

talk@nmmu

April 2010

The Staff Newsletter

Now our scientists able to compete with world's best

New centre to set NMMU apart

AFTER TWO decades of determined hard work physicist Prof Jan Neethling will finally realise his dream – and in doing so, will put NMMU's growing reputation for nanoscience on the global map.

The arrival of a highly-specialised microscope that will enable scientists to analyse materials right down to atomic level means NMMU will become the dedicated African centre for nanoscience research.

The microscope and its related equipment will be housed in a new R30,5m Centre for High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy to be built alongside the present Science Faculty building. It should be completed by mid-2011 with a sod-turning ceremony expected to take place this month, or next.

The state-of-the-art, Japanese-made electron microscope is one of just 15 on order in the world and worth R80m.

"I am extremely excited at the pioneering work done by Prof Neethling and his colleagues in atomic physics.

"With this investment – totalling over R120m, NMMU will have the most powerful high-resolution microscope in Africa," said Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

It was only recently and finally approved by the National Research Foundation and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) after years of negotiation. The electron microscope and all its accompanying equipment will allow our scientists to compete with the world's best.

Up till now, South African researchers had to travel overseas to carry out their research.

Prof Neethling is one of South Africa's foremost nanoscience researchers, particularly on the nuclear fuel particles to be used in future high temperature gas-cooled nuclear reactors, a source of greenhouse-free energy.

He received the support of other universities



across the country, along with major industries like Sasol, the PBMR (Pebble Bed Modular Reactor) Company and Element Six, a manufacturer of

The advanced technology will help South Africa become a manufacturing nation, and improve our international competitiveness

synthetic diamonds, to oversee the establishment of the new centre.

"For many years, South Africa couldn't afford – or didn't realise the importance of putting money into – a centre like this. But without it, physics

researchers in South Africa simply cannot compete at an international level," said Jan.

The instruments are useful across a multitude of disciplines, including materials engineering, metallurgy, chemistry, zoology, geology and botany.

"With our research and instruments, we will be able to assist with the development of new products. The advanced technology will help South Africa become a manufacturing nation, and improve our international competitiveness."

The high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM) must be sheltered from mechanical and acoustic vibrations, as well as magnetic and electronic fields – as the slightest vibration will result in a failure to see atoms.

(see page 3).

► In this edition

AWARDS

Honorary Doctorates

2

ENERGY

Electricity saving

4

BUSINESS

"Green" survey

5

ARTS

Jetset singers

8



ENERGY management is on everybody's lips and NMMU is playing its part in creating public awareness and researching energy sources for the future.

The new R30.5 m Centre for High-Resolution Transmission Electron

Saving energy focus

Microscopy, to be completed by mid-2011, will be a key roleplayer in this endeavour as well as the Centre for Energy Research.

Two discussions on energy issues have already taken place on campus informing stakeholders and interested persons of alternative energy sources, and there are more to come. We also profile NMMU's energy pro-

fessor – Ernest van Dyk – and his research and the centre's work in this regard.

Electricity saving is vital not only in decreasing our own carbon footprint but financially too, given Eskom's 24,8% price hike. So please do your bit at NMMU and at home by switching off whenever possible.

NMMU also hosted the inaugural

South East African Climate Change Consortium meeting where international climate change scientist Sir David King pleaded for research to save the planet.

Together with all these serious news stories, we hope you enjoy all NMMU's good news.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker

Editor: talk@nmmu



Dr Navanethem Pillay



Professor Gaye le Roux



Raymond Uren



Sir David Attenborough

Honorary doctors 2010

ALMOST 5 000 degrees, including four honorary doctorate, diplomas and certificates will be awarded during the annual 2010 graduation ceremonies starting 14 April.

Honorary doctorates will be conferred three of four recipients at graduation 2010 in the fields of law, quantity surveying, education, and science.

They are:

Dr Navanethem Pillay has made a unique contribution to the

development of South African and international human rights law as well as gaining worldwide respect as judicial officer. She will be awarded an honorary doctorate in Law.

Respected quantity surveying academic and professional and former UPE staff member, **Professor Gaye le Roux** will be awarded an honorary doctorate in Construction Economics for her outstanding contribution to the profession of quantity surveying in South Africa.

Educationist and sport personality **Raymond Uren** will be awarded an honorary doctorate in Education, honouring his substantial contribution to education and to the community of Nelson Mandela Bay in general.

World-acclaimed scientist and cinematographer **Sir David Attenborough** will receive a Doctor of Science degree in recognition of his pioneering approach to wildlife – successfully marrying science and entertainment. His degree will be awarded at a later date.

Briefs

National appointment

Dean of Arts **Prof Velile Notshulwana** has been appointed as a member of the National Council for Correctional Services by Correctional Services Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

Scientist support

ELECTRICAL Engineering lecturer **Alastair Scott** will be the South African delegation leader, chaperoning the top two young scientists to the third International Sustainable World Project Olympiad at Houston, USA, from 14 to 19 April.

Alastair is also the regional coordinator for the Eskom Port Elizabeth Expo for young scientists, which in August 2009 attracted 186 learners from the Eastern Cape to display their projects in the Indoor Sports Centre on South Campus.

New moves for management

THE Vice-Chancellor's **Prof Derrick Swartz's** office moved from North Campus to the 18th floor of the main building on South Campus early in March.

Furthermore, the DVC: Academic, **Prof Christo van Loggerenberg** moved to the 17th floor to join the DVC: Research, Technology and Planning, **Prof Thoko Mayekiso**, Executive Director: Finance **Marius Scheepers** and the new DVC: Institutional Support

together with their support staff.

Telephone extensions remain the same.

According to management the moves were necessitated by the need for better access to meetings and operational spaces.

The former senate chambers on the first floor have also been converted into new council chambers for Council meetings among others.

From July, the 18th floor will also

host Council committee and ECOM meetings.

New names

- ▶ **The Boardroom**, 18th Floor (former 18th floor seminar room, South Campus).
- ▶ **South Campus Council Chambers** (former South Campus Senate Chamber).
- ▶ **North Campus Executive Seminar Room** (former North Campus ECOM Seminar Room).

Diary

14 – 22 April
Graduation ceremonies

26 April
Public holiday

7, 8 May
Open Day, PE

14, 15 May
Open Day, George

talk@nmmu is published by NMMU Marketing & Corporate Relations. The deadline for contributions to the June edition of talk@nmmu is 17 May 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.

University to provide training ground, accommodation

Getting ready for World Cup

WITH less than 70 days to go before the 2010 Soccer World Cup, NMMU is actively preparing itself as a host.

The NMMU/Xerox stadium has been declared an official FIFA training venue, while the university's 1 800 beds will be used by large groups providing services to the global event.

A R2.5m revamp, in conjunction with

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, is under way at the stadium in order to meet FIFA requirements.

It includes removal of the kikuyu

grass, levelling of the pitch and seeding it with rai grass. The pitch must be ready by the end of May.

It is not yet known which teams will use it as their official training ground when they come to play in Port Elizabeth, but the metro knows that Germany, England, Portugal, Ivory Coast, Slovenia, Chile, Switzerland, Korea Republic, Greece and Serbia will be playing matches in the city.

Along with our accommodation facilities, NMMU will also be providing catering and recreation facilities

for those expected to stay on our campuses.

"Since the renting period is longer than usual, the financial benefits will be better. The income generated will be used for upgrading the residences and other facilities," says Catering and Commercial Services Manager **Nicky Brown**.

Several of the university's conference venues have been booked for functions, training facilities and meetings from April through to July. The Missionvale Campus will be hosting "volunteer training" in April.

"We're excited to be able to be part of this historic event."

We're excited to be able to be part of this historic event

Caught out ...

"WHEN I saw that car, it was pure adrenalin. I know you're supposed to keep your head, but that adrenalin just pumped."



That's as BCom student **Tiaan van Schalkwyk** described his emotions when he spotted the same car and occupants he believed had stolen his own car's sound system the previous day.

"My adrenalin took over and I knew I had to stop them."

Tiaan then nabbed the keys from the ignition of the stationary "suspect" vehicle and hot-footed it to security personnel.

As a result, and unbeknown to Tiaan at the time, he was instrumental in breaking up a major car-theft syndicate on campus and beyond.

"I wouldn't advise anyone to do what I did, especially when I learnt that these men were also wanted for armed robbery. I am lucky nothing bad happened to me."

My adrenalin took over and I knew I had to stop them

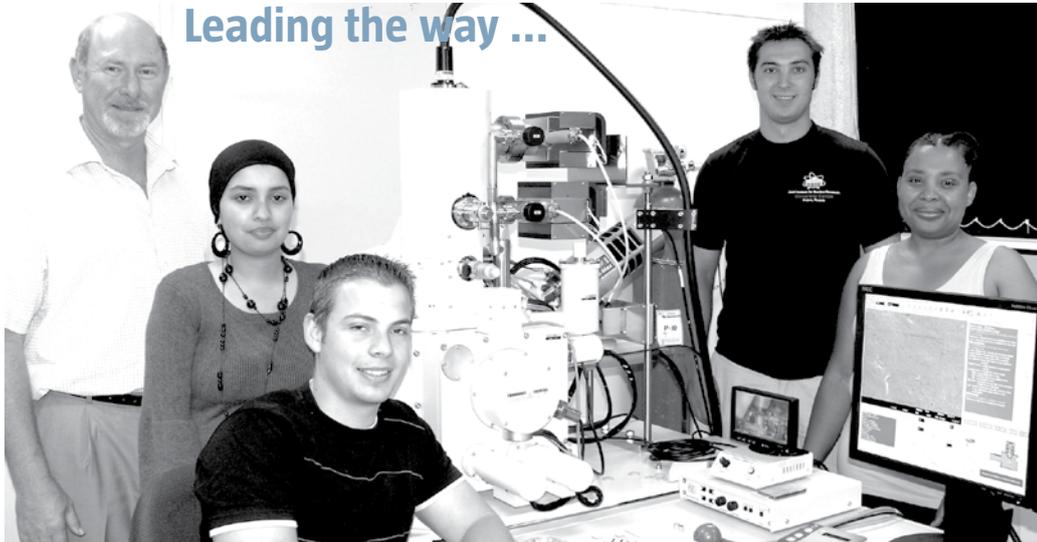
Tiaan became a victim of crime while writing a test late on South Campus one afternoon early in March. His sound system had been ripped from his car. He considered himself fortunate since a friend had had his car stolen from the same car park, also while writing a test, a few months earlier.

"I noticed one particular vehicle after the theft and alerted security to it. The very next afternoon that car, and the same occupants, was back."

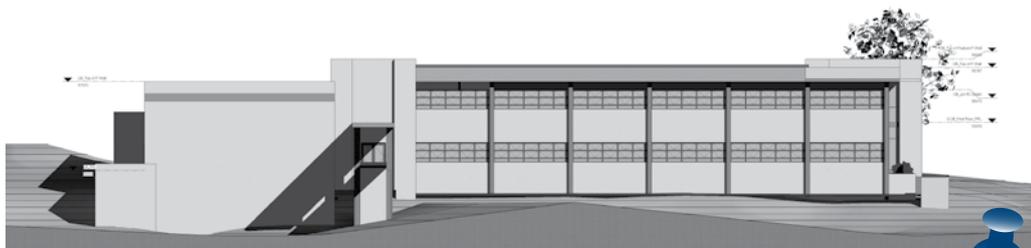
Tiaan had high praise for head of NMMU security **Derek Huebsch** whose team immediately called the police. One of the suspects admitted to a string of crimes, including several car break-in incidents on campus. The suspects are in custody.

Furthermore, Tiaan's sound system was discovered hidden in the "suspect" vehicle, along with goods from other possible break-ins.

Leading the way ...



RESEARCH TEAM ... Physics **Prof Jan Neethling** (from left) and his team of students, laboratory assistant **Tasneem Limbada**, PhD students **Jaco Olivier** (sitting), **Jacques O'Connell** (back) and postdoctoral student **Dr Nobom Hashe** are thrilled with the arrival of the first of their high-resolution electron microscopes – a R7.5m specialised research instrument, thanks mainly to the Department of Trade and Industry. The analytical attachments of this Japanese-made instrument make it the most versatile analytical scanning electron microscope in the country. The sensitivity of the instrument means it will be moved to the Centre of High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy, to be built later this year. This instrument is used for research in the physical, life and medical sciences.



NEW CENTRE ... A graphic image of the new Centre for High-Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy where the R80m highly-specialised microscope, and its smaller companions, will enable scientists to analyse materials down to atomic level.

Football Fridays

JOIN thousands of other South Africans and don a soccer shirt on Friday as we move closer to the 2010 Fifa Soccer World Cup kick-off in mid-June.

R1.4m monthly Eskom tariff – before 25% hike

Electricity saving essential

ALTHOUGH water saving is top of mind at the moment, we should not forget the need to save electricity both at work and at home.

It's not only about saving precious energy reserves and reducing our carbon footprint, but it's also about the serious financial implications.

The facts speak for themselves:

- Eskom will be increasing its tariff by 24.8% this year, then by 25.8% in 2010 and 25.9% in 2012.
 - In February this year our Port Elizabeth campuses used eight per cent more electricity than in February 2009.
 - We paid more than R1.4m for electricity for our PE campuses in February this year - 25% more than February last year.
- You do the maths. It's big money that's involved.

There is some good news however.

Student Village used seven per cent less electricity in February than last year. Let's endeavour to follow their example.

These figures show that in spite of our efforts to save electricity, our consumption has increased by eight per cent. Although refurbishments, upgrading and building projects have contributed to the rise in Eskom usage, we still have to try and save electricity because the more money spent on utilities means the less money there will be to spend on other projects.

A 24.8% increase on R1.4m, for example, amounts to an extra R34 720 a month, or an increased monthly electricity bill of about R1.7m.

"NMMU has compiled an energy conservation strategy which supports ongoing energy consumption



and building management systems," Engineering Services Deputy Director **Peter Peters** (left) told talk@nmmu.

"One of the strategies includes targeting specific buildings, conducting audits of usage and proposing energy saving targets, changing and upgrade of equipment, implementing budgets and publishing information under energy saving on our website."

Important: Switch off air-conditioners and lights as soon as you leave a venue, especially tearooms, boardrooms and seminar rooms.

Alumni briefs

Top appointments

ROMANO Daniels who graduated in 1988 with a national diploma in marketing and sales from the former PE Technikon is the new Bridgestone retail managing director while NMMU BAdmin 2005 graduate Marvin Lawack is Director of Eastern Europe for the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in the Foreign Services.

Looking good



NMMU LLB alumnus Mr PE and attorney Denver Burns is the new Mr South Africa 2010.

Denver, the first winner of the competition from the Eastern Cape, is a member of the Eastern Province water polo team, a qualified lifeguard and former NSRI member.

He said he would focus on helping a number of charities close to his heart.

Ambassador launch

THE NMMU Alumni Association Executive Committee launched its ambassador programme and the PE Chapter of the Association at Madibaz Café, South Campus, last month.

The event was well supported by NMMU, former PE Technikon and UPE alumni.



EXPANDED TEAM ... The Alumni Relations Office is growing, with (from left) Alumni Relations Officer **Santosh Ramadu**, Director **Paul Geswindt**, University Shop intern **Lyree Boucher**, communication assistant **Liscka Welcome**, University Shop Manager **Baakier Abrahams** and Alumni Relations intern **Mziyanda Bloro**.

Almost 60% staff alumni

CLOSE to 60 per cent of NMMU staff are alumni.

Of them, more than 60 per cent of academic staff have qualifications from the former PE Technikon, UPE or NMMU, while close to 50 per cent of administrative and support staff are alumni of these institutions.

These figures were obtained from the university's general prospectus where staff qualifications are listed.

The Faculty of Health Sciences tops the log with over 80 per cent of its staff being former NMMU students at some point in their lives. Next on the list is the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology, followed by Business and Economic Sciences, Education, Law, Science and finally, Arts.

Many colleagues add qualifications to their name each year – as indeed many will do so again at the 2010 graduation ceremonies.

Staff are key ambassadors for the university.



ALGOA FM PRESENTERS ... AlfoaFM Programming Manager **Alfie Jay** and alumnus **Daron Mann** (BCom 1989) attended the opening of Madibaz Café in February last month.

High-tech media for new venues

STATE-of-the-art technology-driven systems have been introduced on South Campus in the multi-media lecture venues, the new executive boardroom on the 18th floor and the refurbished senate/council chamber in the main building.

New systems introduced at Building 123's lecture venue complex includes audiovisual server rooms behind the projection wall housing all controls, ICT and uninterrupted power supply in case of emergencies, says Integrated Media Services Head **Paul Harper**.

Paul was a member of the project teams dealing with the new buildings. The team also included Projects and Planning Director **Stuart Blignaut**, as well as architects, engineers and interior decorators designing digital audiovisual systems.

All venues are fitted with two data projectors

New lecture venues

According to Paul, lecturers access audiovisual equipment via a lockable hatch/window into the audiovisual room which secures expensive equipment and also enables technicians to troubleshoot problems without interrupting the class.

All venues are fitted with two data projectors so that two images can be projected side by side.

He says the cabling systems of digital systems more easily maintained, systems can be remotely monitored and controlled via specialised software and systems can shut down at a pre-scheduled time in the evening, saving power.

Hearing loops were installed for students who are hard of hearing and dedicated power has been installed at wheelchair friendly desks for laptop usage and the recording of lectures.

Senate/Council Chamber

The new Senate/Council Chamber contains the latest digital audiovisual systems, including a two-camera video-conferencing system, digital presentation and conference microphone systems.

Survey highlights NMMU commitment to sustainable issues

Going green matters

THE overriding message is clear: NMMU wants to go green.

That's as it emerged from a survey conducted late in 2009 among 252 staff and 326 students by Business Management's **Dr Suzette Viviers** and **Riyaadh Lillah**.

Since climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the world – one which NMMU and its stakeholders face in terms of physical, regulatory, economic and market-related risks – it became imperative to get a greater understanding of staff and student views on these matters.

"The NMMU community recognises the benefits of going green both in terms of policies regarding teaching and learning, research and engagement, but also with internal operations. However, they perceive many stumbling blocks," says Suzette, who has been instrumental in raising the profile of green business management via ongoing research. Last year, Business Management hosted a "green" conference.

Recommendations of the research calling for a comprehensive environmental management system which also makes provision for staff and students' needs in terms of "green" education and research have already been presented to key NMMU decision makers.

The survey revealed that staff and students consistently highlighted a lack of services such as recycling facilities, awareness campaigns, and funding for research. They also

Findings from an NMMU staff and student survey on all things green reveal something interesting insights, not least a number of practical stumbling blocks as talk@nmmu discovers.



GREEN WARRIORS ... Dr Suzette Viviers and Riyaadh Lillah of Business Management were the instigators of a staff and student survey on green issues.

For me, going green is a rational decision, not based on incentives. Use information not incentives.

ment, that it would be financially beneficial to do so, and that they were willing to participate in programmes conserving our natural environment.

Incentives

Prizes, money, "green" awards and competitions between residences, faculties and departments for "green" status were seen as important incentives in motivating students to become more environmentally conscious.

However, as one staff member remarked: "For me, going green is a rational decision, not based on incentives. Use information not incentives."

pointed out that NMMU needed to set a better example in terms of switching off lights and implementing better irrigation practices.

Environmental management

The survey found that the conservation of the natural environment (one of NMMU's new values), including plant and animal biodiversity, was very important to both staff and students.

They felt NMMU should become a leader in environmental manage-

Education above all

CHOOSING EDUCATION ... Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship recipient Cindy Gifford (right) who matriculated at Alexander Road High School with seven A-symbols, is the only one of 23 recipients to study in the Education Faculty. Studying BEd (Intermediate level, grades 4-6), specialising in Science and Mathematics, Cindy says she always had a passion to teach primary school children. "Although I had the marks, I don't see myself sitting in an office the whole day, I want to help children and I also want a challenge, so that's why I am specialising in Science and Mathematics." Congratulating her at the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship celebratory function on 26 February are Initial Teacher Education School Director Dr Noluthando Toni (left) and Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.



Pioneer for environmentally-friendly energy resources

Sunny solution to energy crisis

FINDING alternative energy sources has become vital with our current sources under severe strain, and likely to steadily worsen as the recession lifts and manufacturing increases.

"If we can provide energy in an environmentally-friendly way, it will be better for everyone – not just South Africa or Africa, but everyone," says **Prof Ernest van Dyk**, who heads up the university's Centre for Energy Research, which is at the forefront of renewable energy research in South Africa.

Here, scientists, engineers, statisticians and other experts pool their knowledge to find sustainable energy alternatives in the form of solar and wind energy, along with energy efficiency, energy economics and energy materials.

With the world's atmosphere heavily polluted by using environmentally-unfriendly fossil fuels like coal – the main source of South Africa's energy – eco-friendly alternatives are long overdue.

"The possibility that demand will outweigh capacity is real," says Ernest, who along with his colleagues has been instrumental in initiating a series of renewable energy discussions (see adjacent story).

In the past, with consumers spoilt by a seemingly unlimited cheap supply of electricity, little attention was paid to alternative sources. Now, with the price of electricity likely to soar by over 140 per cent in the next three years, the country's eyes are on solution-seekers like Prof Van Dyk.

"There is a place for both solar and nuclear energy – but, ultimately, I believe solar energy will be South Africa's main energy solution."

Ernest, whose main area of research is photovoltaics (solar cells), says that once a solar cell is made, there is no harm done to the environment.

"It just takes up space, there are no harmful emissions."

But in terms of the demand for solar energy, South Africa lags far behind other parts of the world, like Germany and Spain, where renewable energy resources are hotly pursued.

"In Germany, where they have a third of the solar resources South Africa has (fewer sunlight hours), it's huge. But it's driven from government level – there are strict policies in



Prof Ernest van Dyk, head of the Centre for Energy Research, believes that providing energy in an environmentally-friendly way will be better for the world.

With South Africa's energy crisis likely to escalate, NMMU's Prof Ernest van Dyk believes it is time to turn back to the world's oldest energy resource: the sun.

place, in terms of environmental or pollution targets to meet energy demands.

"A percentage of energy (at companies) must come from renewable sources. Over the last 10 to 15 years, Germany's solar cell industry has grown to become the most advanced in the world."

Prof Van Dyk says people are put off pursuing solar energy in South Africa because of the cost.

"With renewable energy sources, you basically pay upfront for energy for the next 20 years. Big capital is required upfront."

The Centre for Energy Research is largely powered by the solar energy it produces, and Ernest himself has reduced

his personal reliance on Eskom's grid by 40%, and hopes to reduce it further with a recently installed solar swimming pool pump.

Top project

One of the ground-breaking projects being researched at the centre, which works closely with industry, is the development of various types of concentrator photovoltaics, which may be less expensive and have even better results.

The centre collaborates closely with the University

of Oldenburg in Germany. "We are busy looking at developing a postgraduate degree in renewable energy, which will be based here at NMMU."

Ernest, who matriculated at Queens College in Queenstown, studied physics up to doctoral level at NMMU. While it had always interested him, the switch to researching alternative energy sources came in the mid-1990s after he conducted post-doctoral research at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado and later North Carolina State University.

He founded the Centre for Energy Research in 2006.

One of his former students, Prof Edson Meyer, has begun similar research at University of Fort Hare – the only other photovoltaics research centre in the country.

Ernest is married to Lynn and has two daughters Jacklyn, 17, and Ingrid, 16. - **NW**

There is a place for both solar and nuclear energy – but, ultimately, I believe solar energy will be South Africa's main energy solution.

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.

NMMU to play key role in joint sustainable development initiative

Research: key to climate change

RADICAL change and research into alternative energy sources are vital for survival of the planet.

That was the message brought by international climate change scientist Sir David King at the inaugural meeting of the South East African Climate Change Consortium (Seacc) at the university last month.

"I estimate we have just 40 years to make the changes we need to make – but we can do it. The challenges presented mean there is huge potential for smart research to be done at institutions like NMMU," said Sir David to the more than 200 people who attended the event.

Energy, transport, food production, water provision, business, land care, ecosystem protection and disaster management, as well as inter-disciplinary planning, all play a role in surviving our future, he said.

The founding partners of Seacc – NMMU, Rhodes and Fort Hare universities, the Sustainable Seas-Trust and the Wilderness Foundation

– hope to use its strengths in communication and education to reach the people of Southern and Eastern Africa, particularly within the Eastern Cape.

The challenge of Seacc is to change behaviour measurably so that it leads to sustainable livelihoods, sustainable

I estimate we have just 40 years to make the changes we need to make – but we can do it

development and improved quality of life for all.

Sir David shared one of his favourite innovations, namely the hybrid airship for freight transport. It has the carbon footprint that is a fraction of the size of existing aeroplanes.

Heading the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment at Oxford University, Sir David was born and educated in South Africa and has a background in physical chemistry and



ROLEPLAYERS ... South East African Climate Change Consortium (Seacc) steering committee (from left) chair Dr Tony Ribbink, Environment Minister Buyelwa Sonjica and Dean of Science Prof Andrew Leitch at the highly-successful inaugural meeting of Seacc at the university.

is a former climate change advisor to the British government.

The Seacc conference was attended by Environment Minister Buyelwa Sonjica, the vice-chancellors of NMMU, Rhodes and Fort Hare and NMMU, senior academics, NGO representatives and members of the public.

Sir David said the problem of

climate change was linked to the mismanagement of ecosystems, such as using fossil fuels like coal, and the fast population growth.

He also shared examples of "solutions" such as re-greening areas in China and Rwanda and research into cross-breeding cultivars to suit environmental changes.

Energy issues for new discussion forum

ENERGY policy and challenges came under scrutiny at two energy discussion forums at NMMU aimed at increasing public awareness about energy issues.

The inaugural discussion forum organised by the Centre for Energy Research on 26 February covered topics concerning energy policy and challenges in South Africa, and the metro's response to these challenges.

Dr Wolsey Barnard of Enbar Consulting spoke on energy policy and challenges in South Africa, while Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's Peter Neilson from the Energy and Electricity Directorate addressed the metro's energy challenges and its response to them.

On 11 March prominent German wind energy researcher Prof Joachim Peinke shared current developments in wind energy as one of the promising renewable energies.

Research topics on man-made wind turbines, how to take advantage of turbulent wind situations as well as aerodynamics, mechanical loads and the fluctuations of the produced power were also discussed.

Further forums have been arranged.

New degree for financial analysts

THE Faculty of Science has launched a BCom in Financial Modelling degree to address the national shortage of statistics graduates skilled in the field of financial data analysis.

The faculty is in collaboration with key corporate partners, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, First National Bank and Eskom.

"We are responding to the needs of the financial industry," said Prof Igor Litvine, who heads up the Department of Statistics.

The new programme will allow us to explicitly prepare our graduates for employment in financial institutions

"They want to employ statisticians with specialised training on the tools used in finance. Modern finance is a very advanced science, with its own terminology, mechanisms, assumptions and structures."

First-year student Gareth McEwan, who ultimately hopes to work in investment banking, said the recent global financial crisis had sparked his interest in the field.

Igor said many statistics graduates found themselves working in banks or at the stock



NEW COURSE ... Statistics and Mathematical Statistics Department Head Prof Igor Litvine (seated) with NMMU's first BCom Financial Modelling students (from left) Justin Mudzimu, Gareth McEwan, and Zuko Mgugudo.

exchange, where they faced a difficult adjustment period, getting to grips with the many complexities of the financial system.

"The courses in the new programme will allow us to explicitly prepare our graduates for employment in financial institutions."

Financial modellers are also used in other industries, including energy production, insurance, automotive, petroleum and mineral processing.

"I compared this course to that of other universities. NMMU's core structure is one of a kind and I just needed to study here," said first-year student Zuko Mgugudo. - **NW**

Briefs

L'Atelier finalists

SEVEN Studio Arts graduates have been selected as regional finalists for the ABSA L'Atelier 2010 competition, which was won in 2009 by NMMU graduate Steven Rosin.

Fine art graduates Zane Lange, Alhyrian Laue and Lorinda Pretorius, photography graduates Sasha Hatherly and Gerhardt Coetzee and BTech Fine Art students Stacy Lee Snodgrass and Olivia Rissik were among the 11 artists whose works were selected for the finals in Johannesburg in June this year.

The selection panel adjudicated 43 Eastern Cape works at NMMU's Art Schools Quad Gallery on 16 March.

The works were exhibited in the quad till 19 March.

Clean sweep

NMMU art students swept the floor winning all the awards at the EPSAC/NMMU New Signatures exhibition open to all artists.

Judges Cedric van der Linden, Grant Bayman, Anthony Harris and Esmé Goosen selected just 44 works out of 102 entries to be exhibited over two weeks in March.

The winner was Tegan Sampson, runner-up Angela Ah Hing, and merit winners were Mellaney Ruiters, Alison Shaw, Pieter Lategan, Machéla Liefeldt, all of whom attend NMMU.

Norwegian touch

BRASS students in our Music Department benefited from master classes given by Norwegian lecturers as part of a visit by Norwegian Tromsø University music students and lecturers in March.

The visiting brass ensemble performed and also joined NMMU's brass ensemble directed by Prof **Erik Albertyn** in the South Campus Auditorium on 16 March.

Dates to diarise

- ▶ **Guitar Studio Lunch Hour Concert**, 21 April 13:00, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Derrick Gripper** (guitar), 22 April 19:30, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Jazz Studio Lunch Hour Concert**, 28 April 13:00, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Piano Studio Lunch Hour Concert**, 12 May 13:00, South Campus Auditorium
- ▶ **Piano Studio Lunch Hour Concert**, 22 May 19:00, NMMU Choir and Texas State Chorale, Dutch Reformed Church, Summerstrand



Design Indaba stars

*TOP DESIGN TALENT ... BTech Art and Design students have been identified as "original, contemporary and innovative" by the Emerging Creatives Programme at Design Indaba 2010. Photographers Sasha Hatherly (from left), fine artist Stephanie van Vuuren, photographer Amor Coetzee and graphic designer Jedd McNeillage (front) as well as fashion designer Natalie Creed (absent) were handpicked on the basis of submitted portfolios and competed to be among a select group of 25 young people country-wide from tertiary institutions. "Design Indaba is the premier design conference and students and staff attended a two-day conference with design speakers from around the world which ran alongside the expo," said Applied Design lecturer **Margot Muir**. These students had an audience of more than 200 international and national buyers, journalists and professional designers at Design Indaba in Cape Town in February.*

Italy, Argentina want NMMU award-winners to perform

More invites for choir

THE reputation of NMMU's international award-winning choir is now such, that the organisers of the 19th International Choir Festival in Italy are digging deep into their pockets to sponsor a possible trip to the competition later this year.

Organisers of the festival in Legnano, near Milan, have already sourced funding for the 50-odd member choir's airfare and accommodation, and are now seeking finance for extras.

This all comes ahead of the crème de la crème of choral competitions – the 9th World Symposium on Choral Music in Puerto Madryn, Argentina – in August 2011.

The NMMU Choir, which won an international competition in Austria

last year, is one of only 25 choirs worldwide invited to participate in this top competition.

“They are our vocal brand ambassadors”

“This will be the highlight of my academic and choral career and an extreme honour for the choir,” choir director **Junita van Dijk** told *talk@nmmu*.

Altogether 119 choirs from 40 countries applied to perform in this symposium which takes place only every third year.

In the interim, the Italian organisers,

having heard the successful NMMU choir in Spittal last year, have already organised accommodation for the choir and funding for the flights.

NMMU cannot afford to send the choir overseas every year, but has committed to giving them international exposure every second year.

Junita emphasised that this exposure abroad was essential in continuously building the international reputation of the multi-racial choir, renowned for its “magical unity” in combining Western and traditional music, and its rare ability to sing and dance together.

“They are our vocal brand ambassadors,” said Director of Marketing and Corporate Relations **Pieter Swart**.



Now that's ubuntu ...

FOR OTHERS ... George Campus Marketing lecturer **Adele Potgieter** (second from left) challenged her students to raise R5 000 in this year's CANSA Shavathon in the fight against cancer. Adele lost the challenge – and as result, she lost her hair too. She is joined by (from left) **Martie Meintjies** (Administration), **Linda Muller** (Campus Principal's Office), and **Rosita Kuschke** (Operations). Both staff and students embraced NMMU's new social value of ubuntu or "humaneness" (see page 10) and raised R6 500 for CANSA.

George Campus grows substantially from small base Record student growth

A RECORD number of 1 088 students have enrolled at George this year, compared to 940 students enrolled on 1 March last year, representing a growth of 16%.

This is according to a delighted George Campus principal **Prof Christo Fabricius**.

The frontrunners include the university's flagship BCom programmes, with the BCom General Accounting course showing a 208% growth (122%

first-year growth) and diplomas in Management and Tourism Management, increasing by 56% and 22% respectively.

The Diploma in Nature Conservation has also grown by 34%, while the BTech Forestry programme has recorded a 16% growth.

First-year enrolment statistics are especially encouraging, with 14% more first-year students.

"With the additional impetus set to

flow from the dynamic expansion drive embarked on by George, this campus is set for even greater achievements," said Prof Fabricius.

Diplomas in Agricultural Management and Nature Conservation are in demand with an increased first-year enrolment of 32% and 33% respectively, while the specialist Diploma in Wood Technology has attracted five more students than last year, or a 125% growth rate.

Sport all-rounder honoured nationally



SPORT Management and Sport Education lecturer **Abrie de Swardt** (left) was recently honoured with a Sport Legends Award for his exceptional contribution to sport development by Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport Sakkie Jenner at Kirstenbosch.

Abrie has served in various capacities at club, school, provincial, national and international level over the past 40 years. This includes

his being coach or head coach at African, Commonwealth and World Championships, as well as at Olympic Games level.

He is a regular lecturer at sport conferences throughout the world and has written more than 200 articles in international technical and coaching periodicals and bulletins.

He lectures on a regular basis for the IAAF and various sport organisations and has produced 46 athletes in track and field, cross country, road running, biathlon, triathlon and modern

pentathlon, who have represented South Africa in international competitions.

Furthermore, Abrie presents sport leadership workshops for various sport codes such as rugby, cricket, soccer and various team sport codes.

Since 1969 to date this sport legend has served as president, vice-president or executive member on provincial and national bodies of a number of sport codes – a truly deserving recipient of the most recent accolade bestowed on him.

Briefs

Beneficial exchange



NATURAL Resource Management lecturer **Johan Jordaan** (left) shared the benefits of hands-on tuition for both students and their employers during an ongoing series of radio broadcasts on *RSG Landbou*.

Johan focused on agricultural management students who spend two six-month periods on a farm for practical experience. Similarly, their employers often benefitted from the students' knowledge of budgets and analyses of operations.

Further George Campus recordings can be heard on 30 April and 14 May.

Choir at nuptials

The George Campus choir is to host an opening concert and a fundraising concert in the near future, following the success of their recent performance at a wedding.

The 45-member choir, which sang at the reception of a German couple at Botlierskop Game Reserve near Little Brak, will sing on 23 April and again during Open Day on 14 May.

The choir, established in 2007, practices up to four times a week.

Tasty success

EDEN School of Culinary Art, a strategic partner of George Campus, recently celebrated the success of its first six students, with three distinctions and three merits.

Further joint programmes between the two are planned for the future.

Sharp shooting

A GROUP of 17 Nature Conservation and Game Ranch Management students passed their shooting test with flying colours, with several recording full scores, in the first Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA (CHASA) course for hunters presented to NMMU students.

The two-day course which included theory and practical shooting at Georgeheim, Kleinbrak, was supervised by National Resource Management lecturer Dr Jaap Steenkamp.

"It is certainly contributing to their marketability in the conservation and game industries," he said.

Debating *ubuntu*, one of NMMU's new values

'I am because you are'



As a token of respect, the ancient African tradition of *isivivane* requires that two stones be placed on a pile when embarking on a long journey, one to bless those who came before, and one for those who follow. There is no need to place a stone for yourself, because others have already blessed your journey.

This placing of the stones can be seen as a practical illustration of *ubuntu*, for even though we travel on our own through life, we are never really alone if we embrace the principle of caring for each other's well-being in a spirit of mutual respect and support.

The value of *ubuntu* – one of NMMU's five new values – was mentioned in the post-amble to our first democratic Constitution where it was contrasted with the destructiveness of retribution, vengeance and victimisation.

In this sense, *ubuntu* can be seen as a positive value that would assist us in constructing a better life for all as we journey into the future.

Ubuntu has been chosen by you as one of NMMU's new values. Law professor Narnia Bohler-Muller (below) shares her take on this essentially African word. But what does *ubuntu* mean to you? Go to SOAPBOX to share your views and see what others are saying.



At root, the phrase *umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* ("A person is a person through other persons" or "I am what I am because you are") communicates a basic respect, empathy and compassion for others and encourages a worldview that recognises not only the rights but also the responsibilities that inevitably arise when we live in community with others

Language debate

WE are what we speak.

This was one of the major themes to emerge during a fascinating on-line debate to emerge on the new online SOAPBOX – a safe space for sharing among NMMU staff.

Initiators of the discussion idea – language lecturers **Jacqui Lück** and **Sharon Rudman** – were

fascinated with the responses viewed on-line as well as personally.

"It's been a fascinating insight into how language is perceived," said Jacqui.

Join the latest discussion on-line on the question of *ubuntu*.

ubuntu can be seen as a positive value that would assist us in constructing a better life

who may not share our values, beliefs or backgrounds.

For this reason, as Eze argues, *ubuntu* can be reconceived as a philosophy of the individual-in-relationship, where freedom constitutes an "act of responsibility to the community".

This disposition, outlook or attitude does not rely on uniformity or sameness within community, but plays out as a question of potential. In other words: *who I am able to become through a sense of belonging*.

Justice Albie Sachs put it this way:

The spirit of ubuntu ... is a unifying motif of the Bill of Rights

"The spirit of ubuntu ... is a unifying motif of the Bill of Rights, which is nothing if not a structured, institutionalised and operational declaration in our evolving new society of the need for human interdependence, respect and concern."

What do you think?

Your voice is heard, answered with Soapbox

STAFF are not only taking advantage of NMMU's new safe space for sharing – SOAPBOX – but are already seeing positive results.

From the installation of a new pie oven to the fixing of potholes, various service divisions within NMMU are taking note of your concerns and complaints, and responding to them.

Within hours of a moan about a number of dangerous potholes on campus, Technical Services responded by pointing out that this particular job is out on tender and, all being well, the holes would be fixed by the end of March.

All incoming complaints, ideas,

news and praise are forwarded to the relevant individuals or departments by Marketing and Corporate Relations, which is facilitating the process as a means of ensuring that "your voice is heard".

"Staff and students need to know that their concerns are not just falling into a void, and that they are being heard," said senior manager: communications Debbie Derry.

High food prices, long lecture periods, poor time-tabling, shoddy service feedback from staff and

students are among other issues raised, along with an idea to raise the profile of the indigenous spekboom plant, and praise for various people and events.

You can access the SOAPBOX by going to the icon on the student or staff portals.

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



TOP TEAM ... Women's residence Melodi, represented by (from left) Jianéca Arries (back) Busisiwe Mzandolo, Roxanne Daniels, Sisonke Tom, Sandisiwe Williams, Siphosihle Sihlali, Lumka Tshiki, Mavatha Gebeda, Babalwa Gqada and manager student life operations **Beverly Willemse**, was the overall winning women's residence at the Campus Life Festival at NMMU on 27 February. Letaba was the overall winning men's residence. Various sports events, campus life stalls, formations and a student and staff fun run formed part of the day-long event.



WINNING SET-UP ... NMMU and Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Andrew Kock's** stall won first prize at the SABC Careers Expo in Polokwane last month. Some 16 000 teenagers visited the expo from more than 220km away. NMMU has a satellite site at Polokwane servicing teachers in that area. Andrew was also one of many staff members to participate in the staff talent show last month.



KNOWLEDGE SWOP... University of Minnesota Professor Scott Fee (far right) who is on an exchange programme with the School of the Built Environment till the end of July, visited the new Town Lodge site in Marine Drive along with second-year building students (from left) Andre Williams, lecturer **Dr Franco Geminiani**, Michael Beeby, Ryan Williams and Xoliswa Tsholoba. Prof Fee also visited other construction sites in Port Elizabeth, including the airport and the new Accident and Emergency Centre at the Livingstone Hospital, both headed by NMMU graduates.



NMMU FIRST ... Rag (Remember and Give) made a welcome return to the varsity scene when Executive Mayor Zanololo Wayile (centre), Miss PE Dianne Qoto (left) and Miss NMMU Fikile Konono joined Fifa 2010 Soccer World Cup mascot Zakumi for the start of the Rag procession from Second Avenue Campus. Students shook their tins to collect money to buy soccer kits for underprivileged schools Kinkelbos Primary and Uitenhage's Seagull Primary School.



HOT WHEELS ... George Campus is moving up a gear in terms of student numbers (see page 9) with increased enrolments in most programmes including those enjoyed by (from left) BCom Accounting student Matthew Hewitt, education student Colet Cilliers and JP Conradie, a first-year Game Ranch Management student.



AT HOME ... This poisonous juvenile boomslang settled down to his "studies" in a tree opposite Education Faculty's **Dr Sylvan Blignaut's** window intent on watching his every move for several days, until the curriculum development specialist could take it no longer and called in his colleague and neighbour **Prof Bill Holderness** to "come and see". The snake was about to lift its head - to pose, strike or slip away - when this happy snap was taken. Horticultural Services was called and **Craig Breedt** identified the errant student as a juvenile boomslang (tree snake) and carefully cut away the branches to discourage it from returning to the same sunny spot. It did slither away, but chances are you now have a visitor outside your window. "Well," quips Bill, "at least the monkeys won't steal your lunch box." This story emphasises NMMU's ongoing quest to respect the natural environment.

Environmental education for business

ENVIRONMENTAL education has been included in the curriculum of our Business School through a partnership with the Wilderness Foundation of Southern Africa, confirming our commitment to the NMMU value of respect for the natural environment.

Business School Director **Prof Piet Naude** and Wilderness Foundation executive director Andrew Muir signed a memorandum of understanding providing a framework for co-operation in environmental education and leadership between the organisations.

"This is a breakthrough for conservation. It is vital that the leaders of tomorrow to understand how important it is to use the earth's limited resources wisely and sustainably," says Muir.

"Including conservation in business studies supports the Wilderness Foundation's vision of being a leadership organisation that strives to create opportunities for economic and social equality," he says.

This is a breakthrough for conservation. It is vital that the leaders of tomorrow understand how important it is to use the earth's limited resources wisely and sustainably

The Business School will develop and present academic modules at an executive level programme in environmental thinking and management in executive education and corporate learning, and for the MBA and DBA programmes, Prof Naudé said.

The Business School and Wilderness Foundation will also pursue an exchange of programmes, experiences, information and knowledge; jointly host public events to create awareness, and collaborate in the area of ecological information and business services.



PARTNERS ... Business School Director **Prof Piet Naude** (from left), Business and Economic Sciences Dean **Prof Niekie Dorfling** and Wildlife Foundation Executive Director Andrew Muir shake hands following a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the various parties last month.



IN TOUCH ... School of Information and Communication Technology's (ICT) **Dean Muller** joined 40 Eastern Cape police officers who are attending the first Terrestrial Trunked Radio Access (TETRA) training offered by the school. Courses started in January and will end in May. Developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), TETRA is the first open international standard for digital professional mobile radios and specifies a set of open interfaces and services for these systems. NMMU is the only university worldwide teaching the TETRA material, which the SA Police Services will be using at the FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup. According to ICT's **Dr Kerry-Lynn Thomson** the material will also be integrated into our student curriculum.

Students across all faculties vie for prizes in national contest Great interest in investment game

IN A bid to win R25 000 and an all-expenses trip abroad worth the same amount, about 90 NMMU students – across all disciplines and faculties – are using various strategies and tactics to ensure they have the portfolio with the biggest growth on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Challenge.

And so far, so good with NMMU having two teams in the top three as at 24 March.

The JSE Investment Challenge is an investment game for South African university students to buy and sell

securities where they manage a virtual R1 million. They may only transact between 9am and 5pm daily and may only trade on shares and warrants.

The Department of Statistics – the pioneer of the process – provided some "investing strategies and tactics" to all teams through scientific research. A workshop is held every two weeks to offer assistance and guidance to teams.

NMMU challenge coordinator Abel Motsomi said this was an amazing opportunity for the students to gain

experience in what they might only have seen on television.

"We are so happy that the university is encouraging an initiative like this."

The Department of Statistics has sponsored four teams to encourage other departments and liaise with the JSE on behalf of NMMU.

Eight students from NMMU are also mentoring the JSE Schools Challenge (all over the metro) with the aim of strengthening relationships between the university and society. The second prize is R20 000 and third R15 000.

Leaders to grow human capital

THE importance of human resource leaders to help their companies achieve new levels of growth during the recovery phase after the recession was emphasised by Business School Director **Prof Piet Naudé** at an event for Eastern Cape human resource leaders.

In his presentation on transforming human resources into high-performing human capital after a recession, Prof Naudé said the HR function would be a catalyst and driver for the restoration of an economy after the recession.

The social event, forum and focus group at the Business School's Leadership Academy at Bird Street in mid-February was attended by about 30 people from the likes of SABMiller, GMSA, Eveready and Aspen Pharmacare.



NETWORKING ... Social Development Department's Boipuso Mashego (left) and the Business School's **Pamela Mahuwa** attended the Business School's event for Eastern Cape Human Resource leaders.

Briefs

CIES success



ONE of the top five FIFA/CIES/NMMU 2008 graduates, George Newton (left), was recently appointed as the 2010 FIFA Fan Fest Manager

for Port Elizabeth.

George also holds a Management Services Diploma from the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and is a marketing, trade and promotions consultant.

George was a founding member of the Spartans Athletics Club and was also acting CEO of the UPE/FCK Soccer School of Excellence in 2004.

His success follows in the wake of other recent CIES NMMU graduates such as Rowelna Venter, Desmond Lewis, Solomon Mudege and Phumelani Mokoena.

Research feedback

FASCINATING feedback on anti-retroviral research conducted by Pharmacy, Nursing Science and Social Development Professions students was shared at an HIV/AIDS research seminar in mid-March.

Thanks to research scholarships awarded by the European Union, the students were able to gain insight into the experiences of people living with HIV/AIDS from various aspects, HIV/AIDS Unit Director **Dr Jill von der Marwitz** said.

This included the comprehensive anti-retroviral therapy management received from registered nurses at selected public primary healthcare clinics in Nelson Mandela Bay, the disclosure of HIV status and adherence to antiretroviral therapy and the factors affecting AIDS orphans from accessing voluntary counselling and testing.

Employment demand

THERE may be a demand for drivers and carpenters, but many unemployed people are waiting for the government to provide them with jobs, and are subsequently not making any effort to seeking work themselves.

This is one of the findings shared at the Khaniya project launch, of which our Development Studies Department is a partner. The project wants to improve the labour market in Nelson Mandela Bay.



SOCCKER BENEFITS ... Third-year Sport Management students visited the Solidarity Helping Hands Charity who will benefit from all proceeds from the NMMU Soccer Charity Cup to be held at North Campus on 16 and 17 April. They are (back from left) Kim Denton, Sheldon Vermaak, Mark Robey, Stephen Daniels, Chris Slabbert, Ruan Benade and Jens Muntermann (standing) Francois de Villiers, Wade Lindhorst, Athini Nyamela and Heinrich Baartman (seated) Raymond Gotyana, Thandiswa Nxomani, Anathi Zantsi and Anika Barnard (front) with children from the Solidarity Helping Hands Charity. Last year 27 teams participated in the tournament which received media coverage on SuperSport's Let's play programme.

User experience research with Germany, Finland

SCHOOL of Information and Communication's Prof Darelle van Greunen recently travelled to Germany and Finland to finalise user experience research collaboration projects.

One of these projects involves the sought-after Hasso Plattner Institute in Potsdam, Germany, where she also attended a workshop presented by Prof Hasso Plattner.

Prof Plattner is one of the co-founders of SAP AG software systems Germany, a member of the German Hall of Fame and recipient of the information technology leadership award for global integration from the Computerworld Smithsonian Awards Programme.

Prof Van Greunen also visited the head office of SAP Research in Germany since she is focusing on collaborative research for user experience in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (and the rest of Africa).

In Helsinki and Tampere in



FREEZING ... School of Information and Communication's **Prof Darelle van Greunen** had to bear -27 degrees Celsius at Tampere University of Technology in Finland when she travelled there for research collaboration.

Finland she continued her research collaboration projects with Prof Marko Nieminen's usability group at Aalto University.

She also presented lectures to

postgraduate students at the Tampere University of Technology as the guest of Prof Kaisa Väänänen-Vainio-Mattila, head of the Human Centred Tech.

Double employee status

IT'S SECOND time around for Human Resources Management Information Systems Analyst / Web Administrator **Bill Mcquire** who recently received the HR Employee of the Year certificate for 2009.

Bill is a living example of NMMU's value of integrity.

He does the right thing even when no-one is looking.

Every month HR staff members elect an employee of the month winner, an

award he has received several times.

Talk@nmmu asked his colleagues what makes Bill so special.

"He's a real team player," said many, while others referred to his excellent knowledge, and willingness to share that knowledge and his many skills.

Others highlighted his friendliness and self-sacrificial nature – "he reacts immediately to requests for information, but often to his own detriment."

But overriding it all is Bill's sincerity. "In short, he is an extremely valuable asset to the department."

Criteria for the monthly award include attitude and commitment, interpersonal skills, work performance / job skills, personal traits and values adherence.

Other monthly winners for 2009 were **Nadia le Roux, Edwin Khomo, Berlene Nell, Duncan du Toit** (also twice), **Phyllis Redcliffe, Gloria Ndoni, Michele Frederick** and **Rochelle Brintjies**.

Do you acknowledge your staff?



*TWICE ... Human Resources Management Information Systems Analyst / Web Administrator **Bill Mcquire** (left) is congratulated by Acting Executive Director HR **Paul Sekobela** (right) as the 2009 Employee of the Year, an accolade he also won in 2008.*

Campaign highlights NMMU's quest to create safe environment

Sexual harassment a reality

THE Office of Organisational Transformation and Equity is on a mission – to ensure that NMMU becomes a sexual harassment-free campus.

As a result they launched an awareness campaign early in February to create awareness of staff and student rights in this regard.

Pamphlets, business cards and book marks have been distributed as part of the campaign that will also let staff and students know that they have a safe place in which to share their experiences and concerns.

"Confidentiality is assured," says **Ruby-Ann Levendal** of the office's work in this matter.

Hearsay or truth?

The fact is sexual harassment is prevalent in all forms on our campuses, according to Campus Health Services Director **Sister Antoinette Goosen**.

"It not only occurs between colleagues, but also between students and academics. In some cases, the student is the harasser and the academic the victim. It takes place between males and females but also between persons of the same

NMMU has a zero-tolerance status towards sexual harassment – and as such is working hard to create an environment where staff and students are able to work and study without fear of any form of sexual harassment.

gender," says Antoinette.

According to the Office of Organisational Transformation and Equity a sexual harassment committee leads a support system for individuals on campus through sexual harassment advisors available for staff and students.

These advisors include:

- Counsellors in the Student Counselling, Career and Development Centre
- Staff in Student Governance and Development Services
- Professional nurses from

Campus Health Services

- Human Resources consultants
- The Dean of Students
- Director: Residences and residence managers
- Director and consultant: Organisational Transformation and Equity (OT&E)
- Individuals within various faculties.

To report sexual harassment call the 24-hour help-line on 082 428 5009 or go to my.nmmu.ac.za/sex

In some cases, the student is the harasser and the academic the victim

Did you know?

- A government minister received a golden handshake after four women accused him of victimisation and sexual harassment when he was in a provincial office.
- A national agency fired its CEO after he was found guilty of sexually harassing a female colleague, who has since left the organisation amid the controversy.
- Sexual harassment is rife in social media such as MXit, where girls reported they felt unsafe and uncomfortable, while male participants felt confident and safe.

A 2007 survey found:

- 50% of South African women said they have been subject to some form of sexual harassment.
- 70% of the victims were co-employees.
- In the majority of cases the harasser was in a position of authority.
- 83% of cases involved the dismissal of the harasser.

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 March competition winners: **Ronel Hiles** of Accounting, **Thembinkosi Mbata** of Stores, **Anita van der Merwe** of Governance Administration and **Maureen Elkington** of Applied Design.

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

1. A new R30,5-million Centre for High-Resolution Transmission Electron M.....y (10 letter word) will be completed by mid-2011.
2. JOIN thousands of other South Africans who wear s....r (6 letter word) shirts every Friday.
3. Electricity saving is vital since it has serious f.....l (9 letter word) implications both at work and at home.

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**.

Schuinville 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

UNIVERSITY staff and students extend their condolences to the family and friends of retired Economics Head of Department **Prof Koos Smith**, who passed away recently.

Attracting future Chemistry students

IF THE number of cell phone camera clicks was the measure of the success of an initiative by the Chemistry Department to attract learners to consider a career in chemistry, then they'll be inundated with first-year students next year.

Some 60 matric science learners from Victoria Park High School clicked away as they witnessed a number of chemistry experiments during their visit to the Chemistry Department.

According to organiser **Prof Peter Loyson** the learners alternated between Chemistry on

South Campus and InnoVenton's plant and algae production process in the new greenhouse.

"Our aim was to share the various qualifications, research and careers available in chemistry," said Prof Loyson who dealt directly with Victoria Park science teacher and NMMU alumnus Dr Grant James.

Prof Loyson also shared the importance of chemistry in everyday life, explained polymer and analytical chemistry, and highlighted the many local industries and chemical industries at Coega.



SMELLING SCIENCE ... Cameron Stephens (left) and Jarred Properjohn were among the 60 learners from Victoria Park High School to attend an initiative by the Chemistry Department.



*SISTER ACT ... NMMU's own Whoopi Goldberg **Karen Snyman** (third from left) of Student Governance entertained the audience with her group singing at the staff variety concert in the South Campus Auditorium on 17 February. Her fellow sisters were (from left) **Yolande Ferreira, Karin Grobler, Charmaine Seaman, Ursula Spies, Karen, Michele du Preez, Denise du Preez, Eleanor Williams and Linda Kapp**. They were accompanied by Library and Information Services Director **Robert Pearce** on guitar. Others to share their talents included music lecturer **John Edwards**, Arts and Culture's **Anda Masala** who gave everybody goose bumps with her jazz vocal item, Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Andrew Kock**, Technical Services' **Mike Grimes** and ballroom dancers Elzanne Pretorius and Hannes Kruger. Academic Engagement and Collaboration's **Rob Minne** was programme director, with the event organised by NMMU Arts and Culture and Marketing and Corporate Relations.*

Briefs

2 new bursaries

TWO new bursaries in honour of students who died tragically in accidents while at NMMU have been established.

The Jason Kruger and Vanessa Baldwin bursaries, valued at R25 000 each, are awarded to top students from the same schools as Jason (Knysna High School) and Vanessa (Alexander Road High School) and whose studies are in the same faculty.

This year's recipients, Konrad Kapp and Jeffrey Stow, are studying Architecture and Geosciences in the Arts and Science faculties respectively.

Jason had been enrolled for a BA degree when he was knocked off his bicycle last year close to the university, while Vanessa had been studying for a BSc when she similarly was hit by a taxi on her scooter in 2001.

Fire warning

THE current dry and windy conditions makes for the rapid spread of fires so please do not discard cigarette butts outside.

Centre tackling racism launched

NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (Canrad) is the culmination of Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz's** vision that followed a march against racism in March 2008.

Attended by more than 400 people, the Centre was launched at the Goldfields Auditorium on 23 March with distinguished scholar, policy specialist, and public intellectual Dr Odora Hoppers as the keynote speaker.

Her talk was also the first in the university's public lecture series of 2010.

The launch was followed by a national colloquium for the Anti-Racism Network in Higher Education on Missionvale Campus.

On 25 March the Centre and the Faculty of Law offered two lectures on equality and the law, and xenophobia and the law. Law lecturer and high court advocate **Lindi Coetzee** and National Director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Advocate Jacob van Garderen were the guest speakers.

"The idea of the centre stems from the grave concern that the issue of racism has not been given enough scholarly attention in South Africa," said Canrad director **Allan Zinn**, a former anti-apartheid activist.

In addition to tackling regional, national and global priorities, the centre is determined to address the internal transformation challenges affecting most higher education institutions, including NMMU.

"Canrad will provide an intellectual and social space for debate on the complexities of post-apartheid South Africa, as we seek to establish a new non-racial and democratic social and economic order."

Rugby rumpus ...



WINNING TEAM ... NMMU's George first rugby XV beat a touring Argentine club side 38-12 in a game at the scenic Saasveld ground as well as another SWD coastal league game 99 - 3 to restore some pride after the university's poor Varsity Cup record.

Briefs

Triple triumph



HUMAN Movement Science honours student and weightlifting star Mona Pretorius (left) broke three South African records at the Commonwealth Games trials in Cape Town in February.

Based on this performance Mona should be selected by Sascoc (SA Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee) for the games in Germany later this year.

Mona lifted 81kg in the snatch event and 101kg in the clean-and-jerk, with the combined weight of 182kg resulting in her third record for the day.

She won a silver medal at the University World Championships in Greece in 2008.

Two golds



Michael Louwrens (left) is NMMU's Sport Achiever for February, after winning two gold medals at the SAZAAS Dubai International Athletics meeting for disabled athletes in the same month.

One medal was for shot-put (13.56m) and the other for discus (39.0m).

Michael was also a finalist for the Sport Person of the Year Award at the Premiere Awards in East London on 27 February and won the Athlete of the Year Award in the Athletics Section.

Cricket coach shares secret



NMMU cricket coach Shafiek Abrahams is a proud man.

His team the Toshiba NMMU cricket team was crowned the University Sports South Africa (USSA) champions in December 2009 and also won the National Club Championship tournament in September.

CRICKET COACH ... Shafiek Abrahams

This officially makes NMMU's first team both the top-ranked university and club side in the country.

The secret?

"My strategy was simply to get the players to work harder on their skills, setting higher standards of belief in themselves and pushing their limits, not just in cricketing skills, but in fitness and discipline

too," said the former EP and SA spin bowler, who highlighted the team's spinners as a formidable part of our strategy.

"But our eventual success, along with further development, will continue to be a telling factor, together with the skills our batsmen are learning," says Shafiek.

About Shafiek

Memorable moments

- My first recollection of cricket is watching my dad playing. Then I followed my uncles and brother at a club called Goodhope where my love for the game grew.
- My first game for EP as a schoolboy before unity and then going on to play for EP at St George's Park for the first time.
- Being appointed as a national selector in 2008, after being a convener of selectors for the SA u/19 and SA Schools teams for two years.
- Returning to Port Elizabeth to the coaching position at NMMU while continuing with my other duties at Cricket South Africa.

Did you know?

- I am a PE boy. I attended Machiu Primary School, De Heuwel Primary, Westville High and matriculated at Bethelsdorp High School. I was a student at the former UPE (BCom).
- I love soccer - Manchester United - and golf (Tiger Woods).
- I play golf when I have time and I love fishing.

Super sprinters



NMMU student Cindy Stewart won two gold medals at the Yellow Pages South African Athletics Championships in Durban recently.

She won the 100m in 11.57 seconds and the 200m in 23.42, while her fiancée NMMU athlete Leigh Julius took silver in the 100m (10.31).