

## Just for laughs



*These ditsy women dressed up specially for Casual Day. They are, from left, Ms Felicity van Vrede, Ms Eva Sekwena and Ms Lizelle Brink, all from the Potchefstroom Campus. NWU staff members celebrate this day every year so as to contribute to the national fundraising campaign for people with disabilities. This year's theme was: Dress for laughs. And that they did – the imaginative outfits quickly turned frowns upside down.*

### Read this!

- 3 Centralisation vs decentralisation
- 5 Preparation college a future possibility
- 7 Interested in exporting horses?

*Message from the Vice-Chancellor Message from the Vice-Chancellor Message*



*Dear colleagues*

With the soccer world cup the year was "brief and to the point" for all of us, and with the exams looming, we all look forward to successfully completing the academic year.

This edition of Eish! is a striking reflection of the NWU's balance, and also provides a brief glimpse of our endeavour to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university.

It also provides a quick look at how the NWU's expertise can be implemented in an innovative manner to make a difference in our country.

We are grateful that 2010 has once again brought us the first prize for the university with the best corporate governance in South Africa.

This is an exceptional achievement, particularly in view of the fact that from 2007 to 2009 the NWU won PricewaterhouseCoopers's first prize for Excellence in Higher Education for three consecutive years.

To many of us this may not seem important, but it should reassure every academic and support staff member that we provide a framework within which they can work with peace of mind.

Against this background it is also healthy for us as a multi-campus university to maintain ongoing discussions on the centralisation and decentralisation issues. Both concepts are essential and provide a "polarity" to the NWU that must be managed continuously. (Read more about this in the article on p3.)

And while many of our colleagues are already preparing to receive the "class of 2011" (we intend receiving just more than 7 900 newcomers), you can also read elsewhere about plans to ensure that we as an institution remain accessible to prospective students and that they are prepared for the challenges of university studies.

Thank you for your hard work and all the best for the final weeks of 2010!

Regards,

*Jhans Cloff*

## *Eish! what a laugh*

On Casual Day, Friday 3 September, the NWU community showed yet again that their hearts were in the right place.

They dressed up in outlandish outfits to collect money for disabled people. There were clowns, school children, fairies, disco dancers, conductors in tails, flower children from the seventies and placard-waving 'strikers'.

Fortunately, the latter is not something that crossed anybody's mind on the Eish! editorial board. We have once again put together an edition of Eish!, brimful of news.

On p3 we write about a controversial matter that brings to mind the immortal phrase from Shakespeare's Hamlet: *To be or not to be, that is the question*. Here at the NWU, it will be: To centralise or not to centralise, that is the question.

Read more about the three-phase project that was initiated by the NWU to harmonise work processes and relations between the

Institutional Office, the campuses and the faculties.

### EXCELLENCE REWARDED

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from Media24, the most inspiring lecturers on the three campuses have probably been announced by now. In each faculty, a considerable cash prize is up for grabs.

Read about this competition on p15 and look out for the next Eish! to find out who were the most inspiring lecturers.

In the next Eish! we will also announce which persons and entities will receive recognition for research and innovation achievements during 2009. The Award function will be held at the end of October.

The NWU as such also received an accolade for excellence. The NWU won the PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Governance Award for Excellence in Higher Education for the fourth consecutive

time. This time, the award is shared with the Vaal University of Technology.

### NWU COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES

Looking at the extent to which NWU staff are prepared to go beyond the call of duty (p13), it is no wonder that the NWU performs well. It is, after all, the dedication and skills of the NWU community that determine the success of the institution.

Good luck with the last shift of 2010 and enjoy all of the year-end functions. May they be celebrations of goals achieved and tasks completed successfully.

Happy reading!

*Marelize & Nelia*



# This *whirlwind* needs to be managed



Every so often, feelings about the relationship between the Institutional Office and the three campuses and the issue of centralisation and decentralisation kick up a bit of dust at the NWU.

In light of this, Dr Theuns Eloff, NWU Vice-Chancellor, recently asked the Leadership Academy to plan and implement an intervention that will harmonise the work processes and relationships between the Institutional Office, the campuses and the faculties.

This has led to the discussion of a three-phase exercise during the meeting of members of senior management on 15 September in Potchefstroom.

The first phase, a workshop on polarity management, was completed during that same meeting.

During the workshop, Prof Willie Coetzee, a facilitator for the NWU, illustrated that the matter of centralisation/decentralisation is, in essence, not a conventional problem. "It is a dynamic and continuous polarity, which needs to be managed," he explained.

During the workshop, the positive and negative aspects of both centralisation and decentralisation were identified. Next, the managers had an opportunity to indicate how they experienced the matter in terms of the relationship between campuses and the Institutional Office, and also between the campuses and their faculties.

During phase 2 of the project, facilitators will assist the different groups (e.g. IT, Finance and Human Resources) to determine and implement the functions that need to be centralised and those that need to be decentralised in order to ensure effective management.

For instance, everybody on the campuses and at the Institutional Office that have to do with communication will put their heads together and decide which functions should be centralised at the Institutional Office and which functions need to be performed on the respective campuses (decentralised).

According to Prof Chris van der Watt, Director: Leadership Academy and Organisation Research, the third phase involves the inclusion of a module on management skills in a centralised/decentralised environment in the training of senior managers at the NWU.

## *How managers experience it now*

During a recent workshop, NWU management indicated whether they saw management as decentralised or centralised, and also whether they experienced that perception as positive or negative.

Below are the main results, which will be further analysed and used in phases 2 and 3:

### **CENTRALISATION/DECENTRALISATION: INSTITUTIONAL OFFICE AND CAMPUSES**

- *Entire group*: 87/97 experience management as centralised; approximately half experience this as positive, while the other half experience it as negative.
- *Mafikeng Campus – Management*: 5/7 experience management as centralised, and positively so.
- *Mafikeng Campus – Faculty management (deans and directors)*: They experience management as centralised and are split equally between their experience of its advantages and its disadvantages.

Continue on p4

## This *whirlwind* needs to be managed

- *Potchefstroom Campus – Management:* 7/9 experience management as centralised, and negatively so.
- *Potchefstroom Campus – Faculty managements:* They experience management as centralised and are split equally between their experience of its advantages and its disadvantages – just like their peers on the Mafikeng Campus.
- *Vaal Triangle Campus – Management:* 4/5 experience management as centralised, and negatively so.
- *Vaal Triangle Campus – Faculty managements:* They show no significant

pattern in their experience.

- *Institutional Office – Management:* 21/27 experience management as centralised, and positively so.

### CENTRALISATION/DECENTRALISATION: CAMPUS MANagements AND FACULTY MANagements

- *Mafikeng Campus – Campus Management:* 5/7 experience management as centralised, and positively so.
- *Mafikeng Campus – Faculty managements:* They are more spread out and 6/11 experience management as

centralised, and positively so.

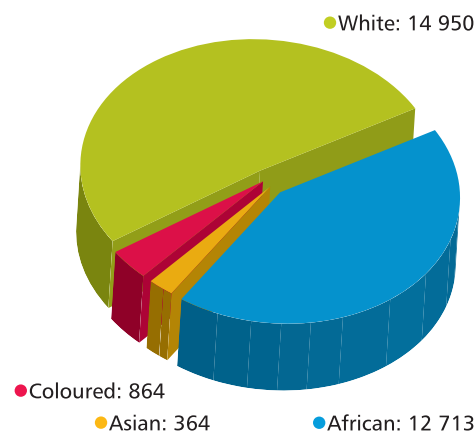
- *Potchefstroom Campus – Campus Management:* All experience management as decentralised, and positively so.
- *Potchefstroom Campus – Faculty managements:* 22/33 experience management as decentralised, and positively so.
- *Vaal Triangle Campus – Campus Management:* 4/5 experience management as centralised, and positively so.
- *Vaal Triangle Campus – Faculty managements:* They show no significant pattern in their experience.

# This is the NWU's student profile

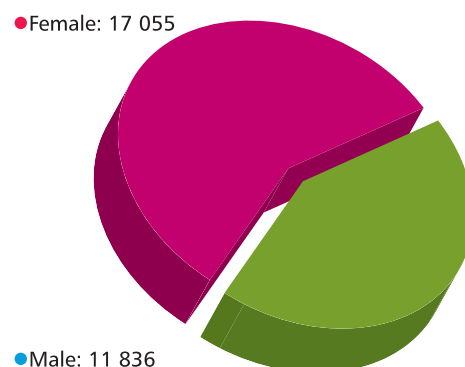
Many NWU staff members have a good idea of the respective campuses' data and statistics, but not necessarily of the bigger NWU picture. As part of the Eish! series on the University's statistics, this edition gives an overview of the student composition of the NWU.

Total student enrolment	2008	2009	2010
First-time entering undergraduates	5 118	5 952	7 264
Undergraduate diplomas	17 342	18 090	22 085
First degrees	18 741	19 722	21 792
<b>Total undergraduate</b>	<b>36 083</b>	<b>37 812</b>	<b>43 877</b>
Postgraduate diplomas	1 062	1 334	1 363
Honours	6 451	7 891	11 715
Master's	2 477	2 591	2 523
Doctors	758	792	801
<b>Total postgraduate</b>	<b>10 748</b>	<b>12 608</b>	<b>16 402</b>
Occasional students	177	169	169
<b>TOTAL ENROLMENT</b>	<b>47 008</b>	<b>50 589</b>	<b>60 448</b>
<b>By qualification type: Contact</b>			
First-time entering undergraduates	4 916	5 599	6 820
Undergraduate diplomas	1 383	1 097	1 064
First degrees	18 096	18 901	20 811
<b>Total undergraduate</b>	<b>19 479</b>	<b>19 998</b>	<b>21 875</b>
Postgraduate diplomas	1 049	1 329	1 326
Honours	1 840	2 032	2 253
Master's	2 464	2 565	2 507
Doctors	734	767	766
<b>Total postgraduate</b>	<b>6 087</b>	<b>6 693</b>	<b>6 852</b>
Occasional students	174	162	164
<b>TOTAL ENROLMENT</b>	<b>25 740</b>	<b>26 853</b>	<b>28 891</b>

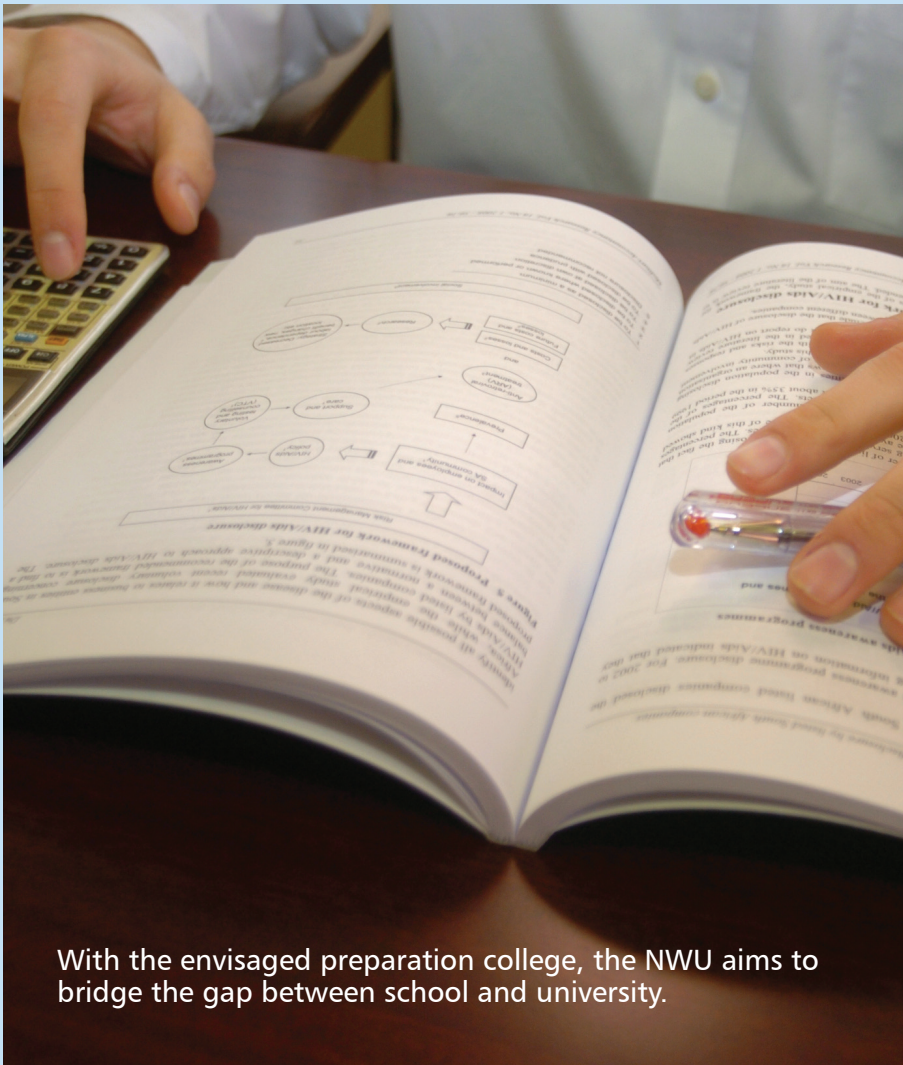
### Racial composition of contact students in 2010



### Gender composition of contact students in 2010



These are some of the statistics included in the publication: *Pocket Statistics 2010/11*. It is available from Corporate Affairs and Relations, Institutional Office (C1 building, room 138) or from the Marketing and Communication Department on your campus. **Enquiries:** [nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za](mailto:nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za)



With the envisaged preparation college, the NWU aims to bridge the gap between school and university.

## Preparation college is a possibility

The NWU may soon be establishing a so-called 'preparation college' for prospective university students. It will take the form of a distance education course designed to close the gap between the school system and higher education.

Many matriculants who fail to meet the admission requirements of higher education institutions do have the potential to study further. The NWU would like to prepare those students so that they will eventually be able to access tertiary education.

"In the beginning of 2010, more than 8 000 students applied to study on the Mafikeng Campus, but due to limited

infrastructure – buildings and staff in particular – we could accommodate only 2 000," says Dr Theuns Eloff, NWU Vice-Chancellor.

"Let's say that approximately 2 000 of the 6 000 who could not be admitted had the potential to study successfully.

"Our envisioned preparation college is intended for those students. Successful completion of this preparation course will automatically grant them admission to the NWU in the following year."

In this manner, the NWU will deliver better-prepared first-years – benefiting not only itself, but other universities as well.

## "New" is the buzz word at Council

New Council members, new buildings and new terms were some of the points on the agenda at the Council meeting of 17 September 2010 on the Vaal Triangle Campus.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Blade Nzimande, appointed two Council members in terms of the Higher Education Act of 1997. They are Advocate Muzi Sikhakhane from Johannesburg and Mr Solly Phetoe, a trade union and labour issues expert from Klerksdorp.

They are filling the vacancies that arose due to the expiry of Ms Letlotlo Letlape's term and the resignation of Dr Sankie Mthembi-Mahanyele.

Prof Christoff Rabali was appointed for a further term to represent the Vaal Triangle Campus in the Council. Ms Hanneli Koegelenberg-Rupert was also appointed for a second term as representative in the category community leaders.

### A BUILDING FOR THE BIG HOLE

The Council approved the tender for a new building for Economic and Management Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus. It will be constructed over the 'Big Hole' that we referred to in the previous Eish! The project will cost an estimated R47,5m and is part of the NWU's infrastructure development plan for 2011.

### NEW TERMS

The already extended terms of Prof Frikkie van Niekerk, Executive Director: Research and Innovation and Prof Johan Rost, Executive Director: Finance and Facilities, will expire on 31 December 2010.

Although both are permanent NWU staff members, an evaluation process is being followed to determine whether they can be reappointed for a further term in their current positions.

Prof Dan Kgwadi's term will also expire on 31 December 2010. The prescribed process will be followed for his possible reappointment as Mafikeng Campus Rector.

# Have you done the **Zumba** lately?



*Ms Maggie Parkin, Ms Melleney Campbell-Jacobs and Ms Dalien Zietsman enjoying the Inter-Campus Social Day. All three are from the Potchefstroom Campus.*

If you don't know the Zumba, you probably did not attend the Inter-Campus Social Day on 27 August 2010 on the Potchefstroom Campus.

That social day was kicked off with a Zumba class that had everyone dancing. Even some of the campus rectors participated in this open-air class presented by Ms Mary-Ann Robinson from Virgin Active.

"The idea was to start with something in which all staff members could participate – regardless of job level, shape, size or level of fitness," said Dr Shelley-Ann Williams, Manager of Employee Wellness.

This time, there were more participants than during the previous Inter-campus Social Day, and it would seem that Employee Wellness is succeeding in creating a sense of unity among the staff from the three different campuses and in encouraging them to socialise.

Be sure to mark your calendars for 8 April for next year's event on the Vaal Triangle Campus. It will be the only Inter-Campus Social Day for 2011.

*Right: One, two, three and Zumba! Ms Mary-Ann Robinson from Virgin Active demonstrates a couple of Zumba moves.*



*Mr Morena Tsotseti from the Vaal Triangle Campus, Ms Kgalalelo Mokaila from the Mafikeng Campus and Mr Archie Mooi from the Vaal Triangle Campus socialising together.*





Present at the final feedback session on the project at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were, from left, Mr Victor Mathale from the Department of Trade and Industry, Ms Ermie Steenkamp, NWU, Mr Riaan le Roux, Trade and Investment SA (DTI), Prof Wilma Viviers, NWU, Prof Ludo Cuyvers, University of Antwerp, and Dr Riaan Rossouw, extraordinary research scientist (NWU).

# Fruit juice to Qatar? Indeed

## • Research on export opportunities a first in South Africa

Have you always wanted to export fruit juice mixes to Qatar or horses to the United Kingdom? If so, the research model developed by a group of bright economists on the Potchefstroom Campus, will come in very handy.

Economists from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences have developed a research model to identify export opportunities for South Africa. This is a first in South Africa and – as far as scope is concerned – also a first in the world.

Furthermore, the research that preceded the present project for the Department of Trade and Industry also culminated in three doctorates and two master's degrees that were recently obtained at the NWU. Three more doctoral students are currently involved in the research.

The research team, led by Prof Wilma Viviers, Director of the School of Economics on the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus, submitted the research model on 1 September 2010 to the Department of Trade and Industry in Pretoria. "Our model swept them off their feet," she says.

### USER-FRIENDLY

The model includes a powerful, interactive computer instrument. It is a so-called "Decision Support Model" (DSM) DASHBOARD, which gives a visual representation of research results and facilitates the interpretation thereof.

"The DSM provides the research results of the export model in a user-friendly way to the government, export boards and exporters and can contribute greatly to export development in South Africa," says Prof Wilma.

### ONLY A MOUSE CLICK AWAY

According to Dr Riaan Rossouw, the developer of the DSM DASHBOARD, all it takes is the click of a mouse for South African export role players to see to which countries they can export their products.

According to Mr Riaan le Roux, Chief Operating Officer of Trade and Investment SA (TISA), this research constitutes international best practice.

### ADAPTED AND REFINED

Another team member, Prof Ludo Cuyvers from the University of Antwerp and extraordinary professor in the School of Economics, also designed the DSM for Belgium. This was adapted and refined by the NWU researchers for South African conditions.

Out of a possible 1,4 million product-country export combinations, 66 705 product-country combinations were identified where realistic opportunities exist for South Africa.

Ms Ermie Steenkamp, a doctoral student at the NWU and a member of the research team, further refined the data to arrive at a more manageable 19 000 export combinations.

## FURTHER FACTS ON DSM

DSM uses filters that eliminate less promising export possibilities. So the focus is on those countries and product-country combinations that show the most potential.

DSM also focuses on the demand for products. It identifies new markets to which South Africa has never exported before.

The in-depth market research that followed could provide more qualitative market-specific information on inter alia the following possibilities:\*

- Macadamia nuts to Germany
- Jewellery to the United Kingdom
- Live horses to the United Kingdom
- Fruit juice mix to Qatar

DSM can identify the top twenty products per number of export opportunities. Interestingly enough, frozen fish fillets and equipment for video recordings and reproduction top the list with 55 export opportunities.

Burglar or fire alarms are eleventh, with 48 export opportunities and fresh grapes twentieth with 45 export opportunities.\*

\* Note: the information could have changed in the meantime, as it is updated continuously in view of ever-changing world markets.

# Her heart is in higher education



Prof Linda du Plessis with the Rocky Mountains in the background. The picture was taken in August 2010 when she visited universities in Canada and the US as part of a group of delegates from the NWU. The University of Calgary in Canada took them on an outing to the Rockies.

**E**nthusiasm and people making a difference are close to her heart. Prof Linda du Plessis, the Vaal Triangle Campus' Vice-Rector: Academic, Planning and Quality, also believes in the saying: "The past is behind, learn from it; the future is ahead, prepare for it; the present is here, live it."

And that she does – with passion for her work, her campus, and her family.

## ENTHUSIASM FOR HER WORK

When asked what she enjoys most about her work, her answer comes without hesitation: "As is the case with all academics, I enjoy reading. The dynamics in higher education creates a multitude of new policy documents and frameworks. All of which needs to be implemented at various universities – interesting food for thought."

Seeing as the Vaal Triangle Campus is small, her portfolio includes academic, research, quality and planning. Not that she minds. "Though it's a bit demanding at times, it's good to be so closely involved with everything going on on Campus," she says.

## CHALLENGES

One of the great challenges of her work is ensuring strategic and sustainable growth in such a way that it will benefit the NWU and the local community – without jeopardising everything that makes this small campus unique.

"As campus staff, we are all involved in taking strategic decisions. In doing this, we have to consider the short- and long-term consequences and the uncertainties that could affect the decision, and the probability that these uncertainties will be realised. This is why every member of the campus staff

makes an important contribution to the taking of well-considered decisions," she says.

## QUALITY LEADERSHIP

She firmly believes that team work and

“ My vision for the Campus is that it will develop into a regional asset where quality teaching and focused research form a stimulating learning community. ”

leadership go hand in hand. One of her goals in the past two years was to read a book on leadership at least every two months.

The books that she has already read include *The tipping point* by John Maxwell,



Eureka by Phillipa Davies, and Reframing organisations by Lee Bolman and Terrence Deal. Right now, she is reading Richard Hackman's book entitled Senior leadership teams: what it takes to make them great.

However, she does not believe that you necessarily have to be in a leadership position before you can inspire and motivate others. Her definition of a successful academic is somebody who is able to motivate his colleagues through his enthusiasm for teaching and research.

### LOVING THE CAMPUS

Apart from her enthusiasm for her work and academia in particular, the Campus is also dear to her.

She is particularly proud of the Campus' first research focus area known as Understanding and Processing Language in Complex Settings (UPSET).

This focus area was established in May 2010 and explores language practice and multilingualism as components of the broader field of linguistics and language studies.

### VISION

Prof Linda's vision for the Campus is that it will develop into a regional asset where quality teaching and focused research form a stimulating learning community.

"It must become a campus of preference for undergraduate and postgraduate students, known for quality and innovative teaching."

Her advice for students is: "Enjoy student life, but don't forget to focus consistently on your studies. The secret of successful study is to work a little bit every day!"

### HER FAMILY

In spite of her busy schedule, Prof Linda is very much involved in the lives of her family. "I take great pleasure in tackling projects with the children. We often visit craft stores to buy all sorts of necessities for our projects – ranging from beads to trays and watches," she says.

According to Prof Linda, their family life is a real team effort. She and her husband, Jannie, try to plan their diaries around the sports and cultural activities of their three children, Annelie (17), Jan-Adriaan (13) and Janet (8).

"Breakfast is the only meal that we can enjoy together as a family. It is then that we read the Bible and find out who has to do what and who needs to be picked up where and at what time."

Prof Linda has many irons in the fire, but that does not stop her from focusing on her work, her campus and her family.

Because her heart is in it.



Prof Linda at the statue of John Harvard during a course at the Harvard Institute for Educational Management, in Boston.

### *The story about the five dollars*

"I recently attended a course at Harvard University in the USA. Beverly Tatum, the President of Spelman College, told us about her experience a while back when their college was in serious financial trouble. They launched various fundraising projects. One morning she was surprised to find a woman with a baby on the hip on her doorstep. She wanted to donate \$5 to the college. Hesitant to accept money from this lady, who clearly needed it, she asked why she wanted to donate the money. The woman's answer was: 'It's the only hope I have for my child.' I reckon it's this \$5 story that makes me want to stay in higher education." – Prof Linda du Plessis.

## HER FAVOURITES

### What are your favourite dishes?

Salad, pasta and fish. I enjoy cooking, but there isn't much time for creativity between me arriving home from work and everybody wanting to know what's for dinner...

### What is your favourite book or film?

The Shawshank Redemption.

### What excites you in life?

People who are making a difference.

### What characteristic do you appreciate most in people?

Sincerity and a sense of humour.

### Is there anything about you that few people know or realise?

I was quite good at tennis. In high school I achieved Northern Transvaal colours for tennis.

### What are you afraid of?

I do not like 4x4 trails. Maybe it's just personal preference, or maybe it has something to do with the car crash that I was in when I was eight years old. Once, in the Kruger Park, I got out and insisted on walking and facing the lions rather than completing a 4x4 trail!

### What would you like to change about yourself?

I want to learn to try to understand other people's actions before I start criticising.

### If you could have a conversation with someone from history, who would that person be and why?

Anton Rupert – South African, billionaire, entrepreneur, astute businessman and conservationist. I would like to learn from him how he succeeded in doing all the different things that he embarked upon.

### What is precious to you?

To watch my children grow up and to look at life through their eyes. It keeps me humble.

### What is your fondest memory of your student years?

My husband and I met in math class. We started a study group which met three evenings per week. There was always time for a cold drink before I had to be back in the residence. It was a wonderful, carefree time of my life.

### What is your favourite vacation spot?

It's hard to decide between the Kruger Park and the sea. But at the end of the day what matters most is who you're with.

## Science Centre to boost education

The Mafikeng Campus recently opened a new Science Centre that will benefit learners, students, the general public and educators of primary and high schools.

The Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor officially opened the Centre on Monday, 30 August 2010.

This high-profile facility holds many advantages for the University and its community.

For the University itself the Centre is a visible token indicating its commitment to serve the community and to draw students towards scientific careers. The Centre will be highly feasible as it will operate with a relative low running cost due to the availability of university infrastructure and access to specialist information on Science and Technology and study and career guidance to prospective students.

The establishment of the Centre was the initiative of the Campus Rector, Prof Dan Kgwadi, and was executed by Prof Jan Smit, the Manager of the Science Centre on the Potchefstroom Campus. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) provided funding for equipment to the value of R500 000.

## Living his dream

**K**egoikantse "Machesa" Kgomo is living his dream, combining successful academic studies with soccer to mould a fulfilling career at the NWU and in the sports development industry.

Kegoikantse, a soccer coach on the Mafikeng Campus, is one of the first graduates from the Mafikeng Campus's Soccer Institute with a Diploma in Sports Science and has a Level Two coaching badge from the English Football Association to his credit.

Kegoikantse is optimistic about putting theory into practice to build a career and uplift disadvantaged youngsters with academic and soccer potential. "Through completing the courses I have done, I have grown enormously as a person and learned valuable life skills and leadership qualities," he says.

"I am very pleased to be part of the Soccer Institute's quest to take soccer development to much greater heights in South Africa."



*Kegoikantse Kgomo – soccer is his passion.*

While no longer a member of the Soccer Institute's football team, he is part of the University's staff team to maintain his form.

Kegoikantse recently accompanied South Africa's National Under-17 team on a 12-day tour to Argentina, where he observed how the Argentineans manage their development structures and if any of their tactics can be utilised back home.

## Purification plant ensures clean water



**T**he community of Madibogo will have access to clean water thanks to a water purification plant.

The Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology developed the Nano-filtration Water Purification plant after research has found the ground water from the bore hole they are using to be contaminated with nitrate, chloride and magnesium.

The project was conducted by Dr Mbhuti Hlophe

from the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and was funded by the Water Research Commission.

The 23 000 villagers in Madibogo, which is 90 km from Mafikeng, are largely dependent on ground water which is ingested without prior treatment.

After intensive research it was decided to make use of the Nanomembrane Technology for the removal of the pollutants in the ground water.

The plant was launched by the Dean of the Faculty, Prof Mashudu Maselesele on 15 September. The Faculty will also be responsible for the maintenance of the plant to ensure safe drinking water in that area.

# NWU examines hydrogen as alternative energy source

The NWU, in conjunction with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was recently appointed as one of three centres of competence in the country that are going to do research on hydrogen as energy source.

In 2008, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) registered the trademark Hydrogen South Africa (HySA) to research and develop hydrogen as a safe energy source.

The DST has established three centres of competence – HySA Systems, HySA Catalysis and HySA Infrastructure – to implement the HySA strategy, and unique responsibilities were assigned to each of the centres.

The centre at the NWU – HySA Infrastructure CC – will do research on hydrogen generation, storage and distribution.

Dr Dmitri Bessarabov was appointed Director of HySA Infrastructure CC. He will work closely with the key role players at the NWU, Profs Henning Krieg and Cobus Kriek from the focus area for Chemical Resource Beneficiation, as well as with Prof Frikkie van der Merwe from Engineering.

Possible future products of the three centres include portable power sources (that are cleaner and quieter than generators), combined heat and power sources (for heating of buildings and industries) and fuel cell-powered cars.

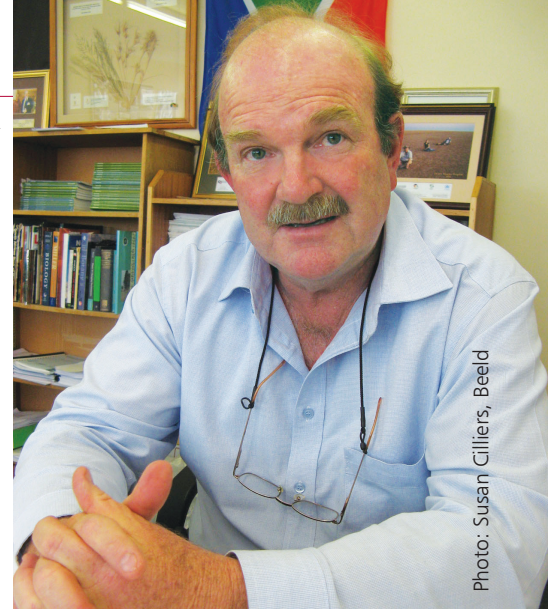


Photo: Susan Cilliers, Beeld

*Prof Klaus Kellner is a well-known environmental expert and is taking the lead in combatting land degradation and desertification globally.*

## Prof Kellner takes the lead

Prof Klaus Kellner from Botany on the Potchefstroom Campus is taking the lead internationally in the fight against land degradation and desertification all over the world.

Last year, Prof Klaus was elected Chairperson of an international committee for science and technology of the United Nations' Convention to combat desertification. He represents the entire Africa continent on the committee, which consists of only five people from all over the world.

According to Prof Klaus, desertification refers to land degradation (such as soil erosion by wind or water) that increases in the long term. South Africa is a good place to study land degradation, as most parts of our country receive an average rainfall of less than 500 mm per year.

“Due to economic pressures, people are depleting the natural resources in order to survive. Large parts of Southern Africa and Africa rely on natural grazing for animal production.”

Prof Klaus is involved in several international research projects in especially the Northern Cape, North West and other dry savannah areas in Southern Africa to determine the cause of land degradation, its impact and how it can be combated.

# Student triumphs in 'warfare'

For most people, the computer game Minesweeper is simply a way to pass the time, but for Bertie Seyffert, an MSc student from the Potchefstroom Campus, it is a passion with which he has achieved great heights.

Bertie is currently the best Minesweeper player in South Africa and Africa and is ranked number ten in the world.

Minesweeper is a computer game and the objective is to locate all the mines spread over the square grid as fast as possible, using logical clues. The better your brain power and coordination, the higher your ranking.

The game has become so popular over the last couple of years that global competitions are often being held – there is even a world

championship. All this is being done in the name of skills development, relaxation or strategic warfare.

Bertie already participated in the world championship in Budapest, Hungary, in 2007, and came fourth in Scotland in 2009.

During the world championship, which usually takes place at the relevant city's university, the participant with the highest score over ten games is crowned winner.

According to Bertie, the average score is approximately 400 seconds to complete ten games. This year, he made sure that he'd be invited once again to strut his stuff against the best in the world in Munich, Germany.





Doing monkey business – the vervet monkey colony of the Campus.

## A story tail to believe

A troop of vervet monkeys has made themselves at home on the Vaal Triangle Campus and they bring much fun and joy to those meeting them.

Staff, students and visitors to the Campus regard their monkey tricks with a twinkle in the eye and some even tell of mischievous pillaging during a cosy picnic or while socialising at a braai.

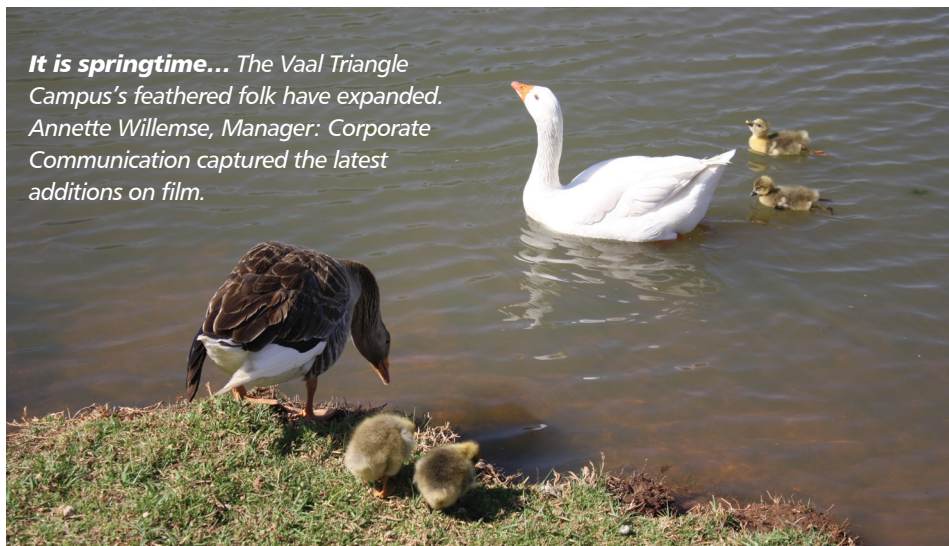
It is especially early in the morning, at around 06:30 that the monkeys’ mocking and playing draw one’s attention.

The troop, estimated between 40 and 50 monkeys, moves from one spot of sunlight

to the next. There are those who fidget for fleas, those who go into battle like wrestlers of yore, those who swing from branch to branch and those who cannot restrain their curiosity.

The vervet monkeys have their likes and dislikes. A colleague with a double cab bakkie recently caught monkey and friends dabbling on the roof of his vehicle. The assumption is that the vehicle was parked on their playground.

Students were caught unawares when one of the monkeys sat on the stairs to the cafeteria – he was motionless and many a student did not even notice him.



*It is springtime... The Vaal Triangle Campus’s feathered folk have expanded. Annette Willemse, Manager: Corporate Communication captured the latest additions on film.*

## Campus gets going with do-values

The student community of the Vaal Triangle Campus recently participated with great enthusiasm in the first of a series of events aimed at emphasising the do-values of the University and at cultivating a greater sensitivity for these values.

The essence of the first Do-values Day is best described by the old African saying, “Motho ke motho ka batho”, which refers to the philosophy of “people because of other people”.

The aim of the project is to actively involve students with these values to encourage them to make them part of their own life philosophy.

The NWU subscribes to the following do-values (with the focus on action-driven values): respect, integrity, accountability and commitment.

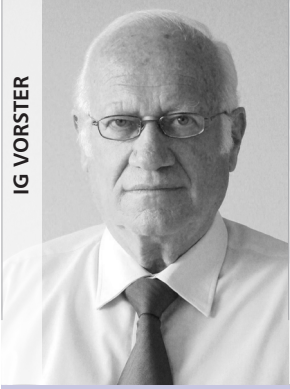
The Do-values Project was launched with a motivational speech by the well-known businessman and motivational speaker, Mr Buhle Dlamini, who is especially known for his involvement with the Heartlines Initiative.

The Heartlines Initiative represents a media conglomerate that focuses solely on the communication of action-driven values and hence the motion picture, Hopeville, was released to the South Africa film circuit recently.

In support of the project, a competition was launched to offer students the opportunity to give free rein to their creativity and in the process stand a chance to win big prizes.

The first theme of the event, Respect, should be depicted by students, using any medium they choose, including video streaming, photography, painting, poetry and creative writing.

IG VORSTER



JAMES BOTHA



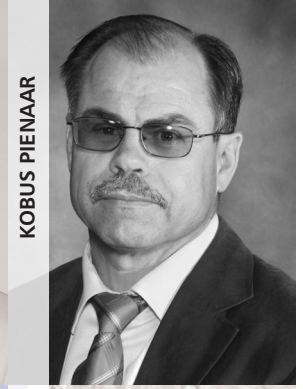
CHESTER MURULANA



MANDLA MAHLANGU



KOBUS PIENAAR



# Walking the extra mile

*As in the previous editions, Eish! would once again like to give recognition to all the NWU colleagues who are always willing to go the extra mile in doing their daily work.*

Mr Frans Kruger, Director of Institutional Legal Services, does not hesitate for a moment in nominating **Prof Ig Vorster** and **Mr James Botha**, both legal advisors in this section, for the extra mile. According to Frans, very few universities have the privilege to have the services of two practising attorneys like Prof Ig and James.

"No matter is too big or too small for Prof Ig - he goes out of his way to accommodate colleagues, and gives advice and consults with attorneys on behalf of the NWU even on weekends!" "James' knowledge of the practice is of great value. He did not hesitate to help out in a vacant post and he is always available if you want a sounding board for your thoughts," says Frans.

According to Ms Bakang Ndlangisa, secretary of the School of Environmental and Health Sciences in the Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology on the Mafikeng Campus, **Messrs Chester Murulana**, a technician, and **Mandla Mahlangu**, a laboratory assistant in the Chemistry Department of the same faculty should be praised for their hard work.

"They always work so hard and their positive attitude really makes a difference. They are always willing to help and contribute to the promotion of the department during the Science Week," she says.

**Prof Kobus Pienaar**, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, **Prof Gilbert Groenewaldt**, Director of the School of Computer, Statistical and Mathematical Sciences and **Prof Jan Fourie**, Focus Area Director of the Unit for Business Mathematics and Informatics all deserve compliments.

Dr Mariette Hitge, a senior lecturer in the subject group Mathematics and Applied Mathematics agrees that they really go out of their way

to accommodate and take their staff and colleagues into consideration. "Recently, they indeed walked many extra miles to address the staff shortages in the subject group and the circumstances rapidly improved."

Ms Annette Willemse, Manager: Corporate Communication on the Vaal Triangle Campus nominates **Ms Susan Wolff**, IT consultant on the same campus. According to her, Susan is the IT "good fairy" who time and again helps the users on the Vaal Triangle Campus with their computer problems.

"It happens to all of us. We forget our passwords, we forget to save our documents and certainly the worst of all - we sometimes delete important information that we will need again later. Susan, thank you that you are always willing to help!" says Annette.

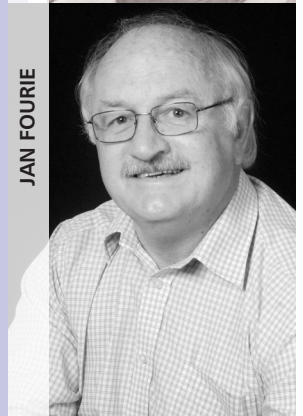
**Prof André Mellet**, a lecturer in the School of Economic Sciences at the Vaal Triangle Campus, is another stalwart. "Prof André plays a big role in the education and fostering of a sense of responsibility amongst our students, and he encourages them to live the do-values of the University - integrity, commitment, accountability and respect," says Mr Jacob Simango, Director of Student Affairs on the same campus. "He walks the extra mile, outside his normal duties, to make our Campus a place where one can live and learn."

*If you would like to nominate a colleague who always goes the extra mile, please send an e-mail to [Marelize.Santana@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Marelize.Santana@nwu.ac.za). Remember to indicate your job title and the name of your department or school as well as those of the person that you are nominating.*

GILBERT GROENEWALDT



JAN FOURIE



SUSAN WOLFF



ANDRÉ MELLET





MAMOKETE MOKOKO



MPHO MODUPE



RAELENE HORNSBY



BEAUTY MPHATSWA



KEABETSWE LEKOPANYE



JOHAN VAN ZYL



DALEEN VAN ZYL



CHARLES VAN DER VYVER

## And the winners are

**Congratulations** to the following colleagues who each **won a corporate gift pack:**

### *Eish! Edition 4 winners*

**Institutional Office:** Ms Raelene Hornsby, Committee Secretary, Institutional Corporative Management and Secretariat Services

**Mafikeng Campus:** Ms Beauty Mphatswa, Consultant, Information Technology Department

**Potchefstroom Campus:** Ms Keabetswe Lekopanye, Junior lecturer: Academic Literacy, Centre for Academic and Professional Language Practice

**Vaal Triangle Campus:** Mr Charles van der Vyver, Lecturer, School of Information Technology

### *Eish! Edition 5 winners*

**Institutional Office:** Ms Mpho Modupe, Office Manager, Language Directorate  
**Mafikeng Campus:** Ms Mamokete Mokoko, Secretary, Faculty of Agriculture, Science and Technology

**Potchefstroom Campus:** Mr Johan van Zyl, Communication Officer, Marketing and Communication Department

**Vaal Triangle Campus:** Ms Daleen van Zyl, Senior Lecturer, School of Accounting Sciences

We would like to thank everyone who participated. If you were not so lucky this time, here is the last opportunity before the end of the year to take part in our exciting competition.

# WIN! WIN! WIN!

You can win a corporate **gift pack** – just find the answers to the following **10 questions!**

- 6: What was the theme of this year's Casual Day?
- 7: Where can you get the publication: Pocket Statistics 2010/11?
- 8: What was the total amount of NWU student enrolments for 2008?
- 9: Bertie Seyffert is the king of what computer game?
- 10: Who is the sponsor of the Faculty Awards for Inspiring Teaching?

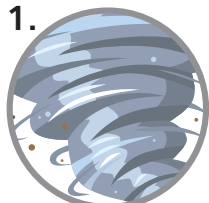
#### **SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO:**


**Post:** Marelize Santana, Internal box 260


**E-mail:** [Marelize.Santana@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Marelize.Santana@nwu.ac.za) with **Eish!** in the subject field

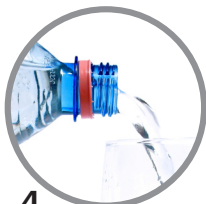
**Remember: Include your staff number, title, name, surname, job title and the name of your division and campus.**


The first correct entry per business unit that we draw, will win a prize!

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Identify the close-ups and provide the relevant page numbers on which they appear.

# Inspiring lecturers to win R50 000 each



If you are a lecturer who inspires students, you are eligible for the Rapport Faculty Awards for Inspiring Teaching, which involve considerable cash prizes.

In this competition, which will henceforth be an annual event, students choose one lecturer in each of the NWU's 15 faculties.

The students, who have one vote each, voted on 20 October by sms and mass mail. However, the raw data is not used as is. In order to ensure a fair result, percentages are calculated based on both the feedback and the number of students in a particular lecturer's class.

Accordingly, a lecturer who received 16 of the possible 20 votes in his or her class gets 80%, while a lecturer who received 350 out of 450 votes gets 78%.

The winners will be announced at the end of October during gala events on the respective campuses. Media24 is going to sponsor the prizes as well as the prize-giving events.

The competition, which will be driven by the student councils on the different campuses, is the brainchild of Mr Koos Bekker, the CEO of Media24. He believes that school teachers and lecturers at higher education institutions often make a lasting, positive impression on learners and students, and that they deserve to be recognised for their efforts.

This competition is in addition to other evaluation methods currently in existence at the NWU.

These methods include the NWU's Institutional Teaching Excellence Award

and the regular evaluation of lecturers by students, which is used as management instruments in schools and faculties.

According to Prof Marlene Verhoef, Special Advisor in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, this year's competition will serve as a trial run and the process will be further refined in the future.

Look out for the winners to be announced in the next edition of Eish!



On 30 August, the NWU won the PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Governance Award for Excellence in Higher Education for the fourth consecutive year. This time, the award is shared with the Vaal University of Technology. It is clear that the NWU could teach other higher education institutions in South Africa a thing or two about corporate governance...



**Motivation** is the art of  
 getting **people** to **do** what  
 you **want them** to do  
 because they **want to do** it.

– Dwight D Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States, 1953 - 1961

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