



GRADUATES GALORE ... The Business Management Department has reason to smile with seven staff members graduating at the same ceremony (from left): **Tony Matchaba-Hove** and **Shelley Saunders** (cum laude) with an MCom, **Janine Kruger** with a PhD, **Jasmine Goliath** with a BCom Hons and **Adele Potgieter** and **Bomikazi Zeka** (cum laude) with an MCom. **Adelaide Vambe** (not in the photograph) graduated with a Master's degree in Development Studies. George Campus Marketing lecturer Adele Potgieter received her MCom in Business Management focusing on the influences of motivational factors on corporate performance and customer satisfaction.

Research in sync with society

LOOKING at our doctors' and masters' degree topics there is no doubt that NMMU's research is topical and addresses real issues in society. It ranges from the influence of technology to developmental projects such as designing a digital library to gambling addiction.

With education in the spotlight, topics included a comparison of language, mathematical and science literacy knowledge of Grade 9 learners, conflict at Northern Areas' schools and principals' management of teacher absenteeism.

On the business front competitiveness in the textile and clothing industry were investigated, the synergy in tenant mix in shopping centres, entrepreneurial attributes in business students and value delivered by private game reserves as well as a profile for a successful MBA candidate.

Political issues include managed land settlement, factors obstructing success in the local municipality, fraud and corruption in the public service and community conflict over basic service

delivery in New Brighton.

Foreign nationals were the focus of studies conducted on xenophobic attacks in Walmer township, the effect of SA labour legislation on refugees and migrants and refugee trauma experiences in a local Somali community and even the works of Trevor Noah and the "rainbow nation" concept.

The location of wind turbine farms, the Swartkops saltworks and biofuels, the harnessing of low enthalpy geothermal energy in SA, weather models and electricity demand forecasting, plant extracts for fighting tuberculosis and HIV and degreasing and antifogging wet wipes for automotive glass were among the interesting science research topics.

Social media formed part of studies about restaurant dining experiences, marketing and communication at universities, SMEs, the report of cyber crimes in newspapers and language teaching while other information technology research included Internet-based businesses, parental control of mobile devices and a mobile phone application for deaf people.

Gender studies included women entrepreneurs, single mother university students and social and political identities of coloured women in Northern Areas.

The proposed national health insurance system and legal consequences of alcohol and drug abuse at the workplace were also under the spotlight.

Psychological studies included cultural interpretations of traumatic events by Xhosa speaking adults, behavioural addiction of pathological gamblers, body fatness and health risks for 10 to 12 year olds, resilience in children raised by grandparents and nursing and end-of-life issues.

Our architecture students focused on designing a library, a sports and recreational and a skills development centre for Walmer township, a fishery and fishmarket for PE harbour, a training and resource centre for Helenvale, a digital library for Korsten, an international airport for PE, a community school cluster in New Brighton and a youth correctional facility in North End.



UNIQUE SKILLS ... PhD Physics graduate and NMMU's Centre for High Resolution Electron Microscopy Engineer **Jacques O'Connell** (left) received his PhD. Jacques obtained all his previous degrees with distinction and trained in the United Kingdom as an electron microscope engineer. "He is one of a few who can use and fix a number of different modern electron microscopes and related instruments," says his promoter Physics **Prof Jan Neethling**. He also recently spent a week in Eindhoven in the Netherlands for service engineer training at FEI, an American-Dutch company and one of the leading electron microscope suppliers in the world. Jacques' thesis makes valuable contributions to fuel design considerations for future gas-, liquid salt- and water-cooled nuclear reactors. This includes the development of safer reactors with reduced risk of leakage of radioactive material and could contribute to a decrease in the cost of electricity.