

NEWS

1st NMMU Summer Graduation



2015 dates to diarise Varsity Cup Games

- 16 February
FNB NMMU Madibaz VS FNB CUT
- 02 March
FNB NMMU MADIBAZ VS FNB UP TUKS
- 23 March
FNB NMMU MADIBAZ VS UP TUKS
- 29 March
FNB NMMU MADIBAZ VS FNB UFS SHIMLAS

NMMU FIRST ... BEd FET graduates celebrate after receiving their qualification at the first-ever summer graduation at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

NMMU awarded more than 400 qualifications – including 10 doctorates at its first summer graduation ceremony on 9 December. The summer graduations will complement, and not replace, the traditional autumn graduations.

A total of 226 BEd and 72 BEd (Hons) and 65 postgraduate certificates in education was awarded as well as 28 masters and 10 doctoral degrees from all faculties.

Graduates in Education are not always remunerated at levels commensurate with their qualifications until they receive their graduation certificates. By graduating in December, these students will not be

compromised if they commence employment in January 2015.

A survey to establish the willingness of students and staff to participate in summer graduations yielded a significantly favourable outcome.

Congratulations to all our 2014 summer graduates.



News Briefs

New Dean of Arts

PROF Rose Boswell has been appointed as the new Executive Dean of Arts from January, 2015. She is currently based at Rhodes University, where she served as Professor and Head of Anthropology and Deputy Dean of Humanities for a number of years. Prof Boswell is an anthropologist by training and obtained her BA, Masters and Doctoral qualifications at the University of Cape Town and Free University of Amsterdam.

She brings with her an enterprising teaching, research and engagement track record with research interests in heritage management, identity construction in postcolonial and multicultural states, gender identities, social justice and tourism.

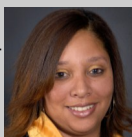
Law head inducted

PUBLIC Law Head Prof Avinash Govindjee was recently inducted as a member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) for five years.

The induction took place at the annual awards ceremony of the Academy of Science of South Afri-

From the editors desk

THE last quarter of 2014 was very hectic for the Alumni Relations Directorate. We hosted a fantastic Alumni Awards function and gave thanks to internal and external service providers and alumni supporters at the Thanksgiving Breakfast.



A number of partner events also took place during the year extending the alumni relationship building efforts to greater heights. The launch of the Student Alumni Society Alumni Bursary Support Campaign was another highlight and we call upon all alumni to buy an environmentally friendly bag from the University Shop (only R25) and support a worthy campaign.

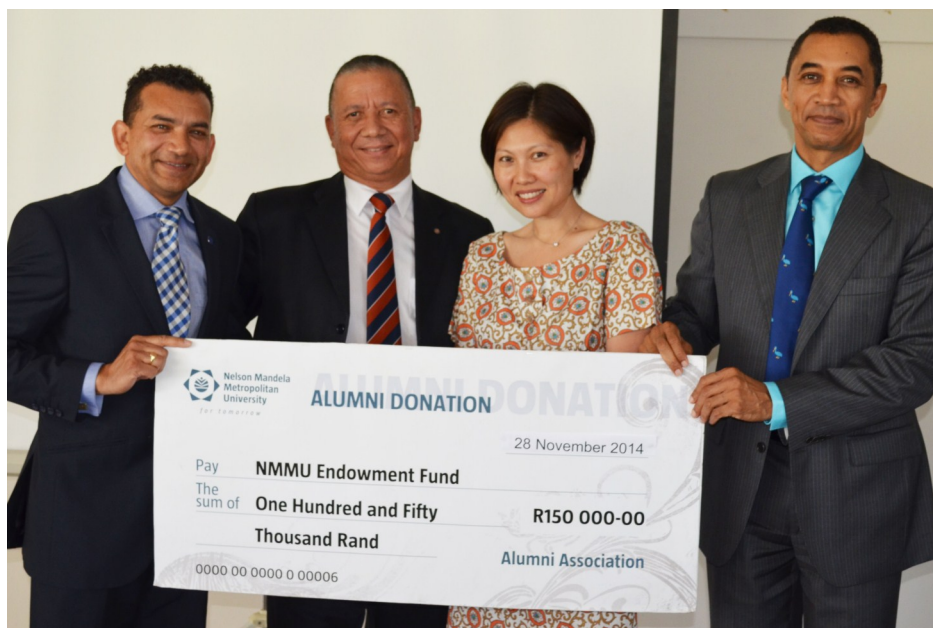
The Alumni Relations Directorate would like to thank all our alumni, friends and supporters for their contribution during 2014. We look forward to sharing another successful year with you.

We are proud of our alumni who keep the NMMU flag flying high. Please stay in touch by liking our Facebook page following us on Twitter or check out our website page.

Warm Alumni wishes

Liska Hendricks

Support for Alumni Fund



CONTRIBUTING ... The Alumni Association hands over a cheque for R150 000 in support of the Endowment Fund. Handing over the cheque to the Vice Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and Trust Acting CEO Renita Affat (right) were Alumni Association Treasurer Vernon Naidoo and Alumni Association President Randall Jonas.

MORE than R250 000 was awarded by the Alumni Association to financially needy students during 2013 and 2014 to buy textbooks, travel to campus as well as assistance with university fees.

The Alumni Association also donated R300 000 over the past two years towards the University's Endowment Fund that will assist with future bursary support by using interest for bursaries generated from the capital amount.

Due to the increasing demand for financial support the Alumni Association and Student Alumni Society (SAS) are collaborating to get more alumni and friends to donate money to boost the Alumni Bursary Fund.

The SAS Alumni Bursary Fund campaign will use the income from the sale of 2000 environmentally friendly shopping bags to make a contribution towards the bursary fund. The bags cost R25 and is available at the University Shop. Any donation towards this campaign is welcome.

At the recent Alumni Thanksgiving Breakfast the VC Prof Swartz was the highest bidder for a mystery bag (a shop-

ping bag with a mystery gift) and contributed R2600 towards the Campaign.

The Alumni President who was also a bidder decided to equal the VCs bid and nearly R6000 was collected through this short bag auction.

The generosity was evident as the SAS also received a number of bag orders from guests.

At the same event lecturer, Paul Tai -Hing handed over a cheque of R20 000 to the Alumni Bursary Fund. His contribution was based on a project of his business management students who run their own student businesses with the profits ploughed straight back into the community for education purposes. In less than two years, his students' entrepreneurial enthusiasm has raised R384 500 from the sale of a recipe book.

There is a lot more that can be done and we call on the support of all alumni and friends to assist financially needy and academically deserving students get a tertiary education.



**I am who I am
because of who
we all are...**

Top NMMU alumni celebrated



ALUMNI EXCELLENCE ... Tracy Cheetham (back from left), Baxolile Mabinya, Nicholas Hafner, Deon Schoeman, Dr Han-ningtone Gaya, Garret Barnwell, Nomkhita Mona (front from left) and Dr Amber Anderson (right) were the recipients of NMMU's 2014 Alumni Awards. Congratulating our recipients were Alumni Association President Randall Jonas (second from right), NMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt.

NMMU Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have gone the distance and beyond in their various fields, to the benefit of society at local, provincial, national and international level.

A number of outstanding nominations were received by the Alumni Association Executive Committee which is proud to present its awards in the spirit of NMMU's values.

This year the Alumni Association's Rising star Award recipients were Tracy Cheetham (SKA SA (Square Kilometre Array South Africa) project), Russell Domingo (Proteas head coach) and Baxolile Mabinya (group strategy executive for Dimension Data: Middle East & Africa).

Nicholas Hafner (National Sales Director, Board member and shareholder of Meridian Wine Merchants) as well as Isla Morley (full-time writer and author of three novels), were also recognised as NMMU Alumni Rising Stars.

Dr Amber Anderson (human resource executive of Coca-Cola Fortune), Garret Barnwell (president of Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Southern Africa) & Dr Han-ningtone Gaya (founder of seven life-style and business magazines in East Africa) were the recipients of the NMMU Alumni Special Awards.

Nomkhita Mona (CEO of SAFCOL) also received her 2013 Special Award.

The top Alumni Achiever Award recipient for 2014 was Deon Schoeman (founder and managing director of Klinikare Pharmacies).



News Briefs

New scholarship recipients

CHEMISTRY honours student Sendi Gandidzanwa of Zimbabwe, and Psychology honours student Curwyn Mapaling, of Uitenhage, are this year's NMMU recipients of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship.

The Scholarship, which provides full funding for up to two years of postgraduate study at a recognised South African tertiary institution, aims to help build leadership excellence in Africa.

New Vice President

SCHOOL of ICT's Dr Nicky Mostert-Phipps has been elected as the new Vice President of the South African Health Informatics Association (SAHIA) which focuses on capacity building and collaboration with higher education institutions regarding health informatics, eHealth and Telemedicine.

Alumnus shares his leadership and life lesson

“Giving back to the students of today and the leaders of tomorrow...”
These were the words of BCom Honours graduate, Dr Doug Mattheus, the Executive Head of Marketing at Cell C, on addressing NMMU Marketing students recently.

DOUG completed his honours degree at the former UPE in 1991 and has since made his way up the corporate ladder and now runs Cell C's marketing operations.

In 2006, he contacted his old varsity Prof and supervisor of his honours treatise, Professor Johan Bosch, to ask him if he could give something back to his alma mater and deliver a guest lecture to the marketing students.

Prof Bosch jumped at the opportunity and Doug's lecture has since become an annual event.

This year's event was attended by second and third-year Marketing Diploma students, along with invited NMMU staff and some external guests, including the recently retired Prof Bosch and NMMU's ad agency, Boomtown.

The newly built 200-seater lecture venue on the 2nd Avenue Campus was filled to capacity for the event.

Doug's lecture took the audience on a journey through the dynamic and ever-changing world of sponsorship marketing.

Speaking from his past experiences with sponsorship campaigns involving top sports teams such as the Springbok and Sharks rugby teams, Doug eloquently combined sound marketing theory with practical application.

Additional focus was given to Cell C's current marketing campaign with exclusive insights into the company's strategic focus.

Doug was a former Marketing Executive at Ster-Kinekor and, prior to that, Marketing Director of Nashua Mobile. In addition to his work commitments, Doug serves on the academic advisory council at Tshwane University of Technology and is a regular guest lecturer at NMMU.

He is a Chartered Marketer with the Marketing Association of South Africa, holds an MBA from Wits Business School and a DBA from the University of Phoenix in Arizona, USA. (BE)



GIVING BACK... Sharing life lessons were Andrew Marriott (from left), Dr Doug Mattheus, Prof Bosch, Dr Marlé van Eyk and Prof Madele Tait

New NMMU Appointments

PROFESSORS Andrew Leitch, former Executive Dean of Science, and Denise Zinn, former Executive Dean of Education, have been appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellors at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as from 1 December 2014.

The appointments were made following the departures of Professors Piet Naude and Thoko Mayekiso.

“There are so many exciting developments currently taking place at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. I look forward to working with management and staff in driving these developments and growing the brand of our wonderful institution, so as to make this a university of choice for all our students and stakeholders,” said Prof Leitch.

Prof Leitch has been acting in the position following the departure of Prof Mayekiso to take up the position as Vice-Chancellor of the new University of Mpumalanga.

Prof Zinn is also looking forward to further engaging with students and staff from a teaching and learning perspective.

“We need to make learning exciting and



NEW DVC... Teaching and Learning Prof Denise Zinn, Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz, Chair of Council Judge Ronnie Pillay and newly appointed DVC: Research and Engagement Prof Andrew Leitch.

relevant, and serve the purpose of educating for empowerment, and the public good. We have to cultivate people, not just with good heads, but also good hearts, as Nelson Mandela entreated all of us involved in education.

“In an institution bearing his name, we have to show how we can achieve this. I will use my energy and expertise, together with our staff, to put ‘the heart’ into higher education,” she said.

Prof Zinn will fill the position previously held by Professor Piet Naude, who left NMMU to head up the University of Stellen-

Alumnus flies NMMU flag high in UK

UK based alumnus Eugene Van Jaarsveld keeps the NMMU flag flying high as the current Director of Human Resources of Princess Yachts International

1978 BA Industrial Psychology and sociology graduate remembers his days in the then UPE "kraal" with the 'anything that floats' and 'rag parades' being life lasting memories.

The then rector was even held ransom to raise funds for rag events and this then documented in many newsletter around campus. Looking back, playing cards during breaks in the 'kraal' was one of the many memories which Van Jaarsveld remembers fondly.

"My lecturers brought out the best in me, prior to university I was very much a waster," admits Van Jaarsveld.

In 1977 he piloted the first ever sociology society at a South African University where he was elected chairman, taking the anthropology trips which developed leadership talents, not even he knew existed within him.

"A gained a deep love of knowledge and six years after leaving, I was elected to complete an MBA at Stellenbosch University, obtaining this qualification in 1985," he said

Van Jaarsveld who has settled in the United Kingdom since 1998 is now the HR Director for the leading global luxury yacht maker in the world. Princess Yachts employs over 2509 employees and have distributors in every major continent in the world.

Among his list of achievements, was being HR executive for British bakeries, which employed over 7500 employees across 17 sites with each site having 7 different trade unions.

"Here I formed the first partnership agreement in the UK with all the unions and the company, taking well over two years of planning and ended up being their model for successful employee relations."



This model is still widely used even though it was implemented in 2002. Van Jaarsveld was then invited to 10 Downing Street – to meet with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, his cabinet and senior trade union officials.

"Since then I have been a regular speaker at union and company forums sharing my expertise," he said.

Van Jaarsveld whose last year in South Africa was in 1998, was a trained arbitrator working around the country ruling on complex employee relations cases and strikes where he gained his legal background

He boasts that one of his biggest achievement without a doubt is his 27 year old son, who like father, had followed in his footsteps and attained an MBA from Plymouth University. His wife on the other hand is a registered nurse in an acute hospital setting.



News Briefs

SA pageant finalist

BTECH Public Relations student, Tegan Goldman, who is currently a PR Intern at Madibaz Sports, has been selected as a finalist in the Miss SA Beauty Pageant.

The pageant will be held at the Sun City Superbowl in Johannesburg. During Miss SA's reign she will represent South Africa at both Miss World and Miss Universe pageants

MCR swoops top awards

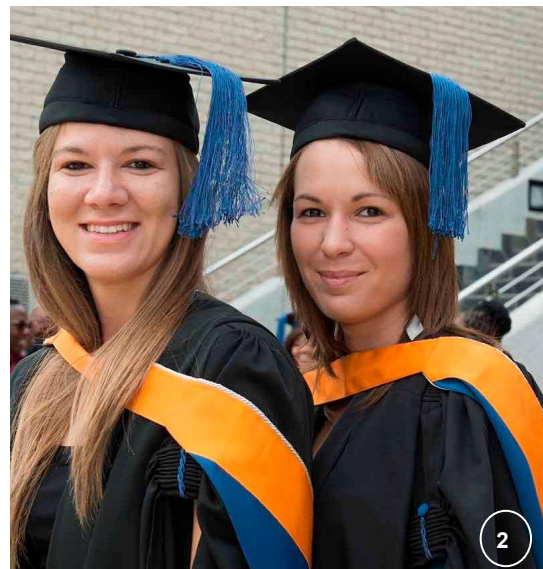
MARKETING and Corporate Relations Department led by Director, Pieter Swart, won the overall top award for outstanding performance among marketing and communication practitioners in higher and further education in South Africa.

The Oscar-themed event, Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards, took place at Sun City recently. NMMU won 18 awards – the top award, eight excellence awards and nine merit awards – for their work in promoting the University via various platforms.

Dean elected as president

NMMU Dean of Law Faculty, Professor Vivienne Lawack, was elected as the President of the South African Law Deans Association (SALDA).

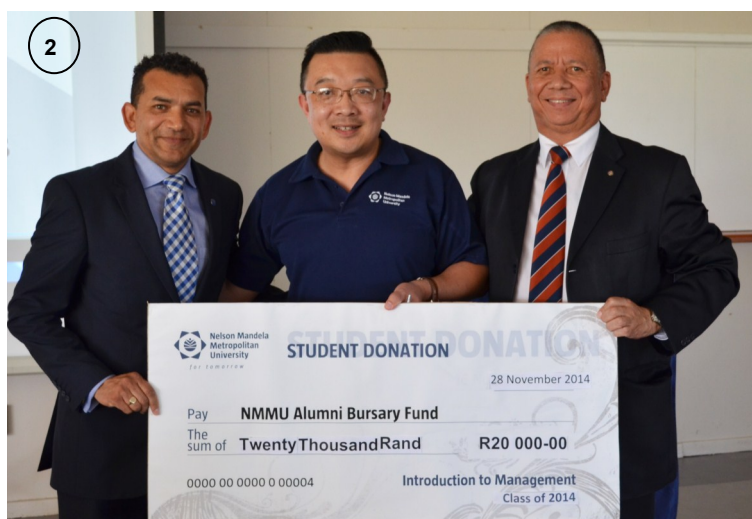
She was Vice-President from 2008 to 2010 and then President from 2010 to 2012, 2012 to 2014 and now from 2014 to 2016.



Summer Graduation

NMMU celebrated its first-ever Summer graduation recently. Some needed that 'groupie' to capture the special moment (photo 1) while others shared in the happiness posing for special shots, among these were sisters Cindy-Lee and Lee-Ann Bosch (photo 2), BEd honors graduates Natasja van der Westhuizen, Lu-Ann Deyssel and Carla van Tonder photo 3), BEd FET cum laude graduates Jason Field (from left), Anika Botha, Margeretha Hugo and Carla Steyn (photo 4) and LLM (Masters of Law) graduates with Dean of Law Vivienne Lawack and lecturers (photo 5)





Alumni Thanksgiving Breakfast

The annual Alumni Thanksgiving breakfast focused on thanking its internal and external stakeholders as well as creating awareness around the student driven campaign assisting students who are academically worthy but needing support. Present at the event were Rob Minne (from left) Derek Huebsch, Peter Peters and Riaan Knoesen (photo 1), Paul Tai-Hing (centre) hands over a cheque for R20000 in support of the NMMU Alumni Bursary Fund to NMMU Alumni office bearers Vernon Naidoo and Randall Jonas (photo 2), Elize Naude and Nolutsha Gayiya (photo 2), and having a little bit of fun in between were Paul Tai-Hing and Ross Johnston (photo 4).





BURSARY RECIPIENTS ... The Alumni Bursary Fund assisted many deserving students with bursaries over the past few years. Director: Paul Geswindt (left) and Alumni Association president Randall Jonas (centre) are joined by some of our recipients Faith Moyo, Tafadzwa Chijabvu, Sonnetta Human, Kylie Hughes, Welcome Kupangwa, Joy Hughes and Fredwin Martins



ICEP BRAAI ... The Institutional Culture En-livening Process (ICEP) held a was a meeting of participants of the Immersion 1 and 2 processesThis aided in deepening conversations to create social spaces for staff to meet and interact with on campus. Present at the braai were Laura Best (from left), Mxolisi Ncapayi and Ryan Pillay (photo 1), Shuaib Rahim and Dennis Gondoza (photo 2).



NMMU FUTURE LEADERS ... The Vice-Chancellor Scholarship (VCS) recipients attended an event recently to celebrate the success of the students as well as to launch the VCS Alumni Chapter.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS ... The Computing Sciences Department celebrated the achievements of alumni and students at a recent breakfast attended by staff, students, alumni and industry partners. Present at the breakfast event was Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt (from left), Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber Top 40 under 40 achievers and alumni Devereaux Joubert and Mohammed Cassim, Alumni Rising Star award recipients Nicholas Hafner and Baxolile Mabinya (right) and Computing Science head Prof Jean Greyling.

Farewell to Trust Director of Legacies and former CEO



WELL WISHES ... Prof Kotie Grove served NMMU and its predecessor UPE for about 40 years collectively in various capacities as academic, dean of students, head of the trust and director of legacies. Alumni Association President Randall Jonas and Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz hands over a certificate of appreciation to Prof Grove for his contribution to the institution (photo 1) and was joined by friends to end his journey (photo 2) at the NMMU Alumni Awards Ceremony.



Remembering John Lynch

NMMU Alumni sends condolences to the family and friends of Alumnus and Alumni Achiever Awards Recipient, John Lynch, who passed away recently.



Transforming businesses

Throughout his career, BCom (Hons) graduate John Lynch has demonstrated a knack for building, managing and restructuring businesses, often turning struggling companies into success stories.

He started his career at Price Waterhouse in 1974. Six years later, he joined Caborundum Abrasives (which ultimately became Abrasives Corporation), climbing the ranks to CEO in 1995, which saw him running a profitable group of companies in the complex abrasives industry.

John left the company to purchase an ailing subsidiary group, Cumar Resistant Materials, which he managed to turn around in two years, selling the business to the leading international player in 1997.

He then bought a minor equity stake in two struggling companies owned by the Gutsche Family Investment Company (GFI) in Port Elizabeth, and spent three years turning them around.

Once these companies were profitable, they were sold, with substantial value improvement for shareholders. Until August 2010, he spent six successful years chairing South Africa's largest citrus exporter, achieving record returns for four years.



EAST LONDON ALUMNI... More than forty East London based alumni attended the annual alumni chapter at the East London Golf Club. The programme included an update on university developments, alumni fundraising appeals and student recruitment. Present at the event were Lia Kitsopoulos and Kobus Prinsloo (photo 1), Manjani & Bertram Essen (photo 2).



CAPE ALUMNI ... The Cape Town alumni chapter social was held at the Clock-tower. The majority of alumni present at the event graduated in recent years and were excited about NMMU's 10th anniversary in 2015. Young alumni present included Roxanne Harris (from left), Darren Blignaut, Eloise Kamineth, Inge Schneider and Yaseen Mahomed.

NMMU head coach leads Madibaz to victory

NMMU Sport Coach of the Year for the second successive year is University Shop Manager Baakier Abrahams, who started out coaching the NMMU third cricket team in 2008 and is today head Coach of the Mecer NMMU Madibaz Cricket Club.

Baakier's love for cricket started at 12 years of age. He also started playing hockey when he was 15 and later represented the Eastern

Province men's team.

"No doubt one of my highlights so far was being appointed as head coach of the University Sport South Africa (USSA) national team in April 2014.

"To me, it was an indication that the work we are doing at NMMU as a cricket club – despite a number of challenges – is testament to the passion and hard work of all

those involved." Baakier says his motivation comes from his enjoyment and in giving back to a sport that has given him so much.

"My philosophy has always been to improve the players holistically, with a key focus on their academics as well as their cricket.

At present, Baakier has a Cricket South Africa level 3 qualification. He aspires to a



Baakier Abrahams

level 4 qualification, the highest level attainable.