

School of Accounting NEWS

Accounting students shine

Our flagship BCom Honours (Accounting) programme, which produces top chartered accountants, has done it again.

97% of its graduate class of 2008 passed the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) 2009 Qualifying Examination Part 1, a percentage well above the national average.

Furthermore, the School of Accounting has just been benchmarked as the model teaching institution in the country by the professional body.

These superior SAICA first-time qualifying examination results – which have been successfully repeated for more than a decade – are all the more remarkable when one realises that NMMU has traditionally not attracted large numbers of “A” learners. These school leavers generally head for the older, more established universities, while average learners come to NMMU.

But the School of Accounting's reputation is now such that top learners are also beginning to join NMMU in increasing numbers.

The successful growth of the School of Accounting is evidenced by the increase from 12 graduates who passed the qualifying examination in 1990 to the 58 graduates who passed on their first attempt in 2009.

According to the director of the School of Accounting Prof Frans Prinsloo, NMMU's predecessor, the University of Port Elizabeth, always had a solid reputation

with regards to its accounting programmes, but that it was seriously enhanced with the arrival of Prof Keith Prinsloo in 1993. Prof Prinsloo, and then Prof Jeff Rowlands, systematically set out to turn the School of Accounting into one of the best in the country.

Subject experts with a passion for professional accounting education were employed, and continue to be today.

“We're always striving for success for all our students,” said Prof Prinsloo who, as the director of the School of Accounting, is continuing the good work of his predecessors.

The school's student-centred teaching approach means the four-year CA programme students receive extensive course material to supplement prescribed textbooks, lectures backed up by small-group tutorials, weekly assignments and regular tests.

“We try to ensure that none of our students fall through the cracks. If students work diligently, there is every reason for them to pass,” said Prof Prinsloo.

Apart from the success of Craig Tudhope (see caption above) a further two students - Candice Hammond and Lauren Jackson finished in the top 30 students, both obtaining 75% and above. They, along with their 55 classmates, are all presently completing their three years of practical experience, part of the training needed before they can qualify as chartered accountants.



Achiever ... Craig Tudhope, NMMU's top BCom Honours (Accounting) graduate last year achieved top honours in part one of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' (SAICA) qualifying examinations. He was placed joint first in the country, out of 3373 candidates – and attributes his success to his strong faith, excellent support group and unwavering ability to “throw himself wholeheartedly” into everything he does.

Successful Students ...



BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates Lauren Jackson (left), and Candice Hammond finished in the top 30 students in the SAICA qualifying examinations, both obtaining 75% and above.

Success stories

Some top NMMU School of Accounting graduates include:

- **Trevor Wagner:** Deputy CEO of Idwala Holdings in JHB (very big in construction industry).
- **Duncan Sangster:** former financial director of Rennies, now lives in the UK with his own venture capital business.
- **Dave Powels,** managing director of VWSA.
- **Colin Beggs,** CEO of PriceWaterhouse Coopers.
- **Alan Knott-Craig Jnr,** managing director of iBurst.
- **Royden Vice,** chief executive officer: Waco International Ltd
- **Barrie Webb:** Joint managing director of SA Airlink and major shareholder and trustee on UPE Trust for many years. He now lives in Cape Town.
- **Derek Pryce:** had his own IT Company, and currently resides in Cape Town.
- Also, many School of Accounting staff are alumni, including the school's **Prof Frans Prinsloo**, who was placed third in the SAICA Qualifying Examination Part 2 in 1994.
- And lecturer **Johnathan Dillon** who finished fifth in the SAICA Qualifying Examination Part 1 in 2005.

The year in review

It is my privilege to provide an overview of the activities of the NMMU School of Accounting for 2009. While the year placed many demands on management and staff, it has been a year of many successes, some of which are listed below:

- We maintained and built on our proud record of offering high quality teaching as evidenced by, among others:
 - Excellent results attained by our graduates in the 2009 SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) qualifying examinations Part 1 and the 2008 Public Practice Examination of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA); and
 - Lecturer Lorelle de Villiers being awarded Faculty Teacher of the Year for 2009.
- The SAICA monitoring report which rated us as one of the few accredited institutions to "substantially meet criteria". This means our accreditation will unconditionally continue for another five years.
- We were complimented on:
 - An effective and committed management team;
 - The number of experienced academics teaching at senior levels;
 - Our student-centered approach to teaching and learning;
 - A well-run Thuthuka programme achieving excellent results; and
- Strong articulation into and out of the BCom Accounting for Chartered Accountants programme.
- Early in 2009 Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz concluded a collaboration agreement with his counterpart at the University of Fort Hare (UFH), with the aim of formalising the NMMU School of Accounting's support of UFH offering its postgraduate diploma in accounting.
- The School experienced growth of 6% in students registered for accounting modules from 2008.
- A number of donors supported our students in pursuing their accounting studies including SAICA, FASSET, the National Research Foundation, the Milde McWilliams Trust and the Investec Foundation.
- We embarked on a marketing campaign to attract more academically strong students. One initiative is the creation of a DVD where the School of Accounting's programmes and current and past students are profiled. The DVD will be launched by March 2010.
- At the Thuthuka year-end function, students demonstrated that they are not only skilled in the field of accountancy, but also have artistic talent and entertained the audience with music, poetry and dance.
- Professors Leonie Jooste and Gerrit Radder were invited to lecture at foreign



REFLECTING ... Director of the School of Accounting, Prof Frans Prinsloo reflects on the year that was.

universities. The School was visited by Prof Carsten Berkau from the University of Applied Sciences in Osnabrueck, Germany, for three months.

This year we welcomed Yasmien Beckett into a lecturer post in the Department of Management Accounting and Melissa de Lange and Gerrit Penning as lecturers in the Department of Auditing and Tax. We are currently in the recruitment and appointment process for two lecturer posts in the Department of Applied Accounting.

We bid farewell to Management Accounting 2 lecturer Claire Myburgh, Accounting 2 senior lecturer Martie Riemer and Thuthuka programme administrative assistant Jenny Martin. They made a valuable contribution to the School and we wish them well for the future.

Auditing quality discussed in lecture



ACADEMIC LEADERS ... Present at Prof Frans Prinsloo's (second right) inaugural lecture were (from left) Prof Niekie Dorfling (acting DVC: Academic), Prof Hendrik Lloyd (acting Executive Dean: Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences) and Prof Thoko Mayekiso (DVC: Research, Technology and Innovation).

Assessing auditing quality was a key focus in Prof Frans Prinsloo's inaugural lecture at the NMMU Conference Centre on North Campus earlier this year.

Prof Prinsloo's lecture titled "Instruments available to the public to assess audit quality" was delivered to an audience of 60 NMMU academics and invited guests including members of the auditing profession.

The lecture highlighted that:

- Credible financial information is essential to ensure the effective functioning of capital markets.
- Audit quality can be assessed by focusing on specific aspects of the audit report.
- The disciplinary and inspection reports produced by the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) can be used to gauge audit quality.
- Increased disclosure of information about audit quality may yield numerous benefits.
- The IRBA and audit firms in South Africa should increase the nature and extent of their disclosures relating to audit quality.

NMMU and the University of Fort Hare sign collaboration agreement



The NMMU School of Accounting has built up an experienced team of senior academics

PARTNERING ... NMMU's Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz (left) and his counterpart from UFH Dr Mvuyo Tom, signed a collaborative agreement this year.

In what is described as a first of its kind in chartered accountancy education in South Africa, the University of Fort Hare (UFH) and NMMU signed a collaborative agreement earlier this year, in the offering of UFH's Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting in East London.

There is hope that this collaboration will be a model by which non-accredited universities can partner with established universities accredited by the South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) towards gaining their own accreditation.

This collaboration agreement has substantially contributed to the UFH obtaining accreditation from SAICA to offer the CA programme.

According to NMMU School of Accounting director, Prof Frans Prinsloo, part of this collaboration involves the development of UFH's academic staff so as to enable UFH to offer this programme autonomously over time. The agreement will also involve the exchange of staff to contribute to the further

development of accountancy academics at both institutions.

In order to qualify as a CA (SA), a candidate has to complete a BCom (Accounting) degree at a SAICA accredited university, a postgraduate year (either an honours degree or postgraduate diploma in accounting) at an accredited university, complete a three year training contract and pass two sets of Qualifying Examinations.

The challenge for accredited universities is to attract and retain CA's experienced in professional education.

The success of NMMU's accountancy graduates in the Qualifying Examinations of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants attest to the fact that the NMMU School of Accounting has built up an experienced team of senior academics, at all levels and in particular at the postgraduate level. The School has established itself as a leader in developing interventions to support its students, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SAAA conference attracts record numbers

The biennial regional SAAA (South African Accounting Association) Eastern Cape conference held in September was attended by a record number of 80 delegates.

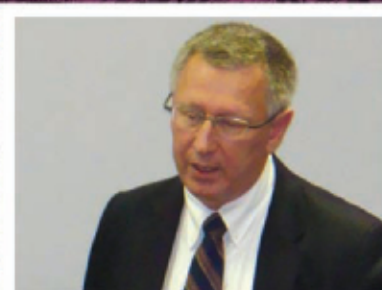
The conference at Green Fountain Farm in Port Alfred was described as "a resounding success" by many delegates.

The conference affords South African accounting academics and those in related disciplines the opportunity to meet, share ideas, showcase their research and be motivated to engage in research.

Papers were presented by 11 delegates from universities such as NMMU, University of Fort Hare (UFH), Rhodes University (RU) and Walter Sisulu University (WSU).

Rhodes University's Prof Mark Bunting won an award for the best paper, while his colleague Evan Ford walked away with the award for best paper by an emerging researcher.

The conference was sponsored by KPMG, Juta Academic, Auditor General, Mazars Moores Rowland, Deloitte, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, Softline Pastel, ACCA, Van Schaik bookstore, LexisNexis, CIMA, SAIPA and Oxford University Press.



LEARNING INITIATIVE ... To ensure that the accounting students are successful in their studies, learning initiatives take place throughout the year. Financial Director of Barloworld Limited Donald Wilson (pictured above) presented a lecture to all the honours students. Tax Director of Denys Reitz in Cape Town Prof Peter Surtees visited NMMU to present a lecture on tax administration to the Mcom LLM tax students.

'Academic mom' wins Teacher of the Year



"I strive to ensure that my students are given the best possible opportunity to ultimately qualify as chartered accountants"

TOP TEACHER ... Lorelle de Villiers, Faculty Teacher of the Year, was recognised for the outstanding contribution she has made to the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences.

The School of Accounting has kept its word regarding its highly experienced academic staff, being passionate about education.

For four consecutive years, the School of Accounting has walked away with the Faculty Teacher of the Year award.

This year the award went to Lorelle de Villiers, who has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences and the university.

Lorelle is involved in both the Thuthuka and Financial Accounting 1 programmes and is a dedicated mentor for the Thuthuka programme.

The Thuthuka programme assists academically talented black and coloured South African students to pursue a BCom (Accounting) degree followed by a BCom Honours Accounting degree in order to become Chartered Accountants.

"I act as academic 'mom' to 70 Thuthuka first year students. I strive to ensure that my students are given the best possible opportunity to ultimately qualify as chartered accountants," said Lorelle.

New appointments

Gerrit Penning has been appointed as an auditing lecturer. Gerrit obtained his Certificate in Theory of Accounting from the University of the Free State and completed his articles at PriceWaterhouse Coopers in Bloemfontein, focusing on external auditing. He completed his articles on secondment in Washington DC and was an audit manager at an audit firm focusing on audits in the public sector before joining NMMU.



Melissa de Lange is a newly appointed auditing lecturer. Melissa obtained her BCom Honours (Accounting) at the University of Johannesburg. In 2008 she qualified as a Chartered Accountant and completed her articles at

PriceWaterhouse Coopers in Johannesburg.

Yasmien Beckett was recently appointed as a cost and management accounting lecturer. She has significant experience in management accounting in industry making her a valuable addition to the staff.



Staff news

Journal publications



Houdini Fourie, senior lecturer of second year Internal Auditing has had articles published in accredited journals. He received recognition for the following research publications:

Meditari Accountancy Research, Vol 16 Number 2, 2008 – Sadler, E., Marais, M. and Fourie, H. *Internal Auditors' compliance with the IIA Standards: a worldwide perspective.*

Auditing SA Summer 2008/9, Published by the South African Institute of Government Auditors. 2009 – Fourie, H. *Internal Audit education and cooperative education: a South African perspective.*

Guest lecturer

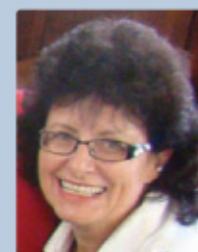
Prof Gerrit Radder was invited to lecture on selected aspects of International Controlling and Finance at Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Mosbach, Germany, in June this year.



Panelist



Dr Malcolm Figg was invited to be a panelist on the NRF's (National Research Funding) master's and doctoral review panel in accounting, financial management, management studies, economic sciences, actuarial sciences, statistics and mathematics.



Elize Naudé was appointed as project manager of the Thuthuka programme in January. Elize holds degrees in education from the universities of Stellenbosch, UPE and NMMU where

she graduated with an MEd (cum laude) on the internationalisation of higher education. She has more than 10 years of experience in lecturing, research and student development and is ideally suited to lead the Thuthuka programme.

Zukiswa Ngqoyiya has been appointed as the Thuthuka administrative assistant. Zuki holds an NDip Office Management and Technology from NMMU.



'Hard work pays off'



FUTURE CAs ... First-year BCom (Accounting) students at the Investec function in October.

A total of 21 jubilant students are well on their way to making their mark as future chartered accountants.

Earlier this year, Setlogane Manchidi, from Investec's corporate social responsibility division, visited the School of Accounting to Investec merit bursaries to first-year BCom Accounting students with excellent Grade 12 results and who were in financial need. An amount of R200 000 was distributed among the 20 Grade 12 learners.

A function was held on 13 October at the Beach Hotel to honour these top achievers.

Director of the School of Accounting, Professor Frans Prinsloo expressed his pride in the five students who achieved excellent results in the first half of their first year and looked forward to their future achievements.

The five top achievers: Roshida Brown, Haydn Johns, Blane-Mikhail Rossouw and Darren Hattingh each received a further R5000 towards their studies in 2010. Lourinda Fourie, the top overall achiever, received a further R10 000 towards her studies.

Setlogane applauded the students on their excellent achievements and encouraged them to continue make a difference to the world.

Professor Kotie Grove from the NMMU Trust expressed gratitude towards Investec for their valued support and strong relationship with NMMU and thanked them in anticipation for their continued support.

Investec will be sponsoring merit award bursaries again in 2010 for top Grade 12 achievers.



Staff from NMMU and the Investec team ... From back left: Prof Paul Webb, Prof Kotie Grove (NMMU Trust), Prof Niekie Darfling (Dean, Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences), Setlogane Manchidi, Prof Prinsloo (Director of the School of Accounting), Neil Houzet (HOD) and Johnathan Dillon (Lecturer). Seated from left: Bulelwa Mtati (Investec), Simone Rawlings (Investec), Prof Amanda Singleton (HOD), Renita Affat (NMMU Trust)

Top 20 first-year merit award achievers

Andrew Church, Blane-Mikhail Rossouw, Darren Hattingh, Haydn Johns, Khathutsheld Masindi, Melchisedek Dlamini, Ndomeleze Qongo, Wynand Crause, Avela Nompokhwe, Jean-Marie Goosen, Lee-Anne Reid, Lourinda Fourie, Malapeng Tjiane, Nobubele Nzima, Pauline Roxo, Robyn Julie, Roshida Brown, Sinazo Mgxwate, Thobela Jacobs and Yolanda Mtwa.

Hands up for a second chance!



Many students need two years to pass the BCom Honours (Accounting) programme since the programme is extremely challenging.

Of the 16 students who obtained an average final mark of greater than 40% in 2007 and who repeated the honours programme at NMMU in 2008, 81% passed on the second attempt. These repeat students then also all passed the notoriously difficult Qualifying Examination Part 1 of the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants on their first attempt.

This achievement was recognised by the trustees of the Milde McWilliams Trust who afforded these students a second chance at success by providing bursaries for deserving repeat honours students in 2009.

"We are all human and all deserve a second chance. It's wonderful that one of our most valued funders, the Milde McWilliams Trust, has chosen to give these students another chance in a world where bursaries are usually only awarded to the top of the class, and clearly, the students appreciate the opportunity to prove themselves," said Renita Affat of the NMMU Trust, the entity that oversees funding at NMMU.

Matric A-student bags top accounting award at NMMU



"I love the way that accounting is structured"

TOP STUDENT... Beverley Montgomery, Best BCom (Accounting) student for 2008 at NMMU was presented with a R20 000 cheque by Director of School of Accounting, Prof Frans Prinsloo (left), Mbulelo Ngxonono, Regional Business Head: Eastern Cape, Nedbank Corporate, Mawande Shugu and Prof Dorfling: Dean of Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences.

A vibrant 21-year-old honours student, who obtained 100% in accounting in Grade 12, received the award for the best BCom (Accounting) student for 2008 at NMMU. Collegiate matriculant Beverley Montgomery obtained her degree cum laude and received the R20 000 Nedbank Corporate Business Banking prize for her achievement.

According to Director of the School of Accounting Prof Frans Prinsloo Nedbank has sponsored this prize since 1999. "The awarding of this prize is much anticipated by the top accounting students."

He described Beverley's achievement in obtaining her degree cum laude as a

prestigious one given the calibre of students enrolled for the programme.

Beverley said she has loved accounting since high school. "I love the way that accounting is structured."

While completing her honours degree, Beverley tutors university students and high school pupils at home. She also does promotional work. Next year she will do her training at Deloitte.

She credits the lecturers in the School of Accounting for her success. "They are approachable and very passionate about their subject."

Her advice to BCom students: work hard and consistently, be disciplined, lead a balanced life and be prepared to make a lot of sacrifices.

Geared for success

An NMMU accounting graduate is heading for the top of the corporate ladder after finishing as one of the country's top 10 chartered accounting students in 2008.

Johanette Reyneke was ranked ninth among 2566 students completing the Public Practice Examination, the final test of professional competence for qualification as a registered auditor and chartered accountant.

"It took a lot of hard work and many hours of study, but it was worth the effort," said Johanette.

"I am proud that one of the top candidates comes from Port Elizabeth," said Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA) chief executive Bernard Agulhas, also originally from Port Elizabeth.

Agulhas said the country's CA qualification is considered to be among the top worldwide.

"Of the 25000 CAs from South Africa, between 4000 and 5000 are overseas. That's a huge percentage," said Agulhas.

To qualify as a CA, Johanette first completed a BCom and then a BCom Honours at NMMU. She wrote her first qualifying exam in 2007.

Johanette is currently on a three-year trainee contract at PriceWaterhouse Coopers.

"My big dream is to be successful. Not just in my work, but with family is also important. I would like a balance in my work and family life," said Johanette.



"It took a lot of hard work and many hours of study, but it was worth the effort."

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE ... Johanette Reyneke is one of the country's top 10 chartered accounting students.



GLITZ AND GLAM ... BCom Honours students revelled at the annual honours ball held at the Tsitsikamma Conference Centre, in September thanks to support from Quantum Investments and other sponsors.

Thuthuka 'to grow' new CA talent

The Thuthuka programme aptly meaning "to grow" is a dedicated South African Institute for Chartered Accountants (SAICA) initiative aimed at growing the number of black CAs in the profession.

The programme objective is to assist academically talented black and coloured South African students to pursue a BCom (Accounting) degree in order to become Chartered Accountants. NMMU has formed part of this transformational programme since its inception five years ago.

Funding is administered by SAICA and is provided by the Thuthuka Trust, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and the Sector Education and Training for Finance (FASSET).

To strengthen the capacity of the Thuthuka programme, a new project manager, Elize Naudé was appointed this year. Elize joins administrative coordinator Merle Walters and administrative assistant Zuki Ngqoyiya.

The NMMU Thuthuka programme provides its students with the following:

- Funding for studies at NMMU (comprising a bursary/loan scheme)
- Residence accommodation
- Dedicated lectures for financial accounting in the first two years of the BCom programme
- Dedicated tutorials in financial accounting in all undergraduate years
- Formal study sessions presided over by appropriately qualified tutors
- A mentoring and monitoring system supported by regular assessments
- Additional academic support in developing skills and competencies
- Special programmes including academic enrichment, numeracy, literacy and life skills
- A full-time administration coordinator

These interventions have contributed to the results of students on the Thuthuka programme often exceeding those of students on the mainstream programme.

"The NMMU students are just so special and incredibly talented. The NMMU team has achieved amazing results and I am so proud of their achievements as a group," said senior executive of Transformation and Growth at SAICA, Chantyl Mulder.



PROUD GRADUATES ... The first group of 20 NMMU Thuthuka students graduated in April this year. Back row (from left) Sikhululwe Ndamase, Thulasizwe Maduna, Nkonzo Nyumbeka, Zukiswa Dumisa, Xabiso Mtebele, Nyameko Njoli, Sakhile Ngongo and Pretty Mcizana. Middle Row (from left) Precious Kunene, Sinesipho Maninjwa, Likhanyiso Mgengo, Gugulethu Khuzwayo, Gugulethu Ngongoma and Athenkosi Yam. Front row (from left) Siyabonga Gqwaru, Bulelwa Moloti, Xolisile Hlophe and Lwandiswa Qithi. Top (far left corner) Monde Nyawose, top (far right corner) Gerrar Maya.



HARD AT WORK ... Thuthuka students (from left), Sakhile Ngongo, Monique Brokman, Nkonzo Nyumbeka, Xolisile Hlophe, Monde Nyawose, Gerrar Maya and Silizwe Ncanywa preparing for the year-end exams.



CAPTURED ... Management Accounting lecturer Johnathan Dillon (centre) and third-year students (from left), Nyawose Monde, Ncanywa Silizwe, Momo Lazola and Njoli Nyameko enjoyed the Thuthuka year end function held at the Heinz Betz hall in October.

Thuthuka highlights

- The first group of 20 NMMU Thuthuka students graduated in 2009.
- Two Thuthuka students were awarded international visits for January 2010. Siyabonga Gqwaru is to visit the University of Missouri-Kansas City, USA and Wiseman Ntanda will visit Tuebingen, Germany.
- NMMU Faculty Teacher of the Year awarded to Lorelle de Villiers, dedicated Thuthuka first-year lecturer and newly-appointed chairman of the steering committee.
- 12 successful workshops were held for students in the four year groups.
- SAICA visits by Nthato Selebi (motivation), Tonia Jackson (new training model) and Prof Martin Prozesky (professional ethics).
- Student leaders attended SAICA camps in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Jeffreys Bay.
- Thuthuka will feature in the new School of Accounting DVD
- A year-end function with an Oscar theme was held for all Thuthuka students on 24 October 2009.

HOPES for 2010...

- Maintain and enhance the benchmark qualities of the current Thuthuka programme.
- Expand numbers beyond 200, depending on available resources, support and capacity.
- Enhance an already-successful programme by including a dedicated language support and counselling service.
- Introduce a study and leadership summit into the programme.
- Extend our community programme.
- Use current dedicated study sessions to equip students for a higher academic success rate.

NEW POSITIONS ...
project manager
Elize Naudé and
administrative
assistant Zuki
Ngqoyiya were
appointed
this year.



Brothers among student achievers

Hankey brothers Angus and Curtis Young, both third-year BCom (Rat) students, received leading awards at the 2009 Student Achievers awards ceremony in October.

Angus and Curtis (who both live in the Xanadu residence) received the House Committee member of the Year and Residence Living and Learning Achiever of the year awards respectively.

Angus created the Xanadu website and year book, uplifting Xanadu students' spirits and encouraged participation in sport activities and student events.

Curtis participated in the JSE Challenge, is a member of the Golden Key Society, manages the Xanadu rugby team, is a round race athlete, also participates in the "Beyond the Classroom" - portfolio and leadership programme and assisted with the Xanadu first-year orientation programme. Both brothers excel academically.

Vuyolwethu Zungula, another a third-year BCom (Accounting) student walked away with the title of Society Person of the Year for his work on the Twelve Apostle society.



AWARD WINNING BROTHERS ... Angus (left) and Curtis Young received awards at the 2009 Student Achievers awards in October.

Successful skills presentations

Despite their nervousness the Information Systems Auditing IV students of the BTech Internal Auditing class gave positive feedback on the recent sessions which tested their presentation skills.

The class of 26 students were instructed to complete an assignment on several topics in the information systems environment. They were divided into groups with each group given its own topic to research and then present to a panel of judges.

The students were required to dress appropriately as though they were presenting to an audit committee of an organisation. As part of the assessment process they were judged on appearance and behavioural aspects.

This was the first time the students faced a panel of judges in a presentation or public speaking situation and a number experienced "nervous twinges".



SKILLED ACHIEVERS ... Information Systems Auditing IV students (from left) Zulfa Pillay, Melissa Gerber and Sanelisiwe Sambo presented the best papers to a panel of judges.

The judging was done by a panel of lecturers lead by Houdini Fourie and the head of the Internal Auditing Department of KPMG in Port Elizabeth Tania Levy.

Tania is also the Chairperson of the Port Elizabeth Region of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

The IIA sponsored awards for the overall best, second and third best presenter and the best group also received an award.

The students expressed gratitude for the knowledge they acquired in developing the skills required for internal auditors.

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