

**Literature
remains dean's
first love**

**Vice-Chancellor
expert in
Africa**

**Minister praises
NWU research**



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Front page: Prof Melville Saayman from the Potchefstroom Campus was crowned the NWU's Most Productive Researcher for the second year in a row. Read more about the research awards on p 4 and 5.

Why Drupal for the website?

Something as extensive as the content of the NWU's website – 12 500 pages of it – requires a good content management system (CMS). The NWU uses Drupal, one of the top five open source content management systems in the world.

A content management system is a computer program that allows one to publish, edit and change the content of a website. An open source program is a program of which the software is freely available. The NWU's website currently works with Drupal 6, which is one of the versions of Drupal. However, the university is looking into the possibility of switching to Drupal 7 as this version features the Open Academy installation, which was developed specifically for universities.

Initially the NWU decided to use Drupal as CMS after compiling a list of expectations of publishers and after researching which CMS would best meet our requirements as a university.

Some other reasons for Drupal's popularity:

- As open source program, the software is available for free and universities worldwide are opting for this open source route to save money.
- Drupal is used by several prominent American universities, including Stanford, Berkeley, Michigan State, Brown, Duke and Yale.
- South Africa has a particularly active Drupal community, which means that this CMS is being developed continuously.
- Drupal is a sustainable product – it has nearly 19 000 modules that are used in 228 countries, with more than 21 000 developers and more than 500 distributors.
- It fits in with the NWU's infrastructure portfolio and technical architecture.
- Drupal facilitates publishing in a user-friendly manner, which means that users do not require technical or programming skills.

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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dear colleagues

We are standing at the end of another remarkable and full year at the NWU.

Herewith a brief overview of the most important highlights of our core business over the past year:

- In terms of teaching-learning, good progress was made with the HEQF project. While the first phase deals with the technical alignment of qualifications with the HEQF and 322 new NWU qualifications have been submitted, the second phase – which focuses on the different curriculums – now lies ahead.

Good progress has also been made with the UniPrep pilot project that explores different possibilities to increase the readiness

of school leavers for university study. We look forward to the expansion of the project in 2013.

The NWU experienced a strong growth in student numbers: at present there are approximately 68 000 students of whom almost 35 000 are contact students, and 33 000 distance students. We are busy with a new enrolment planning cycle for the period 2014-2020.

The Rapport top lecturer awards were made for the third time after a whopping 40% voting percentage. Congratulations to the 15 colleagues who walked away with R50 000 each.

- It was also good to give recognition to our top researchers. We are increasingly being recognised countrywide as part of the so-called “A group” in terms of research output.

We have learnt some important lessons from the recently conducted international audit of certain research entities – inter alia that we will have to work hard to improve the NWU's international research profile. I believe the adoption of the internationalisation framework at the last Senate meeting will go a long way towards creating an enabling environment for effective internationalisation.

- With regard to commercialisation of expertise, we continued to implement expertise at all levels in order to address the needs of the community with a strong emphasis on sustainability.
- As for effective management, we worked hard on the NWU systems project, which comprises the staff component and affordability projects. Management is confident that this big project will contribute greatly towards better management information, monitoring and reporting.

There is also the completion of the NWU Media Policy, the implementation of the integrated brand strategy and the adoption of the new pay-off line – *It all starts here* – that have a lot of potential.

The NWU is therefore increasingly realising its mission to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university, and to implement our expertise in an innovative manner.

On this high note it is time to wish everyone a happy and blessed festive season. Thank you for each and every one's hard work during the past year – and enjoy the well-deserved time of rest!

Regards

Theuns Eloff

Eish!, 2012 was a good year

Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor, recently described 2012 as the most successful year yet in the history of the NWU.

The contents of the last Eish! of the year reflects how NWU staff members' achievements have contributed to make 2012 a winning year.

On p 4 and 5 we boast with our top-notch researchers and research entities. These achievers excelled in various fields and received awards for research, community engagement and creative output.

On p 6 we share in the joy of our two HELTASA winners, Ms Hunadi Rakhudu from Nursing Sciences on the Mafikeng Campus and Mr Hannes du Toit from Engineering on the Potchefstroom

Campus. On the next page, p 7, you can read about the prestigious award that Dr Theuns received from the IABC.

Our alumni also fly the NWU's flag high. To give recognition to them, the executive committee of the Convocation decided in September to create two awards for alumni.

Read more about it on p 8 and please complete the nomination form inserted into the Eish! if there is someone you would like to nominate.

Performing well may feel a lot like walking uphill, but the advantage is that this road allows one to reach greater heights. In light of the accomplishments achieved by the NWU community in 2012 the even greater heights that



await us in 2013 seem quite attainable. The editorial team of Eish! looks forward to report on this in the new year.

Enjoy the breather until next year.

Regards,

Marelize & Nelia

Excellent research

Commitment does not go unnoticed – that much was clear when more than 50 NWU staff members were acknowledged for excellence in research, innovation, community involvement and creativity.

These awards were made at a gala event in Potchefstroom on Friday, 26 October 2012. Guest speaker at the event, Mr Derek Hanekom, Minister of Science and Technology, congratulated the NWU for the great strides it has made in increasing its research output over the past three years.

The minister also expressed his satisfaction at the number of National Research Foundation rated researchers at the university, and emphasised that the university's intention must be to expand the pool of rated researchers across all disciplines. "The NWU is well placed to support my department's

mission of promoting internationally competitive research as a basis for South Africa's knowledge economy, and the creation of a representative science and technology workforce," he said.

TWICE CROWNED

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly when Prof Melville Saayman, director of the research focus area Tourism Research in Economic Environs and Society on the Potchefstroom Campus, was announced Most Productive NWU Researcher for the second year in a row.

His main research aim is to increase understanding of the tourism economy, with a special focus on events and conservation tourism. The events under the spotlight include sport, arts and wine festivals.

He addresses questions such as, what is the economic contribution of events, how does spending differ from one market to the next, and what are the determinants of visitors' spending?

YOUNG RESEARCHER EXCELS

Prof Karina Mostert from the School of Human Resource Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus received the award for Most Productive Junior Researcher of the Year.

In her research, Prof Karina investigates the effect of work-home-interference in the relationship between job characteristics and work-related well-being among South African construction workers.

PRODUCTIVITY PAYS OFF

The award for the Most Productive Research Entity was shared by the research focus area



Prof Eno Ebenso (left) from the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences on the Mafikeng Campus receives his award for international leadership in research from Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, the rector of the Potchefstroom Campus.



Dr Christo Venter (left) from the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus was announced Most Cited Researcher. Here he receives his award from Prof Frikkie van Niekerk, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Technology. Dr Christo specialises in gamma-ray astronomy.

ers rewarded



Potchefstroom Campus' Prof Melville Saayman (left) was announced Most Productive NWU Researcher for the second year in a row. Prof Karina Mostert, also from the Potchefstroom Campus, was announced Most Productive Junior Researcher.

Social Transformation on the Potchefstroom Campus under the leadership of Prof André Duvenhage, and the WorkWell Research Unit for Economic and Management Sciences under the leadership of Prof Jaco Pienaar, also on the Potchefstroom Campus. Research done by Social Transformation includes topics such as disaster studies, corporate social responsibility (especially in the mining sector) and governance.

For its research, WorkWell evaluates new tax laws and amendments, customer relationships in the life insurance and airlines industries, business ethics, entrepreneurship, the unique nature of family-owned businesses, and the effect of flexitime on employees' work/life balance, among other topics.

THEY STAND OUT

Prof Esté Vorster from the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition on the Potchefstroom Campus

and Prof Eno Ebenso from the School for Mathematical and Physical Sciences on the Mafikeng Campus received awards for international leadership in research.

Dr Christo Venter from the School for Physical and Chemical Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus was announced Most Cited Researcher.

CREATIVITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Awards were also made for creative output.

Here Prof Hans du Plessis was acknowledged for his writing, Dr Martinus Botha for his contributions as pianist, and Prof Paul Schutte for his textile work.

Prof Franci Greyling, Mr Ian Marley and Ms Louise Marie Combrink received this award for their creative project, "Beyond the horizon of the page".



The WorkWell Research Unit for Economic and Management Sciences, under the leadership of Prof Jaco Pienaar (left), shares the award for the Most Productive Research Entity with Social Transformation, with Prof André Duvenhage (right) as leader. Both entities are situated on the Potchefstroom Campus.

All recipients of the awards for creative output are from the Potchefstroom Campus.

PUTTING COMMUNITY FIRST

The Child Justice Unit, which is part of the Law Clinic on the Potchefstroom Campus, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Pro Bono Office on the same campus, received awards for community engagement.

The Child Justice Unit, under the leadership of Mr Schalk Meyer and Ms Endriette Barnard, provides legal representation and advice to children from 27 towns in the North West Province to prevent violation of their rights.

The Pro Bono Office, with Prof Francois Retief at the helm, provides environmental management consultancy services, advice and training on a "not for profit basis" to municipalities in North West.

Teaching experts among SA's cream of the crop

Two NWU lecturers find themselves among the cream of the teaching crop of South Africa after winning national teaching excellence awards.

The two experts are Ms Hunadi Rakhudu of Nursing Science at the Mafikeng Campus and Mr Hannes du Toit of Engineering at the Potchefstroom Campus.

They received awards that are annually made by the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA) in partnership with the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

Hunadi is one of five recipients of the National Teaching Excellence Award and Hannes is one of nine recipients of a Commendation for Excellence in Teaching. For the awards, South African higher education institutions were invited to submit the names of teaching experts, resulting in a total of 38 participants.

These participants then submitted a portfolio of evidence through which they demonstrated their scholarly and innovative methods of teaching and engagement. A panel of experts scrutinised these portfolios against strict criteria, before the winners were announced.

The excellence awards are presented annually to five top lecturers who are believed to have contributed positively to the learning of their students, as well as being engaged with their community through innovative and scholarly methods.

The awards also aim to generate a cadre of academics who are able to provide inspiration and leadership in teaching.

The awards were officially handed over during the annual HELTASA conference on 29 November 2012 at Stellenbosch University.

On this occasion Hunadi addressed the conference on her teaching and learning approach.

Eish! spoke to the two HELTASA winners. Here are their opinions on teaching excellence:



HELTASA-winner, Ms Hunadi Rakhudu from the Mafikeng Campus, would like to see her students develop good communication skills and become life-long learners.

HUNADI:

As lecturer you should change your students' mindset and allow them to take responsibility for their own learning process. Allow them to be information seekers and encourage them to use accurate, current information resources.

Always plan for your contact sessions with students and always monitor and evaluate all learning activities. Be enthusiastic, get students talking to each other and not only to you, establish a good learning environment for the group, and make sure the group agree on learning issues before the session ends.

It is also important to me that my students learn to work in teams and small groups and that they demonstrate effective verbal and written communication skills.

In the end, they must be able to think critically, to analyse and solve complex real-world problems and to use content knowledge and intellectual skills to become life-long learners.



Mr Hannes du Toit from the Potchefstroom Campus, who received a commendation for teaching excellence from HELTASA, wants his students to solve real-life problems.

HANNES:

It is important to actively engage students in the learning process. They are better equipped if they are allowed to discover new horizons for themselves and to find answers to difficult issues. However, this does not mean that they are left to their own devices – facilitation should still support learning.

A lecturer should also test his students' insight and vision. It is criminal to repeat old exam papers, because then students just work through old papers to prepare for an exam.

This robs them of an opportunity for development. Distinctions in subjects where old exam papers are repeated are worthless and contribute nothing to the students' skills.

A lecturer must also support his or her students to develop skills that can be applied in real-life situations. To accomplish this, you must confront your students with complex problems similar to those they will face in their future profession.

Vice-chancellor shows Africa how to communicate

Dr Theuns Eloff, vice-chancellor of the NWU, was announced the 2012 recipient of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Africa Excellence in Communication Leadership (EXCEL) Award.

The award was formally handed over on 18 October at the gala dinner of the IABC Africa 2012 Annual Conference held at the Vineyard Hotel in Cape Town, from 17 to 19 October 2012.

The award is one of the highest honours bestowed by IABC Africa and is given to a senior figure who has proven his or her ability to lead through effective communication.

WHAT AN HONOUR

"I am honoured by the fact that the IABC with its outstanding reputation, expertise in business communication and international footprint chose to make this award.

"The fact that this tribute has been bestowed upon a vice-chancellor and a university – an environment normally not renowned for excellent business communication – makes the award all the more noteworthy," Dr Eloff said when he received the award.

One of the main requirements for selection as an Excel Award winner is a personal, humorous and selfless communication style that resonates with diverse groups within broader audiences.

This award is made to a person who is not an IABC member, but who is a captain of industry, and who spends time speaking with stakeholders around the world.

LISTEN AND LEARN

It recognises active engagement and genuine interest in listening to and learning from all people as well as being engaged in real-time announcements and discussions.

According to the IABC Africa, Dr Theuns was acknowledged for his outstanding leadership,

management and communication skills. His visionary skills have made him an expert in higher education strategies and matters, both nationally and internationally.

His commitment to the highest ethical and professional standards and participatory management style is exemplary.

QUOTED IN THE MEDIA

An analysis done by Newsclip, a company that monitors media coverage, provided indisputable proof of Dr Theuns' communication skills.

Having analysed 7 730 media items about the NWU, they found that Dr Theuns was quoted 120 times in 2011.

The relative advertising value of this coverage came close to R4 million.

The NWU has also been sponsoring the National Press Club's Journalist of the Year and Editor of the Year Awards for a number of years now.

The good relationship that exists between Dr Theuns (and the NWU) and the National Press Club has already resulted in several networking opportunities where NWU experts could be introduced to the media.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

Last year the IABC did not make the Excel Award, as no suitable candidate could be identified.

In 2010 the award went to Mr Michael Jordaan, CEO of First National Bank, and in 2009 to Judge Mervyn King.

The IABC is a professional association for corporate communicators and is aimed at promoting the industry through professional development programmes, research and support to all of its members.

The association, headquartered in San Francisco, has approximately 15 000 members worldwide.



Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU, with the Excel Award presented to him by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

Outstanding alumni to be acknowledged

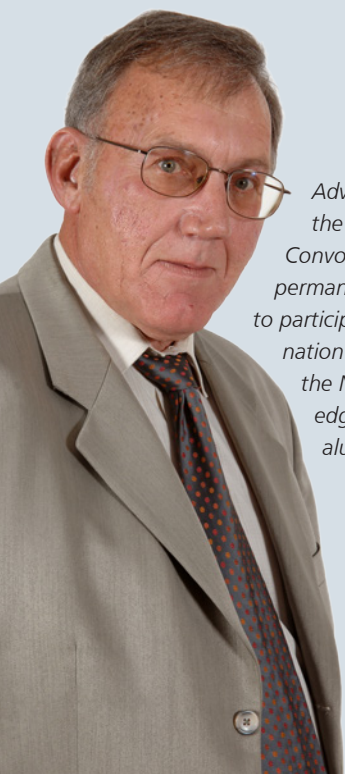
The (NWU) is very proud of its alumni and has decided to publicly recognise them for their personal and career accomplishments and for exemplary contributions to society.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the NWU's Convocation on 21 September 2012.

"For many years now, alumni from the NWU have made their mark – not only in South Africa, but also internationally," says Adv Jan Henning, the president of the NWU's Convocation.

"The NWU is privileged to boast such a distinguished stakeholder group. NWU alumni excel in all areas – from teaching-learning, research and community engagement to the sports field.

"It is a great privilege as president of the Convocation to invite you to participate in the nomination process, so as to ensure that we acknowledge our ambassadors for their high-level achievements."



Adv Jan Henning, the president of the Convocation, invites all permanent staff members to participate in the nomination process to enable the NWU to acknowledge its exceptional alumni.

TWO AWARDS FOR EXCELLENT ALUMNI

Two awards will be made: the Alumni Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

To qualify for the Alumni Award, alumni must meet the following criteria:

- They must have obtained a degree or a diploma from the NWU.
- They must have achieved distinguished personal and career accomplishments.
- They must have made exemplary contributions to society.
- They must have shown significant leadership in the above-mentioned areas.
- They must demonstrate ongoing commitment to the NWU.

From the nominations received for the Alumni Award, the Convocation might choose to award the Lifetime Achievement Award to an exceptional nominee.

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS

The Lifetime Achievement Award honours distinguished individuals whose extraordinary lifetime achievements, personally and professionally, make them inspirational role models for the future.

This award will only be made on rare occasions where the candidate(s) have truly demonstrated exceptional and meritorious service to society.

The criteria alumni must meet are the following:

- They must have obtained a degree or a diploma from the NWU.
- They must have achieved outstanding success in professional, academic or research fields.
- They must be committed to public and community service.
- They must be exemplary role models for current and future students.
- They must show ongoing commitment to the NWU.
- They must be recognised nationally or internationally (for instance through appointments or awards received).

- They must have made an exceptional contribution to society nationally or internationally.

Current members of the executive committees of the NWU's Council and Convocation, as well as members of the Institutional Management, may not be nominated for the awards.

THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE

Office-bearers of the NWU, alumni, permanent staff members and members of Council and the Board of Donors may now submit nominations for the Alumni Award.

Nominations are not made for the Lifetime Achievement Award, as the adjudicators themselves will decide if they would like to make this award to one or more persons nominated for the Alumni Award.

You can use the nomination form in the *Eish!* – all fields must be completed. Also keep the above-mentioned criteria in mind, and supply a proper motivation where requested.

All nominations should be submitted to the institutional registrar in his capacity as secretary to the Convocation on or before 31 March 2013.

The nominations will be evaluated by the executive committee of the Convocation who will announce the recipients during a gala alumni event in September 2013. Enquiries about the nomination process can be directed to Ms Therina du Pisani in the office of the Director: Development and Alumni Relations at tel 018 299 4156 or therina.dupisani@nwu.ac.za.

Completed nomination forms and supporting documents can be sent to Ms Therina du Pisani, Internal box 612, Institutional Office, or faxed to 018 299 4605.

Should you wish to complete the form online, go to the NWU's website, choose a language and click on Alumni under "Information for" and then on the link to the nomination form.

TRADE identifies export opportunities for South Africa



Looking at the DSM DASHBOARD for export opportunities is Prof Wilma (front), leader of TRADE. With her from left are DSM team members Prof Riaan Rossouw, Dr Ermie Steenkamp and Dr Sonja Grater.

How can South Africa identify high-potential export opportunities?

This important question is central to the work done by TRADE (Trade and Development), a research niche area established in June this year in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Prof Wilma Viviers, the leader of TRADE, says the global market is currently awash with competitively priced goods and services from emerging countries such as Brazil, India, China, Indonesia and Turkey. "It is therefore imperative that South Africa rethinks its approach to product and market selection."

The research currently done by a specialised group in TRADE originated some years ago when Prof Wilma collaborated with Prof Ludo Cuyvers of the University of Antwerp in Belgium

to devise an efficient model – the Decision Support Model (DMS) – to identify high-potential export opportunities for South Africa.

TEAMWORK PAYS OFF

A four-member team is currently conducting research on the DSM model. They are Prof Wilma, the team leader, Prof Riaan Rossouw, Dr Ermie Steenkamp and Dr Sonja Grater, all from the School of Economics. After the DSM was applied successfully in Belgium and Thailand, it has now been fully adapted to South Africa's trading environment.

Prof Riaan, the DSM technical specialist, says exporting requires detailed knowledge of where the demand for products is. "The model processes a vast amount of data and identifies the most promising product-market combinations to very precise product specifications."

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

The DSM process analyses millions of product-country combinations worldwide and then eliminates those countries with low export potential, leaving the most promising markets for each South African product value.

"The DSM also highlights realistic product-country combinations that might not have been given much thought in the past," says Dr Ermie, who specialises in using the model for Africa.

The DSM research also led to the development of a practical product and market selection tool, the Decision Support Model (DSM) DASHBOARD. This computer instrument presents the research results of the export model in a user-friendly way and makes them easier to interpret.

EXPORTING SERVICES

An exciting new development is the adaptation of the DSM for services exports. This initiative is spearheaded by Dr Sonja. "This adapted tool should go a long way towards helping South African services exporters take advantage of the innumerable opportunities that await them in the global tourism, medical and other professional services markets," she says.

Promoting the book, Prof Ludo presented the DSM results of the Thailand export opportunities at the European Institute for Asian Studies in Brussels, Belgium, in September this year. Another presentation as well as a book launch, this time in Bangkok, Thailand, will follow in January 2013. The book can be ordered at www.africansunmedia.co.za by doing a simple search for 'export'.

In addition to the DSM team members, the TRADE research team comprises 13 other researchers. They are currently undertaking an extensive research project in collaboration with the World Bank to determine the trade competitiveness of the agricultural and other sectors of the South African economy as well as the link between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and exports.

The Small Roman is a man of many talents

Continuing our series on NWU deans, we meet Prof Jan Swanepoel, the dean of the Faculty of Arts on the Potchefstroom Campus. Eish! asked him about his wide-ranging interests, his faculty and his family.



Where law, philosophy and literature meet, that is where you will find Prof Jan Swanepoel, or “the Small Roman”, as his students used to call him when he still taught Latin.

Today, looking back, he can say without a doubt that his love for Latin and the Roman culture started at school – Hoërskool CR Swart in Pretoria. His Latin teacher, Ms S Nell, inspired him with her critical and “somewhat sardonic” outlook.

Something else from his youth that would help shape his career were his visits to a library in Waverley, Pretoria.

“New worlds opened up to me in that small library as I became acquainted with great works from the world of literature,” he says.

ACADEMIC FOOTSTEPS

Years later this early exposure led to a BA degree with Afrikaans-Dutch and Latin as major subjects. He obtained that degree in 1972 at the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE).

Later he also completed Greek and General Linguistics and Literary Studies at major subject level and made a thorough study of Philosophy.

Apart from one year in Zululand, his academic roots are firmly anchored in the banks of the Mooi River. While he was a lecturer in the Latin Department, he obtained his master’s degree, followed by a DLitt in 1989 and an LLB in 1995.

After the death of his friend and colleague, Prof Peet van Niekerk in a car accident, Prof Jan had to take his position as lecturer in

Prof Jan enjoys the view during a holiday in the Drakensberg mountains in December 2009.

Jurisprudence in the Faculty of Law in 1996, where he later became Director: Teaching.

Ten years later, on 1 May 2006, he returned to his home faculty, Arts, as its new dean.

A FACULTY AFTER HIS OWN HEART

Today, he is very proud of his faculty’s many achievements. “Arts is known for its quality teaching and innovative mindset,” he says.

“We are at the cutting edge of language technology, graphic design and disaster risk management and we have produced several musicians of stature, especially singers.” According to him, one of the faculty’s chief chal-

lenges is to ensure financial sustainability. He also strives for greater philosophical-theoretical depth in scholarship and would like to awaken a strong academic interest in students.

He is concerned about the worldwide trend towards shunning the study of the arts in favour of disciplines such as natural and economic sciences and engineering – necessary as they are.

The arts, he believes, belong to the core of humanity.

"To be a true university, an institution should study the entire encyclopaedia of scholarship. Ideally, the NWU should bring back drama and fine arts, which were abandoned when the PU for CHE found itself in a rough patch financially speaking.

"And who knows, maybe the last word has not been spoken on this."

PERSON OF WORDS

He has three volumes of poetry to his credit and many of his poems have been included in anthologies over the years.

And yes, he's still writing poems, even though a dean's "quiet academic life" is not exactly conducive to the poetic art.

"Writing poems requires a kind of musing thought, something that's not always possible in a life where you constantly need to make decisions about this and that and the other." For him, writing has a more unconscious side to it, connected with your experiences.

We have a right to know

During his career Prof Jan has on several occasions written and spoken about the right to information. Here is his opinion on this topical matter:

"I believe, in line with our Constitution, that everybody has the right to access information. Respect for that right is essential in a country worthy of being called a democracy.

"The current bill, designed to keep the media in check, is symptomatic of a political dispensation that is overly sensitive to the

WORDS THAT MATTER

"I await a poem, as it were, and when the poem eventually presents itself, I write it down immediately – on the first piece of paper I can find. It usually starts with a first line, which I improvise on to gradually unfold and develop the poem."

His favourite South African poet is NP van Wyk Louw, and one of his favourite lines is TS Eliot's "But our beginnings never know our ends!"

"These words are very true of my academic career at the PU for CHE and the NWU," he says.

CLOSE TO HIS HEART

Although he does not like to choose between law, philosophy and literature, his main interest is literature.

Prof Jan's family is also close to his heart. "My wife and soul mate is Rita Swanepoel, a lecturer in Art History. Her subject field is an interest that we share, unlike sports – which I love but she couldn't care less about."

The couple has two children. Rilette is a lecturer in English literature on the Vaal Triangle Campus of the NWU, and Daniël is a research technician at the Mammal Research Institute in Pretoria.

As a man of words, his parting words are from one of his favourite quotes, belonging to the philosopher, Theodor Adorno: "What is, is not everything." These words certainly apply to Prof Jan. He is much more than what meets the eye, as his many talents and interests attest.

exposure of its own shortcomings and abuses. The right to information is closely linked to the equally important rights to freedom of opinion and expression.

"I'm not saying that the media are angels or that they don't have their own agendas; also not that this right should be completely unregulated. No right is without certain checks and balances. The right to information must for instance be weighed against the right to privacy. Still, the right to access to information is a prerequisite for a democratic dispensation."



Prof Jan Swanepoel and his wife, Rita, during his birthday celebrations in 2008.

Other interesting facts

Favourite book: Herman Hesse's *Narziss und Goldmund*.

Favourite films: *Shadowlands* and *The Baker Boys*

What makes me laugh: Repartee and ready wit.

Animals that I admire: Cats, because they're not from this world.

What I like in people: Integrity, spontaneity and subtlety.

Famous person I would have liked to have a conversation with: The Roman poet Vergil.

What I hate: The passport hoopla at airports, traffic jams and chronic negativity.

My most precious belonging: A drawing of a young woman by Jean Welz.

Favourite cities: Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Prague.

What I'd still like to do: Visit Moscow and play golf in the USA at Augusta with its fast greens.

What few people know about me: That I am quite interested in the world of finances and equity investments. I regularly attend auctions and I like to browse pawn shops for things of value, especially fine porcelain.



Theft at the NWU

Crime is a big challenge of our time and unfortunately an institution such as the NWU cannot escape it. Eish! talked with Ms Christelle Foord and Ms Michelle Bownes from Employee Relations, Mr Werner Coetzee from Legal Services and Ms Madelein van der Merwe from Internal Audit about the seriousness with which theft is viewed at the NWU and the consequences of this crime.

Q: *What would you like to tell staff members about theft at the NWU?*

Werner: My message is that the NWU views theft in a very serious light and that people who steal from the NWU definitely do get caught – the university's systems are simply too good to hide something like that.

Madelein: Yes, it's only a matter of time before these crimes come to light, because with our systems we are able to determine and investigate the full extent of the irregularities as far back as five years.

Q: *How many cases of theft have there been at the NWU since 2007?*

Christelle and Michelle: Between 2007 and 2010 there were five cases of dishonesty. These offenders stole money and goods to the value of R1,5 million.

Four of them were from the Potchefstroom Campus and one was from the Mafikeng Campus.

Last year the NWU charged nine staff members from the Potchefstroom Campus with theft for stealing money and goods to the value of R602 300.

This year, cases of theft by one staff member in the Institutional Office and one staff member on the Potchefstroom Campus were reported to the police so that they could be prosecuted. The total amount involved was R390 000.

Q: *What usually happens to people who steal from the NWU?*

Werner: They have to appear before a disciplinary committee and if found guilty, they are discharged. The university also files a charge of theft with the police, and following the investigation by the business crime unit they

are summonsed to appear in a criminal court on charges of theft. If found guilty, they have criminal records.

Q: *Is the NWU usually able to recover the stolen money?*

Werner: Yes, the NWU freezes the offender's pension benefits and leave money and recovers the stolen money – plus interest.

If it is not enough to cover the entire stolen amount, their movable assets are confiscated and sold at open auctions.

Q: *How much is stolen typically?*

Werner: Sometimes food or other small items are stolen, but when the amounts are large, they usually exceed R100 000.

Q: *To have access to such big amounts of money, are these people usually appointed in relatively high positions?*

Werner: They are either employees who are trusted by their managers and who abuse this trust, or the managers themselves.

Q: *How do these things come to your attention?*

Werner: Sometimes whistle-blowers report the incidents to Internal Audit, and sometimes the thefts are discovered when the regular audits are conducted.

Madelein: The staff at the various payment departments are also quite conscientious these days about following up on payments that seem unreasonable or unclear, and also about referring issues to Internal Audit for further investigation.

The advance and petty cash payments – where irregularities can easily occur – are closely monitored.

Q: *We've been talking about theft of money, but there are also other ways of stealing, right?*

Werner: Indeed. Staff could for instance take more leave than they are entitled to, reserve NWU vehicles for private use, stay overseas for longer than the duration of a conference, or take their families along at the expense of the NWU.

You could add to that academic dishonesty such as plagiarism.

Madelein: Other examples are submitting claims with fake invoices or proof, or claiming personal expenses as university expenses.

Q: *What should staff do to report dishonesty when it comes to their attention?*

Madelein: The procedure is set out in the NWU's policy on the reporting of maladministration and irregularities and the protection of disclosure.

This policy is available on the NWU website under Management and Governance.

Staff members can complete the form (which is an appendix to the policy) and put it in one of the reporting boxes.

These boxes are located at the campuses' administrative buildings and the Institutional Office's C1 building.

Staff may also phone me or visit me in person at the Institutional Office.

The identity of the person who reports the alleged offence is protected if they do not want to be exposed. All matters are investigated and all facts are verified.



The new monolingual Setswana dictionary, *Tlhalosi ya Medi ya Setswana*, includes more than 1 500 idiomatic expressions and has a frequency band which indicates which words are rarely or frequently used in the language.

Monolingual Setswana dictionary launched

The Mafikeng Campus, in collaboration with Motsweding FM and Medi Publishing, has launched a new monolingual Setswana dictionary.

The dictionary – *Tlhalosi ya Medi ya Setswana* – was compiled by Prof Thapelo Otlogetswe from the University of Botswana and documents both colloquial (informal) and formal Setswana.

"We are honoured to have a dictionary that will restore the pride and dignity of the Tswana people," said Prof Dan Kgwadi, campus rector.

The dictionary is the first monolingual Setswana publication to include phonemic transcriptions with tonal markings and pronunciation tools.

Dialectal variations such as Sengwaketse and Sekgatla, as well as terms found exclusively in the South African Setswana-speaking community, are also included.

This impressive dictionary also provides etymological information and traces borrowed words from English and Afrikaans.

It includes lexical synonymy which links synonyms together or links idioms to other dictionary headwords. Another interesting feature is the middle section where issues such as punctuation and time are discussed.

Soccer Institute gets official car sponsor

The Soccer Institute has signed a deal with Westvaal-Volkswagen as its official car sponsor.

This sponsorship will be a long-term partnership between the Soccer Institute and Westvaal-Volkswagen to assist the institute and campus to develop well-rounded football players. The institute received a Volkswagen Jetta. The vehicle will be replaced once it has 20 000 kilometres on the clock or a year has passed.

"We are very honoured by the sponsorship. This deal demonstrates the value of the institute's national appeal," says Mr Richard Bokveldt, the manager of the Soccer Institute. He added that to nurture this relationship, the car has been branded with the logos of the NWU Mafikeng

Campus, the Soccer Institute and Westvaal-Volkswagen.

Soccer Institute moving forward: Westvaal-Volkswagen is now the official car sponsor of the Soccer Institute.



Gala evening makes alumni nostalgic

The Mafikeng Campus created the opportunity for more than 100 of their alumni to network during a gala evening held on 31 August in the Great Hall on the campus.

During his speech the campus rector, Prof Dan Kgwadi, said the gala evening is a celebration of the excellence of inspiring alumni achievers who work in the business sector and in government for the benefit of South Africa and its future generations.

Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor, said it is always important to see what the corporate world needs, and compare these needs with what we as universities can offer. "Events like these must provide the answers," he said.

After an excellent meal with the smooth sounds of the campus jazz orchestra in the background, the alumni (from different industry and business sectors) danced their way into the night to the rhythm of the songs sung by the campus choir.

Some of the guests and alumni who attended the gala evening are, from the left, Mr Dumile Mlambo from Marketing and Communication, Mr Ntshakang Sekane, Prof Dan Kgwadi, the campus rector, and Mr Oscar Sele.



Researchers triumph

The Potchefstroom Campus boasts brilliant academics and these four researchers certainly make the most of their talents.

Prof Annamarie Kruger, research director of the Africa Unit for Trans-disciplinary Health Research (AUTHeR), received the prestigious Women of the Year award from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). She was the winner in the category "Established researcher: Awards for the development of rural women". This award was made in recognition of, and as a reward for, her work done in this field.

Prof Minrie Greeff, a research professor at AUTHeR, was elected as new member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

"It is a great privilege to be chosen as member and receive credit for the work I've done. It also creates the opportunity to rub shoulders with the best researches South Africa has to offer, which opens the door for valuable research interaction."

Prof Esté Vorster of the Centre for Excellence in Nutrition was also re-elected as Secretary-General of ASSAf. ASSAf is the official national academy of science and represents the country in the international community of science academies. As collective resource, the Academy enables the generation of evidence-based solutions to national problems.

Prof Alta Schutte, director of the Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART), received the coveted AU TWAS Young Scientists' National Award. ASSAf, the DST, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have entered into an agreement to award an AU TWAS Young Scientists' National Award on an annual basis for the period 2010-2012.

The award recognises young talented scientists living and working in Africa. This year, Prof Alta received the prize in life and earth sciences.

Going green starts here

Efforts to create a sustainable carbon-neutral institution through the Green Campus Initiative (GCI) are bearing fruit.

Mr Jean-Marc Stidworthy, GCI project manager, says the campus introduced several projects to equip individuals and communities with the know-how and tools they need to play an active part in ensuring a greener future for all.

The campus launched an energy-saving competition in May, challenging the 11 men's hostels and 11 ladies' hostels to see who can reduce their electricity consumption the most. A winner is announced each month, receiving a financial incentive.

This has been very successful. Compared with statistics from the previous year, the hostels managed to reduce their electricity usage by

280 291 kWh and individual students are saving 3,94 kWh. In monetary terms, that is an impressive saving of R518 538.

The campus also launched its Swop Shop this year. This initiative encourages learners at various schools to trade their recyclable materials for stationery, toys and other goods which are donated and/or bought. In the second week after the inception of the project, pupils at President Pretorius Primary School traded more than 450 kg of recyclable materials for toiletries, sporting equipment and so on.

Another initiative is the FLAGH project where impoverished communities are given the means to generate an income by using recycled material to produce a variety of products.

Potchefstromers 'pimping' pavements

A group of lecturers are turning suburban pavements in Potchefstroom into vegetable gardens with the intention of allowing passing pedestrians to harvest vegetables for free. They call it "pavement pimping".

Mr André Goodrich and his wife, Ms Pia Bombardella, pioneered the scheme and are both anthropology lecturers. "It's not just about food. It's also a form of social activism – civil disobedience with a green twist," says André.

"We spend more and more of our leisure time in our homes behind electric fences and security doors. People decorate the land instead of producing off it. We want to encourage them to break down barriers and engage with the

community." The couple and a growing team of volunteers have only been at it since October, but have already pimped seven pavements. They now have a waiting list.

While residents are asked to donate their pavements and water their gardens, everything else is provided by the vegetable activists, who create the gardens from scratch.

"Some of the gardens will probably be raided from time to time, but the more there are, the less likely it becomes," says André. He prefers to plant a combination of spinach, maize, pumpkin and beans.

Story by Charl Blignaut (City Press)

"Pavement-pimping": Communal urban agriculture is constantly taking new forms as it becomes a global trend, and now Potchefstroom is also on the map.



Campus crowns first ever Mr and Miss NWU Vaal

It was a night of glitz and glamour fit for royalty. The occasion was the crowning of the first-ever Mr and Miss NWU Vaal, representing a new high point in the history of the Vaal Triangle Campus. During the event 18 finalists from the different residences of the campus took to the catwalk to compete for the crown.

The pageant was hosted by the Student Affairs Directorate at the Quest Conference Estate. The theme for the evening was 'Living the Spirit of the Olympics' and each participant had to represent a different country.

After competing in several rounds, including sportswear, personality, dancing and formal attire, the judges calculated the scores and the winners were announced.



Crowning glory: Marissa van den Heever and Olivier Thimbidi (in the front) are the first-ever Mr and Miss NWU Vaal. The first runners-up are Maserame Mokhachane and Brian Kheswa (in the second row). Portia Phele and Jonathan Sokhosan (in the back row) are the second runners-up.

Education and industry: Bridging the gap

In just three years after the launch of the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE) in South Africa, a collaborative working agreement between the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) and the Vaal Triangle Campus has paved the way to the development of a one-of-a-kind business incubator and curriculum innovation project.

The Faculty of Economic Sciences and Information Technology is home to the multidimensional BHive project (Bridging Business and Education by Establishing a Hub of Innovative Ventures and Expertise), and during a recent

gala event, Dr Theuns Eloff, vice-chancellor, officiated the opening of the project's Enterprise Development Centre (EDC). This centre can be viewed in much the same way as an incubator – that is, to create a controlled and closely monitored environment.

Within this controlled environment students and young entrepreneurs will enjoy support and guidance to accelerate the success of their entrepreneurial ventures. The centre will therefore develop and maintain dynamic relationships between industry and various educational institutions. All programmes offered at the EDC will also be incorporated into the current curriculum of the relevant degrees.

"The faculty feels strongly that applicable education is the primary building block of a successful South Africa," says Prof Herman van der Merwe, dean, and adds that it is therefore imperative that the campus delivers quality entrepreneurial students who can positively impact the future.

Dr Theuns Eloff, vice-chancellor, cuts the ceremonial ribbon to declare the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) open.



Feather Fund gives dreams flight

Celebrate your academic heritage by contributing towards the accomplishment of someone else's dream.

This was the inspiration for the launch of the Alumni Feather Fund during the annual alumni reunion in September.

The fund is the result of a collaborative endeavour by the alumni office and the fundraising office to help less fortunate students to achieve their dreams.

This will contribute to the strengthening of the bond between the different generations of alumni and to help build a sustainable future for the campus and the community it serves.

Members of the campus senior management and the Alumni Advisory Committee have already pledged their support to the Feather Fund venture by publicly signing up to join during the alumni reunion.

According to Ms Lydia Mokgatle, head of the fundraising office, this fund will help build a united and uplifted society in which all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Dr John Maloma, director of the department Marketing and Communication, signs the pledge to support the Feather Fund.



NWU experts know their stuff

Members of the NWU recently once again shared their expertise with the community on different occasions – be it during speeches or in interviews with the media. In this ongoing series, we would like to share the following quotes with our readers.



“ In my opinion the successful entrepreneurs set themselves apart at Aardklop from the others simply because of the way in which products are exhibited and presented. Even at an arts festival such as Aardklop it is important that the entrepreneurs should pay attention to the presentation, price labels, the use of colour, not too much stock and friendly and helpful sales staff who don't just try to palm off the items.”

*Prof Tommy du Plessis, Potchefstroom Business School
Sake24.com, 11 October 2012*

“ Over the years we have delivered many journalists who went on to senior positions at Beeld and other publications, but Jo van Eeden's appointment as editor of the Volksblad is a first for us. The fact that she is the first female editor at an Afrikaans daily newspaper, is also a huge milestone.”

*Prof Johannes Froneman, School of Communication Studies
Beeld, 18 October 2012*



“ Eco tourism and the Big Five in particular are invaluable to South Africa. Hunters know exactly what a wild animal is worth to them, but until now the value of that same animal in a national park has not been determined. Our study found that tourists are prepared to pay more than R3 500 to see the Big Five in the Kruger Park.”

*Prof Melville Saayman, Research focus area: Tourism Research in Economic Environments and Society (TREES)
Beeld, 1 October 2012*



“ In my classes, I started using media and have a Facebook profile to interact with my students, which they seem to be very comfortable with. Besides, this helps to counter those perceptions that maths, science and physics are very dry, rigid, nerdy subjects.”

*Prof Dan Kgwadi, Rector: Mafikeng Campus
CEO magazine, 1 October 2012*



“ In view of the current economic climate, the extension of all three-year degrees is a pipe dream that will not be realised. This should be thought over thoroughly because there are many other more important priorities in higher education.”

*Dr Theuns Eloff, NWU vice-chancellor
Beeld, 18 October 2012*



And the **winners** are...

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



Institutional Office:

Ms Daphne Modisane, administrative assistant, Human Capital



Mafikeng Campus:

Ms Manare Tshenye, librarian, Library



Potchefstroom Campus:

Ms Marolay van der Walt, clerk, Ferdinand Postma Library



Vaal Triangle Campus:

Ms Colleen O'Grady, senior administrative assistant, Technical Services

Thank you to everyone that participated – we'll do the same next year!

Congratulations!

Thank you to each and every one that completed the survey included in the September Eish! We received a lot of insightful feedback and are analysing it. **Keep an eye out for the first edition of Eish! in 2013 for more information.** In the meantime we are happy to announce the **winners of the R600 lucky draw** – congratulations to the following colleagues:



Institutional Office:

Ms Madelein Gerber, administrative officer, Financial Administration



Mafikeng Campus:

Prof Oladeju Olowu, School of Postgraduate Studies, Law Faculty



Potchefstroom Campus:

Ms Vernice Swarts, Secretary, Geography and Environmental Studies



Vaal Triangle Campus:

Mr Klasie Botha, laboratory assistant, School for Information Technology



KEHILWE MOGOIWA

People walking the extra mile

The end of the year is in sight and we would like to avail ourselves of this last opportunity to give recognition to all the NWU colleagues who are always willing to go the extra mile in their daily work.



PROF LEON VAN RENSBURG

Ms Kehilwe Mogoiwa, messenger at the Health Centre on the Mafikeng Campus, is one of those people who does not hesitate to jump in and help where necessary. "She noticed that the department did not have a secretary and started to perform secretarial duties of her own accord – with a smile and without payment," praises Ms Theresa Mokgoro, senior student guidance officer of the Health Centre on the Mafikeng Campus. "She is hard-working and always professional and enjoys working with the students."

According to Ms Yvonne Visagie, senior lab technician in the School of Environmental Sciences and Management on the Potchefstroom Campus, **Prof Leon van Rensburg**, director of the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, routinely goes more than the extra mile for his staff and students. "Thank you, Prof for your dedication," says Yvonne.



RIEËTTE VENTER

Ms Saritha Marais, personal assistant to the dean at the Law Faculty on the Potchefstroom Campus, wishes to nominate **Ms Rieëtte Venter**, senior administrative assistant in the same faculty. "Rieëtte is the software expert in the faculty and whenever invitations, programmes or front pages need to be done, she can take an idea and put together exactly what you need", says Saritha. "She is also a perfectionist and it is a pleasure to work with her. You never have to ask twice!"



MARTIE VAN ZYL

According to Ms Ilze Combrinck, secretary in the School of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering on the Potchefstroom Campus, there are two staff members from Residence and Catering Services who went the extra mile for her. **Ms Johanna Venter**, store manager, is willing to go to a lot of trouble to find what you need and to help where she can, while **Ms Martie van Zyl**, store assistant, is always friendly and ready to lend a hand. "Their warehouse is always neat and tidy," says Ilze.



JOHANNA VENTER

Dr Alvera Visser, administrative assistant in the IT section: Academic and Office Solutions in the Institutional Office,

would like to take this opportunity to compliment **Ms Zelda Friesling**, assistant to the manager of the Potchefstroom Campus Science Centre on her patience and kindness. "You can approach her at any time for help and she is always willing to put some extra effort into her work and to give feedback, with patience and kindness."

Ms Lily Meyer, senior administrative officer of Management Accounting Services in the Institutional Office, has numeracy skills which made such an impression on Ms Suzette Weideman, Coordinator: Psychological Health in the Health Centre on the Potchefstroom Campus, that she had to nominate her for the extra mile. "Lily is brilliant with numbers and is always happy to help. What I appreciate most of all is that she taught me a couple of things in the process, which made me a little bit smarter!"

Ms Elsie Geldenhuys, senior administrative assistant at Internal Audit in the Institutional Office, does not hesitate to nominate **Ms Yolandé Kruger**, senior internal auditor in the same department. "Yolandé recently worked into the wee hours of the morning to meet deadlines," says Elsie. She also mentions that other staff members' feedback of Yolandé praises her for her excellent service, kindness and thorough work.

Ms Alta Victor, administrative clerk at Mail and Courier Services on the Potchefstroom Campus, was nominated by Mr Will de Lange, senior administrative assistant at Academic Administration: Academic Record Enquiries on the Potchefstroom Campus. "She tracked down a missing package with proactive and positive action, and gave regular feedback on her progress. She really went out of her way to help, and went the extra mile."

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 indicate your job title and the name of your department or school as well as those of the person you're nominating.



ZELDA FRIESLING



LILY MEYER



YOLANDÉ KRUGER



ALTA VICTOR

Human rights affect all

Human rights are an issue that affects everybody deeply. This was confirmed by the good showing at the Human Rights seminar held at the Potchefstroom Campus on 26 September 2012. Approximately 65 staff members from all three NWU campuses gathered in the Joon van Rooy Building to listen to Prof Pieter du Toit from the Faculty of Law on the Potchefstroom Campus speaking about the rights of victims of crime.

After his talk, Adv Rehana Rawat gave a legal perspective on Section 23 of the Constitution of South Africa. She also addressed the audience on the right of employees to work in a safe environment – free from intimidation and victimisation.

Adv Rehana has been an advocate in the High Court since 1988 and is currently practising in Johannesburg. This seminar was the second one held this year. The previous one was held on 20 March at the Institutional Office in celebration of Human Rights Day. The seminars are arranged by the institutional Employee Relations Department, in cooperation with the NWU's Human Rights Committee.



Present at the Human Rights seminar are (at the back from left to right) Prof Pieter du Toit from the Faculty of Law on the Potchefstroom Campus and Mr Anton Scheppel, director of Employee Relations in the Institutional Office. In front from left are Adv Rehana Rawat from Johannesburg, Prof Christo van Wyk from the Vaal Triangle Campus and chairperson of the NWU's Institutional Forum, and Adv Solly Sithole, chairperson of the NWU's Human Rights Committee, who is stepping down as chairperson at the end of the year.

The objective of the Human Rights Committee is to look out for the rights of all staff members and students without infringing on other people's rights.

Complaints about alleged human rights violations at the NWU may be directed to humanrights@nwu.ac.za or tel 018 299 4816 or fax 018 299 4801.

The same contact details can be used to obtain more information on the NWU's human rights policy which was approved in September 2006.



With Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor, at the helm, the NWU performed very well in 2012. According to national benchmarking tools, the institution now finds itself in the company of the top universities in South Africa, namely Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Wits, Pretoria, KwaZulu-Natal and Rhodes. With the commitment and expertise of the NWU staff as driving force, the university should be able to improve its position even more in 2013.



Ms Madelein van der Merwe, director of Internal Audit at the Institutional Office, shares the following with us:

"A while ago I went through a difficult time because I voiced my opinion with regard to a particular issue, and received a lot of criticism for it. A wise mentor shared the following quote by Alexander Hamilton with me and this meant a lot during this trying time:

**'IF YOU DON'T
STAND
FOR SOMETHING, YOU'LL
FALL FOR ANYTHING.'**

It is easy to be critical if you don't have all the facts, but in the end the facts speak the loudest."

Do you have a favourite quote that is near and dear to your heart? Please share it with us; we would like to use it in the next edition of Eish!. Please send your quote, its origins or author, your short motivation why this has made an impact on you, as well as your name, surname, job title and department/school to marelize.santana@nwu.ac.za.



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