

Early-morning roll-calls at 07:30 before classes start, compulsory physical training and intensive military courses, attending classes in uniform, participation in the University's RAG, the Trans Enduro rubber-duck and cycling fundraising and community project, and the Maziza community outreach programme.

Saldanha students



Lieutenants Tinyiko Maluleke and Alma van der Merwe received the Rector's Award for Excellent Achievement.

IN SERVICE OF SOUTH AFRICA

These are all part of student life for the 300 residential undergraduate students enrolled with the Faculty of Military Science at the Military Academy of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in Saldanha.

"The dual responsibility to study and to become militarily proficient equips our young military professionals with the necessary skills to become an asset to the SANDF and to the broader labour market in years to come," believes secundus dean Mr Sam Tshehla of the Faculty.

This unique institution provides military training and, more importantly, tertiary military education to young SANDF officers. The Faculty is headed by Dean Prof Edna van Harte, while Rear Admiral (Junior Grade) Derek Christian is the Commandant of the Military Academy.

Looking back on the activities of 2008, Mr Tshehla says that it has been a busy year for the students and the staff alike at Saldanha. The Faculty hosted two international conferences that focused on maritime security and on the strategic challenges that armed forces in Africa will face in the next decade, respectively. Both conferences were widely attended by academics, staff from the Department of Defence (DOD) and representatives from defence-related industries.

"The Military Academy strives to lead the way for professional military education in Africa and empowers members of the Department of Defence and the African security community through professional military education to manage current and future

security challenges effectively," Mr Tshehla says.

After winning the Stellenbosch University round of the Sanlam Creativity for Progress competition, a group of Military Academy students represented the University at this annual community-development competition held among South Africa's foremost academic institutions. This year's theme - "A better life for people in informal settlements" - gave the students the opportunity to create their own innovative concept to improve the lives of people in informal settlements.

Postgraduate students in the Industrial Psychology Department also made their mark. Captain Charles Kgosana was selected as the best master's student out of all the South African universities, attending the Society for Industrial and Organisational Psychology Conference in San Francisco. Captain Thamsanqa Dhladla represented masters' students from South African universities at the International Testing Commission Conference in Liverpool.

Students such as Lieutenants Tinyiko Maluleke and Alma van der Merwe held the Faculty's name high by receiving awards for excellent academic achievements at Stellenbosch University. Lieutenant Maluleke spread his wings all the way to Russia, where he attended the Physics Winter Practice Programme hosted by the Russian Joint Institute for Nuclear Research. He was joined by fellow physics postgraduate student Lieutenant Alfred Sehone and 19 other students from other South African universities and research institutions. Dr Noel Jacobs, Chair of the

Faculty's School of Science and Technology, accompanied them as facilitator and the South African representative to Dubna.

"The involvement and participation of these two postgraduates form part of our vision to grow and provide the DOD and SANDF with a pool of highly skilled and competent officers who will apply their knowledge and skills in a military technological context and therefore help to maintain the competitive edge of the broader SANDF in a highly competitive global technological environment," Dr Jacobs says.

According to Prof Edna van Harte, the Faculty is making a unique contribution to tertiary education in South Africa and the security needs of South Africa. Her current focus on developing the research capacity of both the faculty and that of postgraduate students is inspired by the future research needs of South Africa. "I am delighted by some of the unique opportunities that came the way of the Faculty through, for instance, our participation as protocol personnel during the recent International Parliamentary Union."

Prof Van Harte, along with ten other top South African women, was honoured for their contribution or work in the country at the 12th *Rapport! City Press* Prestige Women's Day at a function in Midrand recently. [m](#)

• **Alumni of the Military Academy are invited to contact Prof Van Harte for information on how they can help in repositioning the Military Academy as a national asset. Call her on 022 702 3019 or via e-mail at lvanharte@ma2.sun.ac.za.**