

routes

Alumni Newsletter



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

Edition 4 • November 2009



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A word from the Alumni Directorate

THE establishment of a directorate for alumni relations is an indication of how much NMMU values alumni as a stakeholder group.

Alumni represent the success stories of the university not only as graduates but as global citizens making a difference in the various disciplines and sectors.

Your success is our success and our combined successes increase the value of your qualification.

We are excited about the opportunity to build mutually beneficial relationships with our alumni and friends. Friends include parents of students and graduates, donors, governors, advisors, employers, short course candidates and community leaders.

We also have a major task of engaging with alumni from former UPE, PE Technikon and the PE campus of Vista University as well as NMMU graduates. We have about 72 000 alumni on record with an average of 5000 graduates added to that figure every year.

To avoid gaps in relationship building we will have to start the lifelong relationship process at recruitment and maintain relationships with students while at NMMU. Here our Student Alumni Society will have to play a major role creating awareness of the role and value of alumni to current students.

Establishing national and international alumni chapters, establishing a new Alumni Annual Fund, improving alumni benefits, introducing Alumni Awards and building an Alumni House, are all part of the plan.

The support of our alumni is crucial in realising all these goals. Our Convocation representatives on Council, our Alumni Executive Committee

and individual alumni played a major role in raising the profile of alumni. Our VC, executive management, Council and NMMU Trustees have all supported the establishment of the Alumni Directorate. Your support is even more important.

Earlier this year, the newly-established NMMU Alumni Directorate hosted a successful Southern African

Your success is our success and our combined successes increase the value of your qualification.

Alumni staff



▲ **AT YOUR SERVICE ...** Baakier Abrahams, University Shop Manager and Santosh Ramadu, Alumni Realties Officer, form part of the new Alumni Directorate geared to serve NMMU alumni.

Alumni Consortium. The Consortium includes all southern African higher education alumni practitioners who gather to share best practice. NMMU was re-elected to chair the Consortium – a sign of confidence in our leadership and vision for alumni relations nationally.

I am honoured to be the first NMMU

Alumni Relations Director and to play a role in alumni relations development on a national level.

We are here to serve and celebrate our alumni and we all look forward to an exciting experience in building great relationships and an even greater NMMU. - Paul GG Geswindt

Contact us

We want to hear from you!

Send your updated details to:
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• Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
• Port Elizabeth • 6031
Tel: +27 (0) 41 504 3935
Fax: +27 (0) 41 504 1965
E-mail: alumni@nmmu.ac.za
Website: www.nmmu.ac.za/alumni

Ugandan chapter founded

NMMU has forged stronger links with Uganda, with the establishment of its first alumni chapter in Africa.

The founding of the chapter in Kampala formalises a relationship that NMMU had with the East African country over the past five years.

Close to 50 Ugandan students are presently studying at NMMU and many more are now interested in making NMMU their study institution of choice.



▲ **NEW CHAPTER FOUNDED...** From NMMU Dr Waswa, Dr Nico Jooste, Paul Geswindt, Dr Nsubugu, Prof Andrew Leitch and Dennis Sekiwu at the Uganda alumni chapter function.

New Trust appointment

PROF Kotie Grové was appointed the new Legacy Programme Director on 1 September 2009, still fulfilling his role as NMMU Trust Executive Director while the new executive director is appointed.

The Legacy Programme's position was created by the Trust to raise funds by means of soliciting and encouraging bequests and donations from selected alumni and other individuals on a national and international basis. The Trust is chaired by Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi, chairman of BHP Billiton.

The Legacy Programme entails creating and encouraging friendships between alumni (older generation alumni) and the university.

"The programme must ensure that these legacies benefit the university in every possible way and the people involved receive the necessary acknowledgement," said Prof Grové, who has been involved with the



▲ **NEW ROLE...** Prof Kotie Grové, was appointed the new Legacy Programmes Director.

university since 1971 as lecturer and professor in Greek and Latin. He was also the first full-time Dean of Students from 1989 to 1993.

Prof Grové has served in the capacity of president and chairperson of the cricket club for more than 20 years and chairperson of the Executive Sports Committee for five years. He ranks his association with university sport as one of the highlights of his career.

"I am in the fortunate position of knowing many students who studied here since the beginning of the university in 1965 and many of them are indeed close friends," said Prof Grové.

R1 billion endowment needed by 2020

Funding vital to NMMU growth

R1 billion. That's what NMMU wants as an endowment by 2020, and with Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz at the helm there's every chance it will have secured this capital funding to support the university's future growth needs, long before then.

In the 18 short months since his arrival, Prof Swartz has triggered a number of strategic shifts at NMMU, including finalisation of Vision 2020, a project articulating what kind of university we want to be. As a result, the new vision and mission means there has to be a sustained period of investment in staff, student support, laboratories, modernisation of current buildings and the building of new infrastructure.

"Without a robust revenue model and cost structure, this vision cannot be realised," Prof Swartz shared with *Routes*.

To do this, NMMU is being revamped to increase its fundraising capacity to reach new markets with the central purpose of building a R1 billion strong endowment. In this context, the alumni function has been moved from Marketing and Corporate Relations to the NMMU Trust.

"The alumni function, because of its critical nexus with 72 000-plus alumni, has a crucial role to play in the advancement mandate of the Trust. For this reason, as is the practice in North America and elsewhere, these two functions must work very closely together."

As part of the step-up campaign, NMMU has also raised the platform of the alumni function to a new directorate (see page 2).

"Within five years, this office will be three times bigger, with wide-ranging networks linking our alumni from all over the world into NMMU's advancement drive. Every single alumnus counts in this campaign."

And Prof Swartz, for one, can't wait for it to get going.

"I feel like Usain Bolt in the starting blocks."

In outlining his vision of the future role of alumni, Prof Swartz

indicated that the "associational" link between NMMU and its former students would always be a central part of what the university does.

"We want our alumni to keep the memory of their experiences here alive."

But the philanthropist you will find difficult to refuse, also wants alumni to directly contribute to the future welfare of its *alma mater* and strongly believes everyone counts in the "giving back" campaign.

"Giving a little repeated 1000-fold can reap



▲ VISIONARY ... Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz envisions alumni contributing directly to the welfare of its alma mater.

huge financial dividends," he says, referring to the extraordinary success of Barack Obama's electoral campaign in which thousands of average to poor income-earning Americans gave small monthly contributions to the fundraising campaign.

"Our alumni are extremely important to us. They are ambassadors who can do work that we can never do in all parts of the world."

"We want them to share – and be a part of – the exciting changes that still lie ahead for NMMU."

And as a man deeply committed to serving society, Prof Swartz is confident alumni who give

their own money will enjoy a deeper "emotional connection to a dream that they helped to build, that they have helped the next generation, just like they too were helped. That's the reward".

NMMU also plans to build a dedicated alumni centre, called Alumni House, overlooking the lake on South Campus. The centre, which will have function facilities and offices for alumni staff and Trust, is expected to be completed within the next two to three years.

Meet the new Alumni Relations Director

SERVING and engaging with over 72 000 NMMU alumni forms part of Paul Geswindt's mandate as newly appointed Alumni Relations Director.

According to Paul, alumni represent the success stories of an institution. "They are the best brand ambassadors because their sphere of influence has global reach. Alumni must be part of this growth cycle by contributing to and benefitting from the process," he said.

In 1990 he graduated with a BCom(Ed) and in 2005, with a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Management from UPE. He also has postgraduate qualifications in Business and Marketing Management.

He started working at the former UPE in 1998 as marketing manager and was promoted to deputy director of Communication and Marketing Services in 2002. He served as deputy director of Marketing and Alumni Relations from 2005 to 2009 at NMMU.

His previous positions include teacher and subject head at Paterson High School in Port Elizabeth and deputy chief education specialist in the Department of Education (Eastern Cape).

He is passionate about community service and serves on a number of community trusts. His personal motto is "Be the Change".

Paul also served on the UPE Council as a staff representative and was President of the UPE Alumni Association. He is currently NMMU President of Convocation, Chairperson of the Southern African Alumni Consortium and is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities' Marketing and PR Steering Committee.

"The new Alumni Relations Directorate is evidence of how important NMMU views its alumni and their role in making NMMU even greater," said Paul.



NEWLY APPOINTED ... Alumni Relations Director, Paul Geswindt.

City's university contributes to economic vitality of the metro

What NMMU brings to the Bay



ACROSS the globe, universities are playing an increasing role in the economic vitality, competitiveness and sustainability of their surrounding regions – and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University is no exception.

NMMU prides itself on research that is relevant to the community it serves and, as a result, is regarded as a key contributor across a broad range of critical areas, from business and industry to community development, tourism, conservation, and many more.

Kevin Hustler, new chief executive of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Percci) and an alumnus of NMMU, said: "Having a university the size and calibre of NMMU is a vital component in developing Nelson Mandela Bay as a world-class city."

"The university is making an important contribution to the city, in terms of research and innovation that supports business and industry. This definitely helps to attract new investors and develop skills that are relevant to the needs of local businesses."

Percci works hand in hand with NMMU and other stakeholders on a number of projects, including the Percci Service Excellence Programme, ongoing industrial development research, and "green" initiatives within businesses.

Hustler, who graduated from NMMU with a BSc (Quantity Surveying) in 1988, said: "My own degree was excellent preparation for my working career. Even though I have not continued in quantity surveying, the grounding I received in terms of practical skills, understanding world views, and being able to think creatively and engage critically has helped me contribute to the shaping of a challenging business

environment."

Hustler said NMMU itself contributed to the local economy, not only as an employer and purchaser of goods and services, but also through the foreign students it attracted to the city.

There are currently 2 160 registered international students at NMMU, mostly from Africa, and particularly the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions.

Marian Neale-Shutte, senior manager for academic engagement and research at NMMU's Office for International Education, said: "They choose NMMU as it has built up a reputation for good, quality education at an affordable price."

Apart from the financial investment they are making through tuition fees and living expenses, many foreign students take time to travel the country, thereby contributing to tourism spend in the area.

And while most return home after completing their studies, some choose to stay and work in

Port Elizabeth and elsewhere in South Africa.

Over and above attracting foreign students, Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism (NMBT) marketing manager Titus Chuene said NMMU had the expertise to play an even greater role in tourism development in the city and region, and talks were under way to collaboratively develop a tourism research hub at the university.

He said the university's ability to collect accurate statistics about visitors to the city would help the city identify its customers, and channel its marketing drive in the right direction – thereby growing tourism even more.

The university is also a key player in conservation



◀ BUSINESS LEADER...

Kevin Hustler, new chief executive of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Percci) and NMMU alumnus.

initiatives across the Eastern Cape, and working closely with the likes of the Mantis Collection, which includes Shamwari Game Reserve.

John O'Brien, group ecologist for the Mantis Collection, said: "Wildlife (conservation) in the Eastern Cape is a relatively new concept, compared with other provinces. However, it has really taken off over the last few years, resulting in significant socio-economic growth. But, along with that comes ecological responsibility, and this is where the university has helped to contribute."

The Mantis Collection has a memorandum of understanding with NMMU, which involves a variety of cross-faculty activities, from water purification to renewable energy and conservation science.

Nelson Mandela Bay community leader Mike Pantsi, founder of Imbewu Community Volunteers – which runs programmes to encourage responsible citizenship and sustainable social development – said universities were an important resource for communities, and there was mutual benefit to be gained by narrowing the gap between academic researchers and those working at grassroots level. Pantsi himself was instrumental in sparking NMMU research into the healing properties of the plants used in traditional medicine – which has led to promising results in the area of diabetes and other diseases.

He said the scope for university/community collaboration was enormous.

Having a university the size and calibre of NMMU is a vital component in developing Nelson Mandela Bay as a world-class city.

NMMU aims to develop the country's first high-tech, 'clean' business school

Business School goes 'green'

TEACHING future business leaders about the sustainability of the earth's limited resources through ethical business practices has long been a priority at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Business School.

Now, determined to lead by example, it is hoping to develop the country's first high-tech, "green" business school, with almost no reliance on Eskom's energy grid.

It is envisioned that the new school, likely to be built on NMMU's Second Avenue Campus within the next three years, may be linked to an upmarket hotel, run by students completing a BCom in hotel management – a new degree still being finalised by the university. The hotel would accommodate students attending courses at the Business School.

While plans are still to be drawn up, it is anticipated that the new school would rely on sun and wind energy, with collected rainwater meeting its water needs.

"We want to be Africa's first 'green' business school," said ethics professor and school director Piet Naudé, who is leading the project.

"We are building our total economy on 98% non-renewable energy. This is a major challenge for businesses in the 21st century ... The next war will more than likely be over water and energy."

Faced with these sobering facts, the Business School makes a point of teaching its students about the sustainable use of paper, waste reduction and ways to reduce a company's carbon footprint.

"It is vital that we ourselves are an example of the

sustainability we teach."

In preparation for the anticipated new building, the instilling of a "greener" culture among school staff is vital, and Naudé has already set the ball in motion.

"The Business School is currently operating from NMMU's Bird Street Campus (which will be sold). We can't change the buildings, which are very old, but we are going to start putting into practice the 'green' processes we teach."

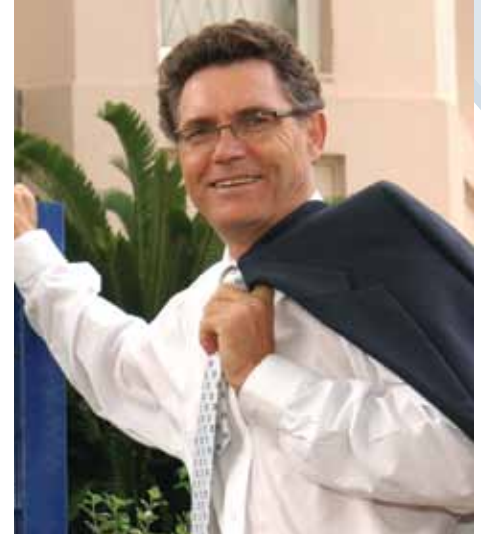
There will be small changes at first – the replacement of conventional light-bulbs with long-life ones, switching off lights when they are not needed, reducing the use of air conditioners, insulating geysers and recycling paper and other waste. Bigger changes – like utilising video conferences to cut out flights – will also be adopted. "I want to create a new, 'green' consciousness."

By the end of the year, Naudé hopes all staff in the Business School will have bought into this "greener" way of doing things, paving the way for a smooth transition to the proposed new building.

"Our hope is that the new building would be designed in such a way that its energy reliance on the Eskom grid will be minimal. Sun and wind energy could run the computers (although the building would still be linked to Eskom for days when sun does not shine), while rain-water could run through the toilet and irrigation systems."

In fact, Naudé is hoping the envisioned school will ultimately receive NMMU's first green star rating from the Green Building Council of South Africa.

Both the architect and builder will be chosen



▲ A 'GREEN' APPROACH... Ethics professor Piet Naudé, Director of NMMU's Business School, is driving a landmark project, which could see the development of the country's first "green" business school.

carefully, to ensure they have suitable experience for the job at hand. "There will no doubt be a high initial outlay but this will be recouped in savings on water and electricity."

Tied in with the 'green' changes, Naudé is also hoping to introduce a pledge for students completing their Master's in Business Administration (MBA), in which they would agree to run their businesses in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. "I want to create a business school with a different edge – one that is appropriate for 21st century challenges.

"Fifteen years from now, we need to be asking the question: Have we made a contribution to the environment? Ethics is not just a theory, it's a practice."

We are building our total economy on 98% non-renewable energy. This is a major challenge for businesses in the 21st century

Join close to 300 top South Africans who already recognise the value of our

MBA and DBA

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Business School offers a quality MBA and one of only four nationally accredited DBA programmes.

Our top class MBA is offered in Port Elizabeth, George and East London and also to students in Gauteng as from 2010.

Business, industry and government in need of in-house and customised leadership, management and business development training can contact our Leadership Academy for a competitive quotation. Services are offered to clients on a national basis.

Want to know more?

Tel: +27 (0)41 504 4000 • E-mail: business.school@nmmu.ac.za

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Business School
Leaders for tomorrow

Integrity Excellence Sustainability Ubuntu Innovation

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NMMU is growing – physically

BY the end of 2010, the establishments you may remember as the PE Technikon, the University of Port Elizabeth and the Port Elizabeth campus of Vista University, will have had almost R260m invested in them since 2007 by way of infrastructure and upgrades.

“What is happening physically right now far exceeds anything else that is happening at any other higher education institution in South Africa,” said NMMU Director: Projects and Planning Stuart Blignaut.

The multiple projects – about 50 all told that have either recently been completed or are ongoing – on each of NMMU’s six campuses, including George, are all part of the university’s drive to ensure that its students are afforded the best possible facilities for their particular learning needs.

“As a merged university it was imperative that all campuses receive the necessary infrastructure,” said Blignaut, himself an NMMU alumnus.

That’s why whichever campus you might visit right now, there will be building activity – a tangible sign of a university constantly striving for excellence, thanks mainly to Department of Education funding.

Major projects

South Campus (former UPE) – R89.7m

- ▶ A R45m lecture hall complex with 500-, 250- and 200-seater facilities to be ready for the 2010 student-intake.
- ▶ A link road between North and South campuses and the possibility of another link road to the new lecture hall complex that will further improve traffic flow.
- ▶ An additional 265 parking bays.
- ▶ A R28m “green” revamp of lighting and ventilation at the library.
- ▶ New lifts in the main building and library valued



▲ **STATE OF THE ART ...** The new Missionvale Campus Library (already at roof height) boasts “green building principles”, and will be one of the first buildings in South Africa to incorporate a system that relies on sensors to control its lighting levels as well as carbon dioxide sensors to ensure energy efficiency.

at R9.4m that will “vastly reduce waiting time for students”.

▶ Ongoing concrete rehabilitation valued at R8.5m.

North Campus (former PE Technikon) – R15.8m

- ▶ New computer lab
- ▶ Expansion of the engineering buildings
- ▶ A 200-seater lecture hall

Missionvale (former PE campus of Vista University)

– R103m

- ▶ A new library
- ▶ A dedicated student centre
- ▶ Upgrading of computer laboratories, lecture halls and facilities at the province’s biggest indoor centre
- ▶ A new entrance and fencing
- ▶ A new greenhouse and traditional medicine garden

Second Avenue – R16.3m

- ▶ Conversion of the gymnasium to an archive facility
- ▶ Upgrading the library

George Campus (former Saasveld Campus) – R34.6m

- ▶ New lecture hall complex

▶ New library

▶ Four new computer labs

▶ A new student centre and classrooms

▶ Upgrade of water and sewage systems

▶ A new reservoir

▶ A new waste water treatment plant to meet the needs of this growing campus.

A green approach

NMMU has taken the “green” infrastructure route.

Wherever possible the university is adhering to “green” design principles as part of its mission to reduce its own carbon footprint.

As a result, the present upgrading of the South Campus library means that its new ventilation and lighting systems will be a first for such a building in Africa and bring it in line with top buildings internationally.

Supporting Eastern Cape biofuels industry

THE National Fuel Chemicals Centre (NFCC) to be constructed at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University early next year will play a key role in supporting the biofuels and transport fuels industries generally in the Eastern Cape.

The NFCC – part of a R25 million expansion project at InnoVenton, NMMU’s Institute of Chemical Technology – will house a state-of-the-art fuels laboratory, which will be used for developing and chemically testing new and improved fuels and fuel products.

Geoff Ritson, deputy director of technology support at InnoVenton, said the centre was especially critical in light of two government-approved biofuels plants being planned for the Eastern Cape: Phyto Energy Group’s biodiesel plant in East London and Rainbow Na-

tion Renewable Fuels project in Coega.

A third major fuels facility – PetroSA’s project “Mthombo” Oil Refinery – a world-class refinery set to be Africa’s biggest, is also on the cards for Coega and due for commissioning in 2015.

The NFCC, which has been approved by the Department of Science and Technology, and is being funded by industry and the university, will be capable of serving the automotive and aviation industries, along with other liquid fuels consumers, through the analysis of fuel samples.

It is well-placed at InnoVenton, which already has an accredited, independent analytical laboratory and pilot plant, capable of researching fuel-type separation and preparation, and well-qualified laboratory staff, skilled in the



▲ **NEW OPPORTUNITIES ...** Looking forward to the establishment of the National Fuel Chemicals Centre at NMMU are (from left) InnoVenton director Prof Ben Zeelie, InnoVenton deputy director of technology demonstration Dr Gary Dugmore and InnoVenton deputy director of technology support Geoff Ritson.

areas of chemical mixtures and blend design.

In fact, InnoVenton is already running its own biofuels research. In partnership with other South African universities, it has started a unique

pilot project using marine algae to convert carbon dioxide into biofuels and other products.

“The Eastern Cape is being targeted as the country’s primary region for biofuel production.”

THIS has been an eventful and fulfilling year for NMMU, with international and national acclaim for arts, finance, science and sport as well as the opening of our new George building and welcoming our new mascot, Diba.

Highlights include:

Mechatronics

General Motors South Africa (GMSA) has invested R3.6m in a Chair in Mechatronics at NMMU. We are now the only university in the Eastern Cape to offer the Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechatronics, a qualification that fuses expertise in various fields of engineering, including electronics, mechanical engineering and computer-aided design.

Game drives

NMMU is the only university in South Africa to offer fully-fledged game drives on its campus. The trips, under the guidance of a registered field guide, make for great team building sessions. Our South Campus is also home to what is the largest area of protected dune fynbos in South Africa.



OUR HERITAGE ... Visitors enjoy the 158-year-old Cape Recife lighthouse as part of the game drive.

International publications award



WINNING TEAM ... Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's (from left) Paul Geswindt, Christelle Feyt and Bernard Pieter came out tops with their undergraduate publications in an international competition run by the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

2009 HIGHLIGHTS

Madibaz

All teams and universities have nicknames, or names by which they are popularly known, and NMMU needed one too. Madibaz and Diba the dolphin, our first-ever nickname and mascot, were introduced to a large number of excited students and staff at the university's South Campus on 30 July.



WELCOMING SPIRIT ... NMMU's first mascot, Diba the dolphin, is joined by Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz (from left), Marketing and Corporate Relations Director Pieter Swart and Sports Manager Petrus Boukes at a launch on South Campus.

North and South fence removed

A new link road between North and South campuses has been opened so one can now drive effortlessly between South and North campuses without going through the security gates. The opening of the road and removal of fences has also led to an increased movement of animals – mongoose, genet cats and various buck species – within the 720-hectare nature reserve on which our campuses are situated.

Imminent arrival of R45m microscope

NMMU looks set to receive the country's first high resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM), which will enable NMMU scientists to take the analysis of materials to the highest levels possible worldwide. The Centre for HRTEM to be established at NMMU will house new electron microscopes and related instruments valued at R80m.

Making SA safer

The university has joined hands with two leading technology companies to improve the South African Police Services (SAPS) communication network. Working with European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company, Saab Grinek Technologies and others, NMMU will train thousands of policemen and women to effectively use TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio Access), new electronic equipment, in a joint project valued at more than R1 billion, over the next five years.

Cycling win

The NMMU MECER cycling team cycled their way to victory on their home ground at the USSA Cycling Championships from 28 June to 1 July. Team member Conrad Viljoen also won a gold medal in the individual time trial and a silver in the hill climb.

NMMU excels further ...

► Our choir won two awards and the highest overall points ever received in the 46-year history of the prestigious international choir competition in Spittal, Austria.



VOICES ... Ken Gotyana and Nonkazimulo Ndlovu are among the 51-member choir to have brought honour to NMMU and Nelson Mandela Bay following the choir's international success.

► One of our textile design students won an international design competition in Goa, India.



PRESTIGIOUS WIN ... Moipone Gekisi BTech textile design student was the overall winner of the prestigious Society of Dyers and Colourists design award.

Briefs

Great graduation figures

Close to 4500 degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded during 14 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 15 to 24 April, including 47 master's degrees and 18 doctorates. Leading the way with postgraduate degrees is the Science faculty with a record 17 doctorate and 45 master's degrees compared to 2008's figures of 12 and 24 respectively.

These degrees translate to some outstanding research within the fields of renewable energy, cancer, traditional medicine and conservation.

Researcher of the Year

Professor Bert Olivier has won the research title for the second consecutive year. His research has already earned him a number of awards including the Stals Prize for Philosophy from the South African Academy for Arts and Sciences in 2004. He is also a regular columnist and Thought Leader for the Mail and Gaurdian newspaper.

Knowledge seekers

According to recent statistics six NMMU graduates have each crossed the platform at least six times. Two of these alumni work at NMMU.

Prof Ilse Truter has seven degrees, six were obtained from UPE and one from North-West University.

Dr Lester Cowley has five degrees and one diploma, all obtained at UPE/NMMU.

FREE application fee to alumni and their children.

Contact the Alumni Relations Office for more information.

School benchmarked as model teaching institution Accounting students shine

OUR flagship BCom Honours (Accounting) programme which produces top chartered accountants, has done it again.

97% of its graduate class of 2008 passed the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) 2009 Qualifying Examination Part 1, a percentage well above the national average.

Furthermore, the School of Accounting has just been benchmarked as the model teaching institution in the country by the professional body.

These superior SAICA first-time qualifying examination results – which have been successfully repeated for more than a decade – are all the more remarkable when one realises that NMMU has traditionally not attracted large numbers of "A" learners. These school leavers generally head for the older, more established universities, while average learners come to NMMU.

But the School of Accounting's reputation is now such that top learners are also beginning to join NMMU in increasing numbers.

The successful growth of the School of Accounting is evidenced by the increase from 12 graduates who passed the Qualifying Examination in 1990 to the 58 graduates who passed on their first attempt in 2009.

According to present school head Prof Frans Prinsloo, NMMU's predecessor, the University of Port Elizabeth, always had a solid reputation with regards to its accounting programmes, but that it was seriously enhanced with the arrival of Prof Keith Prinsloo in 1993. Prof Keith Prinsloo, and then Prof Jeff Rowlands, systematically set out to turn the

School of Accounting into one of the best in the country. Subject experts, with a passion for professional accounting education, were employed, and continue to be today.

"We're always striving for success for all our students," said Prof Frans Prinsloo who, as head of the school, is continuing the good work of his predecessors.

The school's student-centred teaching approach means the four-year CA programme students receive extensive course material to supplement prescribed textbooks, lectures backed up by small-group tutorials, weekly assignments and regular tests.

"We try to ensure that none of our students fall through the cracks. If students work diligently, there is every reason for them to pass," said Prof Prinsloo.

Apart from the success of Craig Tudhope (see caption above) a further two students Candice Hammond and Lauren Jackson finished in the top 30



▲ ACHIEVER ... Craig Tudhope, NMMU's top BCom Honours (Accounting) graduate last year achieved top honours in part one of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants' (SAICA) qualifying examinations. He was placed joint first in the country, out of 3373 candidates – and attributes his success to his strong faith, excellent support group and unwavering ability to "throw himself wholeheartedly" into everything he does.

students, both obtaining 75% and above.

They, along with their 57 classmates, are all presently completing their three years of practical experience, part of the training needed before they can qualify as chartered accountants.

We are always striving for the success of our students.

Success stories

Some top NMMU School of Accounting graduates include:

Dave Powels, managing director of VWSA. **Colin Beggs**, CEO of PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Alan Knott-Craig Jnr, managing director of iBurst. **Royden Vice**, chief executive: Waco International Ltd and many senior partners of the audit firms in Port Elizabeth and beyond. **Barrie Webb**: Joint MD of SA Airlink and major shareholder and Trustee on UPE Trust for many years. **Duncan Sangster**: former

FD of Rennies, now lives in the UK with his own venture capital business; **Derek Pryce**: had his own IT Company, lives in CT now; **Trevor Wagner**: Deputy CEO of Idwala Holdings in JHB (very big in construction industry). Also, many School of Accounting staff are alumni, including the school's **Prof Frans Prinsloo**, who was third in the SAICA Qualifying Examination Part 2 in 1994, and lecturer **Johnathan Dillon** who finished in the SAICA Qualifying Examination Part 1 in 2005.

2009 Honorary doctorates



CONNECTED ... South African cellular phone pioneer **Alan Knott-Craig** received a DBA (Doctor in Business Administration) for his contribution in the field of technical innovation, sustainable development and business leadership.



WORLD PLAYER ... American economist **Joseph Stiglitz** was recognised for his commitment to the global development of economics. He will receive the degree of DCom – his 40th honorary degree.



KINGDOM DRIVEN ... **Bishop Paul Verryn** of the Methodist Church received a DEd in recognition of his service to others, for his strong humanitarian values and promotion of teaching.



JUST CAUSE ... A DLitt was awarded to **Prof Dennis Brutus** who has strong links with Port Elizabeth, in recognition of the activist and poet's contributions to human rights, democracy, justice and literature.



SIGNIFICANT FOUNDER ... **Rev Mpilo Rubusana** (posthumous), a founder of the party that was a forerunner to the ANC, received a DPhil in recognition of his literary, religious and political contributions to South African.

NMMU encourages South Africans to invent their own products

WHEN it comes to the sector of the chemical industry responsible for mixing and blending the likes of paints, household products, make-up and pharmaceutical products, there is a huge gap in local innovation because South Africans, until recently, were not being taught how to formulate new chemical products.

Instead, they mostly relied on overseas companies for new or improved technologies and materials.

To plug this enormous and expensive gap, InnoVenton – Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Institute for Chemical Technology – introduced the country's first BSc Honours degree in Formulation Science, which is currently in its second year.

Students enrolling for the course – which is industry-supported, and led by staff well-qualified in product-development – are taught the basic scientific principles behind the blending and mixing of products, and then have to blend their own commercially viable product, as part of the course.

Geoff Ritson, deputy director of technology support at InnoVenton, said: "Those in industry might ask why they need to have qualified formulation scientists in their team, when they can just as easily

phone Brussels, Paris or New York. For a start, the solutions found overseas may not always be suited to a South African environment. By understanding how to formulate products in our own country, South African companies can make the right product for local and regional consumers."

InnoVenton's major successes in this area include the formulation by doctoral graduate Ilse Asquith of a mosquito repellent that is a safer alternative to what is on supermarket shelves. The repellent – to be marketed interna-

tionally as Afrepell – will be commercialised in a variety of forms, from lotions, creams and unique vapouriser systems to coating for mosquito nets.

To suit the African context, it could also be available in petroleum jelly (similar to Vaseline), which is used widely across the continent as a skin moisturiser. This means that a baby can be protected against malaria without his mother having to modify her behaviour – she can rub the product on her child like she has always done.

"South African companies need to change their mindset that foreign technology is better. To keep their product line fresh, it is much easier and cheaper to make improvements at home from often unique locally-produced components. We need to capitalise on these opportunities to create new, exciting, highly-competitive and potentially exportable products."

South African companies need to change their mindset that foreign technology is better



▲ GROUND-BREAKING COURSE ... InnoVenton Programme Leader Dr Shawn Gouws and InnoVenton Programme Co-ordinator Dr Nicole Vorster are encouraging students to invent own products through NMMU's unique BSc Honours degree in Formulation Science.



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Novel birthed from alumnus's vision of tragedy

Thumbs up for author's debut novel

ABBE Deighton is a woman who has lost her bearings. Once a child of the African plains, she is now settled in Hawaii, married to a minister, and waging her battles in a hallway of monotony. There is the leaky roof, the chafing expectations of her husband's congregation, and the constant demands of motherhood. But in an instant, beginning with the skid of tyres, Abbe's battlefield is transformed when her three-year-old daughter is killed, triggering in Abbe a seismic grief that will cut a swath through the landscape of her life and her identity.

This is a sneak preview of alumnus, Isla Morley's (nee Sherrington) debut novel, *Come Sunday*, a novel about the search for a true homeland, family bonds torn apart and the unearthing of old secrets.

According to Morley, readers who enjoy the works of Jodi Picoult, Barbara Kingsolver, Elizabeth Berg, Alexandria Fuller, Gail Godwin and Khaled Hosseini will enjoy *Come Sunday*.

Morley completed her BA with majors in English and Psychology in 1989. She worked as an editorial assistant at Freewind Publications and spent several years working at Bigblue and Divestyle magazines, two niche publications founded in PE.

After marrying an American and moving to California 15 years ago, she turned her attention and skills to non-profit work, primarily in the field of communications. A decade later, she was inspired by a vision of a character whose daughter had died in a terrible tragedy and began writing her first novel, *Come Sunday*.

"Mercifully, I have never lost a child. There have been times of anguish and grief in my life, but the story is completely fictionalised".



▲ **CREATIVE THINKER...** Alumnus Isla Morley's novel *Come Sunday* was inspired by a vision.

It took Morley two-and-a-half years to complete the novel, while working part-time and adjusting to motherhood. "It was my 'nap-time' novel, written mostly when my daughter was asleep," said Morley.

Reviews of the book were featured in Los Angeles magazine, Christianity Today, and newspapers like the Boston Globe and the San Diego Tribune and according to Morley, all were favourable.

"The most common response from readers has been how deeply they were affected by the novel. People tell me they cried a lot, but also found the ending to be powerfully uplifting," she said.

Morley is currently working on her second novel.

Winners of prestigious awards

NMMU alumni Dr Amber Anderson and Tanya Kisten were recognised as top of their fields, presented with prestigious Business Women's Association (BWA) awards recently.

The BWA is a prominent association of business and professional women in South Africa. The association presents regional business achiever awards, honouring entrepreneurial and professional women, at each of the eight BWA branches around the country annually.

Dr Anderson, the national talent development manager at Aspen Pharmacare, won the award in the corporate category, for making a difference within the company/corporation and community she works in.

Kisten won in the entrepreneur category. She owns and manages Khanyisela Training a corporate training company. Her other achievements include winning a Fullbright scholarship to study at New York University and an Africa SMME Award finalist.

Both alumni fondly remember their time at NMMU and the contribution the institution has made to their lives and careers thus far.

"I had a permanent job at NMMU for five years while studying there," Dr Anderson said while recognising those who unselfishly influenced her life during this time like Prof Martheanne Finemore, Prof Peter Cunningham, Prof Bruce Robertson, Prof Frans Bezuidenhout and Luc Hosten.

Award for passionate designer

"Blessed and overwhelming", was how Eastern Cape fashion designer and NMMU alumnus, Leandra Fourie described her recent win of the National Vow award for couture wedding design.

Brides nationwide voted for their top wedding suppliers in 60 categories ranging from cakes to photographers. Suppliers were rated on quality of service, quality of product, value for money and attitude of staff, and when it came to design, Fourie came out tops.

Fourie, has been running L'Designs for 13 years and now operates from studios in Summerstrand.

"It means that after all these years I am definitely in the right career, living out my passion for couture bridal wear, something that's part of my soul," she said.

Throughout her school career Leandra excelled in needlework, but ended up receiving a bursary to study BCom (accounting) at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. "I went for a week of classes and decided it was not for me!"

Although teachers tried to convince her she could not make a career out of fashion, Leandra had her mind made up and enrolled for fashion design.

Three months after graduating with her NDip Fashion Design and Technology (cum laude), Fourie started work on her very first project – a wedding gown – and that was the start of L'designs and a booming career.

"In 2006 I was the first Eastern Cape designer to participate in the Vodacom Durban July Invited Designer Showcase and the following year I was asked to do the SA Mohair range. I enjoyed this, but my passion has always been with couture, bridal and evening wear."

"Hopefully L'Designs will still be around for a very long time. I'm not planning on going anywhere because I love what I'm doing way too much," she said.



TOP SPOT... Leandra Fourie won the National Vow award for couture wedding design.

Spicy pictures capture Indian culture

CAPTURING the complexity of India's sights, sounds and smells in a few still images was the accomplishment of photographer and alumnus Leonette Bower (nee Bothma) in her recent "Magic Masala" exhibition.

When Bower travelled to India with her husband, Rudi on a six-week holiday in December last year, what emerged was her first solo exhibition.

About 100 images of daily Indian life were displayed at Montage Gallery in Walmer, Port Elizabeth.

"We had such an amazing response from the public, we decided to let the exhibition run for an extra week," said Bower.

Bower completed her NDip Photography in 2000 and currently works as a photographer at NMMU.



▲ **PICTURE PERFECT ...** Leonette Bower's photograph *Old man, Varanasi*, recently exhibited in PE.



▲ Leonette Bower

Alumnus scoops awards

ALUMNUS JP Roodt won the best public relations practitioner in media liaison (publicity) award at the Public Relations Institute of South Africa's annual 2009 PRISM Awards in March. Roodt is also the youngest to win this specific category in the history of the awards and the youngest senior associate at Marcus Brewster Publicity. He currently heads the corporate and digital communication/social media practice areas of the firm's

head office in Cape Town, representing clients such as RE/MAX of Southern Africa, creative agency Saatchi & Saatchi, the Stellenbosch Academy of Design and Photography, the Nordic hospitality giant, and Rezidor Hotel Group (Radisson, Park Inn, The Regent and Hotel Missoni). Roodt also won gold in the PRISM's business-to-business category (RE/MAX), silver in the sponsorship category (RE/MAX World Long Drive Celebrity Challenge), and a bronze award for ePR/Social



AWARDS GALORE

... Media, Communication and Culture graduate JP Roodt is making a name for himself in the public relations world.

Media category (NB Music Records' artist In-Cha). He is currently planning his postgraduate studies at NMMU.

Retrospective exhibition of artist's work

THE work of the late Amos Langdown, renown international artist, was seen in a retrospective exhibition at the EPSAC Gallery in Central in September.

The exhibition was organised to celebrate Langdown the artist, who was also a BA graduate (1988) and NMMU alumnus.

The artist who passed away in February 2006, was a painter of landscapes, town scenes and figures as well as a graphic artist and produced lithographs, woodcuts, etchings, dry points, monotypes and copper engravings.

In his career he maintained a balance between his own practice as an artist and his passion for teaching.

Langdown's first solo exhibitions led to him being awarded grants by the government and the Cape Tercentenary Foundation to study abroad and he studied at the Rijks Akademie voor Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam in 1962 and 1963.

His work was also seen at group shows in London, Munich, the Venice Biennale and the Sub-Saharan African Exhibition in the USA. All the paintings on the Sub-Saharan show were acquired by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

Langdown's own social commentary on the life of the communities on the Cape Flats was invariably infused with a sympathetic insight and sentiment.



▲ **ART APPRECIATION ...** Two of Amos Langdown's paintings, recently displayed at a retrospective exhibition in his honour.

Langdown was also a poet in his own right, and lent his skills to illustrating the published writings of such literary

personalities as Alba Boucher, Pieter Grobbelaar and the late poet, the late PJ Philander.

Cricket event to be held in May 2010

Big cricketing names at sporting reunion

INTERNATIONAL cricketing greats who started their careers at NMMU such as Dave Richardson, Kepler Wessels, Shafiek Abrahams, Tim Shaw, Mark Rushmere, Brett Schultz, Dave Callaghan, Pieter Strydom (all ex-Protea players) and Neil Johnson (ex-Zimbabwe), will be attending an NMMU cricket reunion in May 2010.

NMMU alumni who played cricket between 1965 and 1995, are invited to play at the reunion in Port Elizabeth, organised by cricket commentator and NMMU Legacy Programmes Director Prof Kotie Grové, along with former EP

Cricket Board president Flip Potgieter of Mathematics Education.

"This reunion is essentially a celebration of the first 30 years of NMMU Cricket (then known as UPE and PE Technikon).

The weekend tournament will be played on the Saturday with eight 20/20 matches at NMMU, divided into age groups.

Contact Elda van Vuuren at the NMMU Trust on elda.nmmut@mweb.co.za or 084 522 8302 or Prof Kotie Grové kotie.nmmut@mweb.co.za to book your place.



▲ **HONOURS ...** After 17 years **Shafiek Abrahams** (player and coach), **Kiewiet Mali** (groundsman, Sport Bureau) and **Kotie Grové** (NMMU Trust) are still involved with NMMU cricket and celebrated their recent National Club Championship victory. Back in 1992 when UPE last won the National Club Championship, Shafiek also played for the team, Kiewiet was the groundsman at the cricket pitch and Kotie was the Club President and Dean of Students.



▲ **CRICKET REP ...** Cricket Sports Manager **Riaan Osman** (left) was appointed by the England Cricket Board to work as liaison officer for Ireland at the T20 Cricket World Cup in England in June. Here Riaan is seen at Lords together with T20 World Cup Cricket Player of the tournament **Tillekaratne Dilshan** from Sri Lanka.

Nurturing ICC Twenty 20 talent

NMMU really is a nursery for international sport stars. No fewer than 11 players at the recent T20 World Cup in the United Kingdom have been through the ranks of the EP Cricket Academy (started in 1995) or the former International Cricket Academy based at NMMU.

The four South Africans in the Protea's ICC T20 team who attended the EP Cricket Academy were **Johan Botha, Robin Petersen, Wayne Parnell and Mark Boucher**.

Besides the South Africans, there are many international stars who have also benefited from their training with the academy including two from the Scottish team and five from the Irish team. Furthermore, our colleague **Riaan Osman** from Sport was the liaison officer for the Irish team and is also a graduate of the academy.

"It's good to acknowledge that the sport programmes at NMMU have contributed a great deal over the years," said **Dr Richard Stretch**, Director of Sport.

On the rugby front - several Southern Kings members who played the Lions in the Bay in June benefited from the SA Rugby Academy that was based at NMMU. They were **Solly Tyibilika, Mwanke Stick, Michael Vermaak and Heinrich Stride**.

Other players who have come through this programme and who played Super 14 rugby this year include **Luke Watson, Kabamba Floors, Wayne van Heerden and Fabian Julies**.

In addition, two players who were part of the UPE-FCK Soccer School of Excellence, **Elroi van Heerden and Siboniso Gaxa**, were members of Bafana Bafana for the Confederations Cup.

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Where are they today?

The first students of the predecessors to NMMU started their studies in 1965 and 1979 at the former University of Port Elizabeth and PE Technikon respectively, and are dotted around the world today. This is what *Routes* discovered.

If you have news of any alumni, please drop us a line on alumni@nmmu.ac.za or call 041 504 3935. We'd love to hear from you.

1960s

Malcolm Wright (NDip Forestry 1968) worked as a senior technician in biodiversity for the Natal Parks Board, before taking an early retirement at the age of 65.

1970s



Linda Scheckle (nee Cloete) (BA 1971) works for the University of Fort Hare as a learning advancement coordinator in the Teaching and Learning Centre.

Malcolm Gates (BSc Hons 1979) works as a senior software engineer for a company in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.



Rae van Zyl (nee Knott-Craig) (NDip Executive Secretary 1991) The 1991 Miss Port Elizabeth Technikon and Miss South Africa Technikon (second princess) works as a PA for Dr Alan Knott-Craig, the former founding chief executive officer of Vodacom and also models part-time for an international hair brand. "Studying at NMMU was one of the best decisions I ever made. I would not have been as successful in my career if I had not attended PE Technikon."

clubhouse parties to late night study break takeaways from Steers but most importantly, the friends I made along the way".

Louise Niven (nee Masson) (BCom, Economics and Business Management 1998) currently works as the online communications manager for SITA (provider of global information and telecommunication solutions for the air transport industry).

Christopher Brown (BCom Economics and Business Management 1999) works as a business analyst for Credit-Suisse in London. "I recall a lot of fun evening tutorial sessions with friends at varsity."

1980s

Karin Meyer (nee Le Roux) (BCur 1986) works as an occupational health nursing practitioner in East London for Gompo Occupational Health Services where she is the managing member.



Andries du Plessis (BA 1983) is the assistant director in organisation development

for the North West Department of Health and Social Development.



Robin Fourie (BCom 1987) works as the group human resources manager for Eberspacher SA.



Roydon Bailey (BCom 1997) works as the finance manager for IMS Health Limited in London.

"My memories include Unitas and the friends I made which I still have today. I remember the braai held in The Frog for the opening game of the RWC '95 when SA beat Australia!"

Delia Southern (nee Ah Quat) (HR degree 1999) is currently self-employed and does billing for medical practices.

Mike Arends (BPharm 1999) is a senior pharmacy technician at The Wellington Hospital in London.

Pierre van Dalen (BCom Rationum 1999) works in Sandton as a product development manager for SYSPRO and is currently studying towards his MBA.

Keith Gibson (BSc Hons 1984) teaches at Alexander Road High School in PE and is also the HoD in Computer Applications Technology.

Ilse du Plooy Roelofse (NDip Graphic Design 1988) works as a graphic designer at African Sun Media in Stellenbosch which publishes academic coursework and books.



Thembani Khonkwane (NDip Municipal Administration 1997) works as a transformation advisor for the

Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries.

Greg van Heerden (BSc QS Hons 1998) works in London as the budget manager for Marks and Spencer.



Marlini Moodley (LLB 2002) works as the first Indian female state advocate at the offices of the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Eastern Cape Port Elizabeth. Marlini was also the first Hindu female advocate to join the Port Elizabeth Society of Advocates. "My time at varsity was a stepping stone to meeting numerous students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds who have now moved on to become prominent figures in their respective fields."

1990s



Olga Rall (nee Katz) (BA English Hons 1996) teaches at Redhouse Primary School as a Grade 4-7 English and Life Orientation teacher.

"I remember being in Veritas and all the varsity and res parties; English lectures in Building 35 and also watching the opening game (SA vs Australia) of the 1995 Rugby World Cup in the Kraal".

Bertus Greeff (BSc Hons 1994) works at Microsoft as a software development engineer in Redmond, Washington, USA.

Kim Everts (nee Wampach) (BA Social Work 1996) works at Wandsworth Social Services/Neurorehabilitation Centre in London as a senior social worker.

St Claire Adriaan (BA Ed (Sec), BA Hons and BEd 1997) is the co-founder and co-partner of the, Success Preparatory Academy, in New Orleans, USA. He remembers: "Rag and Intervarsity, the lowering of the old South African flag and hoisting the South African flag - bringing in a new era during the winds of change and all the lifelong friendships that I formed."



Brigitte Puttergill (nee Jeske) (BCom Accounting 1998) is currently doing admin for Puttergill & Son. "I fondly remember the whole res experience from mardigras to

Where are they today?

2000 - 2003

Mava Silinga (NDip Marketing 2000) is a sales representative for Engen Petroleum Limited in Cape Town.

Siphelo Ngcwangu (NDip HR 2000) is currently the head of the research department at BANKSETA

Rualda Whitfield (MCom Tax 2000) works for Meadow Feeds as a financial executive.



Loryn Thorburn (nee Walton) (BSc Hons 2001) works as a validation officer at Fresenius-Kabi, Bodene. "I remember many many hours spent in the lab, but

my practical work taught me how to plan and how to be effective and efficient. Those years were some of my best and varsity was such a fantastic experience as a whole."



Kelvin Knowles (MPhil in Politics 2001) is lecturing at the Port Elizabeth FET College in Business Management and Human Resources and also writes a column as an independent political analyst.

Cobus Bergsman (BSc 2001) is an English teacher in Taiwan.

Kagiso Tlhabolo (NDip Travel & Tourism, BTech 2001) works as a senior manager for tourism standards at the South African National Parks Board.

Benjamin Fogel (BSc 2002) works as an independent consultant in Ra'anana in Israel.

Joseph Ou (BCom Hons 2002) works for Postilion in Cape Town as an IT developer for the European region.

Pam Richardson (MA Community Development 2002) is the group HR and community development manager for Singita Game Reserve in Cape Town.

Esther Haitink (NDip Fashion Design and Technology 2002) is a product manager for H&M, COS & Monki Accessories in H&Ms Hong Kong production office. Her designs and prints are sold in 1800 stores around the world.

Nosiphiwo Mdyogolo (NDip Marketing 2003) works as an investor relations officer at Mvelaphanda Resources Ltd.



Thembisa Jemsana (BSc Quantity Surveying 2003) works at PROFICA (Project Management Africa) as a project manager in Cape Town.



Avinash George (BTech 2003) is currently working for the Shoprite/Checkers Group as the training and development manager.



Jonathan James Dicks (BPsych Sports Psych 2003) works as the sales and communications manager for Student Village in Johannesburg.



Nomkhitha Mona (MA Industrial relations 2000) works as the chief executive officer of Uitenhage-Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI) and was recently appointed the first black person on the board of Goodyear in South Africa. She said she aims to work towards the company setting the industry benchmark in environmental sustainability, corporate governance, economic empowerment and corporate social investment.

2004-2009

Antoinette Marais (nee Pitout) (BSc Computer Science 2004) works as an IT teacher at Brandwag High School in Uitenhage.

Benny Ou (BSc CS&IS Hons cum laude 2004) is the team leader of the Adora project at Global Vision in Cape Town.



Danelle Coetzee (nee Bhana) (BA Media Communication Culture 2004) works for Avusa Media as a marketing assistant for the Herald and Weekend Post.

Roger Mutangadura (BCom 2004) works for Baseline IT in Pretoria which specialises in IT outsourcing.

Sheldon Vandrey (BSc Hons Environmental Studies 2005) is currently working for SRK Consulting as a geographical information systems (GIS) technician.

Siphiwo Mndana (BCom 2005) is currently working as an integration java developer for Momemtum in Centurion.



Themba Gwejela (BA Media, Communication and Culture 2005) is the marketing, branding and communications manager for Metropolitan Group. "I am proud and truly thankful for my NMMU experience and will forever hold the university close to my heart".

Adv Sizwe Magwaca (LLB 2005) is working as a legal intern for the Coega Development Corporation.

Athi-Ho Mlanjana (BSc Hons Applied Maths 2005) works in Johannesburg as a SAP BI consultant

Ronald Knoetze (MSc 2005) is a business analyst at FlowCentric in Centurion.



Dirk Strauss (NDip IT 2005) works for EOH as a senior developer.

Bongiwe Magongo (BTech: PR Management 2006) is the owner of Imma 51, a fashion house. NMMU memories: Being elected as one of the House comms of the Sanlam student village.



Gavin Joseph (MBA 2006) works for Telkom as the area manager: network operations.

Jaco van Wyk (BSc Hons 2006) works as an IT developer at Dimension Data Europe in London.

Where are they today?

2004-2009



◀ **Rev Godfrey Walton** (MA: Sociology-Group Dynamics 2006) works for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa as rector in the Diocese of Cape Town.



◀ **Mzwandile Mpongwana** (BA HMS/ BA Group Dynamics 2006) is currently studying towards his MSc in Public Health/Health Promotion at Leeds Metropolitan University. He works as a junior scientist for the Health Promotion Research and Development Unit-Medical Research Council.

Lulu Baitlotli (BCom Computer Science 2006) works as an IT auditor for Ernst & Young in Botswana.



◀ **Lee-Anne Butler** (BTech Journalism 2006) works as a senior reporter at The Herald for Avusa Media Port Elizabeth.

Nervita Rademeyer (BTech in Management 2007) works as an admin clerk at Uti Mounties.

Melanie Ferreira (BTech Civil 2007) works for Tober Management Services as the CEO but will start lecturing at NMMU in January 2010.



Juan Meyer (BSc Hons 2007) works as an EFT card management specialist in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.



◀ **Thembelani Vanqa** (NDip Marketing, BTech Marketing, MBA 2007) is the APAC executive officer at Auditor-General South Africa.

Martin Lutaaya (BCom 2007) is working in Kampala, Uganda, as a systems administrator.

Sibongiseni Swapi (NDip Civil Engineering 2007) is a civil engineering technician at Kwezi V3 Engineers in Port Elizabeth.

Kaylene Naidoo (BAdmin 2008) is working as a graduate trainee in purchasing at Volkswagen South Africa.



◀ **Divinia Pillay** (BTech Journalism 2008) is the short course programme co-ordinator and media liaison officer for the NMMU Office for International Education.



▶ **Richard von Wildemann** (Advanced Business Programme NMMU Business School 2008) works in sales and marketing for Transport Components.



◀ **Nomaxabiso Nongauza** (BTech 2008) works as a customs and logistics intern.

Genevieve Jozaffe-Naidoo (HR Management and Labour Relations Hons 2008) works for the IHG Group in the Middle East as the human resources manager. "All the friends I made at NMMU expanded my social network".



◀ **Mark Alexander** (BCom Law 2009) works as a commodity buyer at Volkswagen in Uitenhage.

Bongiwe Gonye (NDip Internal Auditing 2009) is working as an intern: audit and compliance at COEGA.



Soeheidah Kieviet (nee Isaacs) (BEd Hon 2009) teaches grade 2's and 3's at Greenwood Primary School in the partially-hearing department.

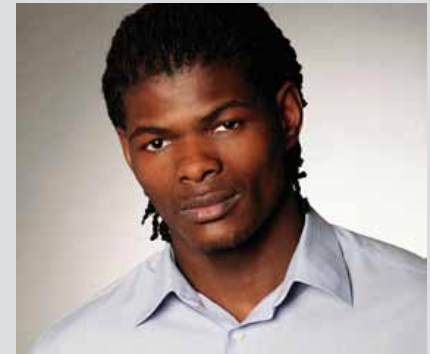


◀ **Adelina Mbinjama** (MA Media Studies 2009) is currently working as a lecturer at NMMU.

Mr SA finalists 2009



Antonio Ballan (BPharm Degree 2007) is currently living in Cape Town, studying personal training and sports nutrition in order to pursue a life-long dream to promote and provide complete health care. His recent achievements involve a NDip sports science HFPA, Sports nutrition HFPA, FAME world swimsuit model champion 2009, fitness SA model champion 2008 and 2009. Mr SA finalist 2009. "I will always remember looking out over the reserve and seeing monkeys, buck and other wild life! There is nowhere else in the world where you have that opportunity! It was very peaceful and calming! Exactly what you need after a hectic lecture or test."



Sandile Phillip (BCom Accounting 2004) works as a trainee accountant for British American Tobacco. Sandile was a MR SA Finalist and won a few titles in fitness competitions. He appeared on Pasella and Top Billing. "NMMU allowed me to make mistakes and to learn from them early in life"



Bennum van Jaarsveld (BCom Law 1999) manages his own business, Ukubamba Consulting, consisting of marketing, advertising and promotions/events. Her also models part-time and does presenting work. He recently took part in the Mr South Africa competition and ended in the top five, and received the category award for Business Man of the Year.

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