



Growing awareness towards caring for our natural environment

Going green for tomorrow



ASSET ... Situated in a nature reserve adjacent to the sea is one of the stand-out reasons for studying at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University – a green campus in the making.

NMMU has many special qualities – not least its setting and a growing adherence to its value of respect for the natural environment.

SOLAR-POWERED scooters, student recycling projects, power-saving drives and a green campus conference ...

These are but some of the many initiatives underway at NMMU to ensure that our university is living out the value of “respect for the natural environment” and striving towards its vision of “a sustainable future”.

Privileged to be situated in a 720-hectare private nature reserve at the coast and at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains in George, NMMU also has the added “green” advantages of “location, location, location”. This idyllic natural setting is also one of the value-added reasons why students choose to study at NMMU.

The growth in “green” matters is evidenced by:

- ▶ An increasing number of projects by the Centre for Energy Research (CER) including one that regularly sees NMMU’s electricity metre run backwards, thanks to various solar panel photovoltaic projects. See article on page 4.

- ▶ The hosting of South Africa’s first green conference for students – The Association of College and University Housing Officers International Southern Africa Chapter Green Campus Conference - from 1 to 5 July on North Campus.
- ▶ The many initiatives underway at George Campus, thanks to its pro-active Sustainability Unit.
- ▶ The use of solar-powered bicycles and scooters by 10 staff members.
- ▶ The projects underway to produce both a solar-powered car and an electric one, DibaTwo, powered by batteries. See page 10.

We are unique because
NMMU’s PE campuses are less than 30 minutes away from Jeffrey’s Bay which is known for its spectacular surfing. NMMU is one of the top five surfing universities in the world!



CAMPUS ANIMAL LIFE ... Two spotted eagle owls, the most common of the eagle owls, made their home next to the Health Science Building on South Campus.

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Green issues in focus



WHEN we talk about our value, respect for the environment, our nature reserve with all its grandeur stands out supported by a number of projects on campus, including those by our Centre for Energy Research.

Our front page gives you a new view of the South Campus main building to remind us of our commitment to nature with research, teaching and community projects alike.

The Business School's Riyaadh Lillah is also a pioneer working on green issues from inspiring students in the residences to be more green conscious to lecturers incorporating green issues into their programmes.

On the other side of the spectrum are the high tech Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectrometer launched in the Physics Department and the computerised lifelike manikins introduced at Nursing Science.

We also have a number of other health related stories including our very successful national First Things First Campaign testing for HIV, Environmental Health and Biomedical Technology staff researching leukemia incidence, and students working on the Phelophepa Health

Care Train.

The Wellness@NMMU team is also making their mark with programmes to support staff.

On the cultural front we celebrated Africa Day, had another good staff concert and enjoyed jazz at the Music Department's lunch-time concert.

The Staff Association also hosted a lunch-time function with fun activities which received many compliments.

Then there was Open Day which is still growing and proving world-wide to be one of the best ways of introducing the university to prospective learners.

We share student achievers who have been rewarded with bursaries and laptops and say thank you to business partners for making this possible.

The NMMU Trust also had their annual donor's lunch sharing information about NMMU in general with those who support the university with third-stream income.

For those taking a mid-year break, enjoy every minute.

Please send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker



Briefs

Board appointment

NMMU Chancellor Santie Botha was appointed as non-executive Director to the board of Famous Brands, a listed company on the JSE.

Leadership example

QUANTITY Surveying alumnus Khwezi Kondile (right) recently represented South Africa at two youth leadership summits, the Y20 in Mexico and the G8-G20 in Washington.



A Business Analyst at the Accenture Group in Johannesburg, Khwezi was part of NMMU's Beyond the Classroom leadership development programme, preparing him for these summits facilitated locally by the SA Youth for International Diplomacy.

SA representatives

HUMAN Movement Science's Department Head **Prof Rosa du Randt** and **Vernon Oosthuizen** represented South Africa at the third Seminar of the FIFA/CIES International University Network in Buenos Aires recently.

Prof Du Randt and Mr Oosthuizen manage and implement the FIFA/CIES/NMMU Certificate Programme in Sport Management.

Chairperson

PUBLIC Relations and Communication Studies' **Brightness Mangolothi** (right)

was elected as Public Relations Institute in Southern Africa (PRISA), Eastern Cape Region Chairperson. She was also one of the MBA students taking part in the International Trend Forum in Germany.



International project

FIFTEEN NMMU MBA students, the only ones from Africa, participated at the International Trend Forum in Germany together with Ostfalia University and University of Massachusetts in a trends research project.

They examined cultural factors, standards and critical success factors for international business.

Special bursary

MA STUDENT in translation studies, Rae-Anne Minnaar is the only NMMU student this year to receive an SA Translator's Institute and Afrikaans Language and Culture Society bursary.

Rae-Anne is translating Jeanne Goosen's novella *Louoond* into English, together with an analysis of the process of literary translation.



*SINGING PROFS ... Law Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** (left) and Law's **Prof Andr Mukheibir** entertained the audience at Arts and Culture's staff concert with their performance of Rossini's popular humorous duet for two cats (*Duetto buffo di due gatti*). Programme Director Sylvester Funani had the audience laughing and cheering while the Music Department's Afro Jazz Band with pianist and lecturer **John Edwards** stole the show in the South Campus auditorium. Other staff performances included song items by Library and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce** and Business and Economic Sciences **Dr Frans du Toit**, a fashion show by the University Shop and the Missionvale quartet and the NMMU staff choir.*

Condolences

THE university staff and students extend their condolences to the family and friends of second-year BCom Computer Science and Information Systems student Eli Kanyimo who recently passed away.

We also extend our condolences to Academic Engagement's **Yolande August** who lost her mother and stepfather and Geoscience's **Prof Vincent Kakembo** and Art's **Prof Velile Notshulwana** whose mothers passed away.

Online payment

STUDENT and application fees can now be paid online via a link on the NMMU website and using a credit card (Visa or Mastercard).



CELEBRATION ... PhD student Ettienne Minnaar (right) and third-year student Genevève Deyzel (left) are assisting Physics Department Head **Prof Japie Engelbrecht** with the new Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectrometer, the only model of its kind in the world. Genevève will present her results on the new instrument at the upcoming SA Institute of Physics Conference in July.

Assisting with research across disciplines in science, engineering

Key new analysis instrument

RESEARCH processes in various materials at NMMU will be drastically improved and sped up thanks to a new material analysis instrument housed in the Physics Department.

This new Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) and Raman spectrometer, the only model of its kind in the world valued at R5.3m, will further raise the research profile of the university.

"Infrared spectroscopy is used to obtain information about the molecular structure of compounds," said Physics' Department Head **Prof Japie Engelbrecht**, who facilitated the recent arrival of the

instrument.

Both techniques - infrared spectroscopy and Raman spectroscopy - are used for optimal characterisation of most materials (solids, liquids

The instrument will stimulate further research outputs and training of students ...

and gases) and are especially used in chemistry departments. However, other disciplines, like materials science and physics, have also recognised the value of infrared and Raman spectroscopy.

The new instrument was funded by the National Nanotechnology Equipment Programme (NNEP),

administered by the National Research Foundation.

It is already in use on a number of research projects including analysis of semiconductor materials, natural and synthetic fibres, mineral samples, mammal teeth, proteins and chemical compounds such as polymers and rubbers, and was recently launched.

Other interesting work for scientists using it is forensic work such as ink identification in forgery cases and paint identification in accident reports.

"We trust that the instrument will stimulate further research outputs and training of students across disciplines within science, engineering and health sciences," said Prof Engelbrecht.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY
... Our recently re-launched Nursing Science department, boasts world-class technology to benefit their 600 plus students. Here second-year Nursing Science BCur students Candice Baartzes (left) and Carmen Heath are working with one of the new manikins which with a push of a button can simulate any medical condition. Medical emergencies can be reviewed via 3D screens with technology telling whether staff are doing things correctly or not which will better prepare our students for the realities of health care in South Africa.



Choir to Beijing

THE NMMU Choir is one of five world-class choirs - and the only one from Africa - to be invited to participate in the 11th China International Chorus Festival and IFCM World Choral Summit in July in Beijing, China. The choir has been privately funded to attend the events consisting of competitions, concerts and workshops.

Solar power for university's electricity grid from campus facility

Energy researchers look on the bright side



NMMU is truly practising what it preaches by using only renewable energy to conduct its cutting-edge renewable energy research – and the project could provide a solution to South Africa's energy challenge.

The Outdoor Research Facility at the university's Centre for Energy Research is entirely powered by solar energy.

The facility's newly-installed three kilowatt (kW) grid-connected photovoltaic (solar) power generation system – together with its existing 1.6 kW system, set up three years ago as part of the country's first official grid-tie pilot project – produces more electricity than the facility consumes, with the overflow fed into the university's main electricity grid.

Centre for Energy Research director **Prof Ernest van Dyk** said the two systems "provided enough energy to operate a normal house".

Former student Kevin Minkoff, who set up the grid-tie pilot project as part of his 2008 master's research in collaboration with Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and local companies, said: "By allowing private individuals micro-licences for renewable electricity generation, everyone can become a power producer.

It diversifies the risk of having a single entity controlling the entire power generation market, and creates awareness (about renewable energy) within the population.

Challenges would be ensuring such systems met municipal regulations, along with the initial high costs involved. Prof Van Dyk said: "The 3 kW system costs in the region of R60 000 – but would provide electricity for more than 25 years, generating more than R150 000 worth of electricity at today's domestic electricity price."

With the 3 kW and 1.6 kW systems working together, 25 kilowatt hours (kWh) are generated per day, but the outdoor research facility only uses 50% and feeds the remaining 50% into the university grid.

The university has also had some success in the rural area of Tyefu near Peddie and in Port Elizabeth's New Brighton township with "solar home systems" – where solar energy provides for the basic electrical needs of small rural and township homes.

The solar home systems provide enough energy to power lights and a television



SUN AND WIND ENERGY ... Centre for Energy Research Director **Prof Ernest van Dyk** at the centre's Outdoor Research Facility that is entirely powered by solar energy and feeds into the university's electricity grid.

"Many rural inhabitants in South Africa cannot afford electricity... The solar home systems provide enough energy to power lights and a television," said Prof Van Dyk.

This project also formed part of the masters research studies of former student Nathan Williams, now employed at EAB-Astrum Energy (EA Energy) in Durban.

Williams had spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching maths and science in a remote village in Burkina Faso, where there was no electricity infrastructure – and had built himself a small solar home system for lighting, his shortwave radio and to charge his cell phone.

"During this time, I realised how important sources of modern energy are, particularly electricity. Even a very small amount of electricity, the amount someone in urban South Africa would use to boil water in their electric kettle, is life changing," said Williams.

There are an estimated three million houses without electricity in South Africa. Most of these are in KwaZulu-Natal (24% of households), Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, according to Integrated National Electrification Programme director Wolsey Barnard.

Cheaper electricity

Among the other ground-breaking projects of the Centre for Energy Research, which works closely with industry, is the development of various types of concentrator photovoltaic technologies, which could potentially generate cheaper electricity than normal "flat-plate" photovoltaics (solar panels).

This includes high concentration photovoltaics in which sunlight is concentrated onto small solar cells.

The centre has built an academic prototype, whereby 24% of the energy concentrated on the smaller cells is converted to electricity, compared to 15% for normal flat-plate PV modules.

The Centre for Energy Research's parallel development of low concentration photovoltaics also has the potential to substantially reduce the cost of solar generated electricity, compared to traditional flat-plate photovoltaic technologies.

Travelling light

In addition, 10 staff members have been using their new wheels in the "Freewheeling" pilot project which has been initiated by Projects and Planning and the Energy Research Centre. **NW**

Green business a priority

HE COULD never imagine himself littering and always had a “feeling” for the environment, but he first fell in love with the new trend of greening businesses and sustainability during his undergraduate studies at NMMU.

Today **Riyaadh Lillah**, research coordinator at the Business School, is the Residence Life Fellow of the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) at Student Housing, a role that he relishes.

“The NMMU GCI is a super group of students. They are fearless and have done amazing work in getting students involved in greening our campuses,” he says.

In line with the NMMU value of respect for the natural environment, NMMU residences have gradually established a commitment towards sustainable student housing. They have embarked on a campaign to make residences more eco-friendly where students can live in harmony with ecological processes, minimise consumption and waste, and show respect for human dignity and health.

Riyaadh completed his BCom, majoring in Business Management and Economics, in 2008 and then went on to obtain his BCom (Hons) in Business Management in 2009. A year later, he started working on his master’s degree in Business Management and graduated in April this year.

His postgraduate research focused on green issues, particularly environmental literacy among NMMU students in the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences.

He also conducted research on the country’s 23 universities and identified only 38 modules/qualifications dealing with environmental issues



GREEN BUSINESS ... Business Management’s Tony Matchaba-hove and the Business School’s Riyaadh Lillah, a Residence life fellow of the Green Campus Initiative (right), enjoy the “green” surroundings of NMMU.

in business studies, and most were offered at postgraduate level and only a few were compulsory. The most prevalent topics dealt with were environmental economics, environmental management, eco-tourism, and environmental law.

The recommendations from the research were that that lecturers should integrate more “green” issues in syllabi; that they should take decisive steps to improve ecological knowledge of students, especially when it relates to “green” business practices and that infrastructure be provided on campus (to enable students to be actively involved

in ensuring a more sustainable campus).

Riyaadh is actively involved with the hosting of the National Green Student Conference from 1 to 5 July at NMMU’s North Campus since it is aimed at empowering young green champions with skills and knowledge which they, in turn, will use to educate others as to the benefits of sustainability.

“Living and learning communities present the perfect opportunity to fully realise an integrated approach (which includes teaching and learning, research, operations and community engagement) to sustainable higher education. We must take some kind of responsibility.”

First Things First campaign

CAMPUS Health Services exceeded their target of testing 2 000 persons for HIV over four weeks with more than 25% reaching 3 024 persons. Moreover, the good news is that less than 1% of these persons tested are HIV positive.

Being the first and only higher education institution to be an accredited ARV site we can also provide immediate care and support for persons testing positive on site, saving the affected person from being referred and facing the trauma thereof, says Campus Health Services **Sister Linda Dalton**.

The four-week testing project is part of a National First Things First Campaign supported by a number of universities. It focuses on testing as many first-year students, making it possible for them to know their status and to access the necessary care to ensure that they are successful in their academic careers.

“We did however not limit our recruitment and accepted any students or staff who requested

testing,” says Campus Health Services **Greg Smith**.

The Foundation for Professional Development (FPD), the Department of Health, and the Institute for Youth Development of South Africa (IYDSA) volunteer staff assisted Campus Health Services in reaching this number of students.

This is the second year that this campaign has been run to reach as many staff and students possible.

Nationally, the target for the 2012 First Things First Campaign was set at 35 000. Four months since the start of the campaign early January this number has already been exceeded with 36 772 staff and students being tested with the campaign running till September.

The success of the campaign also lies in its contribution to existing programmes, promoting the treatment of HIV and AIDS as prevention, and immediately providing treatment, care and support for persons who tested HIV positive.



Pearl’s a winner

THE can-do attitude of an NMMU alumnus has made her the first graduate trainee to win the Managing Director’s Pro-Active Award at Nestle in Johannesburg.

Pearl Phoolo, a 2010 BA Hons (Business Management) graduate, was honoured just 16 months into her new career in corporate communication and public affairs by the retail giant.

“I believe it was my general ‘I-can-do-it’ approach that did it. It’s about ‘getting off your Umtarara,” said Pearl, referring to the encouraging expression used during her time in the Beyond the Classroom (BtC) initiative at NMMU.

The latter programme is aimed at growing NMMU students in various areas beyond their chosen study field.

Pearl had nothing but praise for the education she had received at NMMU, and especially for the Beyond the Classroom initiative.

Doing what is right for refugees

ON 14 September 2011, a heavily-pregnant Somali woman living in Korsten followed her husband to work little realising, moments later, that she would witness his murder in broad daylight by two armed men.

With five other children and a grandchild, the unemployed woman who cannot speak English sought help from NMMU's Refugee Rights Centre at Bird Street Campus.

The centre submitted an urgent protection needs assessment after establishing that the family's lives were in danger, and was able to secure their relocation to Canada in May.

This is but one of the many human drama scenarios that the university's Refugee Rights Centre has undertaken since it was opened in 2011.

Last year alone the Centre provided legal assistance to more than 1 400 refugees and asylum seekers from 15 African and two Asian countries.

Their assistance ranges from help with renewal of permits, representation in court, securing release from unlawful detention, intervention in unlawful deportation and conducting training on Refugee and Immigration Law to refugees and government officials, inclusive of SAPS Officers and magistrates.



HEADING HOME ... This Somali family, whose breadwinner was murdered in Korsten, was assisted by our Refugee Rights Centre.



CELEBRATION ... "African Music as a Weapon of Change" was the theme of guest speaker and SAfm broadcaster Richard Nwamba (centre) at his Africa Day Celebration talk hosted by CANRAD, Arts & Culture and the International Office at the North Campus Conference Centre on the eve of Africa Day on 25 May. Richard is joined by Canrad's **Lubabalo Matiwane**, (from left) **Xoliswa Mletelwa**, **Allan Zinn**, **Prof Itumeleng Mekoa** and **Buyiswa Scott**.

Africa Day on campus

AFRICAN music, a talk on African regional integration by the South Sudan Ambassador to SA, dance and traditional food all formed part of Africa Day celebrations on campus on 25 May.

Hosted by the Office for International Education, Arts and Culture and the Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) staff, students and guests enjoyed a variety of offerings in line with this year's theme "Celebrating the Diversity and Potential of the African Continent".

The programme kicked off the evening before with a talk by well-known SAfm's Richard Nwamba

who hosts the African Connection programme on radio.

South Sudan Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Michael Majok Ayom Dor opened the festivities focusing on the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and its implications on African regional integration at

Rendezvous Café on South Campus.

After his talk, traditional cuisine from all parts of Africa was served including "Umngqusho", Moroccan grilled chicken and West African stew.

The programme also included traditional dancing from different parts of Africa as well as more music. See page 13.



JAZZ RHYTHMS ... NMMU's Big Band performing a South African township jazz classic called Tshona by Pat Matshikiza with director Music's John Edwards 'guesting' on piano at the Music Department's recent lunch time jazz concert in the South Campus auditorium. The band focuses on South African jazz and consists of a diversity of students ranging from first to fourth years.

Joining leukemia research

TWO Health Sciences departments will in future conduct leukemia research together with Igazi, a non-profit organisation working towards better haematological services for the Eastern Cape.

The collaboration was announced at the recent opening of the Aloe Igazi stem cell ward in the Provincial Hospital, a first for the Eastern Cape, allowing stem cell (bone marrow) transplants to be done for the first time in Port Elizabeth.

The research group that NMMU will be involved in is called LISIN (Leukemia Incidence Study Igazi NMMU).

"According to Igazi, the Eastern Cape is considered by South African haematologists to have the highest incidence of blood cancers in the country and our aim is to investigate this hypothesis", says Biomedical Technology and Radiography's **Mariaan Buckle**.

Other staff members involved in the project are Environmental Health and Social Development Professions' **Cheryl Swanepoel**, **Carmen Whittle** and **Willem Michau**.



*MAKING A DIFFERENCE ... Environmental Health's **Willem Michau** (from left), Biomedical Technology's **Mariaan Buckle** and Environmental Health's **Carmen Whittle** and **Cheryl Swanepoel** will be conducting research on the incidence of leukemia in the Eastern Cape assisting Igazi towards better haematological services.*



*DIVERSITY ... Newly qualified masters and doctoral students (back from left) **Samantha Andrews** (MA Psychology), **Nicole van der Westhuizen** (MA Psychology), **Mariana Spagadoros** (MCur and Diploma Nursing Science) and **Candice Williams** (Hons Psychology), and (front) **David Morton** (DPhil Sociology) and **Ruwayda Jacobs** (PhD Nursing) have joined Nursing Science Department Head **Prof Dalena van Rooyen** (centre) and the go-getting Nursing Science Department.*

New dynamic for Nursing Science

NURSING Science has added a new dynamic to their department by employing graduates from other disciplines.

Four new NMMU postgraduates from psychology and sociology, along with two who obtained nursing qualifications, joined their department this year.

Not only were they all integrally involved in the re-launch of the department (see page 3) but are running various projects that will further improve the quality of nursing

science in the province and beyond.

"These bright, young minds bring a whole new dynamic to the department. We welcome a transdisciplinary approach to academia and to research," said Department Head **Prof Dalena van Rooyen**.

Some of the new employees work directly with overseas partners who are investing in NMMU and its commitment to transform the quality of nursing within South Africa.

The new employees are funded by the department itself.

IT'S ALL aboard for NMMU staff and students again as they volunteer their time and talents on the world's only healthcare train.

Several pharmacy, nursing and psychology students, along with key staff members, are working on the Phelophepa Health Care Train, recently based at Swartkops station on the outskirts of Nelson Mandela Bay.

"This is always a life-changing experience for our students, and of course, it's hugely beneficial to the surrounding community," said

Students support rural health train

Pharmacy's **Professor Ilse Truter**, who is not only jointly responsible for coordinating the involvement of NMMU students, but also of the placement of pharmacy schools throughout South Africa.

Head of the university's Pharmacy Practice and Drug Utilisation Research Unit (Duru), Prof Truter said the Phelophepa train was part of a national initiative to make a positive difference to primary health care in

rural South Africa.

Two trains – Phelophepa I and now the new Phelophepa II (stationed at Swartkops from 30 April to 18 May) – transverse the country bringing health care to people who cannot easily access health care due to poverty and where they live.

NMMU has supported the 16-coach health trains since 1994, providing its students with invaluable learning experience. This responds to the

NMMU value of *Ubuntu*.

Two of the university's honorary doctorates, Drs Lynette Coetzee and Lillian Cingo, were recognised in particular for the role they played in growing the work of the "miracle train".

According to Prof Truter over 45 000 individuals are treated at the train's onboard clinics (psychology, health, eye, dental and edu-clinic) by up to 900 volunteers.

International fashion contest

FOR the second consecutive year, an NMMU fashion student was selected to compete in the premier international student fashion competition Arts of Fashion in America.

BTech student Arielle Arndt (right) is the only contestant from South Africa to make the top 50, and follows in the footsteps of alumnus Bianca Boshoff, who travelled to San Francisco for the same competition last year.

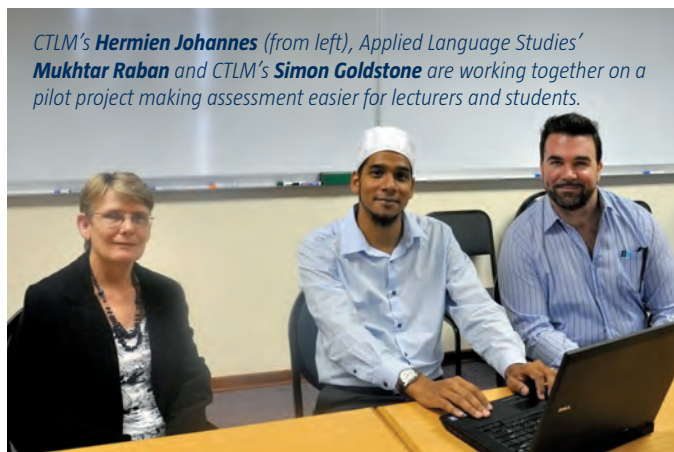
"I still can't believe it. This is such a wonderful opportunity," says an enthused Arielle, who has just graduated *cum laude* with her National Diploma in Fashion at NMMU.

Arielle's storyboard interpretation of the transparency theme was selected from more than 330 applicants from 107 fashion schools and universities in 35 different countries.

Arielle now has to produce two of the three garments she has designed, and find sponsorship to fund her trip to San Francisco, where she will be able to attend a number of master classes and interact with leading fashion designers.



CTLM's **Hermien Johannes** (from left), Applied Language Studies' **Mukhtar Raban** and CTLM's **Simon Goldstone** are working together on a pilot project making assessment easier for lecturers and students.



Easier assessment

APPLIED Language Studies and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Media (CTLM) have put their minds together to make the process of assessment easier especially for courses with hundreds of students.

Their joint Electronic Assessment Pilot Project explores online assessment in order decrease the workload of marking tests and administering the results by using online worksheets for the Communication in English A course.

This course has a total of 1 300 students registered of whom 1 200 have already completed worksheets online.

The new initiative has made life easier for both lecturer and student since students can access e-worksheets by logging in to the Learn@NMMU site where the lecturers' photos appear next to the

appropriate worksheets.

Applied Language Studies lecturer **Mukhtar Raban**, who joined NMMU from lecturing in Saudi Arabia, initiated the idea of compiling and administering the e-worksheets.

Mukhtar worked closely with module coordinator and lecturer, **Rod Townsend**, and department tutors, Shawn Kariem and Heather Cousins, to ensure the success of the project.

CTLM's **Hermien Johannes** and **Simon Goldstone** earlier this year introduced academic staff to Respondus, an assessment authoring tool for designing, developing and managing tests and exams.

Respondus is a quick and easy way to generate assessment with worksheets created in MSWord which are imported to Respondus and can be edited and published to online courses and vice versa.

Young academic scholarship

NMMU postdoctoral fellow Language and Literature's Dr Marisa Botha (right) has won the SA Academy for Science and Art Elisabeth Eybers scholarship of R85 000 for young promising academics.

She was also recently named a National Research Foundation (NRF) Emerging Researcher.

Dr Botha is currently a visiting scholar in the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) in Philadelphia.

She will spend time later this year in Amsterdam with Prof Ena Jansen of the Amsterdam and Vrije Universities and in Belgium to further her research on SA poet Antjie Krog and her autobiographical works and



comparative studies on Dutch poets.

Dr Botha was also invited to speak at Elisabeth Eybers Day in Amsterdam on 13 October this year.



SITE EXPERIENCE ... Interior Design students in full safety gear visited the new Engineering building construction site on North Campus as part of their regular construction site visits after which they have to compile site reports. Here NMC Construction's Roelof van Rooyen assists them.

Careers, programmes and support systems under the spotlight

More learners for 8th Open Day

UNIVERSITY open days are the most effective student recruitment practice world-wide.

They provide a great learning experience during which learners, teachers, parents and the broader public can explore study career options.

“There’s also ample opportunity to meet and speak with academics, current students, and staff from support services such as admissions, student housing, sport and finance,” says Marketing and Corporate Relations’ **Christelle Feyt**.

Growth

More than 7 000 learners supported the eighth Open Day in Port Elizabeth on 11 and 12 May and more than 700 the George Campus one on 18 and 19 May – indicating a 17% growth in the number of learners and a 20% increase in the number of schools attending.

In addition, 98% of a research sample group of 459 learners at both Open Days indicated that the event contributed positively to their decision to study at NMMU and more than 70% said they were interested in studying towards a degree.

Top interests

The top 10 areas specified by the sample group in Port Elizabeth as their interest were Social Work, Business Management, Law, Nursing, Tourism Management, Information Technology and Computer Science, Psychology, Accounting, Education and Media Studies. George learners liked the same areas but preferred Engineering, Natural

They provide a great learning experience during which ... the broader public can explore study career options



WINNERS ... Marketing and Corporate Relations’ **Christelle Feyt** (from left) congratulated PE Open Day stall winners Sociology, Anthropology and History’s **Prof Frans Bezuidenhout** (most visually appealing stall), Engineering’s **Farren Foutie** (runners-up most visually appealing and interactive stall) and Chemistry’s **Dr Gletwin Rubidge** (runner-up most visually appealing stall).

Sciences (BSc) and Human Resource Management instead of Nursing, Psychology and Media Studies.

This year’s theme, Discover your dreams at NMMU Open Day, was built around the idea of a university as the ideal place for fulfilling dreams and future career aspirations.

Top partner schools

The PE Open Day kicked off on the preceding Thursday evening with an opening function during which NMMU’s top partner schools were acknowledged, while George Campus partner schools were announced at an educators’ networking breakfast.

For the seventh consecutive year, Alexander Road High School was identified as one of the three top partner schools with 107 matrics enrolled at NMMU in 2012.

The other two top partner schools were Ethembeni Enrichment Centre in North End which enrolled nearly 70% of their matric class at NMMU, and Masiphathisane Senior Secondary School which, despite challenging circumstances, still enrolled nearly 35% of their class of 2011.

George Campus top partner schools were Outeniqua High School which enrolled the highest number of matrics at George Campus during 2012, namely 20 learners, and Imizamo Yethu Secondary School which increased their matric throughput rate from under 30% to over 80% at the end of last year.

In addition, the Student Counselling, Career and Development Centre briefed both parents and learners, Financial Aid presented financial planning to parents and a seminar was presented to the Education sector. George Campus Open Day featured not only all programmes offered at that George but also all PE campus programmes.



TOPS ... Agricultural Management’s **Prof Raymond Auerbach** (second from right) joins Agricultural Management students Bradley Hudson (front, from left), Dylan Gebbers, Phumeza Sodladla, Gabriel Brown (right) and Bruce Lord (back) at the Most Visually Appealing stall at the George Campus Open Day. The winner for the most interactive stall was the Faculty of Education with Student Counseling as runner-up. The runner up as most visually appealing stall was Business and Economic Sciences. See page 12.



DIBAONE IN ACTION ... NMMU Racing's DibaOne pulled off a third place in Class C4 for open-wheeled, naturally aspirated race cars at the recent Renault Simola Hillclimb Race in Knysna. Drivers Vishek Mohanlal and Richard Chambers improved their times by more than five seconds finishing the 1.9km hill at an average speed of 106km/h.

eNtsa working on projects to the value of R15m

Innovation through engineering

"INNOVATION should be the catchphrase of today's generation."

If one team has taken the words of Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** to heart, it is eNtsa, a leading research, design and technology support centre for the manufacturing industry based on North Campus.

The centre, cited as one of only two world-class technology stations in South Africa, has lived up to its tag line of "innovation through engineering" during its first decade of existence and is presently working on projects valued at R15m.

Among them is an R11m contract from Eskom that will save the energy giant millions of rand. The internationally-patented process, WeldCore® – which won the National Innovation Competition in 2010, and a BHP Billiton National Science and Technology Forum award in 2011, is a dynamic coring and repair process suited for steam-bearing structures within the power generation industry. eNtsa are world leaders in the field of friction processing.

"We are proud of what eNtsa is doing in pro-



SPECIAL EVENT ... At the eNtsa Open Day to celebrate a decade of innovation through engineering at the leading NMMU research, design and technology station were (from left) EBEIT Dean **Prof Henk de Jager**, Zoleka Ngcete of the Technology Innovation Agency, Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and director of eNtsa **Prof Danie Hattingh**.

ducing cutting-edge knowledge in seeking solutions to the challenges of our time," Prof Swartz told those who attended an eNtsa Open Day in celebration of the centre's 10th year.

Initially the Automotive Components Technology Station (ACTS) focused on serving the needs of the automotive industry but eNtsa has now evolved into a strategic partner to industry and has deliv-

ered multi-million rand projects to the nuclear and power generation - , transport- and the wider manufacturing industry.

To date it has been responsible for four patents, which includes the WeldCore® technology.

eNtsa works with up to 150 different enterprises in any one year, completing more than 200 different services and projects annually.

EASTERN Cape health care is benefiting from research assistance by the School of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on the use of telecommunication and information technology for clinical health care at a distance in hospitals in the province.

School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** in collaboration with Letsema Circle, an Eastern Cape health reform programme, visited hospitals to assess their status, challenges and possible solutions and presented her findings at a workshop with stakeholders including government representatives,

Involved with ICT Health care

doctors, nurses and community members.

The findings will be used as a basis to establish interventions to ensure that ICT is used more effectively to support health services.

The School of ICT also in collaboration with Emmanuel Haven, a community-based project dealing with adults and children infected or affected by HIV and AIDS, collected data on household needs in the metro, focusing on Motherwell.

Under the leadership of Prof Van Greunen, Emmanuel Haven has been turned into a Living Lab for the School of ICT.

Youth from Motherwell were trained to conduct the surveys and captured the data using MS Access.

The projects are using ICT, such as eHealth and mHealth, to improve the lives of ordinary citizens focusing on health care specifically. School of ICT students are also involved.



FROM AFAR ... This group of managers from Coca-Cola SABCO who graduated at the recent Business School's certificate and diploma ceremony with a Management Talent Development Programme hails from South Africa, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia, Sri-Lanka and Nepal. The students attend two two-week block sessions at the Bird Street Campus. Another group of 24 upcoming Coca-Cola SABCO managers from Africa and Asia are busy with the programme with a third group planned for 2013.

International student increase

IT's official. With 450 MBA students, 30 DBA students and the biggest certificate and diploma ceremony to date, NMMU's Business School is on the rise.

Business and Economic Sciences **Dean Prof Niekie Dorfling** shared these statistics at the annual event at the South Campus auditorium in May to recognise those who have successfully completed an array of qualifications.

Apart from an increase in numbers, the seven-year-old Business School has also expanded its geographical footprint with classes now in East London, George and Gauteng.

It also took lessons to various parts of Africa, and welcomed students from eight foreign countries, including government officials from South Sudan, to its classes.

But while there was much to celebrate, the newly-

qualified achievers were asked to "be contagious" in encouraging others to make a difference in the present less-than-perfect business status of South Africa.

"It is passion, desire and attitude that differentiate successful companies and countries from others," guest speaker Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber president and SpecSavers founder Bryan Dowley told the packed auditorium.



EURO EXPERT ... German corporate banker Dr Klaus Bauknecht (second from left), who shared the unravelling of the Euro crisis in a lecture with staff and students organised by the Economics department, is joined by Economics' **Prof Charles Wait** (from left), **Dr Pierre le Roux** and **Dedr Erasmus**.



Top financial planner

BCOM Hons (Business Management) graduate Martin Marx obtained the highest mark in the national Financial Planning board examinations beating 650 others to be named South Africa's top student.

Martin, a financial planner in Port Elizabeth, completed his postgraduate diploma in financial planning *cum laude* in 2011 before sitting for the grueling four-and-a-half-hour annual Certified Financial Planner examinations late last year.

He obtained 83%, while more than a third of the students failed the examination.

Martin had high praise for his NMMU lecturers, especially **Jackie Palframan** and **Errol Meyer**.

Can the Euro be saved?

IN THE end, only a greater political integration of the European Union countries can provide a solid foundation for the Euro-zone to continue to exist.

This is the opinion of German corporate banker and former UPE lecturer in the 1990s Dr Klaus Bauknecht who addressed staff and students on the Euro crisis in an open lecture hosted by our Economics Department.

Dr Bauknecht addressed the different dimensions of the crisis, and focused specifically on the debt

sustainability of individual member countries as well as the Euro-zone as a whole.

He said that the Euro-zone would face some challenging decisions, especially if economic growth does not improve the unemployment rate among southern European countries.

Although the departure of a country like Greece from the Euro-zone will not threaten the continuity of the currency union, Spain, which is around 13% of the Euro-zone, does impose a certain systemic risk.

► George Gallery



BALANCE ... Second-year BCom Accounting students Christa Herselman (seated) and Johan de Jager (standing) set the fastest time for the box cart race organised by the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA). SAICA visited the campus and wanted to show how one can achieve balance in work and life while still having fun.



DEDICATION ... These colleagues have notched up more than a century of service to NMMU: Forestry's **Willie Louw** (25 years) (from left), School of ICT's **Ena Wessels** (10 years), Protection Services' **Riaan van Zyl** (20 years), Postal Services' **Victor Meyer** (10 years), Technical Services' **Gert Kiewietz** (15 years) and Student Development's **Dave Jenkins** (15 years). Absent from the photograph is Game Ranch Management's **Mike Cameron** (25 years).



AGRICULTURAL Management's **Prof Raymond Auerbach** presented a paper on the transformation of African agriculture referring to organics and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) at the Second Africa Organic Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, in May. AGRA promotes a food secure and prosperous Africa through rapid, sustainable agricultural growth based on smallholder farmers. Two of Prof Auerbach's masters' students also delivered a joint paper on organic participatory guarantee systems and the value chain. Prof Auerbach was recently interviewed on the Afrikaans Radio Station Radiosondergrense in the agriculture slot regarding this conference and his research.

Another blood donation

IN the spirit of community involvement changing lives, staff and students donated blood on campus for the second time this year on 17 April after their successful event on Valentine's Day when 58 volunteers participated. The Western Province Transfusion needed blood and staff and students rolled up their sleeves again to support this worth while cause.



STUDENT LIFE ... Writing Centre Consultant **Shann Kieswetter** (from left), House Committee member Samantha Boesak, Residence Manager **Vuyiswa Mentile-Gozongo**, House Committee member Nandipha Notywala and Student Governance and Development Services **Monde Cindi** were part of the Student Development team who gave visiting learners at Open Day a glimpse of student life on campus. See page 9.



SOCIAL CHANGE ... Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and activist for social change and development Dr Mamphele Ramphele (right), joined here by Library and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce**, was the guest speaker at the launch of the Northern Areas Development Initiative (NAPDI) on the Missionvale Campus. NAPDI is a civil society movement promoting volunteerism in a culturally diverse and inclusive community that makes a difference.



BIG FUN ... Finance's Driekie Croukamp was one of the staff members who thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Staff Association Fun Event over lunch time on 24 May at the South Campus NMMU stadium. Comments included a "nice way to motivate staff" and "just fun- having absolutely nothing to worry about for a little while". More pictures can be seen on the Staff Association site on the staff portal.



AFRICAN SPIRIT ... Rendezvous Café's Hazel Kleinbooi serving traditional African food at the Africa Day celebrations on South Campus on 25 May. See page 6.



FUTURE SCIENTISTS ... St Thomas Secondary School's Cornell Titus, Tazminne Jansen and Humaira Fataar came first in the gold category oral quiz at the annual Minquiz science quiz for grade 12 learners organised by Computing Sciences. Pearson High School's team was first in the platinum category. The runners-up in the platinum category were Framesby, Selborne, Collegiate Girls and Alexander Road High School with Masiphatisane, St Matthews, Port Alfred and Lawson Brown High School in the gold category. Altogether 100 learners from 33 Eastern Province schools took part in the written quiz on 10 May at the South Campus Auditorium from which the top five schools in each category took part in the oral quiz.

NEW MEMBER ... PE Chamber of Commerce CEO Kevin Hustler (from left), NMMU Trust CEO **Dr Garth van Gensen**, NMMU Trust Chairperson Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi, Chairman of BHP Billiton and President of the Chamber of Mines, and U Bank's Mark Williams welcomed new NMMU Trust member Nozipho January-Bardill (second from left), management consultant and non-executive director of multiple companies at the annual NMMU Trust donor's lunch. Some 90 representatives attended the lunch at the Radisson Blu saying thank you to business and donors for their contribution to NMMU.



LUCKY WINNER
... Marketing
and Corporate
Relations'
**Sisanda
Marwayi**
(right) won
the Wellness@
nmmu online
questionnaire
lucky draw prize
and received
a R500 gift
voucher for
Shambala
Wellness
Spa from
Wellness@
work's Irma
Olivier.



Make health a habit

STAFF will soon have access to a healthier lifestyle and preventative care programme especially designed for NMMU employees.

The NMMU Health Care Committee, Bestmed, Wellness@Work, 4D Health and Campus Health Services will roll out the programme creating an awareness of how behaviours can be changed based on relevant health information and education.

The organisers want to enable and support personnel to improve their overall health through small changes in daily behaviour and activities.

Registration has started in June with:

- An electronic lifestyle questionnaire available to all employees. Those without internet access will be assisted.
- Biometric screenings, which will be done on all campuses, including rapid tests for glucose and cholesterol levels and blood pressure measurement. This is scheduled for August and

will be overseen by the Occupational Health Clinic.

Both these steps need to be completed to register.



All registered participants will receive an individual report indicating which areas of their lifestyle are at high, medium or low risk and the individual steps to address or limit these risks.

Group interventions, forming the basis of the programme, will be available to all participants and focus on those risk areas most prominent from the Health Risk Assessments of all the participants.

Individual interventions can range from registering for e-training programmes as provided by Wellness@Work – the NMMU Wellness Programme service provider – to consulting with a biokinetic professional or dietician (subject to your medical aid).

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 May competition winners: **Sandra Mejanie** of Student Admissions, **Vatiswa Zwelibanzi** of the Contact Centre, **Lorraine Bacon** of Finance, **Janet van Zyl** of Central Timetabling Office and **Karen Grobler** of CTLM.

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

1. NMMU will host South Africa's first green **c.....e (8 letter word)** for students – The Association of College and University Housing Officers International Southern Africa Chapter Green Campus Conference - from 1 to 5 July on North Campus.

2. Campus Health Services exceeded their target of **t.....g (7 letter word)** 2 000 persons for HIV over four weeks with more than 25% reaching 3 024 persons.

3. Several pharmacy, nursing and psychology students, along with key staff members, are working on the **P.....a (10 letter word)** Health Care Train.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **2 August**.

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

MANY South Africans travel to the northern, warmer parts of our country such as the Kruger National Park in winter and need to take informed decisions about malaria medication.

World Malaria Day on 25 April recently emphasised that about half of the world's population were at risk of malaria (3.3 billion people in 2010). Every year about 216 million malaria cases are reported and an estimated 655 000 deaths. People living in the poorest countries are the most vulnerable.

Malaria is an infectious disease caused by parasites carried by mosquitoes. A single bite from an infected mosquito can lead to the

Malaria alert

disease. If treatment is delayed one can die from malaria.

Anyone travelling to a country where malaria is present, even if the duration is short, can contract the disease. Pregnant women can be severely infected as well as babies and children under the age of five.

Malaria is prevalent in the low altitude areas of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North Eastern Kwa-Zulu Natal. Limited transmission may occur in the North West and Northern Cape provinces along the Molopo and Orange rivers. It is also found in Central and South America, other parts of

Africa, Asia and Oceania. In South Africa malaria is predominant from October to March, but year round cases have been reported in South Africa.

Malaria can be prevented by taking anti-malaria drugs before entering the country, during the stay and after your return home. Some meds cannot be taken if you need fine motor skills for activities during your stay.

Other precautions include:

- Avoid mosquito bites between early evening and early morning.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long



trousers when outdoors.

- Use insect repellents.
- Sleep under a mosquito net.
- When indoors keep the air conditioner or fan on if available.

Very important!

- Do not share your preventive medication and vice versa.
- Make sure you understand how and when to take your preventive medication.
- Report any flu-like symptoms to your healthcare practitioner as soon as possible after returning home.

Don't compromise against malaria ... it only takes one bite. **Margaret Coetzee, Campus Health Services.**



SUPPORT ... With the help of *Rehab Books*, second-year Business and Economics Student Nontlanhla Mgodleni (right) will be able to live closer to campus and study at the library instead of the two-bedroom shack where she has been living with eight people with no desk or place to study. The family also has no income. Nontlanhla graduated top of her high school class, did well in her first year at NMMU, and has been receiving distinctions this year. Nontlanhla was identified by the Masinyusane Development Organisation and is joined here by her mother Nonkululeko Mgodleni. It is hoped that she will be able to help her family to rise above their circumstances once she has graduated.



GETTING TOGETHER ... NMMU student Xolani Sandlana (from left), Disability Manager **Ruth Sauls**, student Sakhe Zweni and Disability Coordinator **Sheri-Ann Pietersen**, attended the recent Disability Briefing organised by NMMU's Disability Unit. More than 40 key stakeholders from the public, governmental, special education needs schools and the NGO sector attended the briefing to ensure input and collaboration in the Eastern Province higher education and further education and training sector. A stakeholders' forum was established and involvement with special education needs schools discussed. Some 5.1% of the Eastern Cape population is living with disabilities compared to the national average of 4.0%.



MATHS SUCCESS ... Some of the 19 first-year students who passed through the Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit's mathematics and science incubator school project and received an NMMU bursary to study in maths, science, engineering or information technology are joined by unit head **Prof Werner Olivier** (front far right) and the unit's science project manager **Peter Weisswange** (back). The project runs for 14 Saturdays and covers the NCS aligned school curriculum in Maths and Science for grades 11 and 12 using an innovative technology-driven blended teaching and learning model. For the past four years an average of 50 of these learners register as students at NMMU each year compared to 10 to 15 at other universities per year.



FUTURE BUSINESSWOMEN ... First-year BCom Accounting student Nonkululeko Mavunjana (front from left), BCom Statistics student Puleng Seagwa and Accounting student Nomawethu Hina received bursaries and laptops from the Keith Bothongo Foundation supporting students studying business degrees. They are joined by Bothongo's Ayesha Kahn (back from left), Dean of Students **Khaya Matiso**, Bothongo's Corlett Khupe, Financial Aid's **Wayne Muller** and the NMMU Trust's **Renita Affat**.



FORTUNATE STUDENTS ... Third-year Information Technology student Luzuku Tekeni, first-year BCom Computer Science Kholwani Dube and third-year IT student Ntombomzi Mzozoyana were happy about their new laptops in addition to bursaries provided by Dell in collaboration with the NMMU Trust, Financial Aid, the Dean of Students and the School of ICT and Computing Science Department.

NMMU students, staff member set for sporting spectacle

London's calling

AS the countdown to the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics continues, a number of students and a staff member are relishing the prospect of participating in the world's greatest sporting spectacle.

Second-year law student Kevin Paul (right), who turns 21 on 30 June, will be carrying both NMMU and the country's hopes as he competes in his second Paralympics with a very real chance of securing further glory in the pool.

"I thank God every day for this opportunity. My team is very confident that I will be able to perform at my best when the gun goes off in London," says the humble, yet determined former Grey schoolboy.

Kevin joins NMMU athlete Michael Louwrens at the Paralympics, while paddler Greg Louw (below), who recently competed in the Canoeing World Championships, is another NMMU hopeful for the Olympics. Joining the students is staff member **Pippa Nell** of Human Movement Science who is part of the official drug testing team.

However, it is our world-record holder and gold medal winner from the Beijing Paralympics who is best placed to "bring home the bounty".

I thank God every day for this opportunity.



By early June he had qualified for four events – 50m, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle and 200m individual medley – and was hoping to qualify for the 400m freestyle at an event in Berlin, Germany, before heading to Europe for a final Paralympics training camp. The Paralympics starts on 29 August, also in London.

Kevin, who was born without pectoral muscles on the left side of his chest and whose left arm is shorter than his right, smashed two world records (100m and 200m breaststroke) in his bid to qualify for the games at the recent SA Champs in Durban.

His prowess in the field is mirrored in the lecture hall where despite his

heavy training schedule Kevin finished third in his first-year law class last year.

"Kevin is an amazing student. He gives more than 100% in everything that he does, whether it is his swimming, his academic performance and leadership," says Law Dean **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**.

Keep track ...
Follow Kevin Paul on Twitter or Facebook:
www.twitter.com/KevinSwim-Paul or www.facebook.com/KevinSwimPaul



Rowing successes



THE NMMU Rowing Club outshone its competition at the recent SA National Senior Rowing Championships in East London with the ladies division winning 15 gold medals in total, the most in the history of NMMU ladies rowing at any one regatta.

They also took the first, second or third spot in all races. Stars included Robyn Phillips, Chevon Passanah, Ela de Klerk, Camilla Smith, Riekie Taljaard, Angela Pautz, Jacky Brunette, Leani Horne, Chantal Catherine, Kim Denton, Clarissa Morton and Jeans Barclay. Jason Taylor did the men's division proud by winning the Men's A lightweight single sculls race, becoming the fastest lightweight rower in South Africa.

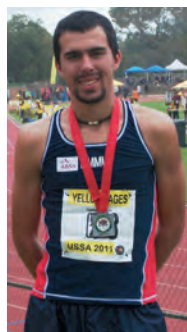
Representing South Africa

HUMAN Movement Sciences student, Marshall Marsh (left) represented SA in Korea at the World Cup of wheelchair tennis at the end of May.



SA athletics team

SECOND-YEAR Nature Conservation student Armond Nel (left), NMMU's top athlete in the 20km Walk, formed part of the SA team participating in the International Athletics Association Federation World Race Walking Cup in Saransk, Russia.



Hockey stars

AFTER the recent u21 Ladies inter-provincial tournament in Pretoria, NMMU's Nicole Kemp (left) was included in the SA u/21 team. The NMMU B Men's team recently beat Rhodes 3-2 after the Madibaz men's premier team lost their game to Rhodes 0-1.

