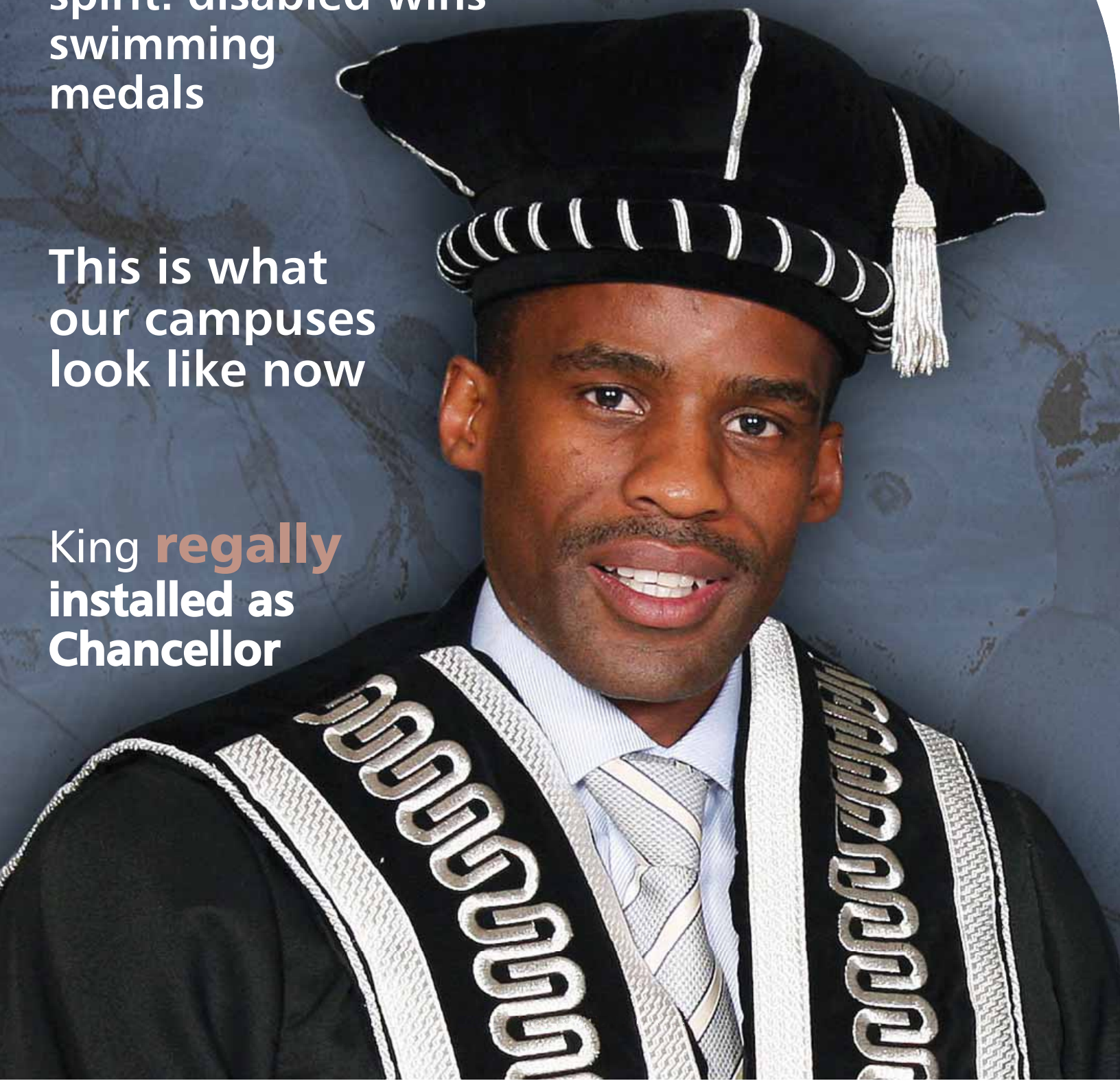


An **UNQUENCHABLE**  
spirit: disabled wins  
swimming  
medals

This is what  
our campuses  
look like now

King **regally**  
installed as  
Chancellor



# NWU Vision, Values & Mission

## VISION

To be a pre-eminent university in Africa, driven by the pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

## VALUES

The North-West University subscribes to the values of human dignity, equality, freedom, integrity, tolerance, respect, commitment to excellence, scholarly engagement, academic freedom, justice and transparency.

## MISSION

The NWU's mission is to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university and to implement our expertise in an innovative way. This the institution will achieve as it lives its values, strives for sound management and pursues transformation, while being locally engaged, nationally relevant and internationally recognised.

## Meet the Institutional Management



Members of the Institutional Management are in the back row from left: Prof Annette Combrink, Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, Prof Frikkie van Niekerk, Executive Director: Research and Innovation, Prof Johan Rost, Executive Director: Finance and Facilities, Prof Dan Kgwadi, Rector of the Mafikeng Campus, and Mr Victor Mothobi, Executive Director: Human Capital Development. In the front row are from left: Prof Themba Mosia, Institutional Registrar, Dr Ngoato Takalo, Executive Director: Teaching-Learning and Vice-Principal, Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor, Ms Phumzile Mmope, Executive Director: Corporate Affairs and Relations and Prof Piet Prinsloo, Rector of the Vaal Triangle Campus.

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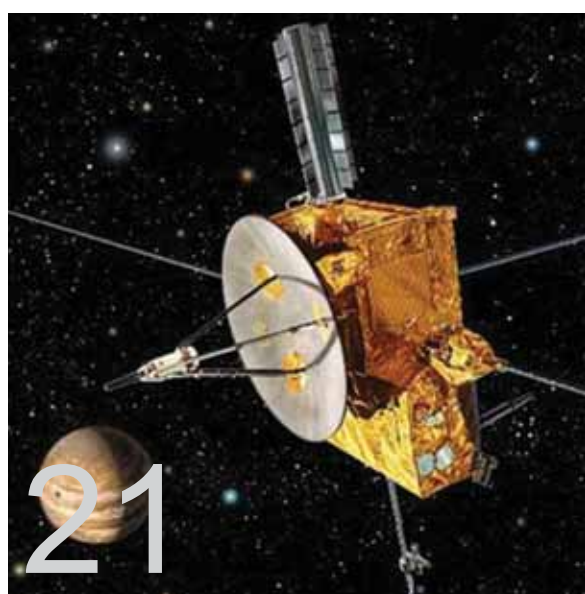
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## Editorial team

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# Editorial

Nelia Engelbrecht

**DECADES AGO I ARRIVED** as a first-year student at the Campus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE).

When I stood before the ladies' residence, Oosterhof, that day, I never thought that years later I would help to compile the first alumni magazine of the North-West University. As a matter of fact, I could never have imagined that an institution like the NWU would be established in 2004.

When I think about the story of the NWU up till now, a few well-known quotes from the film and TV world come to mind.

Just after the merger, many students and staff members at the NWU probably felt out of their depth. Like the character Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* said: "Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

For many people it did not feel like Kansas any more. In reality it was indeed not Kansas anymore. It was a totally new institution.

Your feedback on this first edition of the alumni magazine is very important to us. Also let us know what you think the name of this publication should be. Please send your comments and/or proposals with regard to the name to [nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za](mailto:nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za) or fax it to (018) 299 4938, or post it to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom 2520. Letters are also most welcome!

This new institution quickly began to grow into more than the sum of its parts. "Synergy" is what Dr Eloff calls it. There were various factors in favour of this young university. For example, the NWU could rely on the proud past of the parts from which it was constituted. The unique talents and expertise of its diverse community were also a breeding ground for innovation and excellence.

The successful outcome of the merging process makes one think of the character from the well-known TV series, *The A-Team*: "I love it when a plan comes together."

Things really went according to plan. This is especially evident when one looks at the numerous prizes that the NWU has received over the past years (article on p9).

It gives us much joy to make you part of the story of the NWU through this magazine. Together with Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* we left the old, familiar landscape of Kansas behind in 2004. But in the meantime we have found a new home. Today we are all part of the NWU: a leading university in South Africa and a proud landmark of innovation and excellence in the North West Province.

The NWU is approaching the future with determination to achieve even more. Like the character in the film, *The Jazz Singer*, says: "You ain't heard nothin' yet!"

I am sure that everyone agrees: the story of the NWU really deserves an Oscar!

Happy reading,

Nelia Engelbrecht



## Message from the Institutional Director: Corporate Communication

Louis Jacobs

**LONG OVERDUE, FOR SURE.** Finally we have a publication addressing alumni from all three campuses of the North-West University, and indeed another milestone in the already rich history of this institution.

Institutional Corporate Affairs and Relations is responsible for among others, communication with all the NWU's stakeholders.

Although the Marketing and Communication Departments on the various campuses are regularly in contact with their alumni, the need for an all-encompassing communication tool was identified.

With this magazine, we aim not only to inform you about recent developments, but also give you an overview of how various alumni have influenced the national and international world.

Being an alumnus myself, and after so many years again

joining the ranks of this institution, it surely makes me proud and gives me a sense of belonging when I page through it.

Although this is only the first edition, big plans are in store to ensure that all alumni positively identify with the magazine. With your assistance we will be able to make an even bigger contribution to ensure that we accommodate the diversity that depicts the foundation of the NWU in an innovative way.

To everybody who contributed to this magazine, you can surely applaud yourself. A special word of congratulation needs to be extended to my colleague and the editor of this publication.

Enjoy your reading and remember we are looking forward to receiving your contributions.

Louis Jacobs



## Vice-Chancellor

### Dr Theuns Eloff

**THE BIRTH OF THE** North-West University (NWU) in 2004 was not easy.

The task of merging two very different institutions such as the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education and the former University of North West, and to incorporate the students and staff of the Sebokeng Campus of the former Vista University, was indeed a daunting one.

However, what settled the matter was an honest will to succeed.

Not only did the NWU successfully handle the associated challenges, but it has also acquired a certain amount of maturity. This is clear from the recognition given to the NWU by important role players over the last number of years – you can read the article on p9.

Another contributing factor was the fact that after the merger we purposefully set out to focus on stabilising and improving our core business – i.e. teaching-learning, research and the implementation of expertise. Parallel to that, we also started a process of sustainable transformation.

This well-considered approach has led to growth in several areas.

#### In terms of teaching-learning:

- The undergraduate pass rate (contact and distance) improved from 75,2% in 2004 to 81,2% in 2008.
- The graduation rate (degrees as % of total heads) increased from 24% in 2004 to 26% in 2008.
- A total of 12 337 degrees were awarded in 2008, an increase of 21,7% since 2004 (9 657).

#### In terms of research and postgraduate education:

- The number of PhDs awarded increased by 13% from 87 in 2004 to 100 in 2008, after a high of 124 in 2007.
- The number of published article equivalents increased by 85% from the 275 of 2004 to 513 in 2008. Even more important: the 36% increase from 2007 to 2008 occurred on all campuses and was made up of 150 young researchers who had published for the first time.
- The total research output units increased by 24% from 798 in 2004 to 1 089 in 2008.
- The number of NRF-rated scientists increased by 29% from 73 in 2004 to 103 in 2008, in other words more than 11% of all academic staff.
- Of the 2008 research output, female researchers produced 35%, well above the national average of 22%, and black researchers produced 17%, also more than the national average of 11%.

#### In terms of innovation and the implementation of expertise:

- The number of registered patents increased by 61% from 18 in 2004 to 29 in 2008.

- Third income stream revenue increased by 108,7% from R311 million in 2004 to R649 million in 2008.

#### In terms of finance and facilities:

- The NWU ended the 2008 financial year with yet another healthy surplus – R71 million as opposed to R14,7 million in 2004.
- Good progress was made with regard to redress in terms of buildings and facilities, and infrastructure developments of more than R170 million have been completed since 2004.

The NWU also underwent its first HEQC audit this year. We are awaiting the final report, but the preliminary, informal feedback was mostly positive.

Something else that sets the NWU apart from other universities is our policy of functional multilingualism. The three languages of the NWU are Afrikaans, English and Setswana.

These languages are used in different ways on the campuses, but essentially the working and tuition language on the Mafikeng Campus is English (with Setswana as supporting language).

The Vaal Triangle Campus uses Afrikaans and English (with Sesotho as supporting language), while Potchefstroom uses Afrikaans as basic language, with English and Setswana as supporting languages.

Simultaneous interpreting is used for certain modules on the Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle campuses for students who do not have a command of Afrikaans.

With this language policy the NWU has depoliticised language, and few problems have been encountered in the last five years.

You as alumni of the NWU and its predecessors can rest assured that the NWU will continue on this path of growth and achievement.

As I have said in my speech at the installation of the new Chancellor, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi: If the Minister should give us a choice today to reverse the merger, we would not accept it.

The merger has created a process of synergy. I believe that the NWU is stronger and better today than its constituting parts.

With this publication, we intend to keep you informed of events at the NWU and take you with us on the road to the future. After all, you have laid the foundation on which we can now build.

Kind regards,  
Theuns Eloff

# Contact with NWU alumni WELCOMED



**AS ALUMNUS** and previous Chancellor of the Potchefstroom University for Christian higher Education (PU for CHE), I am proud of the new North-West University. The process by which it came into being has once again proved that intelligent and creative negotiations can meet the challenges of even the most difficult of circumstances.

Thus far, the North-West University has travelled the road of transformation with distinction and I am confident that the NWU will emerge as a leading South African university.

The initiative of establishing contact with alumni of the three campuses under one umbrella must be welcomed. Hopefully it will forge new links in support of the NWU.

In conclusion, I would like to convey my regards to all alumni and appeal to all of them to do their bit to help our University reach maturity.

**FW de Klerk**

## This campus offers opportunities for growth



**THE VAAL TRIANGLE CAMPUS** of the NWU has played the single biggest role during my formative years and has contributed greatly to what I have achieved in my career.

The opportunities that I received and could take full advantage of gave me the necessary foundation to expand my leadership and management capabilities. That still holds true for my career and my personal life.

I still enjoy being associated with my alma mater and to be kept informed about what they do. It shows that the University is still interested in me. I am proud to say that I had the privilege of spending some time on the Vaal Triangle Campus of the NWU.

I trust that in future countless other students will be able to do the same and be just as proud and grateful for what you have offered us!

**Heinrich Kriel**  
**General Manager: ArcelorMittal South Africa**

# Alumni are a valuable asset

**AS THE PREVIOUS VICE-CHANCELLOR** of the former University of North-West I had the privilege of liaising with many of the alumni of that institution. From this experience I learned that the invisible umbilical cord between alumni and their alma mater should be valued and nurtured.

As the NWU's Executive Director: Teaching-Learning and Vice-Principal, it is very important to me that we maintain close ties with the alumni of all our campuses. These include the alumni of the former institutions, as well as members of the younger generation who have studied at the NWU since the merger in 2004.

I am delighted that the University can now utilise this magazine to share its achievements with you. It is also very interesting to read about the many alumni who have made their mark in society, both nationally and internationally.

You, our alumni, are a valuable asset. You were part of our past, but are also part of our present and future. We need your ongoing support and loyalty as parents and community leaders to build the image of this university. Together, we can take the NWU forward and reach even greater heights.

**Ngoato Takalo**



## Old acquaintances should never be forgotten

**RINA AND I** made many friends during the years of our involvement with the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) and Alabama in particular (Johan from 1962 to 1980 and Rina from 1968 to 1980).

Many of them became close, personal friends – friends for life – while others remained mere acquaintances.

But our Alabama friends are a little different.

Those who have been members themselves will immediately know what I'm talking about. Even if you were a member for only a year, you acquired a circle of friends that you greet with another kind of joy and compassion, especially if you haven't seen each other for a long time.

We were pleasantly surprised to learn of this publication for alumni. It sounds like an interesting read. Congratulations to those who thought it up and good luck to those who have to make it happen. We look forward to keeping in touch with events at the NWU and to occasionally read something interesting about our old and very special friends.

**Johan and Rina van Rensburg**



# Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

**ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2009**, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, King of the Bafokeng Nation was installed as second Chancellor of the NWU. At the same ceremony, Dr Theuns Eloff was installed as Vice-Chancellor for a second five-year term.

Kgosi Molotlegi, successor of Dr Popo Molefe, who served as Chancellor since the merger in 2004, assumed his new role as Chancellor with royal dignity.

## Values join us all together

"Universities should be the intellectual laboratories for world-changing ideas," he said at the inauguration.

In order to achieve that, a university needs to uphold and value academic freedom. He views respect for academic freedom as one of the values that join the NWU together. Two other important values are tolerance and commitment to excellence.

"Even though the history and traditions of the three campuses differ, the NWU is one university, because of these shared values," he said.

It is important to him that the NWU is a haven of tolerance, even if the South African society is still struggling with different forms of bias.

## Committed to excellence

The University should also be dedicated to excellence with regard to students, research, its position as intellectual beacon, and economic growth.

He believes that a university should focus on its students – from the start of their studies. "Without dedication to excellence on all levels of education we cannot hope to receive well-prepared first-year students. We must attend to the entire education system – from pre-school education right to the top."

Research capacity is just as important. The NWU must continue to apply its innovation capability for the benefit of the community. The imbalanced research outputs of the three campuses must also be addressed.

Moreover, the University should decide on which areas it wishes to focus. The NWU is already doing very well in sport. Kgosi Molotlegi has undertaken that the Bafokeng nation with their excellent facilities and extensive sports development programme will support the NWU in this regard.

Following the merger phase of the past five years, the NWU must now establish itself as the intellectual beacon in the North West Province. With people as its most valuable asset, the University must draw from their talents, commitment and energy.



Dr Theuns Eloff welcomes Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi.

Finally, the NWU should also promote economic growth in South Africa and the rest of the world by delivering competent people to the labour market.

## A haven for challenging thinking

Kgosi Molotlegi views academic freedom as an important unifying value. As long as academics discharge their duties, they must be able to do research, publish and teach without any kind of interference or limitations.

"Universities are among society's longest-lived institutions, because of the very fact that they are havens for new, challenging and controversial thought."

Kgosi Molotlegi has undertaken to live and promote these values during his term as Chancellor. "I am grateful for the honour to serve the University and to help realise the institution's considerable potential," he said.

Dr Theuns Eloff also pledged his commitment and energy to help the NWU achieve its important goals.

In his speech, he looked back at the past, inward at the present, and forward into the future.



# regally installed



Kgsoi Leruo Molotlegi (left) and Dr Theuns Eloff (right) delivering their speeches during the inauguration ceremony.

## Reasons for success

He described the task of merging two very different institutions as a daunting one. However, contributing factors were a can-do attitude and good timing to eliminate uncertainty.

This meant moving quickly in certain areas, such as establishing a permanent Council, and on the other hand, choosing to let selected facets of the new University develop at a slower pace, but with subsequent greater buy-in, such as the logo and pay-off line.

The NWU also focused on the stability of the core business, and parallel to that, initiated a process of sustainable transformation.

A functional and pragmatic approach to management, delineating the different roles of Council and Management, also contributed to the NWU's success.

## Stronger than before

"In the unlikely event that the Minister of Higher Education and Training should write to Council and offer a

demerger, neither Council, nor any of the campuses would accept it," Dr Eloff said. He believes that all have gained from the merger and are now stronger and better than before.

He admitted that the NWU is not always a very politically correct university. "Various aspects of our success were achieved by going against the conventional wisdom in higher education," he said.

For example, the NWU based its decentralised management model of an Institutional Office and three campuses on sound business principles.

The University has also taken its management style from best public and private sector practice, for example in utilising benchmarks, performance management and monetary incentives.

"We do not apologise for this approach. We are different and will probably always be different. But we are fully committed to and in line with the Constitution, we are successful and we make a contribution to the country. In this, we should be accepted and respected."

*Continues on page 8* ➤



Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi (left) was installed as second Chancellor of the NWU during a ceremony at the Madiba Banquet Halls in Potchefstroom. With him is Dr Theuns Eloff who was installed as Vice-Chancellor for a second five-year term.

► *Continues from page 7*

**Address the challenges**

Some of the challenges that await us are to ensure access to all who qualify academically, to improve quality as well as quantity of research, and to continue to implement the NWU’s expertise, shifting the focus to development rather than mere community engagement.

Like Kgosi Molotlegi, Dr Eloff also referred to the importance of the NWU staying true to its values. In a period where our country is experiencing polarisation in many respects – especially along racial lines – the NWU must remain a beacon of true diversity and reconciliation.

“And we can do it because we have been doing it for the past five years,” he said.

Dr Eloff and Kgosi Molotlegi’s terms of office will expire in 2014. As Chancellor, Kgosi Molotlegi is the titular head of the University and confers all degrees in the name of the University.



Mr Peet van der Walt, Chairperson of Council, (far left), and Prof Themba Mosia, Institutional Registrar (second from right) with Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi and Dr Theuns Eloff.

**CHANCELLOR  
ADDS VALUE**

Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor of the NWU, believes that Kgosi Molotlegi’s stature will also enhance the stature of the NWU.

“Even though the role of a Chancellor is of a ceremonial nature, his appointment will undoubtedly add value, for instance through his visibility at graduation ceremonies and official opening or closing ceremonies of the University.”

The NWU has a good, longstanding relationship with the Bafokeng people. They are involved with Leopards Rugby, and therefore also with the Rugby Institute on the Potchefstroom Campus. In the future, they may also become involved with the Soccer Institute on the Mafikeng Campus.

The Bafokeng have also sponsored several academic and sports events. Fifteen students from the Bafokeng Nation are currently studying at the Faculty of Education on the Potchefstroom Campus.

**More about the  
CHANCELLOR**

In August 2003, the 41-year-old Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi became the 36th paramount ruler of the 800-year-old Bafokeng Kingdom.

Kgosi Molotlegi is an alumnus of Hilton College in Natal, and holds a degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the University of Natal. He is also a fixed-wing and rotorcraft pilot and has been appointed as an honorary member of the South African Air Force.

The approximately 300 000 members of the Bafokeng Nation live in the Phokeng area near Rustenburg. They are probably the wealthiest nation in Africa, with some of the richest platinum deposits in the world on their 2 000 square kilometres of land.

# University boasts six ostrich feathers in its cap

**THE NWU** stopped long ago to put ordinary chicken feathers in its cap. No, we use ostrich feathers now. And six of them in the space of six years.

These ostrich feathers represent the six sought-after national awards that the NWU as institution has won since the merger in 2004.

During this period, the University received three awards for good governance, two for innovation and one for the promotion of multilingualism.

## Hat trick for management

In 2009, the University scored a hat trick in the PricewaterhouseCoopers competition for corporate governance in the higher education environment.

After the NWU had shared the first place in 2007, the University received the PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Governance Award for Excellence in Higher Education in 2008 and again in 2009.

"This award demonstrates our commitment to outstanding general and corporate management," says Dr Theuns Eloff, Vice-Chancellor.

"Of course, Council should get most of the credit as the award is also proof of their commitment and work."

The competition takes place annually to encourage higher education institutions to maintain high standards for corporate governance and to meet the requirements of the King Report on Corporate Governance for SA.

## Innovation

Aside from its management prowess, the NWU's innovation capability also made it stand out. In the 2009 com-



Prof Marlene Verhoef

petition of the Department of Science and Technology's National Innovation Fund, the University was named the most innovative university in SA. This has earned the University half a million rands in prize money.

The Acting Executive Director of the Innovation Fund, Mr McLean Sibanda, described the NWU's spirit of innovation as "tangible throughout the entire institution". He also remarked that there was evidence of width and depth in the innovation activities.

The adjudicators were impressed by the University's investment in focused research, as it leads to more funds being channelled to focus areas, with higher levels of innovations being achieved.

"The NWU's lively presentation is an indication of an energetic office and sound leadership. All things considered, a well-deserved award," said Mr Sibanda.

In 2004, the NWU received a similar award. During that year, the Innovation Fund named the University as the most progressive, technologically innovative higher education institution in South Africa.

## Multilingualism honoured

The fact that the University also applies the principle of innovation in its policy of functional multilingualism was the reason for yet another accolade.

In 2008, the NWU received an award from the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) for its major contribution to multilingualism and nation building in the South African higher education sector during the last ten years.

Prof Marlene Verhoef, Institutional Director: Language Affairs Directorate, believes that it was the many creative projects embarked upon by the Directorate in the interest of multilingualism that settled the matter.

These projects include classroom interpreting at the University and other educational institutions, and the TransTips comprehension tool, which makes the NWU staff intranet available in Afrikaans, English, Setswana and Sesotho. Some of the corporate publications are published either wholly or in part in Afrikaans, English and Setswana. Recently, the Language Directorate even presented a course for Sign Language interpreters in conjunction with the Deaf Federation of South Africa. SA Sign Language is a recognised language, alongside with the 11 official languages of South Africa.

According to Dr Eloff, these awards reflect only some of the dimensions of the NWU's achievements as a merged university.

"Also in terms of our core business, namely teaching-learning and research, we have improved considerably. The pass rate on all three campuses improved from 75% in 2004 to 81% in 2008. Our research outputs increased from 275 articles in 2004 to 513 in 2008. These statistics prove that the NWU is becoming one of the leading universities in South Africa," he added.

# There is much more to a frog

**FOR TWO ACADEMICS** on the Potchefstroom Campus a frog is much more than something that merely jumps. Prof Louis du Preez and Dr Ché Weldon from the School of Environmental Sciences and Development are members of the African Amphibian Conservation Research Group and have a passion for frogs, especially rare frog species.

Prof Du Preez is the co-author of a new book, *A Complete Guide to the Frogs of Southern Africa*. This pioneering book includes in-depth descriptions as well as double-page illustrations of the biology and behaviour of every frog species recorded south of the Zambezi and Kunene River.

Dr Ché Weldon is involved in the biosecure wetlab recently built on the Campus, which focuses on research on endangered frog species. In this lab they test frogs from Madagascar for their susceptibility to a deadly fungus that endangers species across the world. Madagascar has 400 frog species, of which only one is found elsewhere in the world.



Prof Louis du Preez has written the book, *A Complete Guide to the Frogs of Southern Africa*, in collaboration with the environmentalist Vincent Carruthers. The book was launched on the Potchefstroom Campus in September 2009.

## Leading nuclear engineer joins Mafikeng Campus



Prof Gordon Sibiya

**PROF GORDON SIBIYA**, the new Director of the Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology (CARST) on the Mafikeng Campus, boasts several 'firsts'. He was for instance the first black academic to obtain a PhD in Nuclear Engineering at the Stuttgart University in Germany, and in 1983 he was the first black nuclear engineer to be employed by Eskom.

Prof Sibiya became Director of CARST in August 2009. The fact that this centre was established as a collaboration between industrial stakeholders and the North-West University, was one of the reasons why he was keen to join the NWU. "I am interested in teaching and research and I encourage academic links between educational institutions and industry," he said.

CARST offers honours, master's and doctoral degrees in Applied Radiation Science and Technology.

Prof Sibiya obtained the following degrees: BSc Hons in Physics (Fort Hare); BSc Hons and MSc in Electrical Engineering, (Nottingham University, UK) and PhD in Nuclear Engineering, (Stuttgart University, Germany). He was conferred DSc (Honoris Causa) by the University of Fort Hare in May 2008 for community service through teaching Science.

## Campus celebrates colourful cultural festival

**DON'T ASSUME THAT CHINESE STUDENTS** on the Vaal Triangle Campus don't know anything about the Sesotho culture. Well, not after this festival.

A few Chinese residents of Oryx, the day residence for male students on the Vaal Triangle Campus, recently portrayed the Sesotho culture in such a way that it won them a floating trophy in a competition.

This competition formed part of the Vaal Triangle Campus' first Cultural Festival for students. Residences had to portray cultures unknown to their own. This required research on culture-specific games and traditional attire, song, dance and food.

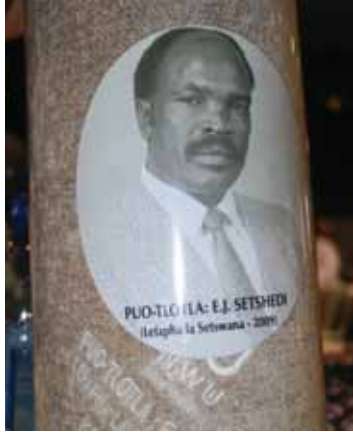
The off-campus residence, Faranani, portrayed the Indian culture and the campus residences, Jasmyn and Vergelegen, the Zulu culture. The day residences, Oryx and Acacia, portrayed the Sesotho and Xhosa cultures respectively.

According to Mr Jacob Simango, Director: Student Affairs, the Cultural Festival aims to enhance the student experience and highlight the rich cultural diversity on the Campus.



The day residence, Acacia, portrayed the Xhosa culture. The Cultural Festival is set to become an annual event.

## Campus holds memorial lecture for Professor Jacob Setshedi



Professor Jacob Setshedi

**AT A MEMORIAL LECTURE** recently held in the Civic Centre in Mmabatho, the Setswana Department on the Mafikeng Campus honoured the late Professor JE Setshedi for his contribution to preserve the legacy of the Setswana language.

Joining the then University of Bophuthatswana (UNIBO) in 1980, Prof Setshedi founded the Setswana Department. Later on he became the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and acting Vice-Chancellor of the former University of Bophuthatswana.

Prof Setshedi's contributions include developing learning materials in Setswana and registering a publishing company called Maikatlapelo. He was also Deputy Chairman of the Setswana Language Board and one of the editors of an English – Afrikaans – Setswana terminology list published by the former Department of Education. He also served as an examiner and moderator of the Joint Matriculation Board from the early 70's to the mid 80's.

The Setswana department intends holding this memorial lecture annually to inspire young language enthusiasts to write in African languages.



## Well-known AUTHORS part of the School of Languages

**THE SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES** on the Potchefstroom Campus boasts more than half a dozen well-known Afrikaans authors.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof Jan Swanepoel, has already published three volumes of poetry. Prof Heilna du Plooy and Prof Hein Viljoen are also well-known poets. Prof Du Plooy's latest volume of poetry is titled *In die landskap ingelyf* and Prof Viljoen's *Holtram en groot kabaal*.

Prof Hans du Plessis' sixth novel, *Verbrande Paradys*, was recently published. He has published in different literary genres, such as poetry, prose, youth books, drama and columns. More than 60 000 copies of his volume of poems, *Innie skylte vannie Jirre* have been sold - a record for an Afrikaans fiction publication.

Eight youth books, a picture book and children's poems from the pen of Prof Franci Greyling were published. Furthermore, she is the founder of *Storiewerf*, a web site for children's and youth books. Another colleague, Ms Sophia Kapp, is the author of five popular Afrikaans romance novels, of which *Die ooreenkoms* is the latest.

Prof Wannie Carstens writes academic text books. He is currently working on *Teksredaksie*, which he is writing in collaboration with a colleague of the University of Antwerp, Belgium.

## Lights! Camera! Action!

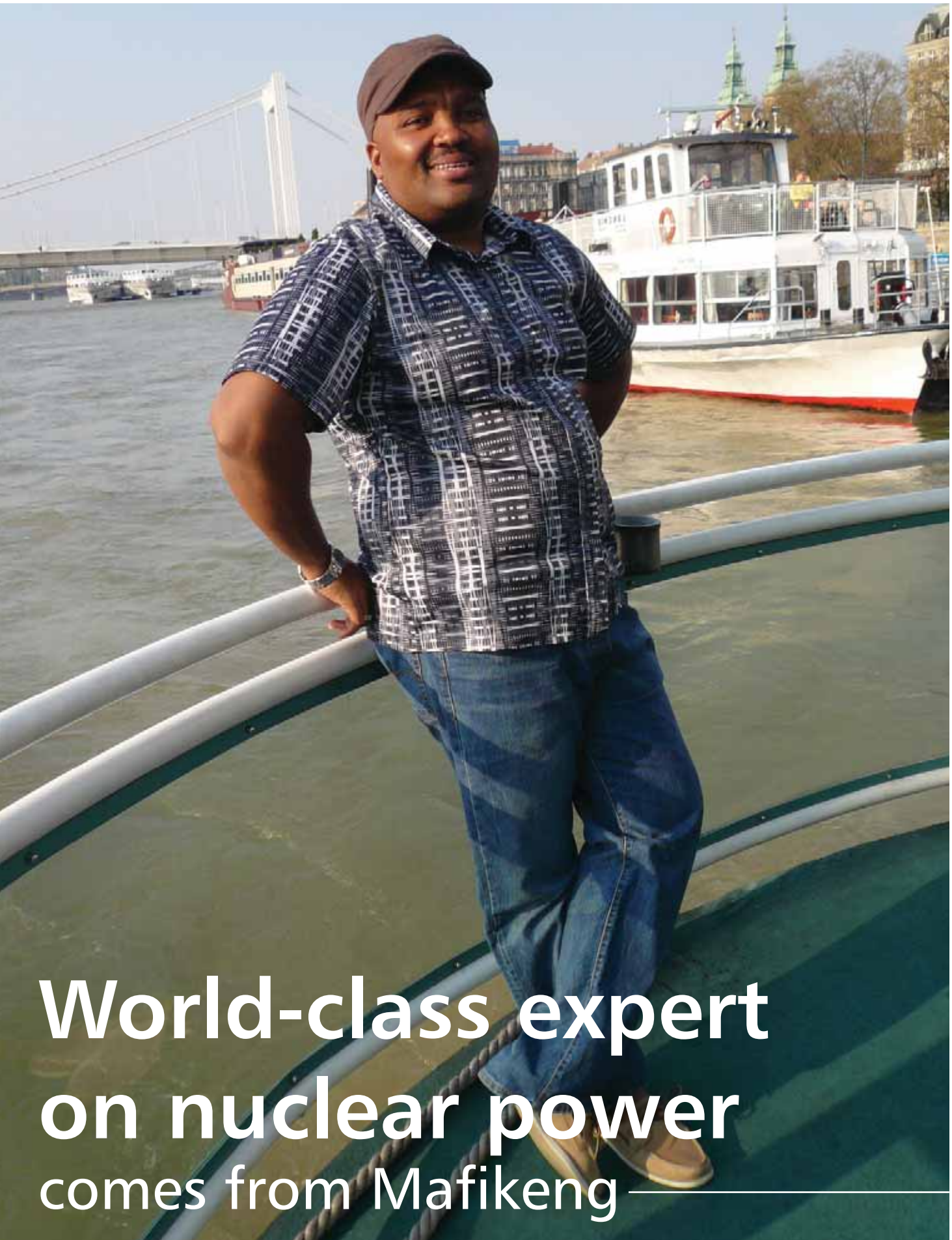


**DR BRENDA SEKATANE** and Mr André Mellet, lecturers in the School for Economic Sciences on the Vaal Triangle Campus, recently made their first appearance on television together with their students.

A production team from SABC2 recently visited the Campus to record lectures for the programme Open Varsity. This programme is part of the channel's educational content. It focuses on empowering students from tertiary institutions around South Africa.

According to Mr Mellet, the Campus and the channel have been negotiating for some time. Two days have been identified for the recording of lectures and arrangements are being made for more recordings.

Mr Mellet and Dr Sekatana had to prepare their presentations according to identified topics. Question-and-answer sessions for the students were planned as part of the recordings.



# World-class expert on nuclear power comes from Mafikeng

## A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF DR TYOBKA

My day starts with checking and responding to e-mails. Due to different time zones, my colleagues in Japan, India, Korea, etc will have sent a number of e-mails to my mailbox by the time I wake up.

Then the real work starts. I read research proposals, keep up with project schedules for different projects, or complete reports resulting from meetings, workshops or travelling.

Part of the downside of working for an international organisation is the tendency for endless meetings, which for the most part occupy my working day. Another challenge is having to travel all over the world for meetings, conferences, workshops, or expert missions.

**DR BISMARCK TYOBKA**, alumnus of the former University of North-West, proudly takes his place among the leading nuclear power experts of the world.

Dr Tyobeka is the Unit Head for Gas Cooled Reactor Technology Development in the nuclear power division of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

He enrolled for a BSc degree in Education at the former University of North-West in 1994, and followed this up with an MSc degree in Applied Radiation Science and Technology.

Today he keeps the IAEA up to date on world-wide development in the field of gas-cooled reactor technology. He is also involved in projects that are funded by the IAEA. For example, he works closely with institutions in the USA, South Korea, China, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Germany. He also works with Pebble Bed Micro Modular Reactor (PBMR) in South Africa, with which the NWU also has close ties.

Although he has not been on the Mafikeng Campus since January 2008, he is still interested in the Campus' programme for Applied Radiation Science and Technology. He also maintains contact with the Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology and with former students of this Centre who work in the nuclear power industry in South Africa.

"I spoke to the Campus Rector, Prof Dan Kgwadi, in 2008 about the role that I can play in future in order to help the University," he said.

He believes that the University has contributed a great deal to his current leadership skills. During his student years he fulfilled various leadership roles, including President of the Science Students' Council in 1996, General Secretary of the Transitional Student Representative Council in 1997, Deputy President of the Student Representative Council in 1998, and President of the SRC in 1999.

"As President of the Student Representative Council I was also a member of the University Council. This allowed me to see how corporate organisations operate and what the responsibilities of directors and executive management are," he said.

After his student years at the NWU, he worked for Eskom and PBMR in South Africa before he left for America for further postgraduate studies. (See text box.)

Dr Tyobeka has been involved with the IAEA in Vienna since February 2008. He enjoys his work tremendously.

"It is a privilege to work for an institution like the IAEA, where some of the brightest minds on earth work together to reach a common goal. Waking up every day with the knowledge that a new challenge awaits me, is more than satisfactory."

He also loves living in Vienna, with its enormous cultural diversity. "Austria shares a border with eight countries, which makes it very easy to visit these countries" he said. He is not very impressed with the cold winters and lots of snow, but adds that the summers are lovely. Something else that he likes a lot is the public transport system in Vienna.

On the other hand he misses certain nice things in South Africa. "I miss my mom, my friends, boerewors, Sundays' jazz gigs and watching Orlando Pirates play," he said.

He grew up in Welverdiend, a small town about 40 km west of Sun City. His many family members still live in South Africa.

He is married to Ngeniswa, and they have two daughters, Siviwe (six years) and Andiswa (three years). Dr Tyobeka's eldest daughter, Babalwa, is a second-year BSc student (Mathematics and Applied Mathematics) on the Mafikeng Campus of the NWU.

### Qualifications

- BSc (Ed), University of North-West
- MSc in Applied Radiation Science and Technology, University of North-West
- Master's of Science (Nuclear Engineering), Penn State University, USA
- Master's of Science in Management (Project Management), Colorado Technical University, USA (part-time)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Nuclear Engineering), Penn State University, USA
- Master's of Law (LLM) in Comparative and International Nuclear Law and Policy, Centre for Energy, Minerals and Petroleum Law and Policy, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK (part-time)

## Number-smart alumnus makes history

**THE SEVEN STUDENTS** of the Vaal Triangle Campus participating in this year's Nedbank/Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition will have to step carefully if they would like to follow in the foot steps of alumnus, Ms Lindokuhle Dingiswayo.

Lindokuhle, who is currently working at the South African Reserve Bank in Pretoria, made history when she became the first black woman and Vaal Triangle Student to win the Nedbank/Old Mutual- Mutual Budget Speech Competition in 2008.

Shortly thereafter she was one of only 10 students selected country wide for the Reserve Bank's one-year training programme for 2009.

For the Nedbank/Old Mutual Competition, Lindokuhle had to write an essay of 4 500 words, titled: *"The small business sector is both an engine of job creation and a site of innovation. What type of economic policies are required to support the small business sector?"*

A panel of experts evaluated the entries and select the best 12 students in South Africa on the basis of the participants' academic merit. As part of the competition, the students and their lecturers were flown to Cape Town in the week that former Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel, gave his budget speech. A panel of experts, under leadership of Prof Jakes Gerwel, questioned the students on economic matters.

Existing since 1972, the goal of the competition is to develop future leaders in the economy and to afford young people the opportunity to meet important role players in the financial world. Undergraduate as well as post-graduate students annually take part in the competition. Lindokuhle, who participated in the competition for post-graduates, was one of 21 entries from the Vaal Triangle Campus.

Lindokuhle enrolled at the Vaal Triangle Campus in 2004 to study BCom Economy/Bank Risk Management. She obtained an honours degree in 2006 at the School for Economic Sciences. "My studies provided me with a useful overview of financial markets and instruments, the economy and the banking system. It also served as an introduction into fundamental and technical analysis."

Her fondest memories of her student years are her involvement with the Student Christian Fellowship and being a mathematics facilitator and assistant.

Lindokuhle, who is now staying in Centurion, is currently busy with her master's degree at the University of Pretoria. She believes in life-long learning and would like to continue her postgraduate studies abroad.

Fortunately for some lucky man, she also believes in being a well-rounded person. Settling down with a husband and having children are therefore also included in her future plans.



Ms Lindokuhle Dingiswayo, alumnus of the Vaal Triangle Campus (second from left), at the gala function where the former Minister of Finance, Mr Trevor Manuel (second from right) announced her the winner of the Nedbank/Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition. With them are Ms Maria Ramos, Absa Group Chief Executive (far left), and President Jacob Zuma (far right). Lindokuhle received a cheque of R150 000.



# Alumnus manages finances for CANADIAN INDIANS



Dr Wynand Steyn's path took him from the banks of the Vaal River to Canada.

**DR WYNAND STEYN**, alumnus of the Vaal Triangle Campus, is currently the Chief Financial Officer of an Indian group known as the Wesley First Nation in Morley in the Canadian province of Alberta.

The Wesley First Nation is one of about 600 Indian groups in Canada and they speak Stoney (Nakoda Souix) and English. Dr Steyn is responsible for the management of this group's financial operations. These include investment, risk, development and personnel management, as well as income and expenditure, information technology and economic development. Dr Steyn and his wife, Laurette, live in Calgary, about 60 km from his work however he enjoys his daily trip to Morley. "It gives me the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the Rocky Mountains every day," he said. According to him, the biggest difference between South Africans and Canadians probably concerns the Canadian upbringing. "The Canadians are very tolerant people. Personal safety and law-abidingness are accepted as the norm."

"As far as the climate is concerned, the winters take some adaptation, especially regarding outside activities, driving and clothing. The summers are not really much different from South Africa."

Dr Steyn comes from Vereeniging, where his parents and parents-in-law still live. He obtained a BCom degree in 1986 and a master's degree in 2000 at the Vaal Triangle Campus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. In 2001 he emigrated to Canada, where he obtained full Canadian residency in 2005.

According to Dr Steyn, he obtained his doctorate "under unique circumstances". Although he was already living in Canada when he applied for his PhD, Prof Pierre Lucouw, the Director of the School for Accounting, agreed to act as his promoter.

"I appreciate Prof Lucouw's patience very much," said Dr Steyn. The only contact that he and his promoter had in those days was via e-mail messages.

He said that the wide field covered by his studies was of great value for management expertise and time management.

He is an expert in the field of local government management and planning and worked at the Empangeni and Richards Bay Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal in the past.

This experience is valuable, as the Wesley First Nation functions on the basis of local government.

"Their 'Chief' can be compared to a mayor, and the 'Council' with councillors. This reminds one of municipal government, but with the difference that they are accountable only to the Federal Government."

The 'Chiefs' represent their nations at provincial level and a 'Grand Chief' represents all the nations in Canada at federal level.

Dr Steyn lives with his wife, Laurette, and two sons in Canada. Laurette manages a pre-school institution that specialises in school readiness, André (26) is involved in the restoration of office complexes in Calgary and Dewald (23) is a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Bow Island, Alberta.

# Her unquenchable

**SHE WANTS TO** become a TV presenter one day. But first, Adri Visser wants to participate in the 2012 Paralympics in London, win some more swimming medals, and complete her diploma in Sports Science at the NWU.

When you meet Adri, first-year student on the Potchefstroom Campus, you can't help but notice that she is physically 'different'. Her mother contracted German measles during her pregnancy, and Adri was born without arms and with only one leg.

However, you quickly become aware of something bigger. Something that lies deeper than the obvious.

If you ask her what she would like people to know about Adri Visser, she remains quiet for a while and thinks deeply. Then she answers: "There is more to me than meets the eye."

Indeed.

## Winning one medal after the other

Disabled? On the outside, yes. But not her spirit. This resident of Wag 'n Bietjie women's residence has had to overcome many obstacles in her life. She grew up in Kempton Park and attended a school for disabled children until grade seven. Then she went to Birchleigh Secondary School because she wanted to be in a 'normal' school.

After matric, she concentrated on swimming for two years. As a result, she realised her biggest dream last year. She participated in the Paralympics in Beijing, smashing her personal best by seven seconds.

Earlier this year, she finished the Midmar Mile (1 600 m) in 38 minutes. She won the trophy for courage for the fourth consecutive year, as well as two bronze medals.

She raked in the medals at the South African Nedbank Championships in Port Elizabeth and the SA Telkom Short Course Championships in Pietermaritzburg. She also qualified for the World Short Course Championships in Rio de Janeiro.

## Perseverance pays off

Adri swims at least two kilometres per day at the Virgin Active gymnasium not far from the Campus. Her best items are free-style (100 m and 200 m) and breast-stroke (100 m).

She also exercises three times a week in the gym of the School of Biokinetics, where Vicky Hoops, an honours student in Biokinetics, is helping her with a special exercise programme. They do strength and suppleness exercises to improve her swimming.

Adri wanted us to take pictures of her and Vicky exercising. "Vicky deserves recognition for everything she does for me," says Adri.



# spirit keeps her afloat

And what does Vicky think of Adri?

"She makes my day! We laugh a lot; we really enjoy each other's company while we exercise," she says.

"Yes," adds Adri, "we often daydream about chocolate – sometimes we even eat it!"

I watch them exercise. It's clear that they are more than exercise partners. They are friends.

## Nemo becomes mobile

Adri has no shortage of friends. It is the first time that she is 'on her own', but everybody at the University has accepted her from the very beginning. The other students in her residence call her their Nemo, because she is always swimming. Other students know her as the girl who goes around on campus in her little 'car'.

Her scooter was a gift from the Potchefstroom Campus. "At first I had to walk all the way between the residence and the sports grounds," says Adri. Fortunately, Prof Annette Combrink, Rector of the Potchefstroom Campus, and Prof Hans de Ridder, Director of the School of Biokinetics, Recreation and Sports Science, put their heads together and gave her the scooter.

"The University does so much for me. I am grateful for their support," she says.

I ask if there is anything that she hasn't mentioned in an interview before. Her eyes light up. "I'd like to mention the man in my life. He is wonderful and he sees me for who I really am. I am very grateful for his love and support."

And his name? "No," she says with a secretive smile. "I'd rather not say."

I save the tough questions for last.

Do you enjoy life? I ask cautiously.

## Stay positive and be grateful

"I do," she says, "you just need to have a positive outlook and be grateful for everything. Just to get up in the morning and see the sun shining, is already a blessing in itself." And if you could have your life all over again, would you prefer it otherwise? She hesitates for a second or two. "It's difficult to say. Would I have swum? Would the University and my friend have been in my life? Would I have had the same personality?" Then she smiles like someone who has reached a conclusion. "I believe that everything happens for a reason."

On my way back to the office I also reach a conclusion. Yes, Adri Visser is different. But what sets her apart is not the obvious. It is her unquenchable spirit. Her extraordinary sense of humour, her astonishing self-confidence, and her inexplicable gratefulness.

-Nelia Engelbrecht



Adri Visser and Vicky Hoops in the Biokinetics gymnasium.



Several lecturers from the Vaal Triangle Campus received awards during a gala event. From left are Ms Fatima Raymakers, award winner from the School of Education Sciences, Dr Leon Moolman, award winner from the School of Behavioural Sciences, Prof Linda du Plessis, Vice-Rector: Academic and Planning, Prof Piet Prinsloo, Rector: Vaal Triangle Campus, Ms Hayley Williams, award winner from the School of Behavioural Sciences and best lecturer on the Vaal Triangle Campus, Prof Tinie Theron, Dean: Faculty of Humanities and Dr Mirna Nel, award winner from the School of Education Sciences.

## TOP LECTURERS receive recognition

**EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE NWU** gave recognition to its top lecturers at institutional level for the third time in its existence.

Prof Nico van der Merwe from the School of Accounting Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus and Ms Hayley Williams from the School of Behavioural Sciences on the Vaal Triangle Campus were announced best lecturers on their respective campuses at a gala dinner held in Potchefstroom.

Thirty-two lecturers in total received Institutional Teaching Excellence Awards (ITEA). Of these, 27 are from the Potchefstroom Campus and five from the Vaal Triangle Campus.

Several academics from the Mafikeng Campus also participated in the ITEA process, but due to unforeseen circumstances such as the student unrest on that campus, they were unable to complete the programme in time. Their results will be released early in 2010 together with those of the next group.

A special award for creative output went to Ms Haidee Kruger from the School of Languages in the Faculty of Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus. She published her first volume of poems, *Lush: poems for four voices* in 2007 and is seen as one of the most promising new voices in South African poetry.

ITEA is aimed at encouraging full-time academic members of staff involved in contact teaching at the NWU to develop their teaching skills.

Participants were evaluated by a panel of peers in terms of innovation and excellence in contact sessions, student feedback and a portfolio that was submitted.

# Language Directorate breaks in the language horse



Ms Dipuo Maphakathi, an NWU interpreter, interprets lessons from English into Setswana for learners from the Central Primary School in Potchefstroom.

**THE NWU'S LANGUAGE DIRECTORATE** has accomplished what few other South African universities could. With their policy of functional multilingualism, they have successfully tamed that wild stallion, the language issue.

But what necessitates this 'breaking in'?

Language is an emotional issue on the one hand, but it also has a practical, functional side to it. Therefore, the University strives to accommodate the language preferences of students and staff as far as practically possible.

The University has done this by embarking on several innovative projects.

One of these is the TransTips comprehension tool, which makes available the staff intranet in four working languages – Afrikaans, English, Setswana and Sesotho.

Another ground-breaking project is the classroom interpreting services offered on two of the NWU's campuses.

## Listen and learn

Market research undertaken by the Language Directorate has shown that the educational sector in South Africa could also benefit from classroom interpreting services. The Directorate has thus started to commercialise its expertise.

Interpreters trained by the Language Directorate and/or who are part of the Directorate's temporary staff corps are currently interpreting at the Potchefstroom Agricultural College and two schools, namely Hoërskool Frikkie Meyer in Thabazimbi and Central Primary School in Potchefstroom.

## Read and write

The Language Directorate has published the research on educational interpreting conducted up till now in conjunction with colleagues from other universities. The book, *Multilingualism and Educational Interpreting – Innovation and Delivery*, was published in November 2008. It forms part of the Van Schaik series on multilingualism by the name of *Studies in Language Policy in South Africa* with Prof Theodorus du Plessis from the University of the Free State as final editor.

All of the articles in the book were conference papers, most of them read at the 2007 Annual Conference of the Linguistics Society of South Africa.

## Sign and watch

In August 2009, the Language Directorate also presented Sign Language courses in association with DeafSA (The Deaf Federation of South Africa). They plan similar courses for 2010.

## Did you know?

- The Language Directorate makes scarce and expensive programmes accessible to more students by interpreting 14 programmes at the NWU.
- Of these, 12 are on the Potchefstroom Campus and two on the Vaal Triangle Campus.
- This includes programmes in all faculties on the Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle Campus.
- In 2010, BEd Foundation Phase (Vaal Triangle Campus), BEd Intermediate Phase (Potchefstroom Campus), BSc Nutrition (Potchefstroom Campus) and BCom (Vaal Triangle Campus) will also be added.
- Negotiations are underway to start with education interpreting services in the Faculty of Education Sciences on the Mafikeng Campus.
- The Language Directorate provides training for its 80 interpreters and assistants.
- The interpreters on the Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle Campus interpret approximately 690 periods per week in total.

## THE LANGUAGES OF TUITION AT THE NWU ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### Mafikeng Campus:

English is used across the board.

### Potchefstroom Campus:

Afrikaans as base language. (Students' language needs are attended to in different ways. Interpreting services are mainly available in English, although in some classes students can also use interpreting to Afrikaans and Setswana.)

### Vaal Triangle Campus:

Afrikaans and English. (As in the case of Potchefstroom, students' language needs are also addressed in different ways, with parallel and double medium tuition and interpreting services being the most important.)



Prof Ian Rothmann, the NWU's most productive researcher, conducts research on individual, group and organisational functioning and its effect on human potential and well-being.

## Most productive researcher Prof Rothmann wins again

**FOR THE SECOND** consecutive year, Prof Ian Rothmann, formerly from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus, won the NWU's research award.

Last year he walked away with the 2007 Senior Researcher of the Year award and this year he was named the Most Productive Senior Researcher of the Year for 2008. He is currently at the Vaal Triangle Campus.

Prof Werner Scholtz of the Faculty of Law, also on the Potchefstroom Campus, was named Most Productive Junior Researcher of 2008. The Most Productive Research Entity for 2008 is the Unit for Reformed Theology and the Development of the South African Society in the Faculty of Theology on the Potchefstroom Campus. Prof Francois Viljoen is the Director of this unit.

The NWU introduced these awards last year as part of its strategy to promote research. The awards are based on outstanding research achievement during the previous year.

## They are MASTERS in their field



Mr Johan Steytler (left) is the overall winner of the ABSA bronze medal. His research looked at mentorship in the social functioning of a boy in his late childhood. His supervisor was Prof Herman Strydom (top).



The overall winner of the S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> bronze medal is Ms Charlotte Senosi (left). Her research has led to six journal articles and book chapters that were evaluated internationally by peers. Her supervisor was Prof Mark Peterson (top).

**EVERY YEAR** the University awards prizes to the best master's students on each campus. The ABSA bronze medals are awarded to the best master's students in the Social Sciences and Humanities and the S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> bronze medals to the top achievers in Engineering, Science and Technology.

This year's overall winner of the ABSA bronze medal is Mr Johan Steytler of the School for Psychosocial Behavioural Science in the Faculty of Health Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus. His supervisor was Prof Herman Strydom of the same school.

The overall winner of the S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> bronze medal is Ms Charlotte Senosi of the School of Computer, Statistical and Mathematical Sciences in the Faculty of Natural Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus. Her supervisor was Prof Mark Peterson of the same School.

Her dissertation, "*Discrete dynamics of bank credit and capital and their cyclicity*" discusses mathematical models for bank items that play an important role in the current global financial crisis.

The campus winners of the ABSA bronze medals are the following:

- Potchefstroom Campus: Ms Moira Fourie (Supervisor: Prof Gerrit Pienaar, Faculty of Law)
- Vaal Triangle Campus: Ms Kotie van Wyk (Supervisor: Dr Werner Nell, Faculty of Arts)

The campus winners of the S<sub>2</sub>A<sub>3</sub> bronze medals are:

- Mafikeng Campus: Ms Basetsana Ntsime (Supervisor: Prof Masood Khaliq, Faculty of Natural Sciences)
- Potchefstroom Campus: Mr Ivor Clifford (Supervisor: Dr Onno Ubbink, Faculty of Engineering)
- Vaal Triangle Campus: Mr Ruan Rossouw (Supervisor: Prof Phillip Pretorius, Faculty of Natural Sciences)

"These prizes are part of the strategy of the NWU to encourage postgraduate studies and to extend its pool of research skills," said Prof Amanda Lourens, Institutional Director: Research Support.

# Scientists receive acknowledgement from **NASA**

**TWO LECTURERS** of the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University received acknowledgement for their contributions to the success of the Ulysses space craft mission from NASA.

Profs Marius Potgieter and Stefan Ferreira worked together with a German team of scientists of the European Space Association (ESA). They were acknowledged after NASA had awarded the entire team of America and Europe with a Group Achievement Award.

The Ulysses was switched off on 30 June this year after gathering data in space for longer than eighteen years.

Prof Potgieter says in 1993 NASA asked scientists, who had not been involved since the beginning of the Ulysses project, to become involved as guest scientists. Due to his expertise he has, since 1993, acted as a numeric modeler. His task was to explain what was happening based on observations of the craft. These observations, in turn, helped them to improve their computer-based models.

Prof Ferreira became involved in the project during his doctoral studies in 2000.

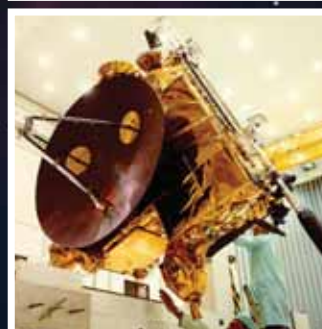
Both are still working as a team with scientists of the University of Kiev in Germany.

The Ulysses space mission is currently seen to be the mission that has permanently changed scientists' way of thinking about the sun and its effect on space. This craft was unique because it was the only one to date to travel around the poles of the sun. Ulysses has been around the sun three times.

The craft was launched on 6 October 1990 and had a life expectancy of five years. Eventually it became the ESA craft that had "worked" longest in space.



Prof Stephan Ferreira (left) and Prof Marius Potgieter (right) have been featured in some 36 publications relating to observations of Ulysses.



Ulysses is the Latin name for the Greek god, Odysseus. In Homer's poem, "Odyssey" we read about the explorations that Odysseus made during his epic sea voyage. The space craft Ulysses was named after him, because scientists had the same expectations of this craft.

# Expertise makes a a difference

**THE NWU IMPLEMENTS** the expertise of its staff and students in such a way that the University as well as the community benefits.

The one part of implementing expertise is commercial and earns income for the University. This includes patents, spin-off companies and consultation. (Read more about this in the article on p3.)

The other part involves the implementation of expertise in communities on a non-commercial basis.

## Communities flourish

Staff and students of the NWU are involved in more than 200 community projects. Here are a few examples:

- The Holding Hands Project aims to improve the quality of the lives of people living on commercial farms by teaching them various skills.
- The Youth Entrepreneurial Development Unit at the Mafikeng Campus guides potential businesses from infancy to ultimate corporate achievement.
- The Community Law Centre on the Mafikeng Campus and the Centre for Community Law and Development on the Potchefstroom Campus provide free legal services to communities in the North West Province.
- Considering the backlogs at South African schools, especially in Mathematics and Science, the University is involved in various projects at schools around its campuses. The University is for instance helping to prepare thousands of matriculants from feeder schools for the tertiary education environment and the world of work. They also assist teachers in building capacity at leadership and management level within schools.
- The Musikhane project of the School for Music on the Potchefstroom Campus teaches children from disadvantaged communities to read music, play various instruments and even offer them the opportunity to perform in an orchestra.
- Staff and students from all campuses participate in various projects to help combat HIV/AIDS. Teachers and AIDS-orphans are among those benefiting from these projects.
- Students across the University also serve their communities by, for instance, supporting welfare organisations and supplying meals to needy students.

## Sustainability is important

Ms Bibi Bouwman, Manager: Community Involvement stresses the fact that it involves more than merely providing aid. "We concentrate on the sustainability of projects. "Making use of the vast expertise of the University, we want to empower people so that they can continue after our exit. We would like to develop social entrepreneurs who



The Musikhane project brings to life the hidden music talent within children from disadvantaged communities. This project involves students and lecturers from the School of Music at the Potchefstroom Campus.

will make an economic and social difference in their communities."

The NWU established two bodies to coordinate community involvement.

The one is the Forum for Continuous Collaboration in Development. This is an open network space for all stakeholders, especially within the NWU and in the immediate vicinity, who are interested in community upliftment and development.

The other one is the Trust for Social Development. The Trustees of this body supervise the funds of the community projects with which the University and other funders are involved.

## Contact detail

For further information, contact Ms Bibi Bouwman at (018) 299 4935 or e-mail: [Bibi.Bouwman@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Bibi.Bouwman@nwu.ac.za); or Ms Maria Mopelong at (018) 299 4967 or e-mail: [Maria.Mopelong@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Maria.Mopelong@nwu.ac.za).



# More than one hundred thousand alumni already on computer

**IT'S NOT EASY** to give the NWU's alumni coordinators the slip. They employ all sorts of innovative methods to track down former students. The NWU's database of more than 109 000 alumni can attest to that.

Earlier this year, all three campuses adopted the Kidz Africa system to administer their databases.

Kidz Africa is a user-friendly system which makes it possible to send out newsletters, sms's, e-mails and invitations with the push of a button. The system can provide data in different categories, e.g. geographical area, demographics, and donations. The programme also makes it easy to read in and maintain data, for instance information on feeder schools, workplaces of alumni, bursary history and family ties.

The Mafikeng Campus transferred 25 518 names from their old system to Kidz Africa. Of these, 1 500 former students' details have already been updated. "We will shortly be updating another 40% of the total details," says Ms Susan van Rooyen, alumni coordinator of the Mafikeng Campus.

Between August 2008 and the end of last year, representatives from this campus crisscrossed the country to make contact with alumni. "It has helped a lot to get our database up to date," says Ms van Rooyen.

The Potchefstroom Campus boasts a database of 74 172. To further expand the database, they avail themselves of every possible contact opportunity with former students. Examples are reunions, gatherings, golf matches, meetings of the wine tasting guild, and the annual function for final-year students just before they leave.

In the three years since the establishment of the Alumni Office on the Vaal Triangle Campus they have built a database of more than 9 784 alumni. "We have good contact with approximately 2 000 of these alumni," says alumni coordinator, Ms Alwine Naudé.

According to her, the Campus is experiencing unprecedented growth and support in terms of its alumni. "Our alumni community not only represents the history of the Campus, but also the foundation on which today's students are building," she says.



Ms Susan van Rooyen is the alumni coordinator on the Mafikeng Campus. Her telephone number is (018) 389 2509.



Mr Vincent Eastes is currently acting alumni coordinator on the Potchefstroom Campus. His telephone number is (018) 299 2562.



Ms Alwine Naudé is the alumni coordinator on the Vaal Triangle Campus. Her telephone number is (016) 910 3250.

## Sign up for the Convocation

**IF YOU ARE NOT** a member of the NWU's Convocation yet, now is the time to join.

The Convocation comprises every person who has graduated with a degree or diploma from the University or its predecessors, as well as the current permanent staff members of the institution. The Convocation aims to promote the University's image and safeguard its traditions and interests.

New members should complete a membership form and pay a lifelong membership fee of R50. The application form is available on the NWU's website <http://www.nwu.ac.za/hsc/Secretariat/Convocation/index.html>. Send your completed form and proof of payment to Ms Izette Schouwstra, Institutional Office, NWU, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520.

Inquiries: [izette.schouwstra@nwu.ac.za](mailto:izette.schouwstra@nwu.ac.za) or (018) 299 4968.

# Alumni PARTY

## until all hours

**IN 2009 THE ALUMNI** of the NWU tasted wine, played golf, polished the floors with their dancing and partied till daybreak.

In 2009 the Mafikeng Campus continued the alumni functions that started at the end of 2008 in Johannesburg and Gaborone (Botswana). On 25 February 2009 they held a function in Rustenburg, on 16 August 2009 in Kimberley and on 18 September 2009 in Bloemfontein. On 27 November 2009 the former students in Vryburg will have their turn, followed by the former students in Namibia on 11 December 2009.

On the Potchefstroom Campus the former residents of the men's residences Liberalia, Makouvlei and Dawie Dup (today Excelsior) had their reunion on this campus in May 2009.

Other reunions and functions that were held on this campus included the following:

- 50-year reunion of the first years of 1959
- 40-year reunion of members of the SRC of 1969
- 50-year celebrations of the School for Communication Studies
- 10-year celebrations of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Rugby Institute
- 90-year reunion of the Potchefstroom Teachers College

One of the biggest functions on the Potchefstroom Campus was the 140-year celebration of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE). This started in June this year with a visit to Burgersdorp, the birthplace of the PU for CHE. Former students from the neighbourhood also joined in this visit.

The festivities reached a climax on the Potchefstroom Campus on 16 October 2009. On this day the Campus unveiled the Totius statue as well as the commemorative pillars with the names of student leaders since the inception of the former PU for CHE.

During 2009 the Potchefstroom alumni's golf club also teed off eight times on various courses in the country, and the wine guild has toasted nine times.



Prof Dan Kgwadi, Rector of the Mafikeng Campus (left), with Mr Louis Jacobs, Institutional Director: Corporate Communication, and Ms Susan Van Rooyen, alumni coordinator, Mafikeng Campus, at the function for Mafikeng alumni in Rustenburg.



Vaal Triangle alumni enjoy a Wild West evening. In front left are Mr Thys Foord, Senior Manager: MooiVaal Media, and his wife, Hester.

The connoisseurs among the alumni of the Vaal Triangle Campus toasted one another as far back as January 2008, led by wine master and President of the Convocation, Mr Bennie Howard. In August that year the alumni attended a "Night with the Stars" with singer Manual Escorcio. At this function the alumni who had made a contribution in their communities or in the business sector received awards.

This year the alumni of the Vaal Triangle Campus donned their cowboy boots during a Country and Western evening, together with the music group the Campbells. On this occasion the Campus recognised alumni who are involved in education circles. The following people received honorary awards:

- Ms Amanda Louw of Vaal High School
- Mr Dries van Heerden of Technical High School
- Mr Johan Venske of Transvalia High School
- Ms Lizette Hattingh of Transvalia High School
- Mr Ricardo Erasmus of Overvaal High School
- Mr Mandlenkosi Msibi of the Thuto-Thiro Comprehensive School
- Mr John Tshabalala of the Prestigious Aureate School

# Don't miss **next** **year's fun**

**THE THREE CAMPUSES** of the NWU have great plans for their alumni for 2010.

As part of the celebration of the thirtieth year of existence of the former University of North-West, the Mafikeng Campus is going to organise four prestigious events for its alumni.

Three of these will take place individually for the alumni of 1980, 1990 and 2000. The fourth will be a joint 'star evening', during which the University will give recognition to the alumni who have made special contributions.

## WANTED: First Years of 1960

The group of first years who started their studies at the former PU for CHE in 1960 will be welcomed back on the Potchefstroom Campus in October 2010. The alumni office wants to find as many of these students as possible for this reunion. If you have not heard from the alumni office yet, please contact Vincent Eastes at (018) 299 2562 as soon as possible, or send an e-mail to [vincent.eastes@nwu.ac.za](mailto:vincent.eastes@nwu.ac.za)

## Also wanted: Accountants of the VAAL TRIANGLE CAMPUS

All former students who received a BCom (CA) degree at the Vaal Triangle Campus must please send their most recent contact details to [alwine.naude@nwu.ac.za](mailto:alwine.naude@nwu.ac.za) in view of the planned 2010 reunion.

Probably the most interesting event that the Potchefstroom Campus is planning for alumni for 2010 is a function for former students who started their studies at the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in 1960. This event is planned for October. (See text box.)

There will also be 40-year reunions for the ladies' residences Kasteel and Heide, which were established in 1970, as well as for the Pharmacy class of that year. The fact that the Hennie Bingle Student Centre will be 30 years old next year, and the Theology Faculty 80 years, will also be celebrated.

Other possible events include the following:

- 1930 – First female representative on the Student Representative Council (Ms Dollie le Roux)
- 1940 – Attack by soldiers (winter night of 7 August)
- 1950 – Prof Joon van Rooy became Rector
- 1955 – PUK choir was formed
- 1960 – Northern wing of Klawerhof completed (208 ladies)
- 1965 – Frans du Toit Building completed in April
- 1970 – Subway between residences and academic buildings completed

Various golf matches and wine guild activities are also planned for 2010.

The Soccer World Cup that takes place in South Africa next year will make 2010 a special sports year. To coincide with this, the Vaal Triangle Campus is going to acknowledge the sports people among its alumni – especially the cricketers – in August 2010.

Soon thereafter, in September 2010, the following reunions will take place:

- Two residence reunions
- A reunion for accountants who completed their studies at the NWU Vaal Triangle during the past 30 years.

The alumni office also plans the following for 2010:

- Updating its website
- Sending out regular e-news
- Ongoing marketing of postgraduate studies
- Use of the sms system via Kidz Africa (see article on p23)
- Expanding the marketing material and clothing

Alumni who have not visited the campuses recently will be amazed by some of the latest developments.

On this and subsequent pages, we are taking you on a journey to the Mafikeng, Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle Campuses. We also fill you in on what has happened on the campuses in 2009 and what is planned for 2010.

## Student life is *revitalised*

Student life on the [Mafikeng Campus](#) was revitalised with the completion of their long-awaited student centre in 2009. The two new residences planned for 2010 should also contribute to a healthy student life on this campus.





**THE NWU HAS INVESTED GENEROUSLY** in the maintenance and improvement of facilities on the Mafikeng Campus in 2009 and have planned big projects for 2010.

**2009 was a year full of activity:**

- The student centre, completed in October 2009, includes shops, an ATM, SRC offices, a cafeteria, a dining hall and a multipurpose hall.
- Animal Health on the Mafikeng Campus also got a boost with the office block that was started in 2009. Facilities such as storerooms and kraals for the animals have also been extended.
- Existing residences were upgraded in 2009.

**Planning for 2010:**

- A new building will be erected for Natural Sciences. This two-storey building will include laboratories, a source centre (library and computer rooms) and lecture rooms. One of the lecture rooms will boast a unique design. The student benches will be in the front of the room, with loose chairs and tables in the back to facilitate group work.
- Two residences with room for 207 undergraduate and 207 postgraduate students will be built in 2010. R40 million provided by the Department of Education will be used for these residences and associated infrastructure.



## Infrastructure a priority on this campus

If you ask **Potchefstroom Campus** alumni what they remember of the Campus, many will immediately think about the stately white main building, while others will remember the old London Platan trees in "Lovers' Lane". Today, the Campus is a reflection of the University's endeavours to establish the best possible infrastructure for students and staff.



**IN 2009 THE NWU** did not only erect a new building and parking area on the Potchefstroom Campus, but also renovated and refurbished existing buildings. Plans for 2010 include new buildings for Economic Sciences, Engineering and Education Sciences.

**Construction and maintenance in 2009:**

- In 2009, the Faculty of Theology finally got its own building in Molen Street, after decades of using a building of the Reformed Church.
- The Senrio Building across the street on the Bult got new inhabitants. Urban and Regional Planning and Geography moved to the De Klerk House and the Lettie du Plessis Building respectively.  
 Senrio is now home to the Creditors' Section and information Technology Central.
- The women's residences Kasteel and Klawerhof were upgraded in 2009.
- The University built a parking area at the De la Rey Hall. (The asbestos buildings that once stood there were demolished.)
- The Chemistry and Biochemistry buildings have been upgraded, with the focus on laboratories.

**Big plans for 2010:**

- The University is going to put up a new building in the parking area adjacent to the building of the Faculty of Economic Sciences. It will accommodate two lecture halls with 350 seats each, and two with 200 seats each.
- Work has already started on a housing complex (Sport Village) on the Fanie du Toit Sports Grounds close to the FNB High Performance Institute (HPI) in Loop Street, behind the cricket stadium. This complex will be completed in April 2010 and will be operated commercially. It will provide accommodation to athletes who train at the HPI.
- Chemical and Electrical Engineering will get a new complex next to the railway line where the annex asbestos buildings were. Provision will be made for offices, laboratories, workshops and lecture rooms.
- The Physics Building and Excelsior men's residence will also be upgraded in 2010.
- Technical Teachers' Training (Faculty of Educational Sciences) will get a carpentry shop.
- Construction has started on a new kiosk on the south campus. The Ampie in its new form will be inaugurated in 2010. It will have two service points and a bigger sitting area.



# This campus is a **feast** for the eye

Visiting the **Vaal Triangle Campus** for the first time, you might get the feeling that you have arrived at a holiday resort and that you are about to cast a line in the water of the Vaal River.





**THE VAAL TRIANGLE CAMPUS** is situated on the banks of the Vaal River in a proclaimed nature reserve. The trees, the grassy river banks and the various species of game roaming the campus grounds all contribute to the unique atmosphere on the Campus.

However, beneath this tranquil exterior, there is a vibrant academic and student life. The NWU purposefully invests in the campus infrastructure in order to offer increasingly better opportunities to students.

#### Construction work in 2009:

- Teaching-learning was boosted with the completion of Building 12 (near the old residences) in 2009.
- This building boasts two lecture rooms with 320 seats each, and four with 200 seats each.
- The Faranani off-campus residences were also upgraded in 2009.

#### In the pipeline for 2010:

- A student centre is going to be erected in 2010 at the current Building 5, where the SRC offices are at present. A large covered eating area and a radio station are envisaged for the first phase.
- Technical Teachers' Training in the School of Education will get a new complex, including workshops.
- Education Sciences will benefit further: they will also get an academic building.

This building will accommodate offices, laboratories and lecture rooms.

One of these lecturing rooms will be similar to the one currently under construction in the new Natural Sciences Building on the Mafikeng Campus. (See article on p27.)



# Council keeps a WATCHFUL EYE

**WHILE THE INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT** of the University handles the day-to-day management of the University, the Council is responsible for its corporate governance, by ensuring that the University is governed according to the NWU Statute and the Higher Education Act.

The Council meets four times per year. Between meetings the Executive Committee of the Council handles urgent matters and then reports on them to the Council at the following meeting.

### Interesting facts about the council members:

- There are **18 alumni** of the former Vista University, the University of North-West and the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) on the Council.
- Council members have studied in **countries** like England, France, Germany, the USA and Austria.
- Ms **Letlotlo Letlape** is the youngest council member, besides the student representatives. She completed her honours degree under Mr Theo Venter, political adviser to the Vice-Chancellor. In addition, she was in Karlien ladies' residence at the time that another Council member, Prof Fika Janse van Rensburg, was the housemaster.
- Prof **Fika Janse van Rensburg** is also known for his participation in the radio programme, "*Wat sê die Bybel*". Another radio personality is Mr **Simon Mohapi**. On week mornings he presents financial programmes on Radio Lesedi and Radio Motswedding.
- The Council members who live the farthest away are Ms **Itumeleng Pooe** and Mr **JJ Tabane** from Cape Town, and Ms Hanneli Rupert-Koegenlenberg from Paarl.
- Ms **Hanneli Rupert-Koegenlenberg**, an acclaimed opera singer, is the daughter of the late Dr Anton Rupert.
- Council members have diverse occupations: The Chairperson, **Mr Peet van der Walt**, was previously a co-founder of a group that provided affordable primary healthcare, in particular to people who could not afford a medical aid. After that he was Chief Executive of FNB's division for Personal Banking Services. Mr **Johnny Thabane** is a member of the Mayoral Committee of the Emfuleni Local Municipality in the Vaal Triangle Area. Dr **Johan van Zyl** is the Chief Executive Officer of Toyota SA, and his recent promotion has made him one of only five non-Japanese Executive Officers in the Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC).
- Prof **Christo van Wyk** of the Vaal Triangle Campus has been a proficient bow hunter for 12 years. He is so accomplished that the kinetic energy of his power bow can accelerate the arrow by 243 feet per second.
- Prof **Themba Mosia** is very interested in transport, especially sea transport. His interest includes boats and ships in bottles.
- Dr **Chris Reinecke**, an international coal specialist, is the nephew of Prof Carools Reinecke, who was a rector of the former PU for CHE.

Variety is still the potpourri of life.

The NWU Council is a good example of this. Council members have divergent backgrounds, skills and experience. They are also diverse with regard to gender, race and age.

However, amidst this variety there is also unity: everyone's goal is to do what is best for the NWU.

- The Deputy Chairperson of the Council, Dr **Sanki Mthembi-Mahanyele**, was one of the two students who woke former president Thabo Mbeki in Swaziland with the news that the student uprising in Soweto had started. The other student was Prof Barney Pityana, who is currently the Vice-Chancellor of Unisa.  
Dr Mthembi-Mahanyele, a former Minister of Housing, has written some short stories and published a volume of poems. Prof **Jan Swanepoel** is also an accomplished poet.
- Dr Mthembi-Mahanyele was the President of the SRC on the Turfloop Campus of the former University of the North. At the same time, Dr **Theuns Eloff**, Vice-Chancellor of the NWU, was the President of the SRC at the PU for CHE.
- Dr **Douw Breed** was the Deputy President of the SRC at the former PU for CHE when Dr Eloff was the President.
- Mr **Flip Buys** helped transform the former Mine Workers Union into the current movement, Solidarity.
- Dr **Fritz Kok** is a former Executive Head of the *Afrikaanse Taal- en Kultuurvereniging (ATKV)*.
- Many alumni will probably still remember the triangular condensed-milk treat, known as "Dirkie". Dr **Dirk Herman's** father was responsible for that treat and the original "Dirkie" was named after him.

The following representatives of the **Institutional Representative Student Council** currently serve as **Council members**:

- Mr Eugene Khokhong – Mafikeng Campus
- Ms Adele Croucamp – Potchefstroom Campus
- Mr Nkosinathi Mashinini – Vaal Triangle Campus

The following members of the **Institutional Management** attends the Council meetings:

- Prof Johan Rost, Executive Director: Finance and Facilities
- Mr Victor Mothobi, Executive Director: Human Capital Development
- Ms Phumzile Mmope, Executive Director: Corporate Affairs and Relations
- Prof Frikkie van Niekerk, Executive Director: Research and Innovation
- Prof Dan Kgwadi, Rector: Mafikeng Campus
- Prof Annette Combrink, Rector: Potchefstroom Campus
- Prof Piet Prinsloo, Rector: Vaal Triangle Campus

MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S APPOINTEES

	Ms Letlotlo Letlape		Mr JJ Tabane
	<b>Deputy Chairperson:</b> Dr Sanki Mthembu-Mahanyele		
	Mr Max Fuzani		

PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS WHO ARE DONORS OF THE UNIVERSITY

	<b>Chairperson:</b> Mr Peet van der Walt		Dr Chris Reinecke
			Dr Johan van Zyl
	Mr Thabang Makubire		

COMMUNITY DESIGNATES

Ms Hanneli Rupert-Koegelenberg			Mr Johnny Thabane
		Dr Douw Breed	Prof Jan Swanepoel
Mr Simon Mohapi			

SENATE MEMBERS

		Prof Fika Janse van Rensburg	
			Prof Walter Lumadi
Prof Christopher Rabali			

MEMBERS FROM OTHER ACADEMIC STAFF

			
Prof Christo van Wyk	Prof Elmarie van der Schyff		

MEMBERS DESIGNATED BY THE CONVOCATION

			Dr Fritz Kok
			Dr Dirk Herman
Adv Jan Henning, SC			

MEMBERS FROM NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES

		Prof Amanda Lourens
		Prof Marlene Verhoef

MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE

		Ms Itumeleng Pooe
Ms Marthie Claassens		

SECRETARY TO COUNCIL

	Prof Themba Mosia
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		Dr Theuns Eloff
Dr Ngoato Takalo		

MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

# NWU

## - A leading university

**The North-West University's unique character consists of diverse and innovative dimensions spanning across all our activities and operations.**

### **Leading innovatively**

- Vice-Chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff is the chairperson of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.
- Third consecutive year winner of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Higher Education Excellence award for Corporate Governance.
- Most Technologically Innovative Higher Education Institution.
- Award by the Pan South African Language Board for contributing the most towards multilingualism and nation building in the South African higher education sector during the past ten years.

### **Academically stable and successful**

- More than 47 000 students on the Mafikeng, Potchefstroom and Vaal Triangle campuses in 2008.
- An undergraduate pass rate (contact and distance) of 81,2% in 2008.
- A record number of 12 337 degrees were conferred in 2008.
- Awarded the sixth most master's degrees and the fifth most PhD's in the country in 2007, totalling 742.

### **Quality research and implementation of expertise**

- 1 089 Research output units in 2008, with 103 National Research Foundation rated researchers, totalling 11% of academic staff.
- In 2008, the University produced an estimated 502 publication output units, an increase of more than 100 since 2007.
- The NWU holds 29 RSA patents, six of which are also registered in the USA.
- Community engagement is a strategic priority, with more than 200 projects currently running.

### **Developing well-rounded students**

- Among the top universities in South Africa for the past five years in the major sports codes.
- A successful FNB High Performance Institute for Sports, a Rugby and a Soccer Institute and a Cricket and a Hockey Academy.
- Choirs and cultural groups have made their mark nationally and internationally.
- A strong human rights culture with a wide range of counselling and well-being activities in which students are encouraged to participate.

## **Leading the way**

[www.nwu.ac.za](http://www.nwu.ac.za)

