

PRESIDENT ZUMA and Dr Eloff *share a stage*



New **RECTORS**
take up their
posts

As King and
CHANCELLOR,
he serves



Cover page

From left are Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, Prof Dan Kgwadi, Rector of the Mafikeng Campus, and Prof Thanyani Mariba, Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus. In front is Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of the NWU.

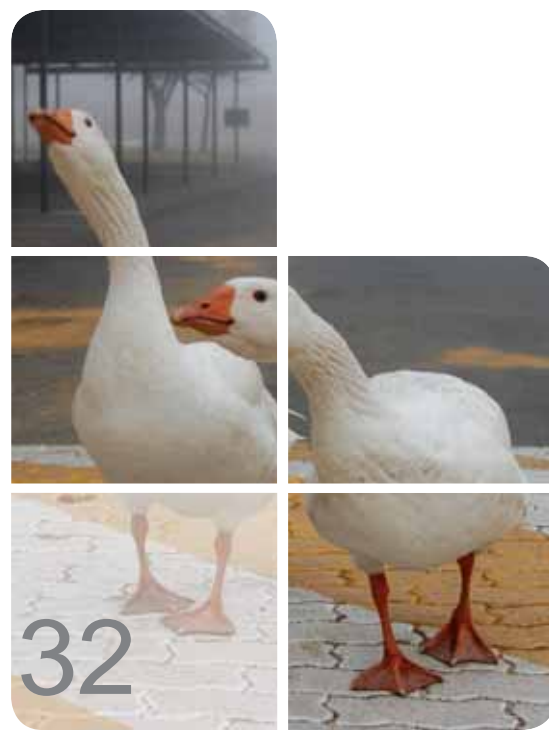
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Enjoy a double dose of reading pleasure

A pair of two is better than one on its own. Take famous duos such as left and right, up and down, Laurel and Hardy and Tweedledum and Tweedledee. One without the other is unthinkable.

AS FAR AS our alumni magazine is concerned, two editions per year are also better than one. From the positive reaction that we received to the first edition of the NWU & U, it was clear that one alumni magazine per year won't do.

We therefore decided to give our readers a double handful of reading pleasure by publishing two editions of the alumni magazine per year.

Our readers also responded promptly to our request to suggest a new name for the magazine. However, there were also many requests that the current name, NWU & U, should remain.

The editorial staff thought about the matter carefully, and we decided to keep the existing name.

After all, NWU & U indicates the partnership between the North-West University (NWU) and you, our readers. However, we changed the design of the masthead on the front page slightly.

By the way, speaking of 'we' – we now have two peas in the pod, because the editorial staff now consists of two members.

Two heads are always better than one ... and between the two of us,

Nelia and Marelize, we had a lot of fun compiling this magazine for you.

In this midyear edition of NWU & U we invite you to read more about the NWU and what is happening on our campuses in Mafikeng, Potchefstroom and Vanderbijlpark (p14-15).

For example, the Mafikeng Campus houses the Dale Beighle Centre for Animal Health, which does wonderful work, and zoology students of the Potchefstroom Campus counted thousands of Red-footed Falcons that annually migrate to a tree in Ventersdorp. As you probably already know, the Potchefstroom and the Vaal Triangle Campuses also boast new rectors (p 26-27), and we have again talked to alumni from our three campuses (p 24-25, 28-29).

Our Vice-Chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff, enjoyed the company of President Jacob Zuma at the Journalist of the Year Awards, and we visited the enigmatic Chancellor, Kgosi Leruo Moletlegi (p 18-19). While we were talking to all the VIPs, we thought it necessary to become better acquainted with the President of Tarentaal, who has a long association with the Potchefstroom Campus.

We trust that this alumni magazine will provide you with hours of reading pleasure. Once again, thank you very much for the wonderful feedback, and we look forward to hearing from you again. Until next time,



Editorial team: Nelia Engelbrecht and Marelize Santana, Louis Jacobs, Pheny Mokgothu, Kiewiet Scheppel, Annette Willemse, Gloria Edwards.

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Translation: Willie Cloete, Karien Brits, Marietjie Delpont, Wilna Liebenberg.

For further enquiries/correspondence: Nelia Engelbrecht - Tel (018) 299 4937 Fax (018) 299 4910.

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They come from NEAR AND FAR

OUR ALUMNI'S reaction to the first edition of NWU & U took us by surprise. We received dozens of letters via e-mail, and even handwritten letters. Some of them came from as far away as Bloemfontein and Pretoria, and even from overseas, from countries such as New Zealand. We gladly share some of the comments with you.

Thank you very much for the glimpse at events in the past and the future through the magazine. I came to Thaba Jah as Mauryn Heila Bouwer in February 1939. We were 42 women in the residence and there were male students to pick and choose from. I am now 88 years old and I still want to parachute ...
– *Mauryn du Toit, Bela-Bela*

Thank you for the first edition of our new magazine. As an alumnus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (BA, 1973), it was wonderful to receive this glossy magazine. – *Adri van Staden, Wonderboompoort*

Thank you for the opportunity to react to the alumni magazine. It was a wonderful surprise, even more so as my generation is already a bit removed from the content. However, episodes like when the library caught fire, I still remember very clearly ...
– *Frikkie Pretorius, Nylstroom*

Thank you for the alumnus magazine. It has encouraged me to write a praise poem in Setswana for the Chancellor, Kgosi Leruo Moletlegi, the bull of the Bafokeng. – *Nols Swanepoel, Kleinmond*

Thank you very much for an interesting alumni magazine. What about a few ways to save paper (trees), time and money? Send only one copy to a married couple, and use recycled paper instead of glossy paper. Also take the lead in this regard! – *Piet van Heyningen, Stellenbosch*

I really appreciate the beautiful magazine that you sent me. On page 25 you mention 7 August 1940, when the invasion by the soldiers took place. As a child I was on the Campus that night ...
– *Linda Zaaiman, Hermanus*

I must be honest, the new University is quite strange to me ... However, one can only watch and see where it is going. – *Dries Kloppe, Annlin*

Reading about men and women like FW de Klerk, Johan and Rina van Rensburg, Dr Theuns Eloff, and Prof Annette Combrink leads me to reflect deeply. Also when I read with amazement about new names like that of Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi and others. – *Neels Malan, Derdepoortpark*

I enjoyed the new alumni magazine very much and was especially impressed with the layout and the accuracy of the information.
– *Hennie Prins, Ventersdorp*

Thank you very much for this magnificent first edition of the alumni publication: it is extremely readable. It is so beautiful, exquisite, and relevant. Congratulations! – *Stephen Giles, Kroonstad*

There was a time after the merger of the universities – to form North-West University – when we felt fairly uninvolved. But thanks to the fact that this magazine also focuses on the Potchefstroom Campus and informs us about the other campuses, we are still very interested in what is happening there. – *Sarel and Elizabeth Venter, Bloemfontein*

What a top-class magazine to meet my needs as an alumnus. I really enjoyed the edition that I received. – *Pieter Heystek, Montana Park*

I would like to thank you and the University very much for the newsletter. As a former student it was very interesting to read the latest news about the University. – *Santa van der Westhuizen, Garsfontein*

I received the new magazine in the mail yesterday. Congratulations to all of you guys for a beautiful piece of work. Keep it up. – *Johan van Rensburg, Robin Hills*

I received the new magazine and it is beautiful. – *Marlena Kruger, New Zealand*

You are welcome to send your letters to nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za or fax them to (018) 299 4910, or post them to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520. We would like to hear from you!

Message from the VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr Theuns Eloff

WE RECEIVED overwhelmingly positive comments after the first publication of NWU & U in 2009 and we are glad the NWU alumni are so attached to their alma mater.

This is an important year for South Africa and we at the NWU have known all along that the 2010 soccer would affect us. We have had to adapt our academic year to accommodate the tournament and now, having reached the half-way mark, are grateful to report that all has been going smoothly.

We also coped well with the fact that the 2009 matric results were announced so late. Although this inevitably influenced the first-year admission process, we managed to meet our targets for recruiting the right numbers of quality students.

The first-year intake of contact students at the NWU was larger than we had anticipated and the numbers at the Mafikeng Campus increased substantially.

You are probably also aware that the NWU is entering a new era in its history with the recent appointment of two new campus rectors.

In alumni context too it is my privilege to once again welcome Prof Thanyani Mariba, Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus, and Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus.

All is well

A summary of the recent achievements of the NWU confirms that all is well with the institution:

- For three consecutive years (2007, 2008 and 2009) the NWU has received the first prize for corporate governance awarded by PricewaterhouseCoopers.
- In 2008 the National Innovation Fund identified the NWU as the most innovative university in South Africa.
- The NWU was the recipient of two recent PanSALB awards: in 2008 as the institution of higher learning that had contributed the most to multilingualism and nation building in the previous decade, and in 2010 as the winner of the interpreting and translation category.
- We received an extremely positive audit report from the Higher Education Quality Committee in 2009.
- Much has been done to improve the student experience on all three campuses and we continue to work hard to ensure a healthy, balanced campus life.
 - The NWU is doing well in the field of sport, which is high on the non-academic agenda of the institution. The Soccer Institute on the Mafikeng Campus won the USSA soccer title in December

2009, while the Vaal Triangle Campus were the USSA cricket champions in the B section and the Potchefstroom Campus were the USSA champions in rugby, athletics, netball and karate.

- The infrastructure on all the campuses is being developed further in 2010 and 2011 through an investment of more than R270 million.

Despite all this activity, our work for the year is far from done and there are many challenges to face in the second half of 2010.

Still much to be done

There is still much work to be done to improve our core business. This applies to the development of the institution's focus on internationalisation and regional involvement and the sustained improvement of our quality-assurance processes.

Two other important issues that are always on our radar screen are transformation and the achievement of social cohesion.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Mafikeng Campus, which celebrates its 30th birthday this year, with the festivities reaching a climax in October.

Our immediate agenda includes the 2010 FIFA World Cup Tournament.

The Spanish soccer team, which is universally regarded as the best soccer team in the world, stay in world-class facilities at the Potchefstroom Campus during the tournament. (Read more about this on page 21.)

In conclusion, I thank you wholeheartedly for your support and loyalty towards the NWU, and hope that you will continue watching our progress with pride.

NWU greetings!



The NWU is still on the road to success

A summary of the NWU’s recent **core business** achievements shows that the University has successfully climbed an **upward curve** in the past few years. This applies to almost **all achievements** as shown in the table below.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total student enrolment:	38 596	38 708	44 726	47 008	50 589
- Contact	27 092	27 889	26 075	25 740	26 853
- Distance	11 504	10 819	18 651	21 268	23 736
Undergraduate pass rate	78,8%	78,4%	79,5%	81,2%	83,6%
Graduation rate	20%	25%	25%	26%	26,6%
Degrees and diplomas awarded	7 746	9 825	11 345	12 337	13 445
Master’s degrees awarded	700	765	618	583	659
PhDs awarded	85	110	124	100	123
Article equivalents published (total)	326	361	376	503	452,5
NRF rated researchers	85	82	95	102	116
Total research output	865	1 074	1 061	1 083	1 190
Total income	R1 133m	R1 272m	R1 436m	R1 671m	R1 827m
Surplus (recurrent items)	R54m	R63m	R66m	R82m	R58m
Staff cost/total cost	52,5%	52,6%	50,1%	48,8%	49,8%
Self-generated income	R384m	R453m	R542m	R644m	R647m
% of income from government	43,2%	42,8%	39,8%	40,0%	41,5%
% of income from tuition fees	21,1%	20,2%	21,4%	20,3%	22,4%
Capital expenditure on upgradings	R29,3m	R48,6m	R55,5m	R48,5m	R61,2m

President *Jacob Zuma and* Vice-Chancellor share stage

DURING THE South African Press Club's Journalist of the Year competition in March this year Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of the NWU, shared the stage with President Jacob Zuma.

Dr Theuns also used this opportunity to present President Zuma with a framed print of a photograph of the team of Codesa negotiators.

Original photograph

The original photograph hangs in Dr Theuns' office and during a previous visit to the NWU, President Zuma saw it there and was very interested in it.

Besides providing an opportunity to present the photograph to President Zuma, the prize-giving function also

exposed the NWU to favourable media coverage from three different angles.

Firstly, the University was sponsoring the competition; secondly, Dr Theuns was presenting the prizes; and thirdly, the NWU's Prof Henk Bouwman was involved with the TV programme made by the winning journalist.

Carte Blanche programme

The Journalist of the Year, Ms Joy Summers, made a programme for Carte Blanche about the possible hazards of spraying DDT in houses.

Prof Henk, from the research unit Environmental Sciences and Management on the Potchefstroom Campus, was interviewed as one of the

scientists who conducted research in this field.

During his speech Dr Theuns said that all sectors – including the government, higher education and the media – should maintain a balance between accountability and effectiveness on the one hand, and reconciliation and transformation on the other.

Independent media

"I believe that this event is about the indispensable role of an independent media sector in portraying the truth accurately, whilst remaining sensitive to the heart and soul of the country and its people." The University will sponsor this competition again next year, when an Editor of the Year will also be announced.



President Jacob Zuma (centre) was named the National Press Club's Newsmaker of the Year. Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor (right), presented him with a photo at the prize-giving ceremony. With them is Mr Yusuf Abramjee, the President of the National Press Club (left).



Prof Henk Bouwman (left) took part in the TV programme that Ms Joy Summers (right), the Journalist of the Year, made.

USING DDT INDOORS MAY BE DANGEROUS

Prof Henk Bouwman was part of an international group of scientists conducting research on the possible hazards of the toxin DDT when used indoors for controlling malaria.

Although the agricultural use of DDT has been banned in South Africa since 1976, DDT is still sprayed in homes to control malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

Research has proven that there

is a possible connection between exposure to high levels of DDT and diseases such as cancer, diabetes, developmental problems in fetuses and children, and decreased fertility.

Prof Henk's research has shown specifically that DDT in breast milk is most likely derived from contact with DDT in and around sprayed homes, rather than just from food, as was previously suspected.

Although these findings should be seen in the light of the large number of people dying of malaria every year, the use of DDT as the first alternative for combating this hazard should be reconsidered.

Safer methods should rather be considered, like using mosquito nets and safer insecticides in order to minimise people's exposure to DDT.

Cynics are outnumbered by OPTIMISTS at the NWU

THE NUMBER OF contented NWU staff members is increasing while fewer and fewer are dissatisfied. The working environment is one of the things that employees are happiest about and the Mafikeng Campus showed the biggest increase in 'smiling' colleagues.

These are some of the facts that emerged from the third Culture and Climate Survey that was conducted at the end of last year by the company What Works.

The results of this survey were 28% more favourable than the previous survey's, with the biggest positive shift noticeable on the Mafikeng Campus.

How staff think and feel

The culture quotient – i.e. how the people at the NWU think and feel about the organisation's climate and culture – is still improving. It is now 63,3%, compared to 58,3% in 2007 and 53,3% in 2005. (This should of course be read in the context of the acceptable norm of a maximum of 75%.) It is also the first time that all four business units scored above 60%.

The results of the culture quotient show that the Mafikeng Campus is most positive (67,6%), followed by the Potchefstroom Campus, the Institutional Office and the Vaal Triangle Campus.

Regarding staff categories, the culture quotient was highest among the academic management, followed by the support staff, the support management, and the academic staff.

What staff like

The six principal areas measured were strategic leadership, working environment, effective organisation, staff values and attitude, the competence of the organisation, and brand and image. These areas are known as 'anchors'.

Staff are most positive about their working environment (68,7%) and least positive about strategic leadership (56,4%).

What's noticeable is that the Mafikeng participants in the 2005 survey were not particularly impressed with their working environment. In that survey they awarded only 39,7% to this area.

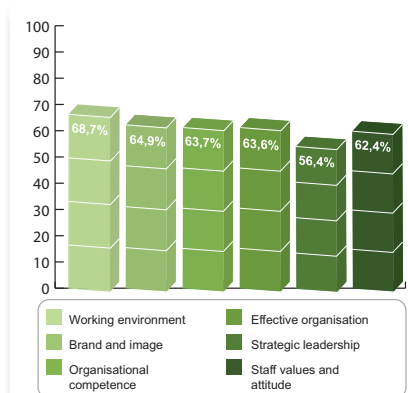
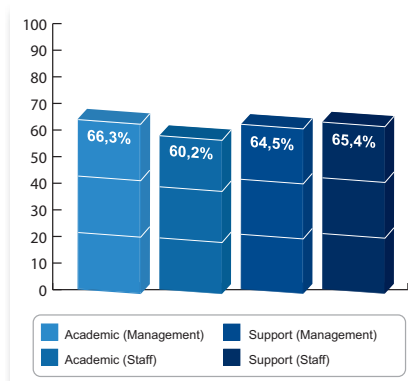
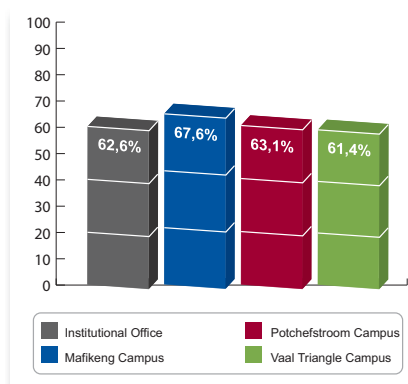
However, the latest survey has shown that the Mafikeng participants now like their working environment a lot more. The percentage has increased considerably and is currently at 68,0%

What staff are suggesting

In the open question category, participants could also make suggestions. Some of the proposals were that the University should pay even more attention to:

- internationalisation,
- outcomes-based performance management,
- alignment across campuses,
- balance between the Institutional Office and the campuses,
- consistent management of human resources,
- bottom-up transformation,
- balancing the three core business objectives (teaching-learning, research and the implementation of expertise)

The results of the survey have already been submitted to Institutional Management and will be submitted to the NWU Council in June. They will take into consideration the survey's results for their strategic planning for next year.



Kristina takes a trip

The Mafikeng Campus celebrates its thirtieth birthday this year. We asked Ms Kristina Travis, Head of the Campus Secretariat and Archives, to take us on a trip down memory lane.



down MEMORY LANE

MS KRISTINA TRAVIS, Head of the Campus Secretariat and Archives on the Mafikeng Campus, has seen it all.

She has witnessed the joys and the hardships, the achievements and the challenges of that Campus.

Appointed a mere four years after the University of Bophuthatswana came into being in 1980, Kristina witnessed almost three decades in the existence of what is now the Mafikeng Campus of the North-West University.

When she was appointed Senior Secretary to the Financial Controller, Professor John Makhene was the Vice-Chancellor.

"What sticks in my mind is his leadership style. He was never scared to make a decision, even if it was unpopular. He never hesitated, and his authority was respected," she says.

Starting out small

When she started on the Campus, Kristina's staff number was 768. In other words, she was the 768th person to be appointed. Ten years on, in 1994, the number of staff members had almost doubled to 1 441 employees.

Kristina recalls that the lecturing staff was very 'international' in those early years. Some were from the USA, Canada, Italy, England, Russia, Ghana, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Many were from South Africa, which was officially seen by Bophuthatswana as another country.

The Campus itself was very small in those days. The only permanent

building was the Base Building. Housing academic and support staff, this building included the old library and two lecture halls which were referred to as the auditorium. Portacamps or temporary buildings were scattered around on the grounds, some serving as offices and some as lecture rooms.

Growing fast

"Since then, numerous buildings have shot up. One of them was the Great Hall, which was built in 1985 at the initiative of Sir Albert Robinson, the then Chancellor of the University.

"He was a diplomat and at one stage the High Commissioner to Britain for the Central African Federation.

He was instrumental in bringing a lot of money to the University, amongst others for the erection of the Great Hall. The Robinson Room in this building was named after him, serving as a reminder of the important role that he played."

Kristina remembers that the campus grounds and gardens were established after proper planning. "Responsible for the gardens and doing a great job was Klaus Gensler.

"He was quite a character and everybody knew him. Summer through winter, he used to roam the grounds wearing his short 'Lederhosen' or leather pants."

And the students in those days?

"I don't think the students have changed much over the years," she says, "except that there are many more of them now. We also see a lot

more female students dressed very fashionably now than we did in the past."

Then she recalls the sadder moments. "In those days we had a lot more student unrests – boycotts almost every semester."

In the past 27 years, Kristina has witnessed the metamorphosis of the University. She experienced the University of Bophuthatswana becoming the University of the North West, and years later becoming the Mafikeng Campus of the North-West University.

A new institution

She recalls the birth of the current North-West University as an exciting phase. "I was lucky to have been part of all the pre-merger meetings between the institutions, namely the University of the North West, the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, and the Vista University whose staff and students were incorporated. It was fascinating to witness the tough negotiations, the concessions and the compromises – in short, the gradual coming together of the parties."

Kristina served under no fewer than 12 rectors or vice-chancellors throughout the years. By now she does not only know the institution from the inside out; she knows its heart.

Yes, she has come a long way with the University. But it is also true that the University has come a long way with Kristina Travis.

30-YEAR CELEBRATION GAINS MOMENTUM IN OCTOBER

The 30-year celebrations on the Mafikeng Campus will gain momentum during the first week of October 2010.

Amongst others, the Campus will welcome its alumni and give recognition to the achievers amongst them by presenting them with Golden Leopard Awards at a gala dinner.

A booklet on the history of the Campus will be launched at that event.

THIS IS HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

- 1980 - Establishment of the University of Bophuthatswana.
- 1994 - The University of Bophuthatswana became part of South Africa's Education Department and the institution's name was changed to the University of North West.
- 2004 - The North-West University came into being when the former University of North West merged with the former Potchefstroom University for Higher Education, and the staff and students of the Sebokeng Campus of the former Vista University were incorporated.



This photograph was taken in 1985. At the back is the auditorium, with the partly completed cafeteria in the front.



This is how the Mafikeng Campus library looks today.



Between 1989 and 1998, Ms Kristina Travis (middle, back row) was Head of the Secretarial Training Unit. Here she is with one of the groups of trainees. They are, in the back row from left, Mss Maria Ramookho (currently at Human Resources), Tebogo Mokawane (currently at the Faculty of Education), Sedie Ngakantsi (currently at the Committee Secretariat), Kristina Travis, *Sophy Mothibedi, and *Womba Mwaba. In the front row, from left, are Mss *Boitumelo Matjie, Jacky Mosedi (currently at the Soccer Institute), Maggy Medupe (currently at the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences), and *Masabata Selepa. (*No longer at the NWU).

First phase of the website is the beginning of great things



Ms Gloria Edwards, Web Content Manager, was at the helm during the first phase of development of the NWU's new website.

WELL DONE!

Internet users seem quite pleased with the NWU's new website. Here are some of their comments:

- "I just had an incredible experience. For the first time I could find something on the website by making use of a keyword and the search engine. Bravo!"
- "I wanted to check something on the website and was absolutely enchanted by the new look. It is beautiful. The font is also very easy on the eyes. Well done!"
- "Congratulations! The website looks stunning! I think you did fantastic work!"
- "I looked at some of the other universities' websites and ours is by far the most user friendly of them all."

The first phase of the NWU's newly developed website was launched recently. This initiative aims to make it easier for web users to find information about the NWU.

IT IS LIKE LAUNCHING a ship. The plans for the ship were drawn, the construction was completed, the voyage has just started and the destination is waiting ahead.

That is how one can describe the first phase of the NWU's redeveloped website, which was launched at the end of March 2010.

"During the redevelopment of the NWU's website we paid particular attention to good navigation, user-friendliness and a fresh, modern approach and appearance," Ms Gloria Edwards, Web Content Manager, explains.

"We also aligned it with the rest of the brand development of the NWU."

The redevelopment was done in terms of the content management system (technical system) of the web, as well as the content and appearance of the internet.

A good start

Because the project as a whole is so vast, it was decided to tackle it in different phases.

For the first phase of the redevelopment process, all official and organisational information was rewritten and published on the new templates.

This included information such as student statistics and the road maps – in other words information about the University that the public needs.

Moreover, groups such as Community Engagement, Technology Transfer, Research Support and one faculty of each campus were part of the first phase. The faculties were as follows: Law on the Mafikeng Campus, Engineering on the Potchefstroom Campus and Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus.

In the dry docks

During the first phase, excess or

irrelevant information was removed or moved to the staff intranet of the NWU and existing information was updated and presented in a user-friendly way.

However, the existing information did not disappear. Links on the new interim pages take internet users to the old pages with the existing information. During the next phases of the web redevelopment process, this information will be revised and published on new templates.

An exciting journey ahead

It seems as if an exiting journey awaits the NWU's web users. The next phases of the process are already in planning, but no specific deadlines have been set. "In the meantime we talk to people and groups about where exactly they fit in and to keep them informed about the process," Gloria says.

Mafikeng Campus *boasts a first* in ANIMAL HEALTH studies

FEW PEOPLE KNOW that the Dale Beighle Centre for Animal Health Studies on the Mafikeng Campus offers two qualifications that are unique in South Africa.

These are the only full-time BScAgric (Animal Health) programme and the only residential programme for a Diploma in Animal Health recognised for registration by the South African Veterinary Council.

The large Animal Health complex houses amongst others a modern animal clinic to enhance the undergraduate teaching programme and large diagnostic and research laboratories to facilitate postgraduate studies.

Postgraduate qualifications include BSc Honours, MSc and PhD.

The staff consists of five veterinarians and 10 paraveterinarians.

Their tasks include student teaching, examinations, research and community service.

The equipment is state-of-the-art, such as a digital X-ray machine, ultrasound equipment, surgical theatres, hospitalisation cages and outside

pens. A 22-seater mini-bus is available to transport staff and students to treat sick animals on surrounding farms.



The Dale Beighle Centre for Animal Health Studies has a modern veterinary hospital on site to handle domestic and farm animals.

Library *benefits* from Africana *donation*

THE AFRICANA SECTION

of the Vaal Triangle Campus Library is steadily growing and represents a valuable literary and historical asset.

This closed section contains first edition texts and books which are of historical value to the different academic subject groups on the Campus.

An alumnus of the Campus, Mr Stef van der Walt, recently made a valuable donation towards the Africana Section. Stef is currently a risk manager for Absa.

15 000 falcons – an amazing sight

ON 23 JANUARY this year zoology students counted approximately 15 000 Amur Red-footed Falcons that annually migrate to a tree in Ventersdorp.

Prof Henk Bouwman of Zoology says these falcons, accompanied by some Lesser Kestrels, are a well-known sight this time of the year in the huge eucalyptus tree facing the Dutch Reformed Church on the road to Derby. They arrive at twilight at a rate of 100 every 20 seconds.

"This amazing natural phenomenon can best be seen between 18:00 and 19:30. This year there were many more of these small falcons than in previous years," he says.

Last year, the Migrating Red Falcon Project counted 172 029 falcons. The Red-footed falcons fly from China and Korea and have one of the longest uninterrupted migrating routes of all birds.

Prof Henk Bouwman at twilight at the eucalyptus tree in Ventersdorp where the Red-footed falcons sleep.



Two popular staff members celebrate their 30-years “commemoration”



Ms Christa Cloete and Mr Horst Bütow.

MR HORST BÜTOW and Ms Christa Cloete started the Culture Office together on the Potchefstroom Campus in 1980 and celebrated 30 years as colleagues in February this year.

Horst is the head of the Culture Office and Christa is his secretary. Together they were responsible for establishing the Department which presently is known as Puk Arts.

The two of them took the culture societies on the Campus under their wing and were the initiators of, amongst other things, the Campus

Talent Festival, First-year Concert and Culture Council.

Horst and Christa's love for the University and young people is reflected in their involvement everywhere on the Campus. Horst is the housemaster of the town hostel, Thaba Jäh.

Christa knows the University and its people like the back of her hand. She started working at the University straight after school.

Horst is her second boss and she is currently serving under the sixth rector.

Campus hosts Ernest Pelaelo Lekhela memorial lecture

THE MAFIKENG CAMPUS

recently hosted the Ernest Pelaelo Lekhela memorial lecture, the second in a series of lectures to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Campus.

The memorial lecture, presented by Prof Mafori Mphahlele, was held to honour and celebrate the life of Prof Lekhela who contributed immensely to the establishment of the Mafikeng Campus through the Lekhela Commission.

Prof Mphahlele was a student of Prof Lekhela, who was a Council member of the former University of Bophuthatswana.

Prof Mphahlele described Prof Lekhela as a great thinker and a good writer, a down to earth man of the people who never lost his common touch.

He was a teacher, principal and inspector before becoming a lecturer at the University of the North.

He studied with UNISA, and obtained the following degrees: BA, BEd, MEd and DEd. He and Dr Billy Manvate also composed the national anthem of Bophuthatswana.

Muscles and *dance steps* take the lead

BODY BUILDING AND DANCE set the pace during the annual sport dinner on the Vaal Triangle Campus.

For the second consecutive year, the title of Sportsman of the Year went to Mr Wilfred Mandiza. He is currently ranked amongst the top five body builders in the country. Ms Motlalepule Sekete, an avid body builder, was announced the Sportswoman of

the Year. The Most Promising Sportsman, Mr Mpondo Mbotho, and the Most Promising Sportswoman, Ms Roselinah Genu are both from the Vaal Triangle Campus dance team.

They made history in 2009 by being the first dance team on the Campus, and the first team to represent the Campus at a University Sport South Africa (USSA) tournament.



In the categories for Most Promising Sportsman and Sportswoman the spoils went to Ms Roselinah Genu and Mr Mpondo Mbotho. The guest speaker of the evening, Mr Bill Slater (centre) shares in their joy.

Alumni have fun get-togethers

Alumni of all three campuses have had some great get-togethers this year, some over the coffee pot and others over a glass of wine.

APPROXIMATELY 90 former students of the Potchefstroom Campus who had studied BCom Accounting or Business Mathematics and Informatics met in Johannesburg recently.

At the get-together, which was arranged by the alumni office on the Campus, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff, told them more about the Endowment Fund of the NWU.

He explained that funds for the NWU are raised by Club 1000 and Club 500, in which alumni donate R1 000 or R500 per month to the University. These funds are invested in an Endowment Fund and the interest is channelled back to the University.

At the same event the new Campus Rector, Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, talked to the alumni about the achievements and challenges of the Campus, as well as his vision for the Campus.

At another event the Alumni Office treated retired staff members to a

breakfast at the home of the Vice-Chancellor.

This was done to thank them for their long-standing, committed service to the University.

At the breakfast former staff also met with Potchefstroom Campus Rector, Prof Herman, and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Theuns, gave a brief summary ensuring them that everything was well with the North-West University.

One of the guests was the well-known Afrikaans poet, Prof TT Cloete.

The Wine Guild of the Potchefstroom Campus also raised their glasses on four occasions this year.

They tasted a large variety of wines and are going to taste whiskey in August and champagne in September.

Alumni aboard

Former students who studied Economics and Accounting on the Vaal Triangle Campus had their social meeting in May.

These subject groups represent the oldest academic disciplines on the Campus and at the reunion different generations were able to socialise.

Some of the older alumni graduated at the "first" campus in Goodyear Street in Vanderbijlpark during the early 1960s.

Others were part of the Vaal Triangle Campus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education at a later stage.

At this event the Campus honoured various alumni for their achievements in the corporate sector, as well as for their involvement in their respective communities. The following people received awards:

- Dr Brendah Sekatane: Senior Lecturer in Economics and a member of the Executive Committee of the NWU Convocation.
- Prof Heleen Janse van Rensburg: Senior Lecturer and Subject Head: Accounting, Vaal Triangle Campus. She was the 2009 winner of the Institutional Teaching Excellence Award (ITEA).
- Mr Ettienne le Roux: Chief Economist of Rand Merchant Bank.
- Prof Marius Stander: Professor in Industrial Psychology, Vaal Triangle Campus. He received an honorary award for service to the alumni corps and the NWU Convocation.

Student leader honoured

At the recent graduation ceremony at the Vaal Triangle Campus Mr Sipiwe Mbatha, an alumnus of this campus, received the sought-after Rector's Award for Excellence in Student Life.

This award is made for outstanding service and commitment to the Campus, and especially in the student community.

Sephiwe, who currently works at South African Breweries, served as



Should old acquaintance be forgot ... Ms Carol Mathibe (left), and Prof Cingo Ndumiso (centre) talk to Prof Dan Kgwadi, Campus Rector, at the reception held for Mafikeng alumni.



Ms Tumisang Rakhudu (left) and Ms Masego Makgahlela of the Mafikeng Campus were enjoying the function held in Centurion.



Former Business Mathematics and Informatics students of the Potchefstroom Campus celebrate together with Prof Riaan de Jongh, Director of the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics. From left to right are Mr Jaco van der Walt, Mr Thys Roodt, Prof De Jongh, Mr Jaco Smit and Mr Wikus Duvenhage, a former SRC member.

President of the Student Representative Council of the Vaal Triangle Campus in 2008 and 2009, and was also President of the NWU's Institutional Student Representative Council. He obtained a BCom Honours degree in Economics in 2009.

Mafikeng celebrates

In May this year, the Marketing and Communications Department of the Mafikeng Campus held a prestigious dinner in Centurion for about 120 alumni from the Pretoria area.

At this event the alumni partied until late in the evening, while exchanging news and contact details.

"The gala dinners are aimed at establishing chapters in the different areas, and at networking with former students and encouraging them to invest in the University," Ms Susan van Rooyen, Alumni Officer of the Mafikeng Campus, says.

"This they can do by becoming involved in matters that relate to the development and progress of the Campus." Prof Dan Kgwadi, the Campus Rector, has invited the alumni to an alumni function being held on 8 October 2010.

He has asked them to nominate fellow alumni who had achieved special accomplishments, as the alumni achievers would receive Golden Leopard Awards at this event.

The awards event will form part of the rest of the October celebrations of the 30 years' existence of the Campus. The next alumni events are planned for the end of June in Nelspruit and the end of August, possibly in Swaziland.

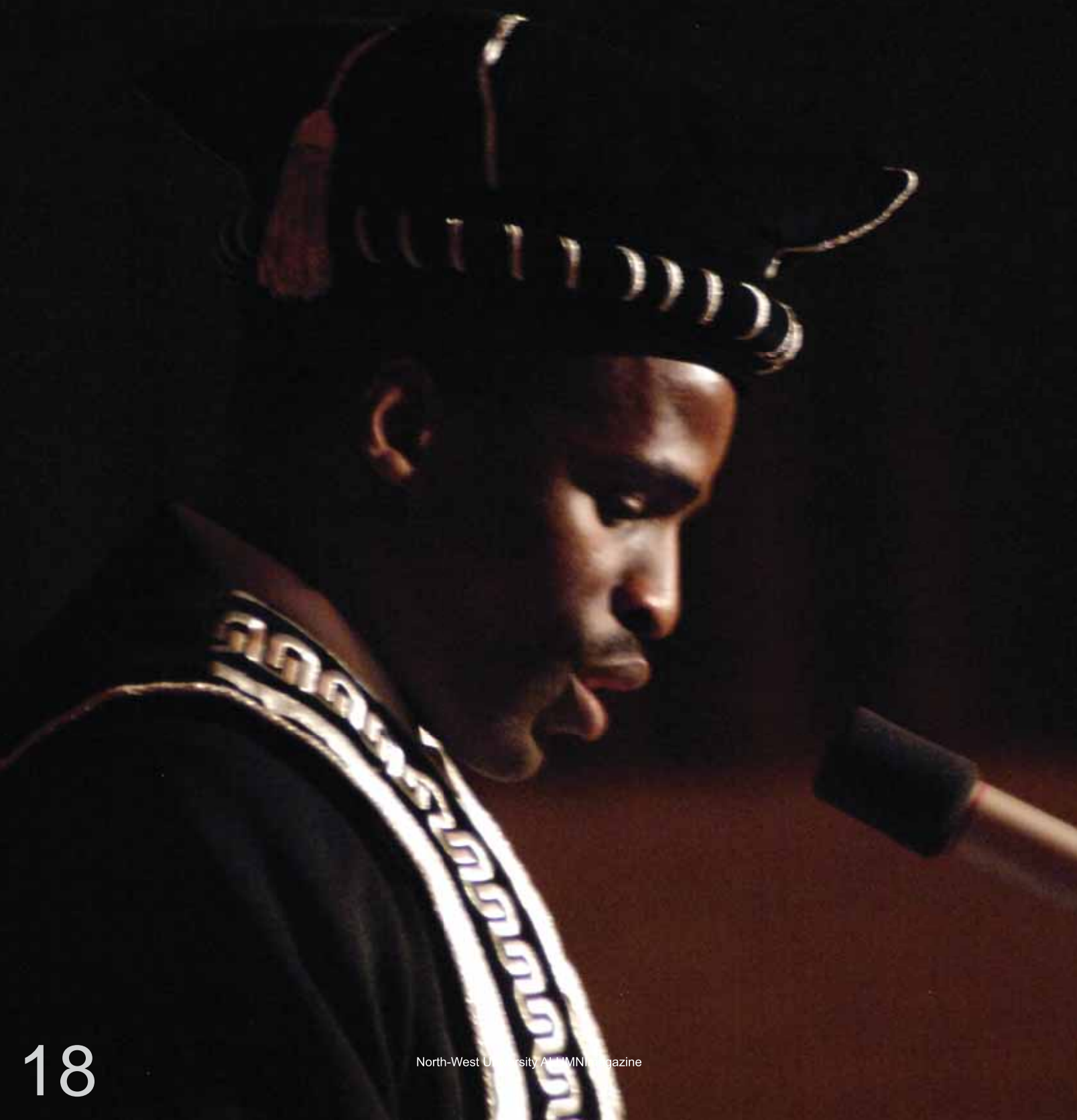


Vaal Triangle alumni Mr Morena Tsotsetsi, (left) and Mr Helmunt Pienaar (right) enjoy the alumni function together with Ms Annette Willemse of the Marketing and Communications Department.



Former students who studied Economics and Accounting on the Vaal Triangle Campus met in May. The event had a naval theme and everything – even the guest artists, Navi Redd – followed the theme.

As *KING* and *CHANCELLOR*, he serves



HE GREW UP in a family committed to public service. It is therefore no wonder that Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, King of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, takes his responsibilities as Chancellor of the North-West University extremely seriously.

As education reform is his highest priority for the the Royal Bafokeng Nation, he finds his position as Chancellor of the NWU very rewarding.

"Having an active relationship with a university is a great way to understand the challenges affecting the entire educational system.

I believe that universities have an important role to play in upgrading this system."

Valuable research

He is also thrilled to be affiliated to a university where research on important issues such as the global economy, climate change and nuclear disarmament is ongoing.

"South Africa is assuming an increasingly important place in debates about these matters and the NWU's research outputs, patents and discoveries have the potential to be very consequential during this period in world history."

Highly appreciated

Kgosi Molotlegi also appreciates the University's diversity, its integration into the communities where it is located and its desire to be a world-class university.

"The vision and mission of the University is very ambitious, its people very friendly and its administration very organised and proactive."

It comes a long way

The Royal Bafokeng Nation has a longstanding relationship with the NWU.

"I see huge opportunities for ongoing future collaboration, for instance in terms of increasing the quality of well-trained teachers who are excited to teach in rural schools.

"I also see great synergy in the area of sports, as the Bafokeng Nation places increasing emphasis on the role of sport in catalysing social and economic upliftment."

Close to his heart

The welfare of the Royal Bafokeng Nation is very dear to him.

"I would like my reign to constitute a consistent link in the long line of Bafokeng dikgosi who led the community with courage and foresight, who embraced change and kept the strategic interests of the people in mind at all times.

"I would like to be remembered as someone who took education to the highest possible level, and inspired leadership at all levels in the community."

And what makes a good leader?

Know yourself

"I think it's mostly about knowing who you are and where your strengths lie, and focusing on your goals. However, no leader can accomplish his or her goals alone.

"A good leader should identify appropriate talent, build effective teams and motivate them to do their best."

Although Kgosi Moletlegi is the leader of the Royal Bafokeng Nation today, he did not grow up with that expectation.

Becoming King

"Becoming the Kgosi occurred in the context of tragedy, because we lost my father and my two older brothers in a period of five years.

At that stage the overwhelming feeling was one of loss – we lost talented, committed men.

I handled the shock of the situation by immersing myself in thinking and planning towards meeting the challenges that the Bafokeng would face in the future." As he was never expected to be the Kgosi, he was prepared for adulthood in the same way the rest of his siblings were.

Respect for all

"We were educated in high quality schools, we were taught to respect all people and to practice the art of decision making, even under difficult circumstances.

"As children we knew that our parents had serious obligations to more people than just the family.

We had to learn to sacrifice for instance our time and privacy in the interest of the public good.

Of course, under apartheid that was even more difficult, because we were separated from our mother and father when they went into exile for a number of years," he says.

In the public eye

"Our parents were very much in the public eye, and that can be hard on children.

"However, in other ways it unified us and made us much closer as a family." His siblings all pursue their individual careers, while making time to attend community functions and staying up to date on the direction the community is taking.

The Kgosi's mother, Ms Semane Molotlegi is well known in South Africa and serves as an ambassador for the Bafokeng wherever she goes.

His paternal uncles serve as traditional leaders and advisors, and his maternal relatives as advisors.

For the future

With regard to the NWU's future, he hopes that the University will have the courage to forge its own path as a leader in teaching and research.

"We have to come up with solutions that make sense in our context.

This doesn't mean we won't take cognisance of the national and international best practice, but we should not be slaves to trendy solutions to serious problems.

We should always be willing to think for ourselves and be true to our own objectives. That's the recipe for effective leadership."

Here they create **SOCCER LEGENDS**

ONLY THREE YEARS after the Soccer Institute opened its doors on the Mafikeng Campus, the soccer team was crowned University Sport South Africa (USSA) champions.

They achieved this in December 2009, after they had performed very well during the 2008/2009 season.

During this season two of the Institute's soccer players were selected for the U/20 national team, three for the USSA team, five for the U/21 USSA team and three for the Metropolitan U/19 team. The Soccer Institute was established in 2007 with the support of the South African Football Association, Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

the British Football Association, the English Premier League and FIFA.

There are currently 56 students enrolled at the Soccer Institute. In addition to soccer training, they also receive academic training.

They can for instance enrol for a bachelor's degree of their choice, or a three-year diploma in Sports Sciences.

Future plans are to establish a soccer-specific sports science programme at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

"This will help players to pursue a career in other fields of the soccer fraternity," says Mr Johan Govea,

the newly appointed Director of the Soccer Institute.

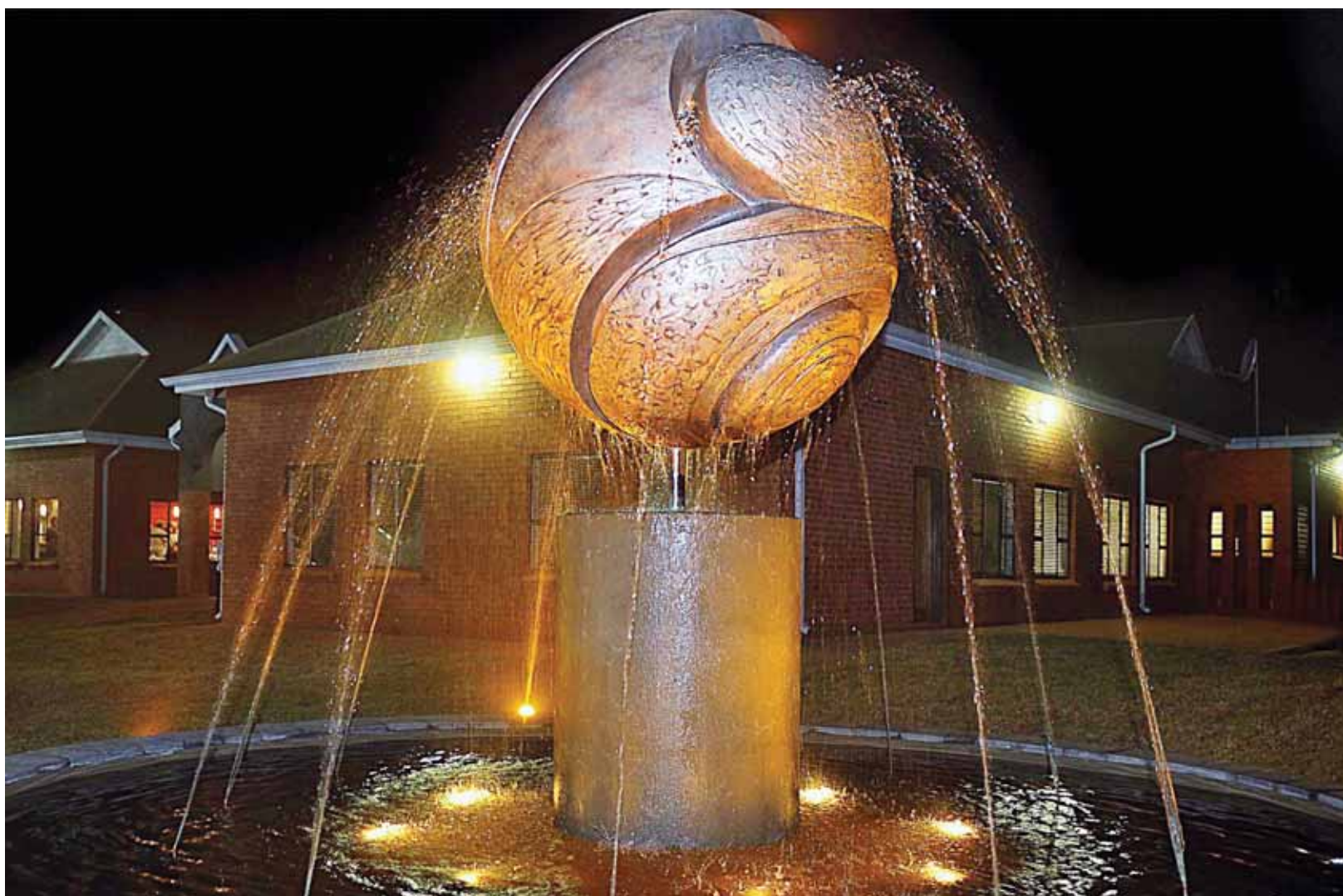
According to Johan the Institute has big plans for the future, among other things to expand its infrastructure.

This includes new soccer pitches, a high-performance soccer-specific gymnasium and a soccer village with 60 beds for professional teams in their off-season training programmes.

The Institute also ploughs some of its skills back into the community.

For instance, the Institute plays a leading role in coordinating school soccer and in training coaches, referees and community administrators.





Sports Village *boasts four-star facilities*

THE SPANISH SOCCER TEAM may have been the first to stay in the new Sports Village on the Potchefstroom Campus but if all goes according to plan, countless other international teams will also be stepping over its four-star threshold in years to come.

Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, Rector of the Campus, inaugurated the building and said that the complex was a symbol of the University's commitment to sport.

A major advantage

One of the major advantages of the Sports Village is that it is located very close to the Campus' Fanie du Toit Sports Grounds.

In future, some of the more than 1 000 international athletes from 30 countries who train at the University during the European off-season will be staying at the Sports Village while

making use of the NWU's first-rate facilities, such as the FNB High Performance Institute (HPI) with its sports gymnasium.

The Spanish football team were quite impressed with the Sports Village. "We are very pleased with the high standards of the facilities," said their travel manager, Mr Antonio Limones. The Sports Village is already fully booked for the rest of the year. Apart from visitors to Aardklop, athletes attending big tournaments – such as netball and weight lifting – will also stay here.

According to Prof Annette Combrink, Director: Internationalisation and Fundraising at the Institutional Office, the Sports Village has already generated a lot of publicity for the University.

The fact that the Spanish stayed here attracted several international

media teams, for instance from Spain, China and Germany.

"Money cannot buy that kind of publicity," said Prof Annette.

More about the facilities

The Sports Village consists of the following:

- Five identical, free-standing blocks, each with 16 double rooms (32 beds)
- A restaurant with 160 seats
- Two conference rooms
- A bar area
- Three medical rooms which can be used by physiotherapists
- A heated swimming pool



Mr Gaba Tabane, an alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus, believes that institutions of higher education should have the freedom to be innovative and develop ideas that make the world a better place.

He *ploughs* back what he received

MR GABA TABANE is passionate about the role that higher education plays to accomplish change in communities.

It comes as no surprise then, that this alumnus of the Mafikeng Campus still has close ties with the Campus and might become involved again as a lecturer.

"As an educator I had the privilege years ago of lecturing the MBA students at the Business School on the Campus, and I recently offered my services again for this for next year," he says.

They train young people

Gaba is the Managing Director of the Black Management Forum (BMF), an organisation that monitors and promotes socio-economic transformation in the corporate and public sector in South Africa.

In addition, they focus on the development of the management and leadership skills of young people from previously disadvantaged communities in particular.

He is passionate about the development of young people.

"Higher education must provide students with enough information on the status quo and make them aware of the challenges in the community so that they can find creative solutions to problems," he says.

Starting out

After he had obtained his BComHons at the former University of North-West in 1996, he started his career as lecturer on that campus.

In 1999 he obtained an MBA degree from the Clark-Atlanta University in the USA and shortly afterwards started working for the provincial government of the North West Province, where he served as Youth Commissioner in the Office of the Premier.

Since then, until he joined the BMF in 2009, he was Strategy Manager at Accenture and Chief Executive at Invest North West.

He said that he had visited the Mafikeng Campus recently and still had regular contact with Prof Dan

Kgwadi, the Rector, who studied on the Campus at the same time as he did.

Honed for leadership

Even today in his corporate leadership role, he still draws on the skills he learnt as a student leader on the Campus.

"It is astonishing how simple mistakes that you make as a young student leader later become valuable lessons.

You learn to avoid those mistakes when you make important corporate decisions today."

But the corporate world is light years away from Mmakau, just outside Brits, where Gaba was born, and Hebron, north of Pretoria, where he grew up.

Since his childhood years, his ethos has always been to give back to the community in various ways, such as by training young leaders.

The Mafikeng Campus may soon benefit again when he becomes involved there as a lecturer once more.

They now play BRAND-NEW *roles at the NWU*

STILL GOING STRONG. This is definitely true for Prof Annette Combrink, former Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, and for Prof Piet Prinsloo, former Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus.

After she retired at the end of December 2009 and his already extended term as Rector expired at the end of August 2009, they now play brand-new roles at the NWU.

International liaison

Prof Annette's main task is to conceptualise and establish an institutional international office for the NWU.

"I will coordinate, facilitate and in some instances also initiate the NWU's international liaison institutionally," Prof Annette says.

She is conducting a survey across the University to determine which agreements and contracts with foreign universities and other institutions exist, to ensure that agreements are updated, and to form an image of the international "traffic" at the University.

Funds for the NWU

She is also responsible for institutional promotion (high-level fundraising). She will mainly liaise with the Univer-

sity's former students and concentrate on matters like the Endowment Fund and testamentary bequests.

"Alumni are welcome to contact me if they want to make any donations," she says.

Prof Annette also coordinates various ad hoc projects. The visit of the Spanish soccer team to Potchefstroom was in fact one of these projects.

She says that her new job is challenging and stimulating and totally different from what she was accustomed to. Does she miss being Rector? "I have not yet found out whether I suffer from withdrawal symptoms – I am still too busy," she says. "But I do miss the staff and the students with whom I worked."

Not a slave any longer

Prof Piet said that he was grateful that he was not a slave of his diary any longer. His main function is to coordinate major ad hoc projects of the NWU and make sure they are in line with the University's Institutional Plan and contribute to the essence of the University.

One of the projects is to write a book on the history of the merger and thus the birth of the NWU. This is right up Prof Piet's alley, as history, and especially the writing of historical publications, is his passion. For example, he was involved in the writing of the publications *In U Lig* and *Sages en Legendes*, dealing with the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education.

Another important project is to help the Soccer Institute on the Mafikeng Campus to set up a degree course in addition to their existing diploma course.

Part of his responsibilities is also to assist when outside bodies want to liaise with the NWU, and to coordinate the contact with large industries.

These large industries serve as sponsors and donors of the University, and provide employment for graduates. Students also do practical work there.

Expertise for the people

Another area where Prof Piet plays an indispensable role is community involvement.

This includes the marketing of the expertise of the Vaal Triangle Campus to the community, as well as the co-ordination of community projects to make sure that they are in line with the goals set out in the Institutional Plan.

One of these projects is the Ikate-leng project. This project started 21 years ago in the Vaal Triangle area and currently has a budget of R1,5 million per annum. The project aims to prepare Grade 12 learners for their matric exams and the challenges of university studies.

When one looks at the activities of Prof Annette and Prof Piet it is clear: downscaling and sitting back are not part of their plans ...



Prof Piet Prinsloo



Prof Annette Combrink

She is *destined for great*



Alumnus Pulane Molokwane learned that you have to persevere to reach the top.

HEIGHTS

ADVENTURE RUNS IN Pulane Molokwane's blood. She loves travelling, mountain climbing and trying new things.

This is exactly why she loves her job as a physicist at Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) in Pretoria.

"Every day is different and challenging, forcing me to think out of the box," she says.

Pulane, who completed a BSc in Physics and an MSc between 2000 and 2003 at the former University of North-West, gives input within the PBMR Licensing team, especially on the interpretation of the regulatory approval process for nuclear safety requirements in South Africa and abroad.

"My work day entails a lot of reading in order to keep up with the latest developments in the nuclear world. I also attend a few discussion meetings, and review and prepare nuclear compliance reports."

Pulane's passion is for the development of environmentally friendly processes to limit the impact of the nuclear industry on the environment.

It is therefore no wonder that her doctoral degree, completed at the end of 2009 at the University of Pretoria, was about the reduction of toxic levels of heavy metal to safer or non-toxic levels.

Fortunately it is not a case of all work and no play – in her spare time she loves shopping, going to the gym, and spending time with or cooking for the people she loves. Still single, her family – for instance her mother, Mmita – is an integral part of her life.

Although it seems as if Pulane now has the world at her feet, life has not always been easy for her. She knows what it means to struggle your way to the top.

After having had to terminate her

BSc (Biochemistry) studies at the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education due to financial difficulties, she enrolled at the University of North-West in 2000.

"One of my best memories was the day I learned that it was possible to continue my studies there, even if I did not have the financial means.

"This gave me an opportunity to rethink and change my career path."

She believes that the University not only equipped her with a degree, but taught her to walk life's journey. Although she has not been to the Campus during the past few years, she stays in contact with the friends she made during her student years.

As a matter of fact: she is even considering doing her postdoctoral studies at the NWU.

FLYING *BLIND*

Mr Hendrik Steyn, a lecturer at the NWU's Vaal Triangle Campus, is an inspiring role model who lives life to the full, makes no excuses and politely declines sympathy. Ms Henriëtte Visser, an honours student in Language Practice in the School of Languages in the Faculty of Humanities, meets this exceptional young man.

BEFORE COMING to the interview he couldn't check if his hair was just perfect or if there was perhaps a stain on his shirt, but when he walks into the room, he is completely at ease and relaxed.

In fact, I am the one nervously licking my lips and rehearsing my words as he sits down.

Described by colleagues as diligent and precise, Hendrik Beltzasar Steyn (25) cuts the picture of a young, ambitious man who is making his way in the world.

Hendrik is building his career, is engaged and loves spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Hendrik is also blind.

Boys will be boys

Hendrik, who plans to marry fiancée, Ms Jackie Matthews, early next year, talks animatedly about his childhood in Vereeniging. He spent 12 years at Pioneer School for the Visually Disabled where he had "a lot of fun".

Drawn to adventure and excitement, Hendrik favours regatta-type canoeing and biking.

He insists there is only one thing better than biking, and that is driving. "I have driven quite a few times," he grins.

This is reality

It's only when Hendrik starts talking about his studies and work at the NWU that I'm brought back to the reality of his life as a blind person.

He was the first blind student to enrol at this campus and is currently the only blind lecturer employed by the University.

He currently teaches Language Practice to first-, third-year and honours students.

Hendrik can't read e-mails, books or other study material which are essential to an academic career.

He uses hi-tech innovations such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and Job Access with Speech

(JAWS) screen reading software.

"If it weren't for the developments in technology, I wouldn't have been able to study at all," he says.

A passion for others

Hendrik completed his BA degree in Languages and Language Practice, as well as a BA Honours degree on the topic of Simultaneous Interpretation.

His passion to help other visually impaired people is at the heart of his research project for his master's degree.

Hendrik believes that much more needs to be done in South Africa to accommodate the blind community.

"Perhaps the single most significant improvement government can make to the lives of blind people is to get the public transport system in place.

"If blind people could be more mobile, they would be able to hold down regular jobs and contribute to society."



Driving a car? Apparently, yes. However, Mr Hendrik Steyn, a blind student at the Vaal Triangle Campus, explains that somebody sits next to him when he drives, directing him to turn left or right, sometimes holding the steering wheel for him.



Mr Hendrik Steyn lives life to the full. Hendrik and programme organiser, Ms Marion Schmitt, enjoy the snow during a visit to Germany. Hendrik represented the NWU as part of the Tübingen/South Africa 2007 culture programme.

New rectors are already

THE NWU'S TWO new rectors are already making their mark clearly and firmly on their respective campuses.

Prof Thanyani Mariba was inaugurated as the new Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus on 5 February 2010, and Prof Herman van Schalkwyk as the new Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus on 23 March 2010.

To Prof Thanyani – the first black rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus – it is very important to be at the forefront of change, and to pursue growth and development.

To Prof Herman, excellence and quality are very important.

Architect of change

Prof Thanyani regards himself as an 'architect of change'. He says that

you should take deliberate action and be proactive in your approach to the demands of change.

Growth is also close to Prof Thanyani's heart. He would like to see a significant increase in the number of qualifications on the Vaal Triangle Campus in subjects such as Science, Engineering and Technology, and Communication and Information Technology.

"We have also launched programmes to grow our own timber," he says.

With these programmes the Vaal Triangle Campus will, for example, identify final-year students to act as tutors to other students for minimal remuneration. Honours and master's students will also be appointed as

junior lecturers to encourage them to stay on at the University.

Good, better, best

According to Prof Herman, one should not try to be merely 'good', but should pursue greatness.

"When we become complacent because people say we are good, we lose the opportunity to be better or the best," he says.

To him, quality and excellence are also priorities. "Quality should be foremost in the vision of the University. Mechanisms should also be developed to expand the quality of research outputs."

In addition, he believes that staff should set personal objectives bearing the stamp of excellence.



At the inauguration of Prof Thanyani Mariba (left) as Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus, he identified among other things growth and development as needing serious attention. With him are Prof Themba Mosia, Institutional Registrar (centre), and Kgosi Leruo Moletlegi, Chancellor.

making THEIR MARK

A radiant future

Both rectors have big dreams for their campuses. Physical expansion in terms of residences and new academic facilities is, for example, one of Prof Thanyani's dreams for the Vaal Triangle Campus.

He believes that this will contribute positively to the strategic positioning of the Campus.

His five-year vision for the Campus is to double the student numbers and expand the academic environment to five faculties.

Prof Herman, in turn, would like to see the Potchefstroom Campus take its place among world-class universities.

"We must strive to expand the University's long-term commitments.

"This will help to position the NWU nationally and internationally as an excellent and innovative university that contributes to global wealth, and particularly to finding solutions for Africa's problems," he says.

A past to be proud of

Prof Thanyani was the first black cardiologist in South Africa and registered as such with the South African Medical and Dental Council in 1987.

Just before he became the Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus, he was the Dean of the Medical Faculty at the University of Pretoria.

Prof Herman was also a dean just before he became the Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus – he was Dean of the Faculty of Natural and

Agricultural Sciences of the University of the Free State.

Agriculture in their blood

Another thing the two rectors have in common, is their love of agriculture.

Prof Herman is a well-known agricultural economist and obtained his doctorate in Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria in 1995.

Although Prof Thanyani is a physician and not an agriculturist, love of the land flows strongly in his veins too. When he is not behind his desk or in the boardroom on the Vaal Triangle Campus, he enjoys farming.

He prides himself on his healthy Nguni and Bonsmara cattle herds and also has a herd of goats on his farm, Truida Farm, in Limpopo.



Prof Herman van Schalkwyk, the new Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus (second from the left) indicated at his inauguration that the concept of good is definitely not on the same level as excellence. With him are, from the left, Prof Themba Mosia, Institutional Registrar, Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor, and Kgosi Leruo Moletlegi, Chancellor.

Alumnus now lives and works near the dunes of Dubai



Like father like son: Mr Danie Vorster (second from the left) is a former student of the Potchefstroom Campus, like his father, Mr Pieter Vorster (far right). Danie's fiancée, Ms Nadia Engelbrecht (far left), is also an alumnus. Ms Carlene Vorster (second from the right) is a former Kopsie.

THESE DAYS Mr Pieter Vorster makes his braai fire between the dunes around Dubai, but he still remembers his roots. He remembers russians and chips at Johnnies in the former Von Wielligh Street in Potchefstroom, and Interfaculty Philosophy and the ban on slacks for women on the Campus.

At the end of 1980, when Pieter received his BCom degree (Industrial Psychology) from the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, he would never have guessed that he would be working as Human Resources Manager at the Kano Company in Dubai decades later.

Pieter and his wife, Carlene, have been in Dubai for seven years now, where his university studies come in very handy in his job.

"Labour legislation here is far behind international standards.

The United Arab Emirates' Labour Law was last reviewed in 1981, and the rights of employees are suffering," he says.

There are quite a few Westerners working as human resources managers in the UAE, and according to Pieter this is helping to change employers' attitude towards their employees slowly but surely.

"My technical knowledge and experience mean a lot in this multicultural environment. For example, people of approximately 140 nationalities work in Dubai, and in the company where I work there are 40 different groups. Each group has its own culture, and if one does not understand their different values and needs, it can become a problem."

The Arabs are very friendly and they appreciate the work ethic and courtesy of the South Africans. But to live

and work in the Middle East is not for the faint-hearted," said Pieter.

For many people the heat and sandstorms, the different cultures, life in the fast lane and the long working hours, the traffic and above all the lack of job security are simply too much.

"The idea of making a lot of money in a tax-free environment does not work for everyone. It takes considerable self-discipline in an environment where it is so easy to spend money."

He says it is sad to see how many South Africans come to work in Dubai with such high expectations, and in the end they leave with less money than they came with.

In spite of the challenges in Dubai, the city and its people still fascinate him.

"Because Dubai is so rich, they have undertaken an incredible number of

projects, which makes one wonder where they find all their ideas. Although many of the projects were suspended due to the recession, the metro train system, the hotels, the palm islands, and the Burj Khalifa building – which is the highest in the world – are still unbelievable.”

Pieter has also bumped into a few other alumni in Dubai.

Recently, when a friend and fellow former student, Mr De Wet du Plessis, moved to Dubai, he came across the book *Roeping en Werklikheid*.

“I do not know whether students still take the subject Interfaculty Philosophy, but to us – who thought at the time that the subject was an unnecessary burden – it provided a broader perspective on many topics that are still relevant today.”

When Pieter received the previous edition of the NWU's Alumni magazine in Dubai, it evoked many memories from his student days.

Because he was an extramural

student, he worked in Klerksdorp and drove to Potchefstroom for classes four nights per week. “It was bad, especially in winter. We always went to Johnnies for russians and chips. Johnnies' place was near the bridge over the railway line in the former Von Wielligh Street,” he remembers.

He also remembers the day he graduated.

“I felt very important until I saw at the graduation ceremony that 500 other students were receiving exactly the same degree.

“That quickly humbled me ... although today I realise that a qualification gives one self-assurance and self-assurance motivates you to achieve your goals.”

After his undergraduate studies Pieter also received a Master's degree in Business Leadership (MBL) at Unisa's School of Management Sciences.

However, Dubai is not only a workplace. For recreation the Vorsters

race around the desert in four-wheel drive vehicles. Such an outing usually ends with a braai in the dunes. Then the atmosphere reminds them of the sunset along the Tsitsikamma coast.

“I know it is not really the same, but we use our imaginations ...” Pieter admits.

Yes, they are homesick. They especially miss the rain.

“It only rains about once a year and when it has rained about 20 mm, the whole city comes to a standstill,” he says.

The Vorsters also miss their family and friends, but fortunately they can come to South Africa for a visit about twice a year. Their children also visit Dubai regularly.

The Vorsters' daughter Chantelle (now Gerber), their son, Danie, and his fiancée, Nadia Engelbrecht, all studied at the former PU for CHE. Their elder son, Pieter, qualified in the SA Air Force, and Mom Carlene is a former Kowsie.

Mr Pieter Vorster is a member of the NWU Convocation. All former students are automatically alumni, but not all alumni are members of the Convocation. Alumni apply to become members of the Convocation. They pay a once-off joining fee of R50 and are then life members of the Convocation, and are placed on the Convocation Roll.

Members of the Convocation may nominate fellow Convocation members as representatives of the alumni on the Council of the University. There are four representatives of the Convocation on the Council.

The Convocation also encourages cooperation and relationship building between alumni and the University.

To join or for more information, contact Ms Izette Schouwstra at Izette.Schouwstra@nwu.ac.za or by telephone at (018) 299 4968.



The Afrikaans church in Dubai has a men's camp in the highest dunes in the United Arab Emirates. The Vorsters like to race around the desert in four-wheel drive vehicles and to have a braai between the dunes at sunset.



The Vorsters, Pieter and Carlene, in front of the highest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa building in Dubai.

The secret life of TARENTAAL



This mysterious figure is the current President of Tarentaal.

EVERY YEAR THE first-year students on the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU meet the President of Tarentaal (a tarentaal is a guinea fowl) and his Cabinet.

This mysterious figure is the leader of the fictitious Republic of Tarentaal, which exists in the hearts and imaginations of alumni – many of whom will remember this age-old, colourful tradition.

The Republic of Tarentaal was born back in the days when bicycles were the most modern mode of transport at the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) and the egg shells of the current President of Tarentaal and his Cabinet were still thin.

Before 1972, Tarentaal was just a municipal area with a mayor and council, but on 18 August in that same year Tarentaal became a fully-fledged republic.

More than 30 years and many incubator episodes later, we interviewed the current president in a dark room where his identity could be kept secret.

President of Tarentaal, tell us about your 2010 Cabinet?

My decrepit Cabinet, newly elected in this year of round-ball sports, consists of the following:

♣ The Prime Minister, burdened with exams, stomach ulcers and nail biting, His Excellency “Bioplus” Botha.

♣ The Minister burdened with Tassenberg, Olof Bergh, mountains in general, hills, whoppers and other bumps, brandy, beer, brake fluid and other triple tipples, His Excellency, Gus “top-up-my-glass” Günther.

♣ The Minister burdened with steaming passion, mattress matters, “my-love-life-is-in-tatters”, His Excellency, Leon “light-my-fire” le Roux.

♣ The Minister burdened with home affairs, foreign affairs, crime affairs,

first-year affairs, His Excellency Darryl “deputy” Dobson.

d!The Omnipotent Minister of camouflage, strikes and boycotts, His Excellency Agent...J...O...H...N... John.

d The Minister burdened with social acquisition, cyberspace loitering, web-based withering and personal interaction avoidance, His Excellency Frank “Facebook” Visagie.

Some of the honorary members of the Republic’s cabinet include former presidents FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela.

What is your vision for the Republic of Tarentaal?

Our beloved Republic of Tarentaal, as autonomous, democratic and sovereign authority, must continue to play an active role within the spheres of

the NWU and its student masses, as well as to deliver critical feedback on the issues of the day.

The Republic of Tarentaal’s voice has to be heard again through the intensive studying and conferring of decisions that are made on quasi-abled levels, and has actual, enriching consequences within the student community.

What role does the Republic of Tarentaal play in the NWU?

Within the scope of the relatively young institution, the Republic of Tarentaal is – as in the past – always willing to offer assistance via foreign relations and intervention in large unorganised groups. The Cabinet also represents the VIPPs (Very Important and Polished Persons) and other former citizens of the Republic.

THE PRESIDENT’S FAVOURITES:

Food: Lightly sautéed students from other universities

Drink: A Tarentaal tot – Spotted with lots of kick

Book: 30 ways to pluck a guinea fowl (Pure fiction of course!)

Music: The Birds (The band)

Movie: The Birds (The horror)

Animal: Numida meleagris (The guinea fowl of course!)

Activity: Incubator interaction

Life philosophy: “The more quickly you fall behind, the more time you have to catch up”



During his presidency Mr Nelson Mandela visited the former PU for CHE. The then President of Tarentaal, accompanied by his Cabinet, handed him a stuffed guineafowl. This is how Mr Mandela became an honorary member of the Republic of Tarentaal.

Feathered friends *are here to stay*

A ROW OF GEESE at a pedestrian crossing may seem strange to an outsider, but to the staff and students of the Vaal Triangle Campus these law-abiding feathered friends are quite a common phenomenon.

These featherweights have been there since the days when Prof Dewey de Wet was Vice-Rector, and today there are approximately 40 geese and three mallards.

Ms Marinda Bosman, secretary in the School of Accounting Sciences on the Campus, is the official Mother Goose. "They are all my children and I cannot start my day before I have fed them. And yes, I talk to them and they talk back," she said.

According to her they are extremely cunning beggars. Prof Johann Tempelhoff, a lecturer in History at the School of Languages, was cornered in front of the cafeteria and in self-defence he had to give up his sandwiches!

They are always hungry and very fussy. These geese do not fall for dog biscuits, breakfast cereal or a seed loaf – mealies are their favourite snacks. Although the geese can sometimes be intimidating and snobbish, and can surely bite, everyone agrees that they are excellent parents.

They are very protective towards their offspring, and Susan Wolff of

the Department of Information Technology found that out the hard way.

She wanted to help some chicks over a high kerb and for her efforts got a peck on the head from an indignant mother goose.

Until recently, the two eldest among the geese were Jack and Jill, and according to Marinda they spoke a unique language to each other, which was not heard among the other geese.

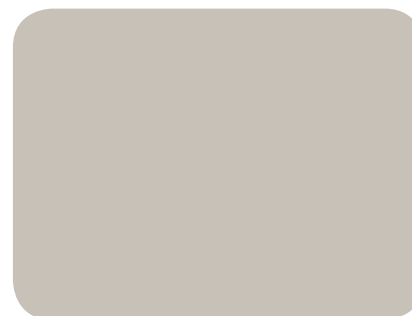
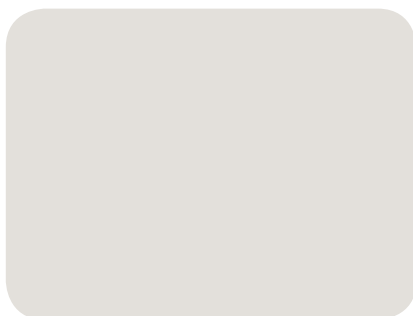
Unfortunately Jack disappeared last year and Jill died a while ago.

When one of the workers placed her on the ground near the cafeteria, it was almost as if all the other geese came to say goodbye to her.

These feathery friends do not only charm the staff and students, but also visitors. One even fed his own sandwiches to them.

Naturally there are opportunists – when one visitor asked with a gleam in his eye whether he could have one of the geese, Marinda quickly explained that these geese are marked with microchips just after birth, and that a terrible siren goes off as soon as one of them leaves through the entrance! Be that as it may, they are here to stay and will certainly still touch the hearts of the people of the Vaal Triangle with their feathers, sharp beaks and flat feet!





Intercampus Social Day boosts unity



The NWU's staff showed their supporter spirit when soccer fever hit this year's Intercampus Social Day, which was held at the Mafikeng Campus in March.

IN SUPPORT OF the 2010 Soccer World Cup, the theme "Soccer Mania" was adopted and staff members were requested to dress as soccer fans.

This made it difficult to identify staff according to their campuses, thus facilitating integration. Several novelties were added, including an inflatable obstacle and soccer courses and a waterslide. A tree planting ceremony, which formed part of the Mafikeng Campus' 30th birthday celebration, also took place.

A total of 30 trees were planted, one for each year of the Mafikeng Campus' existence. The event also marked the first Round Table discussion for academics.

A brief history

The first Social Day took place in

November 2007. Initially it was envisaged as an annual event, however, in 2008 Institutional Management decided that it should be held bi-annually.

Since then, the Social Day has been used to encourage interaction among staff of the three campuses.

The main goal of this day is to motivate staff to socialise with one another and to create a culture of unity within the NWU.

Initially, business units organised T-shirts in their respective campus colours, while the staff from the various campuses all participated in the events.

Activities included fun games such as wheelbarrow races, egg and spoon races, volleyball and tug-of-war. Since 2009, staff members have asked that more formal sporting

codes such as soccer and netball also be included.

Fast facts

Employee Wellness is responsible for planning each Social Day.

Questionnaires are used to evaluate each event, resulting in a survey from which the team draws suggestions for improving the event.

A total of 402 employees attended the Social Day on the Mafikeng Campus this year.

Overall the staff indicated that they enjoyed the event.

The respondents identified camaraderie, unity, atmosphere, togetherness, interaction and participation as the main strengths of the Social Day.

This survey proved that the goal of the event – to create a culture of unity – was met.

Totius moves to the Potchefstroom Campus

THE TOTIUS STATUE, which has had its place in the Totius garden of remembrance at “Wasgoedspruit” in Potchefstroom since 1977, was recently restored to its full copper glory and moved to the Potchefstroom Campus.

Totius now has a “room with a view” overlooking the well-known main building on Campus and was unveiled during the 140-year festivities of the Potchefstroom Campus.

His new place of honour on the Campus is at an angle in front of the well-known main building and near the Totius Hall of remembrance.

This move forms part of the Campus initiative to honour the great writers and poets of North West in a very special way.

Other well-known writers who will soon join Totius in the Writers’ Garden include Sol Plaatje and Herman Charles Bosman.

The Totius statue was cast in bronze but was painted a pale colour. Vandals damaged his glasses, but they were repaired.

Jo Roos, the sculptor who made the Totius statue, is responsible for the touching up and repair of the statue.

The work on Sol Plaatje’s statue has

been completed and it will probably also find its special place before the end of this year in the Writers’ Garden.

Jo Roos also sculpted this statue.

Totius played an important role in the history of the former Potchefstroom University for Higher Education (PU for CHE) – especially in the history of the University’s School of Theology where he was a student and Rector.

Totius was a celebrated poet, Bible translator and versifier of the Psalms.

He was also the University’s first Chancellor.

The Totius statue is the first arrival in the Potchefstroom Campus’ Writers’ Garden.



Cars from the past **SHOW OFF** on the banks of the Vaal



IT IS AN EXHIBITION of vintage vehicles, implements and engines. It is also a fair and a celebration in one – intertwined like a koeksister. But above all, the Wheels at the Vaal is a day of ‘Do you remember ...’

Although the Vaal Old Wheels Club has held annual shows since 2001, September 2005 was the first time that it was held on the NWU's Vaal Triangle Campus.

Since then visitors and exhibitors annually come from as far away as Clanwilliam, Vryheid and Polokwane to boast with their showpieces on the banks of the Vaal River.

“We can proudly say that this is the second-largest vehicle show in the country. In fact, it developed from a motor show to the largest cultural show in South Africa,” Mr Mauritz Meyer of the Department of Marketing and Communications on the Vaal Triangle Campus says.

For this year's event on 4 and 5 September the emphasis is on vehicles with headlights. “Not only motor cars, but anything on wheels is welcome,” Mauritz invited.

There will also be a farmyard this year, where visitors can see how cream is separated, coffee beans are roasted, hides are tanned, whips are plaited, down feathers are plucked, bread is baked in an outside oven, sheep are shorn, and candles and wine barrels are made.

There will also be an agriculture and outdoor exhibition, as well as

an exhibition of static engines. This exhibition is so special that in 2007 it qualified to be included in the Guinness Book of Records for the most static engines running together for a specific period of time.

The South Africans easily complied with the rules, namely that the engines had to be in a working condition and had to run continuously for five minutes.

As a matter of fact: a total of 205 engines ran continuously for this period of time.

Static engines date back to the early 1900s and were initially used by farmers, among other things to pump water and generate power.

Later they were used in factories as part of the manufacturing process. One of the better known brands of static engines, Lister, built engines in Vereeniging at the beginning of the previous century.

For more information on the Wheels at the Vaal event, you are welcome to phone Mauritz at (016) 910 3251 or 083 513 6632.



Vaalweekblad



The **NWU's** unique character consists of **diverse** and **innovative** dimensions spanning **all** our activities and operations.



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