



FIRST FIVE ... The first Distinguished Professors in NMMU's history were recently announced in recognition of the significant contribution they have made within their field and to the university. Professors **Richard Cowling** (botany) (from left), **Danie Hattingh** (automotive engineering), **Bert Olivier** (philosophy) and **Rossouw von Solms** (information technology) attended a special event in their honour. **Prof Mark Watson** (psychology) was abroad at the time of the function. They will maintain the special title for at least five years.

Teacher education, science, engineering to benefit R1 billion building boom

IN A major injection of funding into the regional economy, NMMU will spend more than R1 billion in total capital investments in the next three years.

This is the largest and most sustained capital expansion programme since the construction of the original university sites started 40 years ago.

Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** recently announced a further capital investment

of R263m worth of new building infrastructure to support NMMU's strategic plan, Vision 2020.

This will enable the construction of a new teacher education building on Missionvale Campus, a science block, another engineering complex next to the newly-built one on North Campus, and R20m upgrading of student residences. This funding has

been made possible by a new Government funding grant of R195m, in addition to NMMU's own investment of R86m and will run its course from 2013 to 2015. "If South Africa is to have any chance of solving its serious problems of unemployment, inequality and social degradation of communities,

we must make education and training the single most important policy priority," Prof Swartz said.

The new funding comes close on the heels of a current recapitalisation programme at the cost of R264m underway on our PE and George campuses.

The cumulative effect of such commitments, together with an investment of R252m made in 2008 and NMMU's own commitment of a further R283.9m, will bring NMMU total capital spend over R1bn.

NMMU is boosting teacher training on its Missionvale Campus with the new R40m complex. "We are expanding and enriching our presence in working closely with local communities and progressive teacher initiatives to rebuild the dysfunctional schooling system in many poor communities," said Prof Swartz.

In addition, the university will also upgrade and expand its teaching and learning facilities and technologies for disabled students.

"We must make education and training the single most important policy priority."

Awesome award
MECHANICAL Engineering's Prof Danie Hattingh and the eNtsa team won this year's Eskom Chairman's award for the "Innovation category" – a unique sampling and repair technique for turbine rotors which will save Eskom billions of rand in the early replacement of HP rotors.

► In this edition

LEADERSHIP **3**
Top women

EDUCATION **4**
Director inspires

ARTS **7**
Business kick-start

RETIRES **14**
Fond farewell

Good news in abundance

TOWARDS the end of the year it's always the time to look back and recognise students and staff for achievements.

This year it's pure women power in health sciences with a BTech Biomedical Technology student receiving both the Abe Bailey travel bursary and the Mandela Rhodes scholarship and the other two recipients of the Mandela Rhodes scholarship, a master's student in Pharmacy and a final-year Social Work student. For NMMU to have three Mandela Rhodes scholars is another feather in our cap.

We are also fortunate to have acquired another R195m from government towards new building infrastructure to support NMMU's strategic plan, Vision 2020. A new teacher education building on Missionvale Campus, a science block, another engineering

complex, and R20m upgrading of student residences are all on the list for the next three years.

In this edition we introduce our new Missionvale Campus director, Dr Phakama Ntshongwana, who is passionate about education for all.

We also congratulate our first five distinguished professors, research role models to all. Other good news stories include art competition winners, student achievers awards, eNtsa's national award, the Beyond the Classroom project, top residence Melodi and Accounting VC scholars. We hope to see you all at the staff year-end and long-service award function on 6 December.

From the talk@nmmu team, have a good rest and seasons greetings to all our readers.

Kind regards, Elma de Koker



Briefs

100 dynamic women list

NMMU Chancellor **Santie Botha** has been included in ARISE magazine's *World's 100 Dynamic Women List*. She is part of a group that includes Oprah, Charlize Theron, Cherie Blair, Iman, Vivienne Westwood and Yvonne Chaka Chaka. The 100 dynamic women, chosen from all over the world, have influenced society in their profession from business, government, entertainment and philanthropy to fashion. ARISE is produced in the UK and sold worldwide.

Fracking, tourism and ecocriticism

THREE NMMU academics contributed to the second Karoo Development Conference focusing on fracking, tourism and literature in Beaufort West recently. Botany's **Prof Richard Cowling** was one of the keynote speakers discussing the link of social and economic development to the Karoo biome.

Science's **Prof Maarten de Wit** participated in the fracking debate while Language and Literature's **Prof Helize van Vuuren** discussed ecocriticism as a movement within literature.

Prof Cowling also presented a public lecture on North Campus on 1 November on new insights into how modern humans evolved along the Cape South Coast.

Alumni Consortium Chair

DIRECTOR Alumni Relations **Paul Geswindt** was recently elected as Chairperson of the Southern African Alumni Consortium and Alumni Relations Project Officer and Shop Manager **Baakier Abrahams** elected as Secretary. Paul and Baakier also presented a paper on the value of university shops as brand development tools at the Association of Commonwealth Universities' (ACU) PR and HR Network Conference in Windhoek in October. Paul is the current Chairperson of the ACU PR, Communication and Marketing Network.



STAR ALUMNI ... At the annual Alumni Achiever awards were (back from left) Director Alumni Relations **Paul Geswindt**, Alumni Association President **Randall Jonas**, award recipients Tourism expert **Prof Ernie Heath**, advocate **Willem van der Linde** and Sapphire Road Primary School Principal **Bruce Damons** and NMMU Trust Director: Legacies **Prof Kotie Grove**, (front) top 100 educator retired principal **Natalie Steer**, Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and foremost fashion designer **Jenni Button**.

Celebration of leaders

THE highlight of the alumni calendar – the NMMU's annual Alumni Achiever awards on 25 October – celebrated the success of some of our outstanding graduates.

Recipients included SA's foremost fashion designer **Jenni Button**, Hong Kong-based Infiniti Global CEO **Johan de Nysschen**, University of Pretoria's **Prof Ernie Heath**, a passionate promoter of sustainable tourism, London-based Deutsche Bank's head of global equities **Garth Ritchie** and well-known SA advocate **Willem van der Linde**.

This year also saw the introduction of the Alumni Rising Stars awards to celebrate the youngest generation of alumni go-getters. These included textile design graduate **Laduma Ngxokolo**, whose

Xhosa knitwear designs have graced the world's catwalks, leading ICT entrepreneur and former MXit CEO **Alan Knott-Craig Jnr**, London-based Prudential PLC group lead: risk and capital, **Achumile Majija**, founder of respected building consultancy and construction firm the **Elilox Group** **Dr Bridgette Gasa**, and SA drug access programme manager for the Clinton Health Access Initiative **Dr Millidhashni Reddy**. See page 13.

Alumni special awards, for their contribution to education, went to **Bruce Damons**, dynamic principal at forward-moving "no fee" **Sapphire Road Primary School**, and retired Eastern Cape principal **Natalie Stear**, previously named among the country's top 100 educators.

Re: EDS

DUE to the various challenges linked to the current EDS (Excellence Development System) at NMMU, the system will be redesigned in consultation with the various stakeholders.

Pharmacy, Biomedical Technology and Social Work produce leaders

Three women ahead of the pack

THREE female students, all in NMMU's Health Sciences Faculty, are among the top national leadership award recipients this year.

In addition, it's a feather in the university's cap to have three students among the final 23 Mandela Rhodes scholars after the hundreds of applications countrywide.

BTech Biomedical Technology student Kegomoditswe Mathobela from Coligny in the North West Province is not only a Mandela Rhodes scholarship award winner, but also this year's NMMU winner of the Abe Bailey travelling bursary.

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

This bursary is to grow leadership and promote understanding and cooperation among various languages and cultural backgrounds.

Ms Mathobela will be studying for her MTech degree in Biomedical Technology next year and has aspirations to one day serve on the National Health Council.

Fourth-year Social Work student Jessica Baker, who matriculated at Alexander Road High School, is passionate about helping people and is currently busy with her practical year at Sheppard's Field Centre at St Albans.

Her goal is to be a significant change agent to develop communities and challenge fellow social workers to rise to the occasion. She would like to



TOP LEADERS ... Health Sciences students (front from left) Shabeerah Ramkhalawon, Kegomoditswe Mathobela and Jessica Baker are the recipients of this year's Mandela Rhodes scholarships and Kegomoditswe is also the Abe Bailey bursary winner for the year. Former Abe Bailey bursary recipients are Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic **Prof Piet Naude** (back from left), Academic Planning and Quality Advancement's **Prof Christo van Loggerenberg** and Computing Sciences Department Head **Prof Jean Greyling**, together with Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

specialise in the reconciliation part of the Mandela Rhodes scholarship.

MPharm (Clinical Pharmacology) student Shabeerah Ramkhalawon from Mauritius was overwhelmed by being awarded the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship as an international student. She is looking forward to the interaction with

fellow leaders in the programme.

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship Programme focuses on leadership, reconciliation, education, and entrepreneurship.

The students will attend three leadership workshops in Cape Town next year and work on related projects on campus.

Building supporting local industry

IN its quest towards supporting local industry, R65m is destined to fund a new science building at South Campus, along with a Chemical Process technology platform, while R73m will be used to expand the university's growing engineering facilities with a new bitumen laboratory.

"NMMU will utilise its considerable science, engineering and technological capabilities to enrich existing and stimulate new strategic partnerships with industry in the region. The region needs to prevent erosion of the automotive sector by enabling its internal diversification and competitiveness, but it also needs

to boost major innovations in the energy, transportation, logistics and maritime and food security sectors over the next decade", Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** said.

"Beyond new programmes focused on the automotive sector, we are also expanding our chemical processing research and development capabilities in support of both biofuels and petrochemical industries, given positive signals from government about the creation of a new oil refinery, Project Mthombo. In addition, we are currently taking a hard look at expanding our

capabilities into supporting the marine and port engineering industry given the geo-strategic location of Nelson Mandela Bay

NMMU will utilise its capabilities to enrich existing and stimulate new strategic partnerships with industry.

with its two major harbours and vast coastline.

"Over the past few years, we have been hugely successful in raising significant funding from the State and private sectors,

in addition to our own funding, boosting NMMU's strategic capabilities to support the new generation of knowledge and skills development challenges facing our country," he said.

Currently underway is a R34m Biokinetics and Sports Sciences building, a 312-bed residence valued at more than R100m on South Campus, a new "green" R116m Business School on Second Avenue Campus, a gym on South campus, and a 75-bed residence at George Campus.

NMMU is also planning to establish a new hotel school and training hotel to support the hospitality and tourist industry.

Addressing SA social policy challenges on local front

Better education for all

ONE of her earliest education memories is that of an overcrowded, dusty classroom at Norwood Primary School in Mthatha, and then later receiving classes under a tree because there wasn't enough room for all the learners in the classroom.

But now, armed with a DPhil in Social Policy and years of experience working at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, **Dr Phakama Ntshongwana** is back home and excited about the opportunities and challenges awaiting her as the new Director of Missionvale Campus.

"My transition from primary school to secondary and onto tertiary education was not easy. It was filled with challenges common to most South African learners; from capital punishment, to shocking teacher/pupil ratios – and everything else that Bantu education entailed.

"This is why I am passionate about the education sector, in particular access to sound education. Among my goals, I plan to build on former Campus Principal **Khaya Matiso's** strength and legacy - community liaising.

It's an important tool for our campus as it allows learners from around Missionvale and other 'less developed' rural and urban settings to access information about the education opportunities they have at NMMU and Missionvale Campus. Equipped with an education, as many South Africans as possible, can lead lives of dignity and at least, meet their basic needs," she says.

"My vision for the campus is also to use my international networks both in the UK and Sweden to form partnerships that benefit our students and staff."

With both her grandfathers as teachers, a mother who was a school principal and a grandmother who was

passionate about the education of the girl-child, it's no surprise that East London-born Dr Ntshongwana is passionate about education.

"I am excited about the higher education sector in South Africa – thrilled about NSFAS which provides access to higher education to many students who would otherwise not have the opportunity; and also about the educational partnerships between South Africa and other SADC countries. I am just honoured to be here as

I am excited about the higher education sector in South Africa

With a background in social policy and international development, Missionvale Campus Director Dr Phakama Ntshongwana brings a wealth of experience to her new position as change agent. She shared her story with Roslyn Baatjies.

Director of Missionvale Campus."

After attending Mount Nicholas Convent School in Libode where there was an average of only 16 learners per class and each with his or her own desk, she attended Loreto Convent School in Pretoria. "This is where my education started to improve at the age of 13, but one had basically lost all those foundation years."

She followed high school with a certificate programme in Psychology and English at Rhodes University.

Working for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the late-1990s triggered her interest in social policy. A diploma in transitional justice at UCT was her next step. She left for the UK towards the conclusion of the TRC hearings and registered for an MSc degree in International Development at Bath University.

"I did not have a pure social policy background and international development prepared me for further studies in the field. For me social policy is imperative because it translates to how people's lives in a country play out on a day to day basis; for example, the kind of education we can or cannot access, whether we have skills or not, our housing-type and health services," she says.

Dr Ntshongwana returned home in 2003 and worked for IDASA in Cape Town as research coordinator for the Centre for Governance in Africa, together with researchers from different parts of Africa. "It was an inspiring two years.

Working towards socio-economic integration in the continent is important.

It was also a time when the rules for the Pan African Parliament were being drafted, and I was part of that 'think tank'."

Thereafter she joined Oxford University as a researcher in social policy and decided to pursue her doctoral studies.

"It was a great opportunity that exposed me not only to diverse European social policy issues, but, and most importantly for me, to South African social policy challenges as well."



CHANGE AGENT ... New Missionvale Campus Director **Dr Phakama Ntshongwana** from Oxford University in the UK plans to focus further on community liaising to inspire learners from around the campus and rural settings to further their education.

After obtaining her doctorate she remained at Oxford University as a research fellow and had the opportunity to engage with different South African government departments on policy matters.

"I had to come back home, that is why I left Oxford. I belong here and I am excited to work for NMMU in the Eastern Cape. Missionvale Campus is a beacon of hope in the area.

People know that they have somewhere to go – be it the Law Clinic or the Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET).

"Ultimately, I hope to facilitate the process that sees others get the same education opportunities that I had, and more. I know that I'm in the right place. I am proud to be a part of NMMU."

Voluntary leadership programme grows from 29 to 180 participants

BtC students do NMMU proud

“YOU make us so proud and define everything that we (NMMU) are.”

These words by Deputy Vice-Chancellor **Dr Sibongile Muthwa** about the quality of the 180 students who completed this year's Beyond the Classroom (BtC) voluntary leadership programme were undoubtedly echoed by each staff member and others who attended the year-end function at the Roastmaster Café in Central.

“Today an academic distinction is no longer adequate. You need to be able to network, to lead and be an entrepreneur. This programme offers all this in developing our future employees and leaders,” said Dr Muthwa in recognising the BtC students and thanking those involved in presenting the eight-month, after-hours extra-mural programme.

BtC has grown from the initial 29 students in 2009 to 180 this year with the students being exposed to everything from conflict management to dining etiquette. They are also committed to a social responsibility programme, and perform internal voluntary work for the likes of the Disability Unit, the International Office and



This programme offers all this in developing our future employees and leaders.

*DESERVING ... Beyond the Classroom facilitators (from left) **Kim Elliott** and **Deidre Potgieter**, along with Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support **Dr Sibongile Muthwa** congratulate **Curwyn Mapaling**, a second-year Psychology student, who along with **Sendi Gandhi**, won the Alice award, presented to students who go above and beyond their social responsibilities on the extra-mural leadership programme.*

Marketing and Corporate Relations on Open Day.

This year the students focused on NMMU's values with each group sharing their interpretation of the different values, much to the admiration of the 150 guests who, for the first time, included inspirational

staff members invited by the BtC students.

This year the Alice (A Little Involvement Changes Everything) Award was shared by **Curwyn Mapaling** and **Sendi Gandhi** for their exceptional support in the various social responsibility programmes.

300 daughters in winning residence

“A HOUSE is made of walls and beams; a home is built with love and dreams” ... says a quote in the Melodi reception office.

It's the latter that residence manager **Wendy Reeves** strives to give the 311 girls living at Melodi, winners of this year's Residence of the Year, All-rounder of the Year and House Committee Member of the Year.

Success has a habit of following Wendy, since Veritas residence won the same award when she was the residence manager there two years ago.

The criteria for the top residence award includes that of having two events/activities per term; the highest academic average of all residences; creative use of funding; participation in NMMU activities; governance and cleanliness, general maintenance and notice boards.

The first-year women's residence also did charity work at Vistarus Mission Station, paying for a learner's school fees and helping

them with a greening project and fashion show. They also assisted Cheshire Homes by planting trees and small painting projects.

“Creating a vibe and getting the co-operation of all students is easier in a first-year residence where all students are still eager to participate in events and activities. We also try to create a home away from home,” says Wendy.

“We encourage responsible behaviour; so if they don't look after this home, they cannot come back.”

Analytical Chemistry student **Sihle Vatsha** received the 2012 House Committee Member award.

“Being a House Committee member taught me how to relate to others; to be tolerant and a mature and visionary leader,” says Sihle, who grew up in Bizana, Durban and Mthatha.

“These days everyone wants to be part of House Committee because they want to contribute to the lives of others and grow and develop.”

Sihle will be the residence student

assistant (RSA) next year, assisting Wendy with administration and helping students after-hours.

Wendy, who was suffering from “empty-nest” syndrome when both her daughters left the country, joined NMMU in 2008.

“Now I have more than 300 daughters!”

Wendy, who is fully trilingual,

jokingly says that isiXhosa was her first language as a child as she grew up on a farm.

“At Melodi we try to promote a sisterhood atmosphere. We also work very closely with our brother residence, Xanadu. The women have taught me patience. Often I am the first line of counselling for them. I am a mother figure,” she says.



*TOP RESIDENCE ... With Melodi residence manager **Wendy Reeves** (front) are residents **Nasiphi Sihle Vatsha** (left), **Chumisa Ndlazi** (right) and **Khanyisa Gece**.*



INTERESTING VISITOR ... St Andrews University's Dr David Culpin (centre) recently shared his work on a French historical novel which he discovered in the National Library in Cape Town with Language and History colleagues, (from left) **Dr Aubrey Herbst** (History), Language, Media and Culture School Director **Dr Janina Wozniak**, **Dr Hilda Thomas** (French) and **Pat Gibbs** (History). Dr Culpin recently published a modern critical edition of the book **Relation du naufrage du navire français l'Eole** in South Africa (in English) and in Europe (in French). The book tells the story of eight French shipwreck survivors in the Eastern Cape in 1829 who walked from Sandy Point on the Wild Coast to Fort Willshire, before travelling onward by ox-wagon to Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth. From there they took a ship to Cape Town, spending a week en route at Plettenberg Bay.

History and research in practice

AN EXTENSIVE research project for 140 first-year South African History students not only contributed to their knowledge base, but also taught them valuable research, group interaction, debating and presentation skills.

These students under the guidance of history lecturer **Pat Gibbs** in groups of 10 conducted local historical research on the role of ordinary people in the early Algoa Bay/Uitenhage region up to approximately 1850.

The students explored a variety of sites from the historical to commerce and residential areas. These included monuments, cemeteries; nearby battle fields in the Zuurveld, sites of removals, mission stations, mosques, Hindu temples and churches, Market Square, warehouses, the harbour, locations, taverns, hotels and even brothels.

"I selected 'spaces' of action to develop

understanding about human interaction with geographical areas and to alert them to the creative possibilities that 'spaces' can generate," Pat says.

It was also important to demonstrate how people fitted into their current communities and how the communities formed part of the wider socio-political history of the time.

The graveyard research was especially fascinating, Pat said, as students analysed not only the demographics of the graveyard, causes of death and infant mortality, but also Victorian headstones and cemetery layout as cultural artefacts.

This revealed the meaning of Christian symbols, a Victorian obsession with death and that social norms, class divisions and racial segregation were maintained after death.

Students received detailed manuals indicating archival repositories, contact people, lists of

pamphlets, and other sources. Each group had to formulate three presentations during the module and also regularly meet with Pat for guidance.

The final task of each group was to provide a 40-page document with photographs showing an in-depth history of their chosen space.

The students learned to work in a limited time frame with limited sources, personally became involved with history and research and had the opportunity to reveal new, unique material which could be added to the present collection of written histories of South Africa and the region.

"What I discovered during the process and what impacted on me most was the development in historical consciousness among a number of first years and the emergence of critical enquiry that students showed during presentations," says Pat.

New poetry anthology

CREATIVITY ... Language and Literature's Dr Marius Crous (right) has published his third anthology of Afrikaans poetry entitled *Vol draadwerk* (Protea Boekhuis) focusing on music, painting, literature, classical Greek mythology, religion and the Eastern Cape.

The cover was designed by honours Afrikaans literature student Charles Tait. Dr Crous received the Johannesburg University debut prize for his first anthology *Brief uit die kolonies* (2003). His second anthology was published in 2006 entitled *Aan 'n beentjie sit en kluij*.



RECOGNITION ... This year Arts and Culture, together with the Music Department, hosted a merit awards breakfast on 16 October to present their students with awards for their work throughout the year. Opera House Manager Monde Nongonyama was the guest speaker sharing news about Arts and Culture in the Eastern Cape. Here Arts and Culture head **Michael Barry** (right) congratulates Debating Society Treasurer Lwandile Lupondwana with the award for leadership. Arts and Culture also hosted the annual gala dinner in collaboration with the SRC 2012 in the Indoor Sports Centre in heritage month September. "My culture, your culture, our heritage" was the slogan of the evening with jazz and cultural dancers who entertained the audience together with the guest speaker Advocate Sonwabile Mancotywa, CEO of National Heritage Council.

Business incubator kick-starts students

Stepping stone

LEAVING the comfort of the classroom for the realities of the business world has been made easier for talented applied art graduates thanks to the establishment of the Art and Design Incubator on Second Avenue Campus.

The incubator has already helped launch two successful graduate businesses.

Xhosa-inspired knitwear champion Laduma Ngxokolo with his MaXhosa label and fashion graduates Samantha Miller and Lauren Gravett, of Mooi Mooii fashion fame, both got their kick-start into the business world via the incubator.

And they're still receiving insight, support and direction from their mentor base.

"Our business advisor and mentor keeps us on our toes. He advises us, encourages us and guides us in decision making. The support has been invaluable," says Samantha, of the fashion label Mooi Mooii and the shop they launched in October.

Similarly, Laduma, who now sells his knitwear to fashion boutiques in Johannesburg, Cape Town and London, received excellent support from the likes of incubator mentor Colin Schroder and NMMU staff in the struggle to establish his high-end fashion label.

"We're here to assist creative entrepreneurs incubate their potential design concept or product until it is commercially self-funded," says Colin.

The incubator is the brainchild of Applied Design Department Head **Mike Swanepoel** and Innovation Support and Technology Transfer director **Jaci Barnett**, who recognised the need for a "stepping stone" for talented students whose

work offered commercial potential.

"Too many students were falling by the wayside after university despite their potential. They had neither the business contacts nor financial clout to start up their businesses.

We want to ensure that those with potential are given the kick-start that they need," says Jaci, whose office also oversees any patenting and commercialisation of university-based research.

Funding for the incubator remains a challenge but incubator manager Colin believes NMMU should be acknowledged for its foresight in setting up an incubator to support young creative entrepreneurs in achieving their vision.

"One of the key challenges is being able to manufacture garments and knitwear in South Africa, especially given the down-turn in the economy. We were able to assist Laduma find someone in Cape Town but we're still hopeful of setting up his own production plant in Port Elizabeth," says Colin.

The incubator has high industrial-style ceilings and its own entrance and can accommodate a variety of machines and equipment at its Summerstrand premises.

Space is limited at present but talks are in progress to get funding to expand the fledgling incubator.

Although its focus is presently only assisting NMMU graduates make the leap from the classroom to their own business boardrooms, the incubator is also open to helping others in mutually beneficial partnerships, especially when it comes to focusing on uniquely creative products.



DESIGN GURU ... BTech student Tina Ngxokolo (right) was the winner of the most creative range as well as the third best mohair range at the recent Collective Graduate Showcase and Fashion Show showcasing third and fourth-year students' fashion ranges. Here model Zipho Rapiya (above) displays Tina's work. The show combines the creative talents of fashion, textile, graphic, interior design and photography in one exciting event. A large number of industry professionals also attend to look for the country's next wave of creative leaders. Other winners were Lisbe Schoonraad (best technical) and Frane Kotze (best mohair) and runners-up were Ruth McNaughton (creative range) and Ryaan Sirkhotte (mohair). Tina is the sister of fashion alumnus and Xhosa-inspired knitwear champion Laduma Ngxokolo.



*QUADRUPLE SUCCESS ... NMMU won four finalist awards under the leadership of Applied Design's **Bruce Cadle** at the recent Student Goldpack Competition in Johannesburg. Graphic Design students (from left) Terri Morris (packaging that engages the senses and Bronze Award for Best Packaging Design overall), Robyn Lawson (packaging that engages the senses), Sharlene Badenhorst (packaging that reinvents an iconic beverage and container) and Tehila Hughes (tissue packaging and first Judge's Special Award for using humour in packaging) were ahead of the pack.*



*HAPPY TRIO ... After stringent auditions seven jazz student finalists performed at the NMMU Jazz Scholarship Concert on 24 October for scholarship bursaries. Jazz lecturer **John Edwards** (left) and Music Department Head **Prof Erik Albertyn** (right) join the three winners, Virgil Matrass (third), (second from left), Siyanga Dikana (first) and Curtis Kettleadas (second).*

Briefs

New record

THE Statistics Department now has three staff members with doctoral degrees, the biggest number in its history.

Dr Johan Hugo (right) obtained his PhD in Mathematical Statistics at Free State University. He specialises in tolerance intervals and statistical methods used in the manufacturing industry.



GreenMatter bursary holder

BOTANY'S herbarium collections manager

Kristen Ellis (right) who is studying for her master's degree was selected as one of six students countrywide as a GreenMatter bursar. Kristen works on the taxonomy of a group of aloe species. The GreenMatter Fellowship promotes biodiversity.



Research benefits

CHEMISTRY PhD student

Julian Schülein (right) from Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz, Germany, spent a month at InnoVenton to find out more about the algae biofuel project and how his studies on the functionalisation of nanoparticles can be optimised by our local research.



Interdisciplinary benefits for many departments It's all about partnerships

SCIENCE Faculty academics have recently been flying all over the world sharing our research and establishing partnerships. Sustainability

Computing Science's **Prof André Calitz** and Dean of Science **Prof Andrew Leitch** attended a workshop organised by Germany's Oldenburg University at Cozumel, Mexico, focusing on sustainability from an environmental perspective. Botany, Computing Sciences, Physics and Statistics will benefit from this partnership. Other universities attending the workshop were from Mexico, Cuba, Indonesia and Tanzania.

Photovoltaics

Physics is also gaining from Centre for Energy Research's **Prof Ernest van Dyk** and **Dr Freddie Vorster's** recent visit to the Institute for Photovoltaics at Germany's Stuttgart University where they discussed collaborative research projects in photovoltaic characterisation. They also attended the 27th European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference exhibition in Frankfurt during their visit.



Chemistry research

In addition, Chemistry's **Prof Thomas Gerber** (top right) presented a seminar at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, and at the 26th Chemistry Congress in Oludeniz on his research group's latest work.



Sharing InnoVenton's work was Chemistry's **Dr Nicole Vorster** (right). She presented a poster on MSc student Kwezi Mkentane's work on the combability measurement of braids and braid detangling at an international congress organised by the International Federation

of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists in Johannesburg. Senior researchers from DOW in Belgium and BASF in Germany showed interest with possible collaboration in the future.

Dr Vorster was also a guest speaker at the International Mole Day Celebration breakfast on 23 October organised by Alexander Road High School where she demonstrated the formulation of a hand cream.

Grade 11 Science learners and teachers from several schools including Pearson, Grey, Newton Park Technical and Victoria Park High attended.

International Mole Day was initiated in the USA to foster interest in chemistry and commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), a basic measuring unit in chemistry.

Speakers

On the home front InnoVenton hosted two international speakers for staff and students. More than 30 staff, postgraduate students and SMEs attended the Theory of Sampling course in collaboration with the Technology Innovation Agency on North Campus. The presenter was Prof Kim Esbensen of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland at Ålborg University in Denmark, the other role player.

In the other talk, Prof Dr Ralf Zimmermann of the Joint Mass Spectrometry Centre of the University of Rostock and Helmholtz Zentrum in Munich, Germany, shared information on *Fuels, combustion and*

pyrolysis: Application of mass spectrometry based technologies to characterise complex mixtures.



LATEST AND GREATEST ... Physics' **Dr Viera Wagener** (left) has reason to smile with a long-awaited new MOCVD (metal-organic chemical vapour deposition) system just delivered to the Physics Department. This system is the latest of three introduced since 1986 to study semiconducting structures for various applications which forms the basis for nanotechnology. The new system will enable the nanotechnology group under the leadership of **Prof JR Botha** to lead the country in this field. In addition, the NRF/DST Chair in Nano-Photonics headed by Prof Botha was recently renewed for a further five-year period.





HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE ... STEM in Action's **Isabel van Gend** (second from left) and **Tarin Roberts** (fourth from left) assist Grade 11 learners Aisha Spence (from left), Emmanuel Badu and Ayesha Finnis from Bethelsdorp Senior Secondary with their chemistry experiment.

ICT linked science laboratory inspires learners

Taking potential to another level

MANY more learners in the metropole can now set their vision towards careers in science and technology thanks to an NMMU programme taking science education to new heights.

Since its inception in 2010 the number of learners taking part in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) in Action on Missionvale Campus has increased by 567% to 1 041 learners this year.

What makes this programme different is the fact that learners not only perform the science experiments themselves in the laboratory, but also follow the experiments graphically on computers and on big screens in the laboratory. Learners also gain valuable ICT skills with electronic sensors used to record the data, says STEM in action manager **Isabel van Gend**.

The programme is aimed at Grade 10 to 12 learners with a history of excellence in Physical Science and a potential to succeed. These learners then attend up to 12 practical physics and chemistry sessions which are part of the curriculum.

Schools from all over the metropole are targeted with classes being offered in the afternoons and transport to and from the schools funded by the programme.

Schools in the Missionvale area now also benefit from the programme with entire Grade 10 to 12 Physical Science classes each attending seven experiments in the morning in the laboratory. There were about 560 learners this year.

The programme also offers career guidance

investigating learners' interest profiles, including engineering activities and offering work shadow opportunities.

The programme, which forms part of the Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre, promotes careers in Science and Engineering and is funded by the SA National Road Agency (SANRAL). Constant evaluation ensures that the programme remains relevant.

Presentations about careers in engineering were also given to 60 teachers in Somerset East.

Successes include:

- The 76 Grade 12 learners on the programme in 2010 and 2011 obtained 26 distinctions for Physical Science and 187 distinctions across all subjects.
- The best student from a historically disadvantaged school in the Port Elizabeth district in 2010, Ndileka Makaluza from Douglas Mbopa Secondary School, who achieved five distinctions including Mathematics and Physical Science, attributed her success in Physical Science directly to her involvement with the programme.
- Research showed that 32 out of the 50 learners previously on the programme, who could be tracked, are following careers in Science, Technology or Engineering.
- Since the start of 2012, STEM in Action also offers Physical Science experiments to selected Grade 11 and 12 learners participating in the Maths and Science learning programme offered by the Govan Mbeki Maths Development Unit.

Briefs

International courses

OUR Industrial Engineering Department will, in future, develop and provide short learning programmes for Continental Tyres worldwide. A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed and Industrial Engineering related courses will be offered to staff in Hannover, Germany, as well as South America and Asia with the pilot course being offered in January 2013.

Continental chose NMMU because of the department's successful record of accomplishment of short courses at the company. Many of Continental's managers are from NMMU's School of Engineering.

First leaders

NINE young leaders received awards for their perseverance and determination in completing the FamHealth-NMMU Youth Leadership Academy's first 10-week course at an award ceremony at MediPark in Gelvandale in November. School of ICT's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** and FamHealth Medipark's Dr Jeff Govender initiated the course focusing on leadership skills, awareness of topical issues, general personal wellness and health care by using ICT as an enabler in all these areas.

IT Technology Day success

A TABLET-BASED mathematics tutoring system capable of solving linear and basic quadratic equations called "eTute Mathematics Tutoring System" was one of the top projects attracting attention at the recent Information Technology Innovation Day.

Top third-year IT students exhibited their year's projects in 20 groups of two to five students. Many staff, students, family members and the industry attended the event also boasting "Pillar: Revenge of the Mad Scientist" - a playful, fun and challenging 2D, side-scrolling, platform game as one of the top projects.

First prize

THIRD-YEAR Mechatronics students, Michael Louwrens (above)



and Barend Gerber (above right) won first prize at the South African WorldSkills Competition in the category of mobile robotics. They will represent South Africa at the International WorldSkills Competition in Germany in July next year.

FIFA/CIES/NMMU sport management programme in full force

New beginnings and growth

The FIFA/CIES/NMMU Certificate in Sport Management programme is not only growing with the largest group of 29 new students recently enrolled but new ventures are also coming to the fore.

Communication lecturer **Debbie Derry** was invited to teach at one of the partner universities in West Indies; a new intake from all over the world has started and the most recent class to graduate donated 75 soccer balls for local soccer development.

New students, including 10 students from Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia and Nigeria, recently started their course and were welcomed by Human Movement Science Department Head **Prof Rosa du Randt** and CIES's Vincent Monnier.

The new intake includes government sport development officers, and representatives from the NGO sectors, local, regional and national sport federations, sport directors at high performance sport centres, football club managers, sport journalists and educators.

Triathlon, soccer, tennis, volleyball, netball, basketball, weightlifting and swimming are among the sports represented.

A feather in NMMU's cap was the invitation to

*SKILLS ABROAD ... Communication lecturer **Debbie Derry** (centre) from Marketing and Corporate Relations is joined by two of her West Indian students **Nefertiti Acosta-Yates** (left) and **Candice Barrow-Rowley** during a guest lecturing stint for FIFA/CIES's sport management programme in Trinidad.*



Debbie to present her regular South African module to a class of 20 students at the University of West Indies over three days on the island of Trinidad.

Debbie's lecturing period – which included media conferences and a visit by the Ministry of Sport – culminated with a live television interview with the Caribbean News Media Group.

Altogether 20 students of the fifth edition programme were treated at their graduation to NMMU's own Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games representatives Human Movement Science's

Pippa Nell who served as a doping control officer and Law student and silver medal swimmer Kevin Paul, as speakers.

This class also gave back to soccer development after being inspired by class mates Macebo Pako and Angelique Jennings.

The class bought 75 soccer balls for an under-9 soccer tournament in Nelson Mandela Bay. The tournament took place at the time of the class' graduation and class representatives handed over the balls at the tournament.

Ubuntu in action

ELEVEN Human Movement Science third-year students have made a difference in the life of learners at Nkululeko High School in Kwanobuhle, Uitenhage, who now have a "gym with a difference".

Learners have regular gym sessions, aerobics and are taught the correct exercise techniques.

This project forms part of the Human Movement Science Department's PasSport to Health Project, promoting physical activity and school sport at disadvantaged schools.

Nkululeko is one of three selected schools for 2012. Students rose to the challenge to make a difference to the dilapidated buildings, broken windows and evidence of vandalism.

They raised R10 000 in cash and kind for the school over six months with 800 litres of paint donated by a sponsor.

A Spring Day Paint-a-wallathon was organised with learners, teachers and the community pitching in. The students also had 20 trees donated and planted, transforming the school grounds.

The outdoor fitness centre was created in an abandoned building using recycled desks welded into gym equipment.

Colourful and inspiring murals were painted on the walls and various sports and gym equipment was purchased. Learners are also educated about health and fitness.

The students will continue next year with the work and hope that the fitness club will grow and be used extensively by teachers and learners.

BEFORE AND AFTER ... Third-year Human Movement Science students converted this derelict building at Nkululeko High School in Kwanobuhle, Uitenhage, into an outdoor fitness centre.



New VCS mentoring programme a huge success

A FUN movie trivia lunch in October for the School of Accounting's 30 Vice-Chancellor Scholars wrapped up the busy calendar of the School's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Programme, which was launched at the start of 2012.

"The School of Accounting instituted this programme to give top learners the support and mentoring required to prepare them for leadership roles in society," said programme coordinator **Elize Naude**.

The programme was so successful that it has received funding for 2013 from the African Unity Foundation.

Since the prestigious VCS bursaries were launched in 2009, the School has drawn the bulk of its recipients, who each receive R60 000 per year

of their undergraduate studies, provided they achieve 75% or higher.

The programme focuses on academic, leadership, personal and co-curricular non-academic development, promoting responsible citizenship, and delivering top people to contribute to the future of the Accounting profession.

Group mentoring activities formed the core of the programme with quarterly academic mentoring meetings for each year group, while one-on-one mentoring was also available.

The students were encouraged to attend various guest lectures and workshops, including speed-reading, stress and wellness, open days, career evenings and an accounting leadership summit.



Three students visited Europe as part of a study-abroad programme. Students were also encouraged to enter the Allan Gray Essay competition, in which VC scholars Danie Strydom and Ankit Neglur won the first and third prize respectively in the first-year category. **NW**

*YEAR-END LUNCH... First-year Accounting Vice-Chancellor Scholars (from left) Danie Strydom, Andrea Christoffels and Andrea Ward, with Accounting 1 lecturer and mentor **Ansulene Stone** (second from right), enjoy the end-of-year function of the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Mentoring and Leadership Programme, which is run by the School of Accounting.*

Knott-Craig inspires students

FORMER MXit CEO and BCom Hons alumnus Alan Knott-Craig (Jnr) – who was in Port Elizabeth in October to receive an Alumni Rising Star Award from NMMU – delivered a talk to accounting students titled "My life to date (to be continued) including lessons learnt". See page 5.

The Stellenbosch-based chartered accountant confessed he did not apply himself during his studies, scraping through his BCom degree and then getting special permission to write his honours finals after not attending sufficient classes – a decision on the part of School of Accounting director **Prof Frans Prinsloo**, which was to

have a profound effect on Knott-Craig.

"I learned that if you have power, you can

wield it either way. Prof Prinsloo had the power to destroy me or give me a chance. His decision changed my life."

It's all about being in the right place at the right time

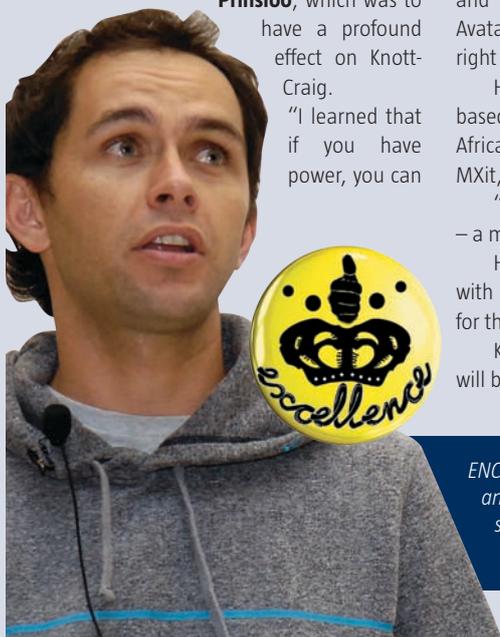
Though just 35, Knott-Craig has held a number of top positions, including being managing director of Johannesburg-based broadband company iBurst and founder of investment company World of Avatar. "It's all about being in the right place at the right time."

He said his involvement in consumer-based mobile web applications in Africa, which led to his becoming CEO of MXit, gave him a "life's purpose".

"Most people in the world only have one device – a mobile phone – MXit captures that market."

He left MXit in October following differences with shareholders and is "taking a break", waiting for the right opportunity to come along.

Knott-Craig believes the "next big thing" in ICT will be games on mobile phones. **NW**



ENCOURAGING ... Recently-resigned MXit CEO and NMMU alumnus Alan Knott-Craig Jnr shares his success story with accounting students.

Briefs

Rewards legend

INDUSTRIAL and Organisational Psychology Department Head **Prof Robin Snelgar** (right) recently received the SA Rewards Association President's Award as a 'Rewards Legend' for his "unique and outstanding contribution to the Rewards profession over the past 30 years".



Family business expert

BUSINESS Management's **Prof Elmarie Venter** (right) was a keynote speaker at the recent International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit in Cape Town which more than 1 000 participants from 55 countries attended. Prof Venter discussed family farming and succession planning in dairy farms.



Making a difference

TOURISM lecturer **Gary Fisher** (right) used his DIY skills to create lightweight lap tables from leftover laminated floorboards at home for Second Avenue Campus's three wheelchair-using students.



Student teachers making a difference Creating a unique culture



THE first group of George Campus final-year education students set to graduate early next year set an inspiring tone for a unique tradition starting at the campus.

The seven students shared their diverse experiences, unique teaching methodologies and insights gained during their practical year of study at secondary schools in the Southern Cape region.

All students in the BEd (FET) programme as well as family members, lecturers, school principals and other guests packed the lecture-theatre to listen to the group's account of challenges, diverse landscape, disparities and rewards of the education system and a career in teaching.

Lessons learnt and shared included the necessity of being sensitive to the context of the learners; the importance of never underestimating learners; taking responsibility for outcomes; the importance of teamwork and cultivating good interpersonal relations; being approachable, yet setting boundaries in the classroom; being creative and helping learners



INSPIRATIONAL GROUP ... Participants in the George Campus inaugural final-year student-teachers' presentations were (back from left) students Ashwin Meyer and Meashane Holmes joined by Education's **Prof Patrick Bean**, (middle) students Vinolia Britz, Nadia Jasson, Nina Hanekom and Education's **Dr Suz Phillips**, (front) BEd (FET) lecturer **Paddy Esselaar** and students Deidre Joorste and Jacques Wolmarans.

to believe in themselves; and the value of being and learning from good mentors.

Education's **Prof Patrick Bean**, who heads up the

George Campus' BEd (FET) programme, inspired both students and guests with his overview on "becoming a teacher".

SOCIAL ISSUES ... Medicine safety systems in the public health sector, victims of verbal bullying, obesity in six to nine-year-olds and adult adjustment of persons raised in children's homes were just a few of the topics discussed at the recent Health Sciences Student Research Conference. Keynote speaker Eastern Cape Department of Health Human Resources Development Director **Dr Andrew Crichton** discussed "Claims to Social Accountability and the need to think outside the box" in which he drew parallels between the concept of professionalism in the caring professions and the realities of the environment in which the care takes place. From left are postgraduate students Kirsten Geswind, Nursing Science Department Head **Prof Dalena van Rooyen**, Dr Andrew Crichton, Human Movement Science Department Head **Prof Rosa du Randt**, Ewald Crause (winner of best podium presentation) and Susan Bond.



RESEARCH IN PICTURES ... Altogether 74 Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students under the leadership of Education's **Dr Kathija Adam** organised a photographic exhibition to share their research in their Curriculum Design and Development module. The students worked on curriculum reform in South Africa and the reality of education at present, asking the question: "Has education in South Africa changed?" Through the photographs the students brought the realities to life. They presented their findings at the opening of the exhibition in the Education Building foyer on South Campus. From left are students Dale Barman, Kagan Assma, Dr Adam, Caroline Pringle, Danielle Deyzel and Sarah Reed.

New programmes

SEVEN new programmes to meet the changing needs of the business world will be offered at NMMU from next year. They are:

- Diploma in Accountancy
- Higher Certificate in Business Studies
- Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration
- Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy
- Higher Certificate in Accountancy
- Advanced Diploma in Economics and
- BCom in Hospitality Management

These programmes will provide students with an entrepreneurial spirit and a wider range of opportunities beyond the more traditional and successful BCom Accounting, business studies and management degrees. The Higher Certificate in Business Studies, for example, provides an alternative for students who do not qualify for direct admission to a diploma programme. These students need only get an Admission Points Score of 22.



ALUMNI GO-GETTERS ... Young alumni leaders who received the first Alumni Rising Stars awards at the recent annual Alumni Awards included SA drug access programme manager for the Clinton Health Access Initiative Dr Millidhashni Reddy (from left), leading ICT entrepreneur and former MXit CEO Alan Knott-Craig Jnr, founder of respected building consultancy and construction firm the Elliox Group Dr Bridgette Gasca and London-based Prudential PLC group lead: risk and capital Achumile Majija.



CELEBRATIONS ... FIFA/CIES/NMMU Certificate in Sport Management students Brett McLaren (from left), Phakamisa Fadana and Zanele Nhlapo were among the 20 students who recently graduated as the fifth group in this programme at NMMU.



TOP OF THE RANGE ... Education's **Dr Christina Jordaan** (right) was the winner of an iPod Shuffle in a lucky draw of participants in a library survey to gauge the use of mobile devices in research and connectivity with the library. Library Director **Robert Pearce** handed the iPod to Dr Jordaan. The other four winners, including Law's **Prof Frans Marx**, each won an MP3 player.



TEAM SANLAM ... Eighty business partners and alumni played in the annual NMMU Trust Johannesburg Golf Day at the Wanderers Club on 2 October, with Sanlam as main sponsor, including (from left) Sanlam's Ayanda Mjekula, Lungisa Mbuli, Zandile Jakavula and Stan Mphahlele.



BANDANA FUN ... Computing Sciences staff (back from left) **Leda van der Post** (standing), **Desma van der Walt**, **Marinda Taljaard**, **Janet Wesson**, **Lester Cowley**, **Erna Milbourn**, **Marinthea Snyman** and (front) **Jean Rademakers**, **Lynette Barnard**, **Carol van Onselen**, **Hayley Irvine** and **Brenda Scholtz** (right in front), supported Bandana Day on 12 October in the fight against cancer.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT ... Academically deserving second and third-year Marketing, BCom Accounting and BSc Statistics students recently received bursaries from Distell. NMMU Trust's **Renita Affat** (back left) and Distell's Sonja Morkel (back right) joined the students (back, from left) **Cindy Marais**, **Aviwe Gqwaka** and **Yolanda Mbotini** and (front) **Noxolo Miya**, **Tijane Malapeng** and **Claudine Blouw**.

From fear of computers to “manikins” that give birth Fond farewell to retirees



SAYING GOODBYE ... 2012 retirees invited to a tea with Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (second from left), included (back from left) **Prof Bill Holderness** (Education), **Chris Nel** (ICT Services), **Cassiem Zondie** (Printing Services), **Lionel van Zyl** (Music), **Marieta Randall** (Nursing Science), (middle) **Miemie Nel** (Student Systems and Records), **Elise Viljoen** (Library), **Sizakele Mgwadleka** (Building & Engineering), (front) **Maretha Zeelie** (Finance), **Violet Mosuhli** (Architecture), **Noluthando Gumede** (Support Services), **Willie Bouwer** (Nursing Science), Mrs Zondie and **Pippa Nell** (HMS & Sport Management). Chris Nel and Miemie Nel started in 1971 on the Bird Street Campus in the computer department.

“AT NMMU I learnt to fly far higher than I ever imagined.”

So it was for Nursing Science lecturer **Marieta Randall**, one of a dozen employees to attend a tea to mark their retirement from NMMU.

With well over 330 years between them, Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** recognised their contribution to the university and invited them to share insights from their time spent at NMMU.

In the case of ICT’s **Chris Nel** and **Miemie Nel**, it was 41 years apiece.

Chris started out at Bird Street as a former UPE student and well remembers moving to the new campus in Summerstrand, and then the arrival of computers in the 1980s.

“I had a whole 16k memory,” laughed Miemie,

who as a computer operator would work through the night to ensure that students got their examination results.

HMS’s **Pippa Nell**, with 21 years’ service, was part of the doping control team at the recent London Olympics and Paralympics, remembered her alarm at having to use a computer. “I didn’t know what to do with it.”

Then, there were those like **Willie Bouwer** of Nursing Science, who marvelled at the advances of technology within her profession. New simulators within the department saw manikins “give birth”.

Education professor **Bill Holderness** shared a farewell poem, while Architecture’s **Violet Mosuhli** urged her fellow retirees to “keep on

moving”. All were grateful for the lessons learnt and the life-long friendships established at NMMU.

Winners

Congratulations to our **November** competition winners: **Liesel van Willing** of Finance, **Maxie Calitz** of Admissions, **Nomfundo Mpepo** of ICT, **Annette Denakie** of Research Capacity Development and **Kulukazi Maqoko** of Chemistry.

Condolences

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

- Final-year BTech Industrial Engineering student Odirile ‘Duguyaro’ Modie
- Second-year Human Resources Management student Neo Shogole

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

- Alumni Affairs’ **Mziyanda Bloro** (his mother)
- Agriculture and Game Ranch Management’s **Retief Celliers** (his son)
- Contact Centre’s **Thokozile Mcopela** (her mother)
- ICT Services, **Steve Viljoen** (his wife)

Healthtalk

Occupational asthma

WITH our staff and students exposed to a large number of research and teaching areas, each in its own environment, the chances of developing occupational asthma is a reality.

It is therefore important for us to be aware of possible triggers in and around our working place.

Occupational asthma is an allergic reaction that occurs in some people when they are exposed to substances, such as chemicals, solvents, flour or wood dust in the workplace and in our case in laboratories, workshops or studios.

Not everyone who becomes sensitised gets asthma, but once the lungs become hypersensitive, further exposure to the substance, even at quite low

levels, may trigger an attack.

Respiratory irritants may trigger attacks in both persons with pre-existing asthma or those having asthma since childhood.

Asthma is a serious health problem with thousands of people in SA suffering from severe shortness of breath that can stop you from doing the simplest tasks. Symptoms include wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, sneezing and runny nose and itchy and inflamed red eyes.

The symptoms can develop right after exposure to a workplace substance, but could also appear several hours later, possibly at night.

Kobus Magielies, Occupational Health Practitioner

Fundraising campaign leads to new crèche Ubuntu in action



MORE than 40 children in Motherwell now have access to a much-improved crèche in a container that has been sourced and kitted out with the assistance of NMMU's Department of Student Governance and Development.

The department initially started raising awareness and funds for the Motherwell-based Sihlangule AIDS Networking Organisation.

"After donating food parcels, gardening tools, seeds and cooking appliances to this organisation in 2011 with the students, we realised it was not enough and decided to take it a step further," said Society Officer **Sandile Mpepo**.

The department, with the help of student societies, managed to raise more than R50 000 to buy a six metre container which they renovated into a crèche for kids who come from the impoverished area of Motherwell in NU29.

The container was painted inside and out, has built-in shelves, a teacher's table, a new electricity



box, a wooden floor and carpeting, a whiteboard, stationery and new books.

The team wanted to change the situation in a sustainable manner, Mr Mpepo said.

*QUIZ MASTERS ... Mr Missionvale 2012 Simamkele Cele and Student Governance and Development's **Yanga Lusasa** (right) join the Let's get quizzical winning student team The Geeks, Royce Beaton (from left), Morne Heath, Craig Nel, Talita Matiwane, and Rasheed Adams, at the event hosted at Missionvale Campus's eKhaya Student Life Centre on 20 September.*

Leadership excellence

VICE-CHANCELLOR Awards honouring excellence in leadership were awarded at the recent Achiever Awards function to third-year BCom Financial Planning student Last Siakanlangu (right) and third-year Law student Lana Nazer (far right), who also received the Society Person of the Year award.

Last, Chairperson of both the NMMU Student Christian Society and NMMU Religious Week and Treasurer of the Financial Planning Society, has been involved in a number of volunteering activities.

Lana has been the Law Student Society Treasurer and served both AIESEC and SIFE as executive and has been serving in a number of



other leadership positions.

George Campus Principal's Leadership Awards went to BTech Forestry students Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo (top right) and Reratiloe Thandi Makoe (top far right).

Sikhumbuzo is the chairperson of the student-



driven Saasveld Forestry Association (SFA) and the SAPPi Student Forestry Club and represented NMMU internationally at the International Forestry Students Symposium in Turkey last year.

Reratiloe is last year's recipient of the Mentor of the Year Award, and this year's Deputy Chairperson of the NMMU George Student Council and Society's Officer. She also attended the DAFF conference on Climate Change this year.

Celebrating and giving back

THE Mr and Ms House Comm pageant in September not only announced the winners Sanda Ncama and Onthatile Mahlangu, but also raised funds and goods for this year's charity of choice, the Missionvale Care Centre.

Students organised the front office, choreography, media, entertainment and promotions during the week and a Facebook page was launched where students could view their favourite contestant by liking their picture.

Here Student Housing's **Bev Willemsse** (left) and **Suzzette Villas** (right) hand the goods to Sister Ethel Normoyle of the centre.



Young ambassador

SRC Treasurer Leslie Ramolai was selected as one of only 80 young people worldwide to take part in the Young Ambassadors@Africa Leads programme in Stellenbosch.



Leslie wrote a 1 000-word essay on leadership excellence using an example from his community. DVC: Academic Affairs, **Prof Piet Naude** is the keynote speaker at the Summit.

New team looking forward to USSA nationals Ladies football well on its way

DESPITE a new coach, an almost completely new team and a mediocre previous season, the NMMU Madibaz Ladies Soccer team has done exceptionally well for themselves as this year's Intersivity and PEFA League Champions, qualifying for University Sport SA Nationals in Cape Town this month and being the runners-up in the Fain Women's Month Celebration Tournament.

Six team members Cawekazi Daca, Susan Wells, Nasreen Astrie, Nomzamo Maheneza, Nombifuthi Mncwango and Lebohang Mbata were selected to play for the Port Elizabeth Football Association squad in the Inter Local Football Association Competition, which the squad won. Madibaz' coach Douleen Whitebooi was announced winning coach while winning captain was Cawekazi Daca. Madibaz striker Susan Wells was the winning player of the tournament.

Madibaz ladies unfortunately had to be satisfied with the runner-up spot at the PEFA Cup Final on 6 October when they lost 1-4 against a very determined



WINNING SPIRIT ... The NMMU Madibaz Ladies Soccer team is looking forward to play in the USSA national university championships this month having had a very good year as Intersivity and PEFA League Champions.

Mustangs team. Because of the great season, NMMU Madibaz Ladies Soccer was offered a spot in the SAFA

Women's Regional League the second best ladies football league in the country.

Boosting township rowing

THE dreams of 15 aspiring rowers from KwaZakhele and Motherwell came true when NMMU's first and second team rowing crews put them through their paces on Redhouse River.

NMMU's Learn to Row programme, funded by the National Lottery, aims to identify and nurture talented township rowers.

"We want to promote the sport of rowing in the townships," said NMMU Rowing Club development and transformation officer Mteteleli Biko.

Biko said NMMU already assisted with coaching at Grey and supported talented rowers from development squad Zwartkops Rowing Club by providing opportunities for them to participate at

higher levels – and planned to continue coaching the most promising rowers from the Learn to Row programme.

The youngsters – boys and girls in their early to late teens – are all members of Siyanqoba Sports Club, a community sports centre in Motherwell.

Biko said the programme – running for two hours on two recent Sunday mornings – included a talk on rowing, practice on "ergos" (rowing machines) and then practical rowing lessons on the water.

While all the youngsters had to be able to swim, lifeguard volunteers in motorboats were close by to assist.



SKILLS BOOST ... NMMU Rowing Club members coach aspiring township rowers.

TOP ATHLETE ... NMMU George Sports Manager **Hugo Loubser** (right) congratulates NMMU George Campus Sportsman of the Year Armond Nel (far right). Armond is a top track and field athlete, a member of the South Western Districts Senior team and represented South Africa in the International Association of Athletics Federations World Race Walking Cup in Russia in May this year. He is also a USSA Track and Field silver medallist. Both the Club and Team of the Year Awards went to the NMMU George Rugby Club.



Sport stars

PARALYMPIC silver medalist and second-year Law student **Kevin Paul** (top right) won the coveted Sportsman of the Year Award for the second consecutive year, while South African under-21 hockey player **Nicole Kemp** (bottom right) received the Sportswomen of the Year Award at the Annual Achiever Awards dinner on 18 October.

Kevin, who broke several African records during the recent London Paralympics, and Nicole are among 16 NMMU students who were selected to national sports teams in 2012, while a further four students represented South Africa in junior teams. The Sport Team of the Year was the Madibaz male soccer team while the NMMU netball team was Sport Club of the Year.

