

# Thembalethu Prays ...

## Religious community embrace NMMU in prayer

NMMU's relationship with our communities was strengthened through several engagements, including an inspiring and touching prayer service for the #FeesMustFall complexities attended by some staff members at Christ The Redeemer Church in Thembalethu recently.

The service, led by Anglican Reverend Sharon Domingo-Blaauw, was also attended by about sixty members of the community, including school principals and educators who, given the challenging times faced by the university sector, including NMMU, embraced us in a powerful circle of prayer for our staff and students.

Rev Domingo-Blaauw's scripture-inspired message honoured women especially in our collective universal struggle for social justice.



Rev Lyndon du Plessis (front, centre) and Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal (back, left), pictured with NMMU staff and members of the community at the church in Thembalethu where the inspiring Women's Day service was presented in partnership with the university.



**Dear Colleagues,  
Students, Alumni  
and Friends,**

As 2016 ends, we reflect on what has certainly been one of the most challenging, yet exciting periods of transformation for universities, with the call for free, decolonized, quality education for all.

Through the unswerving dedication and discipline of our staff and students, we have managed to complete the academic program on campus, whilst the university has been the theatre of expression for the ongoing struggle to re-imagine education. This mission is a national matter that has brought all of us to better understand that urgent and lasting change is required to underpin our sustainable futures.

Over R2million in bursaries

## From the desk of the Campus Principal

have been raised in support of our "Madibaz Diamonds" through government grants and initiatives such as the Chancellor's Annual Golf Day, which has also supported the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund. Moreover, our insourced service colleagues have been warmly welcomed and are contributing very well towards the growth of our institution. Furthermore, investments in our campus community partnerships continued to rise through a variety of public dialogues, imbizos, lectures, symposia and international exchanges.

We were especially taken by the Distinguished Address of Deputy Minister, Nomaindiya Mfeketo who inspired everyone when she spoke about the "Mandela within us". Furthermore, we hosted world-class

researchers Proff Pascal Richomme (Angers University), and Eileen Raymond (State University of New York), as leading thinkers in Green Medicine and Inclusive Education respectively. In addition, we were delighted to receive the news that Prof. Dirk Roux retained his NRF international researcher rating and that Prof. Raymond Auerbach secured a major grant from the DST Food Security Centre of Excellence. Moreover, our students excelled when they won the bid to host a world forestry congress on campus next year for youth from well over 50 countries.

It has also been wonderful to experience the diversity and energy of our newly appointed academic and PASS staff across the campus, who are simply outstanding. We also

congratulate the long service staff awardees who have collectively given 135 amazing years of their professional lives to the university.

Together, we will continue the process of positively transforming our campus. This endeavour has been excellently supported by CANRAD Director Allan Zinn, whose work with us is highly appreciated.

I would like to express my appreciation to all our stakeholders for your fantastic support this year.

I wish you and your loved ones a safe and blessed festive season. May you all have a happy 2017.

Thank you. Dankie. Enkosi.

Prof Quinton Johnson



# Ubuntu at work

## Boost for brighter futures

Chancellor Santie Botha, patron of the 3rd annual Chancellor's Golf Day held at Fancourt in George this year, lost no time in getting better acquainted with the beneficiaries of the golf day – our academically deserving 2016 "Madibaz Diamonds" who were awarded bursaries this year from the funds raised, amongst others, through last year's golf day.

Chancellor Botha, who met with the bursars at the CHAN (Cultural, Heritage and Arts Centre) just prior to teeing off at Fancourt, was deeply touched by the strong set of family/community values expressed by the students in response to her question as to whom they emulate as role models. This well-grounded team were in agreement that they admire and appreciate the positive example, leadership, support, tenacity and commitment they experienced from parent(s), older siblings, other family members, lecturers or fellow student leaders.

Half of the revenue from this year's golf day



(R78 000) has been donated to the Vice Chancellor's fundraising initiative for academically deserving, but financially needy students, with the balance being added to the George Campus Student Development Fund.

Chancellor Botha, (2nd row, centre), flanked by Dr Ismail Lagardien, Executive Dean of Business and Economic Sciences (left) and Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal) with the student leaders Lonwabo Nagilana (left) and Mignon Meyer-Scharer (right), eight of the ten 2016 Madibaz Diamond Bursars, and members of campus management (back), Sefoko Ramoshaba, David Alexander, Garth Smit, Charles Persence and Alet van Tonder

## Golf Day Action

The third annual Chancellor's Golf Day played at the magnificent Fancourt Outeniqua for the first time, exceeded all expectations, again ensuring a healthy boost to the NMMU George Campus Development Fund for academically deserving students. The images below reflect some of the fun and action captured at this exquisite course.



Power team... Chancellor Santie Botha with team members (f.l.t.r.) Richard Vries, CEO of Gibb Engineering and Architecture; Adv Dikgang Moseneke and Mr Peter Vundla, Businessman and Chairman of AMB Capital.



Prof Johnson with staff members of the NMMU Trust - Sheree van Rooyen (back, left) and Buyiswa Yaya (right); Marnus de Klerk, Madibaz Sport, George; and Monica Tshangana, Marketing & Corporate Relations, George.



Teeing off - Former Deputy Chief Justice and Wits Chancellor Dikgang Moseneke.



NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha, in action during the golf day.



Relaxing after an exhilarating golf day at Fancourt Outeniqua... Chancellor Santie Botha with (front, f.l.t.r.) Mr Peter Vundla, Judge Dikgang Moseneke; (back, f.l.t.r.) Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal; Dr Nico Jooste, Director: NMMU Office for International Education and Mr Richard Vries.



# Enabling dreams...

## Madibaz Diamonds beam with joy!



An elated group of academically deserving students – this year’s beneficiaries of the Madibaz Diamond Bursary Fund – with Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, just after receiving the good news that their applications for the bursary had been successful: (f.l.t.r.) Marketing student Anele Mnyengo, Lungila Pheta (Forestry), Phila Ngwilikane (Nature Conservation), BCom students Azola Jubisa, Elmarie Hurter and Mikateko Mawila; as well as budding Tourism entrepreneurs, Lauren Jansen and Petunia Vuma. Forestry student Jubilant Nkambule and BTech Nature Conservation student, Cyanne Young (the only postgraduate recipient) were not present when the photo was taken.

**The recipients of the 2016 Madibaz were announced after a thorough evaluation of all the applications, a total of R100 000 was awarded to them.**

Prof Johnson praised them for their hard work that was visible in their excellent academic records and their consistent outcomes which, along with their inspiring motivations, had assisted them in securing the financial support they needed to focus on their studies. He said that he really admired the excellent academic

performance of the Madibaz Diamonds and their amazing resilience, which allows them to overcome adversity in life and succeed so magnificently.

Prof. Johnson established the bursary fund two years ago, with support from initiatives such as the NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha’s George Golf Day, the Campus Principal’s Grand Ball, the World Forestry Indaba hosted at the Campus in 2015 and other fundraising endeavours.

Chancellor Botha met with this group of bursars just prior to participating in her third annual golf day in George during July. She indicated that she was bowled over by this well-grounded group of students, their determination to succeed and the solid set of values which they demonstrated during her engagement with them as young Madibaz.

## Generosity begins at home

**In keeping with the spirit of Ubuntu, one of the values we live by as Madibaz, NMMU George staff, fellow students and the community, in the form of an Anglican Church group from Conville, as well as a number of businesses and service providers have been playing their part in supporting the Campus’ ongoing Food Security Programme. These initiatives make a big difference in the lives of students who do not have the financial means to secure regular meals, enabling them to focus on their studies, so that they may succeed and move on to play an even greater role in the social and economic empowerment of their communities.**

The call to support students, especially during the difficult winter exam time, led to the intensifying of a number of ongoing initiatives, such as the regular raffling amongst staff of cakes donated by Mrs Rosina Booysen, wife of Mr Clyde Booysen from the Technical Services Unit. Proceeds from the raffle are placed in a fund that supports students in need.

While many staff members, alumni and students have also anonymously donated non-perishable food items to the Campus Food Bank, the Finance Department took the lead in kindling staff’s competitive spirit, by challenging the combined

Marketing and Corporate Relations, ICT Services and Protection Services team to match or improve on their generous donation of food products.

Staff from the NMMU George Library Services also reciprocated by collecting and donating groceries and basic consumable items to the Food Bank.

This gauntlet will now be passed on to other units, and in this way assist the Food Bank with its recommended “grocery list”.

The warm hearted Madibaz are sure to rise to the challenge!

### **Church community also opens their hearts to NMMU students**

In view of the existing needs at university, and in acknowledging the ongoing community outreach programmes by the NMMU such as the invited talk by Dr. Bridget Johnson to the young adults at St Paul’s Anglican Church, the members of the congregation reciprocated by visiting the campus and serving a warm hearty meal to students in need of support. This initiative complements various other initiatives by staff and students to assist those in need.





# Spreading Happiness!

Team Madibaz George – representing one of thirty companies who joined the George Herald as part of the annual Sandwich Jam on International Mandela Day (18 July) – pulled out all the stops to help meet the target of preparing 10 000 sandwiches in 67 minutes. Participants' zealous efforts exceeded all expectations with the assignment completed in only 41 minutes, followed by the pleasurable task of distributing the sandwiches to various organisations that cater for less privileged members of our community.



Members of Team Madibaz were so engrossed in the task at hand, that they only managed to gather for a team photo afterwards. Featured here are (f.l.t.r.) Zandi Mpange (Finance), Melony Oliphant (Education), Charlene Cupido and Dr Takalani Ramukumba (Business and Economic Sciences), Kershia Ramoo (School of Natural Resource Management), Monica Tshangana (Marketing & Corporate Relations - MCR) Marnus de Klerk (Madibaz Sport George), Arthur Peters (BES) and Bongisa Maqutyana (Finance). Alet van Tonder (MCR) and Hugo Loubser (Madibaz Sport George) were not present when the photo was taken.

## Boost for Food Security

**Food security at the NMMU George Campus has been boosted with the allocation of a R20 000 donation from the Office of the Campus Principal through the Madibaz Diamonds Development Fund.**

The decision to channel these funds to address this immediate need also supports the university's Academic Completion Plan. It will certainly assist our young Madibaz to focus on their studies by ensuring access to adequate nutrition in those cases where it needs to be supplemented, says Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson.



Stock at the NMMU George Campus Food Bank has been replenished in preparation of an increased demand by nutritionally compromised students during the upcoming examinations. A delighted Ms Antoinette Piet was in attendance to receive the supplies.

## Transformation endeavours

**Allan Zinn, Director of CANRAD (NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racialism and Democracy) was seconded the NMMU George Campus for a period of three months, from the beginning of the final term to the end of this year.**

During this period Dir Zinn worked with the Campus Principal, NMMU George staff and management, as well as students, together with colleagues in Port Elizabeth to ensure that the identified matters arising from the Case for Change Imbizos held at the campus earlier this year, as well as the challenging university-wide complexities related to the student protest action, received dedicated and priority attention.

At the conclusion of the assignment the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton



Johnson, thanked Mr Zinn for his dedicated contributions to our campus and his sacrifice to support our transformation endeavours during his research sabbatical.

## Welcome on Board!

NMMU's Human Resources Department recently visited the campus to engage with staff members appointed during the course of the year, and to present the university's On Board programme aimed at assisting newcomers to familiarise themselves with the policies and processes applicable to the university community.



Leo Doria, far right, and Vuvu Madwayi (front, centre) – both from the Human Resources Department, with newly appointed lecturers, Glen Sefela (back, left) who specialises in environmental law, and 'homegrown' forestry talent, Muedanyi Ramantswana (second from right) who lectures in the Forestry programme. The other staff members are from the Madibaz George Kitchen – and represent the first group of outsourced staff members who are now fully-fledged employees of NMMU.



The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (second from right) joined HR's Edwin Kgomo to warmly welcome newly in-sourced staff members of the Security Unit.

# Homegrown talent for George Campus

## Forestry alumnus appointed as lecturer



**Muedanyi Ramantswana**

**NMMU George Campus alumnus, Mufhumudzi Muedanyi Ramantswana, has been appointed to a lecturing position in the Forestry Programme with effect from 1 August 2016.**

Ramantswana, a recipient of the highest industry accolade for forestry students – the Schlich Medal, Gold – attained all his NMMU qualifications, notably the National Diploma Forestry, BTech and MTech degrees in Forestry Cum Laude. His area of specialisation is Forest Engineering, which is the sphere in which he will be lecturing at

the NMMU George Campus.

Having spent close to four years in industry as a SAPPI bursar, Ramantswana also joins the university with a wealth of practical expertise to share with students and colleagues alike. True to character, this humble and hard-working young professional has wasted no time in adding a business qualification (part-time through UNISA's Business School during his tenure at SAPPI) to his already impressive portfolio of competencies.

The Campus Principal, Prof. Quinton Johnson expressed his delight

with Mr. Ramantswana's appointment. He said that the NMMU George Campus, which hosted the World Forestry Congress Indaba last year, has been requested by government, industry and communities to play a leading role in developing a strategic plan for the sustainable future utilization of 22 000 hectares of forests. "To this end, Mr. Ramantswana's expertise and experience will contribute wonderfully to our work. We are very happy to have attracted such a talented, young academic who we warmly welcome home!" he said.

## Law lecturer for NMMU George



**Glenwin Sefela**

**The NMMU George Campus is pleased to announce the appointment of Advocate Glenwin Sefela as a lecturer, for teaching law, including environmental law, since the beginning of August 2016.**

Advocate Sefela received his LLB (2009) and LLM (2014) from the University of the Western Cape. Furthermore, he has also graduated with a certificate in legislative drafting (2014) at the Justice College of

the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. In 2015, he was admitted as an Advocate in the High Court of South Africa.

Advocate Sefela has a postgraduate research speciality in environmental law, which is a further significant advantage to our NMMU George Campus, with its focus on educating sustainable futures leaders.

The Campus Principal, Prof. Quinton Johnson, said that he was

delighted to warmly welcome Advocate Sefela as a talented new academic with good teaching and administrative experience gained at university and the Department of Education. He indicated that the appointment of Advocate Sefela further strengthens the presence of the Law Faculty at the NMMU George Campus.

## Boost for student support and development



**Charles Persence**

**Educational Psychologist, Charles Persence, assumed his position as Senior Counsellor and Co-ordinator of the Higher Education Access and Development Services (HEADS) Unit at the NMMU George Campus on 1 July 2016.**

With a career of 25 years under the belt, Mr Persence, a masters graduate and registered Educational Psychologist brings with him a wealth of experience in education (teaching), career guidance, counselling, career development and learning support. This includes twelve-years' experience in psychometric assessment, working with a wide array of psychometric assessment instruments for aptitude, personality, career interest and emotional intelligence amongst others.

His substantive experience includes

five years at the University of Pretoria as Senior Student Advisor where he was involved in executing a strategy for recruiting and retaining excellent undergraduate students. Before that he held the position of Senior Education Specialist at a number of education institutions, including the Western Cape and Mpumalanga Education Departments. He also served for more than a decade in the schools sector, as a Guidance Teacher and Counsellor at the Swellendam Secondary School. Furthermore, his professional part-time experience includes, amongst others, being in Private Practice as a Psychologist since 2007, lecturing part-time at the University of the Western Cape and the Cape Town University of Technology.

Mr Persence, who believes in the

principles of lifelong learning and continuous professional development, boasts an impressive academic track record, with, amongst others, BA Psychology and BEd Educational Psychology degrees from the UWC; FDE:Ed from the University of Pretoria; and an MEd Educational Psychology degree from the University of Zululand. His published works include the book: Inclusive Education Training and Support from a South African Perspective, which is based on his masters degree dissertation.

Mr Persence is married to Berenice, who is a banker. Prof. Johnson, Campus Principal, warmly welcomed Mr. Persence, and wished him a fulfilling tenure with Team Madibaz!



# New Practitioner for MCR



**We welcome Ms Monica Tshangana who was earlier this year appointed in the vacancy of Practitioner: Marketing & Communication within the NMMU George Campus Marketing & Corporate Relations Department.**

Prior to accepting the position at NMMU George, Ms Tshangana was

employed in the TVET sector (SC TVET College) where she pursued her passion for working with people, notably the youth, in the Marketing and Communication sphere throughout the Garden Route and Karoo regions.

She holds a Marketing qualification (NDip Marketing) from the Durban University of Technology and is cur-

rently pursuing postgraduate studies in Business Management through UNISA.

Hailing from the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, she has been a proud Georgian for the past eight years. She is married to Sandiso and has been blessed with 2 children, namely Emihle (14 years old) and Nkazimlo (4 years old).



Mr Michael Breytenbach was appointed as Food Services Manager of the Madibaz George Kitchen/Catering Services on campus earlier this year.

He comes with a wealth of experience within the Finance, Catering and Food and Beverage industry. He was, amongst others, the Finance/Food and Beverage Manager of the 5-star Tramonto establishment for more than nine years.

His work journey also included the SANDF where he held the position of Senior State Accountant for twelve years.

He is married to Charmaine and the couple has been blessed with two children.



We also warmly welcome Mr Thami Douse who joined the NMMU George Campus Marketing and Corporate Relations Team on a contract basis for 2016. He is assisting the unit with marketing/communication-related projects.

An NMMU George Marketing alumnus and entrepreneur, Thami has notched-up considerable industry experience and complements the skillset of the Unit. He can be located in the Admin Building.

He is married to Eileen and the couple have two children - an older son, Ishmael, who is studying Accounting at UCT, and a one year old daughter, Uthe.



Mr Anathi Masebeni, another NMMU George alumnus, was earlier this year appointed on a contract basis to assist Student Governance and Development in attending to off campus student accommodation. His can be found at the Stinkwood office (adjacent to the Umdoni, Kamassi and Phoenix suit of residences).

Before completing the National Diploma in Marketing this year, he fulfilled various protagonist roles on campus, which included being elected as Student Council Secretary 2012, Student Council Chairperson 2013-2014, SRC member 2013-2015 and Student Parliament Speaker in 2015.

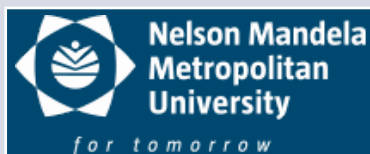


Ms Siphokazi Nodude was recently appointed on contract as Assistant to the Student Governance and Development unit at the George Campus.

She is stationed at the Kiepersol Building where she is working under the supervision of Mr Sefoko Ramoshaba, the Senior Manager: Student Affairs

Ms Nodude is no newcomer to the NMMU family. She is a proud NMMU alumnus who competed her National Diploma in Agriculture in 2012 and her B Tech in 2015.

She was born in Cofimvaba village in the Eastern Cape, and matriculated in East London at Bylletes Combined School in 2006.



welcome  
wamkelekile  
welkom



## Research Excellence – Prof Dirk Roux



**Congratulations to Adjunct Professor Dirk Roux, one of SRU's stalwart Research Associates, who was again awarded a highly respectable B3 rating by the National Research Foundation for the period 2017-2020.**

According to NRF, B-ratings are reserved for "Researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition by their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs".

NMMU George Campus Principal,

Prof. Quinton Johnson, warmly congratulated Prof. Roux on his "Superb international rating, which recognizes the world-class research that he is undertaking as a sustainable futures leader".

Said Prof. Andrew Leitch, NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement: "Congratulations! As one of our Adjunct Professors linked to our Sustainability Research Unit on our George campus, your continued association with our University is greatly appreci-

ated. We also appreciate your seniority on the campus, in your supervision of our postgrad students and your support for the vision of the SRU. Thanks also for being such a strong link between SANParks and NMMU. We will do what we can to support you as you further advance your research standing through the NMMU".

The most recent list of SRU's peer reviewed publications can be accessed at <http://sru.nmmu.ac.za/Publications/Journal-Papers-and-Book- Chapters>

# Engagement Excellence Awarded



**Congratulations to Prof Raymond Auerbach, whose work in the field of organic farming systems and food security (locally and elsewhere on the**

**African continent) has recently landed him a prestigious NMMU "Engagement Excellence Award", in the individual category.**

This is the second year in a row that NMMU acknowledges Prof Auerbach's outputs. Last year he also received an Engagement Award for his work with local gardeners and planning of an AgriPark. He recently attended a colloquium to report on his work.

Prof Auerbach was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition by the African Union Commission in Nigeria last year - the citation lists his lifelong contribution as a champion of ecological organic agriculture in Africa.

Over the past three months Auerbach, who is an Associate Professor in Soil Science and Plant Production at NMMU's

School of Natural Resource Management at the George Campus, attended and presented papers in his field of expertise at two major conferences in Cape Town, namely the World Public Health and Nutrition Conference with the International Organic Food Group, as well as the "Re-imagining Agriculture" conference organised by the Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies.

Follow the link to read Prof Auerbach's article on organic farming: Raymond Auerbach **Organic farming gets a bad rap. Why it shouldn't**

## Business focus... SACDA Deans meet at George Campus

Commerce Deans from more than twenty universities across South Africa convened at the NMMU George Campus on 11 November for a meeting of the South African Commerce Deans Association (SACDA), as facilitated by the NMMU Executive Dean of Business and Economic Sciences, Prof Ismail Lagardien.



*The delegates, who briefly joined Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal, and Dean Ismail Lagardien (front, far right and 2nd from right respectively) on the staff deck to savour the magnificent setting of the campus, included:*

*(Back, f.l.t.r.) Prof Daneel van Lill (University of Johannesburg), Mr Willem Lotter (Cape Peninsula University of Technology), Prof Armstrong Kadyamatimba (University of Venda), Prof Albert Strydom (Free State Central University of Technology), Prof Jan Van Romburgh (North West University), Prof Robert Rugimbana (Tshwane University of Technology), Prof Jannie Rossouw (University of the Witwatersrand), Prof Herman Van der Merwe (NWU), Prof Johan Marx (UNISA), Prof Hendrik Lloyd (NMMU).*

*(Middle, f.l.t.r.) Prof Philna Coetzee (UNISA), Prof Elsabe Loots (University of Pretoria), Prof Hendri Kroukamp (Free State University), Prof Olu Olugbara (Durban University of Technology), Ms Bulelwa Nguza-Mduba (Walter Sisulu University), Dr Paul Green (DUT), Dr S Rajkaran (Walter Sisulu University), Mr C Novukela (WSU), Prof Roy Dhurup (Vaal University of Technology), Dr Daphne Gumbi (WSU), Prof Cosmos Ambe (University of Limpopo), Prof Kobus Visser (University of the Western Cape), Prof Sonia Swanepoel (NWU), Prof E Rankhumise (TUT);*

*(Front, f.l.t.r.) Prof Lindelwa Majova-Sonqca (University of Fort Hare), Prof Rhishidaw Balkaran (DUT), Prof Amanda Dempsey (UJ), Prof Ismail Lagardien (NMMU), Prof Quinton Johnson (NMMU).*



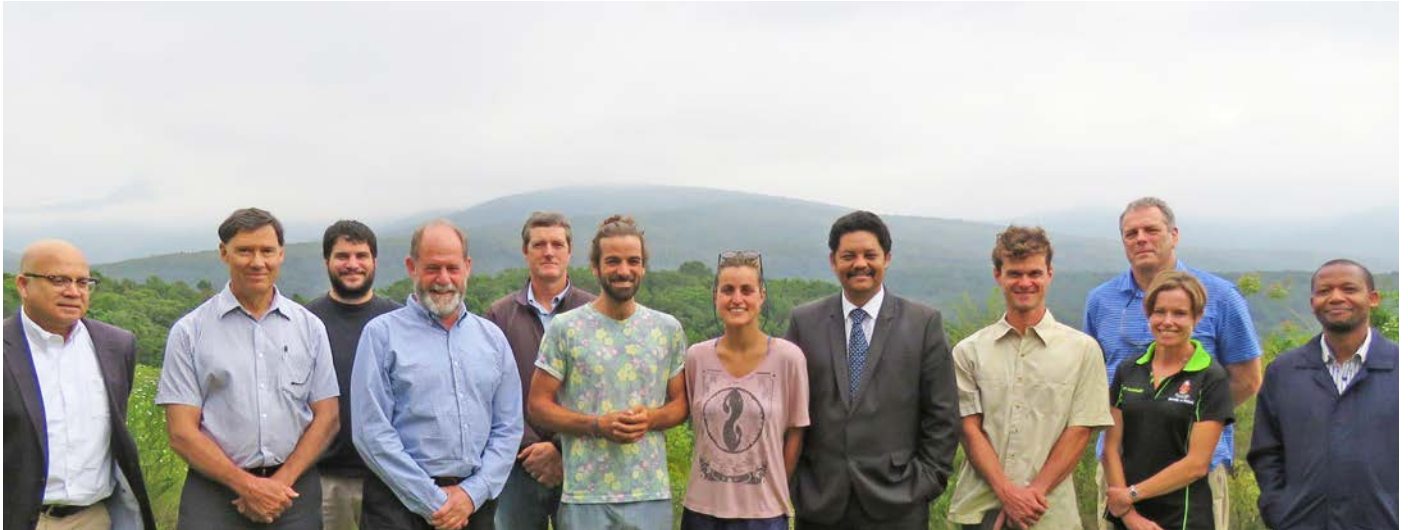
# DST: Food Security Centre of Excellence

Industry representatives and scientists in the sphere of organic agriculture and economics from a number of universities across South Africa recently met at the NMMU George campus for discussions about soils and organic agriculture. A visit to the NMMU George Long-term Farming Systems Organic Research Trials located on campus was included in

the itinerary for the day, along with an outline of the new ECOSOLA project on Food Security and Climate Change which the research group will be launching in Germany on 1 December.

Mrs Maryna Lehmann, Programme Co-ordinator for Agricultural Management was not present when the photograph was taken.

During the visit to the research trials and permaculture centre, Dr van der Waals and Prof Labuschagne took samples from the trial site to compare soil microbial activity between organic and conventional practices.



Featured here are NMMU's Dean of Business and Economic Sciences, Prof Ismail Lagardien; Prof Nico Labuschagne (Soil Microbiologist, UP & CoE-FSA), Hannes van Zyl (doctoral student, NMMU), Prof Raymond Auerbach (Project Leader, CoE-FS and NMMU Agricultural Management Soil Science and Plant Production), Stephen Stead (local farmer and environmental impact consultant), Waldo Schaffli and Tilani Kriel (permaculture gardeners), Prof Quinton Johnson (NMMU George Campus Principal), Harold Hoekwil (permaculture gardener), Prof Jos Louw (Director of the School of Natural Resource Management, NMMU), Dr Jacque van der Waals (Soil Microbiologist, UP & CoE-FSA) and Prof Ndiko Ludidi (Head of Plant Biotechnology, UWC and Principal Investigator, CoE-FS).

## NMMU facilitates municipal Lekgotla Municipal Leadership plan for a sustainable city

**The newly elected local government leadership, along with the administrative leaders/directors of the various departments of the George Municipality lost no time to get down to business after the municipal elections that were conducted nation-**

**ally during August.**

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, was called upon to facilitate the first Lekgotla of the municipality to strategically plan for George as a Sustainable Futures City.

Quality education, viewed as a critical element of progress and building of sustainable communities, is a high priority and a strength for the region.





# NMMU staff celebrate long service

**One hundred and thirty five years' service, notched-up by fourteen staff members was celebrated during a year-end lunch-time engagement attended by more than a hundred staff members – academics, professional, services and support staff at the NMMU George campus on 7 December.**

The event commenced with the message of the acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sibongile Muthwa, which was live-streamed (video) to the NMMU George campus. Dr Muthwa gave a succinct overview of the challenges experienced, with specific reference to the national student protest and its impact on NMMU, and the successes of the past year which included several national and international milestones. She thanked all staff for their contribution to the collective success of NMMU.

The focus then shifted to the George campus programme with the Campus Principal, Prof

Quinton Johnson, delivering an equally inspiring message. He thanked all staff for rising to the challenge as Madibaz to advance the university and all our students during a year which has been "incredibly complicated". Referring to the solid set of values that bind us together as a campus community, he thanked all staff for their courage, dedication and commitment that contributes to the building of an inclusive campus which is necessary to ensure a bright future for everyone.

He thanked the staff members who, in the past year, celebrated the completion of thirty, twenty-five, fifteen, ten and five years' service at NMMU respectively, as well as staff who have completed their assignments with NMMU. He also welcomed newcomers and wished them well for their journey with NMMU.

The event was concluded with the customary lucky draw with three exciting prizes aimed at enriching staff's experiences, for both Port Elizabeth and George-based staff.



*Nine staff members, seven of whom are staff from Madibaz George Kitchen, were acknowledged for completing five years' service at NMMU. Featured with a delighted Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (2nd from left) were an equally delighted (f.l.t.r.) Hester Manus, Charntol Jacobs, Katy van Heerden, Marlene Speek, Mariza Masebeni, Nomalizo January, Arthur Peters (lecturer, Business and Economic Sciences) and Zikhona Mpengezi. Absent: Sam Webber (lecturer, Business and Economic Sciences).*



*Luck of the draw... The eleven staff members whose numbers were drawn at the campus staff year end event joined the Campus Principal in hopeful anticipation of emerging as one of the lucky winners of three exciting prizes. The delighted winners of the prizes, drawn by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (front left), were George Minquma (back, second from left) who received a bed and breakfast prize from Town Lodge Garden Route Mall; Ljaji (front, third from left) who won a R3 000 Woolworths gift voucher; and lecturer Barry Muller (back, right) who was overjoyed at winning the R15 000 Rennie's travel prize.*



*Staff spontaneously applauded Forestry stalwart, Willie Louw, who has no less than 30 years' service to NMMU under the belt. Prof Quinton Johnson warmly congratulated him on attaining this special milestone and for sharing his expertise with students and staff over the years.*



*Riiaan van Zyl, Campus Protection Services, has also become a familiar figure on campus over the past 25 years. He, too, received his long service certificate and words of inspiration and appreciation from Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal.*



*Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal, enjoying a lighter moment with some Security Services staff who are now insourced employees of NMMU.*



*Karen Hendricks (Financial Aid) and Trevor Blain (ICT Services) both celebrated a decade of service to NMMU. They, too, received their awards from the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson. Absent: Richard Muller (lecturer, Science faculty, with 15 years service).*



# Sustainable Futures Leadership

## Public lectures series informs, captivates, enthrals and inspires

A suit of captivating public lectures hosted at NMMU George Campus over the past few weeks has attracted great interest from a range of stakeholders and the public at large.

### Focus on Business and Science

The series was led in brilliantly by NMMU's newly appointed Executive Deans of Business and Economic Sciences – Dr Ismail Lagardien, and Science – Prof Azwinndini Muronga with captivating insights provided respectively on the top-

ics of the new business and economic paradigm; and the very recent cutting-edge scientific discoveries relating to gravitational waves, providing new perspectives on Einstein's law of relativity.



Dr Ismail Lagardien, Executive Dean, Business and Economic Sciences (2nd from right) with industry representatives, Mrs Ingrid Cronje (left, CEO of the George Business Chamber) and Mrs Elsie Potgieter (Principal of the South Cape TVET College). The team is flanked by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, (far left) and Dr Imme Scholtz.



Dr Ismail Lagardien, Executive Dean, Business and Economic Sciences (2nd from left) with the Campus Librarian, Ms Ndileka Mtshizana (left), and BES lecturers, Mr Arthur Peters (right) and Dr Marianne Doubell (far right).



Prof Azwinndini Muronga (right), NMMU Executive Dean of Science explains a particular concept relating to gravitational waves, with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch, watching attentively.



Enquiring young minds... Science students at the NMMU George Campus were captivated by Prof Muronga's lecture, and found the prospect of "getting closer to unlocking the secrets of the universe" with the aid of new technology such as the SKA particularly enthralling. This technology, Prof Muronga emphasised, offers more opportunities to promote science for the benefit of all of Africa, and the world.



# Calling the “Mandela in all of us”

On International Mandela Day, 18 July, NMMU was graced with the insights and leadership of ANC stalwart, Ms Nomalindi Mfeketo, South Africa's Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, who inspired students, staff and the public with her very moving lecture titled “Searching for a Mandela in all of us: Celebrating the Life and Times of Madiba”.

Minister Mfeketo, who knew Madiba in person, gave an overview of his earlier years, testimony to his humility and humane nature. Focusing on the outstanding leadership qualities of this internationally respected icon, she emphasised the importance of self-awareness, having a sense of humour and the ability to forgive. “Hating clouds the mind”, she said, while cautioning that one should not allow one's ego to get in the way of doing what is right. “There is no denying that

SA and the world is going through trying times” she said, but emphasised that the “world expects us to be exemplary”. “Being in service of our community is the highest calling”, she said, indicating that Madiba's positive spirit is a powerful resource to draw from.

This spirit is within all of us, she said, indicating that the ability to build is not something difficult. “We do not appreciate where this icon (Madiba) put us globally”, she said as she encouraged everyone to start at home, around the dinner table, in our churches and schools, to promote the values of unity and co-existence – values which Madiba treasured and lived out.

In answering a suit of questions from the students and the attendees, this formidable woman emphasised that education is key to addressing the challenges of poverty. “Education will allow



*Deputy Minister Mfeketo kept her audience spellbound with an inspiring lecture on the life of Madiba on International Mandela Day. She is seated with the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, who introduced her as speaker after the opening prayer delivered by Bishop Brian Marajh.*

us to be creators of employment and not to seek employment” she said. She also asserted the need for “selfless conscientiousness” and “responsible active

citizenship” to ensure that institutions (including government) fulfil their role as servants of the people, and not put themselves first.

## Green Medicine

During September we were also fortunate to host two outstanding visiting international academics on our Campus. Prof Pascal Richomme from the Angiers University, France, shared his expertise in the arena of Green

Medicine, with academics and postgrad students through an enthralling lecture on “Natural molecules from medicinal plants”.



*Prof Pascal Richomme*



*Prof Pascal Richomme shared his insights with postgraduate students and science lecturers. Prof Richomme is flanked by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch (left) and some postgraduate students at the NMMU George Campus.*

## Inclusive Education in the spotlight

Prof Eileen Raymond, a Fulbright scholar and visiting professor from the State University of New York (Potsdam) spend several days at the George campus as guest of the HEADS Unit. Her exceptional expertise and experience in the field of inclusive education was shared by way of a public lecture which was well attended by students, staff and the educators in our region, through

the Eden/Karoo Education District. Her lecture titled, “Making inclusive education work in classrooms” appealed to educators across the board.

Numerous presentations, small group discussions and workshops on Inclusive Education involving staff and students rounded off a full programme of engagement.



*Mr Roger Jacobs, Head SLES, Eden and Central Karoo District, Prof Eileen Raymond (left) and Dr Bridget Johnson (right).*



# Symposium for Church Leadership hosted at NMMU



The Church Leadership symposium hosted at the NMMU George Campus on 22 October 2016 is regarded as another milestone in the process of developing a new strategic growth plan for the Anglican Church of South Africa, with the Campus Principal,

Prof Quinton Johnson, as facilitator. A significant focus of the deliberations was the issue of growing the church around young people especially – a very relevant and topical theme in the context of the complexities experienced by young people and the

tertiary sector during the past year. In the spirit of support, the clergy members present also utilised the opportunity to pray for NMMU, our staff and students, and the university sector in general.

## Quad helix engagement Forestry Forum to empower local communities



**Executive Members of the Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum (WCFSF) gathered at the NMMU George Campus for a strategic workshop on 22 July chaired by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson.**

The WCFSF represents the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Industry and 36 communities across the Western Cape.

The engagement focused on the development of a strategic plan for the sustainable future utilization of 22 000 hectares of forests for the socio-economic development of local communities.

The delegation, who deliberated on how to advance this vital process, also met with NMMU's new Executive Dean of Science, Prof Azwinndini Muronga (front, centre), featured here with Prof

Johnson (to his right) and Prof Jos Louw (back). Prof. Louw delivered a presentation on the role of academic institutions in forestry education, training and plantations, as part of the information shared by community, industry and government stakeholders. The strategic plan is set to be finalized before the end of 2016.



# Working With Wood

**The exciting Woodturning Symposium and Working With Wood Expo was this year for the first time hosted at the NMMU George Campus between 26 and 28 August.**

This much anticipated annual event, which has a strong industry and developmental focus, this year included a special event – “Earning through Turning” – featuring internationally-known woodturner, Ms Carmen de la Paz, a role-model and thought-leader involved in programmes to transfer woodturning skills to communities in several countries in South America, China and India.

The American Association of Woodturners and the Association of Woodturners South Africa (AWSA) joined forces to also bring this global outreach programme, Turners Without

Borders (TWB), to George (NMMU). The launch of the TWB Women in Turning (WIT) project which was designed to empower women and in acknowledgement of the fact that globally women are in the top rankings of woodturners, was a highlight of this year’s symposium proceedings.

NMMU Wood Technology and Forestry students benefitted from the symposium in many ways, as valuable woodturning equipment used during the various demonstrations was donated to the university for use in these programmes.



*Ms Carmen de la Paz (centre) with her hosts, Ms Dee Marcus (left) and Prof Roy Marcus (Conference chairman) (far right); Prof Quinton Johnson (NMMU George Campus Principal) and Prof Andrew Leitch (NMMU Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement) enjoying a lighter moment during the symposium.*



## 11th Fire Management Symposium a big success

The popular Fire Management Symposium hosted annually as an initiative of NMMU George Campus and the SA Institute of Forestry (SAIF) was attended by well over a hundred industry delegates. This year the symposium, organised largely by the Veldfire Management Team of the School of Natural Resource Management, including Programme Co-ordinator Tiaan Pool and lecturer Hannes van Zyl, was held from 24 – 26 October at Skukuza, Kruger National Park – an area where the management of veldfires is of critical importance.

Several high profile speakers from industry were included in the highly relevant and informative programme.

## NMMU celebrates Arbor Month with George Museum, stakeholders

**NMMU George celebrated Arbor Month 2016 with the George Museum and other stakeholders with a guided tour of the captivating forestry unit at the museum, complemented by a suit of interesting lectures, amongst others by NMMU Forestry lecturer, Willie Louw, who focused on champion trees.**

Forestry students who attended the event were also privy to a presentation titled – Secrets of the soil - by Ms Lorinda Hakimi of the Museum on forest ecosystems, the importance of dead wood and soil fauna.

The event concluded with a tangible contribution to our forestry heritage with the planting of an indigenous Outeniqua yellowwood tree (now a declared national sym-

bol) on the grounds of the George Museum as part of the annual Arbor Month celebrations.

*Pictured at this historic occasion were (back, f.l.t.r.) newly appointed lecturer and NMMU George Campus Forestry Master’s alumnus, Mr Muedanyi Ramantswana; Mr Henry May, a retired wood cutter; Ms Lorinda Hakimi and Forestry lecturer, Mr Willie Louw; (front, f.l.t.r.) Mr Deon Makwena from Cape Nature and NMMU 1st year forestry student, Mr Siyabonga Luzipo.*



# Flying the flag for NMMU in the global arena

## George Campus to host 2017 IFSA symposium

**NMMU George Forestry students Sabelo Sithole, Kerry Smith and Tatenda Mapeto have represented NMMU with distinction at the 44th symposium of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) hosted by the Vienna University of Life Sciences in Austria during August.**

During the conference proceedings, Sabelo Sithole was appointed as the Regional Representative for the Southern Africa Region of IFSA (the Interna-

tional Forestry Students Association), a position he will hold for the coming year.

NMMU George PhD student in Forestry, Tatenda Mapeto, who up to now has been an IFSA board member, as well as the Legal Statutes Councillor in the association, will continue to serve IFSA in an advisory position as executive consulting member.

The symposium activities this year highlighted the growing global consen-

sus on the need for the forestry industry to come out of the woods and step up to the notion that forests are more than just timber and fibre factories, especially in this era of global change.

This year's conference theme, "Global Forests, Regional Perspectives", also set the scene for the 45th symposium which will be hosted in South Africa in 2017 with the captivating theme "Practising forestry in a diverse environment: Quo vadis?"

This exciting global event will probe the dynamics of practising forestry in a diverse environment from landscapes, to people and even forest product ranges. It will be hosted at the NMMU George Campus from 2 - 17 July 2017, with George Campus Forestry students leading the organising team of all South African universities involved.

The pre-symposium activities are planned for 29 June – 1 July 2017.



*Forestry students Sabelo Sithole, Kerry Smith and Tatenda Mapeto*



*Tatenda Mapeto and Indaba visitors, including Deputy Minister Bheki Cele (DAFF) walking through the forest at the NMMU George Campus*

## Simply Excellent!

### Top NMMU students honoured

**With more than 26 000 students enrolled across NMMU's six campuses, the outstanding achievements of two George Campus students who were identified as the best postgraduate achievers overall in their particular area of study is no small feat.**

Congratulations to Noxolo Ndlovu, currently a Master's student in Forestry at NMMU George Campus, who was acknowledged as NMMU's top BTech student, and Thea Buckle who completed her Master's degree under the supervision of Prof Christo Fabricius, who heads up NMMU's Sustainability Research Unit located at the George Campus.

Ms Ndlovu is a previous recipient of the coveted Schlich Medal (Gold class) for excellence across all years of undergraduate studies in Forestry.

Ms Buckle received the NMMU award for the best Master's student in the social sciences for her dissertation "Media and communication influences on farmer's views of water conservation in the Garden Route". The research, supervised jointly by Prof Fabricius and Dr Janina Wozniak of NMMU's Department of Journalism and Media Studies, was described as "an 'outstanding' transdisciplinary arts and science masters" and "a celebration of transdisciplinarity".



**Noxolo Ndlovu**



**Thea Buckle**



# Bright and beautiful!

## Campus ambassadors crowned

If the outcomes of the 2016 Mr and Miss NMMU George pageant are anything to go by, the face of various industries (in the science and business spheres) are set to change forever.

Second year Tourism student, Ms Lithalethu Nqashosho and Mr Athenkosi Siyabalwa (centre), a third year student in the Forestry programme, scooped the coveted Miss and Mr NMMU George titles which will see them fulfilling an ambassadorial role for the campus in the months to come.

They will be assisted in carrying out this responsibility by the worthy runners-up - (f.l.t.r) 2nd Princess, Ms Nonkululeko Shelembe (3rd year Agricultural Management); the first runners-up - Ms Lisa Horn (2nd year Nature Conservation) and Mr Delroy Bloem (3rd year Forestry), and Mr Eric Goold (far right), the 2nd Prince who is also a 2nd year student in Nature Conservation.



## Bestmed Eden Street Mile Series launched at George Campus



Dignitaries who attended the launch along with members of the news media included (front, f.l.t.r.) Mr Moses Gericke, President of SWD Athletics, the NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson; NMMU Director of Sport, Ms Yoliswa Lumka; BESTMED's Head of Marketing, Ms Sasja la Grange; and (back, f.l.t.r.) Mr Dirk vd Westhuizen, Western Cape Department of Culture and Sport; Mr Dave vd Walt (Eden Sport Council); Olympic athlete, LJ van Zyl; Ms Karen Phipson (Hartenbos ATKV), Mr Hans van der Veen, Chairperson of the Local Organising Committee and founder of the street mile series; and Mr Desmond Speelman. (Photograph courtesy Hugo Redelinghuys, George Herald)

The media launch of the much anticipated 2016 Bestmed Eden Street Mile Series was hosted at the NMMU George Campus recently.

The NMMU George campus has also been identified as the venue for the second "leg" of the series, which has grown significantly over the past few years. The 2016 series is scheduled to start in Oudtshoorn on 17 Dec (first leg), followed by the George event at NMMU George Campus on 20 December. The series will be concluded in Hartenbos (3rd leg) on 22 December.

Athletes who have already confirmed their participation include last year's series winners Dumisane Hlaselo and Simoney Weitsz, as well as Rio Olympic finalist, Elroy Gelant, and other top athletes from various universities and clubs.

## Upcoming events

**7 December 2016**

Staff Long Service Awards

**21 December 2016 - 2 January 2017**

NMMU recess

**21 January 2017**

Vice Chancellor's First Year Welcome event

**23 January 2017**

First Year Orientation & Registration commence

**6 February 2017**

Lectures commence

**30 & 31 March 2017**

NMMU George graduation ceremonies

**12 & 13 May 2017**

NMMU George Open Day



# “Veteran Champions” accolade for George Wood Tech lecturer and brother

**What started as merely a joy ride for Wood Technology Lecturer Richard Muller and his brother Corrie, ended on the race podium, and being crowned the “Veteran Champions” of the gruelling 900km Old Mutual JoBerg2c mountain biking race.**

“I rode with my brother Corrie, a well-seasoned mountain biker who finished a few times on the race podiums of the Cape Epic, explains Richard. “We decided to approach the JoBerg2C as a ‘jol’, although not wasting time in the field”. As it turned out this strategy gave them a competitive advantage which the pair managed to maintain throughout the race.

“After the first competitive stage we were stunned as we were leading the Veterans Category” says Richard. The pair decided not to take things too seriously, though, but kept on rac-

ing, a strategy which worked well and ensured that they systematically increased and retained their lead in the Veterans from start to finish.

All was not plain sailing, however, as the seat post of Richard’s bicycle broke on the one day and he had to Cycle for 35 km without anything to sit on. “This took a little of our lead, but we endured all the way to the coast to be crowned Veteran Champions!” says a beaming, yet modest Richard of this unexpected achievement.

## Ubuntu – giving back to the community

The JoBerg2c has successfully uplifted every community through which it has travelled. Each race village is run by an organisation or school which benefits dramatically prior to, during and after the race has passed through their area. In addition each seconding



*Beaming with pride ... Brothers Richard (left) and Corrie Muller surprised themselves by taking and maintaining the lead in the Veterans Category of the gruelling 900km Old Mutual JoBerg2c mountain biking race, a fete which earned them the much deserved accolade of “Veteran Champions”.*

table along the route is “owned” by a different organisation which also benefits significantly from the race, ensuring their support every year.

# Madibaz George Football – going places

**The Madibaz George Football Club is not only committed to excellence and making progress in the arena of competitive football in the region, club members also share a vision of giving back to the community and being role models for young people in general, and youngsters from a disadvantaged background in particular.**

A strong driving force behind the Team’s progress is NMMU Sport Management graduate, Coach Lungisa (“Shakes”) Mkalipi, who firmly believes in the Team’s talent and who is committed to helping them achieve their full potential – both as rising soccer stars and as young people who share an uplifting set of values and a skills set that will empower them as positive role models to help make a difference in the world.

The Madibaz George Football squad normally train three times a week – on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in preparation for matches that could be scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes more than one match is played on a day says the proud coach who is officially accredited with a Level D Coaching License from SAFA and is looking towards advanced FIFA accreditation in the near future.

While it is his ambition to get at least one or two players to enter the professional arena, he emphasises that soccer, as most other sport codes, offers a relatively short career and therefore a good education and preferably a strong academic background is



*Prof Johnson, (centre, back) joined the Madibaz Football Club in support before one of the matches. The squad are proudly sporting their new corporate shirts and donated soccer balls.*

*Ms. Phosiza Dlokweni (front row, non-player) is the Club secretary, while Messrs Otswetswe Kelaocwe (Back row, third from the right) and Theo Barnes (middle row, second from right) are the Vice Chairperson and Chairperson of Madibaz George Soccer respectively*

very important.

Madibaz George Football, as with other sporting codes on campus, is supported administratively and tactically by Madibaz Sport, George, who also work closely with the university’s Sport office located in Port Elizabeth.

Campus Principal, Prof. Quinton Johnson stated at

the final game of the season at Lawaaiakamp, which the Madibaz won 2-1, that the boys are playing an exciting brand of football under the leadership of our coach. We support them all the way.

