



GREAT TEACHERS ... Education Executive Dean Professor **Denise Zinn** is thrilled that more and more top students like these straight A Vice-Chancellor Scholarship recipients (from left) Anika Botha, Tarryn Lovemore and Trudi van Olm have opted to invest in South Africa's future generations by choosing teaching as a career. Anika is a second-year Education student and among the 2011 Vice-Chancellor Scholarship recipients.

VC Scholarships grow in greatness with applicants from all over Students - top of the tops

"GOOD is the enemy of great," says Chancellor Santie Botha, who was a guest speaker at the annual Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Awards function at the Indoor Centre on South Campus.

Quoting from Jim Collins' book *From good to great*, Ms Botha, congratulated the 28 recipients saying, "the award sets you on the path to greatness".

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships – now in its third year – awards R60 000 a year to these students for the duration of their undergraduate course provided academic performance remains of the highest standard. Ms Botha made five of the

28 scholarships possible.

"To be great is often a leap of faith. It requires extra effort, great support and truly believing in yourself and in your capabilities. To move from good to great is a process of

*To be great is often
a leap of faith*

many interventions. The VC Scholarships is not good, it is great," Ms Botha told proud parents, the recipients, schools principals and NMMU staff members.

Senior manager: Marketing and Student Recruitment **Christelle Feyt** says more than 1 500 top schools were targeted countrywide to attract

possible scholarship candidates.

The 2011 pool of applicants represent 145 high schools from seven provinces. This indicates a growth of 61% in comparison with the 90 schools in 2010.

Of the 28 recipients this year, 23 are from the Eastern Cape, two from the Western Cape, and one each from Kwazulu-Natal, Free State and Gauteng.

Collegiate Girls High School and Grey High School for Boys boast the majority of recipients, with six and four respectively.

Ten of the recipients registered for BCom programmes in the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences,

while eight have opted for degrees within the Faculty of Science.

Other study fields include music, architecture, mechatronics, teaching and pharmacy.

See page 11 and 13.

Student growth

EARLY registration figures reflect a 2% growth of student numbers compared to the same time last year. Business and Economic Sciences has grown by 369 students (4.9%), Science with 208 (12.4%) and Health Sciences numbers have shown an increase of 218 (7.5%).

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Varsity Cup

WITH the Vice-Chancellor Scholarship recipients' function behind us and Graduation approaching, we are celebrating excellence once again.

As our Chancellor Santie Botha said at the function these students are on their path to greatness having all the support they need to achieve even more.

Looking forward to Graduation later this month we can pat ourselves on the back. Every one of the more than 5 000 graduates

Accolades and awards

had a number of lecturers and support staff contributing to his or her success. We will share more news about Graduation in our next edition.

More good news is the increase in registered post-graduate students 7.5% as at 12 March compared to the same time last year.

In this edition we remind you to apply for the numerous top awards

for staff which will be celebrated in August. It's always good to see new faces of up-and-coming colleagues joining the ranks of excellence.

The new Gateway to Blended Learning-site was also launched and brings a myriad of possibilities to staff and students for innovative teaching and learning.

Health Sciences has a new dean,



our students are achieving nationally and internationally and we've had our best Varsity Cup rugby season ever.

Remember to share your thoughts about issues at NMMU anonymously on SOAPBOX.

These are followed up with relevant staff and answers are also posted.

Send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker

► Next edition: Graduation ► Wellness

Prestigious honorary doctorates

NMMU will honour four outstanding citizens during graduation 2012. Nominated by various faculties, they will receive their honorary doctoral degrees during the afternoon ceremony on 18 April.

► Activist and Bishop of the Ethiopian Episcopal Church, Reverend Malusi Mpulwana (right) is recognised by NMMU for his religious and political leadership and substantial contribution to democracy and community development. He will be awarded an honorary doctorate



in Philosophy.

► In recognition of her work on gender, science and innovation, and the integration of indigenous knowledge systems which has created ground-breaking shifts in traditional knowledge paradigms, educationalist Catherine Odora Hoppers (above) will receive an honorary doctorate in Education.



► World-renowned paleoanthropologist, Phillip Tobias (right), will be honoured with an honorary degree in



Science in recognition of establishing South Africa as the "Cradle of Humankind", for his devotion to humanity and raising the profile of Southern Africa and its people in Science and Society.

► For his unique contribution to the empowerment of civil society to transform the South African and international legal orders with a view to protecting human rights and addressing the challenges of global change on an equitable, peaceful and sustainable basis, human rights activist and Executive Director of Greenpeace, Kumi Naidoo (right) will receive an honorary degree in Law.



Four new research chairs

NMMU received four of the 60 research chairs awarded by the Department of Science and Technology to higher education institutions for 2011 to 2012.

These are in:

- Microfluidic bio/chemical processing
- Law of the Sea and Development in Africa
- Shallow Water Ecosystems and
- Earth Systems Science

Research chairs are government's initiative to attract and retain excellence in research and innovation in the country's science system as well as enabling universities to produce graduates and research of high quality.

Our current five chairs are in

- HIV/Aids Education
- Mechatronics
- Automotive Engineering
- Nanophotonics and
- Maths Education



Staff awarded for excellence

STAFF can now be rewarded for excellence in five different areas, the latest being engagement. These awards will all be handed over on 29 August. The awards that staff can apply for are Researcher

and Faculty Researcher of the Year, Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards, Performing and Creative Arts, Innovation and Technology Transfer awards and Engagement Excellence Awards.

Diary

Graduation

13 April - 10:00 George Campus

17 April - 09:30 Business & Economic Sciences (PG); 14:30 Law & Health Sciences (PG)

18 April - 09:30 Engineering; 14:30 Honorary Doctorates & Arts (PG)

19 April - 09:30 Education; 14:30 Science

20 April - 09:30 The Built Environment & IT; 14:30 Business & Economic Sciences (diplomas)

21 April - 09:30 Education (Certificates); 14:30 Business & Economic Sciences (B degrees)

23 April - 09:30 Health Sciences; 14:30 Arts

New mode of transport on campus 'Green' example

AN INITIAL 10 staff members will soon be using solar battery-powered bicycles and scooters to get around North and South campuses, while their vehicles remain under a new covered parking facility hosting solar panels.

The solar energy from these panels will be fed directly into the university's electricity grid in yet another move to expand the use of renewable energy at the university.

"We're excited about this and especially the buy-in of key staff members who will set the example by cycling to their classes once on campus," said Projects and Planning Director **Greg Ducie** who along with **Prof Ernest van Dyk** of our Centre for Energy Research initiated the project.

The university is already powering various other lecture halls and residences via wind and solar energy thanks to the coordination efforts of its Centre for Energy Research, and has several more innovative and cost-saving efforts in the pipeline.

If the freewheeling project proves successful it will be further rolled out, and plans will be initiated to introduce solar-powered golf carts for technical staff instead of fuel-hungry vehicles.

Greg said he was grateful for the support of Innowind, a company that had agreed to supply the panels free of charge.



SOLAR WHEELS ... Three of the first staff members to use solar battery powered bicycles and scooters on campus are (from left) Engineering, the Built Environment and IT Executive Dean **Prof Henk de Jager**, Marketing and Corporate Relations **Bev Erickson** and Projects and Planning Director **Greg Ducie**.

Technology - way to go



A NEW way of setting exam papers, instructions on how to make training videos and showing them using video streaming, quizzes, blogs and submitting student assignments online all form part of a wonderful digital world right here on the NMMU network, accessible on your computer.

Between 5 000 and 6 000 unique daily logins on each of the two Blended Learning platforms illustrate this vibrant Blended Learning world at NMMU.

The use of Learn@NMMU, the NMMU's implementation of the Moodle Learning Management System originated from within the Education Faculty and growth in its usage soon saw ICT services expand and deliver it to the entire institution.

Together with Microsoft SharePoint, the existing web content, communication and collaboration technology, both platforms offer staff and students a dynamic and rich environment for advanced online activity.

Support for Blended Learning at

NMMU has now recently been introduced to staff in the form of the new Blended Learning Gateway as one-stop-shop for technology enabled teaching, learning and assessment.

"Joining this new world has endless benefits for both lecturers and students but ultimately the main goal is enhanced learning", says CTLM's Senior Academic Staff Development Professional **Dr Hermien Johannes**.

It's adaptable so you can have your own mix of tools, technologies, quizzes, resources, assignments, ways of communication and an endless list of applications keeping your programme alive and dynamically communicating with your students.

We all know the importance of technology to the youth – why not use their medium of choice if it's going to make your life easier as well?

"I don't have to be concerned about students being late with assignments, or pushing the assignment under my door and it getting lost. They submit their assignments before a specific date and time and thereafter



the system does not admit them anymore, teaching them the importance of being on-time. It's wonderful," one lecturer said.

We want people to go wild and enjoy the dynamic learning process," says Hermien.

CTLM provides on-going workshops and support to academics and staff to learn the system and adapt it to their particular needs.

Now technophobes no longer have an excuse not to use technology enhanced learning tools.

Province needs well-positioned faculty and university

Breath of fresh air for Health Sciences

NEWLY-appointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof Vic Exner says it's good that the university's transformation plan is part of the entire strategic plan.

"I am excited about transformation. I've lived a long life of transformation," he says.

Prof Exner brings with him a wealth of experience having been the first Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

He is experienced in project management, needs analysis and co-ordination, is fully bilingual in English and Afrikaans and can understand some Zulu having grown up on a mission station in KwaZulu-Natal in the sixties.

He is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges the position brings.

"I believe that the faculty should be more prominent in the university community and beyond. It is well-positioned and the province needs the faculty and the university," he says.

Before joining NMMU, Prof Ex-



I believe that the faculty should be more prominent in the university community and beyond. ”

CHANGE AGENT ... New Health Sciences Executive Dean **Prof Vic Exner** has extensive experience in tertiary education and plans to profile the faculty on all fronts.

er was a senior stomatologist at the University of the Western Cape Dental Faculty where he enjoyed working in the disadvantaged communities of Cape Town (such as Mitchell's Plain) with dental students.

He started his full-time academic life at UWC in 1982 and left for Medunsa and a promotion to principal stomatologist in 1984, associate professor in 1985 and to professor/chief stomatologist in 1991. He then transferred to Wits in 1996 as head of the department of Restorative Dentistry.

He opted for early retirement in 2006 and joined his wife, Dr Rosemary Exner, an educational psychologist at UCT, and their three sons in Cape Town.

"I might have retired early from the university, but cannot sit and do nothing. I believe my experience in and outside of academia will be very useful in this position."

He grew up in rural KwaZulu-Natal where his father was a missionary doctor. Although his father and grandfather were medical doctors, he wanted

to become an architect. As a compromise he became a dentist, having in the course of his career, worked in the corporate sector and as an independent health management consultant as well.

He is the eldest of five children of an Afrikaans mother and German dad, both well into their eighties.

When he doesn't work, Prof Exner is an active runner, gardener, chef and house renovator, who is already looking for a house to buy and restore.

Buildings and equipment

- Nursing Science recently completed many new changes, including three additional high fidelity clinical simulation and teaching laboratories with third generation simulation manikins and task trainers. Specialised 3D visual equipment will enable students to witness disease processes, human anatomy and physiology.
- Construction on a new Human Movement Science building is planned to start this July.
- Pharmacy on South Campus had a six-month refurbishment to the value of R23 million. Laboratories were modernised and enlarged.

Upgrades included:-

- A model "community pharmacy", designed for practical training of undergraduate phar-

Health Sciences fast facts

macy students and support personnel, to optimise work-flow in the practice environment,

- An expanded clinical skills laboratory,
- A modernised dispensary where students learn to manufacture different formulations,
- An aseptic manufacturing laboratory for hands-on training in the manufacturing of sterile products,
- The medicinal chemistry laboratory is currently being equipped with the latest analytical instrumentation and
- A pharmacology laboratory and drug information centre designed for computer-based learning.

Programmes

- The four-year BSc Dietetics degree will start in

2013 if it is approved by the Council for Higher Education.

- A revised BPharm curriculum will be introduced next year as well as two new qualifications for pharmacy support personnel.
- A new four-year degree for emergency medical care practitioners including a two-year "mid-level" qualification for technicians is planned for 2014. The Eastern Cape Department of Health has allocated a considerable amount of funding for this venture.
- Radiography training will be "beefed-up" with the introduction of a new degree programme with three specialisations, namely Diagnostics, Ultrasonography and Therapeutics, also to be implemented in 2014.

Injection for Vision2020 Capital and Endowment Campaign

Alumni pledge support

ALUMNI pledged their support to the university and the Vision 2020 Capital and Endowment Campaign at the recent Port Elizabeth social event. They were also introduced to the planned alumni house on campus.

More than 150 former students who attended the event, which included a jazz band performance, were invited to join the movement to support the university financially and take NMMU to greater heights.

The university plans to raise R1 billion in project and endowment funding by 2020 to ensure that facilities and academic standards continue to improve and to advance NMMU as a leading higher education institution.

Alumni Relations Director **Paul Geswindt** shared news of the Alumni House project which forms part of the Vision 2020 Capital projects.

The Alumni House will be a symbol for alumni as important stakeholders and to encourage current students to join the ranks of our global alumni ambassadors.

Alumni Association Vice-President, Evert Knoesen, invited current donors to join him as he made a personal pledge of R5 000 to support university projects.



*HANDOVER ... The Alumni Association handed over a cheque of R50 000 to the NMMU Trust in support of the Alumni House Fund at the PE social event held recently. Alumni Vice-President Evert Knoesen, (from left), hands over the cheque with Director: Alumni Relations **Paul Geswindt** to NMMU Trust CEO **Dr Garth van Gensen**.*

MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... The Rural Educational Access Programme's Glenda Glover joins career guidance short learning programme presenters Student Counselling's **Dr Darryl Smith** (left) and **Nomalungelo Ntlokwana** (right) at the centre's two-day workshop for life orientation teachers.



Assisting with career guidance

OUR Student Counselling, Career and Development Centre went the extra mile to train teachers and rural students with career guidance skills to help their learners and former schools.

The centre presented a two-day career guidance short-learning programme at Missionvale Campus for 12 life orientation teachers from Uitenhage to overcome the challenges of guiding grade 9 to 12 learners to make effective career decisions and plan their studies.

The feedback from these sessions was very positive and encouraging said presenter Student Counselling's **Dr Darryl Smith**.

In September and October the centre also trained

senior Rural Educational Access Programme (REAP) students to assist learners from rural communities with career guidance and planning.

REAP is a national organisation funding performing grade 12s from rural communities to study.

Altogether 38 of these students are studying at NMMU. In November and December the students visited schools in their home areas to help them with guidance.

The feedback was positive and the students so enthusiastic that they want to continue with the programme.

REAP funded both programmes.

Gambia seminars

INNOVATION Support and Technology Transfer Director Jaci Barnett (below) recently presented four lectures on technology transfer at a seminar hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Banjul, Gambia.

The seminar focused on the importance of patents and the patent cooperation treaty for research institutions and universities.

It was hosted in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office of the Ministry of Justice and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO).

Jaci's topics were knowledge transfer, licensing and commercialising Intellectual Property (IP), IP policies and setting up a tech-transfer office.



Students in conversation

STUDENTS must organise themselves into reading and discussion groups; be part of influencing the curriculum; improve their understanding of things affecting them through critical thought; and apply deep thinking to policies and solutions proposed by our political, labour, and government.

Renowned activist and sociologist Johannesburg University's Professor Ashwin Desai shared these thoughts with students in a dialogue before the recent Annual Dennis Brutus Memorial Lecture hosted by CANRAD (Centre for the Advancement of Non- Racialism and Democracy) and the South End Museum

CANRAD asked Prof Desai to dialogue with our students who requested him to speak generally on the decline of student activism at NMMU and in higher education in general.

The students wanted ideas about how student activism has been depoliticised and what roles can be proposed for the future.



QUESTIONS ... Dennis Brutus annual memorial lecture speaker Johannesburg University's Prof Ashwin Desai (left) talks to students before his recent lecture.

Professor Desai said that the university curriculum should neither be old nor rigid and should be moving in line with society and everyday life.

Excellence in research should rather be about creating change in society than publishing in journals that only a few people read.

Meetings such as Senate should rather be both inward and outwards looking addressing human relations and conditions that face people, he said.

Professor Desai urged our students to think about themselves as intellectuals rather than party political members.



AWARD-WINNING SHOW ... Documentary director Thulani Deke (second from left) is joined by CANRAD Director Alan Zinn and CANRAD's Buyiswa Scott and public relations interns Xoliswa Mletelwa, Lubabalo Mawane and Nooreen Agherdien at a screening of his latest film hosted by CANRAD and Arts and Culture.

Top documentary

A LOCAL audience recently had the opportunity to watch the award-winning documentary "The Creators: South Africa Through the Eyes of Its Artists" on campus.

Hosted by CANRAD (Centre for the Advancement of Non- Racialism and Democracy) and Arts and Culture, the documentary was directed by Port Elizabeth-born and raised Thulani Deke.

The film focuses on the lives of seven talented artists - Faith47, Warongx, Mthetho Mapoyi, Emile Jansen, Blaq Pearl and SweatX - and follows their journey, trials and tribulations and what they did to make a difference.

The Creator won two Best Documentary awards, namely at the National Geographic All Roads Film Festival and for Music at the World Music and Independent Film Festival.

Thulani also presented a brief talk and interacted with the audience.

Breakfast reading

WELL-KNOWN SA-born author Zoe Wicomb entertained guests reading tales from her second book, *David's Story*, at a breakfast at the South End Museum.

Her passion and emotion inspired the audience to request her to record readings from her already published books.

Her stories explore the extent to which the lives of all South Africans are shaped by the apartheid system of racial classification and segregation.

Zoe lectures at the Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland.

The breakfast was hosted by Arts and Culture in collaboration the School of Language, Media and Culture, The South End Museum and CANRAD (Centre for the Advancement for Non- Racialism and Democracy) on 14 February.

Zoe also presented a public lecture on 13 February on campus on "Natural Narrative and Tall Tales: Remembering District Six".



READING ... Arts and Culture Head Michael Barry (left) welcomes SA-born author Zo Wicomb at a breakfast at the South End Museum.

Icebreaker introduction

A CHINESE dragon was selected as the best project in this year's annual icebreaker project on Humewood Beach introducing first- to fourth-year students to one another.

Altogether 400 Architecture, Interior Design and Architectural Technology students used the elements such as water and wind to create a kinetic sculpture or functioning element that would move on the beach or in one place, said Interior Design and Architectural Technology's **Hansie Vosloo**.

The Chinese dragon used a wind-propelled crankshaft to alternatively move rods which in turn make the dragon flow up and down.

The students worked in groups of ten comprising all different years of study and courses. The project took place at the start of the academic year with the final installation on 17 February.



TEAMWORK ... Beven Myburgh (from left), Charne Hirst, Sakhile Mngadi and Bryce Henderson hard at work on their project at the annual Architecture, Interior Design and Architectural Technology icebreaker project on Humewood Beach at the start of the academic year.



STYLE ... Inspired by the way 1950s fashion photographers Richard Avedon and Irving Penn captured the essence of the elegant era, MTech Photography student Astrid Arndt (above) revisited this style in her own recent fashion photography exhibition at the School of Art, Music and Design on North Campus. "Astrid had to work carefully with composition, lighting, styling and locations to create these images that evoke a past era – and has done it exceptionally well," Photography lecturer **Glenn Meyer** says.

Many students for new honours degrees

A BUMPER number of 71 students have registered for the three new BA honours programmes in Journalism, Media studies and Corporate Communications in the Language, Media and Culture Department.

The programmes are offered on a full-time basis in block releases which opens it up for working students as well.

"It overshot our expectations by far.



A large number of the applications were from our own graduates while external applicants come from several regional radio stations, newspapers, several state institutions and the PR business sector. Foreign applicants originate from Botswana, Lesotho, Cameroon and Zimbabwe," says programme coordinator **Dr Janina Wozniak** (left).

NRF emerging researcher

NMMU postdoctoral fellow Dr Marisa Botha (below) was named a National Research Foundation (NRF) Emerging Researcher - only the second NMMU candidate to be honoured in this way. Only three of the 22 NMMU postdoctoral fellows are not in the Science Faculty.



For the first six months of this year Dr Botha is a visiting scholar in the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in Philadelphia under the leadership of South African literature expert Prof Rita Barnard. Dr Botha is also a research scholar of the Alice Paul Centre for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.

For her postdoctoral scholarship she is mentored at NMMU by Language and Literature's **Prof Helize van Vuuren**.

Dr Botha has published eight articles in academic journals over the past nine years.

She presented a paper on *Translation: Unifying the Ubuntu Nation* at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference in Rhode Island at the end of March. This paper specifically discusses author Antjie Krog's references to translation.

Last month she also presented a paper at Pennsylvania University's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures Graduate Student Conference.

In 2011 Zoology's **Dr Pierre Pistorius** was named Emerging Researcher.

New Media Society launched

THE Media Society with more than 2 000 members was re-launched recently and now forms part of the Arts and Culture Department.

The society is open to all students and serves as a platform for them to showcase their skills to the public.

Their activities for the year include a Red Bull paper plane competition as part of a worldwide paper plane contest, a national university media festival, the development of an arts centre, community art exhibitions, journalism and photography public lectures and poetry events and readings.

Arts Faculty students started the society to practice the skills they acquired through their various courses and to showcase different talents.

Their motto is to "uphold the creative vision of their members and to do so with ambition and unity".



WITH A BEAT ... The band Hey! Bang Dead! with members Timothy Edwards (from left) on drums, Thomas Quinn on lead bass and vocalist and guitarist Jethro Lock entertained the crowds at the launch of the Media Society outside the cafeteria on South Campus.



TEACHERS ... Teaching overseas is becoming increasingly popular with young and older folks. Getting a Tesol certificate is one way to achieve this. NMMU is the only site in Africa offering the internationally recognised SIT/World Learning Tesol certificate. "Word is out there and we have a long waiting list but we only take 12 participants per course," says course presenter Applied Languages' **Jacqui L. ck** (back second from left). The other presenters joined by the 2012 class are **Sharon Rudman** (front left) and **Eileen Scheckle** (front second from right).

WINNERS ... Xanadu / Melodi won the prize for the best choir as well taking the spirit cup at the annual Campus Life Student Concert again. Audience numbers at the concert previously called the First Years Concert increased and the crowd was even more excited and competitive than in the past. The performances, all from the various residences, were more original and included hip-hop dances, poetry reading, solo singers and soccer ball tricks. The overall winner of the event was the Sikelele dance group from Letaba and Lebombo. The concert was presented by Arts and Culture.



Another accolade

FASHION success story Kelly Esterhuyse (below) who graduates this month, has done it again!

This time, her collection of mohair designs exhibited at Cape Town's annual Design Indaba, saw the 22-year-old BTEch student being named the winner of the New Emerging Creative.



The accolade follows a string of others, including Elle Young Designer of the Year and saw her design a range of clothes for Mr Price, and makes her hot property.

Like another successful alumnus, textile graduate Laduma Ngxokolo, Kelly also exhibited her jerseys at SA Fashion Week.

First centre in Africa

NMMU is home to the first Positive Organisational Scholarship (POS) Centre in the Southern Hemisphere.

The centre was launched at the end of January at the POS conference hosted by Industrial and Organisational Development and the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber.

The centre, housed in Industrial and Organisational Psychology, will research POS in the African context, develop and market case studies and intervention tools and develop partnerships and collaboration in the field.

Keynote speaker and founder of POS Prof Kim Cameron of the University of Michigan presented the concept to some 110 delegates from business, industry and universities from all over the country.

His current research focuses on the virtuousness of organisations and its relationship to organisational success.

Prof Cameron also trained staff in the department in positive



LAUNCH ... Keynote speaker and Positive Organisational Scholarship (POS) founder Prof Kim Cameron (fourth from left) joins the first three POS PhD students, lecturers and masters' students (from left) Shiraz Adams (master's student), **Chantel Harris** (PhD student), Prof Adré Boshoff, Department Head **Prof Rob Snelgar**, **Johan Schoeman** (PhD student), Sharon Munyaka (PhD student) and Lucretia Jantjies (master's student) at the launch of the first POS Centre in the Southern Hemisphere at the POS conference recently presented by Industrial and Organisational Psychology.

organisational interventions and practices.

Three of the department's PhD

students are working on POS which emphasises an abundance approach whereby employees are empowered

to embrace their highest potential and enable positive organisational change.



FINANCE WIZZ ... Mandela Rhodes Scholar and Economics student David Gate (left) is congratulated by Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan as second runner-up in the national undergraduate annual budget speech competition.

Economic experts

NMMU not only had two Economics students among the 11 finalists in the national undergraduate annual budget speech competition, but one of them was second runner-up.

The students went to Cape Town for the budget speech and also attended a banquet with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan as keynote speaker where the winners and runners-up were announced.

As second runner-up Mandela Rhodes Scholar David Gate won R10 000 to further his studies.

The other finalist was Wimbashe Mendu.

NMMU has not had finalists in a number of years says Economics' **Debbie du Preez**.

The students had to write an essay on the feasibility of nationalising the country's mining sector using international experience as well as theoretical and empirical research.

Budget very average

ECONOMICS' Professor Stephen Hosking (below) was "quite pleased" with the 2012 budget – not because it was one that will increase growth - but because it could have been so much worse.

He says that although on-going talk of massive spending sprees on National Health Insurance and nationalisation of the Mines unsettled a number of economists including himself, he is glad about the only small sums being channelled this way.

However, it's not a good budget and "at best a very average one". Prof Hosking says it does not protect the businesses and the working and middle class backbone of the economy from the short-run downturn in demand that is expected to hit many sectors and regions of the

economy.

"It subscribes to an economic policy that crowds out the private sector and fails to harness the full growth mechanisms of capitalism.

"It naively goes along with massive spending on providing services for the poor while staying silent on the long-run opportunity cost being imposed upon the economy - possibly a sacrifice of 1-2% pa in economic growth," he says.

It is also potentially distorting – thereby undermining the competitiveness of the South African economy, contrary to one of its many declared objectives.

For the complete article entitled "Rating government economic policy performance through the 2012 budget speech" see www.nmmu.ac.za/marketing - then go to Staff Newsletter and then Want to know more?



Saturday school programme makes huge difference in results

Boost for maths and science



ENTHUSIASTIC ... Grade 11 and 12 pupils from schools across the Bay, Somerset East, Graaff-Reinet and Cradock attend Saturday classes run by our Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit to improve their knowledge of maths and science. Picture: Liz McHugh

GIVING up 14 Saturday mornings for the chance of a better symbol in maths and science is a small price to pay for 250 Nelson Mandela Bay pupils – especially in light of the province’s disappointing 33 per cent maths pass rate last year. Science achieved a slightly better 48% per cent pass rate, but almost half of those who passed obtained less than 40%.

Saturdays at Missionvale Campus were abuzz, with grade 11 and 12 pupils from 35 schools throughout the Bay attending the extra classes.

Past pupils who attended the incubator school programme, first launched six years ago by the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit, improved their maths and science marks by an average of 10 to 20%.

A new addition this year to the Bay programme is a Casio calculator workshop to ensure the effective use of scientific calculators, a prerequisite for maths and science. It is also the first year the South African National Road Agency Limited (Sanral) has come on board to sponsor lab-based science experiments.

All the pupils, top performers in maths and science in their respective schools, have been handpicked by the unit. The grade 11 and 12 National Curriculum Statement maths and science syllabi are covered by a DVD series, given to each pupil, for them to use as a “personal tutor”.

Unit head **Prof Werner Olivier**, who also holds the First Rand Foundation chair in Maths Education said exam preparation in August was another component of the programme, and teachers were encouraged to attend.

Three intensive Saturday schools also kicked off in Somerset East, Graaff-Reinet and Cradock.

Altogether 300 grade 11 and 12 pupils, hand-picked from more than 30 schools, attended the launch and first session of the 14-week incubator

Given the province’s latest results for maths and science, expansion of the programme is critical

schools which is run for the first time in Graaff-Reinet and Cradock and for the second year in Somerset East, where a pilot programme targeting grade 10 pupils has also been added.

Somerset East’s Johnson Nqonqoza High, one of the participating schools last year, achieved a notable 22% increase in the number of pupils who passed science last year, and a seven per cent increase in the number of pupils who passed maths.

“Given the province’s latest results for maths and science, expansion of the programme is critical,” said Prof Olivier.

Sponsors of three Karoo incubator schools include the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (MerSETA), Chevron and the Social and Economic Development (SED) Alliance.

Crisis assistance

In addition, the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit (GMMDU) recently provided valuable input and offered potential support during an open debate in Graaff-Reinet for teachers and stakeholders to discuss the fact that maths and science are falling by the wayside in the region.

At present seven of the 16 high schools in the area do not offer science as a subject, three of them do not offer maths either, and other schools are considering dropping maths which severely limits the career options of pupils.

The Department of Education’s reason for this step is the shortage of qualified maths and science teachers and lack of resources.

Passionate teachers

A group of promising Grade 12 pupils from underprivileged schools attended the unit’s maths and science incubator school. Now they have completed their teaching qualifications at NMMU and are going back to their old schools in KwaDwesi, Uitenhage and North End. These teachers will also be assisting in future incubator schools. - **NW**

International exposure

FINAL-year PhD Physics student Nashwa Eassa was selected as one of only 550 young researchers worldwide to attend the 62nd Nobel Laureate Meeting in Lindau, Germany.

At the meeting in July, Nobel Laureates will lecture on current scientific topics in relevant fields of the future.

This year's meeting is dedicated to Physics, with 21 of the 31 Nobel Laureates physicists, says Physics' **Prof JR Botha**.

Meetings are held to transfer knowledge between generations of scientists, to inspire and motivate Nobel Laureates and international talent.

Young researchers are nominated by a worldwide network of academic partners and then interact with the Laureates through panel discussions, seminars and the event's social programme.



TOP STUDENT ... PhD Physics student **Nashwa Eassa** (front) will attend the **62nd Nobel Laureate Meeting** in Lindau, Germany. She is joined by her promoters **Prof JR Botha** (left) and **Prof Andr Venter**.



ASPIRING EMPLOYER ... At the Graduate and Student Placement's Computing Sciences and IT careers fair on South Campus second- and third-year IT students **Thando Mabece** (from left), **Wayiphi Siphosethu** and **Nomuyiso Mxo** (far right) were assisted by Master's Computer Science student and part-time Syspro enterprise resource planning software employee **Irene Snyman**, Computer Science Honours student **Candice Evert** and Computer Science alumnus **Edward Lane** (back) of Barn-Owl enterprise and risk management services.



GERMAN SPEAKER ... Science's **Prof Maarten de Wit** (right) hosted the second **Shale Gas Workshop** attended by 75 delegates from all over South Africa at NMMU in February. The invited speaker was **Prof Brian Horsfield** from the GFZ Helmholtz-Centre in Potsdam, Germany.



NEW EQUIPMENT ... Physics recently acquired a new Bruker 80 V Fourier Transform Infrared and Raman spectrophotometer that will be used by a variety of disciplines for infrared and Raman spectroscopy analysis of various materials as well as semiconductors and some geological specimens. The CSIR is already busy with natural and synthetic fibre analysis, and Biochemistry is looking at evaluation and characterisation of proteins. Here Physics Department Head **Professor Japie Engelbrecht** (right) and Genevieve Deyzel, third-year Physics and Chemistry student and VC Scholarship holder, are using the new spectroscopy equipment.

Innovation investment

TWO NMMU students are the first recipients of a new scholarship programme from Goodyear providing them with financial assistance and practical experience.

Second-year students Matthew Bussy (BEng Mechatronics) and Thembile Nqari (Logistics Management) will spend time at Goodyear between semesters to gain invaluable practical experience in their relevant fields.

Goodyear Group Human Resources Development Manager Carla McIntosh said that the "Spirit of Innovation" Scholarship is one way in which the tyre company recruits talent for the organisation.

Thembile matriculated from Cowan High School in New Brighton and Matthew at St Dominic's Priory.

"It's a big eye-opener," Thembile said. "The theory of supply chain comes to life when you see people using it in real business situations."

In addition to the sponsorship, Goodyear's People Development Division also encourages various development opportunities for its employees.

This programme is one of a number of skill pipeline learner programmes at Goodyear.



TALENT ... Second-years BEng Mechatronics student Matthew Bussy (left) and Logistics Management Diploma student Thembile Nqari are the first recipients of Goodyear's 'Spirit of Innovation' scholarship facilitated by Goodyear Group Human Resources Development Manager Carla McIntosh (centre).

RED HOT LEADERS ... Chicago-based educational consultant Dr Sharon Silverman (front, right) got the Thuthuka bursary programme Accounting students fired up about leadership during an "Emotional intelligence and leadership" workshop on campus on 13 February. Topics included self-awareness, self-management and social awareness and skills. Accounting School director **Prof Frans Prinsloo** (middle) and School of Accounting academic trainee **Sitembele James** (front) also attended the workshop.



INTERACTION ... Building and Human Settlement Department Head **Dr Franco Geminiani** keeps a close eye on the sawing timber competition as part of the department's "Building Olympics" in February for first-third- and fourth-year students to get to know each other. Various sport and building activities formed part of the Olympics as well as a Mr and Miss Building competition.

Learning the soft skills

UNDERSTANDING different people, their thinking and perception formed part of the leadership and management awareness workshop which has now become an annual highlight for second and third-year Pharmacy students.

The more than 140 students accompanied by Pharmacy's **Prof Ilse Truter** were exposed to the one-day workshops at the beginning of the academic year.

"I now see the importance of working with people using various methods of understanding them. Each person is unique. By understanding their way of thinking, perception and methods, it makes communication and relations much easier," one student said of the workshops sponsored by Sandoz Pharmaceuticals and presented by Competency Alignment's Louis Odendaal.

Madibaz support wheelchair race

GEORGE Campus staff and students tangibly demonstrated the university's values of *Ubuntu*, responsibility and commitment to excellence by lending a helping hand and supporting the 10th Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge in various ways.

This year the challenge attracted a record number of more than 1 000 athletes with disabilities, from seven countries for South Africa's only international wheelchair road racing sporting event for persons with disabilities. In the 5km fun event entrants are pushed in their wheelchairs by a helper.

More than 60 staff members, student leaders and volunteers

across all programmes were out in full force on 17 and 18 February to render services during and prior to the Wheelchair Challenge, as well as the Wheelchair Games, involving able-bodied learn-

It was great fun, and as students we benefited from a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills and share the NMMU values

UBUNTU ... Business and Economic Sciences' **Martie Meintjes** does her bit for the 10th Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge which was supported by George Campus staff and students all over.

ers in a fun event at the Garden Route Mall.

"It was great fun, and as students

we benefited from a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills and share the NMMU values with the commu-

nity of George and the athletes," says George Campus Student Council chairperson, Tshivhonammbi Mulisha.



GOING BALD ... Sport Manager **Hugo Loubser** (left) was not quite as bold as BTech Marketing student, Marnus de Klerk, when they shaved one another's hair in support for CANSA.

Team Fabulous takes the honours

THIRD-TIME host of a local Shavathon, George Campus, became a battlefield of a different kind on 1 March – all in aid of CANSA.

This year's challenge was set out to be a battle of the sexes with "Team Fabulous", representing the girls and "Team Handsome", the guys, vying to recruit the most team members of the same gender to spray or shave their heads for CANSA.

The daring interest of girls from "Team Fabulous" to shave their hair resulted in an 89 – 76 win over "Team Handsome" and earned them the "bragging rights" as the 2012 NMMU George Shavathon champions.

The teams and participating staff made generous cash donations in aid of CANSA and its noteworthy cause.



FUTURE ACCOUNTANT ... Vice-Chancellor Scholarship recipient Francelise Maartens (left), who matriculated from Bloemfontein's Jim Fouché High School, will be studying for a BCom (CA) degree on George Campus and is joined by Accounting lecturer and BCom programme coordinator **Jane Fountain**.



SEA EXPERT ... Well-known marine biologist **Dr Jaco Barendse** (above) joined George Campus' Sustainability Research Unit as a post-doctoral fellow focusing on social-ecological systems and sustainability in the Garden Route. His position is jointly funded by NMMU and SANParks.



LEADER ... Sport Management's **Abrie de Swardt** was elected as the Deputy Chairperson of the Western Cape Association for Sport Coaches at the end of 2011. This body represents all sport codes in the Western Cape and forms part of SASCOC and the National Department of Sport and Recreation's South African coaching framework.



WELCOME ... **Karen Hendricks** (above) relocated to George Campus to provide Financial Aid services to students on that campus.

Unexplained symptoms



SOMATISATION disorder occurs when a person experiences unexplained symptoms in many different organ systems, such as the digestive tract, the nervous system (brain and spinal cord), and the reproductive tract.

If you suspect a colleague or student suffers from this disorder, please advise them to consult a doctor and have the necessary tests done.

About one in 500 persons suffer from this disorder. Patients may visit more than one doctor for diagnosis and treatment for the same symptoms and have test results that do not confirm any medical illness to explain their symptoms. The pain and other symptoms people with this disorder feel are however real, and not created or faked on purpose.

Causes

The disorder is believed to be due to mental and emotional causes since no medical causes can be found.

Symptoms generally seem to begin or get worse during stressful circumstances as if these situations are experienced physically.

Factors that may increase chances of developing somatisation disorder

- Persons with depression, antisocial personality disorder, substance abuse, anxiety or panic disorder, are more likely to have this disorder.
- It usually begins before the age of 30 and occurs more often in women than in men.
- People who have a history of physical or sexual abuse are more likely to have this disorder but not every person with a somatisation disorder has a history of abuse.
- It may occur more frequently in persons who are unable to express their emotional distress through language due to disabilities, or in cultures that discourage the communication of emotional distress.

Symptoms

Physical complaints last for years and often interfere with work and relationships, leading to

many visits to different health care providers.

Most often, the complaints involve chronic pain in at least four different sites such as the back, abdomen, chest and joints. Headaches are also common.

Suffers experience problems with:

- the digestive system such as nausea, diarrhoea and bloating,
- the nervous system such as temporal blindness, double vision, temporal deafness, loss of touch or pain sensation, amnesia, hallucination and breathing difficulties and the reproductive system such as sexual indifferences, erectile or ejaculatory dysfunction, irregular menses and excessive menstrual bleeding

Medical help

These symptoms may, of course, be caused by other health conditions as well. If you suspect that you may suffer from this disorder, consult your family doctor who will perform a thorough physical examination and diagnostic tests to identify physical causes. If no physical cause is found to explain the symptoms, somatisation disorder may be diagnosed.

Psychological help

Counseling or other psychological interventions may help people who are prone to somatisation to learn other ways of dealing with stress which will help reduce the intensity of the symptoms. During therapy patients learn to recognise what seems to make the pain worse and develop methods of coping with the symptoms.

Khululwa Mvango, Campus Health Services

We are unique because ...
We have a wide geographic reach and strong community involvement which is made possible through six campuses in small cities in the Eastern and Southern Cape – not overwhelming yet with all the benefits of big cities.



MEMORIES ... A young **Prof Japie Engelbrecht**, now Physics Department Head, met the 1989 Physics Nobel Prize Winner **Prof Norman Ramsey** at Harvard University in America in 1990 while he was on a research visit. Prof Engelbrecht presented Prof Ramsey with a UPE tie which he immediately put on for the photograph. Prof Ramsey passed away in November last year.

You can win

LUCKY readers can win three R100 Greenacres Shopping Centre vouchers and two R100 University Shop vouchers. Just read your *talk@nmmu!*

Congratulations to our **February** competition winners: **Val Robberts** of Student Systems, **Vuyokazi Gxoyiya-Maneli** of Student Accounts, **Ranchia Arends** of Financial Aid and **Eleanor du Preez** and **Nomzikazi Sihlobo** of Student Admissions.

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

1 The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships – now in its **t...d (5 letter word)** year – awards R60 000 a year.

2 An initial number of 10 staff members will soon be using **s...r (5 letter word)** battery-powered bicycles and scooters to get around North and South campuses.

3 STAFF can now be rewarded for excellence in five different areas, the latest being **e.....t (10 letter word)**.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **13 April**

Schuinvilla Pharmacy, Newton Park, charges no additional fees. Deliveries daily to NMMU. Clinic now available. Tel: 0413642109; Fax: 041- 652474. Online orders: www.schuinvilla.co.za.

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

Condolences

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

- Education student **Sizwe Fihlani**
- Second-year BA student **Hlanganani Mketsu**

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

- ICT Services **Trevor Blane** (his father)
- Reprographics' **Debbie Nefdt** (her mother)



YOUNG SUPPORT ... Among the more than 150 alumni who attended the recent PE alumni social were (from left) Darren Howe, Kelly Renze, Caryn van der Westhuizen and Ayabonga Jonas.



WELCOME ... The School of Accounting invited their Vice-Chancellor Scholars to a cocktail function at the Rendezvous Café on campus to mingle and network with fellow recipients and role-players. Here first-year student Andrea Christofels (from left), second-year Siyabulela Khalakahla, first-year Hilton Sansom and third-year Deanne Nolte celebrated with Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs **Prof Piet Naude** (back) and School Director **Prof Frans Prinsloo**.



FOREIGN SUPPORTERS ... The Madibaz had extra support at their Varsity Cup game against Pukke. Eleven students from the Ostfalia University in Germany attended the game during their two-week visit as part of an exchange programme of the WWSA-DAAD International Chair in Automotive Engineering. The students also attended a workshop on LabView and visited game farms.



DISCUSSIONS ... Senior Library and Information Services Management (from left) **Bonga Makrweide**, **Hester Kritzing**, **Christina Dookran**, **Elna Burger** and Director **Robert Pearce** discussed future working relationships between the NMMU Trust and the Library with Trust CEO **Dr Garth van Gensen** (centre back).



SECOND HEALTH TRAIN ... Cooperating Pharmacy coordinators Wits' David Bayever, Rhodes' Wendy Wrench and NMMU's **Prof Ilse Truter** joined the pharmacists on the second health train Phelophepa II, NMMU alumnus Lungi Mabuza and Lizzy Mpya at the recent launch of Phelophepa II at Mount Ruth at Mdantsane, East London. Currently our Nursing Science students are working on the train and Pharmacy students will follow soon. Phelophepa II will soon be stationed at Swartkops for two weeks. Other NMMU colleagues attending the launch included Nursing Science's **Essie Ricks** and Psychology's **Alida Sandison** and Academic Engagement and Collaboration Centre Director **Prof George de Lange**.

Varsity Cup rocks

WITH THE 2012 Varsity Cup Rugby almost behind us – the NMMU Madibaz can certainly hold their heads high regarding their performance this season. The exposure that NMMU received in the media has been phenomenal. Never under-estimate the value of sport in raising the profile of an institution!

Although losing to Pukke (North-West) in our first home game, we made up for it by beating Shimlas (Free State) 29-27 in the dying seconds, on their turf - causing one of the biggest upsets in the five year Varsity Cup history! UJ then beat us 48-18 but our never-say-die team just raised their game and trained even harder.

Monday, 27 February was a memorable day for NMMU as we took on reigning champs UCT for the coveted Monte Taljaard trophy. Monte, an old Grey boy from PE, played for UCT and was sadly killed in a car crash. What excitement for our team and our supporters when once again, in the dying seconds of the game, flyhalf Bradley Kretzmann kicked a penalty which saw us winning the trophy and beating the mighty Ikeys Tigers 23-21.

The rest of the first round saw us losing to Maties and Tuks but beating TUT by a whopping 90-34.

Hats off to Brent Janse van Rensburg our extremely hard-working coach who along with his dedicated



GEES ... Students come out in their hundreds and even thousands to "Back their Boytjies". Residence groups try to out-perform each other, fans dress up, paint themselves, display banners and just have a great time.

team, led the boys to a respectable 5th place on the log – our best performance yet.

This competition gives such an injection of spirit into student life at NMMU. If you haven't been to a game – you're missing out. Make sure you get down to the stadium next year for another season of Rugby that Rocks. Join me in a round of applause for the FNB NMMU Madibaz – or as we hear sung by the crowds, N...M...M...UUUUUUUUU! - **Bev Erickson**



SUCCESS ... THE NMMU Rowing Team ended second overall at the national 125th Anniversary Buffalo Regatta in East London at the end of February. Chris Currie (from left) Wade Murison, Kristin Bosch, Rody Curtis and Nick Collier won the ELBA Cup in the Mens C Coxed Fours event and Phil Straton and Jason Taylor the Bob Henderson Plate in the Mens A Double Sculls event. Nick Collier also walked away with a second victory in the Mens D Single Sculls event.

Another league title for our cricket team

THE MECER NMMU cricket team secured their fourth successive EP league title by outplaying their closest rivals Old Grey at Freeplay Park on 26 February.

The league title was up for grabs with NMMU four points ahead of Old Grey and both teams collecting bonus point victories on Saturday against Union and Gelvandale respectively.

NMMU won the toss and ended on 230/6 in their 50 overs with NMMU and SA Student Cricketer of the Year Simon Harmer piling up a patient, unbeaten 109* and skipper Umar Abrahams contributing a solid 63.

tributing a solid 63.

Old Grey was bundled out for 136 with Harmer snapping up 4/19. He received good support from Solomzi Nqweni 2/25 and Lionel Vaaltyn 2/37 seeing NMMU home by 94 runs.

NMMU collected another bonus point victory and they capped off a solid second round that saw them win all nine matches with bonus points.

NMMU will represent EP at the National Club championships in April and they get an opportunity to defend their title they won in September 2011 in Pretoria.

Briefs

Double century

BTECH Civil Engineering student Aldre Nel made history by scoring 206 runs in a 50 over league match at the NMMU Oval against Gamrose.

He smashed 8 x 6's and 15 x 4's on his way to becoming only the second cricketer at NMMU to score a double century in a league match, holding the record for the highest individual score in the province.

Irish homeground

THE Irish National team chose NMMU's superb cricket facilities to prepare for their T20 World Cup Qualifier in Dubai in March.

They also played two T20 matches at the Mecer NMMU Oval.

Ireland won with 63 runs against an NMMU Invitation XI team scoring 197/3 in 20 overs. NMMU replied with 134/7.

On 6 March an EP Amateur team beat the Irish with 21 runs (148 for 3 in 20 overs).

Swiss hopefuls

THE NMMU Athletics Club recently hosted a group of eight young, up-and-coming Swiss middle- and long-distance athletes under the watchful eye of coach, retired long-distance Swiss Olympian Cornelia Bürki who hails from Humansdorp. They are hoping to qualify for the 2016 Olympics.

Redhouse runner-up



FIRST-YEAR Building student Thomas Hansford (left) came second in the Redhouse River Mile in February.