

George Campus
Growing tomorrow

NEWS

Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University
for tomorrow

R1m bursary boost for

"Madibaz Diamonds"

The second semester ushered in a plethora of significant events for the NMMU (George Campus) and the Southern Cape Community. Most visible was the opening of the new estimated R1,2 billion Eden Meander Lifestyle Centre, which represents both a major economic boost for the region, and the retail economy in particular. Thanks to an innovative skills development partnership between NMMU and the Wholesale and Retail SETA (W&R SETA), in collaboration with the South Cape TVET College, the retail sector can look forward to the delivery of excellently qualified and highly skilled graduates to serve its growing needs.

During a stakeholder business breakfast, hosted by the Campus Principal, this initiative was supported by a bursary commitment of more than R1 million for students enrolled for Retail Management Diploma studies at the NMMU George Campus. About three dozen students have already successfully articulated from the SC TVET College into the diploma programme at NMMU, with a commitment from the W&R SETA to, based on their results, continue funding the current first-year group of students to proceed with their 2nd year at NMMU in 2016.



NMMU students in the Diploma: Management (Retail), Patricia Malgas (front, second from left), Louise Saptou, Felicia James and Odwa Nziso (front, right) reflected on how the ability to progress seamlessly from their studies at rural campuses of SC TVET College to their current studies at NMMU has opened up exciting new career paths in the expanding Southern Cape retail sector. Featured with the students are (front left), Ms Lana vd Westhuizen (W&R SETA), (back, from left), Ms Heidi Ryan (SC TVET College), Ms Ntombi Dladla, Executive Manager, W&R SETA, Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, Mr Richard Mokgata, Mr Linda Majola (SC TVET College) and Dr Jo Zeelie, HoD, NMMU.

In formalising the commitment to the NMMU students in retail management, Mr Mokgata, the W&R SETA's Executive Manager for Bursaries and Placements, expressed their support for the efforts of the university to develop young people, especially from the rural areas, to "drive the growth in the retail economy".



Dear Colleagues,
Students, Alumni and
Friends,

Our 10th anniversary year has been exciting and historic, as we continue to **educate sustainable futures leaders**.

The noble cause of the #FeesMustFall and #EndOutsourcing campaigns has changed the landscape of South African higher education forever. In response, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University has boldly embraced this majestic quest of our students and workers, as we together re-imagine the role of the institution in developing our young democracy.

During the second semester, Chancellor Santie Botha, together with Executive Mayor Charles Standers, led the historic Madiba Drive ceremony, which officially renamed the main road connecting the university in

From the desk of the Campus Principal

the forest, with all the communities it serves throughout the Southern Cape and beyond. The Chancellor and Council Chair Judge Ronnie Pillay, also led the field here at Kingswood for the exciting annual Golf Day in support of the Madibaz Diamonds Bursary Fund for bright students with financial need. The latter initiative was further strengthened through an investment of R1million rand from the Wholesale and Retail SETA in support of our university management students who articulated to NMMU from the South Cape College, within the context of the dynamic partnership we developed with the TVET.

We were also delighted to welcome the South Africa Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Francoise Groepe to the campus as part of our Sustainable Futures Leadership seminar series. The magnetic governor shared his extensive knowledge with

staff and students about a range of vital matters from currency fluctuations to the green economy. This engagement was followed by a further superb seminar in the series delivered by Prof. Jorge Gomez from Oldenburg University, who provided us with deep insights into the significance of environmental economics, and several critical lessons that have been learned by Germany across the EuroZone.

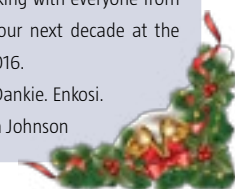
Our collective endeavours to address the compelling challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, were recently endorsed by the Western Cape Department of Education. They engaged the NMMU (George Campus) to work with them on how to strengthen education in the Southern Cape for better socio-economic development. Several high school principals, circuit managers, university academics and the Executive

Mayor of George gathered, to vibrantly discuss the role of the university in school leadership, management and development for an emerging sustainable futures city.

Please know that we appreciate all your contributions to advancing the university, and especially note the 140 years' collective service of excellence from the long service staff awardees, which is really special.

The beautiful annual festive season tree at our campus main entrance has now been switched on with colourful and especially energy-saving lights. I wish you all a blessed holiday and look forward to working with everyone from the advent of our next decade at the beginning of 2016.

Thank you. Dankie. Enkosi.
Prof Quinton Johnson



Madiba Drive

Chancellor and Executive Mayor officiate at historic naming ceremony

The 8th of October 2015 heralded a historic occasion for the university and the communities of the Southern Cape when NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha, and the George Executive Mayor, Alderman Charles Standers, led the Madiba Drive naming ceremony – the practical implementation of the decision communicated to NMMU by Alderman Standers on International Mandela Day – 18 July.

Members of the Student Council first joined Chancellor Botha along with the Executive Mayor and members of the George Municipal Council at the entrance to the campus for the symbolic release of pigeons to mark this historic occasion, following which the procession departed to the intersection with Knysna Road where Chancellor Botha and Alderman Standers unveiled the Madiba Drive street name sign.

The Campus Principal, Prof Johnson, thanked all stakeholders involved on behalf of the Vice Chancellor



Chancellor Santie Botha with student leaders, the Campus Principal, Executive Mayor and George Municipal Councillors at the entrance to the NMMU George Campus.

for helping to connect the university to the community in this significant manner.

In her address, Chancellor Botha remarked that Madiba Drive was stunning and magnificent.

She furthermore noted that artworks along the road could make the “drive come alive” for all who visit the Southern Cape.

What a milestone in honouring the legacy of Madiba in NMMU’s tenth year!



Student Isaac Shai, with Lebogang Hashatse, Snr Director: Communication and Stakeholder Relations, Prof Johnson, Chancellor Botha and Alderman Standers.



Chancellor Botha and Alderman Standers unveil the new street name sign – Madiba Drive – which connects the university to the community.

“Saasveld Alliance” pledge support for “Madibaz”

Plans of the University to honour the legacy of Saasveld and the other entities that constitute the current NMMU George Campus through the establishment of the Cultural, Heritage and Art Newseum (CHAN) have been widely welcomed.

This includes the “Saasveld Foresters Alliance” - Forestry Stalwarts who, at their recent Annual General Meeting elected a Working Committee to support NMMU in this regard, by offering their expertise and institutional knowledge in service of this initiative and their “Alma Mater”.

The Working Committee consists of Dr Albie Colton, Sarel Theron, Richard van Tonder and Joh Scriba, former Principal of the erstwhile Saasveld Forestry College. All four these forestry stalwarts had studied at Saasveld, and have jointly served close to 120 years in tertiary forestry education. The Working Committee has also identified younger members of the Alliance who have already volunteered their services in support of this cause.



Nod of approval ... NMMU George Campus Principal Prof Quinton Johnson (centre) and Operations Director, Martin Loubser (left) with members of the Saasveld Foresters Alliance - Joh Scriba, Dr Albie Colton and Sarel Theron.

Earlier the George Municipal Councillors, on visiting the historic Pampoenkraal Building and site of the CHAN, had given the nod of approval for CHAN, an

official NMMU Legacy Project, which will also capture the unfolding story of the origin of modern humans from the Southern Cape.

Chancellor's Golf Day boosts Bursary Fund

The second NMMU Chancellor's Golf Day hosted at the beautiful Kingswood Golf Club in George on 8 October provided another healthy boost to the NMMU George Campus Bursary Fund.

Seventeen teams of avid golfers, including Chancellor Santie Botha, teed off in perfect weather in a most enjoyable Better Ball Stableford competition.



NMMU Chancellor Santie Botha with members of her team (from left) – Mr Pierre van Rooyen, Mr Leroy Ferreira, Fancourt Business Development Manager; and Judge Ronnie Pillay, Chairperson of the NMMU Council.

Organized by the NMMU Trust in collaboration with the NMMU George Campus, the main purpose of the event is to raise funds for the "Madibaz Diamonds" – academically deserving but financially challenged students on the George Campus. This Bursary Fund initiated by the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, two years ago has already assisted the first group of beneficiaries.



NMMU staff members Adv Willie Olivier (Law lecturer); Mr Gerald Lourens (Operations); Mr Johan Jordaan, Agricultural Management lecturer, and Mr Lebogang Hashatse, NMMU Senior Director: Communication and Stakeholder Liaison.

Alumni enjoy NMMU hospitality

Numerous past students of the university, as well as current postgraduate students and staff spent an enjoyable evening at NMMU George Campus recently as guests of the NMMU Alumni Relations Department led by Director Paul Geswindt.

After welcoming the guests Prof Johnson updated the group on significant developments at NMMU George in the past year and shared some information about the university's strategic plans for the campus and its broader role in the Southern Cape and beyond. Mr Geswindt also took the opportunity to enlighten the alumni present about the numerous initiatives and milestones relating to the mandate of the Department.



The Alumni Office made a donation of R10 000 towards the George Campus Bursary Fund. Mr Geswindt, the Alumni Relations Director presented the cheque to Prof Johnson.



Dr Andy Lamont, master's student Jama Mashele, Fred Hill, Shaun Pritchard from the Oakhurst Group, Clint du Plessis from the Department of Health, Prof Quinton Johnson, attorney Johan Sloet and Ilze Sloet, gathered for a photograph, with the more recent alumni also enthusiastically sharing images through various social media.

Distinguished Lecture

SARB Deputy Governor speaks on the National Economy



The SA Economy was the overall theme of a Distinguished Public lecture presented at the NMMU George Campus by Deputy Reserve Bank Governor Francois Groepe (red tie) featured here with the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, staff and students of NMMU George. The lecture formed part of the Sustainable Futures Leadership Series hosted by the Campus Principal.

A week of captivating stakeholder engagements ended on a high note with a Distinguished Public Lecture by Deputy Reserve Bank Governor Francois Groepe at the NMMU George Campus on 9 October. The lecture, which was attended by staff and senior students, formed part of the Campus Principal's Sustainable Futures Leadership Series.

It touched on the South African economy, specifically looking at the oversight responsibilities and

mechanisms at the disposal of the SA Reserve Bank (SARB) to ensure financial stability, including important perspectives on the Green Economy.

Mr Groepe, who was appointed as Deputy Governor by the President of South Africa in January 2012, has executive management responsibility for the financial stability, national payments system, security management and currency management departments, as well as the two currency manufacturing

subsidiaries – the SA Bank Note Company and the SA Mint Company.

Mr Groepe, who is a Chartered Management Accountant and an Advocate of the High Court of SA holds several degrees, including BCom (Hons), MBA and LL.M degrees, as well as a postgraduate diploma in Tax Law. He previously held positions as the Group Managing Director and CEO of Media 24.

Public Lecture

"Big Data" for sustainable economic development



Visiting Professor, Jorge Gomez (sixth from left) captured with Prof Christo Fabricius (to his left), Prof Quinton Johnson (far left), Prof Andrew Leitch (third from right), academics and postgraduate students who attended his captivating lecture at the NMMU George Campus.

With the amount of data on the planet doubling every four years; an average of 4 billion tweets sent per day and 100 000 GigaByte of data stored per company on average, it should come as no surprise that there is an increased focus on finding technical (IT) solutions to process increasingly larger volumes of data at a significantly faster rate. The race is on to find technical solutions to business challenges in order to contribute to sustainability, especially in the sphere of environmental management.

During a public lecture presented at the NMMU George Campus, Prof Jorge Gomez of the University

of Oldenburg in Germany, used a number of case studies to illustrate the practical value and application of "Big Data", in matters relating to poverty alleviation, water supply and management, energy generation, etc.

Practical examples used included the predictive maintenance of wind turbines for energy generation; water management through data platforms (e.g. sensors to detect and monitor nitrate levels of water), as well as a variety of mobility services in both urban and rural areas.

Prof Gomez, who presented his captivating lecture

to NMMU scientists, including the Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch; the Campus Principal, Prof Johnson, lecturers, postgraduate students and other staff, also emphasised the trans-disciplinary applications of Big Data.

He confirmed that NMMU was one of five core partner-universities with whom the University of Oldenburg has a close working relationship. The others are in Holland, the USA and China, with NMMU being the "most visible". NMMU's electro-mobility project (e-car) was a particular area of interest.

Sustainable Futures Leadership

Strengthening education for socio-economic development



Restoring the crown of education was uppermost in everyone's mind when several high school principals, circuit managers, university academics and the Executive Mayor of George and former teacher, Alderman Charles Standers, gathered at the NMMU George Campus recently. The purpose of the engagement was to discuss the role of the university in school leadership, management and development for an emerging sustainable futures city.

This initiative representing the education sector and local government's collective endeavours to address the challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment in the region and beyond, is endorsed by the Western Cape Department of Education who had requested the NMMU (George Campus) to work with them to strengthen education in the Southern Cape for better socio-economic development. The strategic engagement was led by Prof Johnson, the NMMU George Campus Principal. The attendees, who travelled from far and near throughout the Southern Cape/Karoo Education District to attend the workshop, were captured appreciating the magnificent views at the NMMU George campus during a short break.

Clergy strategise for the future



Members of the religious fraternity were hosted at the NMMU George Campus on a number of occasions in the past semester as part of a series of workshops. Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, in an advisory and facilitating role, assisted and guided the delegates, from a diverse group within the religious sector, with strategic issues and planning.

SAPS executives visit Campus



Colonel Prins, Captain Malcolm Potje, Major General OD Reddy - the new Cluster Commander of the SAPS George, and Luitenant Colonel Richard Tonkin (second from the right) recently joined Prof Quinton Johnson (third from right), the NMMU George Campus Principal, and Mr Martin Loubser (right) for an engagement on campus. Matters of mutual interest were discussed, while SAPS also shared information on upcoming initiatives and campaigns.

NMMU acknowledges engagement and collaboration



A succinct ten-line summary in NMMU's tenth year, has successfully captured the compelling story on the George Campus Food Security Project. This has earned Prof Raymond Auerbach (Agricultural Management Programme) and Team the well-deserved prize of R10 000 from NMMU's Centre for Academic Engagement and Collaboration.

The winning story was selected from 30 entries received across the university. The 10-line summary of this ongoing project at NMMU George was recognised for "...its combination of clarity and creativeness in telling the project's story; the involvement of a wide spectrum of internal and external communities; integrated Teaching,

Research and Engagement work and its focus on sustainable living (one of NMMU's focus areas).

Prof Auerbach has also recently been nominated as a Champion of African Ecological Agriculture for consideration during the African Ecological Conference in Lagos, Nigeria.

Spring Concert Joy

The character rich two-centuries-old Dutch Reformed Church in George provided the majestic setting for the NMMU George Campus Choir's much anticipated and highly successful third annual Spring Concert on 17 October.

It was pure delight for music lovers as the NMMU George Choir, joined by the sophisticated NMMU Wind Symphony, adding another dimension and sound to the concert, together with the award winning South Cape Children's Choir, the talented Imiza-

mo Yethu High School Choir and the acclaimed George Male Voice Choir gave a performance which had the audience on their feet, requesting an encore.

Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal and Patron of the NMMU George Campus Choir, has expressed his delight at the excellent standard of performance and the diverse range of the programme – covering classical orchestral, foot-tapping contemporary and proudly South African numbers. He congratulated

all participants with what definitely seemed to be a highlight on the arts and culture calendar for 2015!

The performance was broadcast live to an audience of about 200 000 on Eden FM, and potentially reached many others globally as far as Russia through the Internet. Mr Morne Pietersen, the Station Manager of Eden-FM (the media sponsor for the event), acted as the programme director for the third successive year. NMMU Music Alumnus, Mr Jan-Erik Swart directed both the NMMU George Campus

Choir and the South Cape Children's Choir, with NMMU music lecturer, Mr Gareth Williams, conducting the NMMU Wind Symphony. Mr Andile Skweyiya and Mr Michael van der Walt conducted the Imizamo Yethu High School Choir and the George Male Voice Choir respectively.

The concert was concluded on a high note with the mass choir and orchestra performance of the Freedom Medley from the musical production, Sarafina.



A proud Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, with the NMMU George Campus Choir during the recent Spring Concert.



Conductor Gareth Williams with the NMMU Wind Symphony.



NMMU Music Alumnus, Jan-Erik Swart, with two members of the choir, Natasha van Zyl and Jonathan Ontong.



The Imizamo Yethu High School Choir bowled the audience over with their strong voices, featured here with their conductor, Mr Andile Skweyiya.



The George Male Choir, conducted by Mr Michael van der Walt, gave a breathtaking rendition of The Rose, Victoria Bay and Praise to the Lord.



Performing a joint number – the NMMU George Campus Choir and the world-renowned South Cape Children's Choir.

Flying the flag for NMMU

University well represented at World Forestry Congress



Senior NMMU George Campus Forestry students were among the delegates at the ground-breaking XIV World Forestry Congress which was hosted at the Durban International Convention Centre from 7 - 11 September 2015. Captured with the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana (third from left); the Director General of the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Prof Edith Vries (to the right of the Minister) and (behind them) Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal, at the opening event of the Congress were, from left (back) Kutelani Tshivase (NMMU master's student in Forestry), Mabongi Mngomezulu (to the left of the Minister), Minenhle Mdlalose (front), Lungako Qambela (next to Prof Johnson), Tatenda Mapeto, who is pursuing her PhD studies in Forestry, Maxwell Mkhombe and Trudy Sebelebele, one of the 2015 recipients of the NMMU George Campus Principal's Leadership Excellence Award. Several academics from the NMMU School of Natural Resource Management (Science Faculty) also attended this high profile international event where NMMU, along with other stakeholders, also has a presence at the exciting expo which accompanied the Congress. NMMU, together with DAFF had earlier (during July) hosted the Forestry INDABA at the George Campus, as a precursor to the XIV World Forestry Congress presented under the theme - Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future.

Students excel in Russia

Congratulations to Koyisa Mgedezi and Emmanuel Ferreira, two 3rd year Forestry students who, at the invitation of the Federal Russian Federation, via the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), participated and excelled in a contest hosted in Suzdal, Russia.

They had to prepare and present a report on their involvement in a research project with the aim of encouraging young people across the globe to develop their environment-oriented awareness. Other aims were to support student initiatives in protection, conservation and regeneration of world forest resources at local and global levels and to share knowledge in forest management, environment and practical experiences. With no less than 35 presentations made by students from 26 countries, the achievements of the George Campus representatives was no small feat. Koyisa's report earned her the overall third place while Emmanuel's report received special recognition.



Featured (from left) are – Ms Koyisa Mgedezi who impressed the judges with her report on the use of trees to extract pollutants from mine dumps, lecturer Mr Willie Louw, Mrs Irene Mathabela (Deputy Director: Sector Capacity Development, DAFF), Ms Inna Zinovyeva from the office of the South African Embassy in Moscow, Mr Emmanuel Ferreira whose presentation focused on a comparison between mechanisation and manual tree planting, and Mr N Miti, Director: Office of the SA Embassy in Moscow.

Students win bid to host international symposium

Forestry Students Trudy Sebelebele, Heinrich Hechter, Ullrich Hechter and Tatenda Mapeto, have secured the bid for NMMU to host the 45th International Forestry Students Symposium (IFSS) in 2017.

They recently attended the International Forestry Students Association's (IFSA) 43rd IFSS in the Philippines where Trudy Sebelebele, Heinrich Hechter and Tatenda Mapeto were appointed to leadership positions as Board Member (Head of Council), Southern Africa Regional Representative and Head of the Forestry Education Commission respectively.

IFSA connects over 75 universities offering forestry programmes across the globe. NMMU George Forestry students have continuously been at the helm of the organisation while championing forestry education in Southern Africa and beyond.



Dr Mike Wingfield (far left), President of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, with NMMU and other student delegates at the opening plenary of the 43rd IFSS held in the Philippines. The students, from left, are: Ullrich Hechter (NMMU George BTech student), Thabo Ngubeni (University of Venda), Daniel Boenkhe (Stellenbosch), Tatenda Mapeto (NMMU George PhD student), Heinrich Hechter and Trudy Sebelebele (both NMMU 3rd year Forestry students) and May Anne Then (President of the International Forestry Students Association).

"Night of the stars"

Leadership, student achievements recognised

On 29 October students who had excelled in various spheres of extracurricular activities covering sport, societies, residences, arts and culture, and leadership walked away with 34 awards at the annual NMMU George Achievers Awards. This included the prestigious Campus Principal's Leadership Excellence Award which was scooped by two female recipients – senior Forestry student, Mmetja Trudy Sebelebele and Education student, Lezaan Fourie. It was announced at the event that a bursary component will now also form part of this sought-after accolade.

Mmetja has distinguished herself as the first ever female chairperson of the Campus Forestry Association and played a leading role in terms of youth involvement and representation in the International Forestry Indaba, the World Forestry Congress, and through her role in the international student forestry association. Lezaan, again has, through her role as chairperson of SuperEd, mobilised students to participate in various community outreach projects, while, as a budding teacher, she also assisted learners of local schools through various education interventions.



Leadership Excellence awardees, Lezaan Fourie (left) and Mmetja Sebelebele (right), with Prof Quintin and Dr Bridget Johnson, also have outstanding academic records, with multiple distinctions to their credit.

Special Awards

The following certificates were awarded in the **Student Housing** category: The award to for House committee member of the year went to Nelsiwe Mpapane and Tara Naeser. Noxolo Ndlovu was presented with a certificate as the Mentor of the Year. Residence of the year went to Kamassi while the Residence All-rounder of the Year award was scooped up by Samantha Mushwani.



On the **Arts and Culture** front, the performing duo Langeni Mate and Sbhonginkosi Hlatshwayo were awarded as the Arts and Culture Member of the Year and Arts and Culture Performer of the year respectively. The Arts and Culture Society of the year went to Speakers Club and Arts and Culture Choir member of the year was awarded to singing sensation, Viwe Bani.



In the **Student Governance and Development** category, SuperEd society scooped up multiple awards as Academic Society of the Year, Developmental Society of the Year and Society of the Year. The success of the society awards were evidently as a result of the hard work and dedication of Lezaan Fourie as she was awarded with certificates for her contribution as Society Administrator of the Year and George Campus All-rounder of the year.

The award for Religious Society of the year went to One Life Christian Centre. The DJ Society kept the crowd entertained and walked away with the award for the Recreational Society of the Year.

Last but not least, the award for the Student Council member of the year went to the SC secretary, Nandipha September.



Sport Merit Awards

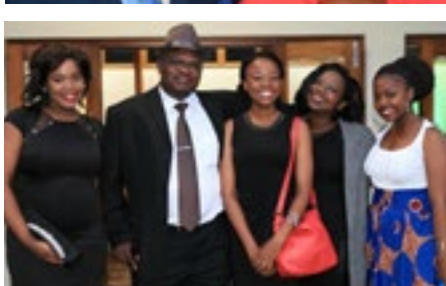
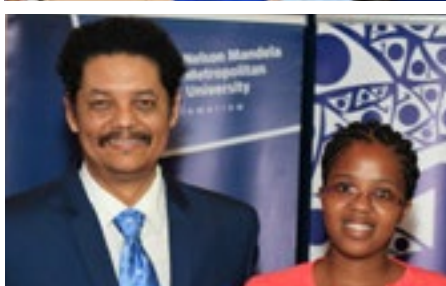
Sport Merit Awards went to the following students in five different sporting codes namely, Tiaan Hoeben for body boarding, Hanno Kotze and Lyndon Volkwyn for cricket; Ben Buys, Josh Cragg, Marnus De Klerk and Calvin Maher were awarded for excelling in hockey. Charles Radebe, Dillin Snell and Thomas Kean were the top performing rugby players for the year. Roxanne Giles once again walked away with the award in the surfing category.



Sport Special Awards

Viwe Bani received a certificate for the Sport Administrator of the Year while the award for the Sport team of the Year and Sport Club of the Year went to the Madibaz George Men's Tennis team. Roxane Giles scooped up another award as the Madibaz Sport George Sportswoman of the Year while the Sportsman of the Year awards went to cricketer Hanno Kotze.

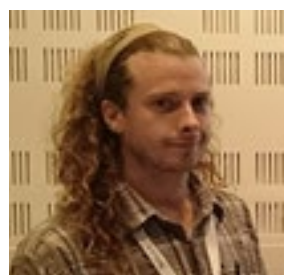




Budding “restoration practitioner” attends World Conference

Andrew Jackson, Master’s student in the NMMU Sustainability Research Unit (SRU), School of Natural Resource Management, is yet another student from the George Campus who recently had the opportunity to attend and do a scientific presentation at an international platform - the Society for Ecological Restoration’s 6th World Conference, held in Manchester, United Kingdom.

Delegates from several continents across the globe, including the Americas, Europe, Australasia, the Middle East and Africa attended the conference which included a plethora of workshops, seminars and presentations in over 15 parallel sessions.



Students and experts who had gathered to share their knowledge were exposed to representative projects from many different ecosystems and sectors of the field of Ecological Restoration. This year’s conference theme titled “Towards resilient ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild”

encompassed most of the challenges faced by practitioners of Ecological Restoration and society at large.

Jackson’s presentation on “Microcatchments’ effectiveness at enhancing transplant performance in Nama-Karoo riparian ecosystem restoration”, was based on the research he conducted during his Master’s studies as part of a collaborative project between the NMMU School of Natural Resource Management, Endangered Wildlife Trust’s Drylands Conservation Programme (EWT-DCP), the Wolwekraal Conservation and Research Organisation (WCRO) and NMMU’s SRU.

Education student publishes own poetry collection



After having her poems featured in NMMU’s first poetry book titled *Expressions Within* volume 1 and *Expressions Within* volume 2, NMMU George Campus 4th year Education student, Precious Mahlangu recently published her own poetry book titled *African Child Cries*.

Precious writes and recites with the hope of bringing about change, inspiring others, bringing light in darkness and uplifting lost hopes and dreams. Her poems are different, yet inspired by different things and different people whom all have a mission in common.

The book is currently being sold at R120 a copy. For more information contact Precious at 084 481 5098 and 071 457 5347 or alternatively email pmahlangu91@gmail.com.



Agricultural Management students again enjoyed the opportunity to rub shoulders with industry at the annual Outeniqua Agricultural Show. The third year class, together with lecturer Mrs Maryna Lehmann-Maritz (centre, front), visited the show where, amongst others, they had the opportunity to be present during the classification and judging of cattle by key industry experts.

Mr and Miss NMMU George

Congratulations to the newly elected Mr and Miss NMMU George Campus - Mr Aviwe Tuko and Miss Abigail Nortje! Aviwe is a Second Year Marketing Student, while Abigail, also a marketing student, is completing her first year of studies towards the Diploma: Marketing at NMMU George.

Both have impressed the judges with their charming personalities and flair, to scoop the top honours in this much anticipated event on the annual social calendar of the NMMU George Campus Student Council.

The two will be ambassadors for the NMMU George Campus at various university-related events and functions, such as the prestigious Achievers Awards.

Top Awards

Research, teaching and engagement excellence



ENGAGED TEAM ... Some of the proud members of the award-winning Sustainability Research Unit featured at the NMMU George Campus (back, from left) - Postdoc fellows, Drs Yashwant Rawat and Chloe Guerbois; Rosie Gerole mou – Masters student; Corita Loubser – SRU Coordinator; Bianca Currie – lecturer and PhD student; Bekeze-la Nxumalo – Masters student; Tatenda Mapeto – PhD student. Front: Prof Christo Fabricius, SRU Leader; and Master's students Samantha McCulloch, Verouschka Sonn and Peet Botes. For more news on the SRU - <http://sru.nmmu.ac.za/sru/media/Store/documents/SRU-update-July-to-Nov-2015-for-MANCO-13-Nov-2015-email.pdf>



NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning, Prof Denise Zinn congratulates lecturer, Tiaan Pool, on receiving the Science Faculty Excellent Teacher of the Year Award.



Prof Christo Fabricius, leader of the Sustainability Research Unit, with the NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch.



Proud trio ... Prof Christo Fabricius, SRU leader; Samantha McCulloch, student co-ordinator in the SRU (and master's student), and lecturer Tiaan Pool pictured with their awards.

NMMU has again acknowledged the outstanding achievements of 43 of the university's top researchers and teachers at the prestigious Research, Teaching and Engagement Excellence Awards hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swartz at the Boardwalk in Port Elizabeth on 14 September.

The annual awards - a highlight on the university calendar - celebrates the achievements of top academics in the fields of research, teaching, the creative and performing arts, innovation and engagement. NMMU George Campus scooped two excellence awards in the engagement and teacher excellence categories.

Prof Christo Fabricius leader of the Sustainability Research Unit (SRU) located at the NMMU George Campus, received the NMMU Engagement Excellence Award for the outstanding work of the Unit, while Tiaan Pool, Pro-

gramme co-ordinator: Forestry and Veldfire Management in the School of Natural Resource Management at the NMMU George Campus scooped the Science Faculty Excellent Teacher of the Year Award.

Tiaan Pool's expertise, empowering teaching and learning philosophy and practices earned him this well-deserved accolade. Pool's philosophy is based on a well-structured partnership and the realisation of the interdependence between the university, students and industry. With 16 years of lecturing under the belt, he, believes that "along their pathway of life students should learn about ethics in the classroom and workplace, respect for themselves, others, the environment and also have a true understanding of the meaning of loyalty to friends, a cause and an institution".

A rigorous evaluation process precedes the awards, with strict

criteria that need to be met and demonstrated - such as a high degree of subject discipline and expertise, proven expertise in approaches to teaching and learning facilitation that will motivate and inspire students to learn, become independent learners, and enhance their development; leadership; reputation amongst students and peers; as well as excellence in engagement activities relating to teaching and learning and enhancing student success and development.

Respected researcher and leader of the NMMU Sustainability Research Unit, Prof Christo Fabricius, who received the Engagement Excellence Award for the SRU believes that community engagement is integral to the Sustainability Research Unit - "It connects us to our stakeholders, keeps us grounded in reality and inspires us to produce good peer reviewed research", he said.



Citizen of the Month

Marketing and Corporate Relations, Manager, Alet van Tonder, was acknowledged as the George Herald Citizen of the Month for September for her role in promoting the university and George as a centre of learning. The award certificate was handed over by Julinda Aucamp (left), the George Herald sales and marketing executive. Photo: Myron Rabinowitz

Celebrating 140 years' service excellence



Twelve staff members who have jointly served the NMMU George Campus for 140 years were acknowledged for their outstanding contribution to the university. The occasion was a special staff engagement which included the Vice-Chancellor's year-end message to staff at all NMMU's campuses (live-streamed to the George Campus) as well as a duplicated prize-draw (George and Port Elizabeth) aimed at acknowledging the very people – staff – who ensure that the university can continue to fulfil its mandate.

Following the live-streaming of Prof Swartz's message, prize-draws were done in both Port Elizabeth

and George. At George Campus the sought-after travel prize valued at R15 000 was scooped by the Branch Librarian, Ndileka Mtshizana, with Desiree October and Clara Harker, both from Super Care, winning the draw for the other two prizes.

After the live-streaming was concluded, the local (George) programme continued with the Campus Principal, Prof Quinton Johnson, providing a succinct overview of the highlights and challenges of the past year, culminating in the acknowledgement of staff's contributions towards this campus and NMMU overall.

Staff members who had completed 5, 10, 15 or

twenty years' service with NMMU in 2015 were congratulated on attaining this milestone as they were presented with their long service certificates by Prof Johnson. The group, from left, included Tiaan Pool (15 years), Mandy Pretorius (5 years), Linda Muller (20 years), Khululwa Mvango (5 years), Prof Quinton Johnson, Jane Fountain (5 years), Maryna Lehmann-Maritz (15 years), Vincent Hau-Yoon and Prof Raymond Auerbach (5 years each), Barry Muller (10 years) and Victor Meyer (15 years).

Garth Smit and Anton Schmidt, both with twenty years' service, were not present when the photograph was taken.

Welcome new colleagues



Melita Potjo

Welcome to Melita Potjo who joined the NMMU George team as the new Student Counsellor this semester. She will offer assistance and guidance to students who may experience challenges with their academic, social and personal life.



Zandile Mpanga

We would like to welcome Zandile Mpanga in her new position as Senior Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department. She will be assisting with all matters relating to student debtor finances. Beana de Jongh will be assisting as the Cashier until further notice.



Kershia Ramoo

We would also like to welcome Kershia Ramoo who is the new full-time Administrative Assistant in the School of Natural Resource Management.



Prof Jenny Clarence-Fincham

Prof Jenny is employed in a part-time capacity as a member of the HEADS staff on the George Campus. She holds the position of Senior Teaching and Learning specialist with a particular focus on curriculum development and postgraduate supervision.

We also wish Shann Kieswetter well with her added responsibilities as Co-ordinator of the HEADS Unit.

Bidding staff farewell



Law lecturer, Adv Willie Olivier (left) relocated to Gauteng where he accepted a new position at Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (USAA-SA). He fulfils the new position as the Senior Manager within the Legal Services department.

At the end of September we bid farewell to Pieter Botha who was the Marketing and Communications Practitioner at the George Campus (middle) for a period of ten years. Since he relocated to NMMU in Port Elizabeth, he still remains part of the broader Marketing and Corporate Relations team.

Forestry stalwart, Dr Jaap Steenkamp, decided to spread his wings in pursuit of a career in the private sector, focusing on his own business.



Dr Keith Arnolds

Dr Keith Arnolds of the Faculty of Education in George took up a new position in Saudi Arabia. We also wish him well with this exciting new development, and look forward to welcoming Ms Nicola van Zyl who will take up the position as the programme coordinator at the beginning of 2016.

Rugby 7's Fever



Congratulations to Team "Madibaz" on winning the Plate Final at the 2015 USSA Rugby Sevens.

The city of George is in the grips of "sevens fever" with both the USSA National Institutional Rugby 7's Tournament as well as the George Mayoral Cup 7's set to be hosted here.

"The exciting USSA sevens rugby tournament which was hosted at the George Campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) for the sixth consecutive year forms the perfect prelude to and conduit for the Mayoral Sevens Cup, as we

forge ahead to strengthen the position of the Southern Cape as the natural home for sevens rugby, now a new Olympic sport" said Prof Quinton Johnson, the NMMU George Campus Principal.

The USSA Championship, hosted on 30 November and 1 December, presented a highlight on the SA Universities Sport Calendar. This was despite the fact that fewer teams had participated this year due to the extended academic year that some universities were compelled to implement.

With the inclusion of Sevens Rugby as an Olympic sport, and with the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro scheduled for August 06 – 11 next year, the prominence and popularity of this form of sport just continues to grow. "The USSA tournament, as well as the upcoming, Mayoral Sevens Cup, provide an excellent platform for developing sevens talent" said Prof Johnson.

Congratulations to this year's USSA 7's Rugby Cup Final winners - University of Stellenbosch.

We take pride in the achievements of the Plate Final winners - Madibaz A Team



President of SWD Rugby Henny Baartman congratulated an NMMU Team Member on winning the Plate Final.

Enhanced Internet for George Campus



Following the recent upgrade of the Network link to the NMMU George campus, internet-users can look forward to lightning-fast internet access, along with a myriad of other benefits.

The most recent IT upgrade – one of several envisaged for the campus – saw the old 30Mb/sec link increase to 1Gb/sec – offering more than 33 times the previous capacity!

This development will have a significant positive impact on connectivity at the George Campus in several areas including better access to research ma-

terials on the internet, videoconferencing for meetings and blended learning, telecommunications and more shared services across all NMMU campuses.

At the same time the overall cost to the NMMU is significantly reduced.

This was made possible with the assistance of DHET funding to connect rural campuses, and following the efforts and submissions made by ICT Services to TENET, Sanren and other stakeholders over many years.

In Memoriam

"Our Madibaz family is deeply saddened by the tragic accident involving three young men near Herolds Bay during October 2015, some of whom had academic ties with our university. Our thoughts and prayers are with all staff, students, family members and friends of - Werner Finger, Marnic Els and Luandro Jansen", - Prof Quinton Johnson, NMMU George Campus Principal.

Upcoming events

10 December 2015

NMMU Summer Graduation in Port Elizabeth

23 January 2016

Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Ceremony for first year students and parents (09:00 – 10:00 per live-streaming), followed by the NMMU George Campus Principal's Message and the Faculty Meet and Greet sessions.

25 January 2016

First Year Orientation Programme commences

25 & 26 January 2016

First Year Registration

18 January – 8 February 2016

Senior students register

8 February 2016

Classes commence

6, 7, 8 April 2016

NMMU George graduation ceremonies

12, 13 May 2016

Open Day at NMMU George

