

NEWS

Upcoming Events

Alumni & Joint Events

- 31 October 2013
NMMU Alumni Awards
- 15 November 2013
Alumni Thanksgiving Breakfast

Alumni Exec Meetings

- 07 September 2013
(Workshop)
- 24 October 2013

NMMU Trust Legacy Events

- 05 September 2013
Women in Technology Cocktail
- 01 October 2013
JHB Golf Day
- 30 October 2013
SRC Cocktail
- 04 November 2013
Cape Town Recognition Awards
- 05 November 2013
Durban Recognition Awards
- 07 November 2013
Hostels: Unitas & Veritas
Reunion (1974-1995)
- 22 November 2013
Johannesburg Cocktail

Alumni Executive elected



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ... Office bearers were elected into their positions at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Alumni Association. The members are Khwezi Blose, (back from left), Elmari van de Merwe, Paul Geswindt (Director: Alumni Relations & Secretary), Chuma Sipuka, Prof Hugh Jeffery, Shuaib Rahim, Vernon Naidoo (front from left), Randall Jonas and Evert Knoesen.

THE new Alumni Association Committee members were elected at the recent AGM. This year's event included a social gathering and the election of the Executive Committee.

Office bearers elected were:

- The President - Randall Jonas, **MA 1999** is the current CEO at EastCape Training Centre
- Vice President - Evert Knoesen, **MBA 2011** currently works for Film and Publications Board as a Project Management Specialist
- Treasurer - Vernon Naidoo who holds an **MPhil 2000** is the Manager at Volkswagen Community Trust
- Elected members included Khwezi Blose, **BSc Hons 2006** is an established entrepreneur, Shuaib Rahim - **LLB 2010**

is a Law Lecturer at PE College, Chuma Sipuka - **NDip Marketing 2009** works for Transnet and Elmari van de Merwe - **NHDip Post School Education 1991** is the Assistant Director: Marketing & Advancement at EastCape Midlands College.

- NMMU Council Representatives are Prof Hugh Jeffery - **NDip Industrial Engineering 1988** and Cumngce Gawe - **NDip Industrial Engineering 1981. (not in picture)**

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News Briefs

Alumnus wins bronze

NMMU Zoology (*MSc, 2001*) graduate Ryan Wasserman won the prestigious Bronze Medal for Excellence in Aquatic Science at MSc level for his work at the 'South African Society of Aquatic Scientists' Conference.

He has published five scientific works from his MSc research, two of which are international research papers and all of which appear in ISI rated journals.

Star designs warms Paris

TEXTILE Design & Technology (*BTech, 2011*) graduate Laduma Ngxokolo made his global mark when he arrived in Paris where he showcased his Xhosa knit-wear range at the Labo Ethnik fashion weekend in June.

He shared the stage with some of South Africa's fashion heavyweights, including Thula Sindi, Stoned Cherrie and Abigail Betz. Ngxokolo is also an NMMU Alumni Rising Star Award recipient.

Graduate top Young Africans

GRADUATE and Law Faculty's Prof Avinash Govindjee, (*LLD, 2005*) has been chosen as one of the Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans – the publication's feature of young South Africans you should take to lunch.

In 2011 and 2012, he was the recipient of Researcher of the Year for his faculty. He is an attorney of the High Court and a senior commissioner of the CCMA. He was included in the second Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Top 40 under 40, a list of young business achievers published towards the end of 2012.

Winners of ACU PR publication award

Alumni international award

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION ... Director of Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt (*MA, 2013*), Alumni News Editor Liscka Hendricks (*BTech Journalism, 2009*) and President of the Alumni Association Randall Jonas (*MA, 1999*) celebrate winning their first international public relations award for their online newsletter publication.

THREE years after its commencement, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Alumni Relations Office has received an international public relations award for its online publication, Alumni News.

The newsletter is sent to the university's past students around the world and took top honours in the newsletters and magazines category of the Association of Commonwealth Universities' (ACU) annual Public Relations Awards 2012.

The ACU, the world's first and oldest international university network, has more than 500 member universities in

Commonwealth countries.

Its mission is to raise issues relating to tertiary education through a range of projects, networks and events.

NMMU's Alumni Relations Director, Paul Geswindt, said: "The PR Awards are a key aspect of the network and seek to recognise, encourage and celebrate achievements within the profession. We are very proud of this achievement."

The ACU's PR Awards were introduced in 2005 in order to encourage and reward good practices in the world's universities.



Liscka Hendricks

Alumni Relations Directorate

Connect & stay in touch...

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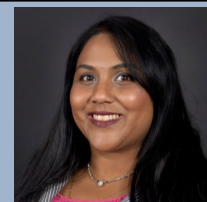
Email: alumni@nmmu.ac.za

Website: <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/alumni

Twitter: www.twitter.com/NMMUAlumni

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com Newsle: <http://newsle.com/>



Santosh Ramadu

Alumnus wins prestigious bay business award

FORMER teacher and alumnus, Laetitia Ferreira (*Higher Diploma in Education, 1989*) has recently won the business woman of the year award for the successful running of her business, Loerie Processed Veg.

The “pantry of the Eastern Cape” as it is known, is situated 60km outside of Port Elizabeth and supplies a wide range of processed and bulk fruit and vegetables.

Laetitia, who is winner in the entrepreneur category believed that all the finalists were winners in their own right.

“The competition gave me the opportunity to make new friends, network and most importantly, it gave me the opportunity to be inspired as a businesswoman, we seldom get recognition in business, especially entrepreneurs. This has been an amazing privilege.”

Although her business is flourishing now with a turnover of close to R200 000 a month, she says it took hard work, dedication and a great team to develop this tiny idea and grow it into the success it is now.

“In business I have learnt that you have to be able to think on your feet, be adaptable, concentrate on your strong points and be aware of your weak points in order to get the necessary support and develop them into positives.”

Laetitia remembers her varsity days when hitching to the “sokkie” in stiletto’s was still safe.

“We walked from the hostel and varsity through the fields, we had ‘sokkies’ with Xanadu and I remember how we hiked to town in high heels with a big suitcase and still felt safe.”

Between sneaking out of the hostel at night for fast food at “Something Good” to being baptized the “Dore” wearing red as part of the residence initiation process, Laetitia echoes that this was the time of her life.

She did not have the opportunity to choose her career path as she studied with an education bursary although she would have preferred becoming a sport teacher but would not change her path looking back now.

“All the subjects I took like marketing, accountancy, economics, I still use in my daily life and has given me an advantage in life.”

Laetitia, who met her husband Denro after university and moved to the Gamtoos Valley where she taught at the closest school being a few hours away.

She eventually left the teaching profession when her daughter



LEADING BUSINESS WOMEN ... The 2013 Regional Businesswomen’s Association Winners Florentina Ureche (back from left), Philippa Fabbri, Laetitia Ferreira, Sandra Vye, Buli G Ngomane (front, from left) and Di-Anne Qoto.

was diagnosed with APRIXIA, a learning disability and had to attend a school in Port Elizabeth with a private tutor.

She then had to find a way to supplement their income to pay for her special educational needs and therapy.

“I had to take a daily trip of 200km’s to get Lara to school and back so I started looking around for means and ways to generate additional income.”

The little idea - which was planted by the thought of working mothers, breadwinners, who wanted their families to have healthier, quicker meals with less effort.

“This is how the seed was planted of processed vegetable products. We knew we had at least 80% of all the produce around us that we could buy from local farmers and we were granted the opportunity to make something of this idea.”

Laetitia and her business partner, Stanley, set up factory and then started interviewing for available positions within their company.

“We appointed 5 people to start off with and took over a client list from the processing plant from which we bought our equipment, we were given clients before we even had our doors open.”

Laetitia, who bought out her partner in 2011 is now the sole owner of Loerie Processed Veg which supports many charities within their surrounding areas like the Loerieheuwel Creche and Loerie Arts and Crafts to name a few.

“Locally, we are very involved with fundraising projects and provide all the meals to pupils at the crèche on a daily basis.”

In business I have learnt that you have to be able to think on your feet...

Festival brings all forms of music together

Celebrating 25 years of organ partnership

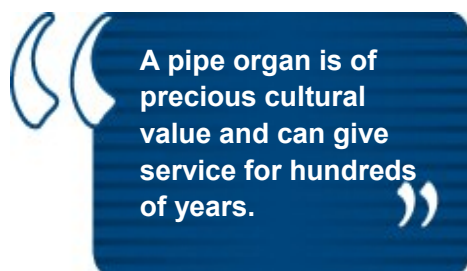
NMMU and the Dutch Reformed Church Summerstrand celebrated 25 years of the acquisition of the organ that was urgently needed for the training of organ students with a 25th anniversary organ festival on 16 May 2013.

The acquisition of the organ in 1988 was an important milestone for both the DR Church Summerstrand and the University – then still known as UPE. As a result of wonderful co-operation between church and university in which each partner paid half of the organ purchase sum of R 360 000, the church obtained a lovely large organ and the university got the first-class instrument it urgently needed for the training of organ students.

This win-win situation has proved highly successful during the past 25 years. Through these years a great number of excellent organ students were trained here and were afforded the opportunity to play their examinations and recitals on a properly equipped instrument.

Through careful planning, e.g. the installation of high wooden ceilings and a hard tiled floor, excellent acoustical surroundings for both organ and choral music were created.

On 4 December 1986 a contract was signed with Pretoria organ builder Jan Zielman, by the then Rector, Prof Hein Redelinghuys and the Church Minister, Rev Dave Marais.



The installation of the organ during which local organ builder, Jan Pekelharing, also assisted, took 3½ months. A French organ builder, Jean-Pascal Villard, expertly voiced all of the 3591 pipes.

The organ was inaugurated on 23 October 1988 by Gerdi Troskie (UPE Organ Student) who performed Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the East Cape Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Chris Dowdeswell.

The organ has three manuals (Great, Swell and Positive). The organ case, made of Iroko, stands 8m high and 6½m wide, and



ORGAN CELEBRATIONS ... NMMU, together with the Dutch Reformed Church Summerstrand, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church's organ which is also used for organ student

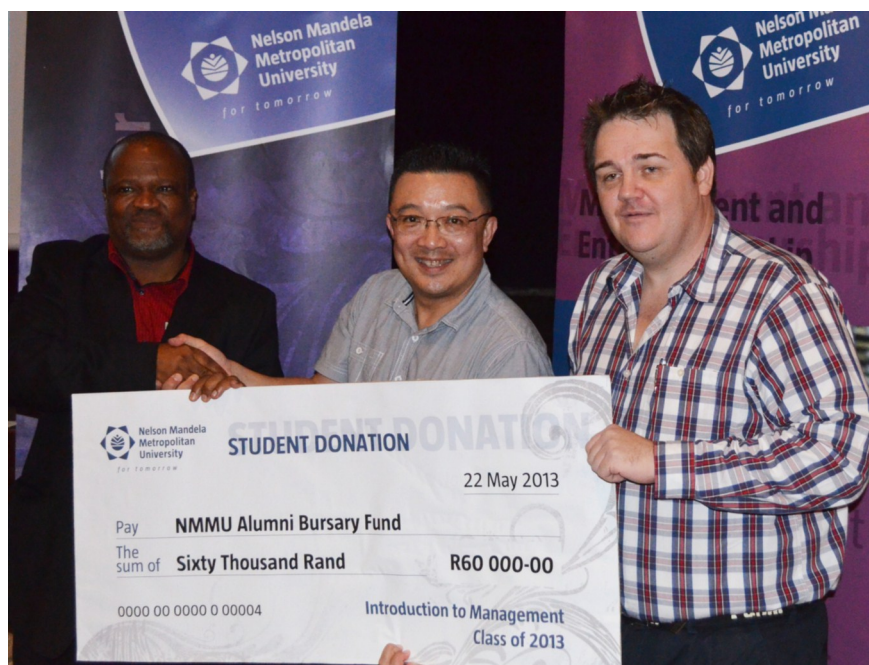
the façade pipes are made from polished tin and zinc. The longest pedal pipes are nearly 6m long.

Noteworthy are the horizontal copper Spanish Trumpets, the interesting woodcarvings and the elegant letters, Soli Deo Gloria – To God all the Glory!

This is the largest tracker action church organ and the second-largest tracker action concert organ in South Africa. A pipe organ is of precious cultural value and can give service for hundreds of years.

It continually increases in value and is of great educational importance, since it is used not only for the training of NMMU organ students, but also for organ recitals, choir festivals and CD recordings.

Students lend a hand



HELPING OUT ... R60 000 was recently donated by students to the NMMU Alumni Bursary Fund. Programme coordinator for management and entrepreneurship at NMMU and alumnus Paul Tai-Hing (MBA, 2012) (centre) presented the cheque. Accepting the donation was Dean of Students, Khaya Matiso (MTech, 2003) and Vice President of the NMMU Alumni Association Evert Knoesen (MA, 2011).

MANAGEMENT and entrepreneurship programme coordinator and alumnus Paul Tai-Hing handed over a cheque for R60 000 to Dean of Students: Khaya Matiso and Vice President of the NMMU Alumni Association Evert Knoesen to be used to assist needy NMMU students.

These funds will be used in assisting students with transport costs, tuition fees and other daily costs they require assistance with.

In total, R130 000 was raised by first year students studying Introduction to Management through the sale of a unique cookbook written by their lecturer, Paul Tai-Hing. The objective of this course was to teach the students how to start and manage small business, thus applying the theory that was taught in the classroom.

R30 000 was donated to the director of the Masenyusane Development Organisation, Jim McKeown (MA, 2012), who oversees the running of various school projects in the township among them the Lwandlekaze and Ben Sinuka High Schools in New Brighton.

The remaining R40 000 has been earmarked to restore two classrooms at the Lwandlekhazi High School.

These two schools have formed partnerships with the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship. Students studying towards their Diploma in Management spend 100 hours each tutoring the learners at these schools, coaching sport programs, painting and restoring classrooms as well as maintaining school grounds. These learners are then recruited to study at NMMU.

"The project not only taught the students business skills but also created the realisation that as potential leaders they possessed the power to create positive change within the communities their business operated," said Tai - Hing.

News Briefs

Funny man hits the web

INFORMATION Technology: Software Development graduate and software developer by day and funny guy video maker by night, Michael Lu, (*BTech 2008*) commonly known as Mike-E-Lu, hopes to take the edge off the sometimes doom and gloom world we live in with humorous YouTube videos.

Not limited to anything specific, Lu's YouTube channel, called Out My Head Creations, ranges from comedy sketches to music covers and even funny "how to" videos.

Graduates innovative company

JOUBERT Botha, managing director of JobVine and Digital Media, believes his companies address the need for innovation in recruitment by incorporating the latest technologies and social media.

JobVine, a social recruitment platform for recruiters and companies, is Botha's sixth start-up, which he founded in 2009 with his brother and a friend.

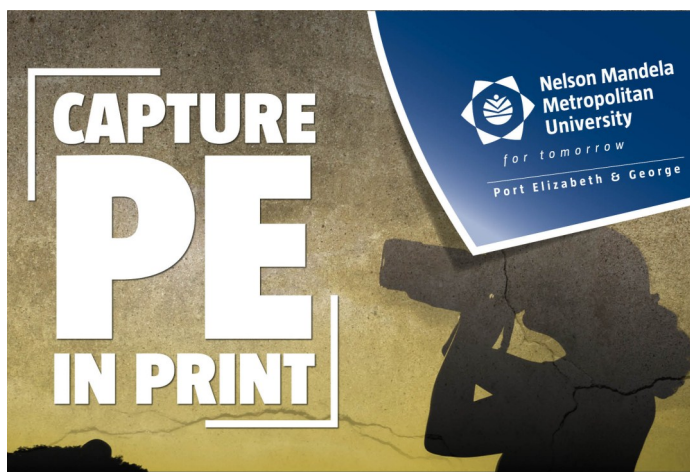
Karma Digital Media is a full service digital marketing agency which specialises in software development, digital marketing and social media management to provide businesses with business and digital strategy solutions for their unique requirements.

Alumnus fittest guy in PE

NEWTON Park gym owner, Dave Levey (*MA, 2001*), is set to take on the world's best in California when he puts his skills against the best in the world next month.

Levey who is a Biokineticist, with a master's in Health Science, was named the fittest man in Africa for the second time running.

He founded Crossfit East London and Algoa Crossfit in Port Elizabeth, won both the Africa Open and the Africa Regionals of the Crossfit Games by good margins to secure single qualifying place for an African at the contest in the US.



And stand a chance to win R5000 plus a SOLO EXHIBITION!

As Port Elizabeth celebrates a century as a city, NMMU is calling on all students, staff and alumni to capture the city's landmarks in photographs - but with the university's values in mind:



The best of these city photographs will then be shared at an exhibition by the university in November.



For more details, visit



GEORGE EVENT ... NMMU Trust recently hosted a cocktail function in George. Close to 40 alumni and friends attended the function. Some of the alumni who attended the social were Tiaan Pool (from left), Heidi Pool, Sheree Van Rooyen and Prof Josua Louw.

Alumni Reflections 2013



REFLECTING ... This year's Alumni Reflections event was attended by over 70 alumni and friends in light of NMMU's diversity month. Attending the event was, Vanta Erasmus (from left), Debbie Derry and Julian Erasmus (photo 1), guest speaker at the event Sakhekile Zweni with the Alumni Association President: Randall Jonas (photo 2) and Rhonel Loest (from left), Shuaib Rahim and guest speaker Laetitia Ferreira (photo 3).



LEADING THE WAY .. Some of the guests who attended this year's Frontfoot Leadercast seminar was Akua Smith (pic 1 from left), Celia Jordan, Gerard Bezuidenhout, Sherine Howell and Greg Morgan, Lester Cunningham (*BSc Hons, 1996*) and Elmari van de Merwe (*NHDip, 1991*) (pic 2). The event was held at the North Campus Conference Centre with over 60 people attending.



LONDON ALUMNI CELEBRATE ... NMMU Alumni recognised one of last year's NMMU Achiever Award Recipients, Garth Ritchie (*BCom, 1993*) (photo 1 second from left) at a recent social function in London where he was presented with his award by Managing Director: Legacies, Prof Kotie Grove, Director: Alumni Relations, Paul Geswindt (*MA, 2013*) and acting NMMU Trust CEO Renita Affat (*LLB, 1997*). Ritchie could unfortunately not attend the event last year. Alumni present at the event included NMMU Alumni Rising Star Award winner Achumile Majija (*BCom, 2006*) along with alumni Inge Schneider (*LLB, 2011*) and Hein Visser (*LLB, 2010*) (photo 2), Celia Geyer (*BArch, 1997*), Jean Druiff - Horak and Kym Brooks (*LLB, 2006*) (photo 3).





VOTING ... NMMU Dean of students Khaya Matiso (MTEch, 2003) with alumni Michelle Mbaco (MA Development Studies, 2012) and Isaac Metembo (MEd, 1997) (photo 1) attended the Alumni AGM where the new alumni committee was elected in May 2013. Other alumni who also attended were Mlungisi Kololo (BTech Human Resources, 2013) and Mziyanda Bloro (NDip Public Relations, 2012) (photo 2). The AGM was held at NMMU Conference Centre.



EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE ... NMMU's internationally renowned choir performed at this year's 25th anniversary of the organ at the Organ Festival held at the Dutch Reformed Church in Summerstrand (photo 1), also attending the event were Athena (NPDE, 2013) and Michael Boucher (BTech: Industrial Engineering 2013) (photo 2). The festival boasted organ, choir and other performances with over 350 guests attending.



ALUMNI 67second connection ... Staff and students including alumni from the PE College Dower Campus answered the call for graduates of NMMU to hold hands for 67seconds in honour of our namesake, Nelson Mandela and express the university's value of ubuntu. In this picture joined hands in celebration of Nelson Mandela's 95th birthday and raised money to donate to a local charity.

Staff Excel

Congratulations to...

- ARTS Professor Heather Nel (*DPhil, 1994*), Senior Director: Institutional Planning has been appointed to a ministerial committee to develop a national articulation policy for the post-school education and training sector.
Nel's colleague from CIPSET, Uthando Baduza has also been appointed to serve on this committee.
- DIRECTOR of Technical Services, Melvin Syce (*MSc 2006*), who has just been voted "President Elect" of HEFMA - The Higher Education Facilities Management Association of Southern Africa.
- WAYNE Muller (*NHDip Public Management 1994*), Deputy Director: Financial Aid who has been elected as the new President of the board of Financial Aid Practitioners of South Africa.

Sponsor a Bench support a student

ALUMNI are invited to sponsor a Bench on any of the University's six campuses and support the Alumni Bursary Fund and NMMU's Capital and Endowment Campaign.

Existing benches can be sponsored for R1500-00 and alumni can have their name linked to a bench on a particular campus. This is a unique way to contribute to your alma mater, make a difference in a student's life and leave your mark on a particular campus.

Interested individuals can contact Baakier.abrahams@nmmu.ac.za or phone 041-504 4708.

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& Artshop@nmmu

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(f) 041 5041851

Email: shop@nmmu.ac.za

Website:

www.nmmu.ac.za/shop

Missionvale University Shop

Tel: 041 504 1369 Email: shopmv@nmmu.ac.za



Baakier Abrahams

Meet the new Dean



NEW BEGINNINGS ... Executive Dean of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Dr Oswald Frank (centre) is welcomed to NMMU by Vice President of the NMMU Alumni Association Evert Knoesen (*MBA, 2011*) and Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt (*MA, 2013*).



Sanlam Student Village: 09h00 to 15h30 ▶ shop@nmmu.ac.za ▶ 041 504 4371

Missionvale Student Centre: 10h00 to 14h00 ▶ shopmv@nmmu.ac.za ▶ 041 504 1369

George Student Centre: shopgeorge@nmmu.ac.za

Website: shop.nmmu.ac.za

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