

NEWS

Alumni celebrates 20 years of democracy

Dates to diarise Alumni Events

- 20 June
Alan Knott-Craig Breakfast
- 22 July
London Social (TBC)
- 29 July
East London Social
- 19 August
Cape Town Social
- 27 August
Alumni Auction
- 05-07 September
NMMU Choir Reunion
- 30 October
Alumni Awards
- 14 November
Alumni Thanksgiving
Breakfast

Executive Meetings

- 07 August 2014
- 06 November 2014

Alumni Awards Nominations

- Friday 13 June 2014 - open
- Friday 25 July 2014 - close



FESTIVE CONCERT ... The venue was filled to capacity at the Summerstrand Dutch Reformed Church with alumni and friends who came to enjoy more than 150 performers who participated in the Alumni Festive Concert.

FOLLOWING a highly successful organ and classical music concert last year, NMMU's Alumni Association is aiming to introduce a new tradition of festival concerts to the Bay.

More than 150 performers participated in the May 2014 Alumni Festive Concert.

The concert featured The NMMU Clarinet Quintet, NMMU Choir conducted by Junita van Dijk and the 80-piece Grey Symphonic Winds under alumnus Shawn Lyon, poetry by Professor Janet Cherry, organ solos by alumni Christiaan Carstens, Devandre Boonzaaier and Antonio Lawack, as well as an organ and clarinet piece by Professor Albert Troskie and Ti-

aan Uys, among others.

"This year's theme focuses on celebrating 20 years of democracy, and 20 years of the excellent NMMU Choir. NMMU prides itself on providing sustainable careers for its students and alumni, so what better way than to showcase local talent?" said Evert Knoesen, Alumni Association Vice President and programme coordinator.

Money raised from the ticket sales will go towards the Alumni Bursary Fund.

The concert is the only academic festive concert in the country with a procession of academics, civic leaders and clergy.

News Briefs

International exposure

NMMU Lecturer in stained glass and BTech Fine Art graduate, Anva Chiazzari has been selected to exhibit her work at an International Glass exhibition in Ebeltoft, Denmark.

The exhibition opened on 5 April and runs until 28 September 2014. Chiazzari was the only South African artist selected to exhibit.

Alumni success

ALMOST half of the 2014 Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Top 40 Under 40 stars are NMMU alumni, including award-winning Xhosa-knitwear designer Laduma Ngxokolo, Computer Science BCom Honours graduates Devereaux Joubert and Mohammed Cassim, who started their software development company The Code Group four years ago, and NMMU political sciences lecturer Dr Joleen Steyn - Kotze.

The other 15 alumni are Marieka Barnard, Tim Jones, Debbie Wintermeyer, Nwabisa Makunga, Kazeka Mashologu - Kuse, Nosi Ncoyo, Gustav Nefdt, Tanette Nell, Vincent Nortier, Phumeza Pepeta, Zukiswa Di - Anne Qoto, Amy Shelver, Bradley Smith, Charles Stretch and Ian Whittal.

Battle through cancer

ALPHA Primary School teacher, Charlotte Hendricks, conquered breast cancer and completed her doctor's degree in education after a long battle with her health, but she did for the empowerment of teachers in Port Elizabeth's northern areas.

The foundation phase head of department started her post-graduate journey with six friends in 2006. Hendricks says her dream was always to be a teacher and to be a light for the people in her community.

NMMU Alumni AGM 2014

THREE Alumni representatives were elected to structures at this year's AGM.

The meeting which was held during May, elected two representatives to serve on Council and one Institutional Forum representative.

Cumngce Gawe, current Council Vice Chair and Prof Hugh Jeffery were re-elected.

Alumni Association Vice President, Evert Knoesen, was elected as the alumni representative on the Institutional Forum.

The meeting included reports by the Alumni President, Treasurer and Director: Alumni Relations.

NMMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Derrick Swarts also addressed members on the state of the university and encouraged them to stay involved.



EXECUTIVE ... Attending the Alumni AGM recently were Alumni Association members, Prof Hugh Jeffery (back from left), Elmari van de Merwe, Randall Jonas, Evert Knoesen, Khwezi Blose (front from left), Paul Geswindt, Vernon Naidoo and Shuaib Rahim.

Contact us

Please update your details by using the update form, visiting our website or contacting our office.

Alumni contact details

General enquiries: +27 41 504 3935
Fax: +27 41 504 1417
E-mail: alumni@nmmu.ac.za
www.alumni.nmmu.ac.za

From the editors desk...

The year is in full swing, with many alumni events already behind us. We are looking forward to the rest of the year.

This year we welcomed more than 6000 graduates to the alumni family at the graduation ceremonies in George and Port Elizabeth.

Award winner, Winand Grundling also received his Rising Star award earlier this year at a benefit concert in aid of the Alumni Bursary Fund. Social events were also held in Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg.

Successful events were held in Uganda and Kenya, where our office partnered with the NMMU Office for International Education to host the East African Alum-

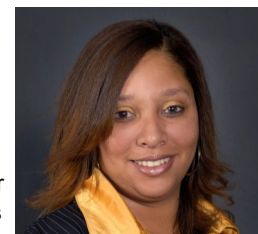
ni Socials.

Other events were the sold out Alumni Festive Concert where over 150 performers entertained our guests.

We will celebrate the success of our alumni nationally and internationally at the annual Alumni Awards ceremony and we will thank all our supporters at the Alumni Thanksgiving Breakfast.

Please stay in touch by liking our Facebook page following us on Twitter or check out our website page.

Warm Alumni wishes
Liscka Hendricks



NMMU choir celebrates 20 years of entertainment

INVITATIONS to world events in China and Canada are a fitting celebration of the 20th anniversary of the country's first multi-racial choir.

The formation of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's multi-award winning choir – the very first mixed-race choir at a South African university – was spurred on by the arrival of democracy in 1994.

Its quick and ongoing success – the result of highly-polished performances of African traditional, classical, Western European and Latin American songs – have made it a favourite on the global stage.

"It's important to have the best singers to represent our country and continent," said conductor Junita van Dijk.

Early in the year, the choir received a much-coveted invitation to the 12th China International Chorus Festival (CICF) and International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) World Youth Choral Education Conference in July. It is the second time the choir will be attending this event – the first was in 2012, when it was the only choir from Africa to be invited.

The choir has also been invited to stage a Canadian tour in April next year – which has already led to a confirmed concert with the famous Toronto Children's Choir, with another concert on the cards in Minneapolis, United States, to be hosted by the world-acclaimed VocalEssence choir, which is conducted by

IFCM president Prof Philip Brunelle.

What makes this choir so successful, says Van Dijk, is its members love for music. "I think the success of the choir can in a huge way be attributed to the dedication and enthusiasm of the singers to perform a diverse repertoire that makes an impact on those who hear it."

The choir practices six hours a week –

more before a tour or concert – and the effort pays off. "We are very fortunate to have had many overseas invitations."

The choir has also notched up a number of awards, including taking the top spot at an international choir competition in Austria in 2009 and being selected as one of 24 choirs worldwide to perform at the World Choral Symposium in Argentina in 2011, which Van Dijk called "the highest achievement" in her career. "It is the be all and end all for a choir."

Members in the choir range from first years from rural areas with no musical training to post-grad students specializing in music. "What we have in common is that we all love music and we are all working towards the same goal – excellence. We want to touch



TOUCH OF THEATRE ... Movement and dance – led here by choir member Siphokasi Molteno (front, middle) – breathe energy and life into the choir's every performance.

people's hearts."

Many of them share their talent by teaching traditional African songs to choirs in schools in the Bay – ranging from private to former Model C to previously-disadvantaged schools. The choir has produced a number of outstanding individuals, among them St John's College music teacher Sidumo Nyamezele, who is also the African traditional conductor of the University of Johannesburg Choir, and has conducted both the National Youth Choir and the World Youth Choir. "He could not read music when he started singing," said Van Dijk. Six months later, he was conducting the choir's African music programme – and completing an advanced diploma in choral conducting under Van Dijk. Another former member Mzuvukile (Muz) Si-renya sang in the World Youth Choir.

We all love music and we are all working towards the same goal - excellence

NMMU's eldest graduate receives PhD at 84

WHEN 84-year-old Bob Wood received his PhD in Development Studies, he became NMMU's oldest graduate.

It was only after he retired at 72 that the history-loving Capetonian, a trained chartered accountant and accomplished businessman, went to university for the first time.

"I went to university because I never had a degree – I had an accounting qualification, but not a degree – and then I just went on a bit."

He obtained his BA, BA (Hons), MA and a Postgraduate Diploma in African Studies from the University of Cape Town. For his doctoral studies, he examined the relationship between business and apartheid in South Africa – particu-

larly the Western Cape – from 1960 to 1990.

It was an area well-known to Wood, largely due to his extensive involvement with Cape Town's Chamber of Commerce at that time, which began in 1962. He served as president in 1974 and was awarded life membership by the Chamber in 1994.

He was also President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of South Africa (Assocom) in 1978.

"I met a lot of political figures and had a lot of background knowledge." "It's quite an amazing achievement.

He is a special role model," said Wood's supervisor Prof Richard Haines, who heads up the Department of Development Studies.



NEVER TOO OLD ... NMMU's oldest graduate, Dr Bob Wood, who graduated at the age of 84.

Pathologist by day, chorister by night

WHILE most of the members of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's world-renowned choir are students or newly-graduated alumni of the university, there are a few that have come from more unusual quarters.

Like clinical pathologist Pieter Ekermans, who moved to the Bay for a work contract and has developed into one of the choir's talented soloists, or quantity surveyor Khwezi Blose, who notched up close to 13 years of choir membership.

"We've even had a medical doctor and a clinical psychologist," said NMMU choir conductor Junita van Dijk. They were completing their training in Port Elizabeth.

The choir's abilities and international success immediately astounded me

Ekermans, an alumnus of Stellenbosch and Wits, developed a passion for choral singing in Kimberley's cathedral choir while completing his in-service training and community service. He also notched up invaluable experience as a member of the Symphony Choir of Johannesburg, directed by renowned conductor Dr Richard Cock.

In 2012, two weeks after arriving in Port Elizabeth, he was searching for a new choral home within the city's churches when he happened to meet Van Dijk at a friend's house – and found himself doing an

impromptu audition.

Although he was more accustomed to singing with older people, the chance to join the younger choir was a challenge he couldn't turn down – and he was immediately impressed.

"The choir's abilities and international success immediately astounded me," he said. "[Van Dijk] has redefined choir performance in this country and abroad, ensuring the long-term viability of the art form...

From start to finish there is an exuberance and energy on stage that is absolutely contagious."

For Ekermans, a highlight was last year's inter-varsity choir festival Kwesta, when NMMU's outstanding performance caused an "upwelling of emotion" among the audience.

"The conductor from Pretoria said it was a 'life-changing experience'."

⇒ Successful businessman Blose, who runs a quantity surveying firm in KwaZulu-Natal and also heads up a national health and hygiene services company, was in the choir for the most part from 1998 to 2011. Kwhezi is also a member of the Alumni Executive Committee.

The NMMU alumnus stayed so long because he "fell in love with the [choral] environment". As a second bass singer, with a



TOP NOTES ... Clinical pathologist Pieter Ekermans is a soloist in the choir.

unique refined deep sound, he also felt the choir needed him – and was determined to "make sure the choir succeeded at all times".

He enjoyed the diverse repertoire of songs in this multi-cultural choir and the unity among choir members. "As choristers, you focus on making good music. It's interesting, exciting, hard work and often requires long hours... The standard is very high."

2014 Honorary Doctorates



Paul Allen, childhood friend of Bill Gates and co-founder of Microsoft, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) in recognition of his provocative and catalytic contribution to innovations and inventions that have brought the technology of the digital age within reach of millions of people around the world; and for his entrepreneurial capability in the field of computing and informatics.



In recognition of his exceptional entrepreneurial and financial skills, which he has used to revolutionise the generic pharmaceutical industry in South Africa, thereby also making a positive difference to the lives of many South Africans, the degree of Doctor of Commerce (honoris causa) in the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences was awarded to **Stephen Saad**.



Former South-African Deputy-President and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) for her contribution to society through her groundbreaking work to create opportunities for women to participate in the economy in traditionally male-dominated sectors such as mining and energy; and the resultant impact on improving the lives of poor people and developing the community.



Recognising his significant and groundbreaking contributions in theoretical physics and his support for mathematical sciences in South Africa, the degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) was awarded to **Neil Jeffrey Turok**. Born in South Africa, Dr Turok founded the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), which opened in 2003, among many other achievements.



Masilamoney Pather was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) (posthumous) for his selfless work for social justice, and for ensuring that the poorest of the poor experienced the dignity of access to professional health care services. An extremely popular doctor, fighter for freedom and equality but ever humble, Dr Pather was never one to claim credit of any kind yet left an indelible mark on history and a legacy for the world to follow.

Global cinematography success for former PE students

TOUGH shooting in tougher locations for cinematographers Carlos Carvalho and Vicci Turpin – both of whom complete their national diploma in photography at the former PE Technikon – has pushed two gritty, home-grown movies into the international spotlight.

Carvalho, director of photography for *The Forgotten Kingdom*, the first feature film to be produced in Lesotho, last week won the Haskell Wexler Award for Best Cinematography at the 14th annual Woodstock Film Festival Maverick Awards Gala in New York. The film – which tells the story of a young, unemployed man who travels from Johannesburg to his ancestral land to bury his estranged father – has also been nominated for nine awards in the African Movie Academy Awards. It opened in South Africa on Friday (11 April).

Turpin, meanwhile, was the cinematographer for *Four Corners*, which was South Africa's submission for last month's 86th Academy Awards in the best foreign language category. A coming-of-age tale about a 13-year-old boy living in the notorious ganglands of the Cape Flats, the film was screened in South Africa in February.

Johannesburg-based Carvalho, 43, who studied at the former Port Elizabeth Technikon (now part of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University), said the Haskell-Wexler award – his biggest achievement to date – was like winning a "mini Oscar". "To be recognized by Mr Wexler – an Oscar-winning cinematographer who is regarded as one of the top 10 most influential cinematographers in Hollywood – is overwhelming."

Carvalho said filming *The Forgotten Kingdom* was "extremely challenging on many fronts". A low budget saw them conquering mountainous terrain in a canary-yellow taxi that served as their camera vehicle, to film in the remote mountain village of Semonkong. "A group of 4x4 enthusiasts asked us how we got up the mountain 'with that taxi'? We told them that not only did the taxi make it, it was the recovery vehicle that towed our grips [lighting and rigging] bakkie through some mountain passes. We were a low budget film with endurance and cunning."

They had a small crew and minimal lighting gear. "What we did have was the most beautiful landscape. For me the challenge was to shoot with the sun at the optimal angle in relation to the artists and not compromise the location so as to get maximum visual value out of the location."

Carvalho is a firm supporter of the South African film industry. "All films in some way or another depict our culture. In supporting local



(1) NEW YORK AWARD ... South African cinematographer Carlos Carvalho, who studied in Port Elizabeth, has gained international kudos for the film *The Forgotten Kingdom*. **(2) GANGLAND ...** Cinematographer Vicci Turpin (front) and her crew shoot the film *Four Corners* in the gang-associated areas of the Cape Flats. The film was South Africa's submission for last month's Academy Awards in the best foreign language category.

films, we are keeping our own culture [alive], be it Basotho, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu or English. South Africa is a beautiful tapestry of cultures and the more we know about each other, the stronger and more resilient the fabric will become."

He said his photography studies gave him "a solid backbone into the visual world of filmmaking".

Cape Town-based Turpin, 48, who also studied at the former PE Technikon and has worked with many well-known actors including Charlize Theron, Sir Ben Kingsley and Kevin Bacon, said the *Four Corners* shoot was "technically very challenging due to the harsh realities of the locations" – with many of the gang-associated places where they filmed perceived as no-go areas.

Shot in just five weeks, the film made use of

both professional actors as well as non-actors drawn from a pool of real Cape Flats people to add to its authenticity.

"I feel this is an important story to tell. After reading the first script, I knew I wanted to work on it and am so glad we worked with the actors and characters we did. It's a harsh world out here and it's difficult to convey what the teenagers and adults go through. It has humbled me and I just wanted to get the visuals across as realistically as possible."

Turpin "reccied" the area with director Ian Gabriel for two weeks before filming began in order to choose "the perfect authentic locations with light, colour tones and lensing in mind".

"The conditions we were filming in were very hard on the crew ... It was like going to war getting through some of the days and getting out of the locations at night."

What our alumni have to say on Democracy

1994 was a very significant year for South Africans, the year of our first democratic elections. Twenty years later we pause for a moment to reflect on our achievements as education institutions, government, sport structures, business and community organisations and individuals and we examine the soul and general well-being of our country.

We asked former SAS Chairpersons and some Alumni Association Executive Committee members to share their thoughts on developments over the twenty years and experiences in a democratic South Africa.

Higher Education: the 20 years of Democracy brought about positive change in my life. Previously I was prohibited from studying at UPE.



Then with the event of democracy, I was granted the opportunity to complete my Honours and Masters degrees.

Secondly, I became involved in the Alumni structures. We worked tirelessly to include ALL Alumni and over the years, I have witnessed the positive change that the Alumni have embraced.

While working for the NMMU for 5 years, I have been involved in getting hundreds of teachers/educators trained in areas of Maths, Science, Financial Management and IT.

All of these courses were free for the teachers!

The outreach programmes from the higher education institutions have a far reaching impact i.e. it not only assists the teachers but it reaches the learners who can then ultimately realise their dreams by studying at higher education institutions.

Democracy brought about freedom for millions of people who were trapped and in bondage because of Apartheid.

The higher education institutions brought about a range of opportunities and in so doing creates freedom! - **Vernon Naidoo - Alumni Association Treasurer**

I come from a multi-racial school, Cillie High School, where democracy was displayed in full flesh. Different people from different backgrounds attended the school and I was able to learn the value of people beyond the colour of their skin or the money in their pockets. At university, it was easier for me to build relationships across cultures and to relate to people from different backgrounds. However, I did not come from a wealthy background and was desperate to study at the university.



As a young white woman, I have benefited from democracy at the institution of higher education. In my first year in BA Media, Communications and Culture (BA MCC), I received a bursary from the NMMU for being head girl at my school. In my second year I received funding from the NMMU Alumni Relations Office and a loan from NSFAS. In my third year I benefited from a government bursary that was established for all final years in financial need, granted that they pass their degree. By this time I had qualified as a BA MCC graduate through the support of external parties.

I decided to further my education and pursued a BA (Hons.) in English Literature. For this degree I received four bursaries, the Winifred Wilson Bursary, the NMMU Honours Bursary, the NMMU Financial Needy Bursary and the Babette Taute Trustees Bursary. When I completed this degree, I applied for my MA English Literature and again received funding for this degree from NMMU and the National Research Foundation. The latter has funded me for two years. Though I have highlighted how I have benefited from democracy financially, I have also benefited in other areas such as leadership, employment and relationship building at the NMMU.

My message to people, students and potential students in particular, is that we should protect and celebrate democracy in the institutions of higher education. We live in a beautiful, diverse country where we can learn from one another and help one another.

We should treat one another with respect and dignity, not as enemies. I have been treated as a friend of NMMU and a potential success for the country.

I wish to one day support students in the same way I have been supported, I hope you do the same. - **Sonnetta Human - former SAS president**

We have an opportunity to develop South Africa into a great African democracy. It is unfortunate that our young democracy is experiencing a weakening in civil society structures and a growing class divide.

A major concern is the quality of basic education which impacts on technical and tertiary education and training and eventually what we are able to produce as a country. How wisely are we spending the education budget?

South Africa should have experienced more sharing of resources and skills amongst its people and less government dependency.

We showed the world we can develop world class resorts, stadia, cities and host major international conferences and sport events.

We have leaders in sport, industry and academia who can compete with the best in the world but they remain sparks of a weak fire.

We still have much to learn about each and our political geography, an apartheid legacy, contributes to this 'invisible divide'.

Our challenge is to create new spaces and transform existing spaces to reflect a new spirit. Without change some of our spaces remain trapped in the past.

We need to find creative expression about who we are, how we feel, our journeys and the new world we want to create.

Where are our patents, inventions, creations, philosophies and how do we express who we are.

South Africa is a great and beautiful country with a lot of potential and I am proud to be a citizen and to be part of this period in its history. **Paul Geswindt – Director: Alumni Relations**



MSF's Garret passionate about world health

VISITS to Somalia and Syria's borders may not be high on the bucket lists of most people – but for Garret Barnwell, president of the South African association of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), they were priority destinations.

Barnwell, 29, who lived in the war-shattered areas as a field worker for MSF, is completing his masters degree in clinical psychology at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The Sedgefield man plans to use this qualification not only to expand his work within MSF, but also to make a difference within public health care in South Africa. "There is a big gap in terms of mental health care in the South African health care system."

Barnwell's four-month trip to the Somaliland region of Somalia in 2011 – his first field assignment with MSF – was the culmination of a personal journey sparked many years before, when he completed his masters degree in conflict and transformation at NMMU, focusing on Somali refugees in Port Elizabeth. "Not many NGOs are working on the issue in Port Elizabeth, which has some of the highest incident rates [of discrimination] against a migrant population."

He conducted countless interviews with Somali refugees, learning about the trauma they had experienced in their own country and as migrants living in South Africa.

Parallel to his MA studies, he completed a Professional Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance through the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, which was hosted by Wits University and partly-coordinated by MSF.

"A lot of the lecturers were from MSF – one asked if I'd be interested in working with the organisation on migrant-related issues. Migrants were coming from the SADC regions – and were experiencing problems accessing health care in South Africa."

He agreed – and was soon asked to assist with an advocacy campaign for refugees, which took the form of a photographic exhibition highlighting the terrible conditions under which they have to live in South Africa.

An offer of a short-term contract followed – and he found himself blown away by the scope of MSF, which has some 27 000 volunteers in over 60 countries providing health care in areas where there is armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care (e.g. migrants not getting access to health care) and natural disasters.

When MSF asked him on a "mission to Somaliland" as assistant field-coordinator for the rehabilitation of a hospital, he didn't hesitate. His was a project management role, which required much liaising with the people in the community. The assignment coincided with a major drought, so he was also involved in assessing the extent of the crisis in the local community and in camps for internally-displaced people.

The need for adequate health care was massive – and Barnwell said the hardest part of the

project was choosing which needs to focus on.

"There were so many health needs – where do you focus your

attention?"

One of his most rewarding experiences was when a baby girl was born prematurely at the maternity ward where MSF was working. Not expecting her to live, her family refused to name her. "The medical staff worked hard to keep her alive, and when she started feeding and finally gained some weight, her family gave her the name Ayan, which means 'lucky'."

Barnwell was later involved in a six-month project providing humanitarian assistance along Syria's borders. He was based on the "no-man's land" between Syria and Turkey, and worked mainly in Turkey and Lebanon.

"What I've learned in the field has only confirmed what I believed before: that people are people the world over and that everyone deserves to have decent health care, no matter who they are."

Both experiences reignited his interest in mental health, which had been the catalyst for his initial studies in psychology to honours level.

"In times of conflict, psychiatric disorders double. It's a result of the ongoing trauma and deteriorating conditions war-affected populations experience daily."

Last year, Barnwell was elected president of the board of MSF SA – a position which has taken him across the globe, including Kenya last month (March), to discuss and debate issues of MSF governance.



MEDICAL OUTREACH ... Garret Barnwell speaks to a mother and child in the paediatric section of a hospital in Somaliland, Somalia.

"A big topic is the issue of violence against health care workers... These debates influence the way MSF works."

His work on the field with MSF inspired him to return to South Africa to make a difference within public health care here – hence his decision to complete his psychology studies. "I want to practice as a mental health care professional."

He hasn't ruled out the possibility of working as a health care worker for MSF again, saying the need is great in the areas of torture rehabilitation as well as sexual and gender violence.

As part of his degree, he is working as an intern at Livingstone Hospital, Elizabeth Donkin Hospital and NMMU's psychology clinic, UCLIN.

"I'm really enjoying it. I've always worked abroad. It's nice to experience a different health care system and see how I can contribute to it." - Nicky Willemse

Contact us

Please update your details by using the update form, visiting our website or contacting our office.

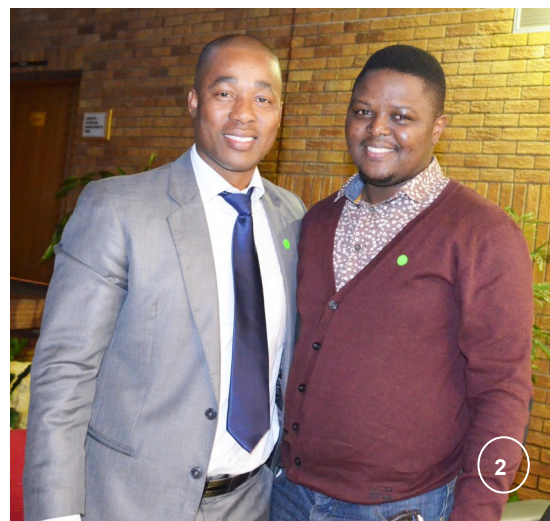
Alumni contact details

General enquiries: +27 41 504 3935

Fax: +27 41 504 1417

E-mail: alumni@nmmu.ac.za

www.alumni.nmmu.ac.za



ATTENDEES ... Attending the Alumni Annual General Meeting recently were Paul Geswindt, Evert Knoesen, Prof Christo Van Loggerenberg, Prof Albert Troskie and Randall Jonas, photo 1, as well as Khwezi Blose and Bonginkosi Ncalu, photo 2. At this years AGM alumni representatives were elected for Council and the Institutional Forum.



FESTIVITIES ... President of the NMMU Alumni Association Randall Jonas with *FLTR* Anglican Bishop Nopece, Catholic Bishop-elect Father Vincent Xungu and Alumni Director Paul Geswindt, photo 1, Dr Peter Louis Van Dijk shaking hands with Randall Jonas and DVC: Academic Prof Piet Naude, at presentation of the Alumni Association membership to him at the NMMU Alumni Festive Concert.



COMPUTING SCIENCE GRADUATES ... NMMU's Computing Science department teamed up with the Alumni Relations Directorate in hosting the annual Alumni JHB Chapter social. Almost 30 computing science alumni attended the event.



Over 6000 join alumni family

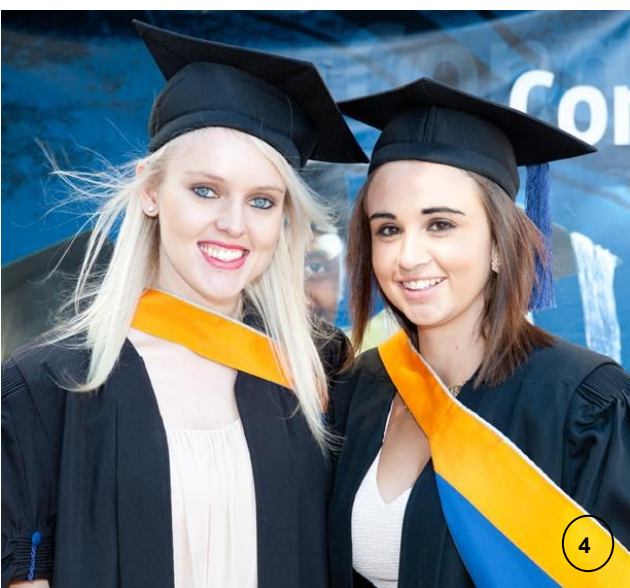
OUR alumni family is growing, which is evidenced in our 5% increase in graduates.

Over 6 000 certificates, diplomas and degrees were awarded at 14 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 4 to 15 April. This included 427 masters degrees and 72 doctorates, with 23 of the doctoral recipients being NMMU staff members.

The Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences once again took the lead with the most graduates: 1 823 recipients, up from 1 745 last year. The Faculty of Science has seen a 62% increase in graduates, due to the incorporation of George Campus and for the sixth consecutive year has produced the most doctorates; 17 in total this year.



CELEBRATIONS GALORE ... Enjoying their moments were BCom Accounting graduate Nkosi Dlamini, photo 1, BEd graduates Emma Jensen, Diedre Hempel and Roxanne Pittaway, photo 2, George graduate Nombuyiselo Duma, photo 3, BEd graduates Lauren Seaman and Jessica Starbuck, photo 4, and BCom graduate Tracy van Oosten and BSc Biochemistry and Microbiology Jessica Bucksey, photo 5.





EXHIBITION ... NMMU Alumni PE Chapter hosted a closing function for the Solo Exhibition by Dolla Sapeta recently at the Athenaeum in Central. Attending the event were Adv Shuaib Rahim (NMMU PE Chapter Chairperson), Paul Geswindt (NMMU Director: Alumni Relations), Dolla Sapeta (NMMU Alumnus) and Michael Barry (Senior Manager: Arts and Culture).



UGANDA ALUMNI... The Alumni Relations Office and Office for International Education recently partnered to host alumni and current and prospective students at an event in Kampala. Present at the event were Victor Sekabira (from left), Diana Kimono, Miriam Ofwono, Patricia Kiggundu and Efrance Balamu.



BENEFIT CONCERT ... Alumni Association Vice President Evert Knoesen, DVC: Academic Piet Naude, Winand Grundling (award winner, Alumni Association President Randall Jonas and Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, photo 1, and Natalie Stear, Winand Grundling, Junita van Dijk and Prof Albert Troskie, (all Alumni Award recipients), photo 2.



SUMMER FUN ... NMMU's Alumni PE Chapter recently held a Summer Jazz Evening at Madibaz, South Campus. The Alumni Bursary Fund was launched at the event. Some alumni attending the event were, Vanessa Behr (from left), Neil Pretorius, Deng Blor, Adv Michelle Morgan and Adv Shuaib Rahim, photo 1, and Christiaan Steyn with former SAS Chairperson Sonnetta Human, photo 2.