



Producing graduating students who are globally ready NMMU has international clout

NMMU is the first recipient of the award for the "most comprehensively internationalised university in South Africa".

The award by the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) and the Golden Key International Honour Society South Africa (Golden Key SA) was handed over to International Education Office Senior Director **Dr Nico Jooste** at the recent IEASA conference.

This new award for excellence in internationalisation will provide insight into the advanced internationalisation levels of SA higher education institutions, recognition of the

importance of internationalisation and foster the desire to be comprehensively internationalised.

Criteria for the award included institutional commitment to comprehensive internationalisation, in terms of governance, strategic planning, general information, funding and institutional partnerships, teaching and learning, research, non-academic processes and activities regarding international student engagement with the local community, and engagement with international alumni.

Internationalisation at NMMU started 12 years ago and culminated in the establishment of the Office for International Education. The goal set was

to internationalise the university at all levels and to graduate students that are globally ready.

"We are honoured to accept this award. We realise this is a recognition of the engagement of the university as a whole and not only the Office for International Education.

"Comprehensive internationalisation is the function of everybody and should become an integrated activity of everybody on the campus. Notwithstanding receiving the award, we recognise that we have a lot of work to do," Office for International Education Senior Director **Dr Nico Jooste** said. See page 2.



IN SYNC ... Renowned South African poet and writer and NMMU honorary doctor Antjie Krog joined praise singer (imbongi) Sonwabiso Daza on stage during their performance of "Nkosi Roliqhala Nelson Mandela (Aa! Zweliyashukuma!)". at the Vice-Chancellor's Cultural Evening on campus on 18 September. The evening epitomised NMMU's value of diversity in the performances across all cultures, ranging from traditional Indian music to classical music performed by the NMMU choir and Jazz Big Band. Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** dedicated the evening to his secretary **Luthando Mbanga** who passed away in an accident the weekend before the evening.

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International acclaim

WE are very proud of our award for the "most comprehensively internationalised university in South Africa", testimony to the fact that internationalisation takes place on all levels throughout the university.

In the same vein, we celebrate the success story, recently published in an American publication, of our long-lasting roses, which are sold internationally in the hospitality industry.

Not forgetting our African roots, the VC's cultural evening entitled *Di.Verse* celebrated poetry, jazz and our choir's music across all cultures.

We also share with you a feast of new projects, from new pharmacy facilities and courses to a new diploma in chemical process technology, which is geared towards refineries.

On another level, our students are now

also motivated to formally add their valuable learning outside the classroom to a co-curricular record that will form part of their CV for job applications. On top of it all, new buildings are rising all over our campuses.

Mathematics lessons were offered to learners through our Commerce Incubator School, while the Law faculty trained prospective lawyers in the art of debating.

Thank you to everybody who took part in Casual Day, contributing to team building and reaching out to those with disabilities.

Congratulations also to our staff and students on a number of awards and best papers.

Please send us your stories and photographs.

Kind regards

Elma de Koker



PROUD MOMENT ... Office for International Education Senior Director **Dr Nico Jooste** (from left), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement **Prof Thoko Mayekiso** and Vice-Chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** are proud of NMMU's award of the most internationalised SA university. See page 1.

Diary

NMMU Staff Association Year-End-Function

12:30 Friday 30 November
Indoor Sports Centre, South Campus

Staff year-end and Long Service

Award Ceremony

11:30 Thursday 6 December
Indoor Sports Centre, South Campus

Awards

NMMU won seven awards for its social media, crisis communication and video productions in higher education at the industry's annual Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) conference. Marketing and Corporate Relations' director **Pieter Swart** received the President's Award in recognition of his contribution to promoting excellence in the higher education sector.

Briefs

Expert

VICE-CHANCELLOR **Prof Derrick Swartz** was part of a panel of experts discussing the vision for South Africa's automotive future at the Automotive Industry conference recently held at the Boardwalk. He was joined by Transnet CEO Brian Molefe, Simmer and Jack Ltd Chairperson Kevin Wakeford and Unido Technical Advisor Arthur David.

Board member

PHYSICS' **Prof Mike Lee** (right) has been appointed as an advisory board member for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR's) National Centre for Nano-Structured Materials.



E-learning discussions

BUILDING and Human Settlement Development's **Prof Kobus van Wyk** (right) attended the World Urban Forum in Naples, Italy, where he took part in a roundtable discussion on knowledge sharing among urban institutions launching e-learning.



Leadership programme

NMMU not only had four women attending the annual HERS-SA Academy for women working in Higher Education, but also a presenter at the programme, namely Business and Social Sciences' **Dr Marianne Doubell**, who discussed factors contributing to career success in professional women. Innovation Support and Technology Transfer's **Jaci Barnett**, Admissions' **Zukiswa Mbali**, Zoology's **Dr Kwezi Mzilikazi** and Education's **Dr Shervani Pillay** attended the 10th academy, focusing on women who are in senior management positions or aspiring towards senior leadership positions.

Brand revitalisation

MARKETING and Corporate Relations Director **Pieter Swart** (right) presented NMMU's brand revitalisation at the spring school of Inyathelo, the SA institute for advancement in Cape Town. Some 80 delegates from institutions and non-profit organisations attended the school to learn more about capacity building in advancement and fund-raising.



NMMU-developed roses create jobs and fulfil a niche market Second time in United States report

NMMU has for the second time featured in a United States-based publication about university inventions making the world a better place.

Last year the NMMU Rubber Nano Products story was the first story from South Africa, published together with one from Stellenbosch University. Mostly United States-based stories are published in the Better World Report produced by the AUTM (Association of University Technology Managers).

The publication has also never before highlighted a story that is aimed at creating jobs as a contribution to a better world which this year's Iluba rose story has done, said Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director **Jaci Barnett**.

Long-lasting roses success

Some 70 000 long-lasting Iluba roses, initially developed by NMMU's InnoVenton Institute for Chemical Technology, are now produced each month by manufacturing company African Floralush in Muldersdrift. NMMU is a shareholder in both the patent-holding company and African Floralush, which licenses the technology.

These roses are distributed throughout South Africa and to 30 other countries, including 16 in Europe as well as Australia, Japan and Saudi Arabia. Sales to mostly wholesalers and the hospitality industry amount to R8.6 million a month.

Contributing to job creation, African Floralush trains unskilled workers in computer skills and its patented three-week preservation process. In addition to the 90 African Floralush employees, some 25 spinoff enterprises in South Africa each employ one or two staff.



COLOUR EXPLOSION ... Innovation Support and Technology Transfer Director Jaci Barnett and Elsa van Wyk with the long-lasting Iluba roses developed by NMMU's InnoVenton which has been published in the international Better World Report. These roses do not only create jobs but also brings in sales of some R8.6 million a month.

The roses, which are positioned between the fresh flower and artificial floral industry, are very popular, especially with hotels, ocean liners and Rovos Rail, a luxury train that uses Iluba long-lasting flowers to avoid having to replenish fresh-cut floral arrangements on extended itineraries. New companies are also using Iluba roses and foliage to create home décor products and arrangements.

Because Iluba roses and foliage do not have to be refrigerated throughout the transportation process the carbon footprint is also reduced in comparison to fresh flowers.

InnoVenton Director **Prof Ben Zeelie** and researcher **Dr Shawn Gouws** developed the roses together with Addo rose grower Tinie Maske. Some of the water in the cells and tissue of the flowers is replaced with natural eco-friendly preservatives after which the flowers and foliage can absorb moisture from the air for up to two years.

Next year African Floralush plans to open a manufacturing plant in the Western Cape to process indigenous proteas and hydrangeas.

Iluba roses are sold in Port Elizabeth by Gypsey Rose in Moffat on Main shopping centre.

First in SA with ITS-linked co-curricular record

THE first ITS (Integrated Tertiary Software)-linked co-curricular record for students to reflect their involvement, experiences, learning outcomes and awards beyond the classroom was recently launched at a Teaching and Learning Committee meeting.

Some universities in South Africa have similar projects but none on the advanced level of NMMU's and none linked to ITS yet, said CTLM's **Dr Jennifer Winstead**.

These records will be valuable to students especially when applying for jobs and postgraduate studies.

Altogether 700 students will initially form part of the pilot group this year. These students are already involved in

the Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme, the How2 Buddies, Supplemental Instruction and the Residence Mentor Programme.

In 2013 the programme will be further expanded and it's envisioned to extend to the whole university by 2014, also including sport awards and leadership.

The co-curricular record does not only reflect the student's involvement in specific programmes but also the learning opportunities which go together with each programme.

Students will also be able to look for programmes that will enhance specific skills in which they are interested, Dr Winstead said.



NATIONAL LEADERS ... NMMU's Co-Curricular Record project, which will document students' activities beyond their academic record, is the first in the country linked with the ITS student software system. The system was launched recently by ICT's **Lynette Williams (back from left), CTLM's **Dr Jennifer Winstead** and Student Governance and Development's **Kim Elliott** who assisted second-year BSc Chemistry student Sendibityosi Candidzanwa (front), the first student to log onto the system.**

Cancer research boosted by R15 million state-of-the-art equipment

Reward for pioneering cancer research

OVER the past year, Chemistry's Prof Tommy Gerber wrote and co-authored 55 articles, all published in the world's top scientific journals – this impressive achievement earning him the 2012 NMMU Researcher of the Year award.

A professor of inorganic chemistry (chemistry involving metals), Prof Gerber is one of the world's leading authorities on rhenium and technetium. He has published 217 international papers, which have appeared in leading scientific journals worldwide, most of these with high "impact factor" ratings, meaning they carry a great deal of weight in scientific circles.

Last year, the Russian Nuclear Society awarded Prof Gerber the Atoms for Peace medal at the Seventh International Symposium on Technetium and Rhenium in Nuclear Medicine, held in Moscow, where he was a keynote speaker. "The medal signifies international recognition of the quality of research done by NMMU's Chemistry Department," said Gerber.

Prof Gerber is one of a handful of scientists worldwide working towards the revolutionary treatment of cancer and other diseases, by means of special metal compounds that target the diseased cells and destroy them internally, potentially with far fewer side effects than current treatments.

However, in addition to his research breakthroughs, Prof Gerber was quick to point out that the arrival of R15 million worth of state-of-the-art equipment had contributed significantly to his best year yet in terms of research outputs.

Where samples previously had to be sent overseas for analysis, tests could now be conducted on campus. It also meant that countless results that showed potential but were not deemed compelling enough to send overseas could be revisited – contributing to Gerber's research triumph. "This is really a prize for the last 10 to 15 years of work."

Gerber works mainly with cancer-treating rhenium. Compounds of rhenium isotopes – created by binding them to other atoms and chemical groups – are chemically programmed to move via the bloodstream to specific organs. Emitting beta-radiation, rhenium has the

Research is like a drug – there's nothing to beat that feeling of achievement when you reach success.



ULTIMATE ACADEMIC ... Chemistry Department Head Prof Tommy Gerber is not only a global pioneering researcher but also leads his department and still lectures and interacts with students.

potential to irradiate cancer from inside the body, allowing for "localised in-vivo treatment".

"Current cancer treatments – chemo-therapy and radiation from outside of the body – have so many side-effects as they damage healthy cells along with cancer cells. This technique specifically targets the tumours, leaving the healthy cells unharmed."

Gerber has in the past also worked with technetium, a metal created by a nuclear reaction, which can be used in the diagnosis of cancer.

He has recently extended his research to include the early detection of Alzheimer's and is also working with lanthanides, to determine how these metals can be used in medical applications.

He has chaired 14 international conferences, served on the steering and scientific committees of 10 international conferences and symposia, and is an editorial board member of four international chemistry journals. At NMMU, his research has seen him named the Science Faculty's Researcher of the Year for three of the past four years.

Prof Gerber is also part of a consortium, which includes the University of the Free State, the Nuclear Energy Corporation and private companies, which aims to get metal compounds tested, evaluated and ready for market.

Head of the Chemistry Department, Prof Gerber lectures every week day, and facilitates a student practical each Thursday, yet still ensures research remains a priority. "Research is like a drug – there's nothing to beat that feeling of achievement when you reach success."

He said the arrival of the instrumentation two years ago had given him greater freedom in his research. "We can conduct faster, cheaper, better-quality research."

"We are one of the best equipped chemistry departments in Africa – which is what we set out to achieve. We can now compete with top international departments."

The research equipment has also enabled the department to assist other institutions, including Rhodes University, Fort Hare, Walter Sisulu University, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of the Free State.

The instruments include an X-ray diffractometer, which determines the structures of molecules, a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer, used to characterise molecules, an electron spin resonance spectrometer, which indicates the number of unpaired electrons in a molecule, and a fluorescence spectrometer, which excites electrons in metal compounds, enabling them to emit energy.

Gerber's students are also conducting groundbreaking work. One MSc student is coupling sugar to lanthanides. "This is totally new, and could go in any direction (in terms of medical research) – cancer, diabetes, malaria."

Commenting on his latest award, Gerber said: "I couldn't have been the Researcher of the Year if not for the excellent support of the staff, technicians and students who work with me. This is an achievement for the whole group." **NW**

Building continues apace

NMMU's R40 million Engineering building is complete, with staff moving into the state-of-the-art facility soon.

The distinctive, über-modern structure, which has provided much-needed expansion to the existing engineering facilities, is one of a wide range of building projects currently on the go across all NMMU campuses.

On Second Avenue Campus, construction has just begun on South Africa's first "green" Business School, costing R116 million, which will be completed by the end of 2013. The expansion of the aquatic facilities at the South Campus sport centre also got underway last month.

"We are extremely pleased with the progress of these major building projects. Great contractors and good team-work have certainly contributed to our success to date," said Infrastructure Projects Director **Greg Ducie**.

The construction of the new 75-bed George campus res is in full swing, with building expected to be finished by March next year. On South Campus, contractors are hard at work with the construction of

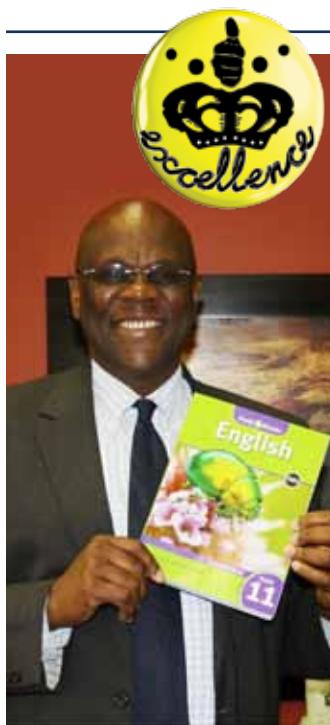


MODERN STRUCTURE ... NMMU's R40 million Engineering building is complete, with staff moving into the state-of-the-art facility soon.

the new Human Movement Sciences (HMS) building, due for completion in July next year, and a new 312-bed residence, to be completed by next December.

Two other projects soon to be given the green light include a 200-seater lecture venue on Second Avenue Campus and the construction of a taxi rank

on the corner of Gomery and University roads – both of which will start moving forward after the awarding of tenders last month. The concept design for the R8 million upgrade of Second Avenue Campus library is also complete, with the tender process set to start soon. See page 13.



EDITOR ... Dean of Arts **Prof Velile Notshulwana** (above) headed up an experienced author team to publish "Study & Master English for Grade 11s" - a book developed according to the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). It is one of the eight books that are nationally prescribed to meet the CAPS requirements for grade 11 English First Additional Language. This new and easy-to-use course helps learners to master essential content and skills in English First Additional Language.

Top design winner

FINAL-YEAR interior design student Anke de Wit (right) has taken national honours in the country's top student design competition.

Anke's response to a brief on an "escape space" saw her take top spot in the PG Bison 1.618 competition, beating entries from all other SA universities and private design schools offering architecture and interior design.

"We are immensely proud of Anke's achievements. It highlights the standards and talent of our students," said Interior Design lecturer **Lené Smit** (far right) who will accompany her student to the Milan Furniture Fair in April next year as part of her prize.

Anke based her design on mushrooms which pop up overnight after a healthy amount of rain.

She incorporated a lookout point from a mushroom's perspective – from the ground upwards. Her "escape space" integrated nature, different perspectives and various activities such as star-gazing and bungee jumping from the mushroom structure against a cliff.

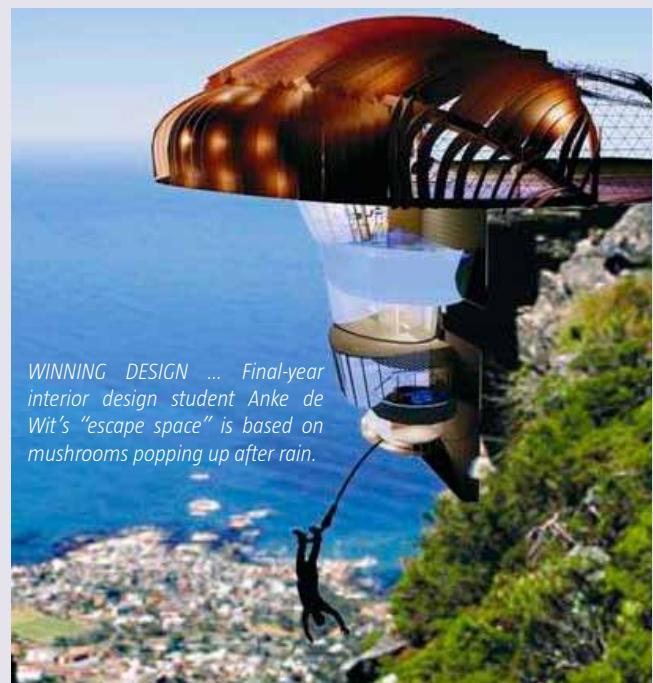
The student did not expect to win.

"I am overwhelmed. After I saw the other students' entries, I did not think that I stood a chance," she said.

Anke follows in the footsteps of NMMU architecture student Eduard van Niekerk, with **Andrew Palframan** as lecturer, who won the same competition in 2008.



WINNING DESIGN ... Final-year interior design student Anke de Wit's "escape space" is based on mushrooms popping up after rain.



SA's first Chemical Technology Diploma

IN ANOTHER first for the country, NMMU will be offering the Diploma in Chemical Process Technology, focusing on industrial processes that convert raw materials such as crude oil, natural gas, coal and chemicals into a wide range of products.

In addition several companies have either committed to or expressed interest in sending employees to NMMU to complete the diploma.

The diploma also meets the growing needs of the country's chemical and refining process industry.

"A feasibility study for the new crude oil refinery at Coega and studies elsewhere in this industry globally, show that there is a huge shortage of appropriately trained staff. The new diploma seeks to provide the chemical and petrochemical industry with part of the solution," says programme coordinator InnoVenton's **Dr Shawn Gouws**.

According to Dr Gouws, such graduates will run production units, help design operations, implement process controls, and address corrosion and other operational concerns. They could also participate in research into new products and production technologies, continuous improvement programmes, as well as environmental and reclamation techniques that will keep South African industry at the cutting edge.

The introduction of the three-year qualification has been extensively welcomed by industry, especially the South African refineries that are offering bursaries to academically-deserving



SPECIAL MOMENT ... Ntombokolo Dayimani is welcomed by programme coordinator InnoVenton's **Dr Shawn Gouws as the first student to apply for the new Diploma in Chemical Process Technology, starting in 2013.**

students. PetroSA, for example, signed an agreement with NMMU in March to provide financial and other support for students.

The diploma was initiated as a result of lengthy collaboration between industry and InnoVenton, NMMU's Institute for Chemical Technology.

InnoVenton has state-of-the-art chemical process facilities which augment the training of graduates in

knowledge, technical and managerial skills.

"Students will spend much of their third year in industry and at InnoVenton, with its Kilolab and industry-appropriate facilities, so that they are well prepared for the world of work," said Dr Gouws, adding that the programme's graduates were assured of employment in light of the substantial skills shortage.

Postdoc honoured

ZOOLOGY postdoctoral researcher Dr Shirley Parker-Nance (right) has had a new species named after her, in honour of her role as a marine invertebrate researcher, taxonomist and collector.

The new species, *Eunephthya shirleyae*, is a soft coral, which forms part of the Cnidaria, the group of marine invertebrates which also include the hard corals, jellyfish and anemones. This species is one of four new species that Dr Parker-Nance and her team discovered, all of which are unique to Algoa Bay, said Zoology's **Prof Graham Kerley**.

She also participated in a larger study towards the evolutionary history, patterns and processes accompanying the early diversification of animals.



Participants in this study are from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, and Ohio State University in the USA, Northern Ireland's Ulster Museum, and Rhodes and Western Cape universities.

Another best paper

FOR the fourth year in a row, Computing Sciences has received a best paper award at the annual national SA Institute for Computer Scientists and Information Technologists conference.

PhD student Patrick Tchankue from Cameroon, with Computing Sciences' **Prof Janet Wesson** and **Dr Dieter Vogts** as co-promoters and co-authors, won the best paper award in the human computer interaction track at this year's conference in Cape Town. His paper was titled "Are Mobile In-Car Communication Systems Feasible? A Usability Study".

Prof Wesson has been the co-author of the last three year's winning papers.

Patrick's work received international recognition, including interest from Dr Bryan Reimer at MIT in the USA. An article on his work appeared in *Engineer IT* last year.



TOP ACHIEVER ... PhD student Patrick Tchankue won the best paper award in the human computer interaction track at a national conference this year.

Bird Island hosts largest population of Cape gannets in the world New video technology enables bird's eye view

SCIENTISTS are literally getting a bird's eye view on how the Cape gannets on Bird Island – the largest population of this species in the world – observe and interact with their environment, by attaching tiny video cameras onto the backs of the birds.

Running a long-term monitoring programme on the Cape gannets at Bird Island is Zoology's **Dr Pierre Pistorius**, who hopes the video footage will enable a better understanding of these birds, and provide some insight into why this particular population of Cape gannets is growing, while other populations are declining. "We want to know where they're going and how they are interacting with the environment."

Pistorius, in collaboration with French researcher Yann Tremblay from the Institute for Research Development (IRD) in Sete, started observing the birds' movements two years ago, deploying small GPS units to determine their foraging areas, and the miniaturised video cameras to assess how the birds view and interact with their surroundings.

"We're trying to determine what influences the behaviour of these birds, how they decide where to forage, and how long they stay," said Dr Pistorius. "With video footage, you're able to catch up to 25 images per second. With still images, currently used in many other animal studies globally, you lose lots of important information, as there is often only one image every six to 10 seconds."

Cape gannets, currently listed as a "vulnerable" species according to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria, are only found in southern Africa. They breed on three islands off South Africa and three off Namibia. Over the last few decades, all populations have been declining, except for the Bird Island population, which consists of about 90 000 breeding pairs. "On the west coast, there seems to have been an eastward and southward shift of prey resources, such as sardines and anchovies. The change in their distribution is likely to be climate-related," said Dr Pistorius.

Seabirds tend to be "central place foragers", which means they return to the island on which they breed after finding food. The shift of food sources could mean that the Cape gannets on the west coast are finding it more and more difficult to find good food sources, and are relying increasingly on the discards of fisheries, which are not energy-rich. "This food source is not nutritional enough to allow the chicks to fledge in good condition, which could be the reason for the population declines on some of the breeding islands."



GANNETS GALORE ... Bird Island off Port Elizabeth is home to the world's largest population of Cape gannets – and the only population of this species that is on the increase. Zoology's **Dr Pierre Pistorius** (inset) is studying their interaction with the environment. Picture: Pierre Pistorius

Dr Pistorius also recently initiated an automated Very High Frequency (VHF) monitoring system on Bird Island. Radio transmitters are attached to the leg rings fitted onto the birds to transmit radio signals to a solar-powered logger system, which tells the scientists when the birds depart from the island and when they return. "We are interested in the foraging duration – the time spent between feeding chicks. We use this as an indicator of food availability in the surrounding environment. A long time spent foraging is indicative of low prey availability."

This data will also demonstrate potential differences in the time taken by males and females to find food during the breeding season. "There is a lot that has never been done before."

The study is part of a long-term monitoring programme in which Dr Pistorius hopes to use Cape gannets as an indicator of the state of the marine environment. "When there are changes in breeding numbers, breeding success or growth of chicks, it generally tells us that changes are taking place in the marine environment." **NW**



CHEETAH STUDIES ... Zoology MSc student Hayley Clements won the prize for the best student presentation at the Southern African Wildlife Management Association Symposium at Bela Bela in September. Hayley's presentation, co-authored by her supervisor Zoology's **Prof Graham Kerley** and co-supervisor, **Dr Craig Tambling**, was on "Managing large carnivores on small reserves: the implications of incorporating predator social structure and demographic-level prey preferences in a cheetah carrying capacity model". Hayley is based on Samara Private Game Reserve near Graaff-Reinet studying cheetah prey preferences. Last year she won the prize for the best poster presentation at the same association's symposium. Hayley won a Bushnell-donated wildlife camera trap for her prize.

Accounting school initiative provides ticket to university Extra maths classes boost

THE possibility of pursuing commerce-related studies at tertiary level is out of reach of most school leavers, who simply don't make the grade in maths and accounting.

To up their chances of enrolment, 40 promising grade 11 pupils selected from previously disadvantaged schools throughout the Bay were put through their paces during a 14-week Commerce Incubator School (COINS).

COINS is a joint project of the School of Accounting, the Thuthuka bursary programme, Deloitte's Project Siyakhula Programme and the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA). It is run by NMMU's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit at Missionvale Campus.

As class test results improved from week to week, so did the pupils' levels of motivation, with many saying they were inspired to work harder not just in maths but in all their subjects to improve their overall marks both this year and in grade 12.

At the recent COINS awards function, participant Caryn Koert from Chatty High said: "I have learned that knowledge is power and that without knowledge and hard work, you can't achieve anything in life ...

With the knowledge gained from the COINS programme, I know I can make a success of my school career."

Masiphathisane High's Matshaya Akhona said the programme had changed the way he approached his schoolwork. "I now study so I can pass with higher marks ... Play time is over – it's all about studying so that my dreams can come true."

Now in its second year, the programme provides pupils with extra mathematics classes to equip them for their end of year exams. Using a DVD-based teaching model, COINS aims to enhance pupils' mathematical insight, understanding



FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT ... Walmer High School grade 11 pupil Siyabonga Naka (second from left), the top achiever in this year's Commerce Incubator School (COINS), is congratulated by (from left) Deloitte senior manager Carin Langner, last year's runner-up BCom Chartered Accounting student Jennilee Oosthuizen, School of Accounting director **Prof Frans Prinsloo and COINS facilitator Felicity Nelson.**

and problem-solving skills, ultimately improving the quality of their grade 12 mathematics and accounting results.

Pupils are expected to share the DVD series with their classmates and teachers, to ensure as many people as possible benefit from the programme.

COINS coordinator Accounting's **Elize Naudé**, said she had noticed an enormous change in the pupils from the start of the programme to now.

"They have grown in confidence and their attitudes have changed – they are a lot more positive. Some commented about how they had already been sharing the DVDs with their teachers

and classmates before class, and how these were already making a difference in their schools."

Some of the top students will be accepted onto the Thuthuka bursary programme, which aims to grow the number of black Chartered Accountants in South Africa. Jennilee Oosthuizen, one of the top achievers from last year's incubator school, obtained the best results in June among the first-year Thuthuka students.

"I had to give up sport to be able to attend COINS last year," said Oosthuizen, who has no regrets, thrilled with the academic boost COINS gave her. **NW**

Award kick-starts Accounting dream

FOR students with good matric results who want to study Accounting but cannot afford tuition fees, there is good news. Some 15 to 20 first-year students are assisted annually with the School of Accounting's Investec Merit Awards.

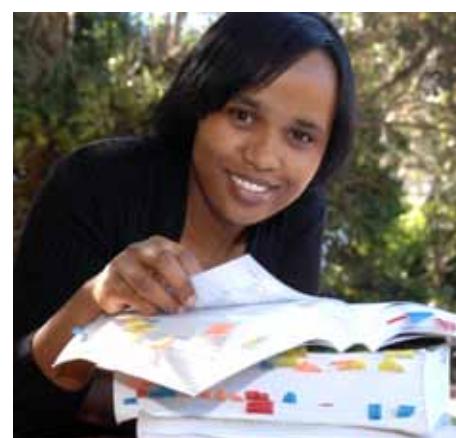
The once-off Investec Merit Award which has been in existence since 2009 amounts to between R6000 and R20 000 for the first-year of study. "The award provides access to higher education, but thereafter the recipient has to prove him/herself in order to secure further funding," said School of Accounting Director **Prof Frans Prinsloo**.

One such person is honours student Lee-Anne Reid from Graaff-Reinet who grew up in a single-parent home where finances were always tight.

She didn't know about any bursaries and applied late, but due to her good grade 12 results, the university covered her registration fees. In the first week of lectures, she saw a notice advertising the Investec Merit Award.

She applied and was successful. She also received a netball bursary and funding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme of South Africa (NSFAS). Lee-Anne passed first-year BCom Chartered Accountancy with distinction and, in her second year, was accepted into NMMU's Thuthuka bursary programme, which is developing black and coloured chartered accountants in South Africa.

Lee-Anne featured among the top 10 in a class of 135 students in the June examinations.



DEDICATION ... Top Accounting honours student Lee-Anne Reid from Graaff-Reinet is one of the success stories of the School of Accounting's Investec Merit Awards for students with good matric results who cannot afford tuition fees.

Large contingent of staff and students at national conference

Award-winning papers

NMMU's Business Management Department this year won one of the two best paper awards at the Southern Africa Institute for Management Scientists conference, adding to their four awards over the past six years at this conference.

Prof Elmarie Venter and **Dr Shelley Farrington**, together with North West University's Prof Stephan van der Merwe, presented their winning paper on relation-based factors influencing the perceived success of intergenerational family businesses. School of Management Sciences' Profs Gideon Horn, Sandra Perks, Miemie Struwig, Elroy Smith and Elmarie Venter, Drs Gary Sharp, Chantal Rootman, Shelley Farrington and Marianne Doubell and Nadine Oosthuizen, Ridaah Lillah, Janine

Kruger, Xolile Antoni and Bomikazi Zeka presented 11 papers together with a number of students.

Topics included supply chain management at municipalities, ethical behaviour of financial planners, environmentally-literate graduates, employee perceptions of self-employment, non-family employees in family businesses, trustees' perceptions of portfolio management, sustainability of Eastern Cape SMEs and business social responsibility aspects and outcomes for SMEs, and factors contributing to women's career advancement.

Prof Venter is currently the president of SAIMS and Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Stellenbosch University hosted the conference in September.



NUMEROUS PAPERS ... Among the academics presenting papers at the Southern Africa Institute for Management Scientists conference in Stellenbosch were Business Management's **Prof Elmarie Venter** (back from left) and **Dr Shelley Farrington** and (front) **Nadine Oosthuizen**, **Xolile Antoni**, **Dr Chantal Rootman** and **Bomikazi Zeka**.



STRONG PRESENCE ... Three Accounting staff members presented papers and another 10 attended the recent regional Southern African Accounting Association conference at Katberg Hotel, together with academics from Fort Hare and Rhodes University. **Jaco Barnard** spoke about students' perceptions on individual assignments in improving their success in Financial Accounting while **David Joubert** discussed the place of realisation companies in SA tax law and the fact that the subjective test of intention in capital vs. revenue cases no longer holds a place of prominence. Academic trainee Sitembele James presented a paper on teaching methodologies. Staff arriving at the conference were **Beryl Prinsloo** (from left), **Marina Chalmers**, **Lorelle de Villiers**, School Director **Prof Frans Prinsloo**, **Bukiwe Peter** and **Ansulene Stone**.

Student selected for US global summit

DELOITTE South Africa nominated accounting academic trainee Sitembele James (right) to attend the One Young World Global Summit in Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) in the USA last month together with 1200 young people from across the globe.

These people, identified for their leadership qualities, listened to global

leaders discussing education, global leadership, business, sustainability and environment, health and inter-faith issues. Former United States President Bill Clinton was one of the speakers.

Sitembele lectures and tutors Taxation, Management Accounting and Auditing at second and third-year level and will join Auditing and

Consulting firm Deloitte as an audit trainee accountant next year.

He also established an education-initiative and academic programme named In-pursuit-of-excellence, based in Mdantsane, East London, working with grade 5 to 7 learners at Gcobani Primary School and grade 10 to 12 learners at Nyameko High School.



A modern curriculum and new facilities lift NMMU above the rest

Pharmacy leading the way



... a department that works extremely hard to ensure their success through innovation in teaching and research and commitment "

NEW FACILITIES ... Pharmacy students enjoy working in state-of-the-art laboratories thanks to a R24 million revamp within their department.

THE country's most modern BPharm curriculum, established and effective links with the pharmaceutical profession and state-of-the-art modern facilities are some of the reasons why NMMU's Pharmacy Department is recognised as the leader in undergraduate BPharm training.

The Department, with its 400 students, will also be the first South African university to offer a much-needed qualification for pharmacy support personnel, with 2013 seeing the first intake for the Pharmacy Technical Assistant higher certificate who can then continue to qualify as Pharmacy Technicians after a second year of training.

"We are continuing to work hard in producing pharmacy graduates who are welcomed the world over for their knowledge and all-round ability," said **Prof Pieter Milne**, head of the Pharmacy Department.

View new facilities

On Wednesday 17 October, the R24 million revamp of the Pharmacy Department on South Campus was officially opened.

The Department organised a Pharmacy Day during which school learners, teachers and parents could view the facilities and talk to staff and students.

The modernised and upgraded laboratories and brand new training dispensary are among the best in South Africa and are already in use by students. The facilities will also be used by postgraduate students, further enhancing the existing research programmes.

Most modern curriculum

NMMU's pharmacy students will further benefit from the introduction, in 2013, of the integrated BPharm curriculum, which has been developed to be the most modern and relevant four-year BPharm degree in South Africa.

"This will bring NMMU in line with leaders in pharmacy education world-wide. We're also

the first in South Africa to apply this integrated approach to traditional undergraduate pharmacy training. This revised curriculum will make our undergraduate training even more relevant to the current and developing needs of the profession and healthcare system," said Prof Milne.

As it is, our pharmacy graduates are already acknowledged for their work readiness, thanks to an extensive experiential learning programme that enables hands-on experience in the community pharmacy setting, hospitals and primary health care clinics over the four years of undergraduate training.

Work ready

"NMMU pharmacy graduates are able to practice evidence-based medicine and are able to hit the ground running during their internships. They know how to use the relevant reference material, can think logically and, as newly-qualified graduates, already they have developed an ability to work within an inter-healthcare professional disciplinary team," said Adaire Begley, a senior pharmacist at a local private hospital and a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa.

NMMU's undergraduate pharmacy students also work aboard the miracle health train, the Phelophepa, thanks to the various engagement partnerships with industry and health services.

Top in SA

The self-same graduates perform consistently well in the South African Pharmacy Council's externally-set pre-registration examinations which are completed towards the end of the students' year-long internship.

"We are proud of our students and their achievements. But I am also particularly proud of a department that works extremely hard to ensure their success through innovation in teaching and research and commitment," said Health Sciences Executive Dean **Prof Vic Exner**.

New pharmacy qualifications

NMMU will be the first university in South Africa to train Pharmacy Technical assistants.

We will offer one and two-year qualifications from 2013, when the first intake will consist of an anticipated 60-plus students.

The new qualification will provide the healthcare system and pharmaceutical services with much needed pharmacy support personnel, aimed to improving the quality of healthcare for all South Africans.

According to Pharmacy Department head **Prof Pieter Milne**, there is a dire need for adequately trained mid-level workers, since only 1 000 pharmacy support personnel are trained on-site each year when some 2 500 are needed to register with the South African Pharmacy Council annually.

"With the introduction of National Health Insurance looming there will be a growing need for even more pharmacy support personnel to be employed within the government sector. We look forward to this new and exciting venture," said Prof Milne.

The pharmacy technical assistant will be able to practise in any sector of pharmacy, i.e. manufacturing, wholesale, community or institutional pharmacy. Their main functions relate to the medicine supply management cycle, assisting with the selection and preparation of products for dispensing by the pharmacist, and assisting in the manufacturing of non-sterile medicines and other general administrative functions.

"This qualification reflects the core needs of the pharmaceutical environment and aims to address these needs by equipping learners with the scientific, pharmacy-specific knowledge and interpersonal skills required in the workplace," said Prof Milne.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE ... Music students Nicholas Barfknecht (from left), Andrea Morris, Tiaan Uys and Erle Felckers in action at the lunch hour winds and woodwinds studio concert on 26 September.



Bouquet of accolades for composer

CONDUCTOR, educator and internationally renowned composer Péter Louis van Dijk (right) has had a number of awards and rave reviews about his work this year.

Van Dijk lectures composition and orchestration in the Music Department and assists his wife, NMMU Choir conductor and Music lecturer **Junita Lamprecht-van Dijk**, in teaching conducting at graduate level. The NMMU Choir also performs his compositions and arrangements including the very popular *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

His most recent commission in August for the SAMRO Overseas Scholarship Award, *Breakpoint*, performed by the overall winning violinist, Avigail Bushakevitz, won her the prize for the best performance of a South African composition.

Mandela Trilogy – the jointly-composed opera on Mandela's life-commissioned by Cape Town Opera,

with recent critically acclaimed performances at the Millennium Centre in Wales in June 2012 and Melbourne, Australia, in September 2012, was nominated for Best Original Score. It was also nominated in nine other categories for the Naledi Theatre Awards 2012.

Mandela Trilogy has just been released as a double DVD by BBC Wales/Cape Town Opera and received glowing reviews in the UK papers. The UK Opera Magazine writes: "Act 3 (Prison Years) is the most subtle and complex part held together by the score of Péter Louis van Dijk..."

Van Dijk recently returned from Texas, USA, where he oversaw a concert and major recordings of his works by Texas State University (a three-year project) and Beijing, China, where he

presented a workshop on his choral works at the IFCM World Choral Summit.

During July, *Europa Cantat* performed Van Dijk's Bushman-inspired choral-orchestral work *San Gloria*, in Torino, Italy, while the NMMU Choir gave the Far East premieres of *Horizons, Chariots, Book of Tides, Ancient Waters* and his arrangement of *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

His percussion work *Papilio* received Best Performance of a South African work at the *Musiq* Finals, performed by the overall winners, Dylan Tabisher and Cherilee Adams.

Van Dijk's orchestral work *About Nothing* received three performances by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra this month.



PERFORMERS ... Music students Dylan Barker and Zihle Ndika, both students of **Prof Erik Albertyn**, were chosen for the SANYO National Youth Orchestra this year. Dylan was also the only brass student from the Eastern Cape selected to perform with the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra as a soloist at the National Youth Orchestra Festival to be held later this year.

TOP ORGANIST ... MMus graduate and part-time Music lecturer **Devandré Boonzaaijer** (below) was a semi-finalist in the ATKV Muziq competition in Stellenbosch and a finalist in the Southern Africa Church Organists Society Bursary Competition in Mpumalanga, where he was awarded an overseas travel bursary for organ study. In July Devandré performed as soloist with the University of South Africa (UNISA) Philharmonic Orchestra in Pretoria during the final concert of the UNISA Organ Symposium. Devandré is also the Chairperson of the Feather Market Organ Society.



Students head the way with society projects Pay-it-forward success



UBUNTU is the name of the game for some 25 second-year Human Resource Management students doing Personnel Management 2, as they embarked on "pay-it-forward" projects with high levels of energy and commitment.

"Pay-it-Forward" is a three-month project run by lecturer **Bridget de Villiers** to heighten her students' awareness of contributing towards those less fortunate than themselves, while at the same time preparing them to be socially aware and responsible corporate and global citizens.

The students were involved in assisting, amongst others, the House of Resurrection, a further study placement programme called "Intellect Widens Success", Animal Welfare, the Hands On Movement, the Children's Feeding Trust and Strelitzia Primary School.

Students "paid-it-forward" by giving their time and energy to make the lives of the people at these places more pleasant and meaningful. They played with children, painted walls, tidied gardens, helped grade 12s to make study and career choices, walked dogs, cleaned cages, ran a raffle to buy food for hungry children and helped grade 6 children who were battling with reading.

The stories the students told during the feedback presentations were heart-warming. Wisani, a "city slicker" from Johannesburg, noticed at the rural



SUPPORT ... For their "pay-it-forward" project, Human Resources Management second-year students Carlonita Jansen, (second from left), Lecharne Baartman (middle) and Rentina Terblanche (right) helped Strelitzia Primary grade 6 children who were battling with reading. They are joined by Marketing and Corporate Relations' **Andrew Kock** (left) and Human Resources Management's **Bridget de Villiers**.

primary school where her group was helping out that many of the children had no school shoes, only slip-slips in the freezing cold of mid-winter, so she organised for her parents to donate 50 pairs of shoes to the children.

Another was the story of the matric class at Mazibuko Senior Secondary School in rural Eastern Cape who have never had a prize-giving at their school – Buhle and her group are going to make it

happen this year. "I never realised that knowledge I have taken for granted can be so valuable to others," said Buhle.

Rentia's group, the members of which didn't always have taxi fare to get to their project themselves, made a plan to help out at Strelitzia Primary, an extremely poor school in the northern areas, where the grade 6 learners were struggling to read fluently.



INSPIRATION ... Student Counselling's **Fran Collett** (from left), **Lungsi Ntlokwana** and **Marina de Jager** at the Peer Wellness Workshop attended by local and international colleagues in higher education.

Peer Wellness Workshop inspires colleagues

OUR Student Counselling, Career and Development Centre made such an impact on local and international colleagues that some of them not only started making choices towards behaviour change during and immediately after the workshop, but they managed to maintain these changes after almost three months!

NMMU offered a train-the-trainers workshop in peer wellness mentoring to a group of 16 participants from peer helper programmes at higher and further education institutions in South Africa and Sweden. The workshop explored the

process of assisting individuals, through one-on-one or one-on-many interventions, to change lifestyle behaviours towards greater health and well-being.

The group explored ways in which peer wellness mentoring could be applied in any setting. Individuals were encouraged to provide support to their peers in changing lifestyle behaviours, such as stopping smoking, exercising more regularly, changing eating patterns, better time management and practising assertive communication, said Student Counselling's **Marina de Jager**.

Briefs

Solar success

NMMU's first solar car Photon fared extremely well in its first outing in the SA Solar Challenge.

It finished a credible 7th out of 15 competitors, and was specifically praised for its design by world champions, Tokai University.

Photon also achieved a highest speed of 103km/h.

Dean motivates students

BUSINESS and Economic Sciences Executive Dean **Prof Niekie Dorfling** recently motivated commerce students on Missionvale Campus to make a success of the current year and their studies.

He also referred to statistics about the employability of people with and without a tertiary qualification.

Students had the opportunity to discuss their questions around changing BCom streams and the future of BTech degrees.

Putting theory into practice with fun Going green all the way

GREEN Campus Week in September is one of the iconic events on the George Campus calendar, attracting learners and the public to the many green activities demonstrated on campus.

An expo of existing conservation and sustainability-related programmes and activities included the "Energy for All" schools project by BTech students, a creative arts theatre and fashion show featuring outfits made from recyclable materials, and a wall for students and visitors to pledge their support to save the environment.

Other activities included a live broadcast by community radio station Eden FM from the campus, guided walks and pony rides.

Throughout the week, Natural Resource Management students cleared alien invasive plants (wattles) in and around the campus.

One of the displays featured the use of Anatolian sheep dogs in predator control, an option for baboon problems on campus.

Natural Resource Management's Environmental Education and Communication students also used the opportunity to put theory into practice by sharing environmental information with their peers.

"The event is a platform for building awareness on sustainability across faculties and age groups, as well



PADDLING ENERGY ... Holy Cross Primary School grade 6 learner Henrie Booyens is paddling a stationary bicycle, which produces energy for the light bulb attached to the front of the bicycle. This was just one of many activities during Green Campus Awareness Week.

as a week filled with fun to celebrate our small wins in terms of achieving a truly green campus at George Campus," said Natural Resource Management's **Bianca Currie**.



GREEN PRESENCE ... Masters student Steve Faulconbridge (from left), nature conservation student Brian du Preez and Marketing and Corporate Relations' Alicia Maclean combined their talents to present the work of the student-driven Green Campus Forum and other projects at the annual Fynbos Eco Festival at George Botanical Gardens. The campus' worm farm proved very popular, and a social study on the perceptions of the public regarding alien invasive plant species on the Malgas and Kat rivers in George was also shared.

Briefs

Best presentation

MSC Botany student Carina Becker (right) recently won the prize for the best student presentation during the *Thicket Forum 2012* – an annual event hosted by Rhodes University and Living Lands (part of the PRESENCE network). Her presentation was titled, "The influence of selected soil properties on survival and distribution of *Portulacaria afra*".



Public lecture

YUSUF Abramjee (right), head of News and Current Affairs at Primedia Broadcasting and Primedia Group Head of Communications, was the guest speaker at NMMU's Public Lecture in George on 20 September. His address on "Freedom of Expression" was well received by local business, local government and the public.



Oliver Twist project

SECOND-YEAR Tourism Management students, in association with local newspaper *Mossel Bay Advertiser*'s Oliver Twist project, hosted a food and clothing drive as part of an assignment for one of their course modules and in line with NMMU's value of Ubuntu. The public was invited to bring food, clothes, toys and non-perishables to the programme, run at the George Show Grounds on 17 October, which included guest speakers sharing community needs.

Advertising showcase

THIRD-YEAR Marketing Management students not only developed a corporate identity for their own fictitious company, but also created an advertising campaign for the Kalahari Restaurant and Theatre in George. The students developed letterheads and business cards, billboards, radio and television advertisements as well as Facebook pages. The entire project was presented in front of an audience on campus. The adjudicators applauded the students for their application of the values of excellence and diversity in their work.

Four choirs together

THE George Campus Choir recently performed with the Cape Town and Rhodes University choirs and the George Male Voice choir, in the Dutch Reformed Moederkerk in George. Sounds of Afrikaans traditional songs (some in new settings), Xhosa songs, gospel and a selection of church music filled the gracious architecture and excellent acoustics of the church.

New student residence taking shape

WORK on the construction of the much-anticipated new student residence, adjacent to the existing Stinkhout student house, is progressing well.

The new complex will consist of three buildings, accommodating 78 students, including disabled students.

The R10 million project, which will increase the

existing on-campus student accommodation by 20%, should be completed by March 2013.

Various "green" aspects were considered in the design, for example, rain water harvesting and the use of heat-pumps as opposed to geysers.

The uniqueness of the surrounding houses was retained in the external appearance of the new residence.

Campus Health projects benefit staff and students

STAFF and students benefitted from two recent health projects organised by NMMU's Campus Health Service.

A total of 988 staff members participated in a corporate health and wellness project in collaboration with Bestmed, Wellness@Work and 4D Health with 60 people referred for follow-up blood tests.

Staff were requested to complete an online health assessment questionnaire. Some of the lucky draw prize winners in the first five weeks were **Jason Ah Tow, Driekie Croucamp, Jonathan Hansford, Mari Voges and Simon Goldstone**.

The Bestmed team doing the tests on our campuses were supported by Campus Health Service's occupational health staff, **Sisters Althea Hawkins and Valencia Benjamin and Kobus Magielies**.

Staff who do not have access to e-mail also participated, filling in the health assessment questionnaire on-site.

All participating staff received a brief report with their assessment results and recommendations to improve their health and wellbeing.

Campus Health Service Deputy Director **Sister Antoinette Goosen** thanked staff for their willingness to take part in the project.

In line with a national mandate put to all primary health care clinics by the National Health Minister, Campus Health Service also launched a male medical circumcision project in a safe and secure environment in September.

This free and voluntary project was supported by the provincial Department of Health and a Cape Town based NGO called TB and HIV Care Association. Procedures were done by male medical doctors and male professional nurses.

Research has shown that a complete circumcision can provide 60% more protection to prevent HIV transmission. Traditional procedures also do not always remove the foreskin completely leaving no added prevention when it comes to HIV contraction, hence the need to have a second circumcision done.

Campus Health Service held information sessions at the residences, via email, sms and on Facebook and spoke on BAY TV to inform students and to address community issues and cultural

concerns. The project was led by male professional nurses **Mzo Mbangi** and Mr Magielies.

A total of 26 males underwent medical circumcision and returned for follow-up care and examination, all doing very well. More of these projects are planned for the future.



SPEEDY MUSICIAN ... Jazz lecturer **John Edwards** is not only an ace at the piano but is also making his mark as an amateur athlete. He recently came 342nd out of 2 984 entrants in the 42 km Cape Town City Marathon in three hours, 48 minutes. He also participated in the Port Elizabeth Urban Run and was placed 53rd out of more than 1 000 entrants in the 10.5km obstacle course through the city.

You can win

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

Congratulations to our **September** competition winners: **Lennox Menemene** of the Library, **Rene Kock** of Student Accounts, **Linda Mani** of Education, **Mark Thomson** of Applied Informatics and **Riaan Knoesen** of Strategic Planning.

Schuinvilla Pharmacy, Newton Park, charges no additional fees. Deliveries daily to NMMU. Clinic now available. Tel: 041 364 2109; Fax: 041- 365 2474. Online orders: www.schuinvilla.co.za.

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

1 NMMU will be offering the Diploma in Chemical Process **T.....y (10 letter word)** focusing on industrial processes that convert raw materials such as crude oil, natural gas, coal and chemicals into a wide range of products.

2 The Iluba rose story was featured as a **c.....n (12 letter word)** to a better world in a United States based publication.

3 NMMU is the first recipient of the award for the "most comprehensively **i.....d (17 letter word)** university in South Africa".

Correct answers, along with your name, surname, staff number, department and telephone number, can be e-mailed to elma.dekoker@nmmu.ac.za by **4 November**.

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:

- Horticulture's **Sunrise Mahlanyana**
- VC's Office **Luthando Mbanga**
- Retired Repographics Services staff member **Beula Hoon** (wife of Technical Services' **Johan Hoon** and Architecture's **Jacqui Hoon's** mother)
- Former UPE Vice-Chancellor **Prof Hein Redelinghuys**

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

- Financial Aid's **Ranchia Arends** (her brother)
- Accounting's **Jane Fountain** (her mother)
- Library's **Funeka Nombande** (her mother)



SOCER STARS ... Some 50 soccer alumni, who studied between 1965 and 1990, attended the NMMU Trust's alumni function on 21 September at the South Campus Xerox stadium clubhouse, including (from left) Frank Thomson, Richard Ludwig, Antony Jennings, Robbie Barnard, Mike Vermaak, sponsor ABSA's Johann van der Watt, Daron Momberg (Mann), brothers Kevin and Gavin Golightly and Human Movement Science's **Vernon Oosthuizen.**

String of activities on various campuses Emphasising disability awareness

DURING September, Disability Awareness Month, our students were exposed to a number of activities organised by the Disability Unit to make them more aware about issues affecting people with disabilities.

The newly revamped website page <http://disability.nmmu.ac.za/Home> was introduced, sharing in more detail what the unit offers to both students and staff in terms of reasonable accommodation – and the unit's Facebook page was unveiled.

The unit also launched a bi-annual online newsletter for staff and students on disability matters.

On Casual Day on 7 September, the Disability Unit sold stickers on all campuses and, with the DJ Society and Arts and Culture, organised competitions and live music. R6 760 was collected for the Association for the Physically Disabled. See page 16.

Together with Student Counselling, the unit also hosted lunch time workshops on the various campuses providing tips for interacting with people with disabilities.

The DVD *I have a Dream* by hearing impaired Fanie du Toit was shown during movie nights and day screenings at the various residences and on campus over lunch time. Fanie encourages other people living with disabilities to pursue their dreams.

Guest speakers in September included the Nkosinathi Foundation and the Cerebral Palsy



ALL ABOARD ... The Disability Unit staff **Sheri-Ann Pietersen (from left), **Noxolo Gqirana**, **Ruth Sauls** and **Siphiwe Ramalwa** not only dressed up as pirates, ship crew and cruise ship holiday makers but also organised our students campaign for Casual Day. See page 16.**

Association, which visited the university and shared information about their services, support and opportunities.

Nkosinathi provides rehabilitation and support services to children and adults who are blind or partially sighted as well as to their family members and the community. They allowed students to experience visual loss simulation glasses, to see the effects of eye conditions and learn what they could do to care for their eyes.

Students also learned more about cerebral palsy and its impact on an individual as well as those living with a person with cerebral palsy.

Ruth Sauls and **Sheri-Ann Pietersen** from

the Disability Unit visited False Bay College in Muizenberg as a benchmarking exercise during the month. False Bay College has made huge strides in integrating private, public and governmental partnerships around disability issues, which through top-down management buy-in and support has translated into excellent results.

Ruth also attended the Higher Education Disability Services Association (HEDSA) symposium at UNISA, which confirmed that data is needed for national and institutional planning purposes. The symposium theme was "Promoting an inclusive teaching and learning environment – removing barriers to access for students with disabilities".

ROLE MODEL ... Geosciences PhD student and a representative of the National Awqaf Foundation of SA, Gaathier Mahem (right), recently handed over four copies of the biography of veteran political and civic leader Dr Ram Saloojee to Missionvale Campus library's **Omaya Allie. The biography, entitled *A life of social justice*, was written and published by Haroon Aziz with an introduction by Deputy Minister Kgaletsa Motlanthe. The copies were donated by the Muslim Professionals Network of Port Elizabeth and Awqaf for the libraries on the South and Missionvale campuses. Their aim is to inspire the youth through role models such as Dr Ram Saloojee.**



► Casual Day



IN THE BLUE ... Institutional Planning went blue in line with the marine theme for Casual Day 2012.



SWORDS ... The Law Clinic's **Marc Welgemoed** and **Charlene Pieterse** made sure they were ready to defend themselves.

“ Ahoy mateys!

We raised more than R10 000 for charity.”



THE REAL THING ... Marketing and Corporate Relations **Lulu Qwabe**, **Karen Snyman**, **Ntosh Gwaqa** and **Sisanda Marwayi** were ready to board at the harbour.



HAVING FUN ... Academic Engagement's (back from left) **Nosi Mrara-Tanda**, **Yolande August**, **Nicole Baartman**, **Tracey Dissel**, **Amy Butler**, **Lawrence Motebele** and **Ronel Rizzo** and (front) **Asanda Njobe**, **Debbie Mattheus** and **Lynn Weelson** made sure everybody knew they were pirates.



READY FOR ACTION ... Nobody would want to mess with Health Sciences' **Sanet Kapp** (back from left), **Marilyn Afrikaner**, captain and Dean **Prof Victor Exner** and (front) **Vanessa Heunis**, **Nouwaal Isaacs** and **Bianca Jansen van Rensburg**.



GREEN PIRATES ... Procurement's **Cedric Strydom** (back from left) **Nadia Liberty**, **Magda Bosch** and **Yolandi Koch** and (front) **Thina Balakistnen**, **Jakes Jacobs** and **Dean Wasserfall** went ashore and sat under a tree.