

# talk@nmmu

August 2011

The Staff Newsletter

NMMU spread all over the world with new technology

## Great flash mob success

**“BORN in SA, haven’t been back for 18 years, instant chills when *Shosholoz* started. Extremely proud to be South African!”**

This is but one of the hundreds and hundreds of responses received on various websites, Facebook pages and YouTube since our flash mob footage was uploaded onto YouTube on 6 July to promote both the undergraduate closing date campaign (1 August) and NMMU brand awareness.

The five-minute video of an impromptu performance by our international award-winning choir in front of unsuspecting shoppers at Greenacres Shopping Centre however proved to be so much more than an advertising stunt as evidenced by the extensive global feedback.

Rather, the NMMU flash mob which has also received exceptional media coverage, including a slot on eTV, paints a joyful picture not only of NMMU but of South Africa – our Rainbow nation – at its diverse best.

“We are thrilled with the response from people all over the world. The flash mob is viral marketing at its best,” says Marketing and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart**.

Within a week of its release, the flash mob received over 20 000 viewings and has been increasing exponentially since then so that within two weeks it was growing by more than 4 000 hits daily. By 11 August the number had reached 90 000 which, according to Google, makes it the most watched South African video.

The idea of staging a flash mob – which is usually performed in large public places in Europe and America – was conceived by Marketing and Corporate Relations but interpreted by the university’s design agency Boomtown which, in turn, called on the



MANDELA DAY ... DVC: Institutional Support **Dr Sibongile Muthwa** (back) is joined by staff members (from left) Marketing and Corporate Relations’ **Roslyn Baatjies**, Library’s **Desiree dos Santos** and Tourism’s **Hugh Bartis** at Second Avenue Campus where an indigenous tree was planted in front of the main building to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Nelson Mandela.

skills of the production agency Rooftop.

Despite being in the midst of examinations and preparing for performances in Argentina, the choir jumped at

the opportunity to try something new and be part of the first flash mob staged by a university in South Africa, and the first flash mob held in Port Elizabeth.

Greenacres Shopping Centre was equally happy to host the performance which saw the choir perform a medley of popular songs with “you” as the focus in order to tie in with the campaign’s theme of “a better U”.

*Shosholoz*, however, was also included to carry a clear message that this is a “proudly South African” flash mob.

Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** first viewed the flash mob while visiting in England during recess, and was bowled over by the video.

“I am really proud of you guys. What a wonderful way to showcase NMMU to the wider public,” he enthused, while highlighting the “splendid spontaneity of Africa”.

Chancellor **Santie Botha** was equally impressed, and expressed the need for further such initiatives.

A 60-second snippet of the flash mob was also flighted at the movies.

**Extremely proud to be South African!**

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# Flash mobs and MXit

LOOKING at this edition we seem to hit it off with technology yet keeping ourselves grounded by doing our bit for Mandela Day and green Fridays.

Our flash mob project starring the NMMU Choir, has definitely put NMMU on the world map and accolades have been streaming in. Read our cover page story.

And who would have thought that the social network MXit could be used to recruit students and assist learners in rural areas with terminology? Read about doctoral student Melisa Koorsse using this technology to improve learners' understanding and Computing Sciences using this tool for marketing.

On the international front, top researcher Botany's Prof Richard Cowling is involved with research on our south coast funded with a million

dollars by the USA and our racing car DibaOne was hugely successful in Germany.

Our academics have also toured from Moscow to Canada and presented some interesting papers. Have a look what your colleagues are researching.



Two winter schools attracted learners to campus while George Campus made history by hosting the first National Research Foundation research winter school on their campus.

Apart from individual sport successes, our surfing, rugby and karate teams have done NMMU proud at the University Sports South Africa competitions during recess.

Thank you to everybody who did their bit on Mandela Day to enrich the lives of others.

Please send us your stories and photographs. Kind regards Elma de Koker

## Briefs

### Ministerial committee

STRATEGIC Planning and Information Analysis' Dr Charles Sheppard has been appointed by Higher Education & Training Minister Blade Nzimande in a ministerial committee to advise him on universities' resource needs and how they should be financed.

Dr Sheppard is also the co-author together with Ian Bunting, Nico Cloete and Lisa Belding of the book "Performance indicators in SA Higher Education 2000 – 2008."

### Youth development

EXTENDED Studies' Alexis Pillay was the only South African delegate to participate in the Global Youth Symposium in London earlier this year. Over 70 delegates working in youth development attend the symposium

### Dr Math wins

ICT PhD student Laurie Butgereit won a Technology in Government in Africa (TIGA) award in the ICT in Education category for her mobile mathematics tutoring programme Dr Math.

Through Dr Math learners have access to a group of registered tutors who receive their requests via MXit.

Laurie was also the co-recipient of the Rupert Gesinstigting Trust Bursary of R60 000 at the Academic recent Awards.

### National Pharmacy leaders

PHARMACY final-year students Juta Raydon and Thulasiswe Shelembe were recently elected as President and Vice-President of the South African Pharmaceutical Students' Federation for 2011/2012 at their recent conference, an honour for NMMU.

Raydon was also the President of the PE Pharmacy Students' Association.

### HERS candidates

MUSIC, Art and Design School Director Mary Duker and Academic Planning Consultant Tembisa Khomo have been selected to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> HERS-SA Academy, a professional development opportunity for women employed in Higher Education in September.

### Best Academy award

THE School of ICT's Cisco Academy Training Centre recently won the Best Regional Academy Award for South Africa at the Cisco African Academy Safari Conference.

The award was for, among others, quality of training, communication and the number of instructors trained.



TRIPLE TALENT... Stephanie Gouws (from left), Leanne de Kock and Michaela Beckley are three of the four Vice-Chancellor's award winners for academic excellence. The other recipient, MA engineering graduate Timothy Light, is now working in Johannesburg. The Radisson Blu Hotel was the venue for the Annual Academic Awards function on 29 July.

## Diary

23 August  
**Women in Leadership seminar**

Goldfields Auditorium  
12:00—14:00

24 August

**Arts and Culture:  
Choir Staff Concert**

Goldfields Auditorium.  
13:00—14:00

**Diversity Month Concert**

Goldfields Auditorium.  
18:00—20:00

**Panel discussion CANRAD and  
Faculty of Education**

North Campus Conference  
Centre.  
18:00 for 18:30

**Diversity month activities**

25 August

**Alumni Relations: Cocktail  
evening**

North Campus Conference Centre.  
17:30 for 18:00

**CANRAD and DOE:  
Schools Debate**

North Campus Conference Centre.  
12:00—17:00

27 August

**CANRAD Colloquium –  
Desegregation of schools**

Red Location Museum  
09:00 - 1300

29 August

**Arts and Culture: Drama Day  
South Campus Auditorium**

Whole day

31 August

**Student Counselling:  
Appreciating Cultural  
Diversity workshop**

Student Counselling, 2nd Ave.  
Indaba Room, Student  
Counselling North.  
13:00 – 16:00

**Heartlines DVD Screening and  
Processing**

13:00 – 16:00  
015, Student Counselling,  
South Campus.  
VIP Lounge Missionvale

# Capital and endowment campaign one of the biggest in SA

## R1-billion for Vision 2020

**THE “My gift for a better tomorrow” campaign calls on all stakeholders, individuals and organisations, to support the well-being of NMMU and help make it an even greater university.**

The university’s R1-billion capital and endowment campaign to help realise its Vision 2020 objectives, one of the biggest campaigns in the country, was launched on 28 June.

Dimension Data and the Alumni Association were the pioneering donors with amounts of R500 000 and R50 000 respectively.

The Vision 2020 programme plans to raise the quality of education, develop a new generation of academic programmes, boost research and innovation, modernise infrastructure, recruit talented staff and attract better quality students. The campaign has two legs: raising R500m for projects and establishing an R500m endowment fund to provide financial security and sustainability by 2020.

The investment returns after 2020 will be used to fund strategic projects.



**FIRST DONATIONS ... Alumni Association President Randall Jonas (third from left) handed over the cheque of R50 000 on behalf of the Association to Council Chairperson Judge Ronnie Pillay, (from left) Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and NMMU Trust Chairperson Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi.**

In addition, the alumni relations office also launched its “Alumni care programme” through which past students and friends are encouraged to provide assistance in any way they can.

Individual support, especially through the legacy programme, is an important pillar of the capital and endowment campaign together with private and public sector support.

## New Business School leader

**AWARD-WINNING UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) Marketing’s Professor Steve Burgess (below) has been appointed as the new director of NMMU’s Business School from 1 October 2011.**

“The development of the Business School is one of the key projects of the university in which the new Director will, for obvious reasons, be playing an important role. Prof Burgess brings with him a set of attributes and experiences that makes him extremely valuable given the envisaged development trajectory of the Business School,” says Vice-Chancellor **Professor Derrick Swartz**.

Prof Burgess joined the GSB in 2000 from the University of the Witwatersrand, where he was the Association of Marketers’ Professor of Marketing. He was a visiting professor of marketing at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Fisher College



of Business at The Ohio State University as well.

He also held positions of major responsibility in business as Managing Director of Autopage Cellular in the Altron Group, of ConsumaData (now part of Experian South Africa) and as a senior marketing executive at Johnson & Johnson. He was GSB Research Director from 2001 to 2008.

He was previously recognised with the Fisher College of Business International Alumni Award for lifetime contributions to marketing in the USA and South Africa. In 2007, he published his fifth book, *International Marketing* (with Bothma, Oxford University Press).

Prof Swartz said that Prof Burgess will play a key role in the university’s Vision 2020 plans of making NMMU one of the top institutions in Africa.

His appointment follows the move by previous director **Prof Piet Naud** to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Affairs.



## \$1m for research

**BOTANY’S Prof Richard Cowling is one of the main researchers on a million dollar USA-funded project on our south coast together with the Arizona State University.**

The project funded by the USA’s National Science Foundation will recreate the palaeoscape (historical landscape) where modern humans supposedly evolved on the south coast of South Africa.

The response of people and the environment in the Cape Floral Region on the south coast of Africa to major fluctuations in global climate during the time of the origins of the modern human lineage will be examined.

This interdisciplinary study will involve paleoanthropology, behavioral ecology, botany, cultural anthropology, geology, geography, marine geophysics, oceanography, paleo-oceanography, computer modeling, and climate science.

## New Dean of Students

**FORMER Missionvale Campus principal Khaya Matiso is heading up our student affairs since following the retirement of former Dean of Students Thoft Soga.**

As former UPE Director of Student Service for eight years Khaya has been at the forefront of student-

related matters for many years.

Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** says the university is particularly pleased with the appointment of “an accomplished man” like Khaya as he will be “dealing directly with the university’s most important stakeholders - our students”.





Connect@nmmu showcases research, publications

# First of our new websites

**Connect@nmmu** (<http://connect.nmmu.ac.za>) – the first of our brand new NMMU websites currently under construction - went live recently.

This is a site for staff and students to market and showcase their research, publications, CVs and portfolios to the world by creating personal profiles and interest groups.

**Connect@nmmu** is aimed at individuals, rather than entities like departments.

It replaces the individual sites staff and students used to be able to have via their departmental websites. Now you will be able to maintain your own content.

In addition to creating groups in the area of your interest, research or expertise for instance “going green @ NMMU”, “user experience research group” etc., you can get involved in the community forums or create your own blog pages.

On your profile page you are able to publish photos, conference papers, documents etc. in a user-friendly environment.



Students can use it as a way to get their CVs and portfolios seen by commerce and industry when looking for jobs.

Clubs and societies are also encouraged to shift their web presence to **Connect@nmmu** Groups in order to showcase our dynamic student life.

We'd like to encourage you to use this site and to take advantage of the benefits it offers.

What **Connect@nmmu** is not:

- ▶ It is not a Facebook replacement. Use Facebook

for your personal life, **Connect@nmmu** is for your professional life at NMMU. Pictures of pouting poses and drunken parties have no place on **Connect@nmmu**.

▶ It is not a collaboration site for modules, tests and progress reports.

Our websites are positioned as follows:

▶ The public website ([www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)) is for general info about NMMU, also the home of faculty, school and department websites. It is the formal, official face of NMMU.

▶ **Connect@nmmu** is for individuals, clubs and societies to market themselves to the outside world.

▶ The Portal SharePoint 2010 sites are typically for internal collaboration purposes between staff and students.

▶ The total website project is a massive task for our small web development team and the migration is due to be completed by early next year.

For more details on this project – visit the demo page at <http://intra.nmmu.ac.za/demo>

## Northern Areas info evening

**MORE than 400 learners, parents, teachers and principals from 15 schools in the Northern Areas attended NMMU's information evening organised by Marketing and Corporate Relations at St Thomas Senior Secondary, our top feeder school in the area.**

Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** inspired the invited top 10 learners of these schools and the schools were also empowered to in future organise their own career and information evenings. Learners from Morningside High, Alexander Road High and Westering High also at-

tended the event on 25 July as they live in the area.

All faculties were represented with more departments and schools attending than at previous information evenings. Education, Law, Health Sciences, the Library & Information Services, Alumni, Sport, Financial Aid and Admissions were popular reflecting the market and its needs.

Former Miss PE Bianca-Ann Harper attended adding a bit of sparkle.

The evening was hugely successful and likely to become an annual event.



**LONDON ALUMNI ...** More than 20 alumni joined Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz**, Alumni Director **Paul Geswindt** and Legacy Director **Prof Kotie Grov** for dinner in London on 7 July. The NMMU Trust and some London alumni members are also setting up a UK charitable trust in support of NMMU. At the function were (from left) Prof Grov and alumni Alida and Garth Fumidge.



## Clients treated to nature

**CLIENT TREAT ...** Newly appointed Business School director Prof Steve Burgess joined the school on a recent client daytrip to Pumba Private Game Reserve. The HR/Training Managers started the day at the Beach Hotel viewing “Celebrating what’s right with the world” by world-class National Geographic photojournalist. Afterwards local photographer Karl Schoemaker shared some photography tips which they could use during their game drive at Pumba. Clients and colleagues included Business School’s **Profs Paul Poisat** (back from left) and **Kobus Jonker**, Human Resources’ **Leo Doria**, new Business School director Prof Burgess, Business School’s **JP Roodt**, Avusa’s Nathi Maramncon and Midlands Colleges’ Tony Howden, (middle) Business School’s **Leon Mouton**, Eberspacher’s Lizo Neti, Schnellecke’s Lynn Damons, Lear Corporation’s Natasha Saphier, Eveready’s Lauren Currie and Shatterprufe’s Valda van Vuuren, (front) Bridgestone/Firestone’s Llewellyn Bosch, East Cape Roads & Public Works’ Joseph Nelani, BASF’s Garth Main and Borbet’s Glen Zamisa.

## Textile design students keep on winning

# Three in a row

**A BLANKET that can simply be created into a poncho was the project idea that resulted in BTech textile design student Shannon Daniell winning the SA leg of the 2011 Society for Dyers and Colourists (SDC) competition.**

This follows on the successes of Moipone Qekisi in 2009 and Laduma Ngxokolo last year: making it three NMMU winners in the SA heat since the competition started in 2009.

As a result, Shannon wins a trip to Hong Kong courtesy of the SDC to enter and attend the final judging of the global competition in December.

"I am ecstatic and completely overwhelmed. I'm sure everything will only sink in later," says the Uitenhage-born artist.

For her project titled "Beautifully bleeding", Shannon chose to create a blanket that can convert into a poncho.

"I also looked at worldwide problems that need to be addressed. AIDS orphans are a major issue in most places and an increasing problem in Africa.

"One of the basic needs of these families is blankets and clothes for winter. This is why I have designed a combination", she says. .

Shannon uses bed linen no longer used by hotels to create her design of a blanket/poncho for AIDS orphans. The design project will also assist prisoners to develop their sewing, printing and inventive skills to create an income for themselves.



*BASIC NEEDS ... SA Dyers and Colourists competition winner and BTech Textile Design student Shannon Daniell designed a blanket poncho for AIDS orphans.*



*JAZZ GALORE ... Pianist, composer and lecturer John Edwards was approached by espafrika, the company responsible for the Cape Town Jazz Festival, to present a practical jazz workshop for high school learners at the Madiba Bay Music Festival in May. Lecturers Devon van Rooyen on drums and Andrew Warneke on bass guitar assisted with the workshop. There was an excellent turnout from local schools, a great response from the learners who eagerly participated in flute, vocals, piano, saxophone and drums) mostly high school learners. The three lecturers also performed at the PE Music Society's recent concert in June. Photograph: Shadley Lombard*

## Another design finalist

**"The fashion world is cut-throat and to be selected as one of the eight finalists in the ELLE designer search is quite a big deal for me," says BTech Fashion Design student Kelly Esterhuysen.**

Kelly stands a chance of winning R25 000 along with an opportunity to showcase her range at the 2012 South African Fashion Week.

Kelly is the second NMMU fashion design student to have made the finals in this competition in consecutive years. Este van der Merwe was a finalist last year.

Kelly also represented the Eastern

Cape at last year's Durban July and J&B Met in Cape Town.

Her range for the Elle designer search consists of eight outfits in which she combines leather and mohair in which she describes as a "breakthrough, bold avant garde range".

Kelly has already hand-knitted two of her garments, layering and creating different textures to produce a 3D effect.

Kelly draws her inspiration from international designers such as Elle Saab, Karl Lagerfeld and fashion forecaster Li Edelkoort.

## Le Strada Choir wins

**The NMMU Le Strada Choir won the SATICA (South African Tertiary Institution Choral Association) annual national competition from 6 to 10 July in Pretoria.**

Le Strada under the baton of Asekho Zani obtained first position overall with a total of 145, DUT was second with 141 marks and TUT third with 133 marks.

Solo, small ensembles, male voice, female voice and mixed choirs competed in several categories, such as

traditional, HIV and Aids songs and also vernacular and Western pieces.

Le Strada's HIV/AIDS rendition was composed by a PE composer Weziwe Moya who not only helped the chorale get to the aesthetics of her song but also travelled with them as a mentor and guardian on their trip. Assistant conductor Siyabulela Cuntsulana made great reviews in his execution of this song.

The choir will take part in another two competitions this year.



*WINNERS ... Le Strada also included a HIV/AIDS rendition in their repertoire winning the annual national SA Tertiary Institution Choral Association's competition.*

# DibaOne did us proud

**NMMU Racing has done Africa, South Africa and the university proud by becoming the first Formula Student team on the African continent to successfully compete in all static and dynamic events of the prestigious Formula Student Germany competition.**

The DibaOne team returned earlier this month after competing in Hockenheim, Germany.

NMMU Racing also became one of the most successful first time entries by completing all dynamic events in the competition, including the gruelling 28-lap endurance race, with no component failures on the car.

"We're thrilled with the way everything went," said **Trevor Stroud**, who accompanied the student team to Germany.

Both judges and fellow competitors were impressed by the quality of engineering on our car, as well as the level of knowledge displayed by a first time team at the design presentation.

NMMU Racing has racked up another round of "firsts" in the process:

- ▶ First South African team to compete in the Formula Student Germany competition.
- ▶ First African team to pass scrutineering.
- ▶ First African team to complete all dynamic events, including skid pan, acceleration, autocross and endurance.



*READY, STEADY GO ... After almost three years in the making, the final touches were added on NMMU Racing's first Formula Student racing car, before it and 230 other items, including tools, spares and camping equipment for all 12 team members, were bundled into a shipping container destined for Hockenheim. Here the team is joined by Dean of Engineering, the Built Environment and IT **Prof Henk de Jager**.*

## Boost for construction research and development

**OUR Built Environment Research Centre (BERC) will host one of two inaugural Centres of Excellence in the country which will receive R1 million per annum for three years from the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB).**

In exchange for the funding the centres have to establish a dedicated research agenda and produce high

level skills at master's and doctoral levels.

"We will focus on human resource development, academic excellence and targeted research in areas of importance to construction industry development," says BERC director **Prof Winston Shakantu**.

The other centre is situated at Wits University.



*THIRD PRIZE ... Five engineering students won third prize at the national Siemens Cyber Junkyard competition in Johannesburg in July. The group consisting of electrical, mechanical and mechatronics students had to design and manufacture an air-powered, autonomous vehicle, driven by fluidic muscles. The vehicle had to complete a drag and endurance race. The team won R30 000 worth of equipment as well as an iPod for each team member. Back (from left) sponsors Siemens' Des Burrows and Martin Taverner and Festo's Horst Weinert and Russell Schwulst are joined by Engineering's **Karl du Preez, Prof Theo van Niekerk and Ian van Niekerk**, (front) Jarred Hempel, Stephan de Beer, Jannie Fourie and Gerald Chikosi.*



*HANDS-ON ... Engineering's **Ian van Niekerk** shows learners what engineering is all about at the recent workshop for Grade 11 learners.*

## Glimpse of engineering

**ALTOGETHER 60 Grade 11 learners from 25 schools in the metropole attended the first two-day workshop on the world of engineering to get a glimpse of engineering as a career.**

The School of Engineering in collaboration with the Automotive Industry Development Centre (AIDC) and the SA National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) hosted the workshop.

Schools with outstanding results in physical science and mathematics were targeted, said SANRAL STEM

project laboratory manager **Isabel van Gend** to market engineering as a career to the learners.

The workshop on our North and Missionvale campuses included laboratory tours, career guidance visits to VWSA and the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

They were also exposed to talks by young engineers, including NMMU BEng Mechatronic graduate David Minne who works at VWSA.

The learners experienced what engineers do in a typical working day and what engineers earn.

# SMEs to benefit from Google

**LOCAL small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa can expect to enjoy more support from professionals who provide them with web-based services after Google launched its Engage project in Johannesburg recently.**

Business Management's **Dr Oren Dayan** attended the event and stated that this new partner project is aimed at any expert who helps SMEs with their online advertising and marketing strategy.

These service providers include advertising agencies, webmasters, search engine marketers and other specialists.

A group of 500 selected professionals from all over South Africa, ranging from web designers to search engine optimisation experts, lecturers, marketers and consultants, were present to learn more about the initiative.

Dr Dayan was invited to the launch and training sessions and he believes that many small companies in South Africa can use Google tools in their online marketing.

He will also share with NMMU how we can better use Google tools.

Luke McKend, the country manager of Google South Africa, said he hoped this venture would encourage entrepreneurs to make the web part of their businesses.

"Engage is Google's way of reaching out to these agencies and providing them with the training and support they need to attract more small business clients and become more valuable to their existing ones.

The Google Engage for Agencies programme offers the training and support that you need to help your clients benefit from Google AdWords and other Google products.



*NEW VENTURES ... Business Management's **Dr Oren Dayan** (right) and Google SA manager Luke McKend, at the launch of the Google Engage project to benefit small and medium enterprises. Dr Dayan will also share his Google knowledge from which NMMU can benefit.*



## Best research paper

*WINNERS ... Business Management's **Dr Shelley Farrington** and **Prof Elmarie Venter** (centre) won the best research paper award at the recent International Family Enterprise Research Academy (IFERA) in Palermo, Sicily. They are joined (from left) by their co-researcher from the Netherlands Judit Helvert-Beugels (co-researcher from the Netherlands) and prize sponsor Prof Lloyd Steier from Canada and (right) Research Programme Chair of IFERA Sicily 2011 Daniela Montemerlo. The paper covers selected relational-based factors that impact on the successful functioning of co-preneurial business comparing the Netherlands and South Africa and is part of a bigger international research project with colleagues from the Netherlands on co-preneurships. More than 200 academics from 32 nations attended the conference.*



*GREEN TO CLEAN ... Botany's **Chan Visagie**, Sibulele Nondoda and Pascal Tabot do their bit for Green Fridays in their department's venture to keep the area outside the Biological Sciences building on South Campus clean. The department noticed how bin lids were left open creating a lot of rubbish outside. Department head **Prof Eileen Campbell** hopes other departments will help them in a joint monthly venture since rubbish is dangerous to the environment.*

# More than 5000 learners use MxIt for studies Getting computer savvy with MxIt

**LEARNERS in rural areas can now improve their computer literacy skills with the help of a unique MxIt application.**

The application – part of a pilot study launched in April – is the brainchild of Computer Science doctoral student Melisa Koorse, who ultimately hopes to expand the tool to include other learning subjects.

Melisa evaluated student teachers in rural schools, and noticed that learn-

ers had to hand in their textbooks at the end of the lesson and therefore could not remember difficult concepts from one lesson to another.

She honed in on the one thing just about all the pupils had – cell phones – and set about developing the MxIt tool, which has thus far attracted 5 000 users.

The tool, which focuses on CAT from Grade 10 to

12, was initially launched as a dictionary, where pupils send a word they do not understand and receive an automated definition via MxIt text conversation. Pupils themselves were roped in to translate stiff textbook definitions into simpler, teenager-friendly terms.

The tool has since been expanded to allow pupils to practise what they have learned using various toolbar graphics. For instance, they can

click on a toolbar button (e.g. bold), which then changes selected text, just as they would do if they were working on an actual computer. “This helps learners to familiarise themselves with the different buttons.” She also wants to include Excel spreadsheets, to assist pupils with formulas.

“I don’t want to replace teachers or textbooks. I just want to give learners additional support when



*MXIT FIX IT ... Computer Science doctoral student Melisa Koorse uses MxIt to plug computer literacy gaps in schools.*

teachers and textbooks are not available on a device that most people have.” Melisa monitors usage closely, constantly adding new definitions and improving the tool where necessary.

The Department of Computing Sciences is planning to extend the tool to become a “broader content delivery system – like a big text book on a mobile phone” and ultimately aims to extend the service to other subjects. “We want to make a difference by using mobile technology... Learners need access to knowledge.”

The two applications – NMMU CS CAT and TOOLBARZ – can be found in MxIt TradePost > Games > Play Now > Applications > By Genre > Education.

“We want to make a difference by using mobile technology”

## Organic farming on campus

**AGRICULTURAL Management students will soon start their planting and growing their own crops here on campus.**

They might even later sell their produce to fellow students; learning the art of farming as a business!

One of the goals of the Agricultural Management Diploma is for students to receive training and practical experience in plant production “cultivating” their text book knowledge in practice.

“By planting and growing their own crops students will encounter individual problems to solve with lecturers assistance and learn more about the management of farming,” says Agricultural Management’s **Tim Pittaway**.

The students are responsible for their own growing areas on North Campus and have a “hands-on” approach to organic forms of cultivation which promotes ecological balance and conservation of biodiversity.

They will also experience certain aspects of urban farming.

The areas were established with the support and assistance of Horticultural Services’ **Elana Storm**.

This year a similar project, the Food and Agriculture Organisation’s urban horticulture programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo, reduced malnutrition levels in urban areas and created surplus food, says Tim.

For more information join them at <http://bit.ly/nmmuagri>



*Agricultural Management’s Tim Pittaway, Horticulture’s Elana Storm and second-year Agricultural management student Bulumko Mbona at the newly established organic garden on North Campus.*

# NMMU rallies to serve during Nelson Mandela Day's 67 minutes

## Living out our values



Ubuntu

**"WE must use time wisely and forever realise that the time is always ripe to do right."**

That's as Nelson Mandela once said, and just as NMMU staff and students did – and are doing – to honour his 93 years during their 67 minutes of service on his birthday on 18 July.

Following the example of Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** and his executive team who read to children at schools in Nelson Mandela Bay, staff and students also seized the opportunity to serve others and embrace our value of *ubuntu* in a variety of different ways.

*talk@nmmu* shares some of their efforts as a means of further encouraging you to make a difference in the lives of others. As you will read, it can be something as simple as giving a student a lift to university.

But to quote **Simon Goldstone**: "The real challenge is to follow in Madiba's footsteps - endeavouring to make a difference every day, wherever we find ourselves, in whichever way we can."

These are but some of the acts of kindness which *talk@nmmu* has learnt about, but no doubt there are many others:

► The CTLM's Teaching Development Unit visited Diana Davis Pre-Primary School in Walmer



**"We all agreed that this should not just be something we do once a year, but every day of the year."**

*BEYOND OUR CAMPUSES ... In addition to planting indigenous trees on our campuses NMMU executives also spent time with communities beyond our campuses on 18 July. In the spirit of scholarly engagement called for in Vision 2020 Sapphire Road Primary School in Booysen Park and Noninzi Luziphu Primary School in KwaNobuhle were visited. Our colleagues read appropriate materials for grades 1 to 7 to the learners and were also read to. The learners chose the contribution Nelson Mandela made to democracy in South Africa and, what democracy means for school education! After the readings, learners accepted books and other learning materials on behalf of their respective schools. Colleagues also visited the schools' projects and identified areas where NMMU can assist these schools. Here Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Affairs **Prof Piet Naud** can be seen in action with learners!*

blanket which she will donate to charity. She also paid for a needy student to have his treatise bound and put onto CD.

► The Office for Strategic Planning and Information Analysis collected clothes, groceries, books, puzzles, and toys and visited Maranatha Children's Care Centre to "give

cold and rain, why not offer them a lift?"

► **Rene Kock** and her friends took time out to help animals at Animal Welfare.

► "On Mandela Day I offered four people lifts, and talked to them about Mandela Day and the legacy of doing something for your fellow man. We all agreed that this should not just be something we do once a year, but every day of the year."

► **Maryna Lehmann-Maritz** remembered the cleaning ladies and gave them gifts.

► **Gary Fisher** distributed the food collected by his wife's work and delivered it to a squatter camp in Greenbushes.

► **Jaci Barnett** volunteered to assist Santa's Shoebox so she will spend October making and collecting shoeboxes to be given to children in various homes as their Christmas present. The boxes and gifts are personalised and each donor knows the name, age and gender of the

child. Children from 30 schools benefit from this initiative.

► **Aish Ayessaki** and **Runyararo Mutsinze** were among the many folk who help to clean up the heritage areas of Central.

► **Derrick Hoshe** is investing his energy into coaching athletics among underprivileged children.

**"The real challenge is to follow in Madiba's footsteps - endeavouring to make a difference every day, wherever we find ourselves, in whichever way we can."**

Township, to share three car loads of treats, fruit and books. "Their songs of thanks still resonate in our memories and it was decided that the unit will be following up on our initial visit before long," says Simon Goldstone.

► **Safeyah Ismail** played soccer with grade 2s at Sapphire Road Primary School.

► **Lesley Young** is crocheting a

back" to the youth.

► Another staff member shared: "During the time I've worked at NMMU I have tried every day to offer lifts to students I see walking along the road. It may seem like very little, but everyone I've given a lift to has expressed their amazement that I would stop and offer a lift. Why is that? If you are driving alone in your car and you see someone walking, especially in the

### Shoes galore

THE NMMU Wellness Programme warmed the hearts of a number of high school students living in extreme poverty. Staff donated shoes, running shoes and even some tennis rackets and hockey gear to the Umzingisi Foundation and the School of Excellence. The foundation works in schools to develop sport among the disadvantaged and vulnerable youth on a mass participation level.

# Spreading NMMU knowledge

**DOZENS** of NMMU academics have criss-crossed the globe in recent weeks to share their research findings at more than 30 different national and international conferences.

The topics of their papers were also as diverse as the countries they visited highlighting the broad range of disciplines being researched throughout NMMU.

According to feedback received from staff via an appeal for conference news, the following number of papers was presented: Education 6; Health Sciences 3; George 3; Law 3; Science 10; Arts 9; EBEIT 5.

"This is very encouraging. I am very excited about the possibility that many of these papers could be converted into journal articles," says Director: Research Management **Dr Pieter van Breda**.

While many colleagues presented papers in South Africa at conferences in Grahamstown, Stellenbosch, Johannesburg and Pretoria, others were fortunate to share their knowledge at international conferences.

**From Mauritius to Madeira with topics as vast as the speeches of President Zuma to the psychological well-being of cricketers, our academics did NMMU proud as they presented papers during the recent recess.**

They included **Prof Bert Olivier**, who presented papers at three conferences in Greece, Turkey and Istanbul, and his Arts Faculty colleague **Prof Liesel Hibbert** who presented paper on the speeches of President Zuma in Manchester, England.

Others who presented papers internationally included **Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi** (Swaziland), who has just been announced as an honorary ambassador scientist for the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; Botany's **Prof Janine Adams** (Mozambique); Zoology's **Prof Graham Kerley** (Poland), Mathematics' **professors Geoff Booth** and **Nico Groenewald** and **Dr Suresh Juglal** (USA); Political and Governmental Studies' **Enaleen Draai** (Italy); HIV and Aids Research Chair **Prof Naydene**

**de Lange** (Canada); Education's **Prof Lesley Wood** (Tanzania); Education's **Prof Johanna Geldenhuys** and **Dr Sylvan Blignaut** (Mauritius); George Campus's **Johan Jordaan** (France) and HMS's **Dr Lynn Slogrove** (Spain).

School of ICT's **Lynn Fitcher**, **Dr Johan van Niekerk** and **Prof Rossouw von Solms** (Switzerland) and **Prof Darelle van Greunen** (Uganda) also presented papers.

Chemistry's **Prof Tommy Gerber** was also the keynote speaker at the 7th International Symposium on Technetium and Rhenium in Nuclear Medicine at a conference in Moscow, Russia.

For additional information on papers presented, please visit [www.nmmu.ac.za/marketing](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/marketing) - under Staff Newsletter – Want to know more?



**Prof Graham Kerley**

## Research for Education

**A FURTHER Education and Training (FET) research project by NMMU was applauded as among the top three by its funder America's Ford Foundation.**

Ford Foundation representative Dr John Butler-Adam congratulated the NMMU team for their excellent work and that the project outcomes "outstripped the American dollars that were allocated to it".

The findings of the project were shared at a workshop organised by our Office for Strategic Planning and Information Analysis on 13 July. Representatives from the Eastern Cape Province Department of Education, the Eastern Cape Provincial Transitional Oversight

Committee, the Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (EC-SECC) and the Ford Foundation were among the audience.

Guest speakers at the workshop on the FET interface in the Eastern/Southern Cape and nationally included Wits University's Education Policy Unit's Prof Peliwe Lolwana who discussed the implications of the Green Paper for Post-School Education (PSE) in South Africa. Western Cape University's FET Institute's Dr Joy Papier shared lessons learnt in capacitating FET lecturers through the Vocational Education Orientation Programme (VEOP) offered by UWC, UFS, UFH, WSU, Wits and NMMU.



**FET WORKSHOP ...** Director FET Institute UWC Dr Joy Papier (from left) Education Faculty Executive Dean **Prof Denise Zinn**, NMMU FET researcher **Uthando Baduza**, Teaching and Learning Dean **Prof Cheryl Foxcroft**, Director EPU Wits Prof Peliwe Lolwana, Senior Director: Strategic Planning **Prof Heather Nel** and Ford Foundation Programme Officer: Post-Secondary and Higher Education Dr John Butler-Adam were guest speakers and shared research outcomes with the audience at an FET research workshop organised by NMMU's Office for Strategic Planning and Information Analysis.



Respect for the natural environment

## Green Fridays



**GETTING DIRTY ...** Showing that they are truly "living the values" the Office of Strategic Planning and Information Analysis (SPIA) showed their "respect for the natural environment" setting aside two hours to assist our Horticultural Services' **Elana Storm**, with planting indigenous, water-friendly plants at the entrance of Veritas residence. This flowerbox planting forms part of a budgeted upgrade for the Veritas ladies residence upgrade for 2011. Each person within SPIA is also teamed up in a paired arrangement to think up suggestions on how the rest of them can demonstrate their commitment to each one of the six values of NMMU.

## ► George

First NRF research winter school, international symposium

# Campus a hive of activity during winter recess

**RESEARCHERS, speakers of note, post- and undergraduate students, sport teams, stakeholders and representatives from a variety of industries converged at the picturesque “natural laboratory” over the winter recess.**

► **Leader in fire management:** MORE than 120 foresters and industry stakeholders attended the seventh Fire Symposium presented by George Campus and the South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF). Forestry’s **Tiaan Pool** was a guest speaker and member of the organising committee. Media and crisis communication, integrated fire management, mapping risk areas, controlled burning of grassy areas and the influence of mulching on fire behaviour were covered by the symposium held recently in Pietermaritzburg.

► **Technology for sustainability:** NATURE Conservation students shared their innovative projects with visitors to the Technology Weekend hosted on George Campus on 22 and 23 July as part of the George 200 year celebrations. The projects focused on the student-driven Green Campus Initiative emphasising the sustainable use of natural resources and “Green practices” on campus. The research project on solar heating systems in student houses, a plant nursery project growing vegetables and herbs for a community organization, recycling, vermiculture and composting initiatives were also profiled.

► **Forestry experts on campus:** THE more than 80 BTech Forestry and Wood Technology students, most of whom are established in careers in forestry, were exposed to industry experts at the George Campus. “The block course from 18 to 28 July contributes to the success of this popular course with alumni in lucrative international careers in the forestry industry, especially in Australia and New Zealand where their expertise is high in demand” says Natural Resource Management School Director, **Prof Jos Louw**,



*THUMBS-UP ... Seven NMMU postgraduate students back (from left) Ikho Bambiso, Thandekile Nyuvu, Naledzani Ndou and Anyway Sithole and (front) Howard Chitimira, Sinazo Mpapela and Phumlani Cimi attended the National Research Foundation (NRF) Winter Research School hosted over three weeks at the George Campus. They are joined by keynote speaker Deputy Science and Technology Minister, Derek Hanekom (back third from right) and George Campus Principal **Prof Christo Fabricius** (back second from right)*

► **First winter research school:** SEVEN NMMU Geosciences students participated in the first National Research Foundation’s (NRF) Winter Research School hosted on our George Campus. Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Derek Hanekom was the keynote speaker at one of the sessions. The Geosciences Doctorate Research Winter School was held over three weeks from 24 June to 17 July and hosted close to 200 delegates, including academics, NRF staff and 170 postgraduate students from across Southern Africa. **Prof Maarten de Wit** of UCT, who just joined NMMU, introduced the concept and work of the Africa Earth Observatory Network (AEON), while other topics included the Science and Technology Train to be launched in 2012 during the South Africa/Germany Year of Science 2012. The event developed research skills of young researchers, promoting a culture of ethics and responsibility, improving writing and presentation skills, and created opportunities to talk and learn from

seasoned researchers. Participants also engaged with local communities and their research needs.

► **Experienced educator:** SEASONED educator and NMMU alumnus, **Sam Webber**, recently joined George Campus as lecturer in the Management programme. Sam spent nine years as a resource centre coordinator with the Department of Education in the Western Cape before joining NMMU. He obtained a BTech in Education Management at the former PE Technikon followed by an honours and Master’s degree in Information and Knowledge Management at Unisa.

► **First CA firmly on track:** GEORGE Campus BCom graduate, Candice Kelton, is firmly on track to become the first “home-grown” Chartered Accountant from the BCom Accounting for Chartered Accountants Programme at George Campus. Candice, who has recently passed the first set of Professional Entry Exams of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), has a three-year training contract with auditing firm, Mazars.



*JAPANESE LINKS ... NMMU Forestry student Natassja Brits (far right) represented Saasveld Forestry Association at the Asia Regional Meeting of the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA) in Kyoto Japan earlier this year where she also presented a paper. This recess it was George Campus’ turn to host more than 60 forestry students from Southern African universities at the first ever Southern African Regional Meeting. Two Japanese students from Kyoto University joined the Forestry in 3D themed meeting. NMMU MTech Forestry student Muedanyi Ramantswana was appointed as IFSA Southern Africa Regional Representative. A number of indigenous trees were also planted on the campus in celebration of this year as the international year of the forest.*



LIFT-OFF ... Rockets taking off, bombs exploding and chemicals on fire entertained some 260 Grade 11 and 12 learners at the second annual Science Discovery Week during the July school holidays. The learners experienced Chemistry, Physics, GeoSciences, Computers, Botany, Zoology, Statistics, Maths, Biochemistry and Microbiology all jam-packed into one exciting week. Here Chemistry's **Dr Gletwyn Rubidge** created an explosion.



RESCUE ... Postal Services' **Roman Domingo** came to the rescue when three ducklings were separated from their parents after being chased by cats. The ducklings sought shelter in the Print Room on the lower ground floor of the Main Building on South Campus. Roman took them back to their parents who were seen earlier, foraging for food on a field nearby.



ACHIEVER ... Marketing Management Head of Department **Prof Mad le Tait** (left) was one of three finalists in the Business Women of the Year's regional achievers professional category in June. Celebrating with Madéle were colleagues **Renee Ferreira, Romella Pather, Rowelna Venter** and **Tania Shrobbree**.



LIKE A DUCK TO RUGBY ... Sport facility co-ordinator **Nico Barnard** tried out the university's rugby ground for canoeing during the recent floods in the recess.



MENTORING ... Beyond the Classroom leadership project students (from left) **Matyobeni Phathiswa, Mathobela Kegomoditswe** and **Mapalala Siliziwe** attended the regional Business Woman of the Year Award evening and were joined by one of the judges Marketing and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart**.



TOP MUSICIANS... Charles Bryars Music Scholarship Winners for 2011 joined by Arts Faculty Dean **Prof Velile Notshulwana** (from left) were **Liske Potgieter** (third), **JF Viljoen** (second) and **Kristle van Niekerk** (first) with acting Music department head **Zoliswa Twani**.

## H&S Management Systems in place for high risk areas

# Making NMMU safe for all

**A HEALTHY and safe work environment generally makes for a more productive staff which is why the Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Unit is hard at work implementing its health and safety policy at the university.**

Since March 2010 the NMMU Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy has been rolled out to about 65% of the university. In order of risk priority and where immediate risk to health and safety to staff and students exists, the SHE Unit has initially focused its efforts with these areas. They include the faculties of Science, Arts and Engineering, Built Environment and IT and also Technical Services within the Operations division.

"We are more than half way

through in rolling out the NMMU OHS Policy and in ensuring that the correct health and safety standards and procedures are in place," says SHE Unit manager **Johann Gerber** (below).

We now employ two health and safety officers, and another who works specifically in the construction industry, and a health and safety manager. This has significantly assisted with the rolling out process.

Johann says he and his team have been able to assist many staff members with various concerns ranging from the correct usage of an office workstation to entire redesign of a

studio and acquisition of equipment to achieve legal compliance.

"We're determined to make NMMU a safe and healthy work environment," he says.



Johann pointed out that the onus of ensuring safety in the workplace was on both the employer and employee.

"It's important to be familiar with the duties of the employer and employees in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. We all have responsibilities when it comes to health and safety."

Johann says that the number of incidents at NMMU decreased in 2010,

when compared to 2009.

"This can be attributed not only to the efforts of the SHE Unit, but to each and every line manager and employee when it comes to health and safety."

The university has only suffered one serious high risk incident in recent years – that of a fire in a chemistry laboratory in the Chemistry Department on South Campus in 2009.

"Staff was evacuated immediately and NMMU is fortunate there were no injuries during the event.

"We will continue our efforts to ensure that no employees or students work or study in an unsafe or unhealthy workplace. But we can't do this on our own. We need each and everyone's commitment in order to achieve this."

## Our first Staff Handbook

**DO YOU know for which benefits you qualify, how things work at NMMU and how your working life can be easier?**

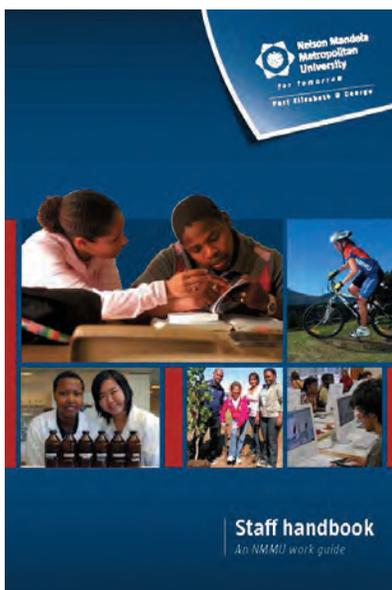
You can now consult our first print edition staff handbook compiled by Marketing and Corporate Relations with input from the Human Resources Department.

Staff often doesn't know about benefits, responsibilities and rules and this book wants to act as reference guide for these questions.

New staff at the latest induction workshop has already received copies and copies have also been sent out to departmental secretaries to distribute to current staff.

An electronic copy is also available on the staff portal at Communications ► Staff Handbook. The book will be updated at least once every two years as information constantly changes.

Copies are available from [elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za)



## You can win

LUCKY readers can win two R100 Greenacres Shopping Centre vouchers and two R100 University Shop vouchers. Just read your [talk@nmmu](mailto:talk@nmmu)!

Congratulations to our June/July competition winners: **Rachael Japhta** of Support Services, **Shavon Leander** of Postal Services, **Michele Frederick** of Human Resources and **Theresa Webb** of Strategic Planning and Management Information.

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

1. According to Google our **f.....b (8 letter word)** video is the most watched South African video with 62 000 hits at the end of July.
2. Connect@nmmu replaces the **i.....l (10 letter word)** sites staff and students used to be able to have via their departmental websites.
3. Staff often doesn't know about benefits, responsibilities and rules and the new staff **h.....k (8 letter word)** wants to act as reference guide for these questions.

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to [elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za) by **25 August**.

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.

## Condolences

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

- Technical Services' **Ryno Plaatjies**
- Technical Services' **Vuyani Tyhali**
- Former Technical Services' staff member Mike Grimes
- Retired UPE registrar Johan Robbertse
- First year Human Resources Management student Donay Kramer
- Final year ND Civil Engineering student from Botswana Walter Molapisi
- First-year Logistics student Philissiwe Nhlapo
- Third-year BEng Mechatronics student

Tauyanashe Nyikadzino

- First-year Civil Engineering student Tshepiso Sithole
- Third-year BEd(SP) (Education) student Lizeka Xakushe

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

- Geosciences' **Prof Peter Booth** (his mother)
- Botany's **Penny Lithauer** (her mother)
- ICT Services' **Selwyn Naidoo** (his father).
- Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Karen Snyman** (her mother)
- Botany's **Cynthia Tobias** (her brother)
- Finance's **Anita van Huyssteen** (her father)

# Cervical cancer and Pap smears

**IN line with Women's Day on 9 August talk@nmnu decided to dedicate our health talk this month to cervical cancer, the third most common type of cancer in women worldwide.**

**Why Pap smears?**

The good news is that it can be detected by a Pap smear, is 100% treatable and starts very slowly.

That is why it's so important for women to get regular Pap smears.

Most women who are diagnosed with cervical cancer today have not had regular Pap smears or have not followed up on abnormal Pap smear results.

**What causes it?**

Cervical cancer starts in the cells on the surface of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus (womb).

Risk factors for cervical cancer include: Having sex at an early age; multiple sexual partners; not going for regular Pap smears; partners with multiple sexual partners or high-risk sexual activities and a weakened immune system.

Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV (human papilloma virus), a common virus spread through sexual intercourse. Only some strains of HPV, however, lead to cervical cancer.

Undetected pre-cancerous changes can develop into cervical cancer and spread to the bladder, intestines, lungs, and liver. Patients with cervical cancer do not usually have problems until the cancer is advanced and has spread.

**What are the symptoms?** Most of the time, early cervical cancer has no symptoms. Symptoms that may occur include: abnormal vaginal bleeding between periods, after intercourse, or after menopause, vaginal discharge, and periods become heavier and lasting longer than usual.

Symptoms of advanced cervical cancer may include: back pain, bone fractures, fatigue, heavy bleeding, leaking of urine or feces from the vagina, leg pain, loss of appetite, pelvic pain, single swollen leg and weight loss.

**Can it be cured?**

Pre-cancerous conditions are completely curable when followed up and treated properly.

Early cervical cancer can be cured by removing or destroying the pre-cancerous or cancerous tissue. There is a 92% chance of being alive in five years for cancer that has spread to the inside of the cervix walls but not outside the cervix area.

The five-year survival rate falls steadily as the cancer spreads into other areas.

**Go for a Pap smear as soon as possible if you:**

- ▶ are a sexually active woman who has not had a Pap smear in the past year
- ▶ are at least 20 years old and have never had a pelvic examination and Pap smear
- ▶ Have not had regular Pap smears

**How can you prevent it?**

- ▶ A vaccine to prevent cervical cancer is now available. Studies have shown that the vaccine appears to prevent early-stage cervical cancer and precancerous lesions.
- ▶ Practicing safe sex also reduces your risk of HPV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- ▶ If you smoke, quit. Smoking is associated with an increased risk of cervical cancer.

## Angel group helping others

**A SMALL group of students on campus with hearts of gold are making a huge difference in the lives of others.**

The group called Thusanang (Sotho word for "helping each other") contributes a small amount of their own cash every month towards a fund for students in dire need.

Sometimes they would even sacrifice their own lunch to give to someone going hungry.

A contribution of as little as R20 per person makes a significant difference towards sandwiches, bus tickets, taxi fares and stationery, for which the fund is mostly used.

The group which started two years ago in one of our residences with four students has since then grown to 15 members, including a staff member.

They wish to remain anonymous

because for them it's all about helping others and not to attract attention to themselves.

In addition a number of former students who have since graduated still contribute to the group leaving their legacy behind as role models for others.

The group has also heard of graduates going back to their own communities and starting a similar fund.

"It's all about sharing the little that we have with those who need it more than we do," one of the members told talk@nmnu.

These students truly aspire to the value of ubuntu and citizenship and believe in inspiring those they help to pay it forward as well.

One of their success stories includes a needy student who had no money

for food.

With the help of the fund he could eat, study and write exams and pass all his subjects including a number of them with distinction.

Another student who used to walk to campus, were given lunch and a bus ticket covering him for a few months.

He wrote them a letter saying: "from the bottom of my heart I thank you. I hope you will continue doing what you're doing. I have to work hard so that your efforts won't go to waste".

The group responded: "Goosebumps!!! Totally awesome. Glad we could help."

To become a member and find out more about the group can e-mail to [thusanang09@gmail.com](mailto:thusanang09@gmail.com)



Ubuntu



## Risking his own life

**Horticultural Services' Hudson Mbusi (above) recently rescued a two-year-old child from a burning house in Motherwell after his own son alerted him to the smoke coming out of a neighbouring house.**

Hudson investigated, heard crying from inside, broke into the building and rescued the toddler. The youngster was taken to Dora Nginza Hospital for a skin graft.



## A first in Evensong

Applied Language Studies' **Dr Ruby Zauka**, who is also assistant priest at St Mary's Cathedral, made history as the first woman to sing Evensong at the Cathedral. The Daily Dispatch also quoted Ruby in an article in on the problems when the deceased leaves no will; which often happens in the larger black community.

All-round achievements for sporty students during winter recess

# NMMU - a cut above the rest

**OUR sportsmen and women showed resilience during the winter holidays with a number of victories against other universities in USSA tournaments as well as national and international competitions.**

In addition to our surfers, rugby players and karate team who were in top form at USSA swimming, netball, cycling, cricket and pentathlon also had top achievers:

- NMMU Karate full contact has been crowned champions 2011 for the third time in a row at the USSA Karate Champs held in Cape Town. Our team won 14 medals (three gold, seven silver and four bronze).
- Second-year Law student, Kevin Paul bagged five medals for South Africa at the recent Paralympics Swimming World Challenge in Montreal, Canada. He won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze.
- Accounting honours student, Kerry-Beth Norden, was one of only two EP athletes selected to the team of 12 ladies representing SA in synchronised swimming at the World Aquatics Championships in July. Kerry started competing at the age of seven and was ranked in the top three in SA in each age group she competed in.
- Sport Bureau's **Zanele Mdozana**, a member of the Proteas Netball squad playing in the World Netball Championships in Singapore, was among those to turn the game around in South Africa's favour when she came on in the second quarter to secure a 70 – 33 victory against the hosts.
- Six NMMU students have been selected for the SA Student netball squad following their performance at the recent intervarsity tournament in Potchefstroom. Janine Daniell, Nontle Gwavu, Mampho Tsoetsi, Dumisane Chauke, Zanele Vimbela and Elzaan Lotter have been included in the team that will compete in the World University Championships in Cape Town in July next year.



*FIRST AGAIN ... The Billabong NMMU Surfing team successfully defended their title this year at the USSA Surfing Championships in Victoria Bay hosted by George Campus. The team convincingly beat the University of Cape Town. Bradley Beck (overall winner in the men's section), Clinton Gravett and Dane Cox were included in the eight-man USSA team. The victorious team (from left) are Dane, Drew Truysman, Bruce Campbell, Bradley, Scott Lenton, Clinton and James Booth-Jones and Simon Kuhn (front).*

- NMMU Cricket Club's Simon Harmer was named Student Cricket of the Year for 2010/2011 and David White, Club Championship Player of the Tournament at the recent Cricket South Africa Awards. This is the second successive year that NMMU won these awards.
- SA Modern Pentathlon Champion and final-year BCom Financial Planning student Jon-Paul Raper participated in the Africa Modern Pentathlon Championships in Cairo, an Olympic Qualifier.
- MECER NMMU Cycling club's Marinus Prinsloo and Kellan Gouveris have been selected to represent the SA Track Cycling Team taking part in the World Junior Track Championships in Moscow in September.

- **ADVANCED** Mechatronic Technology Centre (AMTC) Manager **Karl du Preez** (right) was elected as captain of the EP Mid-Amateur Golfing Team. It's the second year Karl has made the side. Karl is a golfer since the age of 21 and is a regular Premier League golfer at the Walmer Country Club. The EP Inter-Provincial Challenge takes place at Humewood Golf Club in October.



*VICTORY ... The FNB Madibaz First Rugby XV for the first time won all three their games and the pool at the USSA Rugby Tournament at Wellington hosted by CPUT from 3 to 8 July. NMMU beat Fort Hare 31 – 10, Wits 27 – 10 and TUT 30 – 8. The team is joined by coaching staff.*



*SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR ... More than 100 principals, teachers, sport administrators and coaches from schools throughout the Eastern Cape benefited from the "New trends in sport" seminar hosted by NMMU and Grey High School. Role players included (from left) Sport Director **Dr Richard Stretch**, Grey High School Rector Neil Crawford, Discovery Health Chair of Exercise and Sports Science and Sports Science Institute of SA co-founder Prof Tim Noakes, SA Institute of Drug Free Sport chairperson Dr Shuaib Manjra, Neil Bielby and Life-skills coach Tim Goodenough. Photo: Ivor Markman, The Herald*