

Welcome Madibaz!

Nearly 1000 people including new students and their families, staff, special guests, representatives from local government, business chambers as well as the education department, gathered in the Expo Centre on the NMMU George Campus for the Vice Chancellor's annual welcome event on 23 January 2016.

The VC's message streamed live from Port Elizabeth, was excellently delivered by Dr. Sibongile Muthwa, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Institutional Support). The latter was followed by the George Campus programme, which commenced on a high note with an inspirational welcome address by the Campus Principal, Prof. Quinton Johnson, who spoke about the imperative for educating sustainable futures leaders. Thereafter, a variety of breakaway sessions were held, which were superbly hosted by the various faculties who present substantive programmes at the George Campus.



Welcoming Crew...Prof. Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal and the Executive Mayor of George Alderman Charles Standers with team "Buddies" - Senior NMMU students who form part of a volunteer programme to assist first years "find their feet" during the first few weeks on campus.

The Buddies were also joined by Pieter Janse van Rensburg (back, left), Orientation 2016 Co-ordinator at NMMU George Campus. Featured from left to right are - Vusi Mnisi, Nikki Isaks, Chelsea Johnson, Prof Quinton Johnson, Alderman Charles Standers, Joey Kleinhans, Zethu Tshayivithi, Nolwazi Gumenke, Sebe Madonsela, Luzince de Klerk and Sammy Kqadushu. Kneeling in front is Ntuthuzelo Manzi.



Dear Colleagues,
Students, Alumni and
Friends,

May you and your families have a Great New Year!

On 23 January 2016, we started with a very memorable and energized Welcome Ceremony in the wonderfully transformed Expo Centre on the George Campus. Nearly one thousand staff, students, parents, guardians, and special guests, including strategic partners from the Department of Education, George and Eden District Municipalities as well as Business Chamber, gathered for the Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal's messages, before proceeding to engage the Faculties.

The colourful academic procession constituted in the Cultural Heritage and Arts Newseum, entered the packed Expo Centre to Johnny Clegg and Savuka's Asibonanga, which provided fabulous atmospheric rhythm to our event. Moreover, our radio and social media

From the desk of the Campus Principal

partners, ensured that we were connected live to an audience of more than 200 000 across the Southern Cape Region, as well as countless numbers via streaming. Everyone was able to share in the positive messages of welcome, commitment to excellence and our strategic management of the #FeesMustFall and #EndOutsourcing Campaigns, through a genuine consciousness of and sensitivity to the challenges of our students and workers, predicated upon that timeless value of uBuntu. We ended our engagement with the lively sounds of the Soweto String Quartet's Kwela, as we departed on a very high note.

We are especially heartened by the Student Council's #EnablingDreams Campaign. This endeavour intends to mobilise broad-based support for those students who need some help with basic commodities, study materials, accommodation and fees amongst others. To this end, we are especially happy that well over R1.2million has been committed by the Retail SETA to support our students in management. A further R1 million has been

provided by the Forestry Industry for our students studying in the field. Furthermore, the Campus Principal Bursary Fund will award around R125K to bright and financially deserving students during 2016.

Our value of excellence was also strongly illustrated at the recent Accounting Awards Function in partnership with the Southern African Institute of Chartered Accountants and the major accounting firms in the country. More than one hundred subject distinctions attained by 51 B.Com Accounting students, and their numerous industry prizes bear testimony to the superb calibre of our students and staff. Furthermore, the exciting partnership between our School of Natural Resource Management and counterparts at the USA Penn State University, recently brought several bright students and staff to our Campus who had a stunning engagement with peers. Together, we are educating our students as sustainable futures leaders, who will make a difference in and for the world.

We partnered with the Foundation for Human Rights and CANRAD to host the first Race and Power Public Dialogue. A variety of stakeholders engaged with our distinguished panel about highly relevant matters of land, language, history, heritage and social cohesion regarding the Khoisan in very thought-provoking discussions.

The Madibaz who graduate with us are really special, and we celebrated with all of you in multiple ceremonies from 6-8 April 2016, which will feature in our next edition

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of staff who have completed their assignments with us and warmly welcome several dynamic new Madibaz to the Campus. Your unwavering dedication, innovation and commitment continues to ignite the fire within us all.

Thank you. Enkosi. Dankie.
Prof Quinton Johnson



Town and Gown join in welcoming 2016 first years to NMMU George... The Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Charles Standers (left), Dr Willie Cilliers, President of the George Business Chamber (third from left) and Cllr Chris Neethling were amongst the special guests who joined Prof Johnson (2nd from left) and members of the NMMU Academic Procession for NMMU's 2016 First Year Welcome event.

Early bird... all the way from Vryheid, KwaZulu/Natal, Ulrich Meyer, supported by his parents, Gerd and Lolita Meyer, was first to complete the registration process at the NMMU George Campus recently. Ulrich, who is registered for the first year of the three year diploma programme in Forestry, was also warmly welcomed by senior student helpers (from right to left) – Siya Boo, Minou Meyer-Scharrer, Viwe Cutu, Nompumelelo Mtimkulu and Jubilant Dlakude.

Staff Welcome 2016

Contextualising the role of NMMU George Campus Staff in preparing students for the exciting world of tomorrow, within the current transformational context we find ourselves in as a university, and providing strategic direction for the year ahead, while also welcoming all new, existing and contract/insourced staff were some of the core elements of the first staff engagement of the year hosted by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, on Friday, 12 February. Some staff members also took the opportunity to dress with a “touch of red” – in the spirit of Valentine’s Day and the general theme of “Our Beating Heart”.



Featured here FLTR are Stacey Swigelaar, Willize Venter, Linda Muller, Nokonwabisa Vaphi, Noxolo Nombembe, David Alexander, Dr Marianne Doubell, Lorraine Pieterse, Melita Potjo, Anathi Masebeni, Maryna Lehmann-Maritz.

“Homegrown” talent joins NMMU George lecturing team

Not only crop science, but also students stand to benefit from the expertise of N’wa-Jama Mashele who will graduate from NMMU George in April with an MSc-degree. Jama, who has been supervised and co-supervised by Proff Raymond Auerbach and Maarten de Wit respectively, is now teaching Plant Production I at the George Campus.

She did her first degree (BSc Botany) at the Venda University, followed by BSc Hons at Rhodes University, before joining the George Campus to start the long-term comparative trials on conventional and organic farming systems in the Southern Cape with Prof Auerbach.

Jama hopes to pursue her PhD studies either in Europe, or, at NMMU, in the event that she is selected for the Young Professionals Programme of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Mashele’s research focused on comparing the cultivation of crops using chemical as well as organic methods for optimizing nutritional quality and yield. Her findings will have an important impact on the issue of improving food security for communities everywhere.



Ms. N’wa-Jama Mashele, who has just completed her Master’s degree in Agriculture, will graduate during April 2016.

Dual celebration

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (left), took some time at the beginning of the year to become better acquainted with new staff members who had recently taken up full-time positions at the NMMU George Campus.

The group also utilised the opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with the “newest” doctor on the campus – Tourism Lecturer, Dr Takalani Ramukumba (third from left), who had graduated with the degree DPhil: Development Studies at NMMU’s summer graduation held in Port Elizabeth in December last year. Newcomers featured f.l.t.r. are administrative assistants Charlene Cupido, for the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences; Noxolo (Noxi) Nombembe, for Student Affairs and Kershia Ramoo for the School of Natural Resource Management at the NMMU George Campus.

Ewayne le Roux is the newly appointed full-time BCom lecturer for the subjects Audit and Management Accounting.



Welcome back to lecturer Mrs. Nicola van Zyl, who will graduate with a Master’s degree in Education during April 2016. She has also been appointed as the new co-ordinator of the education programme on the NMMU George Campus.



More about our new colleagues,



Ms Charlene Cupido holds a BA (General) Degree from the University of Stellenbosch and has completed 2 years towards her MBA at Regent Business School. She is married with 3 children (son age 10 and twin girls, aged 7). Originally from George, she had the privilege to spend 3 years in the US with her family, where she worked as a volunteer teacher’s assistant and as a secretary at a legal firm in North Carolina.



Ms Noxolo (Noxi) Nombembe, is originally from the Eastern Cape. She has been employed by the Post Office in George as a Senior Administrative Office for more than 8 years. Her National Diploma qualification in Marketing is an asset in her new position as Administrative Officer: Student Affairs, where she is assisting both the Senior Manager: Student Affairs, Mr Sefoko Ramoshaba and members of the Student Council with their daily duties.



Having completed his articles with the Office of the Auditor General, and with private sector experience as Auditor with Moore Stephens, George under the belt, Mr Ewayne le Roux, also a Stellenbosch University graduate, is well prepared to share his expertise with the BCom students in the Auditing and Management Accounting class.



Ms Kershia Ramoo joined the School of Natural Resource Management as Administrative Assistant towards the end of 2015. In the spirit of the “green campus” she recently got engaged in the famous “lovers lane” on campus.



The skills of Student Counsellor, Ms Melita Potjo (MPsych), who joined the NMMU George team at the end of 2015 is being well utilised by students who experience challenges relating to their academic and/or personal lives.



Ms. Bongji Mqutyana holds an NDip (Financial Information Systems). She has spent some time in the banking sector and has taken up a position as cashier in the Department of Finance.



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

welcome
wamkelekele
welkom



Dr Ramukumba

NMMU Tourism expertise to benefit LED in the region

With economic pressures mounting across the board, maximising economic opportunities in sectors with the greatest potential to contribute to local economic development in a sustainable manner becomes increasingly important. The Tourism industry, especially in the Eden District, is widely acknowledged as being a pillar of growth – a key driver in local economic development.

Given this context, the doctoral thesis of Dr Takalani Ramukumba, NMMU George Campus lecturer in Tourism Management, who graduated with the DPhil degree in Development Studies from NMMU in December 2015 is set to benefit both students of Tourism Management and industry stakeholders in general.

Dr Ramukumba’s study titled: “THE CONTRIBUTION OF GUEST HOUSES TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT AS KEY COMPONENTS OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE EDEN DISTRICT AREA” has been acknowledged for addressing “a very important issue in both industry and academia” in a sustainable manner.

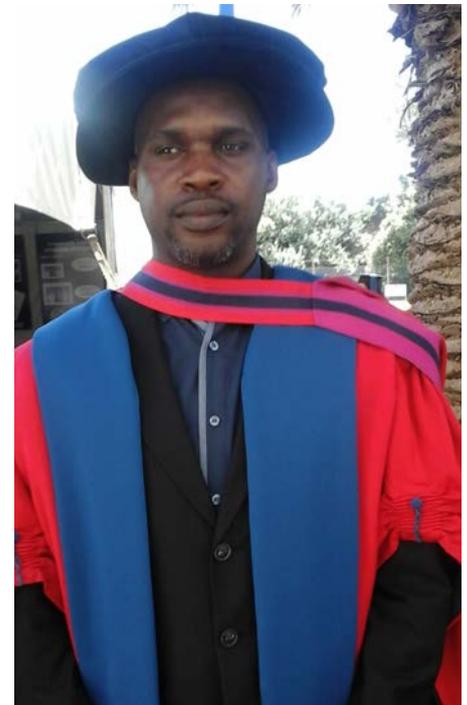
Dr Ramukumba’s study takes an in-depth look at the role of tourism in poverty reduction; the demand and supply related factors relating to accom-

modation; planning issues and accommodation as a tourism product; the legislative framework for the South African tourism industry, with the Eden District municipality as further context and key stakeholder; as well as the importance of sustainable business practices in tourism accommodation with reference to sustainable development and the strategic implementation of sustainable business practices.

As an expert educator with a BA degree in Education, Dr Ramukumba has also acquired a depth of expertise in tourism and economic development through his BTech (Tourism) degree studies; as well as two masters qualifications – an MTech-degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management and an MA: Development Studies degree.

The skilful combination of technical knowledge and expertise of the Tourism Industry and knowledge and insights on development which have successfully culminated in Dr Ramukumba’s most recent milestone – the attainment of the degree: DPhil: Development Studies – certainly bodes well for the students of NMMU George, and the relevant industry sectors.

Congratulations, Dr Ramukumba!



NMMU George Campus’ newest doctor - Dr. Takalani Ramukumba – on graduation day at NMMU in Port Elizabeth

Bidding staff farewell

Accounting Lecturer, Jane Fountain, who had served the flagship NMMU George BCom programmes for more than six years, both as lecturer and Programme Co-ordinator, bid the university farewell during December. She will be relocating to England where she will be joining close relatives. We wish Jane well with her exciting new journey. Jane is featured here with Prof Frans Prinsloo, HoD, School of Accounting.



Customer care training



Several staff members recently completed a short course in Office Manage and Customer Care. They had an excellent learning experience, which ranged from professional etiquette to customer delight. The colleagues who took this training are fltr: Ms. Elize Labuschagne, Mr. Desmond Scholtz, Mr. David Alexander, Mrs. Natalie du Plessis, Mrs. Elize Venter, Ms. Kershia Ramoo, Mrs. Linda Muller and Mrs. Magda Eybers.

Race and Power Public Dialogue: NMMU, FHR explores “First Nations” themes with SC community



FLTR Khoisan Chief Jacob Lotriet and representatives joined Prof. Andrew Leitch [DVC (R&E)], Dr. Mathole Motshekga (Parliamentary Justice Chair); Dr. Andy Lamont (Heritage Council Chair); Prof. Rose Boswell (Executive Dean of Arts), Dr. Aubrey Douglas (Educator) and Campus Principal, Prof. Quinton Johnson

“From language and land to history and heritage in building a democratic South Africa!” This captivating theme formed the basis of a public dialogue hosted in Human Rights Month by the Foundation for Human Rights and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University here in the city of George.

The debate, led by a panel of experts from a diversity of spheres such as community, government, clergy, youth and academia, explored the linkages between race and power in the context of Khoisan history, marginalised language, land claims, ancient heritage sites, political and

economic development and social cohesion as part of the ongoing process of nation building.

The distinguished panel was comprised of well-known educationist, Dr Aubrey Douglas, Dr Mathole Motshekga, Parliamentary Chair for Justice; academic and NMMU alumnus, Dr Andy Lamont; NMMU Executive Dean Prof Rose Boswell and the Rt Rev Brian Marajh, Anglican Archbishop, who comprehensively covered the themes of history, heritage, language, land and social cohesion respectively.

This was the first in a series of three dialogues endorsed by the Human Rights Foun-

ation to be hosted by the university through its Centre for the Advancement of Non-racialism and Democracy (CANRAD). The topics have all been chosen to create a platform for “courageous conversations” which are essential in the process of building a more cohesive and democratic society.

The St Paul’s youth choir, and the Xam!Korana! (Riel) dance group enthralled guests with their topical rendition of songs, and the Khoisan art of dance and story-telling as a means of cultural expression.



FLTR and TTB: The Xam! Korana (Riel) dance group; Campus Principal Prof. Quinton Johnson with VIP’s including CANRAD Acting Director Sonwabo Stuurman on his left and Bishop Brian Marajh in purple clergy robe at the front; Panelists joined by the public in the St. Marks Anglican Cathedral; St. Pauls’ Junior Choir performing at the public dialogue.

Celebrating Student excellence

Accounting stars shine brightly

Top performing George Campus BCom Accounting students of the 2015 Academic Year were acknowledged at the annual School of Accounting BCom George Excellence Awards on 17 February 2016. The event, held in partnership with SAICA (Southern African Institute of Chartered Accountants) Southern Cape District Association and industry partners in the Southern Cape region, also served to reflect on the phenomenal growth and excellent outcomes of these sought after programmes, ten years after being introduced at the George Campus.



“The quality of our George Campus programmes in general, and within our BCom offerings in particular, is indeed reflected in the outstanding academic achievements of our students, and our excellent pass rates” said Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal. “In addition, we continue to attract high calibre students and staff to our campus. I am very proud of our bright students and brilliant lecturers who have amazing competence, unwavering commitment and impeccable character. Moreover, I also wish to thank our industry partners for the superb role they continue to play in supporting the development of our students and creating dynamic opportunities for them to pursue their exciting careers,” he concluded.

“We take pride in the fact that NMMU’s Accounting programmes, including the ones established here at our George Campus ten years ago, have, after a rigorous monitoring process, undertaken by SAICA’s panel of experts in 2014, been awarded the highest level of professional accreditation by this professional body – an affirmation of the quality of our Accounting programmes. It is therefore not surprising that, because of our unique approach to developing our students’ knowledge and skills focusing on the student as an individual not just a number, that our

BCom Accounting graduates across all our campuses, including our pristine George Campus, are in demand by employers” said Prof Frans Prinsloo, Director of the NMMU School of Accounting, on congratulating the students.

No less than 111 subject distinctions were attained by 51 BCom Accounting students in their 1st, 2nd and 3rd years of study respectively, while more than twenty trophies and industry prizes were presented to students for attaining best performances in a variety of categories, including the SAICA Big Five Special Awards and Victor Ladorum accolades for Auditing (prize by Ernst & Young), Management Accounting (prize by Bolton F/Ware) and Taxation (prize by Mazars). All of these accolades were scooped by Gizelle Potgieter, a recipient of the prestigious NMMU Vice-Chancellor’s scholarship for outstanding academic achievement. Potgieter, who is now pursuing her honours degree at NMMU in Port Elizabeth, was also acknowledged as the Top Year Student (in the 3rd year of BCom Accounting study – prize by LumenRock), as well as the top student in the subject Accounting (3rd year – prize by Grant Thornton).



The other excelling Top Year Students were Pertunia Rakgotsoka and Janneke Louw who scooped the SAICA prize for 1st and 2nd year Extended BCom Accounting and General Accounting respectively. Natalie Fourie and Moreeda Parker, another VC Scholar, received the Moore Stephens (George) and Leask prizes for being the top 1st and 2nd year BCom Accounting students respectively.

Parker was also awarded a prize by the George Business Chamber for being the best Student in Ethics and Corporate Governance.

The top year students for BCom General Accounting in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

of study were Azola Jubisa (prize by Mazars), Sandisiwe Mkweta (Moore Stephens, George) and Ruth Gil (Oakhurst insurance). Besides 3rd year student, Gizelle Potgieter, accolades for the top BCom Accounting students in the 1st and 2nd year went to the two VC Scholars, Liezel Nel (Moore Stephens Humansdorp) and Moreeda Parker (Ernst & Young).



As part of the evening’s celebrations students who achieved module distinctions (a staggering 111 in total) during the 2015 academic year were honoured with a financial incentive from Deloitte and their names will also be captured on the Deloitte Roll of Honour. Congratulations to the 51 students who contributed to this noteworthy feat:

Gizelle Potgieter, Anneke Smit, Ruth Gil, Moreeda Parker, Suzanne Smit, Sandisiwe Twala, Emile de Bruyn, Herman Vermeulen, Jason Potgieter, Bianca Viviers, Lebone Theko, Mihle Zihle, Lutho Matiwane, Lelethu Ralarala, Liezel Nel, Natalie Fourie, Devin du Plooy, Elmarie Hurter, Schalk Kotze, Micaela Chevalier, Siviwe Hookwana, Laverne Kok, Wian Meyer, Alzaan Patrick, Siphosihle Thomas, Jano van den Berg, Danielle Cupido, Azola Jubisa, Mdumiseni Nkosi, Amorey Pieterse, Christiaan Dreyer, Eadon Frans, Samantha Gqadushe, Marthinus Loubser, Lettie Maruping, Mikateko Mawila, Ntengoenhle Memela, Ruan Oosthuysen, Lee-Ann Scheepers, Ruben Swanepoel, Nicole Swiggelaar, Thendo Tshivenga, Janneke Louw, Pertunia Rakgotsoka, Allistine Arends, Kaylin Saptouw, Brad-Gilbert Saaiman, Dillon Plaatjies, Anjee Snyman, Christen Belling and Donovan Mclean.

Top achievers



ACCOLADES TO THE TROPHY WINNERS... Top performing students across the various years of study in the BCom Accounting Programmes at NMMU George Campus celebrated their exceptional achievements at the annual excellence awards held on 17 February 2016 for the "Class of 2015". Featured f.l.t.r. (back) are Moreeda Parker, Sandisiwe Mkweta, Natalie Fourie, Ruth Gil, and (in front f.l.t.r.) Liezel Nel, Gizelle Potgieter, Azola Jubisa and Pertunia Rakgotsoka. Janneke Louw was absent when the photo was taken. This group was also amongst the 51 students who jointly achieved 111 module distinctions and whose names will be captured on the prestigious Deloitte Roll of Honour.



Excelling Accounting students – all of them recipients of the NMMU Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship (front, from left)... Emile de Bruyn (second from left), Gizelle Potgieter, Liezel Nel and Moreeda Parker were congratulated by Mr Sven Wüsthoff, Departmental Head for Accounting Sciences (left), Prof Frans Prinsloo (second from right), Director of NMMU's School of Accounting, and an equally proud NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (far right).

Piping ace excels at Celtic Festival

NMMU George students not only excel academically, but also in numerous extra-curricular spheres. Congratulations to Richard Payn, postgraduate student in Forestry on being placed first in the open solo piping category at the Knysna Celtic Festival held on the 27th of February 2016. He was also part of the winning quartet and duet teams, in addition to playing in the winning band of the day: 1 Medical Battalion Pipe Band. Well done Richard!



Sustainable Futures Leadership

CP facilitates church leadership renewal process



Clergy Leadership ... Anglican Bishop Brian Maharaj (2nd row, centre, purple shirt), flanked by Prof Quinton Johnson (left) and Dean Titus Daniels (right) surrounded by about 105 delegates from across the Anglican George Diocese who worked together to refine the vision, mission, values, priorities and objectives for the Strategic Growth Plan of the church for the period 2016-2020 – a process facilitated by the Campus Principal at the request of the Bishop.

At the request of the Bishop of the Anglican Church (Brian Maharaj) the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, facilitated a process of leadership renewal for the almost 50 000 member Anglican Church (George Diocese), as part of the University's community outreach programme. The process, which commenced during July 2015 with the aim

of developing a Strategic Growth Plan that will be presented at the Synod of June 2016, culminated in Anglicans Coming Together - ACT 2016 - hosted at the Church of the Nativity in Mossel Bay on 19 and 20 February.

The process of the past few months included meetings with the Archdeaconries wherein one would

find all the Parishes, from Plettenberg Bay and Knysna to Mossel Bay and Beaufort West. In addition there have been meetings with the Ministeries (Brigade, Anglican Women's Fellowship, Mothers Union, Church Men's Society, etc), Youth and Diocesan Leadership Group representing the Bishop's Council, Trust Board, Finance Board and Administration.

Cutting-edge knowledge for "legal eagles"

PG Labour Law Diploma attracts keen interest in George

With labour relations practice increasingly in the spotlight, the excellent uptake of the newly introduced Postgraduate Diploma in Labour Law Practice offered in a block-release format at the NMMU George Campus from the beginning of 2016 should come as no surprise.

With the programme being fully subscribed in Port Elizabeth, the George Campus offering attracted more than thirty senior students, from the Southern Cape, as well as other parts of the country, from as far as KwaZulu/Natal.

The programme, which aims to equip senior employees in the corporate environment (public and private sectors), including labour relations practitioners, human resource managers and trade union officials with the necessary legal knowledge and skills for a labour relations environment that is becoming increasingly technical and legalistic, is being presented under the auspices of Prof Adriaan van der Walt, assisted by other labour law experts. Prof Van der Walt heads up the Mercantile Law Department at NMMU.

The Postgraduate Diploma, which is fully endorsed by the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration, is presented at an NQF 8-level. Participants can expect to gain an advanced knowledge of those areas of individual



The first intake of students who had enrolled for the PG Diploma in Labour Law Practice, now also offered at the George Campus from 2016, were warmly welcomed by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (centre, second row from the back). He is flanked on the left by the course co-ordinator, Prof Adriaan van der Walt, and some of the participants, which includes Eden District Municipal Manager, Godfrey Louw (front left). NMMU George Campus Director of Operations, Martin Loubser, who has a legal qualification, has also enrolled for this cutting-edge programme. He was not present when the photo was taken.

and collective labour law, as well as dispute resolution mechanisms and strikes, which are

vitaly important to the effective conduct of labour relations.

Serving the community...living our values

NMMU George Campus staff and students once again demonstrated their sense of responsibility, Ubuntu and respect for diversity by lending a helping hand at the annual Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge (OCC) held in George on 20 February.

A pre-OCC event which involves hundreds of

able-bodied learners from schools from across the Southern Cape who annually participate in a wheelchair relay at a local shopping centre also forms part of the activities. This serves to introduce them to the kind of challenges that persons with disabilities face on a daily basis, hence creating a better understanding of the life-world of

people living with disabilities, especially those with mobility impairments.

Besides having great fun on the Friday and Saturday, staff, sport students and other volunteers also grasped this opportunity to apply their skills in organising, marketing, customer liaison, accounting, crowd control and much more.



The group of staff and students pictured here with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Daniel Maritz (front) assisted with the wheelchair games held at the Garden Route Mall on 19 February.



Senior Manager: Student Governance, Sefoko Ramoshaba, gives the OCC fun walk a big wave of approval. Also in the photo is NMMU Residence Manager, Moeketsi Setebe.



Ready to go... Marnus de Klerk (2nd from left) Administrator at Madibaz Sport George and sport bursars putting their "skills" to test after preparing the tracks for the wheelchair races for learners at the Garden Route Mall. The team includes (from left), Dundre Maritz (1st Team Rugby), Marnus de Klerk (Sport Administrator), Siphosethu Mashibini (1st Team Netball and chairperson of Madibaz George Netball) and Wiaan Oosthuisen (1st Team Cricket).



On the Saturday staff and students also "took to the streets" – pushing disabled persons in the 5 km fun event as part of the OCC.



Student Affairs Senior Manager, Sefoko Ramoshaba, with Madibaz supporting the OCC participants.



Students working together and having fun at the OCC.

Globally connected...

Collaboration with Penn State University benefits students



Transdisciplinary learning is greatly facilitated through the innovative "Parks & People Study Abroad Programme". The group of students and academics from the Pennsylvania State University featured here with the programme co-ordinator, Dr Neil Brown (centre back), NMMU's Dr Tineke Kraaij (on the right) and Dr Jan Venter (third from left) were warmly welcomed by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson.

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, recently welcomed students and staff from the USA to NMMU.

A five-year collaborative relationship with the Pennsylvania State University (PSU), in terms of which a group of ten to twelve undergraduate students spend a semester in South Africa as part of the innovative "Parks & People Study Abroad Programme" has been extended to include the NMMU George Campus and the research activities of the School of Natural Resource Management in the Science Faculty. This is thanks to the efforts of Wildlife Ecologist and now NMMU George Lecturer, Dr Jan Venter, who has been involved in the programme since its inception in 2010.

According to Dr Neil Brown, co-ordinator from the PSU, the ten-week in-country programme exposes students to various ecological and social zones, with learning incorporated and evaluated throughout the process. The focus areas of the programme include natural sciences, social sciences, teaching and learning processes, professional development and sustainability. A theatre production and book project focused on grade 5 and 6 learners form part of the service learning component of the programme.

The group, who visited the George Campus from 7 – 15 February will be returning to

South Africa next year and will be engaging with NMMU during field research in the Karoo National Park. The relationship between PSU and NMMU is being formalised as it has great potential for also enriching the educational experience of NMMU students.

This year the exciting programme in George included PSU students being exposed to the BTech Nature conservation students' presentations on their practical and research outcomes; visits to the Touwsrante Primary school and 7 Passes Initiative; NMMU George lecturers and industry experts provided perspectives on the Eden District and historical perspectives of Wilderness; fire, aliens and Fynbos in the Garden Route National Park (GRNP); introduction to the GRNP social-ecological systems; and, discussion of issues relating to the Wilderness Beach/Touw River Estuary.

The engagement also included guided visits to relevant infrastructure, places and communities in the region, such as the Fisherladies at Smutsvile; a visit to the Ocean Research facility in Mossel Bay, as well as a fun day with NMMU students who study Nature Conservation and Game Ranch Management.

Presentations by PSU's Dr Neil Brown to NRM staff and postgrad students also formed part of the full itinerary.

Upcoming events

22 March, 15:00 – 17:00
Public Dialogue on Power & Race
St Mark's Cathedral

6 April, 15:00 – 16:00
George Campus Certification Ceremony
Civic Centre

7 April, 15:00 – 17:00
George Campus Graduation: Faculties of Business and Economic Sciences and Education
Civic Centre

7 April 2016, 19:00 – 21:00
Academic Merit Awards
NMMU George Campus

8 April 2016, 10:00 – 12:00
George Campus Graduation: Faculty of Science
Civic Centre

13 - 14 May
NMMU George Campus Open Day
NMMU Campus

15 July
Chancellor Santie Botha's Annual Golf Day
Fancourt