



**FIVE DOCTORS ...** This year Computing Sciences boasts five doctorates, three of them staff members focusing on education issues within Information Technology. Department head **Prof Jean Greyling** (fourth from left) is joined by (from left) **Melisa Koorse, Leda van der Post, Bradley van Tonder, Brenda Scholtz** and Akash Singh. See page 7

## Whopping 22 more staff members graduating this year

# Knowledge and skills boost

**OUR staff is showing their commitment to increasing their knowledge and improving their research and teaching with 85 colleagues graduating this year compared to 63 last year.**

An impressive 19 staff members graduated with doctors degrees compared to 15 last year and another 35 with master's degrees compared to 11 last year.

Six staff members received honours degrees, eight B degrees and 19 diplomas and certificates.

Business and Economic Sciences saw a five percent increase in graduates with a total of 1 500 graduates, the most overall, and the most postgraduate degrees (455).

Science produced 16 doctoral degrees while

Information Technology had four staff members graduating with PhD degrees.

Business and Economic Sciences celebrated 150 master's degrees, up from 119 in 2010.

Interesting topics covered by our doctorates include success factors of professional and businesswomen, video games for advertising products, performance management systems, the cost of electricity outages, money attitudes and materialism among generation Y South Africans and sustainable strategies for housing cooperatives. Other research areas include lean manufacturing strategies, security in online social media, the contribution of hip-hop music in personal identities of late female late adolescents, empowering adolescent high school girls in coping

with bullying, cancer bush in treating type II diabetes and developing novel cancer agents.

Altogether 5 227, diplomas and degrees were awarded at 13 graduation ceremonies. See pages 7, 8 and 9 for more graduation news.

**Did you know**  
Graduation brings a further R1.2m to the city's coffers.

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# Many more staff graduating

THE number of staff graduating this year has grown substantially showing a commitment to knowledge and skills improvement. Staff graduating with masters' degrees for example has more than tripled compared to last year.

A large number of staff has also graduated with diplomas, in many cases a first university diploma, which taps into energy reserves after the working day.

The topics of master's and doctoral degrees remain interesting with renewable energy, entrepreneurship and information technology applications at the forefront.

This month we also celebrate a number of

firsts, including the Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training to grow capacity for the further education sector and a new chemical process technology diploma programme supporting the oil refinery industry, especially at Coega.

We also focus on wellness with top disabled athlete Ernst van Dyk who launched our wellness programme and share the news of staff participating in the big sporting events such as Ironman, Two Oceans, the Argus and the Cape Epic.

Please send us your stories and

photographs.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker



## Briefs

### Advisory Board

BUSINESS School Director **Prof Steve Burgess** (right) was elected to the advisory board of the Academy of Indian Marketing (AIM), one of India's leading professional marketing organisations that provide a global forum for research, education and perspectives on emerging markets.



Prof Burgess also serves on the board of the European Marketing Academy and the advisory board of the Chief Marketing Officers Council in the US.

He is the only AIM board member from an African business school.

### Scholarship

INNOVATION support and Technology Transfer's **Mary-Ann Chetty** (right) was one of five recipients of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) Developing Economies Scholarship for Technology Transfer professionals at the AUTM conference in California in March.



### First adjunct professor

MEDICAL specialist and researcher **Prof Colleen Wright** based at the National Health Service in Port Elizabeth was recently appointed as the first adjunct professor in Health Sciences.

She was formerly Pathology Department Head at Stellenbosch University.

She will initially be involved in Nursing Science and later spread her wings further into the faculty.

## Next edition: Open Day Nursing Science's launch

### NEW PROGRAMME

... InnoVenton's **Geoff Ritson** (left) and Director **Prof Ben Zeelie** (right) are joined by PetroSA's **Darrin Arendse** at the signing of the memorandum of agreement between NMMU and PetroSA. The agreement paves the way for a new course and student bursaries. See page 3



# Staff Association fun function

24 May – 12:00

South Campus Sport Stadium

JOIN the NMMU Staff Association lunch-time fun function with water-based games, adventure zone games, giant foosball, rodeo bull, sumo wrestling (as pictured right) and many more activities for both participants and spectators.

And there will be prizes too! Watch out for more information and tickets on e-mail.



## We are unique because ...

- ▶ Our student body reflects diversity in culture and language.
- ▶ We are a comprehensive university offering qualifications from higher certificates to doctoral degrees.
- ▶ All our campuses are located close to some of the best beaches in the country.

## Support for FET sector through various interactions



*ROLEPLAYERS ... Keynote speaker Higher Education and Training (DHET) Minister Blade Nzimande (front centre) is joined by his advisor John Pampallis (left), Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz (right) and Eastcape Midlands College CEO and Principal and South African College Principals Organisation (SACPO) Chairperson JJ Mbana (back) at the recent launch of NMMU's Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training.*

# New post-school education centre

**MANY young people who are not employed, educated or trained will in future benefit by the opening of our Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET). The centre will assist to expand and support the Further Education and Training (FET) sector in South Africa.**

More than three million young people are looking for an alternative option to pursue higher education studies. The launch of the centre on Missionvale Campus is therefore timely, in light of the recently released Green Paper on Post-School Education and Training, currently out for public comment.

Higher Education and Training (DHET) Minister Blade Nzimande was the keynote speaker at the 27 March event.

The centre will:

- ▶ facilitate initial and continuing professional development for FET staff and support the colleges to provide high-quality vocational education and training
- ▶ provide admission routes and learning pathways for learners who have obtained an FET qualification and meet NMMU admissions criteria to pursue career-oriented university qualifications
- ▶ map post-school sites of learning (both public and private education institutions) and key employers in relation to the youth not in employment, education and training (NEETs) to inform decision-making and funding allocations regionally and nationally, and

- ▶ conduct research to contribute to policy development and implementation to create an integrated post-school education and training landscape regionally and nationally, focusing on skills development, job creation and poverty alleviation in the Eastern Cape.

Senior Director: Strategic Planning **Prof Heather Nel** says the work of the Centre is multi-disciplinary and will facilitate and enable the post-school initiatives of various NMMU units and departments at NMMU.

The Centre is currently involved in national government priority areas such as Engineering, ICT and Finance/Accounting, but will also expand to other areas as well.

## New programme to relieve critical shortage

**A NEW Chemical Process Technology Diploma Programme presented by InnoVenton will in future relieve the critical shortage in chemical process technicians and controllers for the oil refinery industry. This includes the refinery to be built at Coega.**

Courtesy of a memorandum of agreement between NMMU and PetroSA the first intake of ten

students in February next year will also be fully funded with bursaries from Petro SA.

Large oil and gas finds on and offshore from Mozambique and East Africa countries position Africa as a potential major oil and gas producing region, another reason for education and training in this field, says InnoVenton's **Geoff Ritson**,

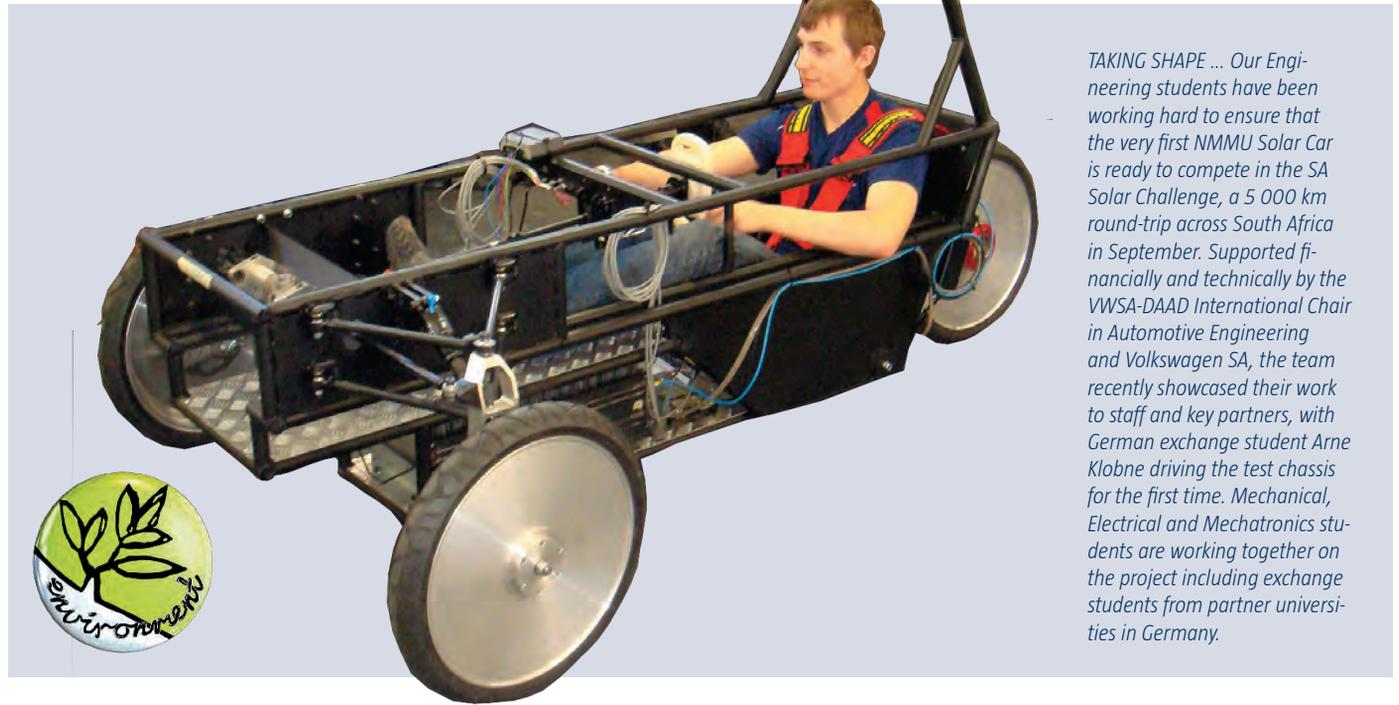
coordinator for the new programme.

Training is especially needed for technicians and controllers who manage the routine operations of manufacturing processes.

Globally there is a shortage in these skills due to the aging factor in the northern, developed economies, lack of education and training in developing economies as opposed

to the current large scale of oil and gas production and refining capacity, particularly in India, China and the Middle East, said Geoff.

InnoVenton will provide the academic elements of the training while industry training modules will be facilitated by PetroSA which will also monitor student performance. See page 2.



*TAKING SHAPE ... Our Engineering students have been working hard to ensure that the very first NMMU Solar Car is ready to compete in the SA Solar Challenge, a 5 000 km round-trip across South Africa in September. Supported financially and technically by the VWSA-DAAD International Chair in Automotive Engineering and Volkswagen SA, the team recently showcased their work to staff and key partners, with German exchange student Arne Klobne driving the test chassis for the first time. Mechanical, Electrical and Mechatronics students are working together on the project including exchange students from partner universities in Germany.*

## Government's role, IT governance and systems security

# Security in cyber space



**INDUSTRY, staff and students learnt about new ways of IT governance and how the government should protect cyberspace to ensure that governmental, enterprise and personal information is properly protected.**

Johannesburg University's Prof Basie von Solms emphasised the important role of government at the recent Eastern Cape regional branch of ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association) meeting on campus.

CobiT architect Gary Hardy spoke about CobiT 5 providing new and alternative ways to effectively

govern IT within a modern enterprise.

The meeting also aimed to raise student membership in particular, says organiser School of ICT's **Prof Rossouw von Solms**.

Prof Von Solms is an ISACA Academic Alliance member and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), teaching ISACA material to students.

### Safer software and systems

A two-day workshop focused on how malicious software such as computer viruses, worms and Trojans can attack the vulnerabilities of software

and business systems and the people working with them.

Altogether 50 staff and students now have a better understanding to secure systems more effectively.

Various hacking tools were studied and experimented with to show the ease with which these systems can be infiltrated and their weaknesses.

The workshop was facilitated by Johannesburg University (UJ) malicious software expert Manuel Corregedor as part of an Information and Cyber Security agreement with UJ and UNISA.



**WINNERS ...** Three School of ICT students won first, second and third place in the recent Nokia Hackathon during which 40 programmers had 48 hours to create an app for the Windows Phone 7. First place went to Stiaan Jacobs (from left) for his app "Particle Art", an interactive way to create images on a Windows phone, Craig Marais was second for "Blockzor", an arcade style game app and third place went to Reece Keates for "Sangoma", an African take on a magic 8 ball app. School of ICT student Zubeid Hendricks also received a Nokia Lumia phone for sending out the best Tweet of the event. Students from universities from all over South Africa took part in this event.



**ALUMNUS AND STUDENTS ...** The construction of the new Engineering Block on North Campus is headed by Building and Human Settlement Development Department alumnus André Hefer (far right) of Aurecon. Two students of the department, Banele Yawa and Ntomboxolo Sosi (front), are currently working for NMC Construction. They are joined by departmental staff (back from left) **Wayne Draai**, Department Head **Dr Franco Geminiani**, **Kobus Bekker** and **Johan Terblanche**.

Dynamic software assists maths teaching worldwide

# 21<sup>st</sup> century mathematics

**SOME 80 teachers attended Africa's first conference on GeoGebra – the free mathematics software that is stimulating interest and understanding in classrooms worldwide – hosted by NMMU over two days in March.**

NMMU now boasts the third GeoGebra Institute in Africa and one of 95 in 65 countries worldwide.

The open-source dynamic software which allows teachers and pupils to visualise and experiment with geometry, algebra, tables, graphing, calculus and statistics has proved such a hit that Google is planning to include GeoGebra in its Google Chrome operating system, for even wider access.

Keynote speaker and chair of the International GeoGebra Institute at Cambridge University, England, Dr Zsolt Lavicza, said the software, first developed in 2001, had been translated into 58 languages worldwide.

It had captured the interest of teachers and pupils to such a degree that some pupils had even written books about their research.

"Sixteen-year-old pupils in Rome have written a 350-page book on their GeoGebra research on *mascaroni* (decorative keystones, normally faces, in architecture)."

**Prof Werner Olivier**, who chairs

NMMU's GeoGebra Institute, said: "The huge challenges in mathematics education and the use of technology in South African schools is well-known.

"This conference promotes the effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in maths classrooms by exposing local educators to some of the successful teaching strategies abroad."

It is hoped that the introduction of GeoGebra in South African and African maths classrooms will lead to improved matric pass rates, enabling more pupils to enter maths-dependent studies at tertiary level, such as engineering.

GeoGebra is open-source, which means that the teachers who use it can further develop the original software.

They are encouraged to share and upload GeoGebra material they have successfully used in their classrooms onto the GeoGebra website.

"There are 25 000 such online learning objects uploaded onto GeoGebra Wiki – and we have six million downloads a year in 190 countries. GeoGebra has also been introduced into maths textbooks in 30 countries," said Lavicza.

Countries such as Spain, Brazil and Argentina are installing GeoGebra in millions of e-books for use by school pupils. - *NW*



**HIGH-TECH TEACHING TOOL ...** Putting the spotlight on maths software GeoGebra used by millions of teachers and pupils worldwide, are (from left) newly established NMMU GeoGebra Institute Head Prof Werner Olivier, and International GeoGebra Institute at Cambridge University's Chairperson Dr Zsolt Lavicza. Photograph: Nicky Willemse



**TEAMWORK ...** Botany's **Dr Anusha Rajkaran** and Taiwan University's Dr Shirky Yang downloading temperature data in the mangroves at Mngazana Estuary near Port St Johns on the Wild Coast.

## Taiwanese postdoc assists international research

**CIVIL Engineer Dr Shirky Yang from the National Taiwan University chose NMMU's Botany Department to complete his post-doctoral research in ecohydrology working on the effect of climate change on shallow water habitats.**

Dr Yang's expertise is used to model the responses of mangroves and salt marsh to future climate change effects.

As part of a collaborative project with Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) and Kenya Wildlife Service, temperature loggers have been placed in four estuaries along the east coast of South Africa to understand and predict responses of mangroves to climate change, says Botany's **Prof Janine Adams**.

The temperature data from South Africa is particularly important since they represent climate conditions at the southern limits for mangroves on the African continent, including the Mngazana Estuary near Port St Johns on the Wild Coast.

These unique habitats provide many valuable ecosystem services such as nursery sites for juvenile fish, a barrier to coastal erosion and they serve as nutrient sinks and carbon stocks, Prof Adams says.



**AWARD ...** BSc Honours graduate Gavin Rishworth (centre) who received his degree cum laude received the Zoological Society of Southern Africa's Award for the Best Honours student at NMMU. Zoology's **Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi** (left), also Honorary Secretary of the Society, and Department Head **Prof Graham Kerley** handed over the award. Photo: L Carne.



*TRAINING GALORE ... Altogether 31 senior Arts Faculty students recently participated in a tutor training workshop organised by the faculty's Teaching and Learning Committee. CTLM's Dr Sarie Snyders presented the training with Journalism, Media and Philosophy's Janelle Vermaak (front left). Janelle volunteered for a train-the-trainer dimension to enable her to do the training herself from next year. The students were trained in tutoring and administrative skills joined by a number of staff from various departments. Other staff in the photograph are Applied Languages Department Head Dr Marcelle Harran (centre front), Johan Roth (centre second row), Dr Hilda Israel (left), Carol Christie (back centre) and Music's Dr Zelda Potgieter (far right).*

# In full force for L'Atelier

**FINAL-YEAR Art students, lecturers and alumni of the School of Music Art and Design again make up the bulk of selected artists from the PE region for the 2012 Absa L'Atelier competition.**

Among the eleven is 2008 L'Atelier merit award recipient and 2010 Sasol Signatures winner Alhyrian Laue with his entry of plaster cast and constructed wall piece.

The rest of the NMMU group are staff members **Mellaney Ruiters** and **Zane Lange** and students Ludwe Mgolombane, Mkhonto Gwazela, Bamanye Ngxale, Siyabonga Ngaki, Bantu Mtshiselwa, Saabirah

Noorshib, Tegan Sampson and Anva Chiazzari.

Now in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, Absa L'Atelier provides a unique opportunity for artists to showcase their talent and embark on new and exciting opportunities rewarding them in the process.

Once all the regional judging has taken place, 100 works from the pool of entries will be selected as finalists with the overall winner announced at a gala exhibition in Johannesburg on 18 July.

Competition entrants exhibited their work at various art galleries around the country during March.



*COLLECTION ... Arts and Culture's Mabel van Vliet and Noreen Agherdien hold an untitled Amos Langdown painting - oil on board - hanging in Arts and Culture Head Michael Barry's office on South Campus.*

## Growing Le Strada Choir

**FOCUSING on traditional chorale music, the Le Strada Choir is one of the fastest growing NMMU Arts & Culture Societies with a current membership of 82 choristers.**

Last year Le Strada won the award for Best Tertiary Choir in the Eastern Cape at the Eastern Cape Chorale Music Association (ECCMA) choir contest in East London as well as an award from the Eastern Cape Music Association competition.

Other achievements included first places for Solo tenor in the ECCMA provincials and for Trio I in SATICA, the annual choral music competition for tertiary institutions of South Africa (SATICA) and an overall first position in the standard category in SATICA.

Le Strada will this year present various workshops for members as well as visit the campuses and residences, present concerts and participate in competitions.

## Art collection in process

**ALTOGETHER some 470 photographs have already been taken of sketches, paintings and portraits on the PE campuses as first step in the art audit, which forms part of the new Art Collection Policy for NMMU.**

George Campus will still be added to the audit; as well as 23 new laser cut figures on Missionvale Campus, says Arts and Culture Head **Michael Barry**.

Arts and Culture's **Mabel van Vliet** and **Noreen Agherdien** visited the campuses to take the photographs and document information about the artwork.

"We are still identifying and selecting the various art which will eventually form part of our database. In the near future we will concentrate on acquiring more contemporary art from our younger artists," says Michael.

Some of the artists have been identified as alumni and former lecturers.

A very valuable George Pemba was stolen at the former UPE and it is hoped that this will be recovered someday as it is very difficult to sell stolen art, Michael says.

# Ten doctorates for Computing Science & ICT

**BOTH Computing Science and IT boast five doctorates each – with, seven of the ten being staff members.**

Computing Science's Bradley van Tonder, whose study on enhanced sensor-based interaction techniques for mobile map-based applications has resulted in a patent and a research paper in the International Journal of Human-Computer Studies, did the most advanced academic and innovative work in the growing global mobile industry. During Bradley's study, various national and specifically international conferences accepted his work positively, says **Prof Jean Greyling**.

While at NMMU, Bradley received the Best Initial degree in the Science Faculty (2006), Best Honours Graduate (2007), Vice Chancellor's Award (2007), Best Master's degree by coursework (2009), Rupert Gesinstigting Award for best masters student continuing to PhD (2009) and Best Paper Award SAICSIT 2011 (SAICSIT is the main South African

Computer Science and Information Systems research conference).

Bradley's brother Martin was Computing Science's first full-time PhD student graduating in 2009. Martin also works at Amazon as a Software Development Engineer together with another alumnus of the department, David Brown, who is a Software Development Manager at Amazon.

Computing Science's staff members **Brenda Scholtz**, **Leda van der Post** and **Melisa Koorsse's** studies focus on education issues within Information Technology.

Melisa's work is making a large contribution towards improving the teaching of IT as a school subject and she works on the use of Instant Messaging (mainly Mxit) to upskill the mathematical and technical skills of mainly learners from rural and poorer communities. National newspapers and television have covered her work in addressing the education crisis.

Brenda's work has resulted in very close collaboration with the University of Oldenburg in Germany.



*FOUR TOGETHER ... Four of the five doctors in Information Technology who just graduated are staff members: (front centre and right) **Lynn Futcher** and **Nicky Mostert-Phipps** and (back) **David Funchall** and **Alexandros Yeratziotis** are joined by **Roxanne Piderit**.*

Computing Science's fifth PhD graduate Akash Singh works for SAP in Germany and travelled all the way to be here for his graduation. See page 1.

Promoting all these graduates has meant hard work for staff with **Prof Janet Wesson** supervising two PhD and two masters' candidates, **Prof Charmain Cilliers** two PhDs and one masters and **Prof Andr Calitz** two PhDs.

Apart from his highly academic profile Bradley is also the department's "poster boy" appearing on bill boards in the NMMU marketing material "Believing in your tomorrow".

Leda initially graduated with a BA Fine Arts, followed by a higher education diploma before she ventured into Computer Science degrees.

See page 1.



*FUTURE FORCASTERS ... Statistics Department head **Prof Igor Litvine** (back left) joined his six graduates in energy and finance forecasting at graduation (front from left) **Abel Motsomi**, **Dr Morné Sjölander** and **Kirshnee Moodley** and (back) **Calven van der Byl**, **Sibusiso Ndzukuma** and **Siphumlile Mangisa**.*

## Forecasting Centre boost

**STATISTICS** Department head **Prof Igor Litvine** has been the supervisor of five masters and one PhD student who all contributed to forming the **Centre of Expertise in Forecasting**.

All their studies are related to energy or finance forecasting with PhD student Morné Sjölander focusing on air temperature and exchange rates.

Two of the master's studies covered renewable energy, two electricity demand and one residential property prices.

Many of the students findings are implemented in the South African industry especially Eskom and all finding represent publishable results.

All the graduates are also successfully employed: **Siphumlile Mangisa** and **Abel Motsomi** lecture in Statistics at NMMU, Dr Sjölander at Free State University and Sibusiso at North West University while Kirshnee and Calven work at UTI logistics.

# Graduation 2012



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

- *DTech* Biomedical Technology **Nicolas Wickens**
- *DTech* Chemistry **Mpuhlu Batcho**
- *DTech* Human Resource Management **Gary Paul**
- *DTech* Operations Management **Karl van der Merwe**
- *DPhil* Anthropology **Luvuyo Ntombana**
- *DPhil* Media Studies **Bianca Wright**
- *DPhil* Political & Governmental Studies **Kwame Asmah Andoh**
- *DPhil* Sociology **David Morton**
- *PhD* Business Management **Marianne Doubell**
- *PhD* Botany **Nuette Gordon**,
- *PhD* Computer Science **Melisa Koorse, Brenda Scholtz, Leda van der Post**
- *PhD* Construction Management **Fidelis Emuze**
- *PhD* Education **Samantha Leonard**
- *PhD* Information Technology **David Funchall, Lynn Futscher, Nicky Mostert-Phipps, Alexandros Yeratziotis**
- *LLM* Labour Law **Agnes Ndung'u, Nicola Taylor**,
- *MA* Conflict Transformation & Management **Shena Lamb-du Plessis (cum laude)**
- *MA* Counselling Psychology **Joshua Ndlela, Nicole van der Westhuyzen**
- *MA* Development Studies **Juliet Kakembo, Ntombomhlaba Salome Netnou, Blondie Ntsiko, Takalani Ramukumba**
- *MA* Industrial & Organisational Psychology **Michelle Paddey, (cum laude)**
- *MA* Media Studies **Taryn Isaacs, Thabo Ramphobole**
- *MA* Psychology **Philip Kitching (cum laude)**
- *MBA* **Tohiera Moodien, Brenda Qabaka, Lungiswa Thoba**
- *MCom* Business Management **Elda Kruger, Riyaadh Lillah**
- *MCom* Economics **Thobekile Qabhobho**
- *MCom* Financial Management **Heidi Janse van Rensburg**
- *MEd* **Marinda van Zyl**
- *MSc* Biochemistry **Lucinda Baatjies, (cum laude)**
- *MSc* Environmental Geography **Nyaradzo Dhlwayo**
- *MSc* Forest Science **Andrew McEwan (cum laude)**
- *MSc* Mathematical Statistics **Chantelle Clohessy (cum laude), Siphumlile Mangisa, Abel Motsomi**
- *MTech* Biomedical Technology **Siphokazi Tili**
- *MTech* Business Administration **Hassan Mohamed, Kendra-Lynn Roodt, Paul Tai-Hing (cum laude)**
- *MTech* Electrical Engineering **Alexis Ndimurwimo**
- *MTech* Information Technology **Eldridge van der Westhuzen**
- *MTech* Marketing Management **Altouise Jonas, Tania Shrosbree**
- *BA Hons* English **Michelle Coates**,
- *BA Hons* Group Dynamics **Mandie Muller**
- *BA Hons* Media Studies **Karen Snyman**
- *BCom Hons* Accounting **Sitembele James**
- *BCom Hons* Business Management **Xolile Antoni**
- *BCur Hons* **Chandrika Heera**
- *BA* Media, Communication and Culture **Abigail Preston**
- *BCom* Law **Sonwabise Tukela**
- *BTech* Financial Management **Caleigh Mackenzie**
- *BTech* Human Resource Management **Thabisa Makolota**
- *BTech* Internal Auditing **Abigail Hartney**
- *BTech* Marketing **Vuyo Bongela, Siyasanga Booyen**
- *BTech* Public Management **Queeny Dyantyi**
- *Postgraduate* Diploma Financial Planning **Bomikazi Zeka**
- *Postgraduate* Certificate in Higher Education **Mariaan Buckle**
- *NDip* Cost & Management Accounting **Janine Bezuidenhout**
- *NDip* Human Resources Management **Mlungisi Kololo, Mandilakhe Sijila, Grant Skinnette**
- *NDip* Management **Hazel Kendrick, Lineque Muller, Enid Rhode, Glenise Slabbert, Redene Vermaak**
- *NDip* Public Relations Management **Mziyanda Bloro, Sade Heyns, Annemie Jacobs, Mariska M Iler**
- *NDip* Travel and Tourism Management **Jade Bailey**
- Advanced Business Programme **Vatiswa Zwelibanzi;** Intermediate Leadership Programme **Natasha September;** Paralegal Diploma **Linda Kapp**

## Double degree

**BUSINESS** and Social Sciences **Takalani Ramukumba** (right) graduated with his second master's degree, an MA in Development Studies after his first one, an MTech in Tourism and Hospitality Management.



## Renewable energy

**MATHEMATICAL** Statistics **Chantelle Clohessy** (right) and her brother Steven, who both worked in the renewable energy field for the Centre for Energy Research graduated in April. Chantelle received her MSc in Mathematical Statistics (*cum laude*) while Steven graduated with a BEng Mechatronics degree. Steven works as graduate engineer at VWWSA.



## Grad in brief

### Sisters

**MARKETING** and Corporate Relations' **Vuyo Bongela** (right) graduated with a BTech Marketing while her sister Singalakha, who works as a candidate architect in East London, received her Master's in Architecture.



### Family affair

Accounting's **Sitembele James** (left) graduated with a BCom (Honours) Accounting while his sister Akhona successfully completed her NDip Agriculture. They are the first graduates in their single parent home. Akhona is currently completing her BTech in Agriculture.



## Doctorate for former Mayor

**FORMER** Nelson Mandela Bay Metropole Mayor and advisor to the premier of the Eastern Cape Nondumiso Maphazi (right) graduated with a PhD in Public Administration with her thesis focusing on the role of the community in ensuring good governance and service delivery in the Buffalo City Municipality.



## Local go-getter

**ELILOX** group managing director Bridgette Gasa (below) graduated with her PhD in Construction Management focusing on the competitiveness of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in the SA construction industry and how it can be measured using the Register of Contractors.





ACCLAIM ... Honorary doctors Ethiopian Episcopal Church Bishop and activist Reverend Malusi Mpumwana, (second from left) educationalist Catherine Odora Hoppers and human rights activist and Greenpeace Executive Director Kumi Naidoo are joined by Chancellor Santie Botha (left), Council Chairperson Judge Ronnie Pillay and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**. World-renowned paleoanthropologist, Phillip Tobias, could not attend due to ill health.

# Bumper grad for George

George Campus had a 24% increase in their number of graduates compared to last year.

Altogether 268 students received degrees and diplomas with the biggest concentration, 186, in the School of Natural Resource Management, including one MTech degree in Nature Conservation.

The Forestry programme accounted for the largest number of 85 graduates.

An exceptional milestone was achieved by the fast-growing BCom programme, which, for the first time since its introduction at George Campus in 2006 rendered more graduates than the number of students with which this flagship programme commenced with five years ago.



DOUBLE CELEBRATION ... George Campus BCom graduate Fumanekile Makuyekwe (front centre) shared his exceptional achievement as the first black BCom graduate born and raised in George with his community during a second, private graduation ceremony at the Tyholorha Primary School in Thembaletu. He is joined by Carol Wicht (from left), his father Mawabo Makuyekwe, BCom lecturer **Pieter Wicht**, George Deputy Mayor Daniel Maritz, Student Development Services Deputy Director **Dave Jenkins** and Nature Conservation graduate Mdoda Ngwenya.

**BIOMEDICAL Technology's Siphokazi Tili (right) has had a mountain of setbacks to overcome, but succeeded in graduating with her MTech last month in spite of it all.**

During her study period which started in 2006, her mother, grandfather and grandmother all passed away, she had to care for a toddler and her studying siblings. She also got married and had another baby.

## Against all odds

On top of it all nine months of practical research was destroyed. "Grief about the deaths in my family paralysed me, but in the end I managed with prayer and perseverance. I remembered my mother's words



that "education is the key" and realised that I am a role model to my children," she says.

She climbed the mountain bit by bit, a colleague gave her a journal to write and she set deadlines with her supervisor. She kept on going in spite of family

obligations at home, worked through the December holidays to beat the deadline at the end of January.

"Success does not come easy, there will always be destructions, losses and obstacles that cause you to lose focus and relationships get tested and strengthened," says Siphokazi.

Her research investigated the effect of treating rats with type II diabetes with cancer bush combined with anti-diabetic medicine.

# Accounting students still tops



**OUR School of Accounting has done it again by producing top results in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) qualifying examinations written in January this year.**

The university's BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates obtained an 85% pass compared to the national average of 78% for first-time attempts. This percentage includes 15 of the 16 Thuthuka bursary programme students who successfully completed the BCom Honours (Accounting) programme in 2011.

A total of 58 NMMU graduates wrote the examination for the first time and passed, including 20 African, six coloured and two Asian graduates.

The qualifying exam is the first of two professional examinations required for qualification as a Chartered Accountant (SA).



**LEADER ...** BTech Tourism Management student Rajeshree Ambaram was one of 20 students from all over South Africa to attend the Meetings Africa Student Leadership Programme over five days in Sandton. The students were exposed to national tourism leaders including Tourism Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk and well-known tourism sites in Soweto, Pretoria and Johannesburg. The students also presented case studies as part of the programme.



**EXPERIENCE ...** NMMU Business and Economic Sciences students Michelle Richmond (left) and Justine Schoonraad are among seven students from South Africa on a six-month business and cultural working experience in Germany.

## Interns hard at work

**TWO NMMU students are among seven South Africans selected to attend a fully-paid six-month internship in Germany broadening their work skills and acquiring cross-cultural competencies.**

Justine Schoonraad and Michelle Richmond are taking part in the Students Experience Programme (STEP) presented by the Stuttgart-based Southern Africa Initiative of German Business. Both have completed their third-year studies in Industrial Psychology and Financial Planning respectively.

Participants also acquire specific competencies for their future careers and learn more about the German culture and people during meetings and excursions to various places during their stay in Germany.

The participants receive 80 hours of German language training in their home countries, which is then continued weekly once they are in Germany.

Justine is based at automotive company Daimler AG in Stuttgart while Michelle is an intern at construction solutions company Hering Bau in Burbach.

Last year's NMMU participant is employed by Mercedes Benz SA in East London.

## First career evenings

**THE School of Accounting is proactive in attracting prospective students with career evenings for the first time in George and Uitenhage.**

Some 170 top achieving Grade 11 and 12 learners, parents and teachers attended the George evening at York High School which supported the increase in BCom Accounting students on the George Campus.

The first Uitenhage evening at Brandwag High School had the support of 180 learners, parents and

teachers from a number of schools in Uitenhage and surrounding towns.

Accounting School Director **Prof Frans Prinsloo** spoke about accounting careers and the chartered accounting programme while alumnus and Management Director of KPMG Ian Barr brought a business perspective to the career as CA.

Third-year trainee accountant Wesley van Winkel discussed his trainee contract and his experience of studying at NMMU.



**ACHIEVERS ...** Thuthuka programme Accounting Honours graduates (front left) Thabo Ntuli and (second from right) academic trainee Sitembele James and (back from left) Rolivhuwa Maluma, Mandla Madlala and Clea January celebrated their success together with Accounting's **Prof Derek Forsyth** (front second left) and Taxation's **Prof Alex Brettenny** (front right). Altogether 33 honours and BCom graduates attended the function together with representatives from the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA), accounting firms KPMG, PwC and Accounting staff.



**TOP PERFORMERS ...** These students joined by School of Accounting Director **Prof Frans Prinsloo** (far left) were among the 35 top BCom students on George Campus who received 72 distinctions and were acknowledged at a function on campus.

# 72 distinctions for BComs

**THIRTY-FIVE “shining stars” in the George Campus’ BCom programme walked away with 72 distinctions and their names are now captured in the Deloitte 2011 Roll of Honour.**

These top performing students were acknowledged by the university and industry at a function on campus sponsored by the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Southern Cape Regional Committee, Deloitte and other auditing firms and role-players in industry.

Starting with only 16 first-year BCom (Accounting) CA students in 2006, the programme now boasts 141 registered students, 63 in their first year, 35 second-years and 43 third-year students.

In addition to 65% of the BCom students studying Accounting, the BCom in Business Management has also grown very well over the past two years, now making up a third of the BCom students on campus.

Winning the SAICA Big 5 Special Awards, brothers

Clive and Charl Bezuidenhout scooped the most prizes for their family. Charl received the prize as top third-year student as well as top student in Auditing, Taxation, Management Accounting and Financial Management and Clive took the honours as top third-year Accounting student.

The first two George Campus VC Scholarship Award recipients second years Ilanie Barnard and Bianca Venter were named Top Student, Top Accounting Student and Top Aspirant Student respectively.



**GO-GETTERS ...** Finance’s **Enid Rhode** (left) who recently graduated with a National Diploma in Management not only notched up several distinctions but was also the top second-year student in 2010. Business diploma coordinator **Dr Marianne Doubell**, who just received her PhD in Business Management on factors contributing to the success of professional and business women in South Africa, presented Enid with a merit award for good performance. Enid is also studying for her BTech degree in Management part-time this year.



**WINNER ...** Student **Mari Terblanche** (left) won a dictionary in the “page-guessing-challenge” forming part of the George Campus Library Week in March. A large number of students visited the library taking part in the many activities including a “book swap”. George Campus Librarian **Bertina Odendaal** congratulated Mari and said the library had more than 10 500 students visited the Library in February while Library Week even attracted more students.

## Briefs

### Towards Excellence

CAMPUS Health Services’ **Khululwa Mvango** (right) a student and staff Health Counsellor on George Campus, wants to improve her counselling skills by registering as a trauma counsellor.



She will now start a six-month practical internship in a BPsych Accreditation Programme after which she will be able to write the Board of Psychology examination for trauma counselling.

### Experience

SIXTEEN BTech Conservation students attended the Garden Route Initiative Environmental Indaba to gain insight into the problems and solutions in the district. Students were exposed to researchers and companies and gained information to debate.

# Promoting a better world

SOME 300 students, staff and NGO representatives joined the worldwide launch of the Global Agenda for Social Work on 26 March calling for action to support, influence and enable structures and systems to address the root causes of inequality in society.

The agenda which commits to create a socially-just and fair world for future generations, was handed to various role players at the university involved with social development such as Health Sciences departments and CANRAD, as well as local organisations Childline, Algoa Bay Council for the aged, NICRO, SANCA, FAMSA and Mental Health.

NMMU's acting social work programme manager **Veonna Goliath** also handed the agenda to Health Sciences Executive Dean **Prof Vic Exner**.

As a symbol of NMMU's Environmental Health and Social Development Department's



**SOCIAL EQUALITY ...** Students, staff and NGOs released 100 balloons and formed words with tins of food to symbolise their commitment to the Global Agenda for Social Work at the South Campus recently.

commitment to the Global Agenda, students and staff used 800 cans of food they collected to spell out the words "worth and dignity", "sustainability", "social equality",

"human rights" and "relationships" while 100 balloons were released.

The department's students will distribute the tins to charities and homes for the less fortunate in the

Port Elizabeth area.

Social Work students also committed themselves to green projects and sustainable initiatives in communities. - **Lynne Gadd-Claxton**



**DEBATE ...** All women teams were the winners and runners-up in the Law Faculty's annual Moot Court competition which focused on the Secrecy Bill this year. Best oralist Tamryn Jensen (front second from right) and runner-up Liem Sieders (front right) were the overall winners with runners-up (front, from left) Meggan Staines and Shelby Roberts. The judges were (back, from left) Judge Hennie Liebenberg, Advocates Nathi Gaisa, Mechelle Benecke and Bruce Dyke and Law Executive Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**.

## Moot Court votes out Secrecy Bill

**THE winning team in the recent Law Faculty's annual Moot Court competition argued against the Secrecy Bill which was the focus of the debate.**

"We have based the facts on the controversial Protection of Information Bill - also known as the 'Secrecy Bill' and believe that the issues that were debated are exceptionally important and topical," says Moot Court competition coordinator **Joanna Botha**.

After initial oral rounds two teams

were selected to compete in the final, judged by Judge Hennie Liebenberg, Law Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** and advocates Bruce Dyke, Mechelle Benecke and Nathi Gaisa. Prof Lawack-Davids and advocates Dyke, Benecke and Gaisa are all NMMU alumni.

The best moot team will represent NMMU at the Phillip Jessop International Law competition and at the All Africa Moot competition in Mozambique this year. Last year's winning team came second.

## International experts

**FIFA/CIES/NMMU Sport management students were exposed to two international experts at their recent third block lectures. The week also saw two international speakers addressing the students.**

FIFA Players Status and Governance Department Head in Zurich, Switzerland, Omar Ongaro, (above) discussed player agents and the FIFA regulations concerning such agents. His department handles all players'



status matters, such as agents, legal and regulations related matters.

Dr Vladimir Borkovic (below) from Belgrade, Serbia and Darmstadt, Germany, addressed social development through football with specific reference to the 2010 FIFA Football World Cup in South Africa. Vladimir is a founding member, research director and current Chief Operations Officer of the street football world network.



## Graduate sharing

**SEPP Blatter Scholarship recipient Solomon Mudege (right) not only received his Master's degree cum laude in Human Movement Sciences but also offered to present a guest lecture to Business Management honours students sharing his experiences.**

His dissertation focused on successful talent development in

South African soccer players.

Solomon is Marketing Alliances Manager at FIFA in Zurich adding value to the FIFA Commercial Affiliates (sponsors) and ensure that they are able to activate and leverage their sponsorship at the various FIFA events.



*SOCIALISING ... Alumni Kyron and Yolande Nina attended the East London Alumni Social held recently at the East London Golf Club.*



*RELATIONSHIP BUILDING ... Education Dean Prof Denise Zinn (left) motivated Department of Education subject advisors, directors and specialists at a breakfast hosted by Marketing and Corporate Relations on campus linking them with our relevant academic departments to use NMMU expertise. The advisors shared their challenges and needs with our deans and academics responsible for school outreach programmes. Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage district office directors Dr Nyathi Ntsiko and Nosiswe Bashman also attended the event. Prof Zinn is joined by Chief Education Specialist (Curriculum) Myron Leonard (centre) and FET Deputy Chief Education Specialist: Social Sciences Riana Muire.*



*SHARING ... Haldan Consultancy's Laverne Louis, consultant Dr Miemsie de Jager, Women in Engineering Leadership Association (wela) founder Industrial Engineering's Dr Ann Lourens and Automotive Industry's Development Centre's Estelle Gathercole were speakers at the latest panel discussion on women in industry and their experiences attended by students belonging to wela.*



*HAPPY WINNERS ... Social Work Global Agenda Launch organiser Environmental Health and Social Development's Amanda Calitz (centre) congratulated second-year Social Work students (from left) Carla Coetzee, Faith Matsimella, Dorothy Fourie, Melissa Fleurs and Tarryn-Anne Swartz on winning the "Construction" competition at the Social Work Global Agenda launch.*

*VISITOR ... St Cloud State University's Prof Marla Wildeson (right) recently discussed Communication as subject with our Public Relations and Communication Studies Department. All courses at St Cloud include it as subject, something the department felt could be introduced at NMMU. Prof Marla is joined by Department Head Dr Hercules Fourie.*



*GETTING TOGETHER ... Alumni Relations Director Paul Geswindt and Postgraduate Marketing Manager Jo-Ann Daniels join alumni Dr Suzette Viviers, Michele Boshoff and Peter Greeff at the Alumni Social function in Cape Town attended by some 50 guests.*

# Disabled athlete inspires

**NINE times Boston Marathon winner and Paralympics gold medallist Ernst van Dyk was born with congenital absence of both legs and on the day of his birth 39 years ago, doctors told his parents to put him into an institution and forget about him!**

Ernst visited NMMU recently by invitation of Wellness@Work for the launch of our 2012 Wellness programme.

The inspirational speaker shared how, with courage and dedication, he overcame his disability.

His philosophy of setting goals and having a purpose; bouncing back after failure and spreading your energy across all spheres of your life was shared with staff during his lunch hour presentation.

"Meeting Madiba in 2008 and thanking him for making the changes in our country which enabled me to compete internationally was one of the most special moments of my life," said Ernst.

His goal is to win the Boston Marathon for an incredible 10<sup>th</sup> time this year. which we have no doubt he will be able to achieve.



*INSPIRATION ... Top disabled athlete Ernst van Dyk (centre) was the speaker at the launch of our 2012 Wellness programme organised by Human Resources Johan Strydom and Wellness @ Work's Estelle Bosman.*

## Healthtalk

# Exercise and mental health

**WORKING at a hub of knowledge creation, research and teaching, we should all be focusing on our mental sharpness and well-being.**

One way of improving this is through exercise. Our colleagues taking part in the various extreme fitness events such as Ironman, Comrades, Two Oceans and Argus are very inspiring, but most of us don't have such dedication to fitness and exercise.

We can, however, make a difference by investing a small amount of time to fitness and mental health.

Experts believe that exercise releases chemicals in your brain that make you feel good, boost your self-esteem and improve your confidence.

Some of the benefits of exercise include improved sleep; increased interest in sex; better endurance; stress relief; improvement in mood; increased energy and stamina; reduced tiredness that can increase mental alertness; weight reduction; reduced cholesterol and improved cardiovascular fitness.

Research shows that a 30-minute brisk walk can significantly improve your mood after two, four, eight and even 12 hours compared to those who don't exercise.

Whatever you choose to do, start with something easy, which you can gradually build on to increase the intensity and duration.

Examples of activities to try include walking, aerobics, Tae-bo, Yoga, Pilates, swimming and water aerobics.

Start by working out how much you do already – you can use a pedometer to show how many steps you take every day or you could keep a diary for a week or two on how long you spend doing active things.

Then set yourself some SMART-goals which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based goals.

The activities you choose need to be things you can do on your own, or with others. - **Greg Smith, Campus Health Service.**

## 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 **March /April** competition winners: **Yolisa Beta** of Financial Aid, **Veronique Whitebooi** of Admissions, **Sisanda Marwayi** of Marketing and Corporate Relations, **Thandiwe Blaw** of the Centre for Access Assessment and Research (CAAR) and **Yvette Hamilton** of Finance.

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

1. Our staff is showing their commitment to increase their **k.....e** (9 letter word) and improving their research and teaching with 85 colleagues graduating this year compared to 63 last year.
2. Our Centre for **l.....d** (10 letter word) Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET) will assist to expand and support the Further Education and Training (FET) sector in South Africa.
3. Experts believe that exercise releases chemicals in your brain that make you feel good, boost your self-esteem and improve your **c.....e** (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](mailto:elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za) by **21 May**

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](http://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:**

- ICT' Services **Margie Peters**
- Education Off campus Centre Manager King Williams' Town **Clive Hurter**
- Education Diploma student Nobunto Mapango of Lusikisiki

- Business and Economic Sciences Diploma student Athi Ndunge
- Former Education Faculty staff member **Dr Willie Smit**
- Former Accounting Professor **Les Simpson**
- We also extend our condolences to the following staff members whose family members recently passed away.
- Operations' **Martin Loubser** (his mother)
- Operations' **Rosita Kuschke** (her mother)

# Staff pushing the limits



TANDEM ... ICT Services **Lynette Williams** (left) and her husband Kenneth participated in the Argus Cycle Tour, completing it in 5:04:55. While Lynette was a first-timer, it was husband's 23<sup>rd</sup> Argus.



PERSEVERANCE ... Mechanical Engineering's **Leroi Grimbeek** finished Ironman in 15 hours 2 min 47 seconds, swimming 3.8km, cycling 180km and running 42km in 80km strong winds.



FAST MAN ... Sport Bureau's **Dumo Ngubane** clocked the fastest time of our staff finishing the Ironman in 14 hours 48 minutes.

We are proud of colleagues who participated in extreme sports events such as Ironman and the Cape Epic, as well as fun events like the Vodacom Corporate Triathlon and Irongirl. The School of Engineering not only entered seven teams in the Corporate Triathlon bringing together staff and students, but also boasted two Ironman contestants, who both raced for the KFC Ironman 4 the Kidz Charity, to raise awareness for unfortunate children.



EXTREME CYLISTS ... Team Saasveld Wood Technology's **Richard M Iler** (left) and student **Emile Boshoff** finished the Cape Epic, the biggest international multi-day mountain bike stage race crossing the mountains of the Western Cape over 775 km and climbing 16 300m.



GOOD CAUSE ... Mechatronics **Prof Theo van Niekerk** completed Ironman in 15 hours 33 minutes.



WINNERS ... Industrial Engineering's winning team in the Vodacom Corporate Triathlon Challenge, lecturer **Andrew Murray**, (from left) and students **Frederick Viviers** and **Luzuko Davids**, finished in a time of 1:12:32. Another five teams from the faculty entered including a Women in Engineering Leadership Association (wela) team, and student **Hudson Cummings**, who participated as individual.

MIXED TEAMS ... Industrial Psychology entered two teams and finished in 01:26:33 and 01:26:56 respectively. They are (from left) Industrial Psychology's **Chantel Harris**, alumni Warwick Renard and Mark Harris, Industrial Psychology's **Michelle Paddey** and **Johan Schoeman** and Graphic Design student **Graeme Renard**.



## More participants

### Two Oceans - 56km

- ▶ Accounting's **Johnathan Dillon** – 5:11
- ▶ Sport Bureau's **Derrick Hoshe** - 14<sup>th</sup> Two Oceans – 6:46

### Argus - 110km

- ▶ Auditing and Taxation's **Prof Gerrit Radder** - 10<sup>th</sup> Argus 3 :25:24
- ▶ Mercantile Law's **Prof Henk Delpont** 3:57
- ▶ Industrial and Organisational Psychology's **Johan Schoeman** - within a year of his second heart bypass operation.
- ▶ Student Counselling's **Darryl Smith** – just over 6 hours
- ▶ Computer Science's **Dr Brenda Scholtz**

### Corporate Triathlon

- ▶ Auditing and Taxation's **Prof Gerrit Radder**, 60<sup>th</sup> in the male section - 1:11:43
- ▶ Marketing Management's **Andrew Marriott** - 1:16:48
- ▶ Zoology's **Dr Sharon Wilson** - 1:33:56

# Double cricket league victory

**BOTH the Mecer NMMU Madibaz first team and the NMMU first league team won the T20 EP Super League and the Eastern Province First League T20 competition respectively on 15 April.**

It's the fourth successive year that the Mecer NMMU Madibaz first team has won the Super League title.

The NMMU first league team is effectively the club's fourth team which illustrates the depth of talent at the Mecer NMMU Cricket Club, says cricket manager **Riaan Osman**.

The Madibaz first team secured all the silverware this season on a local and national front as they annexed the National Club Championship trophy in September 2011, the EP Super League and now the EP T20 trophy.

However, the Madibaz failed to defend their National Club Championship title in Pretoria, losing three of their five games.



*TOPS ... NMMU first men's squash team captained by Jason le Roux, took title honours by winning the EP Super League the first time in more than ten years. Several provincial players (from left) Kyle Swartz (Border), Jared Terblanche (EP), Dane Bigara (EP), Andre Labuschagne, and Jason le Roux (Border) form part of the team of whom two are first-years. The Super league is the pre-cursor to the EP winter league. Kyle went through the tournament without dropping a game, Jason beating the EP number one and Dane won all his matches.*

## Four medals for hosts ABSA NMMU athletes

ABSA NMMU athletics club members won four medals at the recent SA Senior athletics Championships on our campus.

Magdaleen Louw (right) won the gold medal in the hammer throw for women with a distance of 52,50m while Jeannie van Dyk (left) cleared the pole vault for women with a height of 3.60m to win a silver medal.

Bronze medals went to Ischke Senekal in the discus for women with a throw of 50.99m while Sergio Mullins clocked a time of 20.90m in the 200m. Sergio also took part in the



EP men's 4 x 100m relay team to win gold.

NMMU's athletic track has proved itself as one of the fastest tracks at sea level with a time of 10.1 by Simon Magakwe in the 100m for men, says Athletics manager **Nellis Bothma**.



## Rugby stars

NMMU players Jaco Swanepoel (from left), Marlin Ruiters and Howard Mnisi were selected as part of the South African Students Sevens's team that recently competed in an International Sevens tournament in Morocco. Jaco unfortunately had to withdraw due to a back injury. As captain of the NMMU Madibaz, Jaco was also voted as "Forward that Rocks" after this year's Varsity Cup tournament.

## International golfer

HUMAN Movement Science's **Dr Lynn Slogrove** (right) won the Best Lady Golfer award (best gross) and finished an admirable third place in the overall net competition (playing off an 8 handicap) at the BMW Golf Cup International



World Final 2011 in Singapore. The BMW Golf Cup is the largest amateur golf event in the world and 46 countries took part in the World Final in March where Lynn was the only woman to represent SA. She also won the Eastern Province Senior Ladies championships.

## Rowing colours

THE NMMU Rowing Club's Elsa de Klerk took first place in the Novice Sculls event at the recent national USSA Rowing Sprints regatta at Van Der Kloof Dam. Kim Denton achieved second place in the Women's A-division sculls race.

Jason Taylor and Kim (above) were awarded Grudge Colours (half-col-



ours) for USSA Rowing. Kim is the first woman to achieve colours in rowing in the history of the sport at NMMU.



## Triathlon winners

NMMU athletes Emile van Niekerk, 20, (right), and Michael John Cannon, 27, made Eastern Province and NMMU proud for being placed first and sec-



ond in their respective categories 20 – 24 and 25 – 29 at the annual SA National Triathlon Championships in Nelson Mandela Bay in March. Emile is the son of Mechanical Engineering's **Prof Theo van Niekerk**.

## Netball successes

NMMU won both the A and Men' sections of the SPAR NMMU Tournament hosted on our Second Avenue Campus netball courts in March with 55 teams from Nelson Mandela Bay participating. NMMU with SPAR also held a weekend coaching clinic in East London with 30 school teams participating from 11 East London schools and San du Plessis as guests from Bloemfontein.