

From the desk of the Campus Principal

Dear Madibaz,

Our exciting Campus Strategic Plan is rapidly reaching finality, with a focus on **educating sustainable futures leaders**.

The DVC (Academic), Deans, Directors of Schools and Finance, together with Senior Managers joined us in our beautiful forests to intellectually create the strategic architecture that will include establishing **1) A Global Leadership Institute for Sustainable Futures**, which will offer transdisciplinary postgraduate degrees and executive education programmes, predicated on our expertise in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Development and Humanizing Education; **2) Expanding the PQM; 3) Creating a Madibaz Sport Centre and 4) Performing Arts Academy; 5) Improving Facilities; 6) Enhancing Support and Development for Staff and Students and 7); Strengthening Viability.**



This new George Report intends to cover, in a more visually appealing format, some of the NMMU George Campus highlights of the first semester, while taking a look at some of the events with which we have led in the second semester.

From a staff perspective we have, with great appreciation, taken leave of a number of staff members – stalwarts who have reached retirement. I am also delighted that we have been joined by new appointees such as Mr David Alexander, Head of Academic Administration, and Ms Ndileka Mtshizana, Campus Librarian, who both inspire us all with their particular work ethos.

I can only reiterate that it is people who make the difference... and I cannot thank our academic, professional and support staff as well as students enough for your sterling contribution to the success and growth of our campus and the university in general. You are the personification of the Madibaz brand.

We comprehensively cover the events of the past winter recess in this issue, which ensured that the campus was abuzz with activity. I refer here to the international conference that focused on the emergence of modern humans from the Southern Cape - Palaeoscape II – led by NMMU's Prof. Richard Cowling and Prof. Curtis Marean from Arizona State University, along with dozens of imminent national and global researchers. The SRU hosted its very successful SAPECS workshop for postgraduate students, and was also engaged in a significant meeting on environmental stewardship with the CSIR. Moreover, the very successful inaugural NMMU/INVESTEC Accounting Winter School cultivated a deeper understanding of accountancy for over 100 learners.

ScieX 2014 held between NMMU, Glenwood House School and other partner schools included talks, presentations and demonstrations by a number of NMMU academics and senior students, in addition to external speakers and scientists, ensuring food for thought...

Our Women's Month celebrations have included several events. The upcoming public lecture by Prof Edith Vries, the Director-General: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, titled "Food for All: Women in Agriculture" promises to be a fitting closing to this exciting third annual ScieX event.



As a campus we appropriately celebrated International Mandela Day and our beloved namesake's birthday on 18 July with a dignified and deeply symbolic ceremony on campus linking our natural environment, business and the community with the campus, our staff and students. This was followed an equally memorable Women's Day event where staff and students from the George Campus were invited to a special event featuring locally-born and bred role-model, the inspiring Prof Tania Douglas, Deputy Dean of Research at UCT (*left*), as the keynote speaker.

Earlier in the year we were also blessed to enjoy the presence of another well-known and respected icon, Dr Brigalia Bam (*below right, with panellists*), on campus as keynote speaker during the first in the 2014 NMMU Dr Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture series co-hosted in collaboration with CANRAD and the Kagiso Trust. The Mopani Hall on Campus was packed to capacity with well over 300 learners, student, staff and special guests.

At NMMU we continue to celebrate the achievements of our staff and students, as nothing inspires success like success... Besides having celebrated a record graduation in April, we have captured some images of the more than 100 academic merit and special awards recipients, and highlight the exceptional achievements of our newest Schlich Medal (gold) recipient, Thomas Volontiya. We also look forward, in great anticipation, to the Achievers Awards in October – also an annual event where we celebrate the achievements of our students in domains that are not strictly linked to academic prowess, but which are linked to leadership in areas such as arts and culture, student life, residences and sport.



On the sport front, the USSA Surfing Champs again exceeded all expectations, with our own Roxy Giles topping the charts in the ladies nationals once more. A number of adventure sport events passed through our campus during the recess, while the historic NMMU George Half Marathon set for later in August is an evergreen favourite amongst athletes. In addition, we earlier this year welcomed the Springbok Rugby Coach, Mr Heyneke Meyer accompanied by the national team manager, Mr Ian Schwartz, and SWD office bearers for an inspiring breakfast seminar titled, "Coaching for Life and Business". This event, together with the successful inaugural Campus Principal's Grand Ball, served as vehicles to activate and boost our Student Development Fund.

The campus is growing... both in terms of student numbers, especially at postgraduate level, and exciting infrastructure developments as have been captured in this George Report. Plans for our new gymnasium are well on track, with the contractors busy on site for delivery before the end of the year. With the support of our staff and students, we look forward to an equally exciting and vibrant second semester, with activities that bode well for the establishment of the Madibaz Sports Centre and Performing Arts Academy.

We are Madibaz for life, and wish all staff and students a very successful second semester!

Thank you. Dankie. Enkosi.

Best wishes.

Quinton Johnson
Campus Principal

Our staff

Welcome new colleagues...

Professional support staff

		
<p>David Alexander Senior Manager: Academic Administration</p>	<p>Martin Keyter Writing respondent: Academic Literacies Development (Writing Centre)</p>	<p>Malibongwe Luyenge Assistant Librarian</p>
		
<p>Ndileka Mtshizana Branch Librarian</p>	<p>Antoinette Piet HIV: Counsellor</p>	<p>Desmond Scholtz Examination Officer</p>

Bidding a colleague farewell...

After almost 18 years at the George Campus, Dave Jenkins is moving back to Port Elizabeth to take up the position of Director: Centre for Access Assessment and Research (CAAR) at the university's Summerstrand Campus South.

He starts in Port Elizabeth on 1 September 2014.



More qualifications...

Dr Ben Wigley capped in France



There are many reasons why one should pursue a PhD qualification, but for Dr Ben Wigley it was the deep thirst and appetite for knowledge on how our precious ecosystems work and to improve our understanding thereof.

Dr Wigley's study sought to improve our understanding of savanna functioning as Savannas are extremely complex ecosystems and are by far the dominant vegetation type in sub-Saharan Africa. His thesis investigated how resource related bottom-up controls on the one hand and disturbance related top-down controls on the other hand affected savanna woody plant communities along gradients of soil fertility, rainfall, fire intensity and mammalian herbivory in South Africa and Zimbabwe. The findings elucidated the importance of disturbance (especially herbivory) in determining savanna woody plant distributions, abundance and community dynamics.

The so-called drivers or controls that affect savanna functioning have been divided into two broad categories. The first (bottom-up controls) include things like soil nutrient availability and water availability (rainfall). The second set (top-down controls) includes disturbance related controls. In savannas the most important ones are herbivory by a diverse suite of mammals and fire resulting from the grassy layer present in savannas.

Dr Wigley completed his PhD at the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, in Lyon France. Prior to this Dr Wigley studied BSc in Botany and Zoology at University of Cape Town (UCT), which he completed in 2003, graduating with distinctions in both majors. In 2004 he went on to complete BSc (Hons) in Botany at UCT, also graduating with a distinction.

He started his Masters in 2005 also at UCT and completed his MSc dissertation in 2007 and then went on to help run a research program in Kruger National Park for two years before beginning his PhD in 2010.

Master's degree for Inge Voigt



Inge Voigt of the Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences at NMMU George Campus received her MA degree majoring in Geography and Environmental studies from the University of Western Cape earlier this year.

For her master's dissertation, Voigt, an associate lecturer in the School of Economics, Development and Tourism, looked at the *SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF GOLF DEVELOPMENTS IN KNYSNA: AN ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS*.

Postgraduate diploma for Khululwa Mvango

Khululwa Mvango, the former HIV counsellor and now administrative assistant at Student Affairs, received a Postgraduate Diploma in HIV Management from the University of Stellenbosch at their autumn graduation ceremonies earlier this year.



BTech degree for Enid Rhode

Enid Rhode, Senior Administrative Officer: Finance, graduated from the University of South Africa (UNISA) with a BTech degree in Management.

The degree was conveyed to her in absentia at UNISA's mid-year graduation ceremonies in Cape Town during the month of June.

A century of service applauded

Ten staff members at NMMU George Campus, who collectively notched up more than a century's service at the university, were congratulated by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson during a staff appreciation event.



The group, who received their long service awards from Prof Johnson (far right) were, (f.l.t.r.) Gerald Lourens from Technical Services (25 years' service); Sonia Roets (5), Administrative Support staff in the School of Natural Resource Management; Sr Mietjie Kock (10) from NMMU George Health Services; Marketing Lecturer, Adele Potgieter (5); Lynette Williams from ICT Services (20); and Hugo Loubser, Sport Manager (25 years' service). Dr Jaap Steenkamp (10 years), Ilona Joshua (Support Staff member with 5 years' service), and NMMU George Residence Manager, Vuyiswa Mentile-Gozongo (also 5 years' service), were not able to attend the ceremony.

Recipients who responded to Prof Johnson's congratulatory message all touched on a golden thread which characterised their "journey" at the university through the years – the collegiality and mutual support they enjoy here at NMMU George Campus.

Leading athletics coach honoured



Congratulations to Abrie de Swardt, who was recently inducted into the South African Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame – an accolade reserved for South Africa's leading coaches for the role they played in developing athletics in South Africa.

In a career spanning more than three decades, De Swardt has trained several star athletes and coached the South African Olympic team.

He obtained his first coaching qualification at the age of 20 and has worked as a coach, administrator and lecturer at various South African tertiary institutions, lecturing, amongst others, in Human Movement Sciences at NMMU George Campus.

He qualified as an IAAF Coaches Lecturer and Course Director in 1994 – one of the first South Africans to attain this status and has travelled the world to help qualify coaches in IAAF's coaches' development programme.

Since 1969 to date this sport legend has served as president, vice-president or executive member on provincial and national bodies of a number of sport codes. To top it all, he has recently been appointed Chairperson of the Western Cape Commission of Coaches, and attended the Commonwealth Games in Scotland.

Commitment to excellence – golden key to success!



the world's largest honour society, leadership and community service.

Student members and guests who attended the Golden Key ceremony at the NMMU Chapter of Golden Key in Port Elizabeth were greatly inspired by the motivational message delivered by the keynote speaker, NMMU's Prof Quinton Johnson.

Golden Key also utilised the opportunity to acknowledge Prof Johnson by awarding him honorary membership, reserved only for those with a proven track record of outstanding achievement and excellence. He was congratulated by a Golden Key representative.

Golden Key is an internationally recognised, non-profit organization affiliated with over 400 universities throughout Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, The Bahamas and the United States. The Society's mission is to "enable members to realize their potential by connecting individual achievement with service and lifelong opportunity". It is and is committed to scholarship, career development,

Membership is by invitation only.

Breaking news

NMMU George celebrates Women's Day with "home-grown" inspiration

Highly intelligent, talented, vibrant, inspirational, emotionally mature, humble and solidly grounded – are just some of the words that come to mind in attempting to describe Prof Tania Douglas, the keynote speaker who enthralled guests with her captivating talk on "Women in 21st Century Leadership" during a recent NMMU Women's Day event held at the Hyatt Regency International Hotel in Oubaai.



Dr Bridget Johnson (Programme Director) commenced the event by warmly welcoming about 40 guests comprised of staff, students plus community members, and amplified the phenomenal role that women play in shaping society. She introduced Prof Douglas, who matriculated at Pacaltsdorp High School. Prof Douglas, who is the current Deputy Dean for Research at the University of Cape Town,

shared her experience and views on societal transformation and the role of women in this context.

Picking up on the theme of women empowerment, Prof Douglas pointed out that despite the constraints of a patriarchal system which had excluded women from many spheres of life in the past, great strides have been made in the professional advancement of women over the past twenty years. Using universities as her point of reference, she indicated that these institutions have a developmental role which should extend beyond teaching and research for its own sake. She emphasised the need for environmental context, social responsiveness and engagement, citing the NMMU George Campus as "an excellent example" of how these principles are applied in educating leaders for sustainable futures.

Prof Douglas, who has expertise in electrical, electronic and biomedical engineering as well as executive management, explained that innovations in the field of medical devices need to be suitable for local markets, so that they can be implemented. She also indicated that the current academic model does not reward "frugal innovation", and should do so. International rankings of universities, which affect their reputation, are based on research and publication outputs but disregard context, as well as indicators relating to impact and use.

Prof Douglas also noted that women contribute a unique richness of different experiences to these varying environments, in which they operate. A lively question and answer session revealed the positive mind-set which has accompanied this outstanding role model on her amazing higher education journey.

Prof Douglas shared with guests that she has always been inspired by a sense of curiosity and eagerness to learn. Moreover, she views life as a suit of choices, rather than sacrifices that need to be made. She advised that it is important for women in the professional world not to be discouraged, but to persevere and have flexible goals. When asked about how she handles obstacles, this community icon smiled and revealed that she simply works hard “to come around them” and always remembers to have some “fun in life”.



Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal at NMMU George, expressed his delight that the university could catalyse this annual Women’s Day engagement, and encouraged all the delegates to pursue their dreams.

Dr Bridget Johnson (left), who co-ordinated the recent NMMU George Women’s Day proceedings, with the guest speaker, Prof Tania Douglas, and Ms Adele Potgieter who delivered the vote of thanks.

Honouring the legacy of Madiba

Staff and student leaders were joined by guests from the Rosemore Retirement Centre, along with representatives of the George Municipality and the George Business Chamber to honour the legacy of the university’s namesake and international icon – Dr Nelson Mandela! Postgraduate students and peer helpers graciously assisted senior citizens to plant a special tree in Madiba’s honour. The symbiotic relationship between “town and gown” was further cemented when the Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Charles Standers, accompanied by the municipal manager, Mr Trevor Botha, Cllr Chris Neethling and university staff and students planted a second yellowwood tree. Staff from the Business and Economic Sciences Faculty also joined the George Business Chamber president, Dr Willie Cilliers in planting a *Nuxia floribunda*, commonly known as the Vlier or Forest Elder.

The choice of trees was steeped in symbolism, with the characteristics of the Outeniqua Yellowwood (Kalandra), described as the Big 5 of trees, linked to the values and qualities of former President Mandela. Prof Jos Louw, Director of the School of Natural Resource Management, explained that these trees stand out above the rest when they are mature, providing protection to the rest of the forest to grow and prosper.

Prof Louw, who officiated at the campus’ Mandela Day celebrations, also indicated that the university is particularly honoured to carry the name of Nelson Mandela and that the institution has grown considerably in national and international stature since its inception in 2005. “The university formulated its values of Responsibility, Excellence, Respect for Diversity and the Natural Environment, Ubuntu and Integrity, around the person of Madiba... we aspire to imprint the Madiba-spirit in our students and colleagues”, he said. Prof Louw reiterated that sustainability was a central theme cutting across all programmes offered at

NMMU, and that the trees planted in honour of Dr Mandela would also support the Green Campus initiative.

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, who was representing the university at a world congress at the time, summarised the value of Madiba's inspiring example by saying "Our greatest gift to Dr Mandela is that, as knowledge catalysts, we take action to inspire change for a more sustainable future".



LENDING A HELPING HAND... NMMU students, fondly known as Madibaz, played their part in making guests from the Rosemore Retirement Centre feel at home during the recent Mandela Day celebrations on campus. They also assisted the elderly visitors - Ms Katriena Abrahams (seated, from left), Ms Beauty Sampo, Mr Johannes Gysman and Mr Christo van der Linde to plant an Outeniqua Yellowwood tree – the biggest and unarguably the most impressive species in our forests, and particularly

valued for its durable timber and physical beauty.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS... Dr Willie Cilliers, president of the George Business Chamber, assisted by (f.l.t.r.) NMMU Business and Economic Sciences lecturers Sam Webber, Abrie de Swardt, Arthur Peters, Dr Marianne Doubell, Martin Loubser (Operations Director), Adele Potgieter and Elsa Myburgh (Manager: NMMU Business School, George) honoured Madiba by planting a Forest Elder (Vlier) at the NMMU George Campus.



ALL HANDS ON DECK... Alderman Charles Standers, Executive Mayor of George, did not hesitate to play his part in planting a Yellowwood tree at the NMMU George Campus as part of the university's Mandela Day celebrations. He was supported in true Madiba-spirit by postgraduate Forestry students (f.l.t.r.) Tatenda Mapeto, Hannes van Zyl and Kutelani Tshivhase, as well as Mr Trevor Botha, Municipal Manager, Prof Jos Louw, (back), and Cllr Chris Neethling.



'Palaeoscape 2014' looks at emergence of modern humans from the Southern Cape

During the winter recess NMMU George Campus hosted approximately 35 scientists at the 'Palaeoscape 2014' symposium organised by distinguished Professor Richard Cowling of NMMU's botany department in Port Elizabeth.

Keynote speakers at the symposium included, amongst others, Prof Tim Noakes, professor of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Cape Town and Prof Curtis Marean, from the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University in the United States.

Field trips to both Mossel Bay and the Klein Karoo were included in the proceedings.



LEARN AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON HUMAN ORIGINS... Participants in Palaeoscape 2014 comprised of three dozen scientists from across the globe, including key role-players such as Prof Richard Cowling (front row, sixth from left), NMMU botany department; Prof Tim Noakes (back row), Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal (far right) and to his left, Prof Curtis Marean captured here outside the Lecture Theatre after a breakaway session.

SAPECS: Postgrad students gain insights on 'Ecosystems and Society'

In a ground-breaking first for NMMU, the university's Sustainability Research Unit (SRU) and the Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS) initiated a winter school on 'Ecosystems and Society', attracting top academics and more than two dozen postgraduate and post-doctoral students from seven universities, including NMMU, to the university's George Campus at the start of the winter recess.

The SRU-SAPECS Ecosystem and Societies Winter School, presented in collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial research (CSIR), SANParks and the universities of Rhodes and Stellenbosch, was aimed primarily at PhD students in their first year of study who are "finding their feet in the complex field of social-ecological systems research", said Prof Christo Fabricius, head of the SRU at NMMU George. The link between ecosystems and society is at the core of these students' research and involves disciplines such as environmental science, conservation ecology, botany, zoology, anthropology and geography he said.

Learning facilitators for the five-day workshop included Dr Reinet Biggs of the Stockholm Resilience Centre; and academics from Rhodes University, CSIR, University of Stellenbosch and SANParks. A number of experienced PhD students furthermore participated as tutors and facilitators.

The Winter School commenced with a field trip in and around the Garden Route National Park where practitioners working at the interface of ecosystems and societies highlighted the practical challenges they face. This was followed by seven interactive capacity development sessions between new scholars, established academics and senior postgraduate students. Students were required to bring along their own research proposals and methodologies, which were refined as the workshop progressed, and evaluated at the end of the meeting.



NATURAL LABORATORY... NMMU Research Associate, Dr Dirk Roux (right), of SANParks discussing the main features of the Wilderness rivers' catchment with postgrad students who attended the 'Ecosystems and Society' winter school at NMMU George Campus. The winter school attracted students from across the country and further afield, including representatives from the US and SADC region. Listening attentively were (f.l.t.r.): Nyaradzo Dhliwayo, Isaac Dladla, Christopher Mabeza, Paul Bordoni, Samantha McCulloch, Experencia Chisoni, Lisa Heider, Yashwant Rawat, Rika Preiser, Cara Nieuwoudt, Linda Luvuno and Laura Conde-Aller.

Food for All puts spotlight on food security

ScieX 2014 a great success

With food security a cause for global concern, hundreds of learners, educators and visitors from the Southern Cape and surrounds gained valuable insights on the dynamics of sustainable food production and related topics discussed at the well-attended third NMMU/Glenwood House Science expo - ScieX 2014.

In addition to the interesting exhibits and demonstrations by various institutions, the interesting *lecture* programme ensured a capacity-packed auditorium throughout the two days.

NMMU's Prof Raymond Auerbach, the first speaker, set the tone with his interesting talk on "Organic Farming, Food Quality and Food Security". NMMU agricultural economist, Johan Jordaan, shared interesting information and statistics in addressing the question of "The cost of affordable food – what do consumers pay for?" His talk was complemented by a presentation by lecturer Anthonie du Toit which looked at "a practical solution to the challenges of keeping food affordable".

The global appetite for meat; and sustainable fishing was amongst the interesting topics highlighted by Glenwood Life Sciences Students.

Culinary guru and well-known celebrity chef, Mr Francois Ferreira gave a cooking demonstration and talk to prove that "Healthy food – can be Fun, Economical, Easy and Delicious (FEED)", even without any meat, by using protein-rich products.

NMMU BTech student in Agricultural Management, Dylan Gebers, kept the audience spell-bound with a captivating overview of the global state of the dairy industry, titled - Dairy: "Food for thought!", while the equally interesting concept of the Agri Park was discussed and illustrated by Dr Jan Raats.

Prof Maarten de Wit, NMMU Chair of Earth Stewardship Science talked about "Virtual water and unaffordable food for Africa, from Africa". This interesting perspective on water and food security took a sobering look at, amongst others, how water, unarguably the most precious commodity on earth, is "exported" and commercialised through food products and crops that are produced in one region, continent or country (which may be water rich, or in itself at risk of becoming water deprived), but ultimately consumed in another region altogether (which may possibly lack sufficient water resources to produce the particular crop or food product, but with the financial resources to pay for the commodity). He also gave examples of the enormous quantities of water which is required to, for example, bring a grain crop to harvest, or to produce a single bottle of wine.... commodities that are then exported globally, at the risk of leaving the originating source becoming water poor in various ways.

The Friday programme, amongst others, featured the well-known Dr Gavin Linsley-Noakes on “The use simple technology to produce nutrient rich food”; Mr Pierre Maritz of Klein Karoo Saad, who is involved in the “breeding” of new products, gave an interesting perspective on “Genetics and Genetic Modification”.

Dr Jaco Barendse, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, NMMU Sustainability Research Unit / SANParks, put the spotlight on aquaculture with his captivating talk titled, “The Blue Revolution and how it can (or should) contribute to feeding the planet”, while NMMU MTech student, Donovan de Swardt, shared some of the outcomes of his research findings relating to the Mopani Worm as a South African example of “Entomophagy and its potential as a sustainable food source”.

Mr Andrew Mugford of Permaculture SA shared his expertise on permaculture and food security, while the concluding talk by Ms Constance-Marie Hugo from Knysna High School, titled “Zero-Tillage and Cover Crops” was based on her extensive experience across continents, cultures and income groups.



SRU and School of Natural Resource Management excel at annual Fynbos Forum

NMMU staff, students and research associates were well represented at the recent Fynbos Forum – an annual scientific gathering of leading Western Cape researchers and practitioners who work in the Cape Floristic Region, also known as Fynbos. The 2014 Forum, the 36th of its kind, held in Knysna from 4-7 August, was attended by close to 200 talented researchers and practitioners doing excellent work on social, ecological and species conservation.



NMMU George Campus academics delivered four of the six invited plenary keynote addresses and two NMMU students delivered papers, one of which was awarded the prize for best over-all presentation, and one which was announced the runner-up in the student presentations category.

Plenary keynote addresses

SRU members Prof Christo Fabricius, lecturer Bianca Currie and master's student, Aneri Roos, delivered the opening plenary address on the topic of "*Local participation and ecosystem stewardship in the Garden Route*" after having facilitating a very successful stakeholder panel discussion on the same topic the previous day.

Dr Dirk Roux, SRU Research Associate, presented a keynote address on "*The role of wetlands in setting targets for conservation action*". Drs Corli Coetsee and Ben Wigley of the NMMU George Campus School of Natural Resource Management presented a keynote address on "*Boundaries between forest and Fynbos*", while Dr Tineke Kraaij (newly-appointed SNRM Research Associate) gave a keynote address on "*Fire ecology in Fynbos*".

Student presentations

SRU PhD student Maretha Alant (registered in the Zoology Department) won the prize for the best conference presentation for her work on "*Landscape connectivity and mammal movements in the buffer zone of Garden Route National Park*", while SRU MSc student, Kate Southey (also registered in the Zoology Department) was nominated as runner-up for the best student presentation for her work on "*Conservation priorities in the Garden Route*". Both students are co-supervised by Prof Graham Kerley and Prof Christo Fabricius.

Workshops organized

The SRU's Bianca Currie, Aneri Roos and Prof Christo Fabricius organized and facilitated a well-attended panel discussion with a typical group of Garden Route civil society stakeholders, where "*Challenges and solutions to public participation*" were discussed. Andrea Beyers, an MSc student in Botany, and Distinguished Professor, Richard Cowling, co-organized a pre-conference workshop on Honeybush cultivation. NMMU looks forward to continuing its support of the Fynbos Forum as it moves into its 37th year.

SC learners boost accounting knowledge at INVESTEC/NMMU winter school

Thanks to an innovative partnership between NMMU's School of Accounting and INVESTEC, more than 200 Grade 12 Learners from 14 schools in and around George and from as far afield as Beaufort West enjoyed an excellent opportunity to sharpen their accounting skills prior to the final school exams.

In addition to honing their subject knowledge, learners who participated in the INVESTEC / NMMU Accounting Winter School led by the NMMU School of Accounting and BCom lecturers from the George Campus were also exposed to various aspects of campus life.

Participating schools included PW Botha College, Central High School (HS), Pacaltsdorp HS, Outeniqua HS, York HS, Wittedrift HS, Murray HS, Thembalethu HS, George HS, Beaufort West Secondary School (SS), Haarlem SS, Parkdene SS, Imizamo Yethu SS and Fezekile Senior SS.

The BCom Accounting programmes, offered both at NMMU's Port Elizabeth and George campuses, are high in demand and continue to attract high calibre students who achieve excellent academic outcomes. Judging from the enthusiasm of the learners, it is anticipated that the winter school will encourage an increased uptake of this qualification in George.



Learners from the Southern Cape registering for the INVESTEC / NMMU Accounting Winter School held at the NMMU George Campus during the winter recess.

HARD AT WORK... students completing a tutorial during one of the breakaway sessions as part of the INVESTEC / NMMU Accounting Winter School.



George Campus student receives top accolade for Master's degree

For the second year in a row a George Campus student received the NMMU Council Award for the best Master's degree in Technology by Dissertation in the Science, Engineering and Technology category at the university's Academic Awards dinner held in Port Elizabeth.

Stefan Terblanche, this year's recipient, received the award for his Master's degree in Agriculture on *AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF AN INTENSIVE SHEEP PRODUCTION SYSTEM ON CULTIVATED PASTURES IN SOUTH AFRICA, INCORPORATING CREEP FEEDING – AND ACCELERATED BREEDING PRACTICES*.

In April this year, Terblanche received his Master's degree Cum Laude at the university's graduation ceremony in George; as well as the Cape Wools award for the best postgraduate dissertation at NMMU George Campus on sheep production.

Terblanche's studies were conducted under the supervision of Johan Jordaan, a senior lecturer in Agricultural Management at NMMU George Campus and Prof Tertius Brand, a Specialist Scientist: Animal Nutrition at the Elsenburg Research Centre.

These awards topped a long list of accolades Terblanche notched-up during his tenure as a student at NMMU George Campus. As an undergraduate student he received awards for best performances in Plant Production and Animal Production over the three years of his National Diploma Agricultural Management studies; as well as the Dux student award for the diploma and the best BTech student the following year.

In 2011 he enrolled for his MTech degree. He completed the main part of his studies at Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Animal Science Research Centre at Elsenburg, Stellenbosch under guidance of Prof Brand.

In his second year of MTech studies, he presented a paper at the South African Society of Animal Science's annual conference, as well as a poster. In the same year he also published a scientific paper in a refereed journal (SA Journal of Animal Science). A second paper from his Master's has already been accepted for publication, too.

Terblanche recently registered at the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).



Stefan Terblanche (second from right) receiving his award from Prof Queenie Mokhuane (second from left), a member of the NMMU Council. On the left is Prof Cedric McCleland, the acting Dean of the Faculty of Science and on the right is Prof Piet Naudé, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).

Destination Vancouver for NMMU George Campus Forestry students

Four NMMU George Campus Forestry students – all executive members of the George Campus Student Forestry Association (SFA) – are currently representing NMMU in Vancouver, Canada where they are attending and spearheading the association's annual international symposium. The theme for this year's conference is "Our roots, our future" and the event annually attracts students from across the world.

Ullrich Hechter (Chairperson of SFA), Athini Mthi (Vice Chairperson of SFA) and Tatenda Mapeto (Southern African regional representative of IFSA) are proud and excited to have been selected to attend the IFSS in Canada. They are accompanied by Kutelani Tshivhase, another NMMU George Campus masters student in Forestry who is also the current president of the International Forestry Student Association.

The SFA committee comprises three executive committee members that serve the affiliated students. This year's executive committee is made up of a chairperson, Ullrich Hechter; Vice-Chairperson, Athini Mthi and Nothando Dlozi (Secretary). All of them are 3rd year Forestry students. Other people who also serve on the committee are Honorary President – Prof Josua Louw (Director: School of Natural Resource Management); Liaison lecturer-Barry Muller (Lecturer in the Wood Technology programme); International Forestry Student Association (IFSA) president, Kutelani Tshivhase (Masters student in Forestry); IFSA Vice president, Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo (Masters student in Forestry) and IFSA South African regional representative, Tatenda Mapeto (Masters student in Forestry).



PROUD MADIBAZ... The 2014 Executive Team of the NMMU George Student Forestry Association consist of third year Forestry students, (from left) Athini Mthi (Vice-Chairman), Ullrich Hechter (Chairman) and Nothando Dlozi (Secretary).

George Campus students play a leading role in various international platforms, such as this group of Forestry students who serve on the executive structures of the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA). They are (f.l.t.r.) Ullrich Hechter, Kutelani Tshivhase, Tatenda Mapeto and Athini Mthi.



NMMU music alumnus to prime George Campus' vocal talent

Well-known music "maestro", Jan-Erik Swart, has taken the NMMU George Campus Choir under his wing and has already commenced working with the choir, notably in preparation for upcoming events such as the Spring Concert scheduled for 6 September.



Swart, who holds a Master's degree in music from NMMU (M.Mus. – Choral Conducting), is known for his outstanding work as Director of Music for, amongst others, the South Cape Children's Choir, the George Male Voice Choir, the Glenwood House Music Academy and other groups.

This former student of NMMU Music lecturer, Junita van Dijk, who has achieved excellent outcomes working with the internationally acclaimed NMMU Choir in Port Elizabeth, is, amongst others, assisting the NMMU George Choir with their vocal development and a more inclusive repertoire which is set to contribute to their universal appeal.

Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, is spearheading the Choir's development as part of his vision for a Performing Arts Centre for Madiba's university in the Garden Route / Southern Cape. Enquiries about this society and membership can be directed towards the chairperson, Ms Viwe Bani.



The NMMU George Campus Choir is hard at work preparing for the upcoming Spring Concert in September. These members of the 35-person choir joined music maestro, Jan-Erik Swart, to celebrate their first "official" training session with him a few weeks ago. He expressed his delight at the innate talent of the group.



Last year the NMMU George Campus Choir enthralled guests who attended the spring concert in the George Civic Centre.

News

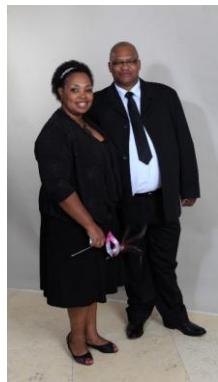
***Grand Ball* boosts Bursary Fund for Madibaz diamonds**

Dare to make a difference! – the “war cry” aimed at attracting interest and contributions for the launch of a bursary fund for the university’s brightest prospects at the George Campus culminated in a glamorous event supported by “town and gown”.

The NMMU George Campus Principal’s *Grand Ball* hosted at the Ballroom in the magnificent setting of the Hyatt Regency Oubaai on 5 April, saw guests take to the dance-floor during an enchanting evening of fine dining, entertainment and dance, with both corporates and individuals taking up the opportunity to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Thanks to the George municipality, local businesses, NMMU staff and executives, the region’s media, including community radio station Eden FM and Group Editors Media; SWD Rugby and other sponsors and donors, this uplifting cause has been rewarded with a solid positive return which is set to benefit the first group of NMMU bursars during the second semester of the 2014 Academic Year.

NMMU Alumnus and Public Relations postgraduate student, Shalom Khandanisa, was co-presenter at the *Grand Ball* together with NMMU’s Marketing Director, Pieter Swart. The event was also attended by the NMMU George Student leaders in support of their peers.



Coaching for Life and Business

Springbok Rugby Coach, Mr Heyneke Meyer, enthralled guests with his presentation on coaching principles, as it applies to life and business in general, but with specific reference to his journey with the Springbok rugby side. The occasion was the NMMU George Campus Principal's Business Breakfast held on 19 May in the campus' staff lounge, as part of the drive to boost the recently-established Campus' Bursary Fund for the "brightest and most deserving Madibaz Diamonds".



Meyer, third from the right, is accompanied here by (f.l.t.r.) by Mr Hennie Baardman, SWD Eagles President, the SARU Springbok Manager, Mr Ian Schwartz, Mr Bevan Fortuin, former Springbok and current SWD coach, Prof Quinton Johnson (NMMU George Campus Principal), and former Springbok and businessman, Mr Anton Leonard.

Prestigious lecture series début at NMMU George Campus...

“Speaking to the spirit of Oom Bey: Twenty years into democracy”

NMMU George Campus, in collaboration with NMMU's Centre for the Advancement on Non-racialism and Democracy (CANRAD) was the proud host to the first of the 2014 NMMU series of the distinguished Dr Beyers Naudé Memorial lectures – an innovative project of the Kagiso Trust. The purpose of the lecture series is to keep Dr Beyers Naudé's legacy alive and to remember the values that are integral to making South Africa a country we are proud to be a part of.

The event, which saw the Main Hall at the Mopani Building burst at its seams with learners, students and members of the public, featured the distinguished Dr Brigalia Bam (the last

Chancellor of the erstwhile UPE, prior to the merger which gave rise to NMMU and current Chancellor of Walter Sisulu University) as keynote speaker.

She was graciously introduced by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, who also explained the historic bonds between Drs Bam and Beyers Naudé, with the latter having persuaded Dr Bam to return home from Switzerland, where for many years she was in exile, working for the World Council of Churches in Geneva and several Anti- Apartheid Organizations across the world. Dr Bam was also the eventual successor of Dr Beyers Naudé.

The programme included a dialogue/debate with a strong all-girl team of four youth panellists – three NMMU George campus students and one high school scholar - representing a diversity of perspectives, followed by a question and answer session with young people (learners and students) participating from the ranks of the audience. The young people were selected after being screened through a rigorous interview process.

The well-opinionated panellists who shared their views on the important lessons to be learnt from change-agents and role-models such as the late Dr Beyers Naudé included NMMU students Awonke Kampie, Rochelle van Rooyen and Nombuyiselo Duma; and Lauren Muller, a learner from Glenwood House School.

The programme director, Shalom Khandanisa, was also no newcomer to NMMU. This former NMMU Public Relations graduate seemingly effortlessly facilitated the proceeding of the afternoon. This captivating event was also live-streamed through the NMMU YouTube link: <http://nmmutube.nmmu.ac.za/LiveEvents.aspx>



Dr Brigalia Bam, keynote speaker at the 2014 Dr Beyers Naudé Memorial lecture in George, featured with the Director of CANRAD, Allan Zinn (left) and Prof Quinton Johnson, the Campus Principal.

Celebrating Science at NMMU

Symposium commemorates establishment of field of Herbal Science & Medicine

The tenth anniversary of the establishment of the international field of Herbal Science and Medicine by its founder, Prof Quinton Johnson, was celebrated with a Sustainable Futures - Green Medicine Symposium hosted at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University George Campus.

A variety of top academics and postgraduate researchers from universities including Rhodes, Western Cape, NMMU and Namibia descended on the campus to engage about the future of Green Medicine and its impact on health in the 21st Century.

The opening of the Sustainable Futures - Green Medicine Symposium also included science students and academics from the United States Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who were visiting the George Campus at the time as part of a week-long programme facilitated by NMMU Earth Stewardship Institute Professor, Maarten de Wit and the African Earth Observation Network (AEON).



The joint morning session of the two symposia featured a captivating keynote address by Prof Quinton Johnson titled: Green Medicine: A Global Perspective. Attendees gathered in front of the entrance to the lecture theatre for a group photograph afterwards.

The World Congress of Soil Science

Prof Jos Louw attended the 20'th World Congress of Soil Science from 8 – 13 June hosted on the island of Jeju in South Korea, where he presented a paper titled "*The value of soil science in developing a National Forest Site Classification System.*"

Almost 3000 delegates from across the world attended the congress which was a showpiece of the latest research findings and technological developments in the discipline of soil science.

Upon his return, Louw said: "It was clear that the world of science shows renewed interest in the soil environment, not only because it forms the foundation of a sustainable agricultural and forestry production system, but also due to the role it will play in human health and well-being for future generations."

In support of this, 5 November has been declared World Soils Day by the United Nations, and the year 2015 has been declared the Year of Soil.

Jeju is currently a natural world heritage site in acknowledgement of its volcanic geological history and formations which can be seen all over the island.



Stronger ties on the cards for University of Munich (Germany) and NMMU

A delegation from the University of Munich had a brief stop-by visit at NMMU George Campus recently to explore the possibility of establishing a partnership that will see student and staff exchanges and research collaboration between the two institutions.

The visitors, who were visibly impressed with the natural beauty and world class facilities that the campus boasts, continued their journey to Port Elizabeth to meet with the university's departmental head of Tourism, Mr Hugh Bartis to further deliberate on the proposed partnership.



Pictured at the NMMU George Campus were (from left) Prof Theo Eberhard, Tourism Dean University of Munich (UM); Mr Takalani Ramukumba, Tourism lecturer in Tourism Management at NMMU George; Ms Birgit Dittrich from the Tourism faculty at UM; Prof Marion Rauscher, Internationalisation Officer at UM; Prof Ralph Berchternbreiter; Marketing Lecturer (UM), and Ms Inge Voigt who also lectures in the Tourism programme at George Campus.

Library week at NMMU George Campus



Library week 2014 filled the George Campus library users with optimism, faith in their fellow man and an eagerness to participate in activities aimed at enriching their lives.

It was a celebration of diversity; as well was the celebration of twenty years of democracy.

An exhibition intended to depict developments during this period was prepared in the library. It started with a big unifying and proud moment in South African history: the moment Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk triumphantly shook each other's hands in the air for the world to see.

This was depicted in a wax sculpture by the late Dirk A van Wyk which was on display in the library.

The reconstructed timeline further highlighted the developments the South African nation experienced since the momentous occasion of that first joining of hands. It featured the awards and publications of well-known South African authors such as JM Coetzee who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2003.

With colourful posters and a non-stop video on display it was evident that something special is taking place – library week 2014.

As part of the event students could make their mark symbolically in the world, by either putting a thumb print somewhere on the map of South Africa or by wearing a ribbon with letters of the alphabet symbolising the power of literacy or a ribbon in the colours of the South African flag showing their participation in the 20-years-of-democracy-celebration.

George campus staff members were also part of the event in compiling their own list of twenty favourite books and as a matter of interest, some also volunteered the titles of books they were busy reading at the time.

An important objective of the event was specifically to highlight the power of reading. Staff members demonstrated to George Campus students in the very best way that they are readers.

Reading definitely opens the world and enhances the true meaning of life.

NMMU Open Day at George Campus attracts national interest

NMMU hosted its annual Open Day at the George Campus during the month of May to enable high school learners, parents, educators and interested members of the public to experience all that the university has to offer under one roof.

As in the past various school groups, as well as individual learners and their parents, made use of the opportunity to visit the university's campus in the Southern Cape to learn more about NMMU, its various academic programmes and to get career and study advice during face-to-face interaction with lecturers, advisors and career guidance counsellors covering six of the seven NMMU faculties.

The geographic profile of the approximate 750 visitors provided a clear indication of NMMU's widespread national footprint, with learners from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and North West province making the effort to become better acquainted with NMMU George Campus and its offerings. The bulk of the visitors were from schools in the Eden/Karoo-district who attended the event throughout the Friday; including students from the surrounding South Cape College campuses.

The Friday of Open Day included a live broadcast between 09:00 – 12:00 by Eden FM community radio station from the campus to ensure that those who were unable to visit the campus in its picturesque natural setting, could get a “taste” of student life and what the university has to offer.



A learner from York High School and her mother learns more about the BCom General: Economics programme on offer at NMMU George Campus from lecturer, Sonja Neethling.

Diba the Dolphin, NMMU's mascot, entertains a group of learners from Concordia Secondary School in Knysna.



Barry Muller, a lecturer in Wood Technology at NMMU George Campus, with a student project on display.

DARE TO TEACH... a prospective student getting to know the Education faculty and its programme offerings from Education students Adri Botha (left) and Michelle Bruce (right).



Infrastructure – our campus

Infrastructure upgrades: Changing the face of NMMU George

The visual transformation of NMMU George Campus is an ongoing process achieved through various maintenance programmes, as well as capital and other building projects that form part of the Campus Strategic Plan and NMMU's Vision 2020. The total value of these projects(2013/2014) are close to R40m. Some of the most noticeable and exciting projects include:

- Madibaz Executive Boardroom – the conversion of the previous reprographics unit into a much needed additional meeting space commenced during July and is nearing completion;
- CCTV networks and cameras – Security has received a boost with the installation of closed-circuit cameras and card access hardware at most building on campus;
- Gymnasium – construction of the much anticipated new gymnasium at the swimming pool area has commenced. It is anticipated that the project will be completed before the end of the year.
- Entrance – indigenous plants are being established at the entrance to the campus
- Street lights – The street light project, aimed at creating a comfortable area for staff and students to move about on campus after sunset, is being executed in phases. The first phase, which covers the area between the academic buildings and the Arborea houses has been completed, with Phase 2 – covering the area between these houses and the entrance in process.
- Wi-Fi – the installation of new hardware to provide access to the NMMU ICT network, even from the more remote parts of the campus is continuing. This follows the earlier installation of fibre optic cables in tandem with the existing electricity network, to enhance the accessibility of the campus' ICT network.



- The venue previously known as the Furntech building has now been acquired by NMMU George Campus. This creates various exciting options for being converted into a multi-purpose facility, with the possibility of creating three 150-seat lecture venues. Funds have been set aside for work to commence this year.
- The removal of growth chambers at the Research Building is proceeding in phases, with the completion of the first phase enabling the provision of open plan office space to postgraduate students. The current work will culminate in the provision of temporary office space for the Global Leadership Institute (GLI), which will be housed at NMMU George Campus.
- One of the biggest single capital projects which may be less visible but very necessary in terms of the growth of the campus – the connection of the George Campus sewer line to the municipal infrastructure at a cost of R4,7m - is fast nearing completion.

New workstations for postgraduate students

The excitement levels were high when staff and postgraduate students came together in the former growth chambers area of the Research building, adjacent to the Administration building, to have a first look at the new cluster of workstations for postgraduate students.

The new workstations from Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) were manufactured by George Campus Technical Services staff members, Marius Gouws and Victor Viti, while the adjoining cabinets were made by Beds and Bunks from George.



Staff, students and important role-players who gathered for the informal opening included, (back f.l.t.r.) Sithembile Shezi, Aneri Roos, Garth Smith, Cara Nieuwoudt, NWa-Jama Mashele, Gillian Londt, Tatenda Mapeto, Thea Buckle, Lisa Heider, Abigail Crisp, Donovan de Swardt, Andrew Jackson, Samantha McCulloch, Nico van Aswegen (Beds and Bunks), Rosita Kuschke, Marius Gouws, Martin Loubser and Richard Müller; (front f.l.t.r.) Dr Jaco Barendse, Prof Jos Louw, Prof Quinton Johnson, Prof Christo Fabricius and Victor Viti.

Academic prowess – celebrating excellence

“Town and Gown” celebrate NMMU’s graduation successes in George

Growing in knowledge with a 15,7% increase in graduates from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University’s George Campus, the George Civic Centre was abuzz with eager anticipation as guests gathered for the first of 14 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George between 4 and 15 April.

The NMMU George graduation saw diplomas and degrees being awarded to students in three faculties – Business and Economic Sciences; Education, and the Faculty of Science. The latter accounted for about two-thirds of the graduates with National Diplomas and Bachelor of Technology degrees in Agricultural Management, Forestry, Game Ranch Management, Nature Conservation and Wood Technology being awarded, in addition to Master of Technology degrees in the research spheres of Agriculture and Nature Conservation.

This year, the second group of aspirant teachers – twenty in total – successfully qualified with the teaching degree – Bachelor of Education (Further Education and Training) from NMMU George Campus. More than two dozen potential accountants, chartered accountants or business managers also graduated with a variety of Bachelor of Commerce degrees.

All in all more than 6 000 certificates, diplomas and degrees will be awarded during NMMU’s 2014 graduation period. This includes 427 masters degrees and 72 doctorates, with 23 of the doctoral recipients being NMMU staff members across the university’s six campuses.



LEFT – PROUD NMMU GEORGE STAFF MEMBERS, lecturer Etienne Bruère (left) and Librarian, Hilde Bruère, with her daughter, Monique van Wyk who graduated Cum Laude with a National Diploma: Management.



RIGHT – PROUD PARENTS... Senior lecturer in Agricultural Management, Johan Jordaan with his wife Elsabé and their son Charles, who graduated with a National Diploma in Marketing.



TOWN AND GOWN APPLAUD NMMU STUDENTS... Ald Charles Standers (2nd from left), Executive Mayor of George and Dr Willie Cilliers (right), President of the George Business Chamber, congratulated the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof Piet Naudé (left), Vice Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, and the George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, on the campus' graduation successes.

THE TOP STUDENT IN FORESTRY... Thomas Volontiya will not easily forget the recent NMMU George Campus graduation ceremony as he was the recipient of both a National Diploma in Forestry *Cum Laude*; as well as a Schlich medal in gold.

This award is made annually out of the proceeds of a grant to South Africa, to commemorate Sir William Schlich's valuable services to Forestry.

One medal is awarded each year to a final year forestry student who has had the best performance in the class over the full three year study period, provided the average mark is not below 75%, provided further that a minimum mark of 70% has been obtained in each subject and with consideration of the candidate's general performance.

Furthermore, the student must have earned the marks concerned throughout his three year study period at the first examination; that means that marks obtained through re-examinations do not count for this award.

A silver medal is awarded if the student concerned has attained an average of 75% to 79% and a gold-plated medal is awarded if an average of 80% or more is obtained.



On hand to congratulate Volontiya was (from left) Tiaan Pool (Forestry lecturer at NMMU George Campus), Prof Andrew Leitch (Dean of the Faculty of Science), Prof Jos Louw (Director of the School of Natural Resource Management), Volontiya, Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal – NMMU George Campus), Andrew McEwan (Forestry lecturer at NMMU George Campus) and Dr Jaap Steenkamp (Forestry lecturer at NMMU George Campus).

Financial incentive for top partner schools

Outeniqua High School and George Secondary School both received a financial incentive from the university when they were named top partner school and top partner school from a previously disadvantaged community respectively.

The awards were presented at a special combination of the top partner schools- and academic merit awards function earlier this year.



In the photographs Prof Piet Naudé, the acting Vice Chancellor at the time (right), and Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (left), congratulates Casper Brink, vice principal at Outeniqua High School and Morton van Rooyen, the acting principal of George Secondary School.

Other George Campus top partner school recipients included:

- Point High School (Mossel Bay)
- Langenhoven Gymnasium High School (Oudtshoorn)
- Ugie High School (Ugie, Eastern Cape)
- York High School
- Glenwood House
- Greytown High School (Greytown, KZN)
- Nico Malan High School (Humansdorp, Eastern Cape)
- St John's College (Mthatha, Eastern Cape)
- Weston Agricultural High School (Mooi River, KZN)

Acknowledging academic excellence

NMMU George students who had excelled academically were acknowledged during the annual Academic Merit Awards evening on 14 May when no less than 60 merit and 43 special awards were presented to the campus' achievers by the relevant deans and faculty representatives.

The attendees were addressed by Prof Piet Naudé, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, as well the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, who also congratulated the students on their excellent results. "You can discover your dreams here at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University where together we will rise to meet our destiny. Over the next few years NMMU George Campus will strengthen transformation by enhancing excellence through diversity, to become a world-class knowledge catalyst for the green economy and a more sustainable future" said Prof Johnson.

Some of the Special Award recipients across the various faculties are reflected in the accompanying collage.



NMMU George and Agri Industry celebrate students' achievements

Top achievers in NMMU's Agricultural Management programmes - diploma, BTech and Master's levels – were acknowledged earlier in the year for their outstanding academic achievements at a special awards event hosted by the George Campus Agricultural Management programme.

Key industry stakeholders from, amongst others, Tuinroete Agri, Outeniqua Landbouvereniging, ABSA Bank, Cape Wools, Bonsmara Breeder's Society and representatives from the Department of Agriculture Western Cape joined the university and other guests in celebrating the students' successes and contributions to the agricultural sector.



Catherine Eckert (middle) scooped the most awards, including Best Academic Performance in the subject Animal Production; Best Academic Performance in the subject Plant Production and the Prestige Award for best academic performance in the National Diploma: Agricultural Management: DUX Student for 2013. She is pictured here with **Prof Jos Louw** (far left), Director: School of Natural Resource Management; **Ms Maryna Lehmann-Maritz** (second left), Programme Coordinator: Agricultural Management; **Prof Raymond Auerbach** (second right) and Campus Principal, **Prof Quinton Johnson** (far right).

Best Academic Performance in the subject Agricultural Management for 2011 – 2013 went to **Dylan Gebers** (left). He received the floating trophy from **Mr Jan Weys**, CEO, Tuinroete Agri.



The award for sustained academic growth and personal self-development was shared by two well-deserving students – **Vuyisanani Mdinci** (left) and **Spesande Nomlala** (right). Congratulating them is **Mr Anthonie du Toit**, lecturer in the Agricultural Management programme at NMMU George.

The accolade for sustained academic performance over the three year study period in the National Diploma: Agricultural Management (2011 - 2013) went to **Taylor Knott** (third from left); **Gabriel Brown** (fourth from left) and **Altus van Dyk** (who completed the National Diploma: Agricultural Management Cum Laude). Featured with the recipients are – **Prof Jos Louw**, **Ms Maryna Lehmann-Maritz**, **Prof Raymond Auerbach**, **Prof Quinton Johnson** and **Mr Nico Jonck** from the Outeniqua Landbouvereniging who presented the awards.



Megan Bruintjes (left) received an award from the Rainman Landcare Foundation for the student most likely to contribute to sustainable food security in the Southern Cape. She received the award from NMMU's **Prof Raymond Auerbach**. This award highlights the good work of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture in supporting community members to be trained as Agricultural Extension Officers.

Prestige Award: Best Academic Performance in the BTech Agricultural Management programme: DUX Student for 2013 went to **Ray Chivizhe** (left), an international student from Zimbabwe and **Tiaan Gerber** (right) who both received their BTech qualification Cum Laude. The award, sponsored by ABSA, is accompanied by a financial incentive and was presented by **Mr Carl Goosen** from ABSA.



Stefan Terblanche (left) received the Prestige Award: Best Master's Degree (Research Dissertation) for 2013. A proud **Prof Almero de Lange** presented the award. Stefan did his Master's research on "Economic analysis of an intensive sheep production system on cultivated pastures in South Africa, incorporating creep feeding- and accelerated breeding practices".

BCom Accounting success stories celebrated at annual awards evening

The achievements of the top performing BCom Accounting students at NMMU George Campus during the 2013 academic year was duly celebrated at the recent School of Accounting BCom Awards evening in partnership with SAICA and other prestigious accounting firms.

A total of 22 trophies were presented to students for attaining best performances in a variety of categories such as top year students, top students in the Accounting for Chartered Accounting programme, top students in the General Accounting programme; as well as top students in the Accounting for Chartered Accounting programme's major modules – also known as the big five special awards.

BCom Accounting for Chartered Accounting graduate, Mauritz du Plessis, currently busy with his Honours degree at NMMU in Port Elizabeth, received four of the big five special awards for top student in Accounting, Taxation, Management Accounting and Financial Management; as well as another four trophies for top year student third year BCom Accounting, top Accounting student in the third year BCom Accounting programme and two Victor Ladorum awards for Management Accounting and Taxation.

Current third year student and NMMU VC Scholarship recipient, Francelise Maartens, received three trophies for top year student second year BCom Accounting, top Accounting student in the second year BCom Accounting programme and the award for the best student in Ethics and Corporate Governance.

Another NMMU VC Scholarship recipient and current second year student, Gizelle Potgieter, walked away with awards for top year student first year BCom Accounting and top Accounting student in the first year BCom Accounting programme.

Other recipients of trophies were: Ruan Grobbelaar (top student Auditing and Victor Ladorum award for Auditing), Divan Bouwer (top year student third year BCom General Accounting), Jessica van Rensburg (top year student second year BCom General Accounting), Angeline Thabethe (top year student first year BCom General Accounting), Nompumelelo Mtambo (top year student second year extended BCom Accounting & General Accounting), Luxolo Zim (top year student first year extended BCom Accounting & General Accounting), Mavis Mahlangu (top aspirant student second year BCom Accounting) and Anneke Smit (top aspirant student first year BCom Accounting).

As part of the evening's celebrations students who achieved module distinctions (a massive 111 in total) during the 2013 academic year were honoured with a financial incentive from Deloitte and their names will also be captured on the Deloitte Roll of Honour:

Anneke Smit (11), Gizelle Potgieter (10), Joanne Smith (10), Francelise Maartens (7), Ruth Gil (7), Nomphumelelo Mtambo (6), Luxolo Zim (5) Jacobus Nel (5), Annika Victor (5), Anika Botha (4), Angeline Thabethe (4), Lelethu Ralarala (3), Zanele Dlamini (3), Masiviwe Luyenge (3), Veronica Nocuze (2), Mauritz du Plessis (2), Mavis Mahlangu (2), Shaun

Ridgway (2), Vuyisani Molwana (2), Salizwe Sameul (1), Runisha Davids (1), Natalie Klemm (1), Ivan van der Sijde (1), Lenisha Carelse (1), Ruan Grobbelaar (1), Willem Marais (1), Pumza Mdlatu (1), Johannes Matthee (1), Nomcedo Nkosi (1), Nasiphi Nyathela (1), Vincent Rabanka (1), Buhle Tshotsho (1), Danielle van der Merwe (1), Johannes Bouwer (1), Carisca van Jaarsveld (1), Benedict Bell (1) and Suzanne Smit (1).

Two additional special awards formed part of Deloitte's involvement in the evening's programme.

The award for the "most balanced" BCom Accounting student who, as voted by the students themselves, managed to achieve a good balance between "work and play" went to Nasiphi Nyathela and Shaun Ridgway.



With 13 trophies among them out of a total of 22, the three top performing students were undoubtedly, Francelise Maartens (left), Gizelle Potgieter (middle) and Mauritz du Plessis (right). They were congratulated by a proud Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal NMMU George Campus (second to left) and Prof Frans Prinsloo, Director of the School of Accounting (second to right).



Nasiphi Nyathela, named the "most balanced" BCom Accounting student, receives her special award from Deloitte's Lushane Abrahams (left) and Adile Maseko (right).



Shaun Ridgway with his special award for the "most balanced" BCom Accounting student. He was congratulated by Deloitte's Lushane Abrahams (left) and Adile Maseko (right).

Forestry & Wood Technology Awards

The Forestry and Wood Technology programmes of the School of Natural Resource Management (Faculty of Science) held their annual awards breakfast on the morning of the 2014 NMMU George graduation ceremony.



The event aims to give recognition to those students who excelled throughout their Diploma and BTech courses. The breakfast was attended by the staff members of the respective programmes, as well as relevant students and their parents. Unfortunately not all students could attend due to work commitments.

National Diploma Forestry student, Thomas Volontiya (pictured left with lecturer Dr Keith Little), was awarded subject prizes for Forest Engineering, Business Management, Forest Management and Silviculture. Thomas went on to receive his Diploma *Cum Laude*, and also received the coveted Schlich Medal (Gold).

Richard Payn (pictured right with his proud parents and brother), also a Forestry diploma student, received the Fire Protection award.

The top BTech Forestry student was Dieter Loubser.

Richard Müller, the Programme Coordinator of the Wood Technology programme, announced that the top National Diploma Wood Technology student was Miss Humbulani Tshikalange, and the top BTech student was Pieter Fouche.



First intake - Postgraduate Certificate in Education (FET)



At the start of the 2014 academic year a total of seven students successfully enrolled for the first intake in the new Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme at the George Campus.

Five students, namely Sinetemba Buwa, Livhuwani Malaba, Simthembile Mangqishi, Axolile Jojo and Masilakhe Dukwana featured here with Marius Strydom (left) and Prof Raymond Auerbach (right), are majoring in Agricultural Science and Agricultural Management.

Two other students, Dewan Bouwer and Nobantu Gozongo, are majoring in Accounting and Economics and in Business Studies and Economics respectively.

The students are currently placed at schools to gain practical experience, with the five agriculture students all accommodated at Phandulwazi Agricultural High School in Alice; Bouwer is stationed at Outeniqua High School and Gozongo at Imizamo Yethu Secondary School.

Veldfire Management – new programme boosts NRM offerings

The focused programme offerings in natural resource management at NMMU George was bolstered with the introduction of a Higher Certificate programme in Veldfire Management at the beginning of the current 2014 academic year. The programme draws from various short learning programmes and modules from other Natural Resource Management programmes, as well as the forestry, conservation and even agriculture industries and is therefore specifically designed to address the needs of the southern African veldfire manager.



The Veldfire Management programme, offered on a one year full-time or two years part-time basis, has attracted a strong and enthusiastic group of students (featured above), mostly already involved in related industries.

Students' perspective

Navashni Govender, a Programme Manager for Fire Ecology and Biogeochemistry for South African National Parks and one of fourteen part-time students registered for Veldfire Management, expressed her enthusiasm at being part of the first intake of students in this new programme. "Very often fire is described as a 'useful servant but a bad master' and I see this programme as an opportunity to train the new generation of fire managers to use fire more effectively, safely and efficiently in managing our fire prone landscape in South Africa, thereby encouraging the use of good fires to prevent bad fires," said Govender.

"I thought that I knew everything about fires that I need to know, but this course is proof that I was totally wrong. I never fully understood fires until this course started to open up this exciting science to me. My recommendation to everyone who wants to become a fire manager is to take this course. This qualification is not about the cost involved to get yet another qualification, but money and time spent to make a real difference" advised Ian Bezuidenhout of Fire Services Knysna.

Eric Fredericks, also from Fire Services views this exciting qualification as being essential to the development of his career. "I am beginning to understand what a veldfire is really about. I cannot wait to learn more!" he enthused.

"The understanding of the dynamics involved in veldfire or any wild fire is crucial for any fire manager to make split-second decisions. It is not only the behaviour of fire that predicts the outcomes of a fire, but also the understanding of all the Laws and Act that govern it. When you strike that match you are 100% committed and liable", asserts Komatiland Forests' Stiaan Marais. This sentiment is echoed by Annalize van Wyk, Fire Risk Officer from Komatiland Forests who emphasised that the course underlines the "...importance of understanding the imperative role of a Fire Manager"

"The HCVM takes you to the roots of veldfire and exposes the 'bolts and nuts' of being a veldfire manager. This is an excellent course and I strongly recommend it to every manager who is challenged with veldfire management" said Japie Hendricks of the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association.

"Simply mind blowing!" This is the verdict of Elvis Masoka, Fire Fighter for the Eden District Municipality in describing his experience of this captivating programme.

Nozipho Mkhize, a fire fighting instructor from Working on Fire Mpumalanga is equally upbeat about how the knowledge gleaned through this interesting programme will contribute to career success – "I am already in a position to plan better and make better decisions when suppressing veldfires".

Julanden van Wyk of Working on Fire also expressed a sense of real appreciation of how the course equips even seasoned firefighters with the knowledge and skills to "...appreciate what is necessary to prepare for extreme fires". "This course has opened my eyes and showed the depths of fire management to me. I simply cannot see how organisations that deal with veldfires and the urban interface situation can improve if they don't enrol for this course", he concluded.

Our brand

NMMU George Campus Madibaz live Ubuntu...

NMMU George Campus staff and students actively support a number of annual fundraising and awareness campaigns for worthy causes such as the Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge, CANSA Shavathon and CANSA relay.



Sport

Historic victory for NMMU George Cricket Club

The NMMU George cricket side won its maiden Sedgars SWD Premier League title when it defeated the defending champions, Union Stars, by seven wickets in the final played at the Oudtshoorn Recreation Grounds on 1 March.

Newcomers, NMMU, who were promoted to the Premier League based on last year's performance, made history by playing in the Sedgars SWD Premier League for the first time ever, and then built on their success to become champions in their first year.

Furthermore, Madibaz George, representing SWD, competed at the Cricket South Africa Momentum National Club Championships held in Pretoria from 23 - 27 April 2014.

During the University Sport of South Africa (USSA) Cricket tournament, Madibaz George recorded an impressive achievement by winning the C-section and progressing to the B-section.



The Madibaz George Cricket club captured at Oudtshoorn Cricket Stadium. They were crowned the Sedgars SWD Cricket Board Premier League champions for 2014.

NMMU George Football club

A good working relationship with Madibaz Port Elizabeth Football Club ensures that students from George Campus who are performing well have the opportunity to advance a level and be included in the team that takes part in Varsity Sports on a national level.



Congratulations to Simamkele Thobi (left), a 2nd year Bcom Accounting student at NMMU George Campus who is included in the team playing in Varsity Sport.



Fiswa Vilane (right), a 1st year N.Dip in Game Ranch Management student at George Campus was part of the Varsity Sport training squad.

NMMU George Hockey

The Southern Cape Men's Hockey side, which included four members of the Madibaz George Hockey club made history on Saturday 12 July when they won the South African Country District (SACD) Hockey Tournament.

During the final held in Pretoria, Southern Cape played Western Province in a nail-biting match that had Western Province up 2-1 with only three minutes left to play. Southern Cape equalised the score to two all and, with only three seconds left to play, a pass was sent into the circle and deflected by Girshwin Sparks (Madibaz George) into the top corner giving Southern Cape an epic 3-2 win.



The team and individual players secured more accolades, with the team receiving the Sportsmanship trophy. Girshwin Sparks received the Player of the Tournament Award as well as the Goal of the Tournament Award. Fellow Madibaz George players, Ben Buys and Craig Clowes were also selected to represent the South African Country Districts team at the Men's IPT tournament later this year.

Pictured above – The Madibaz George Hockey club members who were part of the Southern Cape Men's Hockey side that was crowned SACD champions for 2014 - (f.l.t.r.) Chris Elliott, Girshwin Sparks, Ben Buys and Craig Clowes.

Rugby

NMMU Madibaz doing well in President's league

Besides doing well in the President's League, Madibaz George Rugby teams also competed in the USSA rugby tournament with impressive results over Walter Sisulu University (WSU) Ibika with a 71 – 17 win.

In the Semi-final they lost 9 - 16 to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in a nail-biting finish and ultimately finished 3rd in the C-Section beating WSU Buffalo 48 -17.

USSA 7's at home at NMMU George

NMMU George Campus has been granted the rights to host the University Sports South Africa (USSA) National Institutional Rugby 7's championship for the fifth year in a row. The tournament will be taking place from 1 – 2 December 2014.

In the 7's tournament Madibaz George won the Bowl trophy in both 2011 and 2012. Madibaz George is currently ranked 6th in the National Institutional Rugby 7's championship.



Madibaz George rugby team led by captain, Tom Kean and Vice-Captain Francois Kemp, with rugby coaches Wayne McAfee, Henry Grimes, Darryl Coories and NMMU George Sport Manager, Hugo Loubser.

USSA Surfing Champs – NMMU Madibaz ride the waves of success

NMMU George recently successfully hosted the University Sport of South Africa (USSA) Surfing Championships for the fifth consecutive year. The event, sanctioned by Surfing South Africa, annually attracts top surfers to Victoria Bay from tertiary institutions across South Africa.

Roxy Giles from NMMU George Campus triumphed in the women's section for the second consecutive year, with Varsity College's Nicole Pallet in second place and Jessica Lee University of Cape Town (UCT) in third position.

Giles is amongst the twelve team members (eight men and four women) selected by USSA officials for inclusion in the 2014 USSA Team that is set to participate in various international university surfing competitions.

In addition to Roxy Giles, students who represented the NMMU George Campus in the Surfing Champs included Ruben Lammers, Juan Reynierse, Kelly Olivier, Chris Elliot, Jaco van der Westhuizen and Ruan van der Westhuizen.



Ruben Lammers, from the NMMU George Campus, completing an air reverse at the annual USSA surfing competition, at Victoria Bay. He finished combined 18th in the championships.

Juan Reynierse, also from NMMU George, in action at the USSA Surfing Champs at Vic Bay. He finished combined 18th in the championships.





Roxy Giles (NMMU George), the defending champion of the women's section of the 2014 USSA surfing competition with her father, Leonard Giles, a former national surfer and South African veterans champion.

Great scope for training camps, and more at NMMU George

NMMU George catered for a number of on-campus sport initiatives during the winter recess, including the NMMU Madibaz Football Training Camp (14 – 16 July); a training camp for Ajax Cape Town (9 – 16 July) and Milano United (4 – 7 August).

The routes on and around NMMU George Campus are also sought after amongst mountain bike riders. The Wild Pig MTB race took place on 26 July 2014 through the indigenous and commercial forests.

Ajax unbeaten in pre-season camp

During their six day visit to George, Ajax Cape Town (the professional South African Premier Soccer League team) played a number of friendly matches and hosted a few signing sessions in and around George.

In total, twenty-six players joined the pre-season camp at NMMU George Campus which ended on 16 July.

Ajax Cape Town Head Coach Roger de Sa expressed the team's experience as follows via ajaxct.co.za – "... the camp was good, everything was well arranged and ... the players were happy..." Ajax won all the matches played during their visit.



Ajax Cape Town (featured left) played a charity match (45 minutes) against the Sport Academy George, Community Team of George (right).

Fun Walk/Run to celebrate the life of Madiba



As part of the George Municipality's Mandela Day celebrations, the executive mayor of George, Alderman Charles Standers, announced that he would host and personally take part in a 5km fun walk/run on Thursday, 17 July.

The three George Campus staff members proudly sporting their medals for successfully finishing the race are pictured here with Alderman Standers (second to left) during his visit to the campus the following day, were (from left) Hugo Loubser (Sport), Marnus de Klerk (Sport) and Pieter Botha (Marketing & Corporate Relations).

Upcoming engagements and events

- **Agriculture DG to talk on Food for All: *Women in Agriculture***



Prof Edith Vries, the Director-General: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has accepted an invitation by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) to deliver a Distinguished Open Lecture on *Women in Agriculture*.

The lecture, scheduled for 21 August 2014 carries through and concludes the theme of *Food for All* – the banner under which NMMU and Glenwood House School this year presented the well-attended annual science expo – ScieX 2014.

- **August is Diversity Month @ NMMU**



diversity

- **George Agricultural Show**

21 – 23 August 2014

- **NMMU George Campus Half-Marathon**

23 August 2014

- **NMMU George Choir Concert**

6 September 2014

- **NMMU/SAIF Fire Management Symposium**
9 & 10 September 2014
- **George Business Chamber networking evening at NMMU George Campus**
2 October 2014