

talk@nmmu

The Staff Newsletter

March 2010

Statistics reveal interesting trends in study choices

More students in 2010

EARLY figures already show an increase in student enrolments of 4.3% compared to the same time in 2009 (see page 6).

This is an indication that our vigorous marketing campaign to ensure that prospective students applied to study here before the official closing date on 1 August and again, by the late cut-off date of 4 December paid off.

Apart from the 12% increase in applications by 1 August 2009, NMMU's flagship programmes, such as the BCom for Chartered Accountants, again attracted a significant number of students from all over the country. Indeed, 13 of the first 23 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship recipients this year also enrolled for BCom programmes.

"The chosen fields of study are very much in line with national trends," acting marketing manager **Christelle Feyt** told *talk@nmmu*.

"Research indicates that business, commerce and management studies are the most popular study fields among school leavers nationwide, followed by fields in manufacturing, engineering and technology. Programmes backed by financial support structures such as governmental bursary schemes are also very popular".

The ten most popular programmes among first-time entering students, based on registration figures on 29 January 2010, were as follows:

- ▶ BCom Accounting (for chartered accountants) – 142
- ▶ Diploma (Human Resource Management) – 136
- ▶ Diploma (Management) – 106
- ▶ BEd (FET band) – 100
- ▶ Diploma (Marketing) – 90
- ▶ Diploma (Information Technology: Software Development) – 98
- ▶ BA in Media, Communication & Culture – 89
- ▶ LLB – 89



GEARED FOR SUCCESS ... Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz** is joined by some of the first recipients of the prestigious NMMU's VC Scholarship (back from left) **Matthew Nicholls, Anrich Geldenhuys, Timothy Olls, Michael Gossman, Deanne Nolte and Caitlyn Allen (seated), who finished second in the province. The 23 students will each receive R60 000 for each year of their studies (see page 5).**

- ▶ Higher Certificate (Accountancy) – 82
- ▶ Diploma (Economics) – 81

Some programmes may have been excluded from this list due to prescribed capping of student numbers.

Christelle says the Eastern Cape is still our major feeder province but only 51.1% of matrics in the province passed in 2009.

It is of concern that of the more than 68 000 candidates writing the matriculation examinations last year, only 9 492 obtained admission to bachelors studies, 13 883 admission to diploma studies and 11 240 to higher certificate studies.

The 2009 provincial results also reflected a 14.8% drop in pass rates in key subject areas such as Accounting, Mathematics and Physical Science.

She adds that parents, teachers, as well as principals are increasingly giving positive feedback on NMMU's range of academic programmes. Concerns, however, regarding insufficient student housing facilities and a lack of student life, are also constantly raised by these stakeholder groups.

"If NMMU wants to expand its footprint in other provinces, it needs to have sufficient student housing facilities in place."

▶ In this edition

GROWTH

3

Building progress

WATER

6

Forward planning

SCIENCE

6

Algae: 'green' gold

ARTS

13

Windy ice-breaker

Buildings, scholarships and fuel for the future

WE have reason to be happy. A number of building projects have been completed recently including the Kraal Madibaz complex on South Campus, with its neon green and orange touch of colour bringing a fresh taste for coffees and get-togethers. And the good news ... North Campus, George and Missionvale are to follow suit.

Early indications are that our

student numbers have increased and our flagship BCom Accounting programme seems to be the most popular.

We are also happy to share news of the first 23 Vice-Chancellor's scholarships, established to attract academically excellent students.

In this edition we focus on fuel for the future - algae turning into green fuel and a wonderful story of a

department working together to lay the foundation to their greenhouse.

We celebrate good media coverage, a networking session for the VC with local media and well-attended communication workshops.

Our new horticulturist Elana Storm also shares her insight on the water situation on our campuses - indeed a very serious issue.

Keep on sending those stories.



Kind regards
Elma de Koker
Editor: talk@nmmu

New management structure

IN ORDER to build a better NMMU a more effective system of management supporting Vision 2020, strategic objectives and structures, has been introduced.



In short:

▶ Employment equity is now located in Human Resources, headed by Executive Director: Human Resources **Gary Paul**.



▶ Director of Organisational Transformation and Equity **Ruby-Ann Levendal's** new designation is now Director: Transformation Monitoring and Evaluation



▶ The Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration (CAEC) now reports to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**.



▶ Two new posts, namely Chief Information Officer (to be appointed) and Director: Infrastructural Projects **Stuart Blignaut** report to the Executive Director: Operations, who will be announced soon.



▶ Senior Director: HEADS **Prof Cheryl Foxcroft's** designation is now Dean: Teaching and Learning while Executive Director Student Affairs **Thoft**



Soga's post has been renamed Dean of Students.



▶ A new post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support has been created to whom the Registrar **Hugo Grimbeek**, the Executive Director: Operations, Dean of Students, Senior Director: Office of Academic Planning and Quality Advancement **Prof Martin Oosthuizen**, and Director: Office of Strategic Planning **Prof Heather Nel** report.



▶ A Management Committee (MANCO) was created to support ECom consisting of the following positions: Vice-Chancellor, three Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Executive Director: Human Resources and Executive Director: Finance **Marius Scheepers**.



▶ An expanded ECom will include members of MANCO plus the following: the Registrar, Dean of Students, all Deans of Faculty, Campus Principals of the George **Prof Christo Fabricius** and Missionvale Campuses **Khaya Matiso**, Dean: Teaching and Learning, Senior Director: Audit and Risk Management, Director: Monitoring and Evaluation, Senior Director: Academic Planning and Quality Ad-



vancement, Director: Strategic Planning as well as the ED: Operations.

▶ A Senior Director: Audit and Risk Management will be appointed to deal with major risk management issues as well as heading the internal auditing.

▶ The Disability function has been moved to the Student Affairs Division.

DIARY

Graduation sessions

14 April

Session 1 – 10:00 George Campus

16 April

Session 2 – 09:30 Health Sciences

Session 3 – 14:30 Law, Science, honorary doctoral degrees

19 April

Session 4 – 09:30 Business and Economic Sciences: diplomas

Session 5 – 14:30 Business and Economic Sciences: bachelors' degrees

20 April

Session 6 – 09:30 Business and Economic Sciences: postgraduate qualifications

Session 7 – 14:30 Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology

21 April

Session 8 – 09:30 Arts

Session 9 – 14:30 Education: undergraduate qualifications

22 April

Session 10 – 09:30 Education: postgraduate qualifications

Alumni reunion dates 2010

Various alumni reunions will be taking place this year.

Cricket: 7 & 8 May

Accounting: 23 Sep

Law: 24 Sep

Architecture: 22 Oct

Pharmacy: 29 Oct

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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.

Non-racialism and democracy focus

FOLLOWING the march against racism in 2008 the new Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) was created. In the week of 22 to 26 March the centre will be launched with a function, colloquium, workshop and lecture.

Towards the end of 2009 Allan Zinn was appointed as director of the centre.

The public launch will take place on 23 March at 18:00 in the GoldFields Auditorium on North Campus including a keynote speaker accompanied by poetry, music, dance and a visual art display.

The centre will also host the annual colloquium of the Anti-Racist Network in Higher Education on Missionvale Campus on 24 March where 100 academics countrywide are expected to attend.

Together with the Law Faculty, the centre will host a Street Law workshop on 25 March led by National Street Law Director, Lindi Coetzee, on 'Equality and Human Rights'. At 18:00 National Director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Adv Jacob van Garderen, will speak on 'Zenophobia and Refugee Rights' followed by a critique from the International Students Association.

Strong call for 'responsibility' follows tragedy

THE NMMU community – both staff and students – have reacted with anger and great concern following the tragic death of one of its students.

The murder of financial planning student Khaya Mtonga, of Tsomo, Transkei, allegedly in a stabbing attack by another student in a bathroom in Unitas residence in mid February, unleashed a torrent of strong feelings from staff and students at NMMU, much of which was captured on-line on NMMU's new soapbox (see page 14).

Close to 100 replies were received as staff and

students responded to how NMMU can ensure a safer environment for all?

Many felt students needed to take greater responsibility for their actions, while others pointed to the abuse of alcohol as a root cause in the February 14 tragedy, and many other crimes.

"Students today always emphasise their rights (to this and that) but I think they need to realise that with every right comes responsibility. Therefore, when they are practising their rights - it's their responsibility to make sure that they do not infringe on other people's

rights while doing so," one individual wrote.

This response echoes that of Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** who believes "each of us must take responsibility for his or her life, and respect the lives of others".

"NMMU has to make every effort to ensure maximum deterrence to violent and unacceptable behaviour leading to violence, as we must learn to relate to each other in humane terms (*ubuntu*)."

He pointed out, however, that no amount of security could substitute individual responsibility.

Ongoing building projects evidence of NMMU's growth

Campuses' coffee shop boom

OUR campuses are abuzz with building activity giving us some great new places and spaces.

The latest celebration was the opening of the **new Kraal complex** on South Campus.

Coffee shop Madibaz Café, convenience shop Madibaz Express, fast food shop Cassies and Halaal caterers Flavours all form part of the new complex, serving both staff and students.

Good news is that North Campus will also soon have a new coffee shop in the former cafeteria area.

"Our hoped-for coffee shop culture is happening," said Nikki Brown, Senior Manager Catering, Cleaning and Commercial Services.

Missionvale Campus' student centre, which is planned to be completed by November this year, will also accommodate a coffee shop and other outlets.

The student centre on George Campus is scheduled for completion by early May.

The **new lecture halls** on South Campus are already in use. Accounting head of department and lecturer Beryl Prinsloo was first to lecture in venue 123 0007.

Two weeks ago the Missionvale **computer labs**



Our hoped-for coffee shop culture is happening

OPENING... Madibaz complex manager Walter Pretorius and Senior Manager Catering, Cleaning and Commercial Services' Nikki Brown celebrate the opening of Madibaz with mascot Diba.

were handed over by the contractors.

One **new lift** in the Main Building on South has also been installed and the rest should be completed

by end of July.

Architecture and the Library on South Campus now also have access to new lifts. New lifts have been installed on Missionvale Campus and ramps for persons with disabilities will be completed at the end of April.

The **new library** on Missionvale Campus is also nearing completion to be ready for the second semester.

South Campus' ventilation upgrade will be ready at the end of April bringing relief for staff and students .

Other new projects include the conversion of Embizweni on South Campus into a student service delivery hub.

Meanwhile refurbishments and new branding to the value of R120 000 was sponsored by Sanlam on the Sanlam lecture halls on South Campus.



ADDITION... Alleviating the need on South Campus for lecturing space the new large media lecture venues on South Campus have been completed.

New project benefits interdisciplinary research in Science

Algae: turning harmful CO₂ emissions into 'green' gold

AN innovative project using marine algae to turn carbon dioxide into biofuels and other products has put NMMU at the forefront of cutting-edge "green" technology.

"This unusual venture could change the way we work in this area within the country – and maybe even the world," said Director: Innovation Support and Technology Transfer **Jaci Barnett**, addressing academics at the project's internal launch in February.

Housed on campus in a giant greenhouse, the project – which will be rolled out to industry – is the brainchild of InnoVenton, our internationally-recognised institute of chemical technology.

At the launch, InnoVenton director **Prof Ben Zeelie** said a number of global issues were driving research into alternative, and particularly renewable, energies, including "the big climate change debate" and the world's diminishing crude oil resources.

He said much of the algae-to-energy research already conducted globally focused specifically on biodiesel production, but had had very limited success. Thus, InnoVenton's project would take a different slant – focusing instead on converting (through a process called liquefaction) the resulting algae biomass into organic oil as well as sugar and protein solutions, to be used in various applications, including human and animal feed supplements and chemical production.

Interdisciplinary studies with Botany and Statistics will benefit master's and doctoral as well as MBA students from a business perspective.

InnoVenton has set up a private company Zalgen to ultimately commercialise the technology. **NW**



GREEN FUEL ... InnoVenton Director Prof Ben Zeelie (right), Environmental Sciences School Director Dr Derek du Preez (centre) and Zalgen General Manager Otto Lessing at the launch of the marine algae project to the NMMU community in the new greenhouse where algae filling 300 strips will eventually grow.

Laying our own foundations

IN A show of teambuilding and determination InnoVenton staff decided to roll up their sleeves and lay their algae greenhouse floor themselves.

"Altogether 70 tons of soil and gravel were brought in with our own vehicles, and the 'teambuilding' started," said InnoVenton Director **Prof Ben Zeelie** told *talk@nmmu*.

"Everybody helped to flatten the gravel, ladies

pushed wheelbarrows and huge rollers around while the guys dug trenches for electrical cables and water."

Staff from the top levels to contract staff helped and after all the hard work they celebrated with their end-of-year braai in their own greenhouse.

Tell *talk@nmmu* how your department has worked together to get something done!

Swiss Nobel Laureate cares for the poor

AS PART of his visit to NMMU at the beginning of February Swiss Nobel Laureate Prof Richard Ernst also visited Tyhilulwazi Senior Secondary School in Govan Mbeki, one of the schools NMMU has adopted for its maths and science development programmes.

"Wherever I go, I like to see the real side of a country – not the monuments or stadiums," said Prof Ernst, who is conducting a countrywide public lecture tour and also visiting some of the country's poorest regions and schools.

Calling himself a "missionary for responsible science", he spreads the message that science should be used to improve society and presented a public lecture at NMMU titled "Academic responsibility and our future" on 2 February.

"Those who train young people must ensure they produce leaders – better leaders than themselves – who are determined to improve the situation for

future generations," said 76-year-old Prof Ernst.

Prof Ernst, a physical chemist, received a Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1991 for his contribution towards the improvement of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and its application in medicine, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a medical scanning technique allowing detailed visualisation of the internal structure of tissues.

The school, declared a "no-fee" facility, is regularly vandalised, with the result that none of the classrooms have electricity. With staff shortages, bursting classrooms and a Grade 8 intake that includes pupils who battle to read and write, pass rates are low, particularly in the subjects of maths, science and accounting.

To help improve pass rates, a number of pupils from the school are selected each year to attend extra maths and science classes at our Missionvale Campus, which Prof Ernst also visited. **NW**



GROWING LEADERS ... Swiss Nobel Laureate Prof Richard Ernst offers a word of encouragement to Mandilakhe Snam, 18 (left), and other pupils at Tyhilulwazi Senior Secondary School in Port Elizabeth's impoverished Govan Mbeki Township. Photograph: Nicky Willemse

Relief, joy for recipients

TEARS, disbelief and shocked silence were among the responses of the recipients and their parents to the news of their unexpected windfall.

With a downturn in the economy, many of the families who were preparing to take out loans to cover the costs of university tuition were overwhelmed when they received news of the R60 000-a-year investment by NMMU.

"I was speechless," said Jurie Geldenhuys, whose son Anrich, of Framesby High School, is one of the 24 recipients of the new Vice-Chancellor's scholarship.



Time and again, acting NMMU marketing manager Christelle Feyt's (left) calls were met with stunned silence.

"I kept on having to ask if the person was still at the end of the line," said Christelle.

Other parents broke down in tears, acknowledging that the scholarship had been an answer to prayers.

"One mother told me that they did not even have enough money for registration," said Christelle.

VC Scholarship to attract students for academic excellence

Largest undergraduate bursary introduced

WE have just raised the bar by awarding the largest single undergraduate bursary by a public university in the country to 23 top first-year students.

The first recipients of the Vice-Chancellor Scholarship has each received R60 000 for the first year of their studies, and will continue to do so for each year of their first degree providing they maintain their outstanding academic records.

"This very prestigious scholarship marks our commitment, as part of NMMU Vision 2020, to academic excellence. We are sending out a clear signal that *merit matters*," said Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz, who initiated the new award.

"We are creating an opportunity for the best minds to acquire cutting edge-knowledge and skills to make a difference in society. While the university will continue to provide financial support for increasing access, the most important principle governing what we do and strive for, is individual achievement."

Each of the candidates had to score at least 49 on the application point system – the equivalent of seven distinctions – to qualify.

The result: 24 top academic achievers from 13 high schools, 11 of

We are sending out a clear signal that merit matters

which are from the Eastern Cape. The others come from Kwazulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

"Of the 464 achieving schools targeted, including many from the previously disadvantaged sectors of South Africa, we received 138 nominations from 42 schools," explained acting marketing manager Christelle Feyt, who was tasked with overseeing the establishment of the new scholarships.

These nominations were further supplemented by tracking other achievers who had already been provisionally accepted, and were then

shortlisted to 59 applicants.

A selection panel, headed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Prof Christo von Loggerenberg, then whittled the numbers down to the final 24, made up of 13 females and 11 males.

Not surprisingly, 14 of the 24 recipients have registered to complete the flagship BCom Accounting programmes.

"Even if I hadn't won this scholarship, I would have come to NMMU because its chartered accounting programme is recognised as the best," said Grey High School recipient Timothy Olls.

Timothy is one of three Grey pupils to have won the scholarship. Likewise, both Framesby High School and Harvest Christian School, each have three recipients for the top bursary. George's Outeniqua High fielded two candidates both of whom will be studying for BCom degrees at the university's George Campus. They will be joined by a learner from Kearsney College who is studying for a diploma in nature conservation.

Media coverage raising our profile

TO attract good students we need to raise awareness of our achievements and successes.

Staff, students and alumni are always the leading ambassadors in attracting students but the print and broadcast media also play an extremely important role in creating perceptions about NMMU.

NMMU's media coverage in the print and broadcast media was very good in 2009 with 90% of the 100 media releases issued receiving a spot in a publication or a mention on radio.

According to media practitioner and spokesperson Roslyn Baatjies exclusive stories to journalists, especially during and after graduation, work extremely well.

"The focus should really be on the unusual story; the human interest story – real people and real



DISCUSSIONS ... Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz talks to BayFM's Jacques Arendt at a media breakfast organised by Media and Corporate Relations for journalists to network with our VC.

happenings while at the same time communicating our achievements, excellence and engagement with the communities we serve."

All told, the value of media coverage

exceeded more than R1.5m in 2009. Marketing and Corporate Relations' first workshops on media, newsletter creation and the web were all fully-booked. The next workshops will be held in May.

Soccer World Cup internships

TWENTY-FOUR NMMU students have the chance of a lifetime assisting FIFA's host broadcaster for the 2010 Football World Cup from 11 June to 11 July.

These students will assist Host Broadcast Services to distribute the images and sounds of all 64 matches to millions of people around the world.

Host Broadcast Services contacted our Office for International Education to assist in the first-round recruitment of students.

The students will be working as interns for three months forming part of a total group of 330 students, working with professional equipment and dealing with international broadcasters.

They have the opportunity to work with an international company, learning global working methods and exposing international broadcasters to local culture.

Forward planning good, but much work still ahead

Leading with water conservation

NMMU can become an institution on par with world leaders in the field of sustainable processes with grounds and gardens, thanks to its pro-active environmental practices.

The foresight of former NMMU horticulturalist **John Elliott** means the university has reclaimed water available for irrigation on South Campus, and can – with some financial investment – introduce further measures to ensure that the university’s indigenous gardens and lawns always remain in good condition.

According to NMMU’s new horticulturalist **Elana Storm**, the university can become a leader with its forward-thinking environmental practices.

However in the interim, all planned landscaping has been put on hold at NMMU because of the critical water shortage.

What’s happening?

These measures focus on what NMMU is doing to conserve water from an infrastructure viewpoint.

South Campus

The retention dam near Marine Drive has a holding capacity of 700 000 litres of non-potable (reclaimed) water and at present consumption exceeds supply. This means that much of South Campus is not being irrigated while water restrictions are in place.

Enlarging the current dam has been identified as

In living its new vision, NMMU is increasingly focused on conserving its natural water resources for its own sustainable tomorrow. We look at what is happening on our six campuses.



GO GETTER ... NMMU's new horticulturalist *Elana Storm*.

the most feasible solution to this challenge.

North Campus

Borehole water is being used for irrigation but like South Campus only limited areas are linked to this resource. NMMU is investigating the feasibility of building a reservoir for North Campus.

Second Avenue

The introduction of a borehole in 2008 is a further example of good foresight as this water source has largely been able to meet all irrigation needs.

Bird Street

All irrigation has ceased here since there are no alternative non-potable water supplies.

Missionvale

Attempts to sink a borehole in 2009 were futile since the water proved too saline for irrigation purposes. Architects are now exploring the possibly expanding

a retention dam to capture run-off created by the new library.

George

Likewise, George Campus is making use of “grey” water – run-off collected from roofs – in order to irrigate critical areas. Similarly, it uses purified sewage water (from its own purification works) for other limited irrigation on campus.

New measures include the harvesting of rainwater at the new student centre to service the toilet cisterns, and a sustainable campus project which will see three on-campus homes fitted with green technologies, including rainwater harvesting (see page 10).

Student enrolments

IT’s interesting to note how our student population is distributed among the different qualifications and the difference between 2009 and 2010.

Enrolments	2009	2010	%
National diploma	6963	7461	+7.2
General three-year professional first degree	3758	3642	-3.0
Professional four-year first degree	2746	3112	+13.3
BTech degree	1058	1236	+16.8
Prof academic three-year first B-degree	794	773	-2.6
National higher certificate	653	756	+15.8
Honours degree	940	668	-28.9
Masters degree	455	561	+23.2
MTech degree	287	314	+9.4
2 year or less undergraduate diploma or certificate	335	240	-28,4
Postgraduate diploma or certificate	119	10	-7.6
Doctoral degree	103	101	-1.9
Undergraduate diploma/ 3-year certificate	45	50	+11.1
DTech degree	15	24	+60.0
Total	18 271	19 048	+4.3

Ground-breaking Freedom of Expression promotes new SA

NEW times call for new measures, and thus NMMU’s Freedom of Expression – a charter that serves as a guide for all communication – was conceived.

Law Faculty’s **Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller** and Management Sciences School Director **Prof Miemie Struwig**, together with Marketing and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart**, came together to formulate a charter to capture the spirit of the new South Africa with its progressive Constitution.

As a result, NMMU becomes the first university in South Africa to have its own Freedom of Expression charter.

“This is a ground-breaking initiative. It’s practiced in the States, but nowhere in higher education in South Africa,” said Prof Bohler-Muller.

The team devised an “umbrella” document to inform all other policies and codes of conduct drafted by and for NMMU.

“This statement of principles, for example, determines the scope of the NMMU media liaison policy,” said Prof Bohler-Muller, adding that the latter had been conceived during a different, more stringent era and needed a more positive spin.



Prof Narnia Bohler-Muller



Prof Miemie Struwig



Pieter Swart

This charter encourages debate

“The charter, or statement of principles, encourages communication – open debate, no matter how controversial, oppositional or unpopular – especially within a university,”

said Prof Struwig.

The principles of the freedom of expression at NMMU took into consideration ubuntu, various other human rights and charters, and its place within academia.

Certain responsibilities were encouraged in all communication like the respect for democracy, the dignity of others, the respect for diversity, the need to act on the basis of a “well-informed conscience” and in the public interest.

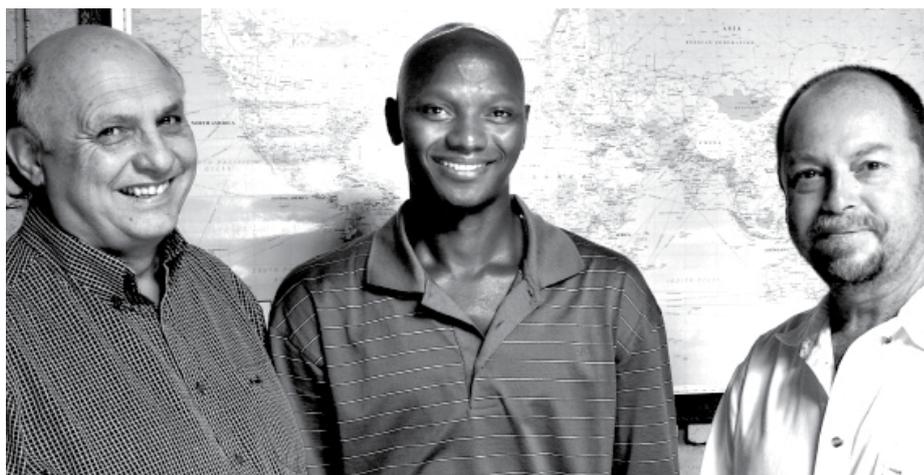
Elephant research in Seattle

ZOOLOGY PhD student Linus Munishi who hails from Tanzania, will be spending six months at the University of Washington in Seattle on a student internship and training programme to analyse genetic samples.

He will be working with Professor Samuel Wasser who is renowned in this field. Linus will study genetic samples of female African elephants to investigate the effects of matrilineal genetic relatedness on dominance relationships.

NMMU has a co-operative agreement with the University of Washington. The study visit is jointly funded by Wildlife Conservation Society and the International Education Office.

Zoology's **Prof Graham Kerley**, Linus's supervisor, says that this investment reflects the university's commitment to provide outstanding education opportunities.



*PARTNERS ... Zoology PhD student Linus Munishi (centre), who is on his way to Seattle for a six-month study visit to learn genetic analysing skills at the University of Washington, is joined by International Education Office Director **Dr Nico Jooste** (left) and his supervisor, Zoology's **Prof Graham Kerley**.*

Faster internet for NMMU

IN December NMMU became one of the first group of universities to connect to the new SANReN (South African National Research Network) that will eventually link all academic and research institutions at hugely improved speeds.

SANReN is the second most advanced academic network in the world.

The benefits of this internet access include:

- ▶ Fast access to web sites, audio and video feeds
- ▶ E-mails reaching their destinations almost as fast as sending it to another NMMU user
- ▶ The ability to use programmes like Skype.
- ▶ A vast network of multimedia academic and training sources from America, Europe and the Far East can now be delivered to the student sitting in a lab.

▶ Research teams can transfer massive datasets from university to university in hours instead of days, and can talk to each other from anywhere in the world.

▶ New programmes can be downloaded in minutes and installed immediately instead of waiting overnight.

Previously NMMU had separate staff and student internet lines roughly 80 times faster than a dialup modem.

"Most of the time we were struggling to share those lines between the 5 000 computers on the NMMU network, ICT Services' **Bruce Smith** told *talk@nmmu*.

NMMU is now plugged into the new network at one gigabit per second.

Experts pass international exam

ICT advancement director **Prof Rossouw von Solms** and School of ICT senior lecturer **Mariana Gerber** passed the internationally recognised Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) exam with flying colours.

The certification is aimed at individuals in the Information Security field who manage design, oversee and assess IT Security programmes.

The Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) exam is administrated by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA), a global organisation for information governance, control, security and audit professionals in more than 160 countries.

"Having passed the CISM exam, along with the 50-odd research papers I have published, helps me to operate confidently in the theoretic, as well as practical and consultative areas of Information Security," said Prof Von Solms.



*EXPERTS ... Institute for ICT advancement director **Prof Rossouw von Solms** and School of ICT senior lecturer **Mariana Gerber** have just been internationally certified as information security managers.*

Science Park on the cards

NMMU will play a major role in any Science Park development in the Bay and, preferably a park located at the university. This was the conclusion at a recent workshop on North Campus organised by our Department of Innovation Support and Technology Transfer.

An assessment of the potential for a Science Park/ Research and Development (R&D) Park in Nelson Mandela Bay was presented and discussed at the workshop on 5 February opened by Executive Mayor Zanoxolo Wayile.

"It was also the first step towards the establishment of the Eastern Cape Regional Innovation Forum," says Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director Jaci Barnett.

A Science Park provides space and facilities to innovation-based companies and stimulates and manages the flow of knowledge and technology from research institutions to companies and markets. Its main aim is to stimulate economic development through innovation and collaboration.

Further steps include a detailed feasibility study, the establishment of a board and the registering of a trust.

"These parks attract the greatest minds and greatest innovation. This park will increase the university's prestige and investment potential," said African Development Economic Consultant Randall Gross speaking about the potential of the Park.

First choice for MBA



FIRST YEARS ... The 2010 MBA first-year class who are mostly 30 to 39 years old, employed in a mid-management job and have 10 to 15 years working experience.

ABOUT 84% of the 33 first-year students selected for the MBA programme in 2010 ranked NMMU's Business School as first choice.

Student applications and admissions yielded good returns after the Graduate School introduced its MBA to Gauteng late last year with 20% of part-time first-year students coming from that province. Five percent hails from the Western Cape.

"These figures confirm the attraction of our leadership focused and ethics-centered MBA in areas outside the Eastern Cape," says Director **Prof Piet Naudé**.

The remaining part-time students are from East London (16%) and Port Elizabeth.

About 30% of the full-time students are international learners. Findings indicated that

students enrolled as a result of the programme's accreditation and rankings (64%), quality of lecturers (61%), and affordability (59%). Management techniques (26%), Leadership (20%) and Strategic Management (13%) were the three top core modules with top elective modules being project management (23%), entrepreneurship (18%) and business ethics (17%).

Financial advisors geared for studies



*PARTNERSHIP ... Sanlam staff members and postgraduate Financial Planning students Nombulelo Mooi (from left), Roxanne Cornelius, Luke Martins, Ncebazimi Gongxeka and Zane Nash, joined by Financial Planning lecturer **Jackie Palframan** (fourth from left), received bursaries from Sanlam to study the one-year part time postgraduate diploma to become certified financial planners.*

THE first five black financial advisors studying the internationally accredited Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning to become certified financial planners, received bursaries from Sanlam in January.

These students have already been appointed as

staff members at Sanlam.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning, launched at NMMU in 2009, follows the three-year BCom degree in Financial Planning, initiated at NMMU in 2006.

Briefs

New appointment

FORMER NMMU media, culture and communication graduate **JP Roodt** (right) has been appointed Marketing and Corporate Relations head of the Business School.



Before joining the university he worked at public relations and communications consultancy firm, Marcus Brewster, in Cape Town.

He held the position of senior associate and headed the business/finance and marketing/media client divisions as well as the national social and digital media division. Last year Roodt was crowned South Africa's best PR practitioner in media liaison by the Public Relations Institute of South Africa (PRISA).

Book bonus



BUSINESS Management's **Prof Madéle Tait** (left) is the South African editor and **Chantal Rootman** an author for the 2010 edition of Philip Kotler's book "Principles of Marketing: Southern African and global perspectives". The book is already in its 12th edition and being adapted for South Africa. Chantal and Madéle are among 17 authors working on the book.



WARM WELCOME ... NMMU'S Le Strada traditional choir conducted by music student Nkosinathi Sidondi was invited by a tour company to perform at the airport for a group of visiting Belgium tourists who thoroughly enjoyed their singing.



POTJIEKOS ... **Margriet Bosma** (right) and husband **Coos**, both from InnoVenton visited Margriet's sister Micheline (left) on the small island of Aruba in the Caribbean where they had potjiekos in a South African potjie, courtesy of the Bosmas. A number of friends on the island also managed to obtain SA's famous cooking pots says Margriet.



HIGH TECHNOLOGY ... Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (right) and Health Sciences Dean **Prof Raj Naidoo** were recently introduced to the high technology simulated equipment with which the Nursing Science Department's laboratories function. This equipment places our Nursing Science Department on par with some of the best departments in South Africa. Profs Swartz and Naidoo visited the General Nursing Science, Midwifery, Psychiatric and Intensive Care laboratories where advanced simulation can be created for arrhythmias, ventilatory problems and the reflection of their treatment. Nursing Science moved to a bigger space on North Campus and found alternative resources to help foot the bill for their offices and labs.



STAKEHOLDERS ... ICT Services' **Jacques Wessels**, Missionvale Campus Management's **Sonwabo Hoyi** and **Prof Iona Wannenburg**, Director Planning and Projects **Stuart Blignaut**, Computing Sciences **Amanda Esterhuysen**, ICT Services **Gavin Ludick** and Computing Sciences' **Prof Jean Greyling** were among recipients of the new computer laboratories on the Missionvale Campuses.



STARS ... Seven former Sport Management students are currently employed by Eastern Province Cricket and were part of the team that assisted the Chevrolet Warriors to their victory in the MTN40 series. They include Chevrolet Warriors coach Russell Domingo (back far right) joined by (back from left) Emlyn Gallant; Lindsay Stephen; Adrian Carter, Mercia Baatjies, (front) Michelle du Preez and Christo Esau.



DELEGATION ... Staff Association Executive Committee members attended the launch of Madibaz Café after they promoted the idea of coffee shops for staff to mingle and get to know one another on campus in last year when they visited **Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz**, from left **Ata Beer**, **Bernie Booysen**, **Elma de Koker**, **Shayne Hardiman** and **Krish Williamson**.



NEW LIFT ... The first of four new lifts in the Main Building on South were installed at the beginning of February, (from left) Kobus Swart (Schindler Lifts), Engineering Services Deputy Director **Peter Peters**, Andre Hefer (Aurecon), Executive Director Operations **Gary Paul**, Dohan Erasmus (Clinkscales Maughan-Brown) and Technical Services Director **Melvin Syce**.

Send your pictures to the NMMU gallery.
E-mail: elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za

George a future model for sustainable living Green campus promoted

GEORGE Campus, known for addressing energy and waste management on campus, might in future become a model of sustainable living for other campuses or institutions such as hotels or hospitals in the Southern Cape and beyond.

The campus' *Green Campus Initiative* has received an extra boost with donor funding for an on-campus action research project, namely the *Sustainable Campus Project*.

The *Sustainable Campus Project* involves monitoring and comparing the daily energy and household water consumption of two groups of students who live in houses on campus. The aim is to compare three houses, equipped with solar energy geysers and a rain water harvesting system with a sample of identical houses that utilise conventional water and energy systems.

This action research project involves students, industry and academic staff as well as technologies and the social aspects of these technologies.

The project set to start in March will focus on:

- ▶ Establishing a baseline of water and energy consumption patterns based on existing data and future audits;
- ▶ Fitting the relevant houses with the necessary green technologies

▶ Continually auditing the electricity and water consumption of both conventional houses as control samples and the retrofitted houses

- ▶ Communication to raise awareness among students, municipalities, industry and communities ;
- ▶ Monitoring and assessment of behavioural and impact changes;
- ▶ Application of the data to re-design business practices and operations of George Campus.

Data will be collected over a period of six months, commencing in March 2010, and the final results and recommendations will be announced by September.

The Green Campus Initiative has received an extra boost with donor funding.

Fast-growing programme in great demand BCom students grabbed for jobs



TOP STUDENT ... Third-year BCom student Helga Crause (centre), who took top honours at the recent BCom student awards ceremony, is congratulated by Business and Social Sciences School Director **Marianne Doubell** and BCom lecturer **Pieter Wicht**.

JOB offers are already being made to second-year George Campus BCom students highlighting the demand for these students in the region.

In addition, this programme is one of the fastest growing programmes at George. In 2006, the programme started with 22 students. This year there are more than 50 first-year students.

The top 28 students of 2009 received awards at a ceremony on 4 February where local accounting firms addressed students.

The George Campus BCom is a South African Institute of Chartered Accountants accredited programme. Awards were handed over by Business and Social Sciences School Director **Marianne Doubell**.

Game ranch management linked to agriculture

GAME Ranch Management, presented at both George and Port Elizabeth campuses, does not only focus on natural veld or private reserves serving the growing demand for eco-tourism. The course also links with mainstream agricultural management focusing among others on mixed farming and the intensive breeding of scarce game species such as buffalo and swart-witpense.

Natural Resource Management School lecturer Stefan Hattingh, has been speaking on RSG Landbou, (Radiosondergrensse Agriculture), a radio actuality programme on RSG (100 - 104 FM) scheduled from 12:30 to 12:45 on Fridays.

Game numbers have increased dramatically

Game numbers have indeed increased dramatically from an estimated 57 500 in 1964 to 18,6 million in 2007 while cattle and sheep numbers have decreased to 15,9 million over the same period.

Two main challenges consequently face game ranch management, namely the provision of sufficient traditional sources of food and meat if cattle and sheep are being replaced by game and, secondly, effectively managing the veld, given the fact that game and wild animals cannot be managed in the same manner as ordinary livestock.

"Regrettably not all traditional farmers who switch to game-farming are open to consulting experts, and this may lead to large-scale mismanagement of the veld," cautions Hattingh.

At Port Elizabeth's Addo facility Game Ranch Management course focuses on the utilisation of game, while at George Campus conservation of the veld is core to ensure that game ranch management becomes sustainable.



IN FULL FORCE ... BTECH Forestry 2010 class and their lecturers in front of the new lecture theatre on George Campus.

BTECH Forestry grows with block format presentation

THE BTECH Forestry course has hit the nail on the head with its attractive block format presentation over two years. As a result there are 66 course enrolments for 2010, a 14% increase compared to 2009.

The programme in the School of Natural Resource

Management has grown substantially since its beginning as a national higher diploma in the early 90s with only 10 students.

The course draws students from across the country as well as outside South Africa's borders – with eight students of the 2010 intake coming

from Zimbabwe.

Students attend two-week block sessions twice a year, but the course is also presented full time. Apart from forestry and ecology modules, human resource and business management are also included in the curriculum.

George unveils bold new strategic plan for future growth

A dynamic expansion drive



OUR fast-growing George Campus is firmly on track in realising its visionary growth strategy to serve the demand for quality higher education and specialist skills – both in the South Cape / Karoo region and beyond.

Prof Christo Fabricius

Student growth

George Campus has recorded a 2,6% overall growth in students in 2010. First-year applications have increased by 8,5%.

"George Campus is firmly on track from good to great, and we are pulling out all the stops to ensure that this institution can grow exponentially and optimise its contribution to development and sustainability in the southern Cape and beyond," said Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius**.

New academic positions

Trust in the growth potential of George Campus is reflected in the recent allocation of R1,7 million from the university's strategic fund for filling new posts and vacancies that will support the dynamic expansion drive of the campus.

Five permanent positions have been created in the School of Business and Social Sciences. Two senior academic posts will also be filled in the School of Natural Resource Management, the other primary area of focus.

Currently the BCom courses and Education course

(BEd FET) have proved very popular, along with other subjects such as Management, Marketing and Tourism Management for which more than 100 first-year students have enrolled.

Some 250 first-year students have registered for courses in Forestry, Nature Conservation, Game Ranch Management, Wood Technology and Agricultural Management.

Of approximately 1 000 students, one third are first-year students and two-thirds senior and post-graduate students on campus.

We believe that this dynamic expansion drive underscores our passion for growth and development of our people

New facilities

The range of new facilities already being used, includes:

- ▶ Six computer laboratories – providing individual attention to students, with all students having access to information technology and continuous IT support
- ▶ Six large lecture rooms, as well as a lecture theatre that seats 200
- ▶ A new library
- ▶ The former Business School in York Street was subsequently integrated physically with the main campus at Saasveld.

We will progressively strengthen our teaching and research focus

New student centre

A new nerve-centre for on-campus student life, the new student centre is fast approaching completion. This facility incorporates Marula house as well as a newly constructed area of 200 square metres which will accommodate four commercial units, as well as designated areas that students can utilise to study or relax.

The new student centre and facilities incorporate "green" technologies supporting sustainability practices. Isolation, ventilation, lighting, paint, heating and cooling have been planned in line with green building guidelines, while rainwater harvesting and sustainable waste management will ensure conservation (see page 10).

The launch is planned for May this year.

"We believe that this dynamic expansion drive underscores our passion for growth and development of our people and our commitment to continued excellence and quality. We will progressively strengthen our teaching and research focus. We are extremely fortunate that NMMU's Executive, as well as our local community, share this passion with us and are giving their strong support," said Prof Fabricius.

Accounting on the edge: Excellent Thuthuka programme

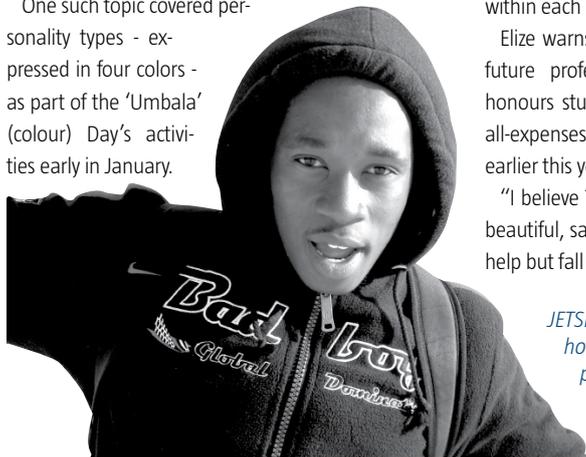
NMMU is one of only eight universities to have been granted permission by SAICA to host the Thuthuka program. This transformation program is an initiative by the Accounting profession to ensure the number of black professionals increase significantly over the next few years.

There are currently 50 first-year, 66 second-year, 38 third-year and 31 final-year students in the programme.

"To become a CA is really tough, and so we are doing all that we can to support our students with their studies," explains project co-ordinator, Elize Naudé.

Apart from the normal academic work, significant interventions are made in terms of personal, communication and social skills. For example, before lectures started, 23 workshops on 11 topics were presented to ensure that the Thuthuka students excel at their studies.

One such topic covered personality types - expressed in four colors - as part of the 'Umbala' (colour) Day's activities early in January.



GROWING STUDENTS ... Elize Naudé is co-ordinating the Thuthuka programme which aims to help black and coloured students become chartered accountants.

"Soft skills, including having a good language ability, all build on students' study skills, and are crucial for academic and professional success," says Elize, who has various other value-added courses lined up for the year.

Recent research demonstrates that the pass rate for these students exceeds and matches the rest of the class.

The students also held a Valentine's celebration within each of their classes.

Elize warns that we should watch out for top-flight future professionals from NMMU, including one honours student Nkanyiso Ntando, who enjoyed an all-expenses paid student exchange trip to Europe earlier this year.

"I believe Tübingen is the best place ever been. It's beautiful, sage and people are very friendly. You can't help but fall in love with it," said Nkanyiso of the trip.

JETSET ... Nkanyiso Ntando, a Thuthuka honours student, enjoyed an all-expenses paid student exchange trip to Europe earlier this year, including a stag at Tübingen in Germany.

Briefs



PRESENTERS ... Education Faculty's Dr Muki Moeng and Prof Tilla Olivier presented a paper (co-authored by Prof Alette Delpert) on restructuring and transformation of higher education focusing on organisational identity at the World Universities Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January. Some 150 participants from around the world including six from South Africa attended the conference. The nature, role and future of university education in a changing world, was discussed.

German research

AS part of an exchange agreement Education's Professors Paul Webb and Lesley Wood and Dr Christina Jordaan spent time at Oldenburg University in Germany late last year. PhD candidates Percy Sepeng (also a lecturer) and Deidre Geduld joined the group. Our academics presented guest lectures and discussed various projects with Oldenburg colleagues.

Sci-Fest Egyptology

Chemistry's Prof Peter Loyson has been invited to present two lectures on Egyptology at SciFest in Grahamstown. On 26 March he will discuss 'Maths in the days of the pharaohs' and on 27 March 'Technology of the ancient Egyptians'. Both lectures will take place in the Art Gallery and start at 10:00 and end at 11:00.

Vehicle design

THE effect of light-weight design on modern automotive engineering was an aspect highlighted by German professor Martin Mueller of Ostfalia University in his seminar on 11 February on North Campus. The seminar focussed on production development processes involved in the interior and exterior design of motor vehicles. It also featured production development processes in packaging and ergonomics.

Recycling vehicles

AUTOMOBILES can now be recycled through a range of processes successfully separating various materials. This could lead to the preservation of resources through energy saving techniques linked to the recycling of products.

Vehicle Engineering Faculty Dean at Ostfalia University in Germany, Professor Joachim Schmidt, recently visited the School of Engineering to share his presentation on the recycling of automobiles providing insight into

its economical and environmental benefits.

In the late 90s Prof Schmidt started his own company, FIT-Umwelttechnik GmbH, Wolfsburg, dismantling vehicles to derive information that would be useful to the manufacturing of new vehicles. He also dismantled new prototypes to obtain more insight.



Personality analysis benefitting career

SECOND- and third-year Pharmacy students began their academic year with workshops analysing their personality types and more importantly how these would influence their effectiveness as pharmacists.

The workshops were facilitated by Louis Odendaal of Competency Alignment, a company identifying and developing soft skills. Dischem Pharmacies and

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals sponsored the workshops taking place at the Campus Boma on South Campus.

The 90 students learnt to recognise and identify personality groupings, and the likely response of each personality type in any given situation. Leadership skills and team membership were also explored.

Ice-breaker project promotes inner city activity

Architecture colours the sky in Central

SOME 100 brightly coloured kites recently flew above the Donkin Reserve in Central as part of Architecture's annual ice-breaker project encouraging activity in the inner city.

The project on 4 February displayed the design and craftsmanship of some 500 architecture, technology and interior design students, proving their creative talent as well as getting to know each other.

"We have promoted the design of kites as they are simultaneously artistic and technically intriguing and kites go hand in hand with the windy city," said Architecture lecturer **Donald Flint**.

"The event moved from the beach to the Donkin Reserve this year, motivated by the Workplace Architects and the municipality who are actively encouraging community activity and events in the inner city".

Workplace Architects sponsored R 3000 for the best kite.

"We are delighted that these students, who are the future of our city, used this site to display their creative talents," said Debbie Wintermeyer of Workplace Architects.

The Donkin Reserve is undergoing a multimillion rand upgrade in a series of 52 projects over the next few years.



RAINBOW FLIER ... Architecture students (from left) Ashleigh du Preez, Berdene Nagel and Frances van Jaarsveldt try for lift-off during the ice-breaker project on the Donkin Reserve. Picture: Mike Holmes

Cello-piano duo concert

RUSSIAN-BORN cellist Polina Burdukova (left) and noted South African pianist Kerryn Wisniewski, both based in Gauteng performed a cello-piano duo concert on 25 February on South Campus. The award winning musicians have successfully performed together around the country and abroad since 2005. The concert was organised by NMMU Arts & Culture in collaboration with the Music Department.



Future events include:

- ▶ **Norwegian Brass Band**, 16 March 19:30, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Organics Jazz Trio Concert**, 31 March 13:00, Music Dept and Arts and Culture, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Guitar Studio Lunch Hour Concert**, 21 April 13:00, Music Dept, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Derrick Gripper (guitar)**, 22 April 19:30, Music Dept, South Campus Auditorium

Among the best in the country

THREE BTech graphic design students ensured that our Applied Design Department ranked among the top five design institutions in the country.

Dominic Roberts, Tim Jones, and Jedd McNeillage were chosen as finalists in the Think Ahead Student Portfolio Awards. Dominic won a silver and merit award with his outstanding poster series called "The Collective" which formed part of the 2009 NMMU graduate design exhibition.

Tim received a merit award in the



awards aimed at promoting excellence in design among graduating design students.

Arts and Culture info

- ▶ The Arts & Culture Societies office on South Campus has moved from the Main Building to the space above the ABSA Student Bureau at the Student Kraal. **Anda Masala** is in this office at X 2793.
- ▶ The Arts & Culture main office home to Head **Michael Barry** and **Michele du Preez** is still in Room 1611, 16th floor of the Main Building, South Campus (X2508).
- ▶ Public Relations Assistant **Michele Ihmig** is located in the Arts & Culture office in Room 003A, K-Project Block on North Campus (X9995); and
- ▶ Public Relations Assistant **Thembakazi Dyubhele** works at the Arts & Culture office, Room G8, Admin Block, Missionvale Campus (X1361).



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

Nature of language, accents provokes debate

Eish! speaking 'white English'

COCONUTS are discriminated against, accents are a status thing and you may be discriminated against if you use "white" English.

These are just some of the fascinating insights to emerge during discussions with an English Language studies class when students were encouraged to reflect on their own experience of language.

Language lecturers **Sharon Rudman** and **Jacqui Lück** "facilitated" and encouraged such talk on the nature of language and student experiences of it in South Africa

"We emphasized the safe environment and it worked. Students really opened up," said Sharon.



Jacqui Lück

However, students felt they had no-where near exhausted the debate around the importance of language, accents and the like, and raised the possibility of inviting others to share – again in a safe environment – their thoughts too.



Sharon Rudman

As a result, the nuances and / or blatanicies of personal language experiences will launch NMMU's new Soapbox – an online forum for sharing, be it an issue, a moan, some news or ideas (see accompanying story).

Among the many

Our multicultural nature at NMMU makes for stimulating discussion as "coconuts", for starters, voice their concerns. Do you have language issues or other interesting insights into how we use or perceive language? If so, go to Soapbox, our new safe platform for sharing.

language issues to emerge:

- ▶ If black students speak English too well they feel that their fellow Xhosa / black students discriminate against them, calling them "coconuts" – black on the outside, but white within.
- ▶ Discrimination kicks in when black students speak "white English". Students even referred

to "speaking white".

- ▶ Accents define who we are, and are part of our negotiated identity. This provoked passionate debate – for and against.
- ▶ Accents are a status thing.
- ▶ That the language of Xhosa is "coarse" and does not provide tactful or nuanced ways of speaking. Again, this was fiercely debated.



Soapbox launched

A NEW online site where you can gripe, praise, share news, ideas and / or join a debate called Soapbox has been launched at NMMU.

The initiative is all part of an ongoing drive by Marketing and Corporate Relations to ensure that communication at NMMU is not a one-way affair.

"A university is a place where discussion must take place. We need to hear the voices of those who work and study here. Soapbox is another means of meeting this need," said senior manager: communications Debbie Derry.

Soapbox has been established in such a way that individuals can "sound off" or share

on controversial matters without fear of recrimination.

"Our job – as gatekeepers – will be to ensure that the right people get to hear the grumbings on the ground," said Debbie.

For example, students can safely complain about lecturers not arriving for class or suggest ways of beating irresponsible driving.

In fact, anything goes as long as individuals remember our Freedom of Expression charter (see page 6) and various responsibilities we have when we make our voices heard.

Welcome to our new staff members

Genevieve Civico, Marketing and Corporate Relations

Margaret Cronje, Writing Centre, George

Prof Naydene de Lange, HIV & AIDS Research Chair, Education

Susan de Villiers, Horticultural Services

Thembakazi Dyubhele, Arts & Culture

Melanie Ferreira, Civil Engineering

Michele Ihmig, Arts & Culture

Prof Itumeleng Mekoa, Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy

Dr Matthew Ocran, Economics and Economic History

Dr Pierre Pistorius, Zoology

Gerrit Penning, Accounting

JP Roodt, Business School

Phil Sanderson, ICT Services

Thembela Sofisa, NMMU Trust

Leyli Zondie, Biomedical Technology

You can win

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

Congratulations to our February competition winners: **Anisa Houlie: ICT Services, Zingisile Mantewu: Student Housing, Wendy Melubooi: Stores, Selwyn Perrow: Finance.**

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

1. NMMU's flagship programmes, such as the BCom for Chartered **A.....s (11 letter word)**, again attracted a significant amount of students from all over the country.
2. Coffee shop **M.....z (7 letter word)** Café form part new complex on South Campus already serving up a storm to students and staff.
3. The first recipients of the Vice-Chancellor **S.....p (11 letter word)** has each received R60 000 for the first year of their 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 **16 April**.

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.

Bringing health to people

NMMU's Community Development Unit plays a significant role in bringing health services to rural communities through its involvement with the Phelophepa Health Care Train.

The unit co-ordinates and markets this world-renowned health care train's visits in the Eastern Cape.

The train sponsored by the Transnet Foundation has been running for 16 years. It offers health and eye clinic services, dispenses medicine and counselling and psychology services for free or at minimal cost. The train stops at Addo and at Swartkops.

On 11 March the unit will host a welcome for the train at the beginning of a three-week long stay in the Metro.



TREATMENT ... The eye clinic is just one part of the health care services provided by Transnet's Phelophepa Health Care Train which our Community Development Unit markets and coordinates in the Eastern Cape.

▶ Health talk

Focus on vital organs

World Kidney Day

WORLD Kidney Day on 11 March 2010 is a global health awareness campaign highlighting the importance of our kidneys and the impact of kidney disease worldwide. Its focus this year is on diabetes as the leading cause of chronic kidney disease.

Some 20 000 South Africans suffer from kidney disease per year. The number of people suffering from diabetes, hypertension and obesity (all precursors to kidney disease if untreated) are increasing at alarming rates.

More about our kidneys

The kidneys are two small bean-shaped organs about 10cm long and 6.4cm wide and located near the spine at the small of the back. Kidneys separate toxins and waste products from the blood. At least one kidney must function properly for life to be maintained.

Risk factors you can change:

- ▶ Type 2 diabetes is the number one cause of kidney failure. Help prevent it with good blood sugar control.
- ▶ High blood pressure puts more stress on blood vessels throughout the body, including the kidneys. Prevent it by weight control, exercising and using medication.
- ▶ Repeated urinary tract infections and kidney stones can damage your kidneys. Consult your doctor in these cases.
- ▶ The use of drugs such as heroin or

cocaine can damage the kidneys. Seek help to stop.

Other kidney disease risk factors

- ▶ If you have a family member who has chronic kidney disease you may be at higher risk. Share it with your doctor and have regular tests.
- ▶ The older you are the greater your risk.
- ▶ Accidents and injuries can damage the kidneys causing sudden kidney failure.
- ▶ Having certain diseases puts people at higher risk of developing kidney disease. These include sickle cell anemia, cancer, AIDS, hepatitis C and congestive heart failure.

Treatment

There is no cure for kidney disease.

Therapy slows down the progress of the disease with prescription drugs, treats underlying causes, namely diabetes, treats complications such as anemia and replaces lost kidney function with dialysis.

Important measures you can take include:

- ▶ Low salt and low protein diet.
- ▶ Stop smoking.
- ▶ If you are overweight lose the excess weight.
- ▶ Stop using over the counter medications that are toxic to your kidneys
- ▶ Drink eight glasses of water daily.
- ▶ Drink alcohol in moderation.
- ▶ Exercise regularly.

Weidy Padayachee, Campus Health Services



LOVE FOOD ... Students Randy Gallant (from left), Jon-Paul Raper, Nozzi Ndevu and Lara Truter were involved in the Heart of Cans project collecting cans of food to distribute to children's and old age homes on Valentine's Day.

The food of love

HUNDREDS of cans of food were distributed to Algoa Bay Council for the Aged and House of Wells Children's Enrichment Centre thanks to a Valentine's Day project organised by our Twenty 20 Destiny society.

The society invited their families and fellow students to join them on Valentine's Day at Happy Valley where they built a heart of love with canned food.

Participants wore red and brought cans to the beach at the Humewood entrance at Happy Valley. Co-organiser, second-year BCom student Jon-Paul Raper said the Christian society received over 300 cans of food as a token of love on Valentine's Day.

Twenty 20 Destiny is a Christian society on campus with a vision to reach out to young adults within the city who are experiencing "crowd loneliness".



SHARING ... David Livingstone Secondary School Tourism teacher Trevor Reid (left) received Tourism Department Head Hugh Bartis after one of the department's offices was cleared out.

► Sport



STAR ... Student Reece Williams ensured that the EP amateur cricket team reached top of the log in the Cricket SA competition.

Hunger for wickets

FIRST-YEAR management student Reece Williams played an integral role in ensuring that the EP Amateur team bagged four successive victories in the Cricket South Africa three-day competition catapulting them to the top of the log.

Reece's fast-medium deliveries rocked the batting line-ups of the SWD, Border, Namibia and Easterns Amateur teams. He collected 27 wickets in the four matches and conceded just 303 runs in 99.5 overs at an average of 11.2 runs per wicket. His best figures were against Easterns 7/60 and he recorded figures of 6/24 against Namibia and 6/52 against Border.

Reece has a bright future ahead of him as he signed a rookie contract with the Warriors for the 2009/2010 season. Originally from Kimberley, Reece came to study at NMMU after being offered a bursary from the cricket club. He was a member of the NMMU cricket team that won the National Club cricket and USSA titles last year.

Briefs

SA netballers

NMMU netball players **Zanele Mmodana** and **Mudi Mungenga** have been selected for the Proteas national squad. Zanele, also a sport manager in the Sport Bureau, has been a member of the national team since 2005. Mudi was a member of the u/21 team last year. Altogether 12 of the 15 players will be selected to tour to New-Zealand in June.

Women's soccer

JOIN NMMU Madibaz Ladies Soccer team. Practices take place on Mondays and Wednesday from 17:00 to 19:00 on the South Campus B & C Soccer Fields. Contact Sport Manager **Mark Tommy** at X2158 for more information

Cycling continues to go for gold

Our Mecer Cycling Club is continuing its winning streak with a fifth overall position in the recent Herald Cycling race this year.

In 2009 the club won the Gold Medal at the USSA Championships and all the local league races in the Eastern Province.

What makes this achievement even more unusual is that the top team consists of only students. The club also hosts Buddy Bunch Fun rides and offers

bursaries to students joining the club.

"We have a very good infrastructure in assisting riders through our university grants as well as an excellent sponsorship from Mecer.

Anybody can join, we want to see some fun riders as well," says cycling manager **Theresa Le Roux**.

For more information contact Theresa at tel: 041 504 3145 or e-mail: theresa.leroux@nmmu.ac.za

Varsity Cup comes to campus

Back your boytjie!

VARSETY Cup rugby is back with a bang! The brain child of ex-Springbok captain Francois Pienaar has been a fantastic tool encouraging students to come support their university's rugby team.

On 1 February NMMU was fortunate to host one of the season launch games and albeit the first day of the academic year students came out in droves to support the Madibaz. Two of the three main games hosted in the Xerox stadium on South Campus were televised, providing excellent exposure for our university.

In a bid to support cancer awareness, this year's teams sent their man of the match from the previous game onto the field wearing pink shorts. Diba also made his debut on the rugby field – wearing pink shorts.

The national anthem was sung before each game – instilling some national pride pre-World Cup while a bevy of cheerleaders added excitement to each evening's game.

Kitted out in matching t-shirts, many of the residences supported the games and competed against each other to see who had the most spirit. A Fan of the Match was chosen after each game with a R1000 cash prize attached to the honour.

"We were really happy with how our students backed their boytjies this year – even when our team wasn't having the best of seasons," said event organiser, **Frans van der Walt** of the Sport Bureau.



CELEBRATIONS ... Miss NMMU Fikile Konono and mascot Diba enjoy Varsity Cup fever.



HIGHS AND LOWS ... Whether human movement science student **Mandi Maritz** (left) is pole vaulting or sprinting on the beach, she is a winner. The talented athlete recently jumped a South African qualifying height for pole vault and went unbeaten in beach sprints and flags in the national lifesaving Hansgrohe series. She is off to the SA Athletics Championships for pole vault in April and hopes to compete in the World Lifesaving Championships in Egypt in October (she won gold in Japan at the last world event).