

NWU & U

AS ALUMNI

ALUMNI magazine



30 years of top talent takes centre stage

INSIDE

- NWU wants to decrease its carbon footprint
- Alumnus explores the universe
- Nuclear power is safer than you think

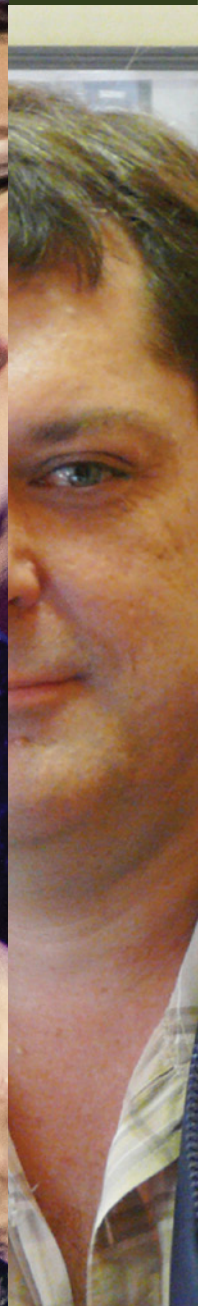
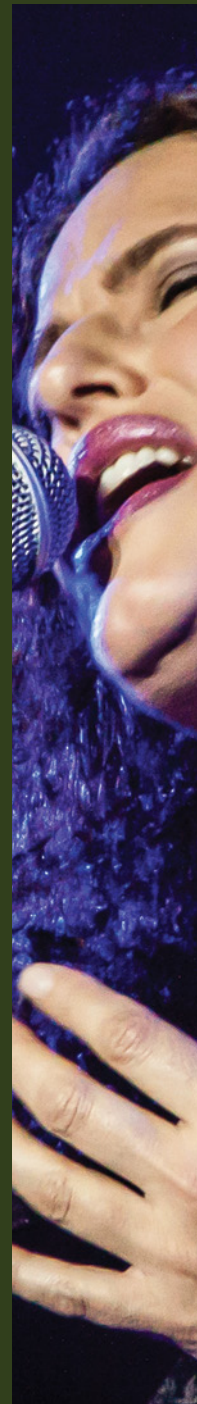


NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT

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FRONT PAGE: The well-known singer and NWU alumna, Anna Davel, performed at the Festival Concert on 18 May 2013 on the Potchefstroom Campus. Read more about this festive event on p 38 and 39.

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Message from the vice-chancellor

Dear alumnus

Nine years into the merger we find ourselves as an institution in the midst of a boom period and with a good indication that the achievement of our mission to become a balanced teaching-learning and research university is in sight.

With regard to teaching-learning our graduation rate remains the highest in the country (26,6% compared to the national average of 17%). Our undergraduate pass rate is 85% (in contrast to the national average in the mid-70s) and our first-year drop-out rate is approximately 12%, far below the sector, which is between 20% and 30%.

We rank among the top six universities concerning total research output. From 2005 to 2011 we improved our research output by 70%, and every indication is that our 2012 research growth will also be very good.

We received a staggering 22 000 applications for full-time first-time entrants in 2013. Unfortunately, not all of these first-years showed up for registration. Some of the reasons for this are worse matric results in especially mathematics, inadequate funds for studies, and the fact that we do not have enough residence space available. As a result it remains a challenge to achieve our first-year enrolment targets – despite the more than 30% overprovision in terms of admissions.

Regarding finances we are grateful that things are going very well with the NWU. A budget of R2,7 billion is not small change, but we still have

a break-even budget – despite the fact that our subsidy was slightly less than what we had planned. (2012's subsidy income was 42,4% of our total income). As for infrastructure development, we have a large number of big projects in the pipeline for the next two years thanks to further investment by the state as well as our own contribution (R439 million in the last three years!).

We're particularly concerned about the Minister's tendency toward over-regulation. The NWU is at the forefront of accountable governance and very much in favour of accountable reporting. However, interference at the level of institutions' operational plans flies in the face of the principle of institutional autonomy. The latest amendments to the Higher Education Act grant sweeping powers to the Minister to intervene in institutions.

The Minister also appointed a Transformation Oversight Committee – despite the fact that most universities are already managing this issue

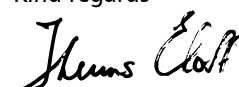
through their respective councils. In our case transformation remains firmly on the agenda through the first mission element of the Institutional Plan and monitoring by the Council's own Transformation Oversight Committee. I'm particularly concerned that the Minister's committee will focus exclusively on equity and not on transformation in the full sense of the word. However, we will cooperate fully.

The Minister is also going ahead with the establishment of two new universities – in Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape. However, these activities will probably not have a significant impact on us.

Now that we have successfully gone through all the growing pains of the merger, we want to pay more attention to aspects that we have neglected somewhat in recent times. One of these is our relationship with our alumni, and in this edition you can already read more about our initiatives in this regard.

Rest assured that your alma mater is still going strong. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards



	Contact	Distance	Total
Mafikeng	9 395	925	10 320
Potchefstroom	19 704	28 797	48 501
Vaal Triangle	6 385	26	6 411
Total	35 484	29 748	65 232

With just below 8 000 first-time entrants for 2013 our student numbers are as indicated above. (Postgraduate registrations are still open, so the numbers will continue to increase.)

Willing and able to share our expertise

The real value of knowledge and skills lies in how it is shared and spread. Keeping knowledge to yourself is like concealing a precious treasure in a dark place to gather dust.

A close look at this issue of the NWU & U shows that NWU alumni do not keep their expertise for personal advantage, but willingly share it with communities, our country and the world.

One such alumnus is Mr Boikanyo Ntuane, who shares his scientific information about nuclear safety. You can read on p 22 how this expert on nuclear power is globally involved in the improvement of safety systems so that people and the planet can safely derive benefit from the peaceful application of nuclear power.

The article on p 18 reports on the delight Prof Pieter Meintjies feels when he implements his expertise to unravel the secrets of the universe and put South Africa on the international astrophysics map.

Whatever it is that we do – whether nuclear safety or astrophysics – we should approach it with responsibility and respect for our sustainable survival on earth.

It becomes clear from this issue that the NWU and its alumni are well aware of the importance of sustainability.

Read on p 36 and 37 how the NWU is “going green” in order to reduce its carbon footprint. On p 29 Mr Corrie Botha, another member of our alumni, tells how his company is adding its share to a greener South Africa by recycling and optimally utilising natural resources.

On p 34 and 35 the Vaal Triangle Campus’s Prof Johann Tempelhoff

explains how preserving our water legacy in an archive can contribute to the future development of our water sources and ultimately the sustainability of life on earth.

Yes, this issue is packed with evidence of the ways NWU alumni share and apply their expertise to create innovative solutions to challenges and to improve people’s quality of life. That is the motivation for our decision to officially recognise our top alumni. You can read on p 7 how the nomination process is proceeding for the awards that will be presented in September.

Although this issue of the NWU & U is full of articles about our alumni, we realise that only the tip of their vast treasure trove of talents has been revealed. We are well aware that there are thousands of other alumni who do not hesitate to share their precious knowledge every day. For them we take off the proverbial hat and say: Keep it up!

Happy reading,

Marelize and Nelia



NWU experts know what they are doing

The NWU’s experts are often quoted in the media, which promotes the public image of the university as an institution that pursues knowledge and innovation to enable others to improve their quality of life. We share a few comments by our experts:

“There is a shortage of qualified chartered and forensic accountants in South Africa and both are also in great demand overseas.”

Prof Susan Visser,
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences,
Potchefstroom Campus

Beeld,
27 March 2013



“Water and land wars can break out in African states south of the Sahara because of the demand for land by large companies and other countries. Since 2008, with the global increase in food prices, private investors and governments have invested large amounts of money in land. ...It seems as if land with an abundance of water sources in particular is in the scope of investors.”

Prof Johann Tempelhoff,
School of Basic Sciences,
Vaal Triangle Campus

Beeld,
18 February 2013



Messages from afar

It is heart-warming to read the letters from our alumni. Below we gladly share them with our readers.



Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for the alumni magazine, NWU & U, which I have received over the past year.

To me it is almost like a "voice in the wilderness". It means a lot to me in my old age – far away from my alma mater and Potchefstroom.

All the best and with a lot for which I can be grateful,
Jessie le Grange,
Bloemfontein

Dear Editors,

I found the NWU & U by accident on the internet.

I receive the e-PUKaner via e-mail, but was not aware that such a fantastic magazine is available to us alumni.

And now I have just read that I missed the Cape Town alumni function ... 😊 ▶

I find the NWU & U classy, mature and interesting. I look forward to receiving the magazine.

Thank you,
Marné van der Westhuizen,
Constantia

Dear Editors,

One can agree with all the letters you receive from the former Pukke (as we were known at the time). We as former students are really proud of what the NWU is accomplishing. It is incredible!

Two of my sons studied at the NWU and we hope to send several of our grandchildren there too one day.

All the best for the future, and may the NWU go from strength to strength.

Regards,
Irene Rumpff-Harms (1960 -1962)
Groenkloof, Pretoria

Please write and tell us where you are and how your careers and families are doing.

Send your letters to nelia.engelbrecht@nwu.ac.za, fax them to 086 614 3222, or mail them to Nelia Engelbrecht, Institutional Office, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom, 2520.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Dear Editors,

I am still working in a temporary position on the Potchefstroom Campus and received all the NWU & Us. I think this magazine is very valuable to the off-campus alumni in particular to remain up to date with the achievements and news of the NWU.

Regards,
Faans Steyn, Potchefstroom



Ms Mauryn du Toit (née Bouver) from Bela-Bela, an alumna of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, phoned earlier this year and we had a lovely conversation. Here is a brief account of what she had to say:

"I am now 92 years old and still drive my own car – although mostly only to church and the bank. I must say, my head still feels 40 years old, even though my feet are sometimes 110.

"I spoke to my old student friend, Piet Malan, the other day. He is now 94 years old. I reminded him of the time in 1939 when I got off the train as a 20-year-old. He was the first companion with whom I attended a function on the campus. This means that he and I have known each other for 74 years now.

"From the war years I remember the attacks by the soldiers on the campus, and the scarcity of items like silk stockings. My dad was able to get us some silk stockings, and because I was able to share them, I was very popular in those days! I also remember that the Senate decided that the ladies who were unable to get hold of stockings would be allowed to attend classes with bare legs.

"After I had received my degree, I was a Latin teacher for 30

years. Some of my pupils later became professors at the PU for CHE, including Prof Willem van Drimmelen.

"At the time we were seven ladies who were very attached to one another – I am the only one of them still alive. My husband, Wouter, also studied at the PU for CHE and was later a well-known figure in rugby circles. Today I have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and remain in contact with them via Facebook."

Graduates excel in accountancy examination

Graduates from the Mafikeng Campus have excelled in this year's Initial Test of Competency (ITC) examination set by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

The results show that 11 of the 12 candidates who passed the examination completed their BCom degrees at the School of Accounting on the Mafikeng Campus.

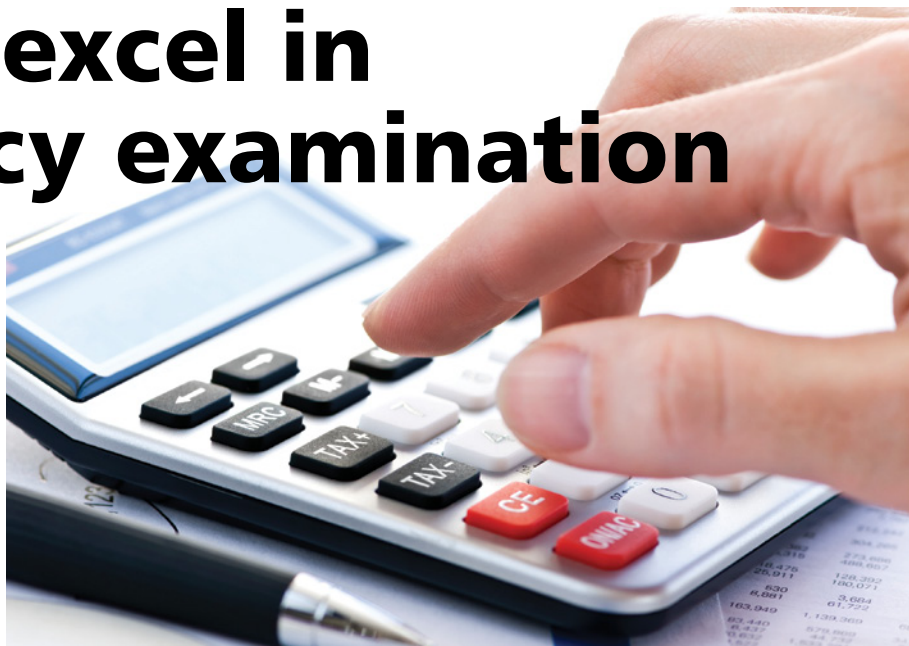
Since the school does not yet offer an honours programme in accounting, these students completed their postgraduate studies elsewhere, for instance at the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus, the University of Johannesburg and Unisa.

Prof Akbar Bootha, director of the School of Accounting, says that this is an outstanding achievement.

"During the past 30 years, the campus delivered only 23 chartered accountants (CAs). With 11 of our students passing the first part in 2013, we have almost reached half the total in one year."

He says that although those who have qualified as chartered accountants currently hold very high positions in commerce and industry, the numbers are still far too low.

"South Africa is in dire need of black CAs and we have to work hard to produce them. Therefore we took certain corrective measures



and appointed appropriately qualified personnel. We currently have six CAs on our teaching staff which has helped raise standards and provide a better programme overall."

The BCom Chartered Accountancy and Financial Accountancy programmes at the Mafikeng Campus are fully aligned with the other campuses of the NWU.

In an external programme evaluation conducted by SAICA last year, the university received a rating of one, meaning that it has complied with all the accreditation requirements.

The campus is also a participant in the Thuthuka Bursary Fund project, an initiative by SAICA to increase the number of black chartered accountants in the country. ▶

Top alumni compete

Twenty-six NWU alumni have been nominated for the university's first Alumni of the Year awards and the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Performance Award that will be announced for the first time this year.

"The calibre of people who were nominated is of a very high standard; they really are people who have rewritten history and are top performers worldwide," says Ms Nina Brazer, Director: Development and Alumni Relations.

The executive committee of the Convocation will soon consider the nominations and

should decide by the end of June who will receive the alumni awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The winners will be announced at a prestigious event in Johannesburg on 6 September 2013.

Of the nominations received, five are from the Mafikeng Campus, 16 from the Potchefstroom Campus and five from the Vaal Triangle Campus. Watch out for the last edition of the NWU & U for 2013 to see who our top alumni are. ▶

Alma mater still warms their hearts

Judging by the enthusiasm of former NWU students who have attended the various alumni activities in 2013 so far, their hearts still beat warmly for their alma mater. Read more about the events that have already taken place and those still in store for the rest of the year.

Prof Dan Kgwadi, the rector of the Mafikeng Campus (left), and Mr Thabang Tikane, an alumnus and member of the Convocation, enjoy themselves at the 2012 gala event. This special alumni function will take place on 15 November this year.



Mafikeng now has its own alumni association

For the first time, the Mafikeng Campus now has its own official alumni association, the constitution of which was approved in March 2013.

"Our alumni are very proud of these developments," says Ms Susan van Rooyen, the alumni coordinator on the campus.

Delighted alumni from the Mafikeng area met on the campus on 13 and 14 March 2013.

At this two-day meeting they enthusiastically discussed several possible benefits for alumni.

These possibilities include the idea of giving alumni a lifelong NWU email address and lifelong access to the library on the campus.

A lapel pin was also designed as a symbol identifying proud Mafikeng Campus alumni.

Different alumni groups or chapters of the Mafikeng Campus will meet throughout 2013.

In July, staff from the alumni office on the campus will visit former students in Pietersburg, and shortly afterwards, in August, alumni in Warmbaths and Pretoria will have their turn. The next meeting is in September, when Free State alumni will gather in Bloemfontein.

Alumni can also look forward to the annual gala evening on 15 November, when the campus will roll out the red carpet.

"This prestigious event is already recorded as a special date in the diaries of our alumni," Susan says.

Approximately 600 alumni are expected to visit the campus during that weekend. As part of the festivities, a campus tour and a golf day are being planned for the morning of 15 November.

For more information on alumni affairs at the Mafikeng Campus, contact Susan at 018 389 2509 or susan.vanrooyen@nwu.ac.za.



▲ Alumni from the Potchefstroom Campus who attended the reunion for former students in accountancy and business mathematics and informatics in Johannesburg on 18 April are, from left, Mr Dirk Greyvenstein, Mr Danie Blignaut, Mr Emile Cloete and Ms Michelle Carroll.

Potchefstroom pops the sparkling wine corks

In November 2012 Potchefstroom alumni popped the sparkling wine corks, but this time it was not the usual suspects, the connoisseurs from the wine guild, who were feeling bubbly.

No, this celebration was sparked by the ecstatic alumni golfers who succeeded in winning the Nedbank Inter-university Alumni Golf Day for the first time in 22 years.

The golfers scored this victory under the leadership of the team captain, Mr Johann Steyn, and are all fired up for more tournaments in September, October and November.

According to organiser, Mr Frik Prinsloo, the club keeps growing from year to year. "The players come from all over North West, Gauteng and even the Free State, and wholeheartedly enjoy every event," he says.

However, the golfers are not the only ones enjoying themselves – members of the wine guild have also been revelling in several visits around the wine barrel.

If you would like to raise a glass with them during the second half of the year, contact Ms Yolandi Yssel from the alumni office at 018 299 2768 or yolandi.yssel@nwu.ac.za.

Various reunions have already been held in the first half of 2013. Former residents of residences, members of the Alabama student association and alumni who studied law, business mathematics and informatics or accountancy have been coming together from far and wide to talk about the old days.

Other events that still lie ahead include Eikenhof's 20-year reunion and alumni gatherings in Nelspruit, George and Bethlehem. A red-letter day on the calendar is 8 November, when the 1963 first-year students will hold a reunion on the campus.

The alumni office would like to contact former students who were registered at the former PU for CHE or Potchefstroom Teachers' Training College (Pote) in 1963. Please contact the alumni office if you or someone you know were part of this group. ▀

Vaal focus on learning and fun

The Vaal Triangle Campus is providing food for the brain and rhythm for the heart.

At a breakfast event on the campus in March 2013, economist Dawie Roodt placed the budget speech by Minister Pravin Gordhan in the spotlight. Dawie is the chief economist of the Efficient Group and presenter of the TV programme *Ontbytsake* on the pay channel KykNET.

This was followed on 10 May 2013 by a healthy dose of musical pleasure at the Emerald Casino in Vanderbijlpark, where Lloyd Cele, who came second in the South African Idols competition in 2010, entertained the alumni with his singing talent.

The event was aimed at younger alumni in particular – those who graduated after 2000 – but older alumni who are still young at heart also shared in the festivities.



▲ Economist Dawie Roodt was the guest speaker at the alumni event on 12 March 2013. His prediction on this occasion that the petrol price would drop in April this year has since been proved true.

More musical fun is coming in August, when it is the turn of Heinz Winckler, the very first Idols winner, to entertain alumni.

The next business breakfast will take place on 15 October 2013, with Prof Hugo Pienaar as the guest speaker. He will talk about labour relations.

If you want to know more about the 2013 alumni

events on the Vaal Triangle Campus, send an email to alwine.naude@nwu.ac.za. ▀

Partnerships ensure a sustainable future

For a sustainable future the NWU needs the support of people such as its alumni, and to secure this support the university must be actively advanced and promoted.

Advancement is something that universities all over the world are increasingly focusing on. In keeping with this trend, the NWU recently established a fully fledged advancement office in the Development and Alumni Relationships division, with Ms Nina Brazer as its director.

The establishment of this office also reflects the fact that universities can no longer depend exclusively on state funding – to survive and flourish they need to find alternative resources themselves.

Not just fundraising

These resources can be unlocked through advancement. However, this is much more than fundraising – advancement is about people, possibilities, support networks and mutually beneficial partnerships.

“We must actively make decisions and establish practices that will open up opportunities for us and that will enable us to be ‘a leading university in Africa, driven by the pursuit of knowledge and innovation’,” says Nina.

“To achieve this, we must embrace our stakeholders – our alumni for instance – to make sure that they become our partners for future advancement.”

Partnerships must be mutually beneficial – a give-and-take relationship.

An example of a mutually beneficial partnership is where groups such as the business sector and the government support the NWU’s research and this research in turn helps generate knowledge, innovation and solutions.

In this way, the NWU’s expertise becomes a resource for society and the university becomes involved with the development of communi-

ties and the environment. Ultimately, this also leads to the university becoming nationally relevant and internationally recognised.

Coordinated and aligned

The advancement office is located in the Institutional Office and provides strategic guidance to the campuses.

“We want to develop strategies that coordinate and align advancement activities across the NWU and eventually help to channel investments for maximum impact,” says Nina.

The office also wants to assist the campuses to build their facilities, equipment, staff, skills and systems capacity so that advancement activities will eventually be successful on all three campuses.

Get involved

“Without people such as our alumni there is very little we can do. Each has the potential to make a difference and that is why we encourage them to become more involved in shaping the future of the university,” says Nina.

Alumni’s involvement not only ensures a sustainable future for the university – it also strengthens the NWU’s hand in enabling others to give free rein to their imaginations and to make their best even better.

“The NWU is not just about education – it’s about the opportunities that education brings. Through their support, alumni can say with the university: it all starts here – people’s dreams and pursuits, and their future success.”

Alumni who wish to become involved with the advancement of the NWU may contact Ms Izette Schouwstra at 018 299 4968. ▀



▲
Ms Nina Brazer is the director of the Development and Alumni Relationships division.



Words worth their weight in gold

The words of NWU experts who gave media interviews in 2012 earned free publicity worth an astronomical R285 million for the university.

Alumni probably listen to NWU experts on the radio, see them on TV or read their commentary in newspapers and magazines.

An especially well-known face in the media is Prof André Duvenhage, the director of the research focus area Social Transformation and professor in political studies on the Potchefstroom Campus. His frequent political commentary earned him the award of NWU Spokesperson of the Year.

He received a floating trophy as well as prize money of R20 000 at an awards evening held on 22 April 2013 in Potchefstroom. Because he was also a winner in two of the subcategories (broadcast and online media) he received a further R10 000. Prof André was quoted 286 times during 2012 – more than all other NWU spokespeople in all the categories combined, being print, broadcast and online media.

The next most-quoted spokesperson of the NWU was Mr Theo Venter, special advisor in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and part-time lecturer at the Business School on the Potchefstroom Campus. He received R15 000 in prize money.

In third place was Mr Hannes Esterhuizen, head coach of the NWU PUK rugby team. He received R10 000 in prize money for that achievement, and another R5 000 as the winner of the print media subcategory.

These winners, together with other NWU spokespeople, collectively shared their expertise with the public via 12 186 media items.

This compares with the 7 730 items in 2011, showing healthy growth of 57,6%.

If the tally for 2012 is compared to the number of articles that appeared in 2010, the difference is a remarkable increase of 260%.

Of the 2012 total, 11 613 items were balanced, 507 were positive and only 66 were unfavourable to the NWU.

"It is always a tribute to our university when the media call upon us as spokespeople, and the fact that our mentions have increased this way shows that our contributions are serving to shape our society," says Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor of the NWU. ▸

These staff members were the top media spokespeople of the university for 2012. Together with Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor (far left) are, from left, Mr Theo Venter, the second most-quoted person, Mr Hannes Esterhuizen, third most-quoted person, and Prof André Duvenhage, who was named Spokesperson of the Year.



Business school is small, but unique

The business school on the Mafikeng Campus may be small and situated off the beaten track, but its location and focus lift it into a league of its own.

The Postgraduate School for Business and Government Leadership is one of the smallest and most remote of all the business schools in South Africa. However, the fact that it is situated in Mafikeng and focuses on the public sector makes this business school unique.

"Approximately 80% of our students come from the public sector or semi-government institutions and as Mafikeng is the capital of the North West Province and the headquarters of many provincial departments, it makes our location perfect," says Prof Theuns Pelsers, who has been the director of the school since 2011.

This business school, which was established in the days of the former University of Bophuthatswana (later the University of North West) is not the only business school at the NWU.

The other NWU business school is on the Potchefstroom Campus and, in contrast to the business school in Mafikeng, focuses mainly on the private sector.

With the establishment of the NWU in 2004 the university was convinced that both business schools could justify their existence, precisely because they differ so much. Fortunately the education authorities agreed, and both have survived – and thrived.

From near and far

The business school in Mafikeng provides MBA qualifications to students of the North West Province and further afield, for instance from provincial authorities of the Free State, Northern Cape and even the Eastern Cape.

These students, Prof Theuns says, are attracted by the focused content of the programmes.

Although certain core parts of the MBA course are the same as those presented by other business schools, including finances, marketing, human resources and strategy, they concentrate much more on public sector administration at Mafikeng.

This part-time course running over two years is also one of the cheapest MBAs in the country at R52 220.

The business school currently restricts its intake to 50 MBA students per year so that students can receive more attention, which promotes better academic performance and higher pass rates.

Better service delivery

With service delivery to communities high on the public agenda, a business school that focuses on public sector administration can make a major contribution.

If one looks for reasons for poor service delivery from the government, several factors play a role, in Prof Theuns's opinion.

"Management expertise is one reason, and the understanding of the concept of service delivery is another," he says.

"Underpinning these reasons are education and training. It is also evident that where managers who are technically strong are appointed, the departments – especially nationally – perform better."

Prof Theuns believes that the service delivery problem can be solved by teaching public service managers some intermediary and advanced management skills.

Furthermore, the government machine will have to focus on choosing the right candidates for certain positions, namely personnel with a technical background.

"The choice of personnel remains the function of the government," he says. However, helping to develop the skills of public officials can have a highly beneficial impact on service delivery.

"The Postgraduate School for Business and Government Leadership can offer management expertise to incumbent and prospective public service managers at middle and senior level through the delivery of quality, government management-directed teaching," says Prof Theuns.

Small this business school might be; insignificant it is not. Expect great things from this perfectly placed, highly motivated team of experts. ▀



▲ Prof Theuns Pelsers is the director of the Postgraduate School for Business and Government Leadership on the Mafikeng Campus.

Leading with mother tongue education



The NWU has become the first South African university to equip education students with the skills needed to teach children in the foundation phase (grade R to grade three) in their mother tongue.

The first group of eight students, who registered on the Potchefstroom Campus in 2009, recently obtained their BEd degrees. They attended classes that were taught in Setswana through simultaneous translation.

“The university decided on this initiative with the Royal Bafokeng nation because of an existing shortage of foundation phase teachers who are able to teach in an African language,” says Prof Barry Richter, director of the School for Natural Sciences and Technology for Education in the Faculty of Education Sciences.

The Royal Bafokeng became involved in this project as Setswana is the African language of choice in the North West Province and education is a major priority for the king of the Royal Bafokeng and chancellor of the NWU, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi.

Mother tongue sounds sweetest

The NWU is one of only 12 of the 23 universities in South Africa that offer foundation phase training. The Faculty of Education Sciences has taken this a step further by offering the degree in an African language.

“It is very important for young children to start their schooling in their mother tongue, as the basic concepts are reinforced during this period,” says Dr Audrey Klopper from Early Childhood Development.

Starting school and learning new things in a new environment is already a challenge for young children. When the teacher communicates in a language they do not understand, the challenge becomes even bigger.

Dr Audrey says it is much easier for young children to learn to count, read and write in their home language.

English is offered as a second language during the first few school years to prepare children for grade four, when they are taught in English. Prof Barry has reiterated the importance of mother tongue education in the foundation phase and explains that there is a grow-

ing shortage of teachers who can teach in an African language. To address this problem, the NWU has expanded the Setswana teaching initiative to the BEd Intermediary phase in scarce subjects, as well as the BEd Senior and Further Education phases, specialising in technology.

Currently, there are 46 students of the Royal Bafokeng studying in different phases on the Potchefstroom Campus. One of the students, who recently obtained her degree, is continuing with her honours studies this year.

Resources are bearing fruit

Ms Denise Kunstler, language and literacy manager at the Royal Bafokeng Institute, says the king believes passionately that education is the key to the development and sustainability of any community.

Denise says that the resources devoted to education reform in the Bafokeng and Rustenburg schools over the past four years have begun to bear real fruit. “It complements the future sustainability and vision of the Bafokeng.” ▸



▲ The chancellor of the NWU and king of the Royal Bafokeng, Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi, caps one of the students of the Royal Bafokeng, Ms Tshego Diale, during the graduation ceremony.



Employers pick the cream of the crop

If you are interested in employing the best of the best NWU graduates, you should be sure not to miss the annual career exhibitions held on the three campuses.

These career exhibitions are ideal opportunities for employers to meet students of the NWU as potential future employees.

General career exhibitions were held this year on 7 May on the Potchefstroom Campus, and the Mafikeng Campus will have its turn on 17 and 18 July. Apart from these general events, more targeted exhibitions also took place on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Employers were able to meet students from the faculties of Engineering, Health Sciences and Natural Sciences on 8 May, and students from the Faculty of Law on 9 May. Students from the Faculty of Economic Sciences (Accounting) showcased their talents on 16 May.

Employers will have the opportunity to meet the accounting students of the Vaal Triangle Campus during an exhibition on 26 July.

"Last year, a total of 108 exhibitors and approximately 7 000 students participated in the exhibitions," says Ms Bernice Smit, manager of the Career Centre of the NWU.

The companies who regularly take part in the annual exhibitions include Absa, Deloitte Consulting, Standard Bank, Senwes, Teach South Africa, Hewlett Packard and Shoprite Group of Companies.

Big, bigger, biggest

"The fact that the career exhibitions of the NWU continue to grow is evidence of the benefits that they offer students and companies," says Bernice.

The number of companies participating in the career exhibitions on the Mafikeng Campus has increased from seven in 2008 to 20 in 2012.

On the Potchefstroom Campus the number has even tripled: in 2008 there were 26 exhibitors compared to 78 in 2012!

On the Vaal Triangle Campus the number increased from nine exhibitors in 2008 to 10 in 2012.

Everyone benefits

Besides enabling students to identify possible career opportunities, the exhibitions enable employers to introduce their companies to the students.

"Research has proved that students prefer to carry on a personal conversation with representatives of the companies which they consider as possible employers. The visibility of companies on the campus is thus very important," says Bernice.

Another benefit for companies is that their representatives can meet with academics to discuss the attributes they expect from students as potential future employees.

Dreams and success

It is obvious that the ever-expanding career exhibitions at the NWU are beneficial for all participants.

On the one hand they create opportunities for students to realise their dreams. On the other hand, employees have the opportunity to pick the cream of the crop, securing the future success of their companies. In a way, career exhibitions end like a modern fairy tale: "... and they worked together happily ever after ..."

• Alumni interested in taking part in the career exhibitions can contact Ms Bernice Smit at bernice.smit@nwu.ac.za or 018 299 2058. ▸



'Networking' has nowadays become an important term in the vocabulary of employers and potential employees, and career exhibitions like these on the Mafikeng Campus (top photo), the Vaal Triangle Campus (centre) and the Potchefstroom Campus (photo at the bottom) provide the perfect opportunity for that.



“RESEARCH HAS PROVED THAT STUDENTS PREFER TO CARRY ON A PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMPANIES WHICH THEY CONSIDER AS POSSIBLE EMPLOYERS.”



Conversations forge solid links

In addition to career exhibitions, the academic world also meets the industrial sector for conversations specially arranged by the NWU.

These conversations commenced in 2011 with the purpose of strengthening links between the university and industry.

“We want to ensure that the academic programmes of the NWU meet the demands of industry and that the university produces well-rounded students who can plough their skills back into the developing South-African economy,” says Dr Theuns Eloff, the vice-chancellor.

The conversations held in 2012 focused on law, engineering and education.

People interested in taking part in these conversations can contact Mr Louis Jacobs at louis.jacobs@nwu.ac.za or 018 299 4918. ▶

Perfect match

According to a news report which appeared in *Financial Mail* of 3 May 2013, the NWU holds the seventh place (out of 23 higher education institutions) for graduates being well equipped for employment.

Another interesting fact mentioned in the article is that we were ahead of universities such as the University of the Free State, University of Pretoria and University of Johannesburg in this regard.

According to our own research, the characteristics that employers appreciate the most about NWU graduates are their unshakeable personal values (especially respect), good professional ethics and well-balanced behaviour in the workplace.

There is however room for improvement with regard to communication skills in English, as well as exposure to the work situation during their studies. ▶

NWU Vaal collaborating on Mandela 27 project

The Vaal Triangle Campus's Serious Games Institute-South Africa (SGI-SA) is developing a serious game as part of an international collaboration on a Mandela 27 Project.

This project highlights the social events that influenced change in South Africa and Europe during the former South African president's 27 years in prison. The project targets 16 to 25-year olds as the events took place before they were born.

The project involves a physical display of Mandela's prison cell and an eCulture platform. This platform will enable tourists to navigate Robben Island by means of an interactive map showing the cultural events across Europe and South Africa during Mandela's incarceration.

The platform will also include a serious game about life on the island. The game is being developed by the SGI-SA in the format of a graphic novel and will be based on interviews with former prisoners.

It will feature five recurring elements of life in the remote jail: prisoners were not allowed to see children; they craved physical activity; education was a key pursuit; communications were heavily censored so messages had to be smuggled; and hunger strikes were used to make existence bearable.

The other partners in the Mandela 27 project are the Robben Island Museum, Britain's Coventry University, the European Union's Cultural Programme, Belgium's Creative Stories project, and Elderberry, a content developer in Sweden. ▶

After 45 years, Prof Marie and Prof Daan Wissing are still keeping the flame of love burning.



Profs still in love after 45 years

Professors Daan and Marie Wissing have been involved with the NWU's Potchefstroom Campus for 45 years, been married for the same number of years and are still as happy as when they met during initiation so many years ago.

At that time, Prof Daan (72) was a fourth-year senior and editor of the student newspaper and Prof Marie (68) was an anxious first-year student. Little did she know that this senior had already read about her in the then *Sarie Marais* magazine after she had shattered numerous provincial records on the athletics track.

According to Prof Daan, a senior researcher in phonology and acoustic phonetics at the Centre for Text Technology (CTeXt), her big soulful eyes stole his heart.

In turn, Prof Marie, a senior researcher in psychology at the African Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research (AUTHeR), appreciates her husband's uniqueness.

When asked how people in such a long marriage manage not to kill each other, Prof Marie replied: "Oh my dear, we are still alive, but we also search for all the big mysteries of life. We try to fight fair if something like that has to happen..."

Prof Daan was more diplomatic in his answer: "Now why would we want to do that?"

These two, parents of twins Henk and Jan, and with five grandchildren, are definitely no ordinary professors who take themselves and life too seriously.

If they could school students in life and marriage, they would teach them about creating meaning together, respect, being happy together, to hold hands in keeping the flame of love burning even if the wind is blowing, to discover your own humanity, of grace, forgiveness and especially thankfulness... ▶

Credit to Nicolize van der Walt – BEELD

NWU equips Northern Cape foundation phase teachers

The NWU is harvesting the fruits of its labour after almost 80 foundation phase teachers from the Northern Cape received their Advanced Certificates in Education (ACE).

This follows the granting of a tender in 2010 to the Unit for Open Distance Learning (UODL), in collaboration with the Faculty of Education Sciences on the Potchefstroom Campus, for the professional development of foundation phase teachers in the province.

At the request of provincial and national departments of education, the NWU, through the UODL, offers access education to practising teachers by means of an open learning distance (ODL) approach. In this way, the unit addresses the urgent need for practising educators to be retrained and to upgrade their qualifications.

A practical component – an additional academic year – was added to the standard ACE programme on request from the Northern Cape Department

of Education. During this additional year teachers develop applied classroom competencies and are empowered to support learners with special educational needs.

According to the teachers who have completed the programme, they are now much better equipped to identify and respond to learning problems.

A second intake of 250 teacher-students should complete the programme by the end of 2014. ▀

Former student leader's dream comes true

Mr Tsietsi Mmutle, the 2011/2012 Campus Student Representative Council (CSRC) president on the Mafikeng Campus, received the Rector's Leadership Award during the official opening of the current academic year.

This prestigious award is bestowed upon a student who has displayed exceptional leadership qualities.

"Tsietsi led the CSRC during a very challenging year, but still succeeded in leading the campus to one of the most successful academic years, as indicated by our core business outputs. He also contributed immensely to the vibrant student life as well as stability on campus," said Prof Dan Kgwadi, the campus rector.

"Stagato" as he is affectionately known, said he was honoured by the campus' recognition of his contribution to its growth.

As part of the award, Tsietsi also received a scholarship to study at Hanseo University in South Korea as an exchange master's student, as well as a laptop from RECTRON.

"This scholarship is a dream come true and I will do my best not to disappoint," he said. ▀

“

TSIETSI CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE AS WELL AS STABILITY ON CAMPUS

”



◀ Prof Dan Kgwadi, the campus rector, hands over the Rector's Leadership Award to the 2011/2012 CSRC President, Mr Tsietsi Mmutle.

CARST radiates confidence

The Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology (CARST) at the Mafikeng Campus has been contracted by the Council for Geoscience to provide services in applied radiation science and technology.

In addition to these services, CARST will provide support for radiation measurement and assessment in the Council's project on derelict and ownerless mines. It is conducting this project on behalf of the Department of Mineral Resources.

According to the Council for Geoscience, the objective of this appointment is to supplement their activities in the field of environmental investigation with CARST's experience and infrastructure in radiation measurement and assessment.

Among other things, the scope of work includes an exposure assessment based on radiation level measurements in solid material and water, both on and off mine dumps.

Prof Matthews Khambula, director of CARST, says the centre is more than ready to provide the required services.

CARST is considered a pioneer in applied radiation studies. It was established in 1998 as a collaborative effort between the NWU and external industrial and research stakeholders such as Eskom, the National Nuclear Regulator (NNR), the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA), the iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator Based Sciences (iThemba LABS), the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Group (PBMR) and the National Research Foundation (NRF). ▀

*Business dreams +
= success*



NWU empowers female entrepreneurs

The Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) on the Vaal Triangle Campus recently launched its Enterprising Women Programme to assist female entrepreneurs to achieve their goals and realise their business dreams.

The EDC is committed to provide female entrepreneurs with the skills to grow their businesses.

The centre also aims to serve as a platform for launching these businesses as long-term building blocks for economic sustainability.

The Enterprising Women Programme is an eight-month programme geared to providing business support services to women who wish to establish their own businesses.

During the programme, participants are given opportunities to explore ideas, develop business models and gain confidence and entrepreneurial know-how.

According to Mr Johan Landsberg, manager of the EDC, an enterprising woman can be described as an individual who dares to think big, take calculated leaps and follow her dreams.

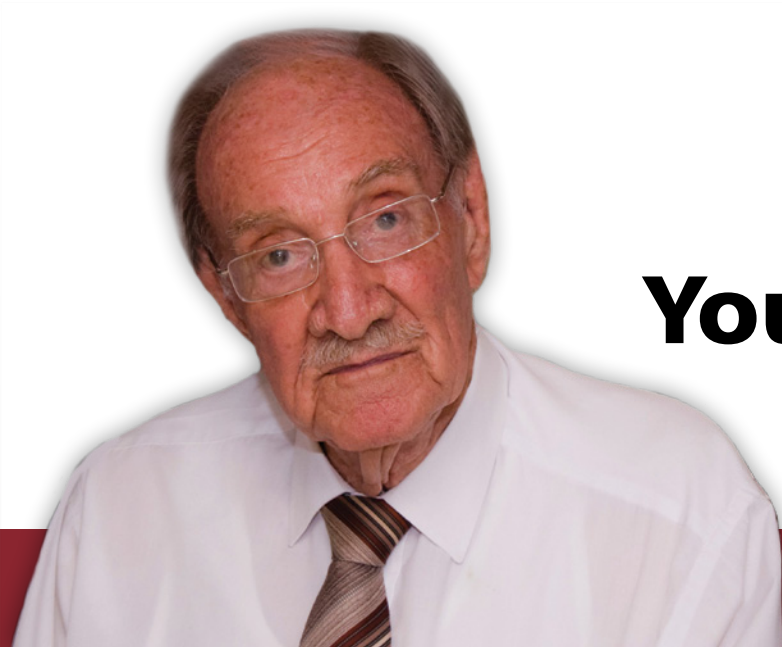
"An enterprising woman works hard every day to bring her dreams to fruition," explains Johan.

This drive to succeed is fuelled by the quest to support her immediate family and the community at large.

"Individually and together, enterprising women have the potential to create positive change – regionally, nationally and internationally.

"By doing so, she contributes towards the strength and sustainability of the country's economic well-being."

For more information about the Enterprising Women Programme, contact Ms Leonie Greyling at 082 412 9123. ▀



You're never too old to learn

By recording history Dr Willem Cruywagen is also making history.

At the age of 83 he obtained his doctorate at the North-West University's Vaal Triangle Campus and published a book; and now, nine years down the line, Dr Willem Cruywagen has published his second book.

Dr Willem, a former cabinet minister and administrator of Transvaal, is living proof that you're never too old to learn. You also don't need a computer to write a book (or two) – in fact, if you have an ordinary ballpoint pen and paper the battle is half won.

The smile in Dr Willem's voice is perceptible when he says that he's a bit behind the curve when it comes to computers and cellphones and that he wrote the books by hand. We talk on his home phone a day or three before his second book's launch at the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria and the sigh of relief is audible when he says that this book represents the last chapter of his family tree research.

History, and genealogy in particular, makes his heart beat faster. "I've always loved history and have always wanted to research the history of the Cruywagens," he says. Years ago his path crossed with Prof Johann Tempelhoff on the Vaal Triangle Campus under whose supervision he eventually completed his PhD in 2004.

His thesis, entitled "*Die Cruywagens van Suid-Afrika: genealogiese en kultuurhistoriese ondersoek (1690-1806)*", is about the weal and woe of the family against the backdrop of the history of South Africa.

Following the success of the first book he did not rest on his laurels and the second book, *Die Cruywagens, 'n Suid-Afrikaanse familie (deel II)* resumes the history of the Cruywagens in 1806 and researches the family tree up to 2011.

According to Dr Willem, he was struck by the fact that although his ancestors were very ordinary, down-to-earth people they "yet played a significant role in the Cape community".

"They were people who seized opportunities; they didn't wait around for things to happen," he says. His great-grandfather for instance was one of the first inhabitants of Transkei, even before the capital Umtata had been established. Dr Willem also discovered that he is a distant relative of the well-known newsreader, Mr Riaan Cruywagen.

He is full of praise for Prof Tempelhoff who was willing to accept him as a student at such an advanced age, because he feels that people are inclined to judge others by age while he still has a lot to offer.

Dr Willem served as chairperson of various institutions and committees until fairly recently when he decided it was time to hand over the reins. He is a member of the Northern Transvaal Genealogical Society and regularly attends their meetings. He also likes to read, to fiddle around in the garden, to watch sports, television news and the Afrikaans soap opera *Sewende Laan*, or to write letters.

He and his wife live in Pretoria and after 64 years of married life he is apparently quite handy with a dish cloth. The couple has two sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A life lesson that he would like to share with readers, is: "It's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years."

And at 92, he is the perfect example of a man who still has a lot of living to do. ▀

The Cruywagens of South Africa: genealogical and cultural-historical investigation (1690-1806)



He camps among the stars

◀ Prof Pieter Meintjes wants to help solve the mysteries of the universe. In the background is the 10 M SALT telescope in Sutherland.

Prof Pieter Meintjes, alumnus of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, wants to help unravel the mysteries of the universe. The NWU & U asked him exactly how he wants to achieve that ...

He discovered the joys of astronomy in a dusty town library, but these days he is at the centre of international research in astrophysics.

In his heart of hearts Prof Pieter Meintjes is still the small boy who read about the wonders of stars and planets in library books and did risky scientific experiments behind the closed door of his room.

“My mother would have had a fit if she knew what kept me busy most of the time. I was particularly good at mixing things that could explode,” he remembers.

However, his childhood is light years removed from his career as a reputable academic and researcher who serves on the steering committee of the national astrophysics and space science programme.

Is there life out there?

Prof Pieter, who is at the forefront of astrophysical research in South Africa, is very excited about his involvement with the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope. This project is believed to be the most ambitious scientific enterprise ever attempted.

The SKA is a giant radio telescope consisting of approximately 3 000 antennas spread over a very large area.

If the areas of all these dishes were added together, they would cover approximately one square kilometre (1 km²) – hence the name. An exciting possibility is that the SKA could

locate a life-form – or at least the right conditions for the existence of life – elsewhere in the universe.

Prof Pieter believes that evidence of the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life would be the ultimate discovery of all times.

“I am 100% sure that there must be biological life on other planets.

“Our Milky Way system contains more than 200 billion stars, and there are more than 200 billion galaxies like ours in the visible universe, each with more than 200 billion stars.

“Statistically there is therefore a very good chance that in the Milky Way alone there certainly could be more than a million stars with planetary systems where earth-like planets could exist, and given the right circumstances, where biological life could have originated and developed.

“I am sure that the earth is not special in this regard. The creation process could have taken place in more than one place in the universe,” he says.

He has never seen an unidentified flying object (UFO), but he does not think it is impossible that there are advanced civilisations in our own Milky Way that could send out space expeditions. “Currently there are more than a thousand planets outside our solar system, a few of which could be very good candidates for biological life,” he says.

Puk food and good friends

Prof Pieter, currently a professor in physics at the University of the Free State, received his MSc and PhD in physics from the NWU. In addition, the love of his life studied with him and is still at his side.

Prof Pieter and his wife, Rina, who received an MSc in chemistry, are the parents of Madeleine, a first-year medical student at the University of the Free State, and Ananke, in grade eight at the Eunice High School for Girls in Bloemfontein.

Prof Pieter has fond memories of the PU for CHE. Apart from the famous Puk burger that was his staple diet during his student days, he will never forget the good friends he made.

“I still have contact with the Physics Department of the NWU. I am good friends with Prof Johan van der Walt, Prof Adri Burger and Dr Christo Venter in particular. I miss Potchefstroom especially because it is a lovely student town that had wonderful bicycle routes,” he says.

He regularly serves as an external examiner for the undergraduate and postgraduate modules of the Physics Department, as well as for the external examinations of MSc and PhD students.

According to him the NWU, and specifically Prof Okkie de Jager, his MSc and PhD supervisor, played a major role in his preparation for a career in the academic world and research.

“Tragically, Okkie died from colon cancer. We were great friends up until his death and I miss him very much.”

Research gives SA a head start

Prof Pieter regards it as a privilege and way of life to be able to study and explore the universe.

At the moment he is part of an international team who will use the SKA to study eruptions taking place around black holes, and other exotic objects such as neutron stars. He is also helping to train a new generation of students who will be directly involved with the SKA.

The SKA – and South Africa’s involvement in it – places the country at the forefront of international research in astrophysics, he says. “My research group is also very closely involved with the big 10 M SALT telescope in Sutherland, and we regularly use the telescope in our research,” he says. (SALT is the Southern Africa Large Telescope, the

largest optical telescope in the Southern Hemisphere.)

Prof Pieter is the author and co-author of approximately 60 publications in high-profile international journals and published conference editions.

He was at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research near Munich in Germany for a postdoctoral year and hopes to spend another year overseas in the future.

Aloes and Bach

When not walking with his head among the stars, Prof Pieter likes to dirty his hands in the garden – he is very fond of succulents and aloes.

When he sits behind his desk, you will always hear classical music in the background, especially from composers such as Bach, Schubert, Brahms, Chopin and Debussy.

Even if he wants to solve the secrets of the universe, Prof Pieter realises that humankind is small and insignificant and will never understand all the mysteries of creation.

Yes, although the little boy from Sabie does not gaze at the stars in books any more, but through ultramodern telescopes, he does that with the same boyish enthusiasm and amazement.

The only thing that has changed in the meantime is that he has moved camp – from the small town library to the immeasurable space of the universe. ▶

“ WE AS PEOPLE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ONLY THE STEWARDS OF CREATION. WE MUST KEEP AND PROTECT AND NOT EXPLOIT IT. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR PEOPLE – EACH PERSON IS UNIQUE AND WE HAVE TO TREAT ONE ANOTHER WITH RESPECT AND LOVE, BECAUSE WE WERE ALL CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. ”



MORE ABOUT THE SKA

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be approximately 100 times more sensitive than the best radio telescopes of today and will be able to record the universe 10 000 times faster.

Engineers and astronomers from South Africa and 22 countries such as England, America and the Netherlands are currently working on the design of the SKA. Construction will only start in 2016, however, and should be completed by 2024.

The SKA will be powerful enough to look “back in time” to just after the Big Bang. This will help us unravel the way in which the universe was formed, and how galaxies originate and change continually.

(Source: media24)

Change the nuclear world

Forget everything you've heard about the nuclear industry being a hotbed of secrecy where the public is deliberately kept in the dark. From an interview with Mr Boikanyo Ntuane, it is clear that here in South Africa at least, a surprising amount of transparency prevails.

You're welcome to ask uncomfortable questions, as it is important to us to be open and accountable.

This is what Mr Boikanyo Ntuane, Chief Inspector of Nuclear Security at the National Nuclear Regulator in Centurion, says. "We're the watchdog of the industry, and the public needs to have confidence in our application of the regulatory standards."

Times have certainly changed since the days when South Africa had a covert nuclear weapons programme and not a single black nuclear scientist.

While still relatively scarce in South Africa, black scientists are now employed at all the country's major nuclear installations and bodies, from the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA) to Itemba Laboratories, Eskom's Koeberg nuclear power station in Cape Town and, of course, the National Nuclear Regulator.

What's more, the majority of these scientists have the same alma mater in common – the North-West University.

Transforming the nuclear industry

"The NWU has contributed a lot to the nuclear industry," says Boikanyo. "The master's course specifically has gone a long way towards transforming the industry as we know it, ensuring there are well-rounded and well-qualified graduates available for employers."

Boikanyo is one such graduate. In fact, 15 years ago, he was part of the very first intake of students who enrolled for the MSc degree in Nuclear Sciences at the Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology at the NWU.

"In 1997, while I was still teaching, I heard that the university was looking to unveil the first intake for its master's programme," he recalls.

"Given the history of South Africa, I found it quite interesting to be part of the transformation at the time. Previously, the nuclear industry was a no-no for most black people."

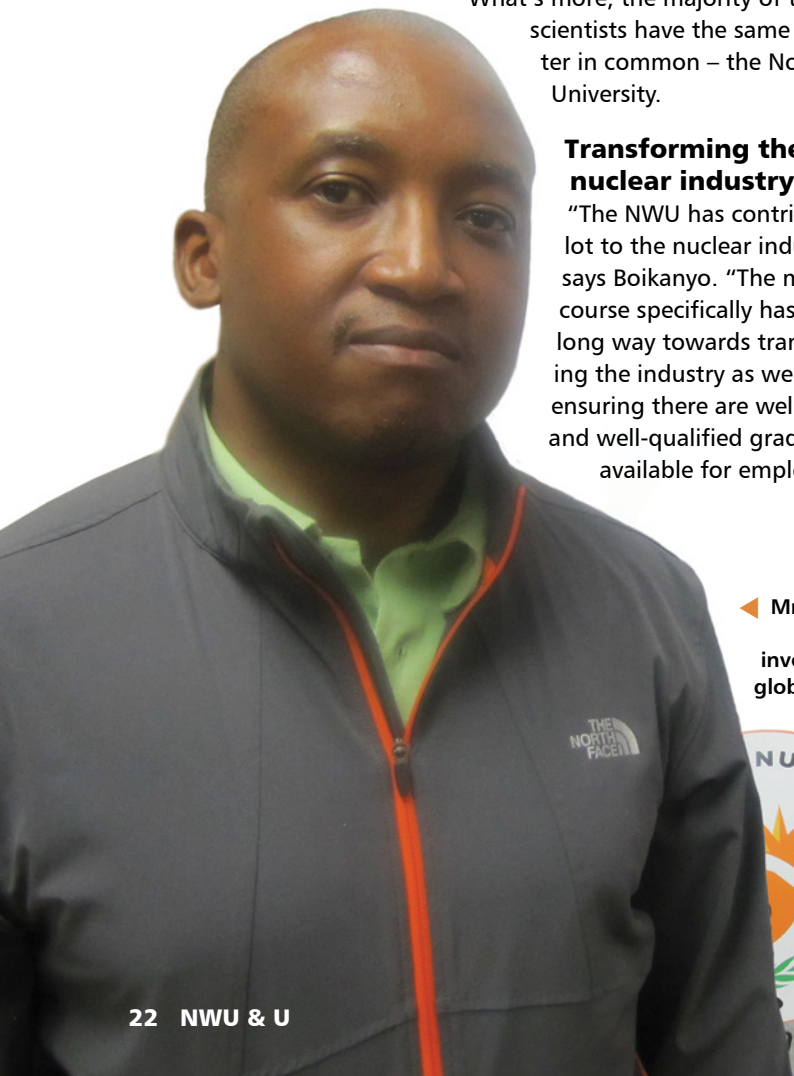
So Boikanyo, who already had a BSc in Education from the University of North West and a BSc honours from Medunsa, enrolled for the MSc in Nuclear Sciences. After graduating, he joined the National Nuclear Regulator, which had awarded him a scholarship to complete his MSc degree and has been his employer ever since. Switching from teaching to nuclear science is a career choice he has never regretted – especially since South Africa no longer uses nuclear technology for destructive purposes.

Peaceful applications prevail

"Upon becoming a signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in 1991, South Africa opened its facilities for international inspection and voluntarily dismantled its nuclear weapons and capabilities. In South Africa today, the focus of the nuclear programme is on the peaceful applications of nuclear technology," Boikanyo says.

Peaceful applications include nuclear medicine, such as the diagnosis of cancer and the treatment of tumours, along with pest control and fertilizer production in agriculture and the generation of nuclear power.

For example, nuclear technology is often used in parts of the construction industry. Boikanyo explains: "Nuclear technology is used to make sure the density of the material used in roads and bridges is at the right level.



◀ Mr Boikanyo Ntuane is involved with global nuclear safety.



...ion of persons,
...nd the environment
...ear damage.



"It is also used from time to time to test the integrity of the material. Without dismantling the structure, you can look inside for cracks – in much the same way as an X-ray can detect a fractured bone in the body."

Industry reach stretches far and wide

This wide spectrum of applications means that the nuclear industry is bigger and broader than most of us realise.

Apart from the three big nuclear installations in South Africa (Koeberg, the Vaalputs nuclear waste disposal site and the Pelindaba nuclear research centre), the country has about 150 facilities that work with NORMs. (NORMS stands for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials.)

NORM facilities typically use low volumes of radioactive material in activities such as uranium mining and processing, producing fertilizer or manufacturing radio isotopes (for the purposes of nuclear medicine).

All these facilities are licensed and regulated under the National Nuclear Regulator Act of 1999. "Our role is to make sure that licence holders who use, handle or process radioactive material do so according to the conditions set out in the Act," he says.

In a nutshell, as chief inspector for Nuclear Security, Boikanyo's specific task is to ensure that only authorised users handle radioactive material and that it does not fall into the wrong hands.

Beyond guards and gates

"We ensure that licence holders have effective nuclear security measures in place. This includes physical protection systems but goes far beyond guards and gates," Boikanyo says.

"It also entails security clearance for the entire staff of a facility and upholding discipline across its entire operations, from the management of radioactive waste to the conduct of employees."

Despite his seniority and experience, he still personally leads inspections when need be.

In March 2011, soon after the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant disaster in the wake of Japan's devastating tsunami and earthquake, Boikanyo led the South African radio-

logical emergency response team appointed to ensure that no radioactive contamination reached local shores.

"Given the earlier reports of contaminated fish and vegetables in Japan, we monitored cargo entering South African harbours and airports to protect the South African public and environment," he says. Fortunately, no contamination was detected.

This is by no means Boikanyo's only experience in the international arena.

Apart from two years at the University of Sussex in England, where he completed a second master's degree as a Nelson Mandela scholar, Boikanyo has extensive international experience, representing South Africa at technical meetings, technical working groups and conferences of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Unforgettable moments

One of the crowning highlights of Boikanyo's career to date was when the Director-General of the IAEA appointed him to serve on the International Advisory Group on Nuclear Security from 2013 to 2015.

"The objectives are to enhance the global nuclear security regime and champion the implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2014-2017," he says.

Another highlight was the key role Boikanyo played in establishing South Africa's nuclear security regulatory framework, including policy and regulations.

While his work is his passion, Boikanyo still finds time to do the personal things that are important to him. "I love spending time with my family, and I enjoy reading and music. No, I don't play an instrument but I'm a good listener!"

Boikanyo also has an adventurous streak. A strong swimmer, he has a penchant for river rafting and has taken a leap of faith – in the form of bungee jumping – more than once. He is also a beginner golfer and a keen social soccer player.

"I'm delighted to hear that some of the junior staff here at work want to revitalise the NNR's social soccer team. I can't wait!" ▀

“

THE MASTER'S COURSE IN NUCLEAR SCIENCES HAS GONE A LONG WAY TOWARDS TRANSFORMING THE INDUSTRY AS WE KNOW IT, ENSURING THERE ARE WELL-ROUNDED AND WELL-QUALIFIED GRADUATES AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYERS.

”



“

MY FELLOW STUDENTS
AND I CARED FOR
EACH OTHER, UNDER-
STOOD EACH OTHER
WELL AND SUPPORTED
EACH OTHER.

”



Friends for life and a solid foundation

With the president of the SRC living next door to him, Mr Moses Kotsokoane was forever hearing what a wonderful university the NWU was. As he eventually discovered for himself, his neighbour, Mr Vaba Thabane, was not exaggerating.

I loved my student years. We made friends for life, we were like family.

This is what Mr Moses Kotsokoane says, who is now a senior plant manager with Sasol Polymers in Secunda, with a team of 45 people reporting to him.

"While we enjoyed the parties here and there, we made sure we didn't forget what we were there for. Our studies came first," he says.

More than a decade after graduating with his BSc degree in Chemistry and Biology, Moses still has regular contact with his fellow alumni from the University of North West, now the Mafikeng Campus of the NWU.

"For example, I'll call someone in who is now in, say Cape Town, and ask 'How do I tackle this?' Professionally and socially, there is still a lot of contact among us."

Laying a strong foundation

Moses's university education did not end with his BSc degree. On joining Sasol as a learner scientist 12 years ago, he felt he needed a stronger grounding in polymer science (polymers being a synthetic material used to manufacture anything from credit cards to garden furniture, carpets and car bumpers).

Sasol agreed to pay for his further education, so off he went to the University of Stellenbosch to do his BSc honours degree as a full-time student. Moses then followed that up by studying part time for his MSc degree, also through the University of Stellenbosch.

His original alma mater deserves at least some of the credit for this, he says. "The NWU gave me a very strong foundation. Polymer science was new to me but the principles I had learnt at the NWU helped me a lot and I fitted in easily at work and in my further studies."

Recently promoted from senior scientist to senior plant manager, Moses is responsible for polymer production, a role that he says presents many challenges. "You have to make decisions every day and they must be the right decisions; a wrong decision can cost you millions in lost production. If you don't plan maintenance properly, for instance, you can lose the whole plant when equipment breaks down. It's important to think ahead and plan proactively."

First graduate in the family

Moses is the first university graduate in his family and if he has anything to do with it, he won't be the last. He is paying for the higher education of two of his siblings, one at the Vaal University of Technology and the other at the Tshwane University of Technology.

"I believe education is the key to success and nothing gives me more satisfaction than seeing young people going to school," he says. "If God gave me the power, I would like to fund the education of other young people. That is the legacy I would like to leave one day."

Asked what he is most passionate about, Moses says, "My passion is helping others. I'm a God-fearing man and I also love people. If I had the power and resources, I would not let any person suffer.

"Also, I will not compromise on my basic values – honesty and integrity. What I say to you, I do. I don't do things behind people's backs and if I promise, I'll keep my promise."

In fact, Moses has just made one of the biggest promises of his life. This interview took place two days before his wedding, in between some last-minute preparations for the big day. Congratulations, Moses and Mampule! ▀

Perseverance is rewarded

If ever there was any doubt that the future starts here at the NWU, the experience of Ms Perseverance Madoda confirms it in no uncertain terms. This nutritionist turned agricultural training entrepreneur traces the roots of her success back to her days as a student in Potchefstroom.

Studying in Afrikaans was one of the hardest things Ms Perseverance Madoda has ever done, and yet she wouldn't have it any other way.

"It was very difficult but it was the foundation of my success today. I'm used to doing double the effort of everyone else," Perseverance says.

Raised in Delareyville, the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE) was a natural choice for her studies – even if her Afrikaans was a little shaky.

"Everything was in *Afrikaans," she recalls. "Every day I had to translate my notes into English, and then go back and see if I had understood what the lecturer was trying to say. Instead of taking three hours like everyone else, a class took me six hours."

This extra effort continued throughout her four-year BSc Home Economics studies, although the language barrier did lessen as time went by. Still, Perseverance admits she didn't have as much fun as her party-loving peers. "Doing a double job, I didn't have time."

Passionate about healthy eating

On graduating in 1997, she went straight into the workplace, joining the Department of Agriculture as a nutritionist. "I am passionate about teaching black people healthy eating habits. Many people do not know that eating good food can prevent illness, whereas unhealthy eating can make you ill," she says.

Realising that she also needed to see the bigger picture of food security and rural development, Perseverance enrolled for her Honours in Development Studies at the former University of Bophuthatswana, this time as a part-time student. That meant more hard work and little time to play, which Perseverance, characteristically, took in her stride.

Meanwhile, she was becoming a little despondent as a nutritionist with the Department of Agriculture.

"I had to prove my importance as a nutritionist to people who did agriculture. In agriculture, you can produce a lot of food but if you don't know how to cook it, people will still be food insecure. It was not easy, especially as a woman, to convince people that as much as they know this about food production, I know this about food and food security."

Spreading her wings

Convinced that she had the potential to do more with her skills, Perseverance resigned in 2006 and spent a year as a nutrition advocacy consultant with MIET, an NGO funded by the Netherlands Embassy.

Then, using her own money and taking out a bank loan, she bought a 45-hectare farm near Klerksdorp and approached government for funds to develop it. Taking a second bank loan, Perseverance bought another farm and soon had the facilities to grow hydroponic vegetables, raise small livestock and breed broiler chickens. (Hydroponics refers to liquid or soilless culture.)

All this happened in less than a year, paving the way for Perseverance to open her own training centre, Thuto-ya-Setshaba. The centre offers short courses and learnerships in food production to land reform beneficiaries, emerging farmers and unemployed people.

Thinking big, then bigger

Over the past six years, Thuto-ya-Setshaba has become a roaring success. It is accredited with two sector education and training authorities (SETAs) to provide a certificate in plant, animal and poultry production, and attracts a steady stream of eager learners.

Perseverance's workforce has grown to 22 full-time employees, mostly teachers who



are subject matter experts in agriculture. Among them are an animal production expert with a master's degree in animal production and a horticulturist with an honours degree.

In 2010, Perseverance won the North West Female Entrepreneur of the Year trophy in a competition hosted by the provincial Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Rural Development.

Not content with all this, she is now aiming even higher. Any day now, she is expecting to receive the news that her application to register a private FET college has been granted. "My aim is to establish a fully fledged agricultural college for young farmers."

For anyone doubting the power of perseverance, this is food for thought. ▸

**In line with its policy of functional multilingualism, the NWU has been providing academic interpreting services for students since 2003. The main service is rendered on the Potchefstroom Campus, where approximately 30% of all modules are currently being interpreted.*

The long way

No problem is too big to be solved; you only need to handle it one step at a time. This is what running long distances has taught Mr Corrie Botha. Another lesson he has taken to heart from running is that perseverance and long, hard hours propel you ahead so that you can find success in the end. NWU & U chatted to him while he was preparing for his 16th Comrades Marathon.

A photograph of Mr Corrie Botha, a man with dark hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue and white vertically striped polo shirt. He is positioned in the foreground on the left side of the frame. The background is a high-angle, panoramic view of a city, identified as London, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and a prominent white dome with a golden finial, which is St Paul's Cathedral. The sky is overcast.

◀ Mr Corrie Botha admires the view over London from St Paul's Cathedral.

to success

When he takes to the road at 05:00 in the morning wearing his running shoes, he does not think about work. He and the open road before him are the only ones there.

As general manager of the biggest soft-drink and beer can and lid manufacturer in the country, Mr Corrie Botha is used to thinking on his feet and not running away from challenges.

He initially studied mechanical engineering at the Vaal Triangle Campus and says that this field of study taught him self-discipline and perseverance.

"I liked to find out how things work and how they are put together, and that aroused my interest in engineering as a career," he says.

His heart lies here

Corrie's involvement with the NWU comes a long way.

He grew up virtually on the edge of the Vaal Triangle Campus and completed his schooling in Vanderbijlpark. This is also where he met his wife, Marianne, who was a BCom student. She had already caught his eye as a schoolgirl, but love only blossomed at university. The couple was married in 1989 and Corrie graduated a year later (BEng Mech).

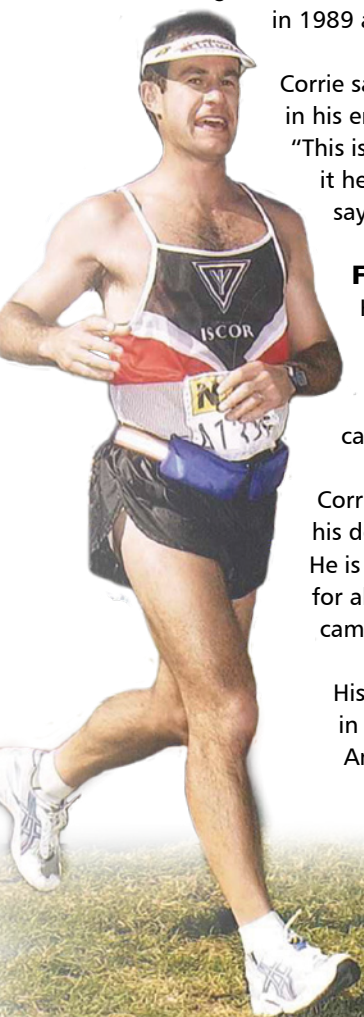
Corrie says that the values he learnt at university, specifically in his engineering studies, helped him through difficult times. "This is something that no-one can take away from you, and it helped me a lot to persevere and achieve success," he says.

Friends and family

He still has regular contact with his friends from university and many of them were also colleagues at Arcelor-Mittal, where he worked for 24 years. He jokingly says that Marianne is the best university friend he has because he sees her so regularly. The couple has two sons.

Corrie enrolled for his part-time MBA in 2004 and received his degree the same year that his eldest son matriculated. He is currently the vice-president of the advisory committee for alumni of the Vaal Triangle Campus and still visits the campus regularly.

His younger son Stephan is a BCom student at the NWU in Potchefstroom. Corrie junior, the elder son, lives in Amsterdam in the Netherlands and also graduated from Potchefstroom. According to his father he plans to come back to South Africa in the near future because he just cannot get used to the "terrible weather" over there.



Go green

Approximately 70% of all soft-drink and beer cans are recycled. In fact, it is the most commonly recycled packaging material, says Corrie.

However, cans that have been filled cannot be used again. These recycled cans from consumers or industry are sold to steel manufacturers to be melted down.

The scrap (steel and aluminium) that originates in the manufacturing process, for example pieces of metal that are cut off or substandard cans, are pressed and sold to steel manufacturers, who melt them down again.

Recycling, saving and optimum utilisation of natural resources are very important to Bevcac and its clients.

"There are ongoing improvement projects to save natural resources. All waste generated from the manufacturing process is separated and re-used as far as possible to minimise the disposal of waste," says Corrie.

Collect-a-can is a business that was established by a shared agreement between Bevcac and ArcelorMittal for the purpose of ensuring the recycling of cans. At the same time it serves as a community project, as people are remunerated for collecting cans for recycling.

Read more about this at www.collectacan.co.za.



▲
Corrie and Marianne Botha with their two sons, Corrie junior and Stephan, during a trip through Namibia.

FROM PAGE 29

This is good news for the Bothas, who love spending time with their loved ones. “Marianne and I are great friends with our two sons and we like to be together,” he says.

They enjoy travelling and recently went on a tour through England, Scotland and Ireland. The family have also travelled through Namibia with friends.

New challenges

After almost a quarter of a century with ArcelorMittal Steel in Vanderbijlpark, where he held various management positions, Corrie tackled a new challenge in 2010. He accepted a top management position at the Nampak Bevcan plant in Springs.

The Springs plant of Bevcan is the biggest in the country and manufactures 1,4 billion soft-drink and beer cans, and 3,2 billion lids per year. The plant, for which Corrie is responsible, is busy converting the can market from steel to aluminium, which is a project worth R1 billion.

“The work is very challenging – no day is ever the same as the previous one, and I have the

freedom to make decisions necessary to address the challenges,” he says.

“The business environment in which Bevcan functions is very dynamic and I enjoy providing the structure in which the business and its people can function with certainty and self-confidence.”

Important assets

To Corrie the employees are the most important asset of a business. “If you train your people very thoroughly and care for them well, they will pull their weight and you can run an effective business,” he says.

According to him it is easy to manage a business and make decisions if you measure them against Christian values and norms. “A manager must not only make decisions to ensure economic growth, but must make those decisions on a sound basis of norms and values that are in line with what you as a Christian are comfortable with,” he says.

However, it is not only the people with whom he works who are important to Corrie. His biggest challenge is to ensure customer satisfaction. The customer must receive the right quality product at the right time. He also spends the biggest part of his day at the plant, “because that is where you can feel the heartbeat of the business.”

Step by step

In matric Corrie told a friend that he wanted to run the Comrades one day. At school he did “fairly well” in middle distances and at university he stayed fit by jogging and playing rugby for the residence and the university’s u/21 team.

As an officer in the defence force, he took part in the Wally Hayward Marathon for the first time. That was where the long distance bug bit and he started to work hard to realise his dream of taking part in the Comrades.

Corrie jogs between 10 and 15 kilometres every weekday and on a Saturday anything between 20 and 60 kilometres. “I decided from the beginning that my running must have a minimal impact on my family life. Therefore I run early in the morning, winter and summer. If everything goes well, it will be my 16th Comrades this year.”

Corrie lives his life according to this motto: If something is worth doing, do it well – a lesson in life that all of us could take to heart. ▀



Go **GREEN** or go home

Green is more than just a colour at the NWU – these days it also refers to an environmentally friendly mindset and an aspiration to decrease the university's carbon footprint.





▲ There are recycling stations for paper, glass and plastic on all three campuses and at the Institutional Office. Here Ms Sinki Mlambo, the primaria of the Oosterhof residence for women, makes her contribution to recycling.

To decrease the university's carbon footprint, the NWU is undertaking several initiatives at an institutional and campus level.

At institutional level, the university asked the Potchefstroom Campus Centre for Environmental Management to determine to what extent the NWU complies with applicable environmental legislation.



The centre has already done an extensive audit on each campus and at the Institutional Office and published the results in separate reports for each business unit. They have also compiled a list of high-level risks and an action plan for the NWU. Apart from the institution-wide initiatives, all three campuses have already launched several green projects. In some cases a particular project applies to all three campuses, and in other cases campuses have their own projects

Residences compete

One of the projects being run on all three campuses to a greater or lesser extent is competitions to encourage students living in residences to save electricity.

Since launching its competition last year, the Potchefstroom Campus has recorded an impressive R1 million saving in electricity at its residences.

According to Mr Koos Degenaar, Marketing and Communication director on the Mafikeng Campus, they plan to launch a similar competition.

A competition between the Vaal Triangle Campus residences is also in the works, says Prof Johann Tempelhoff, chairperson of the Vaal Triangle Campus Green Committee.

According to him, the ground work for this was done during a recent visit of the group known as 49M.

The goal of the 49M team, which has also visited the other two campuses, is to inspire South Africans to save electricity. During their campus visits they encourage students to cut back 10% on their electricity consumption. The 49M project is an Eskom initiative and is backed by trade and industry and the government.

In keeping with the 49M initiative, measures have already been implemented across the NWU to save electricity. These measures range from the use of solar geysers in the residences to the installation of energy control devices – for instance to automatically switch off air conditioners when emergency power is used.

Students work together

According to Prof Johann, the students on the Vaal Triangle Campus are very excited about the green projects on the campus and the Green Committee receives a lot of support from the Student Representative Council (SRC).

"The Mafikeng Campus SRC has also undertaken to cooperate with me on the green projects that are going to be launched this year," says Koos.



Mr Janco Jordaan, chairperson of the Potchefstroom Campus SRC, says they are working closely with Mr Jean-Marc Stidworthy from Marketing and Communication on the green campus project. The part of the project that directly involves students is steered by the Current Affairs portfolio of the SRC.

As part of the green campus project the SRC launched an awareness week from 19 to 22 February 2013. One of their activities was to plant 70 trees on campus.

More than 50 projects in progress

According to Jean-Marc, who is also project manager of the Potchefstroom Campus green campus initiative, there are now more than 50 green projects on this campus.

These projects focus on waste management and energy saving and include a cycling project and a shuttle service on campus. Even the eateries on campus are reconsidering the wrapping of food products so that polystyrene can eventually be phased out.

Many of the campus community projects include a green element, for instance the project where mobile solar panels are provided to learners who don't have electricity at home. Another example is the "exchange shop project" where learners are encouraged at schools in the community to exchange their recyclable products for stationery, toys and other items.

Another community project based on the idea of greenness is the FLAGH project where women are taught to make

and sell various items from recyclable materials, including glass.

Paperless environments

Paperless meetings are yet another step in the direction of greener campuses.

"The executive management of the Mafikeng Campus recently held their first paperless meeting and it went very well," says Koos.

According to Jean-Marc, the management committee on the Potchefstroom Campus has also been holding paperless meetings and several faculties on this campus have followed their example.

As a contribution to the quest for paperless environments, the Vaal Triangle Campus only publishes their student newspaper, Student 24/7, in an electronic format.

Since 2011, the Potchefstroom Campus has been issuing study guides to first years from the Faculty of Theology in electronic format only. This is part of a project where first-year students have to buy laptops with the study guides preloaded onto them. At this stage theology students up to third-year level are involved with the project.

Although the study guides for the rest of the NWU's 15 faculties are still printed, all of them are also available electronically on eFundi.

With these numerous creative go-green ideas flowing freely across the NWU, it is clear that a consciousness of caring for the planet and its future is being established. ▀

Vaal is actually green

What sets the Vaal Triangle Campus apart from the other campuses is that it is situated on the banks of the Vaal River in a proclaimed nature reserve.

Along the hiking paths on the 3 km river front, a variety of game species can be seen, such as monkeys, black wildebeest and springbuck. There are also several dams with geese on the campus. They even have their own pedestrian crossing.

Prof Johann says there are also staff members on the Vaal Triangle Campus who are interested in the greenness of the campus. "Ms Irene Muller from the School of Educational Sciences is currently busy with a master's degree in Environmental Studies and she focuses specifically on our campus," he says.

The Vaal Triangle Campus's Facebook page has a link to the page "Vaal go green" with information and pictures of green projects. The Potchefstroom Campus website also contains information about their green projects.

In another green innovation, the Vaal Triangle Campus Green Committee launched an IT sustainability competition last year. Students had to come up with suggestions about how to make technology use more sustainable. One of the winning suggestions was to use of the rating system of EPEAT, an organisation that indicates which electronic products in the marketplace are environmentally friendly.

Some of the other suggestions were: reusing old computers, switching off computers and screens when they are not in use, and using solar panels to power cooling systems in computer laboratories

Archive preserves water data for future

Water and life on earth are inextricably linked and that is why the preservation of our water heritage in an archive is crucial for the future development of our water sources.

With this in mind the NWU's Vaal Triangle Campus recently established a water archive in cooperation with the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa.

This archive, known as the South African Water History Archival Repository (SAWHAR), contains historical data on water, including the stories of great water projects undertaken in South Africa such as the Tugela Scheme and the Gariep Dam.

A vital facility

Prof Johann Tempelhoff from the School of Basic Sciences, under whose leadership the archive was set up, has no doubts about the importance of this facility.

"In light of climate change and a world population of 7 billion people who often behave irresponsibly with regard to water, this act of conservation is crucial."

Prof Johann believes the knowledge accumulated through the centuries must serve as the basis for the future development of water sources in South Africa and indeed worldwide.

A lot of valuable water data – in the form of printed and electronic documents (digital) – has already been lost and the establishment of the water archive can prevent the loss of even more information, says Prof Johann.

The archive focuses mainly on digital (computer) information, but also contains printed documents. The latter are currently kept in the existing library on the Vaal Triangle Campus

and will eventually be transferred to the new campus library scheduled for completion early in 2014.

"We are already collecting digital archive material. One overseas donor, for instance, is in the process of sending his entire archive of information collected in South Africa and Britain to us electronically," says Prof Johann.

"We hope to one day make available – on the internet – all the most important sources in digital format for public use."

Many will benefit

Various people and institutions will benefit from the archive.

The Department of Water Affairs' historical records from as far back as 1920 – mostly on paper – will be safely preserved in the water archive.

Engineers will also benefit from the archive. "Our data will for instance provide them with thorough knowledge of the past – something without which they would not be able to make responsible decisions about the future when they plan projects," says Prof Johann.

The archive will also come in handy for people and institutions that manage or administer water, as well as for scientists.

"We have already received private collections that could be a paradise of primary source material for research boffins interested in the intellectual history of water studies."

Sponsor words for WAT and win

W(h)AT a golden opportunity: you can now sponsor a word in the *Woordeboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (WAT) at R100 per word and stand a chance to win an ABSA investment of R25 000 in the annual lucky draw.

In addition, if you dig deeper into your pocket and donate R5 000 for a word, that word becomes your "property" and nobody else can sponsor it. All participants receive a certificate with their name and the word or words they have sponsored printed on it.

The Sponsor a Word project is a fundraising initiative by the WAT Trust to raise funds so that the last seven volumes of the WAT can be completed.

But what is the WAT?

What it is not, is simply a single dictionary covering the alphabet from A to Z. It also should not be confused with the *Handboek van die Afrikaanse Taal* (HAT), which includes only standard Afrikaans.

The WAT project will eventually comprise 20 volumes, each containing roughly the entries for one letter of the alphabet. Thirteen volumes are already on the shelf, and the 14th volume – the first of three on the letter S – is currently being compiled.

The WAT volumes are available in book format, and also digitally for computers and cell phones.

Rands and cents

The WAT project, which was started in 1926, currently has an annual budget of R4,5 million. Of this, R1,4 million is funded through a government subsidy, R2,6 million by the WAT Trust, and the rest through sales and other projects.

The government subsidy does not cover the printing costs of new volumes of the WAT, which amount to approximately R600 000. In addition, the WAT requires about R100 000 per year to develop new electronic products.

How to...

If you want to sponsor words in the WAT, send proof of a direct deposit or a cheque with *Borg 'n Woord* (meaning to sponsor a word) and your name as the reference, together with the word or words of your choice, your address or email address and telephone number to wat@sun.ac.za or to WAT Trust, PO Box 245, Stellenbosch.

The banking details are WAT Trust, ABSA Bank, account number 4078244585, branch code 632005.

Call 021 887 3113 for more information or go to www.wat.co.za and click on *Borg 'n Woord*. ▶

Worldwide cooperation

Internationally there is great interest in promoting the world's water heritage. The preservation of information is supported by UNESCO, international water organisations and governments.

"The water archive will cooperate closely with institutions across the world. Later this year we are going to speak about our archive at an international conference in Montpellier, France, where water historians, archivists and museum scientists from all corners of the world will be present.

"The conference-goers intend to form a network that will join forces with the International Water History Association (IWHA) to promote water history by making valuable historical documents more readily available to researchers," says Prof Johann.

New turn of events

According to him, there is currently a worldwide revolution in public records and the water archive will also become part of it.

This new trend is primarily about greater digital interaction – in other words the exchange or sharing of electronic information between institutions. Secondly, it is also concerns transparency, which implies that information about water is made available to a wider audience, as well as to ordinary water users.

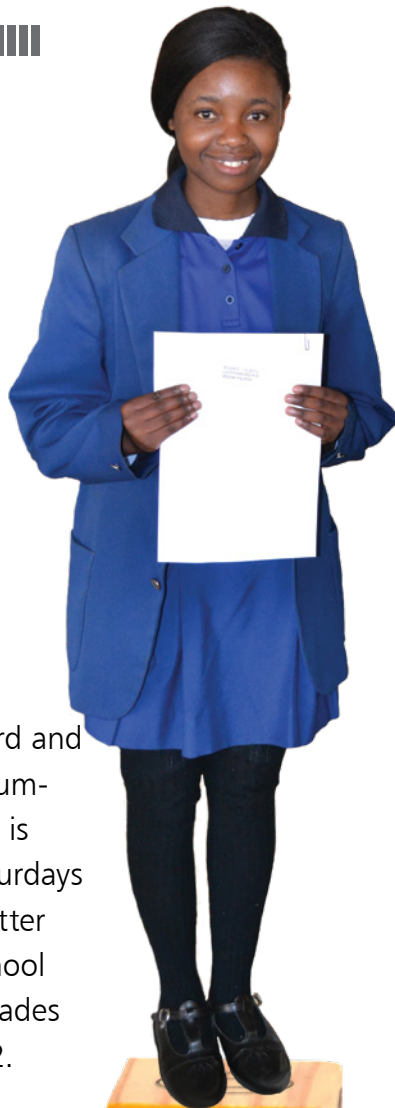
The value of water cannot be overestimated, says Prof Johann.

"Approximately 75% of the human body consists of water, and natural history seems to indicate that mankind has a long tradition of amphibian interaction with water."

Ultimately we will simply be irresponsible if we fail to view our water sources with respect. ▶

Ikateleng BUILDS a better future

Word for word and number by number the NWU is spending Saturdays building a better future for school children in grades 10, 11 and 12.



Every Saturday, the Ikateleng project empowers 1 800 learners through supplementary tuition in a variety of school subjects.

Josiah*, a grade 11 pupil from Fochville, is one of these children. Every Saturday before daybreak, he puts on his school clothes and boards the taxi that takes him to the Potchefstroom Campus for extra classes in science, mathematics and English.

Josiah does this because Ikateleng means “to empower yourself” and he believes in it with all his heart. He sees it as empowering – even on a cold winter’s morning when his friends are still sleeping.

Potchefstroom hosts one of six Ikateleng centres. The others are in the Vaal Triangle, Lichtenburg, Mafikeng, Mankwe and Kimberley.

A winning project is born

The “father” of the project is Prof Tinie Theron, the dean of the Faculty of Humanities on the Vaal Triangle Campus. He started the project in 1998 in the Vaal Triangle area, in the time of the former Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE).

After two years, the Potchefstroom Campus of the PU for CHE also became involved. Then, when the NWU was established in 2004, Ikateleng expanded to Mafikeng and the surrounding area.

In the 24 years since its inception, more than 20 000 children have benefited from this project and it has grown into one of the country’s most successful empowerment initiatives.

From the beginning, the idea was that children’s knowledge had to be supplemented over weekends and the teaching had to be free of charge. The project depends entirely on contributions from various sponsors.

More money, more opportunities

The chief coordinator of Ikateleng, Mr Darius Mhulatshi, is convinced that many more than the 1 800 learners who attend classes every Saturday would like to be part of Ikateleng.

“As our funds are limited, we unfortunately have to restrict the numbers,” he says. The sponsorship money has to be stretched thin to pay for the learners’ transport – by taxi or by bus – as well as a light lunch for everybody and an honorarium for each teacher who presents the classes.

Darius, who became involved with Ikateleng while he was still a school principal in Ikageng in Potchefstroom, visits schools every year between

The Ikateteleng project stretches over 18 Saturdays. The first Saturday is an introductory event and the last a prize-giving event.

May and September to recruit grade nine learners to participate in Ikateleng from their grade 10 year.

The learners are selected on the basis of psychometric tests and academic performance and the teachers on merit and the strength of their teaching track records.

Many of these teachers are being trained through another NWU empowerment project, Sediba. This project originated through Ikateleng and focuses on promoting the knowledge and skills of mathematics and science teachers.

Apart from mathematics and science, other subjects being taught as part of the Ikateleng project are accounting, life sciences, economics or business economics, and English. These subjects are complemented by life skills and career guidance.

Excellent results

According to the chief marketer of Ikateleng, Mr Chris Windell, the project's results for the past 24 years have been in the high 80s, and literally thousands of the grade 12 learners have gone on to enrol for tertiary studies at one of the three campuses of the NWU.

In 2012 the average pass rate for Ikateleng learners was 93,4%, and the learners obtained a total of 302 distinctions.

"This pass rate is clear proof that the programme is extremely successful, especially considering that in 2012 the provincial pass rate for grade 12 learners was 79,5%," says Chris.

Every year during end-of-the-year functions at the various Ikateleng centres, the top performers receive cash prizes. Proud parents and sponsors attend these prestigious events together with the learners.

Josiah was one of the prize winners in 2012, showing he has what it takes to succeed.

Yes, Ikateleng truly lives up to its name – it gives children like Josiah the chance to empower themselves and build a bright new future. ▶

* Pseudonym

Become part of Ikateleng

The Ikateleng project is dependent on the gracious contributions of individuals or companies. If you or your company would like to support the Ikateleng project, please contact Mr Chris Windell at chris.windell@nwu.ac.za or 082 568 1501.



Ikateleng leads to success

Various former students of the Ikateleng project have already made their mark in the corporate world.

These include Dr Mojaki Mosia, a human resources specialist of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Ms Lindokuhle Dingiswayo, a senior member of staff at the South African Reserve Bank.

Other well-known people whom

Ikateleng has empowered are Mr Mbulelo Ntantiso, head of Human Resources at Sasol, Mr Ayanda Nzo, a senior mechanical engineer at Eskom, and Dr Kwame Adzatia, a medical doctor at the Helen Joseph Hospital in Johannesburg.

Ms Nthabiseng Seiphetlho, the only Ikateleng learner from the Reikanne Secondary School in Mareetsane,

used the supplementary teaching to start a study group at her school.

She obtained three distinctions in her grade 12 exams, and the school delivered nine candidates with university exemption for the first time in its history.

Today Nthabiseng is a student on the Mafikeng Campus. ▶

Talent festival FASCINATES



Participants in the Festival Concert are, from left, Valeska Constance, Katlego Maboe, Machiel Roets and Anna Davel. All were winners in previous talent festivals held on the Potchefstroom Campus.

Festive and enchanting are apt words to describe the 30 Year Festival Concert held on 18 May 2013 on the Potchefstroom Campus. This concert was held in celebration of the 30th talent festival, presented the previous day, 17 May, on the campus.

Artists and festival winners of the past 30 years entertained the audience with their musical, singing and performing talents. Among the artists was the well-known singer and actress, Anna Davel, who won the category for best original composition at the talent festival in 1993. Anna has since appeared in two Afrikaans movies, namely *Liefing – Die Movie* and *Die verhaal van Susannah van Biljon*.

Another well-known musician who performed at the recent Festival Concert is Machiel Roets, who is currently the head of music at the Redroofs Theatre College in England. His CD, *Afrika Kind*, is the first Afrikaans CD to be recorded, produced and released in England.

He also wrote and composed the lyrics and music for the Afrikaans musical comedy, *Pretville*, among other works. Machiel won the category for best vocal light music group at the 1996 talent festival.

One of the many highlights of the festival concert was the soprano Erica Eloff's tour de force performance of the Queen of the Night from Mozart's *Magic flute*. She was a category winner in the talent festivals of 1996, 1997 and 1998, and also the overall winner of the best performance category in 1998.

Erica has won several international prizes and has also established herself as a well-known and popular opera singer in the United Kingdom.

Alanka Craeffert and Su-An Müller, who won the first prize in the category for best acting in 2008, made the audience roar with laughter with their professional acting.



PHOTOS: LEANRI CUNNIFF, SCINTILLO PHOTOGRAPHY



▶ The powerful voice of Sinki Mlambo, the overall winner of the 2013 Talent Festival, fills the auditorium during the Festival Concert.



▶ Erica Eloff is a formidable queen of the night in Mozart's *Magic flute*. She is well known in the United Kingdom for her interpretation of the role of Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* for the British Youth Opera and the Garsington Opera.

The rich silkiness of the voices of the seven guys of Puk Amici, who won the category for best vocal light music group in 2011 and 2012, brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation, and the student Sinki Mlambo proved why she was announced overall winner this year.

The group Flip-a-Coin created a bittersweet moment when they announced that this performance would be their last as a group; they performed together for the first time eight years ago on the same stage.

The talent festivals have been held on the campus every year since 1984 and are the brainchild of Mr Horst Bütow, Head of the NWU-PUK Arts. The Talent Festival Orchestra accompanied the artists at both the festival and the concert.

This orchestra is made up of talented students, alumni and staff members of the Potchefstroom Campus. ▶



▶ Alanka Craffert, left, and Su-An Müller act in the play, *Mallewales*. In 2012, Alanka performed in the international film, *The house party*. Su-An is a member of the improvisation comedy group, Lagnes, and acts in children's theatre productions.



IT ALL STARTS HERE AT THE NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY

The three NWU campuses offer some of the best tertiary education programmes in South Africa and deliver students who are ready to reshape the world we live in. You were one of these students and are now part of an even bigger family and worldwide network – our ALUMNI. What you plough back contributes to the continual development of the NWU. Our alumni are our strength.

It all starts here™



NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
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®