

talk@nmmu

June / July 2010

The Staff Newsletter

NMMU hosts conferences, top teams, supports with volunteers

Celebrating the World Cup

THE 2010 Fifa World Cup may have come and gone, but NMMU is still reaping the benefits of the month-long global event.

Not only did NMMU host some 1700 South African Police Services members, act as a training facility for volunteers and provide a training facility to several top teams, but it also supplied volunteer man-power and expertise in various fields to contribute the successful running of the soccer spectacle.

Two top conferences were also hosted in conjunction with World Cup, while much research was and is being undertaken by NMMU staff.

This was a historical moment greater than us – a cultural unifier of people

But possibly the largest legacy of the World Cup has been its role in further uniting not only NMMU, but the country as whole.

Or as NMMU Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz** put it: "This was a historical moment greater than us – a cultural unifier of people."

Prof Swartz was speaking at the Fifa/CIES University Network Seminar at NMMU for delegates from 13 international universities (see our August issue). Earlier, the Sport Bureau hosted the 2nd World Conference on Science and Soccer (see page 16).

He marvelled at the ability of sport to bring people together and highlighted how he, a non-soccer fan, had been moved to tears at the opening on 11 June.

The build-up to this date saw many departments join "the gees" by donning their soccer shirts on Football Fridays, holding sweepstakes, hosting soccer parties and decorating their offices and cars.

The university also benefited from infrastructure



SPIRITED ... Postal Services showed their "gees" and support for the Fifa 2010 World Cup (back from left) Feroza Noorshib, Elliot Plaattje, Ursula Serfontein and Markolene Saunders. Middle, Pinkie Kosi, Muriel Williams, Bjorn Kramer, Cindy Daniels, Arnold Denakie, Magda Nothnagel (front, standing) Shavon Leander, Phakam Mdlila, (seated) Xoliswa Adams and Shawn Olivier.

improvements valued at R2.5m as changing rooms were upgraded and grass replaced in the stadium

Serbia, Switzerland, Uruguay and Brazil trained at NMMU. "We are very proud to have had these international players exposed to our facilities," said Sport Director **Dr Richard Stretch**.

Likewise, **Faith Bada** of Catering and Commercial

Services, said it had been good to host the police.

"They were very happy and enjoyed it here – especially the environment on campus."

A large number of NMMU students served as volunteers working in various divisions. Some staff members also volunteered, while others found themselves hosting visitors from around the world.

▶ **Next edition:** Meet our new Chancellor ▶ Two more research Chairs for NMMU ▶ New library

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WHETHER you're a rugby or cricket fan, or have no interest in sport whatsoever, there's no denying the positive fall-out of the Fifa 2010 World Cup for South Africa. NMMU benefited too, hosting 700 police officers and some leading football teams at its sports grounds.

You embraced the occasion – dressing up, disk dancing and yes, blasting those vuvuzela too. Our lead story celebrates our part in

The soccer spin-off

this historic event.

There has been plenty of other reason to celebrate too with the start of construction of the R117-million High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) Centre, the establishment of a new



refugee centre by the Law Department and the staging of *The Rivonia Trial*, and Denis Goldberg's book launch.

NMMU also launched its new values on 1 June, complete with visual icons, posters and T-shirts as

reminders of our need to live out these values.

We trust the World Cup invigorated you. It has us, as you will notice from our all-colour publication which, for the first time, has been completed entirely in-house by Marketing and Corporate Relations.

Kind regards
Elma de Koker
Editor: talk@nmmu

Rivonia Trial relived

NMMU was privileged to host former Rivonia trialist Denis Goldberg and launch his book *The Mission* after the staging of a one-act play, *The Rivonia Trial*, by renowned actor Monde Wani on 12 May in the South Campus Auditorium.

The brainchild of the Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) and NMMU's Department of Arts and Culture, the event was hosted in partnership with Library and Information Services and Marketing and Corporate Relations.

Earlier in the day Goldberg had a surprise meeting with fellow Rivonia trialist Ahmed Kathrada at a function hosted by the Office for International Education where they were joined by Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz



ROLEPLAYERS ... NMMU hosted former Rivonia trialist, Denis Goldberg (second right) and launched his book *The Mission* after the staging of a one-act play, *The Rivonia Trial*, by renowned actor Monde Wani (far right) on 12 May. Library and Information Services Robert Pearce (from left) and NMMU Arts and Culture Head Michael Barry were among the organisers.

and Council Chair Judge Ronnie Pillay.

Goldberg was among the ANC and SA Communist Party leaders accused of treason, and other charges to overthrow the apartheid state. The group faced the penalty of death by execution if found guilty.

In the play Wani was brilliant at reminding the audience of present day dilemmas

faced by particularly poor South Africans. He also took pot-shots at those people exploiting the new South Africa for personal gain, before taking the audience through the harrowing experience of prosecution and sentencing of the leadership.

The audience were so carried away by Wani's performance that they joined in the performance several times and sang struggle songs signifying the mood of the times.

After the performance Goldberg chatted to the audience about the trial and the struggle.

He reminded them that the new South Africa was challenged by ignorance of the intentions of the anti-apartheid struggle and that everybody needed to spread the message of nation building

Fresh walls have taken the place of the apartheid walls

through drama and educational projects.

Speaking about the title of his book *The Mission*, Goldberg said that as a commander he could report that he has fulfilled "the mission to tear down the walls of apartheid".

He did however remind the audience that "fresh walls have taken the place of the apartheid walls ..." - Dr Jay Govender, CANRAD.

Briefs

National appointment

PROJECT management lecturer, alumnus and PhD student Bridgette Gasa has been appointed as a member of the new National Planning Commission (NPC) by President Jacob Zuma.

Bridgette, who is the youngest member of the team of 25, will be advising the new NPC chairman Trevor Manuel with the development of a visionary plan - Vision 2025 - for the country.

Management honour

MANAGEMENT Sciences School Director Prof Miemie Struwig has been elected onto the Academic Board of the Journal of Contemporary Economics in Poland, while Business Management's Prof Elmarie Venter has been elected as the new President of SAIMS (South African Institute of Management Sciences).

Business award

THE Business School's Dr Margaret Cullen is the winner of the professional category of the Business Woman Association's Regional Business Achievers Awards. A function for the award winners was held late in May.

Accounting accolade

ACCOUNTING'S Gerrit Penning has been appointed as member of the committee of the SAICA (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants) Southern Region's Port Elizabeth District Association.

Postdoc fellowship

Political and Governmental Studies lecturer Dr Wendy Isaacs-Martin has been offered an African Humanities Postdoctoral fellowship by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

Diary

3 – 5 August

Careers Fair, North Campus
Heinz Betz

11 August

Charles Bryars Music
Scholarship Concert, South
Campus Auditorium

16 – 20 August

International Week

18 August

Guitar Studio Lunch Hour
Concert, South Campus
Auditorium

21 August

Triversity, South Campus sports
fields

Our vocal ambassadors wow Italian audiences

THE reputation of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's choir is now such that our international award-winning choristers have received a flood of invites to perform all over the world.

The 48-member choir and their conductor **Junita van Dijk** have just returned from a fully-sponsored tour to Italy to participate in the 19th International Italian Choir Festival where they entertained up to 25 000 people.

They also headlined and wowed audiences at a 2010 Fifa World Cup opening concert in Milan, on 11 June.

"We are thrilled at having had the opportunity of further spreading our voices," said Junita.

The choir was invited to the Italian festival as a result of their win in Spittal, Austria, last year, but could not afford the trip.

The organisers, however, were so intent on sharing "the magical unity" of the multi-racial choir, that they found funding in order to sponsor NMMU's participation.



IN ACTION ... Gretchen Scholtz (from left), Claricia Coeries and Nopinkie Mba were among the choir members to impress international audiences during their recent all-expenses paid trip to Italy.

Apart from the festival, which included choirs from Estonia, Japan, Germany and Denmark, the choir shared its successful fusion of African and Western music in Milan.

They also travelled to smaller towns near Milan to perform at free concerts. And as another highlight,

they sang in the St Ambrose Basilica.

Junita emphasised the importance of exposure abroad to build the international reputation of the choir. "We were invited back for next year but have already accepted an invitation to participate in the International Choral Symposium in Argentina"

Excellence, ubuntu, diversity, environment, integrity highlighted



ICON IMAGES ... NMMU's new values - (from left) Ubuntu, Respect for diversity, Respect for the natural environment, Integrity, Excellence - were launched on 1 June.

The values we share

INTEGRITY, excellence, ubuntu, respect for the environment and a respect for diversity.

These are the five new values that you hold dear, and which are now part of the university's new focus for the future.

They are the values that emerged through Vision 2020, a democratic process that has given staff and students the opportunity to share their united dream for the NMMU of tomorrow.

These values support the university's new vision and mission, all of which are being rolled out via this publication, on posters, banners, lamp posts, other marketing materials as well as via a limited edition of must-have T-shirts available at the University Shop.

The designs behind the new values are the work of Boomtown, which worked closely with Marketing and Corporate Relations and Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz**.

They uniquely depict values to which NMMU staff and students will aspire and exemplify.

"We hope that our staff will live out these values," said director of Strategic Planning **Prof Heather Nel**, who has been a key driver in the Vision 2020 process.

A concerted effort will be made to acknowledge and highlight those individuals and departments who live up to these values, to share "living evidence" of our values.

The button icons representing the various values (as seen on this page) will be used to reinforce this.

These values replace the original eight NMMU values.

The finalisation of the vision, mission and values as approved by Council means NMMU has better direction in its way forward.

talk@nmmu has been sharing insight on the values, and this issue focuses on respect for diversity (see page 10).

Also see Soapbox on the staff portal for the latest debate around the value of diversity.



SPECIAL SHIRTS ... A limited number of values T-shirts are on sale at The University Shop like this one depicting respect for diversity.

To order your Diversity T-shirt at R100 contact university-shop@nmmu.ac.za

Study of animal populations indicates impact of climate change Faced with global warming

OUR newest zoology lecturer Dr Pierre Pistorius has lived and worked in some of the most unspoiled environments on earth in order to grasp the impact of environmental and ecological changes on animal populations.

His vast and varied research includes in-depth studies into the dwindling southern elephant seal populations on Marion Island, tracking reproduction changes in Norwegian moose, and monitoring coral reef resilience at the world's largest raised atoll, Aldabra, in the Seychelles.

The latter, in particular, gave him chilling insight into the devastating effects of global warming. "I looked at the impact of coral bleaching, which is a fairly new phenomenon caused by increasing sea temperatures in the tropics." A rise of just half a degree can upset the symbiotic relationship between coral and algae, resulting in the expulsion of the algae and the death of the coral, and its gradual breakdown over two to three years.

"This has a cascading effect. Butterfly fish feed on the coral, while larger fish use the structure of the reef for shelter to hide from sharks. The result is that fish populations decline, which then impacts on subsistence fishermen in the area.

"It's becoming a massive problem, especially in the Seychelles. In 1997, there was a massive bleaching event, resulting in the loss of almost 90% of coral around the inner granitic islands, and about 40% around the outer islands. The result is white, flat, dead reefs."

What is even more sobering is that even if the world halved its greenhouse emissions from today, coral reef degradation would still continue for the next 20 to 30 years. In fact, it is predicted that from 2050, coral bleaching will take place on an annual basis, with the tropics worst-affected.

Pistorius, who grew up in Pretoria, completed his BSc (zoology and entomology) at the University of Natal before moving to the University of Pretoria to complete his BSc Hons (entomology).

Pretoria University's Mammal Research Institute then offered him an opportunity to go to Marion Island to look at the reasons for the long-



Dr Pierre Pistorius

NMMU's newest zoology lecturer, Dr Pierre Pistorius has come face to face with the devastating effects of global warming on some of earth's most pristine environments.



Even if the world halved its greenhouse emissions from today, coral reef degradation would still continue for the next 20 to 30 years. ”

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ... Dr Pierre Pistorius examines the impact of coral bleaching at Aldabra in the Seychelles.

term population decline of southern elephant seals – and he made this the subject of his master's and doctoral studies. "From the 1950s to the 1990s, the population has declined by 90%."

Pistorius found this was largely because adult females had a very low survival rate and food limitation, a likely result of large-scale oceanographic changes, was ultimately related to the decline.

After his PhD, he joined Pretoria University's Conservation Ecology Research Unit, and spent six months working on environmental management at a game farm near the Bushmans River, before teaming up with several partners to buy a private nature reserve near Kei Mouth.

However, his involvement was short-lived, as he received an invitation to work for the Norwegian Institute of Nature Research as a research biologist. He tracked reproductive changes of Norwegian moose over latitudinal shifts, spent much time modelling geese populations (Norway's popular hunting birds) to help the country set sustainable shooting quotas, and studied the changes in phenology (periodic life cycle events influenced by climate variation) of migratory birds associated with increasing spring temperatures.

After returning to South Africa, he applied for a two-year contract as chief research officer on Aldabra, where, apart from his studies into coral reef resilience, he initiated several other long-term research projects, including studies of the Aldabra flightless rail, giant land tortoises, green turtles and the enormous robber crabs. "They weigh up to 4kg and are

totally terrestrial."

His most recent trip was to the Falkland Islands, which has the world's largest populations of black-browed albatrosses, Gentoo penguins and rockhopper penguins. There, he monitored the changing numbers of these sea birds for the NGO Falkland Conservation, addressing factors like changing currents, climate change and the impact of fishing.

Keen to translate his many years of practical experience into academic research, Pistorius joined NMMU's Zoology Department in October. He is continuing with several projects in the Falkland Islands and Aldabra, and is in the process of setting up projects in South Africa.

"It's not just climate change that influences populations – however it is increasing, and fast becoming an umbrella factor in terms of its importance and relevance."

Pistorius's partner Frances Taylor, with whom he has a five-year-old daughter Anna, is a Geographical Information System (GIS) consultant for the World Wildlife Fund and BirdLife International. - NW

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.

Most learners come to gather programme specific information

Open Day attracts thousands

MORE than 91% of almost 400 learners who participated in a survey on Open Day said the event contributed positively to their decision to study at NMMU.

The majority of learners heard about Open Day held on 7 and 8 May from their teachers (63%) and from NMMU marketers visiting their schools (34%).

Furthermore, the main reasons for coming to Open Day were to find out more about a specific study programme, related career opportunities, and to pick up an application form.

Respondents rated the friendliness and helpfulness of staff and students as excellent to good (90%) and the quality of information received high.

The survey further found that these learners were also considering the universities of Cape Town, Rhodes, Wits, Stellenbosch and Johannesburg in that order.

Prior to the successful two-day

event that was attended by more than 7000 people, NMMU acknowledged schools that have openly supported the university at their annual Open Day cocktail function.

This year, in a new partner schools category, Collegiate was congratulated for enrolling 67.5% of its 2009 matric class at NMMU – the most of any school. Partner schools are those that enrol more than 30% of their matric class at NMMU.

The top feeder school with the most students, 99, enrolled at NMMU in 2010 remained Alexander Road High School.

St Thomas Secondary School with 38 students enrolled was the top feeder school from a disadvantaged background.

Colleagues remarked on the attractiveness and creativity of stalls improving every year, giving judges a difficult task in choosing winners for the various stall categories.



MOST INTERACTIVE ... The School of ICT won the prize for the most interactive stall (**Karen Church**, left) and the School of Engineering as the runner up (**Nicole Ward**) at Open Day in Port Elizabeth. Zoology won the prize for the most visually-appealing stall with Sociology, Anthropology and History the runner-up.

Sihle's success with sums

MATHEMATICS and Applied Mathematics attracted many learners to their stall with a competition for a Casio graphics calculator sponsored by James Ralph valued at R1500. Learners had to solve a mathematics modelling problem set by lecturer **Japie Coetzee**. Winner PE College grade 12 learner Sihle Xungul wants to study Electrical Engineering at NMMU in 2011.



TOP OF THE CLASS ... Chair of Council Judge Ronnie Pillay (left) and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (far right) share in the success of three of our students (from left) Bianca Lissner, Daniel Bulbring and Elmarie Kriel at the Academic Awards ceremony at the Boardwalk on 28 May. DTech engineering student Daniel received a R100 000 bursary from the Rupert Gesinstigting award thanks to his excellent academic marks and research that looks at the dynamic performance of the friction taper stud welding process as applied to creep resistant steel used in the power generation industry for which there is limited scientific information available. Bianca and Elmarie were among four students to receive the Vice-Chancellor's Award for outstanding academic achievement. Bianca was the top law student, while Elmarie finished top of her diploma course in the faculty of Business and Economic Sciences. The other two students are postgraduates Xiliang Han and Dominic Barth. Altogether 26 students received awards.

New refugee centre fulfills dire need

EVEN before plans for the new legal Refugee Rights Centre had even been signed, 15 people had approached those involved for assistance.

The establishment of the new centre follows a partnership and agreement signed between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees South African, represented by Sanda Kimbimbi, and NMMU, represented by its vice-chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**.

It will be the first centre of its kind in the Eastern Cape and the third at a university in the country.

The centre, funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will operate with an attorney, a legal secretary and a para-legal assistant to serve the legal rights of refugees and other displaced individuals.

The procedure for determining refugee status, appeals against rejected claims, access to civil, social, economic and cultural rights, unlawful arrest and detention, solutions for voluntary repatriation and local integration, and issues with legislation on migrant rights and refugee law will all be addressed by the centre.

The Refugee Rights Centre is part of the Institute for Sustainable Government and Development (ISGAD) in the Law Faculty.

"This undertaking gives effect to the vision of the Faculty of Law to empower our stakeholders through legal education, research and engagement driven by justice, integrity and excellence", said Executive Dean of Law **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids**.

ISGAD Director **Prof Hennie van As** said the project will also aim to provide advocacy and training for law students to gain an understanding of the practical issues in dealing with refugees as well as a wider network of assistance to refugees. Memorandums of understanding will also be entered into with NGOs.

TETRA invests R26.7m in NMMU networks facility

First African training hub

NMMU houses the only TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) Academy in Africa and the first at a university in the world.

Our training centre is in the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology, and is one of only five centres internationally.

The R26.7million investment in the TETRA Academy at NMMU includes equipment (hardware and software), staff training, fittings and furniture in the academy.

By the 30 April launch date, some 20 SA Police Service (SAPS) members had already been trained as dispatcher workstation operators, six of whom had completed "train-the-trainer" training.

BTech Electrical Engineering and IT students will in future also be trained in aspects of radio communication systems based on the TETRA standard. In turn, these students will become

employees installing and maintaining TETRA-based radio communication networks in the Eastern Cape and beyond.

TETRA is a standard or specification for mobile radios (colloquially known as walkie talkies), developed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). Independent manufacturers can develop infrastructure and radio terminal products which can fully inter-operate with each other. Applications include public safety, transportation, utilities, government, military, commercial and industry and oil and gas.

SAPS aim to have TETRA-based command centres throughout South Africa, including 10111 dispatching. TETRA enables police dispatchers to track every officer carrying a radio handset and every radio-fitted vehicle in real-time. The communication system is already being rolled out in the Eastern Cape.



DIGNITARIES ... MEC Transport, Safety and Liaison Ghishma Barry, Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and Tetra communication network supplier INTEGCOMM Executive Chairman Daan Scholtz celebrated the launch of NMMU's Tetra Academy – the first such initiative in Africa

Attracting learners to science, technology, engineering

LEARNERS in grades 10, 11 and 12 can now obtain valuable preparation towards careers in science, technology and engineering. They will also be equipped with skills to work in a higher education or a science-related environment.

The School of Engineering has, in the light of the poor matric results in science and mathemat-

ics, established a project in partnership with the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) to prepare learners to enrol and graduate in these fields.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Related Management/Mathematics Fields Pipeline (STEM) Project is being run in a newly-established, state-of-the-art laboratory on Missionvale Campus which is

easily accessible to all communities.

"We believe the project will enhance the understanding of and change attitudes towards science and mathematics through learner-centered methodologies, making use of innovative technology for effective teaching and learning," said project manager **Riekie Slabbert**.



WELCOME SPONSORSHIP ... The School of Engineering's Sasol Mini Baja Bug Challenge 2010 represented by third-year mechanical engineering students Alfons de Lauwere (from left) and Helder Lind received a welcome financial injection from Continental Tyre South Africa Plant Engineering Manager Andrew Singer (right) following the students' success at the Gerotek testing facilities in Johannesburg in October. Every year mechanical engineering students design, build, test, promote, market and secure sponsorship for a prototype single-seater off-road vehicle mimicking a typical situation in industry as an extra-mural activity lasting nine months.

Surviving supervisors

INFORMATION Technology PhD recipient Dr Yoke van Niekerk is the epitome of perseverance as she persisted through five promoters to finally obtain her doctoral degree.

After her first three promoters left for Pretoria, Australia and the United Arab Emirates respectively, the fourth one sadly died in September 2009.

Her co-promoter acted as her fifth - and final promoter – ensuring that she graduated in April 2010.

DIRECTOR of Innovation Support & Technology Transfer Jaci Barnett is personally living up to her title – transferring her knowledge with other international institutions.

Jaci not only visited the University of Applied Sciences in Münster, Germany, to strengthen existing ties, but also presented a talk at an international conference in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Marketing science

In Münster Jaci discussed marketing of science and the use of technology assessment tools in South African technologies with their science-to-business marketing team.

While there she visited the city's science park and saw first-hand how

a science park can strengthen a university's research and links to industry. Such a science park development has been proposed for NMMU.

Then in her capacity as the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association's Vice-President for Innovation and Technology Trans-

fer, Jaci was an invited speaker at the opening plenary session of Technology Innovation International's annual conference.

Her talk, titled "The challenges of delivering more with less: South African innovation and technology transfer" focused on the challenges of commercialising intellectual property in a resource-constrained environment.



WINNERS ... School of Engineering staff and members of the Cyber Junk Yard team (back from left) project manager **Prof Theo van Niekerk**, Pierre Scheepers, school director **Sarel Schoombie**, faculty dean **Prof Henk de Jager**, Linton Ritchie, Cecil Frost, (front) **Karl du Preez**, Cedric Ywanze, Sinceba Boqwana, Mhlagabezi Ntofhe and Ian van Niekerk celebrate their success by winning first place for Innovation in the Siemens Cyber Junk Yard competition in Johannesburg with its 2010 Fifa World Cup theme. The undergraduate students were required to design and build a high-tech soccer playing machine using renewable power. The team, who worked on the project from November last year, received equipment worth R200 000 from the LAPPKABEL group.



SAFE SUBJECT ... International roleplayers (from left) Plymouth University's Dr Nathan Clark and Prof Steve Furnell, NMMU's **Lynn Fitcher** (working group secretary), Curtin University, Australia's Prof Helen Armstrong, Stockholm University's Prof Louise Yngstrom, Curtin University's Colin Armstrong, and Vice-Chair of IFIP Technical Committee, NMMU's **Prof Rossouw von Solms**, all participated in organising a successful South African Information Security Multi-Conference. NMMU's Institute for ICT Development (IICTA) and the School of ICT hosted the conference attended by 11 countries. The conference brought together three related workshops and a symposium, and international experts participated in a postgraduate workshop where seven masters and doctoral students presented their projects and received valuable feedback.

Briefs

Praise for our lab

THE Siemens Mechatronics Laboratory has received the thumbs up from an international student who recently attended the PC-based operator control and monitoring system WINCC course.



Marcin Chmielewski (above) from Poland rated the equipment and training as on par with its international counterparts. "I would highly recommend this course to other foreign students as the information I have gathered during my time here will be extremely beneficial in my work environment back home," he said.

The 10 integrated automation workstations provide the same equipment used to automate processes in big manufacturing plants such as VWSA and GMSA. Training is offered to technicians and engineers from industry in the Eastern Cape.

Global risk training

STATISTICS and Mathematical Statistics' **Mark Nasila** (right), who is conducting research on energy risk management for his PhD studies, attended two training programmes run by international energy experts in London during May.



The energy trading, derivatives and risk management programme linked practical skills and knowledge and explored techniques for the global markets to deal with the various risks in the energy industry. The other programme dealt with Forecast pro, ground breaking software for forecasting at industrial and research levels.

Work on highly sophisticated building for microscopes has started

Science of small things presents huge opportunities

OUR national initiative to put Africa on par with its international nanoscience (the study of small things) counterparts will soon be realised following the sod-turning for the High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) Centre building next to the Physics and Chemistry Building on our South Campus.

An initial sum of R117m, the single largest capital investment in the history of NMMU, has been allocated for this project which will enable South Africa to conduct research to cover national priorities such as clean water, energy, mineral beneficiation to advanced materials and manufacturing.

And work has already begun. "This is a revolutionary project, a marvellous project. It means that NMMU will become a primary site for nanoscale scientific research across South Africa and the wider African

continent," Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** said at the sod-turning ceremony on 24 May.

The construction includes a unique "room within a room" purpose-built building, which will house three state-

of-the-art 125-ton microscopes, which are being manufactured in Japan.

Key roleplayers and donors in the project, which is due to be completed in mid-2011, include the National Research Foundation, the departments of Education and of Science and Technology, and Sasol.

These microscopes will allow scientists to see atoms for the first time in South Africa.

For **Professor Jan Neethling**, who has fought for two decades to acquire

"This is the realisation of a long-held dream,"



FIRST SOD ... A symbolic start to the building of the new High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscope (HRTEM) Centre building next to the Physics and Chemistry Building on South Campus which will house three state-of-the-art, 125-ton microscopes with role players (from left) Department of Education's Brenda Swart, Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and Physics Prof Jan Neethling

a high-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM), the victory is huge. Being able to analyse materials at minuscule levels has far-reaching significance for a multitude of industries and academic research institutions.

"For many years, South Africa

couldn't afford – or didn't realise the importance of putting money into – a centre like this."

"This is the realisation of a long-held dream," said Prof Neethling.

Construction on the building started late June.



ALL CHARGED ... Masters' students Thembelani Phangalala (from left), Charmelle Snyders and Sonwabo Koti joined research leader Chemistry's Dr Ernst Ferg to celebrate the acquisition of new battery testing equipment worth more than R800 000 for the Physical/Polymer Chemistry laboratory from Powertech/Willard Batteries. The newly-renovated battery testing laboratory boasts equipment which tests capacity, durability and life expectancy of typical batteries. Performance in, for example, power tools, laptop computers, vehicle starting and lighting and electric vehicle propulsion forms part of the research.



NEW REACTOR FOR RESEARCH ... UCT MSc student Lara Truter (front) is furthering her research together with MSc student Ockert Fourie (back centre) under the leadership of InnoVenton's Gary Dugmore (back right). They are joined by UCT Chemical Engineering's Jacobus van der Merwe.

Joint research for industry, students

NMMU's InnoVenton has received two chemical reactor platforms supporting research collaboration and small chemical industries.

And a further reactor is expected within two months.

The two reactors, worth more than R500 000, were built by research partner, the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Chemical Engineering Department.

According to InnoVenton's **Gary Dugmore** the two are working together on complementary research competencies. In this case, a project on

the development of catalyst coating technique devised locally using equipment designed and built by UCT.

Dr Dugmore explained that one of the reactor rigs, which in essence are small production platforms, will be used for the catalyst coating project. The second one is for the algae to bio fuels project and the third will be connected to chemical processes for the energy industry and sustainable energy research.

"We are developing this process to demonstrate the commercial potential and suitability for the industry."

Mathematics workshop

EDUCATION expert and Western Cape University Education Deputy Dean Prof Cyril Julie conducted a workshop on theoretical frameworks for research in Mathematics Education and presented a lecture on the history of Mathematics Education at the Mathematics and Applied Mathematics Department.

The workshop was also attended by persons outside the Science Faculty and the Department of Education. The department organises a quarterly seminar series to bring national subject experts to NMMU to interact with local academics and share research results.

Students invest time, talent in city's projects

Designing for the community in need

INTERIOR design students have again given of their time and talents to transform several buildings in Port Elizabeth.

Both Walmer High Schools and the SOS Children's Village, among others, have benefitted from the hard work that second and third-year students have put into their projects.

This year's third-year students, under the tutelage of interior design lecturer **Lené Smit**, joined up with the Education Faculty's community research project

"The sky is the limit" to implement a stage design for Walmer High School.

The project under the leadership of Education's **Prof Tilla Olivier** sponsored funds for the revamp.

Four groups of students competed with their proposals with Seugnet Herbst, Bianca Schrader and Windika Lemercier winning with their "In full colour" design.

"Their concept emphasised the importance of pride and culture in the school," said Ms Smit.

The students were inspired by Xhosa face-painting, wire and bead work, and the official yellow that only the matrics wear as part of their school uniform.

The positive response of school principal Lunga Djani, his teachers and learners has motivated the students to do further community projects and "touch the hearts of more people in future", Ms Smit said.

A new home

At Schauderville, 18 second-year students totally renovated the SOS Children's Village's girls' home, Ladybird House.

The students also raised the necessary funds and did the design work themselves.

Numerous sponsors - Plascon which supplied all the paint, varnish and preparation products for the house, PG Bison, the board products

for new cabinets, shelves, desks and bulkheads, and Fruit and Veg, which sponsored R10 000 - made the students' task easier.

"The class worked incredibly hard, sacrificing their entire Easter vacation to get the job done, but it was all worth it to hear the whoops of joy coming from the children on the day of the handover," said Ms Smit.

Thanks to the sponsors, the students could also provide new lights, new shower floors and doors, new mirrors, new bedding and towels, re-upholstered couches and new appliances.

The class worked incredibly hard, sacrificing their entire Easter vacation



TOP DESIGNERS ... NMMU had the most students from any university, namely three NMMU Applied Design BTech students Samantha Davies (photography), Anja Wilkens, (fashion) and Magdaleen van Wyk (graphic design), nominated for the 2010 SABA Design Achievers Awards Competition in May. Altogether 18 students from South Africa and eight from African countries participated in a week-long design achievers programme in Gauteng. It included design workshops, visiting design centres, all of which culminated in a competition.



WINNING OUTFIT ... Second-year Fashion Design student Tina Ngxokolo (left) won the Eastern Cape division of the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award with her outfit for model Zipho Rapiya.

Designer siblings

THE Ngxokolo family has reason to smile.

Soon after BTech Textile Design and Technology student Laduma Ngxokolo won the national leg of the Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC) competition in South Africa, his sister, second-year Fashion Design student Tina Ngxokolo, won the Eastern Cape division of the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award with her outfit.

Laduma who submitted a knitted men's wear range for jerseys and cardigans using mohair, wool and cashmere based on Xhosa motifs and Xhosa colour symbolism, will fly to London in October to compete against the best in the world.

He will also knit up the jersey designs for his prescribed BTech project using knitting machines.

Tina's outfit was based on the theme "It's a Blooming Great Day" and she created her outfit from straw, melton and leggings to compete against 17 regional finalists. She won R2 000 from Vodacom and the opportunity to compete in the national finals in Durban before the premier horse race on 31 July.

The overall winner will receive R10 000 and a trip to the 2011 London Graduate Fashion Week.

Laduma is also one of the Fashion Design students who received bursaries from Mohair SA ranging from R8 000 to R13 000. The others were Anja Wilkens, Jessica Nel, Bulelwa Bulelwa and Danielle Britz. Lecturer **Harm Grobelaar** is their third-year project leader.

New art gallery, library in pipeline

ARTS Faculty Dean and academics and NMMU Arts and Culture Head Michael Barry recently visited the Red Location precinct to witness future plans.

Architect Prof Jo Noero, who designed the Lubetkin prize-winning museum in the Red Location

precinct, showed off the progress of the Red Location art gallery due for completion by October, and a digital library and rare books repository, to be handed over by the end of the year.

Future projects include a performing arts complex and a comprehensive housing project.

Treat others as you want to be treated, with dignity, equality

A culture of respect



IT IS A commonly held assumption that workplace diversity is about recruiting and retaining more people from previously under-represented identity groups. This is a very limited and limiting assumption.



“In future, diversity competence will be one of the most important core competencies,” says Dr Bettina Schmidt, an executive member of the International Society for Diversity Management. NMMU agrees and as a result, has chosen it as one of its new values. Dr Ruby-Ann Levendal shares what respect for diversity should mean to us.

Diversity should instead be understood as the varied perspectives and approaches that members of different identity groups bring to work experience.

These varied perspectives and approaches are influenced by factors such as age, cognitive style, culture, disability (mental, learning, physical), economic background, education, ethnicity, gender identity, geographic background, language(s) spoken, marital/partnered status, physical appearance, political affiliation, religious beliefs, and sexual orientation.

Diversity is important to us because we live in a dynamic and changing world where globalisation and the ongoing technologi-



Ruby-Ann Levendal

cal revolution has accelerated and increased the flow of capital, commodities, information, ideas, beliefs, services, and people across national boundaries.

It is therefore imperative that we acquire the competency (knowledge, skills and attitudinal) to relate effective-

Soapbox debating diversity

SOAPBOX is now inviting your comments on the new value of respect for diversity.
What does diversity mean to you?

And what can NMMU do to make diversity its strength?
To access the debate go to the portal and click on the SOAPBOX icon.

ly with persons different to ourselves. As an institution of higher education our purpose is to be relevant within this dynamic and changing world, to produce and disseminate knowledge and undertake community engagement to develop new approaches to tackling goals of social equality, justice and inclusion, without compromising our natural resources.

This has implications for everyone (staff and students) within the institution to actively participate and contribute toward this purpose, since knowledge lies within each person who has acquired expertise and skills through experience and education.

Does embracing diversity mean that we are dropping our standards? This is a common perception.

On the contrary, research shows that, if managed effectively, diversity in the workplace increases creativity, innovation, productivity, organisational flexibility, problem-solving quality, provide marketing opportunities,

and improve motivation and efficiency of existing staff.

Within a higher education environment, increasing the multiplicity of perspectives, will deepen and elevate the level of debate and critical scholarship, while enhancing the institution’s image within the communities we serve, as one that is engaging and relevant.

However, ineffective diversity management will give rise to increased interpersonal conflict due to negative attitudes and behaviours (prejudices, stereotyping and discrimination), increased staff turnover, alienation of minorities and lower productivity.

Our new value - respect for diversity - implies action, to respect means to honour, to show an understanding and mutual recognition, reflecting the principles of equality and human dignity, as enshrined in our Constitution.



Mail box

At the root of ubuntu

In the spirit of debating ubuntu, one of NMMU’s new values, I wish to expatiate on Professor Bohler-Muller’s view on the meaning and application of the word, ubuntu, (“I am because you are” Talk@nmmu, April 2010).

Before ubuntu can be practically applied or reconceived, we must understand its roots, which are both historical and philosophical-psychical. Ubuntu grew from tribal societies, where societies were not divided into social classes, but were communal in orientation.

In these “tribal societies”, labour was planned and the produce shared and distributed equally among societal members. The highest value was placed on sharing, generosity, hospitality, empathy, equality, brotherhood/sisterhood and humanness, not profit.

Emphasis was on the survival, sustenance and the well-being of the entire society. These humanistic values, known as ubuntu, became the solid unforgettable layer of historical memory of humankind.

To reconceive ubuntu, as Eze’s argument, as a philosophy of the individual-in-relationship, is to turn the meaning of ubuntu into a self-serving phenomenon. This is the direct opposite of ubuntu, which puts the other before the self. It is this historical memory of ubuntu that reinforced the philosophical-psychical roots of ubuntu, which are characteristic of humanity. **Professor Tobeka Mashologu-Kuse.**

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

How can we reflect this value?

SEEK understanding before making judgements. This was just one of the examples of how individuals can reflect respect for diversity as highlighted at a recent values workshop hosted the DVC: Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso.**

The following was also highlighted:

- creating safe spaces where open dialogue is encouraged and all contributions are valued
- interactions should be guided by

principles of inclusivity, free of prejudice;

- showing sensitivity to language difference and proficiency;
- giving and receiving feedback in a respectful manner; and
- treating people with dignity.

Remember August is Diversity Month

'Key to a better future'

HIGHER education holds the key to a better future and an enhanced quality of life for the individual and society at large, said Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz at the George Campus graduation.

Altogether 83 degrees, including four masters de-

grees and 106 national diplomas, were awarded.

The forestry programme accounted for a third of all graduates, with 39 students obtaining the national diploma, 26 the BTech degree and two for the MTech degree in forestry.

The BTech Nature Conserva-

tion programme excelled with five of its 14 graduates obtaining distinctions.

Research for MTech degrees also included the use of near infra-red scanning to predict pulp yield priority areas for conservation of amphibians and reptiles; and replacing maize with wheat in cow feed.



ACHIEVER ... Finance colleague Willize Groenewald was among 188 students to graduate at George Campus. She obtained her BTech in Tourism Management



A NEW BEGINNING ... George Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** (centre) is joined by Student Representative Council members (from left), Francois Kemp, Phephi Sondhlana, Lebogang Khoza, Philile Ngcobo, Pearl Mabuza, Mokgadi Maanasa, Themba Mhlongo and Natascha Laing, at the symbolic opening of the new Student Recreation Centre.

Multi-purpose 'chill zone' first of many New centre for students

THE new nerve-centre for on-campus student life – George Campus' Student Recreation Centre - has been described as a "chill zone" with the multi-purpose hub offering students a social base.

A new centre is also in the pipeline for our Missionvale Campus.

Ideally placed with a view of the Outeniqua Mountains, the centre is only a three -minute walk from classes.

As with the building of the new library and various labs, great care was taken to preserve a magnificent water oak tree. The ancient tree forms the focal point of the centre.

The centre had to be close to classes and residences yet "far enough from the heart of academia to ensure that studies are not disturbed by the noise of social functions", said project architect and NMMU alumnus

Philip Hoole.

It incorporates the existing Maroela building and provides space for services like a book and coffee shop or convenience food stalls. There is also a multi-purpose open hall that can accommodate more than 200 people.

The complex is not only wheelchair-friendly, but also in line with the campus' sustainable environmental practice, which embraces a green culture.



WINNER ... Agricultural Management won the prize for the most visually appealing stall manned by among others Jared Weinzierl at the George Campus Open Day. Nursing Science took honours as the Most Interactive Stall.

Bigger, better Open Day for George

THE George Campus Open Day went all the way to market this year as indicated by increased numbers for two-day mid-May event.

Proactive marketing with an exhibition in the Garden Route Mall, advertising in the print media and via a live broadcast by local radio station Eden FM played an important part in attracting prospective students to the campus.

Some 950 people attended pen

Day on 14 and 15 May. They came from more than 50 high schools from as far away as Beaufort West, Worcester, Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth and Mariental in Namibia.

Outeniqua High School received the prize as top feeder school for George Campus. It was also among the PE campuses' top 30 schools. George Secondary School was the top feeder school from a disadvantaged background.

Briefs

'Go Green go'

GEORGE Campus students joined their Green Campus Initiative with a Green Campus Forum, promoting sustainable living practices with the slogan "Go Green Go".

Hundreds of students as well as staff supported the week-long programme, including lunch-time talks by experts on campus "greening" and potential projects to generate an income. The forum also plans a recycling programme.

Students who live in three on-campus houses at Tierkop are already involved in energy- and water-saving "green technologies".

Management courses

NINE students from a variety of businesses like Tradelink SA Textiles, Parmalat, PetroSA, Dept of Water Affairs & Forestry, PG Bison Thesen Sawmill, Panasonic Business Systems and Amax Advertising (top student Max Olivier) graduated with the Advanced Leadership and Management Development part-time programmes on the George Campus on 23 April.

These one- and two-year part-time courses in partnership with our Business School develop leadership and competence among present and aspiring managers supervising staff.

Benefits of fire

THE dynamics of the natural cycle of fire received radio air time thanks to the expertise of forestry lecturer **Tiaan Pool**.

RSG Landbou (radio station) aired an interview with Pool that highlighted the benefits of fire to plants, animals and the water table.

Forestry Charter supported

STUDENTS and staff heard the impact and implications of the new Forestry Charter by its Council Chief Executive Officer Dr Themba Simelane. The talk was organised by the Natural Resource Management School.

Cricket golden oldies celebrate



VICTORIOUS ... The team that clinched the curtain raiser at the 1965 to 1990 reunion in May were the **Kotie Grove XI** (from left) Arthur Coy (CEO TRACK), **Prof Christo van Loggenberg** (Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic), Royden Vice, (CEO WACO), Prof Kotie Grové (NMMU Trust Director: Legacies), **Prof Ryno Naudé** (Head Biochemistry and Microbiology), John Lynch, **Prof Cedric McClelland** (Chemistry), Gerald Farber (first senior council graduating from former UPE), Tank Coetzee, Ryno van der Berg and Bill Metelerkamp, (front) Tony Gush (MD health services company).

SOME 218 former UPE and PE Technikon cricketers ranging from 1965 to 1990 gathered at NMMU early in May to reminisce, enjoy cricket, play golf and simply have a good time.

The reunion of these alumni boasted more than 70 company CEOs, many of whom pledged financial support to upgrade cricket and other sports facilities at NMMU, and to further extend their role as ambassadors for the university.

"It's all about bringing back the older generation to support the new institution, and with the current NMMU cricket team success, support is guaranteed," NMMU Trust Director Legacies and organiser **Prof Kotie Grové** told talk@nmmu.

ICC manager Dave Richardson based in Dubai specially organised to attend the reunion since he had to be at World Cup 2020 in the West Indies, while former EP cricketer Mark Billson flew in especially from Atlanta in the USA.

Seven of the eight players who represented SA in those years attended the reunion, namely Richardson, Kepler Wessels, Brett Schultz, Mark Rushmere, Tim Shaw, Dave Callaghan and **Shafiek Abrahams**, who still coaches the current NMMU cricket team.

"This was definitely one of the highlights of my life," Kotie said. He admits,

of course, to being very proud that the Kotie Grové XI beat the **Flip Potgieter XI** team ("as usual," says Kotie) in, a 60-ball per side curtain-raiser on the NMMU A field.

This was definitely one of the highlights of my life

On the first evening story-telling went on till after 3am in a marquee next to the cricket field.

On Saturday some 144 former cricketers played in several games after which some could scarcely walk.

At the final spit braai speakers included NMMU Cricket Club Chairperson

and Human Resources Director **Gary Paul**, Alumni Association President Randal Jonas and Dave Richardson.

A further national spin-off from this event is a 30-minute programme due for broadcast on SuperSport 2 in late July.

Elsewhere the history of the UPE and PE Technikon cricket clubs was displayed in the cricket clubhouse.

Another four reunions are planned this year for the 1965 to 1990 graduates namely on 13 and 14 September for Accounting honours and the Law Faculty respectively and on 22 and 29 October for Pharmacy and Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Construction Management.

Best student



TOP OF THE CLASS ... Postgraduate Financial Planning Diploma student Greg Bradfield (right) tied for top spot as the Best Financial Planning student for 2009 by the Financial Planning Institute. Greg, who achieved an overall mark of 83% for his diploma, shares the award with an honours graduate from the University of Johannesburg. Financial Planning programmes head **Jackie Palframan** (left) said at the FPI Annual Convention Dinner on 26 May: "This is quite an accolade for our 'maiden voyage' for the Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning." Greg also received his BCom Financial Planning cum laude.



SOUGHT-AFTER PROGRAMME ... Three PhD candidates and lecturers, Business Management's **Chantal Rootman** (from left), Management and Entrepreneurship's **Thandi Ngxukumeshe** and Economics' **Debbie du Preez**, were among 350 selected candidates from 1600 applicants to attend the South African PhD Project Conference in Johannesburg in May. Topics included supervision, research outputs, funding opportunities and career management. "We could network and discuss future research collaboration," said Chantal, who is researching relationship marketing and customer retention of international retail banks.



THANK YOU ... Missionvale Campus management has made ubuntu, one of our core values, a reality by helping street trader Ntombekhaya Monde (left) to acquire a container for her business. Ntombekhaya has been selling fruit to students come rain or shine for over 20 years. "I am thankful to the campus management and all staff and students who have supported my business over the years. No more bad weather for me," Ntombekhaya told Missionvale Campus operations manager **Sonwabo Hoyi**.



HISTORIC CELEBRATIONS ... Office for International Education staff members **Jadey Bosman** (left) and **Yvonne Tembo** served traditional Indian food to NMMU staff and students during the South African Indian Cultural Day on 12 May in celebration of the 150 years since the first Indians arrived in the country as indentured sugar cane labourers.



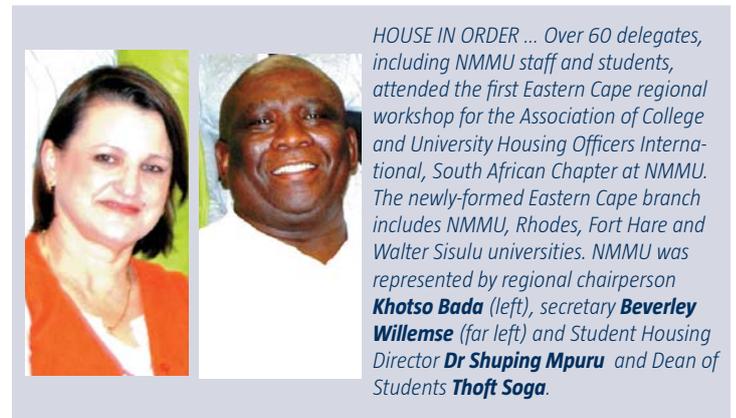
SPECIAL GRADUATE ... DCom graduate Dr Jotham Mbiito Byarugaba (centre) came from Uganda for his graduation ceremony, exactly 14 years after his promoter Business Management's **Prof Madele Tait** (right) received her DCom. Dr Byarugaba researched service quality perceptions in the Uganda mobile telephone branch of industry, a multi-cultural and multi-lingual service environment with a prevalence of low educational levels. He is a lecturer at the University of Makerere's Business School in Uganda. They are joined by co-promoter **Prof Johan Bosch**, former Business Management department head.



ORGANISED ... Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Cape's Association for Office Professionals of South Africa and our Dean of Science's personal assistant **Alta Beer** (left) opened and welcomed delegates including Technical Services Director's PA **Jennifer Kannemeyer** (centre) and Psychology Department secretary **Yvonne Smith** to the second Coastal Secretaries Conference held in Port Elizabeth recently. Alta also chaired the first session titled "Journey to success: The modern role of today's PA".



FINANCIAL BOOST ... AlphaPharm supported second-year Pharmacy student Sinoyolo Sifo (second from left) with a R60 000 bursary for his studies. At the function were (from left) Managing Director: AlphaPharm East Cape Neil Stephenson, Pharmacy Department Head Prof Pieter Milne and Executive Director NMMU Trust **Thembele Sofisa**.



HOUSE IN ORDER ... Over 60 delegates, including NMMU staff and students, attended the first Eastern Cape regional workshop for the Association of College and University Housing Officers International, South African Chapter at NMMU. The newly-formed Eastern Cape branch includes NMMU, Rhodes, Fort Hare and Walter Sisulu universities. NMMU was represented by regional chairperson **Khotso Bada** (left), secretary **Beverley Willemse** (far left) and Student Housing Director **Dr Shuping Mpuru** and Dean of Students **Thoft Soga**.



ALL PENNED ... NMMU Arts and Culture and Library and Information Services together with the Eastern Cape Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture organised an Afrikaans Writers Day at the NMMU Library on 8 May where further cooperation between Afrikaans authors and the Provincial Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture departments was encouraged especially in developing programmes to promote Afrikaans literature among the disadvantaged. Among those to attend were (back from left) **Robert Pearce**, Daniel Marais, Vincent Oliphant, Vuyani Makinana, **Danie Venter** and Bernard Venter, (front) **Christina Dookran** (Library), Jason Lloyd, Dawn Madolo and **Korien Sander** (Business School). The Library's **Selwyn Milborrow** and Robert Pearce and Statistics' **Danie Venter** joined author Vincent Oliphant in reading some of their poetry.



SHOOTING SUCCESS
 ... Sport Bureau's **Mark Tommy** (left) was the show stopper at the Staff Association netball function on 19 May performing all sorts of theatrics on the court against the likes of Finance's **Desre Minnie**. The Sport Bureau won the final against Management Accounting with 13 goals to six. Sport however did have SA netball player **Zanele Mmodana**. Her teammates were mainly wearing wigs. Nine teams participated in the highly successful event, praised as "the best in years".

HSRC survey on engagement

NMMU together with the universities of Cape Town, Fort Hare and Pretoria are participating in an HSRC (Human Sciences Research Council) survey on how academics extend their knowledge through research, teaching and service when they engage with external partners.

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation the research will help inform their programmes on university engagement and responsiveness. The first phase of the project involved interviews between 60 staff members and an HSRC interviewer during May.

The second phase takes place from 19 July with 15 minute telephonic interviews with academic staff, reflecting on their scholarship over the past two years and the external partners with whom they directly engage.

They will be asked to reflect on typical outcomes and benefits, and obstacles.

The survey results will be used by NMMU to inform strategic planning. A workshop highlighting the main patterns of interaction will be held shortly to give academics an opportunity for institutional debate on engagement.

Further information can be obtained from project coordinator **Prof George de Lange** at the Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration.

NMMU websites lead the way

IT was Tim Berners-Lee, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) director and inventor of the World Wide Web (and an honorary doctorate recipient of the former UPE) who said: "The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect."

NMMU webmaster **Dr Thomas Hilmer**, presented a talk on NMMU's websites at a Web Accessibility and Useability Conference in Johannesburg. Organised by the CSIR and the Meraka Institute, the conference was chaired by the Southern African Manager of the W3C.

An accessible website is one that people with disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with. Delegates were impressed by how much NMMU has progressed with accessibility and the research that ICT Web Services' **Shaun Meyer** has done for his MTech on the accessibility of the NMMU staff portal. The fact that NMMU also have an established Disability Unit looking after some 200 students with disabilities impressed the delegates.

An accessible website should also be

available on all kinds of devices, such as mobile phones.

"Although we've had this capability since 2005," said Dr Hilmer, "we learnt

The class worked incredibly hard, sacrificing their entire Easter vacation

where to focus our attention in future."

Did you know?

Only five million people in South Africa currently have internet access on a computer, whereas more than 40 million people have access via a cell phone.

- Internet browsing is first learnt on the mobile phone, and not on a computer.
- Cell phone users are very navigation-orientated and tend to read only copy that is underlined and selectable.
- Any copy longer than three lines tends to be ignored.
- Users skim read a page performing word-form recognition. If they find words that meet their needs they read further detail.
- Users dislike entry fields and avoid entering information, and therefore seldom use search facilities on a cell phone.

- Compared to a normal website, where within three clicks the relevant content should be available, cell phone users do not mind to click more than 10 times if the content at the end is rewarding.

"If we want to remain connected to our students, providing a rewarding experience and useable information about NMMU, we will have to re-shape the content that we provide them via their small-screen mobile devices," said Dr Hilmer

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 May competition winners: **Sharon Dent** of Building and Quantity Surveying, **Rene Kirby** of Finance, **Dr Buyiswa Hlangothi** of Chemistry and **Sheila Entress** of Geosciences.

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

1. Our choir headlined and wowed audiences at a Fifa Soccer World Cup opening concert in Milan, **l...y** (5 letter word) on 11 June.
2. EVEN before plans for the new legal **R....e** (7 letter word) Rights Centre had even been signed, 15 people had approached those involved for assistance.
3. INTEGRITY, excellence, ubuntu, respect for the environment and a respect for **d.....y** (9 letter word) are the five new values which are now part of the university's new focus for the future.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to **elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za** by **20 July**.

Schuinville Pharmacy in Newton Park charges no additional fees, fax fees, telephone fees or delivery fees for chronic medication to members. Tel: 041 3642109 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.



OUR FLORENCE NIGHTINGALES ... Since 1994 nurses at the former UPE and PET have pledged their service to staff and students just as the following nursing sisters (back from left) **Chan Heera** and **Weidy Padayachee**, **Kobus Magielies**, **Tembela Mapinda**, **Antoinette Goosen**, **Linda Dalton**, **Monica Welman** and **Valencia Benjamin**, (front) **Althea Hawkins**, **Elise Larsen** and **Margaret Coetzee** do so today. Absent from the photograph is Sister **Mietjie Kock** of George).

Dedicated health service team

THE International Year of the Nurse is also the centennial year of the death of the founder of modern nursing - Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) – and as result nurses around the world have been celebrating the life of this dynamic woman.

Nursing can be curative, promotive, preventive and/or rehabilitative but it is also a science, as well as an art, unique unto itself although it is related to medicine.

Wherever someone is in need,

another human being has reached out to them. This “caring” is a form of “nursing” and has existed for as long as man itself. But it was Florence Nightingale who introduced good hygiene, proper nutrition, training of subordinates and personal care, and is thus considered to be the founder of modern nursing.

Occupational health care

Only in modern times has occupational health care become a recognised discipline and higher education.

NMMU also recognises the importance of providing this service on campuses.

In 2002 the then UPE initiated occupational health care, only the second higher education institution nationally to do so. The service was started by **Sister Margaret Coetzee** and is currently being driven by **Sister Valencia Benjamin** and **Kobus Magielies**.

NMMU prides itself in having a male professional nurse on its staff since nursing is heavily dominated

by females.

Apart from our modern and well-equipped facilities, a new management structure was introduced in 2009 with Deputy Director and Head of Department **Sister Antoinette Goosen** having a group of site managers assisting her, namely Sisters **Tembela Mapinda** (Second Avenue), **Althea Hawkins** (Missionvale), **Linda Dalton** (North), **Cahn Heera** (South) and **Mietjie Kock** (George). - **Antoinette Goosen**, Campus Health Services



INSPIRING VISITORS ... Academic and Life Skills Management students and German Ironman competitors (from left) **Siphokazi Daniels**, **Wesley Shan**, visitor **Daniel Mannweiler**, **Namhla Mbalane**, visitor **Kathrin Mannweiler**, **Meagan Petzer**, **Courtney Victor** and **Mbalentle Soboyisi** joined up to share life skills and the German language.

German visitors share skills

TWO top German Ironman contenders recently shared their life experiences with lecturer Jessica Raper’s first and second year Academic and Life Skills Management students.

Final-year sport science student **Kathrin Mannweiler** and her husband, **Daniel**, a criminal

investigator, gave good examples for class discussions on goal setting, focus and time management.

The couple also inspired the students to live their dream and not to give up.

They in turn were impressed by our friendly students, well kept gardens and clean campus.

Alcohol abuse under spotlight

EXPERTS agree that no alcohol is first prize, but enjoying alcohol responsibly and drinking a glass of water for every glass of alcohol consumed, was more realistic.

This was the outcome of a second talkshop about alcohol abuse organised by the International Students Association which followed its first successful talk on race relations.

A ten-minute video focusing on accidents as a result of alcohol abuse, as well as that of an unhealthy liver was shown prior to discussions.

Campus Health Services Dep-

uty Director **Sister Antoinette Goosen** and a representative from SANCA (SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) led the discussion on why students drink, highlighting the role of peer pressure, adventure and thrill-seeking.

The recent murder in a campus residence involving alcohol abuse was also discussed.

Family role models, proper orientation of first-years regarding alcohol abuse and ongoing awareness campaigns and workshops on campus were cited as solutions. - **Nancy Simon**, International Students Association.

NMMU sportsmen and women excel with outstanding achievements

All round sport success

WHILE South Africa has savoured one of the world's greatest sporting showcases, NMMU has also enjoyed a number of outstanding achievements among its sports men and women.

From the record-breaking success of swimming star Kevin Paul to the acknowledgement accorded NMMU's athletics club as the province's top club, our athletes have been excellent ambassadors.

This is evidenced by:

- Former Rugby World Cup coach Jake White (right) will be mentoring the NMMU Madibaz Rugby Club as part of a deal with Varsity Cup sponsor Steinhoff International. White believes that getting the correct structures in place along with the latest coaching methods, will enable NMMU to provide a much stiffer challenge to other teams in the Varsity Cup competition. The first clinic was held on 21 May and was well attended by students and coaches from leading schools.



- Second-year BCom student Jon-Paul Raper (right) is South Africa's new senior modern pentathlon champion. The all-rounder achieved an outstanding 5145 points overall for the five disciplines of modern pentathlon at the championships in Stellenbosch and was expected to compete internationally during the recess.



*ON TRACK ... Our ABSA NMMU Athletics Club represented by its executive committee (back from left) **Nellis Bothma**, NMMU Sport Manager; Athletics and **Stephen Thomas**, Vice-President, (front) **Tasquane Hufkie**, Chairperson; **Cross Country**, **Gwenivere Sims**, President and **Michelle de Bruyn**, Chairperson: Track and Field, was named best sport club in the province by the Eastern Province Sport Council for their outstanding provincial, national and international athletics achievements, as well as their club involvement in 2009. Two of the club's athletes - **Leigh Julius** and **Cindy Stewart** - have also been selected for the SA National team at the African Track and Field Championships in Kenya.*

- First-year Law student Kevin Paul (right) shattered the 400m individual medley record at the German swimming championships in June. He also joined fellow disabled swimmer Natalie du Toit to swim in the Canadian World Cup in July
- Second-year Human Movement Science student Mandi Maritz (right) won two national medals in two different sporting disciplines. She was awarded a silver medal in pole vault



(3.30m) at this year's national student championships in Potchefstroom, and won gold for both the senior flags and senior beach sprints at the recent SA Lifesaving Championships in Port Elizabeth.

Our athletes have been excellent ambassadors

As a result she has been selected for lifesaving's high performance squad for the World Rescue Challenge in Egypt in October.

- NMMU 800m athlete Annica Coetzee was the only Eastern Cape athlete in the African team of 29 to compete in the World Youth Championships in Canada from July 19 to 25. The national under-19 women's champion is one of only eight women in the team.
- Rudi Second has been named NMMU Cricketer of the Year after an outstanding season for our Madibaz first team amassing 966 runs in 15 innings, including nine 50s and two centuries.

Soccer brains for conference

NMMU hosted the brains behind soccer to wide acclaim at the 2nd World Conference on Science and Soccer on the eve of the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

Cape Town's Professor Tim Noakes, who is internationally-renowned for his sports science research, and Dr Barry Drust, of Liv-

erpool John Moores University in the United Kingdom, were among five keynote speakers and 120 delegates who attended the two-day conference.

Of these, 80 delegates came from around the world, including Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Germany, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Australia,

and many remained in South Africa to watch some of the games in the 2010 contest.

"We were thrilled to be able to host this conference which we hope will further raise awareness of the role of science in the advancement of the game of soccer," said Sport Director **Dr Richard Stretch** (right).

