

eish!



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

Staff newsletter for the NWU

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This year, the NWU once again supported its Comrades athletes along the route. The supporter group felt part of the action at the Bonitas Comrades Expo, which took place before the ultra marathon. In front from the left are Mr Kaizer Phakathi, Potchefstroom Campus, and Mr Corrie Landsberg from the Mafikeng Campus. In the back from the left are Ms Elmarie Cronje from the Institutional Office, Ms Mary Tlhapi from the Mafikeng Campus and Mr Johan van Zyl from the Potchefstroom Campus.



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear colleagues

Winter is upon us and the second semester is just around the corner. Now is the ideal time to take stock.

We recently finished the 2010 Annual Report and it reminded us once again of the outstanding achievements of the NWU in the previous academic year in all the core performance areas. Looking at the period

2005 to 2010, the unmistakable growth trajectory of the NWU clearly shows that we have succeeded in establishing ourselves as a respected university in the South African higher education sector. (Watch the video in which I gave an overview of our recent achievements: http://www.nwu.ac.za/static-content/media/VC_message_June2011.wmv)

Following the recent series of meetings with each of the campus managements, institutional management is also aware of the good progress made so far in aligning the campus plans with the Institutional Plan. We are looking forward to the effect of these increased levels of synergy in realising the NWU route map.

With regard to the continuous refinement and improvement of management processes, I would like to further clarify the following matters:

- The KUALI project, a universitywide project that involves Institutional Information Technology, Finance and Student Systems, is getting a lot of attention at the moment. This international project is aimed at the development and maintenance of open-source software for university use. This could potentially make a big difference in the way the administrative support system at the university can be used in service of the core business.

- The extensive staff corps project managed by the Institutional Project Office was aimed at the informed establishment of an optimal staff complement at the NWU. Due to the extent of the project, it had to be subdivided into several smaller projects, such as large-scale data cleanup, timesheet recording, a human resource alignment process and an investigation into the affordability of modules.

Good progress has been made and we should have a first position-driven organigram ready by the end of July, which should provide important information for the finalisation of the 2012 budget.

We are also happy to announce that the university's Lotto application for a velodrome on the Potchefstroom Campus has been approved. Construction will start as soon as the sponsors' naming rights are finalised. It will be the first wooden cycling track in Africa and definitely a big breakthrough for the further positioning of the NWU in the sports arena.

I trust that you all enjoyed the well-deserved break. Good luck in advance for the second semester!

Kind regards

Juans Cloff

Eish!, co-operation works!

Team spirit ran high at this year's Comrades marathon. A team from the NWU gave their all in support of Comrades athletes who had an association with the university (article on p4 and 5).

Probably the main motivation for athletes to carry on to the bitter end despite the pain and fatigue, is the camaraderie among themselves and the support of spectators along the route.

At the NWU, too, camaraderie and support play a major role.

Just past the halfway mark for 2011, it is clear that the NWU community is well on the way towards achieving many of the

objectives for 2011 by putting their collective shoulder to the wheel.

The content of this edition of Eish! underlines the importance of teamwork: read about how our academics take the lead together at national level (p11), how our staff collaborate to get buildings constructed (p12), and how our experts promote the image of the university by participating in public debate on a variety of topics (p7).

With more than half the year gone, the pace is picking up. Let's encourage one another in the spirit of camaraderie and face the rest of the year with fresh courage and strength.

Regards,



Nelia & Marelize

NWU makes headway with energy efficiency

For our second article about energy efficiency, *Eish!* met up again with the 'Meet en Weet' (Measure and Know) office of the Institutional Department: Physical Infrastructure and Planning (PIP). We found out more about general energy consumption on the three campuses, how Eskom's tariff increase will impact the Potchefstroom Campus especially, and what the NWU can do to save electricity.

According to Mr Hendrik Esterhuizen, engineer from PIP, the time has come to take a serious interest in energy saving. This is vital to ensure that the university meets its financial and environmental responsibilities.

"We have to go the extra mile and seriously consider our time-of-use energy consumption and determine what we can do to save energy," he says.

ENERGY METERING

The three campuses of the university have many sub and mini-stations to maintain the supply of electricity from the relevant municipality or Eskom. Fortunately, the *Meet en Weet* office is able to keep track of overall consumption through its central monitoring system.

To make energy usage more visible and easier to understand and control, a university-wide energy measurement system has been implemented, using automated meter reading. More energy control measures will be implemented to establish the optimum system in the future.

TARIFF OVERVIEW

The rising cost of electricity has sparked a cost-saving drive at the university. Each campus is on a different tariff structure, based on its energy usage patterns.

- Potchefstroom Campus: two-part energy Day/Night with a block inclined energy rate and a separate maximum demand rate.
- Mafikeng Campus: one-part energy with separate maximum demand rate.
- Vaal Triangle Campus: one-part energy with separate maximum demand rate.

For the April/May 2011 electricity bills, the effective cost per campus amounted to:

- Potchefstroom Campus: 83,40 c/kWh including VAT
- Mafikeng Campus: 84,18 c/kWh including VAT
- Vaal Triangle Campus: 74,86 c/kWh including VAT

From July 2011, the tariff at the main substation in Potchefstroom will change from a two-part tariff to a three-part tariff. This is the Potchefstroom Municipality (Tlokwe) E-tariff and will be based on Eskom's Megaflex tariff with different time zones and rates as approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). The tariff structure for the Mafikeng and Vaal Triangle Campuses will stay the same.

Energy usage will be measured in peak, standard and off-peak times and will also be classified according to demand seasons. Low demand season is from September to May and high demand season is in the months of June, July and August. This implies that electricity will be more expensive during certain times of the day and year.

The table below illustrates how much a unit (kWh part) of electricity will cost according to the particular season and level of demand.

High Demand Season (June, July, August)		
Peak	Standard	Off-peak
R3,115	R0,888	R0,5233
Low Demand Season (September to May)		
Peak	Standard	Off-peak
R0,946	R0,6205	R0,4656

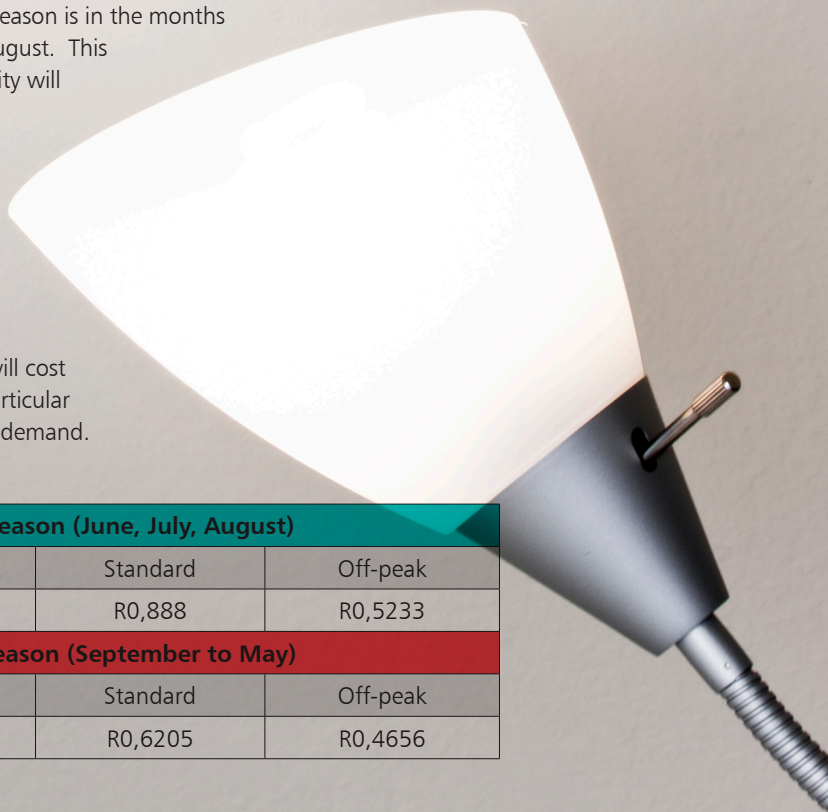
WHAT CAN THE NWU DO TO SAVE ELECTRICITY?

PIP has been applying a practical load management strategy by, for example, controlling hot water systems in campus residences.

The changes in the tariff structures imply that this strategy will have to be adapted to not only control maximum demand, but also to cater for energy load shifting from the peak time to standard time.

According to Dr Johan Delpont, consulting engineer at NERSA, if you cannot measure energy use, you will not be able to make much headway in reducing your energy footprint.

This is the reasoning behind PIP's move towards energy efficiency.





The NWU support team showing off the stall where the Comrades participants could stop for a while to rest. From left are Mr Kaizer Phakathi, Potchefstroom Campus, and Mr Corrie Landsberg from the Mafikeng Campus, Ms Elmarie Cronje and Mr Louis Jacobs from the Institutional Office, Ms Mary Tlhapi from the Mafikeng Campus, Ms Annette Willemse from the Vaal Triangle Campus, Ms Pertunia Thulo from the Institutional Office and Mr Johan van Zyl from the Potchefstroom Campus.

Getting into the spirit of the Comrades

Standing at the roadside, passing water to the runners, one becomes intensely aware of the blood, sweat and tears, but also of a spirit of camaraderie.

This year, the NWU support team was once again supporting the Comrades on Sunday, 29 May, alongside the 89-kilometre-long ultra marathon route.

The NWU team set up a tent approximately 30 kilometres from the finishing line, and stood ready with water, logistical help and moral support.

The support team consisted of representatives from the three campuses and the institutional Corporate Affairs and Relations Department.

This year, 17 athletes who have a connection to the NWU participated in the Comrades ultra marathon.

These athletes were sponsored by the NWU's Institutional Office, as part of the university's concerted effort to build its brand and continue positioning the institution as a diverse and innovative university with a winning sports culture.

The athletes' Comrades experience started with a lunch at the NWU PUK Sports Village on 23 May, where the supporters and participants all received gift bags from Dr Theuns Eloff, vice-chancellor, as part of Corporate Affairs and Relations' sponsorship. Each gift bag contained an NWU tracksuit, sports bag, cap, golf shirt and, for the athletes, a sponsor's badge with the NWU logo.

Of the 17 athletes who participated in the Comrades, 11 returned home with medals. One athlete, Mr George Kgoete, completed the ultra marathon but just missed the cut-off time.

Mr Willie Lubbe finished with the best NWU time of 07:35:54 and won a Bill Rowan medal. Ms Rika Huyser, who ran her fourth Comrades, finished in 08:52:43, which also earned her a Bill Rowan medal.

Two of the 17 athletes, Ms Chantalèze Harmse and Mr Marius Esterhuizen, ran their first Comrades this year and both of them received bronze medals. Marius's wife, Martie, expressed her thanks to the support

team, especially for "all the useful items".

According to Mr Waldo Weyer, who completed his third Comrades in 11:34:58, the support team made the marathon a little easier to endure and a little more special.

"I am grateful that I managed to persevere to the end and hopefully I can do it again next year," he said.

NAME	TIME	MEDAL
Willie Lubbe	07:35:54	Bill Rowan
Rika Huyser	08:52:43	Bill Rowan
Chantalèze Harmse	10:33:13	Bronze
Paul Harmse	10:38:08	Bronze
Marius Esterhuizen	10:45:24	Bronze
Johan Lampbrecht	10:51:46	Bronze
Waldo Weyer	11:34:58	Vic Clapham
Koos Degenaar	11:41:29	Vic Clapham
Cobus Groenewald	11:47:57	Vic Clapham
Ettiene Pretorius	11:56:13	Vic Clapham
Meshack Qinisa	11:57:30	Vic Clapham
George Kgoete	12:02:33	None



Ms Chantalèze Harmse (middle), a twenty year old student assistant from Vaal Triangle campus, was the youngest female athlete to finish the Comrades.



Mr Louis Jacobs from the Institutional Office (left) enquiring whether Mr Waldo Weyer needs something from the supporters' stall.



Ms Rika Huyser of the Mafikeng campus got a Bill Rowan-medal.



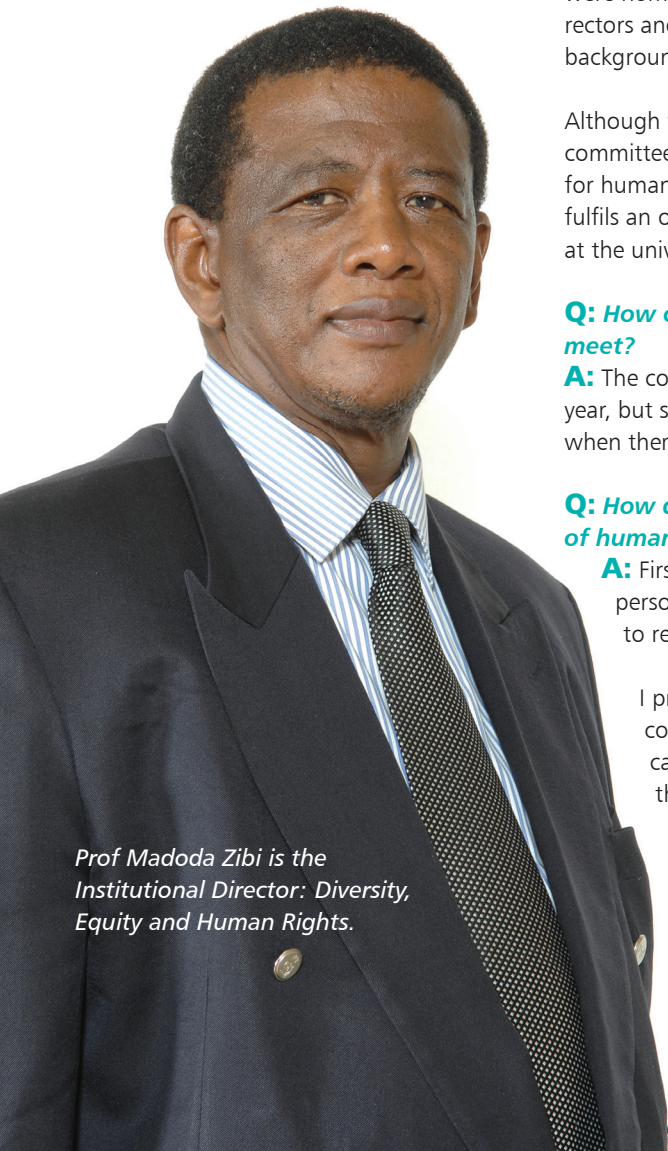
Human rights



Human rights has a physical address at the NWU. This address is the office of Prof Madoda Zibi, Institutional Director: Diversity, Equity and Human Rights. In our ongoing series, "Focus on", we put human rights at the NWU in the spotlight by asking Prof Madoda a few questions.

Q: What is the NWU's viewpoint on human rights?

A: The university believes that the fundamental rights and values contained in the South African Constitution must be respected by all members of the university community and should be applied as an integral part of our practices and policies. In fact, according to our Institutional Plan, the NWU is committed to nurturing and upholding an institutional culture of human rights at the university.



Prof Madoda Zibi is the Institutional Director: Diversity, Equity and Human Rights.

Q: What structures do we have in place to look after the human rights of students and staff?

A: Under the auspices of the Human Rights Policy of the NWU, a Human Rights Committee was established by Council. The committee, chaired by an independent legal expert, Adv Solly Sithole, SC, comprises 12 members, representing the NWU community.

The majority of the committee members were nominated by their respective campus rectors and several of them have a legal background.

Although the primary function of this committee is to act as a point of reference for human rights-related matters, it also fulfils an ombud and monitoring function at the university.

Q: How often does this committee meet?

A: The committee meets four times per year, but special meetings are arranged when there are urgent cases to be heard.

Q: How does one report infringements of human rights?

A: First of all, it is the duty of the person whose rights have been violated to report this to my office.

I prefer to meet with the complainant to determine if the case should indeed be referred to the Human Rights Committee. To avoid duplication, I also check whether some other official or department, such as Student Affairs on a campus, is not already dealing with the matter.

After the person has put the complaint in writing, it is submitted to the Human

Rights Committee. If the case has merit, the committee will investigate the matter by cross questioning all parties concerned.

The committee will then make recommendations to the Executive Director: Human Capital, Mr Victor Mothobi, who will submit these to the institutional management.

Q: What action can the Human Rights Committee take?

A: Although the committee does not have the authority to pass judgment and take disciplinary steps, it can recommend that steps should be taken by management. The support and backing of management is therefore of the utmost importance.

Q: How often does the Human Rights Committee hear cases?

A: We hear about two or three cases per year.

Q: How do you make staff and students more aware of human rights?

A: We prefer to be proactive and to emphasise that members of the NWU community should not only know their own rights, but also respect the rights of others. This we do by inviting keynote speakers on special days, such as Human Rights Day, as well as by organising seminars on our campuses, or by asking academics from our law faculties to give lectures or write articles on human rights.


Our next event will be organised in cooperation with the office of the institutional registrar. It will be a seminar on the promotion of access to information (in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act 2 of 2000) and the protection of personal information.

The seminar will be held on 11 August 2011 and 80 delegates from across the university community will be invited to attend.


These experts know their **subjects**

In this instalment of our ongoing series on NWU experts whose comments have featured in the media, we focus on topics ranging from sport and politics to natural phenomena.

“ We may have brought in too many senior rugby players from elsewhere recently, instead of guiding our own lads through the system. We have a development programme in place and we’re going to concentrate on preparing them so that they will be ready to play professional rugby once they have gone through the system. ”




Mr Hannes Esterhuizen, newly appointed head coach of the NWU-PUK Rugby Institute on the Potchefstroom Campus.
OFM, 12 May 2011



“ If microscopic, non-parasitic eelworms can exist very deep in mine water of between 3 000 and 10 000 years old, in very high temperatures and at very low oxygen levels, we cannot exclude the possibility that other multi-cellular organisms can also exist in similar conditions. ”

Prof Driekie Fourie, Director: Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, Potchefstroom Campus.
RSG, 4 June 2011



“ In contrast to the past, the recently concluded local elections got a firm national grip on the country. It resembled a mini national election. It’s probably because it was all about national issues – such as service delivery – and not just about small town issues. ”

Mr Theo Venter, political analyst, NWU.
RSG, 23 May 2011

“ There’s a growing realisation that South Africa’s future economic growth will be strongly influenced by the success or failure of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs). If we want to win the ‘war’ against unemployment, this sector needs urgent attention. ”



Prof Tommy du Plessis, Director: Potchefstroom Business School, Potchefstroom Campus.
Sakebeeld, 2 June 2011

“ The water in the Gulf of Mexico is now one degree Celsius warmer than before, which affects the intensity of the tornadoes in America. However, one should be wary of ascribing the present intense weather patterns to climate change. A word of caution by the American National Severe Storms Laboratory, who described the current year as ‘only the ninth worst year on record for tornadoes’. ”



Prof Kobus van der Walt, environmentalist, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Potchefstroom Campus.
RSG, 28 May 2011

From language to education and painting

In our ongoing series on the deans at the NWU, Eish! spoke to Prof Robert Balfour, Dean of the Faculty of Education Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Prof Robert joined the NWU in January this year. Coming from KwaZulu-Natal, he admits to missing the balmy Durban winters, but says the summers in Potchefstroom are as hot and humid as in Durban. He was born in Johannesburg and grew up on a farm near the Oliphants River, while attending a boarding school in Pretoria.

“In those days it was a Catholic boys boarding school; very academically focused and strict, but with wonderful facilities and opportunities for personal growth. It was there I learnt about eastern meditation techniques – that was pretty progressive for a Catholic school in the 1980s!” reminisced Prof Robert.

Prof Robert’s field of expertise lies mainly in linguistics. He studied at Rhodes University and majored in English and History.

“My favourite subject was fine art history, but as it didn’t seem like that would lead to a career in much, I pursued English and then later linguistics in education,” he said.

LETTERS FROM CAMBRIDGE

He completed his Honours and HDE at Rhodes, followed by an MA in literature and linguistics at Natal University. This was followed by three years in Cambridge, where he completed a PhD in applied linguistics.

According to Prof Robert, South African students have it much easier here, compared to students in the United Kingdom, partly because the need for development in South Africa is so great.

“In Cambridge, the ‘mediocre didn’t make it’. It is an unapologetically elitist institution, but its contribution to scholarship over 800 years makes it difficult to dismiss on those grounds,” he said. Cambridge is one of the

top institutions in the world and Prof Robert considers himself fortunate to have won several scholarships to continue his studies there. He says that the competition was tough and the academics there even tougher.

EDUCATION SCIENCES AND MORE

As Dean: Education Sciences, Prof Robert enjoys being with bright and interesting people and trying to help them in their work as best he can. He points out that his colleagues are fabulous and dedicated people who are professional and caring. This he sees as a strong point for the faculty.

“I believe in my colleagues. The good reputation they have with their students, and in our schools and communities, is always gratifying,” he said. He also appreciates the people on the Potchefstroom Campus, for being kind and very forgiving of his “gebreekte Afrikaans”.

When asked what he sees as a challenge for the faculty, he replies: “The shortage of competent intellectuals in the classroom is the national priority, because without a skilled and educated populace, economic development is slowed. Faculties of education simply cannot do enough to meet that need and, in general, are not well provisioned to be both excellent and adequate to the task. The profession has suffered from the legacy of apartheid in ways which we still do not understand.

“Education for diversity, education for quality of life and social and environmental care, are still too far off the national agenda. In the 21st century, we’re still trying to enable adults to read and children to understand their potential. It’s a national tragedy.”

EDUCATION REPUTATION

Prof Robert’s dream for the faculty is to establish a reputation of education that

equals that of a place such as the Institute for Education (University of London) or the Faculty of Education (Cambridge), which are the number one and number two education institutions, respectively, in the UK league tables. Unfortunately, according to Prof Robert, the current models for funding education in higher education institutions in South Africa make that difficult.

“We do not yet seem to appreciate that the *nobel laureates* in sciences or maths, or indeed in literature, come from education systems that allow for such development. In South Africa, too few have access to quality education that would make for such possibilities,” he said.

He admits that when he goes abroad, he is always fascinated to learn of entire universities that specialise in education development – not just faculties of education, or colleges or schools of education studies, but whole institutions devoted to this purpose.

His life philosophy ties into his passion for education. He wants people to “value the education of children, so they can take better care of the world.” Also, value what you have, because even if you can afford it, it is still a gift.

COLOUR ME CREATIVE

Prof Robert is not just a linguistics and education expert, but also a writer and painter who has published short stories and poems and have held art exhibitions.

According to him, he writes and paints when meaning is difficult to find, either in work or academic life.

“I suppose the introvert in me makes me question the relevance of existence for consumption only. At times I think the most

important work we can do is to create or discover something, because it gives back to our world," he said about his creative side.

The last short story that he published was in 2009, while the latest poems were published just a few months ago. He also recently finished a painting made of acrylic, glass fragments with gold leaf, and then oil paint.

"I cannot afford the pretence that anything I do is great, but it is my tentative way of praising God."

Prof Robert's favourites:

Favourite food: Wine and a nice cigar.

Favourite film/book/poet: Film: Gods and monsters. Book: 'n Ander land (Another country) by Karel Schoeman, A bend in the river by VS Naipaul. Poet: Elizabeth Bishop (The art of losing).

What amazes me in people: Their humour and graciousness.

What makes me happy: When, in a conversation, it becomes a pleasure to concede a point.

Famous person I would like to have a conversation with, and why: None. I've learnt more from the humility in people around me who invite me into their lives, and by doing so show me how to live, be kind and inspire me to be my best self.

What I do for relaxation: Write, paint and read...

My best vacation ever/Favourite holiday destination: Andalucía: A traveller passing through the Medina Al-Zahra in Cordoba stopped to shout at the ruins: "Where is the 'beautiful city'? Return to me and live!" From the wastes a voice came back: "Traveller, can the deceased ever return?"

My favourite pets/animals: My pugs, Bruno and Belle; they remind me daily that it is good to love animals and the environment.



Keeping their eye on the bowling ball

Mr Rhino Pivalizza, a sports officer in the Student Affairs Department on the Mafikeng Campus, and Dr Ryno Verster, a senior lecturer in the Centre for Animal Health Studies on the same campus, are on a roll when it comes to the sport of lawn bowling.

Rhino started playing bowls as a teenager. He was the runner-up in the Bophuthatswana Open and winner of the Mafikeng handicap singles. After a brief break to concentrate on indoor cricket, he became the men's singles club champion in 2009.

Soon afterwards, he won a bronze medal at the Champion of Champions tournament.

Dr Ryno is also a whiz at bowls. He won the handicap singles title at Sunnyside Club in 2002, and became the men's singles champion of the Mafikeng Bowling Club in 2011. He was also a member of the men's team who won the North-West Second League in 2007.

Nowadays, Rhino and Dr Ryno are members of the Mafikeng men's team that participates in day and night league games. The night team achieved second place out of 14 teams that participated in the Coligny Night League in 2011.

Contact Dr Ryno at 076 629 6832 for more information on bowls.



Ms Thandi Modise (North West Premier) delivered the key note address at the round table conference.

NWU supports premier's anti-corruption drive

The Mafikeng Campus showed their support for the provincial anti-corruption campaign by participating in the round table conference that was recently held in Rustenburg.

This formed part of a partnership between Mafikeng, the North West provincial office of the premier and the provincial anti-corruption forum (PACF).

Various institutions from around the province attended the conference and showed their full support for fighting corruption in government, in an effort to improve the effectiveness of service delivery within the North West Province.

The key note address was delivered by the Honourable North-West Premier, Ms Thandi Modise, who emphasised the need for anti-corruption and clean audits within the province.

Premier Modise highlighted how corruption is crippling service delivery across the country.

Prof Mogege Mosimege (Vice-Rector: Academic) emphasised that the university would support anti-corruption as an institution, during his speech.

The conference was held in preparation for the coming launch of the provincial anti-corruption website.

Rector engages with academics

The campus rector, Prof Dan Kgwadi, has launched a campaign to interact and engage with all staff members.

The campaign kicked off with a series of informal dinners.

According to Prof Dan the aim of these dinners is to encourage informal communication and to give staff the opportunity to raise issues that affect their work, both inside and outside the lecture halls. By doing this, problems can be identified and

solutions can be found so that the campus can improve and move forward.

The first dinner was attended by more than 50 academics, including lecturers, deans, directors and heads of departments from the five faculties on campus.

Matters that came to the forefront during the dinner discussions included the need for activities to bring staff and students together. The need for a staff club house

was also raised. A campus health and wellness committee was established to assist staff with burnout and stress-related problems. Another hot topic was the student evaluation of lecturers and suggestions were made on how to improve performance.

"I am hopeful that this will unite staff members and bridge the gap between staff and management," said Prof Dan. Similar sessions will be held with all support staff to improve service delivery and the output of the campus.

Potchefstroom Business School is leading the way

The Potchefstroom Business School (PBS) boasts a record 64 MBA graduates this year.

Their degrees were conferred at a graduation ceremony that was followed by a special prize-giving dinner at Crista-Galli. During this gala event, 20 certificates were handed to the best students in each module.

Mr Pieter Conradie, an industrial engineer from Arcelor Mittal in Newcastle, received the gold Old Mutual Award as best overall achiever over three years. Pieter also received the silver medal from the Professional Provident Society (PPS) for the best dissertation submitted in the final year.

Pieter not only walked away with the overall prize, but also shared first place with Ms Hesti Enslin from Wesvalia High School in Klerksdorp in the subject area "Strategy Formulation and Implementation".

According to the director of the PBS, Prof Tommy du Plessis, the school is very pleased with the results achieved.

"We know that all the MBA graduates are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, as well as experience, to make a difference in the workplace," he says.

The PBS also conferred three PhD degrees this year.



Prof LJ Grobler elected as Fellow of SAAE

Prof LJ Grobler from the School of Mechanical Engineering was unanimously elected as a Fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering (SAAE) during its recent annual general meeting.

He will be inducted as a fellow and receive a certificate of membership later in the year.

The SAAE is a non-profit, independent institution with more than 160 fellows.

The Academy aims to promote excellence in the science and application of engineering for the benefit of all members of the public in South Africa. The Academy comprises South Africa's most eminent engineers of all disciplines and related professionals with proven ability and achievement.

Election to the Academy is by invitation only. Up to 20 new fellows may be elected annually who have made exceptional contributions to engineering.

They are elected by their peers for personal achievement of special merit and distinction. Fellows are distinguished by their title "Fellow of the South African Academy of Engineering" and use the designatory letters FSAAE.

For more information on SAAE see www.saae.co.za.

Prof Tiaan Brink heads SA Pharmacology

Prof Tiaan Brink of the School of Pharmacy has been elected president of the South African Society of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP).

"It is a huge honour for me, but at the same time also an exceptional challenge. I see my role as one of service delivery to members, science and health care in the country. My election presents the opportunity, in a team context, to build on the initiatives of the previous management, who already made a big impact and laid the foundation for new developments," says Prof Tiaan.

The SASBCP serves pharmacologists from all the medical and pharmacy schools in the country, as well as researchers from related disciplines, medical practitioners,

pharmacists and the pharmaceutical industry.

There is a strong emphasis on capacity building among young scientists and on creating opportunities for pharmacologists to participate internationally and to take the lead on the continent.

Prof Tiaan believes that the NWU is on the right track.

"I would like to see the name of the university still being noticed and held in high esteem in the future. We play a leading role in the field of pharmacology in South Africa, and we are already recognised on the continent and internationally for our valuable contributions.

"To continue this role and even expand it will only be possible through more hard work and innovative inputs," he adds.



Prof Tiaan Brink.



An artist's impression of the new facility.



New "green" library envisaged

The architectural blueprints of the new library on the Vaal Triangle Campus were recently released.

According to the proposed plans, the new library will be erected between the new student centre (which is currently under construction) and the new Educational Sciences building (building 11).

The proposed building site fits the concept of a "green building", not only because of the adjacent ponds and accompanying bird life, but also because it will be situated within the grazing grounds of different species of game.

According to Ms Hendra Pretorius, the library manager, the new environmentally friendly facility, together with the ultra-modern facilities, will ensure a pleasant user experience.

"The proposed new library will prove to be more than just another infrastructure expansion project on the campus, but will also serve as a symbol of the campus's commitment to lifelong learning and future readiness".

Construction of the new library has not yet commenced and final approval is set to take place at the Council meeting in September.

Some of the new additions to the library are a book collection of more than 15 000 titles, a 24-hour study room, facilities for group studies, Wi-Fi connectivity and more than 150 computer access points. A dedicated area for researchers will also be available.

Students and staff are invited to share their views and comments on the proposed new facility by either visiting the library's Facebook page or making use of the suggestion box in the foyer of the existing library.

Memento Vivere – I am alive!

During a recent high-profile event held at the Quest Conference Estate in Vanderbijlpark, alumni of the Vaal Triangle Campus were treated to one of the most exciting music shows in South Africa – *Vivere!*

The event gave everyone the opportunity to reminisce about old times and to acquaint themselves with the latest developments on the campus.

In his address, the campus rector, Prof Thanyani Mariba, stated that his vision for the campus's alumni fraternity is to ultimately establish a tradition vested in the values of lifelong learning, academic inquiry and compassion.

According to Ms Alwine Naude, alumni co-ordinator, the goal of the event was not only to thank the alumni fraternity for their continued support, but also to honour them as custodians of academic learning and excellence.

"*Vivere*" in Latin and Italian means "being alive". The line-up included some of the brightest stars of the stage, including Jannie Moolman, Joseph Clark and Annake de Villiers, to name but a few. *Vivere!* takes you on a musical journey, featuring musical genres such as opera, rock, pop and jazz. Some of the hits performed during the event were *Miserere*, *All for love*, *Una furtive lagrima*, *Granada*, *Skipskop*, *Ne Me Quitte*, *Nessun dorma* and *La donna e mobile*.

The campus has more than 10 000 names in the alumni database, some dating as far back as 1963.

Teacher training a strategic priority for Vaal Triangle Campus

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Prof Hlengiwe Mkhize, recently opened a new Education Sciences building on this campus.

The department has made R212 million available to the university for infrastructure expansion and the new academic building is the direct result of this investment.

This ultra-modern facility boasts a physics

and a chemistry laboratory, various lecture halls and office space, among others.

During the opening ceremony, attended by several local and national government representatives, the call was again made for quality-driven teacher training and the establishment of sustainable and accessible higher education.

In his address the vice-chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff, said that the new building

and other developments on campus signified the growth of the campus and its responsiveness to regional and national needs.

The Vaal Triangle Campus is adding Technical Teacher Training to its academic curriculum in 2012 and by doing so, is developing the School of Educational Sciences into one of the largest teacher training facilities in the region.

MANDI WALLACE



THOREDI CHOABI



MARTIN PUTTKAMMER



ULRIKE JANKE



GERALDINE GERHARDI



Walking the extra mile

NWU colleagues are still showing that they are always willing to walk the extra mile. Eish! is proud to give recognition to these staff members.

According to Ms Rolandie Roestorf, senior administrative assistant in the Human Resources Department in the Institutional Office, **Ms Mandi Wallace**, skills development facilitator from the same department, is a highly competent colleague. "Mandi's extensive knowledge enables her to carry out her tasks in such a way that the NWU always benefits," she said. "Mandi cares for her colleagues and handles everyone the same – no matter who you are."

Ms Thoredi Choabi, an administrative officer in the Technical Services Department on the Mafikeng Campus, deserves to be commended for the exceptional work she does. "She is truly dedicated and makes sure that everything runs smoothly. She does not hesitate to help out after hours and over weekends, and she is always willing to get important documents to the Institutional Office – even if it means that she sometimes has to deliver them herself," said Mr Bethuel Ngakane, manager of the department.

Two other staff members who go much further than the proverbial mile in carrying out their daily tasks are **Mr Martin Puttkammer**, lecturer, and **Ms Ulrike Janke**, project manager, both in the research unit: Languages and Literature in the South African Context in the School of Languages on the Potchefstroom Campus. "Martin is always available and likes to help solve any problem – whether it involves his work or not, and regardless of whether this is in or out of office hours! Ulrike understands that it is essential to help researchers to produce good outputs, and she goes out of her way to keep administrative tasks away from the researchers' desks as far as possible," said Prof Gerhard van Huyssteen, who is also involved in this unit.

Ms Yolande Bechaz, secretary to the Chief Director: Finance in the Institutional Office, would like to use this opportunity to nominate **Ms Geraldine Gerhardi**, a

consultant in the Department of Information Technology on the Vaal Triangle Campus. "She always goes to a lot of trouble and does not mind helping out at short notice. She always keeps us updated on matters and makes our work easier," she said.

According to Ms Rozanne van Schalkwyk, administrative assistant in the Exam Section of the Department of Academic Administration on the Potchefstroom Campus, **Ms Chimoné Barends**, training officer in the Department of Financial Systems and Reporting of the Institutional Office, is always prepared to walk that second mile. "I recently received Oracle training from Chimoné, and the exceptional and professional manner in which she approached the process really impressed me. She has so much patience, is always smiling and nothing is ever too much trouble," Rozanne said.

According to Ms Annelize Cronje, academic development officer in the Academic Development Centre on the Mafikeng Campus, **Ms Ikanyeng Mokoka**, administrative officer in the centre, deserves special mention. "Ikanyeng helps us with administrative tasks and always handles our travel arrangements with a smile. She always calls us to make sure that everything has gone smoothly, even after hours," she said. "She does everything super quickly and carefully."

"Leoni is extremely reliable," said Ms Mpho Seshabela, administrative officer in the Department of Records Management and Administration in the Institutional Office. According to Mpho, **Ms Leoni Coetzee**, administrative assistant in the School of Nursing on the Potchefstroom Campus, is a brilliant records manager. "Leoni realises the value of records management and applies it carefully – I am proud of her!"

Another candidate who is not afraid of the second mile is **Ms Helei Jooste**, secretary to the Dean: Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology on the Vaal Triangle Campus. "The faculty has grown considerably over the past few months and she has gone out of her way to make new staff members and postgraduate students feel welcome," said Ms Andrea Garnett, Director: Research Development in the faculty. "She does everything with a positive attitude and is truly an inspiration."

If you want to nominate a colleague who walks the extra mile when doing his or her daily tasks, send an email to Marelize.Santana@nwu.ac.za. Remember to indicate your own job title and department and that of the person whom you are nominating.

CHIMONÉ BARENDS



IKANYENG MOKOKA



LEONI COETZEE



HELEI JOOSTE



And the winners are...

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



Institutional Office:
Mr Albert Janse van Rensburg,
senior internal auditor,
Department Internal Audit



Mafikeng Campus:
Ms Loraine Nel, secretary in
the office of the rector



Potchefstroom Campus:
Ms Santa Smal, secretary in
the office of the Chief Director:
Finance and Facilities



Vaal Triangle Campus:
Mr Levi Mofokeng, admini-
strative officer, Department
Academic Administration

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!**



- 6: In what department is the 'Meet en Weet' office?
- 7: How many kilometres is the Comrades?
- 8: Who is Mr Hannes Esterhuizen that talked on OFM?
- 9: Who are the two Mafikeng Campus staff members who excel at lawn bowls?
- 10: Which building was recently opened on the Vaal Triangle Campus?

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!

Mandi serves on national SETA panel

The Department of Higher Education and Training has appointed Ms Mandi Wallace, skills development facilitator in the Institutional Office, to the ETPD SETA panel. (ETDP SETA stands for *Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority*.)

This appointment, effective from 1 April 2011, enables Mandi to further expand her knowledge of skills development management.

The university could also benefit from her appointment: "I feel that I learn a lot and, consequently, that I have more to offer my own university."

Mandi has been in the employ of the Institutional Office since August 2007.



Ms Mandi Wallace has been appointed for a five-year term as panellist of the Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA).

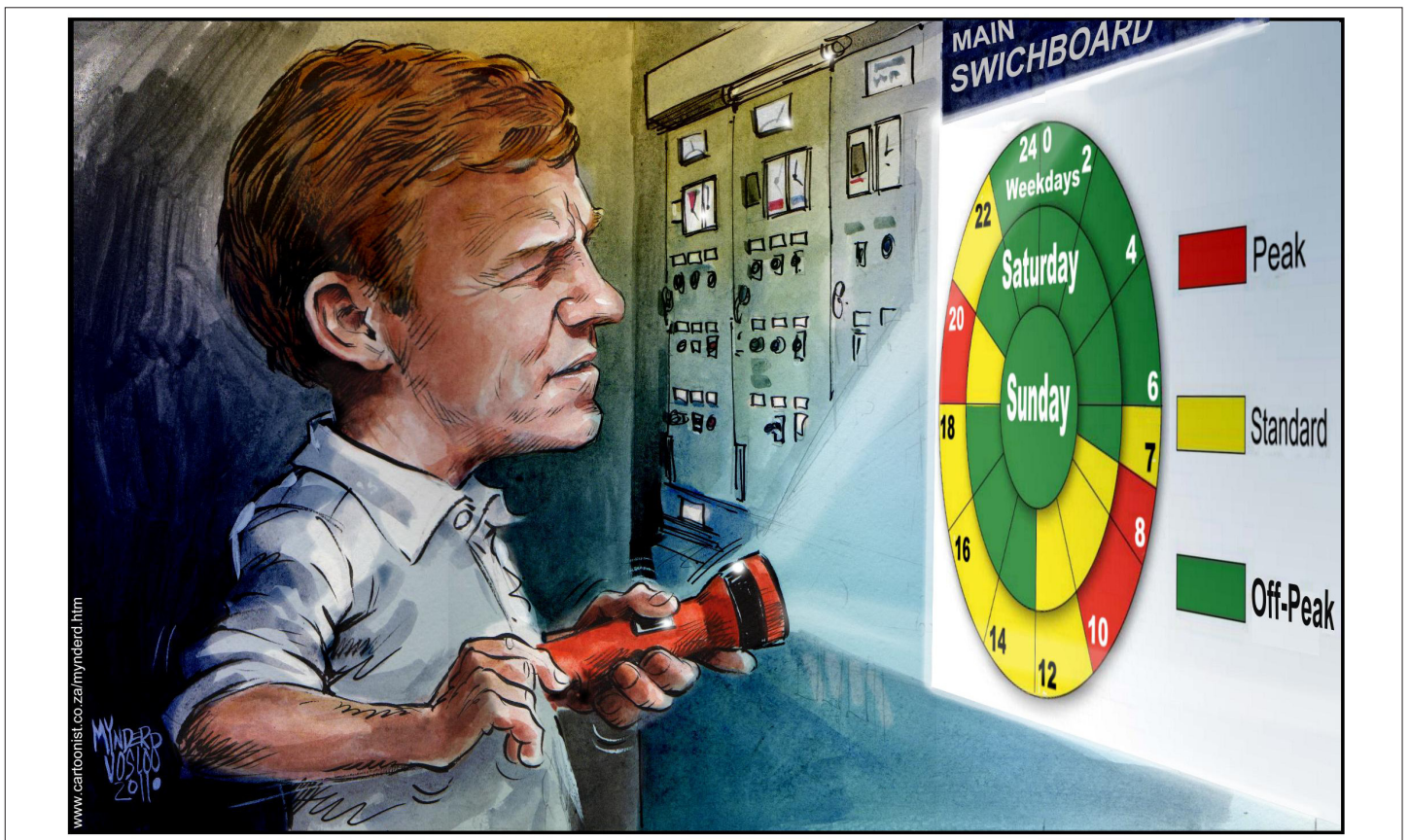
However, she has served on the Community of *Best Practice Forum of Higher Education South Africa* (HESA) for a considerable time and her nomination to the SETA panel was on the strength of that experience.

The ETPD SETA aims to expand the education, training and development of

personnel at several teaching entities in the country.

They also conduct research into tertiary institutions so that these institutions can be improved.

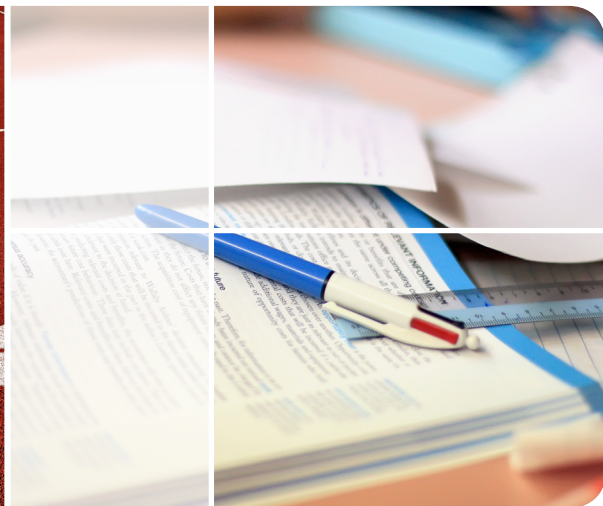
Mandi has been appointed for a five-year term.



With power usage in the spotlight, it is our responsibility to save electricity where possible. Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor, supports the initiatives of Physical Infrastructure and Planning.



For to be **free** is not merely
to **cast off** one's **chains**,
but to **live** in a way that **respects**
and **enhances** the **freedom**
of **others**. – Nelson Mandela



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