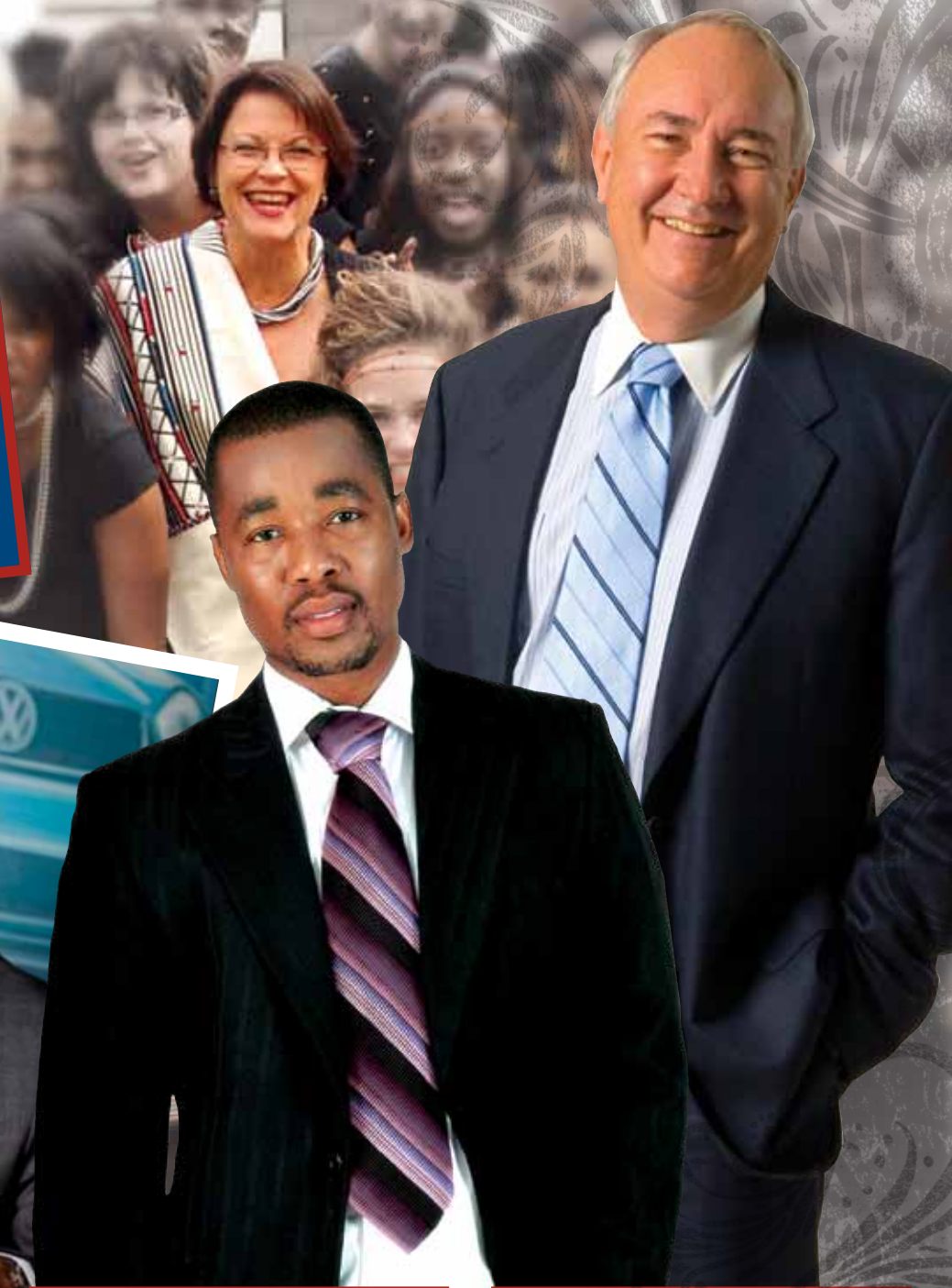




routes



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Alumni Relations Director's message

The Alumni Relations Directorate was established on 1 July 2009 as a clear indication of how serious NMMU views its relationship with its alumni.

As alumni you can remain involved with your alma mater in many different ways, including lifelong learning opportunities, sharing your knowledge and skills as mentors and advisors, employing graduates and contributing financially to projects of your choice.

The Alumni Relations Directorate is a service department which exists to ensure that NMMU maintains and continuously strengthens relationships with you, our alumni. We have a rich history and all alumni (former UPE, PE Technikon, Saasveld and Vista PE) form part of the family.

During the past year, the following activities took place as part of the development of this service department:

- ▶ The establishment of the Alumni Relations Centre on North Campus (former PE Technikon) which is home to the alumni staff (see accompanying photograph).
- ▶ The university, NMMU Trust and corporate donor, PPS, all contributed to promote refurbishment of and structural changes to the Centre. Our medium term objective is to build a fully-fledged alumni house that can accommodate alumni and fundraising staff and provide a meeting and social space for alumni on campus.
- ▶ The Centre and University Shop (an alumni project) were branded to promote the programmes. We believe in starting the relationship building process with current students early but we also know that we have to ensure our students remain happy until they graduate. The Student Alumni Society (SAS) which is affiliated to the Alumni Association plays an important role as a link with the student body and offers development opportunities for future alumni representatives.
- ▶ The University Shop showed close to 50% growth in turnover in 2009 and a target of R1m turnover was set for 2010. That target has been met. The shop sells branded NMMU items at affordable prices. The main objective of the shop is brand promotion and not profit.
- ▶ Alumni gatherings and chapter meetings took place in PE, George, Cape Town, East London,



▲ **HELPFUL STAFF ...** Alumni Administrative Officer Liska Welcome (back from left), Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, Alumni Relations Officer: Internal Stakeholders & University Shop Manager Baakier Abrahams, Alumni Relations Officer Santosh Ramadu, University Shop Intern Lyree Boucher (front left) and Alumni Relations Office Intern Mziyanda Bloro.

- Johannesburg and London. (See our social pages)
- ▶ A number of reunions also took place during 2010 which were organised by the Legacy Department and supported by the Alumni Relations Office. The reunions brought back the sons and daughters of the early years of the university and included cricket club, law, building disciplines and pharmacy reunions. (See page 10)
 - ▶ The Alumni Ambassador programme was launched in May to promote active involvement of alumni in university affairs and to celebrate role models. The individuals involved are part of a growing movement and a living campaign to promote the alumni message. (See page 4)
 - ▶ An Alumni Achiever Award programme was introduced to celebrate alumni success and achievement at local, national and international levels. (See page 3)
 - ▶ Close to 130 postgraduate enquiries were received and about 150 alumni application fee waiver requests were processed by the department.

We are laying a solid foundation for the future of NMMU alumni relations. We need your support. Please share your views and stories with us.

Let's remain connected.

Warm regards, Paul GG Geswindt

Director: Alumni Relations

Convocation matters

- ▶ Prof Hugh Jeffery was re-elected for another term as Convocation member on Council at the Convocation AGM in May.
- ▶ Convocation President, Paul Geswindt, was asked to chair a committee to investigate more active involvement by members of convocation in affairs of the university including increasing attendance of the annual meeting of convocation.

Alumni Association matters

- ▶ Randall Jonas and Vernon Naidoo were re-elected as President and Treasurer respectively; Evert Knoesen was elected as Vice-President. Kwezi Blose, Lester Cunningham and Shuaib Rahim were re-elected as additional members with Elmarie van de Merwe newly elected. Alumni are encouraged to attend the annual Convocation and Alumni AGM's which will place on 23 May 2011. This is an opportunity for you to hear about developments at the university and give input.

Contact us

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

Alumni contact details

General enquiries: +27 41 504 3935

Fax: +27 41 504 1417

E-mail: alumni@nmmu.ac.za

www.nmmu.ac.za/alumni

Interested in making a financial contribution?

Account name: NMMU Alumni

Bank: ABSA Bank

Branch: Port Elizabeth

Account number: 40-7637-2273

Clearing code: 638256

Use ID or student number as reference

New Trust appointment



NMMU has added to its pool of skills and expertise with the appointment of Thembela Sofisa as Executive Director of the NMMU Trust. Thembela, who was the publisher and general manager of Johnnic Publishing Eastern Cape and Dispatch

Media and deputy permanent secretary of the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism, brings a wealth of experience to NMMU.

His academic experience comes as a former senior lecturer at the Port Elizabeth campus of Vista University in the 1990s where he taught micro and macro economics, public finance, development studies, international economics and managed key projects of the Employment Research Unit. He also tutored on the Rhodes University Academic Skills Programme.

NMMU alumni achievers 2010

The first Alumni Achiever Awards was held on 18 November at the Boardwalk Conference Centre in Port Elizabeth with the purpose of recognising alumni (graduates and diplomates) who have made or are making significant contributions to their specialist fields and have contributed to the development and well-being of society at local, provincial, national or international levels. The recipients of these awards for 2010 are:



JUNITA LAMPRECHT-VAN DIJK

Junita was responsible for establishing the NMMU choir in 1994. In 1999 – in conjunction with the Norwegian Choral Association – she introduced an extensive academic choral conducting programme at the university. Following her passion, she graduated with a master's degree (*cum laude*) in Choir Conducting in 2002. The world-acclaimed choir has performed extensively in the USA and Europe. This year they performed at the official opening of FIFA World Cup festivities in Milan during their Italian tour. They have been selected to perform at the IFCM 9th World Choral Symposium in Argentina in August 2011. Earlier this year, Junita was nominated as a finalist in the Port Elizabeth Mayor's Citizen of the Year Award.

ARTHUR COY



Arthur graduated with a BSc in Construction Management in 1976. He started his career at Murray & Roberts, working his way up through the ranks and ending as the Executive Direc-

tor for the Murray & Roberts Contractors Group, Deputy Chairman of Murray & Roberts Construction Ltd and Chief Executive of Murray Roberts Contractors' international division. After 25 years, he left Murray & Roberts and became the Managing Director of Drake & Scull FM (SA) (Pty) Ltd and then the MD for Basil Read (Building, Structures & Housing). In 2002 he was appointed as Director of Basil Read Holding Ltd and Basil Read (Pty) Ltd. Since 2003, Arthur has been the CEO of Trans African Concessions. He serves on various industry boards and bodies and currently is the Chairman of The Johannesburg Country Club.

DAVID POWELS

David graduated in 1982 and 1983 with a BCom (*cum laude*) and a CTA respectively. In 1984, he passed the PAAB Final Qualifying Examinations, achieving seventh position in the country thereafter completing a three-year period of articles and qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1986. He has climbed the corporate ladder at Volkswagen South Africa – going from Financial Accountant to Finance Director to Vice-President Finance and Corporate Strategy in South Africa, Germany and Brazil. He is currently the Managing Director of Volkswagen South Africa. David serves as a board member of the NMMU Business School as well as PERCCI. He has served as President of NAAMSA for 2009 and 2010.

ADV GERALD FARBER



Adv Farber graduated in 1969 and 1971 with a BJuris and an LLB respectively. He worked as a public prosecutor and an advocate of the Supreme Court and State Advocate in Office of the At-

torney General of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. He was a pupil of the Society of Advocates of South Africa in the Witwatersrand Division and was admitted to full membership of the society in 1975. Thereafter, he commenced practice as an advocate. In 1991 he was elevated to the rank of Senior Counsel by the State President of the Republic. He has held many acting appointments as a judge of the High Court spanning nine periods as well as several acting appointments as a judge of the Labour Court of South Africa. He was a member of the Johannesburg Bar Council from 1989 to 1999 and has been the Chief Examiner of the National Bar Examination Board for the past five years.

DAVE RICHARDSON

Dave graduated in 1979 and 1982 with a BCom and an LLB respectively. He became a professional cricketer and played 42 tests and 122 one day internationals for South Africa. He also represented Eastern Province in various domestic competitions. Dave is a role model for cricketers and managed to play as a full time professional sportsman as well as practice as an attorney at a law firm. As ICC General Manager he has served the South African and Eastern Province cricket teams with distinction. Based in Dubai – he serves the game at the highest level and continues to keep the Port Elizabeth flag flying high. (See page 9)

ALMORIE MAULE



Almorie graduated with a BScHons in Mathematical Statistics in 1969 and an MSc (*cum laude*) in 1979. She was the first woman to lead South Africa's largest oil company and the

first female chairperson of the South African Petroleum Industry Association. She has passionately pursued the advancement of transformation and empowerment in the organisation for which she has worked. She has also held various management posts at Gencor and at South African Breweries. Almorie has served as Director on the boards of Engen, Energy Africa and Wiphold and has served on a number of government commissions relating to the energy sector. She currently serves as a Director of Old Mutual SA, Mutual & Federal and Women in Oil and Energy, South Africa. She is a member of the Trusts' Board of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Cape Town and a member of the NMMU Trust.

ROYDEN VICE



Royden graduated with his CTA in 1971 and then qualified as a chartered accountant with Coopers and Lybrand (now PWC). He has held nu-

merous senior executive positions including being the founder of Afrox Healthcare (now Life Care). He was their first CEO and Chairman. He was CEO of Afrox and then Chairman and CEO for seven years. Royden was the CEO of Industrial and Special Products of the UK – based BOC Group and a member of their Executive Management Board. In 2002, he joined Waco International as a shareholder and CEO. He holds non-executive directorships at Murray & Roberts Holdings and Hudaco among others. He served as Chairman of the NMMU Trust from 1999 to 2009.

From high school drop-out to national business manager

Full-steam ahead

YEARS of part-time studies saw orphaned high school drop-out Andile Silo working his way from factory cleaner to national business manager at Transnet Rail Engineering – a success story that earned him a top MBA award from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Orphaned by standard seven, and then forced by the political upheaval of the 1980s to abandon his school career in standard nine, Andile Silo could have accepted the raw deal life had handed him – but chose not to.

He knew it would take hard work to improve his seemingly hopeless situation – and set about doing so, completing years of part-time studies, which equipped him to blaze an unbelievable trail to career success.

Now Transnet Rail Engineering's national business manager, he received the 2009 Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's Distinguished MBA Alumni Achievement Award, granted to the university's most outstanding MBA graduates for significant accomplishments in their business or professional lives.

"Winning this award is a milestone I will never forget," said 45-year-old Silo. "It shows what life and courage is all about. It shows the purpose of learning, and acknowledges the effort I've put into my own life, with my family's support, and the people I've managed to influence around me as a result."

The devoted husband and father of four started life in the Eastern Cape town of Despatch, where he attended Nomathamsanga Primary School. In apartheid South Africa, it was the only Despatch school for black children, which meant he had to commute to nearby Port Elizabeth to attend high school, raising bus fare by tending gardens over weekends.

His father, a painter, had died when he was just in standard one. After losing his domestic worker mother in standard seven, he was suddenly the breadwinner for himself, his mentally-disabled older sister and

the baby girl she had borne as a result of rape – and started gardening on school day afternoons to make more money.

"When I got to school, it was normal for me not to eat the whole day. When the other children took out their sandwiches, I would pretend to go to the cafe to get some lunch. I had to wait till I got home to get a piece of bread, if there was some, and water mixed with sugar. It was that kind of life."

Political turmoil, coupled with a lack of resources, saw Silo reluctantly abandoning school just before his standard nine exams.

He found work at a Despatch bakery, before becoming a cleaner at Goodyear's tyre factory in Uitenhage. It was then that he made up his mind to get his matric. But there would be further obstacles, including a surly supervisor who barred him from taking time off to write exams.

Only six years later in 1993 – after discovering that company policy allowed part-time studies – would he complete matric, with a C-aggregate overall. "By passing matric, I had levelled the playing field. It was the highlight of my life – and I was not going to stop."

A BCom followed and his Goodyear career boomed. "I was promoted to quality controller, then training officer, until finally I became the first black production manager at the plant."

In 2003, he moved to Ford Motor Company as production manager, before getting the post as plant manager at Transnet Rail Engineering in Uitenhage.

It was then he started working on his MBA. "The MBA was a springboard for me – it was instrumental in developing me as a manager."

His thesis on value stream mapping (part of lean manufacturing, which aims to improve processes that cost unnecessary time or money), which he implemented at the plant, resulted in massively improved productivity and annual turnover. And he

Winning this award is a milestone I will never forget



▲ Andile Silo

found himself promoted in 2007 to regional operations manager, responsible for plants in the Eastern and Western Cape, and then, in 2008, to national business manager, overseeing plants in the entire country.

Now based in Bloemfontein, two of his three sons attend the prestigious Grey College, a far cry from their father's humble beginnings.

Asked what keeps him motivated, Silo said: "I am a Christian, I've got faith – and I believe that if you want to achieve something, everything is possible with God. Just put in a bit of effort."

Silo is married to Nondumiso – who sings with her twin Nozuko Xalipi in the popular gospel group Twins for the Glory of God. The couple have three sons Luzuko, 17, Siyambongo, 8, Lubabalo, 6, and a daughter Buhle, 3.

Ambassador programme launched

NMMU has a new ambassador programme aimed at actively promoting the work and activities of the university and its alumni.

The ambassadors are all alumni of the university and role models in their respective environments. The first group of ambassadors include:

- ▶ Entrepreneur Kwezi Blose
- ▶ PR and events company managing director Andrew Binning
- ▶ Marketing and communications manager Elmari van de Merwe and
- ▶ NMMU Law Dean Professor Vivienne Lawack-Davids

Ambassadors need to have graduated from NMMU or one of the previous institutions, be a respected citizen and role model and be committed to their alma mater.

Furthermore, they need to contribute positively to the image of NMMU. Do you have what it takes?

Think about becoming part of the ambassador programme, then NMMU in return will continue to celebrate your success and continued growth.

To learn more, call the Alumni Relations Office.

EXAMPLES ... Kwezi Blose (from left) Professor Vivienne Lawack-Davids and Elmari van de Merwe are among the new NMMU alumni ambassadors.



Improve your career with postgrad study

WHETHER you've just graduated or are already climbing the corporate ladder, studying towards a postgraduate qualification could be the stepping stone to greater professional success.

Whatever the reason, postgraduate studies offer you the opportunity to deepen your understanding and sharpen your skills to specialise and to focus on what really interests you.

As a leading institution, with partners in both the private and public sectors, NMMU has distinguished itself as an institution that will put you in touch with the latest trends and developments in your career field.

Our seven faculties offer a wide range of research and coursework postgraduate study options, some of which are offered in formats to suit working people. These opportunities come as postgraduate certificates, diplomas and degrees, including master's, doctoral, MBA, MTech and DTech degrees.

Various funding options are available from NMMU and external agencies to support postgraduate students.

But why postgraduate studies?

Study for professional gain

A relevant postgraduate qualification is becoming increasingly valuable in the employment market. International trends indicate that more graduates are competing for fewer jobs making it even more critical to set yourself apart with a sought-after postgraduate qualification.

Study for personal gain

Challenge yourself. Stretch your skills, your abilities and mind by entering into more complex ideas in your chosen field. Apart from gaining specialist knowledge, you will be developing and nurturing the following:

- ▶ Intellectual curiosity
- ▶ Self-motivation and discipline
- ▶ Task-driven behaviour

- ▶ Personal responsibility
- ▶ Systematic and coherent thinking and reasoning
- ▶ Effective problem-solving skills
- ▶ Sound judgment
- ▶ Advanced writing and presentation skills
- ▶ Independent learning ability
- ▶ Time management skills
- ▶ Decision-making and communication

Postgraduate qualifications

At NMMU we offer over 320 different postgraduate programmes across a vast range of disciplines. Coursework programmes are tailored to suit the needs of working people, while research programmes allow you to delve deeper into a specific interest and become part of the intellectual stronghold that contributes to the global accumulation and application of knowledge.

NMMU is committed to developing and applying knowledge that is relevant to the needs of society, and its strong network of partnerships with business and industry creates interesting opportunities for research and technology transfer.

Research strengths

Much of NMMU's research occurs within the following focus areas, but is not limited to:

- ▶ The environment and ecology
- ▶ Marine and estuary studies
- ▶ Optic fibres and electron microscopy
- ▶ Mathematics and science education
- ▶ Nursing and community health
- ▶ Architecture and the built environment
- ▶ Engineering technology
- ▶ Art and design
- ▶ Chemical technology
- ▶ IT programming and IT systems support
- ▶ Academic development



▲ **Jo-Ann Daniels, postgraduate and mature market marketer**

NMMU already has a number of focused institutes, centres and units aimed at promoting research, technology transfer and innovation. These structures form the hub of centre's of excellence in research.

Jo-Ann Daniels is the newly-appointed Senior Marketing Practitioner: Mature and Postgraduate Markets. She joined NMMU in 1999 as the Campus Events Coordinator and in 2006 was appointed as Marketing Practitioner with a special focus on events leading to recruitment.

Jo-Ann, who is also an alumnus, believes she will be able to assist people who intend pursuing their studies at NMMU acting as the link between them and the departments concerned.

It is a mammoth decision to make the choice to pursue further studies but Jo-Ann believes that by providing prospective and mature students with information, it will guide them in the right direction.

ASPIRE ACHIEVE POSTGRAD STUDIES

Future dreams and ambitions are inherent in every one of us, but our future dreams are inspired by an initial individual aspiration, a starting point where you look at yourself and say 'yes I can, and I will achieve'.

With more than 320 postgraduate programmes across a vast selection of disciplines and over 200 short courses available, NMMU offers what you need to take a step closer to realising your ambitions.

www.nmmu.ac.za

Contact us today
Jo-Ann Daniels • 041 504 2162
postgrad@nmmu.ac.za

Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University
for tomorrow

Schools can achieve excellence, despite challenges, say top educators

What makes good schools tick?

THE challenges facing South African schools today are immense – among them a lack of resources, constant curriculum changes and poorly paid teachers who lack motivation – yet there are a number of tangible solutions to ensure learners continue to receive a quality education regardless, say some of Nelson Mandela Bay's top educators, many of whom are NMMU alumni.

The key, they say, is total commitment from all stakeholders – government, universities, the community, principals, teachers, parents and learners – and an emphasis on developing the 'human' resources within schools, driven by strong and passionate leaders.

They also say schools should be more closely monitored by government to ensure educators are in fact delivering what they should be, with tertiary institutions brought on board to assess needs and come up with innovative solutions.

Bruce Damons, principal of Sapphire Road Primary School in Booyesen Park, which has been recognised nationally and internationally for its successes within the disadvantaged community it serves, believes a school can be excellent in any context.

"A school should not be defined by its context, but should rather play a central role in shaping and reshaping the context in which it finds itself."

Because the majority of parents of learners at the school are unemployed, Sapphire Road chose to abolish school fees altogether and fund-raise instead. It also began an intensive programme to build skills within the community, with the result that parents from the community make sports uniforms for the children, work in the classrooms as teacher volunteers and play a key role in school security.

"We need to redefine the role of schools in our communities because of the many unique challenges we face on a daily basis."

While academic achievement remains the school's ultimate objective, Mr Damons said: "We recognise the fact that no constructive learning and teaching can take place if no stable social and educational environment exists."

The school also runs a clinic and counselling centre on its premises, and has established a vegetable garden to provide fresh produce to 30 families affected or infected by HIV/Aids.

Mr Damons, who completed his Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE): Management qualification at NMMU and is currently completing his BEd Honours, said his studies had "opened his mind" to research which could further contribute to the school's many projects.

He further believes that educational institutions like NMMU, as well as government, should place



▲ **MAKING A DIFFERENCE ...** Bruce Damons principal of Sapphire Road Primary School in Booyesen Park, has been recognised nationally and internationally for his successes within the disadvantaged community he serves.

greater emphasis on the "personal wellness and development of a school's human resources".

"I think there are many excellent programmes around that can make turn-around possible but the biggest challenge is the 'wellness' of the people that have to implement these programmes."

Alexander Road High School principal Dr Peter Manser shared this sentiment, saying more university research was needed on "human resources and human input".

He said the option of teaching in the townships and rural areas needed to be made attractive in terms of creating schools that were "functional, passionate and focused" – and universities could play a role by creating a foundation for students to develop strategies to assist this process.

To help bridge the existing gap between struggling and performing schools, Dr Manser also suggested the creation of "working schools", based on the concept of "working hospitals", where doctors and nurses "go to learn" by observing specific procedures being performed.

Teachers from any school, including struggling rural and township schools, could visit a working school to learn how to teach particular concepts.

"For instance, you could have a top maths teacher teaching vectors to Grade 11s. On that day, five or six teachers from other schools could come in to observe that lesson. You could do exactly the same with principals – they could visit on the day timetables were being drawn up, or staffing duties were being put together for the year. They could attend a disciplinary hearing ... If every functional school did that, a lot of teachers could be trained at no cost to anyone. Universities could play a large role in assisting with the organisation and determining what needs to be in

place for this system to be effective."

Commenting on Alexander Road's success, which includes a 99% pass rate, Dr Manser said the school had "embraced all that's been required in terms of creating a new South Africa school".

"We've had huge community buy-in, and are very proud to have managed to create a flagship former model C school."

Dr Manser, who obtained his MEd at the former Vista University and his DEd at NMMU, said his studies had opened his mind to new literature and given him the courage to try out new concepts.

Cosmo Baartman, principal of Newell High School in New Brighton, believes the commitment of all stakeholders helps schools become "self-propelling giants".

Mr Baartman, who obtained a BCom, BEd and BEd Honours at NMMU, believes the management of schools, in particular, is vital to their success and that government should intervene to ensure that each party within management (principal and heads of department) knows what to do, in line with prescribed policies.

"This filters down – if management is not functioning, all other levels collapse."

Mr Baartman said his school's successes included "brilliant" rugby and netball teams, with some learners representing the Eastern Cape. "Our learners are able to outshine learners at other schools, including former model C schools." One learner came first in an inter-school maths competition, held at NMMU.

NMMU Dean of Education Prof Denise Zinn, who previously taught at St Thomas and Chapman high schools in Port Elizabeth, said a challenge facing many schools was the absence of a "collective will" within the community to demonstrate "ownership" of the school.

Prof Zinn said universities could assist by providing schools with the tools they need to enable them to sustain good quality education.

A school should not be defined by its context, but should rather play a central role in shaping and reshaping the context in which it finds itself...

2010 NMMU highlights

Celebrating the World Cup

THE 2010 Fifa World Cup may have come and gone, but NMMU is still reaping the benefits of the month-long global event.

Not only did NMMU host some 1 700 South African Police Services members, act as a training facility for volunteers and provide a training facility to several top teams, but it also supplied volunteer man-power and expertise in various fields to contribute to the successful running of the soccer spectacle.

The build-up to this event saw NMMU join "the gees" by donning soccer shirts on Football Fridays, hosting soccer parties and decorating offices and cars.

The university also benefited from infrastructure improvements valued at R2.5m funded by the metro, as changing rooms were upgraded and the grass in the stadium replaced in accordance with Fifa standards.

Refugee centre fulfils dire need

NMMU's new legal Refugee Rights Centre is the first of its kind in the Eastern Cape and only the third in the country at a university.

The establishment of the centre follows a partnership and agreement signed between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees South Africa and NMMU.

The centre, funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, operates from NMMU's Bird Street Campus with an attorney, a legal secretary and a para-legal assistant to serve the legal rights of refugees and other displaced individuals.



Win for designer siblings

CREATIVE WINNERS ... Second-year Fashion Design student Tina Ngxokolo won the Eastern Cape division of the Vodacom Durban July Young Designer Award while her brother BTech Textile Design and Technology student. Laduma Ngxokolo won the international Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC) competition.

Picture Shanna Paxton

Our new mission, vision and values

INTEGRITY, excellence, ubuntu, respect for the environment, taking responsibility and a respect for diversity. These six values support the university's new vision and mission and uniquely depict values to which NMMU staff and students will aspire and hopefully exemplify. They are the values that emerged through Vision 2020, a democratic process that has given staff and students the opportunity to share their united dream for the NMMU of tomorrow.



Integrity



Respect for the natural environment



Excellence



Taking responsibility



Ubuntu



Respect for diversity

VISION – To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

MISSION – To offer a diverse range of quality educational opportunities that will make a critical and constructive contribution to regional, national and global sustainability.

New generation chancellor

EVERYTHING is possible. That's the personal brand promise of NMMU's new chancellor Santie Botha (below). Santie who recently resigned as executive director of group marketing for MTN, has an excellent track record. She grew MTN's customer reach from six countries to 21 across the African continent in less than a decade. Prior to joining MTN, Santie pioneered the Absa brand success story, implementing a strategy that merged four retail bank brands with brand equity of more than 400 years into the popular Absa brand. Some of her accolades include: Marketer of the Year and Top Ten Business People of the Year. And at 45 she is probably the youngest chancellor of any South African university too.



WE'RE OFF ... A jubilant NMMU Racing team celebrate their success after participating in the Knysna Hill Climb. This follows two years of hard work by a team of mainly mechanical engineering students whose goal was to develop and manufacture a single-seater formula type car with a 600cc motorcycle engine.

NMMU MBA on the up-and-up

FINANCIAL Mail's "Ranking the MBA's" and "Business Refocus" – the South African business schools' Oscars equivalent – revealed that NMMU is closing in on its vision of becoming one of the country's leading business schools.

This follows the release of independent market research findings conducted by IPSOS Markinor in 2010 to rank 14 accredited business schools in the country.

Commenting on NMMU Business School's performance, director Prof Piet Naudé said: "We are very pleased with the progress made in our vision to become one of the top schools in South Africa and Africa. Business School and NMMU alumni should be proud and continue to utilise our expertise for enhanced leadership and management skills. The modern day demands of an ever-changing

world require ongoing training and development. That's where we fit in."

The Business School's MBA is offered in Gauteng, the Western Cape, and in two major cities of the Eastern Cape. Short learning programmes offered in Port Elizabeth will be available in East London from 2011. "We have bold and ambitious plans to increase our national footprint, and will hopefully be closer to working individuals and alumni in other provinces."

Formal graduate programmes, customised learning and in-house training and executive education dominated first-place position rankings and also in the top five business school league in several categories.

- ▶ NMMU's MBA once again received top honours in the student supervisory support and value for money categories, and received first place rankings.
- ▶ Based on the number of customised programmes designed and delivered in South Africa to determine share of market, NMMU Business School was ranked in third position
- ▶ Based on the number of open enrollment programmes attended by South Africans to determine share of market, NMMU received a third-place ranking.

We are very pleased with the progress made in our vision to become one of the top schools in South Africa and Africa.

Prof Niekie Dorfling, NMMU's Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences, said: "NMMU is determined to see the Business School as one of its national centres of excellence.

The recent results demonstrate that we have made considerable progress in a fairly short time span. The faculty is immensely proud of the Business School and its staff."

For more information on programmes offered by the



▲ Piet Naudé, Director of NMMU's Business School

NMMU Business School, contact:
business.school@nmmu.ac.za or visit
www.leadersfortomorrow.co.za.

Creating Forward-Thinking Leaders To Shape The Future

Partner with a business school that is focused entirely on the future and activating ideas that transform inspired thinking into real benefit. The NMMU recognizes that the journey of career advancement, personal development and leadership is a continuing one. The NMMU Business School empowers and enhances alumni at any given time in their career. Graduate programmes such as the MBA; management, leadership and skills development diplomas and certificates; and dynamic short learning courses will give you the intellectual creativity to make a difference for tomorrow.

Programmes available in Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, East London and George.
Connect with us: business.school@nmmu.ac.za | www.leadersfortomorrow.co.za | 0861 504 500

The NMMU Business School was hailed in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* in 2010 for leadership education and training in Africa.

www.leadersfortomorrow.co.za



**Nelson Mandela
METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY
Business School**

Leaders for tomorrow

Success is patently obvious

WHEN Shanaaz Tiry found the courage to disregard her own fears and the well-meaning criticism of others, she was already halfway to success as South Africa's first black female patent attorney.

Breaking boundaries, however, was not her intention. "My intention was to be the best patent attorney I could be. It was a coincidence to be the first black female patent attorney in a field that has been protecting intellectual property rights for over a century."

Now a partner at Africa's leading intellectual property firm Spoor and Fisher, Shanaaz has often opted to take the road less travelled.

After obtaining her BSc from NMMU in 1993, she applied to do honours in biochemistry, believing her future to be in science. But she also began to consider pursuing law.

"I was shy and reserved and didn't think I had the character traits I thought a lawyer should possess."

Regardless, she applied and was accepted by both faculties. She then chose to step out of her comfort zone.

"Being a lawyer is one of the best decisions I've made."

She ventured into patent law, based on a suggestion from Dean of Law Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids that she would be an ideal candidate.

"On completion of my LLB degree in 1997, I served my articles at an intellectual property firm."

However, a senior patent attorney there informed her she was not cut out for the profession, so she



My journey from NMMU graduate to qualified patent attorney has taught me multiple lessons

▲ **GOING PLACES** ... NMMU alumnus Shanaaz Tiry is South Africa's first black female patent attorney.

switched her focus to trademark law, until a top intellectual property firm made her an unexpected offer – in the patents field. "I decided to give patents, and myself, a second chance."

South Africa registers relatively few patents, compared with developed nations. In 2008, just 399 patents were filed by South Africans at the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in Geneva. By comparison, Japan filed 239 388 patents and the United Kingdom 12 162.

"If you are interested in registering a patent, it is best to contact a patent attorney as each case is unique," said Shanaaz. "The costs for registering a

patent may be significant and depend on a number of factors such as the field of technology concerned, the country or countries in which patent protection is sought and the (patent attorney's) time."

One way to reduce costs is to license the patent application or patent – the licensee takes on part or all costs for the patent portfolio. Entrepreneurs can also apply for funding from the National Research Foundation or from venture capitalists.

"My journey from NMMU graduate to qualified patent attorney has taught me multiple lessons. One of the most important was learning to believe in myself!"



▲ **Dave Richardson**

Qualified lawyer Richardson, who obtained his BCom LLB from the former University of Port Elizabeth, described his work for cricket's global governing body as diverse and interesting.

"The best part of my job is the variety of matters you have to deal with – anything from drafting regulations, to player conduct hearings and the biomechanical aspects of a bowler's action."

He remains pragmatic in the face of the match-fixing scandals plaguing professional cricket.

On a good wicket

WHILE former Eastern Province and South African wicketkeeper Dave Richardson manages the International Cricket Council's (ICC) cricketing affairs, the future of the gentleman's game is in safe hands.

Qualified lawyer

"Sport has established codes of behaviour that promote doing things the right way. The current problems are symptomatic of society in general. There is fraud in politics and business – sport is not immune to that."

Dave, who takes an active role in alumni activities,

If we don't contribute to the future, then we are as relevant as the dodo.

was the guest speaker at the 1965-1993 law faculty reunion dinner in September.

"It is extremely valuable to have an alumni association to belong to. If we don't contribute to the future, then we are as relevant as the dodo."

He encouraged other alumni to get involved. "Apart from the obvious – making sure the university stays on a good financial footing – take an interest in the clubs that interested you as a student."

Dave highlighted the vital role of sport and university studies in nation-building. "Common interests unite people – they realise they are not as different as they imagined."

He fondly remembers his own university days. "I can imagine student life hasn't changed much, although fashion has – we had to wear ties to lectures!"

Dave began his cricketing career at age nine. "The worst fielder is often made the wicketkeeper," he smiled, "but as you progress this is not the case."

"My father was a wicketkeeper, so it was a natural progression for me to take up the gloves."

He attributed his cool head on the pitch in part to his tertiary education. "It is important to have an education behind you, then the pressure to succeed (in sport) is not so immense."

Nowadays, he prefers playing golf to cricket. "It's one of the few things I've got better at as I've got older."

Although based at the ICC headquarters in Dubai, Dave and wife Jenny are frequent visitors to Port Elizabeth, where his parents and sisters still live.

Reunions and Alumni socials gallery



▲ **GLOBAL FLAIR**... International graduates Xiliang Han (from left), Hong Chen and Xiaobin Li at the International Graduate function at Madibaz Fine Dining.



▲ **REUNITED** ... Brian Eksteen (from left), Louise Eksteen, Hillary Coombe-Davis and Geoff Coombe-Davis reminisced at the recent architecture reunion in PE.



▲ **ALUMNI ABROAD** ... Siphe Nomdoda (from left), Lauren Fisher, Cary Pretorius and Achumile Majina attended the UK Alumni Social in London this year.



▲ **GRAND GATHERING** ... President of the Alumni Association Randall Jonas (from left) with NMMU George Campus principal Christo Fabricius (second right), his wife Karin Fabricius and Eden District 2010 special projects manager Andy Lamont enjoyed the Southern Cape Alumni social at the Herolds Bay Hotel in George.



▲ **MADIBAZ LAUNCHED** ... Radio personalities and NMMU alumni Alfie Jay (left) and Daron Mann attended the opening of Madibaz earlier this year. Madibaz is part of a larger eating complex on South Campus (former UPE campus).



WINNING REUNION ... The cricket team that won the first University Championships in 1981 enjoyed a reunion in May. (back from left) Derek Braans, Wayne Fensham, Christo Boshoff, Tim Shaw, Clive Wulfsohn, Tim Seaman, Mark Billson, David Richardson, Russell Fensham. (front from left) Brent Robey, Kotie Grove, Dickie Ogilvie, Flip Potgieter, Ian Howell, Mike Lee and David Howell.



▲ **EXECUTIVE MEMBERS** ... Present at this year's Alumni AGM and convocation meetings were elected members Shuaib Rahim (from left), Lester Cunningham, Vice President Evert Knoesen, Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, Treasurer Vernon Naidoo, Executive Dean of Law Vivienne Lawack-Davids, (front from left) Alumni President Randall Jonas and Convocation representative Prof Hugh Jeffrey.



▲ Miss Port Elizabeth, NMMU master's Pharmacy student Bianca Harper attended the Alumni Achiever Awards at the Boardwalk along with her partner Anver Agherdien.



▲ Others to attend the Alumni Achiever Awards were (from left) recipient Royden Vice, Hendriena Grove, Naomi Vice and Director: Legacies Kotie Grove

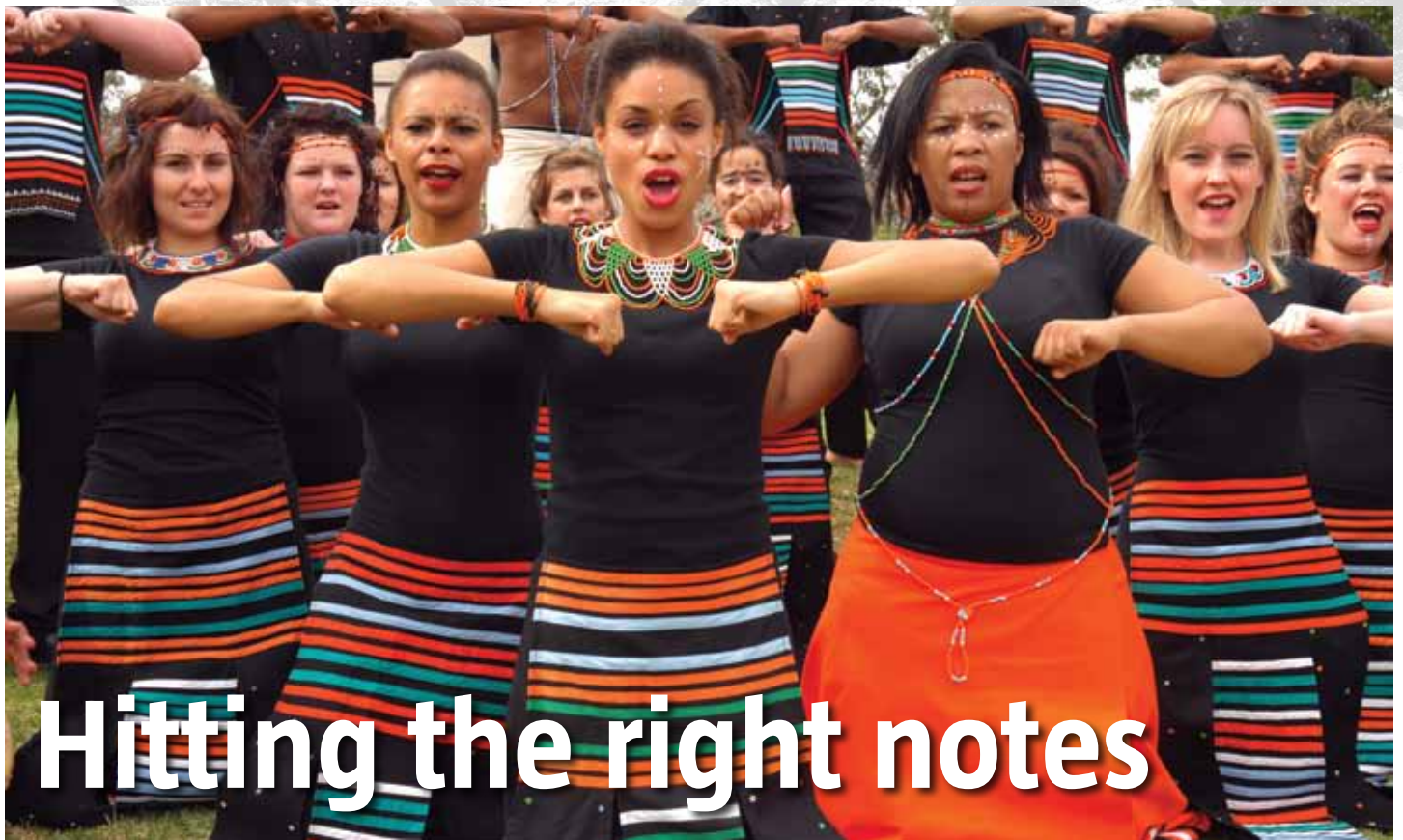


▲ Among those to attend the annual Alumni Executive Breakfast at North Campus were (from left) Gary Dolley, Dominic Swartz and Michael Barry.



▲ **MEETING UP...** Melumzi Mtshayi (from left), James and Maggie Chen, Alumni Relations Officer Santosh Ramadu and Sizwe Mona at the recent Johannesburg Alumni Dinner.

▲ **LEGAL WISE** ... Executive Dean of Law Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids (from left), Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, Shafiek Abrahams, Dave Richardson and Renita Affat attended the Law Reunion in 2010.



Hitting the right notes

AT the same time the shackles of apartheid were being loosened in 1994, the university was embracing the diversity of its students through the formation of the country's first multi-cultural choir.

"At the time, it was quite a novel idea," said choral conductor Junita Lampbrecht van Dijk, who had been given the somewhat formidable task of establishing the new choir. "Before, universities would only have a white choir, or a black choir. They were never mixed."

Sixteen years on – having overcome both social and musical challenges along the way – the close-knit choir is reaping rewards, both nationally and internationally.

There have been other spin-offs too, including the establishment (in partnership with the Norwegian Choir Association) of a diploma and degree in choral conducting, with a focus on developing teachers in rural areas.

One of its members, fourth-year music student Mzuvukile "Muz" Sirenya, was selected to perform with the World Youth Choir in China in 2008 and in Sweden last year, while many of its former members have successfully ventured down new paths in the world of music, among them Sidumo Nyamezele (formerly Jacobs), now a music teacher at the prestigious St John's College, who has presented choral seminars all over the world.

The choir, which took top honours at an international choir competition in Spittal, Austria, last year, is a major drawcard at choir festivals around the globe. "We sing a mixture of songs – classical, Western European, Latin American and African traditional." This year, the choir was invited to Italy.

Next year, it has been selected to perform at the World Choral Symposium in Argentina. "This is the be-all-and-end-all for a choir, and will be the highest achievement in my career."

16 years after it was formed, NMMU's international award-winning choir seems a perfectly natural combination of students ... it wasn't always the case.

Junita attributes the choir's continued success to the perseverance of its members. "There are huge differences between members. We have first years from rural areas with no musical training whatsoever, and postgraduate students with years of training, but what we have in common is that we all love music and we are all working towards the same goal – excellence. We want to touch people's hearts." As a result, the group had an "amazing bond".

I enjoyed the creativity and art of singing and talent exploration. It's amazing to sing

The choir is also not afraid of introducing new elements, including choreographing the African songs to make them more theatrical.

While the choir comprises 40 per cent new members each year, there is a strong core, which includes past student Khwezi Blose, now a successful businessman. "It always amazes me that he still wants to sing," said Junita.

Khwezi, managing director of Siyaya Health and Hygiene Services, completed his BSc (Quantity Surveying) in 2001 and is currently completing his MSc (Built Environment). When he first joined the choir in 1998, he viewed it as "therapy" – a break from his studies, sport and various other commitments. "I enjoyed the creativity and art of singing and talent exploration. It's amazing to sing," he said.

"After four years (1998 to 2001) of singing in a

group, you become absorbed. You become a team player – I could not let my team down. I feel honoured to be an integral part of this amazing choir."

St John's College music teacher Sidumo Nyamezele, who was invited to conduct both the National Youth Choir and the World Youth Choir, said he owed his success in choral conducting to the experience he gained in the choir. "A series of opportunities came my way and I grabbed them." Sidumo joined the choir in 1996, while completing his diploma in music education. "Within six months, I was elected to conduct the African music programme."

He decided to equip himself for the role by completing an advanced diploma in choral conducting under Junita. In 2002, he was asked to conduct a session with the National Youth Choir. He was later appointed as a lecturer in choral conducting before taking up his post at St John's College in 2004. He has twice been appointed conductor of African music for the prestigious World Youth Choir.

"What I selected for my repertoire was not only African. There was also an Afrikaans song. I've learned that you can't isolate the different South African nationalities."

FREE application fee to alumni and their children.

Contact the Alumni Relations Office for more information.

Big ideas build NMMU brand

WITH no fewer than 27 NMMU alumni on the staff, not many brand agencies understand the university's brand experience better than Boomtown.

It has been the NMMU strategic brand agency since the merger in 2005.

"NMMU has always been more than a client for Boomtown.

Most of us are NMMU alumni, which is why it has been so easy for us to cultivate and understand the brand and relationship with the university," said Neil Hart, MD of Boomtown.

Boomtown staff give guest lectures to graphic design and public relations management students, in order to equip them with practical skills for entering the job market.

The agency also sponsors an annual bursary worth R11 000 for one promising third-year graphic design student and facilitates student internships.

This year NMMU won six Marketing Advancement and Communications in Education (MACE) awards, including top honours for its annual review, and internal blogging site, and four excellence awards for the internal

and external newsletters, the 'Return to Learn' campaign for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the 'Brighter Future' postgraduate campaign. All publications, except the internal newsletter, were designed by Boomtown.

Boomtown has grown from a two-

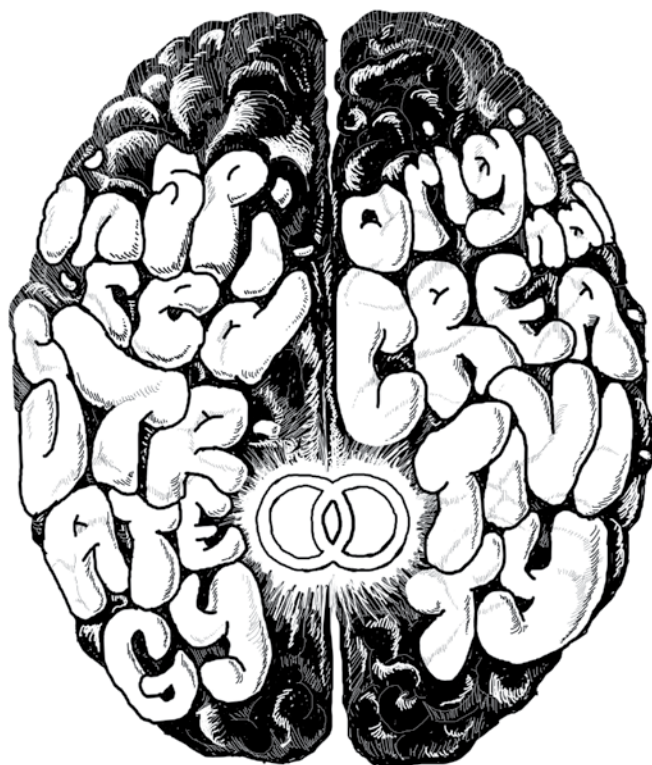
NMMU has always been more than a client for Boomtown. Most of us are NMMU alumni ...

man agency in 1994 to one of the top 25 agencies in South Africa with a current staff complement of 45 and annual billings of R29 million.

It has expanded its national footprint with the opening of two new offices – in Johannesburg and Stellenbosch.

"We have brilliant people in the business, all of whom share the same values, so it is easy for us to expand into the future as we all want the same things out of the agency.

"This unity provides our clients with the added benefit of directed passion," said Neil.



100% left brain and 100% right brain : that's what Boomtown is all about. 100% strategic development of our client's brands and 100% great original creativity to bring it all to life. Simply put, we are 100% integrated.

BOOMTOWN
strategic brand agency
041 364 0180 | www.boomtown.co.za

Alumni



Peppered for success

Agriculture alumnus **Boniswa Dinga**, the production manager at Port Elizabeth's Emmanuel Haven, was the overall winner in the provincial Female Farmer of the Year awards.

Boniswa, who was also named best commercial farmer in the horticulture section, manages a 1,6ha farm, which employs 30 people.

The farm includes a hydroponic tunnel (greenhouse), used to grow tomatoes, peppers, beetroot and cabbages for sale to national chain stores, and a vegetable garden, which produces parsley, celery and spinach for the HIV/Aids care centre.

Profits from the sale of the vegetables are used to buy medication like anti-retrovirals for the haven.



Star pharmacy graduate receives prestigious award

Pharmacy alumnus **Michelle Kleynhans** (nee Bennett), who graduated in 2008, received the prestigious 2009 Brian Seymour Award, a national award that recognises potential and commitment in pharmacy students who have excelled academically,

shown strong leadership skills and demonstrated a keen interest in the pharmacy profession.

Nominations are received from all eight pharmacy schools in South Africa, with the nominees interviewed by a panel of adjudicators who select the overall winner.



Begging dogs turning heads

A novel "begging dogs" advertising campaign by graphic design alumnus **Jedd McNeilage**, who completed his BTech last year, made it to the finals of this year's annual Loerie Awards, South Africa's biggest advertising and marketing event. He also won the Sappi Ideas that Matter competition with his innovative work.

Jedd, who works as an art director at Net#work BBDO in Cape Town, was the brains behind the cardboard cut-outs of begging dogs placed at a variety of Eastern Cape retail outlets in support of local NGO Save-a-Pet.



Bridgette part of SA's 'Vision 2025'

Top businesswomen **Bridgette Gasa** – who is the managing director of The Elilox Group, which focuses on infrastructure development consulting, project management & SMME development, and agricultural enterprises – has been appointed by President Jacob Zuma as the youngest member of the National Planning Commission (NPC), a 25-member team responsible for assisting NPC chairman Trevor Manuel with the development of a visionary plan for the country called "Vision 2025".

Bridgette, who graduated from NMMU with a Bachelor of Building Arts in 1997, has notched up a string of other achievements, including being the 2008 winner of the Department of Science and Technology's "Woman Scientist in Industry" award and being nominated as president of the Global Chartered Institute of Building Africa.

Past student now NMMU's top teacher

Jacqui Lück, a lecturer in the Department of Applied Language Studies, has been named NMMU's Teacher of the Year for 2010. Jacqui, who obtained a BEd from NMMU and went on to complete an MPhil at Stellenbosch University, said: "It is really humbling to have won while being in the same group with such fantastic teachers. I am so thankful that (the) languages (department) is finally getting the recognition it deserves."



newsmakers



Silver Spoon fashions shine

After showing her range at SA Fashion Week, fashion design alumnus **Stephanie Beyers** (above) – who owns Silver Spoon Clothing in Port Elizabeth – was selected to showcase and sell her wares at SA Fashion Week's POP-UP shop at Sandton City's Fountain Court in October. "The public was able to meet and buy from over 30 top South Africa fashion and jewellery designers," she said.

FIFA fan fest run by alumnus

George Newton, who completed his FIFA/CIES (International Centre for Sport Studies) /NMMU qualification in 2008, was appointed 2010 FIFA fan fest manager for Port Elizabeth. George also holds a Management Services Diploma from the University of Antwerp and pursues a profession as a marketing, trade and promotions consultant.



Domingo dominates

Chevrolet Warriors coach **Russell Domingo**, who holds a National Diploma in Sports Management from NMMU, received Cricket South Africa's Coach of the Year award in July. This impressive accolade follows a successful season that saw the Warriors establish themselves as the dominant force in limited-overs domestic cricket in South Africa, having won both the MTN40 and Standard Bank Pro20 Series titles.



Bakery venture takes the cake



While BSc Honours alumnus Matt Repton may have left the field of science, he attributes his success in the business world to certain key principles he learned during his studies.

Matt's popular Vovo Telo artisan bakery and cafe in Richmond Hill, Port Elizabeth, went national in October, after Famous Brands, which owns Steers, Wimpy, Debonairs Pizza and Mugg & Bean, bought a 51 per cent controlling interest in the establishment and aims to open 50 franchises across the country in the next five years.

Matt, who went on to obtain his MSc at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said his studies had taught him how to "come up with an idea, strategise to achieve it and then execute your plan". "When you study, you are putting building blocks in

place and developing your mind in such a way that you can solve problems."

Repton opened Vovo Telo in 2006 after recognising a gap in the market. "I wanted to exploit that gap ... I also felt Port Elizabeth's inner city was a sleeping giant. My aim was to buy inexpensive property, renovate it, put a business in it, and in that way help to regenerate the inner city."

While he is throwing his all into Vovo Telo, he looks forward to conceptualising other winning ideas in the future. "The amazing thing about life is that you really can do anything you put your mind to."

Vovo Telo currently has three outlets – two in Port Elizabeth and one in Johannesburg. There is also Vovo Telo Pizzeria and bed-and-breakfast Vovo Rooms in Port Elizabeth.

Deshantha to grace catwalks of India

Financial planning alumnus and model **Deshantha Moodley**, 24, has won the Pride of India title, which promotes South African models of Indian descent.

Deshantha so impressed Indian talent scouts with her star quality that she has already been booked for a fashion show and catalogue shoot this year.

Her prize is a year-long trip to India, where she will take part in various modelling shows, including the prestigious India Fashion Week. She started modelling in 2005.

"I want to live this dream as long as possible because I only have a certain amount of time left to pursue this career," Deshantha said. She also walked away with the Miss Personality title.





▲ **COLLEAGUES CELEBRATE ...** Education Faculty staff specialising in science, maths and technology education (from left) Raj Kurup, Lyn Webb, Andre du Plessis and Mary-Grace Villanueva celebrated their graduation with promoter Prof Paul Webb (second left). The Education Faculty boasted the most staff members receiving doctorates in 2010.

Science leads way with most postgrad degrees

Graduation news

CLOSE to 5 000 certificates, diplomas and degrees were awarded at 10 graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 14 to 22 April, including 182 master's degrees and 36 doctorates.

The Faculty of Science led the way with the most postgraduate degrees – 63 honours, 44 master's and 15 doctorates. Business and Economic Sciences celebrated seven doctorates, three for the faculty of Engineering the Built Environment and Information Technology while, Health Sciences and Arts each had two.

The Faculty of Education had a 25% increase in graduates, from 971 in 2009 to 1 291 this year. The faculty also celebrated seven doctorates including four by staff members.

Students within all seven of NMMU's faculties and on George Campus tackled some interesting and relevant research on subjects as diverse as business clusters, the effects of child-sexual abuse and diamonds for industrial use. And in doing so, many of them overcome many odds through perseverance, hard work and dedication.

NMMU also celebrated a number of firsts at its 2010 graduation ceremonies like the first three PhD IT graduates, Mariana Gerber, Shaun Posthumus and Joke van Niekerk. In addition the first Xhosa-speaker in NMMU's history to obtain honours in Afrikaans and Dutch literature graced the stage to be capped by Vice-Chancellor Professor Derrick Swartz.

2010 honorary doctorates



RIGHTS CHAMPION ... Dr Navanethem Pillay has made a unique contribution to the development of South African and international human rights law as well as gaining worldwide respect as a judicial officer and was awarded an honorary doctorate in Law by NMMU.



CONTRIBUTER ... Respected quantity surveying academic and professional, Professor Gaye le Roux was awarded an honorary doctorate in Construction Economics for her outstanding contribution to the profession of quantity surveying in South Africa.



TEACHER ... Educationist and sport personality, Raymond Uren was awarded an honorary doctorate in Education by the university, honouring his substantial contribution to education and to the community of Nelson Mandela Bay in general.



PIONEER ... World acclaimed scientist and cinematographer, Sir David Attenborough will receive a Doctor of Science Degree in recognition of his approach to wildlife – successfully marrying science and entertainment. Sir Attenborough was unable to attend the April ceremony but will receive his honorary degree at a special ceremony at a later date.

Keeping it in the family



IN THE FAMILY ... The Hackney household (from left) James, Gwen, Michelle, Arthur and Stuart, celebrate the addition of yet another quantity surveyor to the family as Stuart Hackney, 23, graduates with his BSc Honours in Quantity Surveying. Stuart's older brother, James, and father, Arthur, are both qualified QS's while sister Michelle is in her second year of the same qualification.

Epic world trip for PE family

"THE logistics of arranging time off work, taking the kids out of school and equipping our vehicles proved to be the same if we did the trip for one month or 37," said Jo-Anne who, together with her husband Gary, a medical doctor, and children, Jade, 13, and Dane, 11, embarked on their epic trip in March 2007, making their way through Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas, before returning home in April this year.

The initial "Globeriders Cape2Cape" team – as they called themselves – comprised seven adults and four children, including Gary's brother Dean, also a medical doctor, and sister Deirdre, a pharmacist, but only Jo-Anne's family would see the trip to completion. The group used the trip to raise funds for the Happy Home for Children with Disabilities in Transkei.

"We sold everything (before leaving) and freed ourselves from the material restraints of life with the simple goal of enjoying every second of the day with each other."

Ethiopian children running up to their motor-home to kiss their Madiba stickers, the warm hospitality of the Iranian people, who invited them into their homes on a daily basis, and the breathtaking beauty of the sea passage from Alaska to Vancouver, Canada would be among the cherished memories of their trip, which was not without its fair share of challenges. These included breaking down in Sudan's scorching Nubian Desert, being stranded in Balochistan, the harsh Taliban-controlled area in western Pakistan, and facing a "shotgun attempted bribe" in Honduras.

"Sometimes the most memorable experiences are actually the difficult ones," said Jo-Anne, a remote-based programmer at Volkswagen SA, who completed her Electronic Data Processing Diploma at the former Port Elizabeth Technikon. "Getting stuck in the desert, with temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius, skeletons of camels strewn all over and a sandstorm brewing was no easy feat! Africa further tested our resolve with numerous tyre problems – punctures and cracked rims – that eventually had us replacing a tyre on a daily basis through Libya and Tunisia.

What started as a dream to explore Namibia and Botswana by 4x4 developed into a mammoth "journey of a lifetime" for adventurous alumnus Jo-Anne Allie and her family – who explored 70 countries across five continents, clocking up an incredible 157 500km over 37 months.



▲ **INTREPID EXPLORERS** ... The Allie family – Gary, Jo-Anne and children Jade and Dane – visit the white calcium formations of Pamukkale in Turkey.

"Bolivia, a very harsh country to travel through, was especially challenging for me as it was there we heard my mum had passed away suddenly." Getting to Sao Paulo, Brazil, from where the family flew out to South Africa for the funeral, meant covering 3 000km over tough roads in less than three days.

In retrospect, however, the bad experiences were challenges they proudly overcame "solidifying an already incredible bond between the four of us", said Jo-Anne.

The trip took more than two years of intense planning, which included Jo-Anne getting up to speed with the school curricula for her children, then seven and nine, whom she homeschooled for the duration of the trip. "We felt they were at a perfect age to travel with us – not too young and not too old."

They've learnt to live without the pressure of society to conform to 'fit in'

In addition to the lessons taught by mum – which have given Jo-Anne a new respect for "all teachers out there" – the Allie children have been enriched with a "broad knowledge of the world – its history, geography, amazing different cultural practices, art and beauty".

Jo-Anne said: "They have learnt many lessons – patience, tolerance and appreciation, and have become 'tougher' in many respects – we all have. They've also learnt to live without the pressure of society to conform to 'fit in'."

While Jo-Anne's favourite country was Turkey, with its diverse landscapes, spectacular coastline, and friendly people, the kids "just loved Africa". "The wildness of the animals and abundant birdlife kept them captivated.

"There was no country that we really disliked as each one is different with its own appeal, experiences and challenges, but I don't think we'd go back to Honduras in a hurry!"

Jo-Anne said the family still had their treasured van and planned to do smaller trips in and around South Africa. And another world trip may just be in the pipeline if Gary fulfils his dream to build a yacht.



Where are

1970s

Roy Monk (B Juris 1972 / LLB 1974) works as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa and a senior director in the Litigation Division of Livingston Leandy Incorporated in Durban.

Roger Dold (BCom CA 1974) works as the executive director of Marine Tourism Holdings Limited in New Zealand.



Albert Beyleveld (BJuris 1973 / LLB 1975) is a practicing senior advocate at A. Beyleveld SC

Kevin Helm (Certificate in the theory of Accountancy 1975) who recently retired as a partner of Ernest & Young now runs a trust company focusing on estate planning and the administration of deceased estates in Port Elizabeth.

Johan Hendrik Schoeman (BProc 1978) works as a stockbroker at PSG Konsult in Stellenbosch.



Ian Pretorius (BArch 1975) is the director of Impendulo Design.

Paul Krynauw (BBuild 1975; BArch 1979) is the director of DHK.

1980s



Hennie van Eck (BProc 1980) works at Joubert Galpin Searle Attorneys, Port Elizabeth as a director: Head of Litigation Division

Michael Muller (BProc 1980) is a director at Bellingan Muller Attorneys.



Charles Sprong (BSc Quantity Surveying 1980) is a co-founding member of Quanticost Quantity Surveyors in Johannesburg.

Andre Bain (BSc Quantity Surveying 1982) has his own company, Bain and Heyns Quantity Surveyors and Project Managers.

Thinus Mathee (ND Photography 1988) is now a senior lecturer in photography at Vaal University of Technology.

Andre Potgieter (BSc Building Management 1982) works at Afrisam as a business process manager.

Frans Steenkamp (BSc Quantity Surveying 1988) is the director of Norval Wentzel Steinberg.



Markus Kaps (BSc Building Management 1989) is a director at Key Projects.

Eckhard Siedentopf (BArch 1980) is the owner of ESAD.

1990s



Sanette Angloher (BCom 1993) is the managing principal at The International Hotel School, Cape Town Campus.

Neville Rhodes (BTech-Business Administration, ND Analytical Chemistry 1997) is a customer manager at DuPont Freeworld (Pty) Ltd.

Kim Vermaak (NDip Marketing 1993) is now the owner of Belle Regalo.



Christopher Sparks (BArch 1990) is the managing director of MNI Architects, which was established in 1964.

Prof Lynette Louw (PhD 1999) is the head of the Department of Management, and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at Rhodes University.



Cornelius Oberholzer (BJuris / LLB 1993) works at Deloitte Consulting as a director.

Sizwe Mona (BA Honours 1999) is the Managing Director of ES Investments, a small mining house.



James Chen (BCom Accounting 1999 / PGCE 2002) works at SARS as a manager in graduate recruitment.

Dominic Bonnesse (BA 1987; BArch 1990) is the director of the company bearing his own name.



David Green (BBuilding 1990; BArch 1993) is a partner with Godwin Austen Johnson Architects



2000 - 2005



Derusha Rangasamy (BTech: Public Relations Management 2005) works at Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality as a public relations & events management officer.

Vuyolwethu Khumalo (LLB(UG) 2001) is a Senior Associate at Smith Tabata Inc in Port Elizabeth.

Vuyisa Manyandela (BAdmin 2003) is a media liaison coordinator for the ANC.

Amelia Laubscher (nee Maritz) (BCur, BA Hon (Psych), MA Sociology – Group Dynamics 2003) is the Managing Director of Training & Development: TRIGON CONSULTING



Nadine Syce (MDP 2004) works at Johnson Controls as an account financial manager.

Eleanor Douglas-Meyers (NDip Journalism 2005) is a reporter for La Femme at Avusa in Port Elizabeth.

they today?

2000 - 2005

continued



▶ **Jéan-Dimitri van Dyk** (BCom Marketing Management 2005) works at Johnson & Johnson as the brand manager for Listerine.

Mpumzi Mayekiso (MSc Zoology 2005) is the chief agricultural quarantine technician for the Department of Agriculture.

Tanya van Zyl (van Heerden) (NDip Journalism 2005) works as a reporter for the PE Express newspaper.

Charl van der Merwe (NDip Marketing 2005; Btech Marketing 2008) is a sales representative for Bridgestone.

Linda Goliath (MA Developmental Studies 2008) is a faculty officer at CPUT.

Nicole Draai (BA Media Communication & Culture 2008) works at PE Childline & Family Centre as a marketing & funding manager.

▶ **Russell Molyneux** (MSc Geology 2008) is an Engineering Geologist at Jeffares & Green engineering and environmental consulting.



▶ **Werner Bellingan** (MA Business Administration, MBA 2008) works for WSP SA Civil & Structural Engineers as a director.

Yolandé Barnard (nee van Heerden) (NDip Human Resources Management 2008) is currently studying towards a BTech in Human Resources Management.

Sihle Cengimbo (BCom Financial Planning 2009) works at Standard Bank as a Financial Accountant.

Dr Aldene Luck (D.Phil Social Work & BA Hons Psychology 2009) works at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as an Academic and Life Management Lecturer.

2006 - 2010

Ntsikelelo Sipeka (BJuris 2006) works as a litigation officer at RAF.

▶ **Pumeza Mzimane** (BCom Hons Business Management 2006) is a senior project buyer for Eskom.



▶ **Raewynne Goeda** (BA Hons Labour Relations & Human Resources 2006) works at Edcon as an employee relations officer.



Bongekile Macupe (NDip Journalism 2006) is a journalist for The Star newspaper in Johannesburg.

Sibongiseni Swapi (NDip Civil Engineering 2006) works for Kwezi V3 Engineers as a civil engineering technician.



▶ **Hayley Reynolds** (BCom Hons Economics 2009) works as an economist for the National Treasury Economic Tax Analysis unit within Tax Policy.



▶ **Carl Arendse** (NDip Industrial Engineering 2009) works at Aspen Pharmacare Port Elizabeth, as a production leader.



▶ **Kirby Louis** (NDip Public Relation Management 2009) works as a public relations practitioner at Boomtown Strategic Brand Agency.

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