

# talk@nmmu

December 2011

The Staff Newsletter

## New Business School, student res, HMS building lined up

# More building ahead

**BUILDING work continues apace at NMMU as the university strives towards its Vision 2020 structural plans.**

A R41m Engineering block (see below), a state-of-the-art Human Movement Science Centre, a 300-bed residence and the R103m new Business School, are but a few of the major developments planned for 2012 as part of our overriding urban design framework or master plan.

This 30-year urban design framework will be publically shared next year.

In the interim, however, the Infrastructure Projects team has its hands full completing the following projects before the end of this year:

- ▶ R24m refurbishment of the second and third floors of Health Sciences, along with the new changes in the adjacent Education Faculty on South Campus
- ▶ R5m additions for the new centralised Exams Office at Heinz Betz on North Campus
- ▶ R3.2m for the reconfiguration of various departments within the main building on South Campus.
- ▶ R1.5m student resource hub at Embizweni on South Campus

"It's been a busy year, and it's not going to get any quieter in the future as an increasing number of construction tenders and the like are issued," says Infrastructure Projects director Greg Ducie.



*HANDPRINTS FOR FUTURE ... Some 150 handprints making up three panels to be displayed on our Missionvale Campus, marked the opening of the new library and Ekhaya student centre with Arts and Culture Head **Michael Barry** (from left) assisting with the prints and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** checking with Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso** whether he has enough ink on his hand. Khaya also won the naming competition for the student centre with his entry Ekhaya giving back his R1 000 prize for the centre's use. See page 5.*

Apart from the Engineering block which is expected to be ready by mid-2012, NMMU will also start the following major projects in 2012:

- ▶ A R39.4m HMS building near the postgraduate village on South Campus

- ▶ A R100m-plus student residence at Student Village on South Campus and a75-bed residence at George Campus
- ▶ A R103m Business School and a 50- to 80-room boutique hotel on Second Avenue Campus.



### Good news!

By mid-November, NMMU had already reflected a 27,7% increase in applications compared to the same time last year.

▶ **Next edition: Highlights 2011** ▶ **Infrastructure masterplan**

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"Life champions"

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# Happy, positive end to the year

OUR youth are the future leaders of the country and looking at our academic, sports and society student leaders we can really be proud.

Abe Bailey bursary winner George Campus Forestry Master's student Muedayi Ramantswana and our two Mandela Rhodes scholarship award winners, third-year students Stanford Chinyayi (Quantity Surveying) and David Gate (Computing Science), stunned guests at their congratulatory tea with their ideas and passions for the future. As Muedayi said, "The true value of education is not in the classroom, but in applying the knowledge outside".

Other heart-warming events this month included the opening of the Missionvale Campus library and new student centre both beautified by Arts and Culture. The residences, starting with Melodi, are next in line for this project using student, staff and alumni art.

Also read about our new "life champions"

workshops for first-year students – a national project emulating the vision and values espoused by leaders such as former State President Nelson Mandela.

In addition to all its previous awards, our flash mob won another award at the Assegai Integrated Marketing Awards.



A true inspiration with his passion for teaching, chemistry and Egyptology is retiring Chemistry Prof Peter Loyson.

We're still embracing *ubuntu* The Business School and Education Faculty supported the Santa Shoe Box project while many others are sharing with the

less fortunate including our Staff Association which collected gifts for the aged at the annual year-end function.

Have a good rest and seasons greetings to all our readers.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker

## Briefs

### National winner

DEPUTY Vice-Chancellor Academic **Professor Piet Naud** is the 2011 winner in the Columnist category in the national Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards. The announcement was made at a gala dinner held at Vodacom World in Midrand, Gauteng. Prof Naudé writes a weekly column in The Herald. The award was made for his piece called "Meetings are a waste of time".



### Board member

STATISTICS' Head of Department **Prof Igor Litvine** has been elected to the Board of Members for the Institute of Certified and Chartered Statisticians of South Africa.

### Working group member

ACADEMIC Planning's **Tembisa Khomo** was selected as a member of the HEQF Working Group by the Council on Higher Education. The group will evaluate submissions made by all Higher Education Institutions in the A Category, to assess their compliance.

### Specialist editor

MECHANICAL Engineering's **Prof Theo van Niekerk** is the new Specialist Editor for the African Research Journal by the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers to review papers regarding the Control and Automation track. Prof Van Niekerk was nominated because of his involvement as external research reviewer and papers published in this field.



CELEBRATIONS ... At the recent signing of a renewed three-year memorandum of understanding between partners Altron and NMMU leading to various projects of mutual benefit were Altron's Group Executive: Corporate Affairs, Seara Macheli-Mkhabela (second from left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** (left), Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and NMMU Trust's **Renita Affat**.

## Continued support from partner

SOME of the largest Eastern Cape employers Altron's Aberdare Cables, Xerox and Powertech may in future use NMMU students to assist with research and development while NMMU will be involved with educational opportunities for Altron staff.

"Our university should be more innovatively wired into industry," Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** said at the signing of a new three-year memorandum of understanding signed on 7 November establishing a base for further collaboration between the two partners.

In one of the longest standing relationships dating back to 1998 Altron has supported not only the university's ICT infrastructure, but also its battery research, tracking devices in zoology research, optical fibres, electrical engineering learnerships and pro-

vided sport bursaries, among others.

The importance of cutting-edge technology for NMMU, its programme delivery and its students in this era of fast-changing technology were emphasised.

The partnership will in future be driven more strategically with a committee working on projects of mutual benefit such as better ICT processes for student registration, commercial copy centres on campus for student use, buildings with increased ICT functionality and support for personal computing items such as iPads, tablets or notebooks for students.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor **Prof Piet Naud** said, "We need to turn education around to solve the problems of this country and work towards a knowledge economy".

## NMMU at COP-17

WE are well represented at COP-17 in Durban where NMMU has an exhibition stand.

In addition, Science's **Prof Maarten de Wit** has been profiled in an NMMU article in the programme and Deputy Vice-Chancellor **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** and George Campus Agricultural Management's **Prof Raymond Auerbach** will be at the international event on climate change.

We also raised awareness for COP-17 with an exhibition by the Department of Environmental Affairs' Oceans and Coastal Management on our Second Avenue Campus earlier this month.

Conferences of Parties (COP) meetings are held annually in December at pre-selected venues around the world to assess progress in dealing with climate change globally.

# First university to train “life champions”



**OUR university will be the first in South Africa to embrace an initiative aimed at transforming students into “life champions” – a national project following the vision and values espoused by leaders such as former State President Nelson Mandela.**

During Orientation Week next year, about 5 000 new first-years will benefit from a day-long dialogue workshop called Nelson Mandela: The Champion Within, aimed at enabling them to think and act like our namesake.

“The reclamation of personal and social (community) responsibility is a cardinal value espoused by NMMU in its Vision 2020.

“Our belief is that we will only succeed in making our country and world a better place if each one of us lives the changes we want to see in the world,” says Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz**.

This programme forms part of a wider national effort by Life College Group to reach a million young people across South Africa by 2020 and train them in ground-breaking critical thinking skills, principle-centred consciousness and self-mastery skills for a better South Africa. Life College, based in Johannesburg, has a partnership with the Nelson Man-

dela Foundation Centre of Memory and Mandela Rhodes Foundation to develop and distribute the programme.

The initiative is in sync with our vision as a dynamic African university recognised for generating “cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future”.

Life College Group is the brainchild of social entrepreneur and television news anchor Pat Pillai, who is also an Ashoka Globaliser Fellow.

“We look forward to working with the NMMU students – the next generation of leaders who will be inspired to not just do like Madiba, but to also begin to think like Madiba – and so discover their own principle-centred champion mentality,” says Pat, who introduced Prof Swartz to the concept earlier this year.

He explained that apart from Madiba, the lives and achievements of “life champions” like former Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs, and Pick ‘n Pay founder Raymond Ackerman, would also serve as inspiration to participants.

Pat added that the day-long workshop would be facilitated by Life College and NMMU facilitators in an innovative and fun way.

Or to quote Prof Swartz: “If our own lives become



Television news anchor Pat Pillai, Founder of Life College Group, is part of a ground-breaking partnership with NMMU.

personally transformed to embrace the finest qualities of the human spirit – our capacity for love, compassion, solidarity, self-actualisation and serving society – then we will have become associated with the legend of Nelson Mandela.”

As highlighted, the philosophy of the programme has a natural synergy with NMMU’s values, but particularly those of Ubuntu and taking responsibility.

The workshops will run from 6 to 10 February at Missionvale Campus.



ROLEPLAYERS ... Facilitators at the equity indaba looking at equity planning were Law Professors **Adriaan van der Walt** (from left) and **Avinash Govindjee**, CANRAD’S **Dr Jay Govender** and practicing local advocate **Luvoyo Bono**.

## Equity unpacked and planned

**EQUITY objectives, the NMMU context, the underlying ethos and our current employment status at NMMU were issues presented at a recent equity indaba on campus.**

Altogether 54 stakeholders representing the unions, the Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy

(CANRAD), the Transformation and Equity Committee, the Institutional Forum and the Management Committee and department heads and school directors attended.

Presenters included Executive Director Human Resources **Gary Paul**, Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, Law’s **Prof Avinash**

**Govindjee** and Employment Equity Manager **Edwin Khomo**.

“In achieving employment equity targets, the organisational culture needs to create an environment where every employee, irrespective of race or creed is given the best possible opportunity to contribute to NMMU’s success,” Gary said.

## Another Flash mob award

**NMMU’s award-winning flash mob video which has been viewed by more than 115 000 people around the globe on YouTube has won yet another accolade, a Gold Award at the 2011 Assegai Integrated Marketing Awards in Johannesburg on 17 November.**

The five-minute surprise routine by our choir at Greenacres Shopping Centre promoted the undergraduate closing date campaign and the NMMU brand.

NMMU’s design and strategic agency **Boomtown** received the award in the social media category for the highly successful viral campaign, beating the likes of advertising heavyweights Ogilvy, Hunt Lascaris and LM&P.

Chemist and Egyptologist honoured for years of dedication

# A passion for teaching

**THE South African Chemical Institute (SACI) Chemical Education Award is made to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to chemical education, as judged by the person's published work in the previous five years. In 2011 the award went to Prof Peter Loyson – a fitting tribute to a man who dedicated his life to teaching students.**

Peter chaired the Eastern Cape office he chaired for about 20 years.

Though he has taught at NMMU for 35 years, it took a number of years to fulfil his dream of teaching.

Prof Loyson grew up in Belgium where he completed his secondary education in classical languages (Latin and Greek); immigrated to South Africa in 1965 and worked in the chemistry laboratories of General Motors for seven years.

During this time he completed his Chemistry Diploma, specialising in Unit Operations of Chemical Engineering, at the then College of Advanced Technical Education (CATE). While still employed at GM, he completed his BSc degree through Unisa, majoring in Chemistry and Physics.

"I resigned from my position at GM in 1973, and studied full-time at the former UPE for a BSc (Hons) in Inorganic/Analytical Chemistry under the supervision of Prof Jan du Preez. I completed my masters and doctoral degrees in Inorganic/Analytical Chemistry on a part-time basis while lecturing at the PE Technikon."

At PE Technikon he started off lecturing Inorganic Chemistry. He then moved into Physical and Analytical Chemistry and was responsible for the practical training of final year students in Chemistry. Prof Loyson was Head of the Department of Chemistry for 15 years.

In addition, he was one of the founding members of the Electrochemical Society of South Africa, ElectrochemSA, and is currently the Eastern Province Chairman. He has been very involved with the SA Chemical Institute, and was also the local chairman for many years.

He is also very proud of the Transvaal Chemical Manufacturer's Association Award he received in 1989 for fostering the interests of the chemical industry.

"I love teaching. I love being in the classroom and explaining chemistry to students.

"It gives me great satisfaction. These days people need more teaching.

"Chemical education has always been an in-

**Although Chemistry's Professor Peter Loyson has been a teacher for 40 years, he still gets excited when he sees an experiment in a journal. As he nears retirement, he shares some highlights of his passion with Roslyn Baatjies.**



*I love being in the classroom and explaining chemistry to students.*

**DEDICATION ... Chemistry's Prof Peter Loyson recently received the South African Chemical Institute (SACI) 2011 Chemical Education Award, from the SACI Eastern Cape Chairperson Dr Zenixole Tshentu.**

terest and if something interests you, you should go into that field. In my 35 years at the university, I used journals extensively for research."

Of late Prof Loyson published the following articles in the *Journal of Chemical Education* marrying his love for chemistry and the classics:

- Influences of ancient Greek on chemical terminology
- Teaching kinetics using Excel
- Influences from Latin on chemical terminology
- Chemistry in the time of the pharaohs

Peter Loyson may be a professor of physical and analytical chemistry, but he's also a keen Egyptologist.

"When you study classical languages, you study texts written more than 2 000 years ago and it throws you in that era."

"At school I studied a great deal of Latin and Greek.

"I did six languages in matric.

"Four years ago, Prof Nic Allen and I decided to start a society focusing on Ancient History. We meet once a month and hold talks at the Italian Club on ancient history, technology, science, civilisation and archeology".

Prof Loyson and his Italian wife Loredana, vice-consul for Italy in Port Elizabeth, have two sons Richard, a senior lecturer in Financial Accounting at NMMU, and Lawrence, who works in digital marketing in Johannesburg.

"My wife has been knighted for her service to the welfare of Italians in Port Elizabeth. She also does a lot for Italian tourists," he says proudly.

After his retirement at the end of the year, Prof Loyson plans to focus more on Egyptology.

"I want to take things easier, travel and write more books. We would also love to see our grandson more often.

"We also have relatives in Europe and Australia that we could visit after I've retired," he says.

# Mandela Rhodes scholarship, Abe Bailey Travel winners recognised Top student leaders inspire

**DEANS, heads of department and other guests were in awe of our top student leaders who shared their future plans at a celebratory tea on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor last month.**

It was an energising experience that will hopefully inspire the next generation of students.

Abe Bailey scholarship winner and Master's student in Forestry on the George Campus Muedayi Ramantswana from Limpopo and the two Mandela Rhodes scholarship award winners, both third-year students from Zimbabwe, Stanford Chinyayi (Quantity Surveying) and David Gate (Computing Science), all share a strong work ethic and an interest in a wide range of topics.

Abe Bailey bursary recipients from universities all over South Africa visit England and Scotland for three weeks during November and December.

Muedayi made a very inspiring statement saying that "The true value of education is not in the classroom but in applying the knowledge outside".

The Mandela Rhodes scholarship holders will attend three leadership workshops in Cape Town next year and work on related projects on campus.

David Gate moved around on campus believing that education should create a platform for cross-pollination and moving out of your comfort zone



*TOPS ... George Campus Master's student in Forestry Muedayi Ramantswana (centre) from Limpopo is this year's Abe Bailey scholarship winner and the Mandela Rhodes scholarship award winners are both third-year students from Zimbabwe, Stanford Chinyayi (left) (Quantity Surveying) and David Gate (Computing Science) are all leaders in their own right.*

and therefore visited many departments including even music to broaden his knowledge. Stanford wants to support the disadvantaged with a career in policy-making in government.

Some 40 students applied and these were selected after a number of interviews by academics. Both the third-year students will continue their honours

studies at NMMU.

Former Abe Bailey recipients Deputy Vice-Chancellor **Prof Piet Naud**, Computing Science's Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling** and acting Senior Director-Academic Planning and Quality Advancement **Prof Christo van Loggerenberg** all shared their experiences from their trips long ago.

*STAFF SUPPORT ... Student Governance and Development's **Simlindle Manqina** (left) and **Anda Nyondla** (right), Journalism, Media and Philosophy's **Bianca Wright** (centre) together with the Dean of Student **Prof Khaya Matiso**, the NMMU Trust and the SRC are the driving force behind the new student newspaper NMMYou launched on 3 November at Madibaz Café.*



## Student newspaper launched

**STUDENT Governance and Development's Anda Nyondla said his department hoped that the new student newspaper, NMMYou, will be in a better position to have a longer life than its predecessors Elethu and Campus.**

The living and learning educational programmes in the residences should see more students

becoming involved with the newspaper.

Anda has also taken over as NMMYou editor to ensure continuity. First edition editor Marissa Thring is unfortunately no longer available.

Student Governance and Development's **Simlindle Manqina** is assisting with sourcing advertising while a team of Public Rela-

tions students have been doing publicity and sourced advertising in the 10 000 copies of the first edition published in September.

Journalism, Media and Philosophy's **Bianca Wright** shared her development experiences as a student at UPEN, former UPE's student paper.

NMMYou will have five editions next year.

## New library and student centre

**MISSIONVALE Campus was a hub of activity on 3 November when many staff, students and community leaders attended the launch of the library and student centre.**

A large audience attended the unveiling of the plaque in the library, which received many accolades for its green building principles.

After the audience moved over to the Ekhaya student centre in the previous library building they were entertained by NMMU's own praise singer Sonwabile Daza.

After his praises they were inspired by Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** who mentioned former Campus Principal and now Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso's** vision for the campus making a difference to many.

Interestingly it was also Khaya's entry that won the naming competition with Ekhaya and in true spirit he gave his R1 000 prize back to the centre.

Missionvale Campus boasts part of Arts and Culture's beautification project with student photography as decor in the library and student digital art in the Ekhaya student centre.

See page 1.

# Alumni awards for leaders in society

**EVERY year, we recognise alumni who have gone the distance and beyond in their specialist fields, benefitting society at local, provincial, national or international levels.**

- This year's recipients are:
- President Jacob Zuma's advocate Kemp J Kemp.
  - SA investment holding group Remgro Ltd chief financial officer Leon Crouse.
  - Multi-award winning cyber security expert at the University of Johannesburg Prof Basie von Solms.
  - PricewaterhouseCoopers' former

CEO Colin Beggs.

- Award-winning Afrikaans novelist and master's graduate Eben Venter will receive his award when he presents our first public lecture in February 2012.
- Former chairman of SA's largest citrus exporter John Lynch.
- Chairman of Murray and Roberts' Construction, Nigel Harvey who received his award at the NMMU Construction Conference Gala Event on 28 November.

An Alumni Association special award was presented to retired social work lecturer and PhD graduate Dr Erra Cilliers.



*GOING BEYOND ... This year's alumni award winners who attended the function on 23 November were (back from left), Advocate Kemp J Kemp, Leon Crouse, Prof Basie von Solms and (front) Dr Erra Cilliers and Colin Beggs. Winners Nigel Harvey, John Lynch and Eben Venter could not attend.*



*STUDENT LEADERS ... Law student Lutho Jolobe (left) received his award for Excellence in Leadership (male) and LLB student Varonique Philander (right) her Excellence in Leadership (women) at the recent NMMU's Achievers' Dinner recognising excellence in student activities. See the sportswoman and sportsman of the year on page 16*

## Growing city coffers

**THE 4 000 delegates attending top national and international conferences and events on campus currently are giving Nelson Mandela Bay a welcome pre-holiday season cash injection of more than R2m.**

Tourist spend is estimated at R200 per day for local, R800 for other South Africans and R2 200 for international visitors.

Two of the four conferences – the 6th SAHARA Conference 2011 (dealing with the social aspects associated with HIV and Aids) and The Joint International Congress of the American and South African Mathematical Societies – hosted up to 1 000 international delegates

at NMMU from 28 November to 3 December.

The South African Junior Chess Championship will take place from December 11 to 21 at the Vodacom NMMU Indoor Sports Centre with many of the 2 000 competitors and their families living in the adjacent residence accommodation.

Our Missionvale Campus hosted its first national conference, the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) conference, with Free State University's Prof Jonathan Jansen and our Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic **Professor Piet Naude** as keynote speakers.

## Improving service levels

**THREE additional incoming lines are now operating at our new contact centre, helping to further improve service levels at the university.**

The extra lines were switched from the Admissions Office. As a result, there has been an increase in the number of daily calls from an average of 300 to 500 calls per day, while the number of abandoned (missed) calls remains below 5%.

"Our service level remains above 90% (calls answered within 20 seconds). We hope to keep it there despite the growing number of daily calls," says new contact centre manager **Deon Barnardo**.

The new centre was introduced on 10 October with a staff of six to improve service levels within and beyond the university.

At present the bulk of the general calls (23%) are admission enquiries, while 32% are direct transfers to specific individuals.

The contact centre has been able to assist 42% of all callers on first contact, whereas in the past it is believed that as many as 50% of NMMU's calls went unanswered. "I believe we are already adding tremendous value in terms of service delivery and caller satisfaction," says Deon.

The contact centre will close on 21 December and reopen on 4 January.

## Briefs

### Best EC tertiary choir

THE NMMU Le Strada chorale (part of Arts & Culture) received the Best Tertiary Choir Award in the Eastern Cape Choral Awards. It was handed to conductor Asekho Zani at the City Hall in East London on 26 November.

### Thanking student volunteers

THE Library recently said thank you to student volunteers who spend their free time ensuring that books are in their correct places. Student assistant coordinator **Blondie Ntsiko** arranged a special function and invited Student Governance and Development's **Kim Elliot** to hand over certificates to the students for their dedication. The branch librarians were unanimous that these students make a huge difference to the daily running of the libraries.

# Policy will see new art on walls

**ART by our students, staff and alumni will soon adorn the interior of our buildings.**

A new art collection policy next year will be the basis for this initiative. Arts and Culture started the beautification process at the Missionvale Campus where our student photography and digital art are displayed all over the "campus of hope".

Soon a small art gallery will open in the campus' new Ekhasya student centre in collaboration with the Alumni Relations' University Shop. Students and the community will display and sell their crafts at the shop.

"This is very exciting," says Arts and Culture Head **Michael Barry**.

Our residences will also boast colourful lively interiors with student artwork on its former bland concrete walls. Michael together with Architecture's Phillip Loots selected art students' existing work and started

in the Melodi women's residence with the others to follow next year.

Student, staff and alumni art as well as artistic principles and policies will be the basis of the grouping. The art audit currently in action, will inform the policy.

Departments will in future be able to display art on loan for a limited period. In addition, curated exhibitions of our corporate art will attract visitors to our campuses. An advisory body consisting of academic and administrative staff will drive the art policy managing NMMU's corporate collection.

"Art forms part of the world and our perception of the university", says Michael.

An attractive environment enhances a sense of ownership and positive attitude. International building principles state that one percent of construction costs should be allocated to corporate art for that building, he says.



*NEW DÉCOR ... Part of the new interior design and art works adorning the once bland concrete walls of our residences are these green panels in Melodi residence organised by our Arts and Culture Department as part of a residence interior upgrading project.*

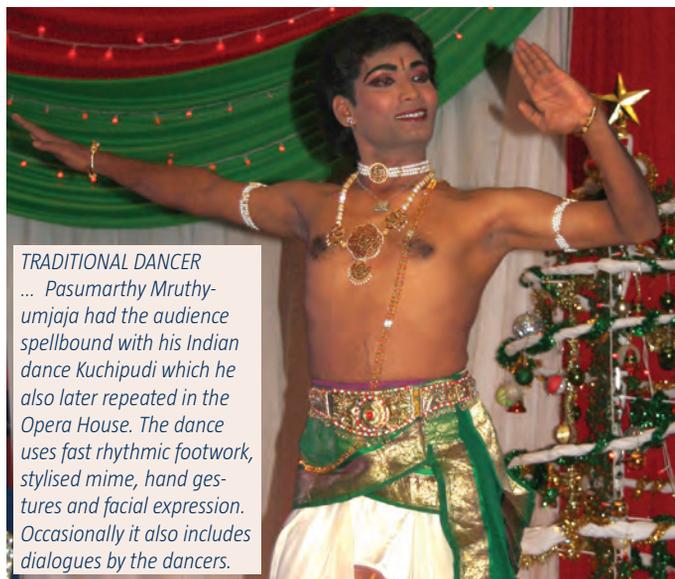
## Arts and Culture awards

**TOP achieving societies and students were honoured at Arts and Culture's Annual Merit Awards celebrating academic excellence, community upliftment programmes and productivity.**

The students included Olubukola Makinwa for Achievement, Thando Gqabuza as Le Strada choir mem-

ber of the Year, Tarryn Lawson of the Ballroom Society for Administrator of the Year and Refiloe Mohale who was Chairman of the Lesotho Society as Arts and Culture Person of the Year.

The Culture Consciousness Society and the Lesotho Society were Cultural Societies of the Year and Creative Arts the Most Improved Society.



*TRADITIONAL DANCER ... Pasumarthy Mruthumjaja had the audience spellbound with his Indian dance Kuchipudi which he also later repeated in the Opera House. The dance uses fast rhythmic footwork, stylised mime, hand gestures and facial expression. Occasionally it also includes dialogues by the dancers.*

## Variety spices concert

**FROM Arts Dr Frans du Toit dedicating his song to all the "girls" in the Main Building lift to a Kenyan vocalist in a beautiful traditional crafted pink striped dress, Arts and Culture's Staff Christmas Concert on 18 November was a real treat.**

Of course the staff choir with Bulelani Koyo as conductor won the audience's hearts with their Christmas carols. Vocalist Xoliswa James from the Missionvale Campus shone with her amazing voice.

Marketing and Corporate Relations

**Andrew Kock** and his wife Human Movement Science Master's student Sue-Ann performed "Beautiful Like You" complete with guitar and flute.

Kenyan Jayne Wasonga had the audience dancing and stamping feet to her rhythmical songs.

Other items included Arts and Culture's own **Anda Masala** singing a beautiful solo of "O come all ye faithful" and insightful poetry readings.

Witty programme director Siphosiso Claus (alias **Rob Minne** of Student Housing) gave out lucky draws.

## Briefs

### Pendoring Gold

APPLIED Design student Lubabalo Mtati received a gold Pendoring award for the campaign *Eyam, Inkomo Zobuhlobo, Kultured, Pipe Dreams, Ugubani Wena?* in the category Truly South African.

### Design excellence

INTERIOR Design student Rolecia Nell has been shortlisted in the Design Excellence and Innovation category for the SA Interior Designer of the Year for her Science Museum entry based on her BTEch thesis.

### International first prize

PHOTOGRAPHY alumnus Marc Shoul has won the first prize in a prestigious Italian competition Winephoto 2011 ([www.winephoto.it](http://www.winephoto.it)) with the theme "Renaissance stories that could not have been" for his photo essay "Brakpan" as well as a special mention for "Flatlands".

### Fashion feast for media

THE who's who of the fashion world have praised NMMU for the talent it produces, after attending our annual graduate fashion show, *The Collective*, in October. The likes of Lucilla Booysen, who founded SA Fashion Week, Jackie Burger, the editor of Elle, and Sharon Becker, fashion editor of Marie Claire, attended. Sponsors, Mohair South Africa, is also investing in a new creative, innovation and design hub at NMMU.

# Dynamic new human science

**POSITIVE organisational scholarship is the new leadership style in organisational development and we are at the forefront in Africa with our students already using the concept in their studies.**

The Industrial and Organisational Psychology Department and lecturer **Johan Schoeman** (right) are the local driving force behind this concept in conjunction with its global founder University of Michigan's Prof Kim Cameron (below) who will be visiting NMMU in January next year to share his thoughts with students, academics, university management and SA industry leaders.

Positive organisational scholarship focuses on excellence, potential, possibility and positivity and training leaders at all levels to be extraordinary. It creates positive organisations leading to higher morale and better productivity and profitability.

For many years managers have been concentrating on what's wrong instead of asking what's right, says

Johan, who is finalising his doctorate in this field.

International brand General Motors and several American organisations have adopted the concept with success.



Industrial and Organisational Psychology invited Prof Cameron to NMMU to expose students, academics and leaders to his insights and views.

Prof Cameron will present a one-day seminar on 26 January at the North Campus Conference Centre. For more information and to register see <http://pos.nmmu.ac.za>.

**Interesting research:**

- People think about positive statements 50% longer than neutral ones and 20% longer than negative ones.
- Positive phenomena are learned more quickly.
- Managers are much more accurate in rating subordinates' competencies which are performed correctly.
- People tend to seek out positive stimuli.



**WINNING TEAM ...** Business Management's Entrepreneurship honours students visited award-winning alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo's (far left) workshop on Second Avenue Campus to assist him with a business plan as part of their course.

## Teaming up with Laduma's MaXhosa

**BUSINESS Management's Entrepreneurship honours students assisted our own prize-winning alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo with business plans to market his high quality Xhosa-inspired knitwear range for amakwala (Xhosa Initiates).**

The students, divided into groups, have to draw up a business plan for an existing business to gain practical experience and ensure that their plans are of value to someone and not just an academic exercise, says Business Management's **Dr Shelley Farrington**.

Laduma was invited to present his work at the 2011 Design Indaba Conference and won the international Society of Dyers and Colourists Design Award in 2010 for his interpretation of traditional Xhosa beadwork into knitwear designs using authentic Xhosa colours.

Each group presented their business plan for MaXhosa by Laduma (Pty) Ltd to a panel consisting of La-

duma, business advisor Otto Lessing, Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director **Jaci Barnett** and various academics.

The winning team of Marinthea Snyman, Mispah Carelsen, Anh Thu Dao and Claire Boggenpoel each walked away with R1 000 sponsored by Innovation Support and Technology Transfer.

### On-going acclaim

AFTER Laduma exhibited at London Fashion Week, his work has been showcased in several national and international publications including top design publication *Wallpaper* and *in-flight magazine Indwe*. Laduma has also been nominated for iKusasa Awards as Young Designer of the Year and has been approached by several prospective entrepreneurs, including Walt Disney South Africa.



**VOLUNTEERS ...** Human Resources Management students Lifikile Madubela (far left) and Mongezi Moiloa (far right) joined by two visitors cleaned the beach with their project *Bringing the Blue Flag Home*, one of several social awareness projects forming part of Personnel Management 2 module led by **Bridget de Villiers**.

## Students paying it forward

**HUMAN Resources Management students under the leadership of lecturer Bridget de Villiers and as part of the Personnel Management 2 module, have been "paying it forward" in a number of self-funded and self-initiated social awareness and care projects for some years with many continuing on their own with these projects.**

The students spent their time reading to children, bathing and dressing babies as well as helping them with their homework. They also cleaned the rooms of the elderly, prepared food and fundraised.

This year the students were involved at, among others, Zanethemba Babies Haven, Protea Place of Safety, Coega Door of Hope, Missionvale Care Centre, Inn Safe Hands Care Centre, clinics and a crisis centre for abused women.

One group created 'The Street Forward' project seeking donations for street people in the Summerstrand and Humewood area while others helped Grade 12 scholars to prepare for their exams.

Technology provides excitement to mathematics at all levels

# Maths magic

**GONE** are the days when a text book, a chalk board and the droning voice of a teacher were the only requirements for a school maths lesson.

Maths has become high-tech worldwide – with dynamic software developed to make geometry, algebra, calculus and statistics come alive at all education levels, generating excitement for a subject which, in this country, has lost popularity.

GeoGebra is among the best-known free and easy-to-use educational software for maths globally, having won several awards in Europe and the United States. Our GeoGebra Institute – the second in the country and one of 40 similar virtual institutes worldwide – is linked to the international GeoGebra Institute at England's Cambridge University, and will be hosting the country's first GeoGebra Conference for maths teachers early next year.

"We want to empower educators to use modern technology to teach maths," said unit head **Prof Werner Olivier**, who also holds the First Rand Foundation Research and Development Chair in Maths Education.

"GeoGebra is designed to facilitate and strengthen the teaching and learning of maths at all levels. It is indeed maths for all and, in particular, allows for simultaneous dynamic visualisation of relations between geometry and algebra – hence the name GeoGebra."

The unit has developed its own unique, technology-based teaching and learning model for teachers and pupils, using cutting-edge electronic media, including GeoGebra, to teach Grade 11 and 12 maths.

One of the ways the unit is sharing this resource is via a DVD series – which allows both learners and teachers to access and facilitate the material in a flexible way through quality tutoring.

Prof Olivier said one of the reasons for establishing the GeoGebra Institute was to "generate excitement for maths, which has a negative image". The institute will conduct teacher training in GeoGebra and also assist with teaching in classrooms".

"As an institute, we will explore further applications of the GeoGebra programme to add to the huge GeoGebra resource base available to teachers and learners and will also research the impact of GeoGebra applications in our classrooms.

Prof Olivier is also collaborating with the Computing Sciences to link GeoGebra applications with mobile computing devices, such as cell phones. Visit [www.GeoGebra-nmmu.co.za](http://www.GeoGebra-nmmu.co.za)



**PIONEERS** ... Mathematics stalwarts (from left) **Dr Hennie Boshoff**, **Prof Werner Olivier** and **Peter Weisswange** are the founder members of the new GeoGebra Institute at NMMU bringing high-tech mathematics education to the masses.



**YOUNG GRADE 5 MATHEMATICIANS** ... Lorraine Primary School's Stephanie Cronje (from left), Kingswood Junior College's Naomi Boswell, Jeffreys Bay Primary's André Smit and St George's Preparatory's Jessica Beukes are congratulated by Education Department's Director of Tele-collaboration and Maths Nune Mgoduka at the prize-giving of our maths competition on Second Avenue Campus.

## Results improve drastically in maths competition

**THE number of gold certificates in the annual joint mathematics competition between NMMU and the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (Amesa) written by more than 6 000 learners country-wide has increased by 41%.**

Supported mostly by primary schools, this year the most entries came from George's Outeniqua Primary School while local schools sending the most entries were Lorraine and Clarendon Park. The high school with the most entries was Harvest Christian Senior School.

Altogether 134 platinum achievers were invited to the prize-giving

with guest speaker Extended Studies Centre Director, **Prof Maritz Snyders**.

The competition is organised by our Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit and the project leader this year was Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department's **Dr Suresh Juglal**.

Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit Head and First Rand Foundation (FRF) Chair in Maths Education **Prof Werner Olivier** said: "The aim of the competition is to stimulate interest in mathematics and to identify talent that can be nurtured – with the hope that these pupils eventually become students at NMMU."



**COMPUTER BOFFINS** ... Computing Sciences recently honoured the four provincial Computer Olympiad achievers on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the Main Building. Computing Science's Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling** (far right) says the SA Olympiad is one of the biggest events of its kind in the world; the only programming and application competition for school learners offered nationally and this year boasted more than 30 000 participants. The learners are (from left) Stephen Barnes (First in the province; third national, in Grade 11 at Pearson High), Pierre Zastron (second in the province, in Grade 11 at Grey High School), Ann Wait (national finalist - in Grade 11 at Humansdorp's Nico Malan High School) and Martin Stolk (third in the province in Grade 12 at DF Malherbe). They are joined by Dean of Science **Prof Andrew Leitch** (far left).

# First monograph for maritime law expert

LAW's Professor Patrick Vrancken recently published a monograph entitled *South Africa and the Law of the Sea* which has been lauded as a significant contribution to this branch of international law in a South African context.

Maritime law was always dominated by the developed world, but the world view is, however, no longer in a position to responsibly argue that they know all the answers, says Prof Vrancken.

The monograph is a first for Prof Vrancken, and for the Law Faculty. Having edited and co-authored two other books, this is the first one he has written singlehandedly.

In the foreword, international law expert John Dugard writes that *South Africa and the Law of the Sea* is "unquestionably the most comprehensive monograph on a branch of international law as it is applied in South Africa. It is thoroughly researched, well written and carefully presented."

"It will guide South African legal practitioners, policy-makers, legislators, teachers and students of law, environmentalists, historians and all those involved in the law of the sea."

Prof Vrancken says that research has been the best part of his academic life and he is grateful to Law Executive Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** who has

“It will guide South African legal practitioners”



**EXTREME FOCUS ...** Law's **Prof Patrick Vrancken**, who is congratulated by Law Executive Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**, recently launched his monograph entitled *South Africa and the Law of the Sea* in a market overwhelmed by developed countries.

given him the time to spend on his research.

"The magic formula for completing a monograph is focus, more focus and perseverance. The trick when starting to focus on the task at hand is

to do it - despite other pressures, distractions and attractions. You have to be focused within your research - perseverance comes in when you focus for long enough," he says.



**DISCUSSION ...** Gender equality in education was the focus of a celebration for International World Teachers' Day on 24 October. Speakers were Education Executive Dean **Prof Denise Zinn** (second from left), Transformation Monitoring & Evaluation Director **Ruby-Ann Levendal** (far right) and Community School Centre Director **Dr Al Witten** (centre) who addressed school principals and educators, education department officials and university staff. The speakers are joined by Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Christelle Feyt** (far left) and **Karen Snyman**.

## Learners gain debating skills

**ALEXANDER Road High School was the overall winner in this year's Law Faculty schools debating competition to introduce Grade 11 learners to the art, skills and competencies required for debating.**

The winning team will be visiting the Constitutional Court as their prize.

The competition also exposed learners to international law and human rights and helped them to improve their language and literacy and public speaking skills.

The other three schools in the final round in October were DF Malherbe, Framesby and Morningside, which competed for the prizes in four categories namely: best oralist, best team spirit, most creative representation of

their country and the rookie award.

Advocates Ashley Moorhouse, Mechelle Beneke and Badrika Naran judged the final leg of the competition.

The project kicked off in February when schools were contacted to register and invited to a "meet and greet" where Law's **Tanya Wagenaar** presented a lecture on refugees.

Two fourth-year law students were allocated to each school to assist them with their research for the competition.

Altogether 13 schools took part in the first round.

Schools had to represent an African country for the competition with the finalists representing Mauritania, Chad, Tunisia and Senegal.

## Nature conservation students support Fynbos ECO Festival

# 'Green Team' in action

**STUDENTS** and staff joined the community in celebrating this year's Fynbos Eco Festival through a series of talks on 28 October and an NMMU stall manned by the "Green Team" of Nature Conservation students.

Nature Conservation's **Bianca Currie** shared information on 'Greenwashing' and how to recognise it.

"Greenwashing' is unsubstantiated or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of a product, service, technology or company practice and is common," explains Bianca.

A study involving more than a 1 000 consumer products in America has found that the majority of "green" claims made by companies and brands are overstated and consumers need to know how to distinguish between valid and false claims.

Nature Conservation's **Stefan Hattingh** spoke about gardening with nature and bringing ecology back into one's garden as well as bird rehabilitation.

The students shared their projects of great practical value such as information on the application of green technologies, rainwater harvesting and the use of solar energy in the Tierkop Action research project on campus.

Recycling methods and farming with composting worms to produce high quality vermi compost with some practical demonstrations were shared at the NMMU stall.



**GREEN TEAM** ... Nature Conservation students (back from left) Damien Coulson, lecturer **Bianca Currie**, Verouschka Sonn and (front) Steve Faulconbridge and, Michelle Whyte and Aneri Vlok recently shared their projects and insights with the George community at the Fynbos ECO Festival at the Botanical Gardens.



**PROUD WINNERS** ... Third-year Forestry student Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo (left) and first-year Mbali Luthuli represented SA at the eighth International Junior Forestry Contest in Moscow for students between the ages of 14 and 20 and returned with a medal and special certificate. The week-long contest had 62 participants from 37 countries worldwide competing in a quiz on forest protection, regeneration and ecology and doing a poster presentation. Both Sikhumbuzo and Mbali presented one of the top 20 posters. Sikhumbuzo's group also won the quiz. To enter, the student's articles were evaluated by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and an international committee.

## Boost for student housing

**THE NEED** for accommodation on George Campus is growing fast and suitable off-campus accommodation is a priority with the construction of a new 75-bed hostel on campus starting next year.

With the appointment of Off-campus Housing Manager **Monde Cindi** (right), students will have peace of mind, know-



ing that NMMU-approved off-campus accommodation conforms to minimum standards.

Service providers applying for accreditation will sign a contract with the university ensuring consistent standards. Mr Cindi will inspect the premises for accreditation and compliance.



**LEADERSHIP** ... Forestry Master's student Kutelani Tshivhase (second from left) and BTech Nature Conservation student Aneri Vlok (third from left) received the Campus Principal's Leadership Award at the annual Achievers Awards on 26 October. A total of 29 awards were made to students and student societies in various categories. Sportsman of the Year was third-year Wood Technology student Juan Fourie (left) who holds SA colours in powerlifting and Sportswoman third-year BCom student, Kate Manley (far right) who earned SA colours in underwater hockey.

# First Junior Cyber Junkyard

**DANIEL** Pienaar clinched first place in the first Siemens Junior Cyber Junkyard for scholars - a collaboration between Siemens, NMMU and merSETA. PE College was second and Newton Technical High School third, while Nico Malan High School was the 'Most Innovative'.

The competition was introduced as a positive spin-off from the Siemens Cyber Junkyard Challenge involving SA universities.

The object of the competition was to pump water out of a reservoir into a tank at different speeds to ensure the tank is filled up to the set level in as little time as possible with accuracy.

Each team received the same set of components, supplied by Siemens.

Schools and colleges received training from NMMU's Siemens Simatic Training Centre and had the opportunity to upgrade their laboratories.



*FIRST PARTICIPANTS ... The first Junior Cyber Junkyard was hugely successful with winners joining the role players. Back from left are Dewald Oosthuizen, Sampie Marais (Educator), Des Burrows and Martin Taverner (Siemens) and in the front are Daniel Pienaar's Marko Viviers, Martinus Kok, Emily Molefe (Siemens) and Saliem Dolley (merSETA).*



*RUSSIAN VISITOR ... Prof Alexander Dumansky from the Mechanical Engineering Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, who recently presented a seminar on statistical and numerical methods of interpretation and treatment of experimental data with examples from Mechanics of Composites, is joined here by Mechatronics Head of Department Prof Igor Gorlach.*

## First Mechatronics student awarded S2A3 medal

**TIMOTHY** Light (below), who obtained both his BEng Mechatronics and MEng Mechatronics degrees cum laude, was recently awarded the prestigious S2A3 medal, the first for a Mechatronics student.

The topic of his dissertation – under the supervision of Mechatronics' Prof Igor Gorlach - was "Dynamic Modelling of a Reconfigurable Machine Tool", sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA).

Timothy spent two months at Ger-

many's Aachen University where he solved a complex engineering problem in robotics.

Timothy and Prof Gorlach also visited Florida University in the USA, where they presented a seminar, while Timothy co-authored two papers presented at international conferences in Europe this year.

Currently, he works as a project engineer at Rockwell Automation

in Johannesburg, while at weekends, he teaches English to pupils at a local school in Alexandria.



## 50 research papers

**SCHOOL** of ICT's Professor Rossouw von Solms (right) celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> research journal paper published recently. Most of his papers were on information security or related fields.



He authored or co-authored the 50 journal papers over 21 years along with more than 90 peer-reviewed conference papers, mostly at international conferences.

Many of the papers were co-au-

thored with some of his seven doctoral and 30 master's students and 19 were published in the subject journal, Computers & Security.

Some papers were co-authored with international experts like professors Bill Caelli

and Steve Furnell while one paper on IT Governance was co-authored with Judge Mervyn King from the King Commission.

## Briefs

### Training licence agreement

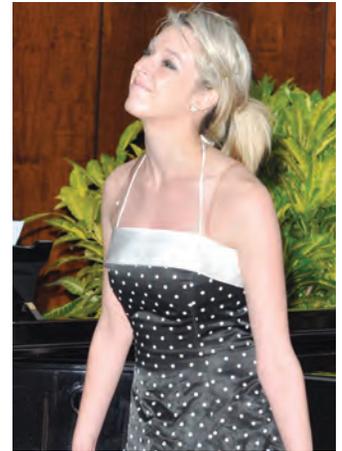
INDUSTRIAL Engineering will soon run all the DQS Quality, Health, Safety and Environment training programmes in the Port Elizabeth and Eastern Cape area. DQS SA is grateful for Industrial Engineering's Department Head **Dr Ann Lourens'** support and to be a part of the on-going drive to develop skills and workplace opportunities in the region.

### Hard work rewarded

MORE than 50 prizes were awarded last month to top achievers and the most improved learners in the Saturday School Programme providing knowledge and skills in mathematics, science and English for potential Engineering and Technology students from previously disadvantaged schools. Mary Mount High School won the award for the most supportive school.



**TEAM BUILDING ...** The Education Faculty's Admin Forum recently enjoyed a fun, interactive session with the NMMU Marimba Band as part of a one-day workshop. The forum provides a support base for administrative and support staff. The day also included Human Resources' **Loshni Govender** presenting a workshop on goal and objective setting and a session with Fulbright Scholar Dr Carol Rodgers on "humanising pedagogy/practice".



**SWEET VOICE ...** Music's **Erika Bothma** on piano accompanied voice student **Liske Potgieter** (above) at the Music Department's Prestige Concert showcasing its top students in the South Campus auditorium. The concert on 25 October went ahead without electricity, using portable lights.



**THE EXTRA MILE ...** Beyond the Classroom Leadership programme participant **Mahalia Gadlela** (second right) recently received the ALICE (A little involvement changes everything) award for going above and beyond in her community outreach goals. She participated in the Unity in Africa (UnA) project, and raised funds and supplied labour to replace windows and ceilings at ZAMA SA for disadvantaged children in Red Location. She was recently awarded a six-month scholarship to Germany next year. Mahalia is joined by Postdoctoral fellow **Dr Jennifer Winstead** (from left) and Student Governance and Development's **Mxolisi Ncapayi, Kim Elliott** and **Deidre Potgieter**.



**SAYING THANK YOU ...** Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz recently said thank you to retiring colleagues including (back from left) **Prof Frans Marx, Prof Peter Loyson, Daniel Rayners, Dr Bennie van Brecht, Marieta Fourie, Prof Otto Terblanche** and **David Gola** and (front) **Thoft Soga, Pat Wallis** and **Gail Ehbel**.



**TEA PARTY ...** Retiring colleagues recently enjoyed a tea celebrating their years at NMMU, (back from left) **John Anderson, Peter Butlion, Richard Booysen, Xolile Kobese, Graham Thompson, Olivia Barclay** and **Ren Kemsley** and (front) **Ria Nel, Lynette Erasmus, Farida Panday** and **Dr Laetitia Greyling**, joined by Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (back third from right).



**SWEDISH VISITORS ...** Gothenburg University information literacy teachers **Eva Hessman** (front left) and **Janet Wamby** (right), who run their university's biomedical branch, visited our library to exchange ideas and information and are joined by (back from left) **Elna Burger, Hester Kritzinger, Bonga Makrwe** and **Christina Dookran** and (front) Director **Robert Pearce**.

# Movember movement success

## DID you join the Movember campaign by growing your moustache last month?

Movember raises awareness of men's health issues and specifically cancers affecting men, putting a fun twist on this serious issue, especially since men in general have proved to be far less concerned about health issues than women.

Most cancers, including prostate and testicular, can be cured if detected in its early stages. Experts also estimate that up to 40% of cancers can be prevented by vaccination, regular exercising, smart eating choices, limiting alcohol, reducing sun exposure and avoiding tobacco.

The average life expectancy for men is four years less than women and the rate of cancer diagnosis in men is considerably higher at one in six compared to one in eight in women. Men are also 40% more likely to die of cancer than women.

Did you know that:

- 1 in 23 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer – the most common cancer for men globally?
- More than 4 000 cases of prostate cancer are diagnosed every year and over 2 500 men die as a result?
- In South Africa, testicular cancer is the most common cancer in young men between the ages of 15 and 35, but can occur and any male, anytime?

Apart from being more indifferent towards their health, men are more reluctant to openly discuss the subject, and less likely to see a doctor when they feel



*SUPPORTERS ... Joining the Movember campaign are Agricultural and Game Management's **Tim Pittaway** (second from left), Marketing and Corporate Relations **Andrew Kock** and ICT Services' **Grant Abbott** with Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Bev Erickson** (left) showing that women also take the campaign seriously.*

ill or go for an annual check-up. In this way they decrease their chances of early detection and effective treatment. They often fear that the visit will result in hospitalisation. On the other hand, they might not be serious enough about the issue.

Men from the ages of 15 to 40 years need to examine their testicles each month, preferably after a bath or shower, to feel for any pea-sized lumps that could indicate testicular cancer.

It is important that men over the age of 50 annually undergo simple screening tests to check for

prostate cancer.

What you should do:

- Have an annual check-up
- Don't smoke – men who smoke are 23 times more likely to develop lung cancer.
- Be physically active at least for 30 minutes most days of the week.
- Eat a balanced diet and stay at a healthy weight
- Manage your stress
- Drink alcohol only in moderation
- Know your family health history



*ANCIENT WORLD ... Horticultural Services' **Elana Storm** at the "Lost City of the Incas", a 15th-century Inca site on a mountain ridge above the Urubamba Valley in Peru, which she visited during her travels using the voucher she won at last year's end of year function.*

## Voucher paves way to Peru

**HORTICULTURAL Services Head Elana Storm recently returned from Peru thanks to the R15 000 travel voucher she won last year in the lucky draw at our annual staff year-end function.**

"It was awesome but also an incredibly humbling experience!" says Elana who had never been outside South Africa.

"The rural people are dirt poor, but happy as can be, hard-working and dedicated to a simple family life (in the high altitudes they subsistence farm).

They have big hearts and understood my sign language and very limited Spanish (actually just two phrases) and zero Ketchwa (local Indian/Inca lingo)".

She also went on a trek/hike to the lesser-known Choquequirao ruins, Peru's best kept secret - only accessible by foot and supported by pack horses.

"We trekked 43 km over five days, spending two days at the ruins just below a glacier.

"This was such a rich blessing!"

## Briefs

### Supporting testing

IN SUPPORT of the "Each one Reach five" HIV/Aids testing campaign, a number of Education Faculty staff had themselves tested. "Teaching is not just telling, it's modelling, demonstrating, and empowering oneself and others with information. And that's why I tested," said Initial Teacher Education School Director **Dr Noluthando Toni**.

### Band finalist

CONSTRUCTION Management's Brink Botha and his "boeoreorks" band recently reached the finals of the national *Vastrap* competition on KykNet, the Afrikaans channel on DTSV.

### Talk competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS to our **October** competition winners: **Mabel van Vliet** of Arts and Culture, **Judy Havemann** of the Library, **Charmaine Fember** of Strategic Planning and Information Analysis and **Thando Teyise** of Computing Sciences. We will resume our competition in the February edition of *talk@nmmu*.

# Dream come true

**THANKS to a number of Good Samaritans on campus the dream of friendly security guard Zanele (Yvonne) Ngura to become a paramedic is on its way to become true.**

*Talk@nmmu* featured Zanele, well-known for her friendly smile and going the extra mile at her post at the Marine Drive entrance to South Campus, in our March/April edition this year.

After talking to her, a number of staff members realised that with a one-year old child she struggles financially and could not pay for the training.

Although Zanele grew up without parents, she has an unbelievable passion for people and wants to make a difference and do something more with her life.

One staff member then approached others for funding and another one assisted Zanele with all the interviews and administrative aspects of applying for the training.

The group - across several campuses - collected more than R9 000 for Zanele's Basic Ambulance Assistant Course; the first step towards becoming a paramedic.

Two persons donated R1 000 each and another R500 with the others making up the difference.

In addition, Masakhane Security agreed to give her leave for the five-week course which Zanele is currently completing and which is going "very well".

Good luck Zanele!



*FRIENDLY ZANELE ... Security guard Zanele Ngura can now follow her dream to become a paramedic thanks to a number of staff who collected money to enable her to do a Basic Ambulance Assistant Course and work towards becoming a paramedic.*



*TRIPLE SUCCESS ... Three NMMU students not only came out tops in the Miss Bay FM competition, but also raised a whopping R64 000 for the Liebenhaus children's home. The winner was second-year BEd Intermediate Phase student Daph-Marie Theron (centre), with runner-up second-year Media and Communications student Leoni Erasmus (right) and second-runner-up first-year BEd Foundation Phase student Anchen van Rensburg.*



*GIFT OF GIVING ... Education staff including some of their children, participated in the Santa Shoebox Project and managed to make up and contribute a fair number of gift boxes to this worthy initiative. Education Dean Prof Denise Zinn (from left) is joined by Valerie Roux, Tash Dolley, Gishma Daniels-Smith and Mary-Anne Laufs (front).*



*PLAYING SANTA ... Some 40 Business School staff members recently packed and decorated their shoe box gifts as part of the Kidz2Kidz's Santa Shoebox Project, coordinating personalised gifts to children from underprivileged communities during the festive season. The Business School's Santa Shoe Boxes was given to children of the Sinethemba Children's Care Centre in Port Elizabeth, one of 29 facilities in the Eastern Cape, to benefit from the project. This year the national organiser set a target of 70 000 Santa Shoe Boxes and reached it with ease.*

Our staff excel at the end of the year

# Leading by example

**THIS month our colleagues are leading the NMMU world of sport, by not only excelling in their different sports but also showing students that good leadership paves the way to success.**

► **SPORT** Bureau's **Riaan Osman** is now one of only six active World Hockey Federation umpires in the country and the only active one in PE for the last two decades. Riaan was awarded his international hockey umpiring badge by the World Hockey Federation after his performance at the Africa Olympic Qualifier in Bulawayo in September.



► **SAYING THANK YOU** ... Cricket Manager, **Riaan Osman** (above left) also handed over the Mecer NMMU Cricket team's Club Champs prize-money of R10 000 towards NMMU's R1-billion capital and endowment campaign to Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, as a token of their appreciation for the university's continuous support.

► **TOP SPOT** ... Another leader excelling is Sport Bureau's **Nellis Bothma**, (right) whose ABSA NMMU Athletics Club was awarded the Eastern Province Athletics Club of the Year Trophy at the EP Athletics Awards evening. The club performed exceptionally well this season thanks to the ongoing support from the likes of leading athletes Ischke Senekal, Cindy Stewart, Leigh Julies, Sergio Mullins, Che Harmse, Brendon Minnie and coaches Magda Botha and Kobus van Zyl. The club was also recently voted as the NMMU Club of the Year.

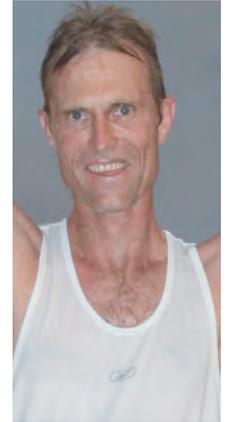


► **WINNER** ... Human Movement Science's **Dr Lyn Slo-grove** (right) won the BMW (GCI) National Golf Final at the Fancourt Hotel, Country Club and Golf Estate in October. Lyn won the Ladies Championship



on 36 points and will represent BMW South Africa at the BMW International Final in Singapore in March 2012, the biggest amateur golf event in the world.

► **TOP ACHIEVER** ... Chemistry's **Fanus Gerber** (right) took part in the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii in October, and finished the 3,8km ocean swim, 180km cycle and 42.2 km run with an excellent time of 10:46:37. Fanus qualified at Ironman South Africa this year by virtue of finishing third in his age group of 45 to 49.



► **LEADER** ... Mechanical Engineering's **Karl du Preez** (right) is the captain of the Eastern Province Mid-Amateur Golfing Team who won the overall tournament held last month at Humewood Golf Club.



**SPRINTER** ... Cindy Stewart won the Sportsman of the Year award at NMMU's Achievers' Dinner to recognise excellence in student activities.



**SURFS UP** ... Second-year Industrial Engineering student Nicholas Flood took top honours at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual South African Body Boarding Championship recently at Big Bay, Table View, in Cape Town. He competed against the top 26 body boarders in the country and was crowned SA Men's Open champion.



**STRONG MAN** ... Microbiology honours student Eugene Nolan has been selected to represent South Africa in the Bench Press category at the 2011 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in Bournemouth, England, in December. He has already broken two SA Bench Press records this year, one at the SA Powerlifting Championships in Port Elizabeth and the other at the SA Bench Press competition in Stellenbosch, where he also received his SA title.



**HOOKED ON SUCCESS** ... Zoology student Wesley de Klerk recently received national colours for angling. He will soon compete internationally in Namibia.



**SWIMMER** ... Kevin Paul was the winner of the Sportsman of the Year award at the Achievers' Dinner.

**GREAT START** ... MECER NMMU Cricket Club's Simon Harmer continued his excellent four-day Supersport form for the Warriors with his debut for the CSA One-Day Cup competition this month. Simon was not required to bat, but returned a tidy spell of 2/45 from his 10 overs to ensure the Warriors ran out victorious against the Dolphins in Pietermaritzburg on 16 November. The Warriors won comfortably to reach the round-robin phase of the One Day Cup.

