

## New campus for IT Centre

### MARKETING

It was with mixed feelings that learners and staff members of the different centers of Waterberg FET College moved to EMPC (Educational Multi Purpose Centre) in Mahwelereng on 15 January 2007.

On short notice staff members were informed that some of the new DoE courses and Skills courses will move to EMPC.

Hewlett Packard entered into a 3 year contract with EMPC to run the Presidential Community Project called i-community. Their contract expired and Waterberg FET College engaged into negotiations to take over the i-community project.

On a special Council meeting, Council gave permission to utilize

this space as a result of the vast increase in our learner registrations and in-adequate space for the learners.

On 22 January 2007 staff members started with classes at EMPC. Everything was not yet in place, so staff had to run around to get everything in place.

At this stage, staff are expected to move between the EMPC Centre in Mahwelereng and the IT and Computer Science Centre in Mokopane, which not only puts a strain on them, but it also inconveniences the learners who have to wait for lecturers who, most of the time are late due to traffic or unforeseen circumstances.

Council and Management took all this in consideration an a

decision was taken that the IT and Computer Science Centre in Simmentaler Street in Mokopane will be moving to the newly acquired EMPC building and learners will officially start classes at this site on 12 February 2007.

A letter was issued to all parents, learners and staff regarding the decision to move the centre. At this stage the IT and Computer Science Centre in Simmentaler street is a rental building and this contribute to the decision to move.



## Classes officially started at EMPC

### MARKETING

Classes at the IT and Computer Science Centre of Waterberg FET College officially started on Monday, 12 February 2007. The IT and Computer Science Center (previously known as the Mokopane campus) moved to the newly acquired EMPC building in Mahwelereng on 8 and 9 February 2007 due to the vast increase in learner registrations.

Mr SP Mailula, CEO of Waterberg FET College, welcomed Mr Nyatlo (EMPC Manager), learners and staff members at the new centre. The CEO emphasized that the learners are indeed a lucky group. Lucky in the sense that the IT and Computer Science Centre at EMPC is a very well equipped centre with various educational classrooms. The centre also consists of different practical rooms that can be used by the learners: a Business Hub/Simulation Room, a Call Centre, an Open Source Centre and an Agriculture Project (where herbs are planted for medicine use).

Learners are also lucky that they are the first group of Waterberg FET College to receive the new DoE curriculum (National Certificate Vocational). A curriculum that the President of the country has shown interest in, to an extend that funds were allocated by National Treasury to equip and upgrade infrastructure at FET Colleges. The new DoE courses will make sure learners are better positioned to be skilled in the areas of skills shortage identified by ASGISA and JIPSA.

Mr Mailula also informed learners that the Presidential i-Community Project is part of EMPC and that Waterberg FET College will co-run this project. He said that luck however goes with challenges and responsibility. The major challenge is that they are a Presidential group and therefore they cannot afford to disappoint him. The second challenge is the one related to i-community, i.e. everything they will be learning in this centre has to be learned the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) way.



*Block F of the It and Computer Science Centre that are occupied by Waterberg FET College and i-Community*

### Classes officially started at EMPC CONTINUE

The CEO further assured learners that management and staff is ready to give them all the support they deserve and hope that learners will live the expectation. Lastly, he wished everybody a pleasant stay at Waterberg FET College.

The IT and Computer Science Centre Manager, Ms S Tayob, also addressed learners and introduced them to the staff members at the Centre.



*Learners during the official start of classes at the new IT Centre.*

# Message from the Central LRC Chairperson

CEO, Campus manager, Learner support officers, fellow students:

We would like to give a special thanks to you all who made us who we are and trusting us for representing students as leaders. Even though it has been a challenging semester as we experienced many challenges. And also to thank WATERBERG FET College for taking all class reps for leadership training at Schoemansdal to be future leaders.

Let's not forget our parents and lecturers for taking part in securing our bright future that lies ahead of us, by giving a chance to prove ourselves. We all know that WATERBERG FET College has been producing good marks compared to other FET'S. And I would also encourage other students to enroll at our college. Lecturers have to be given credit for doing a great job, for giving us lots of work to do.

To all students let us engage ourselves in our work to achieve our goals, and to all students, say what you mean and stay close to your fellow students, because they are the ones who made us who we are today let us not forget that when the door of opportunity closes, another door opens. Usually we tend to look at the closed door and not see the one that is opened for us.

Let us all grab chances that our lectures provide us with. Be the master of your goal. We all have dreams, but not all of us get the chance to achieve objectives. Action is the key to conquering doubt and turns dreams into reality, here at WATERBERG FET opportunity is what we have and opportunity is within our reach. Students, let us make our lectures and parents proud. Let's live like candles which burns it self and give light to others. With all this words I would like to wish you all the best for the future. May God bless you all.

**Andrew Gwebu**  
Central LRC Chairperson

# FET College Financial Aid Scheme (NASFAS)

The Department of Education realized that financial aid is critical to access at FET colleges. FET colleges are the nucleus of skills development in South-Africa and are directly linked to the country of its economic growth targets.

In October 2006 the minister of Finance announced the allocation of R600 million for the FET Colleges Financial Aid Scheme over the next three years. Waterberg FET College were allocated a sum of R750 000.

Conditions for awarding of bursaries are:

- Students must be enrolled for the NCV programmes
- Academic achievement
- Allocation of bursaries should be based on the administration of the Means Test and evidence thereof should be provided.

Waterberg FET College immediately started advertising the bursaries to our new learners, and below is the result of the applications:

Total of applicants:	120
Total no of successful applicants:	119
Total no of unsuccessful applicants:	1

Amount allocated to College:	R750000
Amount allocated for bursaries:	R596 078
Variance:	R153 922

The management has preliminary approved the 119 applications and hope that these students will be very responsible in their attitude towards their studies!

## Implementation of NCV Programmes

### CURRICULUM

In January 2007, 7 new DoE programmes were introduced at the differeng centres of Waterberg FET College.

### IT & COMPUTER SCIENCE CENTRE

iT and C omputer Science - 14, Primary Agriculture - 21, Tourism - 25, Hospitality - 39

### BUSINESS STUDIES CENTRE

Office Administration - 16 , Finance, Economics and Accounting - 16

### ENGINEERING AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

Engineering and Related Design (Automotive Repair) - 31, Office Administration - 31.

Learners have to take four vocational subjects in the programme they choose as well as three fundamental subjects like Life Orientation, Language and a choice between Maths and Maths Literacy. So every learner will have 7 subjects for a whole year. Engineering and IT learners must take Maths if they want to proceed to Higher Education.

These programmes were developed to fill the skills gap in the labour market.

These programmes start at level 2 and continue to level 4. Learners that finish these programmes can apply for a job, continue to Higher Education or start own businesses. The entry level for these programmes is passed grade 9, or ABET Level 4. These programmes emphasize the practical experience of learners. Learners have to compile a (PoE) Portfolio of Evidence with all the assessments and projects that they have done during the year. These PoE's will be moderated by Umalusi (Quality Assurance Body, and learners will also write an external exam in

## COLLEGE FEES FOR 2007

### NATED AND SKILLS PROGRAMMES

	N2-N3 Engineering	Intro -N6	NSS/NSC	Tourism	P/T Computer Practice	Clothing Production	ECD	Grade 12
Cost	R1,300	R1,900	R2,800	R2,500	R700	R4,000	R5,600	R1,130
Total Payable at Registration	R800	R900	R1,200	R1,200	R400	R1,200	R1,200	R430

### NATIONAL CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL

	Information Technology	Tourism	Primary Agriculture	Hospitality	Office Administration	Finance, Economics & Accounting	Engineering and Related Design
Cost as per DoE	R3,262	R2,823	R7,014	R4,556	R2,166	R2,030	R5,209
Total Payable at Registration	R1,000	R800	R3,800	R1,100	R900	R900	R2,400

### HOSTEL FEES

	Trimester	Semester	Year
Hostel fees	R1,550	R2,300	R4,600
Deposit	R500	R1000	R1600
Monthly	R350	R325	R300



# Grade 12 results under TOP 40



The Centre Manager of the Engineering and Skills Training Centre, Mr TS Senong with the trophy awarded to the College.

## Road Supervision Learnership started at College

### CURRICULUM

The Road Transport Supervision Learnership, NQF level 4, kicked off at the IT and Computer Science Centre on 1 March 2007.

The learners will attend 5 months of training sessions and thereafter seven months practical at their respective stations.

This Learnership from the Department of Roads and Transport is aimed at ensuring career paths for the Traffic Management in the Department of who were appointed previously with STD 6 and 8 certificates, which was a requirement at that time.

This requirement has change to Grade 12 certificate and the Department realized that these Traffic Officials needed to be taken on board in order to have their education qualification elevated to be in par with the new entry requirements.

The Department of Roads and Transport requested various presentations from FET Colleges and as such Waterberg FET College was appointed.

The induction programme for this Learnership took place on 6 March 2007 at 10:00 in the EMPC hall. Various stakeholders like the General Manager of the Department of Education, Ms Sekgabulta, the project manager of I-community, Mr Maleta, officials of Roads and Transport, Mr Masete, Ms KA Maboshego and Mr Mokhudu, attended the induction programme.

40 learners form part of this learnership. What makes this learnership differ form other learner ships at the college is that the average age of the learners are 50.

Mr Mailula address the learners by saying: "Most of you are old or should I say very old." (The average age of learners is 50+). He also stressed that the learners will mostly be dealing with facilitators of an age younger, but not to underestimate their knowledge.

Waterberg FET College hope that you will enjoy your stay at the College.

### ENGINEERING AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE

Waterberg FET College, the Engineering and Skills Training Centre, has been awarded a trophy and certificate in the category: 40 Best performing schools in the Limpopo Province.

83 out of 87 learners who wrote Grade 12 examination in 2006 passed. A pass rate of 95.4%, and 53 obtained exemptions (60.92%).

The College got 2nd position in the circuit for Quality and got 3rd position in the circuit for quantity.

*Congratulations to all learners and lecturing staff with this achievement. Hope that the last Grade 12 group in 2007 will event better the results of 2006.*

## Waterberg enters for award

### QMS

Waterberg FET College will enter this year for the "Premier Service Excellence Awards"

### Background of the Awards

The constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other policies and regulations that support the transformation of the public service, gave a constitutional mandate to the public service to respond to people's needs.

The Premier of Limpopo province together with the minister of public service and Administration launched the service delivery standards in December 1999 as a tool to measure the overall performance of the province.

The Limpopo Provincial Administration reported to its citizens on compliance to the service standards on 30 March 2001, the Bathopele

Recognition certificates were then presented to various departments. This was then followed by the Executive Council approving the implementation of the Premier Service Excellence Awards as a way of promoting transformation of the public Service and good governance.

The first Premier Service Excellence awards were held in 2002.

### Objectives of the Awards

Promote good governance and accountability in public service

Inculcate the spirit of sharing best practices and innovation

### Categories of the Awards

Best Department of the year  
Best Service Delivery Team / Institution of the year  
Best Support Team/Unit of the year  
Innovative Team of the year

Prize: Platinum

The award focuses on service delivery with regard to the principles of Bathopele. It is the intention of Waerberg FET College to start participating in this award programme. Staff members are now urged to start adhering and practicing the principles of the Bathopele.

*Who are we competing against?* Previous year winners

For the financial 2004/2005 Mopani South East FET College won in the categories Best service delivery institution for prize platinum with the value of R50 000.

For the year 2005/2006 Moshate Hotel school of Mopani District won R30 000 for best service delivery Team.



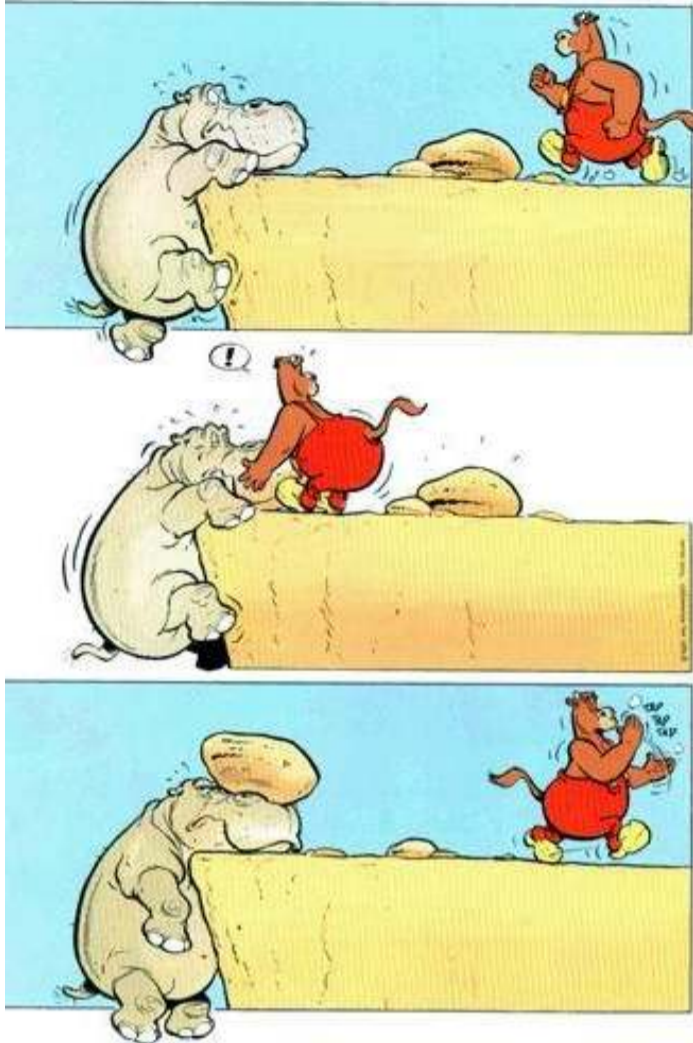
Learners on the Road Supervision Learnership during the Induction Programme. With them are the General Manager of FET Colleges in Limpopo, Ms Sekgabulta (on the left in red) and the CEO of the college, Mr SP Mailula.

Ms Mamejja (Curriculum Coordinator for Learnerships, Projects and Skills) handed out some gifts to the learners. Sorry for the delay guys for the new bags and shirts.





# ART & ENTERTAINMENT



**MORAL** of the **PICTURE**

**FRIENDS** may not be able to **PULL** you up ...

**BUT**

**THEY** will still think of ways not to let you **FALL**.

## Message from the Student Christian Movement

KATE

Earlier this semester the SCM groups from all 3 centres went on an outing to Etrich game farm for a spiritual adventure. They shared scriptures and started new friendships.

This was an overwhelming experience, as it came to our realization that the Spirit of God knows and understand all things and that everybody has been created for a special purpose.

As students we need to realize the importance and advantage of putting all our dreams and desires in the hands of God. We need to invite God in everything that we do. So that He can pave the way for us.

*BOTTOM: The SCM group at Etrich Game farm.*



## Mokopane Eisteddfod

Twenty learners of the Engineering and skills centre participated in the Mokopane Eisteddfod. The judge was surprised about the excellent performance of our students and they were awarded very high marks! All the learners received achievement certificates. Five learners received B+

certificates (75-79%), 6 learners received A certificates (80-84%), 6 learners received an A+ (85-89%) and 3 received A++ certificates (90-94%).

Pepetse Malapene won the trophy for best candidate in the category: Nie-Moedertaal.

Ms M Mogothe and Ms H Schmidt assisted these learners.



*TOP RIGHT: Participants in the Mokopane Eisteddfod. BOTTOM RIGHT: Pebetse Malapene, Rethabile Mashabela and Elizabeth Molokoane received A++ certificates.*

## Schoemansdal Leadership training

The LRC trip to Schoemansdal took place from 16-18 February 2007. It was on Friday when the adventure took place. We went there with only one bus that has been

organised by the management. Our arrival was very amusing because we nearly came back home because some of the learners misbehaved, but the matter was resolved.

It was a great experience to be at Schoemansdal where we had a good time even though it was challenging. The purpose was to train learners to be more dependant and future leaders. Most of us became friends as we were busy with the activities; some of the activities were to help us to solve

problems, improving our communication skills and team work. There were many tasks and problems to solve but we overcome obstacles that came upon us.

To become a good leader require hard work. One must have the following understanding, self-confidence and tolerance. We were forced to work under difficult conditions, unfavourable weather and under stress. We have been tested to our level best, we now know that working with people is very difficult.

We would like to give compliments to the Management, for giving us the opportunity to go.



## The joy of growing old

BLOSSOM KGOMO

On my first day of university our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I turned around to find a wrinkled, little old lady beaming up at with a smile that lit up her entire being. She said: "Hi handsome I am Rose, 87 yrs of age; can I give you a hug? I laughed and enthusiastically responded: Of course you can!

Why are you in college at such a young, innocent age I asked? She jokingly responded I am here to meet a rich man, get married have couple of children retire and travel.

Then I said "No seriously", I was

curious as to what could have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. " I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one " she told me. From that time on I was always mesmerized by this time machine as she shared her wisdom and experience with me. Not only did I become wiser in my studies, but Rose taught me four secrets to living a happy life. Rose taught me to find humour in everyday, to never stop dreaming, to have no regrets and to always search for new opportunities in change. You might just turn into the person you've always dreamed of being.



# SOCIAL PAGE

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 2006/2007

The 42<sup>nd</sup> National Science Olympiad took place on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006. About 17000 learners from 617 schools and colleges in South Africa, Namibia and Lesotho participated in both advantage and previously disadvantage category.

Waterberg FET College registered 36 learners (Grade 11 and 12) to participate for the first time and obtained position 2 nationally. For their effort the organizers awarded the college R 5000-00 voucher to purchase any science equipment

of importance. Quotation was submitted and the equipment was delivered in April 2007.

48 learners participated in the 2007 Science Olympiad in the beginning of the year - results awaiting.

## SCIENCE MINQUIZ

Mr K.K. Abakkah took Thomas Nkosi, Tokina Masemola and Isabel Mphahlele for a Science MinQuiz competition on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 at Capricorn FET College, Polokwane in the Gold category. Masemola Tokina and Mphathlele Isabel took position 1 & 2

respectively together with a learner from S.J. van der Merwe. The three represented the province at the national level on 17th and 18th May 2007 at Randburg (JHB).

Limpopo took position 3 and the learners were awarded trophies and a cash price.

## Percy Motshoane - Chartered Accountant

MATHABATHA MAHLOGONOLO

He is a former matriculant of our campus in the year 1998 and is now a registered Chartered Accountant. He works at KPMG, which was founded by four men many years ago.

When visiting our campus he shared his knowledge with us on which route to take in order to become a Chartered Accountant. He gave hope to many people who had little or no information about this profession. He aroused interest in young souls and helped others to discover their talent. He guided us on self discipline, time management and tertiary life. He also recommended us a few universities that we could apply to.

He gave us his contact number where we can reach him. He also indicated that sometimes one can just go to the bank and indicate your need for a bursary and they would interview you, you don't have to apply. We need to take our Grade 11 report along. Auditors are also employed at KPMG. Percy encouraged us to study for CA because there are very scarce in South Africa.

## THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

FROM STAFF NEWSLETTER

You are driving down the road in your car on a wild, stormy night, when you pass by a bus stop and you see three people waiting for the bus:

1. An old lady who looks as if she is about to die.
2. An old friend who once saved your life.
3. The perfect partner you have been dreaming about.

Which one would you choose to offer a ride to, knowing that there could only be one passenger in your car. Think before you continue reading.

THINK!!!!

This is a moral/ethical dilemma that was once actually used as part of a job application. You could pick up the old lady, because she is going to die, and thus you should save her first. Or you could take the old friend because he once saved your life, and this would be the perfect chance to pay him back. However, you may never be able to find your perfect mate again.

The candidate who was hired (out of 200 applicants) had no trouble coming up with his answer. He simply answered: I would give the car keys to my old friend and let him take the lady to the hospital. I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the partner of my dreams."

Sometimes, we gain more if we are able to give up our stubborn thought limitations. "Never forget to Think Outside of the Box."

## POETRY Opvoeding

By: BERLECIA  
MALEBO LERUTLA

Opvoeding O  
Opvoeding  
Opvoeding is die  
sleutel  
van die toekoms;  
die moeder van  
sukses.  
Elkeen moet  
opgevoed word  
om 'n helder  
toekoms te hê.

Kom laat ons almal  
skool toe gaan.  
Skool toe, sodat ons  
die leiers van more  
kan wees.

Sonder opvoeding  
sal ons dood wees.

Opvoeding O  
Opvoeding

## Meet members of the College Council



FROM LEFT FRONT: Mr Bossenger (Finance Chairperson), Mr Tsebe, Mr Senong (Centre Manager: Engineering and Skills Training Centre), Ms M Pienaar (Centre Manager: Business Studies Centre), Ms Modisha (Academic), Mr Maredi (Council Chairperson) FROM LEFT BACK: Ms F Pienaar (Human Resource Officer), Mr Pelsner (Academic Chairperson), Mr Mailula (CEO) and a Learner Representative.

# ACADEMIC

## New Programmes (NCV) What learners have to say . . .

Students in the New programs (NCV) at the Engineering and Skills Training Centre were given a topic to write about their future plans. This topic was part of their portfolio activity .

They were requested to present the topic as a speech. A microphone was arranged for the students to use for presenting. The following students impressed the lecturer: Ledwaba Mmabatho Monicca, Sebopa Khomotso and Chidi Dineo.

These are some of what they had to say: My Future Plans

Chidi Dineo:

I believe in everything I dream of and everything I wish for. At times dreams come true and wishes too. I wish for a bright future. My wish is to have a business of my own and my aim is to help the needy , for example: homeless people, street kids and people living with HIV, hoping to give them a place to stay. It is such a pain to see children with no place to stay and not attending school.

People living with HIV need to have hope and be encouraged that they can live longer. They need to have healthy food, live a healthy life and have medicine to drink.

Sebopa Khomotso:

I am 22 years old and I have a three year old daughter. I experienced many hardships in life like dropping out of

school after becoming pregnant. I am now given another chance to make up for the lost time. I am focusing on my future and want to start a new life.

My future plans include making a difference in my community. Where I grew up people have lost hope in life and they are involved in doing criminal activities. Young people are dropping out of school. The culture of learning and morality have dropped.

I have plans of visiting schools to motivate learners and organize sporting tournaments so that I can spread the message of hope and respect. I also want to raise funds for the construction of libraries and a sports complex in my village. I would like to invite Christian Crusaders and sponsor them so that the youth can listen to the Word that gives hope and change their lives.

Ledwaba Mmabatho Monicca:

What I would like to be in future is to make a name for myself, to be well respected in high places. I want to be successful, independent and have everything my heart desires.

My wish is to be a personal assistant in one of the biggest companies in the country. I want to provide for my family in any way I can help to improve their lives. If I can have everything, I will be the happiest person on earth but I will work hard to achieve all of my dreams and wishes.

## New NCV programmes to be introduced in 2007

### CURRICULUM

New NCV programmes that will be introduced on Level 2 in 2008 are:

- Marketing
- Management
- Civil Construction
- Electrical Construction

## Education Desk

### MATHEBA FRANS

#### STUDENTS

From the Education Desk we would like to make an appeal to students to respect the property of the college. The behaviour of some of the students is totally unacceptable.

We depend on the equipment that we steal, especially computer mouse.

#### LECTURERS

A humble request to lecturers to respect time and to honour their classes. We find this very unfair to have to fetch lecturers to attend to their periods. Lecturers , PLEASE , be punctual and do not forget your dedication to your college and not forgetting your MINISTRY.

#### BOOKS

Surely, as students we deserve the best service at the college. We always struggle to get books on time. We have students who have registered for trimester courses, semester courses and year courses. We still have students who are without text books and the examination is just around the corner. We hope to see a great improvement in delivery of books next semester.

#### SUGGESTIONS

Learner Support Centre at Lebowakgomo is very small and does not accommodate all students. We suggest that it should be extended to enable students to do their studying while waiting for the next period and also in the afternoons.

We also need educational tours. Our learning is more based on theory we never have a chance to experience what we are learning outside the classroom area. We feel we will be motivated if we see some of the things practically and this might also have an influence on the result.

Tourism Students would also benefit a lot if they are given a chance to tour the country because their course is based more on research. What happened to the money allocated for their trips?

#### COMPUTERS

We would like to commend our college for solving the problems of computers at Skills and Development Centre. Students will go in their examinations with confidence.

#### Portable PC (CONTINUE)

computer classes possible no network point is therefore needed. Theses computers were bought for the IT and Computer Science Centre.

RIGHT: A photo of the portable PC in its build-in suitcase.



## United Nations in Debate

MATHABATHA  
MAHLOGONOLO

On Saturday 05 May 2007 the following Grade 12 students were invited to attend a workshop in Polokwane: Mathabatha Mahlogonolo, Masemola Tokina and Mphahlele Isabela.

The South African United Nations Model debating workshop was held at Pepps in Polokwane. It is a world tournament which is held annually. Previously disadvantaged schools

are paired with advantaged schools to present their views on a given topic. This will run from May to December. This year 's winning team will go to New York in 2008 to represent South Africa.

Waterberg FET College has been teamed up with Lehlasedi High School in Zebediela. The schools must each select two learners to make a team of four members. This team is given a country to research on and to

present at the debate. This year's topic is about "refuges" and the country that they are presenting is Libanon.

The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to learn more about different countries and their laws and problems that they face. The debate is sponsored by Cell C, Education Africa and Department of Education.

## Portable Pc's a first for the College

Waterberg FET College bought 20 portable computers from a company called MasterComp. These computers are built into a carry suitcase that is waterproof and fire protected. It also has a wireless network that will make the movement of



# ADVICE CORNER



## What is HIV Testing?

### LEARNER SUPPORT

HIV testing tells you if you are infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS. These tests look for "antibodies" to HIV. Antibodies are proteins produced by the immune system to fight a specific germ.

Other "HIV" tests are used when people already know that they are infected with HIV. These help measure how quickly the virus is multiplying (a viral load test) or the health of your immune system (a CD4 count). For more information, see

### HOW DO I GET TESTED?

You can arrange for HIV testing at any Public Health office, or at your doctor's office. Test results are usually available within two weeks. In the US, call the National AIDS Hotline, (800) 342-2437.

The most common HIV test is a blood test. Newer tests can detect HIV antibodies in mouth fluid (not the same as saliva), a scraping from inside the cheek, or urine. "Rapid" HIV test results are available within 10 to 30 minutes after a sample is taken. One of these tests has produced a high rate of false positives. A positive result on any HIV test should be confirmed with a second test.

Home test kits: You can't test yourself for HIV at home. The Home Access test kit is only designed to collect a sample of your blood. You send the sample to a laboratory where it is tested for HIV.

### WHEN SHOULD I GET TESTED?

If you become infected with HIV, it usually takes between

three weeks and two months for your immune system to produce antibodies to HIV. If you think you were exposed to HIV, you should wait for two months before being tested. You can also test right away and then again after two or three months. During this "window period" an antibody test may give a negative result, but you can transmit the virus to others if you are infected.

About 5% of people take longer than two months to produce antibodies. There is one documented case of a person exposed to HIV and hepatitis C at the same time. Antibodies to HIV were not detected until one year after exposure. Testing at 3 and 6 months after possible exposure will detect almost all HIV infections. However, there are no guarantees as to when an individual will produce enough antibodies to be detected by an HIV test. If you have any unexplained symptoms, talk with your health care provider and consider re-testing for HIV.

### DO ANY TESTS WORK SOONER AFTER INFECTION?

Viral load tests detect pieces of HIV genetic material. They show up before the immune system manufactures antibodies. Also, in early 2002, the FDA approved "nucleic acid testing." It is similar to viral load testing. Blood banks use it to screen donated blood.

The viral load or nucleic acid tests are generally not used to see if someone has been infected with HIV because they are much more expensive than an antibody test. They also have a slightly higher error rate.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF I

### TEST POSITIVE?

A positive test result means that you have HIV antibodies, and are infected with HIV. You will get your test result from a counselor who should tell you what to expect, and where to get health services and emotional support.

Testing positive does not mean that you have AIDS. Many people who test positive stay healthy for several years, even if they don't start taking medication right away.

If you test negative and you have not been exposed to HIV for at least three months, you are not infected with HIV. Continue to protect yourself from HIV infection).

### CAN I KEEP THE TEST RESULT CONFIDENTIAL?

You can be tested anonymously in many places. You do not have to give your name when you are tested at a public health office, or when you receive the test results. You can be tested anonymously for HIV as many times as you want. If you get a positive HIV test that is not anonymous, or if you get any medical services for HIV infection, your name may be reported to the Department of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) proposed in late 1998 that all states keep track of the names of HIV-infected people. This proposal has not yet taken effect.

### HOW ACCURATE ARE THE TESTS?

Antibody test results for HIV are accurate more than 99.5% of the time. Before you get the results, the test has usually been done two or more times. The first test is called an "EIA" or "ELISA" test. Before a

positive ELISA test result is reported, it is confirmed by another test called a "Western Blot".

Two special cases can lead to false results:

Children born to HIV-positive mothers may have false positive test results for several months because mothers pass infection-fighting antibodies to their newborn children. Even if the children are not infected with HIV, they have HIV antibodies and will test positive. Other tests, such as a viral load test, must be used.

As mentioned above, people who were recently infected may test negative if they get tested too soon after being infected with HIV.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

HIV testing generally looks for HIV antibodies in the blood, or saliva or urine. The immune system produces these antibodies to fight HIV. It usually takes two to three months for them to show up. In rare cases, it can take longer than three months. During this "window period" you may not test positive for HIV even if you are infected. Normal HIV tests don't work for newborn children of HIV-infected mothers.

In many places, you can get tested anonymously for HIV. Once you test positive and start to receive health care for HIV infection, your name may be reported to the Department of Health. These records are kept confidential.

A positive test result does not mean that you have AIDS. If you test positive, you should learn more about HIV and decide how to take care of your health.



## AIDS gardens at Centres

Waterberg FET College is very proud to be the only FET College in the country with an AIDS garden at each of its centres!

The gardens have been established for more than one reason:

- Firstly to remind us of all those who have lost their lives because of this disease.
- Secondly to remind us of those who are suffering and are ill with the disease at present and to remind us to reach out to them.
- Thirdly to remind everybody who is HIV negative to be careful and to abstain.



# Construction started at College

Various exciting and new projects started at Waterberg FET College. On the premises opposite Hoërskool Piet Potgieter in Nelson Mandela Drive contractors has started building a Hotel School for the College a first for Mokopane. In Mahwelereng at the Business Studies Centre a Simulation Centre is being erected and in Lebowakgomo at the Engineering and Skills Training Centre building has started on a new Mechanical Workshop.

According to the CEO of Waterberg FET College, Mr SP Mailula, government has allocated R1.9 billion in the 2006 budget over a period of 3 years for the recapitalisation of FET colleges. The recapitalisation

of colleges will ensure that Colleges become attractive first choice options for more young learners to enrol in quality programmes that meet the needs of the economy.

As a result of this study, programmes to address needs in civil engineering construction; information technology; financial management; marketing; hospitality; tourism; fabrication and extraction; primary agriculture and manufacturing and assembly have been developed.

The Hotel and Tourism Centre will be used for training purposes but will also function as a business. Both the Hospitality and Tourism learners on the new NCV (National Certificate

Vocational) programmes will make use of the Hotel School for practical training. After completion of the NCV courses learners can be employed in industry, start their own enterprises or go for further training in the specific fields.

The Simulation Centre at Mahwelereng will expose learners to an office environment. Practicals in all business related courses will ensure that learners get hands-on training in Finances, Marketing, Business Administration, Office Practice etc.

At Lebowakgomo, the new Motor Mechanical Workshop will be used for all engineering related courses.



Construction started in Mokopane on the building of a Hotel and Tourism Centre for Waterberg FET College.



1. Tip trucks arrive at the Business Studies Centre in Mahwelereng. 2. Buildings must be demolished to make place for the Simulation Centre. 3. Construction people busy at the Engineering and Skills Training Centre with the Mechanical Workshop. 4/5/6. The farm at Sterkrivier that was bought by Waterberg FET College. Agriculture learners will do their practical work there.

# SPORT

## Winning spirit

MATHABATHA MAHLOGONOLO

John Mphahlele (21) from Seleteng has a winning spirit. He has been running since he was 14 years. He has registered for skills in agriculture at Engineering and Skills Centre.

These are his records and some of the medals that he won.  
 24 January 2007 Seshego (5000 m) Second Position (Silver medal)  
 22 March 2007 Polokwane (5000 m) First Position (Gold medal)  
 15 May 2007 Lebowakgomo (5 km) Second Position (Silver Medal)

John has also participated Soweto Marathon and Cross Country.

## Sport at Waterberg FET

The college didn't participate in any activity in sport this year. Students are not happy with this matter. A trip to Mpumalanga was organised which did not go well because students did not practice. We hope that next semester we will practice so that we can go.

We apologise to all

students for not going out on this trip. We hope that a situation of this kind will never happen again. Please take note that responsibility is for the management to take the final decision. We as LRC tried our level best. Let us all practice to be able to go.