

Ruda advises researchers

Ms Ruda Landman, well-known journalist and media personality, visited the NWU to show researchers the ropes in communicating successfully with the media. More about this on p7.

Read this!

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Dear colleagues

Hard as it is to believe, we have already reached the end of the first quarter of 2011!

Before we get to the formal foreword, I would like to say a personal thank you for all the empathy and support after my recent accident during an equestrian endurance race. Fortunately, I'm much better now.

With regard to work matters: as you can probably glean from the contents of this second Eish! for 2011, all three campuses and the Institutional Office are busy achieving the year's objectives.

I am aware of the hard work that's being done on several fronts. Firstly, we are busy implementing the strategies to realise the NWU's mission – which as you know is to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university.

Secondly, we are pursuing the quest to position the institution nationally and internationally through a relentless focus on internationalisation and fundraising.

These efforts are not merely articulated in the various campus plans; they are also apparent in the manner in which we have been tackling the restructuring in the institutional IT office and shifting the focus towards greater effectiveness.

Several of the NWU's projects for 2011 will have an impact on the entire institution:

- The national Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQC) will probably require the most institutional energy – and it is almost as big as the HEQC audit in 2009. Literally each and every qualification offered by this university will come under scrutiny. Good luck to those who are going to be involved with this process. We know that the successful outcome will mean a lot for our own quality and alignment capabilities.
- The sustained improvement of our quality assurance processes is important as always. Thank you to everyone who is working so hard on the implementation of the quality improvement plan arising from the HEQC audit report.
- We are also currently in the process of recording the merger history of the NWU. A project team led by Prof Piet Prinsloo has been formed to document the University's success story in cooperation with experts on all the campuses. More details will follow.



We are looking forward to welcoming two new senior staff members. The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching-Learning, Prof Martin Oosthuizen (currently at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University), will be joining us on 1 June 2011. On the same date, Dr Ingrid Tufvesson, currently at the University of Cape Town, will take up her new position as Executive Advisor: Transformation and Diversity.

I am confident that both will have a significant positive impact on our activities.

I wish you all the best for the rest of 2011. Kind regards

Heuns Cloff



Eish! we're hard at work!

The activities that we write about in this edition reflect the NWU's mission to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university and to implement its expertise in an innovative way.

On p7 you can read how the academic support system, known as Supplemental Instruction, strengthens teaching-learning.

On the same page, you'll find information on science communication workshops arranged by Institutional Research Support as part of their strategy to promote research at the NWU.

As always, we also share news about the campuses on p10-12. It is clear that these three business units also give expression to the mission and vision.

The second-milers are still delivering a quality service – see who gets recognition on p13.

The competition winners for our first edition of the year are announced on p14 and there is a new chance to be one of the lucky winners.

We're already midway through April and the year has picked up momentum.

Let's all stand together, teach the rest of the higher education sector a thing or two and LIVE our mission and vision.

Regards,

Nelia & Marelize

The words 'mission' and 'vision' tend to make people suspicious. That's probably because, in many cases, missions and visions remain mere words on paper, with little or no practical effect in the activities and conduct of people.

Judging from the contents of this Eish! this is clearly not the case at the NWU: people at this university really live their values.

New Deputy Vice-Chancellor trades the seashore for inland Potch

The NWU's new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Martin Oosthuizen, has left the coast for inland South Africa – an exchange that will no doubt be beneficial for the NWU.

Prof Martin, currently Senior Director: Office for Academic Planning and Quality Advancement at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, has been appointed to the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching-Learning at the NWU from 1 June 2011.

"After 21 years in Port Elizabeth, this is a big step for us, but I think my wife, Gardi, and I will adjust easily and enjoy the hospitality of a rural city like Potchefstroom," he said in an interview with Eish.

He has always seen the NWU as a university with a strong connection to academic excellence in teaching-learning and research, as well as having a dynamic involvement in innovation in the interest of the community.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof Martin will be responsible for policy development, strategy, monitoring and co-ordination of teaching-learning, and for the academic positioning of the NWU in the sector and internationally.

He will also ensure that staff and students on all three campuses receive the same level and quality of academic support and development opportunities.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHANGE

Prof Martin says he's looking forward to being part of a university that has an innovative approach and plays a leading role in curriculum development and the utilisation of educational technology in the teaching and learning process.

He is very interested in the possibilities offered by open and distance education.

"I think the NWU is one of the few South African universities that are seizing the

challenge of a diversified learning context in the 21st century and developing strategies to address the needs of lifelong learners through a suitable balance between contact and distance education."

VERY IMPRESSED

According to Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor, the interviewing committee was very impressed with Prof Martin's rich experience, his performance during the assessment process and his vision for the NWU.

"His extensive knowledge of the higher education sector undoubtedly makes him the right person for the portfolio," he said.

Prof Martin in a nutshell

- Prof Martin Oosthuizen grew up and went to school in London, matriculated at St Andrew's College in Grahamstown and studied at the University of Stellenbosch.
- He is an enthusiastic sportsman and enjoys swimming, walking and cycling. He has completed a number of cycling tournaments, including the recent Cape Argus Cycle Tour.
- Just like the NWU Vice-Chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff, he holds degrees in Law and Theology.
- He has extensive lecturing experience at various tertiary institutions, is a member of the European Association for Institutional Research and has served on a number of high-profile higher education committees and panels.
- He and his wife, Gardi, have two children. Louzanne (26) is an industrial engineer at a consulting company in the Cape, while Tinus (24) recently started his medical internship at Addington Hospital in Durban.

Prof Martin says he will miss the cycling routes around PE – especially the mornings watching the sun rise over the sea. However, he hopes to enjoy cycling in Potchefstroom as well.



Cycling track now a certainty

There is no doubt about it – the NWU is going to construct the first indoor cycling track with a wooden surface (velodrome) in Africa.

In fact, the first sod will be turned before winter on the Fanie du Toit Sports Grounds of the Potchefstroom Campus.

“The project was given new impetus when the University recently obtained funds from the National Lottery,” says Mr Frans Kruger, Institutional Director: Legal Services.

Frans, who has been involved with national and international cycling, took the initiative to make the cycling track a reality. He also helped to obtain funding for the project based on national and international support.

FIRST PHASE

It is expected that the first phase of the project will be completed by the end of November this year.

The first phase entails construction of the concrete slab on which the wooden track will be built, as well as a tunnel from the outside to the inner section of the track (the infield), the 250 m cycling track itself, and the roof.

The track will meet international standards, with a view to hosting future international competitions.

The infield will be designed and equipped so that it can also be used for several other indoor sports and competitions, such as basketball, netball, boxing, table tennis and volleyball.

The first phase of the track will cost at least R30 million and the project will eventually cost an estimated R100 million to R120 million.

CORE BUSINESS ALSO BENEFITS

Good news for the core business of the NWU is that a Cycling Academy will also be established on the Potchefstroom Campus. National talent development and

an academic programme on the science of coaching will be linked to the cycling project.

According to Prof Dawie Malan, director of the Institute for Sport Sciences and Development on the Potchefstroom Campus, this initiative was received very positively by the International Cycling Union.



Mr Frédéric Magné (right), director of the International Cycling Union, reaffirmed the Union's support for the cycling track project during his visit to the NWU. With him is Mr Frans Kruger, director of Institutional Legal Services.

International experts visit the University

At the end of February 2011, two track builders, Mr Walter von Lütcken and Mr Afrim Veliu, visited the NWU. They are from WorldRecordTrack, a German-American company that has been involved with the design and construction of scores of velodromes around the world.

During the same visit, Mr Frédéric Magné, Director of the World Cycling Centre of the International Cycling Union and Director: Development of the Union in Aigle, Switzerland, held discussions with various NWU stakeholders.



Phase two of web completed

Electronic communication – and the World Wide Web in particular – plays an increasingly important role in people's personal and working lives.

For this reason, it was a strategic priority for the NWU to complete the second phase of the redevelopment of its website by the end of February 2011.

During this phase, the remaining information of the NWU's Institutional Office was published, along with the information of practically all support departments and faculties on the campuses – with the exception of the three faculties that already had their turn during phase one.

In the next phase, the student-related pages, such as student associations and residences, will be redeveloped. At the same time, the material that was developed in the first two phases will come under the spotlight.

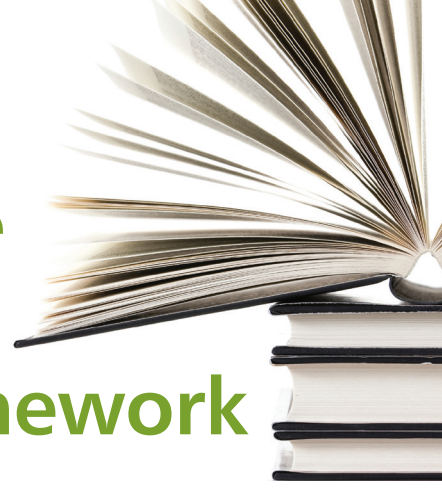
“As part of our quality control, we check that all links are working and that the content and appearance of the pages meet the set requirements,” says Ms Elmarie Cronje, NWU Web Content Manager.

“We will also find ways to empower departments and faculties to perform their publishing functions without any hiccups, focusing on those parts of the web for which they are responsible.”

A new, more user-friendly content management system, Drupal, will be replacing the current system later this year. All publishers will receive the necessary training to use Drupal. However, Drupal will not influence the appearance of the newly created pages.



We must contribute to South Africa's qualification framework



In future, Eish! is going to focus on strategic projects or activities that concern NWU staff. This first instalment of the series is all about the NWU's involvement with the revision of the Higher Education Qualification Framework (HEQF). We asked Prof Marlene Verhoef, Executive Advisor: Strategy and Projects in the office of the Vice-Chancellor, to tell us more about the project.

Q: What is expected of the NWU?

A: Before the end of September 2011, the NWU needs to submit detailed information about its 748 academic programmes to the Council on Higher Education for the revision of the HEQF.

Q: Has the University started with this huge task?

A: Yes, a project has already been launched by the Institutional Project Office to drive the entire process in cooperation with all stakeholders at the NWU.

There's no need to be concerned – enough help will be available to ensure that the process goes smoothly.

Q: Mention has been made of a pilot project – could you elaborate?

A: Following consultation with various stakeholders, it was decided to start the NWU project in the form of a pilot project, which will subsequently be used as a model for the further roll-out to the other faculties.

For the pilot project, the programmes in the Faculty of Theology are being used.

The reason for this is that Theology started its internal processes towards HEQF alignment a long time ago and is therefore in a position to make a valuable input at different levels towards developing best procedures for dealing with this matter.

Q: How will the project unfold after the pilot?

A: During phase one (April to September

2011), the NWU has to classify its programmes, and then deal with them according to specific categories.

There are three categories:

A – Programmes that need to be adapted only slightly to fit the format of the qualification framework.

B – Programmes that require some development before they can be aligned.

C – Programmes that cannot be aligned at all and either need to be phased out or replaced.

During phase one, the NWU has to collect the Category A programmes' information and then submit it electronically on a prescribed template. Phase two (October 2011 to December 2014) will deal with the Category B programmes.

Q: Is this a national project?

A: Yes, all higher education institutions in South Africa must provide this information to the Council on Higher Education.

Q: Why should everybody use a prescribed template?

A: This will ensure uniformity. Once the process is complete, the same type of data will be available nationally about the academic programmes of universities and universities of technology.

Q: How are you going to keep staff abreast of the project?

A: Further information will be communicated in due course by the Institutional Project Office through various channels.

Did you know?

Important role players in the NWU's process are:

- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching-Learning
- The Institutional Office for Academic Development and Support
- The campus offices for Academic Development and Support
- The campus vice-rectors
- "Owners" of programmes across the University
- The Institutional Project Office
- Institutional Information Technology
- Institutional Management Information Systems
- Institutional Student Administrative Systems

How will South Africa benefit?

The revised qualification framework will supply the Department of Higher Education and Training, as well as higher education institutions, with the following information:

- Which programmes are offered nationally by universities and universities of technology.
- How these programmes compare to each other, for instance with regard to names, admission requirements, credit values, qualification standards, goals, etc.
- How the approximately 8 000 to 20 000 programmes for higher education in South Africa can be aligned with the format of the qualification framework and ultimately with each other. (Only those programmes that have been submitted by the NWU since January 2009 are already aligned with the qualification framework.)
- The extent to which the programmes are sufficient to meet the country's skills requirements, where the gaps are and how they can be addressed.

These experts **know** their **subjects**

The NWU is home to leading experts in a range of fields. They are often quoted in the media as opinion leaders and subject matter specialists. Eish! is proud to bring you some of their recently reported media comments and will continue to keep you posted in future editions.

“ The adjustment of marks in the 2010 matric results doesn't really help learners. In the school of life, marks don't get adjusted. ”

*Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor
Beeld, 11 January 2011*



“ Wetlands have an inherent ability to deal with pollutants. If you had to do this purification industrially, it would cost about 50 000 dollars per hectare per year. South Africa has already lost 50% of its wetlands – which means that we have effectively lost the free water purification work that would have been done by the wetlands.”



*Prof Henk Bouwman, Zoology,
Potchefstroom Campus
Radio Sonder Grense (RSG), 2 February 2011*



“ The big question is whether or not teachers are able to cope with the increasing pressure. Teachers choose their career because they have a passion for teaching children. But if the workload and demands become too great, it can extinguish their passion and paralyse their coping mechanisms.”

*Prof Leoné Malan, Research Niche Area: Hypertension in Africa (Hart), Potchefstroom Campus
Beeld, 5 February 2011*

“ The recent events in Tunisia, Egypt and the Middle East in general should be a clarion call for South Africa, which is sitting on a similar time bomb with its thousands upon thousands of unemployed youth ... We have class inequalities and groups that can be mobilised politically, especially in the run-up to an election. We have every reason for concern, seeing as people's discontent can reach a point where it becomes irreversible. ”



*Prof André Duvenhage,
political expert,
Potchefstroom Campus
RSG and Beeld,
14 February 2011*

The fact that the team managed to win the University Sport South Africa tournament for two consecutive years shows that the Soccer Institute's successful model is achieving its goal of developing individuals to become outstanding soccer players.

*Mr Johan Govea, Director of the Soccer Institute, Mafikeng Campus
The Star, 14 December 2010*



“ There's currently a positive momentum in the economy. Inflation will rise slowly, from a low base, and the chances for further interest rate cuts are close to zero.”



*Mr André Mellet,
Economist, Vaal
Triangle Campus
Radio Sonder
Grense (RSG),
19 January 2011*



Researchers get media smart

The world of science is exploding into the consciousness of the public. It is no longer a field shrouded in the secret jargon of research, but is starting to filter into the mainstream media through easy-to-follow phrases and interesting facts.

To be able to communicate effectively in this “new” world where mainstream media and elite research meet, scientists and researchers should know how the world of media works and what will make a journalist take note of their research.

For this reason, the NWU presented a special Science Communication Workshop on all three campuses, led by two well-known and

experienced media practitioners, Ms Ruda Landman and Ms Marina Joubert.

This workshop was presented for the third consecutive year.

As part of the workshop, researchers learned more about the workings of the media world and how they fit into it, complete with practical tips and suggestions on how to “write down” their research so that the readers have something to sink their teeth into.

The best – and worst – part of the workshop included a mock interview with Ruda.

This was aimed at teaching the researchers how to think on their feet, to focus on the

Ms Jeannine Keating from the Faculty of Education Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus (right) in a mock interview with Ms Ruda Landman. The interview was recorded and later played back to the workshop audience, to help researchers hone their interview skills.

three main points of their research and to communicate clearly with a television audience through a camera lens.

The Science Communication workshop will once again be presented in 2012.

* Ruda Landman’s media career started in 1977 as a newspaper journalist, moving to radio, magazines and TV news before taking her place in 1985 as co-anchor of South Africa’s first live actuality programme on television, *Netwerk*. She joined the *Carte Blanche* team at its inception in August 1988.

* Marina Joubert pioneered the Science Communication Unit at South Africa’s National Research Foundation and expanded its activities extensively before starting out as an independent science communication consultant in 2005. She is trained as an editor, producer, researcher and press officer and teaches Science Communication at two local universities.

SI makes the difference

For many NWU students, the academic support system known as Supplemental Instruction (SI) makes the difference between passing and failing.

In order to promote SI at the University, three SI student leaders visited Kansas City in the United States with Ms Mariaan Klopper from Institutional Academic Support and Development.

They attended a meeting of the International SI Forum at the University of Missouri from 13 to 16 March 2011.



The three SI student leaders are in front from left, Mr Jacques Matthee, Potchefstroom Campus, Mr Bertus Schrop, Vaal Triangle Campus, and Mr Matthews Makwela, Mafikeng Campus. In the back are Dr Charl Nel, SI Coordinator, Potchefstroom Campus, Ms Dine du Preez, SI Coordinator, Vaal Triangle Campus, Dr Muki Moeng, Institutional Director: Academic Support and Development, Ms Mariaan Klopper from the same department, and Ms Annelize Cronjé, SI Coordinator, Mafikeng Campus.

From farm boy to professor



In our series on management members of the NWU, we will be interviewing our deans. First in line is Prof Tinie Theron from the Vaal Triangle Campus.

As a farm boy, the Basotho called him “the one who plays with rocks”.

Even today, Prof Tinie Theron, Dean: Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus, loves everything related to nature but has very little interest in materialism and pretentiousness.

This world view grew with him in the wide open spaces of the North-Eastern Free State. He and his brother and two sisters were raised on a farm in the Memel district and attended a one-teacher school.

SECURE ENVIRONMENT

“Some of my best memories are of the simplicity of my childhood years and of spending time with the family on cold winter evenings around the black stove in the kitchen,” he says.

It is in this secure environment that his mother gave him advice that he remembers to this day.

“She told me not to measure myself

against other people – you compete with yourself. She also told me that doing your best every day is good enough. Also, never give up and remember that life is what you make of it.”

This advice has guided him throughout his 23 years on the Vaal Triangle Campus. When he was appointed professor in Education Management on 1 January 1988, the Campus was still small enough for the staff members to drink tea together and exchange ideas on a daily basis.

BIG CHANGES

The Campus has changed a lot since then, especially in size and demographics. In 1988, there were approximately 1 000 students and all of them were white; today, the Campus has more than 5 000 students from different population groups and cultures.

The academic culture has also changed. The emphasis used to be solely on quality teaching, whereas today the Faculty maintains a good balance between teaching-learning and research.

STRENGTHS

Prof Tinie says that the Faculty’s greatest strengths are the dedicated and motivated staff corps, high-quality teaching-learning activities and the increasingly vibrant research culture.

An example of a teaching-learning achievement is that a master’s degree in Positive Psychology – a first in South Africa – was recently approved by the Department of Education.

In the case of research, the Faculty is also producing some significant successes.

“We have just established our first



During a recent holiday, Prof Tinie Theron (right), his sons, Le Roux (left) and Eswill, and his wife Linda, stayed over at Elandsrus, a guest farm near Drie Susters in the Karoo.

research focus area, Understanding and Processing Language in Complex Settings (UPSET), in the Faculty. A second, Enabling Optimal Expression of Individual, Social and Institutional Potential (Optentia), will in all probability also be recognised as a focus area soon."

The Faculty also has a number of research niches, namely Pathways to Resilience in Southern Africa, The Cultural Dynamics of Water and Ancient Texts.

In addition, the accredited article output of the Faculty has increased from 27 to 56 (107%) over the past four years. These teaching-learning and research

highlights illustrate the balance Prof Tinie believes in achieving.

"In my opinion, a good academic is not merely someone who teaches excellently, but also a nationally and internationally respected researcher – someone who knows how to integrate teaching-learning and research."

DEVELOPING POTENTIAL

He takes pleasure in supporting his staff on different levels, so that they can realise their full potential and, at the same time, help the University to achieve its objectives.

And what are the challenges in his work?

"There are many, but if I have to pick three, they are: to always be objective, to ensure that everybody is treated fairly, and to increase academic productivity without losing sight of the person."

His objectives for 2011 are to further increase the quality of the teaching-learning and research in the Faculty and to create an ideal environment for academics involved in these activities to thrive.

As a farm boy he built with rocks, but as a professor he builds with knowledge. Brick by brick he lays the foundation on which students and staff can further develop their careers.

My favourite dish: Sheep offal

My favourite book or film: There are many, but if I had to choose one, it would be *The Power of One* by Bryce Courtenay. It is the story of a person who succeeded in life in the face of difficult circumstances.

What makes me happy: I believe that you are responsible for your own happiness, but I really enjoy spending time with my wife and two sons. Life with all its interesting facets and intrigues makes me laugh; also, people and their little habits.

An animal/creature that I admire: A

cockroach, because it's probably one of the most hardened and adaptable insects on the planet. Some species can stay active without food for a month, and survive for up to 45 minutes in a vacuum and half an hour under water. And they have managed to survive for millions of years, despite man's attempts to eradicate them.

What I like in people: Honesty, integrity and a sense of humour.

My passion in life: Living every day to the full, as if it is my last.

Person who I would like to have a conversation with: I would have liked to

ask Darwin why man has evolved a response such as blushing that allows him to show to other people that he is shy or embarrassed, or has lied or cheated.

My favourite vacation spot: The Drakensberg and the Bushveld.

What I do for relaxation: Walking, reading and listening to music (from Mozart to Metallica).

The members of my family: My wife, Linda, is a professor in Educational Psychology on the Vaal Triangle Campus. I have two sons: Eswill is a business analyst and Le Roux is a chartered accountant.

Two more NRF-rated researchers

The School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences in the Faculty of Agricultural Science and Technology boasts two newly NRF-rated researchers.

Prof Eno Ebenso from the Department of Chemistry was awarded a C1 rating and Prof Masood Khalique, from the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, received a C2 rating.

Prof Eno's research interest spans physical chemistry and includes electrochemistry, kinetics, adsorption, thermodynamics of corrosion, hydrogen evolution and thermometric methods, as well as synergistic and antagonistic studies.

"This means a lot for my academic growth

and I look forward to obtaining an even better rating in the future," he said.

Prof Masood regards his NRF-rating as a huge benefit. "This rating can possibly open more doors for my PhD, master's and honours students to receive bursaries."

His research focuses on Lie Symmetry Approaches for analysing and solving differential equations, both linear and nonlinear ordinary and partial differential equations. It also covers symmetry analysis techniques for astronomy, fluid dynamics and theoretical physics.

This latest achievement increases the number of NRF-rated researchers on the Mafikeng Campus to nine.

Prof Bernard Mbenga (left) and Prof Andrew Manson.



History book internationally acknowledged

A history book co-written and edited by three university professors, including Prof Bernard Mbenga from the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of the NWU's Mafikeng Campus, recently won a prestigious international accolade.

The book, entitled *The Cambridge History of South Africa, Vol.1, From Early Times to 1885*, published in 2010 by the Cambridge University Press, made the list of *Choice Magazine's* Outstanding Academic Titles for 2010.

Choice is the most important publication targeting academic libraries in the United States, with each issue reviewing hundreds of academic titles in a wide variety of fields. More than 25 000 titles were submitted to *Choice*, and the book was one of the less than 3% that were selected.

Prof Bernard's co-authors and editors are Prof Carolyn Hamilton of the University of Cape Town and Prof Robert Ross of the University of Leiden, Netherlands.

Also during 2010, Prof Bernard and Prof Andrew Manson, a research professor from the School of Research and Post-graduate Studies in the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences co-published a fascinating book on the Bafokeng.

It is entitled: *'People of the Dew': A History of the Bafokeng of the Phokeng-Rustenburg District, South Africa, From Early Times to 2000*, published by Jacana Press, Johannesburg.

Rector performs new roles

Prof Dan Kgwadi, the Rector of the Mafikeng Campus, has been appointed NWU Vice-Principal for 2011.

The NWU Council recently decided that the function of Vice-Principal should no longer be linked to a specific portfolio and therefore this function will rotate among the members of Institutional Management. The Vice-Principal will stand in for the Vice-Chancellor if he is not available.

Prof Dan has also accepted the position of house parent for the Phase 2 and Phase 3 residences, which are mainly occupied by first years. He officially took up this responsibility from the beginning of 2011.

According to Prof Dan, house parenting is very important within the university context.

"Currently, students who enrol for their first year at universities are relatively young and most of them still need close parental guidance. The role of house parents is to ensure that there is a support programme in place to help students fulfill their academic, physical, religious and social needs."

"This is why I decided to dedicate my own time and to empower

support structures such as residence committees and their councils to drive the programme," he adds.

Prof Dan started lecturing first-year Physics students in 2010 and will continue to do so during 2011.



Prof Dan Kgwadi



Former staff member honoured for massive sculpture

The well-known sculptor and former staff member, Mr Barend Grobbelaar, was honoured for his work in the foyer of the Joon van Rooy Building.

This architectonic sculpture, measuring 36 m in length and 2,8 m in height, was considered the biggest slab in the world to be cast in situ at the time (The Joon van Rooy Building was occupied 30 years ago).

The relief panels illustrate the interaction between the University and its communities.

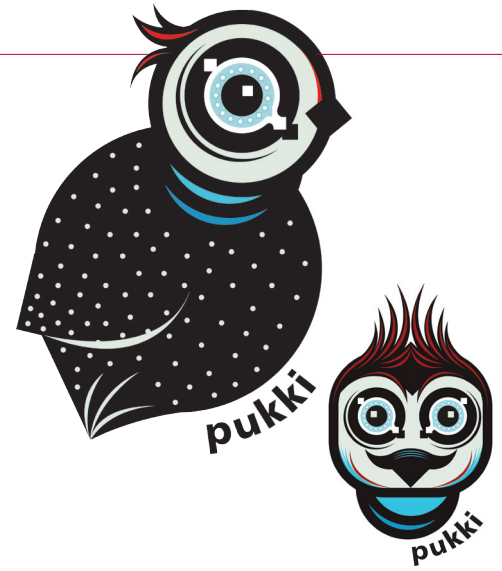
The symbols in the panels depict a tree both as a Christian symbol and an organic factory that processes moisture, nutrients and sunlight to provide vitality and to store energy.

From 1972 to 1980, Barend was a lecturer in sculpture at the former Potchefstroom



The sculptor, Mr Barend Grobbelaar, talking with the Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, and the two architects of the building, Mr Nardus Conradie and Mr Arend Müller.

University for Christian Higher Education. In 1981, he started his art school, Studio Visio, where he is still an active professional artist. Some of his works can be found in both local and European collections.



The Pukki icon will in future refer to any Pukki product and service.

The Pukki is here!

The Pukki is the new mascot of the Potchefstroom Campus.

The project was launched last year in March by the Rector, Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, in collaboration with the Department of Marketing and Communication (MAC) to address several communication gaps on the Campus.

MAC designed this unique icon with the assistance of the subject group Graphic Design, under the guidance of Ms Emarie Gouws and Mr Richardt Strydom.

The primary aim of the Pukki is to serve as communication medium between students, the Student Council and Campus Management.

There are two versions of the mascot. The first version is an icon that will be used to refer to any Pukki product and service. The second version is a physical mascot which will appear at sports events and especially during the Varsity Cup.

Mr Christoff Swanepoel, media and corporate officer of MAC, who is also the project manager, describes the Pukki as interesting, kitsch, common, amazing and diverse, not a person, not an animal, but a Pukki. "The Pukki is absolutely anything you would like it to be," he says.

A fast pace at the School of Music

The pace of activities at the School of Music is definitely 'allegro': quick and lively. Have a look:

New editor for church music journal

Prof Hetta Potgieter was recently appointed as the new editor of "Vir die Musiekleier", the journal of the Southern African Church Organists' Society (SAKOV). Prof Hetta is also the research leader of the niche area Musical Arts in South Africa: Resources and Applications.

Exceptional examination results for singers

Two diploma students from the School achieved exceptional results in Unisa's vocal (voice) examinations.

Mr Eddie Mofokeng, baritone, achieved the highest score (95%) in the country in the Grade 5 vocal examination, and received the Nellie du Toit Merit Bursary for the second consecutive year.

Ms Masabata Hlubi, soprano, scored 91% in the Grade 3 examination. Both students will be included on Unisa's Honour Roll for 2010.

Third postdoctoral fellow

The School of Music welcomed its third postdoctoral fellow, Dr Kapambwe Lumbwe, from Zambia. For the next three years, Dr Kapambwe will be working in the niche area Musical Arts in South Africa: Resources and Applications, and his research will focus on Setswana, Tshivenda and isiZulu music.



Water research the key to discovering sustainable water resources

The world's population is expected to reach the seven billion-mark by 2012. According to a projection of the United States government, the six billion-mark was reached in 1999, which means that it took only 13 years for a billion more people to be born.

This rapid population growth has a direct impact on the sustainability of vital natural resources such as water.

It is this impact of man on the environment that interests research leaders and students in the niche area Cultural Dynamics of Water (CuDyWat).

They do transdisciplinary research with a

view to ensuring the sustainability of water resources for the future.

According to Prof Johann Tempelhoff, Head of the niche area, the consequences of climate change and the increase in population numbers will lead to a water shortage in Southern Africa in the foreseeable future.

Prof Johann explains that this region is one of the 30 driest zones in the world.

The research of the niche area includes the ways in which communities consume water, problems in the water sector, and environmentally friendly activities that can be employed to ensure sustainable water resources for the future.

Longfellow residence joins campus family

The Vaal Triangle Campus recently welcomed the first students to the newly completed Longfellow residence.

This off-campus residence is home to more than 300 students and therefore proudly takes its place as the second largest residence of the Campus. According to Mr Frans Basson, Director of Facilities, the new residence alleviates the pressure from the growing demand for student housing.

Each unit consists of three bedrooms shared among six students, a kitchen and a bathroom. Situated approximately 7 km from the Campus, a shuttle service ensures that the students commute safely to and from their classes and other activities.

The influx of first-year students in 2010 saw the residences being filled to capacity and hence an alternative solution was needed. The Campus Management identified the need for additional housing and the Longfellow development is being leased in an effort to address the challenge.

As in the case of any other residence, Longfellow needs the leadership and support of a house parent and Ms Busi Khaba, a junior lecturer in Political Science, has taken up this important position.

The Campus now has seven residences: Thuthuka, Jasmyn, Vergelegen, Oryx, Acacia, Faranani (off-campus) and Longfellow (off-campus).

Vaal students get their own newsletter – Student 24/7

It is finally here! For the first time the Campus boasts its very own campus e-newsletter, Student 24/7! Student 24/7 will be distributed on a monthly basis and provides student news for students, by students.

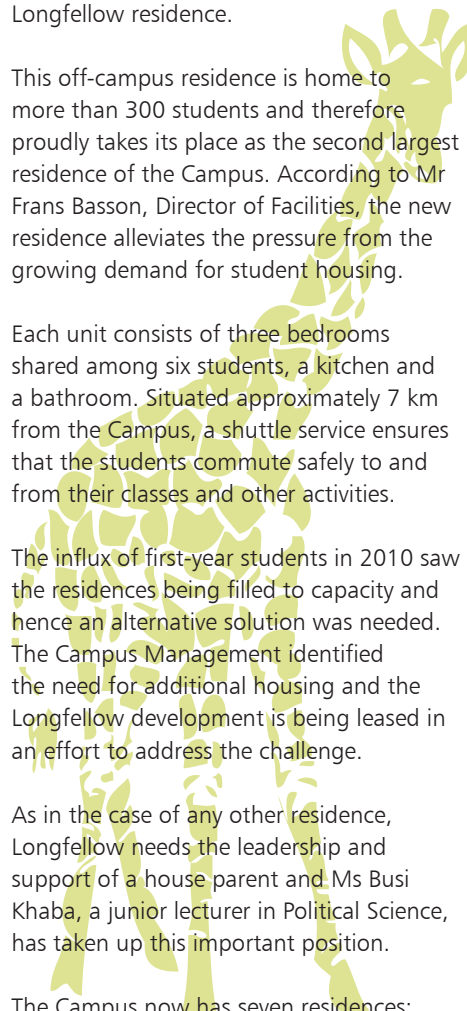
Student 24/7 was the brainchild of a group of first-year students. These students are all members of the School of Communication Studies within the Faculty of Humanities. They have a healthy appetite for language and communication, and represent the heartbeat of this publication.

The editorial team currently consists of Ms Melissa van der Merwe (editor), Ms Mpho Moko, Mr Tshepo Raseleso and

Ms Hannelie Pieterse. The publication is compiled under the auspices of the Corporate Communication Department.

"We decided on an electronic magazine format to do our bit to save the environment by reducing paper consumption," said Ms Annette Willemse, Manager: Corporate Communication.

"As most of you probably know, our campus is situated within a proclaimed nature reserve and therefore each and every member of the campus community has a responsibility to protect our environment. Environmental stewardship is something all of us should embrace and advocate."



A unique student culture is already evident within the Longfellow residence. The emblem of the Longfellow residence is a giraffe.

YOLANDI CLOETE



EUGINIA MARCH



SANTIE PIETERSE



ERIKA DE VRIES



AILEEN JOUBERT



Extra-milers still going strong

The response from staff for role models we can all look up to has been great and the extra mile mailbox is bursting at the seams! We again use this opportunity to give recognition to our colleagues who are always willing to go the extra mile in their work.

Ms Yolandi Cloete, secretary of the Academic Development and Support Department in the Institutional Office, always helps where she can, often above and beyond her own duties. "She is an example to all of us," says Ms Mariaan Klopper, Manager: Teaching and Learning from the same department.

According to Prof Oladejo Olowu, a research professor in the Faculty of Law on the Mafikeng Campus, **Ms Euginia March**, a supervisor in the Department of Information Technology on the same campus, is always enthusiastic and willing to help.

"Despite her busy schedule, she still manages to be friendly and offer her help. Because of her extensive knowledge of the University, she is often approached for help, and she never hesitates to help out, even if the matter at hand is not her responsibility," says Prof Oladejo.

Another person who deserves a compliment is **Ms Santie Pieterse**, senior administrative assistant in the design studio Graphikos in the Academic Support Department on the Potchefstroom Campus. Ms Antoinette Vermeulen, Quality Manager: Academic Programmes, and Ms Johanna Muller, Quality Manager: Support Services in the Institutional Quality Office, agree that she is always friendly and ready to lend a hand with layout work – even at short notice.

"Santie makes suggestions about changes and always gives us new ideas, which means that she delivers a very high-quality service."

Ms Yolande Bechaz, secretary in the office of the Institutional Manager: Finance, wanted to nominate two staff members. According to her, **Ms Erika de Vries**, Assistant Manager: Sports Houses and Guest Accommodation, and **Ms Aileen Joubert**, Assistant Manager: Astrovilla Guest House in the Residence and Catering Department on the Potchefstroom Campus, are always willing to make a plan to help her out.

"Sometimes I need to reserve accommodation for auditors, and these two ladies have often helped me arrange accommodation at short notice. Erika and Aileen really go out of their way to deliver a good service," says Yolande.

Mr Oarabile Lechuti, investigating officer in the Protection Services Department on the Mafikeng Campus, is another true stalwart. "Oarabile is a dedicated and hard-working person and renders an outstanding service," says Mr Jack Ganakgomo, Manager: Protection Services. In January he arrested a number of suspects and was able to recover stolen goods that belonged to Korean visitors. "He is loyal and does not hesitate to help people from other departments on the Campus."

Ms Izette Schouwstra, Convocation Coordinator in the Corporate Affairs and Relations Department in the Institutional Office, nominated **Mr Wayne Cusens**, IT helpdesk assistant in the IT Department on the Potchefstroom Campus. "Wayne is always helping despite his workload; he offers good advice and his friendly nature is a great plus."

The hard work of **Mr Corrie Bornman**, senior administrative assistant, and **Mr Johannes Lesabe**, locksmith, both of the Protection Services Department on the Potchefstroom Campus, does not go unnoticed. "We would like to thank them for their excellent, friendly, helpful, professional and quick service," says Ms Corlé Conradie, office manager of the School of Communication Studies in the Faculty of Arts on the Potchefstroom Campus.

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. Remember to give your job title and the name of your department or school, as well as the particulars of the person who you wish to nominate.

OARABILE LECHUTI



WAYNE CUSENS



CORRIE BORNMAN



JOHANNES LESABE



And the winners are...

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



Institutional Office: Ms Hope Abrahams, secretary, Career Centre



Mafikeng Campus: Mr Solly Tamenti, mail officer, Department Facilities



Potchefstroom Campus: Prof Ewert Kleynhans, associate professor, School of Economics

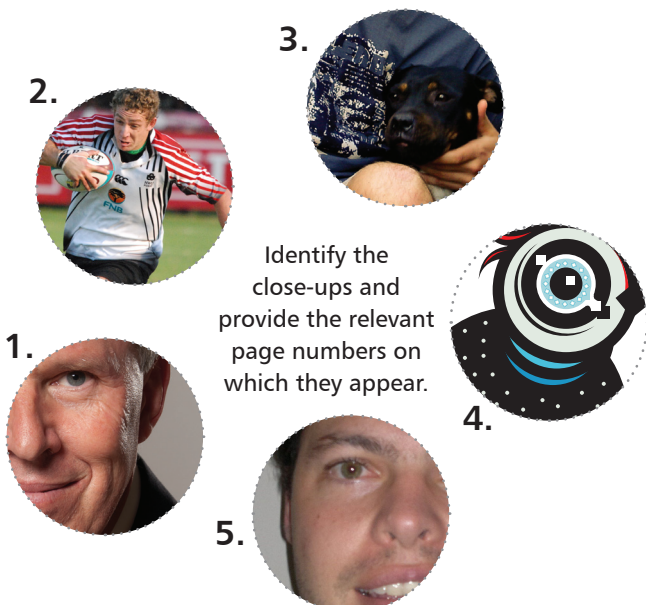


Vaal Triangle Campus: Prof Jan-Louis Kruger, Director, School of Languages

We would like to thank everyone who participated – we received a whole bunch of entries from each business unit of the NWU. If you were not so lucky the first time, here is another opportunity to take part in our exciting competition.

Win! Win! Win!

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



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

- 6: What is the length of the Velodrome that will be built by the NWU?
- 7: What does HEQF stand for?
- 8: What did the Basotho call Prof Tinie Theron when he was a young boy?
- 9: What does CuDyWat stand for?
- 10: During which activity was Dr Theuns Eloff injured?

SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO:

Post: Marelize Santana, Internal box 260

Email: 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!

Self-registration for all students now a reality

Did you know that as from 2012 all students will be able to register online?

This will be possible thanks to improvements implemented on the Varsity Student System (VSS), ensuring correct self-registration from any computer with internet access.

The web registration system was launched a few years ago and at the time it was only accessible to students with clean academic records, which meant that only students who passed all their modules could register online.

During the 2011 registration period, the new improved system was implemented on a pilot basis, and three faculties – one from each campus – took part. On the Mafikeng Campus it was the Faculty of Law, on the Potchefstroom Campus the Faculty

of Economic and Management Sciences, and on the Vaal Triangle Campus the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology.

Ms Elize Schutte, director of the Department Student Administrative Systems in the Institutional Office, said that at least 1 700 students were able to register online between 10 and 28 January 2011. The general response among the students was positive, and as a result the system will be rolled out in full in 2012.

According to Elize, the new and improved system offers a functionality that allows for academic rules to be applied on a module basis. The system will therefore be able to verify which modules students qualify to register for. This will reduce registration queues and assist in the curriculum control process.

All a student will need for web registration is a student number and internet access, and to create a unique pin code. All modules and general information for registration are available on the system, but it is important to note that students who want to change courses, will not be able to register online.



Hold your horses! After Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor, was injured during an endurance race in February this year, the NWU community showed their goodwill by inundating him with messages and good wishes. Fortunately, he's back in the saddle again. Here Mr Frans du Preez, Director in the office of the Vice-Chancellor, hands him some of the messages.



You can't **build a reputation**
 only on what you are still
planning to do. – Henry Ford



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