



## From the desk of the Campus Principal



Dear Friends,

I am writing this note from the Universite Angers (France), which was established in 1356 and provides us with another fantastic conduit in our quest to become a **world-class knowledge catalyst for the green economy and a more sustainable future**. During this past semester, we have amplified our efforts in pursuit of this vision – as you will see when browsing through our captivating newsletter.

Campus life was vibrant. I was privileged to attend and participate in the second NMMU Glenwood House ScieX, with the full support of the university's Science Faculty. The *Water for all* theme was elegantly addressed in a Campus Principal Open Lecture by our keynote speaker, the Acting Director-General of the Department of Water Affairs, Mr Trevor Balzer. NMMU's role in the green economy and sustainable futures received premium attention in various forums with several more high profile guests, including the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Fikile Mbalula, a business delegation from South Korea, a university football team from Argentina, together with the SWD, SARU and USSA sports fraternity, visiting us during this semester.

Madiba's university has always been actively engaged in events and initiatives held in his honour – including a multi-faceted community outreach programme on International Mandela Day, and sharing the platform with the George Museum in celebrating and reclaiming our heritage... Our staff and students visibly "walk the talk", and set excellent examples by giving credence to the value system we treasure and uphold as an institution of integrity. Further highlights included the hosting of our first-ever NMMU George Campus Spring Concert led by our Campus Choir, with several others from the Southern Cape joining them, for a magnificent performance in the city hall. Several hundred guests enjoyed an evening of memorable song. In addition, we have also been privileged to receive the magnificent NMMU Choir here in George for a special performance as part of the NG Moedergemeente's 200-year celebration programme.

Our Green Week was another fantastic success, which we launched on horseback. Hundreds of learners, students and educators visited our campus to participate in a myriad of activities, together with 135 000 EDEN FM listener who tuned in to our promotion of sustainable futures for all. This initiative was followed by the historic visit to the George Campus by the NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha, who delivered a captivating public lecture on "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" in a capacity-filled lecture theatre. She was accompanied by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Swartz, Councillor Chris Neethling, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Proff. Thoko Mayekiso, Piet Naudé and Dr. Sibongile Muthwa, who earlier in the year visited our campus with her executive team. Chancellor Botha asserted that our Campus was especially important because of the high quality certificates, diplomas and degrees we offer, our location in the capital of the Southern Cape and her sense that NMMU must rank as *the* green university in South Africa.

During her unique visit, Chancellor Botha reduced our carbon footprint by planting a beautiful yellow wood tree overlooking the majestic Outeniqua Mountains, to the great delight of our staff and students. We also signed a memorandum of understanding with the South Cape College, and their CEO Luvuyo Ngubelanga strongly emphasized the historical and significant nature of our partnership.

In addition, we provided a certificate of recognition to the George Municipality for winning the greenest city of the year award that a beaming Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Charles Standers, accepted as he declared their fervent desire to strengthen our "Town and Gown" tradition.

We take pride in the exceptional achievements of our staff and students in so many spheres – congratulations to Mr Willie Louw from Forestry on being named the Science Faculty's Excellent Teacher of the Year – a most deserving recipient of this exceptional accolade. Mrs Maryna Lehmann-Maritz from Agriculture received an award as one of only 7 runners up in a national technology and innovation competition comprising 400 competitors. Her unique invention will play an instrumental role in improving milk production, with significant implications for this sector of the economy.

Furthermore, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Dekker Vermeulen and Mrs. Bertina Odendaal, who together have respectively served our university for almost 42 years as Senior Manager (Academic Administration) and Branch Librarian. We wish you all the very best for the future. In the international research arena, Prof. Christo Fabricius has been selected as the lead principal investigator of a multinational science team that will advance our understanding of the social and ecological infrastructure, which is so necessary for improved sustainability.

Our students, too, have made us exceedingly proud through their contributions on various local, national and international platforms. The student council elections were free and fair, whilst our annual Achievers Awards or "Night of the Stars", attested to the diverse talent and leadership that is invested in our young people. Thanks to all the members of our sports teams who have delivered their best on and off the field... and a word of congratulations to those who have improved on past performance and excelled. Just recently, our cricket team was promoted to the A Division of the Premier League. We also excelled in surfing and the USSA Rugby tournament, where Team Madibaz competed with 300 players from 22 universities on our campus, where we have been honoured to host the event for the fourth consecutive year since its inception.

To strengthen sports infrastructural development, we have secured further significant investment from SARU for our Rugby Academy. In addition, we have received superb support from our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Derrick Swartz, for the construction of a modern gymnasium from the first quarter of the New Year. Further interesting developments will translate into the strengthening of all the sports codes across our campus.

I would like to thank all staff, students, alumni, sponsors, partners and friends for your exceptional contribution towards the George Campus and unwavering devotion in building the brand of our Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

May you and your loved ones have a peaceful festive season filled with happiness and hope.

God bless you all for a successful 2014!

Best wishes.



**Quinton Johnson**

**Campus Principal**

## Our staff

## Welcome new colleagues...



**Marnus de Klerk**



**Thami Douse**



**Anthonie du Toit**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to NMMU (George Campus) Marketing graduates, Marnus de Klerk and Thami Douse, who have joined the ranks of the Marketing and Corporate Relations Team at George Campus on a short term contract basis. They are sharing office no. 0060 on the ground floor of the Admin Building; as well as telephone 044 801 5081. Welcome also to lecturer Anthonie du Toit who has joined the ranks of the Agricultural Management team on a contract basis.

## Bidding goodbye to two George Campus stalwarts



With a combined total of 41 years of service between them, Bertina Odendaal, Campus Librarian, and Dekker Vermeulen, Senior Manager: Academic Administration, will both retire at the end of the 2013 academic year.

### **Bertina Odendaal**

Originally from Limpopo, she was born in Mooketsi and matriculated from Merensky Agricultural High School in Tzaneen.

After school she enrolled at University of Pretoria where she completed a BA degree, a Higher Diploma in Education; as well as a Higher Diploma in Library Services. Upon completing her studies, Odendaal worked in public service for a number of years before she, her husband, Cilliers and their daughter, Ruenda moved to George.

Odendaal started her tenure at the George Campus in April 1990. "When I started at the George Campus the library was in Pampoenkraal and there were only about 90 students on campus," said Odendaal.

## Dekker Vermeulen

A few years later saw the arrival of a true child of the Kalahari at the George Campus. In November 1995 Dekker Vermeulen joined the George Campus as head of Academic Administration.

Born and raised on a farm close to Gochas in Namibia's Hardap region, Vermeulen matriculated from Mariental High School. After completing his national service, he started his tertiary studies at Wellington Teacher's Training College where he graduated with a Primary Education Diploma followed by a BA degree from Stellenbosch University.

He returned to Namibia to become a school teacher, rising steadily through the ranks, before his appointment as School Principal of Caprivi Secondary School in Katima Mulilo.

Feeling the need for a new challenge, Vermeulen took up a position in academic administration at University of Namibia. From Namibia he went to the former Mangosuthu Technikon, before finally joining the George Campus 18 years ago.

Recalling his early years at the George Campus, Vermeulen remembers how small the campus was in those days, "We had 200 students and only about 12 to 15 academic staff members."

## Catering manager relocates



After a stint of three years as Catering Manager at NMMU (George Campus), Rachelle Benn of the service provider, Fedics, has taken up a new position with the company in Cape Town.

The Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson and staff appropriately hosted a small function to bid Rachelle goodbye and to wish her well in her new position. She was stationed at the George Campus since 2011 when Fedics was awarded the tender for providing catering services at the George Campus, too.

The new Catering Manager, Annelise Muller, will take up her position at the NMMU (George Campus) from January 2014.

Martin Loubser, Director: Operations (left) and Prof Johnson joined Rachelle Benn on the staff deck for a photograph in the picturesque setting where she had catered for numerous events over the past three years.

## Transfer for Altouise

Altouise Jonas, Associate Lecturer in the Marketing programme at NMMU (George Campus) recently accepted a transfer to the Marketing Programme at NMMU in Port Elizabeth in support of her husband with his business interests in the Port Elizabeth area.



Some of the staff who attended Altouise's farewell included: f.i.t.r. Melony Oliphant, Lynette Williams, Shann Kieswetter, Altouise Jonas, Roelien du Preez, Ena Wessels, Alet van Tonder, Karen Hendricks and Petunia Hlaka.

## Congratulations...Dr Wigley!

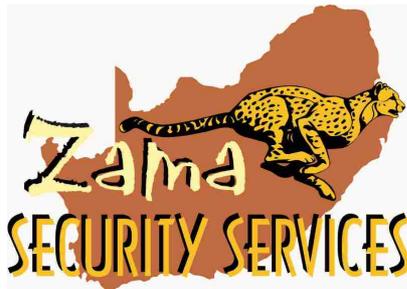


A visit to France turned out to be much more than a holiday for NMMU (George Campus) lecturer Ben Wigley and his family. He successfully defended his PhD thesis at the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 in Lyon during September and was awarded his PhD degree from this acclaimed institution.

The title of Dr Wigley's thesis is: "*Savanna woody plant community and trait responses to bottom-up and top-down controls, with a specific focus on the role of mammalian herbivory*".

## Security matters

Zama Security Services has officially assumed responsibility for the security services at NMMU (George Campus) from July.



Since the appointment of Zama the number of security personnel on duty every day has been strengthened by about 40%.

"The increase in numbers forms part of the university's five year crime prevention plan," said Clyde Booysen, Coordinator: Technical and Protection Services at NMMU (George Campus).

A number of other projects also form part of the crime prevention plan, including the streetlight project for improved visibility, expanding the number of CCTV cameras on campus; as well as the WiFi project which will enable the university to boost access control across the campus.

- In case of an emergency, Zama Security can be contacted on 044 801 5183.

## Campus infrastructure Funds well spent



High profile delegates from the Department of Higher Education, Mr Donald Kubayi (second from left) of the University Financial and Physical Planning, Infrastructure Grant sub-directorate and Mr Leonardo Cloete (far right) Deputy Director: University Financial and Physical Planning, Infrastructure Grant sub-directorate visited the NMMU (George Campus) to inspect the progress with and quality of the infrastructure that was made possible by the department's financial contribution.

They were very impressed with the standard of the facilities which included, amongst others, the new 75 bed student accommodation completed early in 2013. They were joined by Technical and Protection Services Coordinator, Mr Clyde Booysen (left), and Campus Principal Prof Quinton Johnson (second from right).

## Institutional Support Directorate visits George Campus

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Institutional Support (IS), Dr Sibongile Muthwa, accompanied by executive staff from the IS Directorate, visited NMMU (George Campus) on 12 September at the invitation of the Campus Principal. They met with the George Campus management discussing, amongst others, the 2014 Operations Budget and the further refinement and alignment of the governance structure. They also utilised the opportunity to visit various facilities on campus, such as the gymnasium.



The campus tour of infrastructure in various phases of development, such as the permaculture garden, site of the new gymnasium (old pub), the current gymnasium (at the Furntech building), the three new residences opened in April, the exciting campus-wide WiFi Project which aims to offer wireless internet access for all, developments at Akkerdraai and at the Research building formed part of the itinerary.

The group, who were visibly impressed with the developments at George Campus, described by the Vice-Chancellor as the "jewel in the NMMU's crown" did pause for a while, though, to savour the pristine environment from the staff deck.

Featured on the staff deck at the NMMU George Campus are - Martin Loubser (Director: Operations, George Campus), Mr Khaya Matiso (Dean of Students), Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal), Dr Sibongile Muthwa (DVC: IS), Mr Thomas Kungune (Director: Academic Administration) and Mr Sam Bosire (Acting Executive Director: Operations).



## New project boosts connectivity

An exciting fibre optic project which commenced at the beginning of August to provide quick and easy access to the university's computer network across the campus has now been largely completed.

Benefits of the new infrastructure include superior electrical isolation between devices providing an effective barrier against lightning, high bandwidth suitable for high-speed data transmission, and, importantly, full internet access in areas that did not have access in the past, such as Akkerdraai Flats, Tierkop, De Hoek, Windheuwel and Arborea.

"The new WiFi network which became fully operational during October/November makes it possible for students to connect to the university's network, intranet sites such as the student portal and moodle sites; as well as the internet from their own computers in the comfort of their respective residences," said Garth Smit, Manager of ICT Services at NMMU (George Campus).



## Permaculture Centre aids food security

**The Permaculture Centre at NMMU (George Campus) is well underway to being a hub for researchers and a source for food security.**

The centre forms part of NMMU's Vision 2020 which was introduced by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz, in 2008. This vision, amongst others, focuses on NMMU's contribution towards a sustainable future through critical scholarship, and enhancing of long-term sustainability through the university's 'Green Campus' initiatives.

Work on the construction of the Permaculture Centre is nearing completion and it is envisaged that it will be fully operational by 2014. "So far everything is going according to schedule and falling well within the scope of the plans," says Prof Raymond Auerbach, Programme Co-ordinator for Agricultural Management.

The Permaculture Centre will be a practical facility for both Agricultural Management Diploma and BTech students, students enrolled for the new Post Graduate Certificate (specialising in agriculture) in Education. Other students, especially within the School of Natural Resource Management, will also benefit from this facility.

It is emphasized that this project will help improve the quality of teaching, and will give a focus to students and visitors because it demonstrates in practice what is meant by agro-ecology and sustainable agriculture.



**This interesting project is spearheaded by Prof Raymond Auerbach (right), Programme Co-ordinator, Agricultural Management (Associate Professor: Plant Production) and Mr Anthonie du Toit (left) who lectures Soil Science and Plant Production (also busy with post-graduate research), as well as Master's degree student M'wa-Jama Mashele, who is also doing her MSc research on this project.**

Prof Auerbach encourages students and staff members to participate in the project as it will give everyone a better understanding on healthy foods and the benefits of growing food the organic way.

## Update – gymnasium on campus

**The new gym that will be situated in the old Student Centre close to the swimming pool is still in its initial planning stages, but is set for completion during October 2014.**

According to Martin Loubser, Director Operations at NMMU (George Campus) it is anticipated that the construction tender will go out in February. "Things are going as planned with the university's undertaking to create a dream gymnasium for both staff and students at the George Campus."

In the meantime, the gymnasium sponsored by the South African Rugby Union (SARU) in the Furntech building is fast becoming a hub for students staying on and off campus.



The facilities are also available to staff members who are interested in taking up membership.

The SARU gymnasium features equipment of the highest standard, focusing on strength building and cardio exercises. The facility is supervised at all times to ensure trainees' safety and to assist with the use of the machines.

## Breaking news...

### NMMU Public Lecture in George

## Chancellor shares insights on *innovation and entrepreneurship*

**NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha, recently visited the university's George Campus where she delivered a thought-provoking public lecture in a capacity-filled venue on campus.**

The theme of the public lecture was "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" and the multi-faceted event included the signing of a memorandum of understanding between NMMU and South Cape College for mutual co-operation in the education sphere, as well as acknowledging the important relationship between the university and the municipal government, through the handing over of a Certificate of Recognition to the George Municipality.

The opportunity was optimised to facilitate engagement between the Chancellor and a variety of key stakeholder groups that are relevant to the growth and purpose of the university in the southern Cape and beyond.

Ms Botha, who is, amongst others, known for her phenomenal role in rebranding and growing MTN's market share, presented a global perspective on competitiveness and growth, amidst the need for development which is sustainable.

She, amongst others, emphasised the need for collaboration, radical thinking and constant re-invention to remain competitive and cited examples of global brands that have managed to transform successfully into the new economy.



**High profile delegation...** A campus tour formed part of the busy itinerary prepared for the historic visit by NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha, to the university's picturesque George Campus where she delivered a captivating public lecture on "*Innovation and Entrepreneurship*" in a capacity filled lecture theatre on 11 November.

**Chancellor Botha, third from left, enjoyed a panoramic view of the Campus from a central vantage point. She is accompanied here by NMMU executives (from left) Dr Sibongile Muthwa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Institutional Services; Cllr Chris Neethling who serves on the NMMU Council, as well as the George Municipal Council; Prof Derrick**

**Swartz, the NMMU Vice-Chancellor; Prof Piet Naudé, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic; Prof Thoko Mayekiso, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Engagement, and Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal.**



**Green and greener...** With respect for the natural environment and sustainable environmental practice key elements of the NMMU value system, it should come as no surprise that a symbolic tree-planting, featuring an indigenous yellowwood tree, was included in Chancellor Botha's visit to the George Campus.

She was assisted by the current generation of students, represented by Student Council members Iviwe Sawuti (standing left) and Asafika Mzinjana (standing right), Anathi Masebeni (front, left) and Samantha Boesak (front, right). Chancellor Botha is flanked by Prof Derrick Swartz (left), the NMMU Vice-Chancellor and Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal.

## MoU seals closer co-operation between NMMU and South Cape College

During the annual NMMU Public Lecture held at the university's George Campus, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and South Cape College in terms of which the two institutions will strengthen their collaboration in certain spheres, such as staff development; matters relating to training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as articulation of programmes, in terms of which SCC students in certain subject areas may gain access to certain programmes offered by NMMU.



Signatories to this agreement were (standing) Mr W Mahlangu, South Cape College Councillor, NMMU Chancellor, Ms Santie Botha; Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, and (seated) Mr R Smit, South Cape College, Council Chairperson; Mr Luvuyo Ngubelanga, CEO of South Cape College and Prof Derrick Swartz, NMMU Vice-Chancellor.

## "Town and Gown" tradition cemented



Alderman Charles Standers, Executive Mayor of George accepted a Certificate of Recognition awarded by NMMU to the George Municipality to acknowledge the municipality's "...commitment to excellent, quality service as well as significant contribution towards an environmentally friendly and sustainable environment". The handover ceremony took place during the annual NMMU Public Lecture in George.

Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal (left); Ms Santie Botha, NMMU Chancellor; and Prof Derrick Swartz (far right), NMMU Vice-Chancellor, congratulated the Executive Mayor who received the certificate on behalf of his council and all residents.

“A City with quality educational institutions guarantees the availability of skills that lay the foundation for effective governance. I want to commit myself and the George City Council to build, maintain and strengthen relationships and partnerships within the Educational sphere...”, he said, indicating that the MoU signed between NMMU and South Cape College contributes to establishing George as the “Educational Hub” of the region.

Prof Swartz emphasised the importance of a strong relationship between “town and gown” as catalysts for sustainable growth.



**Partners in progress....** South Cape College CEO, Mr Luvuyo Ngubelanga (left), Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, Alderman Charles Standers, Executive Mayor of George and the Municipal Manager, Mr Trevor Botha, proudly representing the education sector and local government as some of the key stakeholders in the sustainable growth of the region.

## NMMU George lecturer excels in technology innovation

**Ensuring sustainable food production is a national priority, which requires the generation of innovative ideas and technologies.**

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) lecturer in Agricultural Management, Maryna Lehmann-Maritz’s ground-breaking work in the arena of milk production has earned her a well-deserved accolade as one of seven category runners-up out of 400 entries in the first national Technology Innovation Competition.

Launched by the Department of Science and Technology’s Technology Innovation Agency and the CSIR, the Step-Up technology innovation competition was born from the belief that innovation can unlock new, different and more effective solutions to the challenges that face our country.



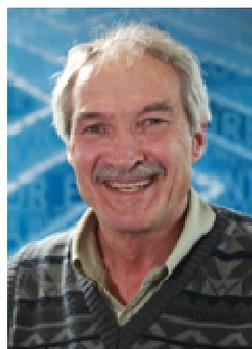
Ms Lehmann-Maritz’s entry in the Food and Agriculture category revolves around an innovation that offers an easy, non-evasive method to detect metabolic disorders in cows long before any symptoms are visible, without disrupting the parlour routine. Metabolic disorders are prevalent in dairy herds across the world and cause major financial losses.

Early detection and treatment helps to ensure better milk production, increased animal comfort, and reduced financial loss.

The prize includes a substantial financial investment, which will assist in fast-tracking the development and commercialisation of the winning innovations.

Teaching excellence acknowledged...

## Louw named Science Faculty *Excellent Teacher of the Year*



**Congratulations to Willie Louw, Programme Co-ordinator: Forestry, who has scooped the coveted NMMU Science Faculty *Excellent Teacher of the Year Award*.**

The announcement was made at a gala event presented annually by the university to acknowledge outstanding contributions made by NMMU academics in various spheres.

Mr Louw was acknowledged specifically for his significant contribution in the activity of teaching and learning.

Willie, you have made us exceedingly proud... and the fact that our students, too, have for several consecutive years nominated you as the Lecturer of the Year in the Forestry Programme underscores the important role that you are playing in promoting academic excellence on our Campus, and also in the greater NMMU context.

## NMMU acknowledges student leadership, sport achievers

**At the annual Achievers Awards on 28 October, no less than 35 awards were made to students or student societies that had excelled in excellence across all spheres of student life at the university's George Campus.**

### Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award

No less than six deserving students (three male and three female) were shortlisted as finalists for the Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award. The ultimate winners in this prestigious category – Tatenda Mapeto and Hannes van Zyl – are both accomplished masters' students (Forestry – Faculty of Science, School of Natural Resource Management) at the NMMU (George Campus).

### Sport

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

The Sport *Club* of the Year Award went to NMMU George Cricket Club - the club which had no less than three members represented in the SWD Senior Team. This award was accepted by Arnold Eshmade on behalf of the club.

The accolade for Sport *Team* of the Year went to the NMMU George Cricket team, with the award being accepted on behalf of the team by the captain, Lyndon Volkwyn.

The NMMU George Sportsman of the Year 2013 was scooped by a seasoned cricket player - Kobus Scholtz - whose exceptional performance with the bat had secured him the Player of the Tournament Award at the 2012 USSA Cricket tournament.

The number one-ranked lady in student surfing in South Africa, Roxanne Giles, took the honours as the NMMU George Sportswoman of the Year 2013. She won the ladies competition at the 2013 USSA Surfing Championships held at Vic Bay earlier this year, after qualifying for the semi-finals in both the U-20 ladies at the RVCA Surfing Series and the Billabong Junior Series held at Jeffrey's Bay in March and April 2013 respectively. She represented the Southern Cape at the Surfing SA Championships where she had also made it to the semi-finals.

## Sport Merit Awards

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

**Body Boarding:** Tiaan Hoeben; **Cricket:** Gareth Dukes, Kobus Scholtz and Lyndon Volkwyn;

**Hockey:** Craig Clowes, Marolene Gouws, Loren Hiley, Tanya Koorts and Emma Wiley;

**Kick boxing:** Ruan Knobel; **Rugby:** Lodewickus Louwrens

**Show Jumping:** Ivan van der Sijde; **Surfing:** Roxanne Giles

## Student Housing Awards

The award for the House Committee Member of the Year was scooped by Siviwe Sawuti, while Luthuli Mbali was named the Mentor of the Year. Ladies residence, Outeniqua, was named the Residence of the Year, with the award being received on behalf of the student by Yolanda Dlepu. The award of Residence all-rounder of the Year went to Sean Richter.

## Arts and Culture

The awards recipients in this category were Spesande Nomlala - Arts and Culture Member of the Year with the NMMU George Campus Choir being named the Arts and Culture Society of the Year. The choir's chairperson, Yolanda Dlepu, accepted the award on behalf of the choir.

## Student Governance and Development

Thomas Mthethwa was named the Society Administrator of the Year. Benjamin Leshoai was selected as the Student Council Member of the Year, and SASCO took the honours as the Political Society of the Year. The Christian Centre and Student Forestry Association were named the Religious Society and Society of the Year respectively, while the education students, under the banner of Super Ed, took the lead as the Academic Society of the Year.



**Winning trio...** Rochelle van Rooyen, Danicka Riehl and Tatenda Mapeto were acknowledged as the female finalists in the **Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award**. Tatenda Mapeto, a master's student at NMMU George was selected as the ultimate winner of the female category of this prestigious award. They received their certificates from Proff Piet Naudé (left) and Quinton Johnson (right)

The male finalists in the **Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award** were Rudolf Steyl, Anathi Masebeni and Hannes van Zyl, flanked here by Proff Piet Naudé (left) and Quinton Johnson (right), the Campus Principal. Hannes van Zyl, also a master's student, scooped the ultimate prize – the Campus Principal Leadership Excellence Award, in the male category.





NMMU George Campus **Sportswoman of the Year**, star surfer, Roxanne Giles, being congratulated by Hugo Loubser (Sport Manager), Prof Quinton Johnson (Campus Principal) and Prof Piet Naudé (right), the NMMU DVC: Academic.

**Cricket** was the shining star amongst the sporting codes acknowledged at this year's NMMU (George Campus) Achievers Awards. Sport Manager, Hugo Loubser (left), Albertus Kennedy (CEO of SWD Cricket) and Rudi Claassen (President of SWD Cricket, far right) congratulated star cricketers, Kobus Scholtz (Sportsman of the Year 2013, third from left), Lyndon Volkwyn, Captain of the NMMU George Cricket Team and Arnold Eshmade, chairperson of the NMMU George Cricket Club.



Benjamin Leshoai was acknowledged as the **Student Council Member of the Year**. He was congratulated by Proff Quinton Johnson (left) and Piet Naudé (right).

The NMMU George Campus Choir was the winner in the category **Arts and Culture Society of the Year**. Yolanda Dlepu (right) and Noluthando Nakani accepted the award from Proff Johnson (left) and Naudé (right).



**Education** students, Rochelle van Rooyen and Precious Mahlangu, accepted the reward for the best Academic Society on behalf of Super Ed.



**Proudly Outeniqua...** the Outeniqua ladies residence took the honours as the Residence of the Year. Residence Manager, Ms Vuyiswa Gozongo-Mentile (third from left) joined the triumphant Outeniqua residents, Khanyisa Thwala (second from left), Dineo Sitando (centre) and Yolande Dlepu (right). They were also congratulated by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (Left) and the DVC: Academic, Prof Piet Naudé (right).

**Arts and Culture Member of the Year**, Spesande Nomlala with Proff Quinton Johnson and Piet Naudé (right).



Luthuli Mbali, the **Mentor of the Year** was congratulated by Prof Quinton Johnson (Left) and Prof Piet Naudé (right).

Thomas Mthethwa was acknowledged for his skills by being named the **Society Administrator of the Year**. He is featured here with Proff Quinton Johnson (Left) and Piet Naudé (right).



Sakhile Sincuba and Phindiwe Qungani (centre) representing the NMMU George **Christian Centre** as the winning religious society, with Proff Quinton Johnson (left) and Piet Naudé (right).

International engagement...

## “NMMU-French connection” strengthened

**Relations between NMMU and the Universite Angers (UA) in France have received a welcome boost, thanks to the NMMU George Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson.**

With more than 23 years' university experience in teaching, research and administration under the belt, Prof Johnson, who has a special interest in the biomedical sciences, was invited to teach and share his expertise as Visiting Professor at UA. This institution of higher learning, situated in the town of the same name, dates back to 1356. Steeped in history and tradition, it was closed down in 1793 and re-established in 1971, from where it established itself as leaders in certain areas of medical technology.

One of the aims of the visit was to help unlock mutual exchange opportunities for staff and students of NMMU and UA. “At UA, I taught the pharmacy, science and medical students about the safety, quality and efficacy of plant medicines for human health. I also advised several PhD and Masters research students about optimizing their experimental protocols for maximum success in minimum time. In addition, we conducted some high-end analyses of a South African phytomedicine product to further determine its smart molecular therapeutic structures. I also provided lectures on sustainable futures,” said Prof Johnson.



**Distinguished Prof. Pascal Richomme (The silver-haired host) with Prof Johnson (right) and some of the postgraduate students who attended his lectures.**

It is likely that the visit will give rise to a MoU that will allow student and staff exchange across all disciplines. “We have already secured some funding to send one of our NMMU (George Campus) Master’s degree students to UA, and perhaps one staff member during 2014/2015, with hopefully more to follow in both directions into the future,” Prof Johnson confirmed.

Furthermore, the “French connection”, was also extended to include sport, with Prof Johnson also optimising the opportunity to meet with French counterparts to establish links between our respective Rugby Academies.

## NMMU Professor leads study on adaptations to climate change

A team of researchers from Arizona State University in the US, CIRAD, IRSTEA and CEFE (France) and Exeter University in the United Kingdom, led by Professor Christo Fabricius of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University’s Sustainability Research Unit have recently received funding from the Belmont Forum, which includes the National Research Foundation and Department of Science and Technology, for a three-year study to assess adaptations and perceptions of risk and vulnerability in coastal areas.

Called MAGIC (Multi-scale Adaptations to Global change In Coastlines), this 940 000 Euro (almost R 13 million) project addresses a complex problem: how to best respond to risk and vulnerability in coastal zones.

Professor Fabricius will soon depart for France where the team will get together to finalize their research plans, with regular project team meetings being envisaged over the next three years. The project will also involve a group of post-graduate students and for that purpose NMMU has recruited several Master's and Doctoral students specifically for the project.

The project addresses four linked questions:

- How do people's perceptions of risk and adaptability, and their ability to adapt, influence their decisions and actions?
- How do such adaptations affect the vulnerability of other groups, places or resources?
- What happens when people participate in dialogue, social learning and critical thinking? And
- How do perceptions change when decision makers are actively involved in, learn and reflect together with scientists?

More information about the Belmont Forum and its coastal vulnerability projects can be accessed at <http://igfagcr.org/index.php/featured/87-2013-funded-projects>

## World Social Science Report includes NMMU contribution

Through the collaborative efforts of Prof Christo Fabricius of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Sustainability Research Unit located at the George Campus and Professor Katrina Brown and Dr Saffron O'Neill of the University of Exeter's Environment and Sustainability, the prospects for radical transformational change have been analysed and documented in the World Social Science Report 2013. These range from significant dematerialisation of the global economy through to living with a significantly altered climate in decades to come.

The authoritative Report, published by the International Social Sciences Council, sets the agenda for the integration of social and environmental sciences globally. Its aim is to call on users of research to deliver solutions-oriented knowledge on today's most pressing environmental problems.

It focuses on changing global environments, addresses important societal challenges, takes stock of social and environmental science contributions and capacities, and makes recommendations for future research, practice, and policy. In so-doing it draws on analysis by 150 of the world's leading sustainability scientists engaged in promoting environmental sustainability and tackling the global challenges and implications of environmental change.



Speaking of the chapter they contributed, and its value in informing the environmental change debate, lead author Prof Katrina Brown said: "Whatever the future, it will be transformed from that of the present, and environmental change will be one of the most significant factors. Without understanding its social dimensions, and robust social science, our ability to steer transformation to benefit humanity will be very limited."

Said Prof Fabricius: "It was a privilege to work with the world's leading sustainability scientists and I am very happy with the outcome. The report is extremely comprehensive and illuminating".

Click here to download the [World Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environments](#).

## Korean delegation visits NMMU

A high profile delegation from South Korea, led by entrepreneur Dr Hae-Jung Jung, the founder, President and Chairman of M.K. International, a company which has 50,000 employees and an annual turnover of \$3 Billion USD, was hosted at the NMMU (George Campus) as guests of Prof Johnson, Campus Principal, and his wife, Dr Bridget Johnson.

The company is seeking investment opportunities in the Southern Cape region, amongst others, and Dr Jung has shared some ideas and examples of the company's worldwide investments and interests with Prof Johnson and other attendees, which included the Deputy Mayor of George, Cllr Daniel Maritz.

A subsequent visit by Dr Jung and partners to the NMMU George Campus is bearing fruit in the form of an imminent financial investment in the Campus, details of which will be announced in due course.

The relationship with the Korean visitors was facilitated through MK Enterprises (SA) led by Mr Hilton Slamet, a local business entrepreneur who has spent several years in South Korea.



George, Cllr Daniel Maritz, Dr Hae-Jung Jung, Chairman of M.K. International and Mr Hilton Slamet.

M.K. International's diversified activities include industrial engineering, manufacturing of industrial equipment and products, and international trading.

The company reportedly also provides consulting engineering services and financial advisory services for projects that include Makro, Wal-Mart, port development, city development, and many others.

In the photograph Prof Quinton Johnson is accompanied by the Deputy Mayor of

## St Cloud collaboration growing...

The Director: Operations at NMMU (George Campus), Mr Martin Loubser, recently accompanied the university's Office for International Education on a week-long visit to St. Cloud State University in the US. The focus of the visit was to experience the American University facilities and how they achieve the creation of an environment which is conducive to teaching and learning. Another aim was to research the governance models of universities in Minneapolis and surrounding areas such as Saint Cloud State University, College of Saint Benedict's and Saint John's University.

The collaboration between NMMU and Saint Cloud State University is continuing a long-standing partnership of 20 years specifically aimed at arranging opportunities for students of the institutions to "study abroad". This approach supports the concept of global relevance and assists the universities in empowering students with global experience.



Dr Nico Jooste (left), Director of NMMU's Office for International Education who arranged the recent visit of NMMU staff to the University of St Cloud in US, and Mr Kevin Pather of NMMU's Risk Management Unit.

Featured right: a project where the Saint Cloud State University started a vegetable garden to support poverty stricken members of their community.



## Engaging our neighbours...



**Charity begins at home...** History was made recently when about twenty of the NMMU George Campus neighbours – people who own or occupy property along the main road leading up to the Campus - were invited to the campus to meet the new Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (left). Engaging with stakeholders from the community is a key priority, and NMMU's neighbours are no exception. Prof Johnson utilised the opportunity to get better acquainted with this important stakeholder group, and to share with them information on NMMU and the university's vision for the George Campus and the university in general.

## Tablets for students...

# Unique pilot for Forestry students

Students at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) have been given an opportunity to participate in a unique and exciting pilot project developed to assist them in academic excellence. The group of sixty-six students in Forestry have each received a tablet which enhances access to information and allowed them to complete assignments relating to their studies through accessing of online resources.

They were also enabled to carry out group assignments from the tablets. One of the outcomes of the pilot was the completion of an online questionnaire on the user-friendliness, screen size and features of the tablet used to complete different tasks.

At the handover of the tablets, Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal, encouraged the students to fully embrace technology, as it is critical to being competitive. Mr Willie Louw, the Science Faculty Excellent Teacher of the Year and programme co-ordinator for Forestry emphasised that the project was "history in the making" and that the data collected would be of great significance for NMMU overall.

Dr Hermien Johannes (from left) a senior Teaching Development Professional from NMMU's Centre for Teaching, Learning and Media and Simon Goldstone conducting the so-called blended learning project, both from Port Elizabeth, with Forestry Programme Co-ordinator, Mr Willie Louw, and Forestry Master's student, Tatenda Mapeto (front).



## NMMU invests R1m in tablets for 500 students

Access to information also became a great deal easier for another 500 students who received tablets from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) recently. The University has made an investment of R1m to provide computing devices for students as part of a pilot study to ascertain if having your own tablet makes a difference in terms of academic achievement.

The drive to ensure that all students are given equal opportunity in accessing knowledge is the brainchild of NMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz. NMMU is one of the first universities nationally to embark on such a project.

Students had to apply and motivate why they should be considered for the project. The majority of students who applied and were selected for the NMMU student device project do not own a laptop or tablet. The group also includes six students from NMMU's George Campus who were selected on the basis of the strength of their motivations. This is in addition to the unique tablet project for 66 George Campus-based Forestry students.

Staff from ICT Services, George Campus – JP Flanagan and Trevor Blane (from left) and Garth Smit (second from right) along with Dave Jenkins of Higher Education Access and Development Services (far right) assisted the George students with the tablets awarded to them based on the strength of their motivation. Four of the six lucky recipients featured here are Silwandsile Breakfast (third from left), Thando Donti, Mikhai Kossar and Kutelani Tshivhase.



## NMMU Forestry students elected to top international positions

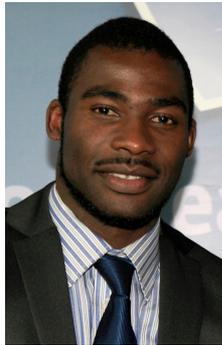
For the first time in the history of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), two South African students – both of them master's students from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) occupy the highest positions in the Association.

Kutelani Tshivhase and Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo were elected as the new IFSA President and Vice President respectively, while Tatenda Mapeto, also a Forestry master's student at NMMU (George Campus) was elected as one of the Southern African Regional Representatives of the Association.

The annual International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS) was hosted in Spain during August this year with over hundred students attending from 30 countries across the globe. Throughout the Symposium the students travelled around different regions of Spain obtaining a global perspective of all the forestry and cultural practices, developments and traditions of the visited places.

The Symposium furthermore served as a tool to introduce students to a wide range of research centres and forestry companies. Several state-of-the-art presentations were made by researchers and environmental entities and students also participated in workshops to develop personal and professional skills.

In an IFSA multicultural meeting, all the participants briefly presented the state of the forestry industry in their respective countries framed by the different regional traditions.



**Tshivhase**, a final year Master's student in Forestry at NMMU (George Campus), is currently finalising his dissertation entitled: *An analysis of socio-economic contribution of forest resources in Peri-urban areas of George*.

As the President of IFSA, he will be an official representative for the association, supervisor of the Direction's work and to maintain contact with external organisations through IFSA Liaison Officers. He will also be in charge of IFSA internal matters.

"We need to sow the seeds of hope and belief in forestry sustainability through Forest Education" says Tshivhase. "Even if I knew the world ends tomorrow, I will still plant that apple tree", he enthused. "It's a message that says we should continue investing and putting effort in making forest a key stone resource for environmental, social and economic importance globally".



**Nxumalo**, a first-year master's student in Forest Engineering at NMMU (George Campus) is doing research on a fibre utilisation comparison of three harvesting systems in *Eucalyptus grandis* in the Kwa-Zulu Natal forestry region of South Africa. He was elected as the Councillor for the IFSA Board in 2012, where his main responsibilities were to supervise the work of Regional Representatives from Asia, Oceania and Southern Africa and to oversee the different IFSA Commissions.

Both Tshivhase and Nxumalo are past recipients of the NMMU (George Campus) Principal's Leadership Award, which bears testimony to their outstanding leadership qualities. The contact details of the various IFSA regional representatives across the globe can be accessed through the IFSA website at [www.ifsa.net](http://www.ifsa.net)

## Our heritage, our future...

# NMMU role in historic exchange

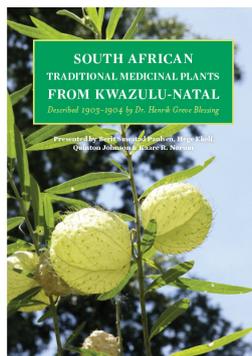
Thanks to a collaborative venture between South Africa and Norway, Heritage month 2013 marked the return to South Africa of the first-known written manuscript about the use of African plant medicines, dating back more than a century.

Inspired and guided by the indigenous communities of Eshowe (Kwazulu-Natal), Norwegian-born medical doctor Henrik Blessing historically recorded their knowledge of plant medicines between 1901 and 1904, whilst he worked with the missionaries in the region. The original manuscript was discovered during a collaborative project which began in 2004 when highly rated academic, Prof Quinton Johnson, now the Principal of NMMU (George Campus), joined forces with a number of Norwegian counterparts from the University of Oslo in a collaborative study on the quality, safety and efficacy of African plant medicines.

The historic records of Dr Blessing were combined with the current scientific knowledge of 98 medicinal plants described by him, which the authors researched. This culminated in the publishing of a book which is of major significance in terms of its scientific, medical, economic, cultural, historic and heritage value.



South African Traditional Medicinal Plants from Kwazulu-Natal is based on the beautiful notebooks that the Norwegian medical doctor Henrik Blessing wrote when he was visiting the KwaZulu-Natal district in the years 1901-1904. Blessing was the medical doctor on board the ship of Frisco that went towards the North Pole with Fridtjof Nansen during the years 1893-96. In these notebooks he described 98 plants, both botanically and with their local use for illnesses, pain and as agents against poisoning. For most plants the only names given were the Zulu names. The last part of this book is a facsimile of Blessing's original notebooks. Scientists from Norway and South Africa have identified the plants, taken photographs of them, and described the use of the plants traditionally as well as modern knowledge about effects. This book is both of cultural, medicinal and pharmaceutical historic interest, and represents part of the historic relations between South Africa and Norway.



**South African Traditional Medicinal Plants from Kwazulu-Natal** (see cover featured left), was jointly authored by Prof Johnson (NMMU), Prof Berit Smestad-Paulsen and Kaare Norum (both from the University of Oslo) and Norwegian Medicine Regulator, Hege Ekeli. The book was published by Akademika and launched in Norway (June) as well as the South African Parliament (November) during 2012.



Prof Johnson and Prof Kaare Norum (Rector Emeritus, University Oslo), facilitated the return to South Africa of the original manuscript on which the book was based. They were strongly supported by the Norwegian Painter John David Nielsen who, as a relative, inherited the records from Dr Blessing.

The historic document was handed over to the South African Ambassador, Her Excellency Queen Anne Zondo, by Director-General Bente-Angel Hansen of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry (Oslo) on 29 August, and will now be placed in our national archive. "After more than a century, we can celebrate our heritage through the distinct knowledge of our people about African plant medicines described in an ancient manuscript, which has finally come home", says Prof Johnson.



Prof Quinton Johnson (left), featured with Ambassador Kari Bjørnsgaard (Norway), Painter John David Nielsen (Norway), Ambassador Queen-Ann Zondo (South Africa) and Director-General Bente Angell-Hansel (Foreign Affairs-Norway).

## Green economy under the spotlight...

# Leading the discourse on Sustainable Futures

**"In the green economy, environmental risks are reduced, improved human well-being is achieved and natural resource scarcities are addressed by the alternative solutions that ameliorate our destructive and resource-intensive relationship with earth".**

This statement by Prof Quinton Johnson and the ensuing public lecture delivered by him at a breakfast event hosted by the NMMU Business School for the George business community on 5 September kept the local business community who attended the event spellbound.



Mr Leon Mouton, Director: NMMU Business school/Leadership Academy (from left), with Alderman Charles Standers, Executive Mayor of George, Prof Quinton Johnson, Mr Trevor Botha, Municipal Manager of George, Dr Willie Cilliers, President of the George Business Chamber and Ms Elsa Myburgh, Office Manager of the NMMU Business School in George.

Prof Johnson discussed the role NMMU is playing as a word catalyst for the green economy, citing some of the ground-breaking work done by NMMU in the sustainability arena. He, amongst others, referred to the university's Sustainability Research Unit housed at NMMU (George Campus) and the Centre for Energy Research; the example the university is setting in terms of new infrastructure developments, which set an enviable standard in terms of sustainability, such as the soon to be unveiled Business School building in Port Elizabeth. This new building has been awarded a four Green Star rating by the Green Building Council of South Africa.

"These solutions will serve the communities in the Southern Cape in the not so distant future and further transcends continental borders. Leaders from the private and public sectors in the Southern Cape are also positioned and empowered to create a greener economy" he said.



The title of this thought-provoking lecture was: "Creating a Sustainable Future for the Southern Cape and World: NMMU and the Green Economic Development Discourse".

Mr Dave Jenkins (right), NMMU George Deputy Director: HEADS, in discussion with the CEO of South Cape College, Mr Luvuyo Ngubelanga at the breakfast event hosted by the NMMU Business School.

## NMMU lecturers receive top awards

Dr Marianne Doubell was one of four NMMU Business Management lecturers to receive top awards for their papers at the World Academy of Researchers, Educators and Scholars in Business Social Sciences, Humanities and Education International conference held in Cape Town in July 2013. Their papers were selected among 201 papers submitted from 17 countries.



### Heritage Day...

## NMMU joins George Museum in celebrating Madiba's legacy

In South Africa the month of September is not only the month of spring, but also the month when we celebrate Heritage Day.

The George Museum invited the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, as the keynote speaker for their Heritage Day celebrations on 13 September. This year's theme was in honour of former president Nelson Mandela and the idea of building social cohesion.

Learners from local educational institutions and guest were inspired by Prof Johnson's message. In keeping with the day's theme he made numerous references to former President Nelson Mandela and encouraged the audience to actively seek opportunities that will accentuate the spirit of 'Ubuntu' and to emulate Madiba in making the country a better place. He pointed out that dreams are not for the selected few but for all humanity.



NMMU's George Campus choir also made an appearance to lead the audience in a beautiful rendition of the national anthem.

**Prof Quinton Johnson (centre, back) with staff of the George Museum during recent Heritage Day celebrations – Ms Thozama Ngcoko (front, from left), Ms Lorinda Hakimi, Ms Kathy Schultz and Ms Linda Yozo (back, right). The gentleman on the left, Mr Mbulelo Mrubata is from the Diaz Museum in Mossel Bay.**

## Support for SANParks Week

Marketing & Corporate Relations staff, Marnus de Klerk (left) and Pieter Botha (right), assisting one of the more than 150 visitors at the recent SANParks heritage month celebrations at the Ebb and Flow National Park in Wilderness.



## Certificate of Gratitude from Outeniqua High School



The George Campus of NMMU was honoured with a certificate of gratitude from Outeniqua High School as part of the school's 90 year celebrations.

Martin Loubser, Director Operations, received the certificate on behalf of the university's campus in George at a businessmen and women breakfast held at the school during their weeklong festival.

The inscription on the certificate reads: "The principal and staff of Outeniqua High School want to thank you for your years of loyal support. It is greatly appreciated. We would like to continue our close relationship and strengthen it to give effect to our mission to cultivate champions and to assist learners to develop optimally".

Truly something to be proud of!

## Lunchtime lecture features German economist, LED patron



In early October NMMU George Campus hosted a public lecture by Dr Klaus Bauknecht (second from left), MD and Head of Econometric and Capital Market Research at IKB Deutsche Industriebank, Düsseldorf, Germany. Approximately 30 students, staff members and other interested members of the public joined Dr Bauknecht's session on Industrialisation, Globalisation and Experiences of the German Economy – Examples of Applied Economics.

Dr Bauknecht has a longstanding relationship with NMMU, dating from 1996 from to 1997 when he was a lecturer at the former UPE.

With him in the photograph is Campus Principal Prof Quinton Johnson (left), Dr Bauknecht's colleague Jorg Zimmermann (second from right) of Landesbank Hessen-Thuringen in Germany and Carli Bunding-Venter (far right) Manager: Economic Development at George Municipality.

## NMMU George Campus exhibits at the George Agricultural Show

NMMU had a particular strong presence at this year's annual George Agricultural Show with students welcoming visitors, managing ticket sales and doing access control in their beautifully branded NMMU T-shirts; while staff and senior students took turns manning a stall in the main expo hall, to market NMMU programmes across the board.

In the photograph Maryna Lehmann of the Agricultural Management programme can be seen handing out NMMU's very popular Z-card with information on all the university's academic programmes.



## Alumni reflections...

NMMU Trust recently hosted a cock-tail function in George. Close to 40 alumni and friends attended the function.



## Another successful Green Campus Week at NMMU George

From 21 to 25 October 2013 the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) was a hive of activity when students put forward a range of displays and events to raise awareness about the sustainable utilisation of our environment and a greener economy.

The Green Week was opened on Monday, 21 October with a George Campus Green Rag featuring, amongst others, Prof Quinton Johnson, George Campus Principal and Dr Suz Phillips, Faculty of Education, in a cart drawn by "Hercules", accompanied by staff and students in a procession from the Student Rec Centre towards the Administration building.

An alien plant clearing programme was executed by third year wood technology students together with their lecturers on the campus throughout the week. The event culminated with a full programme on 25 October, aimed at the more than 300 learners from schools in the region who were invited to attend the event.

Despite rainy conditions which prohibited some of the outdoor activities from being executed, learners were captivated by the displays in the Student Recreation Centre and the various presentations in the Lecture Theatre and other classrooms. Highlights included the live snakes display, a frog display, bones and leopard display, alien fish species display and the rhino awareness display. The latter offered an opportunity to pledge towards the protection and conservation of rhinos.

The Landmark Foundation gave a presentation on leopards and conservation, Oceans Aware's Ettiene Roets gave a talk about Great White Shark biology and conservation, while Prof Raymond Auerbach of NMMU's Agricultural Management Programme gave an interesting talk on permaculture.

A live broadcast from the George Campus by Eden FM Community radio featured a conversation with Prof Quinton Johnson, George Campus Principal, Nature Conservation lecturer Bianca Currie, the NMMU students discussing various projects, as well as other interesting topics with regards to sustainable utilization of our environment and a greener economy. The NMMU George Campus Choir provided on-air entertainment.

After an entertaining recycled materials fashion show at the Student Recreation Centre where students showcased their creatively designed outfits, the skies cleared and the successful Green Week was concluded with the flight of a Jackal Buzzard.



## NMMU George Campus hosts business community

More than 120 representatives of commerce and industry attended the monthly networking evening of the George Business Chamber, hosted at the NMMU George Campus on 25 July. Guests were equally enthralled by the picturesque campus, and the welcoming voices of the NMMU George Campus Choir.

### *The dti* open lecture on “Green Economy” adds additional value

The networking event was preceded by the Campus Principal's Open Lecture where Chamber members and other guests had the opportunity to meet and interact with Mr Gerhard Fourie, Chief Director: Green Industries, Department of Trade and Industries (the dti) who delivered a thought-provoking presentation on “*The Green Economy*”.

Mr Fourie explained that “A Green Economy is one in which business processes are configured or reconfigured to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using fewer natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities”. “Thus, a Green Economy grows by reducing rather than increasing resource consumption”, he said, also providing an overview of the challenges facing South Africa in this context, and government's plans and initiatives to capitalize on opportunities relating to the green industry.

“Critics of green industries say that it is all a business ploy to sell more products, but the world is currently facing a number of big challenges, and these challenges are the reason why the green wave is happening now, and will continue for many years to come - the rising global energy demand (particularly from China and India); Global energy security; and Carbon concerns” he said.

### Thumbs up for business in George...



Members of the George Business Chamber who attended the monthly networking evening hosted at the George Campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University recently were greeted by the vocal splendour of the vibrant Campus Choir. They also engaged with the **student leaders**, featured here with Jonathan Stanton-Humphreys (Vice-president of the Chamber) (left), and (centre) Prof Quinton Johnson, the Campus Principal and Dr Willie Cilliers, the Chamber's president.

**Big voices, bright young minds ...** The NMMU George Campus Choir, with George Business Chamber president, Dr Willie Cilliers (centre), accompanied by Prof Quinton Johnson, the Campus Principal.



## Water under the spotlight at 2<sup>nd</sup> Glenwood NMMU ScieX

NMMU and Glenwood House again partnered to present the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NMMU Glenwood Science Expo (ScieX 2013) on 26 and 27 July 2013. The inaugural event last year focused on innovations in the field of energy, while this year the focus shifted towards water, with the all-important theme of *Water for All*.

The format of the expo included presentations by NMMU academics and postgraduate students, learners and external experts; as well as innovative displays and demonstrations. Besides a captivating talk by NMMU Earth Stewardship Professor, Maarten de Wit who focused on earth stewardship, touching on fracking in the Karoo and the perceived threat posed to groundwater supplies, other NMMU participants included Dr Gletwyn Rubidge of NMMU's Chemistry Department; Coos Bosma of NMMU's Institute for Chemical Technology - InnoVenton; Dr Dirk Roux (NMMU Research Associate, SANParks), as well as NMMU postgraduate students.

While Glenwood House was the main expo venue for the event, the official opening took place at the NMMU George Campus lecture theatre on 27 July.

### Opening highlights

Highlights of the opening programme included the keynote address delivered by the Director-General (Acting): Department Water Affairs, Trevor Balzer. Mr Balzer gave a compelling overview of the water landscape in South Africa, including the challenges that water security and access pose, as well as government's plans and initiatives to ensure "water for all".

He indicated that South Africa would need to invest about R700-billion in the next 10 to 15 years to refurbish the country's water infrastructure and improve water security and access to water.



**Mr Trevor Balzer, Director-General (Acting): Department Water Affairs (left), with Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal: NMMU George Campus; Mr Dennis Symes, Principal: Glenwood House and Prof Andrew Leitch, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Science.**

The earth sciences film, *Thin Ice*, with discussions facilitated by Prof Maarten de Wit was also screened as part of the official opening event attended by a range of stakeholders, including the business sector, municipal and educational sector representatives, students and learners.



## NMMU service providers acknowledged

In another variation on the theme of reaching out and acknowledging the efforts of others, a professional support staff member of the NMMU (George Campus), Mr Clyde Booyesen, donated sixty-seven home-baked refreshments to each group of contract service providers active on the campus – including Fedics (catering) staff, garden services and security staff.



## Campus conversations with the Minister of Sport and Recreation



Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, and his wife, Dr Bridget Johnson welcomed and introduced the Minister of Sport and Recreation, the honourable Mr Fikile Mbalula (centre) to an informal get-together in his honour at NMMU (George Campus).

Minister Mbalula visited the campus as part of a whirlwind tour of the Western Cape during the first week of August.

After the informal function attended by strategic staff, student leaders and representatives of the sporting community in the Southern Cape, Minister Mbalula went on to address the students on transforming the region through sport.

## Food for thought – “The Measure of a Woman”



Wednesday 21 August 2013, did not signal “business as usual” for the NMMU (George Campus) ladies - lecturers, professional support staff and student leaders - who were treated to a Women’s Day breakfast, good music and an inspirational talk at the Hyatt Regency International Hotel as guests of the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson.

psychologist by profession, inspired all with her topical presentation entitled “The Measure of a Woman”.

The guest speaker, Dr Bridget Johnson (centre, front), an educational

The presence of Mr Jaco le Roux (back left), Hyatt Regency General Manager, and Prof Johnson (back, right), had little impact on the gender imbalance at this special occasion.

## Dressed to kill...

Education students, Armand Gerber, Roelof Steyl, Nelia Fourie, Zihan Strydom and Adri Botha spoilt staff at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) with a surprise visit to their offices on Women’s Day. The group inspired female staff members with messages of encouragement and something sweet. Their sense of humour was also evident, as this photograph confirms.



## Secretaries acknowledged in style

Secretaries and support staff fulfilling key administrative functions at NMMU (George Campus) were acknowledged for their dedication and hard work. On Secretaries Day the small team enjoyed lunch with the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (left) and Mr Martin Loubser, Director of Operations at the Morning Glory restaurant at the picturesque Fancourt Estate. They also travelled in style... and thoroughly enjoyed the experience as is evident from the accompanying photographs.



## CANSA supported in honour of Madiba

The George Campus of NMMU recently donated R6700 to CANSA. This initiative served a dual purpose as it formed part of the campus' Mandela Day events, while supporting Adele Potgieter's participation in the 'Out of Africa Winter Queen' campaign – her preferred charitable foundation.



In the photograph Adele Potgieter (far left) joins the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson (second to left) and Martin Loubser, Director: Operations at NMMU George (far right) at the handover to Babie Lewitton (centre) and Ronel Rademeyer (second to right), of CANSA Southern Cape & Karoo.

Congratulations to Adele who was named first runner-up in the 'Out of Africa Winter Queen' competition.

## Staff going BIG on Casual Day!

Casual Day 2013 was celebrated in style by NMMU (George Campus) staff when they “went big” in support of persons with disabilities.

Besides wearing their Casual Day stickers showing support for the cause, many staff members dressed according to their interpretation of the theme 'Go Big'. They got into character with “big hair”, ranging from a 60's hippie hairstyle to being unrecognisable with vibrant wigs; big hats, alternating from farmer hats to exquisite fancy hats or a delightful bicycle helmet; big colourful glasses; big Doberman slippers and a big Super Mario moustache. Even “Fidel Castro”, the political leader of Cuba, embraced the Staff Lounge with his “big” presence, smoking a typical Cuban cigar.

True to the spirit of Casual Day anything went, as long as it was big. It was an enjoyable occasion with staff members sharing laughs and posing for numerous photographs. Prizes were up for grabs for the most authentic and innovative interpretation of the theme: Go Big! As in the past the funds generated from purchasing stickers at the George Campus were in aid of Carpe Diem School in George.



## Spring concert enthrals audience in George Civic Centre

On 7 September 2013 the Civic Centre in George was transformed into a vibrant cultural hub, with close to 400 choristers and guests gathering for the first annual NMMU George Campus Spring Concert hosted by the George Campus Choir under the auspices of Prof Quinton Johnson, the NMMU (George Campus) Principal and official patron of the choir.

The concert served as a platform to stimulate cultural interaction and community involvement in the region. It was also presented in the context of the Campus Principal's commitment to fast-track the development of the choir, to strengthening cultural activity as one of the key focus areas of the university, in addition to promoting academic excellence and sport across the board.

Besides the host choir, the event was supported by the Thembalethu Methodist Church Choir; the Petro SA Choir, The Prestige Choir from York High School and the Lawaai Methodist Church Choir.

Guests included key stakeholders, such as sponsors, members of the business sector, NMMU staff, municipalities from the region, the education sector, the media and the community at large. NMMU attendees from Port Elizabeth included the Executive Dean of EBEIT, Dr Oswald Franks and Mr Michael Barry from the Arts & Culture Department, accompanied by their partners. NMMU Council member, Cllr Chris Neethling also supported the event.

Sanlam was the anchor sponsor, with a donation of R50 000 sourced by the Campus Principal, with Eden FM as the radio sponsor for the evening.



## NMMU attracts interest from South Cape College students

Approximately 150 National Certificate (Vocational) Level 4 learners from South Cape College benefitted from a direct marketing approach of student recruitment during the month of October.

Five sessions at South Cape College campuses around the Eden/Karoo district were arranged to enable the learners to attend a presentation on NMMU programmes and entrance requirements specifically aimed at NC (V) Level 4 learners.



The sessions took place at South Cape College campuses in George, Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, Plettenberg Bay and Beaufort-West.

## Break the Silence...

NMMU (George Campus) Education students (SuperEd Society) with the help of fellow students responded to an earlier call for a "safe city" made by Alderman Charles Standers, the Executive Mayor of George. The 'Black Campaign' initiated by the students to raise awareness against gender violence activated two attention-grabbing events to support the central theme.

The first happening took place at two local malls where the group performed a surprise FlashMob, demonstrating a violent scene, followed by a song carrying a message speaking against gender violence. Members of the NMMU George Campus Choir led the "spontaneous song" which characterises the FlashMob.



The FlashMob was followed by a second event - a silent demonstration by students on one of the town's busiest streets during peak hour where motorists sounded their vehicle horns in support of the message displayed on the banners - "Don't Look Away".

Both initiatives were supported by the George Municipality, as part of the collaboration between "town and gown".

## NMMU George Campus supports National Bandana Day



Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus) together with Pick n Pay hosted National Bandana Day at the Student Rec Centre in support of the Sunflower Fund in aid of the treatment of persons who suffer from leukaemia.

A fun element was introduced to the day with prizes up for grabs for staff and students who supported National Bandana Day by demonstrating the most creative use of a Bandana.

These NMMU students were pictured queuing to buy bandanas from the Pick n Pay staff.

## Going pink for a good cause

Staff and students supported the annual Pink Trees for Pauline initiative wholeheartedly by going pink during the month of October.



Prof Quinton Johnson (left) and Sefoko Ramoshaba (back) recently welcomed the members of the NMMU Disability Unit to the Campus – Prof Iona Wannenburg, Noxolo Gqirana, Sheri-Ann Pietersen and Ruth Sauls.

## Disability unit Visits George



## Beauty all around

Saturday, 14 September 2013, saw the crowning of this year's Mr and Miss NMMU George Campus. The event, which took place at the campus's main hall presented with the theme of 'smart construction' and the participants represented exactly that.



Twenty-four finalists, consisted of twelve male and twelve female contestants, displayed an outstanding performance as each of them hoped to be crowned as the next representative for Mr and Miss NMMU (George Campus). The pageant ultimately saw contestants, Miss Danicka Riehl and Mr Dean Langeveldt receiving the title as well as the honour of being the student face of NMMU's George Campus for 2013/2014.

Congratulations to the winners!

Jason Fredericks (far left), who was crowned second prince and Michelle Bruce, the second princess whom also earned the title of Miss Personality. The ultimate winners were Mr NMMU, Dean Langeveldt and Danicka Riehl as Miss NMMU 2013/2014. They will serve as ambassadors and represent the George Campus at various events. Thandokazi Sanadayo was crowned first princess and Fana Mndaweni, the first prince. Awonke Kampie (second from right) scooped the title of Viewer's Choice, based on Facebook responses, while the title of Mr Personality went to Ayabonga Chonco (far right).

## Fun filled SAICA event at NMMU George Campus

At a recent visit to NMMU George Campus, the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) decided to approach the students on a different level by organising a padded sumo wrestling event.

With a financial incentive as the first prize it was not difficult to attract students to wrestle against each other.

According to SAICA the objective of the event was to show how one can achieve balance in work and life whilst still having fun.

“All students thoroughly enjoyed the event both from a social perspective; as well as interacting with SAICA,” said Jane Fountain, programme co-ordinator for the BCom programmes at NMMU in George.



A group of BCom students joined by lecturing staff members, Pieter Wicht and Jane Fountain, share in the fun at the recent SAICA event on campus.

## Marketing students thrill audience with tightly contested Advertising Showcase

Third-year Marketing students from NMMU (George Campus) have again rose to the occasion with their original advertising productions developed for the annual Advertising Showcase.

The event, which took place at the campus's main hall on 18 September 2013, impressed an appreciative audience and panel of judges.

Two innovative “advertising agencies”, better known as *Immediate!* and *Free Tree Media* were challenged to develop their company's corporate identity which included the development of letterheads and business cards, as well as an advertising campaign for Mount View Resort & Lifestyle Village in George. Their brief was to create awareness for Mount View Resort & Lifestyle Village's facilities and activities through a print advertisement, a billboard, a radio advertisement, Facebook page and a 90 seconds television advertisement.

After a few months of blood, sweat and tears the final product was presented to a panel of judges and the audience at large. The creativity and originality of the two teams were thoroughly tested. Both excelled in various applications, and were set apart by a very small margin as their final results were announced.

*Free Tree Media* achieved the highest overall score, but the adjudicators unanimously agreed that the values of excellence and diversity were well reflected in the work of both teams.



The creative students, with the panel of judges during the presentations are (Back from left to right) – Marika Lombard, Eugene Maritz, Jaco Hamman, Paul Hofmann (Judge), Magda Eybers (Judge), Adele Potgieter (Marketing Lecturer at the NMMU George Campus), Anele Ngwilikane, Hendrik Langenhoven, the CEO of the winning agency, *Free Tree Media* and Thami Douse (Judge). In the centre are Anthony Colesky and Marnus de Klerk (Judge). Kneeling in front is Yusuf Rhoda, the CEO of the agency, *Immediate!* and Charles Jordaan.

## Students' respond to World Food Day

In response to this important call, Forestry Masters' students and members of International Forestry Student Association (IFSA), Kutelani Tshivase and Sikhumbuzo Nxumalo initiated a fruit tree planting programme with the help of fellow students' societies such as SuperEd (education students), Mr and Miss NMMU (George Campus) and members of the George Campus Student Council.



The programme is aimed at providing learners from surrounding local high schools with an opportunity to learn about the importance of trees in our environment and how to grow food in a sustainable manner. All of this is done in an informal but informative and practical manner. Here the students were joined by the grade 11 learners from Parkdene Secondary School.

## Marketing Students scoop Media24 internship

NMMU (George Campus) Marketing lecturer, Mrs Adele Potgieter (second from left) proudly congratulated three of her Marketing students – Charles Jordaan, Thabiseng Chiwashira and Tamaryn Baadjies on being accepted to take part in a Media24 internship programme.

The students underwent a rigorous interview and workshop sessions and competed with 16 other students. They are now set to commence with a strict two month practical experience at the Cape Town head office of Media24, which will thoroughly prepare them for the world of work.



## Swedish Experience



As part of NMMU's continuous international relationship building initiative this year Melony Marajh, a fourth year BEd (FET) student (majoring in Mathematics) from the university's George Campus was appointed as an exchange student to Gothenburg University in Sweden.

Melony is grateful for the opportunity and excited to share the knowledge acquired from the trip with fellow students. "I intend to implement a lot of what I have learned, especially at the schools that I would be teaching at in the future," she enthused.

## Sport

### NMMU George surfer wins annual USSA surfing event at Vic Bay



Roxy Giles, a first year student at NMMU (George Campus), won the ladies section of the annual USSA surfing competition at the iconic Victoria Bay, when she beat Nikita Kekana of University of Cape Town (UCT).

This was the fourth year in a row that the George Campus hosted the top surfing students of tertiary institutions from around South Africa.

A total of six teams took part in this year's SA University Surfing Championship, namely NMMU (PE), NMMU (George), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), University of Stellenbosch (Maties), UCT and Varsity College from Durban.

For the photograph Roxy was joined by her father, Leonard Giles, a former national surfer and also the current South African veterans' champion.

### NMMU George receives silver at USSA Rugby Week



The George Campus rugby team finished second in the C-section of the 2013 USSA Rugby Week.

The team from George convincingly beat University of Zululand 75 – 0 in the tournament's first round. In the second round a hard-fought 19 – 12 victory against Walter Sisulu University (Buffalo Campus) was enough to see them through to the final against Cape Peninsula University of Technology which they lost 17 – 18.

## NMMU George Campus archer wins bronze



**Abigail Crisp, a postgraduate student in Nature Conservation at NMMU (George Campus) is slowly but surely shooting her way to the top.**

With competitive scores in four 3Di / ABO archery competitions she qualified to take part in the South African 3Di / ABO National Championships held at Magnum Archery in Pretoria in November. At the Championships archers have to shoot 3D and 2D target animals with points being allocated to 'hits' closest to vital areas. There are 20 targets with a maximum total of 220 points.

She received a bronze medal at the championships and a final position of fourth – missing her provincial colours by a mere 2 points. The final position is calculated by an archer's top highest three scores over the year together with the score on the first day of the National Championships.

On day one of the championships, Crisp competed on a flat course with the longest shots estimated at 32 meters where she scored a total of 178 points finishing in the top six women for her class. On the final day she competed on a mountain course – the most challenging course for most, due to tunnel and elevation shots – where she finished with a total of 183 points. The event was attended by more than 350 archers from across the country.

## George Campus half-marathon

**On Saturday, 24 August, at precisely 08:00 almost 160 runners started the 2013 George Campus half-marathon.**

One hour 12 minutes and 37 seconds later, the first runner, Lloyd Bosman of Nedbank Athletics Club, crossed the finishing line with the first ladies athlete, Elize Kloppers representing Hartenbos Running Club, finishing in 01:35, 25.

The first George Campus student to finish the race was Sandile Mdoko (pictured right), a Nature Conservation student in a time of 01:46, 56.



## Great interest in Performance Enhancing Drugs Seminar



NMMU (George Campus) recently hosted a Performing Enhancing Drugs seminar organised by the SWD Sport Council, in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Sport (Western Cape) and the SWD Sport Trainer Commission. It was well attended by more than sixty coaches and other interested members of various sports federations, schools and clubs.

Prof Quinton Johnson, Campus Principal of NMMU George Campus, set the tone for the seminar when he highlighted the importance of fair competition in sport during his opening address. Other presenters included Abrie de Swardt (featured left), Chairman of the SWD Coaches Association; Desmond Speelman, Vice-Chairman of the SWD Sport Council and Kassiem Adams for the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS).

## NMMU George hosts USSA rugby 7's for fourth consecutive time

A total number of 22 teams participated in this year's very successful University Sport South Africa (USSA) rugby sevens tournament hosted by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (George Campus).

It is the fourth consecutive year that the two-day tournament took place at the university's picturesque campus in George, featuring some of the best student rugby sevens players in the country.

The tournament's pool phase commenced on Wednesday, 4 December with the knockout phase, followed by the all-important finals on Thursday, 5 December.



The proud NMMU (George Campus) rugby sevens 2013 team took full advantage of the fact that they were playing on their home field again and managed to improve on last year's fine performance.

All of last year's trophy winners were back to defend their titles at the 2013 USSA 7's. This included last year's overall Cup winners, University of Stellenbosch (Maties), who had to surrender to the jubilant team of University of Pretoria (Tukkies), featured right, this year.



## Upcoming events...

### January – April 2014

- **25 January**  
VC's welcome of first year students and parents, followed by registration and orientation.
- **27, 28 January**  
Registration of first-year students, followed by seniors.
- **10 February**  
All classes commence.
- **14 & 15 February**  
Outeniqua Wheelchair Challenge.
- **4 April**  
Graduation, with a special "town and gown" focus.
- **5 April**  
Campus Principal's Grand Ball at Hyatt Regency Oubaai – in aid of a bursary and development fund for poor students of outstanding academic merit.