

eish!



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY[®]
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Staff newsletter of the NWU

CEREMONY heralds a new era

Researchers: the cream of the crop



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Front page: Prof Dan Kgwadi was recently inaugurated as vice-chancellor and Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi was reinstalled as chancellor.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to decrease our carbon footprint, the Eish! will now be distributed electronically to all NWU staff members. Only those without access to computers will receive printed copies. You are welcome to contact our Eish! journalist, Willie du Plessis, should you have any news tips or enquiries. You can contact him at X99 4915 or willie.duplessis@nwu.ac.za



KISS online

People who write for a web environment often feel the need to publish a lot of information. This is also true for people (such as managers or directors) who do not publish content themselves, but who provide information for others to publish.

BIG MISTAKE!

Internet users scan text rather than read it. They will leave web pages within seconds if the information does not grab their attention quickly, and long blocks of text are extremely off-putting to web readers.

The KISS principle (Keep It Short and Simple or Keep It Simple and Straightforward) should therefore apply when writing for the web.

There's no point in having reams of information available, and people refuse to read it because the average user finds the information overload daunting.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Rather communicate a few ideas, presented in an attractive way, and allow people the opportunity to follow up should they require further information. Instead of putting the content of a whole annual report in a web page for example, publish excerpts for those who want to scan the highlights and provide a link for others to download the document should they wish.

This approach not only makes the pages that represent your department more engaging, but it allows the user to interact with your content by deciding for themselves how much information they will be exposed to. The "customisation" of information is very appealing to a web user!

Remember to contact the Web Office at WebOffice@nwu.ac.za for any web-related queries.

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EDITORIAL

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

tion (including alumni) and the Board of Donors. Input from other members of the NWU community continue to be received by way of emails. The consultation process has focused on two aspects of strategy:

- Our internal and external success model (a measured description of how we define success in the long term)
- Our identity (purpose, dream and brand promise, which are concepts similar to our current vision and mission)

One of the elements of the internal success model is finding an effective organisational structure and management model to develop a unitary university with an integrated culture, socially integrated campuses and an equitable allocation of resources.

Up to now, the current management model, with a campus rector at the head of each campus and an institutional office providing the strategic lead in policy and process development, has served the university well.

However, the model encourages the idea that the campuses are semi-autonomous and can establish separate and possibly non-aligned strategic directions. This promotes the idea of separateness rather than unity, whether intended or not. A review of our management model

will be necessary to ensure that a university-wide identity and culture is embedded.

We will continue to work and consult on other aspects of strategy during 2014 and in early 2015. We aim to have concluded this process to enable us to present the final work to Council before the end of June 2015. I trust that the current consultative process will provide us with – among others – a management model that will lead to a much more integrated university with socially integrated campuses.

During 2015 we will keep you informed about the progress of this important process and will continue to engage with you to enrich our thinking. For more information about the process, go to:



I wish to extend my thanks to you, our staff members, for your support since my appointment. Please continue to contribute to making this great university even better. May you all have a blessed festive season and a prosperous new year.

Kind regards

Prof Dan Kgwadi
Vice-chancellor

Dear colleagues

During the past year, we have been celebrating the 10th anniversary of the NWU.

Now, standing on the threshold of 2015, the university is at a critical point in its history: we have to formulate a strategic agenda for the university for the next 10 years to 2025.

As you know, the senior leadership team started a “bosberaad” process during the second half of 2014, followed by a consultative process in November to ensure that the strategic thinking of the team is refined.

Consultation has or will take place with the Senate, the Institutional Forum, institutional and campus student representative councils, extended campus managements (including deans and academic directors), the Convoca-

Eish!, the next 10 years are here!

This year we have celebrated the NWU’s 10-year journey of growth and development.

The road the NWU has been travelling since the merger has not always been on level ground; the new university has often had to make its way cautiously among rocks and crevices.

Nevertheless, the NWU forged resolutely ahead, treading in the light of wisdom and a shared vision of excellence.

One of the many milestones that have illuminated our road to excellence is the growth in research.

For instance, the NWU’s weighted research output units have grown by an impressive

183,5% over the past 10 years. In this issue of Eish! (on p 6 and p 7) you can read about the NWU researchers who were recently honoured for their invaluable contributions to this success story.

Now, on the brink of the next chapter of the NWU’s story, the university has begun the process of determining a new strategic agenda for the next 10 years. (More on this in the vice-chancellor’s message above.)

When the NWU embarks upon the next stage of its journey, Prof Dan Kgwadi, vice-chancellor, will be at the helm, with Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, chancellor, at his side. (More about Prof Dan’s inauguration and Kgosi Leruo’s reinstalment on p 4 and p 5.)

When the NWU takes the first steps of this new 10-year journey in 2015, it will be with the knowledge that – assured of your continued support and contributions – we can build constructively upon the achievements of the past decade. May you all enjoy a blessed festive season and may 2015 bring blue skies and a clear view.

Happy reading,

Nelia and the Eish! team



New era dawns for NWU



Prof Dan Kgwadi was recently inaugurated as vice-chancellor and Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi was reinstalled for a second term as chancellor of the NWU.

The inauguration of Prof Dan Kgwadi as the second vice-chancellor of the NWU marks the beginning of a new and exciting era for the university.

Supporting him is Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, King of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, who was reinstalled as chancellor of the NWU. Prof Dan's inauguration and Kgosi Leruo's reinstalment for a second term as chancellor of the NWU took place on 26 September at the Mafikeng Convention Centre.

NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR NWU

Prof Dan is appointed for a term of six years and took office on 1 April 2014.

Speaking at the inauguration, Prof Dan said that the university is at a critical point in its history and decisions which Council takes now will have far-reaching consequences for the future.

"We must ensure that we position the university to be ready to undertake the substantial challenges which lie ahead. These challenges relate to the place of the NWU in the South African higher education landscape and the particular contribution we can make to the well-being of our country, the continent and, indeed, the world."

He went on to say that recent evaluations of the university's performance suggest that we need to relook our transformation trajectory. "This will require committed and passionate leadership, bold political will and central steering, leading to a transformed and integrated culture and identity for the university."

Did you know?

- Prof Ntate Daniel (Dan) Kgwadi served as Mafikeng Campus rector, prior to his appointment as the NWU's vice-chancellor. Starting his career as a physics teacher at Phatisma High School, he also served as:
 - senior manager/assessment co-ordinator at the National Nuclear Regulator;
 - head of the Physics Department at the Vaal University of Technology;
 - lecturer and head of the Physics Department at the University of North-West, and
 - research and teaching assistant at Ball State University in the USA.
- While at Ball State, in recognition of his high scholarship in physics, he was admitted to the sigma-pi-sigma honour society.
- Prof Dan has a passion for skydiving and has been awarded a certificate by the American Parachute Association for completing a number of successful jumps.



Prof Dan Kgwadi is being inaugurated as vice-chancellor. The formalities are done by Prof Marlene Verhoef, institutional registrar.

1. Prof Fika Janse van Rensburg, dean of Theology on the Potchefstroom Campus and Prof Eno Ebenso, dean of Agriculture, Science and Technology on the Mafikeng Campus are part of the procession leaving the hall after the reinstalment of Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi and the inauguration of Prof Dan Kgwadi.

2. Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi was reinstalled as chancellor of the NWU. With him is Ms Itumeleng Poee, acting chairperson of the NWU Council.



Did you know?

- Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi is the 36th paramount ruler of the 800-year-old Bafokeng Kingdom.
- The Royal Bafokeng Supreme Council has, under the leadership of Kgosi Leruo, embarked on a mission to meet all the basic

human needs of the Bafokeng community in order to promote respect for and the enhancement of the Bafokeng culture and economic self-sufficiency.

- Kgosi Leruo believes that the most pressing reform that is needed in the public edu-

cation system is to help young people to make an entire mind-set shift in which they take greater responsibility for themselves and their communities, embrace openness and develop an attitude of determination, patience and persistence.

- He is also an architect and fixed-wing pilot.

Prof Dan said he is committed to strengthening unity at the NWU. "We must create and nurture a single university culture and identity which lead to an integrated university with equity of provision across the campuses," he concluded.

RELATIONSHIP MUST BE A MUTUAL PROCESS

Kgosi Leruo will serve as chancellor – the titular head of the university who confers all degrees in the name of the university – for another five years.

During his acceptance address, the chancellor said that the relationship between the university and the community must be a mutual process of learning.

"It should be a partnership that starts by agreeing on the questions to be asked, and continues through the testing and application of the findings.

As we take our technical knowledge into a real-life context, we learn anew what works and

what doesn't, the importance of context and the importance of communication." He said the NWU has a long history of productively advising practitioners, whether in agriculture, mining or government and beyond.

"This store of knowledge is extremely valuable and we must continue to build on it. We cannot afford to compromise or lose the value and the values that have been painstakingly built over time by those who came before us at this university," Kgosi Leruo said.



NWU recognises researchers

More than 60 NWU staff members were acknowledged for excellence in research, innovation, community involvement and creativity at a gala event in Potchefstroom on Friday, 7 November 2014.

Prof Dan Kgwadi

Prof Dan Kgwadi, vice-chancellor of the NWU, said the evening was about celebrating the fact that the NWU's research continues to reach new heights.

He stressed the importance of research that not only makes an impact locally but also internationally, saying that the NWU will now focus more on the internationalisation of research.

Prof Dan said the award recipients had performed excellently in a time of change for the university. He especially praised the large number of younger academics who had performed well alongside more seasoned researchers.

"Our researchers make it possible for the NWU to play an important role in producing capacity for South Africa. We have been very successful

in implementing the goals we have created for ourselves."

Hard work never goes unnoticed and the many researchers who went home with certificates, medals and trophies can vouch for this. The NWU is proud of every researcher whose research helps to find solutions to real-world challenges and problems.



MOST PRODUCTIVE RESEARCHER

Better conditions for farmers



Prof Oladimeji Oladele from the Mafikeng Campus is the NWU's Most Productive Researcher for 2014. He is a professor in agricultural extension and does research on how extension services can improve farmers' socio-economic conditions and food security. He believes the nature of agricultural practice requires agriculture students to acquire full competence in the different specialisations of agriculture. They should not focus just on training that is tailored on narrow aspects of agriculture to the exclusion of other areas.

Prof Oladimeji Oladele

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Corrosion must be combatted



Prof Eno Ebenso from the Mafikeng Campus was honoured for research excellence at an international level. The award is given in recognition of high-quality outputs from researchers who are highly cited internationally within their subject fields.

Prof Eno is passionate about combatting corrosion, which is a challenge all over the world.

He is currently doing extensive collaborative research with many groups globally.

Prof Eno Ebenso

productive

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH

They lead internationally

The International Leadership in Research Award went to Prof Alta Schutte and Prof Markus Böttcher for their exceptional leadership in international organisations and their international contributions. Alta heads the South African Research Chair Initiative's (SARChI) chair on early detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease in Africa and is a proud member of the Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART), doing research on the widespread problem of hypertension. Markus heads the SARChI research chair on astrophysics and space physics in the Centre for Space Research and chairs the South African Astronomy programme. His research is in high energy astro-physics.



Prof Markus Böttcher and Prof Alta Schutte.

MOST PRODUCTIVE JUNIOR RESEARCHER

Nature lures tourists



Prof Martinette Kruger from the School of Business Management on the Potchefstroom Campus won the award as 2014's Most Productive Junior Researcher. This is the second consecutive year that this honour has been bestowed on her.

Her research entails studying what type of people travel to see natural events such as the blossoming of the flowers of Namaqualand, and exploring ways to optimise the market for these events.

Prof Martinette Kruger



MOST PRODUCTIVE RESEARCH ENTITY

Theology's role in social development



The Unit for Reformed Theology and the Development of the South African Society on the Potchefstroom Campus received the Most Productive Research Entity award. The unit strives to make a scientific contribution to important theological debates in South Africa, especially those that relate to the normative function of canonical scripture and the contribution of Christian communities towards the development of the South African society.

Prof Fritz de Wet is the director of the most productive research entity.



Focus on

How to request information

In August, the institutional Records Management and Administration Department informed all NWU personnel about two pieces of legislation on the acquisition and dissemination of information. Eish! spoke to Ms Amanda van der Merwe, manager of this department about the legislation and how to obtain the information you need.

Q: Which two acts are we talking about?

A: The Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) and the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI).

Q: What is the difference between these two acts?

A: PAIA is about the dissemination of ALL information with limited exclusions (remember that access to information is a human right as contained in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, Section 32).

POPI deals specifically with access to people's PERSONAL information and relates to the human right of privacy (Section 14 of the Constitution).

Q: Apparently there is an online form to complete if one wants information?

A: Yes, the PAIA form. People need to complete it if they want information that is not already generally available on our systems.

It is important to remember that this form must be completed for ALL types of information – be it statistics about student numbers or personal information about people. (In other words, you use the same form to apply for information falling under both PAIA and POPI.)

Q: How do people respond to the form?

A: The huge number of fields that need to be completed are very off-putting to some people, but only a handful of these fields really apply to most people. The system actually only wants to know who you are, what your interest is in the information and what information you are looking for.

In the other fields you can simply put not applicable – but remember that ALL fields must be completed before you can submit the form.

Q: One of the fields is about fees payable for information – does that apply to staff members?

A: No, just write not applicable. Although we are legally entitled to charge a fee for handling the request, we don't.

Q: Can't we simplify the form?

A: No, we may not. The format is prescribed by PAIA.

Q: Which online system do we use?

A: Since June this year we have been using a system that was developed by Summa Networks, a developer of internet applications. Organisations such as Telkom, Eskom, Sasol and the University of Johannesburg also use this system.

Q: What are the benefits of this system?

A: The system calculates how many requests we receive, how many of those are granted or denied and how long it took for the specific request to be dealt with.

This makes it very easy to prepare the report that we are required to send to the South African Human Rights Commission at the end of the year. In the past we had to do these calculations manually.

Another advantage is that we will know at the end of the year what sort of information was requested. If we notice that many people are looking for certain information that is not gen-

erally available on our systems and that is not against POPI, we could consider making such information more generally available.

Q: Where can people obtain the PAIA form?

A: Go to the landing page of the NWU web. On the right of the page is Instant Information. If you click on Access to Information Act, it takes you to a page where more information is given. When you click on Request Form (in the second paragraph on this page), it takes you to the form.

Q: What happens after I've electronically submitted the form?

A: The system forwards the form to me. Sometimes I consult Legal Services, and then I send the request to the relevant person who can provide the information. This person then returns the information to me and I attach it to a pro forma email that I send to you. If the request cannot be granted, I also send you a pro forma email, explaining the reasons for your unsuccessful request.



NWU experts **know** their **subjects**



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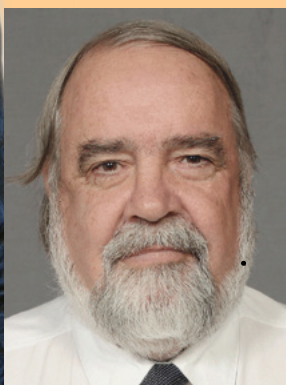
"The importance of postgraduate study in South Africa has been highlighted in many national documents. Specifically, the National Development Plan (NDP, 2012) has set a target to increase the number of doctorates from 1 400 per year nationally to 6 000 by 2030. This is a significant challenge for higher education in South Africa and also for the NWU and specifically the Potchefstroom Campus. It is a challenge we enthusiastically embrace."

Prof Amanda Lourens, Vice-Rector: Research and Planning, Potchefstroom Campus. "NWU hosts first postgraduate open day", *Mail & Guardian* virtualpressoffice, 30 September 2014.



Members of the NWU continually share their expertise with the community wherever the opportunity arises – be it during speeches or interviews with the media.

In this ongoing series we would like to share these quotations with our readers.



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2014

"We needn't and shouldn't be afraid of transformation. Transformation is part of the whole process of civilisation development... and is never a completed process. If there is no transformation in a society, there is stagnation. Then death is in the pot, also and especially for the university."

Prof Dawid Gericke, Faculty of Education and Training, Mafikeng Campus. "Jag op aannames bring ontwikkeling", *www.network24.com*, 16 October 2014.



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2014

"Children with other religious convictions than the majority must not be singled out; that is victimisation. There is a big difference between respect and victimisation. It will also be fatal for a child's development."

Prof Cornelia Roux, Faculty of Education Sciences, Potchefstroom Campus. "Klap hande vir die wat anders glo", *Die Burger*, 20 September 2014.



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"This research showcase is an exhibition of the research that is done in the North West about the North West... The aim of this collaborative approach is to build capacity in the province for decision-makers and government officials to make policies based on evidence."

Prof Lumkile Lalendle, Vice Rector: Teaching, Learning and Quality Assurance, Mafikeng Campus. "North-West University, North West Government host research showcase", *Mail & Guardian* virtualpressoffice, 27 October 2014.

"Drinking water is more important than power generation. The Vaal River needs to be protected for as long as we are able to do so."

Prof Johann Tempelhoff, School of Basic Sciences, Vaal Triangle Campus. "Proposed Vaal River coal mine pits clean water against power supply", *Sunday Times*, 5 October 2014.



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Trailblazer advocates

In this edition Eish! talks to Ms Prem Coopoo, the first dean of students of the Vaal Triangle Campus. Prem tells us more about her work, her outlook on life and her family.

Ms Prem Coopoo believes that it is important for students to be involved in the university community. She says students should make the university the place where they develop themselves beyond the learning they gain from the courses they are enrolled for.

INVOLVEMENT LEAVES A RICH LEGACY

"Actively engaged students are academically successful. They are able to fully savour their time at the university and enjoy a legacy of genuinely wonderful memories in the years that follow," says Prem.

If there is one message she would like to get across to students, and to student leaders especially, it is that they should move from student governance to self-governance.

MAKING HISTORY AT THE VAAL TRIANGLE CAMPUS

She is the first ever dean of students at the Vaal Triangle Campus. This trailblazer says she is up for the challenges that await her. "I am very excited. Having been a dean of students twice previously at other universities, I believe the position presents me with the opportunity to bring best practice to a new campus role."

Ms Prem Coopoo

As dean of students, Prem will provide the strategic vision for all student affairs services. "It is about creating positive learning experiences for students and ensuring that the Vaal Triangle Campus offers quality student life that will prepare students for life beyond the lecture rooms."

She says her office actively creates an open, welcoming and inclusive environment that nurtures and empowers all students. This includes enhancing academic performance and intellectual excellence by building effective learning communities that emphasise the active engagement of students and staff.

"I will conduct ongoing assessments upon which to generate policies and programmes that meet the changing needs and interests of students," she says enthusiastically.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT IS ESSENTIAL

Prem would like to see an ethos of student development and student centeredness being embedded at the Vaal Triangle Campus. "Our work must support the academic mission of the NWU; this is non-negotiable."



My favourite book: *The Power of Now* by Eckhart Tolle.

My favourite food: Anything spicy with a lot of chillies that are visible.

My favourite sport: I love cricket, soccer and tennis. My favourite teams are the Proteas and India for cricket, Orlando Pirates for soccer and the Williams sisters for tennis.

involvement

Her professional background enables her to rise to the challenge. She has worked at four other universities; as an academic for five years and in student affairs for 24 years.

"I absolutely love my work and I am proud of making a profound difference in the lives of many students," she says. The impact of her work is evident from the several awards she received for her involvement in student affairs from the different universities.

THE FAMILY BEHIND PREM

Prem met her husband, Yoga, at university. The couple are happily married and celebrated their 34th anniversary this year.

Yoga is a professor and currently the head of the department of Sport Science at the University of Johannesburg.

The couple has two beautiful children. Kevanya (27), the eldest, is a medical doctor who is completing community service. She wants to specialise in paediatrics in 2015. Verushen (19) is studying first-year Bio-Medical Engineering at Wits.

"Both my children are human rights activists. They would challenge you if you made a racist remark or threw your litter in a public space. I have immunised them against people who are

constantly negative."

Prem says family time is very important to them. "As a family, we use every available opportunity to play board games and engage in quizzes and so forth.

"Our friends and extended family know that my home is the official base for such activities, which sometimes end in ... war!" she says jokingly.

RELAXING MEANS ENGAGING

True to her philosophy on engagement, Prem loves cheering the players while watching her favourite sport, tennis and cricket.

She adds that her family doubt that this is particularly relaxing given the loud screaming as she cheers on her favourites.

Prem finds her bedtime reading and gardening the most relaxing of all. This is when she can quietly enjoy a little bit of 'me time'.

Three people I would like to meet: Barack Obama for his intelligence, eloquence and charisma, Mr Bean to ring his neck and Denzel Washington (my secret).

What I dislike: People who will only do what is in their job descriptions and nothing more.

What kind of student I was: I was focused, organised and on top of my game. I was

also the designated cook in our group of six close friends in the residence.

My role models: My role models are family members who were ordinary housewives. They were resilient, never settled for mediocrity, had great human values and were compassionate but assertive.

Sadly both of them have passed, one being my mum.



Prof Eno is the NWU's newest member of ASSAf

Prof Eno Ebenso, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology, is the latest NWU academic to be elected by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) for membership.

ASSAf represents the country in the international community of science academics. Membership is by invitation only and just the cream of the crop is chosen.

"I am really humbled and glad to be a member of this prestigious body and will try my best to contribute to ASSAf's activities and science in South Africa," says Eno, who is an National Research Foundation- (NRF-) rated researcher in chemistry.

He believes that his scholarly work and publications contributed to his election.

Eno is one of the most productive researchers in the world in the field of corrosion science and currently the third most prolific author in the field of corrosion inhibition.

He joins a list of respected NWU academics who are ASSAf members.

Prof Eno Ebenso is the NWU's newest member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He has published more than 200 publications in local and international peer-reviewed journals.



Law students make campus proud

Four law students did the campus proud when they were announced as the overall winners of the inter-campus second and third year JUTA-NWU Criminal Mock Trial Competition that was held on the Potchefstroom Campus in September.

The campus had two teams in the semi-finals. One of the teams, comprising second-year LLB students Oarabile Isaac Modiko, Reitumetse Senaoana, Kadafi Lehabe and Linda Mhlongo, battled out the final round against the Vaal Triangle Campus.

The victorious Mafikeng team represented the defence and the Vaal team the state in a domestic violence assault case. "The inter-campus mock trial is a wonderful opportunity for our campus and our law students to develop trial advocacy skills, as well as to interact with students from the two sister campuses," says Ms Estie Gresse, a lecturer and Faculty of Law representative.

The students who participated in the trials said they enjoyed the experience and felt it had a positive effect on how they perceive the law.

Campus signs MoU with mineral research giant

The campus and MINTEK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 9 October 2014 outlining the basis for potential scientific and technical collaborations.

MINTEK is South Africa's national mineral research organisation, specialising in mineral processing and extractive technology. Its partnership with the campus focuses on research, development and training, the exchange of

scientific and technical knowledge, the augmentation of scientific and technical capabilities, and the transfer of technology in various sciences, as well as metallurgical and mineral processing and beneficiation fields. Joint collaborative research will be conducted at the Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology.

"We hope that in time this partnership with the NWU will produce scientific advances in South Africa and beyond," says Dr Makhapa

Makhafola, general manager for research and development at MINTEK.

"We are grateful for the company's investment and willingness to partner with the university. We are particularly enthusiastic about the milestones we may be able to reach in the areas of science, agriculture and technology that are so relevant to our South African society," says Prof Mashudu Davhana-Maselesele, rector of the campus.

As a leading provider of minerals processing and metallurgical engineering products and services to industries worldwide, MINTEK is a firm believer in strong collaborations as the key to translating science into breakthrough research.

The campus and MINTEK will in future join forces to advance science in South Africa and beyond. Dr Makhapa Makhafola from MINTEK and Prof Mashudu Davhana-Maselesele, rector, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.



Another donation for library

Generosity is in the air. The Professional Provident Society (PPS) recently made a second financial contribution, this time of R250 000, to the Ferdinand Postma Library.

The first allocation of R300 000 was used for equipment for the Research Commons (for master's and doctoral students and other researchers) that officially opened at the end of March. The second donation will now be used to provide computer work stations for the training hall on the ground floor.

According to Ms Elsa Esterhuizen, the director, the ground floor will be converted into an Information Commons for undergraduate students. This entails the installation of at least 90 computer work stations for students and five group study rooms, as well as a practical training facility with 42 work stations where students of all study levels can be guided in the use of electronic sources and databases.

"We are grateful to PPS for their generous donation. Their financial assistance enables the library to make world-class facilities available to undergraduate and postgraduate students."



NWU solar car fills up on sunshine

The NWU put up a good fight during the 2014 Sasol Solar Challenge from 27 September to 4 October and their solar car, Sirius X25, ended the race in overall fourth place.

The NWU team came second of the South African competitors, only 60 km behind the University of KwaZulu-Natal and 700 km ahead of the fifth place winner, the University of Johannesburg. Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands won the challenge.

This year's race kicked off with bad weather, which made the challenge harder for everyone as the sole source of fuel is the sun. Then, on the sixth day, the NWU team had difficulties with their car's batteries. They soon solved the problem and the Sirius X25 took off as good as new the next day.

As this race draws competitors with exceptional expertise in science, technology and engineering, it is indeed a huge accomplishment to drive 2 360,6 km (more than double the team's distance in 2012), powered only by the sun.

The team received prizes for the longest distance travelled by a South African per day in the history of the Sasol Solar Challenge, as well as a Team Communications award for excellent social media engagement.

The Sasol Solar Challenge, which takes place every two years, showcases the progress of research into sustainable transport and promotes advanced science, technology and engineering. In 2012, the NWU shared first place with the Japanese team from Tokai.

Professor receives WTO international trade honour

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva has awarded one of its prestigious research chairs to Prof Wilma Viviers, leader of the TRADE research entity on the campus.

Wilma's ground-breaking research on trade and development has propelled her to the top echelons of her profession by redefining the way local exporters assess foreign markets.

Prof Wilma Viviers is one of only seven recipients worldwide to receive a WTO Chair this year. Mr David Shark, the deputy director-general of the WTO, Prof Dan Kgwadi, the NWU's vice-chancellor, and Mr Maarten Smeets of the WTO congratulate her during the WTO Chair launch at the NWU.



She was formally honoured on 17 September 2014 as one of seven global candidates chosen by the WTO from 80 applicants for its latest Chairs Programme.

Wilma says the WTO Chair gives her and her TRADE team an opportunity to assist with the policy debate through high-level research and engagement, at a time when trade-related challenges and questions about global competitiveness are high on the agenda – both in South Africa and in the surrounding region. "The chair appointment will also ensure that the NWU remains at the cutting edge of research in these critical policy spheres." The WTO Chairs Programme will be a resource for South Africa and also represent the WTO.

At the same time, the chair will nurture the talents of new and more experienced researchers, and increase the number and enhance the quality of its master's and PhD students.



AT LAST – expert help with editing and translation

If you are a lecturer, an author, a PhD or master's student – or any other student for that matter – and you never know where to find help with language editing or translation services, this article is for you.

The Centre for Translation and Professional Language Services (CTrans), a language service provider on the campus, renders services to local and international clients in all 11 South African languages, as well as some European languages.

CTrans offers translation, proofreading, subtitling and editing of dissertations and theses at very reasonable prices, using only the most experienced, best qualified and most competent language practitioners.

"As a registered corporate member of the South African Translators' Institute, we make use of qualified, experienced language practitioners who are sticklers about meeting deadlines and delivering good-quality work," says Ms Karien Redelinghuys, a manager at CTrans.

"Our practitioners do not re-write the work given to them; they improve it in terms of spelling, grammar and language. They can translate and edit any text – be it books, journals and pamphlets, video or audio – and also provide professional subtitling services." If you would like to know more about CTrans, visit them at www.nwu.ac.za/vtc_ctrans or send an email to 12692131@nwu.ac.za or 20393172@nwu.ac.za.

Campus empowers female entrepreneurs

The Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) recently applauded female businesswomen who took part in the Enterprising Women Programme at a prestigious awards ceremony hosted at the Quest Conference Estate in Vanderbijlpark.

The aim of the eight-month programme is to assist female entrepreneurs to achieve their goals and realise their business dreams. During the event the participants showcased their business skills by pitching their business concept to the audience, which included well-known business leaders and academics.

Two self-made and well-known female entrepreneurs, Ms Esmé Young (Small Business Development, Sasol) and Ms Rania Ghniem (Anoud Educational Games, Pakistan), addressed the audience on the importance of entrepreneurship and the perseverance needed to make a success of a new business venture. The Enterprising Women Programme is offered by the bhive EDC, a unit within the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology, in conjunction with its implementation partner, Aequis Consulting.

For more information about the programme, contact: Leonie@aequis.co.za or Johann.landsberg@nwu.ac.za

Serious games conference puts campus on world map

The Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology has made history by successfully hosting the first ever International Conference on Serious Games in South Africa.

The theme of the conference was "Serious Games to the Rescue", drawing attention to the value of serious games in helping learners and students unravel the mysteries of subjects such as mathematics.

Delegates from across the globe attended the event, which was hosted at the Quest Conference Estate in Vanderbijlpark by the Serious Games Institute – South Africa (SGI-SA), a dynamic unit within the faculty.

The three-day conference included an interactive workshop by Dr Ernest Adams, a world-renowned game designer. The conference also included a myriad of presentations ranging from games for mathematics and leadership to making use of serious games to combat problematic gaming.

On the other end of the spectrum were more phenomenological studies about South African communities and their access to technologies for the purpose of serious gaming.

An animation studio from Cape Town, Sea Monster, gave a comprehensive presentation on a soon-to-be-released serious game on home-ownership, called HOUZZ-IT.

The conference also highlighted current serious game projects taking place in South Africa, including the SGI-SA's own Mandela27 interactive graphic novel and "Aliens on Campus", a proposed game by the University of the Western Cape.

"All-in-all the conference was a great success. Our aim was to interweave the interests of academia and industry players in the relatively new field of serious games in South Africa. I feel that with the input of the industry, six different academic institutions and guest speakers with extensive experience in both sectors, the conference was able to provide such a platform," says Mr Werner Ravyse, manager of SGI-SA.



Cycling his way to health and happiness

In our regular Eish! article series we focus on the people who work at the NWU and the things that are important to them in their personal lives. In this edition we visit a staff member who believes that cycling is an excellent way of keeping fit and healthy.

Jan is so popular on the Vaal Triangle Campus that he won the 2011 Personality of the Year Award. Here Prof Thanyani Mariba, campus rector, hands over the award.

At the age of 12, Mr Jan Tshabalala often “stole” his father’s bicycle for joy-rides and now, decades later, he is still an enthusiastic cyclist.

“At that age I couldn’t even reach the pedals when sitting on the seat, so I had to cycle while standing upright,” he says. That did not discourage him. He realised early on that while he wasn’t particularly good at soccer or athletics, cycling made his pulse race and his heart beat faster.

Today, as a handyman at Technical Services on the Vaal Triangle Campus, Jan cycles to work every day. Using different routes between his home in Sebokeng and the campus, he covers between 56 km and 72 km per day and occasionally even tackles the long road to Johannesburg on his bike.

HOW THE CYCLE STARTED

Jan took up professional cycling after receiving a bicycle from Mr Duncan Viljoen, a former sports manager on the campus.

Highlights from his cycling career include clinching fifth position in the gruelling 103 km Pick n Pay /The Star Fast One race in 2010.

Last year he was in the front group of cyclists during the Campus to Campus race, when bad luck struck: a wire had become stuck in his gear system, causing him to withdraw.

This year, he has been participating in various local cycling events “to keep fit”, as he puts it. Becoming fit and losing weight were some of the incentives that kicked off his serious cycling career.

“I was overweight and at first I huffed and puffed a lot, but within a few months, I lost many of those extra kilos. Cycling is an excellent way of keeping fit and healthy.”

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

Jan’s long-term goal is to participate in the Cape Argus race – which he admits would be “the ultimate experience” for him.

Unfortunately, cycling is a very expensive sport, and sponsors are not always easy to find.

Apart from the Cape Argus aspiration, Jan – a devoted family man – would like to share

his talent with township kids by encouraging them to take up the sport and continue his legacy. For now, Jan and his bicycle will continue to be a familiar sight on campus.



Mr Jan Tshabalala

If you know of a colleague who does something extraordinary or interesting in his or her life outside the university, please send the information to Willie du Plessis at willie.duplessis@nwu.ac.za.

Conference on teaching and learning flourishes

The annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) conference is becoming more popular every year.

This year 145 staff members attended the fourth SoTL conference, held on 30 and 31 October on the Mafikeng Campus. This represents growth of 81,5% compared to the 80 attendees at the first conference in 2011.

With the theme "Negotiating the interface between the curriculum and gradueness", this year's conference focused on graduate attributes and the curriculum.

During the conference speakers touched on topics such as the idea of "gradueness", graduate attributes and employability, curriculum design and the development of professionalism, and modules designed to enable students to develop political, social and ethical insights.

In addition, alumni shared how they experienced the curriculum while they were studying at the NWU, and how it has prepared them for the world of work.

"This year's conference was a great success," says Dr Muki Moeng, institutional director for teaching-learning. "It was evident in the quality of the abstracts submitted that SoTL has gained traction at the NWU."

Next year the NWU will be hosting the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) conference on the Potchefstroom Campus. This conference will therefore replace the SoTL conference for 2015.



Excited staff members register for the annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Conference. At the back Dr Muki Moeng talks to Prof Lumkile Lalendle, vice-rector for teaching, learning and quality assurance on the Mafikeng Campus.

And the winners are...

Congratulations to these colleagues who each won a corporate gift in our previous competition.



INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE:

Ms Andrie du Plessis,
senior administrative assistant,
Internal Audit



MAFIKENG CAMPUS:

Mr Oupa Bantsijang,
assistant, Library



VAALE TRIANGLE CAMPUS:

Ms Margie Smith, senior
administrative assistant, Faculty of
Human and Social Sciences



POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS:

Mr Craig Freeman,
administrative assistant,
Unit for Open Distance Learning

We would like to thank everyone who participated. If you were not so lucky this time, there will be another opportunity to take part in our competition next year.

What our colleagues *say about ...*

...their **FAVOURITE** childhood memories



Dr Inge Venter, academic adviser for teaching development, Academic Support Services, Potchefstroom Campus: "The contributions from colleagues in the previous Eish! about their childhood memories evoked my own memories from my childhood years on a farm in Namibia (then South West Africa).

"My father farmed with Afrikaner cattle in the north, not far from the Etosha salt pan. There were wild dogs and leopards that caught his cattle and some of the game on the farm.

"His farm workers brought an Eland calf and a Gemsbok lamb to the farm house – evidently their mothers were caught by predators. It was my parents' task to raise the orphans, and diluted cow's milk with a little sugar added to their bottles did the trick.

"They were kept in a small enclosure near the house, with a sheep to keep them company. My father later sold the Gemsbok to a zoo after he had become dangerous with his horns, almost hurting my brother. The Eland was sold to a game farm for breeding purposes. I remember that my father shot the leopard, as it caught his calves. The skin was cured and laid on the floor; beautiful and a little sad.

"My childhood was a carefree and adventurous time. Perhaps there are other former Namibians among our colleagues and maybe we can start a club, eat Brötchens (bread rolls) and Bratwurst (sausages) and drink Windhoek beer?"



Ms Safiya Waja, administrative officer, Marketing and Communication, Potchefstroom Campus: "My fondest memory is when my sister and I used to wait for our grandfather at the gate. I was five years old and my sister three.

"He used to arrive with his massive Simba truck. He would pull up in front of the house and we would squeal with delight. My grandfather was friends with the Nik Naks man and the Simba man and they would come visit us every Friday, bringing us all different flavours of crisps. Our grandfather was our hero."

&

...what they **DON'T** want in 2015



Mr Angelo Harwood, cashier for bank receivables, Student Fees and Debtors, Potchefstroom Campus: "If there is one thing I would not like for 2015 it would be another 40-second earthquake such as we experienced in August this year."



Mr Mhlophe Keebine, lecturer in Peace Studies and International Relations, School of Human Sciences, Mafikeng Campus: "There are several issues that I won't like to see, namely too much work for academic staff, unfavourable remuneration and tax revision for employees, and a lack of bursaries and staff development."



Mr Phillip Mofokeng, administrative assistant /messenger, School for Chemical and Mineral Engineering, Potchefstroom Campus: "I don't want students to lack vision in 2015. They should also not lack strength, courage and wisdom.

"The Bible says if we need wisdom we should ask God, who will give generously to all who ask (James 1:5). To lack any of these important characteristics is not good.

"I would also not want the NWU to lack power and dignity."



The lucky winner of a shopping voucher to the value of R250 is Ms Michelle Davel, main-

tenance officer, Residence and Catering Services, Potchefstroom Campus, who shared her childhood memories with us in the previous Eish!

Who was best



Friday, 5 September was Casual Day again. With the theme “Bring on the bling”, staff members across the NWU participated wholeheartedly in support of this annual initiative of the National Council for Persons with Physical Disabilities in South Africa.

Here are some of our favourites! (Thank you so much for your overwhelming response and participation – it’s a sure fact that your hearts are in the right place.)

1: This lot makes being bad look good. Meet the Web Office’s stylish mobsters – Ms Ronel Röscher, Ms Moira Müller, Ms Géna Thompson and Mr Cobus Steenkamp.

2: Dr Alvera Visser and Ms Geraldine Gerhardi from IT Central and Mr Victor Mothobi, institutional director for human capital, rock the bling, taking it to another level.

3: Masked, mysterious and magnificent – Prof Dan Kgwadi, vice-chancellor (far right), together with staff from Human Capital, knows how to get it right. At the back from left are Mr Tumi Tshaka, Ms Evalancia Jones, Mr Earl Riddles, Mr Lionel Eksteen and Prof Dan Kgwadi. In front are Ms Thato Tlhabanyane, Ms Esme Labuschagne and Ms Alta Fourie.



1: Mr Craig Freeman from the Unit for Open Distance Learning and Ms Nandi Mintoli from Admissions strut their stuff.

2: Staff members from the Administration Office show their brightest colours, proudly wearing their stickers in support of Casual Day.



at bringing on the **BLING?**



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POTCHEFSTROOM

1: The "InGryp" Centre, part of Student Counselling Services, show that they do indeed have spirit. In the back from left are Ms Ilana Coetzee, Ms Tarryn Nel, Ms Anretha Joubert, Mr Harm Stavast, Ms Chrisna van der Walt, Ms Nadia van den Berg, Prof Nic Kotze and Ms Shanae Theunissen. In front are Ms Corrie Rheeder, Ms Blanch Carolus, Ms Petro Boshoff and Ms Leonie Lubbe.

2: Staff members from the "InGryp" Centre are at it again! Fun, games and bling are certainly the order of the day. From left are Mr Hannes Greyling, Ms Petro Boshoff, Mr Nic Smith, Ms Blanch Carolus, Mr Andrew Stewart, and Ms Anretha Joubert.

3: The bling fairy and the VIPs are in the house! Ms Lize dos Santos, Mr Corné de Wee and Mr Thembisile Tekane from the Faculty of Education Sciences dazzle us with charm.

1: Mr Ujeet Maharaj from Academic Administration is proof that even Superman sometimes needs something gold and shiny.

2: Ms Poppy Narenti and Ms Deliwe Msibi from Marketing and Communication should be hired by the Casual Day team for next year's drive – they will definitely add pizzazz to any campaign.

3: Ms Sonette Ferreira from Academic Administration shines bright in aid of people with physical disabilities.

4: Ms Kinga Siejek and Ms Magdel van Rensburg from Marketing and Communication add a jazzy flair to the bling.

VAAL TRIANGLE



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TEST REVEALS THE LIVER'S REACTION



The average human body is no longer able to deal effectively on its own with the host of toxins found in modern food, medicine, soil, water, animal feed and the air. To make things worse, the flood of chemicals is outstripping the liver's ability to remove those toxins – a process known as biotransformation.

"We have developed a set of biotransformation tests to monitor the crucial reactions in the liver," says Mr Lardus Erasmus of the Biotransformation division at the Centre for Human Metabonomics on the Potchefstroom Campus.

These tests were developed during the Biomarkers of Oxidative Stress Status Study (BOSS). The BOSS test kit itself consists of two parts: a clinical questionnaire section on the subject's lifestyle and medical symptoms, and a biotransformation test. The BOSS kit is being used across South Africa, mainly to assist people suffering from chronic fatigue.

"After the test results are available, it is possible to make an informed decision about imbalances and possible treatment," Lardus says. The full article is available here:

