country which will be situated on our campus.

FabLabs are rapid prototyping platforms for informal technical edu-

cation which encourage students to create a variety of product and built certain structures such as bridges.

SA's only mobile FabLab unit recently visited the Industrial Engineering Department to give first- and second-year students the opportunity to develop, design and manufacture various products.

Industrial Engineering Department Head **Dr Ann Lourens** said the new FabLab will house a simulated working environment, automation equipment and research facilities.



**LOOK AT THAT ...** Industrial Engineering students (from left) **Michael Schnetler**, **Luke Wait** and **Stuart Ah Yui** are intrigued by the equipment in the mobile simulation laboratory (FabLab) during a recent visit to our campus. Construction of our own FabLab will start this month.

# NMMU launches first environmental information systems course

## Spotlight on sustainability

**GLOBAL** warming, the financial recession and on-going poverty have highlighted the need for companies to report the social, financial and environmental impact of their activities through sustainability reporting.

This critical trend has become an essential part of business in Europe and the United States – but South African companies lag far behind.

To plug the gap, Computing Sciences, which has been awarded an international grant for knowledge exchange with Oldenburg, launched South Africa's first course on Environmental Information Systems and sustainability reporting, and is also collaborating with industry to conduct leading-edge research on this topic.

Computing Sciences' **Brenda Scholtz**, who initiated the programme with colleague **Prof Andr Calitz** and Oldenburg's Prof Jorge Marx Gómez, says: "We want to get students educated and aware of this field so they can develop a different kind of mindset."

Marx Gómez - a leading expert and author of several books on sustainability reporting - developed a communications instrument to assist companies to report statistics relating to their social, environmental and financial sustainability.

He said sustainability reporting was currently voluntary in Europe, but legislation was changing to



*In the future, every country will have sustainability reporting*

A GLOBAL ISSUE ... Computing Sciences' **Brenda Scholtz** and **Prof Andr Calitz** (standing) and University of Oldenburg's Prof Jorge Marx Gómez use a multi-touch surface to discuss the growing global need for sustainability reporting.

make it obligatory. Marx Gómez and his postgraduate students have piloted the communications instrument, called Storm, at a number of top firms in Germany, including Volkswagen, SAP, major digital photo finishing company Cewe Colour, and a large biochemicals company.

"Sustainability is also one of the 10 Millennium Development Goals created by the United Nations over the past two years.

"In South Africa, the King III report requires only listed companies to conduct sustainability reporting," says Prof Calitz.

But this is a trend Calitz envisages will spread to all companies. "In the future, every country will have sustainability reporting. Before doing business with a company, stakeholders will look at how they report (this information)."

Marx Gómez said the University of Oldenburg dealt with sustainability reporting in an inter-disciplinary manner, drawing on the expertise of a number of university departments.

NMMU is planning to follow suit, and will also be the first South African university to implement its own sustainability reporting framework. **NW**



FIRST VEGGIES ... The first batch of organic spinach and cabbage grown on campus by Agricultural Management students on North Campus was donated to Campus Health Services. The students are responsible for their own growing areas on North Campus and have a "hands-on" approach to organic forms of cultivation which promotes ecological balance and conservation of biodiversity.

## Briefs

### Top paper

COMPUTING Science student Simone Beets' paper on how information is presented on the internet was chosen as the best at the recent Telkom-sponsored SATNAC national conference for the ICT and engineering disciplines.

Of the 400 papers from around the country presented for consideration to the East London conference, only 141 were accepted and Simone's received the Best Paper award.

The 23-year-old was also interviewed on the youth programme *Befonk* on Radio Sonder Grense

### Oxford for talk

MSC PHYSICS student **Ettiëne Minnaar** recently presented a paper at the Electron Microscopy and Analysis Group Conference in Birmingham and was invited to speak at Oxford University. The conference trip is part of the prize Ettiëne won last year as the Most Promising Microscopist for his presentation at the Microscopy Society's national annual conference.

Empowering those with disabilities and sharing the experience

# In our shoes



**STARTING with Casual Day, September was dedicated to disability awareness, a tradition at NMMU since 2007. Our value of ubuntu, which entails reaching out to others, ties in too since being aware and looking after persons with disabilities is something we must also strive to do.**

The theme "In our shoes" created awareness about disabilities and bridging the gap between those with and those without disabilities.

Entertainment, excitement and emotion marked the opening function at Missionvale Campus' Sport Centre's VIP lounge where stories were shared enabling the audience to get a glimpse of life "in their shoes".

Sociology and Anthropology's **Prof Frans Bezuidenhout** who is hearing impaired, spoke about the challenges he has faced and how has overcome them. Learners from the Lonwabo Primary Special Needs School performed a powerful wheelchair dance.

Wheelchair tennis champion student Marshall Marsh and businessman Adrian Hubbard demonstrated how they move their special wheelchairs at a demonstration tennis game during a lunchtime event in the South Campus Kraal.

Student spectators were invited to attempt the sport. All agreed: "It's harder than it looks!" Tennis-

related games and prizes as well as music provided by Disability Unit volunteer, Thobela, entertained the students along with the NMMU mascot DIBA.

"Hearing loss" was discussed by speech and language therapist Janet Whitehouse and the Disability Unit's **Ruth Barends** shared resources and services for hearing impaired staff and students during a lunch-time event on North Campus, while a number of relevant movies were shown at the residences in the evening.

Five Cape Recife School learners demonstrated the sport of Boccia, tossing leather balls as close as possible to a specific target, during a lunch time event on Missionvale Campus. Using skill, technique and precision, the learners competed against able-bodied students and won.

Apart from prizes, Disability Awareness badges were distributed. The event also raised awareness of Boccia becoming a social sport within the NMMU community, allowing students with disabilities to interact with those differently-abled.

Executive and extended management participated in the last event, the Executive Challenge, where they had to choose between three disabilities.

Wheelchairs, eye patches, and ear plugs were distributed to participants who remarked afterwards: "NMMU needs to do more for disabled persons".



*WHEELCHAIR EXPERIENCE ... Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso** took part in the Executive Challenge during Disability Month. He was joined by (from left) Disability Unit's **Ruth Barends**, student intern Noxolo Phongolo, and Disability Unit volunteers Ngowalisa Jama and Hanlie Abrahams.*



*HELPING RELATIONSHIPS ... George Campus students (from left) Wanda Notshe (Nature Conservation), Abongile Pilisani (Agricultural Management), Thando Donti (Education) and Abulele Zweni (Agricultural Management) recently completed a peer helping programme to improve their listening and communication skills in helping relationships – a clear indication of their wholehearted support of **ubuntu**, promoting compassionate and responsible citizenship. The students said afterwards they have learnt to avoid difficulties during communication by listening attentively without making assumptions. The programme leads participants through a number of experiential learning exercises assisting them in understanding what their peers may be experiencing in new and difficult situations. "The skills learnt in this programme build life skills which will empower students to improve their interpersonal skills at both a personal and professional level," said Student Development Services' **Dave Jenkins**.*

## Hangout4ubuntu wins

**THE social responsibility project Hangout4ubuntu staged a year ago when NMMU gathered clothing to share with various charities in the metro, is a winner.**

The project which galvanized the NMMU community to live out the value of **Ubuntu** and peg 1.2km's worth of clothing along the fence leading to North and South campuses, won a Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) award outside Johannesburg this month.

The highly-visual project served as a trigger for individual departments to start their own outreach initiatives - a clear indication of staff and students living out the value of **Ubuntu**.



**RECYCLING RACE ... Lecturers Anton Schmidt and Bianca Currie participated in the recycling trolley race against time to empty the trolley by sorting the materials in the appropriately-labelled recycling bins.**

## Exhibitions, fun & clearing alien vegetation Students impress

**STUDENTS pulled out all the stops to create environmental awareness among fellow students, visitors and the community at this year's Green Campus Awareness Week at George Campus.**

One of the three exhibitions in the Student Recreation Centre featured "green lodging" with various models and visuals with practices that reduce the carbon footprint.

The BTech Nature Conservation class showcased student projects such as the Tierkop action research project; the Vermiculture project; students training community members and vegetable gardens for the Men on the Side of the Road Project and the Green Campus Forum.

Environmental issues from water and energy to managing alien invasive species and the relationship with wild animals that co-habit the space with

staff and students on campus were another focus of the third exhibition.

"As students we want to be part of changing poor habits and attitudes towards the environment and issues of sustainability," said Mfundo Majola, Green Campus Forum spokesperson.

Fun events emphasising key environmental and conservation messages included a fashion show, with outfits from recyclable materials; a box-cart race with vehicles from recyclable materials; a pledge wall for students and visitors; and competitions including paintball, a green goo recycle pool and trolley races.

Clearing of alien vegetation took place throughout the week.

Schools introduced their learners to the "green" concepts and visitors enjoyed campus tours.

## Student mobilisation

**OPPORTUNITIES and constraints to sustainable development and student mobilisation were discussed at a recent Student Mobilisation Indaba on George Campus bringing together NMMU, Rhodes and Sweden's Uppsala University.**

Each university highlighted their particular activities and students and researchers networked with the other institutions.

Key presentations were made by Uppsala University's Prof David Kronlid, Rhodes' Prof Heila Lotz Sisitka, George Campus Principal Prof Christo Fabricius, Agricultural Management's Prof Raymond Auerbach and Operations Director Martin Loubser.

Student bodies tackling sustainability issues were represented.



**TAKING A BREAK ... Researchers and students from NMMU, Rhodes and Sweden's Uppsala University including BTech student Amanda Portier (back from left), Uppsala's Jakob Grandin, Dr David Kronlid, NMMU student Steve Faulconbridge, Rhodes' Prof Heila Sisitka, NMMU's Prof Raymond Auerbach, Rhodes students Sebastian Giulio Lewis and Alex Lenferna and NMMU's Prof Christo Fabricius with NMMU student Damien Coulsonon (front from left), WESSA Southern Cape's Lorraine McGibbon, Green Campus Forum's Mfundo Majola and Aneri Vlok and NMMU's Bianca Currie discussed sustainability issues at a recent indaba.**

## Briefs

### Ads help CANSA

THIRD-YEAR George Campus Marketing students recently created advertising applications for Cansa's fundraising activities.

Three teams created print media, outdoor media (billboard) or a social media page, and a 90-second marketing video for Cansa's Sha-athon, High Heel Race and the Relay for Life.

Lecturer Adele Potgieter said that the class really excelled this year working in an environment with different opinions, stressful situations and strict deadlines.

### Prominent award

AGRICULTURAL Management alumnus Stuart Dewing is the Eastern Cape winner in the Toyota Young Farmer competition.

Stuart, who farms with his family in the Cathcart area, has merino sheep and beef cattle, and for three consecutive years (2008 to 2010), he also won the Ermenegildo Zegna Wool Trophy for South Africa, an international fine-wool fleece competition.

Upon receiving his award, Dewing said: "Young farmers must be innovative, more efficient and more productive, but they must also embrace change".



### Celebrating arbor week

GEORGE Campus staff and Green Campus Forum students were joined by various colleagues from Port Elizabeth in celebrating Arbor Week at the beginning of September.

Campus Principal Prof Christo Fabricius and Director: Operations Martin Loubser were joined by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr Sibongile Muthwa, Executive Director: Operations Gisela Kaiser and Dean of Students Khaya Matiso in planting a Broom Cluster Fig tree, a commitment to our value of respect for the natural environment.

### Choir on SABC2

THE GEORGE Campus Choir appeared on *Morning Live* on SABC 2 on 12 September.

### Marketing lecturer

TOURISM Management lecturer Altouise Jonas from NMMU in Port Elizabeth recently joined the George Campus Marketing programme. Altouise is completing an MTech degree in Marketing.



# Celebrating with ubuntu

**IN THE spirit of Ubuntu, the 2010 group of 20 FIFA/CIES/NMMU students contributed to the travel and accommodation costs of their classmate and top achiever Antoniu Geormaneanu, of Austria, to be present at their certificate presentation ceremony on 3 October.**

Six students completed the qualification with distinction, namely Antoniu with an academic average of 87%, Kurt Rensburg, Sithembiso Mkhize, Godwin Nwafor, Johnny Isaacs and Human Movement Science's **Samantha Woolard**.

The keynote address was presented by Russell Domingo, the newly-appointed SA Proteas Assistant Cricket Coach. FIFA's Solomon Mudege, an alumnus, attended and also congratulated the group.



**INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR ...** FIFA/CIES/NMMU Programme in Sport Management Manager **Vernon Oosthuizen** (centre) congratulates Nigerian Godwin Nwafor (left) and Antoniu Geormaneanu, of Austria, who finished as top student of the course, during a certificate presentation programme at North Campus's Conference Centre earlier this month. The fifth edition of the block-lecture programme is already underway at NMMU, one of only two tertiary institutions in South Africa to offer the international programme.

**LET'S TALK GREEN...** InnoVenton's (Institute for Chemical Technology) *Algae to Bio-energy* project has been funded with R4.5m, through the Department of Science and Technology's biofuels initiative and the Technology Innovation Agency. The project develops algae-based technologies for environmentally-sustainable energy use and energy recycling. Recently a kick-off meeting was hosted by Innovation Support and Technology Transfer where Director **Jaci Barnett** (centre right) introduced the significance of the project for NMMU and the critical role of each team member. "Algae to Bio-energy" Project Manager **Otto Lessing** shared details of the project plan and required outputs.



## Seeking sustainable solutions

**PHYSICS' Prof Ernest van Dyk and Dr Freddie Vorster recently visited the world's largest photovoltaic inverter manufacturer, SMA, in Kassel, Germany.**

The manufacturer operates the largest CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral production facility in the world. The roof of their main production facility, for example, is covered with photovoltaic modules with a capacity of 1.1 megaWatts.

This, says our experts, is what is needed in South Africa given its available roof space and abundant sunshine.

With the renewable energy bidding process of the Department of Energy well under way, it is hoped that the first large photovoltaic plants in South Africa, will be operational by the middle of next year.

The visit to SMA followed the Solar World Conference in Kassel and the 26<sup>th</sup> European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition in Hamburg, Germany, which both NMMU experts attended.

Photovoltaics, solar thermal energy and wind energy were among the topics at the conferences.

Dr Vorster also attended workshops on electromobility and wind energy, while Prof Van Dyk went to a concentrator photovoltaics workshop and a



**HIGHLIGHT ...** Physics Prof Ernest van Dyk visited this large photovoltaic farm in Rothwesten near Kassel in Germany as part of his research tour with colleague Dr Freddie Vorster.

technical tour to photovoltaic industries and research facilities in Kassel.

Highlights of the Solar World Conference included a visit to a large scale (23.5 megaWatt) photovoltaic plant near Kassel and a wind turbine workshop presented by Prof David Wood from the University of Calgary, Canada.

The team also visited The Hague University of Applied Sciences in Delft in the Netherlands where they discussed future collaboration on renewable energy projects in engineering and physics.

In addition, the Delft campus is housed in a state-of-the-art energy efficient "smart" building that utilises renewable energy technologies.



**AMBASSADORS ...** Business and Economic Sciences student Buchule Madikizela is Mr NMMU while first-year Arts student Ziphozakhe Zokufa is the new Miss NMMU. Runners-up for Miss NMMU are Yolande Oosthuysen (bottom left) and Chule Gongga, while Lithalethu Madikazi (right) and Worship Freemantle finished second and third in Mr NMMU.



**ACHIEVER ...** NMMU/Weekend Post Matric of the Year Scholarship winner Somila Fuma, of Hector Peterson High School in King William's Town, is congratulated by Executive Dean of Law **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** and Marketing and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart**. The overall winner was Quinten van Staden, of Grey High School, who is planning to study medicine at Stellenbosch University. See page 14.



**WELCOME ...** New Business School Director **Prof Steve Burgess** (right) joined here by HR Future Magazine's Alan Hosking and Flambard Holdings' Rory Stear, was introduced to stakeholders at a welcoming breakfast at the Plantation on 7 October attended by some 70 people, including managing directors, CEOs of companies and Business School staff.



**ROLEPLAYERS ...** Secretary Anathi Masebeni (from left), Chairperson Pamela Humbulani, Treasurer Wilness Oosthuizen, Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius**, Deputy Chairperson Jeffrey Lekoloane, lecturers **Arthur Peters** and **Sam Webber** and George Business Chamber President Imel Rautenbach at the launch of the Student Business Society - Path-finders – aimed at assisting students in "finding their way" in the business world. Path-finders will also have a mutually-beneficial relationship with the George Business Chamber.



**MUSICAL MEDLEY ...** Our international award-winning NMMU choir directed by **Junita van Dijk** performed at the annual Vice-Chancellor's Cultural Evening last month.



**FELLOWSHIP ...** Walter Sisulu University's Dr Sukude Matoti, Academic Planner and Acting Director: Bureau for Institutional Research and Planning worked closely for six weeks with Strategic Planning and Information Analysis Senior Director **Prof Heather Nel** as part of the Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) Fellowship he received from Higher Education South Africa (HESA). The programme is a leadership and management capacity building initiative of HESA. During his visit, Dr Matoti met various colleagues in management responsible for institutional planning. The two enjoyed time out to attend the staff choir performance during Diversity Month.



**RIGHT NOTE ...** The Office for Strategic Planning and Information Analysis under the leadership of **Prof Heather Nel** (who took this photograph) realised they did not all know the entire national anthem. And so, **Uthando Baduza** and the department's two staff choir members, **Doreen Hendricks** and **Charmaine Fember**, helped their colleagues (from left) **Garreth van Leeve; Likani Lebani; Adelah Jeftha; Mari Voges; Dalene Harris; Marian Neale-Shutte** and Uthando and (front) are Charmaine, **Theresa Webb** and Doreen, to learn the words and sing the anthem with gusto. The fun, team-building exercise took place during a tea break. Have you done anything special during your tea break?

## 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 September competition winners: **Adelah Jeftha** of Strategic Planning and Information Analysis, **Connie Davids** and **Wendy Kleinbooi** of Finance and **Marida Stenning** of Student Systems and Records.

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

**1. S.....e (11 letter word)** Architecture in a Developing World was the theme of the recent national architecture student congress hosted on our South Campus when students camped out in tents around our sports grounds.

**2. Students pulled out all the stops to create e.....l (13 letter word)** awareness among fellow students, visitors and the community in this year's Green Campus Awareness Week hosted at George Campus.

**3. C....g (9 letter word)** Sciences never misses an opportunity to celebrate and held an all-green tea party for Bok and Green Fridays.

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 **10 November**.

Schuinvilla Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members. Tel: 041 3642109 or George Campus - Pacaltsdorp Pharmacy: Tel: 044 878 1707.

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

# Breast cancer awareness



**CONTRARY to popular belief, breast cancer is only caused by inherited genes in five to 10 percent of cases. In 90 percent of cases, it happens as a result of aging.**

### What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer is an uncontrolled growth of breast cells caused by abnormal changes in the genes which eventually form a tumour.

A tumour can be benign (not dangerous) or malignant (has the potential to be dangerous). Benign tumours grow slowly and do not invade nearby tissues or the rest of the body. Malignant tumours are cancerous and can spread to other parts of the body if left unchecked.

### Malignant tumours

Breast cancer usually starts in the milk-producing glands or passages or more rarely in the fatty and fibrous connective tissues of the breast.

Over time, cancer cells can make their way into the underarm lymph nodes from where they can spread to other parts of the body.

### Limiting your risk factors

Maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, limiting alcohol and exercising regularly can lower the risk of breast cancer.

Remember though that breast cancer is nobody's fault, so feeling guilty about it is unproductive.

### Symptoms of breast cancer

Breast cancer symptoms vary widely, from lumps to swelling; from skin changes to no symptoms at all. Sometimes these symptoms can be the result of non-cancerous conditions like infection or a cyst.

Often, an abnormal area turns up on a screening mammogram (x-ray of the breast), which leads to further testing.

In some cases, the first sign of breast cancer is

a new lump or mass in the breast that you or your doctor can feel. Have any lumps checked by your doctor.

Other symptoms include: swelling, skin irritation or dimpling, breast pain, nipple pain or the nipple turning inward, redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin, a nipple discharge and a lump in the underarm area.

### Breast self-exam

Few women really *want* to do a breast self-exam, but the more you examine your breasts, the easier it will become to know if something unusual has occurred.

Examine your breasts once a month several days after your period ends.

When you get to know your own breast, you will notice any changes that last beyond one full cycle, or seem to get bigger or more prominent in some way.

If you're over 40 or at a high risk for the disease, you should also have an annual mammogram and physical examination by a doctor.

The earlier breast cancer is found and diagnosed, the better your chances of beating it.

Early detection gives victims an 80% five-year survival rate.

About 20% of the time, breast cancers are found by physical examination.

### Diagnosis and treatment

The actual process of diagnosis can take weeks and involve a number of tests including mammograms, ultrasound, MRI, CAT scans, PET scans, and others.

Be patient and positive. Together with your doctor you can formulate a treatment plan tailored for you.

- **Thembela Mapinda, Campus Health Services**

## Condolences

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

- Retired Social Development Studies' staff member **Prof Thobeka Mashologu-Kuse**
- MA Media Relations student Pumza Galada
- Third-year Building student Ncedo Mangesi
- PhD Botany student Wendy Todkill

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

- Timetabling's **Phikisa Hobana** and Committee Services' **Nombeko Hobana** (their mother).
- Physics **Prof Jan Neethling** (his father)
- Council chairperson Judge Ronnie Pillay (his brother)



**STICKY WICKET ...** A staff team – HR Warriors including NMMU Cricket Club President and Executive Director Human Resources **Gary Paul** (second from left) and (from left) Human Resources’ **Leo Doria, Sephiri Hlohlolo**, Student Counselling’s **Khanyisa Zonke**, Human Resources’ **Johan Strydom** and Alumni Relations’ **Baakier Abrahams** - joined the fourth edition of the annual Mecer NMMU cricket club’s 6-a-side tournament for staff and students on 1 October at the South Campus cricket fields.



**CARING FOR OTHERS ...** Protection Services **George Beer** (from left), **Ludwe Damane** and **Melubako Maqude** took “lost and found” clothing and bedding, washed and dry-cleaned it out of their own funds and donated it to Maranatha Children’s Home to distribute to the less privileged or use themselves. They are joined by children and a staff member of the Centre.

**CONGRATULATIONS ...** Sport Bureau Ground staff attended various practical training courses on how to safely operate and properly maintain equipment like brush cutters, lawn mowers, ride-on lawn mowers and chainsaws. The courses were presented by local company, ALLCUT Power Products, and sponsored by Human Resources. Joining Allcut’s Waldo Nel (back from left) are **Derrick Hoshe, Dumisani Myataza, Nico Barnard** and **Malungelo Mali** and (front) **Kuselo Mduhuma** and **Randall Barends**.



## Briefs

### Teaching poet

STUDENT Academic Development’s **Selwyn Milborrow’s** poetry is featured on the Open Languages page of the University of Wisconsin website.



American students under the leadership of Dr Jacques du Plessis are learning Afrikaans, and Selwyn’s poetry is used to teach them the language. There is also an audio version of his poetry to help students with pronunciation.

Selwyn, a poet, motivational speaker, creative writer and freelance journalist, also has a blog where he publishes articles and lessons on creative writing.

### Going the extra mile

IN THE spirit of *Ubuntu* Marketing and Corporate Relations’ **Louise Solomons** assisted by **Nolutsha Fumba** and **Mabel van Vliet** helped a prospective Weekend Post/NMMU Matric of the Year candidate from King William’s Town to attend the all-important interview.

Somila, an orphan who lives with her aunt, won the Scholarship category of the competition – something that may not have happened had NMMU staff not arranged transport and accommodation in Louise’s own home in order to give her the opportunity to compete.

The Hector Peterson High School pupil is planning to study Chartered Accounting at NMMU. See page 13.

### Inaugural lecture

MECHANICAL Engineering Department Head **Prof Pat McGrath** presented his professional inaugural lecture on “Laser as an advanced manufacturing tool for the shaping/forming of sheet metals” at the North Campus Conference Centre early last month.



### Bratwurst and beer

STAFF and students were introduced to German traditional food and beer tastings by the Office for International Education during a fun German Day last month.

Ludwigsburger, Leberkäse mit Kartoffelsalat, Bratwurst, Käsegriller and the like along with beer tasting and talks, sponsored and hosted by SAB, were held at the International Office.

Video clips of the German countryside, people and cultural activities as well as automotive feats exhibited by NMMU’s Automotive Engineering Chair also attracted attention.

Cricketers lead the way as sporting successes grow

# Madibaz flying high



**THE Mecer NMMU Madibaz cricket team clinched their second National Club Championship trophy in three years after trouncing the University of Johannesburg (UJ) by nine wickets in the final played at Supersport Park in Pretoria.**

In the National Cricket Club Championships Rudi Second was in scintillating form with the bat all week, making a brilliant 86 not out in the final that included 10 fours and three sixes. He knocked off the remaining 12 runs with two massive sixes.

He was ably assisted by skipper Umar Abrahams who was also unbeaten with 60 at the end. Second and Abrahams featured in an unbroken 161-run partnership to ensure the Madibaz got home with 43 balls to spare.

UJ batted first scoring 170 all out from 41.2 overs. Their innings was interrupted by rain and a revised target of 174 from 42 overs was set for the Madibaz. The NMMU bowling was spearheaded by paceman Sisanda Magala who took 2/27. The remaining wickets were shared among Simon Harmer (2), Brent Kops (2) and Konrad de Villiers (2), while David White and Lionel Vaaltyn collected one each.

The Madibaz were drawn in a tough pool but emerged victorious against Free State's Central University of Technology (by 35 runs), Western Province



**VICTORIOUS ...** The number one-ranked club cricket and student team in the country rejoicing from left **Riaan Osman** (sport manager), **Baakier Abrahams**, Sizwe Masondo, Rudi Second, James Price and Umar Abrahams and at the back Simon Harmer.

Cricket Club (by 4 wickets), Natal's Crusaders (by 19 runs), Boland's Brackenfell (by 3 wickets) and the University of Pretoria by 3 runs.

Second (300), Colin Ackermann (226), James Price (206), White (183) and Harmer (181) were the main contributors with the bat while Magala (15

and Harmer (11) were the chief destroyers with the ball.

NMMU players' and new head coach Grant Morgan paid tribute to the role played by assistant coach, Alumni Relations' **Baakier Abrahams** who was the former head coach.



**VICTORIOUS ...** The winning Madibaz men's hockey team are (back from left) Mazan Dos Santos (captain), Warren McEwan, Keith Daniell, Jason Altwig, Satchinan Reddy, Michael Abrahams, Dean Shaw (physio), **Cheslyn Gie** (hockey manager) and Dalan Phillips, (front) Stuart Daniell, Jason Syce, Jason Doherty-Bigara, Joshua August, David Minne, Joezay Kops and Nathan Kops (vice-captain) and Warren Doherty-Bigara (front).

## Superb men's hockey season

**THEY played 14 games, winning them all with a goal difference of 50 to earn a maximum 42 points to easily win the EP premier league hockey title.**

Manager Sport Bureau's **Cheslyn Gie** ascribed the team's fine performance to work ethic during practices, extra gym sessions to improve fitness, and a willingness to learn.

They also had a great team vibe and a hunger to achieve in 2011. This hunger is evidenced by the fact that the team's "man of the match" award went to

14 different players during the season.

Cheslyn is also confident that EP Hockey will win promotion back into the A Section at next year's interprovincial tournament.

High on the agenda at NMMU is the hope of re-introducing a summer indoor league as a vital component for pre-season fitness and skills development for players. The student team is also planning a pro-series hockey league with strength-versus-strength competitions.

## Briefs

### Chess champion

NMMU's number one chess player **Calvin Klaassen** won the EP championships this month and will play in the SA Closed in Cape Town later this year.

The top six players played a round-robin tournament and Calvin, who is the 2010 USSA champion, attained a perfect score of 5/5.

### World student games

THREE NMMU representatives headed up the SA swimming, cycling and chess teams at the World Student Games in Shenzhen, China, earlier this year. Sport Bureau's **Melinda Goosen** (swimming), Journalism, Media and Philosophy's **Francois du Plessis** (cycling) and Chess Coach Tinus Goosen were among the 31 team managers accompanying the 140 students.

### Improved performance

NMMU managed a fifth place in the recent Men's A section of the Universities Boat Race on the Kowie River, an environment unequalled at any other regatta in the country. The Men's B team also improved on their 2010 performance.