

# Campus Voice



December 2005 - 4

Official newsletter of the University of the Free State Qwaqwa Campus

## "Hard work key to successful 2006"

On behalf of the entire Management Committee, I wish to convey to all staff and students of the University of the Free State - Qwaqwa Campus best wishes over the forthcoming December 2005 vacation period. We have had a busy and exciting year, and I am confident that all the hard work that we have put in our academic, administrative and support services will serve as a good basis in ensuring an even more successful 2006 academic year.

It is clear to me that a new spirit of constructive engagement over the type of campus we desire is certainly taking root on the Qwaqwa Campus. To our staff and students, and to those members of our community who have been involved in campus specific strategic planning discussions, please accept my sincere appreciation.

A closer inspection of our commitment to the core business of the campus (teach-



*Prof. Peter Mbatia, Qwaqwa Campus Principal*

ing and learning, research and community service), upgrading of our infrastructure including addressing serious backlogs of

maintenance, the various workshops on quality assurance and forthcoming institutional audit, Social Contract workshops, Performance Management Process, and the report by Niel Butcher and Associates on the strategic repositioning and planning of the Qwaqwa Campus must surely bode well for the future of the campus.

The Brett Botha report on the revised management model for the Qwaqwa Campus was well received and several of its recommendations approved and implemented. I hope that you are as excited as I am on what the future holds for the campus.

I need your continued support and enthusiasm in continuing to lay a firm and strong foundation for our campus where the ethos of academic excellence and efficient service delivery is a norm.

May you have a well deserved holiday season - a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year in 2006!

## Indian professor visits Department of Chemistry



*Prof. Sabu Thomas in action during his presentation.*

Prof. Sabu Thomas, a well-known Indian professor visited Prof. Riaan Luyt's research group and the Department of Chemistry at the Qwaqwa Campus on 21 October 2005.

Prof. Sabu Thomas is attached to the School of Chemical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, India.

His group consists of 15 Ph.D. students and a postdoctoral research fellow. He is the author of numerous publications in international journals, and is regularly invited to conferences and meetings as guest speaker.

Prof. Thomas gave a lecture on polymer nanocomposites, a field in which his and Prof. Luyt's groups are very active.

It was his first visit to South Africa, and he enjoyed every moment of it. He was very impressed with the surroundings of the Qwaqwa Campus and with the facilities of the polymer research group in the Department of Chemistry. He also enjoyed the interaction with the post-graduate students and postdoctoral research fellows in the Department. At present the Department has 8 honours, 6 master's, 4 doctoral and 2 postdoctoral students.

Prof. Luyt also accompanied Prof. Thomas to a conference on natural fibres in Port Elizabeth. Their two groups will soon have an NRF-funded collaboration agreement, which will allow regular visits by staff and students to India and South Africa.

## Note the different forms

Please note that ad hoc claim forms for staff members differ from those for students. For all staff members (both temporary and permanent), we use blue forms and for student assistants, we use yellow forms. We have been advised by the Salary Division to avoid using white forms in the future. Different colours simplify administration of these claims. Both types of forms are available at both the Human Resources and Finance Departments.

"We appreciate your co-operation and understanding in this regard, which will help us to avoid unnecessary delays in the processing of claims," said Ms Elizabeth Nchapi, Assistant Director: Finance, Qwaqwa Campus.

## Qwaqwa graduation



Mrs Thandekile Selepe and Mr Mosuwe Selepe at the Qwaqwa graduation ceremony in October. Thandekile completed her PGCE.

## Qwaqwa campus experiences positive developments



Prof. Teuns Verschoor, Vice-Rector: Academic Operations and Mr Teboho Manchu, Deputy Director: Student Affairs in the computer lab during a visit by top management to the Qwaqwa Campus.

Prof. Frederick Fourie, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the UFS as well as other senior managers from the Main Campus visited the Qwaqwa Campus on 4 November 2005. The visit included a walkabout of the campus to various departments as well as the library and computer lab. The Rector also met with the SRC and a number of staff and students informally.

During these informal meetings Prof. Fourie thanked the Qwaqwa staff for the work they had put into the 2005 academic year and for their efforts at finding solutions to the challenges of the incorporation process which occur from time to time. He also met with the Campus Principal's Advisory Team. They were also appreciative of the co-operation and support they were getting from line

managers in Bloemfontein, though there were still some areas of concern.

Mr Lehlohonolo Morapeli, Qwaqwa Campus SRC president pointed out a number of issues that still have to be addressed on the campus:

- The large number of temporary staff employed on the campus,
- Difficulties experienced by students enrolled for extended programmes,
- Changes in modules and curricula affecting pipeline students and
- the need for sport facilities.

Prof. Mbati told the SRC members that they have an important responsibility to serve all students on the campus and he urged them to work with management to find solutions to outstanding issues.

Regarding the temporary staff, Prof. Mbati said he appreciated the need to job security, but it would be unwise to pre-empt the findings of the consultation process that is aimed at determining the best way to utilise the campus. He also said funds have been made available for improvements to facilities and these could include sport facilities.

According to Prof. Mbati the positive sentiments expressed during the meeting with the SRC, was a sign that things are improving on the campus. He thanked management for their commitment to making the incorporation work.

## Lecturer attends SAIMS Conference in Bloemfontein

**M**s Ekaete Samson-Akpan of the Department of Business Management recently attended the 17th Annual Southern Africa Institute for Management Scientists (SAIMS) Conference at the University of Free State, Bloemfontein from 26-28 September 2005.

The theme of the conference was Managerial Challenges for Black Economic Empowerment. She presented a paper titled: Skills Development and Education: The Path to Successful Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) in South Africa.

In her paper she argued that, despite the broad nature of the BEE charters, focus in implementation has been on ownership and control of companies, while other forms, such as skills development and education, are not receiving enough attention.

The paradox of two economies, namely the first economy, being the formal sector, and the second economy, being the informal

sector, formed the basis of the argument. The primary objective of the paper was to determine how the ordinary black South African could be empowered economically. This was investigated by studying the educational background of black managers from a sample of companies in Phuthaditjhaba, Qwaqwa. This was necessary so as to determine the extent to which formal education is a prerequisite for the managerial function.

The second level of the investigation involved studying the educational backgrounds and skills development of participants in the informal sector. The paper also recommended ways in which the government, parastatals, the private sector and individuals could assist ordinary black South Africans to become empowered economically.

Over 100 delegates from various universities in South Africa attended the conference.

## Mr Minnie embraced campus security

**M**r Francis Minnie who was employed as Supervisor in the Campus Protection Services Department on the Qwaqwa Campus passed away on 5 November 2005. He was known to be a good worker who diligently performed his tasks.

He compiled the vision and mission statement of Protection Services on the Qwaqwa Campus.

"Our mission as officers of Campus Security is to promote and facilitate and secure a learning and living environment.

"We embrace the concept of community based safety and security service within a university setting.

"Our primary focus includes crime and loss prevention, problem solving and service delivery.

"Campus Security working closely with the university community and other agencies is dedicated to maintain the UFS Qwaqwa Campus as a pleasant place to live, work and study. We are responsible for the security of people on campus and for the protection of university buildings, assets and grounds.

"Our officers are on duty 24 hours a day to respond to security needs and emergency situations. Uniformed officers patrol the



*The late Mr Francis Minnie.*

campus on foot and with a marked vehicle. They also provide information, directions, assistance and referrals to all members of the university community and visitors."

In addition to managing Protection Services Mr Minnie was also assigned as the supervisor for the postal, documentation, telephone and short term insurance services.

## Synopsis of therapy on campus



*Ms Pinky Rabotapi, Social Worker.*

*By Tu Keele*

"**P**revention is better than cure." This might come across as a cliché to many, but Ms Pinky Rabotapi, Social Worker on the Qwaqwa Campus, lives by this as her motto.

When the word "prevention" is mentioned, the thought of pregnancy and sexual viruses crosses one's mind. It is true: These are serious matters to be dealt with. Ms Rabotapi has an interesting view on this with a "let's talk about it" cure. She believes in a holistic manner of addressing problems, meaning not only focusing on high rates of failure, pregnancy, etc. but going back to the root of it all, which is family backgrounds.

She has done quite a lot in terms of therapeutic needs of students, financial difficulties, family sessions, job placements, projects, etc. since her arrival on campus. The list is endless. All this does not seem to be enough for this dynamic woman. Her dream is to develop a tradition where the campus community is engaged in group-therapy sessions, reaching the highest levels of trust among colleagues and students alike.

With her dedication and availability, it is clear that she regards her job as her born duty. Making a viable difference to someone else's life is what motivates her to wake up and go to work every morning. Ms Rabotapi's office door are open to all on campus.

Your help is only a block away. Go ahead and make that personal call.

# Fun walk relieved many of their stress



In spite of the 60% chance of rain that was anticipated on the day of the fun walk on the Qwaqwa Campus, staff members left their offices to participate. Both Qwaqwa News and Lesedi FM covered the event and the local traffic department assisted by controlling the traffic. The event was a huge success and all who participated were relieved from their stress.



Staff members gathering at the main entrance of the Qwaqwa Campus prepare for the fun walk (left). Right, Prof. Peter Mbatlali, Campus Principal and Mr Teboho Manchu, Deputy Director: Student Affairs lead by example in the fun walk on the Qwaqwa Campus.

## Editorial team

### Editor

Ms G J Dakile  
dakilegj@qwa.uovs.ac.za

### Associate Editor

Mr Z M Msimanga  
msimangazm@qwa.uovs.ac.za

### "Notice to contributors"

The editor has the right not to publish.

## Study-benefit application forms now available

"Study-benefit application forms for 2006 are now available at the Human Resources Office.

Submission dates are 10 January 2006 for first-year students," said Ms Mamokete Ratsoane, Assistant Director: Human Resources.

## Beautifying Qwaqwa Campus bears fruit

UVPERSU Qwaqwa recently donated gardening equipment to the Maintenance Section of the Qwaqwa Campus. The Qwaqwa staff wanted to show their appreciation for the initiative of the maintenance staff to beautify the campus gardens, said Mr André van Zyl, UVPERSU representative on the Qwaqwa

Campus. "UVPERSU noticed that the staff was enhancing the image of the campus without the proper equipment. It was therefore deemed an appropriate gesture to donate garden hose couplings and sprayers to the Gardening Section in order to maintain our gardens in their present state," Mr Van Zyl said.



UVPERSU donated gardening equipment to the Qwaqwa campus. From the left are Dr Hennie Claassen, Mr André van Zyl and Mr Joseph Dumisi from UVPERSU and Mr Eugene Malebo, Maintenance Manager, Qwaqwa Campus.