

talk@nmmu

The Staff Newsletter

February 2010

New vision, mission roll-out, also university of choice ...

Positive outlook for 2010

2010 augurs well for NMMU with umpteen new projects, a new vision and mission and a tangible sense that we are a university with a positive future.

Just five years into the merger and establishment of our new generation university, NMMU is being recognised time and again for the strides it has made.

"In five short years NMMU has become a university of choice," says NMMU Director of Marketing and Corporate Relations **Pieter Swart**.

This is evident through, for example, the increasing number of Weekend Post Matric of the Year finalists and other high-calibre students who now choose to study at NMMU.

Furthermore, there are physical signs to show that NMMU is serious about its future. Apart from last year's many new building projects, staff and students can also expect to benefit from the following projects:

- ▶ Building 123, close to building 35, with its three new lecture halls
- ▶ A new Madibaz in the old staff Kraal
- ▶ A renovated South Campus library
- ▶ Better lifts in the main building
- ▶ A new coffee shop on North Campus

We can also look forward to the roll-out of our new vision, mission and values – the culmination of two years of input from the entire NMMU community – in

the near future (see page 5). The following are also scheduled for 2010:

- ▶ The launch of a prestigious new scholarship for academic achievers to study at NMMU (see our next edition).
- ▶ The launch of a partnership with Fort Hare and Rhodes University, NGOs and others to jointly seek working solutions for sustainable development.
- ▶ Being a training ground for players during the 2010 Soccer World Cup and providing accommodation for security personnel.

"We have come a long way in five years. I believe we can now say we're one team," says Pieter.

Increase in applications

EARLY signs are that NMMU has received an overwhelming number of applications for undergraduate study in 2010.

By 4 January, the closing date for applications, admissions staff had already worked through 14 350 applications from prospective students. This figure escalated to 22 500 by mid-January.

It will rise further still with the university's decision to try to meet the needs of prospective students who directly qualify for programmes where possible vacancies exist. This additional measure lasted until Friday 22 January.

Extensive marketing of the early closing date – 1 August 2009 – meant there was also a 12% increase in applications when compared to the same time in 2008.

See pg 8



IN FULL FORCE ... First-year Mechatronics student Francois Sharp is assisted at registration by Engineering, the Built Environment and IT Faculty Officer **René Vosloo** and student assistant **Mona-Lisa Notyena**.

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Geared for a great year

REGISTRATION is buzzing and admissions staff are working continuously with late applications of students qualifying for enrolment. See our articles about our increased applications and popular courses.

On 1 January NMMU entered its fifth year as a merged institution, a hearty welcome to all colleagues in 2010, the World Cup is just around the corner.

In this edition we celebrate a

number of agreements with the automotive industry, our students excelling and top results in the independent pharmacy examinations.

Please send us your news and photographs and remember to include the names and surnames of persons photographed.

The communication team is over the moon with the excellent response to the media, newsletter and web workshops. We hope that

we will receive more news after our colleagues have attended them.

Remember to send us the names of new staff members who joined us since September 2009, so that we can welcome them in *talk@nmmu*.

Just a reminder: the print edition of *talk@nmmu* is published once a month and is distributed via the departmental secretaries. Our electronic editions appear twice a month and are shorter and more concise focusing on breaking and



immediate news.

Have a good year.

Elma de Koker

Editor: *talk@nmmu*



NATURE AND HUMANS ... At the launch of his new book East of the Cape: Conserving Eden Botany's Prof Richard Cowling said he has a very special place in his heart for biology and people and this new work also celebrates the mixture of biomes found in the Eastern Cape. Colleagues and students joining him at the launch were (from left) Anusha Rajkaran, Denise Schael, Eileen Campbell, Derek du Preez, Prof Cowling, his wife and co-author Shirley Pierce, Mark Difford, Clayton Weatherall-Thomas and Marius van der Vyver.

Groundbreaking Merseta agreement

IN a ground-breaking move, NMMU signed an agreement with the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services SETA (Merseta) for skills upgrading in the Eastern Cape.

The agreement which runs into millions of rands, is one of the first agreements nationally to forge an alliance between a university and industry, while facilitated by Merseta.

The agreement covers Merseta bursaries in mechatronics, the placement of engineering students in industry and the promotion of women in engineering.

It also aims to strengthen three links between NMMU and FET colleges and increase the capacity of educators at technical high schools.

"This will ensure that we produce cutting edge skills and knowledge, particularly in mechatronics, to provide a competitive edge to our industries.

"In coming years, we are going to build a formidable reputation as the leading mechatronics centre of excellence in South Africa," said Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

Merseta CEO Dr Raymond Patel echoed Prof Swartz's enthusiasm, adding that the Eastern Cape would benefit tremendously from targeted skills upgrading.

"As we head out of the recession, this agreement will see a significant boost to industry which will need more highly skilled people in the Eastern Cape," said Dr Patel.

Pharmacy shines again

OUR Pharmacy graduates have again achieved the best results of all universities in the national pre-registration examinations set by the SA Pharmacy Council at the end of 2009.

We boasted a 100% pass rate with 31 candidates scoring nine distinctions.

In June 2009 NMMU also obtained a 100% pass rate with 12 distinctions among the 26 candidates.

Briefs

Women leaders

NMMU had an impressive representation at the HERS-SA Academy last year.

Social Development Professions Programme Leader **Prof Thobeka Mashologu-Kuse**, Senior Manager, Library Circulation Services **Nokubonga Makrwele**, and Political and Governmental Studies lecturer **Enaleen Draai**, joined 82 senior women from 25 universities across Africa who attended the week at the Graduate School of Business in Cape Town.

Researcher medal

Prof Lesley Wood of the Faculty of Education was awarded the Young Researcher Medal by the Education Association of South Africa at the annual conference in January. Prof Wood received the award for her contribution to the emerging field of HIV & AIDS in education and her pioneering of a new form of scholarship, namely values-based practitioner self-enquiry.

Builders' President

NMMU BSc Building Management graduate Jean-Marie Talbot has been appointed President of the Master Builders South Africa (MBSA).

talk@nmmu is published by NMMU Marketing & Corporate Relations. The deadline for contributions to the April edition of *talk@nmmu* is 9 March 2010.

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 the university.

Computing Sciences and Information Technology students top in SA Taking over the Imagine Cup



MOST AWARDS ... ICT lecturer **Johan van Niekerk** (fourth from left) won the award for the lecturer with the most entries at the annual 2009 National Microsoft Imagine Cup competition. His students (from left) Renaldo Beck, Magda Harmse, Ross Kelly, Jason Welsford and Jacques Marais also won the first, second and third places in the gaming section.

NMMU confirmed its status as one of SA's leading providers of computing science and information technology tuition, raking in eight of the 14 awards at the annual 2009 National Microsoft Imagine Cup competition in Krugersdorp in December.

Our lecturers did as well with Computing Science's **Prof André Calitz** winning the Imagine Cup Lecturer 2009 award for latest use of technology and ICT's **Johan van Niekerk** winning for lecturer with the most entries.

Other leading awards included the "Women in IT" award to Angel Shoji, ICT's **Prof Dalenca Pottas'** student

and the "best user experience" award going to Computing Science's **Dr Dieter Vogt's** student team Axyz.

In the gaming section Johan's students took first, second and third places, in the Design section Prof Calitz's team won the third place and in the Development section ICT's **Lynn Futcher** and **Cheryl Schroder's** group took first and ICT's **Thayne Breetzke's** group second place.

Furthermore, several NMMU students were snapped up for future employment at the contest.

"The judges were particularly impressed with how well our students

presented their work," Johan said.

One such student, Ross Kelly, for example, was immediately offered a job by Derivco, the country's only major game development company, after winning the Keeper of the Cool Award. It was the BTech's gaming project with full network capabilities that saw him land the award, and possible lucrative employment even before he has finished his studies.

"Without doubt we have again emerged as the leading institution in this field with several judges commenting on the overall quality of our student projects," said Van Niekerk.



LECTURER OF 2009 ... Computing Science's **Prof André Calitz** (right) won the Imagine Cup Lecturer 2009 award for latest use of technology and his students **Mohamed Cassim** (centre) and **Devereux Joubert** the third prize in the design category.



GMSA president and managing director Edgar Lourencon (right) hands over the **HUMMER H3 keys** to Engineering School Director **Sarel Schoombie**.

A humming start

MECHATRONICS students will use a **HUMMER H3** vehicle sponsored by General Motors South Africa (GMSA) for their practical and research studies this year.

Engineering School **Director Sarel Schoombie** said the institution was privileged and proud to be associated with GMSA.

GMSA also sponsors the Chair in Mechatronics at NMMU; an investment worth R3.6 million over a five-year period.

In addition, the company offers bursaries to eligible engineering students. Other projects include Starting Blocks, an educational Lego programme presented to high school learners.

New benefits with Mercedes Benz SA

ENGINEERING students will not only benefit from two Mercedes Benz vehicles for training and research but could also receive bursaries and sponsorships and be recruited as employees in future.

These benefits are the result of a recent memorandum of understanding signed between NMMU's Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology and Mercedes Benz South Africa (MBSA).

Knowledge and expertise will be shared, a local centre of automotive expertise will be created and competitive and appropriate

technologies will be introduced.

The company will also sponsor a lectureship to support on-campus students associated with Mercedes Benz as well as joint development and presentation of up-skilling programmes for Mercedes Benz employees.

"We are over the moon about this relationship with MBSA," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) **Prof Christo van Loggerenberg**, "I am sure that the success we have achieved over a short period of time and the international links we have, will give MBSA assurance that it will be a mutually beneficial partnership."

Our early oral traditions form part of SA's wealth of literature

Listening to the people's voices

A COUNTRY'S history, changing moods, mistakes and successes are best told in the stories its people have told or written – they give the country its voice.

In South Africa, it is no surprise that voice is multilingual, but it extends beyond the many official languages to the 29 languages and dialects – most of which have long been silenced – of the Khoi and the San.

From the time she first set eyes upon intriguing Bushman rock art in the Drakensberg Mountains almost 20 years ago, Helize has been “intensely interested in the history and culture of the San, their rock art, and narratives”.

“The Khoi and the San have many stories to tell – intensely

linked to South Africa's history and politics.

We can benefit so much from rediscovering their wisdom and expertise,” said Helize, whose research saw her recognised as

The Khoi and the San have many stories to tell – intensely linked to South Africa's history and politics. We can benefit so much from rediscovering their wisdom and expertise.

NMMU's Faculty of Arts Researcher of the Year in 2007.

Her grounding in comparative literature – comparing similarly-themed literature in English, Afrikaans and Dutch – meant the jump to new literature in a new tongue was exciting rather than daunting. “Languages should not be studied in ghettos. At universities, language departments are starting to merge, but the borders between the different languages are still very strong.” Helize forms part of the Department of Languages and Literature – which incorporates English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa, together with French, especially in its African context.

This literature Prof's inclusive approach to languages goes back to the 1980s, when Durban-Westville University poet and Professor Johan van Wyk pioneered a project titled 'Rethinking South African Literature'.

Literature professor Helize van Vuuren works as part of a team of postgraduate students and scholars at NMMU on “Identity and Marginality in South African literature”, focusing specifically on the San and the Khoi and the way their oral traditions have been reflected in South African literature.

“In 1995, he organised a colloquium, where literature experts including isiXhosa, Sotho and Zulu, brainstormed South African literature.”

“At the colloquium, Leon de Kock (now director of the School of Languages at Wits University) stressed that we should let go of the master narratives of South African literature and listen to the smaller regional stories to get the bigger picture.”

Helize has a handful of 19th century researchers to thank for allowing her access into the still enigmatic world of the San: the Afrikaans writers G R von Wielligh and Eugene Marais (who respectively wrote Boesman-

Stories and Dwaalstories in the 1920s), but above all the German philologist Wilhelm Bleek and his sister-in-law, Lucy Lloyd. Bleek and Lloyd's Specimens of Bushman Folklore appeared in 1911.

Articles published by Helize about his research in 1995 sparked interest from an unusual source: South African astronomers Auke Slotegraaf and Willie Koorts contacted her for information for a conference on ethno-astronomy. “The San wrote many stories about the stars. The skies were still very clear in those days, the San probably had acute eyesight, and the indigenous knowledge of early people was excellent, if one judges by what they could observe with the naked eye.”

“San and Khoi people are still here but they are unrecognisable ... Modern civilisation romanticises them, sees them as exotic relics from prehistoric times, but among us they live – classified as coloured, Afrikaans-speaking – almost invisible in



Literature Prof Helize van Vuuren has been “intensely interested in the history and culture of the San, their rock art, and narratives” for the past 20 years.

the case of farm workers, or elsewhere as the poorest of the poor with little future prospect or hope of survival,” said Helize.

“However, there is an ethnic revival in South Africa, and people are rediscovering their roots.”

She works as part of a team of postgraduate students and scholars at NMMU working on “Identity and Marginality in South African literature”, focussing specifically on the San and the Khoi and the way their oral traditions have been reflected in South African literature.

Helize has two master's degrees: one in Afrikaans and Dutch literature and the other in South African English literature, as well as a DLitt and a doctoral degree in comparative literature. She worked for nine years at the University of Natal, before moving to NMMU in 1995.

Helize is currently on sabbatical furthering her research. - NW

Did you know?

The collection of /Xam stories recorded by Lucy Lloyd and Wilhelm Bleek (who developed the orthography to transcribe their language), was recently awarded World Heritage Status by UNESCO.

The stories of the San revolve around tales to do with the origin of man, the sun, moon and stars, humans and animals, sorcerers' tales and rainmaking rituals.

San groups survive today in southern Africa, eking out a difficult existence, no longer as hunter-gatherers. In Northern Namibia, there are the Ju/hoansi and, in Botswana, various other groups, still speaking their own languages. At Schmidtsdrift near Kimberley, two other groups have their own radio station, broadcasting in their own languages.

Every month, talk@nmmu will focus on a particular individual, unit, support service or research project to grow our understanding and appreciation of the many facets of our university.

Roll-out plan for NMMU’s new values, mission

A new vision for all

Our shared dreams and hopes for NMMU’s future through the Vision 2020 process will soon culminate in the launch of the university’s new vision and mission.

NMMU’s new vision, mission and values have been born.

For more than two years, countless numbers of people have deliberated in dozens of discussions as to the shared dream of the NMMU community and those it serves.

That dream – captured in vision, mission and values – was approved by the highest authority at NMMU late last year, and will be celebrated in a number of ways during the forthcoming year.

From posters to small gifts, the culmination of the Vision 2020 process should be enjoyed by all.

However, much work lies ahead since NMMU is committed to ensuring that its vision, mission and values are lived.

“We want to see this vision lived,” says Director: Strategic and Institutional Planning **Prof Heather**

Nel, who championed the Vision 2020 process. It was a process that ensured everyone at NMMU and even those beyond, were given the opportunity to share their personal dream for the NMMU of tomorrow – the NMMU of 2020.

And so, while the university’s new vision, mission and values are now in place, small groups have been formed focusing on various aspects of university life to ensure that NMMU “walks the talk”.

These groups, led by committed staff members, are formulating strategic plans in the following areas:

- ▶ Academic mission
- ▶ Teaching and learning
- ▶ Research and innovation
- ▶ Engagement and partnerships
- ▶ Institutional culture and transformation
- ▶ Financial growth and development
- ▶ Institutional processes, systems and infrastructure.

“We want to see this vision lived.”

Our vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Ideas for values

WHAT are your ideas on how NMMU can share its new values?

Perhaps it’s a story, an illustration or icon that represents the new values of the university.

The values are:

- ▶ Ubuntu
- ▶ Excellence
- ▶ Respect for the natural environment
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Respect for diversity

We’d like to hear from you. Send your thoughts to heather.nel@nmmu.ac.za

▶ Library and Information Services



PLANNING GROUP... CPID’s **Prof Heather Nel** (from left), Library and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce** and his senior management team **Elna Burger** (Systems, Electronic Resource Management and Quality), **Hester Kritzinger** (Information Services and Training), **Bonga Makrweide** (Circulation) and **Christina Dookran** (Bibliographic) took a breather during a two-day strategic planning breakaway in December.



LUCKY WINNER ... A new iPod Shuffle was handed over to the lucky draw winner, student Kathryn Bell, in the survey about users’ experiences of the library, its staff and services. More than 2 500 surveys were submitted and the Library thanks everybody who participated. They will publish the results shortly and start working on the areas indicated for improvement.

Did you know?

We are excited about our new campus coffee culture starting on South Campus with Madibaz Cafés. See our March edition for more information about cafés on our other campuses.

Pharmacy students involved in main stream medicine

On the job field training

IN ADDITION to hospital training Pharmacy students are now also reaping the advantage of being trained in municipal clinics.

Third-year students are rotating between clinics in New Brighton, Zwide and Gqebera for patient screening to assess adherence to treatment guidelines and counseling patients on the correct use of medication.

They will also do audits of municipal clinic dispensaries, perform screening tests and do patient lifestyle counseling.

Department of Education funding has exposed more students to the public health care system and improved students' knowledge and application of pharmacology and pharmacy practice.

Fourth-year students spend 12 hours per week in the Dora



Nginza, Provincial and Livingstone hospitals from April to September where they accompany medical staff during meetings, lectures and ward rounds, as well perform activities supervised by hospital pharmacists. - JA

*NEW LOOK ... New dispensing jackets introduced last year for trainee pharmacists in the workplace are an instant identifier and project a professional image. The professional attitude and appearance of a pharmacist are seen as core values instilled in pharmacy students, says pharmacology lecturer **Jane McCartney**. The jacket pocket sports NMMU corporate colours and each student is required to wear a name badge identifying them as NMMU students. Final-year BPharm students showing off their jackets (back from left) Darius de Beer, Allan Assumption, Craig Johaar and Kwanele Zondo and (front from left) Leandra Venter, Anu Saugur, Zaina Eyadatoulah, Annick Chong Siat Moy, Landie Van Niekerk, Andrea Conradie and Kim Johnson.*

Two winners for Architecture

BOTH the Eastern Cape winner and runner-up for the 2009 Corobrik Architectural Student of the Year Awards are NMMU students.

Winner **Jacques Malan's** entry examined the role of architecture in dealing with death through his design of a crematorium ecological funerary

complex in central Port Elizabeth.

"Owing to the high death rate, rapid urban expansion and lack of open space, the traditional form of burial has become problematic. Cemeteries in cities are rapidly filling and are posing serious health hazards, such as the contamination of underground

water reserves", he said.

Runner-up, **Cornelia Faasen's** project was entitled "A Prison that Pays".

Cornelia said: "There is a need for correctional centres in South Africa that are designed according to the unique needs of women. Little attention has been paid to issues such

as sanitation and babies and children residing in prison with their mothers."

"I have designed a prison building with the aim to achieve a sense of place – as opposed to the cold, standard, institutional prison buildings that are the norm in this country," said Faasen.



*ENTERTAINMENT SOLUTIONS ... First-year public relations and communications students (back, from left) Samantha Stange, Amber Share and Annemie Jacobs and Ashley Mackilligan (front left), were selected by national hip-hop artist Ciza Tha Journalist (centre) for their "realistic, creative, innovative and energetic approach" to communication strategies for artists. Ciza Tha Journalist and local artists benefited from this assignment by lecturer **Adelina Mbinjama** (front right). The artists highlighted communication challenges that individuals face and welcomed the suggested realistic opportunities to strengthen their image – such as giving back to the community through charity work. The students used on-line campaigns on Facebook and MXit and compiled a portfolio for some artists.*

Singing ticket to the world



WORLD CHOIR ... Tenor Muz Sirenya (back row centre) was the only world youth choir member from the Eastern Cape participating in the choir's recent anniversary tour.

FOURTH-YEAR Music student **Muz Sirenya** has just returned from Sweden, where he was one of only a handful of South Africans – and the only Eastern Cape participant – invited by the World Youth Choir to participate in their 20th anniversary tour.

His invitation was based on his performance with the choir in China last year, where the group sang at the Hong Kong opening of the Beijing Olympics and even accompanied Chinese actor Jackie Chan for one memorable song. Sirenya has already been invited to attend the choir's 2010 world tour in Tenerife, Canary Islands.

It was incredible working under some of the world's best choir conductors. The anniversary tour included United States conductor Dr Steve Zegree, Venezuelan conductor Maria Guinand, Japan's top conductor Nobuaki Tanaka along with South Africa's specialist in African choral music, Sidumo Jacobs, an NMMU alumnus.

Sirenya, who will complete the final credits towards his degree in June next year, majors in music technology and has voice and piano as his main instruments. He is extremely grateful to NMMU choir director **Junita van Dijk** for encouraging him to audition for the World Youth Choir. - **NW**

Local crafters trained in mural design

CERAMIC Design lecturer **Julia Keevy** recently worked on a community mosaic project with former ceramic design student Vulisango Ndwandwa.

The pair trained people from the Mthatha Art Centre to create a mosaic mural for the Botha Sigau parkade building in Owen Street, Mthatha.

The project stretched over five weeks and all the cutting and placing was done on site.

Julia took care of the artwork, materials and logistics of the project, while Vulisango managed the project on site and oversaw the training of the crafters.



*PROUD PROJECT ... Local crafters (back from left) Nesiwe Nongebeza, Maphelo Bacela, Bongani Ngqoshela and Mkonto Gwazela with ceramic design lecturer **Julia Keevy** (front), crafter Siya Ngqungqu and former ceramic design student Vulisango Ndwandwa decorated the Botha Sigau parkade building in Mthatha.*

Tribute to poet and activist



NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy in collaboration with Paterson High School and the South End Museum paid tribute to South African poet and anti-apartheid activist Prof Dennis Brutus at the South End Museum

in January. Prof Brutus died at his home in Cape Town on 26 December 2009.

NMMU bestowed an honorary doctorate on Brutus in 2009 as a mark of its esteem for his distinguished record in service of democracy and human rights.

*THINKING BACK ... Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy **Alan Zinn** (from left), Alumni Relations Director, **Paul Geswindt** and **Yvette Geswindt** at the function paying tribute to poet and anti-apartheid activist Prof Dennis Brutus.*

In his acceptance address, Brutus spoke about his youthful days in Port Elizabeth before apartheid and how he, and many of his generation were moved to act against injustice.

The event comprised a visual display of the life of Prof Brutus, music and poetry.

Vast network of contacts for achieving targets

New Trust Executive Director

NEWLY appointed NMMU Trust Executive Director Thembela Sofisa brings a wealth of experience to his new position after working in the private and public sectors.

Thembela was the publisher/general manager of Johnnic Publishing Eastern Cape and Dispatch Media, now known as Avusa Media and deputy permanent secretary of the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism.

"It is indeed very exciting to be back in the university environment after spending almost 15 years in the public and private sectors. I have met most of my former colleagues and already feel as if I have been here for a long time," says Thembela.

He acknowledges the enormous progress in the strategic focus areas of Vision 2020.

"The time has come for me to make my contribution. I'm therefore looking forward to being an integral part of this exciting phase in the history of NMMU."

He views the principal focus of the Trust as securing the long-term financial health of the university.

"My experience in the academic world brings an understanding of how the university operates. At a strategic level, I also have an understanding of the challenges that South African universities, and especially NMMU, face."

In welcoming Thembela to the university, Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** said: "We are tremendously upbeat about the calibre of corporate and social skills that Thembela is bringing to NMMU as he will be leading our R1billion Endowment Campaign to be launched this year. His wide ranging networks with major advertisers, foundations and the massive public sector funding market will be a major asset to draw on. NMMU is also very proud to have returned one of Port Elizabeth's rising stars back to the city".

Thembela's academic experience comes as a former senior lecturer at the Port Elizabeth campus of Vista University in the 1990s where he taught micro and macro economics, public finance, development studies, international economics and managed key projects of the Employment Research Unit. He has tutored in the Rhodes University Academic Skills Programme.

His work in both the private and public sectors means he comes with a vast network of contacts – contacts that will be helpful in achieving the Trust's targets over the next five years.

Thembela is on a five-year contract with the Trust, and by implication he and his team are expected to present a five-year operational plan soon.

"My long-term goals are in line with the strategic focus areas of the Trust – namely, the capital



LEADER ... NMMU Trust Executive Director Thembela Sofisa will be leading our R1billion Endowment Campaign to be launched this year.

campaign, alumni mobilisation, personal legacies, strategic project solicitation in the private and public sectors," says the former Newell High School learner.

► Business and Economic Sciences



ROLE PLAYERS ... Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences' Dean Prof Niekie Dorfling (from left), Business School Director Prof Piet Naudé, Advisory Board member Gillian Adendorff, guest speaker Rory Stear and Graduate School Director Prof Kobus Jonker attended the Business School annual MBA graduate dinner. Recipients of academic awards included KPMG Advisory Services Consultant Jacques Pienaar (Best MBA graduate), SANDF Service Centre Manager Terrance Hendricks (Best BBA graduate), Management Services Officer for Infrastructure and Engineering Amanda Dowd-Krause, (Best second-year MBA student), and Aspen Pharmacare Operations Pharmacist Donné Rothner, (Best first-year MBA student).

Did you know?

THE most popular courses (the number of applicants and admissions in brackets) as at 4 January 2010 were as follows:

- **Bachelor Social Work**
(applicants - 1030; admissions - 151)
- **BCom (C3 Accounting)**
(applicants - 797; admissions - 220)
- **LLB (Law)**
(applicants - 542; admissions - 111)
- **Diploma Engineering: Civil**
(applicants - 461; admissions - 87)
- **BCur (Nursing Science)**
(applicants - 412; admissions - 30)
- **BPharm**
(applicants - 407; admissions - 136)

Food, cosmetics, paints and plastics form basis for new inventions

New degree creates exciting products



INVENTORS ... Formulation Science honours students (second from left) Khwezikazi Mkentane, Humbulani Shekhobe, Tutu Maseko, Somikazi Konkwane and Carla Barnard showcased their products under the supervision of Chemistry's **Dr Nicole Vorster** (left).

FIVE BSc Honours Formulation Science students shared their interesting innovations with their department and the public in a showcase in December.

These students form part of a group of 10 students currently enrolled in this full-time and part-time course in the Science Faculty's InnoVenton and the Downstream Chemicals Technology Station.

It is the only qualification of its kind being offered in South Africa on full-time and part-time basis and the first five students are expected to graduate in April this year.

Part-time students work in diverse companies such as Sasol, Aberdare Cables, Eveready, Aspen Pharmacare and Autosafety.

The students exhibited the products which they have developed or improved upon during their studies in the form of oral presentations, business plans for the possible commercialisation of the products, and prototypes of the actual products with appropriate packaging.

The products included:

- ▶ A braid remover by Khwezikazi Mkentane which cuts down on the time it takes to remove braids, but also leaves the hair clean, nourished and healthy looking – the first of its kind in SA.
- ▶ An improved coating formulation and compressor oil suitable for use in ammonia compressors developed by Tutu Maseko.

▶ Carla Barnard's novel solvent-free slow releasing parfum cream which replaces commercially-available parfums – a perfume formulation which lasts over an extended period of time.

"The students are being taught the basic scientific principles behind the blending and mixing of products – and then have to blend their own usable product which may be commercialised," says lecturer and programme co-ordinator **Dr Nicole Vorster**.

The course covers all consumer products – from food and cosmetics to paints and plastics. Depending on the products they formulate, students may be able to start their own businesses or work overseas.

Physics assist subject advisors



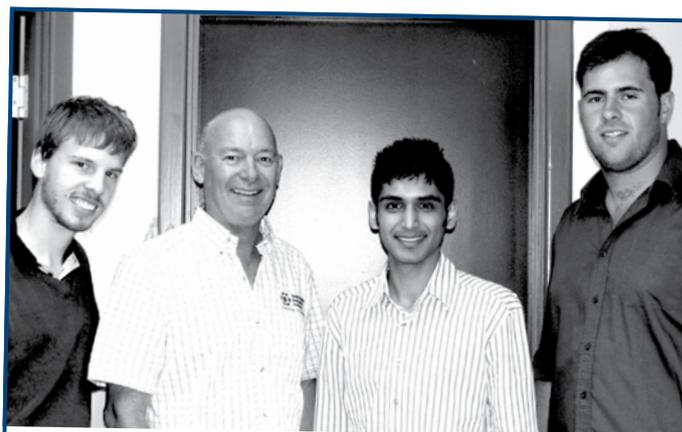
OUTREACH ... Physics' **Dr Nobom Hashe** explains some of the two- and three-dimensional waves to the Physics Subject Advisors.

OUR PHYSICS Department kick-started the year by assisting with the need to improve Mathematics and Science in schools, as nationally highlighted by the latest matric results.

The department hosted a two-day workshop on Physics for 26 subject advisors of the Eastern Cape Education Department.

Physics' **Dr Nobom Hashe** organised the workshop assisted by department head **Prof Japie Engelbrecht**, **Eldon September** and **Prof Ernest van Dyk** as well as Jim Thomas and Aletta Zietsman from Wits University. Demonstrations were performed by Electrical Engineering's **Riekie Slabbert** and **Isabel van Gend**.

The Eastern Cape Education Department said they are looking forward to teachers training.



Computing sciences achievers

TOP STUDENTS ... Computing Science honours student **Mohammed Casim** (third from left) earned himself R5 000 as best student and for the best project in his class of 16 students. His project involved skills development on the internet. He is joined by honours class supervisor **Prof André Calitz** and runners-up **Timothy Matthews** (left) and **Cornel Ferreira** (right). Third-year students **Gianni Twigg** and **Sherwin Barlow** took top honours among 18 teams, under the supervision of lecturer **Janine Nel** with their medical practice bookkeeping system for community clinics.

German exposure for mechatronics students

SEVERAL students are being exposed to invaluable international input as a result of research collaboration between our Mechanical Engineering Department and the University of Applied Science Braunschweig/Wolfenbüttel in Germany.

Undergraduate, master's and doctoral students work on automotive-related research and development as well as information transfer between Germany and South Africa.

The students are supervised by NMMU's **Professors Theo van Niekerk**, and **Hinrich Holdack-Janssen** of the Chair of Automotive Engineering and Prof Udo Becker of

the German university.

This research in mechatronics and information technology solutions for automotive engineering is being funded by the National Research Foundation of South Africa.

A major objective of the joint research is for students to design, build and develop mechatronic components in support of the NMMU formula racing car student team, building a single seat formula racing car to compete at international level.

Students work on different projects at various levels of their studies including the modelling of a vehicle climatronic system.



INTERNATIONAL LINKS ... Mechanical Engineering's Prof Theo van Niekerk (right) work closely together with German University of Applied Science Braunschweig/Wolfenbüttel involving several students including (from left) masters' student Jie Sun, BEng student Riaan Brown, doctoral student Juergen Kranz and masters' student Hiten Parmar.

► **Science**

Educators benefit from maths skill upgrade

MATHEMATICS educators can now improve their skills levels significantly by completing our Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department's short learning programmes – MATHSUP.

The first group of 41 Port Elizabeth educators who successfully completed the programmes each received an official certificate at a ceremony in November.

The programmes cover the new NCS Mathematics syllabus for the FET (Grades 10-12) band and structured pre-and post-tests showed a marked

improvement in the skills levels of participants.

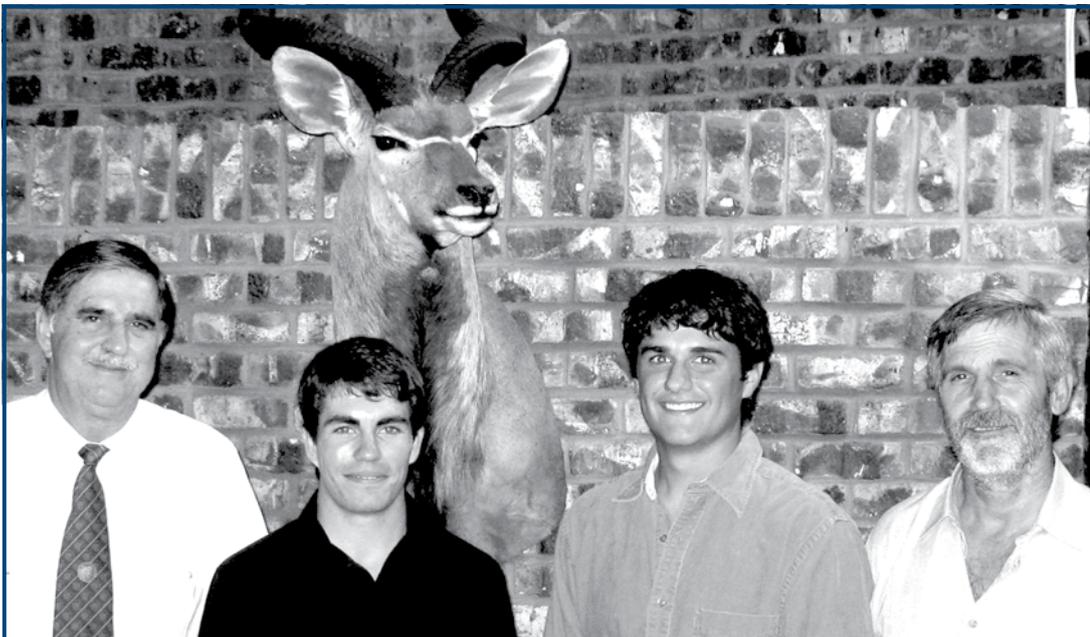
Initial research also indicated that the MATHSUP was received with great excitement and appreciation by the educators. Two similar groups enrolled at George and Mthatha.

The programme consists of two credit-bearing programmes each delivered over a semester. It starts with an intense seven-day contact period during school holidays then followed up by workshops and a written examination.

Apart from structured support via an

innovative teaching model using DVD support and an interactive web blog, educators were also empowered to use some of the latest technology to teach Mathematics content in the classrooms. A complete set of Grades 11 and 12 Mathematics DVD series was also developed by the department.

A number of companies have shown interest to support this intervention and plans are in place to enrol five groups of practicing Mathematics educators for MATHSUP this year.



TOP SHOTS ... Among the Agriculture and Game Ranch Management Department prize winners at the awards function on the Addo Campus in November were Morné Viljoen (second right) who won the prize for best student (Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa - CHASA) also obtaining the highest mark for theory. He is joined by best shot Stephanus Jansen van Rensburg (second left), CHASA manager Rory O'Moore (left) and Agriculture and Game Management head Prof Pieter van Niekerk.



FIRST CANDIDATES ... Altogether 29 students from conservation-oriented organisations such as SanParks, Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, Cape Town City Metro, Cape Nature, Eastern Cape Parks and private practice such as Cape EPrac received the first certificates for the Conservation Stewardship and Extension short learning programme. The course is presented by the School of Natural Resource Management at George Campus in partnership with the Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). Three BTech students also participated in this programme aimed at meeting the needs of practitioners who are active in the field of conservation extension. A similar course entitled *Beyond Fences - Environmental Stewardship and Extension* will start in April. This course is aimed at persons involved in conservation management and environmental educators and related positions.

Algae experts experience George Campus

LOCAL and international researchers and scientists in the field of Phycology – the study of algae – gathered on our George Campus for the 25th congress of the Phycological Society of Southern Africa organised by the Botany Department in January.

South Africa and Brazil are known world-wide for their long-term research on sandy beach ecology. They share a common feature of the coast, namely spectacular, highly productive sandy beaches which have a substantial influence on coastal ecosystems.

Based on this common interest biological oceanographer and marine ecologist Dr Clarisse Odebrecht, from the Fundação Universidade Federal do Rio Grande in Brazil was the international visiting speaker at the conference. Her visit also developed

a collaborative relationship between NMMU's sandy beaches research group and her institute in Brazil.

The conference sponsored by NMMU and Taurus Products was attended by researchers and scientists from the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs; the CSIR; Durban University of Technology; Mangosuthu University of Technology; NMMU; University of Cape Town; University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and the University of the Witwatersrand.

Topics included algae farming for oil in the development of the biofuel industry, seaweeds and small unicellular phytoplankton and habitats from rivers to sandy beaches.

Delegates enjoyed a field trip to the rocky shores and sandy beaches of the Goukamma Nature Reserve and Lake Pleasant (Groenvlei).



Welcome to accomplished researcher

UNIVERSITY of Cape Town Ecology PhD graduate **Dr Corli Coetsee** recently joined the Natural Resource Management Team at George Campus.

First-year students in Plant Studies and Rangeland Studies will soon share in the expertise of this accomplished researcher in Rangeland and Wildlife Management as well as Conservation Biology.

Corli's master's work examined the effects of grazers on nitrogen cycling in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park, while her PhD work looked at the effects of fire on nitrogen cycling in the Kruger National Park.

"I am looking forward to pursuing research in ecosystem ecology in the forests, thickets and fynbos biomes of the Western and Eastern Cape," she enthuses.

Hosting Tukkies vs Arende

GEORGE Campus colleagues and the public had the opportunity to see two matches between rugby teams Tukkies and the Arende on the George Campus rugby fields in January.

Tukkies prepared themselves for the 2010 Varsity Cup challenge, where the top eight rugby universities (of which NMMU is one – see page 16) in South Africa compete. The Arende, the southwestern districts provincial team, are preparing themselves for the Vodacom Cup Challenge.

Agriculture featured

GEORGE Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** recently shared details on NMMU's agriculture education on national radio station Radiosondergrense.

The School of Natural Resource Management has secured a regular monthly slot to air interesting and significant contributions made in agricultural and research arenas.

Forthcoming contributions will be on 19 February; 5 March; 30 April; 14 May; 25 June; 23 July; 6 August; 17 September; 29 October; 26 November and 10 December 2010, or visit the relevant website at www.elsenburg.com to access archived material.

Congratulations to our long service recipients



CONGRATULATIONS ... Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (centre front) congratulates our very long service recipients including (back from left) **Eben Olivier**, **Potsi Mahlakahlaka** and **Cedric McClelland** and (front from left) **Otto Terblanche**, **Janet Wesson**, **Iona Wannenburg**, **Christelle Strydom**, **Doyce Thandiwe Funcuza** and **Valerie Roux**.



COUPLES ... **Eben Olivier** of the Sport Bureau and his wife **Tilla** of Education are one of three couples who both received long service awards in 2009. The other couples were **Danie Goosen** of Technical Services and **Antoinette** of Campus Health Services and **Rob Minne** of Continuing Education and **Barbara** of Student Housing.

40 years

- Potsi Mahlakahlaka ► Eben Olivier

35 years

- Marsha Bubb ► Doyce Thandiwe Funcuza
- Cedric McClelland ► Valerie Roux
- Christelle Strydom ► Otto Terblanche

30 years

- Henk Delport ► Nomalungelo Moshuli
- Cynthia Nokuku Nteto ► Lynn Slogrove
- Iona Wannenburg ► Janet Wesson

25 years

- Frans Bezuidenhout ► Hennie Bezuidenhout
- Thozamile Bokolo ► Elna Burger
- Bruce Cadle ► Eileen Campbell ► Nomonde Dara
- Marina de Jager ► Halina France-Jackson
- Ethna Frankenfeld ► Pecks Phindile Gaika
- Albrecht Herholdt ► Colleen Hopgood
- Amanda Human ► Gavin Hustler
- Wilson Xolele Kobese ► Faith Landela
- Beauty Kholeka Lolo ► Nimrod Yekile Manene
- Phindile Mbengo ► Siphos Sam ► Errol Thyssen
- Adriaan van der Walt
- Karin Mare van der Westhuizen
- Beulah van Rooyen ► André van Zyl
- John von Bonde ► Paul Webb

20 years

- Gert Beukes ► Danie Bezuidenhout
- Michelle Bothma ► Petrus Boukes, Sport Bureau

- Mariaan Buckle ► Nomathamsanqa Bulembu
- Ronel du Preez ► Lynette Erasmus
- Magda Eybers ► Marieta Fourie ► Marius Fourie
- Delene Gerber ► Danie Goosen ► Marius Gouws
- Mike Grimes ► Danie Hattingh ► Francky Herbst
- Kobus Jonker ► Landile Moses ► Hester Kritzingier
- Edward Miller ► Rob Minne ► Tilla Olivier
- Vaughn Oosthuizen ► Chris Parsons
- Andy Smith ► Eugen Straeuli ► Cedric Strydom
- Helen van de Haar ► Fransisca van der Merwe
- Salome van der Riet ► Derick Vosloo
- Ntombizanele Mildred Zomba

15 years

- Mbuyiseli Philip Bawo ► Zola Bob
- Richard Booysen ► Hennie Boshoff
- Letitia Clinghan ► Carol Clohessy ► Gavin Cook
- Johan de Jager ► John de Lange
- Razaana Denson ► Tim Downing
- Enaleen Draai ► Dedre Erasmus
- Antoinette Goosen ► Peter Greeff
- Janette Hattle ► Tillie Jantjes ► Jano Jonker
- Mark Joubert ► Irene Kamberos ► Gys Kleyn
- Pierre Knoesen ► Janine Krüger ► Linda Kwatsha
- Reinhardt Landsberg ► Penny Lithauer
- Pieter Milne ► Barbara Minne
- Gladman Andile Mlonzi ► Andrew Murray
- Nobathembu Pamela Mwanda ► Selwyn Naidoo
- Ria Nel ► Heather Nel ► Fundiswa Ngubo
- Magda Nothnagel ► Francois Olivier
- Vernon Oosthuizen ► Farida Panday
- Bernard Petersen ► Dawid Prins

- Adrian Rockman ► Thobeka Sijaji ► Jean Struwig
- Jakkie van der Mescht ► René van Wyk
- Elize Viljoen ► Adele Visser

10 years

- Thoko Batyi ► Tembisa Befile ► Geoff Booth
- Cathy Candasamy ► Visha Coopasamy
- Jo-Ann Daniels ► Aletta Delpont
- Marianne Doubell ► Ernst Ferg ► Lynn Futcher
- Phumelele Gama ► Sheena Goddard
- Gideon Gouws ► Ebrahim Green ► Eric Hosten
- Sindisiwe James ► Beverley Kapp
- Andrew Kock ► Wayne Leander
- Terrance Leo ► Gerrit Louw
- Gift Siphiso Mabulu ► Zingisani Makrwede
- Zingisile Darlington Mantewu
- Sizakele Mgwadleka ► Mandisa Mkondwana
- Nomfundo Beaulah Mmpepo ► Zamile Mtati
- Athol Muller ► Antoinette Mynhardt
- Nomvuyiseko Ethel Nopote ► Aileen Ownhouse
- Val Robberts ► Andrew Rutherford
- Shaheem Sauls ► Adanaan Smith ► Liesl Smith
- Lyn Snodgrass ► Tobeka Harris Soga
- Maureen Thembeke Tube ► Suzette Viviers

5 years

- Stephanie August ► Mpathi Bacela ► Lynn Biggs
- Brink Botha ► Rudi Bower ► Mark Brand
- Otilia Brown ► Terry Browning ► Johan Cronje
- Arnold Denakie ► Cathy du Preez
- Deborah du Preez ► Inge Economou
- Igor Gorlach ► Samantha Greeff
- Zukiswa Gwam ► Chantel Harris ► Portia Jordan
- Jenny Junicke ► Andile Kase ► Clara Klitsie
- Erika Lambrechts ► Martin Loubser
- Mthetho Mabulu ► Bukiwe Mali
- Tobeka Mashologu-Kuse ► Maditaba Meltaf
- Johanna Messiah ► Lulama Mgqali
- Alexis Ndimurwimo ► Rekha Neglur
- Berlene Nell ► Shirani Nhlanguini
- Sadeya Pillay ► Buyiswa Scott ► Louise Solomons
- Elana Storm ► Janelle Vermaak
- Poovanasen Vassen ► Gillian Warmenhove
- Lyn Webb



Mail box

talk@NMMU would like to hear your views on issues affecting your life at our university. Write to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

VC and Staff Association spot-on!

I would like to thank and compliment the VC and the Staff Association on their choice of gifts that we received at the end of last year.

The backpack (VC) and cooler bag (Staff Association) were spot-on gift ideas that will definitely not gather dust in a cupboard!

– **Rinette Dickinson, Nursing Science**



PRIZE WINNERS ... They aced the dream team competitions: (from left) **JC Nortje, Vaughan Oosthuizen, Johan Barnard, Gary Richards and Albert Nienaber.**

21 years of proud existence

AFTER 21 years many wonderful stories can be told about the events and competitions of the NMMU Staff Golf Club.

The 50 plus club members represent the full spectrum of staff from top level managers to lower levels, male and female, all campuses, disciplines, races, personalities, young and retired, all golfing abilities.

About 28 members participate diligently in the monthly Order of Merit to accumulate points towards the ultimate dream for every NMMU staff golfer's golfing career – being crowned the OOM winner.

PSG NMMU Staff Golf Club President Rossouw von Solms shares some highlights about the club being 21 years old.

Golfers must earn OOM points to be elected for the annual National Tournament, which they aspire to participate in. Last year 20 NMMU golfers travelled to Durban to enjoy two days on two of the most wonderful golf courses in South Africa. Some 130 golfers from various universities competed against one another.

In 2009 the Club Championship tour took place in Port Alfred. Altogether 30 staff golfers

competed on the Fish River Sun and Royal Port Alfred courses for the coveted club championship trophy.

The NMMU Staff Golf Club, proudly sponsored by PSG Konsult, is a happy family of staff golfers. Long live the NMMU Staff Golf Club – at least another 21 years!

For more information on the club, please visit www.nmmu.ac.za/golf.

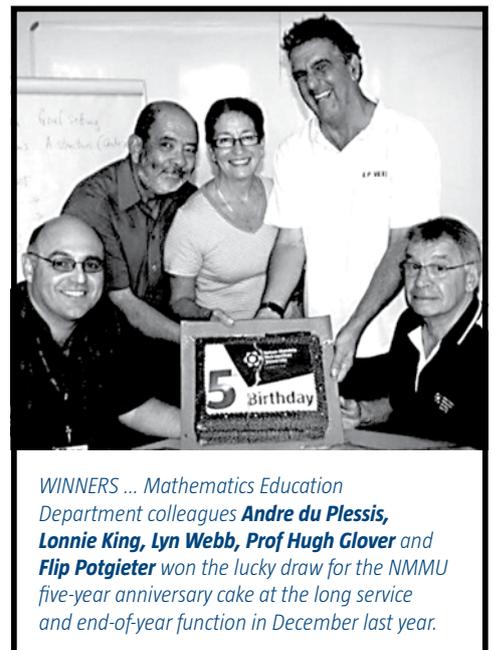
Briefs

Ancient Cultures

Michelle Myles of the Education Research Centre graduated with an MPhil (Ancient Cultures) from the University of Stellenbosch in December.

Assistance for job

Johan Steyn of Cooperative Education last year received a motorised heavy duty wheelchair from the Thabo Mbeki Development Trust to assist him in his work. Johan has cerebral palsy and uses this wheel chair to move around independently. Johan does, among others, public relations, arranges interviews and receives employers for the department.



WINNERS ... Mathematics Education Department colleagues **Andre du Plessis, Lonnie King, Lyn Webb, Prof Hugh Glover and Flip Potgieter** won the lucky draw for the NMMU five-year anniversary cake at the long service and end-of-year function in December last year.

*YEAR-END-FUN ... There was much laughter when Centrestage's Gino Fabbri entertained everybody at the Staff Association year-end-function in December. Members won prizes in the lucky draws, thanks to the main sponsor PPS for their donation assisting with funding for the function. Alumni Director **Paul Geswindt** also donated prizes. The NMMU Staff Association will in future also be working more closely with the Alumni Association and Office. The Staff Association organises at least three functions per year. Colleagues who wish to join the association, can visit the staff association's site on the staff portal or contact the secretary on Anneke.botha@nmmu.ac.za*

Health talk

Obesity

***The facts:**

- South Africa is on its way to overtaking America as the world's fattest nation.
- Almost 50% of South Africans over the age of 15 are overweight or obese, and medical researchers warn that the government may soon have to step in to manage the epidemic.
- Up to 40% of women are suffering from obesity.
- Perhaps the most alarming, is the fact that 17% of children between the ages of one and eight were overweight, and 5% were obese already in 1999.
- Studies indicate overweight children are highly likely to grow into overweight adults, risking heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and even some forms of cancer.

What is obesity?

Obesity is a condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to such an extent that health may be negatively affected.

Obesity is typically assessed by Body Mass Index (BMI) which is calculated by dividing the person's mass by the square of his or her height.

Metric: BMI = Kilograms/ square meters.



Classification

BMI

- Less than 18.5
- 18.5 – 24.9
- 25.0 – 29.9
- 30.0 – 34.9
- 35.0 – 39.9
- Over 40.0

Classification

- Underweight
- Normal weight
- Overweight
- Class I obesity
- Class II obesity
- Class III obesity

Causes

The primary causes of obesity are a combination of consuming too many calories and too little exercise.

Prevention

To prevent health problems such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, poor eyesight, high cholesterol, blocked arteries and many more one should avoid from fatty foods. And instead incorporate a variety of health foods in your diet and get plenty of exercise.

Small changes

If we take the stairs instead of the lift and walk to the shop instead of taking the car we are already getting more exercise to burn our fat. Cleaning your house and gardening are also good forms of exercise.

***Source: Health24.com
Valencia Benjamin, Campus Health Services**

Effects on health

Obesity is one of the leading preventable causes of death worldwide.

Obesity on average reduces life expectancy by six to seven years with severe obesity reducing life expectancy by 20 years for men and five years for women.

Medical conditions such as type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, obstructive sleep apnoea, social criticism, cancer, cardio vascular disease and non alcoholic fatty liver disease are associated with obesity,

Inspiring discussions

COLLEAGUES at NMMU inspired an initiative among institutions countrywide to meet and discuss mutual interests at the first short learning programme colloquium held in November last year.

The two-day colloquium held at NMMU was attended by 50 colleagues involved in the management of short learning programmes.

“Topics included the national HEQC audit results with emphasis on short learning programmes nationwide. This includes a better understanding of quality assurance in this environment, implications for the HE Qualification Framework, the development of a network, academic input to stimulate the environment and the official creation of a national body,” said Senior Manager Continuing Education **Rob Minne**.

You can win

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

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

1. NMMU has had a 12% increase in **a.....s (12 letter word)** when compared to the same time in 2008.
2. NMMU raked in 8 of 14 awards including a number of top awards at the annual 2009 National Microsoft **l.....e (7 letter word)** Cup competition.
3. **M.....s (12 letter word)** students will from this year use a HUMMER H3 vehicle in their practical and research studies.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to *elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za* by **22 February**.

Schuinvilla Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members.

Tel: 041 364 2109 or George Campus - Pacaltsdorp Pharmacy: Tel: 044 878 1707.

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

Condolences

THE university extends its condolences to the family and friends of **Dr Shaleen Els**, former director of Research Capacity Development who passed away recently.

More responsibility for Pharmacy assistants Creating opportunities

OUR Pharmacy Assistant Training Programme trains pharmacy assistants to be more effective in their workplaces.

This outreach programme run by **Jacqui Jooste**, from the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration gives pharmacy assistants more responsibility.

In the course they learn to advise patients on health-related matters and learn about the handling of medicine and preparation of prescriptions.

Jacqui emphasises that the profession is highly

legislated and tightly controlled and therefore learners have to work in a pharmacy or dispensary, on a commercial, institutional or manufacturing site, before being trained.

Learners are required to register with the South African Pharmacy Council and are trained at registered sites. They may not dispense the medicines alone but can prepare prescriptions which must be checked by a pharmacist.

"The biggest challenge is to train people who have

not been previously educated or who struggle with the English language," says Jacqui.

The Level 3 Basic Pharmacist's Assistant Certificate, followed by the Level 4 Post Basic Certificate, are both one-year courses. Since 2000 Jacqui has built capacity in the deeper rural outskirts.

She is currently rewriting course material to be available on CD or via e-learning.

An HIV support programme is also on the agenda as well as extending the Nursing Dispensing Licensing training course.

Many doctors are interested in this course because they want to do licensing themselves to try and alleviate the problem of access to medicines by patients in urban and rural settings. - JA

Ending with a bang



EMPOWERMENT ... Altogether 45 students obtained certificates in the management of finance, governance and conflicts, projects, HIV/AIDS and support groups as well as basic computer literacy as part of the Community Development Unit's Masikhule project.

NMMU's Community Development Unit ended their seven-year relationship of capacity-building, training and mentoring the Sterkspruit community near the Lesotho border on a high note with a graduation ceremony for 45 students.

Through the NMMU Trust the unit was supported financially by De Beers for 12 Masikhule community-based projects, including educational support,

home-based care, HIV/AIDS Awareness, sewing projects, care for the elderly, gardening, nutrition and farming activities.

Centre for Academic Engagement and Cooperation Director **Prof George de Lange** and the NMMU Trust's **Shilela Malatjie** represented NMMU with De Beers Fund Public and Corporate Affairs Manager Gert Klopper also addressing the audience.

Soccer players giving back

FIRST team soccer players at Tyhilulwazi Senior Secondary School near our Missionvale Campus have reason to smile.

The team received a soccer kit donated by the NMMU Campus Football League, a student social soccer league involving the PE campuses.

The annual memorial award, sponsored by former league players, pays tribute to active league members who passed away. The first recipient of the award was Walmer High School in 2008.

Tyhilulwazi, situated in Izinyoka Township, was selected by league champions, Vista, based on Missionvale Campus.

"We chose Tyhilulwazi because the school is facing various obstacles when it comes to the provision of sport," Vista team captain Ayanda Lwana said.

School principal Fundile Magxwalisa thanked the



REJOICING ... NMMU Soccer Committee Member Si-nethemba Nakasa (from left), NMMU Soccer Manager Mark Tommy, Tyhilulwazi Senior Secondary School principal Fundile Magxwalisa and the league champions Vista captain, Ayanda Lwana at the handing over of the soccer kit to the school's first team.

league and emphasised that sport was one way to promote learning and stress the value of education.

Other NMMU-related initiatives involving Tyhilulwazi Senior Secondary School in 2009 included a national youth services tutoring



DIFFERENT APPROACH ... Third-year BA Media, Communication and Culture students Lwazi Mluma (left) and Siphokazi Nonyukela targeted the youth on their level to encourage them about giving back to the community.

Youth encouraged to reach out

TWO NMMU students decided to step out of their comfort zones, to make a difference among their peers by creating awareness about community organisations.

BA Media, Communication and Culture students Lwazi Mluma and Siphokazi Nonyukela found youth in their masses at night clubs to educate about the values of giving back to the community. While fundraising they attempted to recruit volunteers.

They collaborated with Lulama Events, who hosted one of their weekly Castle Ladies' Nights in aid of the Association for Persons with Physical Disabilities (APD) at Coffee Rules in Parliament Street, Central.

The students used Facebook and other media to advertise the event where cover charges were donated to the APD.

programme for Grade 12 pupils at Missionvale Campus and the school making its debut in the Missionvale Altech Autopage Top 8 Knock-out Tournament organised by NMMU Soccer.

► Sport

Top university and club champions

THE Toshiba NMMU Cricket team was crowned the University Sports South Africa (USSA) champions after a two-run victory over University of the Western Cape (UWC) at the OUTsurance Oval in Bloemfontein in December.

The national club champions put in a brilliant performance to clinch the title, after UWC needed 12 runs in the final over.

- The club also won the National Club Championship tournament in September.
- The NMMU first team is now officially both the top ranked university and club team in the country.
- Four players were selected for the USSA National team including team captain Piet van Biljon who was elected to lead the USSA national XI side. Other NMMU players in the side are Rudi Second (wk), Michael Price and Corbyn Dolley.
- NMMU's Rudi Second was named the USSA Player of the Tournament
- The team were unbeaten at the tournament



CHAMPIONS ... The Toshiba NMMU Cricket team was crowned the University Sports South Africa (USSA) champions, (from left) USSA Player of the tournament Rudi Second, Team Manager **Baakier Abrahams**, NMMU Cricket Manager with USSA Trophy, **Riaan Osman** and NMMU Cricket club chairperson and team member **Brett Thompson**.

Back your boytjie

IT'S time for Varsity Cup rugby at NMMU. This year we had one of the opening matches which was televised and we need **YOU** to stay behind our team. Loads of fun events are happening at the games so get down to the stadium on the South Campus and support the NMMU Madibaz!

The remaining games taking place at NMMU are on **Monday 15 February vs FNB Ikeys** and on **Monday 1 March vs FNB Pukke**, both games at start at **18:30**.

Gareth for gold

NMMU Coach of the Year **Gareth Barnard** has reason to be proud. His three Eastern Province swimmers Jessica Liss, Akeem Langford and Muminah Connelly came back with six gold medals, 3 silvers and three bronze medals from the 8th African Junior Championships in Mauritius.

Jon Jon - the star

NMMU is proud of cricketer **Jon Jon Smuts** (right) for his recent achievement on the cricket field.

In November he:

- Represented the Warriors and the EP Amateur cricket teams
- Recorded undefeated knocks of 150 and 73 respectively vs the Eagles in the four-day Supersport first class match played from 19 - 22 November in East London
- Was named Man of the Match in the game against the Eagles
- Played in two matches for the Warriors and recorded 250 runs in four innings at an average of 125 and, in addition to the runs he scored, collected 5 wickets
- Played in one three-day match and two one-day



matches for the EP Amateur team

- He clocked up 312 runs at an average of 104 and collected 7 wickets in the respective matches
- In the matches he played in the month of November, Jon Jon has the following outstanding statistics:
- He scored 562 runs at an average of 112.4 per knock and he collected 12 wickets for 517 runs in 123 overs at 4.2 runs per over.

IronMan colleagues



Education's **Prof Lesley Wood** has completed two half IronMans and one full one. She loves the challenge and training for it.

Economics lecturer **Steven Msomi** (36) participated in the IronMan in 2009 and adores it because sport keeps you healthy, he likes to see how far he can push himself and he enjoys interacting and socialising with people from around the world. He trains gradually during the year and picks up towards the end.



Business Management's **Prof Elmarie Venter** (42) is one of three colleagues we could track down who are preparing for IronMan this year. Elmarie has just finished her first half IronMan and will be doing her first full IronMan in April. She started doing triathlons three years ago and says it was a natural thing to progress to IronMan. About preparation she says: "Commitment, commitment, commitment and oh, getting up at 4.30 in the morning for training".