

2013/2014

Accounting Schools exceed expectations



“We want to contribute to education upliftment – to put something back into education as a whole”

AIMING FOR THE STARS: Grade 11 pupils (from left) Grey High's Michael Stieger, 16, Newell High's Esethu Sotomela, 17, and King William's Town pupils Sipumeze Sipunzi, 18, and Marcia Thys, 17, both from De Vos Malan High School, make the most of NMMU's accounting spring school. Picture: Nicky Willemse

THE School of Accounting hosted two very successful Accounting schools for Grade 11 and Grade 12 learners during the June/July and September holidays in 2013. The schools aimed to improve the learners' accounting knowledge, prepare them for the upcoming exams and give them a taste of university life.

Both schools exceeded expectations with 480 Grade 12 learners attending the Winter School and 540 Grade 11 learners from across the Eastern and Southern Cape attending the Spring School.

They covered the most challenging aspects of the syllabus and also provided practical information about study options and bursaries. The programme was taught using the School of Accounting's teaching model – which includes a combination of lectures,

tutorial classes and homework.

The first hour of each day was an information session, where the pupils learned about bursaries and study options, and listened to motivational speakers. One of these was Chartered Accountant Ncumisa Saba, who grew up in Idutywa, did her articles at Deloitte and is now working as a general accounting co-ordinator at General Motors SA.

"I'm just a village girl – don't let the high heels fool you," said Saba, hoping to encourage the pupils that "anything is possible," said Saba.

The winter school was sponsored by Deloitte – with Deloitte regional leader (Eastern Cape) Stuart Wedderburn and four other Deloitte staff members playing an active role as tutors alongside 16 top Accounting students.

"We want to contribute to education upliftment

– to put something back into education as a whole," said Wedderburn.

The Grade 11 Spring school was sponsored by PwC (formerly PricewaterhouseCoopers), which provided funding to cover the operating costs and donating files for every attendee, as well as an array of lucky draw prizes. The Spring School is an off-shoot of the School of Accounting's Winter School for matrics.

"We hope those who attend the Spring School will come back to attend the 2014 Grade 12 Accounting week, which for the first time will also include a week of mathematics," said Ansulene Prinsloo, the coordinator of the Winter- and Spring Schools.

The top pupil that attended the Winter- and Spring School received a Samsung Galaxy Tablet and many lucky draw prizes were up for grabs.

The year in review

By: Prof. Frans Prinsloo, Director: School of Accounting



REFLECTING on 2013, it was a year with many highlights, but specifically it was a year during which the School of Accounting significantly strengthened its relations with its key external stakeholders.

► We embarked on a number of important partnerships with leading audit firms in Port Elizabeth and George (an important employer body for our students) including:

- The joint offering of the Grade 11 and 12 Accounting weeks to enhance participating learners knowledge and understanding of Accounting. We received significant financial support from firms which enabled us to run the Grade 11 Spring and Grade 12 Winter weeks, in addition to the firms seconding a number of their staff to assist with the tutorial classes;
- These firms were also willing to second staff to assist with the marketing of the Accounting profession and the NMMU's accounting programmes to Grade 11 and 12 learners at the Accounting Career Evenings held in a number of cities and towns in the Eastern and Southern Cape; and
- Interventions developed by audit firms (e.g. a mini-audit case study and a business ethics project) were successfully incorporated into our formal academic programmes and

contributed significantly to the development of our students' pervasive skills.

► Our standing with the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) was re-enforced when this professional body during 2013 reconfirmed their high regard for our Chartered Accountancy programmes and maintained our accreditation rating at "1" (i.e. the best rating that is awarded by SAICA). The very good pass rates of our graduates, the quality of our teaching and learning model, and our highly regarded Thuthuka programme contributed to us being awarded this rating.

► The SA Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA) reaccredited our BTech (Cost & Management Accounting) and BTech (Internal Auditing) programmes as meeting the educational requirements for those students who wish to become Professional Accountants (SA). This follows the re-accreditation of our BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants), BCom (General Accounting) and BCom Rationum programmes in 2012.

► Significant progress was made during 2013 in building relations with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Our BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants), BCom (General Accounting) and BCom Rationum programmes were accredited by ACCA – which means that graduates of these programmes are exempted from writing the nine ACCA Fundamentals papers. 2013 also saw the first-time offering of the Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy – which aims, amongst others, to prepare students to write the professional stage exam papers of the ACCA (this programme has been acknowledged to be ground-breaking for this professional body in South Africa).

► Without a good quality intake of matriculants,

many of our (and our students') successes over the years would not have materialised. We therefore have taken the strategic decision to formally recognise the hard work and dedication of specifically the Mathematics and Accounting teachers. The first such event took place towards the end of 2013 – i.e. the "Teacher Appreciation Evening". We aim to build on this initiative in the years to come.

► In order to ensure that we can offer "value adds" to our students (over and above the core academic programme), we rely heavily on external funders. In addition to the local auditing firms, we have over the years received significant funding for various projects from, amongst others, Investec and Nedbank Business Banking – for which we are very grateful. However, towards the end of 2013 we were successful in securing funding from FASSET (the SETA for the accounting profession) for an education support programme to be run in parallel to the formal academic programme of our new Higher Certificate in Accountancy – another first in the South African higher education sector.

For more information on the above initiatives, please read the related articles contained in this newsletter.

For more information about the School of Accounting contact:

Suzanne Vermeulen

Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator

Tel: 041 504 4690

Email: Accounting@nmmu.ac.za

Facebook group:

NMMU School of Accounting

NMMU Main Building 7th floor, Reception



Integrated reporting a must

THE talk titled, "What does sustainable development mean to an organisation today?" was delivered to accounting students at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

"Integrated reporting is a concept whose time has come," and has become a buzzword in the global business world, with strong backing from Prince Charles said South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) senior executive Graham Terry, who delivered a talk at NMMU in 2013.

He said thirty years ago, a company's financial capital was the primary focus of its reports. Today, with sustainable development and its threefold focus on the economy, the environment and society a key driver worldwide, integrated reporting of both financial and non-financial "capitals" is critical

– and not just a summary of the year that's been but a prognosis for the years to come.

Terry said integrated reporting presented a challenge to the accounting profession.

"You're not predicting profit, but rather presenting information to be able to make assessments about the future... we as accountants have a responsibility to society to report, measure and assure... we need to produce information that society can use to make decisions with confidence, otherwise the profession is irrelevant. Society wants [integrated reporting] and needs it. Accountants need to change the way they produce information," said Terry.

Teachers' inspired to develop future leaders



THANKS, MA'AM ... Masiphathisane High School teacher Nosipho Ralane captures on her cell phone a note of appreciation from one of her pupils.

Picture: Nicky Willemse

GROWING up in the dusty, rural village of Gaphaahla, Limpopo, surrounded by female relatives who were all domestic workers, Setlogane Manchidi could easily have followed the same path as most of the village men and become a gardener.

Instead, he had teachers who saw potential in him – and a mother who never stopped telling him education was important – which led to his pursuing university studies, despite the odds against him.

Manchidi, now head of corporate social investment at Investec, paid homage to all teachers countrywide at the very first “teachers’ appreciation evening” held by the School of Accounting in October 2013.

The function, inspired by World Teachers’ Day in October, had as its centre piece a colourful “wall” of handwritten notes of appreciation from Eastern Cape Grade 11 pupils to their teachers. The evening’s purpose was to recognise the role teachers play as agents of change in society,

developing future leaders who will make a meaningful contribution to the economy.

This event, which is the first of its kind at NMMU, is specifically aimed at the Grade 11 and 12 Accounting and Mathematics teachers of our top feeder schools in the metro.

“As much as education is key to everything, teachers are key to education,” said Manchidi, the motivational speaker for the evening. “Teachers are among the most important nation builders... The country looks to you to guide people such as myself, those who hang on to hope. We need to celebrate the profession that creates other professionals.”

A secondary purpose of the evening was to cement links between the School of Accounting and maths and accounting teachers from the university’s feeder schools.

Successful career evenings



THE School of Accounting hosted five successful career evenings during 2013 – in Uitenhage, East London, Queenstown, Port Elizabeth and George – each attended by over 200 top achieving Grade 11 and 12 learners along with their parents and teachers. The Port Elizabeth career evening had an overwhelming response with 550 guests attending.

The aims of the career evenings are to promote accountancy as a career and study option at NMMU and to inform learners about the path towards becoming a Chartered Accountant (SA) as well as post-study work.

At each career evening, School of Accounting Director Prof Frans Prinsloo explained the different

programmes that the School has to offer while Mr Alan Barr (Managing Director of KPMG in the Eastern Cape) provided a business perspective of being a CA.

Trainee Accountants, from PwC and Deloitte, highlighted their time at NMMU and what it is like completing their articles in the corporate world.

Prof Jean Greyling from the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems also accompanied the School to the East London career evening to explain the combination of computer technology and accounting and how this makes for a new and very successful career choice.

NMMU Accounting Tops - Again

NMMU’s School of Accounting has done it again by producing top results in the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) Initial Test of Competence (ITC) examination for chartered accountants. The university’s BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates of 2012 obtained a 97% pass – as compared to the national average of 86% for first time attempts – with 71 NMMU graduates passing the exam.

The ITC examination (previously known as Part I of the Qualifying Examination) is the first of two professional examinations required for qualification as a chartered accountant. Further success came with the news that all 15 Thuthuka Bursary Programme students who successfully completed the BCom Honours (Accounting) programme in 2012, passed the SAICA exam.

School of Accounting Director Prof Frans Prinsloo, says he is delighted that the pass rate achieved by NMMU students continues to be among the highest in the country. “We are very proud of our BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates of 2012. These results reconfirm the high quality of the NMMU programme. “More than half of the NMMU graduates who passed this national examination are African, Coloured and Indian.



GIVING SOMETHING BACK ... Vice-Chancellor Scholars from the School of Accounting collected "shoes for souls" for the children at Lukhanyiso Home in KwaNobuhle. Joined by Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz (back, middle), the students (back, from left) Andrea Christoffels and Bongeka Mbonisweni and (front, from left) Jayme Weiss and Hilton Sansom handed the shoes to Lukhanyiso Home's Bukelwa Manyandela and one of the children from the home. The project is one of several community initiatives that have been adopted by the VC Scholars. At a breakfast in October 2013 where the handover took place, BCom (Accounting) Honours student Timothy Olls said: "The shoes we are giving to the children at the Uitenhage home are symbolic, because just as we are giving them shoes now, we as VCS students were given a special pair of shoes to start our NMMU journey. In our case, they were big shoes to fill."

Picture: Leonette Bower

Cum laude joy for three accounting VC Scholars

SINCE 2010, NMMU has awarded Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships to students with top-class matric passes – potentially lifting the financial burden of an entire three or four-year degree, provided recipients achieve academic results of 75% or higher year on year.

This is no mean feat, not least for those studying towards BCom (Chartered Accountancy) degrees, where the challenge for most students, given the high standards demanded by SAICA, is just to pass.

Despite this, three VC Scholars in the School of Accounting – Deanne Nolte, Ilanie Barnard and Bianca Venter – proved their mettle by passing their three-year degrees cum laude (with distinction).

In April 2013, the three women – together with three other successful BCom (Chartered Accountancy) graduates – were among the first nine VC Scholars to graduate from NMMU.

Since 2012, the School of Accounting has run its own VCS Mentoring and Leadership Programme to give these top learners the support and mentoring required to prepare them for leadership roles in society.

Nolte, 21, said the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship (VCS) Programme had helped her grow. "It showed me that I can push myself to the limit and still surprise myself by going beyond it."

Venter, 21, who completed her degree on NMMU's George Campus, called passing cum laude an "unexpected but pleasant surprise and a great reward after all the hard work that goes with this degree."



Barnard, 21, another George-based student, said: "The VCS programme taught me a sense of responsibility and also that sometimes life surprises [you] with such unexpected but amazing opportunities, but in return you have to do your part every day... It would have been ungrateful to simply give up."

The other three VC Scholars graduating from the School of Accounting are Hermi Maree, Timothy Olls and Riaan van Gent.

School of Accounting Director Prof Frans Prinsloo said: "The School of Accounting is extremely proud of the achievements of all of our VC Scholars, but especially those of Deanne, Ilanie and Bianca. They are important role-models to our students, and have demonstrated that through hard work, dedication and focus, it is possible to excel in the BCom (Chartered Accountancy) programme."

Identifying strengths builds passion for profession



IDENTIFYING THEIR STRENGTHS ... Third-year Vice-Chancellor Scholars (from left) Yolande Oosthuysen, Wiehan van Onselen, Siyabulela Khalakahla, Matthew Nicholls and Ndileka Makaluza gained self-awareness through the book-linked course "Strengths Finder", which was run by Deloitte.

AN innovative "Strengths Finder" course run by accounting firm Deloitte saw Vice-Chancellor (VC) Scholars and staff mentors from the School of Accounting gain insight into their personal strengths and how they can harness these – and the strengths of others – to be successful in their careers.

"I am sure that every single one of us left there with so much inspiration to use our strengths to the best of our ability," said second-year VC Scholar Nikki de Ridder. "We understand ourselves a little better now." It was a sentiment echoed by fellow second-year student Jayme Weiss, who called the session "truly rewarding and eye-opening".

Third-year VC Scholar Yolande Oosthuysen said: "I cannot wait to start implementing these strengths in my own life and also recognising them in others." One of the key lessons from the course was that being able to match your work roles and responsibilities with your strengths was the key to long-term job satisfaction.

The course formed part of the School of Accounting's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship (VCS) Mentoring and Leadership Programme.

The first part of the course was an exercise in which the students and staff identified their five core strengths. The second part was gaining a deeper understanding of these strengths and how they can be harnessed in the work place.

Business ethics under spotlight



TOP TEAM ... School of Accounting Director Prof Frans Prinsloo (left) and Janine Christian (second from left) and Ernst and Young's Mark Biggs (back, second from right) and Stefan Meiring (right) congratulate the winning team in the School of Accounting's business ethics competition (from left) Chuma Pati, Yanga Mbixana, Wikus Bezuidenhout, Khonaye Dapula, Andrea Ward and Nikky de Ridder. The team delved into the ethics of using social media for recruitment purposes.

IS IT ethical for companies to use social media like Facebook as a hiring or firing factor? Should organisations be allowed to read their employees' email? Are women still being hindered by the glass ceiling in the workplace?

These were just some of the business practices explored by the top 10 teams in a competition, sponsored by accounting firm Ernst and Young, for second-year BCom Accounting students. The winners were announced at a gala evening held in May 2013 where cash prizes totalling R37 000 were

awarded to the top three teams – along with an iPad for best presenter Hilton Samson.

The top 10 teams – each with five or six presenters per team – were selected from 60 participating groups made up of students attending the Ethics and Corporate Governance 201 module, introducing students to business ethics and corporate governance.

"The competition required the students to think critically about complex ethical decisions facing those who manage business entities and made

them realise that just because something is legal does not make it ethical," said Module Co-ordinator, Janine Christian, who facilitated the competition.

"The mark earned for the presentation contributed to the students' final mark for the module." Other topics covered by the top groups included social media in the workplace, child labour, discrimination, techno ethics, whistle blowing, animal testing, pornography on television, carbon tax and hydraulic fracturing (fracking).

Work shadow programme for aspiring CA's



BEST BUSINESS PLAN ... PwC partner Andrea Puggia (left) along with PwC assistant manager: graduate recruitment Yvonne Ducie (second from right) and NMMU accounting lecturer Nelmarie Smuts (right) congratulate the team that took top honours for the best business plan presentation during last week's work shadow programme at PwC (back, from left) Woolhope Senior Secondary's Muazzam Brey, Westering High's Abongile Vuso, Douglas Mbopa High's Lubabalo Kala and (front, from left) Westering High's Zintle Malgas and Morningside High's Lindelwa Badi. Picture: Nicky Willemse

A UNIQUE work shadow programme for Grade 12's at Port Elizabeth accounting firm PwC has convinced Douglas Mbopa High School pupil Litha Daweti to pursue a career in Chartered Accountancy.

"The programme opened my eyes – I found out about opportunities I didn't even know existed," said Daweti, one of 35 academically-achieving Bay pupils from previously disadvantaged backgrounds handpicked by SAICA to attend the three-day programme in July 2013.

The programme run by NMMU's School of Accounting in conjunction with PwC and SAICA, exposed the pupils to the role of both Chartered Accountants and auditors in major firms and included a visit to car manufacturer Volkswagen, where they were addressed by a number of senior CA's.

The pupils were briefed on the various job opportunities within the accounting profession, and received information on study bursaries. They also learned how businesses operate – and had to draw up and present their own business plan for an imaginary fast food company. Two PwC trainees, both NMMU graduates, also addressed the pupils.

PwC assistant manager: graduate recruitment, Yvonne Ducie, said the aim of the programme was to market tertiary education and encourage them to pick accounting as a field of study. "The pupils are getting a taste of the CA career in a classroom environment.

Valuing and Evaluating Teaching



"Some thoughts on valuing and evaluating teaching" was the title of Prof Amanda Singleton's Inaugural professional lecture early in July 2013.

Taxation 4 lecturer and head of Teaching and Learning at School of Accounting Prof Singleton, shared her journey of

discovery about how to account to the academy such that teaching might be valued and evaluated in the same way that research is valued and evaluated.

The lecture began by considering whether there is common ground between teaching and research. An answer was found in the concept of scholarship.

Five concepts of a scholarship of teaching and learning were explored as a basis for making teaching and learning visible so that it might be valued and evaluated with the same credibility as research outputs. The lecture concluded with a discussion of how the scholarship of teaching and learning might feature in a case for promotion.

Accounting lecturers represent NMMU

IN 2013 NMMU represented 21 of the 200 delegates at the South African Institute for Management Sciences' (SAIMS) annual conference in Potchefstroom, where SAIMS celebrated 25 years of excellence.

Professor Pieter Pelle and Tracy Beck from the Department of Applied Accounting co-presented their research paper entitled "Investigating the influence of expected rewards on the career intentions of accounting students".

"To have our paper chosen from hundreds of applicants was an honour especially since it was our first research paper, it was an exciting learning experience," said Beck.

During the October school holidays in 2013, Professor Pelle and Tracy also presented a short learning programme (Pastel Partner) to school administrators from around the Eastern Cape.

The programme was well attended and the feedback after the workshop was extremely positive. The Department of Education has requested the Department of Applied Accounting to present more programmes in future and develop a programme to suit their specific needs.

New accounting programme allows more matrics access to university

FROM 2014, NMMU's School of Accounting will be offering the country's first Higher Certificate in Accountancy – which will effectively allow more school leavers to pursue accountancy studies at university level.

The programme – which has received R700 000 worth of funding from the Finance and Accounting Services Seta (Fasset) – is geared towards those who traditionally would not have gained entrance into university. Depending on their results on completing the programme, they can then apply for further study on the Department's diploma programmes.

"The programme has a dual purpose," said Prof Pieter Pelle, head of the Department of Applied Accounting. Its overall aim is to address "the huge shortage of bookkeepers and accounting support staff in South Africa". Those who attain a 60% pass will be able to boost their qualifications through further study in the mainstream university Diploma in Accountancy programme, while those with a lower pass mark will have been prepared to work as bookkeepers, and can immediately enter the work force. The programme will be offered at NMMU's Missionvale campus.

Fasset project manager Tania Lee said one of Fasset's main priorities was funding projects that allowed more matrics to have access to university.

The funding from Fasset – which will cover textbooks, additional lectures, life skills support and mentoring/coaching – is to assist the



NEW QUALIFICATION: Celebrating the arrival of the country's first Higher Certificate in Accountancy are Finance and Accounting Services Seta (Fasset) project manager Tania Lee (left) and Prof Pieter Pelle, head of the Department of Applied Accounting at NMMU.

Picture: Nicky Willemse

first cohort of 50 students to complete the certificate programme in 2014.

The year-long Higher Certificate in Accountancy will include 10 modules, covering the areas of financial accounting, management accounting, communications skills, end-user computing and computerized accounting.

"This is a totally new programme. It is the only one registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and we are the only university in the country offering a programme of this nature," said Pelle.

School of Accounting's Diploma prizegiving

The School of Accounting held its 1st annual prizegiving for top achievers in the Diploma and BTech programmes in the field of Accountancy on 17 April 2013. The following students received prizes as best students in 2012 in the listed subjects:

SUBJECT	BEST STUDENTS
BEST STUDENTS IN DIPLOMA SUBJECTS IN 2012	
Financial Accounting 1	Onele Dyonase
Financial Accounting 2	Siyanda Botile
Auditing 2	Siphelele Notyhanga
Taxation 2	Asanda Vivashe
Cost Accounting 2	Jaco de Lange
Financial Accounting 3	Thando Mtati
Auditing 3	Lwando Nokoko
Management Accounting 3	Yonela Magquba
BEST STUDENTS IN 2012	
Diploma in Accounting	Thando Mtati
Diploma in Internal Auditing	Sizakele Biyana
Diploma in Financial Information Systems	Sivuyisiwe Sabane
Diploma in Cost and Management Accounting	Christine Stander
BTech Internal Auditing	Thokozani Sihlangu
BTech Financial Information Systems	Yandiswa Mabengwana
BTech Cost and Management Accounting	Kevin Lewis
Best BTech Student	Kevin Lewis



WELL DONE ... The SAIPA trophy for the best BTech student in the School of Accounting, was awarded to Kevin Lewis (right) by Mr Bertus Griebenow (left), the representative from SAIPA.



PKF visits Diploma students

FIRST-YEAR accounting co-ordinator and lecturer Tracy Beck organised a visit from PKF (PE) Inc. Accountant and Business Advisors for first year diploma accounting students.

It is essential that students are aware from an early stage in their studies of the importance of building a strong foundation for their future in the profession of accounting. HR manager, Kerry Axon encouraged and motivated students to work hard and to always do their best from first year. Trainee accountant, Candice Anderson who studied at NMMU, explained her experiences as a new trainee accountant at PKF. She also motivated students to study hard and to understand the work at University as the knowledge and skills she gained at NMMU were valuable in her day-to-day work at the accounting firm.

George achievers acknowledged

SAICA Southern Cape District Association, members of industry and NMMU's School of Accounting combined forces to acknowledge the top performing BCom Accounting students of 2012 at the BCom prizegiving George Campus.

Thirty-five students in their first, second and third years of study jointly notched-up 71 subject distinctions – and were suitably acknowledged for their efforts by Deloitte. Eight students in the group accounted for nearly half (thirty-four) of these distinctions.

Francelise Maartens, a first-year BCom (CA) student and one of the recipients of the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's scholarship netted six subject distinctions. She was also acknowledged as the top first year BCom Accounting student, and received a prize from MeyerOtto. Mauritz du Plessis was the top second-year BCom Accounting student. His prize was sponsored by Leask & Partners.

Ilanie Barnard, another VC Scholarship holder in her third year of study impressed with her consistent high standard of achievement which earned her three subject distinctions and the prestigious SAICA Big Five Special Awards as Top Student Auditing, Accounting, Taxation, Management Accounting and Financial Management. These subjects are considered the fundamental underpinnings or Holy Grail for entry into the field of chartered accountancy.

Mauritz du Plessis and Mikhail Kossar were the top Accounting students in their second and third year of study towards the BCom Accounting degree. They received prizes from Ernst & Young



and Moore Stephens respectively. Kossar was also acknowledged as the Top Aspirant Student for BCom Accounting (first year), with Natasha de Villiers taking the honours in the second year of study. They received prizes from Mazars and MeyerOtto.

The top year students in the BCom General Accounting programme were Anzel Gouws (third year), Siobhan Avontuur (second year) and Willem Marais (first year). Their prizes were sponsored respectively by Oakhurst Insurance (Anzel Gouws), Boshoff Visser (Siobahn Avontuur) and the permanent accounting lecturers at NMMU George Campus –Pieter Wicht, Jane Fountain and Catherine Fourie.

With an eye for talent, SAICA, also suitably acknowledged the excellent performance of the top first and second year students in the Extended BCom Accounting & General Accounting

programmes – Nompumelelo Mtambo and Didintle Lekubu. Mtambo also notched-up five subject distinctions.

Deloitte also awarded a non-academic prize for the "most balanced" BCom Accounting student who, as voted by the students, managed to achieve a good balance between "work and play." The recipients were Candice Berman and Jo Muthavhi, were now enrolled for their third year of study in 2013.

Prof Frans Prinsloo, Director of NMMU's School of Accounting joined the students in celebrating their achievements. He lauded them for their drive for excellence, dedication and hard work which underpins their success. Prof Prinsloo also reiterated that NMMU greatly values the good relationship with industry.

NMMU George facilitates Deloitte assessment centre



George Campus Principal Prof Quinton Johnson (back, center), with BCom lecturers, students and members of the Deloitte talent management team, accompanied by Deloitte partner Willem van der Post (back, second from left).

A UNIQUE opportunity presented itself at NMMU George Campus in 2013 with the mass interviewing of BCom Accounting for Chartered Accountants students from all three years of study, by the Deloitte partnership's talent management team.

The purpose of the initiative – the first ever where Deloitte set up a remote assessment centre at a university – was to interview students with the view of considering them for training contracts.

Deloitte was suitably impressed with the calibre of the students and the majority of the students were given offers to sign training contracts with the company.

Deloitte indicated that they would invite candidates who showed great potential, but who did not have sufficient experience to demonstrate their talent in a professional interview context, to attend a vacation programme, where they would get ample opportunity to showcase their capabilities.

Another great advantage of the initiative was that Deloitte provided specific feedback to all students on their performance during the interviews, enabling them to learn from the experience.



TOP GRADE 12 WINTER SCHOOL LEARNER ... Anisha Daniels received a Samsung Galaxy Tab for obtaining the highest mark in the post-test. She was congratulated by Carin Langner (Deloitte), Anselene Prinsloo (Winter School Coordinator) and Prof Frans Prinsloo (Director: School of Accounting)



Prof Mayekiso, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Engagement (middle) received a personalised t-shirt from the Accounting VC Scholarship students sponsored African Unity Foundation to celebrate student excellence. Here Prof Mayekiso is joined by, from left, Elize Naude (VC Scholarship Mentoring Programme Coordinator), Bongeka Mbonisweni, Jayme Weiss, Ankit Neglur, Nikki de Ridder and Prof Frans Prinsloo (Director of School of Accounting).



INFORMATION ... Project Director of Education at SAICA Helen Bimbassis, visited NMMU in April 2013, to explain to the third-year-and honours Accounting students the changes in the Part II Qualifying Exam structure.



FOR A CAUSE...Accounting staff supported Casual Day by dressing up in oversized accessories linking with the theme of Go Big.



SPONSORS ... The sponsors that generously supported the School's degree prizegiving held in April annually.



WELCOMED...Thuthuka first years of 2013 were warmly welcomed by Shareen van der Watt, the programme coordinator, and administrative staff to the residence that was going to be their home for 2013.



GATSBY... Accounting postgraduate students dressed up in their feathers, pearls and bowties and enjoyed a well-deserved function with their lecturers, sponsors and fellow class mates. Melissa de Lange, Management Accounting lecturer (middle) received the 'Best Dressed Lecturer Award' handed over by Honours class representatives, Jeandre Joubert (left) and Jessica van der Merwe (right).



TOP OF THE CLASS ... Manali Kapadia from Riebeeck College Girls' High School, who got the highest test mark at the Grade 11 Accounting Spring School in 2013, received a Samsung Galaxy Tablet. Manali is congratulated here by the coordinator of the Spring School, Ansulene Prinsloo.



HAVING FUN ... Chartered Accounting students Luzuko Gaca (from left), Lisakhanya Nkomana and Siqhamosihle Skosana together with Luzuko's twin sister Arts student Zikhona (second from right), enjoyed the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) fun day in August 2013 challenging students to strive towards a balance between studies and life. Students could choose to participate in either a bumper ball challenge or a rocket/parachute challenge.



TUTOR TRAINING ... Each year the tutors attend a training workshop where lecturers teach tutors different strategies to facilitate tutorials. Here the first-year tutors of 2013, joined by Accounting 1 lecturers, Lorelle de Villiers (left) and Ansulene Prinsloo (right).

KITTED OUT... Allan Simango and Noxolo Qanqa wearing their new hoodies sponsored by ACCA for the Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy students of 2013.



HONOURS PRIZE...KPMG Managing Director Alan Barr (from left) awarded Kristine Dutton R20 000 for being the best BCom Honours (Accounting) student in 2012. They are joined by Director of School of Accounting, Prof Frans Prinsloo.



MAGIC OF MENTORSHIP ... KPMG's Gugu Nxiweni (left) and Carol Batchelor (second from right) shared their mentorship tips with second-year Vice Chancellor Scholars from the School of Accounting (from left) Prinola Govindasamy, Daniel Alfond, Siyabulela Khalakahla and Liezl Viljoen during a session which formed part of the School of Accounting's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship (VCS) Mentoring and Leadership Programme, which aims to prepare students for leadership roles in society.



NUMBERS BOFFIN... Nelisa Shugu, a Grade 12 learner from EZ Kabane High School received a R500 Walmer Park Voucher from Prof Frans Prinsloo for out-playing everyone at the Numbers Game Competition which the School of Accounting hosted during the 2013 Open Day in Port Elizabeth.



YEAR-END MAGIC... Accounting 1 Lecturers (from left), Lorelle de Villiers Beryl Prinsloo and Ansulene Prinsloo with Prof Derek Forsyth, Honours lecturer enjoyed 'A Night in Monte Carlo' to celebrate a successful year.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE... Allan Gray hosted their 2013 Achievement Awards cocktail function for selected academic excellent students in the Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences that participated in an essay writing competition. Donovan de Bruin and Ankit Neglur, both Accounting VC Scholarship students, took top places in their respective year groups.



CLASS OF 2013... The BTech in Internal Auditing class are fine tuning their auditing skills with their lecturer, Mario Labuschagne.

Congratulations

LONG service awards were awarded to the following lecturers: Prof Gerrit Radder (30 years); Beryl Prinsloo and Prof Frans Prinsloo (15 years); Kevin Freeman (10 years) and Sune Diedericks, Johnathan Dillon, Houdini Fourie, Suzan Terblanche and Maria Skotidas all received a 5 year long service award.

Heidi presents paper in Seychelles



GOING PLACES ...
Heidi Janse van Rensburg attended the International Business Conference (2-5 September 2013) in the Seychelles and presented her paper, titled "Unmasking the future cash flow construct". She stated that she benefited from the conference by gaining valuable insights regarding the latest research in finance and related fields.

2013 Graduation



Maria Skotidas,
Taxation
2 lecturer,
graduated with
her Masters in
Taxation.

Michael Henebrey,
the academic
trainee 2013,
graduated with his
BCom Honours in
Accounting.



Annemie Jacobs,
PR and Marketing
Co-coordinator,
graduated cum
laude with a BTech
in Public Relations
Management.

2013 saw the successful implementation of the new School of Accounting structure whereby the School comprises of two departments, i.e.:

- ▶ Department of Accounting Sciences – which is responsible for the offering of the "degree-type" programmes; and
- ▶ Department of Applied Accounting - which is responsible for the offering of the "diploma-type" programmes.

Mrs Beryl Prinsloo was appointed as the Head of Accounting Sciences, whilst Prof Pieter Pelle was appointed as Head of Applied Accounting.

Welcome to new staff



Rene Kock started as the School Administrator at the School of Accounting in March 2013. She is responsible for, amongst others, the finances of the School of Accounting and Department of Accounting Sciences, for managing the admin staff in the School, and ensuring that the admin processes in the School run smoothly.

Nelmari Smuts joined the Accounting 1 and auditing teams in March 2013. She studied BCom Chartered Accountancy at UPE and completed her BCom Honours (Accounting) degree. Nelmari worked at Deloitte & Touche in Port Elizabeth as senior audit manager.



Suzette Snijders, an Accounting 2 lecturer joined School of Accounting in February 2013. She has a BCom Rationum in Accounting and Law, a BCom Honours in Accounting, and is a CA(SA). Prior to joining NMMU, Suzette was audit manager at KPMG in PE since 2010.

Mercy Thinyane, the new PR & Marketing Coordinator joined the School of Accounting in January 2014. She previously worked at the NMMU Business School and is busy with her BTech in Public Relations Management.



Suzzette Villas started in January 2014 as the new Accounting 1 and Accounting 2 secretary and will be graduating in April 2014 with her BTech in Tourism Management. Suzzette worked at the Faculty of Sciences as a PR and Marketing Assistant in 2013.



Farewell to colleagues

We say farewell to Annemie Jacobs (right), who will be joining the Faculty of Sciences as their PR and Marketing Coordinator, Kim Weatherall-Thomas (left) who was an Accounting secretary and is joining the School of Industrial Psychology and Human Resources. Michael Henebrey will be joining Deloitte in 2014 to complete the remaining two years of his training contract.

Accounting parents welcomed new additions to their family this year:
The five new baby boys include:
(from left) Luan Roodt's Luke; Lizel Besters' AJ; Lee-Anne van Niekerk's John-Phillip; Zukiswa Ngqoyiya's Yamkelani; and Kevin Freeman's Ross.



Legendary motor boss inspires future leaders

FORMER Toyota and McCarthy head Brand Pretorius – who rescued McCarthy Limited from bankruptcy at the start of this century shared his views on effective leadership with student leaders at NMMU in July 2013.

Arranged by the School of Accounting's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Mentoring and Leadership Programme in partnership with the African Unity Foundation, attendees included recipients of NMMU's Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships, members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) as well as business leaders from throughout the Bay.

Pretorius, 65, who published his first book "In the driving seat - lessons in leadership" in February 2013, said he learned more about leadership in the three years it took to recapitalise and restructure the failing business, than in the 22 years he had spent at Toyota SA, which under his guidance had become a market leader.

"The first lesson I learned was that leadership is not a right – it's a responsibility, a privilege. On a perpetual basis, one has to earn the moral mandate to lead," said Pretorius, who retired as CEO of McCarthy Limited in 2011.

Pretorius said leadership had nothing to do with position, power or authority. "It has to do with influence and influence needs to be earned. There are no short cuts. Influence comes from the power of your ideals, your strength of spirit, your humanity and your ability to capture the hearts and minds of your people.

Pretorius, who described himself as a "life-long



FUTURE LEADERS... Berenice Rose (AUF) (from left), Duncan Monks (SRC Member), Bongeka Mbonisweni (second-year VCS Student), Prof Frans Prinsloo (Director: School of Accounting) and Brand Pretorius, who gave a motivational talk to students at the Leadership Seminar hosted by NMMU School of Accounting.

student in the art and science of leadership", said: "Leadership is all-important. You can liken it to the electricity that powers companies, businesses, organisations and sports teams towards a better future. It's a challenging assignment, but if you succeed,

you can create magic."

Pretorius became a member of the SA Automotive Industry's "Hall of Fame" in 2006. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Automotive Industry Development

NMMU Students in the SAICA Top 30

THREE students in the School of Accounting, were selected out of 30 students nationwide to attend the SAICA Student Leadership Summit (SLS) in Johannesburg in August 2013.

Danie Strydom (second- year VC Scholarship), Maureen Pennels (first- year) and Olorato Mokotedi (honours) attended the summit which took place at the FNB Conference and Learner Centre where various workshops were facilitated over the weekend.

SAICA received 157 essay submissions and the adjudication panel was faced with a difficult task of short-listing the top 30 essays. The fact that these three students made the shortlist is an indication that their essays met the high standards of the competition.



CONGRATULATIONS... Prof Frans Prinsloo Director of School of Accounting, congratulated (from left) Olorato Mokotedi, Danie Strydom and Maureen Pennels on being selected as one of the top 30 students to attend the SAICA Student Leadership Summit in Johannesburg.

Academic Traineeship Programme

SAICA's Academic Traineeship Programme (ATP) provides top quality Chartered Accountancy graduates with an opportunity to further develop their Technical and Professional skills within the academic environment. This is achieved by trainees serving one year (namely the first year) of the three years of their training contract at an accredited university, such as NMMU, as an academic trainee (AT).

Academic Trainees (ATs) are exposed to various facets of academia during this year, including lecturing, tutoring, preparation of course material, preparation of assessments, marking, and research and as such gain an array of skills.

Some of the benefits of partaking in the Academic Traineeship Programme at NMMU is that the first of the three years of the SAICA training contract will be completed by working within the NMMU School of Accounting (with the second and third years served at

the training office) which allows for a more diverse training contract during which a broader array of skills is developed.

"I decided to do academic articles as I enjoyed tutoring at undergraduate level, I have a passion for helping people, and I wanted to give something back to NMMU, where the staff were always very helpful, approachable and keen to make my experience memorable," said Michael Henebrey, 2013 Academic Trainee.

"Being an Academic Trainee offers you the best opportunity to assist those coming after you whilst also developing yourself. That's an opportunity you will never get as a first year Trainee in the

audit environment," said Sitembele James, a 2012 Academic Trainee.

In 2014 we have welcomed four academic trainees to the School of Accounting family. They are Nathan Hofart, Khanya Ndzululeka, Hermi Maree and Faith Nazer.



2014 ACADEMIC TRAINEES... (from left) Khanya Ndzululeka, Nathan Hofart, Faith Nazer and Hermi Maree.

The student apprentice challenge

POSTGRADUATE Diploma in Accountancy Student Noxolo Qanqa was among the 64 top students participating in the Student Apprentice Challenge organised by Wits University in September 2013.

The students were selected to face real business case-studies and had to provide innovative solutions that are relevant to the company.

Together with these skills, they also received soft skills training in leadership, marketing, entrepreneurship, sales, project management, and financial planning. These skills help bridge the gap between education and business environment. "This was the most intriguing and exciting /Student Apprentice Challenge ever held by AIESEC South Africa!" said Noxolo.



Review of NMMU

Thuthuka highlights 2013:



FROM the outset 2013 was set to be an eventful year for the Thuthuka students. Our students were a busy bunch who participated in various activities both on and off campus.

Academic highlights:

We were very proud of our 15 honours and 28 BCom

students who received degrees at graduation held in April 2013. In addition, the 2012 Thuthuka honours students achieved a 100% pass-rate (1st timers) for the ITC exam.

A number of students received prizes at the School of Accounting's annual prize-giving, with top undergraduate student third-year Khanya Ndzululeka, carrying the Thuthuka flag high – receiving the best third-year year student award.

Growing skills:

Starting the year with our Welcoming Ceremony was guest speaker Mary Brennan on Sustainable development in the profession. The honours students also had a talk by Dr Ben van der Merwe and Henriette Barnard from Pretoria's Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership on "Who am I".

The first years participated in the Beyond the Classroom (BTC) programme which develops

interactive skills and values as future employees. Thuthuka students attended a number of presentations by various business leaders during the year, and specifically enjoyable was a talk by Roshni Gajjar, a qualified CA at Aspen Pharmaceuticals.

A speed-reading workshop for second-year students, presented by The Learning Revolution, will make a difference in dealing with the volume of study material and getting their study strategies working to their benefit.

Our students learnt more about different cultures and backgrounds during the annual Diversity awareness exercises. The first years had a cook-off with the different foods they favoured, from tripe to curry, chicken to pickled fish. The second years produced their own DVD on dress and culture.

The third years had sessions in developing their workplace readiness with getting to know themselves and understanding others, CV writing and interview session. This group attended professional workshops and conducted a simulated job interview session with Neurolab inc.

The honours group also attended a workshop on Workplace do's and don'ts regarding dress, communication and appropriate behaviour.

A living and learning community within NMMU:

The Thuthuka first-year students attended Varsity Cup (where our Madibaz played) very well winning the Varsity spirit cup and the formation routine at the Campus Life Festival.

Making a difference by giving back to the community:

To inculcate a culture of giving-back and working towards the betterment of communities, the first years participated in community service within the BTC programme and were involved with the communities and assisted various projects like, the Eastern Cape Children's Home.

Many students assisted the schools that they attended by helping to tutor the Grade 12's when they went home during the holidays. While others were involved in the community, reading to the elderly and giving their time to assisting children at pre-schools. First- and second-year students gave up their lunch hour to assist with the marking of 500 Eastern Cape Grade 12 Accounting Olympiad scripts.

Overall we had a very successful year, our numbers grew and we achieved good results. We would like to thank all the donors of the SAICA Thuthuka Bursary Fund who have made it all possible.

Shareen van der Watt

Thuthuka Project Coordinator

shareen.vanderwatt@nmmu.ac.za



GRADUATION... The Thuthuka Graduation Function took place on 16 April 2013 at the North Campus Conference Centre. The guest speakers for the evening were Gugu Nxiweni, Partner at KPMG and Jurgen Fourie from SAICA. The Thuthuka BCom Honours (Accounting) graduates of 2012 had a 100% pass rate in their first SAICA Qualifying Examination. Natasha Xulu (right) and Nikiwe Gumbanjera (left) celebrated their success with classmates.

Celebrating diversity month



Thuthuka students kicked off Diversity Month of by hosting a cook-off in the first week of October 2013. First years divided themselves into six groups of different cultures and chose a popular dish that is often served at home. Dishes included tripe, pickled fish, curry chicken, Hong Kong chicken, malva pudding and boba. The first year group tasted each other's dishes and voted for the best served meal. The winning group from left, Sihle Vuyelwa, Nomfundo Malaza, Sibahle Speelman, Yolisa Ndukwana, prepared pickled fish which is a popular dish in the Xhosa culture. Here they are joined by Shareen van der Watt, the Thuthuka Programme Coordinator and Lorelle de Villiers, the Accounting 1 Thuthuka lecturer.

Khanya's cum laude success inspires

NMMU's transformation-embracing Thuthuka programme – which celebrated its first *cum laude* graduate – is well on its way to producing top quality black Chartered Accountants in South Africa.

The programme, run by NMMU's School of Accounting is hoping the success of BCom (Accounting) *cum laude* graduate Khanya Ndzululeka (right) will inspire Grade 11 and 12 learners to put in the effort required to qualify for this life-changing bursary programme.

Ndzululeka, 20, said she owed her success to a balanced approach to her studies, excellent time management skills, strong family support and her faith.

"In first year, I took the Thuthuka time management skills seriously, and have applied them ever since. What I did in third year was what I did in first year," said Ndzululeka, who completed her BCom Honours (Accounting) studies at the end of 2013. She will also be awarded this degree cum laude at the university's graduation ceremony in April 2014.

Her Thuthuka bursary covered all the study and residence costs of her degree – and provided a number of resources, including daily study sessions, mentors and extra-curricular skill-building programmes. "What Thuthuka gave me was way more than academic support. The study sessions in particular – where we had access to our lecturers every night – worked well for me. If I had a question, I could ask the



lecturer what to do.

The Mthatha-born student came from a humble home which was "rich in terms of good values and good principles". Her father died when she was young and her mother was left to raise her daughter and three sons. "My mother was very strong and taught each of us to be content with what we had been given. My uncle was also a big support when my father died. He taught me a love for reading and encouraged me to study accounting."

Ndzululeka has no doubt she will one day become

a Chartered Accountant – and is aiming to use her skills to help others. "I don't want my life to be about just being a CA, and getting a fancy car and house. I want it to be about helping people. I have a vision to develop young people."

Thuthuka co-ordinator Shareen van der Watt said: "It's possible for all our students to achieve Khanya's success. It's all about what the students do with what we supply – Khanya took it to a higher level and others are capable of following her."

Thuthuka Umbala Day contribute to students' development



Thuthuka students actively participate in events arranged by the Thuthuka Management Team. One of the events which was hosted in February 2013, the Thuthuka Umbala Leadership Function took place on campus where guest speaker, Mary Brennan addressed students on Leadership in the Chartered Accountancy profession. Mary Brennan is a CA with over 16 years of international and local experience in leading and managing finance, strategy, change, and people. She is the founder of Mary B Inc. and is currently consulting on a range of projects including the Red Location Cultural Precinct, an innovative project based in the heart of the Red Location, Africa's Largest Cultural Precinct, based in Port Elizabeth's largest township. First-year students had the chance to mingle with other students that are further in their studies towards becoming a CA.

School of Accounting's Degree prizegiving

THE School of Accounting held its 47th annual prizegiving for top achievers in the degree programmes in the field of Accountancy on 19 April 2013. The following students received prizes as best students in 2012 in the listed subjects:

SUBJECT	BEST STUDENTS
BEST STUDENTS IN DEGREE PROGRAMME SUBJECTS IN 2012	
Accounting 1 CA Stream General Stream	Hilton Sansom Mpho Ngwenya
Accounting 2 (1 st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Caitlin Allen (joint) Liezl Viljoen (joint) Justin Anderson
Accounting 2 (2 nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Caitlin Allen Prenesh Sontsonga
Ethics and Corporate Governance 2	Caitlin Allen (joint) Dale McCarthy (joint) Suzaan van den Berg (joint)
Auditing 2	Dale McCarthy
Management Accounting and Taxation 2	Suzaan van den Berg
Accounting 3 (1 st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Khanya Ndzululeka Yussif Cassim
Accounting 3 (2 nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Jessica van der Merwe (joint) Haseena Brey (joint) Eunice Gutwi
Auditing 3 (1 st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Khanya Ndzululeka Matthew van der Berg
Auditing 3 (2 nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Deanne Nolte (joint) Khanya Ndzululeka Jason Barker
Taxation 3 (1 st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Deanne Nolte Sashika Naidoo
Taxation 3 (2 nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Khanya Ndzululeka Andre Fester

Management Accounting 3 (1 st Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Khanya Ndzululeka Stefan Kotze
Management Accounting 3 (2 nd Semester) CA Stream General Stream	Timothy Olls Yolanda Madaza
Accounting 4	Megan Daniell (joint) Kristine Dutton (joint)
Auditing 4	Kristine Dutton
Taxation 4	Kristine Dutton
Management Accounting 4	Megan Daniell
BEST STUDENTS IN THUTHUKA PROGRAMME	
Best Student 1 st Year – Thuthuka Programme	Jennilee Oosthuizen
Best Student 2 nd Year – Thuthuka Programme	Amanda Madikizela
Best Student 3 rd Year – Thuthuka Programme	Khanya Ndzululeka
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting) – Thuthuka Programme	Lee-Anne Reid
BEST STUDENTS IN 2012	
Best Student in 2 nd Year BCom (Accounting)	Caitlin Allen
Best Student Final Year BCom (Accounting)	Khanya Ndzululeka
Best Student Final Year BCom (Rationum)	Nathan Hofart
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting)	Kristine Dutton
Best Student 1 st Year – SAICA National Awards	Hilton Sansom
Best Student 2 nd Year – SAICA National Awards	Caitlin Allen
Best Student 3 rd Year – SAICA National Awards	Khanya Ndzululeka
Best Student BCom Honours (Accounting) – SAICA National Awards	Kristine Dutton



WINNER... The Investec Scholarship of R16 500 for best BCom Rationum student went to Nathan Hofart (middle). Nathan is congratulated by Prof Frans Prinsloo (right) and Investec representative Gavin Loon.



ACHIEVER... The Nedbank Scholarship of R20 000 for best BCom Accounting student in 2012 is awarded to Khanya Ndzululeka (middle) by School of Accounting Director, Prof Frans Prinsloo (right) and Nedbank representative Rob Bonnette.