

NEWS

Sept. 2012



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

Port Elizabeth & George

WELCOME TO THE DSU

Welcome to our very first issue of the Disability Unit E-Newsletter. A bi-annual online publication aimed at informing the NMMU staff and students on disability matters.

We are excited about the introduction of this publication which we hope will further open up communication channels between the DU and all its stakeholders.

The DU is involved in many activities, including but not limited to promoting NMMU's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all students and staff with disabilities. This particular issue highlights some of the upcoming events by the DU as well as its collaborative activities.

The DSU collaborates with internal and external partners and relies on a multi-disciplinary approach to achieve the NMMU's disability objectives and legislative imperatives within the UN Convention, the SA Constitution and many other pieces of legislation.

The inspirational story about Paulina, who against all odds has excelled and made it to heights some may only dream of, among other inspiring stories!

Should you have any comments or input, articles, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Ruth Sauls
Manager: Disability
Services Unit

Casual Day– 7 September 2012 “Get on Board”



“Captains and sailors, with your crew, Wear a sticker or two, and something blue. Together we take to the high seas. In support of persons with disabilities”

Casual Day celebrates its eighteenth year of exciting activities in supporting persons with disabilities in South Africa. This year's theme is “Get on Board”, the question raised therefore is will we sink, or will we swim?.

The NMMU Disability Services Unit has lined up activities in support of Casual Day and is encouraging everyone to be part of this annual noble cause. Activities at South Campus, North Campus, 2nd Avenue Campus and Missionvale Campus include the selling of Casual Day stickers worth R10 each, staff and students can buy as many as they want.

In line with the “Get on Board” theme, there will be a “Best Dressed” competition on all Campuses, winners will walk away with grand prizes including shopping vouchers from the University Shop.

For more information on how to be part of this initiative, contact the DSU Office located in the Main Building, Ground Floor (Next to Cashiers), Room 0009, South Campus or call 041 504 4756.

DSU BRIEFS

Deputy Minister Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu Visit to NMMU

The Deputy Minister of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities visited the NMMU on the 6th June 2012. The purpose of the visit was to leave Institution with a sense of growth and understanding of disabled students.

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Grahamstown National Arts Festival

Mrs S. Pietersen and Ms Y. Zimba from the Disability Unit attended the launch of three books with real life stories on people with disabilities on the 3rd July 2012.

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DSU Strategic Teambuilding Session

The Unit went on a teambuilding session on the 20th July 2012, the Unit visited the Mangolds Pool Caravan Park to discuss strategies for the year.

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SARS On-Campus Presentation

The South African Revenue Services presented to students with disabilities about job opportunities available within their organisation and how to compile a Curriculum Vitae, the presentation took place on the 20th August 2012.

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National Arts Festival Book launch— REACHING MY DREAMS....



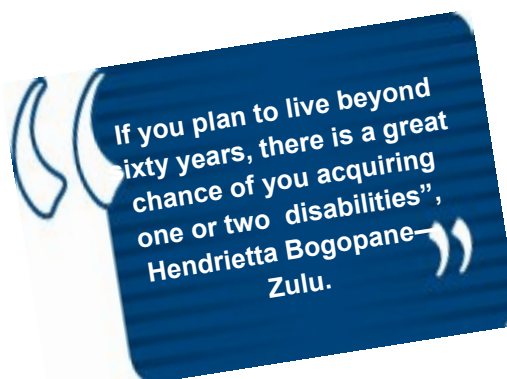
Deputy Minister for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, Hendrietta Bogopane—Zulu

Hendrietta Bogopane—Zulu the Deputy Minister of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities is one of the storytellers in the books launched at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival on the 3rd July 2012. Ms Bogopane—Zulu hails from Polokwane, she is also one of the many people in South Africa living with a visual impairment.

She tells her story in a book titled “Lifelines”, a collection of stories which aim to raise awareness around both what causes visual impairment as well as the numerous challenges faced by those with blindness and the many ways they found to overcome adversity.

Her story in part, goes.....

“My life has dealt me many blows. I am a strong person but sometimes it is impossible to mask the bruising inside of me. Telling my story has been my therapy, I feel a sense of relief and conciliation by facing my past and sharing my story. This is a short version, the fuller one I hope I will write one day”.



Paulina Tsolo, rising above the challenge...

Paulina Tsolo, was born and raised in Matatiele in Kwa - Zulu Natal. She was born prematurely and diagnosed with cerebral palsy right after birth.

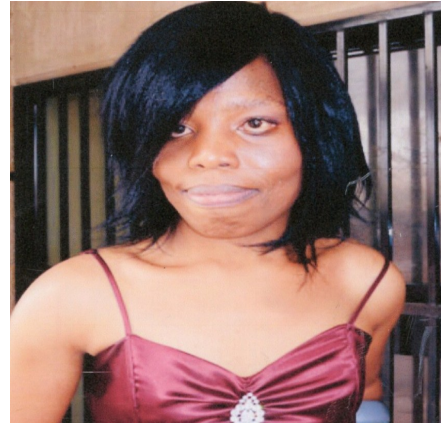
As a result, she is physically disabled, and uses crutches . As a child, Paulina could not attend school with other children in the local schools around her area because the schools did not accommodate persons with disabilities. She therefore had no choice but to attend special schools which were far from home.

Paulina recalls her most remarkable milestone in her life; being trained to use crutches and callipers, thereby allowing her to walk on her own as opposed to crawling or being on her mother's back. This made a big difference in her life, in that she could now go anywhere without her mother's assistance. She even started to make friends!

Against all odds, Paulina got her first Degree at Walter Sisulu University in 2011 (Bachelor of Social Sciences in Psychology.) This achievement made her realise that as long one does not let circumstances define who they are, there is no limit to what they can achieve!

Currently, Paulina is furthering her studies, at NMMU where she is registered for her BA Clinical Psychology programme. Furthermore, she is the Deputy Chairperson of Fusion Society.

Paulina enjoys Public speaking and she has had the opportunity to speak at the Cerebral Palsy Association Conference in 2011 and the Telematic Broadcast at the Stellenbosch University in August of this year.



Ms Paulina Tsolo: a BA Clinical Psychology Student at NMMU.

Note: - Fusion Society's vision is to bridge the gap between able body students and students with disabilities. To be the platform for students to voice out their needs, showcase their abilities; interact with other students and experience varsity life in a free and fair environment.

Disability Services Unit New Additions.....



Ms Siphwe Beauty Ramalwe

Social Work Intern

Currently studying towards her Degree in Social Work.



Ms Yammie Zimba

Public Relations & Marketing Intern

Currently studying towards her Masters Degree in Media Studies.

DISABILITY SERVICES UNIT EVENTS GALLERY



Wheelchair Tennis September 2011: Back left to right—DSU Volunteers, Diba the Mascot and DSU Coordinator Sheri-Ann Pietersen. Front—Champions: Adrian Hubbard and Marshall Marsh



Executive Challenge: DSU Manager Ms Ruth Sauls challenges & Psychology Lecturer Mrs Phumeza Kota-Nyati.



Executive Challenge:

Dean of Students Mr Khaya Matiso participated by sitting in a wheelchair for the day, with him is DSU Manager Ms Ruth Sauls & volunteers.



Hearing Loss Workshop – Conducted by Mr Faine du Toit (Front seat right) from NCPPDSA

DISABILITY SERVICES UNIT EVENTS GALLERY



Disability Awareness Opening Function 2011: (Back): Social Work Intern Noxolo Phongolo, Vice Chancellor: Professor D Swartz, Andrea Holmes & Executive Director HR: Dr Gary Paul (front) DVC Research & Engagement: Professor Thoko Mayekiso, DSU Coordinator: Sheri-Ann



FUSION Chairperson – Duncan Monks attended the EC Disability Sector Briefing .



EC Disability Sector Briefing : Left to right—SRC : Yanga Siblekwana, Dean of Students: Mr Khaya Matiso, Fusion: Xolani Sandlana, DSU Manager: Ruth Sauls, Duncan Monks and Duduzile Mhlongo.



Disability Awareness Opening Function 2011: Vice Chancellor Professor D. Swartz(Behind) and Student FUSION Society member Sakhekile Zweni



Blind Cricket exhibit 2011: Jason Bowen (UK blind cricket coach), Khanyisa school for the blind cricket team, NMMU cricket, DSU staff and Volunteers.



DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH CALENDAR– EVENTS**Disability Awareness Month
September 2012**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				30 Diversity Month Exams Office: Special Exams	31 Diversity Month Nature Walk	1  Awareness Month Kicks-off
2 	03 ABLE (Casual Day Mascot) will be selling casual day stickers— All campuses	04 Disability Unit Online Publication Launch	05 Oppidani Movie Day Movie Night for Residences	06 	07 CASUAL DAY Fashion shows at all campus cafeterias during lunch hour	8
9 	10 Nkosinathi Foundation —Lunch time Presenta- tion South Campus	11 Cheque Hand Over To Association for the Physically Disabled.	12 EC Disability Sector briefing II Movie Night for Resi- dence	13	14 Cerebral Palsy Associa- tion Workshop— Lunchtime, North & South Campus	15
16 	17 HEDSA SYMPOSIUM- Pretoria	18 Nkosinathi Foundation —Lunch time presen- tation North Campus	19 Disability Etiquette By SCCDC-South Campus Movie Nights for Residences	20 Disability Etiquette By SCCDC-North Cam- pus	21 Disability Etiquette By SCCDC— Missionvale Campus	22
23 	24 	25 Disability Etiquette By SCCDC-2nd Ave Campus Nkosinathi Foundation Lunch time presentation Missionvale Campus	26 Movie Night for Residences	27	28 Cerebral Palsy Associa- tion Workshop— Missionvale Campus	29

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Administrative Assistant

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