

NEWS

Upcoming Events

- EL Chapter Social
- 13 July
- JHB Chapter Social
- 20 July
- CPT Chapter Social
- 27 July
- Missionvale University
Shop Opening
- 25 July
- Alumni Achiever Awards
Nominations
- 31 July
- Alumni Consortium (CPT)
- 10, 11 & 12 August
- Alumni Breakfast
- 17 November
- Alumni Achiever Awards
- 23 November

Executive Meetings

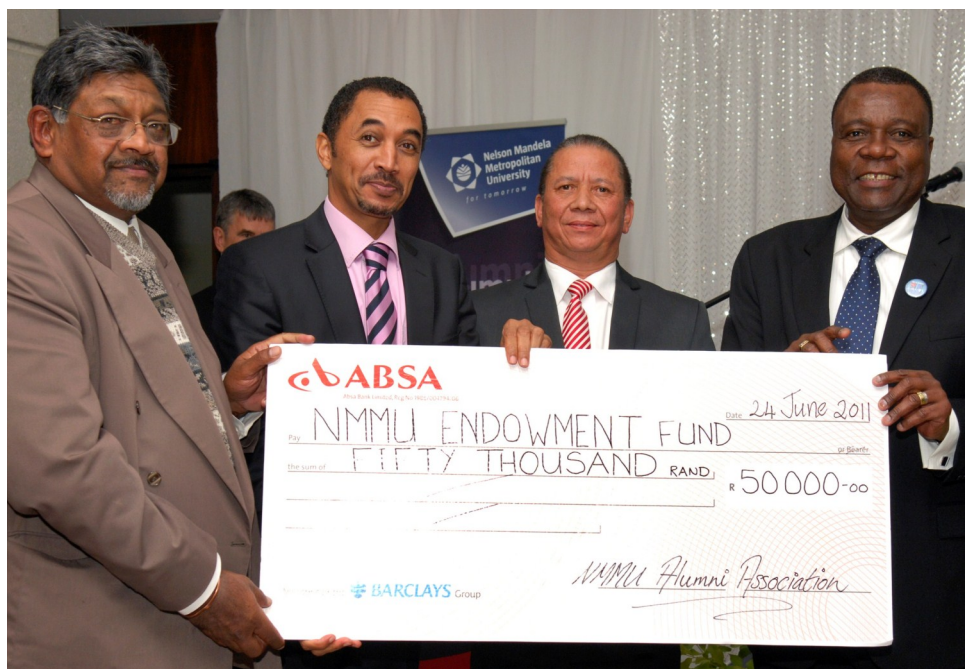
- 4 August
- 15 September
- 3 November

Reunions

- Rugby Reunion
- 19 & 20 August
- Hockey Reunion
- 19 & 20 August
- Athletics Reunion
- 5 November

R1bn capital campaign launched to fund Vision

Alumni donates to NMMU fund



HANDOVER ... NMMU Chair of Council Judge Ronnie Pillay, Vice Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz, Alumni Association President Randall Jonas and NMMU Trust Chairman Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi with the R50 000 Alumni Association contribution towards the R1-billion capital and endowment campaign. Photo: Leonette Bower

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University has launched a R1-billion capital and endowment campaign to help realise its Vision 2020 objectives.

The "My gift for a better tomorrow" campaign calls on all stakeholders, individuals and organisations, to support the well-being of NMMU and help make it an even greater university.

Similarly, the Alumni Relations Office has launched its "Alumni care programme".

This programme encourages Alumni

(past students and friends) to show they care by providing assistance where it is needed in any way that they can.

Individual support, through the legacy programme, is an important pillar of the capital and endowment campaign together with private and public sector support.

Significant contributions have already been made. Dimension Data, for example, donated

R500 000 and our own Alumni Association, a contribution of R50 000.

Three alumni individual contributions of R100 000 each by Peter Amm, Almorie Maule and Royden Vice were also made.

“Individual support is an important pillar of the capital and endowment campaign...”

NMMU adds to its 98 576 graduates, celebrations all round

Alumni celebrate graduation ceremonies

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University now has 98 576 graduates.

This follows the 2011 graduation ceremonies during which a further 5000 students graduated in various disciplines - an increase of eight percent since last year. This includes 313 master's degrees and 64 doctorates, up from 252 and 39 respectively in 2010.

The Faculty of Education boasted 354 post-graduate degrees and over 1400 graduates in total.

The most doctoral degrees came from the Faculty of Science with 21 candidates, an increase of five from last year.

The Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences celebrated 119 master's degrees compared to 97 in 2010.

A further cause for celebration was the inauguration of the university's second chancellor, South African businesswoman Santie Botha.

This year NMMU awarded honorary doctorates to Sir David Attenborough, Mark Shuttleworth, Tembeka Nkamba-van Wyk, Prof Suresh Kana, Judge Lex Mpati and the late Prof Wally Morrow.



NEW ALUMNI ... National Diploma in Public Relations graduates express their happiness by throwing their caps after their graduation ceremony. Head of Department Doctor Hercules Fourie watches as his former students leap with excitement. Over 90 000 students have now graduated from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, former UPE and Technikon.

Contact us

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Trading hours : 09:00 - 15:30

Message from the Editor

WELCOME to the second edition of our Alumni electronic newsletter.

So much has been happening in and around our office and the university – which is what you want to hear.

One of the proudest moments for NMMU and Alumni Relations Office was the graduation of over 5000 students which brings the alumni total to over 90 000.

Open Day was another great success with many prospective students gathering at our two campuses (South Campus and George Campus) over the two days at both campuses to gain more information about their future careers, student life and what NMMU can offer them.

The annual Alumni Association AGM & NMMU Convocation meetings took place during May where a decision was taken to merge the two structures.

Alumni have also launched its "Alumni Care

Programme" whereby alumni can offer support in various ways. You'll read all about these initiatives and the many successes of our alumni in these pages.

We continue to celebrate our alumni success stories and look forward to more exciting news and challenges for the rest of the year.

Please update us on your achievements, share your views and opinions.

We are proud of our graduates who keep the NMMU banner flying high.

Warm NMMU regards

Liscka Welcome



A hattrick graduation for the Ferreiros

THE Ferreira family - Noeleen, Xanthe and Ferrus, along with cousin Alita Kruger, all graduated this year, making 2011 a year to be remembered.

When this family realised they were all going to be capped in the same year, words could not describe their emotions.

Mother Noeleen, who is a polymer technologist at Aberdare Cables, completed her BSc Honours degree, while trying to also balance family and work.

"When my family needed my support in difficult situations, I had to put my studies aside and help them first. This often meant I worked till early hours of the morning," she said.

In fact, the realities of being a full-time employee meant Noeleen was unable to attend her graduation ceremony. It didn't stop her however from hiring the graduation attire for herself – since a family photograph was an absolute must.

"It was a good feeling to stand with both my children wearing our graduation attire," says Noeleen.

Xanthe, who is a teacher at Newton Technical High School, received her BEd honours degree, saying she was greatly relieved because

of the many challenges involved when studying after hours.

"It required careful planning," says Xanthe.

Xanthe's BEd honours degree is her third NMMU qualification. She has a BA degree in media, culture and communication and a PostGraduate Certificate in Education."

"I wanted to be better qualified than my peers and be more employable."

Her brother, Ferrus, who is a trainee accountant

at De Lange Attorneys, completed his BCom degree.

"My proudest moment was walking across the stage. It was such a huge achievement for our family and I felt so proud," he says.

One of Ferrus' goals is to be independent and earn his own money. "My qualification has equipped me for the work that I am doing as a trainee accountant."

Ferrus felt it was difficult to plan his studies while writing exams each day, since there was not enough time to cover all the work in the time available before each exam. "It was tough and of high standard."

To celebrate their achievements, the Ferreiros invited the whole family to a truly South African braai.



A FAMILY AFFAIR ... 2011 proved to be a great year for the Ferreira family as three members of their family and a cousin all graduated in one year. From left Newton Technical High School teacher and BEd graduate Xanthe Ferreira, cousin Alita Kruger who received her Game Ranging diploma, mother Noeleen Ferreira with a BSc Honours degree and trainee accountant at De Lange Attorneys, Ferrus with his BCom degree.



TRIPLE DEGREES ... Ferreira family in their graduation attire, BEd graduate Xanthe Ferreira, brother Ferrus Ferreira with a Bcom degree and mother Noeleen Ferreira with a BSc Hons degree. All three graduated in 2011.

NMMU Alumni & Convocation merges

THE Alumni Association' and Convocation Annual General Meetings were held at the Council Chambers on NMMU South Campus recently.

More than 70 people attended this gathering. The decision to merge the two structures was discussed at this year's meeting.

The aim of merging the two structures would allow for more focused and effective communication, decrease the confusion and have an extended membership base consisting of different categories.

This will advance the interests of the university in line with Vision2020.

Mvuleni Bakula, Acting Executive Director of the Department of Electricity and Energy for the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan is the newly-elected member who will represent Convocation on the Institutional Forum of the university.

Bakula says it is an honour and privilege, to contribute to a prestigious institution like NMMU.

"It is the total collective leadership of Convocation that must be charged for creation of a society which recognises that all people are born equal, with each entitled in equal measure to life, liberty, prosperity, human rights, right to education and good governance," he said.



ALUMNI ... Alumni Association Members, Adv Shuaib Rahim, Evert Knoesen, Student Alumni Society Chairperson Sonnetta Human and Alumni Ambassador & Alumni Association Member Elmari van de Merwe were present at the Alumni AGM & Convocation meeting that was held recently.

Right: Mvuleni Bakula was elected as a member of the Convocation of NMMU and will serve on the Institutional Forum.



Free admission application fee for Alumni

MORE than 100 NMMU alumni and their children have benefited from the 2010 Alumni free admission application fee.

NMMU alumni, former UPE, and PE Technikon alumni and their children will not be required to pay the application fee.

One of the 2010 application fee beneficiaries Phakama Lugogwana says: "I am honoured to be a daughter of an NMMU alumnus. I hope NMMU will make me a good product - just as it has done for my mother."

Alumni Relations Office Assistant Mziyanda Bloro, says he was inundated with requests for such assistance in the build up to the early application closure date in August.

There has been a 35% increase in 2010 of those using the waiver free as compared to the previous year.

"We're thrilled to see alumni furthering their studies and bringing their children to NMMU to build their own bright future too," says Bloro.



NEW APPLICANT ... Phakama Lugogwana was one of many prospective students and alumni who benefited from the 2010 free alumni admissions fee. With her is Mziyanda Bloro from the Alumni Relations office who authorises these applications.

Playboy Editor chases new dream

MANY of us dream of a successful career in photography and publishing. Peter Piegler has achieved this dream – and managed to do so in the company of arguably some of the most beautiful women in South Africa.

The former Playboy South Africa editor started his university life at the University of Port Elizabeth in 1990 after deciding to pursue a university degree instead of attending the AAA School of Advertising.

"I registered for a BA social science degree and received it in 1993 (major in psychology). My marks weren't good enough to enter the Honors program, so I then converted to an LL.B but didn't enjoy law so left to fall back on my other passion, photography."

Initially Peter first found studying at the then UPE very unpleasant. He felt this was because he "expressed myself differently".

"At the time the university had a very religious slant. I, unfortunately, had chosen to express myself by wearing black and listening to heavy metal music," he recalls. As a result, he experienced much animosity and even a number of beatings on campus.

But ever the optimists, Peter laughs: "Other than that, I had the best time of my life. We had incredible lecturers and I grew tremendously as a person during my time there."

He says his experiences taught him to take control of his destiny. "I learnt that hard work is liberating and that you also need to strike a balance between work and play."

Once he'd completed his photography



**Photo by : Jacqueline Cochrane/
PLAYBOY**

diploma, Peter started an LLB. But the call of industry came and he entered the world of freelance photography until 1997, when he joined South Coast Fever as a photojournalist.

The publication was part of the Caxton Group, enabling the photographic go-getter to move to more senior position at the South Coast Herald until 1999.

It was in 1999 that Peter's career took a turn to become the envy of many a man. Peter was appointed picture editor at FHM, one of South Africa's leading magazines.

"I flew up for an interview, at my own expense, not knowing what the publication was, and the rest is history." He will perhaps best be remembered for his work in developing the "100 Sexiest" supplement, one of the most successful features for this brand.

"It was very stressful, forward planning and time management was crucial, the results though, were supremely gratifying."

In 2007, Peter was appointed as managing editor for FHM magazine – including extra editorial responsibilities he added himself for motoring and gaming features.

This would represent a dream career for most men, but, with the outstanding success at FHM, this alumnus was bound to attract international attention.

In 2010, Peter was appointed editor of PLAYBOY South Africa, where unsurprisingly, in addition to his executive responsibilities, he was still ultimately responsible for the art direction of all major projects. Under his direction the PLAYBOY brand has re-established itself as a major player in the South African publishing field.

"My most memorable experience was attending a conference in Chicago and meeting heads of departments, as well as editors from around the world, and no, I did not meet Heff," he said.

Peter recently resigned as Playboy Editor and will embark on a new journey. "I want to diversify into other arenas I haven't explored before," he said. So I suppose it's a case, of watch this space.

Seminar motivates & inspires

"Leadership is about finding the right people, agreeing on where you want to go and getting out of the way" - Seth Godin.

This was what this year's collaboration between the Alumni Relations Office and Front foot was all about - A leadership seminar to motivate, educate, inspire and encourage leaders to perform at their best.

The event was recently held at NMMU's North Campus Conference Centre and offered companies from around Port Elizabeth

to attend a one-day leadership training event broadcast from Atlanta, in the United States.

Among the company representatives were Coca-Cola, Nedbank, Volkswagen SA, Kraftfoods SA, Continental Tyre, Frontline Market Research, Fain, among many more.

Front Foot hosts, manages and markets quality events and training cover a wide variety of industries.



ATTENDEES ... Kraftfoods SA staff members from left Dawie Fourie, Clive Njela, Debbie Du Plessis and Nerine Bailey attended the Leadership Seminar that was held recently at the NMMU North Campus Conference Centre.

Alumnus, attorney, father, to travel SA by car Double Partners to hit the road

SUCCESSFUL attorney, alumnus and father Riaan de Lange, together with his family of six, will set off by car to travel throughout South Africa – and create lasting memories.

“Rather do it now than when you’re 60 and the children have gone,” says the former Student Representative Council (SRC) president.

Riaan, together with his wife, Hanlie, who will be home-schooling their children on the road, are the sole partners of the successful company, De Lange Attorneys, based in Durbanville, about 30km from Cape Town.

De Lange Attorneys started in 1998 when Riaan started as a general practitioner with Hanlie, whom he met in his law class in 1987, doing conveyancing. A few years later he specialised in labour law.

“Hanlie is ready to leave the practice now, so the 2012 tour will bring her tenure as attorney to an end.”

He believes the success of his company lies within his partner – in life and in business – whose core values of loyalty, trust and integrity are his too.

“As a partner in our law firm, there is simply no more loyal person than Hanlie. I am truly blessed by God,” says Riaan.

Riaan was the then University of Port Elizabeth’s Student Representative Council (SRC) Chairperson in 1990.

“I was at university between 1987 and 1991 and those were the days when South Africa was about to be set free.

Things were not good. In 1991 Nelson Mandela was a free man. Can you imagine the politics at that time?”

But the university was closed to politics at that time.

“However, as transformation came about, so did our beautiful campus. By the time I left UPE, students could participate in politics freely.”

Riaan was also a recipient of the Abe Bailey Travel Bursary to Britain.



PARTNERS ... Riaan De Lange and his wife Hanlie are the owners of the law firm De Lange Attorneys based in the Western Cape. The pair along with their children will embark on a memory - making trip by car next year, travelling through the entire country.

This experience was humbling and pleasant as he met people from all walks of life – nationalists, communists and socialists included.

As the primarius of the Oppidani House, they literally had to fight for everything they needed.

“Eventually, the four hostels on campus accepted us – initially as fair and honest rivals, and later on as serious members of the ‘uppie’ team. Our house committee made its mark through the years – RAG, other socials, academically, in sport. I was a proud oppidani.”

Riaan also went to the army in 1992 and played rugby in the Carlton League in Pretoria.

He had a seven handicap and was a member of the PE Golf Club while at

UPE and also played Eastern Province under 20 and 23 rugby. “

He recently attended the law reunion organised by Prof Kotie Grove and the Alumni Relations Office.

There hadn’t been a minute of silence as former classmates colleagues caught up with one another.

“There were two common factors: we all had a legal background and we were all at UPE.”

News Briefs

Domingo to coach SA

NMMU alumnus Russell Domingo, has been appointed as the Assistant Coach to the South African cricket team.

Russell, the former Warriors coach, graduated with a National Diploma in Sports Management in 1996. He takes up his appointment alongside Gary Kirsten (coach) and Alan Donald (bowling coach) on 1 August.

Alumnus off to China

ACCOUNTING Honours student, Kerry-Beth Norden, is off to Shanghai, China to represent South African Synchro (synchronised swimming) at the World Aquatics Championships in July.

The SA Synchro team consists of 12 ladies, of which Kerry is one of only two EP athletes selected. The World Championships serve as the continental Olympic qualifiers, which means if South Africa finishes as the top African team, they qualify for the London Olympics in 2012.

Louw to compete in Hungary

FINANCIAL Planning Postgraduate student Greg Louw has made the South African Olympic Squad for the 1000m Canoe Sprint in a K4 (Kayak with 4 people).

The team will be competing in the ICF (International Canoe Federation) Canoe Sprint World Championships in Szeged, Hungary in August this year.

If the South African K4 achieves a high enough position, they will qualify to represent South Africa in the London Olympics 2012.

Mdodana shines in Singapore

NMMU’s own, Zanele Mdodana, of Sport Bureau, is part of the Proteas Netball squad playing in the World Netball Championships in Singapore.

Wing defence Zanele was among those to turn the game around in South Africa’s favour when she came on in the second quarter to secure a 70 – 33 victory against the hosts in yesterday’s game.

Though the Proteas lost to favourites Jamaica, they must only beat Botswana in the next game in order to advance to the quarter finals.

“Our house committee made it’s mark ... RAG, other socials, academically, sport - I was a proud Oppidani”



LEADERS ... Frontline Market Research staff attended the Leadership Seminar hosted by Frontfoot and NMMU Alumni recently. From left Art Van Rensburg, Steyn Van Zyl, Morne Nel, Allen Senekal, front, Helen Fourie and Frants Combrink.

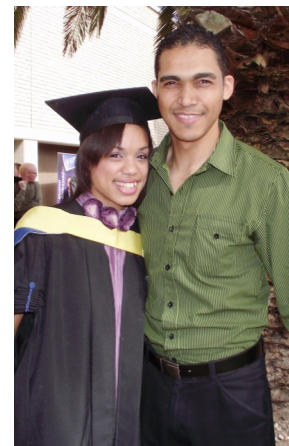


ATTENDEES ... Among some of the attendees of the Leadership Seminar held at the North Campus Conference centre were Coca-Cola Fortune staff members, Sandra Knoetze, Jean du Randt and Khanyisa Hlaneti.

TWO CAPS ... In a first for NMMU, Computing Sciences lecturer Professor Andre Calitz received his second doctorate in April, making him the first PhD graduate to receive two doctorates from our institution.



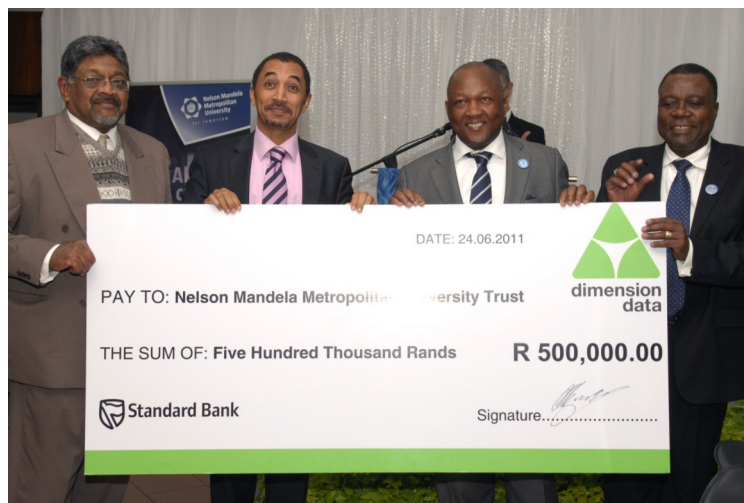
CELEBRATIONS ... Student Alumni Society Executive member, Candice Demi Williams celebrates her graduation with her mother Olga Williams and fellow SAS member Litha Rwexana.



JOYFUL ... NMMU choir member Claricia Coeries celebrates her graduation with fellow choir member Stanley Coutts.



PRESENTING ... Trust staff member Shilela Malatjie presents a Nguni Cow to Dr Andile Ngcaba as a token of appreciation for the R500 000 contribution made from Dimension Data to the Vision 2020 Capital Campaign.



HANDOVER ... Chairperson: Africa & Middle East (Dimension Data) Dr Andile Ngcaba (2nd from right) handed over the first contribution to the Vision 2020 Capital Campaign to Judge Ronnie Pillay, Prof Derrick Swartz and Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi.