



From the desk of the Campus Principal



Dear Madibaz,

It is amazing that we have already reached the end of our exciting Academic Year, and our progress has been remarkable. As world class knowledge catalysts, we have many good reasons to celebrate 2014 in pursuit of that majestic quest to create *sustainable futures* for all, through high quality education.

I would like to sincerely thank all our staff, students, alumni, partners and friends for ensuring that NMMU, and the George Campus fulfilled its mandate of building a better tomorrow. Madibaz... you have worked with unswerving devotion to set a standard of excellence, which inspires and uplifts our people.



This is best reflected through: 1) the daily outcomes of our work 2) growth of the campus 3) new infrastructure such as the Madibaz Fitness & Aquatics Centre 4) strengthening of our relations with communities and 5) various achievements in the arena of sport, student life and leadership, excellence in teaching and learning as well as research,



engagement, entrepreneurship and innovation... the list is endless.

Congratulations to all our staff and students who, true to NMMU's value system, have excelled in building our brand as proud and caring Madibaz. These success stories have captured our imagination and form the nucleus of this George Report.



As we reflect on this past year and our accompanying achievements, I am reminded that we simply need to do a great deal more. We have, nonetheless, experienced several "firsts" in positioning our campus for future growth.

We are looking forward to offering our new Higher Certificate (ICT) in 2015, which will strengthen our connection to the digital world for better innovation and social inclusion. This platform will allow us to connect to the George Incubation Hub that is a vital partnership between government and business, with the express aim to stimulate economic development and improve the lives of our communities.

We were absolutely delighted to host the inaugural Annual NMMU Chancellor's Golf Day. Chancellor Santie Botha and the NMMU Executive Management's initiative in dedicating this event in support of the NMMU George Student Development Fund (launched with our Grand Ball earlier this year) is greatly appreciated. It is also regarded as a very strong signal of NMMU's resolve to grow our George Campus – the “jewel in the university's crown” as expressed by our Vice-Chancellor Prof. Derrick Swartz. We are also delighted that the NMMU Council has decided that, at least one of its quarterly meetings will be hosted annually at the George Campus with the next engagement set for 18 June 2015.



Our brand is also maturing. With the 10th birthday celebrations of NMMU commencing in January 2015, the corporatisation of our institution, including the main entrance to the campus, together with complementary initiatives as anticipated in our brand development strategy, are very timely.

We are in strong agreement with Chancellor Botha that it is an extreme privilege for us to be associated with the “most powerful brand in the world – Dr Nelson Mandela” She also amplified the strategic importance of building a strong partnership with the City of George to strengthen our “Town and Gown” engagement. Chancellor Botha furthermore stated that “...we treasure our founding history and, together with our key stakeholders, will roll out a strategy to ensure that the past is appropriately acknowledged as we embrace the future...”

As an active democracy, we also encountered a peaceful protest action around the branding strategy of the university, which we accept as a healthy expression of free speech that will always be cherished. Our further initiatives to strengthen the NMMU brand are reported in this newsletter, and we call on all to join us on our journey into the new century.

I am pleased to report that our strategic direction has been strengthened by the university approval of the Global Leadership Institute (GLI) for Sustainable Futures. The NMMU GLI will be located at the George Campus and is fittingly set to be launched during 2015 in the Southern Cape, which gave rise to the first cognitively modern humans in the world. Wow!

Have a blessed festive season and awesome 2015.

Thank you. Dankie. Enkosi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Quinton Johnson".

Quinton Johnson, *Campus Principal*



Our staff

Welcome to a new colleague...

Thandi Jameson
Assistant Admissions Officer: Academic Administration



Goodbye to NMMU George stalwarts

Goodbye Mr Chips!

NMMU colleagues, past and current BCom-students and industry representatives bid a fond farewell to NMMU George Campus BCom stalwart, Pieter Wicht, at one of a number of farewell events held prior to his retirement. Mr Wicht, who was one of the founder-lecturers of the BCom George programme, was acknowledged by all as a gifted teacher who made a tremendous contribution to the growth of the NMMU George BCom programmes since its inception several years ago. Ms Beryl Prinsloo from the NMMU School of Accounting lauded Wicht for his value-adding contributions to the BCom Accounting offering at the university's George Campus – a sentiment echoed by colleagues and industry alike.



Featured in the photograph are (f.l.t.r.) Cllr Chris Neethling, Ms Carol Wicht, Mr Pieter Wicht, Dr Marianne Doubell, Ms Jane Fountain, Ms Beryl Prinsloo from the NMMU School of Accounting, Ms Catherine Fourie; (front) Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal and Mr Nasiegh Hamdulay (Senior Executive, Strategy and Stakeholder Relationships, SAICA).

Prof Laurence Watson



Laurence became part of the 'family' way back in 1990 when he joined the campus first as a part-time lecturer and then later on as a full-time academic. Although he will be retiring at the end of this year, it does not mean the end of his relationship with NMMU – he already agreed to remain a research associate of the campus. He is looking forward to continue his research next year; as well as paying more attention to his hobbies of wildlife photography and fishing. "Thinking back over the past 24 years, my favourite memory is definitely meeting Esther at Saasveld," said Laurence.

Ena Wessels



Ena started lecturing at NMMU in February 2002. Initially she was responsible for the programming modules in the IT programme before taking over the end-user computing module in all the programmes. She will also be retiring at the end of this year and plans to be a full time granny, looking after her seven grandchildren, from next year onwards. According to Ena she will not easily forget "...how many good friends I had and how students were inspired by what they learnt in class; I will also always cherish the emails of appreciation!"

Greener pastures

Enid Rhode

Enid joined NMMU at the end of 2006 on a temporary basis before being appointed full-time in August 2007. Her last day at NMMU is scheduled for Friday, 28 November after which she will join the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA). Her fondest memory of the campus is the campus itself: "What was special was the day I stepped onto these grounds. I just got the feeling of coming 'back to my roots'."



Dr Corli Coetsee

Corli was appointed as a lecturer at the George Campus in January 2010. From 2015 she will be based at the Kruger National Park from where she will work as a Vegetation Ecologist for SANParks' Savanna and Arid Research Unit. Her favourite memory of her time at the George Campus happened some time ago: "I will never forget invigilation at Saasveld because of the following event. I was invigilating in the main hall and stood watching the students enter and prepare themselves for writing exams. The tame bush pig that roamed on campus at that time came quietly into the hall and wandered down one of the aisles. She was in need of a scratching post and examined every pair of legs as she went down the aisle until she spotted the perfect unsuspecting pair. She then aligned herself and went for it... the student jumped into the air with a terrific howl. Only happens at Saasveld I thought to myself..."



Dr Ben Wigley

Ben joined NMMU in January 2013 as an academic staff member. He will also leave NMMU at the end of this year and is looking forward to a new career in a post-doctoral fellowship programme. Upon reflecting on his time on campus, he said: "The beautiful campus and friendly colleagues will be a lasting memory".



Frontline staff acknowledged on Secretaries Day



Ilona Joshua (Student Governance), Nicolette Lindoor (School of Natural Resource Management), Nomalizo Mapasa (Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences), Rosita Kuschke (Office of the Director: Operations), Melony Oliphant (Faculty of Education), Zandi Mpange (Cashier, Finance Department) and Linda Muller (Office of the Campus Principal) were amongst the group of George Campus staff who were acknowledged on Secretaries Day for their important roles as frontline staff and ambassadors of NMMU.

Casual for a cause

The George Campus annually supports Carpe Diem School, a local special needs school, by buying Casual Day stickers directly from the school. This year almost R600 was collected in aid of Carpe Diem, and staff had great fun in the process.



THE WINNING TEAM... George Campus Academic Administration was selected unanimously as the winners in the annual Casual Day competition at the George Campus. Bagging themselves an additional afternoon-off in the process; f.i.t.r. Natalie Goodman-du Plessis, Magda Eybers, Thandi Jameson, David Alexander, Elise Labuschagne and Desmond Scholtz.

Acknowledging Excellence Teaching & Learning Team Award for Forestry and Wood Technology

Congratulations to the academic staff of the Forestry and Wood Technology programmes who received the Teaching & Learning Team Award at this year's NMMU Research and Teaching Awards function that was recently held in Port Elizabeth.

The annual awards – a highlight on the university calendar – celebrate the achievements of top academics in the fields of research, teaching, the creative and performing arts, innovation and engagement.

Upon hearing the good news, Tiaan Pool, Programme Coordinator of the Forestry programme at NMMU George Campus, said: “The Forestry & Wood Technology team’s success is imbedded in a well-structured partnership between three stakeholders in the teaching and learning landscape, namely NMMU, the student and the Forest Industry we serve. The secret to the success of our programme lies in the knowledge that these three stakeholders are all dependent on each other.”

According to the university’s Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards policy, the award aims:

- To show recognition at an institutional level for academic and professional support staff members who collaborate as a team to achieve excellence in teaching and learning, the enhancement of student success and development and/or the student experience.
- To identify teams of academics and professional support staff who are able to provide leadership in innovation in teaching and learning, enhancing student success and development and the quality of the student experience.
- To generate debate and awareness at an institutional level about the role of team teaching and what constitutes excellence with regards to enhancing student success and development and the quality of the student experience.



THE PROUD TEAM... *Back:* Prof Jos Louw, Barry Muller, Andrew McEwan, Willie Louw, Dr Jaap Steenkamp; *Front:* Dr Keith Little, Tiaan Pool, Richard Müller

NMMU George lecturer heads up Forestry Institute



Congratulations to Andrew McEwan, lecturer in the Forestry Programme at NMMU George Campus, who was recently elected as the President of the authoritative Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF).

McEwan, who previously served as chairperson of the SAIF's Southern Cape branch, specialises in forest engineering. He has gained significant international experience working with industry players in South America, Australasia, South East Asia and Africa.

SAIF – an association for forestry related professionals – has as its main objectives the promotion of all aspects of forestry, the improvement of practice in the professional and technical aspects of forestry, the enhancement of the status of members, the protection of members' interests, and to represent the profession of forestry in Southern Africa.

The institute also aims to assist members to achieve excellence in the practice of forestry, and to promote growth and sustainability in the industry, whilst being responsible as custodians of a sensitive environment.

Forestry award for Jaap Steenkamp

Dr Jaap Steenkamp, lecturer in the Forestry programme, was recently awarded the Distinguished Forestry Award of the South African Institute of Forestry (SAIF), the institute's highest award.

The award recognises individual and outstanding contributions to, or the application of, forestry innovations in southern Africa. Steenkamp's achievements include the introduction of a business management programme in response to industry needs and the initiation of the SA Forestry Contractors Association, professionalising forestry contractors, which has grown to more than 300 members.



Steenkamp is a member of Forestry South Africa's sub-committee on Human Resources and a co-opted member of the Southern Cape region. He was also part of the negotiations regarding the formation of the Forestry Charter Council for Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) and is still a board member, appointed by the Minister. He is also the Managing Director of Novelquip Forestry Pty Ltd (MULTIPIT), a mechanical engineering manufacturing concern and Silvimech Pty Ltd, a contracting concern involved with innovative developments of planting machines and other equipment.

SANParks accolade for Christo Fabricius



Sustainability Research Unit (SRU) Director Prof Christo Fabricius won the research initiatives and innovation award in this year's SANParks regional awards.

The award acknowledges the catalytic role Fabricius and the unit is playing in the Garden Route to advance sustainability-thinking. According to SANParks scientist, Dr Dirk Roux, who is also a research associate of the unit, Fabricius' strong emphasis on participatory research has contributed towards building capacity for learning and adapting.

MACE awards – NMMU “leading the pack”

The NMMU Marketing and Corporate Relations Department led by Pieter Swart (back, centre) won the overall top award for outstanding performance among marketing and communication practitioners in higher and further education in South Africa. The Oscar-themed event, Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards, took place in Sun City recently.



NMMU won 18 awards – the top award, eight excellence awards and nine merit awards – for their work in promoting the University via various platforms.

Front centre is event sponsor, Dr Riaan Els, CEO of the Fuchs Foundation, who lauded NMMU in “leading the pack”.

Our brand

NMMU brand development an ongoing process...

Visual and emotive elements of the NMMU brand as perceived by staff and student leaders were discussed and reviewed during a series of brand engagement workshops held at the NMMU George Campus on 11 and 12 September. The workshops, led by the Marketing and Corporate Relations branding, recruitment and communications teams, together with the university's appointed advertising agency, Boomtown, included an audit of visual brand elements on campus, as well as a discussion around the need for greater visibility of the university in George and surroundings.

The overall sentiment, as expressed by Boomtown, was that the NMMU brand is "alive and well" at the George Campus. This forms a solid foundation for ongoing brand development.

Outcomes and proposals for the way forward were captured in a brand development report endorsed by the NMMU Academic Forum, Operations Committee and the George MANCO. The main elements, which were also motivated for funding through the Strategic Resource Allocation budget process, included the following:

- Corporatisation of the entrance area to the NMMU George Campus
- NMMU branded billboards incorporating George Campus visual elements at main entrance routes to George
- NMMU corporate lamppost signs from the turnoff at Knysna Road to the campus
- Foyer upgrades – corporate look and feel – at entrances to all buildings on campus
- Signage for (outside and inside) buildings on campus
- Social media applications and new George Campus set of corporate brochures



- Start of a conversation to culminate in a business plan for acknowledging NMMU's rich heritage at the George Campus, from its early roots in the Saasveld Forestry College, UPE, PET and Hurteria to its current status as a comprehensive, inclusive, fully-fledged university. A dedicated Committee has been set up by the Campus Principal to explore and operationalise, in collaboration with key stakeholders, the concept of a Heritage and Conference Centre at the historic Pampoenkraal building.

NMMU Director of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Pieter Swart (front left) with members of the branding, recruitment and communications team, as well as representatives of Boomtown, students and staff at NMMU George Campus during one of the brand engagement sessions held on campus earlier this year.

NMMU brand strengthened at George Campus

The main entrance to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) George Campus now has a fully-fledged corporate look. This follows a brand strengthening ceremony on 16 October 2014 when the university's Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha, accompanied by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz and the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, unveiled the new corporate signage at the entrance to the university's picturesque George Campus, in the presence of dignitaries from the George Municipality, the George Business Chamber, as well as staff and students of NMMU.

The falling rain could not dampen the eager anticipation of the student leaders who assisted the Chancellor with the unveiling of the two name plaques. Chancellor Botha explained that in the Xhosa culture it is believed that rain signifies a blessing. "This is a momentous occasion and today we are truly blessed", she said. In an interview with Eden FM during the live broadcast from the campus, Chancellor Botha reiterated that NMMU takes pride in its association with Nelson Mandela – "the most powerful brand in the world". The strengthening of the NMMU brand is a "recipe for global positioning" she said.

The brand strengthening ceremony, which brings the NMMU George Campus entrance signage on par with the corporate signage and colours – red, white and blue – of all six NMMU campuses, is also an important step in preparing for the imminent tenth anniversary of NMMU in 2015.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, pointed out that he had mandated the Campus Principal to ensure the vibrancy and sustainable growth of the NMMU George Campus through a "town and gown" engagement with the city to strengthen the university's relationship with our community. During the ceremony, the Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Daniel Maritz, also indicated that the municipality managed to set processes in place to enable Saasveld Rd to be renamed to Madiba Drive. The Executive Mayor of George, Ald Charles Standers, confirmed that the institution had applied for the name-change to honour Dr Nelson Mandela by strengthening the university connection to the community of George. "A positive outcome to the application is expected", he said.



PROUD MADIBAZ.. NMMU George Campus Student Council members joined the university's executive management in unveiling the new corporate look of the George Campus entrance gates. Blessed by rain on this occasion, were (f.l.t.r.) Asafika Mzinjana, Siviwe Sawuti, Prof Quinton Johnson (NMMU George Campus Principal), Dean Langeveldt, Nothando Dlozi, NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha; Awonke Kampie, Anathi Masebeni (Chairperson of the NMMU George Student Council), Amy-Caie April, Iviwe Konza; Prof Derrick Swartz, NMMU Vice-Chancellor as well as Dr Bridget Johnson.

Further background

Brand development, as a business case, is an ongoing process across all 6 campuses of the university. Yet, the university treasures its proud heritage. This includes the founding history of the former Saasveld Forestry College, as well as the Port Elizabeth Technikon, the UPE (University of Port Elizabeth), and the former Hurteria Campus of NMMU (previously accommodating the BCom and other business-related programmes of the university in the George CBD) – all of which have been integrated into the inclusive, modern-day Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University George Campus.

A living, fully functional Heritage and Conference Centre is envisaged as a means of acknowledging the rich history of NMMU in George, says the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson. This initiative, which forms part of the brand development strategy for the NMMU George Campus, will include the recognition and display of memorabilia of Saasveld, the PET, UPE and Hurteria. Alumni who would like to become involved in this process, or who would like to donate historic memorabilia are encouraged to contact the NMMU George Marketing and Corporate Relations unit at 044 801 5111.

Prof Derrick Swartz, NMMU Vice-Chancellor, Councillor Daniel Maritz - the Deputy Mayor of George and Prof Quinton Johnson (far right) accompanied the NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha, in cutting the ribbon during the brand strengthening ceremony at NMMU George Campus.



NMMU staff, students and guests braved the rainy weather to support the NMMU George Campus brand strengthening ceremony held at the campus on 16 October.

Our campus

NMMU invests in Fitness & Aquatics Centre at NMMU George Campus



NMMU has invested another three million Rand in the George Campus with the building of a Fitness & Aquatics Centre adjacent to the swimming pool.

The future hub of Madibaz Sport George is nestled in the middle of all the sport facilities on campus.

Manager of Madibaz Sport George, Hugo Loubser, said, "The building of the Fitness & Aquatics Centre is in line with three major goals of Madibaz Sport,

namely: the strengthening of services to support league sport, to support the living and learning culture on campus and to support external stakeholders."

Thanks to an agreement with the SWD Rugby Union, the gym equipment being utilised in the current SWD Rugby Academy's gymnasium will be moved to the new Fitness & Aquatics Centre in mid-January 2015. This will enable Madibaz Sport George to run a series of introductory gym sessions as part of the first year orientation programme of 2015.

Rapid progress in streetlight project

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 streetlight project, aimed at creating a comfortable area for staff and students to move about on campus after sunset, is being executed in phases.

With phase one completed – providing lighting from Arborea student houses to the front gate, it is all systems go to complete phase two – to provide lighting from the sport fields down to the student recreational centre.

According to Clyde Booysen, Coordinator of Technical Services at the George Campus, phase two is scheduled to be completed by the end of November with phase three – to provide lights from the Admin building to the Akkerdraai houses – scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2014.



Engaging the community NMMU George leads with thought- provoking seminar series

Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, hosted a number of captivating lectures during the past semester as part of his distinguished annual *SUSTAINABLE FUTURES* | LEADERSHIP SEMINAR series.

POS

The first lecture titled “*Creating Positive Organisations*” by NMMU’s Dr Johan Schoeman tapped into the underlying principles of POS – Positive Organisational Scholarship – which takes a fresh look at known organisational challenges and provides a roadmap to a more positive work environment. This lecture, which had the creation of positive work environments and cultures at its core, was presented as a joint venture between the university and the George Business Chamber.



“POS is a dynamic approach which places the emphasis on people and their well-being, which is ultimately rewarded through high levels of positive energy, creativity, excellence and loyalty which offers a more sustainable approach to business success,” said Dr Schoeman, a lecturer and Positive Organisational Consultant at NMMU’s School of Industrial Psychology and Human Resource Management in Port Elizabeth.

Natural medicines

On 25 September Prof Gerry Bodeker, Chair, Global Initiative for Traditional Systems of Health, Oxford University delighted guests with his interesting and insightful talk on “Natural Medicines: for better public health”.

Prof Bodeker’s lecture was attended by close to ninety members of the George business community, NMMU George Campus Staff and students. He was also one of the guest speakers, with a similar topic, together with Prof Johnson, who delivered a keynote address at a NMMU Health Sciences Faculty Student Research conference at NMMU in Port Elizabeth the following day.

Prof Johnson’s keynote address was titled – “Natural Medicines: From bench to bedside” The two complementing presentations put the spotlight on the broad spectrum of natural medicines – from the research phase, to the administering thereof to patients, to the broader application thereof in the interest of public health.



Prof Gerry Bodeker (centre) can be seen here with Dr Willie Cilliers (left) the President of the George Business Chamber, and Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal.

Agriculture DG shares insights on *Food for All: Women in Agriculture*

Prof Edith Vries, the Director-General: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries accepted an invitation by the Campus Principal to deliver a distinguished public lecture at the NMMU George Campus during August.

Prof Vries gave an interesting overview of the agricultural landscape in South Africa, amidst



the growing realisation of the important role of women and science in the context of sustainable food production. She also focused on the important role of the forestry industry, and NMMU's role and contribution in this regard.

She emphasised that much work remains to be done in the complex Agricultural sector, and

indicated that universities, such as NMMU have to assist in finding solutions to the pressing challenge of ensuring "food for all". A visit to the George Agricultural Show and NMMU's stall was also included in the DG's busy itinerary.

Guests who attended the lecture, including the DG, Prof Edith Vries (centre), were treated to the welcoming voices of the NMMU George Campus Choir.

Unearthing the truth about fracking



A group of about eighty guests recently attended the screening of the multiple award-winning independent South African feature documentary – *Unearthed* – at NMMU George Campus.

The film, directed by Ms Jolynn Minnaar (left), investigates fracking in the United States, where the technology originated in order to understand what the implications of this method of gas extraction could be for the semi-arid Karoo and other countries where it may be implemented.

Ms Minnaar was in attendance to answer a variety of questions put forward by the audience, consisting of NMMU George Staff, students, representatives of various environmental organisations, the Executive Mayor of George and members of his Council, and the public at large.

Business Chamber hosted on campus

Close to a hundred members of the George Business Chamber who attended the October networking event hosted at the NMMU George Campus were greeted by “music from heaven”, courtesy of the talented NMMU George Campus Choir. Members of the choir set the tone for a relaxing evening of networking and information exchange.

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, welcomed attendees and shared some details of the university's vision for the campus and the immediate future plans for it, which includes the launch of NMMU's Global Leadership Institute for Sustainable futures here early next year, as well as plans for a Performing Art/Culture Centre and a futures/living museum facility aimed at acknowledging the campus' proud heritage. Prof Johnson also congratulated the George Business Chamber on being announced the winning Business Chamber in the Western Cape for 2014.



Pictured with some of the NMMU George Campus Choir members are Ms Ingrid Cronje, manager of the George Business Chamber, Prof Quinton Johnson, and Dr Willie Cilliers, the chamber's president.

Students benefit from Sanlam Lectures on Financial Literacy

Thanks to an innovative partnership between Sanlam and NMMU George Campus, students were able to get to grips with the basic principles of personal and business finance.

The series of lectures on Financial Literacy organised by Dr Marianne Doubell of the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences featured, amongst others, Ms Vangile Makwakwa, a financial expert who also specialises in emotional intelligence.



Pictured with NMMU's Dr Marianne Doubell (right) is Ms Bev van Nijkerk, Segment Specialist: Young Professional Market, Sanlam Personal Finance; Mr Koos du Plessis (Market Specialist at Sanlam Southern Cape Unit) and Ms Vangile Makwakwa.

News

NMMU Chancellor hosts inaugural Golf Day in George

Rainy weather could not dampen the spirit of excitement amongst the group of about eighty golfers who joined NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha, at Kingswood Golf Course in George on 16 October for the Chancellor's Golf Day – the first of its kind to be hosted in George.

Chair of Council, Judge Ronnie Pillay, the NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, Drs Gary Paul (Director: Human Resources at NMMU) and Nico Jooste (Snr Director: Office for International Education), Mr Martin Loubser (Director: Operations) and other staff members of the university, along with golfers from the Southern Cape, participated in the golf day. Through this successful inaugural event, about R100 000 was raised for the NMMU George Campus Student Development/Bursary Fund. It is set to become a permanent feature on the Annual NMMU Events Calendar. The anchor sponsor was Momentum.



NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha, Judge Ronnie Pillay (NMMU Chair of Council), Mr Pierre van Rooyen and Dr Gary Paul (NMMU: Executive Director: Human Resources) at the inaugural NMMU Chancellor's Golf Day in George. The event is set to become a permanent feature on the Annual NMMU Events Calendar.



NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha (centre), flanked by the Campus Principal (front left) and the Chair of Council, Judge Ronnie Pillay (right) with some golfers, including NMMU staff and students, during the opening of the inaugural NMMU Chancellor's golf day held in George on 16 October. The proceeds of this

very successful inaugural event will support the NMMU George Campus Development/ Bursary Fund.

Sound start to NMMU George Student Development Fund



The efforts of all stakeholders involved in really superb fundraising initiatives this year – most notably through the George Campus Principal Grand Ball held at Hyatt Regency Oubaaai in April and the inaugural NMMU

Chancellor's Golf Day held in George on 16 October – have been rewarded with a noteworthy profit of around R150 000 for the NMMU George Campus Bursary Fund.

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (right), accompanied by Mr Martin Loubser (Director: Operations, left) and Ms Alet van Tonder (Manager: Marketing & Corporate Relations) conveyed the good news to the 2014 chairperson of the NMMU George Student Council, Anathi Masebeni, at the end of the semester.

NMMU George Spring Concert delights the senses....



An enchanting evening of celebration and song enjoyed by some 400 guests! The second annual spring concert hosted by the NMMU George Campus Choir on 6 September 2014 saw the Civic Centre of George being transformed into a fantasy world of lights, flowers and feathers, complimented with beautiful music!

Our NMMU George Campus Choir was host to four other choirs – the talented Ad Astra Choir from Oudtshoorn, the Thembaletu High School Choir from George, the Lawaai Methodist Church Choir and the choir of the University of Cape Town (UCT) which gave a guest performance as part of their spring tour. An array of genres was covered – from classical songs, to gospel music; from golden oldies to more modern songs and traditional music.

Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal of NMMU George Campus who is also spearheading the NMMU George choir's development welcomed the guests and announced his vision for a Performing Arts Centre for the campus. The master of ceremonies, Mr Morne Pietersen, the Station Manager of Eden FM, emphasised that music has the power to bring people together as it "speaks a universal language" which everyone is able to enjoy.

A standing ovation, and an irresistible urge to join in song confirms that the choirs set an enviable standard and that this event has great potential to become an annual competition and a sought after forum for choirs to showcase their talents.

NMMU George and SAIF co-host prestigious annual symposium

On 9 and 10 September 2014 the NMMU George Campus was a hive of activity with about 300 specialists from across the country gathering at the university for the tenth Annual Fire Management Symposium presented jointly by NMMU George (organised by the Forestry and Veldfire Management programmes led by programme co-ordinator, Tiaan Pool) and the Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF), welcomed by Prof. Quinton Johnson.

The symposium, attended by fire managers and authorities from different disciplines and different land uses such as Nature Conservation, Disaster Management, Forestry and Local Government, originated as an industry response to the catastrophic veld fires that destroy thousands of hectares of veld in South Africa annually. The aims of the symposium were to transfer technical knowledge to fire managers, to create an opportunity to network and exchange ideas, while also reaching out and educating various role players and companies on environmental impacts and legal aspects.



Speakers and participants at the lively Fire symposium included postgraduate students from NMMU George and industry stakeholders such as James Thobela, Duran de Villiers, Henry Cunningham, Warren Williams, Braam du Preez, Jacques du Plessis, Paul Gerber, Luke Radebe, Ian Henderson, Dr Christo Marais, and Tiaan Pool (Programme co-ordinator, Forestry, and symposium organiser from NMMU George).

Mr Ian Henderson, retired CEO of Masonite Forestry Company, conducted the official opening. Topics discussed by well-known industry stalwarts, academics and other specialists included, amongst others: *The Economic consequences of sustainable fire management regimes* (by Dr Christo Marais, Chief Director of Environmental Affairs); *Climate change and how it influences fire management*, by post graduate student, James



Thobela from NMMU); the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill (presented by Mr Luke Radebe – Deputy Director of National Veld and Forest Fire Oversight), *Wild fire risk assessment and challenges for implementation* (by Dr Andries Jordaan, Director of DIMTEC (DAFF); *Managing Veld Fires in the Urban Interface* (by Environmental Consultant, Zane Erasmus) and *Community Risk Reduction* (by Rodney Eksteen, Assistant Director: Fire Brigade Services, Local Government, Western Cape).

Day 2 participants again included Tiaan Pool, along with Richard Payne, Tessa Olivier, Len du Plessis, Leanne Mckrill, Braam du Preez, Malcolm Procter, Thomas Volontiya, Johan Heine, Ben Potgieter, Zane Erasmus and Dr Andries Jordaan.

NMMU to offer Higher Certificate: IT in User Support Services from 2015



With the start of the 2015 academic year NMMU George Campus will offer a Higher Certificate programme in Information Technology in User Support Services.

This is a very exciting development for the George Campus as it effectively means that a fourth faculty, the Faculty of Engineering, The Built Environment and IT (EBEIT) will now offer programmes at this campus that will also link us to the George ICT Hub.

The one year Higher Certificate qualification in IT aims to produce graduates who are productive, competent, able to work independently and who can manage time effectively in entry-level IT technical user support positions that span a wide range of computing environments requiring support personnel.

Students enrolling in the Higher Certificate: IT in User Support Services programme will focus on four modules, namely: Information Technology Skills 1, Information Systems 1, Technical Support 1 and User Support 1.

The Higher Certificate qualification can lead to further studies towards a National Diploma: Information Technology (Support Services) offered at NMMU Summerstrand North Campus in Port Elizabeth. An average of 60% for all modules of the Higher Certificate is required if an applicant wishes to apply for admission to the National Diploma.

Mr and Miss NMMU George crowned

Congratulations to Xolela Pongoma and Lindokuhle Dhlamini, who will carry the crown of Mr and Miss NMMU George for the next year.

Xolela, a Management student and Lindokuhle, a third-year Forestry student bowled over the judges and the audience with their beauty, intelligence and sprightly personalities to scoop the titles amidst tough competition from a group of twenty finalists.



Student Achievers acknowledged NMMU acknowledges student leadership, sport achievers of George Campus

NMMU has again acknowledged sterling examples of excellent student leadership. At the annual Achievers Awards on 22 October 2014, a total of 41 awards were made to students or student societies that had excelled in excellence across all spheres of student life at the university's George Campus.

Awards were made in the categories of Student Governance and Development, Arts and Culture, Student Residences, Sport and overall student leadership – a highlight being the Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award.

The keynote speaker, Mr Shanold Marillac, representing the Executive Mayor of George, inspired students with his motivational address. He congratulated the students on their excellent achievements, and encouraged them to constantly challenge themselves.

Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award



The recipients in the female and male category of the prestigious Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award, were Rochelle van Rooyen, a third year BEd (FET) student and Thomas Mthethwa, a BTech Forestry student.

They were two of five very deserving nominees – two male and three female – all of whom complied with the criteria for the award.

This award acknowledges the students for their proven leadership in various spheres and significant contributions to student life.

In addition to the Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award, both received a book prize, very aptly titled, *Nelson Mandela: Conversations with myself*.

Sport

Cricket was the shining star amongst all the sporting codes that vied for attention at this year's Achievers Awards.

The Sport *Club* of the Year Award went to Madibaz George Cricket Club, while the accolade for Sport *Team* of the Year went to the Madibaz George Cricket team.

The Sport Administrator of the Year Award went to Awonke Kampie.

It should come as no surprise that the NMMU George Sportsman of the Year 2014 was scooped by a seasoned cricket player – Lyndon Volkwyn (right). He is an outstanding member of the SWD Senior Cricket Team; represented the USSA national cricket team at the Cricket SA Triangular Tournament. Volkwyn captained the Madibaz George Cricket Team that won the C-section at the USSA Cricket tournament, as well as the Sedgars SWD Cricket Board Premier League for the 2013/2014 season.



The number one-ranked lady in student surfing in South Africa, Roxanne Giles (centre), took the honours as the NMMU George Sportswoman of the Year 2014. This is the second consecutive year that she has scooped this award. Giles, the individual winner: Women's category, USSA Surfing 2014 was also selected for the USSA surfing team at national level.

Sport Merit Awards

All in all seventeen members of the Madibaz George Sport Club received Sport Merit Awards for excelling in sport codes recognised by the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC). They have all achieved at least senior provincial colours in the respective codes. The recipients were:

Badminton: Karl-Johannes Ewert

Body Boarding: Tiaan Hoebe

Cricket: Glen Addicott, Hendrik Kotze, Lyndon Volkwyn, Ross McMillan, Willem Scholtz

Deep Sea Angling: Kyle Mitchell

Football: Simamkele Thobi

Hockey: Ben Buys, Craig Clowes, Christopher Elliot, Gershwin Sparks

Show Jumping: Ivan van der Sijde

Surfing: Roxanne Giles

Tennis: Christian Koch, Jacobus Terblanche

Student Housing Awards

The award for the House Committee Member of the Year was scooped by Thomas Mart, while Zuko Dambuza was named the Mentor of the Year. Umdoni was named the Residence of the Year, while the award of Residence all-rounder of the Year went to Angus McLennan.

Arts and Culture

The awards recipients in this category were Nandipha September – Arts and Culture Member of the Year with the NMMU George Campus Choir being named the Arts and Culture Society of the Year. Odwa Ngeni was named the Arts and Culture Choir Member of the Year, while talented dancer, Nosipho Mthlana was named the Arts and Culture Performer of the Year.

Student Governance and Development



Rochelle van Rooyen of SuperEd was named the Society Administrator of the Year, with the society itself scooping awards in two categories – Academic Society and Developmental Society of the Year. Awonke Kampie was selected as the Student Council Member of the Year, and also took the honours as George Campus All Rounder of the Year. SASCO was again named the Political Society of the Year, while the One Life Christian

Centre retained its status as Religious Society of the Year.

Two of the top awards at the recent George Campus Achievers' Awards evening, the Campus Principal's Leadership Excellence Award for both male and female students, were awarded to Education student Rochelle van Rooyen and Forestry student, Thomas Mthethwa respectively.

Congratulating them on their outstanding achievement was from left: Dr Bridget and Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal), Sarah and Shanold Marillac (representing the Executive Mayor of George), Van Rooyen, Mthethwa and Dr Willie Cilliers (President of the George Business Chamber) and his wife, Nelia Celliers.



The Madibaz George Cricket club received the most accolades in the sport category at the recent George Campus Achievers' Awards with trophies for Club of the Year; as well as Team of the Year. Celebrating the players' success was (from left) the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, cricket player, Kobus Scholtz, Madibaz George Sport Manager, Hugo Loubser, cricket club captain, Lyndon Volkwyn, SWD Cricket CEO,

Albertus Kennedy and cricket player, Hanno Kotze.



Prof Quinton Johnson (back left) and Madibaz George Sport Manager, Hugo Loubser (back right) congratulated members of the Madibaz George Sport Club who excelled on the sport fields when they were awarded with NMMU sport merit awards at the recent George Campus Achievers' Awards evening. Proudly sporting their merit awards were (back, from left) Lyndon Volkwyn (cricket), Karl-Johannes Ewert (badminton),

Roxanne Giles (surfing), Hanno Kotze (cricket) and Christopher Elliot (hockey); (front row, from left) Ben Buys (hockey), Kobus Scholtz (cricket) and Tiaan Hoebe (body boarding).

Rochelle van Rooyen celebrates her success with educators: (from left) Prof Quinton Johnson, Dr Bridget Johnson (George Campus Faculty of Education), Van Rooyen, Florence Rhoxo (Director: Eden & Central Karoo District, Department of Education) and Dr Keith Arnolds (George Campus Faculty of Education).





The Campus Principal's Leadership Excellence Award recipient, Thomas Mthethwa (left), joined staff members Petunia Hlaka and Vuyiswa Mentile-Gozongo (Residence Manager) and other awards recipients - Chris-Marie Heath, Angus McLennan, Viwe Bani, Nasiphi Nyathela, James Thobela; and (sitting, from left) Musa Masuku, Thomas Mart and Zuko Dambuza in celebrating their achievements.

Sport

Madibaz George Rugby Club wins Presidents League Final – promoted to Premier league

Madibaz George Rugby Club capped a picture-perfect season when they won the SWD Presidents league final 43 – 13 against Heidelberg Rugby Club on Saturday, 1 November at Outeniqua Park, receiving automatic promotion to next year's Premier league competition in the process.



Zander Bekker (lock) received the award for man of the match.

Unbeaten throughout the season, Madibaz George scored 14 wins from 14 games; as well as the perfect achievement of 14 bonus points.

Madibaz George Rugby Club is an open club which has progressively built the proficiency of its members,

NMMU students included, over the past number of years. For more information contact the Manager, Madibaz Sport George, Hugo Loubser, on 044 801 5037.

SUPPORT FOR TEAM MADIBAZ... NMMU George Campus staff, including the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, the executive Mayor, Ald Standers, fellow students, and sport administrators joined the Madibaz George Rugby Club in celebrating the team's historic victory in the Presidents League Final at Outeniqua Park on Saturday, 2 November which has ensured their promotion to the Premier League.



Madibaz George Rugby captain, Tom Kean, receives the SWD Presidents league trophy from SWD Rugby officials (left) and George Executive Mayor, Charles Standers (right).

NMMU George Campus student selected for USSA Cricket Team



Lyndon Volkwyn, captain of Madibaz George first cricket team, was selected for the University Sport of South Africa (USSA) cricket team that participated in a Cricket South Africa triangular series in Pretoria during the month of August.

The other two teams in the tournament were the National Academy team and a Rural South Africa team.

Hugo Loubser, Sport Manager at NMMU George Campus expressed his delight at Volkwyn's inclusion in the USSA team: "It is a wonderful acknowledgement for the hard work and dedication that Lyndon has showed throughout his cricket career as a student at NMMU George Campus," said Loubser.

Beautiful southern Cape scenery attracts athletes

Madibaz George half-marathon

With 145 entries this year the Madibaz George half-marathon still boasts one of the most scenic routes in the southern Cape. Hosted by the George Campus of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the race was blessed with good running weather this year as the runners made their way through indigenous forests and pine plantations next to the Garden Route Dam. Lloyd Bosman of Nedbank Running Club SWD claimed the win in 1:08:43. In the women's race Nedbank Running Club SWD again came out tops when Melissa van Rensburg crossed the finishing line first in a time of 1:26:13. The prize money for the first George Campus student in the men's category went to Petra Schreuder,, with a time of 1:40:19 and to Awonke Kampie, a BCom Accounting student, in the women's category with a time of 2:44:59.



Intervarsity rugby sevens at NMMU George Campus

NMMU George Campus will host the top university rugby sevens players from around the country for the fifth consecutive time when they host the USSA Rugby Sevens tournament on 1 and 2 December 2014.

A total number of 24 teams will take part in the two day tournament, with the pool phase scheduled for Monday, 1 December and the knockout phase, followed by the all-important finals on Tuesday, 2 December.

The 24 teams in alphabetical order are:

Cape Peninsula University of Technology • Central University of Technology • Durban University of Technology • Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) • Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (Port Elizabeth) • North West University (Pukke) • North West University (Vaal) • Polytechnic of Namibia • Rhodes University • Tshwane University of Technology • University of Cape Town • University of Fort Hare • University of Johannesburg • University of Limpopo • University of Pretoria • University of Stellenbosch • University of the Free State • University of the Western Cape • University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg • University of Venda • Vaal University of Technology • Walter Sisulu University (East London) • Walter Sisulu University (Ibika) • Walter Sisulu University (Mthatha).



All the trophy winners of the 2013 tournament will be back to try and defend their titles, namely University of Pretoria, last year's Cup competition winners; North West University (Pukke), last year's Plate competition winners; University of Cape Town, last year's Bowl competition winners and Durban University of Technology, last year's Shield competition winners.

NMMU George is expected to take full advantage of the fact that they are playing on their home field again and hope to build on last year's fine performance – they lost in the Plate Final against North West University (Pukke).

STALWART... Kutelani Tshivhase will represent NMMU George Campus for the fifth time at the USSA Rugby Sevens tournament.

Upcoming events

December 2014

- 1 – 2 USSA Rugby Sevens tournament (NMMU George Campus)
- 1 – 5 USSA Cricket A & B league tournament (University of Johannesburg)
- 22 University closes

January 2015

- 5 University re-opens
- 19 – 30 Forestry and Wood Technology BTech Block Course
- 24 VC Welcome ceremony – first year students and their parents
- 26 Registration: First year students – School of Natural Resource Management (Faculty of Science) and all international students
- 26 First Year Orientation commences
- 27 Registration: First year students – Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences and School of ICT (Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment & IT)

February 2015

- 5 First Year Orientation ends
- 9 Lectures commence
- 20 – 21 NMMU George staff and students involved in CSI project – Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge

