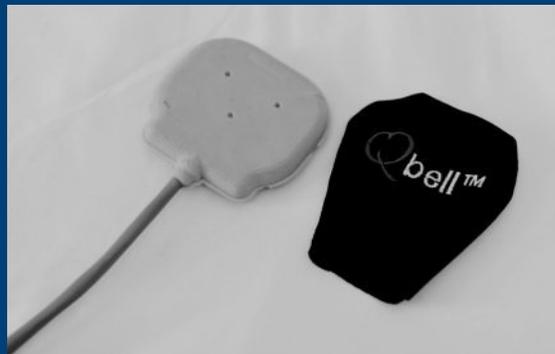
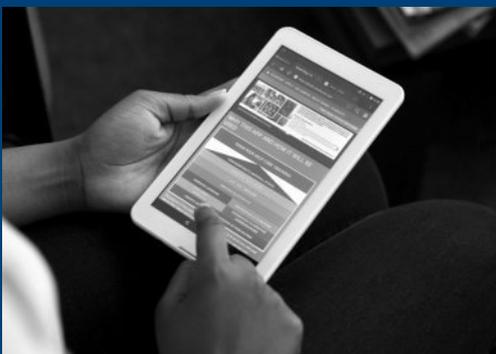
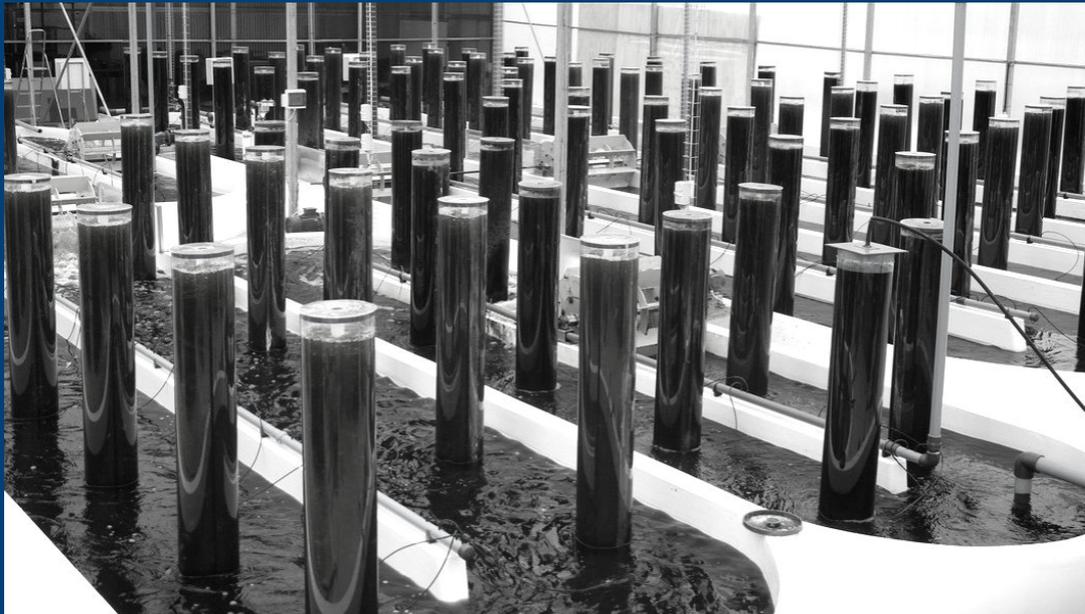


Innovation Office NEWS

Summer 2016/17

Issue 6



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A tribute to Mary-Ann Chetty

Mary-Ann Chetty, Senior Innovation Manager in the Innovation Office, a valued colleague and dear friend, passed away on 7 October 2016 after a short illness.



Mary-Ann Chetty joined the NMMU in 2011 and made a tremendous contribution to the work of the Innovation Office. She was completely committed to making research make a difference to society and took personal responsibility for many projects, guiding them towards commercialisation. She took on extra projects too, focusing on issues about which she was passionate, such as her “Girls for STEM” project, which introduced science subjects to Grade 9 girls, and the “Giant Flag” project, which is trying to combat unemployment in a Karoo town.

Beyond NMMU, Mary-Ann worked with, and in, the national and international innovation community. In just a few short years, she made friends all over the country and the world. People knew she could be counted on to drive projects competently and efficiently, and she was always willing to pass on her knowledge and experience. She visited a number of countries to learn and to teach: from Namibia to Sweden, from the United States to Scotland. In 2015, Mary-Ann became a Mandela-Washington Fellow under the Young African Leadership Academy and spent six weeks in the United States with fellows from all over the continent. She also had the opportunity to meet President Obama, which was a highlight of the trip and her life. She shared the joy of that experience and she clearly made a deep and lasting impression on both her hosts and the fellows.

We will miss Mary-Ann terribly. Her skills, passion and enthusiasm will be impossible to replace. We offer our condolences to her family, in particular, but also to her family and friends all over the globe.



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The first 10 years of the Innovation Office: from zero to...

734

Research contracts supported

145

Disclosures

26

IP transactions

R 2 million

Commercialisation income



35

Provisional patent applications filed

17

PCT applications filed

52

National phase applications granted

14

New companies formed

115

Employees in new companies

Directors Note

2016 was a difficult year for most people and the Innovation Office was no exception. Mary-Ann's illness and passing was a huge blow, and the protests and and closures of many universities, including NMMU, in the last few months of 2016 were also very difficult.



However, when compiling this newsletter and looking at our activities over the past year, it reminded us that we also had some great successes and achievements. The DST-SARIMA Excellence Award was a highlight, particularly because it recognised our work done to establish our incubator, Propella. Propella has gone from strength to strength in its first year and has really made a difference to the innovation ecosystem in the city.

We also made strides towards commercialisation of some of our projects and signed a number of license agreements with spin off and start up companies. We exited a number of projects as well, which allowed us to focus on some new and exciting initiatives in areas from drug manufacturing to the circular economy.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the projects and activities we do as much as we enjoyed reflecting on them. We always remember that none of this is possible without our researchers, partners, funders and stakeholders – thank you for your continued support!

Jaci

Innovation Office receives excellence award at SARIMA conference



Receiving the award from **Mmboneni Muofhe** (second from left) and **Dr Jose Jackson-Malete** (SARIMA President - third from left) are **Mary-Ann Chetty**, **Jaci Barnett**, **Naazlene Patel** and **Fredrick Matongo** (currently Technology Transfer Manager at University of Fort Hare but part of NMMU's Innovation Office in 2015).

The Innovation Office won the Department of Science and Technology (DST) - Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA) Award for Organisational Excellence in Innovation Management at the SARIMA Conference gala dinner held in May 2016.

Presented by the Deputy Director General of DST, Mmboneni Muofhe, the award recognises an Innovation Management Office in Southern Africa that has made a significant contribution within and beyond their institution. NMMU's Innovation Office won the award for their excellent work in a number of areas including the launch of Propella, NMMU's Innovation Incubator.

Projects update

The Innovation Office assists researchers with projects across the research and innovation chain – from finding funding to negotiating contracts to commercialisation. We acknowledge the funding support of the Technology Innovation Agency, in particular its Seed Fund Programme. In addition, the support of the National Intellectual Property Management Office for patent costs is gratefully appreciated.

NMMU technology heads to space



Prof Farouk Smith.

Prof Farouk Smith's patented Advanced Circuit Designs can assist in mitigating the effects of radiation on satellite electronics – and will be tested in space early in 2017.

During 2016, Prof Smith and his student tested a five-design setup in a vacuum chamber. The results showed that the designs were effective in mitigating the effects of radiation and were presented at the Radiation Effects on Components and Systems Conference in Germany in September 2016.

With the assistance of the Innovation Office, Prof Smith struck up a research collaboration with SCS Space (Space Commercial Systems), who will test the designs in a satellite to be launched in early 2017. Funding from TIA's Seed Fund was secured to make this development possible.

PVinsight receives accreditation

PVinsight was established to undertake photovoltaic (PV) module testing to European standards. This service is sorely needed as older PV plants start aging and more PV plants come on line. The laboratory is the only one of its kind in the country and has recently received ISO17025 accreditation from SANAS, with assistance from TIA's Seed Fund. An industry partner has recently agreed to create a joint venture company to commercialise the services which will allow the researchers, Prof Ernest van Dyk and Dr Freddie Vorster, to focus on developing other value-added services. These include on-site measurements and the use of drone technology for image analysis of PV modules.

Shawl most beautiful object in SA

A shawl designed by Laduma Ngxokolo, founder and designer of MaXhosa by Laduma, received the title of Most Beautiful Object in South Africa. The Innovation Office is proud to have been involved with Laduma's company since inception, from filing design registrations to assisting him with manufacturing contracts. Laduma's company was the first incubatee in the fledgling arts incubator which has now become the creative industries satellite of NMMU's technology and business incubator, Propella.



Laduma Ngxokolo wearing the shawl which was crowned Most Beautiful Object in South Africa.

Storing the sun's energy

Hot Rock™ is a system that allows solar energy to be stored for later conversion to electricity at a 1 to 5 kW scale.

Prof Russell Phillips and his Masters student, Tisaye Kalua, have continued to develop their small-scale off-grid renewable energy storage and generation system with funding from TIA Seed Fund. The system is now financially viable for domestic use as improvements to the prototype allow more energy to be captured within the rock bed. This ensures that sufficient power can be produced by the heat engine.

In 2017, Prof Phillips will focus on optimizing and integrating the systems while the Innovation Office focuses on finding a suitable partner to develop and commercialise the technology.



Masters student Tisaye Kalua with the Solar Heat Engine.

QBell receives SAB foundation innovation award



Heinrich Williams during the interview process for the SAB Foundation Social Innovation Awards. The interview can be viewed on the NMMU Innovation Office YouTube Channel.

Heinrich Williams, owner of start up company QSystems, was one of 19 finalists from 600 entries to receive R150 000 seed funding from the SAB Foundation Social Innovation Awards in October. The award was for his QBell – a nurse call device for use by people with limited or no hand function. As part of the award, he will also receive technical assistance and mentorship from a TIA-funded Technology Station and industry professionals.

Heinrich has been working closely with eNtsa, an NMMU Engineering Institute, and the Innovation Office to develop products for disabled people.



The QBell™, a simple press device, is much easier to use than a regular hospital call button.

The QPark (right) in use at Propella where Heinrich is located as part of their Incubation programme.



Five hundred QBell devices are currently being manufactured for market testing, and eNtsa has undertaken development of QBell so that the device can be used in frail care homes that do not have hospital infrastructure. Heinrich's other product, QPark, is an access control system for disabled parking bays. This was developed as a TIA Seed Fund project and a prototype was successfully installed at Propella, where Heinrich is based. A large amount of interest has been shown in this technology and Heinrich has brought a partner on board who can develop a commercial product and assist him in taking this to the market.

Mantacor starting operations in 2017

eNtsa, an NMMU Engineering Institute, has seen an increased demand for sample and repair services on plants using WeldCore®, the innovative welding and repair procedure developed by NMMU and Eskom. WeldCore® was successfully utilised at Sasol in 2016, doubling the work done in 2015.

The technology is now ready to become fully commercial, leaving eNtsa to develop new techniques such as through-hole repair on thin-walled structures. Mantacor will pursue commercial opportunities locally and abroad with a package of related technologies, including WeldCore®. "We want to keep developing the value chain all the way for the client so that eventually we can give them a full integrated package" said Donnie Erasmus, Deputy Director of eNtsa, who will join Mantacor in early 2017.

Both Eskom and TIA made significant contributions to funding of the technology development over many years. This has finally come to fruition and the Innovation Office, eNtsa and two entrepreneurs have agreed on a structure and way forward for commercialisation of this exciting technology.

Cosmetics created from olive waste

It has been a busy year for the innovators behind the use of olive waste extracts for cosmetics, Dr Nicole Vorster, and her PhD student, Marthie Postma-Botha. After receiving a TIA Seed Fund grant, Dr Vorster started extracting bioactive compounds from pomace, the semisolid waste of olives. The "waste" includes various antioxidants, as well as Vitamin E, and can be used in cosmetic products such as body lotions, body butters, creams and gels. She focused on optimising the extraction method for the desired bioactive compounds.

After attending the tSparx business course in April run by the Innovation Office, she was selected to attend the second round of the Swiss South Africa Joint Research Program's Venture Leader's entrepreneur workshop in Johannesburg.

She was then selected for the final round which included a five day training program in Switzerland for South African and Swiss entrepreneurs. Dr Vorster also entered the Gauteng Accelerator Programme (GAP) Biosciences Business Competition, where she, along with Marthie, were awarded a GAP BioSciences Technology 2016 Special Recognition Award.

In 2017, Dr Vorster and the Innovation Office will focus on developing prototypes for market testing and finding a commercial partner.

A sample cosmetic product (right) containing the olive waste extract.



PhD student, Marthie Postma-Botha (left), and Dr Nicole Vorster at the GAP awards dinner.

Algae project to venture down new avenues

The Microalgae to Energy project focuses on the cultivation of microalgae for the beneficiation of coal fines and further processing to value-added products.

The micro-demonstration algae production plant built in 2015 at InnoVenton, NMMU's Institute for Chemical Technology, met production targets in 2016. This allowed InnoVenton to send Coalgae® - a coal fines/algae solid fuel – for burn tests in Eskom's pulverized combustors. In addition, 25 litres of bio-crude oil was produced by pyrolysis of Coalgae® and sent for analysis in the United Kingdom. The oil shows promise as a feedstock for the production of diesel and kerosene.



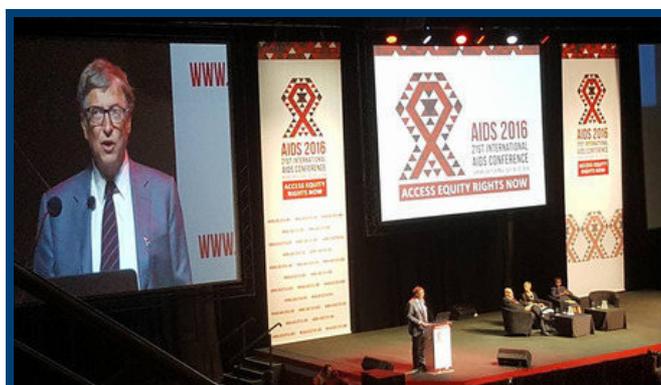
The micro-demonstration plant located at InnoVenton which was built in 2015.

The project still has techno-economic feasibility challenges due to a significant drop in the coal price, which is a competing product for Coalgae®. In addition, the scale required to make Coalgae® production viable is huge. In 2017, InnoVenton will therefore focus on broadening the range of value-added products, such as nutraceuticals, a low smoke fuel and an algae soil conditioner. The Department of Science and Technology and TIA's Seed Fund programme have provided significant funding for these developments. The patent suite is also very significant, and many patents have already been granted internationally – the support from NIPMO for this is gratefully acknowledged.

New processes for AIDS drugs

The Innovation Office is working closely with NMMU SARChI Research Chair, Prof Paul Watts, on the development of flow chemistry processes for the manufacture of APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) for HIV drugs. NMMU has two patents in this field, and discussions regarding further development have started.

In order to meet leading researchers in the field and connect with potential commercial partners, Mary-Ann Chetty, Senior Innovation Manager, attended the 21st International Aids Conference in July in Durban. The Conference was attended by 18,000 delegates and covered all aspects of HIV research from early studies looking at mechanisms for a cure to real world practice for ensuring human rights are respected for the 35 million people living with HIV globally.



Mr Bill Gates during the 2016 AIDS conference.

Innovation Office initiatives

The Innovation Office gets involved in a number of initiatives during each year. We are constantly searching for ways to ensure innovation remains in the limelight at NMMU.

tSparx ignites creative minds



Acting as judges and facilitators at tSparx were (from left to right) **Wayne Oosthuizen** (Propella), **Naazlene** (Innovation Office), **Karen Eksteen** (TIA), **Jaci** (Innovation Office) and **Barry Wiseman** (Engeli Enterprise Development).

Students and entrepreneurs from the Eastern Cape had the opportunity to develop their business ideas through tSparx, a technology entrepreneurship training course that is funded by the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and was hosted by the NMMU, Rhodes University and the Propella Business Incubator in April.

The course provided participants with the tools to develop a business case and inspired their entrepreneurial journey through lectures, case studies, visits and presentations by entrepreneurs.

“It’s a tough week for the participants, but it really gives them a sense of what it takes to be an entrepreneur – the hard times and the benefits”, said Jaci Barnett.

At the end of the week, participants were assessed by a panel of judges and given feedback on how to improve their business concepts. Participants had the opportunity to apply for the next level of the programme in Gauteng and then to attend a sponsored workshop in Switzerland. One of the tSparx participants made it through to this final round (see story on Olive Waste on page 7 in this newsletter).

“I am so proud to see the growth in the candidates that attended this year’s programme and grateful to our partners in the Eastern Cape for their support”, said Karen Eksteen, Innovation Skills Development Manager of TIA.

Giant flag construction set to start

A giant South African flag is set to be constructed on the outskirts of Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape in 2017. The flag will be represented by plants, roads and a solar array, making the 66-hectare flag water and electricity independent.

During 2016, the focus was on the establishment of operations and this year the Giant Flag Trust aims to build a public park, with a smaller flag using the same materials as the Giant Flag. NMMU, through its researchers, the Innovation Office and the Propella Business Incubator, continues to support the project as it develops.



Once constructed, the Giant Flag will be visible from space.

Office hosts international consortium to exchange best practices



EMISHA consortium members visiting the Kragga Kamma Game Reserve whilst exploring Nelson Mandela Bay.

The Innovation Office hosted the final South African workshop of the Entrepreneurship, Modernization and Innovation in South Africa (EMISHA) collaboration at Propella Business Incubator in November. EMISHA is a two-year project funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ Programme involving an international consortium of South African and European universities.

The aim of the workshop was to exchange knowledge and experience on the most effective technology transfer and innovation support practices. Delegates included representatives from the universities of Uppsala (Sweden), Valladolid (Spain), Fort Hare, Free State, Western Cape, Zululand and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. The event was also an opportunity to showcase the unique dynamic that the NMMU, Propella Business Incubator and the Regional Innovation Forum relationships bring to the region in the quest to develop innovative research into sustainable entrepreneurial action.

Consortium members are currently developing a follow-on project aimed at increasing student exposure to entrepreneurial activities.

Girls for STEM



The girls attended a business women's luncheon with some of Port Elizabeth's leading women in STEM in August as part of the pilot programme.

The Girls for STEM Pilot Programme was the brainchild of NMMU Senior Innovation Manager Mary-Ann Chetty who, in partnership with Propella Business Incubator, received a 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship Social Impact Grant from the United States Embassy and Charities Aid Foundation Southern Africa.

"The programme was designed for girls to realise their strengths and preferences with regard to STEM subjects. We wanted them to make informed decisions about the subjects they should take in the last three years of school. We aimed to inspire and empower them through the programme to work towards their career goals," said Mary-Ann.

The project comprised a programme of workshops, coding lessons, and "Aspire to STEM" talks all delivered by leading local women in STEM fields. There were also field trips to Jeffreys Bay Wind Farm and Crossways Farm Village to observe how STEM skills are practised, all in an effort to empower the girls to take up STEM studies and ultimately careers.

"Girls need the appropriate stimulation to expose them to different career opportunities in order to start envisioning themselves in the scientific and technical careers as adult professionals", said Ellen Fischat, Business Support Manager at Propella Business Incubator.

NMMU highlights EU research and innovation opportunities

NMMU academics, as well as researchers and innovators from across the region had the opportunity to receive valuable insight into the European Union's main research and innovation funding instrument, Horizon 2020, in an information session presented by the Department of Science and Technology in April.

The aim of the session was to provide information to researchers and innovators on calls in key thematic areas, as well as how to join research consortia with EU partners. The session was organised by the Innovation Office, as Director Jaci Barnett is NMMU's LEAR (Legal Entity Appointed Representative) for Horizon 2020 calls. The Office has also appointed a dedicated person, Leoné Nowell, to assist researchers to respond to calls.

"Many researchers, including our EU counterparts, are unaware that South Africa is eligible to apply for Horizon 2020 funding," said Jaci. "Projects need to be in collaboration with



Attending the information session were: (from left to right) **Toto Matshediso** (Deputy Director of Strategic Partnerships, DST), **Leoné Nowell** (International Funding Project Manager, Innovation Office), **Bheki Hadebe** (DST) and **Jaci** (Director, Innovation Office).

EU partners but we need to get the message out that SA researchers are eligible for funding."

Themes specific to some of NMMU's main research areas were discussed including biotechnology, food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime, climate action, energy, and ICT. The session provided a comprehensive overview of current and forthcoming Horizon 2020 opportunities, as well as the national support mechanisms in place.

NMMU acknowledges innovators at awards function

NMMU acknowledged the outstanding achievements of the university's top academics in research, innovation, engagement, the creative and performing arts, and teaching at the prestigious Research, Teaching and Engagement Awards in September 2016. The Innovation Office manages the process for the Innovation Awards and is proud to be associated with such worthy award winners.



Dr Frederick Vorster (left) and **Prof Ernest van Dyk** (center) accepting the Innovation Excellence Award from **Prof Denise Zinn**, DVC: Teaching and Learning.

Senior physics lecturer Prof Ernest Van Dyk and his team scooped the Innovation Excellence Award for their innovative work over many years in the photovoltaics field.

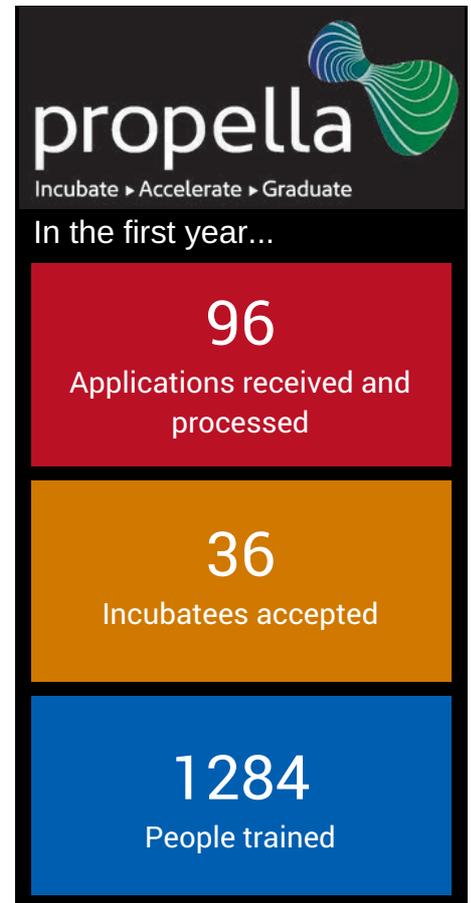


Akshay Lakhani accepting the Innovation Excellence Project Award from **Prof Andrew Leitch**, DVC: Research & Engagement.

Senior Systems and Controls engineer at eNtsa, Akshay Lakhani was awarded the Innovation Excellence Project Award for a system for managing disabled parking bays.

Propella Business Incubator

Propella, a technology and business incubator and accelerator, was launched in June 2015. With premises in South End, it was established by Innovolve, the wholly-owned commercialisation company of NMMU in partnership with Engeli Enterprise Development, a private sector business support company. Engeli and Innovolve joined forces after a need was identified for an incubator to support and stimulate technology-based innovation companies in Nelson Mandela Bay. A creative industries satellite incubator was also established at NMMU's Bird Street campus. Propella's objective is to support and grow local manufacturing businesses resulting from research and development being conducted at NMMU. Sectors include renewable energy generation, energy efficiency and related technologies, advanced manufacturing, creative arts and textiles. Businesses accepted into Propella are offered office and factory space and business support services. Propella can accommodate technology startup businesses on its premises and will also expose interested individuals to training, preincubation, hackathons, and other entrepreneurial initiatives.



Propella launches Telkom FutureMakers hub

*Cutting the ribbon at the launch were (from left to right): Telkom Chief of Staff, **Ian Russell**; Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Executive Mayor, **Danny Jordaan**, and NMMU Vice Chancellor, **Prof Derrick Swartz**.*



Innovative entrepreneurs working out of Propella Business Incubator are now able to connect to the rest of the world through a dedicated 100MB fibre link, the fastest business data line in the Eastern Cape, with the launch of the Telkom FutureMakers Hub in May 2016.

“The heart of the FutureMakers mission is to enable, empower and inspire entrepreneurs, particularly within technology, by providing ongoing support and coaching, in order to grow young, small businesses into big businesses,” said Ian Russell, Telkom’s chief administration officer. “By supporting innovation throughout the technology sector, we can create jobs, improve digital access and develop a stable and competitive supply chain,” he added.

“This fibre link will enable local tech entrepreneurs working on app development to have adequate connectivity and capacity. In addition, our advanced manufacturing enterprises will be able to share engineering files and collaborate with other entrepreneurs around the world,” said Wayne Oosthuizen, managing director of Engeli.

“Having the Propella Futuremakers Hub will help keep our highly sought after computer science and information systems graduates in the metro,” says Jaci Barnett, Chief Executive Officer of Innovolve and Chair of the Propella Board. “It is important that we retain the skills in order to grow the economy of our city in order to create sustainable jobs,” she added.

Outreach

The Innovation Office is involved in awareness raising, building capacity and developing links regionally, nationally and internationally each year. We believe this is part of our mandate and NMMU gets as much back from these activities as we put in - in terms of friendships, connections and access to global networks.

NMMU celebrates world IP day



Dirk van Dyk addressing Arts students.

Naazlene (left) thanking Dirk for the IP talks and consultation sessions held at NMMU.



In celebration of World Intellectual Property Day, the Innovation Office held two IP talks to raise IP awareness. The talks were presented by Dirk van Dyk of Von Seidels Patent Attorneys to NMMU Arts and Computing Sciences students. In addition, consultation hours were made available throughout the day to allow researchers to have one-on-one discussions with Dirk.

World IP Day is an initiative of the World Intellectual Property Organisation aimed at highlighting the role that IP rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity. This year's theme was "Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined" and explored the future of culture in the digital age: how one creates it, how one accesses it and how one finances it.

Innovation Office hosts TTO training



The participants and facilitators of the TTO training outside the NMMU's tribute to late President Nelson Mandela.

The Innovation Office hosted technology transfer professionals from the University of Fort Hare, University of Limpopo, University of the Western Cape, Rhodes University, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Botswana Institute for Technology Research and Innovation, and the National Intellectual Property Management Office, for technology transfer administration training in May.

The one-week training programme included lectures and visits to expose the participants to key aspects of technology transfer.

Creating value for tomorrow disclosure campaign

The creating value for tomorrow campaign took place from 15 June to 31 August and was targeted at academics and students at NMMU. During the campaign, fourteen disclosures were received, of which, five were awarded funding to take their ideas further.

The campaign also served to inform the NMMU community of the name change from "Innovation Support and Technology Transfer" to "Innovation Office".

International Travels in technology transfer

The Innovation Office participates in a number of initiatives and activities internationally to build capacity and promote the technology transfer profession.

Presenting on South Africa at AUTM Asia



Innovation Office Director Jaci Barnett was invited to present at AUTM Asia in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March 2016. She presented on South Africa's IPR Act as well as on the challenges of setting up a TTO in a developing country. A highlight of the conference was being sung to by a hall of technology transfer professionals as she celebrated her birthday on the same day as her plenary presentation!

Jaci (left) at an Elephant Sanctuary in Thailand.

ITT exchange programme provides valuable insight

Naazlene Patel visited the Technology Transfer Office – Hothouse - at the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) in Ireland as part of the DST and SARIMA international exchange programme for technology transfer professionals from 22 August to 2 September.

The objectives of the programme are to strengthen technology transfer capacity within South Africa by exposure to international technology transfer environments and to foster partnerships and collaboration between these international institutions and SA.

Naazlene was one of five professionals to be awarded the opportunity to spend two weeks at an office abroad to learn from the staff and share best practices. She also visited four other technology transfer offices who are part of the Dublin Region Innovation Consortium. Naazlene met Dr Alison Campbell, Director of Knowledge Transfer Ireland, to discuss the differences in the two systems, and also visited the recently built Hothouse Business Incubator. She came back from the programme with ideas for more effective operations and functions as a technology transfer office.

Tom Flanagan, Director of Hothouse, visited South Africa shortly after Naazlene's visit to Ireland, to present at three Regional Technology Transfer Forums organised by NMMU and SARIMA. The Forums, in Port Elizabeth, Durban and Bloemfontein, are part of a DST project to strengthen technology transfer capability, and were very successful. Participants who attended said that it was very useful to share experiences with Tom as well as with other participants from the region.

Naazlene attends AUTM conference



Naazlene (left) receiving her award from AUTM President Fred Reinhart.

In February 2016, Naazlene Patel attended the Annual Meeting of the Association of Technology Managers (AUTM) in San Diego, California after being awarded an AUTM Developing Economies Scholarship. AUTM's annual meeting attracts delegates from across the world and covers various topics in technology transfer, as well as providing a great networking opportunity. Naazlene found the conference stimulating as well as comforting as it showed that technology transfer offices around the globe experience similar problems. She was able to network with a range of people in the profession.

Innovation Office staff



Back, from left to right: **Jaci Barnett** (Director), **Yolanda Myoli** (PR & Marketing Intern), **Elzaan le Roux** (PR & Marketing Administrator), **Elsa van Wyk** (Office Administrator), **Leoné Nowell** (International Funding Project Manager).
Front: **Naazlene Patel** (Innovation Officer), **Melanie Leitch** (Contracts Lawyer).

Staff Appointments



Yolanda Myoli was appointed as the Innovation Office's Public Relations and Marketing Intern in January 2017 to complete her in-service training for her diploma in Public Relations Management.

Staff Farewells



Nontando Saki left the Innovation Office in February 2016 to accept an appointment as an accountant for Philasiphile Contractors (Pty) Ltd. She joined the Innovation Office in 2013 to assist with the WIPO Summer School and was later appointed as the financial administrator for Innovolve.