

## Welcome new "Madibaz"!

It was with eager anticipation and excitement that first year students, their parents and family members, as well as members of the NMMU community, including key stakeholders from the Garden Route, gathered at the NMMU George Campus on 21 January for the official welcoming ceremony for new "Madibaz".

In an inspiring address by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, conveyed per video to all campuses, students were encouraged to study hard and to be innovative as our country needs their skills. With the national student protest of the past year as context, the VC also cautioned that the university, as much as it respects the right of freedom of expression, would not tolerate intimidation and destructive behaviour.

In his welcoming address, the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, emphasised that our students are a "critical asset for a better future". You are here to study and "excellence is not negotiable" for our "Madibaz Diamonds" he said, urging students to raise the bar so that they can be recognised as sustainable future leaders.

Breakaway sessions followed after the official welcome ceremony, enabling students and their parents to meet with NMMU man-



Student leaders at the George Campus led in the academic procession, an established George tradition, with academics and professional staff contributing to setting an aspirational tone by wearing their academic gowns during the welcome event. The students, proudly wearing their Madiba t-shirts are (f.l.t.r.) Thandekile Njozela, Chuma Mooi, Siphosethu Mashibini, Siphokazi Bulani, Mihlali Sifici, Ayakha Selana, Lonwabo Nogilana and Boitshoko Mmatladi.

agement and academics in the various faculties represented at the campus.

The morning's proceedings were covered live through Eden FM Community Radio, followed by in-depth interviews with the

Campus Principal, Prof Johnson, key staff members and community stakeholders, as the new "Madibaz" were informed about the university and made to feel warmly welcome.



Dear Colleagues,  
Students, Alumni  
and Friends,

The 2017 Academic Year began with great excitement for a large number of first year "Madibaz", their families, staff and many friends of the Nelson Mandela University!

I wish to warmly welcome back all students and staff to our university and wish you all well for an exciting year ahead. My congratulations are extended to the many dedicated students who will be

## From the desk of the Campus Principal

graduating on 31 March, and we also especially recognize our stellar staff who will be awarded Masters and Doctoral degrees at the ceremony.

We have many superb engagements scheduled for the year, which includes: Hosting of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport Provincial Congress; Launching our new corporate identity; A range of thought-provoking public and special lectures; Interesting book launches; The establishment of our Cultural, Heritage and Arts Centre, Chancellor's Annual Golf Day for the Madibaz

Diamond Bursary Fund; Hosting the prestigious International Forestry Congress for students from over 50 countries and many more.

We are working tirelessly to secure ongoing financial support for our students. To this end, we are especially grateful to our funders and donors such as industry, SETAs, philanthropists and many more who have helped to ensure that for this new year a very significant amount of bursaries and stipends have been provided to our Madibaz.

During this month when we re-

member the release of former president Nelson Mandela, we are also delighted that a special lecture has been delivered by newly appointed adjunct professor and current Parliamentary Portfolio Justice Chair Mathole Motshekga, who spoke about "the law and human rights in South Africa",

May we all have a great 2017.

Thank you. Dankie. Enkosi.

Prof Quinton Johnson

# Welcome "Madibaz"!



Dignitaries who joined NMMU George in welcoming the students to the campus and the town of George (acknowledged as a reputable "Centre of Learning") included Mr Chris Neethling, member of the NMMU Council, Dr Willie Cilliers, president of the George Business Chamber; the Executive Mayor of George, Ald Melvin Naik; Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal, Cllr Peter Lobese, the Executive Mayor of Bitou and Mr Roger Jacobs, head of specialised learning at the Western Cape Department of Education.



Nurturing environment ... Students at NMMU George Campus enjoy access to a wide range of professional and support services. Featured with Phumla Maseko (centre), a BCom Accounting (CA) student all the way from Reitz in the Free State, are (f.l.t.r.) Senior Student Counsellor, Charles Persence, How2Buddies (peer helpers) Siphokazi Bulani and Aphelele Cutu (far right), David Alexander (Senior Manager, Academic Administration) and Sefoko Ramoshaba (Senior Manager, Student Affairs).

## International students welcomed

About twenty first year students from countries across the globe have again chosen NMMU George Campus to commence their studies in a variety of programmes in the School of Natural Resource Management and Business.



Dr Nico Jooste, Snr Director of NMMU's Office for International Education (third from left) and the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (third from right, back) took some time to warmly welcome and become better acquainted with the students soon after their arrival on campus. Amongst the students who were totally bowled over by the Campus' natural beauty include (f.l.t.r.) Bongani Mngoma – 1st yr Forestry – Swaziland; Dr Chloe Guerbois – Postdoctoral Fellow – France; Tebello Motaba – 2nd yr BCom Accounting - Lesotho; Alice Mheluka – 1st yr Forestry – Tanzania; Pascal Dembure – 2nd yr MSC Forestry – Zimbabwe; Eleonora Capasj - 1st yr Agriculture – Italy; Wogira Rogers – 1st yr Forestry – Uganda; Rebecca Ryen – 1st yr Nature Conservation – Italy; Lindokuhle Dlamini – 2nd yr MSC Forestry – Swaziland; Futhi Nxumalo – 1st yr Forestry – Swaziland; Vuyile Dlamini – 1st yr Forestry – Swaziland; Tematfombeni Magagula – 1st yr Forestry – Swaziland and Lomcebo Dlamini – 1st yr Forestry – Swaziland.

## NMMU, Penn State collaboration benefits students

Prof Quinton Johnson (middle) warmly welcomed students and academics from the Pennsylvania State University who participated in a captivating programme, including field research with NMMU academics and students as part of their annual "Parks & People Study Abroad Programme" in South Africa. Dr Neil Brown (back, left), who co-ordinates the programme for the PSU, is equally upbeat about this innovative ten-week in-country programme which exposes students to various "ecological and social zones", which incorporates learning and evaluation throughout the process.



# HR Consultant seconded to George



**We warmly welcome Mr Linda Mazibuko who has been seconded to the George campus by the Human Resources Department to assist with all HR related matters.**

*Mr Linda Mazibuko*

His much anticipated arrival flows from a long-standing need for a dedicated on-campus HR specialist who can work with the

Campus Principal and staff to ensure that all HR-related matters pertaining to our George Campus staff are addressed timeously, efficiently and comprehensively.

Mr Mazibuko will be with us until April, when a permanent HR staff member is expected to join us. He is currently stationed in the Research Building and can be contacted on 044 801 5010 (extension 5010 for internal calls); or e-mail him on linda.mazibuko@nmmu.ac.za.

The Campus Community wishes Mr Mazibuko a happy and rewarding tenure at NMMU's picturesque Madiba Drive Campus here in the Southern Cape.

**Welcome, wamkelekile, welkom!**

## Welcome Student Assistants!

**We warmly welcome the following Student Assistants who are fulfilling essential duties at the NMMU George campus as an extension of the services of various departments:**

- Ms Nandipha September is our new Madibaz Sport Administrative Assistant (Student Affairs). She is based at the Madibaz Sport Offices (044 801 5141) next to the swimming pool.
- Mr Kororo Makubalo has been appointed as the SITS Centre Student Assistant at the George Campus for the period February to November 2017.
- Ms Abigail Adriaanse has been appointed as the Student Assistant for the George campus computer laboratories up to November 2017.

## Dual role for Business Analyst



**Mrs Lynette Williams, who has been serving our campus and NMMU in the capacity of Senior Business Analyst: ICT Services, has been assigned the additional responsibility of also coordinating ICT efforts at the George Campus in the interim.**

*Mrs Lynette Williams*

This follows on the departure from NMMU of Mr Garth Smit, Senior Manager ICT Services, George Campus, at

the end of December 2016. Mr Smit has relocated to Cape Town and we wish him and his family well. Mrs Williams is acting in this position whilst the post is in the process of being filled.

We warmly welcome Mrs Williams as part of the NMMU George Management Team and wish her well with the new responsibilities she has been entrusted with.

# "The Rule of Law and Human Rights in SA" under the spotlight



**Prof Mathole Motshelga, who was recently appointed by NMMU as an Adjunct Professor in the university's Public Law Department, was the distinguished speaker at a seminar on "The rule of law and human rights" hosted at the**

**NMMU George Campus on 24 February.**

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, noting the significance of the special lecture in the context of Madiba's release from prison during this time of the year, expressed his delight that Prof Motshelga, "one of our most astute legal minds" with a 40-year history as a lawyer, has joined the university.

After skilfully providing a comprehensive historical context of the human rights culture, Prof Motshelga touched on human rights and the land question and the programme to combat racism which was initiated by the World Council of Churches in the 1980's. He concluded with an overview of morality and the law, indicating that legislation introduced since 1994 to combat racism has not achieved the desired results as it addresses the effects, not the root cause of racism.

"Racism is rooted in the materialistic World-View", he said, pointing out that human rights, which forms the cornerstone of our Constitution, did not originate in the West,

but in the Khemetic (or Hermetic) philosophy which states that "man emanated from and is a microcosmic image of ... God and Nature". This spiritual humanism "transcends race, class, gender and creed and provides a rational basis for socially cohesive communities in which the value of every individual is based on our common humanity", he said.

Touching on the role of education as a tool to drive development and upliftment, Prof Motshelga said that Universi-

ties are "theatres for transformation" where real dialogue must take place on substantive issues. Students are not only here to get qualifications and knowledge is not only about memory. It is also about applying it to "better society". "Professionals should have a social conscience", he said, indicating that the university has an important role to play in getting people together in the context of Ubuntu.



*Prof Mathole Motshelga, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services and founder of the Kara Heritage Institute, delivered a scintillating special lecture at the NMMU George Campus on 24 February. It was attended by key community stakeholders, NMMU academics, staff, postgraduate and international students. Prof Motshelga (standing 5th from left in the middle row) is flanked by the NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (left) and NMMU Board Member, Mr Chris Neethling (right).*

# Cream of the crop

## VC Scholars welcomed at George Campus

Two recipients of the prestigious NMMU Vice-Chancellor Scholarship, Phumla Maseko and Zanli Oosthuizen have registered for studying towards the flagship BCom Accounting (CA) degree at the George Campus.

Phumla, who is from Reitz in the Free State, and Zanli, a local learner from Outeniqua High School, are amongst the twenty plus top achievers who have been selected by NMMU as the 2017 recipients of the scholarship which is valued at R89 000 per year.

The two made use of the opportunity to meet the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, and programme co-ordinators, Mr Ewayne le Roux and Dr Marianne, and other staff at the George Campus over a cup of tea.

Prof Johnson warmly congratulated the two new scholarship recipients, saying that "... the NMMU George Campus continues to attract the cream of the crop". Their presence now brings to twelve the number of VC Scholars who have commenced their studies at the George Campus since the inception of this prestigious scholarship created by Prof. Derrick Swartz.

The bursary is based on outstanding academic achievement and is payable for each year of recipients' undergraduate studies, provided that they maintain their outstanding academic achievement levels.



Valuing excellence ... The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, encouraged the two students, Phumla Maseko (left) and Zanli Oosthuizen, whose father happens to be an alumnus of the NMMU George Campus, to continue to strive for excellence. He also expressed his delight that the university is able to support them, both financially and through our support systems. "In this competitive world everyone needs as much support as possible", he said.



Programme co-ordinators, Dr Marianne Doubell and Mr Ewayne le Roux, utilised the opportunity to become better acquainted with the two hard-working VC scholars – Phumla Maseko (left) and Zanli Oosthuizen.

## DVC: R & E Welcomes George Postgrads



An increase in postgraduate students at the NMMU George Campus augers well for research outcomes and the university in general. The NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research & Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch (fifth from left), Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (far left) and lecturers met with the students (some of whom are featured here) on campus at the beginning of the year to discuss a range of research-related matters and to wish them well with their studies. A support structure of note for postgraduate students has been evolving at the campus over the past few years, and this is beginning to render excellent results.

# Madibaz lending a helping hand

Staff and students of NMMU George Campus again demonstrated their commitment to NMMU's values by providing a helping hand in support of an annual highlight in George – the 15th Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge (OCC).

NMMU also supported the schools event held at the Garden Route Mall on the afternoon before the OCC. Nearly 400 learners from twelve schools were involved in the wheelchair games aimed at creating a better understanding amongst able-bodied learners of the challenges that people living with disabilities experience.



NMMU George student and peer helper, Nomcebo Gama, Noxolo Nombembe (Student Affairs staff member) and Monica Tshangana of Communication & Stakeholder Liaison, George were amongst the NMMU George team who lent a helping hand at the OCC on Saturday, 19 February. This group who participated in the 5km fun event were all the way from the uM-sunduzi Area in KwaZulu-Natal.



NMMU's Nkululeko Qokoyi (General Maintenance Practitioner) and Sinthemba Godla a senior education student were captured with the representatives of the schools (Rosemoor, Pacaltsdorp Mzoxolo Primary Schools) who were most agile during the Wheelchair and Blind Headed ball challenge.

## Upcoming events

**24 February:** Special lecture: Prof Mat-hole Motshekga

**2 March:** School of Accounting Career evening in George

**10, 11 March:** 3rd Provincial Sport Conference, NMMU George Campus

**31 March:** NMMU Autumn Graduation commences in George

**26 April:** Launch of university's new corporate identity

**12, 13 May:** University Open Day at George Campus

**2 – 6 July:** IFSA symposium hosted at NMMU George Campus

**10 – 14 July:** NMMU Investec Grade 12 Accounting Winter School

**21 July:** Chancellor's Golf Day