

routes

Alumni Newsletter



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

Edition 2 • November 2007



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We're in your face ...

HAVE you sent someone a strawberry dipped in chocolate recently? Poked a mate, mapped your favourite movie or, perhaps, even tossed a pig? If so, you've been introduced to Facebook, a social networking tool that's binding the world together across cyberspace.

Today more than 40 million people make use of this social networking revolution, be it for professional or personal reasons. The NMMU network has 2961 friends. It's a number that's growing ... like our own alumni network. There are 60 000 of you – but we haven't found you all yet.

As you will read, staying in touch reaps rewards.

It's almost three years since the merger, and NMMU is well positioned to become a top-flight new generation university.

New generation universities, as outgoing NMMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Rolf Stumpf points out, strive to "do things differently" in meeting the needs of today's new generation. The Maths and Science Centre of Excellence at NMMU's Missionvale Campus is a case in point.

Part of the ethos of this new type of university (one which puts paid to the traditional "ivory tower" approach to tertiary education) is staying in touch, not just with the realities facing society today, but with those who have been a part of the growth of the university. That's you.

And so we bring you the second *Routes* – your official alumni newsletter – in a bid to remain connected to you.

Routes editor: Debbie Derry

'Friendraise' – the importance of Alumni remaining in touch

ALUMNI are probably the best advertisements a higher education institution can have. But celebrating alumni success goes way beyond the collection of newspaper clippings. It is important that we connect with our alumni and share in their lifelong journey in some meaningful way.

The Alumni Relations Office's strategic focus is to *friendraise*. We would like our alumni to remain connected to the institution. We want to share in the success, development and experience of nearly 60 000 NMMU alumni spread throughout the world.

NMMU can benefit from their experience and expertise and, as lifelong learners, we can hopefully still contribute to

your career development and advancement.

The recent update of the alumni database will help us reach more alumni via postal and electronic media but we need more personal contact opportunities too.

Giving and receiving recognition are part of our mutually



▲ **Paul Geswindt**

beneficial relationship. Alumni currently serve NMMU as staff, governors, trustees, funders, guest speakers and lecturers, mentors and, importantly as ambassadors of the university. Each role is significant.

ambassador programme to complement the Student Alumni Society activities; improving the University Shop; celebrating alumni success and getting more alumni directly involved in university activities, including continuing their education.

A major advantage of this office is the commitment and support of the Convocation representatives on Council and the Alumni Executive Committee members. The university's executive management has also agreed to fund this office making achievement of our

goals easier. This

includes developing a culture of service, a sense of pride and of belonging to NMMU for today's students too.

"We would like our alumni to remain and feel connected to the institution. We want to share in their success, development and experience."

Goals for this office include improving communication with and among alumni; establishing regional and international alumni chapters to promote relationship building and networking opportunities; improving alumni membership benefits; establishing a bursary scheme; launching a student

Brands exist in the hearts and minds of people. Our people – staff, students and alumni – are our best brand ambassadors.

The Alumni Relations Office is at your service.

Paul GG Geswindt

Senior Manager:
Marketing and Alumni Relations

Serving you on convocation

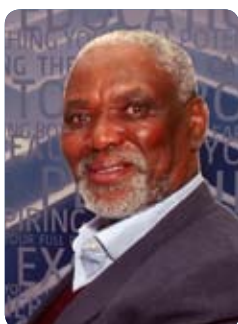
The man who was born in what was to become of the office of the Black Consciousness Movement in King William's Town, now serves fellow NMMU alumni on council.

Cumngce Gawe (below) was also the first black man to obtain a qualification from the former Port Elizabeth Technikon. He got four distinctions for his NDip Industrial Relations.

A young Gawe had initially pursued a career in nursing before switching his interests towards industry, specifically Goodyear, where he rose through the ranks.

He has been active in politics, rising to the position of mayor of Uitenhage and ANC treasurer for the province.

He is the National Chairman of the Read Educational Trust, Vice-Chair of the NMMU Council and a director of several companies. He is married with four daughters.



Prof Hugh Jeffery (above), a past Dean of Engineering at the former Port Elizabeth Technikon, and a member of various professional engineering bodies, has contributed much to the fields of mechanical engineering and education.

He has been President of the South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering since 2005 and is still actively involved in various initiatives with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA).

Prof Jeffery obtained his first qualification (NDip Engineering) in 1964. Some 23 years later in the midst of a fulfilling career within both academia and industry, he received his Masters in Technology.

He is an Honorary Fellow of SAIMechE, and a member of both the Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists and the Chamber of Engineering Technology.

Contact us

Vuyo Ntloko is your Alumni Relations Officer.

Email: alumni@nmmu.ac.za Website: www.nmmu.ac.za/alumni
Tel: 041 5043935

Postal: Alumni Officer, Marketing and Corporate Relations
PO Box 77000, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Port Elizabeth, 6013



"There is an air of vibrancy and excitement about NMMU, perhaps because it's a new creation. This vibrancy makes it possible for NMMU to create a new type of university ... (and offers) a chance of making a new history, identity, culture and sense of community within the university – one that is progressive, cosmopolitan, non-racial and democratic in its outlook."



PROF Derrick Swartz will be the new NMMU Vice-Chancellor from January 2008. He will be joining the university after eight years as the Vice-Chancellor of Fort Hare where he has been credited with the university's academic renewal and financial turnaround. He was awarded South Africa's highest order, the Supreme Order of Baobab – Gold Class in 2005, for his collective achievements at the historic Eastern Cape university.

View farewells as new opportunities, says VC

GOODBYE should not mean farewell forever when it comes to leaving your university. Instead, it should signal an opportunity for new relationships with your alma mater.

That's the message from NMMU Vice-Chancellor and CEO Dr Rolf Stumpf who himself will be retiring from the newly-merged university at the end of the year.

"We have such opportunities as alumni. Since we are so new, we have the opportunity to grow new things and create a new generation of alumni."

Similar opportunities arose with the 2005 merger enabling NMMU to create a better institution for a new generation of students.

"The merger gave us an unbelievable opportunity to start over and re-brand ourselves as a university. It's been a hard, but wonderfully, exciting time," says the man who oversaw the coming together of the former University of Port Elizabeth, the PE campus of

Vista University and PE Technikon.

But now, with the merger complete, he says it's time for him to move on.

Goodbye, however, will not mean a

"Moving on does not have to mean the end. We can - and should - stay in touch."

complete severing of ties with NMMU. This should not be the case for its students either.

"Moving on does not have to mean the end. We can - and should - stay in touch."

For Dr Stumpf, 61, staying in touch will hopefully come in the form of consulting or project work, and certainly via friendships formed during his more than five years at the Eastern Cape's largest higher education institution, first at UPE and then at NMMU.

For others it can, for example, come through formal partnerships as is already the case within NMMU.

"We have formed some excellent partnerships this year, many of them with alumni, in business, industry and research. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

An optic fibre project with Telkom, the many maths and science initiatives, the pebble bed reactor research and various motor manufacturing programmes are cases in point.

Another success for 2007 has been the university's financial turnaround. From inheriting massive debt with the merger, NMMU had slashed its long-term debt by two-thirds.

"We're not a wealthy institution but we now have solid financial backing to provide better opportunities for our students and academics."

A further vote of confidence in the future of NMMU came in the form of a R301m cash injection from the government.

As this man with a head for figures (he has a PhD in Statistics) and a heart for



people prepares for a new chapter in his life, he is personally confident of NMMU's future.

"I hoped to deliver a merger with as little human fall-out as possible and to put procedures in place to ensure a solid future for those who work and study here."

"I am grateful to NMMU staff during the merger and look forward to growth of the next generation of NMMU alumni."

If he has any regrets, it's that he did not make enough time to get to know more people better.

It's something he's not going to let happen as an alumnus.

New generation NMMU is now a new generation university

Whether you graduated in the sixties or nineties, your alma mater is not what it used to be. For starters, it's probably got a new name and even a couple of new campuses. It's also peopled by a new generation of students whose needs have given rise to a new type of university, writes Debbie Derry.

TODAY's students are no longer satisfied with an insular approach to education. In fact, nobody is.

It seems the days of the traditional ivory tower university are numbered as today's young people and society at large cries out for tertiary education that is real and relevant.

And so enter Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in a new guise as a new generation university.

These universities, which exist worldwide, endeavour to do different things differently.

They do so by:

- Having a broader integrated focus on serving society, particularly its immediate communities.
- Forming mutually beneficial partnerships with business, government and civil society.
- Offering broad curricula across the traditional divide of universities and technikons and a much wider spectrum

of qualifications from certificate through to PhD research level.

- Responding to and embracing change in new knowledge areas such as bio-engineering and mechatronics.
- Encouraging research that responds to societal problems.
- Networking with other knowledge-based institutions.
- Being more responsive to the physical, economic and socio-political environment.

"A new generation university is exactly opposite to the notion of an 'ivory tower' institution because it exists to serve society," says outgoing NMMU Vice-Chancellor and CEO Dr Rolf Stumpf.

Dr Stumpf represented NMMU at the International Association of New Generation Universities in Ireland in June this year.

"These worldwide universities are seeking new ways of functioning and interacting with the community they service. They do things differently," says



DO IT DIFFERENTLY ... Today's students have different needs. NMMU is endeavouring to meet their needs and those of society in real and relevant ways.

the man who oversaw the merger of the former University of Port Elizabeth and Port Elizabeth Technikon in 2005.

These "different things" span the core focus of teaching and learning, research and community service, but in a broader more integrated way of serving society.

Curriculum, for example, will cross the divide between technikons or technology-orientated institutions and universities, and will even allow students to progress from a certificate course right through to PhD level.

Dr Stumpf says the multi-disciplinary and partnership approach will also mean the university is better positioned to

respond to changes in the knowledge environment, such as the emergence of new areas like bio-engineering.

"Being a new generation university means we will be far more centred on problem solving. We will encourage more research that meets specific societal needs. There will also be a better transfer of knowledge between NMMU and its partners."

The new approach meant experiential learning will be encouraged.

"In Ireland, one years' service learning, usually in the form of community service, is a pre-requisite for all its undergraduate programmes."

The how and why of networking

IT'S the givers who are remembered.

That's the word of networking guru Helen Nicholson, of Johannesburg, who advocates a philosophy of "abundance" when it comes to cultivating mutually beneficial business relationships.

"Ask what you can give. Ask what value you can bring to them. Forget the 'what's-in-it-for-me' mentality. See what you can give first," says Nicholson, an author and motivational speaker who specialises in the "how to" of effective networking.

She says it's those who give who succeed and are remembered.

"If you come from abundance, you'll get it, but if you come from scarcity, you'll get that instead. It's not my quote, but it's true."

She says in her experience, five years of which were spent in business in Dubai, those who give are able to receive. Conversely, those who do not give, hold on to what they have and no-one benefits.

But by giving there is reciprocity and both parties are better off than they were before they met.

This is what it means to network.

Nicholson says networking should not be perceived as a time of "dull boring cocktail parties with a lot of self-absorbed people" which comprise less than 5 per

cent of good networking.

"When you make the mind shift of seeing networking as building mutually beneficial business relationships, you will then view your daily interactions as networking opportunities."

She adds that there is a mistaken belief that when you're doing all the talking you're doing all the networking. "The good listeners are the best networkers, as they listen for where the mutual business synergy is."

Her book *Networking: the Unwritten Rule of Business You Need to Know* has been well received in South Africa, and she is presently working on a new book that looks at networking across the cultures.

Be your own brand

Her clients include the likes of Investec, Ernst & Young, RMB, Investec, Coca Cola, the City of Joburg and Anglo American, but Nicholson is just as interested in developing individuals.

She says everyone has his or her own personal brand. "We are all brands. Networking is simply a method of building your brand."

A good indicator of what your personal brand might be is to discover what people say of you when you leave the room.

In the case of her twin daughters, the name "mommy" was branded with "hurry".

"I didn't like that. It's something I have had to work hard at rectifying."

She says like it or not, we have to work at developing our brand. To do so Nicholson advocates the "Vuvuzela approach".

"We need to blow our own horn. Decide what your brand is, and build it, so that organisations want to hire you or retain you." - Debbie Derry

Personal branding tips

To ensure you are remembered:

- Repeat the name of a new person at least three times during your conversation. To help yourself remember it, ask how it is spelt and use the person's name when you part ways.
- Listen to the person.
- Put your name tag on the top right of your attire.
- When shaking a person's hand, place your other hand on his or her elbow – a neutral zone.
- Develop a ten second "elevator" introductory speech that's lively and invites questions from others.

Alumni in the news

Helping others learn



STILL LEARNING ... Bonnie Shipalana (BCom Economic and Business Management 1998) makes knowledge fun.

HE did his learning at NMMU. Now Bonnie Shipalana, 29, is in the learning business himself.

The BCom graduate has been instrumental in helping school pupils discover their potential through an inspirational education series on SABC1's Learning Channel.

He says the personal learning and growth he experienced while studying in Port Elizabeth in the nineties, meant he was well prepared for a career in marketing. He has worked for Standard Bank, South African Breweries and Pepsi and now works for Cell C in Johannesburg.

In the television programme, called *LC4U*, Shipalana joins forces with comedian David Kau, to bring learners country-wide a realistic and entertaining take on education.

"Motivational speaking is part and parcel of who I am. I was already motivating my classmates at the age of 12," says Shipalana, who grew up in Tzaneen in Limpopo Province.



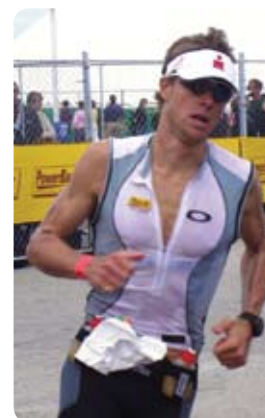
NMMU Business School senior lecturer **Margie Cullen** was awarded the first Doctorate in Business Administration from the school this year. Her research centred on developing a model for promoting sustainable strategic entrepreneurial behaviour of family wine estate businesses in South Africa.



Top architect **Marcel Botha**, a 1990s architectural graduate from the former University of Port Elizabeth, is impressing the world with his cutting-edge digital designs. With a Science Masters of Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, Botha delivered the first Milde McWilliams Memorial Lecture hosted by NMMU's School of Architecture on October 22.



Dr Henry Roman (BSc 1997, BSc Hons 1998, MSc 2000), a project manager at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria, was elected as chairman of the World Academy of Young Scientists, an organisation aimed at empowering young African scientists, promoting science, attracting Africans to science and increasing science awareness. He is one of the top researchers in South Africa with his projects covering emerging areas of synthetic biology, Aptamer technology and glycoengineering.



Marketing muscle man **David Hyam**, 34, of Port Elizabeth, is spreading his wings. Not only is the 1997 NDip Marketing graduate representing South Africa at Iron Man Hawaii as a top amateur competitor, but he's off to London later this year to take up a top marketing position with the international lifestyle brand Oakley.

Obituaries

Philbert Mzwandile Mzileni (BA Management 1981), 77, a language expert from Port Elizabeth, was the first black person to graduate with a BA degree at the former UPE.

Patrick Mtulu – (BA Management 1989) was a schools administrator and former school principal. He died of a heart attack aged 52.

Monde Mama (BTech Quantity Surveying) headed up the corporate social responsibility for Vodacom. He died of a gunshot wound during an armed robbery at his home.

Prof Rudi Voges (BCom Hons 1973) was the first student to register at the former University of Port Elizabeth. He went on to become rector of the Port Elizabeth Vista campus.

Conservationist brings world spotlight to EC

CONSERVATIONIST Prof Graham Kerley was the 2007 winner of the environment conservation category of the annual Herald Citizen of the Year in Port Elizabeth for putting the Eastern Cape on the world stage through his wide-ranging contribution to environmental conservation and education.

Prof Kerley, who heads the Centre for African Conservation Ecology at the university, graduated from the former University of Port Elizabeth with a PhD in 1990, after his BSc (1979) and BSc Hons (1980).

His efforts have been such that he has secured regular international coverage for the Eastern Cape and South Africa. Most recently, his work regarding elephant management at Addo was flighted by CNN, Sky News and the BBC.

He and his department were also responsible for hosting 1 600 scientists and conservationists at the Society for Conservation Biology at NMMU in July this year. It's the first time the world's leading conservation science organisation has held their top conference on African soil.

Though Prof Kerley is a highly-respected academic, through his consultancy and advisory work he ensures that his work reaches a wider audience. This work focuses not only on conservation of the natural



▲ **GREEN SUCCESS ...** NMMU conservationist Prof Graham Kerley.

environment for its own sake, but also on how the environment can be used sustainably for human economic benefit.

His latest research on the socio-economic value of game reserves, for example, is being used by government

to inform policy nationally on private game reserves.

This month Prof Kerley was also awarded the Mike Cawood Award for outstanding contribution to game management and conservation by the Eastern Cape Game Management Association.

International entrepreneur remembers his roots



▲ **Royden Vice**

INTERNATIONAL entrepreneur Royden Vice is an alumnus who hasn't forgotten his educational roots.

Mr Vice has already served as NMMU Trust chairman for ten years, despite vast commitments as CEO of Waco International, an industrial and commercial scaffolding and modular building hire business, operating in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Chile.

The company which has growth of in excess of 30% per year, is owned by management and a private equity investor

(CCMP) out of Hong Kong and New York.

Mr Vice did his chartered accountancy qualification, then called the CTA, at UPE. He also played cricket for the university's first team.

"We won the Port Elizabeth League," recalls the multi-millionaire who started out as an articled clerk earning R135 a month in 1969.

According to an article in *Engineering News* the value of assets under his control today amount to R3.3 billion.

As Trust chairman he ensures that worthy

students are given the financial opportunity to study.

"I am pleased that we have been able to make contributions to bursaries and capital projects over R26m last year, and R16m in 2005," he says.

Mr Vice, who is also a non-executive director of Murray and Roberts and Hudaco, did a BCom at Rhodes before joining studying at UPE.

He cites his personal best achievement as establishing and listing Afrox Healthcare while on a professional level, he rates the turnaround of Waco International as top.

The face of business news

THE face of lunch-time business news and the voice co-ordinating umpteen radio debates is that of 1999 NMMU alumni Tembisa Marele (Gebeda).

The 29-year-old journalism honours graduate has already won several media awards, including the MTN rising star award at the Media Woman of the Year Awards in 2005, and looks set on attaining even more praise now that she's gone "live" to Africa.

Marele now presents business news on SABC News International which is broadcast to the continent, and some parts of Europe.

But that's not all. The amiable Transkei-born journalist also presents the business news on SABC3's News @ 1, and occasionally the same slot on the 10pm programme.

In fact, her schedule is such that her other media loves, writing and radio, have been put on hold – for now.

She says she has the four years she spent at the former University of Port Elizabeth to thank for her ability to adapt in today's digitally-diverse media world.

"I can honestly say my education prepared me for what was to come. Unlike so many others, I was fortunate to have good lecturers and be given opportunities to develop leadership skills that would help me later in life.

"I am so pleased I took advantage of what was on offer," says Marele, who is now married and living in Roodepoort.

She says she misses the Eastern Cape and it will always be home for her, but right now Johannesburg is where it's at.

After leaving university, Marele worked at the local newspapers before pursuing a postgraduate diploma with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (Nemisa). She then worked as an intern with SAfm before



◀ **RADIO, PRINT, TV ...** BA Hons Media Culture and Communication graduate **Tembisa Marele** has achieved a great deal in a short time in the ever-advancing world of media.

she was offered a permanent position as a production assistant on Tim Modise's show.

From there she became a researcher and before long a presenter on *Jozi Live* and a gospel music programme. On-air debates proved lively and ensured an increase in listeners.

Next came television, first as a producer and then as a presenter. "It's been great."

And will continue to be if Marele achieves her dreams of maximizing her media career. And then there's that book ...

Former student back to lead the way

Ploughing it back



◀ **WHERE IT ALL BEGAN ...** NMMU Missionvale campus principal Khaya Matiso is back where it all began.

Quality academic students won't be the only positive outcome of NMMU's new Maths and Science Centre of Excellence. Indeed, they will be but a sliver of the bigger, bolder success story of the Missionvale Campus if its principal Khaya Matiso has his way.

By Debbie Derry

KHAYA Matiso does not believe in obstacles. He never has and never will.

Perhaps that's why he's the right man to be leading NMMU's Missionvale Campus into a new era as a Maths and Science Centre of Excellence.

He's unlikely to let anything get in the way of his vision and mission - that of developing a campus that will meet many needs, not least his personal satisfaction.

After all, Matiso is only too pleased to be ploughing back into the facility that gave him a second chance at tertiary education.

For Matiso, 47, expelled from Fort Hare for his political activism in the early 1980s, was afforded the opportunity to complete his BA studies by Vista University at its new Port Elizabeth campus in 1984. He was among the university's first graduates in December 1985.

And now he's back as the Vista PE campus was incorporated into the former UPE prior to its merger with the Port Elizabeth Technikon in 2005, and has since been renamed Missionvale Campus.

"This is where it began and where it will begin again with our Maths and Science Centre of Excellence. We're going to make history here," says Khaya, who later went on to obtain further education qualifications from Rhodes and an MBA from the former Port Elizabeth Technikon.

He's not perturbed by the perceived negatives of developing the Missionvale Campus - the campus's impoverished surrounds, its distance from other NMMU campuses, and the sheer volume of work involved in eventually producing quality students in the areas of maths and science.

Instead, he views it all as a development challenge



- just as developing his own life has been.

As one of nine children growing up in Keiskammahoek in rural Eastern Cape, there was never any talk of Matiso attending university despite his excellent school marks.

As it was, his mother who earned just R12 a month, struggle to pay his high school education in Peddie, Ciskei.

"Tertiary education wasn't an option. I needed to bring in money for the family. I went to the mines."

Neither parent had had a decent education. His

mother, Regina Matiso, 83, finished primary school, but his father, who died when Khaya was just a year old, didn't even get to grade 7.

"At high school I got R1 a month to live on.

I remember spending 2c on

half a loaf of bread and a cent for a pineapple. The two tasted so good together," says Khaya of the taste of his youth.

A year later, in response to a teacher's plea, he gladly left his labourer's position in the former Transvaal to follow his dream - that of studying at Fort Hare to become a teacher by winning a Zingisa bursary from Steve Biko Friends.

While studying there his eyes were truly opened to the injustices of Apartheid South Africa and he became heavily involved in student politics. It was the start of a long period of arrests and detention without trial as he and others, including incoming NMMU Vice-Chancellor Derrick Swartz, joined the struggle of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Throughout this trying time, however, he never let go of his dream of becoming an educated man.

"I was imprisoned for 18 months once but just as

Nelson Mandela and others studied on Robben Island, so I continued with my studies. Education is just so important. We cannot give in to obstacles."

With the demise of apartheid, Khaya worked for NGOs in adult education and also at the former PE Technikon as a lecturer before joining the new provincial government at Bhisho in 1994 as its Tertiary and Adult Education leader.

It was Khaya who initiated the rejuvenation projects of the former Transkei and Ciskei mission schools, like Lovedale and St Matthews, and Matiso who used his vast network of friends to secure a future for the present-day Missionvale Campus.

In 1997, Khaya joined the former University of Port Elizabeth to head up Student Affairs with students who were "full of politics".

Since the merger in 2005 it's been Missionvale where Matiso intends not only to meet his brief of turning the campus into a Maths and Science Centre of Excellence, but also of instilling good values in young people.

"Sometimes today's young people feel they are entitled to something. I don't like that. It's not an attitude I want to promote.

"I want students to recognise that we are seeking results. We need to instill the principle of performance. If they perform here they will be able to perform elsewhere because today South Africa has to compete with the rest of the world."

Khaya is hopeful that students will also re-embrace the African concept of ubuntu so that giving back will be as natural to them as it is to him.

That's why he's been actively involved in serving his former high school, Ulana, ensuring it gets the extra maths tuition it needs and happily funds the education of up to 13 family members.

"My brother did it for me. It's only natural that I should do it for his children."

And now, of course, he's ploughing back into the university that gave him a second chance at a decent education by raising funds, friends and awareness of the new venture.

Aid for maths students

WORK hard and you will be rewarded.

That's the message NMMU Missionvale Campus principal Khaya Matiso is sending to prospective students of the new Maths and Science Centre of Excellence.

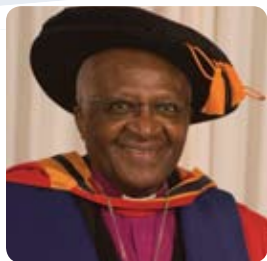
It's here that students will be afforded the opportunity of getting to grips with subjects that have eluded them for various reasons, such as a shortage of qualified teachers in these disciplines.

Through extended curriculum courses (where a typical three-year BSc degree, for example, is spread out over four years), students will be able to meet national needs for specialists in maths and science.

"Today there are so many things to assist students, like loans and bursaries. We ask only one thing - that they perform. In return, these students will be rewarded," says Khaya.

Graduation 2007

Honorary doctorates:



Archbishop Emeritus **Desmond Tutu** received an honorary doctorate at a special ceremony in September for the crucial and courageous role he has played in South Africa's history.

"Let us go for it to build a South Africa for all, where names and symbols that are dear to one ethnic or cultural group are not denigrated but are respected ... a South Africa where all can walk tall with pride, proudly South African, a beacon of hope to the world."



Andreas Tostmann, CEO of Volkswagen South Africa until early this year, was honoured for his contribution to furthering education, especially in the field of engineering. NMMU and VWVA have embarked on several partnerships.

"It is not necessary for companies to donate big amounts of money, but they can give advice and get involved. It will help."



Acclaimed author, academic and poet **Antjie Krog**, whose book *Country of My Skull* chronicled tales from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, says one does not necessarily choose topics to write about.

"They evolve from one's life. Apartheid, politics and gender have been the dictatorial ringmasters of our South African lives and we naturally become obsessed with them."

NMMU news at a glance

Success in many guises has been liberally sprinkled upon a pro-active NMMU, which is almost three years into the merger of the former University of Port Elizabeth and the Port Elizabeth Technikon. Here are some of them:

- NMMU together with the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria formed a partnership with the Centre International d'Etude du Sport (CIES) in Switzerland. The arrangement aims to provide training for sports managers in marketing, law, finance, management, communication and organisation of sports events.
- R1m investment in a maths and science incubator school was made by Volkswagen South Africa. The school is aimed at Grade 12 learners with an aptitude in this field.
- NMMU and the University of Johannesburg (UJ) are working together to make higher education better thanks to an R8.5-million investment by the Norwegian government to South Africa's Department of Education to work on the academic design and qualification structure of a new generation university.
- The Department of Education expressed its confidence in NMMU by allocating R301m for the upgrading and extension of the university's facilities over the next two to three years.
- NMMU opened an Office of Innovation Support and Technology in order to protect, manage and commercialise NMMU's Intellectual Property (IP).



BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP ... NMMU represented by Dean of Science Prof Andrew Leitch (left), Vice-Chancellor Rolf Stumpf (seated) and Director of the School for Management Sciences Prof Miemie Struwig and the Mantis Collection's Danie Malan (second left) and chairman Adrian Gardiner embarked on a mutually-beneficial agreement that will see the two work on business and environmental projects.



HIGH NOTE ... The NMMU choir, with their vast repertoire of both Western and African traditional music, continues to thrill audiences around the world. Earlier this year, under the baton of Junita van Dijk, the choir embarked on an invitational tour of America where they were praised for their "versatility and skill". At the honorary doctorate graduation ceremony Archbishop Desmond Tutu asked that he receive a copy of the choir's first music CD, scheduled for release in the near future.



TOGETHER AT LAST ... NMMU's Business School is finally under one roof at the Bird Street campus in Central with the MBA Unit and Institute for Business Ethics joining their Management Development Centre (MDC) and Absa Small Business Unit colleagues represented in the foreground of the historic Eendrag Building by, front from left, Prof Piet Naudé (Institute for Business Ethics), Xola Mkontwana (Small Business Unit), Mrs Joey Staphorst (MDC), Prof Niekie Dorfling, Dean of Business and Economics Faculty and Prof Kobus Jonker, interim director of NMMU Business School.
business.school@nmmu.ac.za

Bursary boost

MORE than R165m has been received for bursaries at NMMU in the past 18 months.

R90m rolled in for 2006, and by August this year, bursary funding had already exceeded R75m.

The bulk is handled by the NMMU Trust, thanks to donars from 80 organisations, mostly corporates.

These figures exclude the funding received from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

"As a state-funded university, we cannot operate without private donars," says acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Prof Christo van Loggerenberg.

Fairytale teaching award

TURNING teaching into a fairytale has reaped rewards for NMMU alumnus St Claire Adriaan and his students.

The BEd graduate and university's former Student Representative Council president received the 2006 Disney Teacher Award as a result of his innovative teaching methods and ability to inspire learners.

St Claire, who matriculated at Bethelsdorp High School in Port Elizabeth, used a fairytale concept to help youngsters remember the rules of multiplication and division by introducing beautiful loving princes, and negative mean princes as a means of conceptualising numbers.

It's not this popular teacher's only accolade.

In 2002 he won the Walmart North California Teacher of the Year award.

St Claire has been a teacher for 17 years. He started his teaching career in the city's Northern Areas where he taught for six years before lecturing at Kagisanong College of Education in Bloemfontein for two years. In 1999 he moved overseas and is presently



FUN WITH EDUCATION ... St Claire Adriaan (centre) has been recognised for making children laugh – and learn.

a school principal in Ohio.

"Going to school every day to teach new ideas to 12- and 13-year-olds makes me excited. I obviously have to compete with I-pods, video games and television, so I make sure my lessons are fun, exciting and within their frame of reference," says St Claire, who has instigated many initiatives to ensure that teachers collaborate and share best practices.

As much as he enjoys teaching overseas, he misses home, his family and "braaivleis".

He says he remains a committed NMMU alumnus because "the university gave me a great education in preparation for my career".



Dr Peter Manser (DED 2005) is one of a number of alumni principals in Port Elizabeth and beyond. His school, Alexander Road High School, was recognised as NMMU's top feeder school last year.

Alumni around the world

AMERICAN ALUMNI ... Former University of Port Elizabeth alumni (from left) Nick Druiff, Jean Druiff (nee Horak), Bronwynne Seymour and St Claire Adriaan met up in San Diego this year. Do you get together with old friends in foreign places? If so, drop Vuyo Ntloko a line on alumni@nmmu.ac.za



FORESTRY FRIENDS ... Remembering old times as students during the 75th reunion celebrations at Saasveld, now part of NMMU's George Campus, were (from left) Connie Jonker, Karl-Heinz Niemand, Willem Jacobs and Arnold Rossouw, all of whom are working in the Tsitsikamma and Outeniqua regions.



FOREIGN FRIENDS ... A second NMMU alumni get-together took place in London in June attended by more than 50 alumni from both former PE Technikon and UPE including (from left) Ulrich Groenewald, Mia Johns, Michael Wood, James Nicol and Bronwyn Daniels.



LINKING IN LONDON ... Also in London where NMMU Trust Director Prof Kotie Grove spoke of plans to establish an overseas NMMU alumni, were (from left) Gilbert Gerber, NMMU Alumni Convocation President Paul Geswindt and Julie Szabo.



GREAT START ... Among former NMMU students to gather at an executive alumni breakfast at the university in October were (from left) Evert Knoesen, Shuaib Rahim and Beverley Erickson. Dr Rolf Stumpf addressed the breakfast which is set to become an annual event.



A FAMILY AFFAIR ... Among those to attend NMMU's Saasveld Campus 75th reunion in George in September were the Whitcher family (from left) Herbert (1956), Carol, who is a senior forester, (1993 – 1995), Charles Snr (1959 – 1960) and Charles Jnr (2004 – 2006). Hundreds of former Saasveld students, some of whom came from overseas, celebrated the many successes of the leading environmental and forestry training facility at a two-day conference with breakout sessions, various social gatherings and an expo.

Where are they today?

The first students of the predecessors to NMMU started their studies in 1965 and 1979 (University of Port Elizabeth and PE Technikon respectively), and are successfully dotted around the globe today ...This is what we discovered.

If you have news of any alumni, please drop Vuyo a line on alumni@nmmu.ac.za or call her on 041 504 3935.

1970's



Prof Basie von Solms, the university's third student to register in 1965, is a professor in Computer Science and IT at the University of Johannesburg. He is the International Federation for Information Processing president, an umbrella body linking almost all national computer bodies all over the world.



Leon Crouse (BCom 1975, CTA 1977) has been Vodacom's chief financial officer since 1996. Prior to that, he served as general manager of the cellular giant since its inception in 1993. He is member of the NMMU Trust.

Gail Glover (nee Stanton, 1978) lives in the United States where she is director of media relations at Binghamton University, State University of New York. **Magda Botha** (nee Moller, BCom 1971) is the South African athletics coach and a teacher at Framesby High School in Port Elizabeth.



Dr John von Bonde, (BJuris 1976; LLB 1977; LLD 2007) is a senior law lecturer at NMMU. His dissertation examined redress for victims of crime in South Africa. Dr Von Bonde spent his first year as a student at Bird Street in 1973 before moving to the new Summerstrand campus the following year.

1980's



Regan Verwey (nee Schroeder, NDip Public Relations 1987) lives on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, with her husband Mike, where she runs the PR department at the Hillcrest Christian School. Prior to emigrating Regan ran her own PR company in Port Elizabeth for eight years.



Andrew Bowren (BCom 1981) is the new sales director for Goodyear South Africa. Prior to his appointment this year he had been managing director at Hi-Q, a franchise company he grew from 2004. Bowren began his career as a recruitment officer for a stainless steel company.

Erich Beer (BMus 1981) is a letting agent for residential property based in PE. **Beverley Bell** (nee Thomas) who graduated with an HDE in 1982, is currently completing her doctorate in Massachusetts, USA, where she is Director of the Teacher Education Programme at the College of the Holy Cross; Beverley taught accountancy at various high schools in South Africa before moving to the United States with her husband **Dave Bell**, (BA Psychology Hons 1982). Dave completed his doctorate in 2001 and teaches at Clark University. **Hugo Basson** (BSc Hons 1985) is the executive director of ImproChem in Port Elizabeth. **Deon Binneman** (NDip PR 1981, NDip Management 1988) works as an international speaker, trainer, writer and consultant in reputation management. **Nanette Lutz** (nee Cooper) who graduated in 1984, works at Nedbank, Johannesburg, in strategic planning. **De Wet Bisschoff** (BCom Computer Science 1989) heads the technology consulting division at Accenture, Johannesburg.



LIVING in the fast lane (quite literally) is NDip Sales and Marketing graduate Michael Ferreira, who heads Porsche Cars in Australia.

The 1986 graduate says he'll forever be indebted to Dr John Burger – "a mentor of note" – "for the foundation he gave me and the head start in my career".

Ferreira has been accepted as a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors in Australia and New Zealand.

After leaving the former PE Technikon, Ferreira completed his two-year military service, and worked at Volkswagen as a management trainee in

Johannesburg. He established VW Finance in South Africa before being headhunted by Avis where he worked for ten years.

He emigrated to Melbourne, Australia, in 2002 and moved to Porsche two years ago where he has been growing their world market.

"I want to encourage all young South Africans, regardless of their background and economic status to learn as much as they can and enrich themselves with knowledge and global market information.

"South Africa is now part of the world economy and no matter where you are in the world, knowledge is power."

Where are they today?

1990's



Songezo Zibi (NDip PR 1998) is the group communications manager at Xstrata South Africa in Johannesburg and is married with a baby son.

Kim Vermaak (nee Keel, NDip Marketing 1993) started her own corporate gifts and clothing company, Belle Regalo, in 2001. **Jerome Gendarme** (BCom 1993) is vice president of the Bank of New York in Brussels and is married with two children. **Senzi Hoyi** who started at the university in the early 90s and completed his master's in Public Administration in 2002, is the projects co-ordinator for Buffalo City Municipality in East London. **Theo Koekemoer** (BTech Purchasing 1996) works at Volkswagen South Africa, Uitenhage. **Nico Janse van Rensburg** (BTech Quantity Surveying 2000) is an estimator for residential developers in Surrey, United Kingdom. **Nick Furness** (NDip 1990) runs a business in the wine industry, importing machines and barrels. **BS Dalton** (NDip Production Management 1999; BTech Production Management 2000) is general manager of the manufacturing unit with Tiger Consumer Brands in Modjadiskloof, near Tzaneen in Limpopo. **Dr Ernest van Biljon** (BCom 1985, BCom Hons 1986, MCom 1991, DCom 1999) is a consultant in knowledge economics and project development. **Jacqueline Brown** (NDip Marketing 1995) is the Eveready brand manager in Port Elizabeth. **Estie Herselman** (nee Du Piesanie, NDip Executive Secretary 1993) is the residence superintendent at NMMU's George Campus. **Brendon Blignaut** (BA Political Science 1985, BA Hons Political Science 1992) is a human resources practitioner at VWSA who commutes from Port Elizabeth to the Uitenhage plant. **Thembile Matross** (BTech Engineering 1994) is lecturing at Walter Sisulu University, East London.

NMMU law graduate **Amanda Lamprecht** has captured the imagination of the American public with her Scratch Patch concept, turning the staple of South African fetes and fairs into a retail concept



in her shop in Seattle. Amanda and her husband, Lesley, a computer specialist, have lived in the United States for seven years, excluding a brief interlude in London.

PR man works for EC Premier



THE university's NDip in Public Relations gets the thumbs up from the man who has the provincial premier's ear.

Guy Rich, who finished that qualification in 1995 and followed it up with an MBA in 2003, is the personal assistant to Eastern Cape Premier Nosimo Balindlela.

"The practical approach to education and training I received from the old PE Tech, has placed me in good stead," says Rich, who was recently promoted to general manager of the Premier's core staff.

Rich, who lives in East London, is an active Round Tabler, keen fisherman and when time allows, writes for various business publications in the Eastern Cape.



NDip PR graduate **Lee Duru** (1997) has made a name for herself as an actress. Duru, 28, brings broad smiles to the faces of South Africans in her many comedy roles, including Leon Schuster's hit movie *Mama Jack*, but is also responsible for directing *Stokvel*, a comedy show, and acting in *Home Affairs*, a drama series.

2000



Global warming

Y2K

DVD



area. Leadership, however, is nothing new to the go-getting priest. While still in her twenties Sharon fulfilled a key position for the Salvation Army, and later headed both Scripture Union and Life Line in Port Elizabeth.

Sharon Nell (MPhil Christian Studies 2006) made history in Port Elizabeth last year when she became the first female priest appointed as a rector in the local Anglican diocese. Rev Nell is rector of the Zwartkops River Valley parish, responsible for two churches in the



Charl Swanepoel (BTech Civil Engineering 2005) lives in the UK but plans to return to Port Elizabeth with his wife next year.



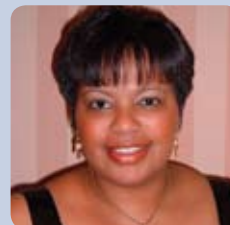
Wayne Beckley (NDip IT 2000) is the technical lead at Foschini Data in Cape Town. He's married and has a daughter and son.



Zukile Mdlalo (BTech Transportation Engineering 2005) is married and works for the civil engineering department in the transportation division in East London



Schalk Cilliers (NDip Marketing Management 2001) is married with a young son and is involved in project management with Edcon in Johannesburg.



Leazle Harker (BSc Information Technology 2006) is a software developer for Nedbank in Sandton, Johannesburg.



Johan Kapp (BTech Marketing 2001) is a category manager with Distell, Stellenbosch. He's lived in Cape Town since 2003.

Where are they today?



▲ **RENEWING TIES ...** NMMU alumnus Calvin Blignaut (centre) visited former lecture Prof Danie Hattingh (left) and Prof Neil James, of the University of Plymouth, who was at NMMU for ongoing collaborative research.

At the stirring edge

EIGHT long years of full-time study at NMMU have reaped rich rewards for Dr Calvin Blignaut who now works for The Welding Institute (TWI) in the United Kingdom.

The former engineering graduate whose master's and doctoral research was in Friction Stir Welding (FSW), landed a top job in Cambridge in March last year as TWI's project leader in the Friction and Forge Processes Department.

"I love what I do and am grateful to Prof Danie Hattingh at the Manufacturing Technology Research Centre for introducing FSW to me and shaping me during my career at NMMU," says Calvin, 27.

Many of his projects involve working directly with international aerospace companies such as Boeing, Rolls Royce and Embraer (Brazil). He has also undertaken work for German-based companies in the automotive sector.



▲ **Lloyd Oldham** (NDip Journ 2005) accepted an award on behalf of East Cape Agri, a weekly agricultural newspaper, which scooped the prestigious Sanlam Community Press prize for the country's best front page for a free publication. Lloyd is the national editorial production co-ordinator for the nine Agri titles. Lyndall

Sa Joe, also a NMMU journalism graduate, is a reporter and paginator for the publications and both are assisted by NMMU journalism intern Simoné Visser.



▲ **THE man behind the success of the Springbok Rugby Sevens side coach Paul Treu** is an NMMU alumnus. He obtained an MEd Psychology this year after writing a thesis on motivation of teachers for the implementation of the new Further Education and Training (FET) curriculum. Treu was a primary school teacher in George before becoming the Sevens' full-time coach last year.



Morné Leander, 28, (NDip Graphic Design 2004) played a part in designing parliament's new emblem. Leander, who now lives in Johannesburg, collaborated with 18 other finalists from around the country to design the new emblem. He is a designer at Purple Pencil.



Randy Johnson (BTech Information Technology 2005) is an analyst programmer for VWWSA, and lives in Port Elizabeth.



Mr Port Elizabeth 2007 is NMMU alumnus **Paul Goosen**. Paul, who has an NDip Building Management from the former Port Elizabeth Technikon and a BA degree from the former UPE, is a teacher at Alexander Road High School in the city and also has his own building firm.

Elre Fredericks (BCom 2000) is an operational banker at Absa Corporate and Business Bank in Port Elizabeth. **Nolizwe Majolobe** (MA Public Administration 2001) works in the Municipal Support Unit of Amathole District Municipality, East London. **Mpumi Mdziniso** (BA Psychology 2005) is a market researcher for Standard Bank in Johannesburg. **Thulani Rorwana** (NDip Commercial Administration 2002) is a personal assistant in the Eastern Cape's provincial government in East London. **Zukiswa Toto** (NDip Commercial Administration 2002, NDip Logistics 2005, BTech Logistics 2006) is a logistics manager with Transnet in Bloemfontein. **Nomvuyo Maselana** (NDip Electrical Engineering 2003) works for Eskom as a senior technician in their telecoms department, and lives in East London. **Kerry Harran-Meyer** (BTech Information Technology 2004) works for VWWSA's Systems Support and Development division. **Unathi Klassie** (NDip Electrical Engineering 2004) is working for West Instruments in the UK. **Fiona Kotze** (BTech Information Technology 2001) is a business analyst with Investec Private Bank in Johannesburg. **Unathi Kildase** (NDip Logistics Management 2005) works as a forwarding controller for Rohling-Grindrod and is finishing her BTech in Logistics. **Nomawethu Makapela** (BTech Logistics 2006) is an intern in the production planning department at DaimlerChrysler in Germany. **Chitumwa Cheunondirwa Christopher** (MA in Curriculum Policy, Development and Management 2006) is a maths and science lecturer at a primary teacher's college in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. **Banita Chetty** (IT 2006) is a software developer with Mutual and Federal in East London. **Emalicia Howley** (NDip Logistics 2006) is a buyer with Distell, and lives

in Port Elizabeth. **Ronel Gouws** (BCom Hons 2006) works for Absa as a business adviser. **Shelley Haschick** (nee Johannie BA Ed 2006) is teaching at Priory in Port Elizabeth. **Unathi Mdaka** (nee Malgas NDip Logistics 2006) is an intern at Goodyear in Port Elizabeth. **Radley Connor** (BCom Hons Business management 2006) is working as a graduate trainee in corporate sales and marketing at VWWSA. **Marius Kriek** (MBA 2006), who gained his first qualification in 1993, is a court manager for the Department of Justice in Humansdorp. **Nozuko Somniso** (BTech in Human Resources Management 2002) is a chief risk officer with Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council. **Kazimla Bam Maruluba** (BTech IT 2003) is working as a systems analyst at Daimler Chrysler in East London. **Clee Waterson** (MBA 2003) is the HR manager at Dispatch Media in East London. **Philip Lutz** (NDip Sales and Marketing 2004) is the product manager for Monroe Shock Absorbers in Johannesburg. **Lazola Dhipha** (BCom 2005) is a marketing graduate at Eveready in Port Elizabeth. **Hilton Wait** (BSc Hons 2005) is working for Dekon Projects in East London. **Shaheed Abrahams** (BTech FIS 2006) is an advisor with KPMG in PE. **Solomzi Kaya (Solly) Booi** (MBA 2006) is a sales manager for the Liberty Group in Port Elizabeth. He's married with a daughter in matric and two sons aged 14 and 7. **Luphumezo Gayiya** (BTech Internal Auditing 2005) was an internal auditor with the Department of Public Works in Cape Town but recently returned to Port Elizabeth. **Debbie Douglas** (NDip PR Management 2004) is an account executive at design and advertising company Boomtown Vooma! in Port Elizabeth. **Shakes Binza** (MTech Public Management 2001) is a lecturer at NMMU. **Nathan Harris** (BSc Hons Computer Science) is working as an enterprise integrations applications specialist with Cell C.

Catering for the mature market

By Christelle Feyt

AT NMMU we advocate the importance of life-long learning – an education for life. NMMU aims to distinguish itself as a new generation university, that will not only put you in touch with the latest trends and developments in your career, but will assist you to reach your full potential.

Whether you're pursuing an academic or a professional career, aiming for success in the private or public sector, or just want to add value to your personal development, our career advancement programmes offer the opportunity to deepen your understanding and

sharpen your skills, to specialise and to focus on what really interests you.

NMMU's seven faculties offer more than 320 postgraduate programmes, including postgraduate diplomas, honours, master's and doctoral degrees. These programmes cover more than 200 identified fields of study, although basic or applied research may be undertaken in any related topic approved by a faculty. Structured coursework (taught) programmes are tailor-made to suit the needs of working people.

Apart from postgraduate study opportunities, NMMU offers various career advancement programmes, including formal part-time diploma and bachelor degree programmes, as well as short learning courses that provide skills training for the work environment.

NMMU's Department of Continuing Education co-ordinates and administrates various occupational-directed programmes that address the needs for skills training in commerce and industry, public and private sectors, and community organisations.

The NMMU Business School offers formal academic



DRIVING FORWARD

... Louis von Wielligh (seated) (NDip Mechanical Engineering 2002) returned to NMMU to complete his masters and was awarded the prestigious Rolls Royce Scholarship of R50 000 much to the delight of his mentor Dr Annelize Els-Botes.

programmes, including the MBA, as well as management development programmes and skills training opportunities which enable professionals to utilise their own work environment as a basis for conducting research, enabling them to plough back the theoretical learning into their own organisation.

Marketing & Corporate Relations houses a central office for enquiries regarding study opportunities for mature and postgraduate students.

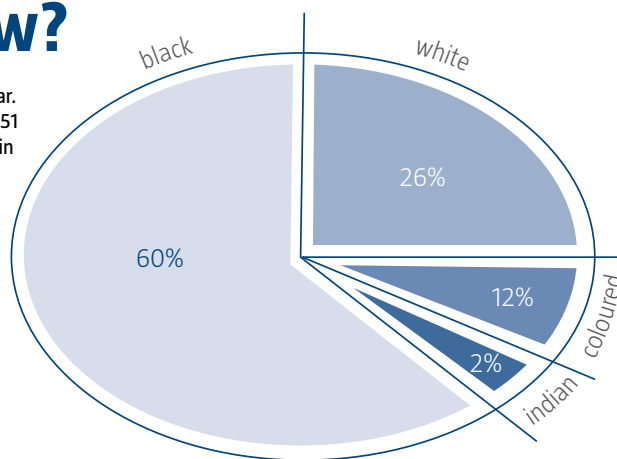
Interesting postgraduate enrolment facts:

- 2 213 postgraduate students registered during the first semester of 2007 (excluding the 2nd semester intake)
- Popular fields for postgraduate studies include Architecture, Development Studies, Public Administration, Accounting, Business Management, Business Administration, Education, Information Technology, Psychology, Health and Welfare Management, Nursing, Labour Law, Child Witness Protection, Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Physics and Zoology.
- The Faculty of Arts boasts the highest intake of master's students this year, totaling 395, with the Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences hard on their heels with an intake of 298. These figures include coursework and research master's programmes.
- With 80 students enrolled for doctoral studies, the Faculty of Science reflects the institution's mission to contribute to scientific knowledge development and a true research culture.

Did you know?

6713 students graduated at NMMU this year. The ratio of male to female students is 49:51. Of the 4390 off-campus students enrolled in 2006, 91% were African.

Origin of NMMU students: 2006		
RSA EC	13060	55.31%
RSA Rest	8630	36.55%
Africa Rest	1920	8.13%
World Rest	4	0.02%
	23614	100.00%



Hungry for more?

Satisfy your appetite for knowledge with postgraduate studies at NMMU

Whether you've just graduated or are already climbing the career ladder, studying further for a postgraduate qualification could satisfy your hunger for knowledge and success.

For more information contact:

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Fax: 041 504 2810

E-mail: postgrad@nmmu.ac.za

www.nmmu.ac.za