

School of Accounting's prizegiving

THE School of Accounting held its 45th annual prizegiving for top achievers in the field of Accountancy on 15 April 2011. The following students received prizes as best students in 2010 in the listed subjects:

SUBJECT	WINNERS
BEST STUDENTS IN DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES	
National Diploma programmes BTech: Internal Auditing BTech: Cost and Management Accounting	Carla Gerber Andrea Flores Lourens Knoesen
BEST STUDENTS IN DEGREE PROGRAMME SUBJECTS	
Accounting 1 CA Stream General Stream	Jessica van der Merwe Nadine O'Neill
Accounting 2 (1st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Kristine Dutton Esther Ohene-Serwaa
Accounting 2 (2nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Jonathan Millson Tariro Matangira
Ethics and Corporate Governance 2	Jan-Pierre Cloete
Auditing 2	Tanya Gerber
Management Accounting and Taxation 2	Kristine Dutton
Accounting 3 (1st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Lizelle Steunenberg Adam Postepski
Accounting 3 (2nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Shammah Rose Ziyanda Vitshima
Auditing 3 (1st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Lizelle Steunenberg Riana Griebenouw
Auditing 3 (2nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Lizelle Steunenberg Riana Griebenouw
Taxation 3 (1st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Lizelle Steunenberg Annelise Lloyd
Taxation 3 (2nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Shammah Rose Elsabé Theron

SUBJECT	WINNERS
Management Accounting 3 (1st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Mmathabo Mathebula Jonathan Fredericks Elsabé Theron
Management Accounting 3 (2nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Mmathabo Mathebula Riana Griebenouw
Accounting 4	Matthew Moore
Auditing 4	Matthew Moore
Taxation 4	Matthew Moore
Management Accounting 4	Ian Wiese
Best Student 1 st Year - Thuthuka Programme	Kuselo Nteleko
Best Student 2 nd Year - Thuthuka Programme	Birischka Smith
Best Student 3 rd Year - Thuthuka Programme	Mmathabo Mathebula
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting) - Thuthuka Programme	Nkanyiso Ntanda
Best Student Final Year BCom (Accounting) CA Stream General Stream	Lizelle Steunenberg Riana Griebenouw
Best Student Final Year BCom (Rationum)	J'Lise Fourie
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting)	Matthew Moore
Best Student 1 st Year – SAICA National Awards	Jessica van der Merwe
Best Student 2 nd Year – SAICA National Awards	Kristine Dutton
Best Student 3 rd Year – SAICA National Awards	Lizelle Steunenberg
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting) – SAICA National Awards	Matthew Moore



ACHIEVER... The Nedbank Scholarship of R20 000 for best BCom Accounting student in 2010 was awarded to Lizelle Steunenberg (middle) by Prof Frans Prinsloo (left) and Nedbank Representative, Rob Bonnette.



PRIZE WINNER... The Investec Scholarship of R16 500 for best BCom Rationum student went to J'Lise Fourie (centre). She was congratulated by Prof Frans Prinsloo (right) and Investec representative, Caroline le Roux.

NEWS

Issue 3

November 2011

CEO receives honorary doctorate

PROF Suresh Kana CEO of PwC (Southern Africa), received an Honorary Doctorate from the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences in April this year.

Prof Kana obtained his BCom degree in 1975 from the former Durban Westville University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant (SA) in 1979.

He was the first black professional to join the then Coopers and Lybrand, and played a key role as national HR Director in the later PwC's transformation. Prof Kana is currently the CEO of PwC South Africa. PwC supports and contributes towards SAICA's Thuthuka Bursary programme that addresses the racial imbalance in the chartered accounting profession.

Prof Kana's interest in academic work is demonstrated by his professorship at the University of Johannesburg and his appointment as Honorary Professor at the Centre of Accounting at the University of the Free State. He is co-author of Corporate Reporting, now in its 7th edition.

The doctorate was awarded to Prof Kana for the notable high-level contributions he has made to issues of governance and accountability in the business world and his own history of making progress against considerable odds.

On the day of his graduation, Prof Kana presented a lecture to honours and third year accounting students as well as those in the Thuthuka Bursary Programme about current trends in the auditing industry. Thuthuka students handed over a gift to Prof Suresh Kana during his visit to thank him for his involvement.

MEETING EXCELLENCE ... Thuthuka students met honorary doctor Prof Suresh Kana, a Trustee of the Thuthuka Bursary Fund. In the front row, second-year students Nteleko Khushelo (from left) and Sazikazi Mzileni, third-year student Birischka Smith and honours student Christopher Strydom join Prof Kana (centre).



NMMU Accounting comes out tops - again



TOP STUDENT ... Matthew Moore, top BCom Honours student of the class of 2010.

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University's School of Accounting has done it again by producing top results in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) qualifying examinations written in January this year.

The university's BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates obtained a 90% pass rate; higher than the national average of 80% for first-time attempts. This number includes nine of the ten Thuthuka bursary programme students who successfully completed the B Com Honours (Accounting) programme in 2010.

The qualifying exam is the first of two professional examinations required for qualification as a Chartered Accountant (SA). The first part of the examination is written after completion of the

honours degree which is offered by thirteen universities accredited by SAICA, including NMMU.

Professor Frans Prinsloo, Director of the School of Accounting, said that he is delighted that the pass rate achieved by NMMU graduates continues to be among the highest in the country.

"We are very proud of our BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates of 2010. These results again confirm the high quality of the programme offered by Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to educate students wishing to become chartered accountants," he commented.

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The year in review



An important aspect of the School of Accounting's mission is the provision of quality and relevant education to aspiring professional accountants. During the past year the School of Accounting has continued to deliver on this, as demonstrated by:

► 90% of the graduates of the BCom Honours (Accounting) class of 2010 passing the 2011 Qualifying Examination Part 1 of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) (compared to the national average pass rate of 80%);

► NMMU graduates attaining a pass rate of 88% in the 2011 Professional Evaluation Examination of the SA Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA); and

► The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) renewing the exemptions granted to a number of the modules in our BCom (Accounting) and National Diploma programmes - which means that students who passed these modules do not have to write the equivalent CIMA examinations, thus shortening the process for our graduates to become members of CIMA.

Much time and effort has also been invested into ensuring that our programme mix remains relevant. The new Diploma in Accountancy (which will replace the National Diplomas in Cost and Management Accounting, Internal Auditing, Accounting and Financial

Information Systems) obtained the approval from the university's Senate in June 2011 - this programme has now been submitted to external bodies for approval. The new Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (which will prepare graduates for the ACCA professional stage papers and will also serve as a bridging option to the BCom Honours (Accounting)) served at Senate in November, and will be submitted to the external bodies for approval early in 2012. Our intention is to offer these programmes for the first time in 2013. From 2012 we will be offering the Postgraduate Diploma in Internal Auditing aimed, amongst others, at preparing graduates to write the Certified Internal Auditor examinations of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

With the generosity of leading businesses that support our School actively, we have been able to enhance the facilities for our students. For example, with the donation from the Professional Provident Society (PPS), we have upgraded the BCom Honours (Accounting) lecture venue. The funds provided by Quantum Investments not only paid for sweaters for our staff and Honours students, and part-funded the annual ball for our BCom Honours students, but also equipped the new tutors room and enabled the upgrade of the Honours computer lab / study area. Investec have agreed to continue funding bursaries for our 1st year Accounting students in 2012, and provide significantly towards the 2012 marketing costs of the School.

With effect from 1 July 2011 Mr Houdini Fourie joined the School management team

as Head of Department: Auditing and Taxation, replacing Prof Amanda Singleton who excelled in this role for the last 4½ years. Prof Singleton will now increase her focus on ensuring that the teaching and learning model of the School of Accounting, described by the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants during its 2009 monitoring visit as a "benchmark" for other accredited universities, remains "cutting-edge".

The School is eager to build relationships with its alumni, who are viewed as key stakeholders and ambassadors of our programme offerings. We were therefore very pleased that our first Accounting alumni dinner for those who obtained their "Certificate in the Theory of Accounting" (the forerunner of the current BCom Honours (Accounting) programme) from 1965 to 1985 took place in January 2011. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We are eager to host more such events for our alumni in the future.

We trust that you will find the articles in this newsletter, highlighting some of the successes of the School, its staff and students during 2011, informative and interesting.

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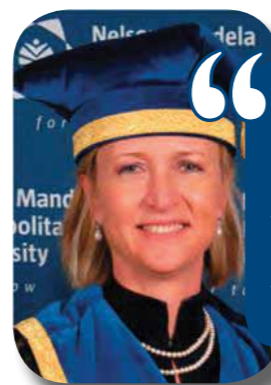
Marketing whiz, a new generation chancellor for NMMU

"NMMU is destined to be one of the top universities in South Africa. We have a great vision, values and a strong leadership team to make our vision come alive," says Santie Botha who, at 46, is also the youngest chancellor of a university in the country.

Ms Botha was inaugurated as the new chancellor of NMMU during graduation on 12 April. The 2010 Businesswoman of the Year shares her networks and expertise as an entrepreneur to ensure that NMMU is recognised both nationally and internationally. Santie, who was part of the MTN leadership team, managed to develop

MTN into the cellular giant it is today. "I would like Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University to have global appeal and attract some of the best academics and students across the world."

Executive management is equally pleased with her appointment, knowing that Ms Botha's connections, insight and enthusiasm will greatly benefit NMMU. "Santie's exposure as a corporate leader in a highly cosmopolitan, globally linked and multicultural industry will be invaluable to NMMU's own strategic interests going forward," says Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.



"I would like NMMU to have global appeal and attract some of the best academics and students across the world."

Accounting grabs top spots



MINGLING ... First and second-year VC Scholarship recipients met up at a lunch function held early in this year.

THE School of Accounting has again proven that it attracts top quality students as thirteen of this year's 25 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship recipients chose to study within the School of Accounting.

NMMU believes in fostering excellence and has developed a prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Programme that recognises and rewards high achievers in Grade 12. These top achievers are selected on the basis of exceptional academic merit.

The Scholarship covers all registration and tuition fees, reasonable accommodation costs, the average cost of books and other study material, meals, the cost of transport to and from home, while any remaining balance serves as a personal allowance.

Most of the recipients opted to study BCom Accounting for Chartered Accountants programme while others chose the four-year BCom Rationum, a double major degree.

The students follow a mentorship programme which aims to ensure that they consistently obtain excellent marks and remain on this prestigious scholarship programme.

Career evening attracts quality learners

INFORMED ... Learners from Ethembeni Enrichment Centre received all necessary information and marketing packs at the School of Accountings annual career evening recently.



The aim of the evening was to promote accountancy as a career and study options at NMMU.

THE School of Accounting held its annual Port Elizabeth career evening at the South Campus Auditorium on 16 May 2011. The evening was a great success with an audience of 330 top-achieving Grade 11 and 12 scholars as well as their parents and teachers.

The aim of the evening was to promote accountancy as a career and study options at NMMU. Speakers included Director of School of Accounting, Prof Frans Prinsloo, KPMG's PE senior partner Alan Barr, NMMU graduate and Trainee Accountant at PwC, Wicus Wait, and SAIPA's Bertus Griebenow.

Prof Prinsloo talked about careers in accountancy as well as the accounting programme offered by

the university. Alan Barr brought a public practice perspective on the aspects of the life of a modern CA and Bertus Griebenow explained the professional accountant career.

Wicus Wait spoke about his exciting career at PwC and how he started his success story by studying at NMMU. It was emphasised that BCom Accounting for chartered accountants is a challenging but rewarding programme. Learners really enjoyed seeing the perspective of a young accountant and what they can expect during their training years.

The evening ended with a question and answer session and a lucky draw was done where two learners received vouchers from the University shop.

DID YOU KNOW?

► NMMU graduates obtained an 88% pass rate in the Professional Examination of South African Institute of Professional Accountants that was written in March this year.

► The top students in 1st year, Jessica van der Merwe, 2nd year, Kristine Dutton and 3rd year, Lizelle Steunenberg, are all Afrikaans speaking ladies who matriculated from Hoërskool DF Malherbe in Port Elizabeth.

► More than half of the VC Scholarship recipients in 2011 are studying in the School of Accounting.

► The School of Accounting Facebook group has increased from 37 members at the beginning of the year to 365 members.



CELEBRATING... Investec Merit Award recipients celebrated their achievements with Ms Simone Rawlings (back right) from Investec, Prof Frans Prinsloo (front right) from the School of Accounting and Setlogane Manchidi (front left) from Investec.

Investec Merit Award Function

INVESTEC offers merit awards to School of Accounting 1st year students who have performed well academically in Grade 12. The prestigious award function took place at The Beach Hotel on Thursday, 11 August 2011 to congratulate these recipients on their achievements.

This merit award is a partial bursary which awards up to R20 000 per student who aim to study full time towards an undergraduate degree in BCom Accounting or BCom Rationum programmes and have a financial need. "The 'Investec Merit Award' scheme has been very successful and has the potential to be

an important pipeline for students to the national Investec Scholarship programme," said Setlogane Manchidi from Investec.

After the first year June exam results, recipient Ontlametse Gareje was in 5th place with 75.8%, Elam Sibabini Nombembe in 4th place with 77.2%, Müller Pretorius in 3rd place with 78.2%, Monique Westraadt in 2nd place with 82.6% and Matthew James Irving achieved the top position with an impressive average of 85.75%. He also received distinctions for four of his subjects. Further prizes were awarded to these students to recognise their achievements.

DIAS Society

NEW INITIATIVE... On Wednesday, 3 August, National Diploma students elected committee members for the new Dynamic Internal Auditing Society (DIAS). The DIAS is a new society established to cater to the interests of aspiring Internal Auditors as well as those interested in Internal Auditing. The purpose of this society is to provide exposure of the society members to qualified Auditors and to act as the link between the students and industry. The core committee consists of (from left) Thokozani Sihlangu (chairman); Chulu Lindi (secretary), Siphosihle Sihlali (treasurer) and Mopeli Mabula (vice-chairman).



East London learners get taste of NMMU School of Accounting

THE School of Accounting held its very first career evening in East London on Wednesday, 24 August 2011 in the school hall of Grens High School.

Top achieving Grade 11 and 12 scholars as well as their parents and teachers from the Buffalo City metro and surrounding towns attended the evening.

"Many of our students come from schools in the East London area and therefore we decided to host an accounting career evening. The aim of the evening was to promote accountancy as a career and study option at NMMU and to inform learners on the path to become a registered chartered accountant," Prof Prinsloo explained.

Prof Frans Prinsloo talked about what a career in chartered accountancy is with a focus on the sought after chartered accounting programme at the university. Alan Barr, managing partner at KPMG, brought a business perspective of what a CA entails and Wicus Wait, a trainee accountant at PwC as well as an ex-student of the School of Accounting, spoke about his trainee contract and shared his experience of studying at NMMU.

The event was very successful and the School will continue with this initiative in the years to come.

Accountants back at alma mater



REUNION... Accounting alumni catching up at the with old friends and class mates. Here they are joined by Prof Niekie Dorfling (middle back) and Prof Kotie Grové (far right).

CHARTERED Accountants and business leaders visited their alma mater, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, previously the University of Port Elizabeth, in January for an accounting reunion.

This reunion was arranged by the Alumni office in conjunction with the School of Accounting for those who obtained their CTA or equivalent from UPE between 1965 and 1985. This prestigious event took place in the VIP Room (Sport Centre) on South Campus.

About 40 alumni attended the evening and enjoyed catching up with old friends and classmates. The guests were welcomed by Prof Kotie Grové, head of the NMMU Trust, and Prof Prinsloo, the Director of the School of Accounting, gave a brief overview about the growth of the School and the many great achievements of the School, its staff and students. The event was a great success and created a platform on which the School can build in strengthening its relationships with alumni.

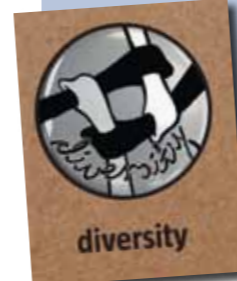
DIVERSITY MONTH – Being diverse for a day

AUGUST is Diversity month and being one of NMMU's values, we pride ourselves on celebrating our diverse university.

Tracy Beck, an Applied Accounting lecturer, was asked by Muslim student Mohammed Hassan (first year Cost Accounting student) to fast with him for a day. Despite being sick, Tracy persevered through a day without eating or drinking anything as disappointing the student was never an option.

She woke up at 4:30 Thursday morning, knowing that by 5:00, nothing was allowed to pass her lips. She said that it was easy starting the day off, but as it progressed, it became a lot harder. When asked what was worse, Tracy replied "not the eating part, but not being allowed to drink anything." She could only eat something for the first time at 18:00 that evening.

"Being a university with a vast range of different cultures, it is always interesting to be in someone's shoes for a day, to learn their ways and to appreciate our wonderful country," said Tracy.



PPS handover



UPGRADE... PPS sponsored an amount of R50,000 towards the upgrading of the BCom Honours Accounting lecture venue in Building 35. The handing over of the cheque took place on Tuesday, 16 August 2011. From left is John Hyde (PPS Divisional Manager: Business Support Division), Johnathan Dillon (Honours lecturer), Prof Dorfling (Dean: Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences), Prof Prinsloo (Director: School of Accounting), John Marsden (PPS National Sales Director) and Phillip Fourie (PPS Regional Manager: Business Support Division).

Lecturers present our accredited teaching model

THE first annual NMMU colloquium on teaching and learning advancement was held on South Campus in the Council Chambers. The purpose of this colloquium was to discuss strategies to enhance the success and holistic development of students by actively engaging them in learning, integrating and embedding student development and learner support into the curriculum and the classroom.

Ansulene Stone and Lorelle de Villiers from the School of Accounting were the only lecturers from the faculty invited to be guest speakers at this forum. Our teaching model, praised by SAICA (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants) as a benchmark for other SAICA - accredited universities, was chosen to be presented to deans, HOD's and university management.

"What makes our teaching model successful is that it emphasises equipping students to take responsibility for their own learning and that we surround our students with the learning resources for them to be successful," said Ansulene.



VISITORS... The Thuthuka team from the University of the Western Cape visited NMMU in May to see what makes our Thuthuka programme successful. From left: Elize Naude (NMMU Thuthuka Coordinator), Prof Frans Prinsloo (Director of the School of Accounting), Jacques Siebrits (HOD of Accounting at UWC), Ronald Arendse (UWC) and in front Charmaine Trueman (UWC) and Lorelle de Villiers (Accounting lecturer for the 1st year Thuthuka students).

Passionate auditor visits Louisiana State University

IN order to expose students to several practical aspects relating to internal auditing and specific behavioural aspects, auditing lecturer Houdini Fourie was invited to Louisiana State University to facilitate with the course: Case Studies in Internal Auditing.

The carefully selected class participating in the course was divided into three teams and received a list of 20 topics to prepare and present during the week. Each group presented two topics per day thus putting them under some pressure.

Topics included personal improvement (dress for success), fraud, business processes and corporate governance. The presentations involved a substantial amount of research as it did not form part of the internal auditing syllabus of their programme.

Mr Fourie was also introduced to the Dean of the E.J. Ourso College of Business, Dr Eli Jones.

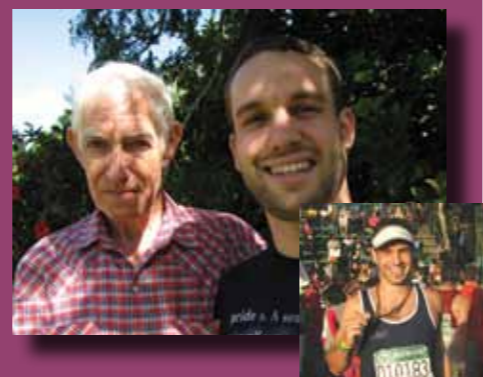
"Dr Jones was very excited about my visit, as one of their strategic objectives is to 'globalise,'" said Houdini.

Louisiana State University's Director of the Centre for Internal Auditing Prof Glenn Sumners also expressed a willingness to assist NMMU



MEET AND GREET ... Internal Auditing senior lecturer Houdini Fourie (right), met the Dean of the E.J. Ourso College of Business of Louisiana State University Dr Eli Jones.

in the process of applying for international endorsements as an Internal Audit Educational Partner. Dr Jones extended an invitation to NMMU to engage in communication



In memory of his late father, BCom Honours Accounting lecturer Johnathan Dillon ran The Comrades Marathon, which he finished in 9 hours 58 minutes. His father, John Edward Dillon, 64, who was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease died in 2008. "The Comrades is known as the ultimate human race and for me, my father endured the ultimate race and succeeded - he never gave into his disease even when everything was going wrong and he knew what the end result would be," said Johnathan. He recently also completed the Two Oceans Race.

Going beyond the call of duty

TO ensure that all students are given an opportunity to complete their exams, the Department of Applied Accounting lecturers have dedicated their time to invigilate and scribe for disabled students who need extra assistance during the exam period.

While every lecturer is required to invigilate at least two sessions during exams, lectures Tracy Beck, Lizel Bester, Nosisa Ntlantsana and Monique Adendorff have gone the extra mile to scribe for students who need assistance due to various reasons.

Fourth -year LLB student, Nomawethu Sifumba (fondly known as Webster) is one of the students being scribed for. Webster was in a bus accident while traveling with her fellow EP netball teammates to Bloemfontein. She was critically injured but survived, losing her left arm and the function of her right arm.

"Even though she is in a wheelchair, Webster is a positive young lady, eager to learn and has recently been recruited by a top law firm where she starts from the beginning of July," says lecturer Tracy Beck who has been scribing for Webster for the last two years.

As the number of disabled students needing this service has increased dramatically in recent years,



HELPING HAND... Fourth-year LLB student, Nomawethu Sifumba (Webster) is assisted by Applied Accounting lecturer and scribe Tracy Beck during the recent exams.

the Applied Accounting lecturers are encouraging other lecturers to assist these students as without the help, they would be unable to write their exams.

"During the last 5 years I have met the most amazing and inspirational people, they have changed the way I approach life," said Tracy. Tracy, who has a disabled sister, says that by helping these students, it's her own way of giving back to those who live life without regret and negativity.



CLOSE SHAVE ... BCom Honours Accounting student, Natalie van Antwerpen, raised awareness for cancer by shaving her hair and contributed R20 000 to needy children.

Compassionate student shaves off long locks

BCOM Honours Accounting student Natalie van Antwerpen, raised R20 000 for young cancer patients by shaving off her long brown locks.

She donated her hair to 'Locks of Love' for a wig that will be given to a cancer patient and the money raised was donated to CHOC, a country-wide voluntary organisation that brings together parents and children who suffer from cancer or life-threatening blood disorders.

"I lost close family members to cancer and wanted to bring the community together to support those who have also lost loved ones."

She also worked together with KICK's (Kids in Christ's Kingdom) Dare to Care campaign and requested a wish list from CHOC in Port Elizabeth. Natalie and her friends collected and handed over the goods on the wishlist to Dora Nginza Hospital where CHOC works mostly with children between 2 and 16 years old from disadvantaged and poor backgrounds.

"I lost close family members to cancer and wanted to bring the community together to support those who have also lost loved ones", she said.

Running group promotes healthy lifestyle

IN a bid to promote a balanced lifestyle, BCom Honours Accounting lecturer, Johnathan Dillon, formed a running group to help students keep mentally and physically fit during the challenging year.

This small running group which started in 2010 meets Thursdays at 6:45am and 5:15pm at the South Campus Sport Centre and run 10km to the Pier at Hobie Beach and back.

A new route through the nature reserve trail on campus was also recently added.

"It is amazing being able to see zebra and buck up close while running," said Johnathan.

Johnathan regularly participates in running events, like the Corporate Iron Man and the Two Oceans Marathon.

"A bonus for me is that the running group has helped with my Comrades Marathon training" he says.



HEALTHY RUN ... students Matthew Moore (from left), lecturer Johnathan Dillon and Brett Holmes are part of the running group promoting a healthy lifestyle among accounting honours students.

While the running group is aimed at BCom Honours Accounting students, anyone is welcomed to join. The group can be found on Facebook: "Man Accounting Running Group".



CONGRATULATIONS... Yolande Oosthuysen (bottom left) was the first runner-up to Miss NMMU and Lithalethu Madikazi (right) was the first runner-up to Mr NMMU. Both students are first year's studying BCom Chartered Accountancy.



STRIKING A POSE... Learners and staff members posed for photographs at the School of Accounting photo booth stall at Open Day. Here seen is Prof Dorfling (Dean) with PR intern, Ashleigh MacKilligan.



LOVE YOUR HEART... Lecturers showing their love for their hearts by supporting 'The Heart and Stroke Foundation SA' by wearing red on Valentines Day.

Proudly South African



BCom Honours Accounting student, Kerry-Beth Norden, went to Shanghai, China to represent South African Synchro (synchronised swimming) at the World Aquatics Championships in July. The World Championships serve as the continental Olympic qualifiers, which mean if South Africa finishes as the top African team, they qualify for the London Olympics in 2012. The aspiring CA started competing at the young age of 7 years, and has been ranked in the top 3 in SA in each age group she has competed.

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REVAMP... New dining facilities were opened at the residences on NMMU's South Campus as part of a larger project to upgrade these facilities on all the campuses. Students can enjoy the meal of the day, snacks, WiFi facilities and meet in the lounge area.



GRADUATING... The Thuthuka graduates celebrated their achievement at the their graduation function in May.



WINNING TEAM... Second Avenue Campus' Blackhurst team won the NMMU Staff Association Netball Tournament by beating Student Counselling 6-3 in the final match.



HONOURS BALL... Honours students, their partners and staff danced the night away at the annual Honours ball in October hosted by Quantum Investments.



EXCELLENCE... At this year's annual prizegiving, third-year Accounting students show that hard work will pay off by earning generous prizes.



SUPPORTERS... Our generous donors at the School's prizegiving held in April.



ROCK STARS... Accounting staff dressed-up as rock stars for national Casual Day on Friday, 2 September 2011.



INSPIRING... School of Accounting marketed its programmes to Grade 11 and 12 learners at Victoria Park High School.



CONFERENCE...Accounting staff from South, 2nd Avenue and George Campus attended the SAAA International Conference in July that was held at Fancourt in George.



SOCIAL FUNCTION...Staff enjoyed an afternoon of relaxation with wine tasting and movie trivia.



SUPPORTING THE BOKS...Prof Pieter Pelle, HOD of Applied Accounting gave staff in his department springbok jerseys to show their support.



SNATCHING THE CROWN...Ayron Oosthuizen, 1st year BCom Accounting student took the title of NMMU's Mr Freshette 2011, crowning him as one of the most hip guys studying at this institution



ENDURANCE...Secretary to the department of Auditing and Taxation, Adele Visser, completed the 10 km Iron Girl on 8 April 2011.



PRINCE AND PRINCESS...First year Thuthuka students, Tamsin Campbell and David Guqaza took the title of Mr & Ms Letaba/Lebombo in August. Letaba and Lebombo are the residences assigned specifically for BCom Accounting students in the Thuthuka programme.

Staff News



CONGRATULATIONS...Internal Auditing senior lecturer, Houdini Fourie, was appointed as the Head of Department: Taxation and Auditing on 1 July.



ACHIEVEMENT...Public relations & marketing coordinator Suzanne Vermeulen, graduated with her BTech degree in Public Relations in April.



COMPETITOR...Auditing lecturer Prof Gerrit Radder participated in his ninth Cape Argus Cycle Tour in March.



WINTER WONDERLAND ...Accounting lecturers Ansulene Stone (left) and Lorelle de Villiers enjoyed the snow while visiting St Cloud State University in Minnesota, USA.



WEDDING BELLS...Maria Skotidas (Taxation lecturer) got married to Peter Lourens in August at the Plantation in Port Elizabeth.

Farewell to colleagues

Ronel Hiles was the accounting secretary for 1st and 3rd year students from 2008 until August 2011. She has been appointed as a departmental secretary in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology in the Faculty of Science.



Duane Booysen was the counsellor for the Thuthuka students, his role was to provide support and development interventions by means of workshops and counselling. He has been appointed as a student counsellor at Eastcape Midlands College in Uitenhage.

New role



Elize Naude's new role in the Thuthuka Bursary Programme is to develop the professional, academic and self leadership skills/attitudes of the Thuthuka students by counselling and empowering students.

New appointments



Richard Loyson joins his father, Chemistry's Prof Peter Loyson (right), who is well known for his ancient history talks, at NMMU. Richard, senior lecturer in Financial Accounting has a Masters in Tax and worked for PwC in PE before joining NMMU.



Suzanne Vermeulen completed her BTech degree in Public Relations and has worked at NMMU's Marketing & Corporate Relations department for 2 years. She is currently the Public Relations and Marketing coordinator in the School.



Matthew Moore is an academic trainee working in Management Accounting and Taxation. He completed his BCom Honours Accounting year in 2010 and was the top achiever in this class. He is busy with his first year of his training contract and he will complete the remaining two years at Deloitte.



Nonkululeko Ntsenyana is the new secretary for the 1st and 3rd year accounting students. She has worked as a departmental secretary for the Department of Environmental Health. Makho, as her colleagues call her, graduated with a National Diploma in Office Management and Technology in 2005 from NMMU.



Annemie Jacobs, 3rd year in the National Diploma in Public Relations, is currently doing her public relations internship with the School of Accounting.



Shareen van der Watt has been appointed as the new Project Manager of the Thuthuka Bursary Programme. She has been involved in Student Development at NMMU and has also facilitated the how2@nmmu programme and various workshops for the Thuthuka students.

Maths classes for future accountants

TO enable Grade 12s to improve their mathematics marks and to gain entry into commerce programmes and specifically accounting, the Commerce Incubator School (COINS) was launched at the NMMU Missionvale Campus in April by the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit.

Altogether 43 learners from high schools in the metro attended the launch and their first mathematics class. The COINS programme was established in February this year when SAICA (SA Institute for Chartered Accountants) formed an alliance with the Deloitte Project Siyakhula programme, the NMMU Thuthuka programme and the NMMU School of Accounting.

A 14-week programme was presented on Saturdays, where learners were provided with extra maths classes, exercises and exam questions to prepare for the year-end exam. The aim was to improve learners maths insight, problem-solving skills and to improve the number of quality of Grade 11 and 12 passes in Mathematics and Accountancy.

Deloitte's participation is to promote an awareness of the accounting profession and to inspire the learners to rise above their poverty-stricken circumstances and reach for a professional qualification by offering a mentorship programme and weekly "soft skills" sessions.

The teaching approach involves the use of 28 DVDs covering the Maths syllabus with Casio



STAKEHOLDERS ... Making the Commerce Incubator School (COINS) for Grade 12's a reality are (from left) Coordinator Prof Werner Olivier, Deloitte's Carin Langner, Maths facilitator Sizwe Zosi, Deloitte's Zain Ajam, Maths facilitator Rose de Doncker, Deloitte's Sipho Khumalo and Lara Carstens, Prof Frans Prinsloo and Thuthuka's Zukiswa Ngqoyiya.

DVDs on the use of the calculator and old national NCS Math exam DVDs.

The COINS Programme was concluded by a prize giving that was held on Saturday, 20 August 2011 where the top learners were rewarded for their hard work and attendance. Third prize went to Sinxolo Banda who obtained 74.5%. Second prize went to Jennilee Oosthuizen who obtained 76.25% and first prize went to Faith Moyo, who obtained an impressive mark of 92.8%.

"We look forward to seeing most of these learners at the School of Accounting in the near future," said Prof Prinsloo.



WHIZZ KIDS...The top three achievers in Nelson Mandela Bay's first COINS programme are congratulated by (back, from left) Deloitte's Carin Langner, Prof Frans Prinsloo and SAICA's Gugu Makhanya (far right).

Teacher Enrichment Programme

TEACHERS from the schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay metro gathered at the Missionvale Campus in May, for the launch of the Teacher's Enrichment Programme which aims to strengthen the teacher knowledge-base of the subject matter in Accounting.

Project Director of Transformation at SAICA, Lwando Bantom, attended and co-ordinated the programme. This initiative is dedicated not only to the improvement in the quality of teachers in the key areas of Mathematics, Accountancy and Guidance, but also the improvement of Grade 12 results.

NMMU School of Accounting's role is to provide staff in order to support the programme, provide facilities and to market the university especially the BCom Chartered Accounting programme and the Thuthuka Bursary Fund.

Diane Woodroffe, a teacher from St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls in Kwazulu-Natal, was the guest speaker at the workshop and her aim was to motivate teachers to create excitement about the subject, Accounting.

"Teaching and enriching of teachers is my passion," said Diane who travels across South Africa hosting programmes like this one.

Diane discussed new and interesting ways to explain difficult terms to learners and advised teachers to focus on one part of the work at a time and to master that topic so that explaining it to the learner would become easier.

The programme ran until September and teachers were excited to improve their skills and to regain the passion for teaching accounting.

"The Teacher Enrichment Programme equipped



TEACHERS LEARN ... St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls' Diane Woodroffe (left) with inspired Accounting teachers from the Metro.

us and brought many Accounting teachers together as a unit. This programme has shown me that one has to go beyond your call of duty and be selfless in order to develop the best CA's," said Felicity Nelson at the certificate ceremony held in September.

Thuthuka Review: Highlights of 2011

Academic highlights

Our year started with a highlight when we welcomed four first year recipients of the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's scholarships in our midst.

We also received the excellent news that a 90% pass-rate for Thuthuka first-timers in QE1 was achieved. This achievement was well above the average and cemented our reputation as a top programme in the country.

The first time that the NMMU awarded an honorary doctorate to an Accounting professional was celebrated when our students met with Hon Prof Suresh Kana, CEO of PWC, and a champion for transformation in the profession.

On top of this, Zoleka Mtila, a first year Thuthuka student, was crowned national winner during the SAICA Student Leadership Summit. She achieved this award against considerable competition from eight other universities' participants.

Growing Skills

We started the year with our Umbala Conference on sustainable/accountable leadership, highlighting the key values of the profession. This was followed by two reading interventions: A speed-reading workshop for 1st and 3rd year students was presented by the international reading expert, Prof Gretchen Stark-Martins, by showing students how to effectively approach large volumes of study material. Student quotes were posted on their international website – a first contribution from an African university.

We went outside the classroom to our first professional and academic five day SAICA boot camp where our 3rd year students were orientated to the professional world, etiquette and behaviour of a chartered accountant.

They also conducted an interesting simulated audit via a board game competition.

We participated in the NMMU August diversity activities by celebrating diversity when the 2nd year group explored in an accounting lecture, the challenge of conducting an audit in 8 (of the 11) different SA languages. A new appreciation for these complexities was achieved!

Making a difference by giving back to the Community

We launched a 10-week Accounting Teachers Enrichment programme (TEP) at the Missionvale Campus, to develop and enrich eighty Nelson Mandela Bay Grade 12 teachers. We aim hereby to improve the eventual results in Grade 12 Accounting. We simultaneously instituted COINS (Commerce Incubator School) – a Saturday Maths School at Missionvale Campus, for future Grade 12 accountants in partnership with a Deloitte and Thuthuka mentorship programme.

Our 1st and 2nd year students gave up a lunch hour to assist with the marking of 500 Eastern Cape Grade 12 Accounting Olympiad scripts. In the humane spirit of Mandela Day, our honours students offered 67 minutes of their precious time to mentor and motivate under-graduate fellow students, who might wonder how to achieve their academic goals.

If we look back, we are inspired by the commitment of students with a spirit of not giving up, and we are grateful to witness such transformation in our students.

ELIZE NAUDE
Project Coordinator



Thuthuka students give back

STUDENTS usually write exam papers, but for once the first and second-year Thuthuka Accounting students actually marked papers.

The students volunteered to mark scripts for the SAICA (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants) Accounting Olympiad for Grade 12 learners. They marked a total of 500 scripts, each consisting of 100 multiple choice questions, from 50 schools in the Eastern Cape.

The students wanted to give back to the profession in some small way. Under the watchful eye of School of Accounting lecturers Marina Chalmers and Lorelle de Villiers the students marked the 500 scripts in 1 hour.

It's the first time we engaged with SAICA in such a way, "said Thuthuka programme coordinator Elize Naudé. "We hope to make this an annual event."



SKY'S THE LIMIT ... BCom Honours Accounting student in the Thuthuka programme, Rolivhuwa Maluma, who was initially not accepted, became the best first-year Thuthuka programme student with the help of the programme and graduated in April.

Hard work pays off for Thuthuka student

BCOM Honours Accounting student Rolivhuwa Maluma nearly missed out on his dream of pursuing a career in accounting, because his maths mark was too poor. A year later he became the best Thuthuka first-year student.

Roli, as friends call him, initially settled for a general BCom programme but his high accounting marks in the Centre for Access Assessment and Research (CAAR) test, impressed a sympathetic faculty officer and later that year he was accepted into the School of Accounting's Thuthuka programme.

In 2011, Roli graduated with a BCom Accounting degree and wants to pursue a career in the financial sector, after completing his articles. The Thuthuka Programme, through which he attained an Allan Gray Scholarship, covered all his expenses leaving one less obstacle to overcome. The programme's daily study sessions have encouraged a disciplined study approach, while his mentors have helped him to identify potential problems and how to solve them. "I failed just one test in the three years of my undergraduate studies. It was a learning curve for me," said Roli.

Future CAs learn to lead

WHILE most students were getting back into the swing of the academic year, NMMU's Thuthuka students were already contemplating their role as future leaders.

The 170 or so aspiring CA students in the programme at NMMU – which aims to grow the number of black chartered accountants in the profession – attended Thuthuka's annual Umbala Day (meaning colour in isiXhosa) in February. Students were encouraged to identify their leadership styles through a series of workshops and talks by some of Nelson Mandela Bay's top achievers.

Professor of Ethics and NMMU Deputy Vice-chancellor (Academic Affairs), Piet Naude, spoke on ethical leadership in the accounting profession, touching on personal, professional and global ethical responsibilities. Andrew Muir, executive director of The Wilderness Foundation and a former Nelson Mandela Bay Citizen of the Year, sent the following message: "We only have one planet, and the Accounting profession should embrace sustainability reporting."

Responding to Naude's talk, first year student Tamsyn Campbell said: "Accountants play such a crucial role in the financial world and it is just so disappointing to continuously be hearing stories about corruption and fraud committed by people with supposed integrity... If I one day achieve my goal of becoming a Chartered Accountant, I refuse to be a part of the corrupt minority."

The message to students from senior executive Chantyl Mulder, who heads up SAICA's transformation and growth division, was that leaders needed to choose to have the right



AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE...Attending the Umbala Day programme were (back from left) Professor Frans Prinsloo, NMMU DVC: Academic Affairs, Prof Piet Naude, Honours lecturer Johnathan Dillon and Project Director: Transformation from the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants Lwando Bantom. Honours students (front from left) Lonwabo Mgandela, Lindiswa Mkiya, Sinazo Makileni and Coleen Van Rhyen.

attitude."True leadership is all about the power of your thoughts," she said.

Thuthuka project co-ordinator Elize Naude said: "Our Umbala Days (held annually) focus on the development of the student. By understanding themselves better, our students will grow in confidence and ultimately become more successful."

In 2009, following a routine accreditation visit, SAICA awarded NMMU's Chartered Accounting

programmes an overall rating of 'one' – the highest available rating – and stated that this "reflects the generally excellent quality of the programme...It is clear that this programme is seen as one of the University's flagship programmes".

One of the "excellent features" identified in the SAICA report was "a well-run Thuthuka programme, which is achieving excellent throughputs".

US reading expert boosts students' skills

VISITING United States academic and author Prof Gretchen Starks-Martin – an expert in the teaching of reading – has boosted the critical reading and thinking skills of students from NMMU's Thuthuka programme.

Prof Starks-Martin who visited NMMU as a Fulbright Scholar Specialist – presented a series of workshops on critical reading and thinking strategies, focusing specifically on the analysis of case studies.

"The students must complete assignments on case studies where they identify problems and find solutions from an accounting and auditing perspective. I have been presenting them with some techniques to identify the issues and come to logical conclusions," said Starks-Martin, who is the executive assistant of the College Reading and Learning Association at St Cloud State University

in Minnesota, and co-author of a book entitled "Critical Reading, Critical Thinking."

Thuthuka project co-ordinator Elize Naude said the course was one of many innovative interventions geared towards preparing students for the Qualifying Examinations, which are compulsory for all honours graduates intending to become Chartered Accountants. "Right from first year, we prepare our students to write their QE exams.

"Being able to read vast, highly challenging volumes of work is a critical skill for academic success. As a result of interventions like these, many of our students outperform mainstream students in all modules."

READ RIGHT...United States reading expert Prof Gretchen Starks-Martin (front, middle) shares critical reading tips with the Thuthuka BCom Honours Accounting students. With the group is Thuthuka project co-ordinator, Elize Naude (back, left).



First-year Accounting student wows at national summit

FIRST-YEAR NMMU BCom Accounting student Zoleka Mtila earned the top spot in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Student Leadership Summit earlier this month.

The 18-year old Thuthuka student from Despatch joined 24 other hopefuls from SAICA-accredited universities across the country in Johannesburg to rub shoulders with senior business leaders at the summit.

The growing needs of people, roads, hospitals to be built and filled with nurses and doctors, inventions to better our standard of living and all of it must be generated by the world of commerce, was Zoleka's winning argument. Her submission was in the form of a letter advising a grade 8 sibling on career options and opportunities available to them.

SAICA Senior Executive for Professional Development, Transformation and Growth, Chantyl Mulder, explained that in order to become a leader, one needs role models to follow and the summit gave the students access to the best possible role models South Africa has to offer.

While the judges struggled to select the winner amongst the many compelling letters, it was Mtila's letter which came out tops in the end. She walked away with a laptop, sponsored by Softline Pastel, and valued at R10 000.

She said "When I entered the competition my aim wasn't winning, but to make the final cut to be here today to meet the industry leaders. I am very happy that I have won. I will take home a lot of lessons from the session we had today. I would like to thank SAICA for providing us with this amazing opportunity," she said



TOP SPOT...Zoleka received amazing prizes to the value of R10 000.

Accounting records in 11 official languages?

NMMU celebrated 'diversity month' in August and Thuthuka students investigated the role of the country's many official languages in the accounting profession.

Statistics shows that 24% of South Africans regard Zulu as their first language, compared with just 8% who regard English as their first language. Yet almost all South African companies draw their financial statements up in English, even though the Companies Act allows for them to be drawn up in any of the 11 official languages.

The students attempted to translate specific accounting terms from English into the other languages. The students divided themselves into eight groups, according to their first languages. Each group provided feedback on their experience of translating the terms – which proved a challenge for most, as some of the English words could not be directly translated into their first languages.

The session ended with students discussing the importance of the inclusion of their first language in the business world. Accounting 2 lecturer Marina Chalmers, who facilitated the session, said: "I have gained a new appreciation for the incredible diversity among my students!"



SAY WHAT?: Investigating language diversity in the accounting profession as part of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's 'diversity month' were accounting lecturer Marina Chalmers (back, third from left) and second-year students in the School of Accounting's Thuthuka bursary programme (back, from left) Aphiwe Puncu, Balungile Jakeni, Nonkululeko Mkhize and (front, from left) Faith Nazer, Dumisani Mapipa and Nikiwe Gumbanjera.

Academic traineeship programme

The academic traineeship programme offered by the NMMU School of Accounting should be a definite consideration for all students who have excelled academically during their accountancy studies at university. This programme allows selected top performing graduates the opportunity to work within the School of Accounting for the first year of their three year articles, as opposed to serving their full three years of articles at a training office.

The benefits include wider exposure during articles, working closely with experienced academic staff, a flexible working environment and, probably most importantly, the opportunity to experience academic life like lecturing, tutoring, preparation of teaching material, setting and marking of assessments and research.

This year Matthew Moore completed the first year of his articles in Management Accounting and Taxation. "My year at NMMU has been both enjoyable and insightful, you really learn so much yourself in teaching others. I would like to thank the staff at NMMU for giving me the opportunity to experience all aspects of lecturing. It was a wonderful experience and I would encourage others to seize this awesome opportunity with both hands", said Matthew.