



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

routes

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Alumni Newsletter

alumni.nmmu.ac.za



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Alumni Association President's Message



Dear Fellow Alumni

The past year has been an extremely busy one for the Alumni Association Executive Committee and we are indeed very proud of the achievements of the Alumni Relations Directorate. A very important development was the adoption of a new Alumni Association constitution and ratification thereof by the University Council for the establishment of a single alumni governance structure at NMMU. The number of active alumni ambassadors is increasing but we need your support to continue to grow these numbers so that more alumni can be actively involved in helping NMMU achieve its Vision 2020 goals.

The Alumni Association Executive Committee invites all alumni to join us in support of the Alumni Care Campaign. The University can be supported in a variety of ways including sharing news, expertise, skills, networks and contributions in cash and kind. Alumni socials are held nationally and internationally to promote NMMU and build relations with alumni and friends to support the university. Staff members, many of whom are alumni, are invited to support the Alumni Care Campaign. Every contribution helps and will be acknowledged.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz has been leading the way with monthly contributions and other staff members and Alumni members have joined him. Donations to the Alumni Fund are used to support different projects and programmes. On 25 November 2012, two cheques to the value of R60 000 were handed over at the annual Alumni Executive Breakfast in support of the NMMU Endowment Fund (managed by the NMMU Trust) and the NMMU Student Nutrition Programme (managed by Campus Health Services). *We look forward to your support. May you have a blessed 2013.*

Randall Jonas • President: Alumni Association

If you would like to make a contribution or an on-line donation, please visit the following website for more information: <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za/Donate-to-NMMU/Alumni-Giving>

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Bank: Standard Bank
Account Name: NMMU ALUMNI
Account Number: 080 292 321
Branch Code: 050417 • Branch: Port Elizabeth
Ref: Please list ID number or cell / tel number

NMMU's Alumni Team



THE A-TEAM ... The Alumni Relations team includes (from left) University Shop assistant Wendy Scheepers, Alumni Relations administrative officer Liska Hendricks, Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt, Alumni Relations project officer and University Shop manager Baakier Abrahams and Alumni Relations coordinator Santhoshini Ramadu.

Alumni Director's Message



NMMU values its alumni. The establishment two years ago of an Alumni Relations Directorate (ARD) was a clear indication of the important role alumni fulfill as a major stakeholder group in the affairs of NMMU.

Alumni representatives serve on the university council, the institutional forum, the NMMU Trust as well as various advisory boards and committees.

2012 heralded a positive change in NMMU's alumni governance structures, with the adoption of a new Alumni Association constitution, following the merging of our popular Alumni Association and the more formal NMMU Convocation into a singular structure, responsible for all alumni-related functions.

2012 will also be remembered for its wide array of alumni events across South Africa, Namibia and in London. Highlights included a public lecture in February by 2011 Alumni Achiever Award recipient Eben Venter, alumni events for art and music lovers, and a workshop in partnership with the Department of Education to help schools set up past pupil associations.

The Alumni Awards ceremony (see page 12) and Alumni Executive Breakfast are two major events on the alumni calendar, providing opportunities to celebrate alumni achievements and say thank you to internal and external partners and alumni ambassadors respectively.

Nearly 10 000 alumni records were updated during

2012, bringing our annual printed newsletter and three electronic newsletters to even more alumni, who can also visit our NMMU Alumni Facebook page.

During 2012, we implemented an online giving system (visit <http://nmmu.ac.za> or <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>) to facilitate more "giving opportunities", as requested by you, our alumni. There are other university projects alumni can support (see page 3).

The Alumni House project is on track and building should start in 2013. The University Shop, an Alumni Association project, has opened small branches on the Missionvale and George campuses and turnover has been increasing steadily. The University Shop is essentially a brand development tool, with any surpluses used to fund Alumni projects such as bursaries.

In 2012, many alumni made use of our alumni application fee waiver benefit and also contacted us to assist with further study enquiries. For more information, visit our webpage or e-mail us at alumni@nmmu.ac.za

In an effort to raise early alumni awareness, we are including current students or "pre-alumni" in alumni events through the Student Alumni Society (SAS), which plays a big role in creating alumni awareness among students.

Although the NMMU ARD is the youngest in South Africa, its director chairs the Southern African Higher Education Alumni Consortium and the Association of Commonwealth Universities' PR, Communication and Marketing Network – a sign of confidence in the new generation thinking NMMU brings to the alumni relations profession.

We hope you enjoy reading about NMMU and look forward to hearing more about your role in making our world a better place.

Please continue to support our dynamic university, your *alma mater*.

Paul GG Geswindt • Director: Alumni Relations

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
Website: alumni.nmmu.ac.za

Launch of unique bench project

Alumni support needed

EVERY contribution by alumni in cash or kind counts – and helps to make a difference in the lives of NMMU students.

Whether it's a small monthly contribution of R20 or an annual contribution of R500 towards the NMMU Alumni Fund, every gift is valued. If 1 000 alumni donated R50 a month, the total annual contribution would be R600 000!

Alumni can also choose what they would like to support. It could be one of the various alumni legacy projects, student bursaries or the Vision 2020 R500 million endowment fund – the latter using interest to fund projects and programmes.

In addition, the Alumni Relations Directorate recently launched the NMMU Alumni Bench Project, which gives bench naming rights to alumni. Sponsoring a bench on any of NMMU's six campuses in Port Elizabeth and George is a unique and cost-effective way to leave your personal mark, make a practical gift and contribute to building a vibrant campus life.

Sponsorship of existing benches will go towards the NMMU Vision 2020 Endowment and Capital Campaign, which aims to ensure continued academic excellence, create modern infrastructure to support cutting-edge academic research and have the right staff and students to take NMMU to even greater heights.

A park bench can create a space for people to meet, interact, rest and reflect. The more spaces we have on campus for such interactions, the more people will hopefully start to use them. It is wonderful to have beautiful gardens, but even better if people are seen to be appreciating each other and the superb



Leave your mark on NMMU.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER ... NMMU's recently-launched Alumni Bench Project, which gives bench naming rights to alumni, is a practical, cost-effective way past students can leave their personal mark on their alma mater, and also contribute towards building a vibrant campus life.

environment with which NMMU is blessed on its various campuses.

The sponsored benches will also remind current students and staff of the many past generations who have shared their unique campus experience and remain connected to their *alma mater*, continuing to make a difference.

Alumni are also encouraged to share ideas about how funds can be raised to assist NMMU to achieve its vision.

YOUR GIFT

Alumni can deposit money directly into the NMMU Alumni account, sign a debit order, set up a stop order (NMMU staff only) or make an online donation. Simply visit alumni.nmmu.ac.za.

Enquiries:
Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt
on +27 41 504 3935 or
paul.geswindt@nmmu.ac.za





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Jo-Ann Daniels • 041 504 2162
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Future-focused alumni



NMMU's forward-focusing 2020 Vision has six core values that serve as a compass for the actions of all those who pass through the university's doors.

These include respect for diversity, *Ubuntu*, excellence, respect for our natural environment, integrity and taking responsibility. When it comes to our alumni – and their continued dedication to their *alma mater* – it is the value of *Ubuntu* that shines

through most. Our graduates, now leaders in their own right, are determined to shape tomorrow's leaders by giving freely of their time, money and expertise. They care. To encourage our alumni to get involved in any way that they can, NMMU's Alumni Relations Office last year launched its Alumni Care Campaign – and has received overwhelming assistance and support, including donations of up to R100 000 in cash and kind towards its legacy projects.

How can you get involved?

Be a mentor



PASSIONATE about engineering and young people, retired engineering professional **Ken Ramjee** pours heart and soul into mentoring aspiring technicians and technologists at NMMU.

Ramjee is also a member of NMMU's Electrical Advisory Committee and an advisor and moderator for several national diploma and BTech electrical subjects.

He also visits schools to encourage youngsters to enter the profession – and is an ambassador of NMMU's Alumni Association, always promoting his *alma mater* as a first-choice institution. "In terms of the School of Engineering, NMMU is one of the top institutions in the country."

Ramjee, who has been a member of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) for 20 years and in 1984 was the first black president of the Eastern Province Society of Engineers, obtained a string of qualifications in electrical engineering from the former PE Technikon, including a National Diploma (1986), National Higher Diploma (1989) and BTech degree (1998). He also attained a BTech (Business Administration) in 1998. All his studies were completed part-time while working as a studio engineer at the SABC, where he was later promoted to broadcast facilities manager. He has also studied towards an MBA degree.

Just enrolling for his studies at the height of apartheid required four permits – but the racial challenges he faced further fuelled his determination to succeed. "I attribute the successes I have achieved in my life totally to my success on this campus."

Together with fellow retired engineer Demetrios Argyrakos, Ramjee heads up the mentoring programme in the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology (EBEIT).

Be an employer



BTECH graphic design graduate **Neil Hart** is chairman of one of Port Elizabeth's foremost advertising agencies, Boomtown Strategic Brand Agency – where 50% of his employees are NMMU alumni.

"I give back because NMMU was the springboard for my career growth and I can see the great potential in the young people that come out of the university."

In addition to being an employer, his involvement at NMMU extends to helping develop marketing strategy, giving guest lectures and mentoring students.

Share your knowledge and skills

STRONGLY believing "we exist to be of service to others", **Dr Amber Anderson**, HR Executive at Coca-Cola Fortune, has spent years contributing to the development of students at NMMU.

From providing advice to students about programme selection in the former UPE's Faculty of Economic and Building Sciences to lecturing modules in HR and Group Dynamics, a highlight has been lecturing Labour Relations and HR in the block sessions of masters students for the past 10 years. "This has become such a rich experience as I am able to influence student thinking with my work experience." She has also served on a Women of Substance panel with NMMU Chancellor Santie Botha.

"Mark Twain said: 'The two most important days in your life are the



day you are born ... and the day you find out why.' I believe I was born to help people and businesses to become all that they are meant to be in life."

Anderson has a string of qualifications behind her, including her DPhil (2007), MA (Sociology) and BA Hons (Group Dynamics) and remembers her student years as "exhilarating, with an ocean of learning and wisdom at my feet. [It was] an opportunity just waiting to happen with amazing and committed lecturers and mentors."

Today, she is "totally in love" with her job. "I believe I was destined to occupy it. Needless to say, I would not have been able to deliver in the job were it not for my studies, which enhanced and entrenched my understanding of human and social science."

Be an advisor



BUSINESS SAVVY ... PhD Construction Management graduate **Dr Bridgette Gasa** – who is the founder of building consultancy and construction firm The Elilox Group – chairs the NMMU Business School's Advisory Board.

An ambassador



FLYING NMMU'S FLAG... Alumni Association vice-president **Evert Knoesen**, a former Student Representative Council (SRC) president who obtained his BA (1996), BA (Hons) in Political Studies (1997) and MBA (2011), actively participates in alumni events and encourages NMMU graduates to support the university through financial and other support.

who care

Be a governor or trustee



EASTCAPE Training Centre (ETC) CEO **Randall Jonas**, who obtained an MA (Sociology) in 1999, plays an active role on a number of NMMU bodies. In addition to being a member of the Alumni Executive Committee and a trustee of the NMMU Trust, he serves on council and chairs the Council Governance subcommittee.

Although these roles take up a considerable amount

of the busy CEO's time, Jonas has been "enriched" by his involvement. "I believe NMMU has an excellent mix of individuals who are serious about their contributions to this institution. It is indeed a privilege to be part of this exciting period in the university's life."

Jonas's involvement in university activities started when he joined the Alumni Association of the former UPE, and decided to play an active role.

"I held the firm belief that the university must play a more prominent role in the metro and the province at large and being an alumnus gave me an opportunity to be part of it ... the university has immense potential to become a leading African university."

Help secure donations for NMMU

FOR the past 42 years, retired professor of Greek and well-known cricket commentator **Kotie Grove** has been associated with NMMU in a variety of roles, including lecturer, dean of students and head of the NMMU Trust – all of which have sparked a deep loyalty for the university, which is pivotal in his role as director of its Legacies Programme.

Set up as a sub-division of the NMMU Trust in 2010, Legacies encompasses 11 different areas – some sport and some academic – and Grove is determined to encourage alumni to "leave a legacy" in the areas which were meaningful to them as students.

"We host reunions (all sponsored by alumni) in



the different areas, aimed at those who graduated between 1965 and 1990."

The first of many was a cricket reunion attended by 220 alumni from all over the world. "I challenged them by asking: 'Are you interested in creating a legacy for cricket?'" said Grove, who was president of NMMU's Cricket Club for 20 years.

Many of them were, and their money, time and expertise have been channeled in two directions – looking after NMMU's Cricket Club through bursaries and infrastructure contributions, and supporting a community outreach which is growing school cricket in the Kouga area. It is envisaged that aspiring cricket stars in the outreach programme – which is coordinated by alumnus



Support alumni chapters, clubs

INVOLVED ... Adv Shuaib Rahim chairs the Port Elizabeth chapter of the Alumni Association and is a member of the Alumni Executive Committee. Rahim, who graduated with a BJuris (1998) and LLB (2010) is a full-time lecturer of law in the department of Safety in Society at the Port Elizabeth College. "I take an active role in alumni events because investing in the university is an investment in our future."

Morne Strydom – will have access to the university through cricketing bursaries.

The 11 different areas of the NMMU Legacies Programme are: athletics, cricket, hockey, rugby, soccer, tennis, Accounting, Law, Pharmacy, Quantity Surveying and Women in Technology.

The Bequest Society forms part of the Legacies Programme, for funding associated with wills and bequests.

Promote NMMU to others

"IF WE don't contribute to the future, then we are as relevant as the dodo."

So says former Eastern Province and South African wicketkeeper **Dave Richardson** who, despite being based in Dubai where he is CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC), still plays an active role in NMMU alumni events – and is quick



to promote his *alma mater* as a first choice institution.

"My university gave me much to be thankful for – an education, a cricket career and a wife! I am proud to remain associated with NMMU as an alumnus. I am sure I can speak for all alumni in saying that staying connected not only provides us with a hugely beneficial sense of belonging but contributes

in some small way to a stronger organisation."

Richardson, a qualified lawyer, obtained his BCom (1979) and LLB (1982) degrees from the former UPE. He took up the role of ICC General Manager in 2002 and was appointed as CEO in June 2012.

Richardson encourages other alumni to get involved at the university.

"Apart from the obvious – making sure the university stays on a good financial footing – take an interest in the clubs that interested you as a student."

He also highlighted the vital role of sport and university studies in nation-building. "Common interests unite people – they realise they are not as different from one another as they imagine."

Develop future leaders



OUTGOING chairperson of the Students Alumni Society (SAS) **Thomas Terblanche**, who remains an advisor on the SAS board,

believes in the development of students as future leaders of society.

As such, the SAS arranges programmes to develop the leadership qualities of its members – most of these delivered by top-achieving alumni pursuing successful careers. "Our focus is the holistic development of our members. If the alumni NMMU produces are of a high

quality, the university is seen as an institution of high quality," said the Political Science (Hons) student.

He also promotes an understanding of the ideal "culture of alumni" – highlighting members' responsibilities towards their *alma mater* when they are no longer students.

"We are part of an elite 15% of South Africans able to attend university. Our aim should not be to keep our riches to ourselves but to give back to the university and society in general."

Terblanche, who has also served as a member of the Alumni Executive Association, the Oppidani Council and the NMMU Student Parliament Review Committee, will be serving on the Student Representative Council from 2013.



Leave a legacy

"EDUCATION is the key to empowering individuals to take control of their lives and future well-being. It is also the foundation of any successful society and economy."

These are the views of former Engen CEO **Almorie Maule**, who has been an active member of the NMMU Trust since 1999 – where she currently serves as trustee, deputy-chairperson and is a member of the Trust Executive Committee.

Passionate about promoting women in business, Maule has also donated significant funds to the university's Women in Technology legacy.

"I have a strong interest in ensuring that women are provided with the opportunities to develop their careers and involvement in business should they so wish."

After completing her BSc degree at Rhodes University, Maule completed both her honours (1969) and later her masters degrees (1978) in Mathematical Statistics at the former UPE.

During her career, she held a number of top positions at Impala Platinum and later Engen, culminating in her appointments as MD and CEO. Since retiring from corporate life in 2002, she has continued to serve on a number of boards and has been involved in various entrepreneurial ventures, mostly in the energy sector.

Maule believes NMMU has a huge role to play in the future of the region and South Africa. "I would like to challenge my fellow alumni who have not yet taken the step of closer involvement with NMMU to think about their talents and how they could leverage these to contribute to the university."

Be a donor

JOHANNESBURG-based senior advocate **Bert Bester** has firsthand knowledge of what it means to "battle your way to an education" without finances – which is why he generously contributes towards bursaries for disadvantaged students.

After his first year in 1975, the BJuris (1982) and LLB (1984) graduate was forced to abandon his studies due to a lack of funds. He returned to the university in 1981, this time making ends meet through holiday and weekend work, which sometimes meant juggling several jobs in one day.

"It would be anything from counter assistant to iron hand at Atlas Drycleaners on Fridays from 1pm to 11pm and Saturdays from 4am to 1pm, then a bookmaker's assistant at Arlington Race Course



from 2pm to 6pm, followed by barman at the Slipped Disc from 8pm to 12pm."

His vacation work included working as a winding engine driver at Kinross Mines in Evander, Mpumalanga.

On campus, he waited tables in the old Kraal, and was paid R15 a month to look after the gymnasium.

"I was also fortunate enough to get the Fanie du Preez Alumni Bursary of about R500 per year and the Haggard Trust Bursary of about R1 200 per year in some of my years of study."

Despite the pressures he faced, he played an active role on campus, serving on the Rag Committee, being cartoonist for the Rag Mag and UPEN, being House Comm secretary and primarius and even being cheerleader at intervarsity.

"I had a great student life," said Bester.

Staff alumni involvement

"I WANT NMMU to rise up to the position in South African higher education that it deserves. It's a unique university doing things differently and I look forward to the day when it will be recognised nationally and internationally as such. By giving back – both in money and in kind – I hope to make some contribution towards this goal."



So says Public Relations graduate (1986) **Beverley Erickson** who has spent the past 25 years working her way through most aspects of PR and communications at the university and now finds herself as NMMU's Online Community Manager.

Among her many roles in this position is keeping a finger on the pulse of NMMU's social media channels, where she targets messages for specific platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Over the years, Erickson has contributed to university life in many ways. She was chairperson of the PE Technikon Alumni Association and served on the executive committee for 20 years. She was vice-chair of three committees – PE Technikon's Woman's Forum, the Non-teaching Staff Association, and the Pearson Past Pupils Association. She is currently a board member of the Marketing Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) and a board of trustees member on the National Tertiary Retirement Fund (NTRF).

"I am passionate about what I do and the brand that I represent. Loyalty is of utmost importance to me."



Alumni in the news

Novel success

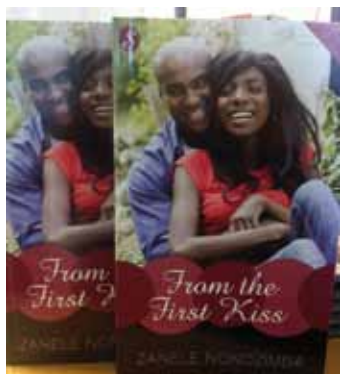


WITH her debut novel "From the First Kiss" flying off the shelves, NMMU media studies graduate Zanele Nondzimda is South

Africa's latest romance sensation.

"It's a real dream come true for me to see my name on a book. It's something I've worked towards my entire life," said Nondzimda, a communication specialist and editor at Metropolitan Retirement Administrators in Johannesburg, who began writing short stories from the age of 10.

(Adapted from an article in the *Week-end Post*)



NMMU alumni wine project boosts education

IN November 2012, the Cape Town chapter of NMMU's Alumni Association launched its innovative "Alumwine" charity wine sales project as part of a drive to tackle the country's education crisis.

The purpose of the Alumwine project – which is offering South Africa's best wines to the public at a 15% discount with free door-to-door delivery – is to raise funds to place OGLE Digital Content Download Kiosks in struggling schools, where pupils and teachers can access and download free curriculum-based educational content.

OGLE Media's founding partner is Platypus Digital, which has at its helm NMMU photography alumnus Stanley Edwards, who said: "Our education system is in crisis. The problem is certainly huge but we believe that through collective action and with enough supporters we can accomplish amazing things and make a big difference."

Over 20 leading wineries are



A TOAST TO EDUCATION ... Cape Town-based Stanley Edwards – NMMU photography alumnus and head of Platypus Digital – hopes the recent launch in Cape Town of novel wine-selling project "Alumwine" will raise funds to place OGLE Digital Content Download Kiosks in needy schools.

supporting the project. The wines are packed in mixed cases and include six bottles of red and/or white wines, with 2,5 to four-plus star ratings. They cost from R265 to R460 per case.

•For more information on the Alumwine project, visit www.facebook.com/alumwine or contact Stanley Edwards – 082 458 3356 or stanley@platypus.co.za
(Adapted from an article in the *Herald*)

Taking special needs education to new heights

EDUCATIONAL Psychology (BEd) graduate Leigh Dunn, a special needs teacher in Plettenberg Bay, has won a national teaching award for excellence in special needs teaching.

"I give God all the glory and I dedicate this award to all the learners I work with. I believe every little one I work with has the potential to be our next Nelson Mandela – even the smallest star shines in the darkness," said Dunn, who is responsible

for the Education for Learners with Special Needs (Elsen) unit at Formosa Primary School. He believes special needs education has been neglected for much too long. "There is a negative perception about special needs education and I believe we need to nurture these children, who have learning and physical



We need to give special needs children the same opportunities as other children.

TERRIFIC TEACHER ... Award-winning Plettenberg Bay special needs teacher Leigh Dunn (right) took his class to the Spur for an end of year Christmas party.

disabilities. We need to give them the same opportunities as the other children but in a nurturing environment."

(Adapted from articles in the *Herald* and *Mail and Guardian*)

Fashionable Bianca opens boutique

FASHION design graduate Bianca Fourie is showcasing her designs in her very own clothing boutique – Soigné in Port Elizabeth's Bloomingdales Centre.

"I don't have a specific line or collection. I design and make various garments for my shop depending on the season, current styles or fabrics that I find."

Soigné – pronounced "sway-nay" – is a French word, meaning "polished, well groomed and showing sophisticated elegance". It is a name Fourie hopes will reflect the quality of her clothing, which is inspired by timeless classics.

Her designs have been so well-received that she recently launched her own men's range.



ATTENTION TO DETAIL ... Fashion design graduate Bianca Fourie sells her own designs at her stylish boutique Soigné.

"I will be designing smart casual shirts and button-up collared shirts for the men's range."

(Adapted from an article in the *Herald*)

NMMU's R1-billion building boost

NMMU is busy with its largest and most sustained capital expansion programme since the construction of the original university sites some 40 years ago – adding up to a total capital spend of over R1 billion on new building infrastructure over the next three years.

In November, capital investment of R263m worth of new building infrastructure was announced, adding to the current recapitalisation programme costing R264m, currently underway on NMMU's six campuses in Port Elizabeth and George. The cumulative effect of such commitments, together with an investment of R252m made in 2008 and NMMU's own commitment of a further R283,9m, pushes NMMU's total capital spend to over R1bn worth of investments. It represents a major injection of funding into the regional economy.

The new funding (R263m) will enable the construction of a new Teacher Education building on the Missionvale Campus, a Science Block, another Engineering complex next to NMMU's newly built R40m one, and R20m upgrading of student residences. The funding has been made possible by a new government funding grant of R195m, in addition to NMMU's own investment of R86m, and will run its course from 2013

We are supporting the new generation of knowledge and skills development challenges facing our country.

CAMPUS GROWTH ... The construction of NMMU's R40m Engineering complex – one of many building projects taking place on campus – was completed in October.

to 2015.

"Over the past few years, we have been hugely successful in raising significant funding from the State and private sectors, in addition to our own funding, boosting NMMU's strategic capabilities to support the new generation of knowledge and skills development challenges facing our country," said Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.

Other projects currently underway on campus

include a R34m Biokinetics and Sports Sciences building, a 312-bed residence valued at more than R100m on South Campus, a new "green" R116m Business School on 2nd Avenue Campus, a gym on its South Campus, and 75-bed residence at NMMU's George Campus.

The university is also planning to establish a new hotel school and training hotel to support the hospitality and tourism industry.

Paralympics medals for NMMU

NMMU Law student Kevin Paul swam his way to a silver medal at last year's Paralympics, while NMMU Athletics Club shot stalwart Michael Louwrens, 52, won a bronze medal in his discipline.

Paul, participating in his second Paralympics, won the silver medal in the men's 100m breaststroke final in 1:05:70 – a time that would have beaten his own previous world record – losing out to Russian swimmer Pavel Poltavtsev, the new world record

holder (1:04:02). However, Kevin's new time is an African record, as are the times he clocked in the 100m and 200m freestyle events. He also finished fourth in the 200m individual medley. "No one trains to come second as everyone wants gold, but so many athletes are going to leave here with nothing to show except memories so to get a silver medal for my country is wonderful," said Paul who, along with Louwrens, returned to a hero's welcome in Port Elizabeth.



SPORTING SUCCESS ... NMMU athlete Michael Louwrens and second-year Law student Kevin Paul both returned from the 2012 Paralympics with medals.

Fashion design students excel internationally

US success

NMMU BTech fashion design student Arielle Arndt was among 50 global contestants selected to compete in the premier international student fashion competition Arts of Fashion in the United States.

She was the only South African contestant selected, following in the footsteps of alumnus Bianca Boshoff, who travelled to San Francisco for the same competition in 2011.

Arielle's storyboard interpretation of the competition's transparency theme was selected from more than 330 applicants at 107 fashion schools and universities in 35 different countries.

She had to produce two of the three garments she designed, which



FASHION FUNDI ... BTech fashion design student Arielle Arndt competed in the Arts of Fashion competition in San Francisco.

she presented at the San Francisco competition in October, where she also attended a number of master classes and interacted with leading fashion designers.

Hong Kong finals

NMMU BTech fashion design student Leigh Helliwell, 22, jetted off to Hong Kong in December for the global finals of the Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC) competition.

She won the South African leg of the competition earlier in 2012, making her one of 10 international finalists in the event. She was the fourth NMMU student to win the South African event – her predecessors Moipone Qekisi, Laduma Ngxokolo and Shannon Daniell all went on to win the global competition.

Helliwell's winning idea was using leftover dyed yarns – which would normally go to waste – in a variety of bold-striped tubular knitwear garments for women, thereby promoting sustainable eco-fashion.



FASHION WITH A CONSCIENCE ... BTech fashion design student Leigh Helliwell's range of eco-knitwear won her a place in the Hong Kong finals of the Society of Dyers and Colourists competition.

Industry and research meet to trigger solar car triumph

SUN-POWERED SUCCESS



SUN FUEL ... NMMU's first solar car Photon was built in conjunction with Volkswagen SA and other sponsors.

NMMU's first solar car Photon competed in the third South African Solar Challenge – a 5 500km race around South Africa.

The sleek, five-metre, solar-powered vehicle represents all that's good in town and gown partnerships since both parties find themselves in a win-win situation.

Students get to put theory into practice by designing, building and even driving their car, while industry gathers vital research information for their own endeavours.

"We are excited about the significance of this (the collaboration) because renewable energy will play a huge role in the future of the automotive industry," said Tom du Plessis, Volkswagen South Africa's

production director.

Although VWSA invested the most in terms of finance and knowledge, NMMU's School of Engineering was supported by many other role players from industry.

"With this car we have achieved something remarkable," said mechanical engineering lecturer Clive Hands, who as race director oversaw the entire project.

Some 24 students from various engineering disciplines worked closely with about 12 sponsors for 18 months. During the final five months before the epic race, they worked every weekend and often late into the night.

"We are immensely proud of what has been achieved," said Hands.

With this car we have achieved something remarkable.



Walking the green talk

NMMU is practising what it preaches by using only renewable energy to conduct its cutting-edge renewable energy research – and the project could provide a solution to South Africa's energy challenge.

The Outdoor Research Facility at the university's Centre for Energy Research is entirely powered by solar energy. The facility's new 3kW grid-connected photovoltaic (solar) power generation system, together with the existing 1.6kW system, produces more electricity than the facility consumes, and so the overflow is fed into the main electricity grid.

"The 3kW system costs about R60 000 but will provide electricity for more than 25 years, generating more than R150 000's worth of electricity at today's electricity price," says Director of the Centre for Energy Research Prof Ernest van Dyk.

Other projects underway include:

- ▶ The development of various types of concentrator photovoltaic technologies. This could potentially generate cheaper electricity than normal flat-plate solar panels.
- ▶ A renewable energy harvesting system at North Campus which powers – through wind and solar energy – a laboratory.
- ▶ A solar-powered cell phone recharging station
- ▶ Several postgraduate students are working on renewable energy projects like the "solar home systems" where the sun provides the basic electrical needs of small rural and township homes.

Freewheeling into the future



LOOK MA, NO PEDALING ... Staff members at NMMU are leading by example, using solar-powered bicycles and scooters on campus instead of cars.

THE sun is working hard at NMMU where a new cost-saving bicycle and scooter pilot is underway.

Ten staff members are using solar battery-powered bicycles and scooters to get around North and South campuses, while their vehicles remain under a new covered parking facility hosting solar panels. The solar energy from these panels is being fed directly into the university's electricity grid in yet another move to

expand the use of renewable energy at the university.

"We're excited about Freewheeling (the name of the project) and especially the buy-in of key staff members who will set the example by cycling to their classes once on campus," said NMMU director of projects and planning Greg Ducie who along with Professor Ernest van Dyk of NMMU's Centre for Energy Research initiated the project.

If the bicycle project proves successful it will be further rolled out, and plans have been initiated to introduce solar-powered golf carts for technical staff instead of fuel-hungry vehicles.

"Freewheeling also responds to the university's Vision 2020 dream for the kind of university it wishes to be ... one that leads the way when it comes to renewable energy solutions," said Ducie.

... leads the way when it comes to renewable energy solutions

Bird's eye view



Dr Pierre Pistorius

SCIENTISTS are quite literally getting a bird's eye view on how the Cape gannets on Bird Island – the largest population of this species in the world – observe and interact with their environment, by attaching tiny video cameras onto the backs of the birds.

Running a long-term monitoring programme on the Cape gannets at Bird Island is Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University zoology senior lecturer Dr Pierre Pistorius, who hopes the video footage will enable a better understanding of these birds, and also provide some insight into why this particular population of Cape gannets is growing, while other populations are declining.

"We're trying to determine what influences the behaviour of these birds, how they decide where to forage, and how long they stay," said Pistorius.

Cape gannets, currently listed as a "vulnerable" species, are only found in southern Africa. Over the last few

GANNETS GALORE: Bird Island off Port Elizabeth is home to the world's largest population of Cape gannets – and the only population of this species that is on the increase.

decades, all populations have been declining, except for the Bird Island population, which consists of about 90 000 breeding pairs. Pistorius also recently initiated an automated Very High Frequency (VHF) monitoring system on Bird Island.

Radio transmitters are attached to the leg rings fitted onto the birds to transmit radio signals which tell the scientists when the birds depart from the island and when they return. "A long time spent foraging is indicative of low prey availability."



Penguins' prey could impact population numbers



SASSY SEABIRDS ... Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University masters student Jonathan Handley (inset) is monitoring the foraging (food-seeking) behaviour of near-threatened Gentoo penguins on the Falkland Islands – the largest estimated population of this species in the world.

SEABIRDS across the globe are declining in numbers – with climate change, human disturbance, pollution and competition with fisheries among the known contributing factors.

To gain more insight into the reasons for these declines, scientists are attempting to study seabirds at their major breeding sites – as factors affecting the largest populations tend to affect the entire species.

On the Falkland Islands, situated about 450km off the southernmost tip of South America, there are an estimated 130 000 breeding pairs of Gentoo penguins, arguably the world's largest population of this near-threatened species.

As part of his masters research, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University zoology masters student

Jonathan Handley, 25, is conducting a study on the penguins, working closely with the NGO Falklands Conservation. The project aims to determine the birds' foraging (food-seeking) behaviour and if there is an overlap with the fishing industry, in terms of the prey species they consume and where they go at sea.

"I want to know what they're eating and where they're eating. Understanding their diet helps with the conservation of the marine species, as one can then identify which prey items and foraging areas need protection. I'm trying to determine the extent to which the penguin may be competing with fisheries. If there is serious competition, the results of this study could impact government policy, as the government is advised on biodiversity issues by Falklands Conservation."

The results of this study could impact government support.

Briefs

Advanced co-curricular project

NMMU's co-curricular record project – which will document students' activities beyond their academic record – is the first in the country to be linked with the Integrated Tertiary Software (ITS) student system. "NMMU's co-curricular record project is the most advanced in South Africa," said the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Media's Dr Jennifer Winstead. The co-curricular record will reflect students' involvement, experiences, learning outcomes and awards beyond the classroom, which will be valuable to students when they apply for jobs and postgraduate studies.

Madiba magic at workshop

IN February 2012, NMMU became the first tertiary institution in South Africa to introduce a national project aimed at transforming students into life champions. The youth programme, known as Nelson Mandela – The Champion Within is a national project, jointly developed by The Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and the Life College Group to equip young people in critical thinking, self-reflection and self-leadership skills.

Singing in Beijing

NMMU's choir was one of five world-class choirs – and the only one from Africa – to be invited to participate in the 11th China International Choral Festival and the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) World Choral Summit in July in Beijing, China. The choir was privately funded to attend the week-long event, which included competitions, concerts and workshops.

New post-school education centre

THE Minister of Higher Education and Training (DHET) Blade Nzimande was the keynote speaker at the March launch of the Centre for Integrated Post-School Education and Training (CIPSET) at NMMU's Missionvale Campus. CIPSET was established in response to the DHET's call for the expansion of the Further Education and Training (FET) sector in South Africa to absorb more than three million young people who are not employed, educated or trained, and to serve as an alternative to pursuing higher education studies.



Fabulous five

TOP HONOURS ... The first Distinguished Professors in NMMU's history were recently announced in recognition of the significant contribution they have made within their field and to the university. They are (from left) professors Richard Cowling (botany), Danie Hattingh (automotive engineering), Bert Olivier (philosophy) and Rossouw von Solms (information technology), who attended a special event in their honour. Psychology professor Mark Watson (inset) was abroad at the time of the function. They will maintain the special title for at least five years.



Touch screen to learn maths and science

THE launch of the use of cutting-edge touch screen technology by NMMU's Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Unit (GMMDU) heralds the dawn of a new era in South African education.

New technology will enable pupils to learn grade 10, 11 and 12 maths and science from a 18-centimetre, Android touch screen tablet device – and then test their knowledge via MXit.

The latest upgrades to the techno-blended teaching and learning model – the most up-to-date technology to be used in the South African classroom context – was launched in November by GMMDU and the First Rand Foundation Chair in Mathematics, a position held by GMMDU head Prof Werner Olivier.

TouchTutor™ integrates DVD-based maths and science content as part of a classroom support package.



... heralds the dawn of a new era in South African education. ”

HIGH-TECH TUTOR ... Grade 11 pupils from Khumbulani High School in Port Elizabeth (from left) Thandile Danster, Catherine Mwanda, Aliziwe Sebi and Sibulele Poto learn maths and science the modern way.

2012 honorary doctorates



KINGDOM DRIVEN ... Reverend Malusi Mpumlwana, an anti-apartheid activist and Bishop of the Ethiopian Episcopal Church, was awarded a DPhil in recognition of his religious and political leadership and substantial contribution to democracy and community development.



EDUCATION STALWART ... In recognition of her work on gender, science and innovation, and the integration of indigenous knowledge systems which has created groundbreaking shifts in traditional knowledge paradigms, educationalist **Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers** received a DEd.



HUMAN EVOLUTION EXPERT ... World-renowned paleoanthropologist **Phillip Tobias** received a DSc in recognition of his work in establishing South Africa as the "Cradle of Humankind", his devotion to humanity and raising the profile of Southern Africa and its people in Science and Society.



PEACEMAKER ... Human rights activist and international executive director of Greenpeace **Kumi Naidoo** received an LLD for his unique contribution to the empowerment of civil society to transform South African and international legal orders, with a view to protecting human rights and addressing the challenges of global change on an equitable, peaceful and sustainable basis.

Alumni superstars

NMMU alumni are go-getters – determined to make a difference in their specialist fields. Each year, we recognise those who have excelled at local, provincial, national or international levels. This year, in addition to honoring seven worthy recipients at our annual Alumni Awards event – a highlight on the NMMU alumni calendar – we also recognised the successes of our younger achievers, with the inclusion of a new category of awards, the Alumni Rising Stars. We also acknowledged two special award winners for service in education. Congratulations to all prize-winners!

Johan de Nysschen ►

BCOM graduate Johan de Nysschen is senior vice-president of Nissan Motor Limited in Japan, and also president of the premium brand subsidiary Infiniti Global Limited in Hong Kong. He started his automotive career with BMW in South Africa, before working for Audi for 19 years in executive positions in South Africa, Japan and the USA. De Nysschen was president of Audi in the United States, and was at the forefront of turning Audi into a top tier luxury brand, now mentioned in the same breath as BMW and Mercedes-Benz.



▲ Garth Ritchie

GARTH Ritchie (above) is currently the head of Global Equities at Deutsche Bank, London, and a member of the Corporate and Investment Bank executive committee. Before joining Deutsche Bank in 1996, Ritchie was a derivatives trader at Fergusson Brothers. He holds a BCom degree from the former University of Port Elizabeth. Ritchie held several positions within Emerging Market (EM) derivatives and European Options Market Making before going on to head Programme Trading and European Equities.



Jenni Button ►

JENNI Button, a graphic design graduate from the former PE Technikon, is one of South Africa's foremost fashion designers. She is the founder of Jenni Button (Pty) Ltd in South Africa, with retail outlets in the top shopping centres. Jenni Button International was introduced recently as her export label. Her signature look is cutting-edge glamour and her "goddess" gowns are being recognised worldwide. Button also heads up Jenni Button Interior and Philosophy Bride, with Philosophy stores in Cape Town and Johannesburg. She is a firm supporter of the empowerment of underprivileged women in South Africa – she creates handwork projects for women in the community, like beading and embroidery, which she exports worldwide.



◀ Prof Ernie Heath

SINCE the early 1980s, Prof Ernie Heath (left) has been passionately contributing to the sustainable advancement of the tourism industry both nationally and internationally. In the 1990s, Heath was deputy executive director of South African Tourism, championing the award-winning Explore SA campaign in 1995. He is a founding trustee of Open Africa, a social enterprise which has established more than 60 tourism routes across Southern Africa. At international level, he has served on the Education Council of the

United Nations World Tourism Organization. During the early 1990s, Heath was professor and director of the Institute for Planning Research at the then University of Port Elizabeth and until recently headed up Tourism Management at the University of Pretoria. His achievements include the Skål International Presidential Award, the Chairman's Award from the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation, and a United Nations World Tourism Organisation Themis Award.

shine bright



Special awards



Adv Willem van der Linde

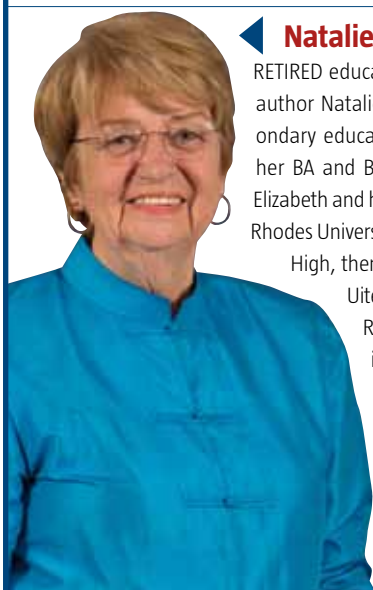
ADV Willem van der Linde SC graduated from the then University of Port Elizabeth with a BLuris in 1977 and an LLB in 1979. Van der Linde is past chairman of the Student Representative Council, and of both the Johannesburg Bar and the General Council of the Bar of South Africa. He has often acted as Judge in the Transvaal Province Division and Witwatersrand Local Division of the High Court. He is a past chairperson of the disciplinary committee of the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors, past chairperson of the editorial committee of Advocate, the official journal of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa, and past group leader of Advocates Group 621, the oldest group of advocates in South Africa. He is currently the chairperson of the Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors.

Bruce Damons

BRUCE Damons, BEd Honours graduate, is a dynamic and passionate educator who is making a difference in the community. He is currently the principal at Sapphire Road Primary school, where he has implemented many community programmes. His school was the first to declare itself a "no fee" school in 2006, and has been declared the best health-promoting school in the country. It boasts a fully functional clinic on the premises as well as a vegetable garden. Damons was the recipient of the Excellence in Primary School Leadership Award for 2008. Sapphire, which is also a pilot school in an international teacher training programme, grew from 516 learners in 2000 to 1 050 in 2010. Damons, the co-founder of international reading programme, Partners for Education, Excellence and Research, has also paired the school with international schools in Seattle, USA and the Netherlands.



Natalie Stear



RETIRED educator, education trade unionist and subject author Natalie Stear has left an indelible mark on secondary education in the Eastern Cape. Stear obtained her BA and BA (Hons) at the former University of Port Elizabeth and her Masters degree (English in Education) at Rhodes University. She was deputy head of Collegiate Girls' High, then principal of Riebeeck College Girls' High in Uitenhage. During her tenure as principal, Riebeeck College was the first state school in the country to vote in favour of opening its doors to all races and was also listed in the Sunday Times "Top 100 Schools" for three years in succession. In her 13 years as principal, not one girl failed matric. Stear was selected as one of the top 100 educators in the country to be the first

to be registered with the South African Council of Educators (SACE). She was president of the South African Teachers' Association and a founder member and first deputy president of the National Union of Educators (NUE), now called the National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (Naptosa), of which she is a life associate. She served on several national councils and committees, including the Education Labour Relations' Council and the SA Principals' Association. She is also a Paul Harris Fellow recipient from Rotary International for her services to education and the community.

Alumni Rising Star Awards



Achumile Majija

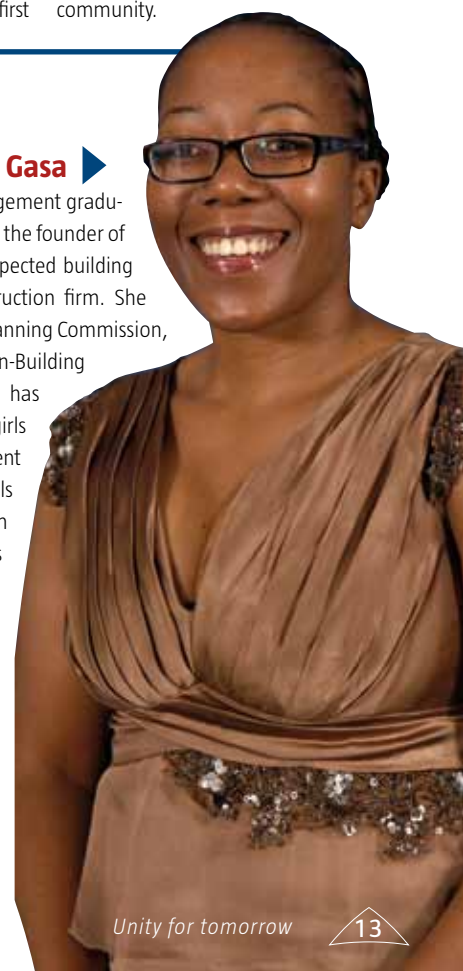
BCom graduate and future leader Achumile Majija, current Group Lead: Risk and Capital MI for Prudential PLC in London, is part of a team adapting the firm to the European Union's latest post-recession insurance regulations. He also holds a BCom (Hons) degree from UCT and an MBA from the UK. Majija represented South Africa at the World Youth Congress in Scotland,

World Business Dialogue in Germany, G20 Youth Summit in Canada, World Youth Congress in Turkey and Harambe Endeavour Alliance in the US. He is an active member of the International Youth Council, and a founding chairperson of the Black Management Forum (BMF) Young Professionals in the Western Cape. A recipient of the Chevening Scholarship (British Council), Vodacom Scholarship and the Abe Bailey Scholarship among others, he is also a motivational speaker focusing on youth development, empowerment and personal identity. In 2011, he was named the South African Business Club Rising Star of the Year. He has also been named a Young Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, and was listed as one of the 200 Young Influential South Africans by the Mail & Guardian for 2012.



Dr Bridgette Gasa

PhD Construction Management graduate Dr Bridgette Gasa is the founder of The Elilox Group, a respected building consultancy and construction firm. She serves on the National Planning Commission, where she chaired the Nation-Building Thematic Working Group. Gasa has established full scholarships for girls studying towards built environment degrees. She built seven rural schools in Libode and is building libraries in KwaZulu Natal this year. She was a recipient of the Department of Science & Technology Award for a Leading Woman Scientist in Industry in 2008 and also nominated as the first-ever woman and first-ever African President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) during the same year. Gasa is the current chairperson of NMMU Business School's Advisory Board.





▲ **Laduma Ngxokolo**

LADUMA Ngxokolo (above) is a BTech Textile Design alumnus whose rise to success began while still a student at NMMU, when he won the International Society of Dyers and Colourists competition in 2010. As a result, his Xhosa knit-wear designs were thrust onto centre stage – quite literally – as his work was showcased on catwalks around the world (London, Milan, Paris and South Africa) to huge acclaim. Sought after by both local and foreign media, his work has been shared in many top magazines. He has

also won a number of other top awards including the Marie Claire Prix de Excellence Best Emerging Designer Award in 2011 and a nomination for Design Indaba's "2011 Most Beautiful Object in South Africa Competition". Ngxokolo has established his own brand and business, MaXhosa, which operates from Port Elizabeth with production in Cape Town, and exported his first batch of knitwear to London in May.

► **Alan Knott-Craig Jnr**

FORMER CEO of social media company MXit and founder of investment company World of Avatar, Alan Knott-Craig Jnr (right) has established himself as a leading entrepreneur in the ICT sector, particularly consumer-based mobile web applications, and he has made a significant impact in the development of this sector in Africa. A BCom graduate, Knott-Craig was the managing director of broadband company iBurst from 2006 to 2009 and has also published a number of books, including the recently-published "Mobinomics: Mxit and Africa's Mobile Revolution" as well as "Don't Panic", a bestselling title aimed at persuading emigrant South Africans to return home.



Dr Millidhashni Reddy

BPharm graduate Dr Millidhashni Reddy (below), is currently the South African drug access programme manager for the Clinton Health Access Initiative, where she consults to the South African Ministry of Health and supports the Affordable Medicines Unit within the National Department of Health on drug procurement and supply related matters. She is based in Pretoria. She has held many senior positions within the pharmacy environment, and contributed to several pharmacy publications. Reddy has received both national and international honours and awards, including the Granof Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the University of



Texas at Austin (where she was a PhD student, studying under a Fulbright Scholarship), the Phi Lamda Sigma – Leadership in Pharmacy Membership, Infectious Disease Topic Leader for the Clinton Global Initiative University Conference, and an Outstanding Clinton Global Initiative University Award to mention a few. She was the recipient of the B. Bernard Matthews Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy, and was NMMU's first Pharmacy Fulbright Scholar. Reddy is the founder and director of Mentoring Individuals and Nations Compassionately (MINC), an organisation promoting reading at clinics in South Africa and abroad.

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Reunions and alumni socials



OLD FRIENDS ... Attending an alumni dinner in Johannesburg – which aimed to create alumni awareness and start building relationships with the younger alumni of NMMU – were (back, from left) Siya Mbolekwa, Jono Dicks, Janet Sharp, Alumni Relations projects manager Baakier Abrahams and (front, from left) Faith Kobo, Walter Masekoameng, Jess Clarke and Mxolisi Nhlapo.



REFLECTING... 2012 Student Representative Council (SRC) international officer Mothusi Mbole and BA graduate Baliso Ntloko shared their experiences of NMMU life at the Diversity Month Alumni Reflections Event.



JOBS FOR ALUMNI ... NMMU Alumni Relations and Career Jump have signed an agreement to increase job opportunities for alumni. Present at the signing were (front, from left) Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt, Career Jump CEO Dr Deon Van Wyk, Alumni president Randall Jonas (back, left) and Career Jump's Attie Uys.



ALUMNI BREAKFAST... Attending the annual alumni breakfast were (front, from left) guest speaker NMMU Vice-Chancellor Derrick Swartz, Alumni Association president Randall Jonas, Prof Hugh Jeffery, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Piet Naude and (back, from left) Alumni Executive members Vernon Naidoo, Adv Shuaib Rahim, Evert Knoesen, Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt, NMMU Trust CEO Dr Garth van Gensen, Elmari van de Merwe, Marketing and Corporate Relations director Pieter Swart and Alumni Relations projects manager Baakier Abrahams.



ARTISTIC ALUMNI ... Enjoying the art exhibition "Expressions 2012" at Central's Art Gallery were (from left) NMMU's head of Arts and Culture Michael Barry, Marilyn Barry, Este van der Merwe and Evert Knoesen. Fifteen of the artists are alumni of NMMU.



FINDING FRIENDS... Among the attendees at a social for young alumni were (from left) former University Shop manager Darren Howe, Kelly Renze, Caryn van der Westhuizen and Ayabonga Jonas.

More reunions and



LOOKING BACK ... NMMU's Alumni Office recently hosted a "reflections evening" bringing past and present together in the form of an interactive panel discussion. The event was aimed at alumni who were students at the former UPE, PE Technikon and Vista University as well as present NMMU students. Attendees included alumni (from left) Julian Erasmus, Mandilakhe Blankete and Luvuyo Bangazi.



LONDON CALLING ... An alumni dinner and several smaller group meetings were held in London during August. Those at the dinner included (from left) Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt, Jackie King, Achumile Majija, managing executive of NMMU's Legacies Programme Prof Kotie Grove, Krynauw Kruger and Siphe Madoda. London alumni are in the process of establishing a UK charitable trust to benefit NMMU.



JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS ... Expressing their happiness at graduation in April were (from left) Khanyisa Fondini, Dane Schafer and Shabeerah Ramkhlawon.



HELPING SCHOOLS ... NMMU's Alumni Relations office held a workshop to assist schools in setting up past pupil associations, which can assist schools in various ways by sharing skills and expertise and helping to improve infrastructure. Higher education, in turn, can benefit from an improved schooling system. Attendees at this workshop included (from left) Richard van Briesies, Bernard Petersen, Thobeka Minnie, Ian Pringle and Lester Cunningham.



NAMIBIAN ALUMNI ... NMMU Alumni Relations projects manager Baakier Abrahams (left) and Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt (second from right) met up with NMMU alumni in Namibia (from left) Hilaria Shikongo, Peter Hiwilepo, Penexupifo Shidiwe, Nangula Haufiku Sabrina Jacobs and Monica Haufiku.



TOP-ACHIEVING AUTHOR ... Award winning author Eben Venter (middle) was awarded an Alumni Achiever Award at his public lecture, which was hosted by NMMU for his contribution to society within his specialist field at local, national and international level. Handing over the award was Prof Piet Naude, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic (left), and Alumni Association president Randall Jonas.



SPORTING TALENT ... NMMU sport stars (from left) Quinton Snyman, Michael Louwrens, Kevin Paul and Amy ter Stege attended the alumni awards evening.

social events



ALUMNI RE-UNITE ... Nearly 100 alumni and friends gathered at the Johannesburg Country Club recently to attend an NMMU Alumni Johannesburg social. Among those who attended were (back, from left) Nkhen Sani Zitha, Kwhezi Blose, Zuko Ncemanane and Sonwabile Xwayi and (front, from left) Thobeka Tubela, Ncumisa Kepe-Mahlalutye, Nwabisa Klaas and Celeka Dlali-Bixa.



STAFF MODELS ... The University Shop hosted a modelling show at this year's staff variety concert where the shop staff and other NMMU colleagues showed off NMMU branded items. Models were (front, from left) Lyree Boucher, Danie Goosen, Carmen Parrow and (back from left) Larry de Klerk, Glen Thyssen, Wendy Scheepers, Mziyanda Bloro and Baakier Abrahams.



THANKING DONORS ... The NMMU Trust held its annual luncheon, which aims to thank current donors and encourage potential donors to support NMMU. Present at the luncheon were (from left) alumnus Kevin Hustler, new trustee Nozipho January-Bardill, Trust CEO Dr Garth van Gensen, Trust chairman Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi and donor Mark Muller.



AGM ATTENDEES ... Attending the Alumni AGM and Convocation meeting were (from left) Danie Venter, director of the Unit of Statistical Consultation at NMMU, and alumnus Hubert Sieg.



SUPPORTING ALUMNI HOUSE FUND ... At a recent Port Elizabeth social event, the Alumni Association, represented by Alumni vice-president Evert Knoesen (left), handed over a cheque of R50 000 to NMMU Trust CEO Dr Garth van Gensen in support of the Alumni House Fund, while Alumni Relations director Paul Geswindt looks on.



UK DINNER ... Enjoying the alumni dinner in London with NMMU's Legacies Programme managing executive Prof Kotie Grove (second from left) were (from left) Max Jordaan, Shanene Olivera and Anthea Jordaan.



RECONNECTING ... The Department of Computing Sciences' Prof Charmain Cilliers (second from left) and Prof Janet Wesson (right) catch up with alumni Nathan Harris and Marian Wagener at the Johannesburg alumni social.



BLOEM GATHERING ... Alumni who attended the Bloemfontein cocktail function held and hosted by the NMMU Trust included (from left) Elsa Potgieter, Frikkie Potgieter, Rene van der Merwe, Ds Carel van der Merwe and Annelie Litthauer.

Where are

1960



Steph Delpoit (BA & Senior Teachers Diploma 1969) is a citrus farmer in Kirkwood, and a Democratic Alliance councillor and caucus leader in the Council of the Sundays River Valley Municipality.



Basie von Solms (BSc 1967) is a Research Professor in the Academy for Computer Science and Software Engineering and director of the ITU-UJ Centre for Cyber Security at the University of Johannesburg. The ITU-UJ Centre is a joint venture between the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) of the United Nations and University of Johannesburg (UJ).

1970s

Gregory Gibson (BSc Quantity Surveying 1978) works as a senior quantity surveyor for the RPS Group in Newcastle, Australia.

Gavin Cowley (BA 1977) is currently the marketing director of Adidas South Africa (Pty) Ltd.



1980s



Mark Belman (NHD Building Surveying 1984) is the commercial manager of Aveng Grinaker-LTA Coastal.

Anthony Henebrey (BCom 1984) is currently the sales and business manager at Toyota SA.

Laurinda Rheeder (nee Scholtz) (BArch 1988) works for Architectural Design Associates.

Deon Fourie (BA Ed Physical Education 1983) is the managing director of Concrete 4U.

Stephanus du Toit (Diploma in Bosbou 1981) is the projects manager, Logistics and Fibre Supply – MPU for Sappi.

Erick Smith (B Proc LLB 1980) is the senior legal specialist for the South African Revenue Services' head office.



Ewan Moffat (BCom 1982) works for Algoa Bus Company (Pty) Ltd as the financial accountant.



Gavin Golightly (BCom 1983) currently works for Ford Motor Company as the marketing manager.



Japie Engelbrecht (PhD 1979) is employed at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as a professor in physics.

Willie Els (DPhil / Applied Urban Anthropology 1979/1997) is the managing director and shareholder at Inframax Holdings (Pty) Ltd.



Arthur Coy (BSc Construction Management 1974) is the CEO of Trans African Concessions (Pty) Ltd.

Sarah de Wet BA Hons (Psychology 1975), HED, BJuris, BProc is a senior partner at De Wet & Stryder Attorneys.



Dijon Gerret de Jager (CTA 1975) is the CEO of mPowerRatings Verification Agency.

Lynnath Beckley (MSc 1978) is a professor of marine science at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia.

Gerrit Jacobus Jordaan (BArch 1979) is the director of Holm Jordaan Group architects and urban designers.

1990s

Marius Kok (BTech Forestry 1997) works for LT Plant Transport in White River, Mpumalanga, where he is the company production manager and second-in-command to the General Manager.

Warren Parker (LLB 1997) is the director and head of the Commercial Division for Joubert Galpin Searle Inc.



Susan Kay (nee Jordan) (National Diploma Nature Conservation 1997) is currently a professional kiteboarder for Cabrinha Kites in Asia.

Peliwe Mqai (Municipal Administration 1995) is the admin coordinator for the Engineering Department at Aspen Pharmacare.



they today?

1990s

▶ **Anna Coetzee** (BCom 1990) is the project administrator for The Pacific Group of Companies, Canada.



Lofty-Eaton Cilliers (BCom 1992) is the Director of Muller Baard Du Toit Inc.



▶ **Mike Palframan** (BCom 1991) works for Nedbank Property Finance as the portfolio manager for the Eastern Cape.



▶ **David Green** (BArch 1992) is a partner at Godwin Austen Johnson Architects in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

▶ **Jéan Damant** (BCom 1992) is self-employed and the owner of two businesses – Select Bin Cleaning and Mobile Sounds.

Darren Edwards (BTech Quantity Surveying 1996) is the director at Bisiwe Van Niekerk Inc Quantity Surveyors.



▶ **Desre Wilson** (nee Fox) (HDE 1991) works for St Dominic's Priory as an accounting teacher for grades 8 to 12 and head of subject area.

2000 - 2006

Tenjiwe Martha Mzanywa (ND Human Resources Management 2001) is the senior HR practitioner for the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

Siyabulela Antonio Planga (ND Human Resources Management 2004) works for the head office of the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works as the HR development practitioner.

Jacques Swiegelaar (ND Electrical Engineering 2002) is a systems specialist (Credit Card) for Discovery Business Solutions.

Mafa Bavuma (ND Journalism 2005) works as a presenter and producer of current affairs at Umhlobo Wenene FM, SABC.



▶ **Pateka Momoza** (BTech Human Resources Management 2004) is currently the HR manager at Bono Holdings (Pty) Ltd.



▶ **Leazle Myataza** (nee Harker) (BSc IT 2006) works for Business Connexion in Johannesburg as the principal availability & event manager.

Toinette Hoffmann (nee Swart) (LLM Labour Law 2001) is the director of Kitchings Inc.

Shaheed Abader (LLM Labour Law 2004) is the Human Resources executive at Tenneco.

2007 - 2012



▶ **Bhaven Ranchod** (National Diploma Logistics Management 2010) currently works for VWSA in Uitenhage where he is a buyer in the General Purchasing Division.

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1969 signalled the beginning of the end of Harley-Davidson. The family brand founded in 1903 was sold to a company with no motorcycle experience. Profits fell as quickly as quality, and the company was almost bankrupt when a group of Harley-Davidson executives, led by the grandson of founder William A. Davidson, bought it back in 1981. Under their leadership, Harley-Davidson went from strength to strength. An ad campaign trumpeted the company's new philosophy: Motorcycles by the people, for the people.

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