

The Staff Newsletter | September 2012

Future looking good for 'rising star of SA' – VC

Research on the rise

OUR university's quest to become the leader in niche areas is being realised as was shared during the 2012 NMMU Researcher, Teacher and Engagement Awards last month (see page 3).

"Your growth is quite high," an encouraging Mahlubi Mabizela, Chief Director of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), told the 28 recipients, their guests, deans and research office staff at the excellence awards held at the Radisson Hotel.

So high, in fact, that the DHET scrutinised the NMMU research outputs to get a better understanding of its unofficial 37.5% increase from 2010 to 2011.

"We like to understand best practice. It is a fact that universities with a strong research office and good

leadership will perform well," said Mr Mabizela, whose office analyses the research outputs of South Africa's 23 universities.

There was further good news as Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** shared insights regarding "the rising star in South Africa".

Universities with a strong research office and good leadership will perform well

"We are working towards being number one for specific areas. That's our objective," said Prof Swartz during his congratulatory message.

As a result NMMU is:

- ▶ Investing heavily in infrastructure
- ▶ Adapting facilities for the digital revolution
- ▶ Investing in staff, particularly in its quest to reward academics

New developments

Prof Swartz also announced plans to place greater value on teaching – in line with the recognition already given to research.

"Teaching accounts for 80% of what we do at NMMU. As a result, Senate has approved a Teaching and Learning Development fund to support teaching innovation. We must reward creativity techniques that lift standards." (See pages 3, 4)



AND WE'RE OFF ... NMMU Solar Car Team leaders (from left) Jason Humm, Matthew Fish and Arne Kloblen stand alongside the five-metre car they designed, manufactured and will drive in the South African Solar Challenge from 18 to 29 September. (See page 3)

▶ In this edition

ACADEMIC Awards **3**

INNOVATION Solar car **3**

SKILLS Living lab **8**

EDUCATION Wisser teachers **10**

Inspirational research and teaching



It's not only the research and teaching awards, supplemented by arts and culture, engagement and innovation awards that inspire us.

It's also the staff and students who in the spirit of education do all kinds of things to contribute to knowledge, skills and wisdom.

We are extremely proud of our solar car team and our award recipients. Once a year our staff are acknowledged for their excellence and what a way to motivate the rest of us.

In this edition we share more about the teaching methods of our top teacher of the year, but also about the lecturers who go the extra mile with their classes such as adding real life skills like job application processes to writing skills, public relations skills for Nursing Science

students, assisting many Grade 12s with a new cellphone app for mathematics and facilitating business skills to students across all disciplines.

In this edition we also read about the colourful Diversity Month and how that has enriched our lives with many talks, dressing up and sharing cultures.

We are of course extremely proud of our two Paralympic medals won by Kevin Paul and Michael Louwrens and our fifth consecutive Intervarsity victory. September is also disability month and together we supported Casual Day and collected R4 040.

Read more about our project on 7 September in the next edition together with photographs of the event. Please send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker

Briefs

International group

NEWLY appointed Zoology lecturer **Dr John Measey** has been elected as southern African Regional Chairperson of the Amphibian Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission.

PhD degree

COMPUTING Sciences' **MC du Plessis** received his PhD from Pretoria University on 6 September. The title of his thesis was "Adaptive Multi-Population Differential Evolution for Dynamic Environments".

International commissioner



MUSIC'S **Dr Alethea de Villiers** recently presented a paper on inclusivity in music education at the International Society of Music Education's Commission on Policy: Culture, Education and Media in Athens. She was also selected to serve as Commissioner for two years.

PA finalist

ENGINEERING, the Built Environment & IT Dean's Secretary **Charlene Dale** reached the finals of the South African PA of the Year award.

Book launch



CTLM's **Selwyn Milborrow** (left) recently launched his new book "The Write Side" in partnership with NMMU Arts and Culture at the South End Museum. The poetry and prose in both Afrikaans and English talk to his community, different races, cultures and philosophers.

Trustee

MARKETING and Corporate Relations' **Bev Erickson** has been appointed a Trustee on the Board of the National Tertiary Retirement Fund for a period of five years.

Article published

BUSINESS and Economic Science's **Ronel Petersen** has published an article entitled "Yes, you can handle difficult people at work" in the 2012 edition of the A to Z for PAs and Office Managers.

NEWS FLASH

EXECUTIVE management has approved plans to build a taxi rank in University Way. The new rank will be located close to where the taxis presently park near the Gomery Road traffic circle. "There are a few loose ends to tie up, but we will, in the near future, soon have better control of transport in and around our campus," said Project and Planning director Greg Ducie. Work is expected to start before the end of the year.



SPECIAL SONS ... NMMU honorary doctorates Phil Gutsche and Jakes Gerwel are among the 35 dignitaries with special links to the Eastern Cape who were celebrated at the opening of an Honorary Doctorate Exhibition now running at the Archives on Second Avenue Campus. Sons of the late Dr Raymond Uren also handed over 30 boxes of materials from the various facts of the former educationist's life. The importance of collecting and keeping artifacts belonging to community leaders at the Archives was also emphasised. These collections can be valuable for student research. See page 13 as well.

talk@nmmu is published by NMMU Marketing & Corporate Relations. The deadline for contributions to the November edition of *talk@nmmu* is 17 October 2012. Please e-mail your contributions in MSWord and photographs separately in jpg format (no smaller than 800kb) to *elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za*. Opinions expressed in *talk@nmmu* are not necessarily those of the editor or NMMU.

New engagement award included in 2012 accolades

Saluting our academics

A SCIENTIST conducting groundbreaking cancer research and a teacher who is happy to two-step if it means connecting with his students, are among two of the 28 men and women recognised at the 2012 Research, Teaching and Engagement Awards.



Chemistry's **Prof Tommy Gerber** (left) whose cancer research could ultimately minimise the harmful side-effects of existing treatment was named as NMMU's 2012 Researcher of the Year, while

Dr Logan Athiemoolam, of the Education Faculty, was honoured as the 2012 Teacher of the Year for his creative lecturing techniques. (See page 4)

"The awards promote and encourage cutting-edge research, innovation, creativity and best practice in teaching and learning, research and engagement," says Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**.

For the first time NMMU also officially recognised the contribution made by those who actively engage with various groups beyond the university. The recipient of the Engagement Excellence Award was Mechanical Engineering's **Karl du Preez**, who facilitates a number of outreach initiatives such as the solar car project, the sustainable energy harvesting programme and various winter schools to prospective engineering students.

The Innovation and Technology Transfer Award went to Mechatronics' **Dr Farouk Smith** for his work on satellites, while the Performing and Creative Arts Awards went to classical guitarist and music lecturer **Dr Rudi Bouwer**, and printmaker and Arts and



The awards encourage cutting-edge research, innovation, creativity and best practice in teaching and learning, research and engagement

*REACHING OUT ... The university's first Engagement Excellence Award went to **Karl du Preez** of the Faculty Engineering, Built Environment and IT, for the multiple initiatives he and his team undertake in improving the lives of others and attracting potential students to NMMU.*

Culture Head **Michael Barry**, in conjunction with his team.

Awards for researchers of the year were presented to **Prof Helize van Vuuren** (Arts), **Dr Shelley Far-rington** (Business and Economic Sciences), **Prof Naydene de Lange** (Education), **Prof John Small-wood** (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT), **Prof Ilse Truter** (Health Sciences), **Prof Avinash Govindjee** (Law) and **Prof Tommy Gerber** (Science).

Emerging researchers were **Dr Debbie Lee** (Business and Economic Sciences), **Dr Andre du Plessis** (Education), **Brink Botha** (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT), **Dr Cheryl Walter** (Health

Sciences), **Dr John von Bonde** (Law) and **Dr Pierre Pistorius** (Science).

Excellent Teachers awards went to **Janelle Vermaak** (Arts), **Nadine Oosthuizen** (Business and Economic Sciences), **Dr Logamurthie Athiemoolam** (Education), **Annelise du Preez** (Engineering, the Built Environment and IT) and **Prof Japie Engelbrecht** (Science).

Emerging excellent teachers were **Sharon Tessendorf** (Business and Economic Sciences), **Adv Razaana Denson** (Law) and **Tim Pittaway** (Science).

The Emerging Engagement Award went to **Dr Andre du Plessis** (Education) and the Engagement Excellence Team Award to InnoVenton (Science).

JAPANESE VISIT

VICE-CHANCELLOR Prof Derrick Swartz together with a delegation of scientists visited six universities in Tokyo, Japan, for potential research co-operation, post-doctoral attachments, and academic and student exchange programmes in the fields of marine and coastal studies, nanomaterials science and electron microscopy.

The proposed establishment of the Marine and Coastal Institute at NMMU was also introduced to potential partners.

The delegation consisting of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**, Science Executive Dean **Prof Andrew Leitch**, Physics' **Prof Jan Neethling**, Geosciences **Prof Moctar Doucouré**, Zoology's **Dr Ronel Nel** and VC's special assistant **Laura Best**, also met representatives from the Ministry of Education (MEXT), and the national research institute for marine-earth science and technology (JAMSTEC). (See page 13)

Driving into the future

24 STUDENTS, 18 months and 12 sponsors ... that's what it took – and some – to produce NMMU's first state-of-the-art solar car, Photon.

The sleek, five-metre model, which was unveiled at NMMU on 3 September, will fly the university flag high when it competes in the third South African Solar Challenge around the country from 18 to 29 September.

"With this car we have achieved something remarkable," said mechanical engineering lecturer **Clive Hands**, who as "race director" has overseen the entire project.

Work on the vehicle, estimated to have cost about R2m, only seriously began in May 2011 once a partnership with Volkswagen South Africa, and other key sponsors had been secured.

However, for the past five months the solar car

team, consisting mainly of mechanical and electrical engineering students, has been working seven days a week. Many of the students are from overseas.

"We are immensely proud of what has been achieved," Clive told sponsors, the media, and other guests at the launch on North Campus.

VWSA's Production Director Tom du Plessis, who also highlighted the benefits of the partnership especially in terms of renewable energy research, echoed his words.

"We are excited about the significance of this because renewable energy will play a huge role in the future of the automotive industry."

The NMMU team will be competing in the Challenge sector of the race against top international competitors covering 5 500km starting in Pretoria. (See page 1)

Drama, role play and creativity contributes to teaching success

Top teacher's approach

DR ATHIEMOOLAM'S two main passions – using drama in the classroom and multicultural education – were inspired by those early years, and he has used his extensive research in both areas to bring out the greatest potential in the pupils and students he has taught over the past 27 years.

A senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education's School for Continuing Professional Development, where he also heads up the Advanced Certificate in Education (Language in Learning and Teaching), Dr Athiemoolam's research focuses on "participatory visual methodology", specifically drama-in-education as a teaching method in the classroom.

"I don't like the lecture method. I prefer to focus on the different talents of learners, tapping into their creativity. I want them to be knowledge producers rather than consumers, and to use that knowledge to reflect on their thinking."

"The beauty about using drama in the classroom is that you don't need resources. You need yourself and your creative ability, so it works particularly well in disadvantaged learning environments."

Together with his colleague **Nokhanyo Mayaba**, he also re-designed and implemented the ACE (Language in Learning and Teaching). "The programme does not focus on teaching a specific language, but rather on issues and strategies relating to using language across all learning areas, so that learners are better equipped to use language effectively in classroom contexts."

The programme was implemented as a pilot in Qumbu and Bizana in 2010, with the first group graduating this year.

Dr Athiemoolam is also involved in the ACE (School Management and Leadership), where he works with Eastern Cape principals on their use of language for professional purposes, the development of their research skills in school contexts, and the enhancement of their presentation skills, using a variety of media.

Currently he is involved in a range of projects both in rural contexts and internationally.

Apartheid legislation forced Dr Athiemoolam to transfer from Forest Hill Primary School to an Indian school in Malabar, where he excelled academically.

He went on to become a teacher himself, completing a Bachelor of Paedagogics degree, majoring in English, Afrikaans and Education, at the then University of Durban-Westville.

"I received an excellent foundation in higher education and was well prepared for my teaching career."

He then boldly got down to the business of making a positive change in the classroom.

A childhood spent in colourful, pre-apartheid South End, schooled initially by teachers from multi-cultural backgrounds who believed in drawing out their pupils' creative sides, would profoundly influence the life path of Teacher of the Year Dr Logamurthie "Logan" Athiemoolam.

During his first teaching appointment at Woolhope Secondary School in Malabar in 1985, he realised that role play could make a significant contribution to learners' understanding of concepts.

"It improved the self-esteem of learners who were not academically-gifted, as it created opportunities for them to excel at the gifts they have." With improved self-esteem came improved academic performance.

He continued to study part-time, completing his Honours in Education through Rhodes University, a Diploma in Media Centre Science through the University of South Africa (Unisa) and his Masters in Alternative Education at the then University of Port Elizabeth.

The latter, introduced in 1991, was



*CREATIVE MIND ... Teacher of the Year Education's **Dr Logan Athiemoolam** has for the past 27 years inspired students and learners to reach their greatest potential with his unusual teaching methods.*

"groundbreaking" for its time, as it examined issues pertaining to pre-democracy education in South Africa.

It also created an opportunity for Athiemoolam to network with teachers from other education departments. "The education system was an extremely divided one before 1994." He later completed honours degrees in both English and Psychology through NMMU.

In 1997, he took up a lecturing post at the former Vista University (now NMMU's Missionvale Campus). "Vista opened my eyes to the disadvantaged community. I wanted to learn how to touch the lives of people from disadvantaged areas."

He worked with an established drama group in Izinyoka (Govan Mbeki) township, and also embarked on one of his biggest drama-in-education projects at Vista, which saw 130 English second-language students creating pieces of theatre on social issues affecting education at large.

In 1999, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship

to attend a short course on multicultural education at Indiana University's Bloomington campus in the United States.

Two years later, while completing his PhD on multicultural education, he was invited to Germany's Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, where he conducted six months of research in multi-ethnic classrooms and networked with German practitioners who shared his passion for both participatory visual methodology and multicultural education.

He has presented 25 papers on a range of research-related areas at conferences both nationally and internationally, including Japan, Malaysia, India, Brazil, Peru, Germany, Turkey, Nepal, Australia and the US.

"I love my work. I love being with people ... I love seeing how the students grow, and working with them as a team in the teaching and learning environment, so that they can actualise their full potential." **NW**

The beauty about using drama in the classroom is that you don't need resources

NMMU part of Commonwealth decision-making



NMMU'S name was held in high esteem before education ministers from throughout the Commonwealth thanks to the insights shared by Senior Director: Institutional Planning Prof Heather Nel (left).

Prof Nel was one of only a handful of academics selected to present recommendations regarding secondary education in line with the existing Millennium Development Goals for Education. Tertiary education had not been included in the original plans.

"It was an incredibly enriching experience," said Prof Nel of the 18th Commonwealth Conference for Education Ministers in Mauritius earlier this month. The likes of South Africa's own minister of Higher Education and Training Blade Nzimande and his advisor John Pampallis were among the dignitaries to attend the five-day conference.

Prof Nel was selected from among 133 delegates to form part of the five-member team to draft the conference statement to the education ministers.

NMMU was openly commended for its excellent work in the post-secondary education sector.



GRAPHIC ART ... Artist Monde Patrik is one of the group of artists calling themselves The 4 Blind Mice who participated in the annual Arts & Culture Department's Art Exhibition during Diversity month. Each of the group members shows their own urban style of painting. Art students also took part in the exhibition in the Library Buzz Room on South Campus. Art pieces and sculptures were also made with metal, wood or clay.



WAY WITH WORDS ... Library Services Director Robert Pearce (left) is one of the poets whose work is included in Arts and Culture's new poetry publication "Expression Within". Arts and Culture's Sade Heynes, Michelle du Preez and Brandon Matiwane join him at the launch.

New initiative for poets

STUDENTS and staff from all over NMMU have now published their poetry in a new publication entitled "Expression Within" recently launched by the Arts & Culture Department.

A selected group of 35 poems were included in the publication launched on 30 August at the South

End Museum. Arts and Culture would like to print a poetry publication every year, introducing this as a reoccurring project for staff and students.

The initiative was launched to start a creative vibe among students and staff to express their inner self through poetry.

Human Rights awareness highlighted

TEN second-year Nursing Science students showed that with hard work and organisation anything is possible.

They not only created awareness about 31 August, the International Day of the Disappeared on Amnesty International's calendar, but also managed substantial media coverage for their event. As part of their Academic and Life skills Module the group chose this event as their social responsibility project.

The students researched families in South Africa who had been affected by enforced disappearances



SUPER ORGANISERS ... Ten second-year Nursing Science students not only shared the story of the PEBCO three in celebration of the International Day of the Disappeared but also managed substantial media coverage for their event.

and contacted the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation's (PEBCO) families and asked their permission to tell their stories.

The event took place on 30 August at the Ekhaya student life centre, commemorating the lives of the PEBCO three members, highlighting the injustice of the past and allowing the families' legacy to go on.

The students also involved the police for statistics about such cases in the past and worked with

NMMU's Amnesty International Society.

The family members of the PEBCO three who died in 1985 were also invited and lit candles at a remembrance table set up at the event.

The event appeared on SABC 2 and 3 News as well as on radio and in local newspapers. Lecturers Jessica Raper and Alexis Pillay applauded the students' skills taking into account that these were Nursing Science students not skilled in public relations.

Diversity Month celebrated throughout NMMU



COINCIDING with Women's Month in South Africa NMMU's Diversity Month this year boasted 50 events including the international diversity week. Initiated in 2010 NMMU students and staff, business and the community enjoyed the different events.

A sample of highlights included the fun but Reflective Walk on Women's Day in honor of Judge Belinda Molamu, organised by the Faculty of Law in memory of Judge Brenda Molamu who died last year. High Court Judge Connie Mocumie opened the event by explaining its significance. (See page 12)

Sanlam Student Village held the most events for Diversity Month this year. The four weekly dialogue events discussed the role of youth in modern civil rights movements, moral values of the 21st century, the role of higher education in the communities they serve and governance, accountability, transparency and institutional trust.

They sealed the month with a conference on "African Leadership: the role of the South African Intelligentsia".

Another highlight was the Woman and Child fun day at the Missionvale Care Centre emphasising the wellbeing and upliftment of women and children in poor communities. Hosted by Governance and Records Management in conjunction with CANRAD, the Missionvale Care Centre, the Centre for the Community School and other role players, toys and



*DIFFERENT CULTURES ... Students attending the annual Public Relations Student Conference embracing diversity month with its topic "Ubuntu, Unity and Equality" were dressed in cultural attire adding to the fun. Keynote speakers were Gender Equality Commission Deputy Chairperson Thoko Mpumlwana and Ubuntu Education Fund's Ongama Mtimka. The organisers were **Zané Potgieter** (back from left), Siyolise Tyumzana, lecturer **Adelina Mbinjama**, Ashleigh Idensohn, Chanel Roux, Desirée Terblanche and (front) Shené du Toit, Ayanda Maphazi and Magaretha Conradie.*

tinned food were also collected.

Fun activities included face painting, a jumping castle, balloon modelers and musical entertainment for the children. During lunchtime Missionvale Care Centre founder, Sister Ethel Normoyle was honoured with an exhibition.

Student Governance and Development also hosted a student leadership seminar themed "Excellence in Stilettos" with speakers discussing excellence, spiritual wellness, physical and nutritional wellness, financial wellness and the branding of oneself.

(See page 11 and 14)

About international diversity



COLOURFUL FLAGS ... Colour and diversity marked the multicultural extravaganza at the Kraal on South Campus on 24 August, which included traditional food stalls and a fashion show.

FURTHER expanding on the theme of diversity the Office for International Education annually hosts a week-long programme in the third week of August.

This year activities included a Portuguese language lesson four-day workshop, student discussions on diversity, a film screening of "Hotel Rwanda" followed by an overview by our Rwandan students, a Study Abroad Expo, and a Mauritian Cultural Food Day.

In addition the sixth annual Colloquium was themed "2025 – The future of Higher Education

Internationalisation". Altogether 70 participants from 25 universities from Germany, Ecuador, The Netherlands, Brazil, Czech Republic, Mexico and Australia attended the colloquium.

A line-up of international presenters discussed differences between internationalisation and globalisation, the challenges of internationalisation and curriculum development and the importance of social engagement and capacity development during international educational experiences. A number of South African universities also attended.

During the fourth bi-annual Family Week for International Partners NMMU's international partners not only attended the colloquium but networked on the academic, research and professional interest front across faculties. The week was concluded in Graaff-Reinet and the Nieu-Bethesda area, displaying Camdeboo hospitality, cuisine, ancient rockart and a fossil veld tour followed by the traditional "Family Dinner".

The Multicultural Extravaganza in the Kraal on South Campus started with an exhibition of stalls representing 16 countries open for visitors to come and taste traditional food and learn more about each culture. First prize was awarded to Seychelles, followed by Rwanda and Botswana. (See page 13)

Entertainment further in the day included Hip Hop Artists, an Acapella Group, and a fashion show by fashion design students, the VUDU Jazz Band and some poetry.

The event ended off with a Cultural Show with students from eight countries displaying their traditional attires and customs. First prize went to Nigeria, followed by South Africa and Botswana.

Scholarship for English student

AWARD-WINNING English Studies master's graduate Jennifer Buczynski (right) has received a prestigious Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship to further her doctoral research at NMMU at Swansea University in Wales from October till June next year.



"By participating in this Scholarship Ms Buczynski will foster important international research collaboration between the two universities", Dr Smith said.

As a direct result of this international programme, the English Studies unit collaborated with former Commonwealth Scholar Dr Eugene de Klerk. A Modernism and Literature honours module was consequently developed introducing Ms Buczynski to the field of Modernist literature.

Ms Buczynski's thesis will examine Elias Canetti's *Auto-da Fé* (1935), Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita* (written 1928-40, published 1965) and Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* (1952) to show how manifestations of violence and the effects of trauma impact on a diverse range of individuals and societies as depicted in these three works of European (Russian/Ukrainian and Austrian-Jewish) and Afro-American literary fiction from the mid-twentieth century.

Jennifer also recently won the award for the best MA by Dissertation in Arts and Social Sciences, sponsored by Ford Motor Company SA at the Academic Awards in June.

She completed her dissertation, titled "Fictional Representations of Trauma in Elias Canetti's Novel AUTO-DA-FÉ (1936)", in a year and graduated *cum laude* in April with English Studies' **Dr Neville Smith** as supervisor.

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) offer scholarships and fellowships to Commonwealth countries citizens to recognise and promote the highest level of intellectual achievement.



PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS ... First-year Electrical Engineering students Daniel van Rooyen (from left), Gcinizibele Mabongo, Samkelisiwe Mazingisa, Isaac Nche and Bradley Hayes learnt valuable job searching skills from their Communication Skills lecturer **Fouzia Munir** (third from left) with a comprehensive assignment on applying for jobs in their field.

Skills for getting that job

FIRST-YEAR Electrical Engineering students recently experienced the whole job application and interviewing process including being all dressed up for the part.

Applied Language lecturer **Fouzia Munir** decided to do something different to cement those critical communication skills, while at the same time preparing her Communication Skills students for real life.

Altogether 46 students practiced their written and oral communication skills by writing curriculum vitae (CVs), covering letters and appearing in and conducting interviews in groups.

"They can gain self-knowledge and improve their chances of employment by analysing the skills, knowledge and attitudes required by prospective employers" she said.

Students had to hunt for employment

sourcing advertisements, and tailor their application through all the processes including preparing portfolios and for interview questions as well as sit on the other side and interview their fellow students in a role-play scenario.

The "panels" also had to apply critical thinking skills and motivate which candidate would best suit the job.

Ms Munir says that these students knew very little about any job application processes or services on campus.

A lecture was arranged with the Career Guidance Centre and students were asked to attend the centre's employability workshops.

Students also had to talk to professional engineers in their field about employment procedures and report back in class.

Students also voted for the best dressed students.

Briefs

Role models

THE NMMU Choir recently made a difference to the lives of 55 Grade 5 to 7 learners from Uitenhage's Little Flower Primary School. The school choir performed together with the NMMU choir on stage in the South Campus Auditorium.

Young designer



BTECH fashion design student Gabrielle Darné (left) is one of eight finalists from around the country in the 2012 Elle Rising Star Design Competition. In 2011 NMMU's Kelly Esterhuysen won this competition. Gabrielle created a multifunctional wardrobe with diverse SA inspired outfits, using SA sourced materials. The winner will receive R25 000

from Mr Price to help launch a fashion career, and various mentoring and development opportunities as well as showing a range at an ELLE red-carpet event. Gabi plans to complete her Masters at NMMU.

Seminar support

THE Public Relations and Communication Studies Department hosted a Civil Societies Organisations seminar in partnership with Community Chest Nelson Mandela Metro to support NGOs with stakeholder engagement, the use of social media, achieving financial sustainability and managing human resources. Speakers included Human Resources **Loshni Govender**, Public Relations and Communication Studies' **Brightness Mangolothi** and **Adelina Mbinjama** and Finance's **Nonkululeko Tsita**. Altogether 92 representatives attended the seminar.



STRINGS ... Guitar lecturers **Drs Howard Nock** and **Rudi Bower** in action at the recent lunch-hour guitar studio concert on campus.

ICT students assist PE charity with skills, research

First 'Living Lab' off with a bang

SONGSTRESS PJ Powers motivated staff and home-based care workers at NMMU's Living Lab at Emmanuel Haven in Motherwell with her singing while introducing her "Power of Appreciation" initiative to them.

The "Living Lab" concept is part of an official Memorandum of Understanding between the Emmanuel Haven for children affected and infected by HIV/Aids in the township and NMMU. It includes a pilot project that brings research, knowledge and caring together in one environment.

Students have been involved with the cabling and networking necessary for the 20 computers installed in the new computer laboratory at the haven where community members and home-based care workers will receive computer literacy training from students.

"We are integrating the living lab into our support-services curriculum so that all our students and our PhD and Masters' students can also make a real difference through their research," says School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen**.

Research on the needs of the community shows ICT skills training among the youth as priority, but much more can be done says Prof Van Greunen, whose own research in mobile phone applications has been of great assistance to impoverished and rural communities. Twenty youth members of the Motherwell community, trained by NMMU



*CELEBRATION ... Well-known singer PJ Powers (second from left) recently introduced her "Power of Appreciation" initiative with staff and home-based care workers at the Living Lab at Emmanuel Haven in Motherwell in conjunction with the School of ICT. With PJ are school principal Reverend Ntsiki Memese (from left), Matron Sister Isabella Mabengeza and School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen**.*

researchers, interviewed some 431 home-based care workers and 1 500 households in Motherwell.

Further help from NMMU will be multi-disciplinary including health sciences, business, and agriculture.

In addition, singer PJ Powers is assisting with her initiative conducting inspirational and motivating speaking forums, based on her life and her experiences.

PJ will be making use of technologies such as Flickr, Twitter, Facebook, blogs and other electronic media

to interact directly with each of the 30 young people at Emmanuel Haven enrolled in her programme for the next few months.

She will also engage with the youth in becoming ambassadors for their community and to carry forward the initiative to allow it to multiply.

"It is our aim to reach 2 500 people in Motherwell with this programme by the end of 2012," says Prof Van Greunen.

ICT assists in youth leadership

THEY'RE accustomed to dodging bullets and may have also witnessed people being gunned down, but now an exciting new initiative to counter this awaits the young people of Gelvandale.

NMMU's School of ICT will assist with educational ICT projects at the newly-established FamHealth-NMMU Youth Leadership Academy in Gelvandale.

The Academy's mission to educate the youth, strengthen the family, and rebuild the community by supporting the educational, spiritual, moral, and social development of at-risk youth, means these youngsters will be able to create new relationships with adults and peers. Participants will be limited to Grade 11 and 12 learners from the Northern areas and more specifically the Gelvandale area. Activities will take place at the FamHealth MediPark Centre where FamHealth's Dr Jeff Govender and School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** will be jointly responsible for the programme assisted by NMMU staff and students.

"We will make use of social media techniques to interact with the participants. We plan to establish a computer training facility for the youth and the community to assist teachers in improving education. We will also assist schools in the area with their technology needs."



*ROLEPLAYERS ... ICT's **Shaun Meyer** (back from left), **Koshala Terblanche**, Engineering's **Karl du Preez** (front) and **Dr Russel Phillips** were instrumental in the new renewable energy charging stations for students to charge laptops, cellphones and other electronic devices. Student Anathi Jumba joins them in the picture.*

Students 'always charged'

TODAY'S students spend a significant amount of their personal and study time on their Internet enabled devices such as smart phones, tablets, laptops and netbooks.

To assist with the increasing demand for charging points for devices, a stainless steel kiosk, housing 18 lockable cabinets, has been established in the passageway in front of room E17, E-Block, as part of a pilot project on North Campus.

Our Wind Energy Research Group (WERG), the

Advanced Mechatronics Technology Centre (AMTC) and the Blended Learning Team have embarked on this project.

These lockers are powered with solar and wind energy and provides students with a convenient and accessible resource to charge their devices while in class. Students just have to provide their own padlock to lock the cabinets.

Depending on demand the facility could be rolled out to other campuses.

Briefs

Award winners



PHYSICS postgraduate student Ross Schultz (left) won the award for the Best PhD Oral presentation in the Applied Physics Forum at the recent annual conference of the SA Institute of Physics (SAIP) at Pretoria University.



Stephen Dobson (right) won the Honours Poster Presentation award in the Condensed Matter and Materials group.



Expert talk

THE Physics Department recently presented “The Higgs Boson explained” by Johannesburg University’s Prof Simon Connell (left) who has been involved with experiments at CERN, the European

Organisation for Nuclear Research. He initiated the involvement of South Africa in the ATLAS experiment at the large Hadron Collider.

Future programmers

ALTOGETHER 33 Information Technology learners from Pearson, Grey, Alex and Victoria Park high schools as well as a home schooling team participated in Computing Sciences’ annual programming competition in August. The teams of three learners each had 10 problems which they had to solve within three hours. The Pearson team won, followed by Alexander Road and Grey.



*SASSY SEA BIRDS ... Zoology Master’s student Jonathan Handley (left) is monitoring the foraging (food-seeking) behaviour of near-threatened Gentoow penguins on the Falkland Islands – the largest estimated population of this species in the world. The experience gained could tackle similar issues here in South Africa. Jonathan’s supervisor is Zoology’s **Dr Pierre Pistorius**, recently announced as Emerging Researcher of the Year for the Science Faculty, who also previously worked for Falklands Conservation.*



Visual storm

COMPUTER Science honours student Jonty Weitz’s YouTube image about Olympic and Paralympic hero Oscar Pistorius, an application for his honours project, has already been viewed more than 4 000 times in 81 countries. Befonk also interviewed Jonty on how he implemented his photo-mosaic art, made up of 20 440 images and placed on the canvas in 67 seconds. Oscar himself also tweeted the image to his 157 000 followers.

NMMU
Computing Sciences
salutes our
Paralympic Team
Watch our video
@
www.nmmu.ac.za/cs

Two departments work together towards solutions

New mobile app for maths

OUR Computing Sciences Department has joined forces with the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit (GMMDU) to provide Grade 12 learners with a new Mobile Mathematics App to improve their maths knowledge.

“Combining the syllabus expertise of the GMMDU with our department’s expertise in developing mobile applications, gives us a unique opportunity to make a contribution towards the teaching of maths in our country,” says Computing Sciences Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling**.

According to **Prof Werner Olivier**, head of the GMMDU and First Rand Foundation Chair in Maths Education, there is a critical need to move away from the exclusivity of traditional delivery of learning maths.

“Technology has brought about a colourful spectrum of new ways to construct meaning through different modes of techno-interaction. The Mobile Maths App adds yet another exciting layer for learners to engage independently with a variety of math-



*MOBILE MATHS ... Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit Head **Prof Werner Olivier** (left) and Computing Sciences’ **Dr Melisa Koorse** are two of the drivers behind the new mobile app for Grade 12 maths learners.*

ematical ideas and experiences,” says Prof Olivier.

In Version 1, participants will be able to test their maths knowledge, compete for the top spot in one of 10 levels, as well as overall position. More than 3 000 multiple choice questions, ranging from basic arithmetic to Grade 12 Maths have been entered into the database.

Later versions will include a maths glossary, dual challenges between participants, detailed maths syllabus content, as well as tutorials.

In 2011, Computing Sciences launched a MXit app aimed at the school subject Computer Application Technology (CAT) that has more than 16 000 registered users, of which 2 000 joined in July this year. Although the Maths App was also launched on the MXit platform, the plan is to expand it to other mobile platforms in the future.

“We find that MXit reaches mainly learners from disadvantaged communities, and therefore this is a priority to us,” says Computing Sciences’ **Dr Melisa Koorse**, the main developer in the group.

New teachers older, wiser

AMONG the growing number of aspiring teachers completing our Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) programme are a number of mature students – some in their 40s and 50s – who are swapping the corporate world for the classroom.

Hannes Lotter was a successful Information Technology (IT) consultant in the United States for 12 years before he returned to South Africa to “give something back” to his country.

With a deep desire to assist children, Hannes decided to become a teacher. Last year at the age of 53, he enrolled for the PGCE and is now teaching Computer Application Technology (CAT) and history at Insight Learning Centre, a private school for youngsters with special education needs.

The class is also mushrooming with students of all races and academic backgrounds, which spells good news for the dire teacher shortage in the Eastern Cape.

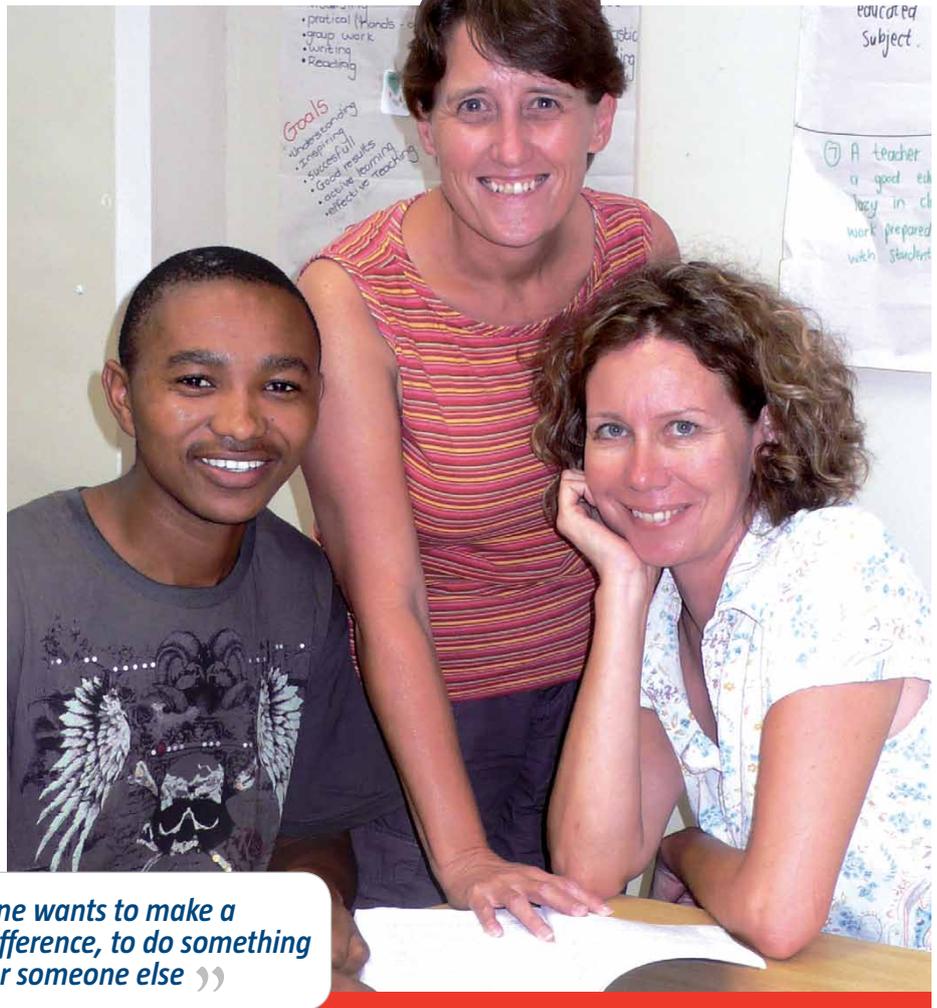
PGCE programme head **Dr Christina Jordaan**, said: “For the past three years, we’ve enrolled 80 to 90 students per year, double the number in previous years. The white majority has now also shifted to an equal balance of races.”

Zubenathi Siganga, 23, a newly-qualified electrical engineer, said he was becoming a teacher so he could work in high schools affected by teacher shortages. He hopes to return to his old school, Siyabalala High School in Cofimvaba, Transkei.

Jarryd du Preez, 28, realised that engineering was not what he wanted to do. “I want to teach and get involved in mission work in Africa, and start and run schools in rural South Africa or Africa...”

Mxoleli Tshazi, who holds a BCom degree, hopes the PGCE will improve his chances of employment. “There are so many unemployed graduates. It’s difficult to go into the job market.”

Margaret Matthews, 44, who completed her English Honours at Wits University, previously worked for an education NGO, a publisher, as a personal assistant and in recruitment. She said she now knows this is what she wants to do.



One wants to make a difference, to do something for someone else

TEACHERS IN THE MAKING ...Electrical Engineering graduate Zubenathi Siganga, 23 (left), and mature students Marie Strydom, 43 (middle), and Margaret Matthews, 44, are equipping themselves for the classroom through the Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme. Picture: Nicky Willemse

Qualified psychologist Laurencia Daniels, 35, who has also worked as a medical accountant, said her 15-year-old stepdaughter had made her realise “how little attention is being paid to education in this country”. She is hoping to “redefine the education system”, using her psychology knowledge to understand and assist children.

Marie Strydom, 43, completed a BSc before pursuing Equine Studies (stud management)

elsewhere and working on a number of stud farms. She soon realised it wasn’t the field for her, and then worked in a variety of different fields, including lecturing at a computer college. “For many years, I had been thinking that I wanted to do something else with my life. I decided teaching was the way to go ... The quality of teaching is low in South Africa. One wants to make a difference, to do something for someone else.” – **NW**

THE Education Faculty has also for the past two years revised itself to better reflect its role in society and shape a future generation of teachers.

This has led to an ongoing process of change in curricula in response to ever-changing conditions.

“Currently the faculty is still reviewing and gathering input from those impacted by the

New curricula for Education

curricula before designing and implementing these” says Education Executive Dean **Prof Denise Zinn**.

Curriculum changes also have to be aligned with the new Higher Education Quality Framework (HEQF) and Minimum Requirements for Teacher Education Qualifications (MRTEQ).

The considered and reworked curricula are the four-year BEd degree programmes (Foundation Phase, Intermediate Phase and Further Education and Training Phase), as well as the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGCE) and the BEd Honours programmes.

The faculty aims to achieve their

vision and mission through practicing humanising pedagogies, collaborative partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as students, schools, communities, alumni, and governments, using future-oriented technologies creatively, and bringing the classroom and the world together.



CELEBRATIONS ... A display of greetings on posters in different languages as part of Diversity Month welcomed visitors to the George Campus library last month. The text of the diversity week poster developed by the Library's **Deslynn Hill**, (centre) lists a number of attributes that differentiate people and concludes with the message: "Take the responsibility to understand, respect and value what makes us all unique – advocate these characteristics as assets". Students **Jannelie-Mercia Ruiters** (left) and **Ronea Maart** joined Deslynn at the desk.

Briefs

Students to Turkey

THREE members of the Saasveld Forestry Association (SFA) represented NMMU and their association at the International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS) in Turkey last month. The students had to deliver a presentation and short paper on this year's theme "Forest and Watershed."

Knowledge exchange

ELEVEN postgraduate students from Penn State University in Pennsylvania, their tour leader, Prof Mike Jacobson and Stellenbosch University's Forestry's Cori Ham visited George Campus as part of a study tour of the forestry areas in Southern Africa, including Mozambique, Kenya and Madagascar. The visitors were introduced to the Green Campus initiative, visited the on-site Wormery and exchanged information about Forestry training at NMMU.

Fire protection expert

FIRE protection industry expert Bobby Hoole recently shared his expertise at the KwaZulu-Natal Fire Protection Association with students and members of the public. This association is one of the most advanced in the country.

Industry input

STUDENTS have lately been exposed to a number of industry experts and well-established business people on campus inspiring them with real life experiences to promote their development and employability.

These included timber business owner Gerrit Pretorius, Mossel Bay restaurant owner Albert Wiffen, George Municipality Local Economic Development Manager Carli Bunding-Venter and nature conservationist David Bradfield.

The speakers emphasised the importance of energy, passion and commitment as well as the ability to think outside the box. Self-management, self-discipline and time management examples were shared as well as risk taking and managing when starting a business. Other presentations included the importance of starting at the bottom, working hard and learning all the skills as well as taking all opportunities.

RECORD GROWTH

STUDENTS enrolled on our George Campus have increased with a record 9,6% average per year from 2008 to 2011 and permanent academic staff has grown by 30% since 2009, also showing greater diversity in gender and race.

This year 1 252 students are enrolled compared to 868 a mere four years ago. In line with Vision 2020 the campus aims to grow student numbers to around 2 000 in the next few years.

According to a recent report to Senate the four BCom degree options offered has increased their student numbers from 16 first-year BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) students in 2006 to the current 141 students across all four BCom degree offerings. The BEd (Further Education and Training) degree introduced in 2009 has also grown significantly from an initial 45 students to the current group of 125. Together with the BTech degree enrolments, undergraduate degree enrolments have increased by an average of 20,

2% since 2008. In addition the campus shows an above-average student success rate of 74%.

The new governance system has also strengthened the links with faculties in Port Elizabeth contributing to academic capacity and research. The average annual growth rate for masters' students from 2008 to date is 31% with 35 students enrolled for MTech and MSc degrees.

Seven academics completed either PhDs or first or second Masters' degrees this year while another six are busy with Masters' or doctoral studies.

Several postgraduate students, researchers, research associates and Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** work within the Sustainability Research Unit focusing on the Garden Route and cooperating with national and international research institutions and authorities.

Work to the value of R50,4 million has been executed on George campus over the past three years and more is to follow soon.



REACHING OUT ... IT lecturer **Ena Wessels** (front centre) and her son, **Arian** (back left), a Bloemfontein maths teacher, recently presented a three-day basic computer course to these 10 students at a youth centre in Petrusville in the Northern Cape. Apart from basic skills the students also learnt empowering skills such as compiling CVs in MSWord, drawing up budgets in Excel and setting up PowerPoint presentations.



ICE-CREAM JOY ... Among the 55 students benefitting from the Steers One Man One Cone promotion are Nicole Marire (from left), Unathi Williams, Sinesipho Gqola, Mangoma Gogo and Azharuddin Mohamed joined by NMMU Trust's Renita Affat (left), Student Governance and Development's Mxolisi Ncapayi (third from left), Steers' Linda Thomas (centre) and Susan van Heerden (third from right).

Mandela Day Steers promotion benefits NMMU

SOME 55 students from all study areas will – thanks to the Mandela Day Steers One Man, One Cone promotion countrywide – benefit from a course preparing them for entry into the working world.

The Backpack to Briefcase initiative as part of

the Beyond the Classroom project helps students prepare for professional careers, with covering CV creations, interviewing and networking skills and business etiquette, says Student Governance and Development's **Kim Elliott**.

Steers decided to donate the R50 989 from the

promotion to NMMU in celebration of Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday.

Altogether 27 074 ice-cream cones were sold on 18 July, almost double the average figure of 14 000. Steers also doubled the initial donation of 94 cents for every ice cream cone of R2.50 sold.

Major Law conferences hosted by NMMU

OUR Law Faculty has been very busy hosting two major conferences over the past months.

The South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges' Conference attracted some 150 delegates while the Society of Law Teachers of Southern Africa (SLTSA) conference provided networking opportunities to academics.

The empowerment of women as leaders in the judiciary, gender equality and the role of a female leader in a democratic society were among the themes discussed at conference for women judges.

This conference aptly took place from 9 to 12 August in conjunction with National Women's Day on 9 August.

With the theme "Judicial Leadership: An Inclusive Judiciary" the keynote address was presented by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng.

The conference also kicked off with a walk honouring the memory of one of the SA-IJW founding members, Judge Brenda Molamu, who passed away recently.

Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities Lulu Xingwana



was also a guest speaker representing the Ministry of Justice.

A few NMMU law students participated in the panel discussion on gender equality.

The Law Teachers conference tackled topics such as: Should lobola be abolished? Which way for South Africa?; The impact of courtroom demeanour and non-verbal communication on the verdict; community engaged teaching of customary law and indigenous law as an empowerment tool for women and men in rural based universities

and judicial control of presidential pardons.

The conference held every 18 months provides a platform to both emerging and established law academics to highlight their research, engage with each other and with the publishing houses.

"The fact that we also have first time presenters who are eligible for a prize awarded to the best first time presenter, means that there is de facto "mentoring" that can take place, said Dean of Law and SA Law Deans Association President **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** (above).

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME ... FIFA/CIES/NMMU sports management alumnus Wafeekah Begg (below) has been accepted by the ISDE (Istituto Superior de Derecho y Economia) to do her Masters in International Sports Law based in Madrid in January 2013. Wafeekah is only the second South African to be admitted to this course. The programme also combines lectures with sports law work at a local law firm, as well as a five-month internship at an international sporting organisation in either Switzerland or England. Wafeekah also attended the International Football Law Congress in Madrid last year. She attributes both these opportunities to the NMMU programme opening doors for further studies.





EMPOWERING STUDENTS ... Some 200 women students enjoyed a Women's Day seminar entitled "Excellence in Stilettos" with speakers discussing excellence, spiritual wellness, physical, nutritional and financial wellness and branding of oneself at the Ekhaya Student Life Centre on Missionvale Campus. Seminar organiser Student Governance's **Yanga Lusasa** (right) and **Mzikazi Noholoza** (left) join guest speaker Trade Line's Betsy Ings in the picture.



FAMILY SUPPORT ... Eastern Cape artist and honorary doctorate recipient George Pemba's three daughters Prudence Pemba (from left), Molly Mangcu and Patience Stuurman at the red wall with their father's portrait at the honorary doctorate exhibition at our exhibition centre.



LONDON ALUMNI ... Alumni in London are busy establishing a United Kingdom charitable trust to benefit NMMU. More than 20 alumni attended a dinner in London including Director Alumni Relations **Paul Geswindt**, Jackie King, Achumile Majija, Director Legacies **Prof Kotie Grove**, Krynauw Kruger and Siphe Madoda. Several group meetings were also held in August.



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY ... Student Financial Aid's **Bukelwa Tshamlambo** (from left), **Shamien Madatt**, **Sibusisiwe Makwabe**, **Yolisa Beta** and **Yolandi Paulsen** dressed up to join the Diversity spirit.



DISCUSSIONS ... Former UPE, PE Technikon, Vista and present NMMU alumni attended a reflections evening bringing the past and future together through an interactive panel discussion. The event hosted by Alumni Relations shared student experiences. Attendees included alumni Julian Erasmus, Mandilakhe Blankete and Luvuyo Bangazi.



TRADITIONAL DRESS ... Science Executive Dean **Prof Andrew Leitch**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**, Zoology's **Dr Ronel Nel** and Vice-Chancellor's Special Assistant **Laura Best** showed their style in kimonos during their visit to Japan for research cooperation.



WINNING STALL ... The winners of the Multicultural Extravaganza Food Stall Exhibition was Seychelles with students Brigette Gbilimou (from left) Astrid Leon and Sheena Saldana. Rwanda was second and Botswana third.



DIVERSITY TEA ... Management and Entrepreneurship's **Paul Tai-Hing** (right) hosted a Diversity Tea to remind staff of the NMMU value of diversity and to promote the value to students. HR Management's **Yonela Dube** (from left), Management and Entrepreneurship's **Tandi Ngxukumeshe**, Accounting's **Jackie King** and HR Management's **Nuraan Agherdien** join Paul in the picture.

Cataracts

A CATARACT is a clouding that develops in the crystalline lens of the eye or in its capsule varying in degree, obstructing the passage of light and affecting the vision.

Cataracts are usually associated with aging but congenital cataracts are found in newborn babies or early childhood.

It is caused by age but also largely influenced by the ultra violet rays of the sun.

Wear protective sunglasses to stop the penetration of harmful sun rays.

Taking antioxidants may slow down the development of a cataract, for example Omega 3 oil.

Cataracts can be easily removed with surgery, leading to good eyesight. The opaque lens is removed and replaced by an artificial plastic lens.

Needy students ASSISTED

A NUMBER of departments and individuals recently supported the Campus Health Services Mandela Day call for non-perishable food for needy students. The idea was to collect 67 items to celebrate the day. However, many departments gave much more.

Campus Health Services **Linda Dalton** says that some 100 needy students on our PE campuses are supported with food parcels every month. Often these students cannot perform academically because they are just too hungry and even pass out in class as a result.

The service screens the students to determine whether they qualify for the scheme.

Thank you to Finance, Engineering, CTLM, eNTSA, Postal Services, Financial Aid, School of ICT, Accounting, Tourism, Business Management, Economics and Biochemistry who all in the spirit of Ubuntu assisted these students.

All non-perishable food is welcome but especially protein such as tins of pilchards or other fish as well as peanut butter are needed. Contact Campus Health Services if you need more information on suitable items.

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 June/July competition winners: **Sizwe Homani** and **Lindile Gebuza** of Horticultural Services, **Tamara Sodela** of Examinations, **Thokozile Mcopela** of the Contact Centre and **Hermolene Stenekamp** of Art and Design.

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

- 1.) "Universities with a strong r.....h (8 letter word) office and good leadership will perform well" was the message at the recent Research, Teacher and Engagement Awards last month.
- 2.) Our first state-of-the-art solar car, Photon, will compete in the third South African Solar C.....e (9 letter word) around the country.
- 3.) The Education Faculty has for the past two years revisioned itself leading to an ongoing process of change in c.....a (9 letter word) in response to ever-changing conditions.

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 October**.

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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.

Thanks



PHYSICS' **Prof Japie Engelbrecht** (left) has after 15 years stepped down as head of department with **Prof Ernest van Dyk** taking over as the new leader at the Physics Department.

"I wish to thank my colleagues and all the various departments at the former UPE and now NMMU who assisted me, particularly Finance and Examinations, who always went out of their way to help".

He wished Prof Van Dyk well with a new vision, ideas and energy for Physics.

Condolences

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

- Education Faculty's **Esrom Tshiguvho**
- NDip Building student **Bonga Saul**
- NPDE student **Nopasika Mfikili**

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

- Studio Arts' **Amanda Snyman** (her husband)
- Student's Systems' **Kholiswa Dikeni** (her father)
- Library's **Hilde van Wyk** (her father)

Business School ranked first

THE NMMU Business School's executive and executive customised programmes ranked them number one among 15 business schools in the country in the Financial Mail's annual business school rankings.

Research firm Ipsos Markinor confirmed NMMU's national authority in these categories.

The NMMU Business School presented the highest number of executive customised programmes (19% national share) to the private and public sectors in South Africa during 2011 as well as the most executive programmes (23% national share).

Stellenbosch Business School was in second position in both categories and GIBS in third position for both, with Wits also third for most executive programmes.

Last month the NMMU Business School received a "Business School Leadership Award" at the third annual Asia's Best Business School Awards in Singapore.

The Financial Mail MBA rankings will be released later this year.

New premises opened in Southern Cape



NEW PREMISES ... NMMU Business School's new premises in York Street opened here by Business School Director **Prof Steve Burgess**, George Mayor **Charles Standers**, Business School's **Leon Mouton** and Business School George manager **Elsa Myburgh**, will now also serve George, the Southern Cape and the Garden Route.

AN increasing demand in quality education products and programmes in the Southern Cape has ensured that the NMMU Business School has opened new central premises in George's York Street.

The new education and training facilities comprise three lecturing halls, a canteen, syndicate room and three offices. George Mayor Charles Standers, senior representatives from business,

industry and government, and NMMU MBA students from the region attended the opening.

The flagship MBA programme and Higher Education Council and SETA-accredited management, business and skills programmes; short courses and other executive training programmes will be presented in an open public enrolment format as well as in-house delivery to organisations.



POLITICS EXPLORED ... Development Studies' **Dr Janet Cherry** (second from left) and Department Head **Prof Richard Haines** are two of the authors of the book "Local Elections in South Africa: Parties, People, Politics" which Development Studies and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation recently launched on South Campus. Edited by Wits Prof Susan Booysen (right) the book focuses on the politics of the 2011 elections and how local electoral politics interfaces with local government and the socio-economic base of society. With them are the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation's Nancy Msibi (left) and another author, Human Rights Foundation's Dr Zaid Kimmie.

Any student can be a business leader

ALTOGETHER 86 students from all study areas competed in teams over four weeks in the Sanlam Foundation Business Challenge learning decision-making skills, team-working abilities and increasing their knowledge of key business operations such as marketing, finance and human resources management.

In total 79% of the students were from Business and Economic Sciences, 56% were male and 44% female.

Student Governance's **Kim Elliott** said that students were able to apply theory in practice and thereby prepare themselves to be good business owners.

Risk-taking, feedback, decision-making, budgeting and teamwork were among the elements that students said they learnt most about.

The top three student teams received certificates.



FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANNERS ... Financial Planning students and Sanlam Foundation Bursary recipients Siyabonga Silayi (second from left), Themban Biyela, Anzel Vermaak, Mlibo Majeke and Nomphele Sikade are flanked by Financial Planning lecturer **Jackie Palfraam** (left) and Sanlam's Patrick King at the handover, which took place at a joint function with the Sanlam Foundation Business Challenge participants. The bursary assists students in the BCom Financial Planning degree and postgraduate diploma programme.

Paralympics medals for NMMU competitors

Silver splash success

"THANKS to @NMMU4U for being there for me every step of the way! Couldn't imagine studying anywhere else! Looking 4ward to coming back!"

With this tweet and his silver medal swim at the recent Paralympics, NMMU Law student Kevin Paul has been an exceptional ambassador for our university.

So too has shot put stalwart, Michael Louwrens, of the NMMU Athletics Club, who won a bronze medal in his discipline in London.

Kevin won the silver medal in the 100 metre breaststroke in 1:05:70 – a time that would have beaten his own previous world breaststroke record – losing out to Russian swimmer Pavel Poltavtsev, the new world record holder (1:04:02).

However, Kevin's new time is an African record, as are the times he clocked in the 100m and 200m freestyle events during the Paralympics. He also finished fourth in the 200m individual medley.

"No one trains to come second as everyone wants gold, but so many athletes are going to leave here with nothing to show except memories so to get



Couldn't imagine studying anywhere else! "

PARALYMPIC STARS ... NMMU Athletics Club' Michael Louwrens (left) won a bronze medal in shot put and Law student Kevin Paul a silver in the 100m breaststroke swimming.

a silver medal for my country is wonderful," said Kevin who, along with Michael, returned to a hero's welcome in Port Elizabeth.

Kevin's progress was keenly followed by almost 1 000 followers on Twitter and more than 1 500 friends on Facebook. He thanked everyone for the

exceptional support he had received.

"But now I can't wait to be a normal student."

The Faculty of Law has managed Kevin's studies to enable him to complete his strenuous training programme. He is also a top academic achiever within the faculty.

Madibaz hockey double

THE NMMU first men's and women's team both won the EP hockey league titles – and both with a match to spare.

The Madibaz men's team also won the title last year and were the USSA runners-up this year, while the women's team regained the title after being runners-up to Gelvan for the past two seasons.

Outstanding performances from the men's team came from Michael Abrahams who was selected for the SA U21 side, and for the women Nicole Kemp who has been selected for the SA U21 women's team

to compete in the Africa Cup Tournament in October in Johannesburg.

Women EP representatives are Michelle Cremer, Stacey Middleton, Kelly Dorothy, Danielle Judge, Catherine Meyer and Lindsay van Niekerk. The men are Mazan Dos Santos, Dalan Phillips, Satchinan Reddy and Sport Manager **Cheslyn Gie** (coach).

The Madibaz women's team emerged league victors after a convincing 10–0 win against St Peters, while the men beat main rivals Gelvan Hurricanes 2 –1 to ensure their victory for the season.



VICTORIOUS ... NMMU first men's squash league team Jared Terblanche (from left), Kyle Schwartz, Dane Bigara, Jason Le Roux and Andre Labuschagne has won the EP league with 12 points ahead on the log for the first time in a number of years. Their coach is Richard Driscoll.



*SWEET VICTORY ... NMMU won Intersarsity on 17 and 18 August for the fifth consecutive year with 318 points against hosts, Rhodes, scoring 294.5, Walter Sisulu University 172 and Fort Hare 169,5 points. NMMU scored tops in men's basketball, cricket, chess, golf, netball, rugby, women's soccer, squash, men's surfing, men's table tennis, tennis and waterpolo. NMMU drew in men's hockey, soccer and women's surfing. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** (second from left) received the trophy on behalf of NMMU flanked by Rhodes University Vice-Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela (left) and Sport Director **Dr Richard Stretch**.*