



Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University  
*for tomorrow*

# routes

Edition 8 ▶ Summer 2013/2014 ▶ Alumni Newsletter ▶ [alumni.nmmu.ac.za](http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za)



## PIONEERS

**7** NMMU'S  
GROUNDBREAKING  
PIONEERS

**12** HIGH-FLYING  
ALUMNI

**15** REUNIONS  
AND SOCIALS

## Alumni Association President's Message



DURING 2013, a new merged NMMU Alumni Association was established, with an Executive Committee (Exco) elected at the AGM. NMMU now boasts a single alumni governance

structure which incorporates the standard Convocation functions as well.

The Exco agreed on a new subcommittee structure for greater focus and co-option of more voluntary specialists in the various areas. We are very proud of our governance track record and involvement as a stakeholder in institutional affairs. We have also done well to reconnect alumni and promote NMMU and its future vision. We play a role in NMMU's public relations and marketing strategy and our efforts to recognize alumni achievers across the globe help to inform the world that NMMU alumni are adding value to society.

The NMMU alumni family grows by approximately 5 000 members each year and we all have an interest to ensure that the value of our NMMU qualifications continues to increase. You can share in the development of your alma mater in a variety of ways, e.g. by donating money so that more students can benefit from a higher education experience or by promoting NMMU as a first choice university.

Please do support our events in the various regions, nominate achievers for the Alumni Awards, share stories and inform us of any issues of concern. With your support, the Alumni Association managed to contribute R128 000 towards bursaries, R150 000 to the NMMU Endowment Fund and also boost various other university and alumni projects with close to R220 000. Thank you to all the individuals who supported the association and other university projects. We look forward to your support during 2014.

**Randall Jonas • President: Alumni Association**

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

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*GO-GETTERS ... The Alumni Relations Directorate (ARD) team includes (back, from left) director Paul Geswindt, University Shop assistant Wendy Scheepers, University Shop manager Baakier Abrahams and (front, from left) administrative assistant Liscka Hendricks and coordinator Santhoshini Ramadu.*

## Alumni Director's Message



**THERE are thousands of NMMU success stories across the globe and part of reconnecting with our alumni is hearing those stories and sharing them with others. These stories not only make us feel proud of these individuals but also our alma mater. Your stories are important to us. Your success is our success.**

Sharing your inspirational stories was also the catalyst for a major achievement for our young Alumni Relations Directorate in 2013, when we received an Association of Commonwealth Universities' PR Award in the newsletter category for our online alumni publication.

We took the opportunity to celebrate the success stories of two global Alumni Achievers at the Annual Alumni Awards event where we also acknowledged our rising stars (see pages 12 to 14).

2013 was an incredibly busy year for us. We published four newsletters (one print and three online), updated 12 573 records, upgraded our website and registered 46 262 website page views. Close to 30 alumni, legacy and partner events were held during the year, which included our involvement in major university events such as graduation.

Alumni relationships were built at chapter and legacy events in major cities in South Africa and London, legacy reunions and events linked to other causes such as the celebration of diversity, community outreach and music concerts. Another unique event was the 25th anniversary of the church organ partnership between NMMU and Summerstrand Dutch Reformed Church.

Alumni continue to play an important role in marketing NMMU as a first choice university. Through the course of last year, close to 400 alumni contacted us in connection with further studies at NMMU or application fee discounts for their children.

Financial support for NMMU is another important role alumni can play to ensure that the university continues to provide quality education and that academically performing students in financial need can complete their studies. About 380 alumni have contributed to alumni and legacy projects in various ways, but we are hopeful this number will increase. There are many projects alumni can support. Your contribution can make a big difference and we look forward to engaging with you in this regard.

**“Your stories are important to us. Your success is our success”**

The single alumni governance structure at NMMU is a major development and the new sub-committee structure can only boost projects and alumni relationship-building initiatives. We are proud of our new generation approach to alumni governance and general stakeholder representation.

The University Shop (an Alumni Association project) is growing annually, helping to market the NMMU brand. By supporting the University Shop, staff, students and alumni can indirectly support alumni projects.

Our Student Alumni Society is also doing excellent work to help us create awareness regarding alumni relations among current students – our future alumni.

We are proud of our achievements as a young directorate but also realise the enormous task of building and maintaining relations with a very diverse and growing alumni base, as well as ensuring that our alumni remain proud of their alma mater and contribute in various ways to make it even greater. May 2014 be the year of making a difference.

**Paul GG Geswindt • Director: Alumni Relations**

## Contact us

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

### Alumni contact details

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## Addressing desperate shortage of EC doctors

# Medical school for NMMU

WITH just three doctors for every 100 000 people in the Eastern Cape, the announcement of a fully-fledged Medical School set to be operational at NMMU by 2020 was celebrated across the province.

The establishment of NMMU's new Medical School – along with a number of new undergraduate healthcare qualifications – will help to address the region's dire shortage of qualified medical practitioners.

In the meantime, the university is embarking on a "step ladder" approach towards this long-term goal by systematically introducing several key qualifications in

the field of healthcare – which will all play a critical role in terms of helping to meet the ever-growing national need for qualified healthcare professionals.

"There is widespread support from healthcare professionals in the city and the region for the creation of a medical school at NMMU, in addition to the expansion of healthcare training programmes, to address urgent needs to support the nation's healthcare demands," said Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.

The university has already revamped its Faculty of Health Sciences into four new schools (Clinical Care,

Medicinal Sciences, Behavioural Sciences and Lifestyle Sciences), introduced a new BSc Dietetics degree and a pharmacy assistant's qualification, and is working closely with key stakeholders to ensure that an undergraduate degree for medical doctors is in place by 2018.

In the interim, a key three-year "clinical associate" degree programme is on the cards for 2015. Clinical associates are qualified to assess patients, make diagnoses, prescribe treatment and perform minor surgery under the supervision of a doctor.

## Paramedics degree critical

AT A RATIO of one to 130 000 patients, the number of advanced life support paramedics in the Eastern Cape is 85% lower than the stipulated national norm of one to 20 000 patients.

The Eastern Cape has only 51 of the 2 305 advanced life support paramedics nationally. To meet the national norm, it needs at least 310.

With these figures in mind, there's no doubt that NMMU's new paramedics degree – one of several new healthcare-related qualifications being introduced at the university – will go a long way towards improving emergency healthcare in the province.

The brand new Bachelor of Emergency Medical Care (BEMC), introduced in 2014, will see paramedic

“There are no trumpets when it comes to saving lives – just the personal satisfaction that you have saved a life”

students working closely with Emergency Medical Services (the national emergency ambulance service), the provincial EMS College and the city's six hospitals, while also notching up experience with some of the country's best volunteer organisations – the metro's National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), the Mountain Club of SA's Search and Rescue team and SA Lifesaving.

"There are no trumpets when it comes to saving lives



CALL TO ACTION ... Nico Louw (left) programme coordinator for the new Bachelor of Emergency Medical Care (BEMC) degree, pictured on duty with prospective BEMC student Clifford Hanks, an intermediate life support paramedic.

– just the personal satisfaction that you have saved a life," said BEMC programme coordinator Nico Louw.

## R1b building expansion to advance education

THE university's Vision 2020 strategic plan – driven by Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz – has given rise to an unprecedented building boom to support its aims to advance education. The R1-billion investment is the largest and most sustained capital expansion programme since the original university sites were started more than 40 years ago.

The latest R236m worth of new buildings – funded by government and the university itself – will be used for the following key projects:

- ▶ A new teacher education building on Missionvale Campus
- ▶ Another engineering block on North Campus (close to the present new one)
- ▶ A new science block on South Campus
- ▶ An Alumni House on South Campus



## 'Green' building rating SA's first

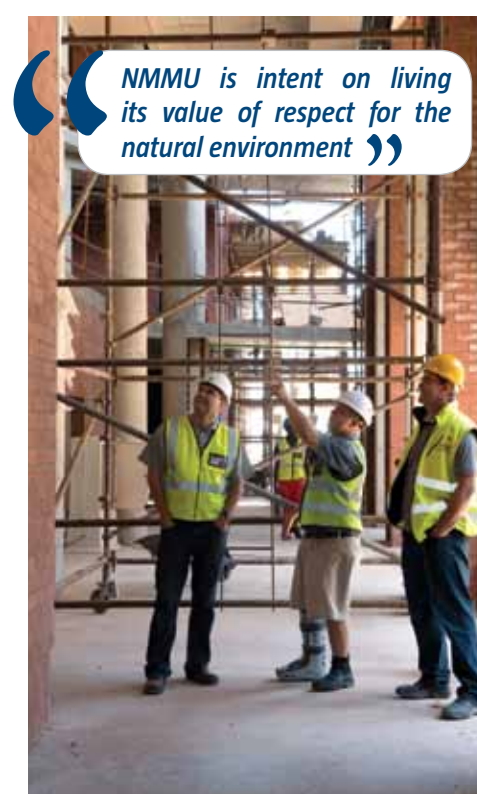
NMMU's new "green" R116m Business School will use about 60% less energy and 75% less water than a similar conventional building.

These impressive credentials made it the first educational and public building in South Africa – and indeed the first building in Port Elizabeth – to receive official "green" rating accreditation for design from the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA).

"We're very proud of this achievement. It sends a clear message that NMMU is intent on living its value of respect for the natural environment," said NMMU's Graham Gouws of Infrastructure Projects.

NMMU expects to reap energy savings of at least R45 000 a year from efficient lighting, the use of occupancy sensors and solar energy, and a further R68 778 in water savings due to low flow fittings, the use of air cooled chillers, water wise irrigation and rainwater harvesting.

GREEN-SAVVY ... NMMU's Graham Gouws (centre) along with WBHO contracts manager Luciano Geminiani (right) and NMMU's head of Infrastructure Projects Greg Ducie (left), indicate some of the "green" materials and design principles used in the university's new Business School.



“NMMU is intent on living its value of respect for the natural environment”

## The drive towards electric cars

# Emission-free motoring

NMMU will be playing an integral role in the future of electric cars – having been chosen to host the Uyilo eMobility Programme, a national initiative launched in March 2013 to develop technologies and skills related to electric vehicles.

The programme – a joint project between the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and NMMU’s award-winning technology station eNtsa – seeks to ready South Africa for the introduction of e-mobility by creating new business opportunities and generating

working towards this future,” said eNtsa’s Dirk Odendaal, the director of the Uyilo e-Mobility Programme.

For this programme, NMMU is working with a number of key stakeholders from government, the automotive industry, other higher education institutions, science councils and other enterprises.

The centre will not replace established electric vehicle initiatives but rather facilitate and identify what is still needed to take the industry forward.

**“Experts anticipate that 10% of the world’s vehicles will be powered by alternative energy sources by 2020”**

the know-how to support electric vehicles.

Through this multi-million venture, eNtsa is developing infrastructure, research, technology and other competencies needed for the future of these new generation vehicles.

“Experts anticipate that 10% of the world’s vehicles will be powered by alternative energy sources by 2020 so it is imperative that South Africa is not left behind but starts



FULLY-CHARGED ... NMMU PR intern Liesl Stowman takes a look at the new zero-emission, 100% electric Nissan Leaf.

## Four new research chairs

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University received four new research chairs in 2013, boosting its research profile.

They are:

- Microfluidic Bio/Chemical Processing, headed by Prof Paul Watts
  - Shallow Water Ecosystems, led by Prof Renzo Perissinotto
  - Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, led by Prof Patrick Vrancken
  - Earth Systems Science, headed by Prof David Bell
- NMMU is already the leading university in South Africa

in downstream chemistry, which looks at the recovery and purification of biosynthetic products, particularly pharmaceuticals, from natural sources such as animal or plant tissues, including the recycling of salvageable components and waste.

The new South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChi) for a chair in microfluidic bio/chemical processing will further entrench NMMU as the leader in downstream chemistry.

The two water-related chairs will play a key role in helping NMMU become a leading centre for Marine and Maritime Sciences research.

## Briefs

### Bird Street’s arty makeover

NMMU’s Bird Street campus is to become a hub for the university’s arts and culture-focused activities. Forming part of the bigger Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) initiative to develop a creative precinct in Central, it will house among others a university art gallery, a new jazz unit, a new expanded base for the university’s creative industries innovation hub, and a venue for public lectures, workshops, dialogues and musical performances.

### Varsity sport on SuperSport

UNIVERSITY sport stepped up a notch in 2013, with SuperSport’s introduction of Varsity Sport on Monday evenings. A spin-off from the successful Varsity Cup – in which the country’s top eight university rugby sides compete in a slightly-adapted format of the game – Varsity Sport includes hockey, soccer, athletics and volleyball, all adapted in terms of rules and time-frames to ensure maximum entertainment value. “Varsity Sport will serve as a platform for top sportsmen,” said NMMU Director of Madibaz Sport Dr Richard Stretch.

### Choir sings for Civilisation

NMMU’s choir added an African flavour to the September-released, latest version of the international video game Civilisation, listed by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 greatest video games of all times. The choir was contracted by the American-based gaming company to sing five songs containing lyrics in African languages for the game.

### Swim to gold

NMMU Law student Kevin Paul – who participated in the 2012 Paralympics – won a gold medal at the 2013 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Swimming Champs in Canada, outswimming the Russian Paralympic 100m breaststroke champion to clinch top spot in a time of 1:05:85.

## 2013 honorary doctorates



Cricket promoter and campaigner for sports equality **Hassan Hawa** received the degree Doctor of Philosophiae (honoris causa) posthumously for his devotion to the development of non-racial sport in South Africa, particularly cricket.



**Dr Seth Berkley** received the degree Doctor Scientiae (honoris causa) in recognition of his contribution to pioneering work in epidemiology and vaccinology, and for continuously championing their application to combat diseases that have an immeasurably skewed impact on the poor.



**Dr Sylvia Earle** received the degree Doctor Scientiae (honoris causa) in recognition of her oceanic exploration, her advocacy of the importance of the ocean for human survival and the need for its conservation, as well as for inspiring women to study the depths of the ocean and fostering a love for its inhabitants.



Acclaimed actor **John Kani** received the degree of Doctor Philosophiae (honoris causa) in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the development of arts and culture during the struggle for liberation and for contributing, through theatre, to the process that brought radical change to South Africa.



**Henry Hendricks** received the degree Doctor Educationis (honoris causa) posthumously in recognition of his substantial contribution in advancing the frontiers of scholarly knowledge through teaching and social engagement, and in so doing, rendering a service of distinction in leadership, politics and education.



# Alumni in the news

## The success code

**DEDICATION** and hard work have paid off for dynamic duo **Devereaux Joubert** and **Mohamed Cassim**, the masterminds behind successful Port Elizabeth software and web development company, **The Code Group**.

Both are listed in Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber's Top 40 Under 40 achievers for 2014.

Their journey to success started at NMMU in 2007, when the pair's third-year Computer Sciences project saw them winning Microsoft's worldwide Imagine Cup Competition, and later achieving third place with an honours project. The subsequent Microsoft partnership sponsored by Microsoft's David Ives led to the birth of The Code Group.

Operating from a small office in Newton Park, they produced their first commercial software system for a private hospital clinic. "We then designed various

websites for local businesses and, most notably in our first year, created a Touch Screen Squash System for the Sports Centre at NMMU," said Joubert. One success led

*The high standard of graduates produced by NMMU is what makes our team so successful*

to another, resulting in an expanding workforce (mostly NMMU graduates) and a move to bigger premises.

Business boomed further with their work on a secure payment portal for tourism/accommodation establishments and the development of a human resources intranet portal for the mining industry. Their latest projects include a singing-and-judging competition system and a racing timing system.



*HIGH FLYERS ... The sky's the limit for NMMU alumni Devereaux Joubert (left) and Mohamed Cassim – who graduated with BCom (Hons) and BCom respectively – and their successful software and web development company, The Code Group.*

## Alumni take on SA 'dragons'

**PITCHING** your business ideas to cut-throat investors while the cameras roll is not for the faint-hearted – just ask NMMU alumni **Ismail Hassen** and **Dr Gaathier Mahed**.

The two were finalists in Rize Mzantsi, the South African equivalent of the BBC's *Dragon's Den*. The series ran from November 2013 to January this year.

Both men are accomplished businessmen. Hassen, managing director at CSR-Africa, obtained a BTech (Mechanical Engineering) in 2005 and an MBA from NMMU in 2010.

He recently took top honours in the mining and manufacturing sector in the Step-Up Technology Innovation Competition for 2013.

Describing himself as a "true entrepreneur who is open to business opportunities", Hassen has held management positions in various firms and projects, ranging from engineering to food and beverage and agriculture and power generation.

"I am driven to find fresh, novel approaches to all endeavours."

Mahed – who completed his PhD in Geology in 2013 – is passionate about groundwater research. He has received extensive technical training on aspects of hydrology in Germany, Morocco, Belgium and Tunisia and has served on a number of technical panels in South Africa to ensure water research projects focus on sustainable development.

He was listed among Mail and Guardian's top 200 young South Africans.

*HEAD FOR BUSINESS ... Ismail Hassen*



## Cementing a win

**CONCRETE ART** ... BTech (Fine art) graduate **Josua Strümpfer** took top honours at the 2013 PPC Cement Young Concrete Sculptor Awards, winning the R50 000 first prize and the title of Best Fine Art Sculpture on Exhibition for his artwork "Kunsarbeid". Describing his concrete, steel and perspex work, which features a labyrinth with a concrete animal skull on top, Strümpfer said: "The labyrinth panels are symbolic of our journey in life. Our lives are not only metaphorically channelled by cement structures, but also literally." Strümpfer came third in the same competition in 2010 – and it has been his dream to produce a winning sculpture ever since. Photograph: Mzu Nhlabati, Creative Nation



## Teen lit opens book on hearing disabilities

**A NOVEL** for teenagers penned by NMMU Applied Linguistics master's graduate **Carolyn Morton** with the intention of highlighting hearing disabilities, hit the shelves in September 2013.

Morton, who has hearing loss herself, wrote her thesis on the writing of deaf children – and then, uncomfortable with the idea that her work would just be "sitting on a shelf somewhere", decided to write on deafness in a way that would be more accessible to others. Her novel *Hearing Helen* is also available in Afrikaans as *Om Helena te Hoor*.

"Writing my master's, which required a lot of planning, helped give me the confidence that I could convey my message through a book."

She wrote the manuscript for the book in 2011, with an aim to finish it in time for the Sanlam Prize for Youth Literature competition. She met the deadline, and was the only Eastern Cape finalist to be short-listed in the competition's English category.



*HEAR ME OUT ... Carolyn Morton penned her first work of fiction to raise awareness around hearing disabilities.*

# A sweet (sounding) 25-year partnership

A FESTIVAL of organ music in May was a fitting way to celebrate the acquisition 25 years ago of a church organ – shared by NMMU and the Dutch Reformed Church Summerstrand – needed for the training of organ students.

The acquisition of the world-class organ – the result of an equal partnership between the university and the church which led to the purchase of the R360 000 instrument – has enabled the training of a great number of excellent organ students, who were able to play their examination pieces and recitals on a properly-equipped instrument.

The installation of high wooden ceilings and a hard tiled floor, the results of careful planning, have created excellent acoustic surroundings for both organ and choral music.

The instrument is South Africa's largest tracker action church organ and its second-largest tracker action concert organ. Continually increasing in value, the organ can give service for hundreds of years.

*MUSICAL CELEBRATION ... NMMU and the Dutch Reformed Church, Summerstrand celebrated the 25th anniversary of the church organ they jointly share. The instrument is used for student training, organ recitals, choir festivals and CD recordings.*



**FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT**  
... The Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists awarded BTech Electrical Engineering graduate Keenan Coverly the coveted "Best BTech student" in any engineering discipline across all universities of technology and comprehensive universities in the country. His average mark was 88%.

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# Pioneers: Top trailblazers

## A lifetime of memories at NMMU

IN 1966, Physics Professor Japie Engelbrecht was one of just 545 students attending the then University of Port Elizabeth, which had opened its doors a year earlier.

His initial intention was to become a science teacher. Instead, while completing his MSc in 1971, he was appointed as a junior lecturer – a personal milestone for a budding scientist. He studied up to PhD level and went on to spend his entire working career at the university, retiring at the end of 2013

*I ran in the relay team from the old Bird Street Campus to the new Summerstrand Campus*

With such a long association with UPE and then NMMU, Engelbrecht, a former UPE Alumni President, bore witness to most of the institution's "firsts", which included the sod-turning of "the new Summerstrand Campus", today called NMMU's South Campus. "I ran in the relay team from the old Bird Street Campus to the new Summerstrand Campus."

He also participated in the first Intersarsity against Rhodes – and celebrated one of its earliest victories. "I played in the under-20 rugby team, and we won!" He watched the unveiling of UPE's colours and attended the official opening of the new tartan track on South Campus. Through all these firsts, what stood out most for Engelbrecht was "how we as the small group

of students during the initial years of UPE worked together to put the university on the map, and how we were like a family at the time – everybody knew just about everyone else".

"NMMU has become very large, spanning five campuses, with a total student number of about 27 000. So I think we have, to some extent, lost the 'family' feeling, and the almost individual attention that students received in the early years of UPE."

His career highlights include being appointed associate professor in 1986, which he described as being "way beyond my wildest dreams" and also being awarded a National Research Foundation (NRF) rating as a researcher.

As he leaves the institution, he has many hopes for NMMU's futures. "I hope that NMMU can realise its own dreams, as set out in Vision 2020 [the university's strategic plan]; that it would become the university of choice for many students; that the lecturers would make students feel like individuals, not bums on seats; and that

NMMU would continue to perform its duty towards the greater community."



*HATS OFF TO YOU, SIR ... Prof Japie Engelbrecht celebrates 57 years of work and study at NMMU.*



### 128 years at NMMU!

*THREE NMMU STALWARTS RETIRE ... By the time they retired at the end of 2013, these three professors had collectively spent 128 years working at the university. Prof Nico Groenewald (middle), who lectured in the Department of Mathematics, spent 44 years at NMMU, Prof Japie Engelbrecht (right, and profiled on this page) spent 43 years in the Physics Department, while Prof Henk Pauw lectured Anthropology for 41 years. Altogether, they spent 34 years studying at the university.*

## First black graduate

HE WASN'T allowed to attend lectures on campus, nor write exams there, but Cumngce Gawe pressed on regardless, becoming this institution's first black graduate – and passing his finals with an impressive four distinctions.

"At the time, I did not have the sense that I was making history. I was just happy to finally complete my course," said 74-year-old Gawe, who graduated with a National Diploma in Industrial Administration (now Industrial Engineering) in 1980.

Gawe and the other black students at the former Port Elizabeth Technikon attended lectures – delivered by Technikon lecturers on a part-time basis – at Ford Motor Company's training facilities.

"There were also a few white guys among us, who couldn't attend lectures on campus because of work commitments. Having white colleagues assured us of the quality of our lectures." The first time he set foot on campus was to write the very last exam of his final year of study.

Gawe opted to study Industrial Administration as he was employed as a work study assistant at the Port Elizabeth Municipality – and he needed the qualification to become a work study officer. At the

time, none of the "black" higher learning institutions offered this course – and PE Technikon had just been given the go ahead to take its first black students.

Throughout his studies, Gawe chose to focus on the positives, learning a valuable lesson to "believe in yourself and invest in yourself then winning becomes the only option".

*The first time I set foot on campus was to write my last exam*

He went on to work at Goodyear South Africa for 23 years, with his service broken by a brief stint as a Member of the Provincial Legislature. His political career also included being mayor of Uitenhage and regional treasurer for the ANC.

In the business world, he held a number of top business positions, including chairing the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, and co-founding Newport Projects (now Newport Construction). He is currently provincial manager for Maxima Global.

And he has never forgotten his alma mater, serving



*HISTORY MAKER ... First black graduate Cumngce Gawe celebrates his 1980 graduation with his wife Tabitha Nontsikelelo, and (inset) Gawe today.*

on various bodies since 1986, including NMMU's interim council during the merger process. He is currently vice-chair of NMMU's Council and a member of the Alumni Association Executive Committee – and in fact donates his entire council stipend to NMMU's Alumni Association. Through his involvement at the university, he has borne witness to "the development of a comprehensive university taking the best out of the different merged institutions and evolving into a new and better institution".

# Making her mark in a man's world

WHEN Prof Gaye le Roux took up her appointment as Head of the Department of Quantity Surveying at the former University of Port Elizabeth in January 1983, she made history as the first woman worldwide to head up a tertiary Built Environment Department.

"Those were wonderfully interesting times," said Le Roux, describing UPE's decision to appoint her as an "almost incredible, unbelievably progressive step".

Despite heading up a traditionally male domain, Le Roux experienced "no gender-related hurdles whatsoever". In fact, she has never experienced any sense of "male-dominance", not even at Pearson High, when her subject choice of Maths and Science meant she was one of just two girls in a class with 38 boys from Grades 9 to 12.

**"I was the sixth woman in the country to study quantity surveying"**

"This freedom has continued throughout my life."

Her venture into Quantity Surveying was by chance, rather than choice. "I wanted to be an apprentice goldsmith, but my mother would not allow me to

do so." She had no idea what else to pursue – and there was no money for further studies. "It was a most traumatic time."

What was to set her life's course was a letter sent to the school from local Quantity Surveying firm Warren and Longworth, inviting scholars to be articulated pupils.

"Mr Val Cowley, our class master, said: 'Try it, my girlie. They may just accept you.'"

They did – and she successfully obtained her Certificate of Quantity Surveying in 1962 from Natal University, ultimately going on to obtain her doctorate in Construction Economics from UPE in 2004. Her most treasured achievement was being awarded an Honorary Doctorate at NMMU in 2010.

In her first year of study in 1956, she was the sixth woman in the country to study quantity surveying. Today, about 15% of professional quantity surveyors and 27% of candidate quantity surveyors are women.

Le Roux's academic career at UPE began in 1970 as a lecturer in the newly-opened Department of Architecture and Quantity Surveying. It was to be an upward spiral towards her appointment as HoD in 1983.

"My personal greatest opportunity was – and still is – being able to return to so many students, the care and unbelievable support that I experienced."

She left UPE in 1999, but maintains strong links. In 2012 and 2013, she presented the Professional Living Legacy Programme to undergraduates in Quantity Surveying and Building and also mentored PhD and Master's candidates in NMMU's Centre of Excellence.



BUILDING SUCCESS ... Prof Gaye le Roux

## First black doctoral graduates

### Doc's history-making degree



DEDICATED EDUCATOR ...  
Dr Lawrence Lottering

WHEN he received his DEd degree in 1987 at the former University of Port Elizabeth, now known as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Dr Lawrence Lottering became the first black person to obtain a doctoral degree from the university.

At the time, making history was the last thing on his mind. "I was just happy to get my doctorate," said Lottering, who recently retired after 22 years as principal at George High School, where he himself was once a pupil.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher and a principal," said the former headmaster – affectionately known as

"Doc" by his colleagues and pupils – who attributes his success to "hard work, dedication and passion".

His doctoral studies focused on "the influence of the teacher-pupil relationship on the scholastic achievement of pupils" – a topic that would help him immensely throughout his teaching career, which spanned 43 years.

"UPE was very good to me. I had a fantastic promoter and I really enjoyed my studies. It nurtured my passion for teaching."

When *Routes* contacted Lottering in December, it had been five weeks since his retirement on October 16, the day he turned 65.

"I miss the school; I miss the pupils and the teachers. However, I love being at home, doing what I want to do and spending time with my wife."

His future plans include bowls, golf and touring the country.

### Inspired by 'juvenile justice'

IN 1995, Lullu Tshiwula – now a professor of social work and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Development and Support at the University of the Western Cape – became the first black woman to receive a doctorate at NMMU.

At the time, she was employed as a social work lecturer at the university. "I knew from the first day that I walked into NMMU that being called 'Mrs' was not going to work for me.

"Being the only African woman in the staff complement – and not having a doctorate – I was uncomfortable in confirming whatever stereotype people had about African women. I wanted to excel in my work with students and be the best I could be in my own right."

In choosing her doctoral topic, she examined her own experience – specifically, her first job as a probation officer in what was then called Bantu Affairs – and decided to explore the area of juvenile justice.

The deeper she got into her doctoral studies, the more her lectures gained momentum. "I was at the top of my game in terms of lecturing, because as I was researching I would continuously find areas of knowledge to enhance my lectures. This was so stimulating and such a joy, I loved it. It was like an adrenaline kick."

The other spin-off was that she became a sought-after authority in her field of study.

Her doctorate was also the catalyst for her being recognised as a professional in her field. "It led to my current position as the DVC: Student Development and Support ... I appreciate the level of knowledge I gained from this qualification."



TRAILBLAZER ... Prof Lullu Tshiwula



# Youngest graduate just 17

NMMU's youngest graduate Michal Kus was just 17 when he received his Bachelor of Building Arts degree in 1991. He received his second degree, a Bachelor of Architecture, at 19.

Today, the Polish-born alumnus runs an impressive practice in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Russia, working for the world's second largest architectural firm.

Being part of a family that lived all over the world, completing most of his schoolwork by correspondence and being stubbornly determined by nature all had a lot to do with Kus's early enrolment at university.

The first time he attended "normal school" was in Standard 6 (Grade 8), but he soon found he was better-educated than most his peers and "looked for all ways to jump a class or two".

He was just 14 when he matriculated and enrolled at UPE. Despite his youth, he was accepted by his fellow students. "Most of them did not realise I was so young. The challenges were really more related to the non-academic scene – the lack of a driver's licence and national service jokes."

There were other challenges too – including having to undergo several operations following an accident and later losing his mother – but Kus "persevered and finished

what I set out to do", supported particularly by his older sister Magda, who was also studying architecture.

When he left UPE, he worked for a few firms and clients on an ad hoc basis, while at the same time pursuing his MBA studies. After nine months, he accepted a position at Stauch and Partners in

**“ I had to get a court order that recognised me as an adult and not a minor before I could start my practical training ”**

Windhoek. "I found myself running huge jobs and working ridiculously hard but loving it."

Within 18 months of work in Windhoek, he was able to register as an architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) – the same organisation that had required him to get a court order recognising him as an adult and not a minor before he could start his practical training.

He declined a partnership to work in Europe, eventually setting up an architectural firm in Poland. In 2003, after further studies and professional registration as an architect in that country, he joined respected multinational architectural firm Aukett Europe (now

Aukett Fitzroy Robinson), running the Polish operation and developing business in Russia. Two years later, he and colleague Martin Hyams left Aukett to set up Aedas CE (Central and Eastern European operations), which is part of Aedas Group, the second largest architectural practice in the world

"My life has been a mad rollercoaster [ride]. A young architect from UPE running a huge practice in CEE and Russia? If you had told me this 20 years ago, I would have asked what you were on."

*AGE NO LIMIT ...  
Michal Kus today and (inset) as a teenage graduate.*



## Oldest graduate

*ALWAYS STUDYING... In April 1994, on the occasion of receiving his MSc in Geology, the then 73-year-old Aris Sheldon Friel became the oldest graduate to cross UPE's stage. A retired civil engineer at that time, Friel was a "compulsive student" who studied towards a number of other qualifications during his life, said Ruth Couldrige of her father, who died two years ago at the age of 90.*

## A pioneering university

- ▶ NMMU is the country's leading academic institution in the field of advanced electron microscopy – where materials are analysed at minuscule levels – and its new High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy (HRTEM) Centre is the most sophisticated and advanced electron microscopy centre in Africa.
- ▶ NMMU has the oldest art school in the country, established in 1882.
- ▶ NMMU was the first university to have a functional game reserve.
- ▶ NMMU was the first university to grow diamonds.
- ▶ NMMU's Physics Department holds the record for the highest efficiency solar cell (16,7%) produced in South Africa.

## NMMU's first double doc

WHEN he received his Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) in 2011, Computing Science's Prof Andre Calitz became the first person to receive two doctorates from NMMU.

He completed his first doctorate, a PhD in Computer Science and Information Systems, in 1997. His research project for his DBA saw Calitz promoting Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a study field and career – and focusing on how education can address the ICT business skills shortage in South Africa. The former pilot started studying computer science because he believed that one needs a formal qualification as backup if you're a pilot. And he stayed and continued studying.

Calitz – who still flies from time to time, and is also an avid motorcyclist and scuba diver with a black belt in karate – is one of the most well-known academics at NMMU, not only because he has served on Council and the Staff Association Executive for many years, but for his positive and inspirational leadership and ability to

crack a joke with everybody from academics to workers to students.

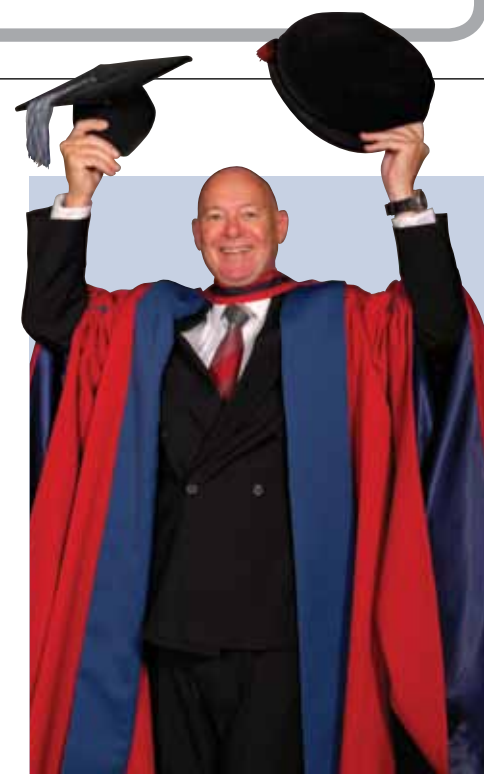
His students are taught to think out of the box – with interesting projects that are never "boring". "My first student project was creating a database for recording the tagging of penguins on St Croix Island. I loved it, because we had to visit the island regularly. I also assisted in a project visualising the movement data of Raggie sharks (tagged by transponders) in the bay."

His latest student projects focus on mobile applications and research on sustainability reporting for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"I love my work, learning new technologies and working with intelligent people and seeing them achieve.

"I believe in academic freedom and my latest passion is to motivate people to publish in all faculties."

Calitz was Chairperson of the Staff Association from 1999 to 2008 and served on the UPE and NMMU Councils as an academic representative from 1999 to 2007. "People are what make this university tick."



*OVER-ACHIEVER ... Prof Andre Calitz*

# Making a difference:

## WHAT is the strategic value of building relations with alumni?

Universities have many stakeholders, both internal and external, but alumni have a special place as the institution's only permanent stakeholders and proof of the success of its academic programmes.

When students graduate, they go on to "represent" their alma mater in various disciplines across the globe. Thus there will always be a connection between alumni and their alma mater.

In South Africa, very few individuals have the opportunity to experience higher education, which is life changing and an equaliser for many individuals.

**Alumni have a special place as the institution's only permanent stakeholders and proof of the success of its academic programmes**

Whether you come from the poorest rural setting or a wealthy suburban family, you cross the same stage.

With a lifelong stake in the reputation of their alma mater, alumni have a responsibility to ensure that standards are maintained or improved and that the value of their qualifications continuously increases. They also have a responsibility to assist with institutional development and there are various roles they can play, which include promoting their alma mater, donating money and sharing expertise.

Over the past few years, the NMMU Alumni Relations strategy has included various phases to ensure that, as a merged university, all alumni feel part of the NMMU family and share in the vision to take the university to the next level.

The first phase (2010-2013) focused on identity development, creating strong governance structures, *continued on page 8*

## Alumni give back



*SUPPORTING NMMU ... At this year's Alumni Association Thanksgiving Breakfast, the Alumni Association contributed R150 000 to the NMMU Endowment Fund. Handing over the cheque to NMMU Chair of Council Judge Ronnie Pillay (left) and NMMU Vice Chancellor Derrick Swartz (middle) was Alumni President Randall Jonas (right).*

**Did you know?**  
Despite the millions of rands the government channels into bursaries and funding for students and the contribution from NMMU, there are still many students who cannot enter university or who drop out due to their financial need. For many, the support they receive is simply not enough to cover their needs. Your donation can change someone's life.

## Alumni exec elected

**NEW ALUMNI COMMITTEE ...** Office bearers elected into their positions at the Alumni Association's AGM are (front, from left) Treasurer Vernon Naidoo (MPhil, 2000), a manager at Volkswagen Community Trust, President Randall Jonas (MA, 1999), who is EastCape Training Centre's CEO, Vice President Evert Knoesen (MBA, 2011), HE Project Manager, (back, from left) elected members Khwezi Blose (BSc Hons, 2006), an established entrepreneur, Elmarie van de Merwe (NHDip Post School Education, 1991), National Project Manager FET Sport, Secretary Paul Geswindt, Director: Alumni Relations, Chuma Sipuka (NDip Marketing, 2009), who works for Transnet, NMMU Council Representative Prof Hugh Jeffery (NDip Industrial Engineering, 1988) and Shuaib Rahim (LLB, 2010), a Law Lecturer at NMMU. Absent from the picture were NMMU Council Representative Cumngce Gawe (NDip Industrial Engineering, 1980) and co-opted member Lester Cunningham (BSc Hons, 1996).





# NMMU's alumni campaign

relationship-building initiatives, institutional promotion, alumni-role communication and the promotion of alumni ambassadors.

The second phase, which started in 2014, places a greater emphasis on alumni involvement to help promote NMMU nationally and internationally and support the university's academic programmes financially and in other ways.

We need to recruit the best students and staff,

**“ If 1 000 alumni donated R50 monthly for a year, that would amount to a R600 000 contribution ”**

we need to support deserving students financially and reward achievement, we need to establish new programmes and upgrade infrastructure. We need

alumni to support the NMMU Alumni Fund to help make that difference as a stakeholder.

## How can alumni contribute to the Alumni Fund and support this campaign?

Alumni can make monthly or annual contributions using our debit order or online donations facility or they can make direct transfers to our Alumni Fund bank account. If 1 000 alumni donated R50 monthly for a year that would amount to a R600 000 contribution. A great number of students can be assisted with that amount. To make a donation, information can be found on our website <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za> or our offices can be contacted on 041-504 3935 or [paul.geswindt@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:paul.geswindt@nmmu.ac.za). Bank account details are also provided on page 2.

Alumni can also support the various alumni fundraising events which typically include benefit concerts, interesting talks, lifestyle presentations,

auctions or campaign product sales.

The Alumni Relations Directorate welcomes ideas to help raise funds or improve our activities as well as information that can connect us to potential funders and sponsors.

The lives of many individuals can be changed through a higher education experience and alumni can help make it possible.

**Thank you to all alumni donors and project supporters for 2013.**

A comprehensive list of donors and supporters appears on the alumni website.

**Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University**  
for tomorrow  
Port Elizabeth & George

**“ Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world ”**  
- Nelson Rolihlala Mandela

**Lala ngoxolo, Tata**  
*We are so proud to carry your name*  
**Vaarwel**

**1918 - 2013**  
**Tata Madiba, we are forever grateful for your contribution to our country and our world.**  
- Alumni Relations Directorate

[www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)

# NMMU alumni: a

That alumni from NMMU can blaze a trail of success anywhere in the world was evident at the fourth annual Alumni Awards, which took place at the glittering Boardwalk Convention Centre in October 2013. A highlight on the NMMU Alumni calendar, this is our chance to honour those who excel locally, provincially, nationally or internationally. This year, we celebrated our biggest contingent yet of Alumni

Rising Star Awards for up-and-coming success-makers, we acknowledged two intrepid business leaders with our prestigious Alumni Achiever Awards, and we paid homage to two other alumni superstars through our Alumni Special Awards. As Alumni Association president Randall Jonas so aptly put it, these worthy recipients have “kept the dream of human advancement alive” in all sectors of society.

## NMMU Alumni Achiever Awards



### ◀ **Dr Alan Clark**

CLINICAL Psychology master’s graduate Dr Alan Clark is the European Chief Executive of SABMiller – the world’s second-largest brewer, with more than 200 beer brands and 70 000 employees in over 75 countries. Based in London, he has been a member of SABMiller’s Executive Committee since 2003. Clark joined the South African Breweries (SAB) in 1990 in an HR role, before becoming General Manager at SAB’s Alrode Brewery in Johannesburg. He went on to become Operations Director and Marketing Director for SAB before being appointed CEO of SABMiller’s soft drinks operations in South Africa in 2000. In

2003, he was appointed Managing Director of SABMiller Europe, leading SABMiller subsidiaries in Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Italy, Ukraine and Russia, as well as setting up import businesses across Europe and in the UK. He was appointed Chief Operating Officer of SABMiller in 2012 and its Chief Executive last year. Before joining SAB, Clark ran his own private practice in clinical psychology and was an Associate Professor at Vista University’s Centre for Cognitive Development. He holds a doctorate in Literature and Philosophy from the University of South Africa (Unisa).

### **Danise Lopes (nee van Vuuren)** ►

LLB graduate and trade law attorney Danise Lopes has worked her way up through the Coca-Cola Company ranks to become the Global Head of Intellectual Property. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, her past positions within the company include being Head of the Global Trademarks Group and serving on the Trademark Counsel European Union Group. Prior to this, from 1997 to 2004, she worked as a trademark attorney in the United Kingdom. While completing her studies at the former University of Port Elizabeth, she was the first female president of the Student Representative Council (SRC), round winner of the African Moot Court Competition in Lusaka, Zambia and a recipient of the Abe Bailey International Travel Scholarship. Career awards include the Advocate of the Year Award (Global Supplier Diversity) in 2012 for her work with minority and woman-owned businesses and law firms in the United States. She was also in the winning Coca-Cola team for the Food and Beverage Team of the Year awards in 2011 and 2007 and was nominated for the In-House Counsel of the Year in 2010. Lopes is a Registered UK Trademark Attorney (RTMA), a member of both the Institute of Trademark Attorneys (ITMA) and the International Trademark Association (INTA) and a former Vice-Chair of the Unfair Competition Committee: Association of European Trademark Owners.



## NMMU Alumni Rising Star Awards

### **Alan Barr** ►

AT THE age of 30, Chartered Accountant Alan Barr became KPMG’s youngest Managing Director, a position to which he was promoted at KPMG’s East London office. Two years later in 2006, the BCom Honours graduate was promoted to Managing Director of KPMG’s Port Elizabeth office, where he is also Head of the Eastern Cape market, and as such responsible for the growth of KPMG services across the province. He is also Head of Audit for this region. At national level, this visionary leader is part of KPMG’s national steering group on audit efficiency and assists the National Leader for Family Business. Barr began his career in 1996, with a training contract at Arthur Andersen. He was seconded to Reading, England, where he was promoted to Manager. In 2002, following the Anderson/KPMG merger, he was promoted to Senior Manager at KPMG and then Managing Director for East London.





# global success story



## ▶ Travis Greeff

BASED IN Qatar, BTech Quantity Surveying graduate Travis Greeff is the Project Manager for the Middle East branch of world-renowned construction company Brookfield Multiplex (BM). The company, which is at the forefront of construction globally, also operates in Australasia, North America and Canada. Greeff has been involved in numerous prestigious multi-million dollar projects, the latest being Qatar National Library, which is set to become the most advanced library in the world. Prior to his BM appointment, Greeff rose through the ranks at Murray and Roberts, the South African-founded

company which has branched out into a number of countries including the United Arab Emirates, where Greeff has worked on several high-end projects. He was promoted to Senior Project Engineer in the expansion of Abu Dhabi International Airport (Terminal 3) and was Construction Manager for several building projects at two Abu Dhabi universities, namely the Paris Sorbonne University and Zayed University. He was the recipient of numerous merit awards during his academic career, including Top Student for Quantity Surveying in his final year of study.

## Winand Grundling

MULTI-AWARD winning classical organist Winand Grundling, who graduated cum laude with a BMus (Performance) degree from NMMU, is renowned for being one of South Africa's most talented young organists, with an established national and international profile. What makes his achievements even more remarkable is that he was born with a severe form of club foot – an obvious hindrance to his pursuit of an instrument that is highly dependent on foot play. Currently completing his MMus at Stellenbosch University, Grundling has a string of awards behind his name. These include winning the Unisa Overseas Music Bursary Competition in the organ category and overall, winning the Mabel Quick Music Competition and also being announced as the overall winner in the ATKV-Muziza National Classical Music Competition. He received two Kanna awards at the annual Absa Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (Klein Karoo National Arts Festival – KKNK) for his production *14 Stations of the Cross*, which he released as an album in 2012. His debut CD *Toccatal* was launched three years prior in 2009. Grundling has delivered organ recitals at national and international level and was one of 17 organists chosen worldwide to attend the International Organ School in Calgary, Canada in 2006. He currently teaches piano, organ and theory at the College of Arts in Wellington, South Africa.



## Paul Treu ▶



PAUL Treu, who graduated with a master's degree in Educational Psychology, has been the South African Sevens Rugby Coach since 2004 and has led his team to many victories, including being crowned World Sevens Series Champions in 2009. Under Treu's guidance, South Africa has won International Rugby Board (IRB) tournaments in Dubai (twice), George, Singapore, Adelaide (twice), Paris and London. The team has also won invitational tournaments in Singapore and Amsterdam. Treu played for the Springbok Sevens Rugby Team himself from 1999 to 2002. Before that, from 1994 to 2001, he played for the South Western Districts (SWD) Eagles.

## ▶ Nikki Mbengashe



NDip Industrial Engineering graduate Nikki Mbengashe was the first woman to run a full port terminal operation in South Africa – and was instrumental in turning around the loss-making terminal in just 12 months. She was also involved in launching the biggest efficiency improvement project for South Africa's largest container terminal in Durban, producing cost savings of over R5-million per year. In her five years at Transnet, she was promoted five times. With these credentials behind her, it wasn't long before she was snapped up by Absa, where she has accelerated up the corporate ladder. Currently Chief Operations Officer of Personal Loans, other positions she has held include Head of Sales Support for Absa Private Bank and General Manager for Absa Business Bank (Mid-corporate, Western Cape). While at Transnet, she was Business Unit Executive for three terminals: Port Elizabeth, Richards Bay and Saldanha Bay. She was also the Regional Continuous Improvement Manager for Eastern Cape Ports – and the youngest Executive Committee member of Eastern Cape ports. Selected as one of Transnet's top achievers, she attended training for a year in Belgium.

## Charles Stretch & James Pearce

WHAT started in the garage of a Newton Park home has grown into a company with a R300-million annual turnover operating in 160 countries with 750 different networks. SMSPortal, the bulk sms service provider which serves as a marketing tool for business owners, is the brainchild of entrepreneurs James Pearce (right), a BSc Computer Science graduate, and Charles Stretch (left), a BCom graduate. The pair started the service in 2002, while still studying, with R20 000 in start-up capital. Today, the company has a global footprint, with just about every major blue chip financial and retail institution as clients, including Anglo American, Pick 'n Pay, Toyota and Sanlam. It sends out 150 million SMSes a month. Before starting SMSPortal, the pair owned youth site Blueworld, which gave students the opportunity to post photographs of themselves and their friends partying at clubs in Port Elizabeth. When club owners approached the pair about coming up with a way they could communicate with the youngsters, to market gigs and events, they came up with a bulk SMS product – and SMSPortal was born. Blueworld was sold to Naspers in 2008.



# NMMU Alumni Special Awards - Arts faculty graduates



## ◀ Prof Albert Troskie

NMMU graduate Prof Albert Troskie is a leading figure in the field of organ and church music in South Africa and has made invaluable contributions to the advancement of classical organ music. Founder of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Kerkerelistevereniging* (South African Church Organists Society – SAKOV) in 1980 and editor of its newsletter and magazine *Vir die Musikleier* (For the Music Leader), Troskie was chairman of SAKOV for 20 years. Trained in organ-building at the University of Amsterdam, Troskie designed the Feather Market Centre's concert organ – the largest free standing pipe organ in South Africa and the third largest in the world. He has written two books on organ-building – *Pyporrels in Suid-Afrika* (Pipe

Organs in South Africa), published in 1992, and *The Historical Pipe Organ Heritage of South Africa*, published in 2010. As a composer, Troskie published two books with hymn arrangements for organ and choir in 2003 and 2006. Prior to this, in 2000, he released a solo recital CD called *Grand Organ* as well as other organ and choir CDs. From 1983 until his retirement in 1998, he was a professor of Music and Musicology and later head of the Music Department at the former University of Port Elizabeth (now NMMU). He remains active as an author, church and concert organist, speaker at local and international conferences, music examiner and adjudicator, and composer. He is also the official organ accompanist of the Eastern Cape Children's Choir.

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George Student Centre: [shopgeorge@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:shopgeorge@nmmu.ac.za)

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## ▲ Nomkhitha Mona

SOUTH African Forestry Company Limited (Safcol) CEO Nomkhitha Mona has a knack for people-centred leadership, team development and stakeholder engagement – and a keen eye for business. Now based in Gauteng, she was the first black woman to be appointed to the board of Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Holdings in South Africa and has a string of other achievements behind her, including being a Registrar of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) in Mpumalanga and CEO of Inkezo Land Company in Durban. She is the former Deputy President of the Nelson Mandela Bay Chamber of Commerce, former CEO of the Eastern Cape Tourism Board and, most recently, the former CEO of Uitenhage Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI), where she and her team contributed to the creation of over 5 500 jobs. She currently serves as a commissioner of the Eastern Cape Provincial Planning Commission. Mona holds a BA degree, BA Honours degree in Industrial Relations and a master's degree in Labour Relations and Human Resources from the former University of Port Elizabeth.



## Building relationships

# Reunions and alumni socials



*REFLECTING ... Sakhekile Zweni (left), guest speaker at this year's Alumni Reflections event, catches up with Alumni Association President Randall Jonas. The event was attended by over 70 alumni and friends during NMMU's diversity month, celebrated in August each year.*



*LEADING THE WAY ... Among the 60 guests who attended this year's Frontfoot Leadercast seminar at the North Campus Conference Centre were (from left) Akua Smith, Celia Jordan, Gerard Bezuidenhout, Sherine Howell and Greg Morgan.*



*CELEBRATING LONDON ALUMNUS ... Recognising one of 2012's NMMU Alumni Achiever Award recipients, Garth Ritchie (BCom, 1993), at a social function in London were (from left) Managing Director: Legacies Prof Kotie Grove, Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt and acting NMMU Trust CEO Renita Affat. Ritchie was not able to attend the 2012 awards event.*



*MORE LONDONERS ... Other alumni present at the London event included (from left) 2012 NMMU Alumni Rising Star Award winner Achumile Majija, Inge Schneider and Hein Visser.*



*ARTY BEGINNINGS ... Alumni Association Vice-President Evert Knoesen (left), Missionvale Campus Director Dr Phakama Ntshongwana and Senior Manager: Arts & Culture Michael Barry attended the opening of the Art Shop on Missionvale Campus, a unique venture which showcases the creative works of NMMU staff, students and alumni.*



*VOTING ... Attending the Alumni AGM in May 2013 for the election of the new alumni committee were (from left) NMMU Dean of Students Khaya Matiso with alumni Michelle Mbaco and Isaac Metembo.*



## ▶ Alumni events



*CELEBRATING ALUMNI SUCCESS... Attending the 2013 Alumni Awards ceremony in celebration of NMMU graduates who have excelled in their various chosen career fields were (from left) Dassie Biggs, Felicity Biggs, Prof Hugh Jeffrey, Wilma Jeffrey, Alumni Association President Randall Jonas and Glynis Jonas*



*SPARKLING EVENING ... Others attending the glittering event held at the Boardwalk Convention Centre included (from left) Gerard Cain, Rasheeda Cain, Vanita Erasmus and Julian Erasmus.*



*GAUTENG GET-TOGETHER ... Among those attending an alumni social at the Johannesburg Country Club were (from left) Nontobeko Xwayi and Mercy Thinyane.*



*RECONNECTING ... Among the 50 people attending an alumni social in East London were (from left) Nonie Matshabane, Sarah Peter and Carlos da Fonseca.*



*THE CAPE TOWN CROWD ... Alumni and friends attending an alumni social in Cape Town were (front, from left) Martin van Tonder, Marinthea Snyman, Prof Jean Greyling, Ingrid Rathbone, Alla Boguslavsky, Bevani Chetty, (middle, from left) Ryan Hill, Ryan Gow, Juan Meyer, Cesare Castignani, Prof Andre Calitz, Marco Pretorius, Tony Simpson, Brendan van Zyl, Jared Leonard, (back, from left) Cornel Ferreira, Eugene Coetzee, Heinrich Havemann, Russel Kingwill, Bradley van Tonder and Eduard van Wyk.*



*NETWORKING ... Among those attending the Port Elizabeth Chapter jazz and cocktail evening were (from left) Felix Musukubili, Nazley Camish, Kagiso Lekang and Mandy Marinus. At this event, the Alumni Bench and Alumni House projects were promoted.*



*INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION ... Celebrating the Alumni Relations Offices' first international award for its online newsletter were (from left) Director of Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt, Alumni News Editor Liscka Hendricks and President of the Alumni Association Randall Jonas.*



# Where are they today?

## 1960s



**Prof Bert Olivier**  
(BA Arts 1965, Dip Secondary Teaching 1968, BA Hons 1970, MA 1971, DPhil Arts 1977) is a Research Professor at NMMU, and holds a Distinguished Professorship from the university.



**Moira Norden**  
(nee Hibbert) (BSc Computer Science & Maths 1971) works as a Computer and Financial Consultant for Executive Projects.

**Maynard Jacobus van der Merwe**

(BCom 1973 and CTA 1974) is the Director: Risk Management and Internal Audit for the University of Pretoria



**Bernard John Olivier**

(BCom 1975 and CTA 1976) is currently a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

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

**Cathy Albertyn** ▶  
(BA 1989) is currently the Group HR Director for Coca-Cola Sabco.



**David Powels**

(BCom CTA 1983) is currently the Managing Director of Volkswagen Group South Africa.

**Michael Ferreira** ▶  
(Dip. Marketing and Business Management 1986) is the Director: Marketing (North America & Canada) for Porsche, Bentley, Lamborghini & Bugatti and is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Andre Bain** (BSc QS 1982) is the owner of Bain & Heyns Quantity Surveyors & Project Managers.

**Edward Albert de Wet** ▶  
(BSc QS Hons 1981) is currently the Manager of Asset Management Services, Registered Tax Agent for Gray Robinson & Cottrell (PTY) Ltd.



**Pieter Pieterse** (BSc QS 1986) is the owner of Dream World Investments 206 (Pty) Ltd.

**Kevin Jonson** (BCom Computer Science 1989, Hons Computer Science 1992) is the owner of Systech Computing in Port Elizabeth.



**Kim Vermaak** (nee Keel), (Marketing Management 1993) is the owner of Belle Regalo, a corporate gift and clothing supplier.

**Shanaaz Mahomed** (nee Tiry), (BSc 1994, BJuris 1996, LLB 1998) is a partner at Spoor & Fisher.



**Elmari van de Merwe** (nee Ferreira) (NHDip Office Admin 1988, NHDip Post School Education 1990, Advanced Leadership Programme 2013) is the National Project Manager: Lotto Sport.

## 1980s

**Dr Franco Geminiani** ▶

(NDip Construction 1984, NHDip Construction 1985, MTech Construction Management 1998, DTech: Construction Management 2008) is the Head of Department of Building and Human Settlement Development at NMMU.



**Debra Gill** (nee Greyling) (BJuris and LLB 1988) is the Managing Director of Efficient Collective Investments.

**Prof Deon Raubenheimer** ▶

(BSc 1981, BSc Hons 1982, MSc 1985 and PhD 1990 Physics and Applied Maths) works for NMMU as a Professor of Physics.



**Ebenhaezer Jacobs** (BCom 1980) is the Managing Director for Boshoff Visser Employee Benefits (Pty) Ltd.

**Mark Woollgar** (BCom 1984, CTA 1985) is a partner at Adams Woollgar Financial Services LLC.



**Anthony Hawke** (MA Research Psychology 1986) is a specialist in Clinical Psychology at the Norwegian Family Counseling in Stavanger, Norway.

**Schoeman Botha** (BA Hons 1985), who is based in Stellenbosch, is a founder member and Private Client Advisor of PSG.

## 1990s

**Lawrence Motebele** (HDE 1999, BA Hons SA Literature 2000, MA SA Literature 2002, Labour Relations & HR Hons 2005) is the Coordinator: Graduate & Student Placement, Academic Engagement & Collaboration at NMMU.

**Tracy Hirst** (nee Geard), (BCom 1997) is the head of Direct and Private Clients for Allan Gray.

**Reyer Peter Meihuizen** (BSc Hons Computer Science 1995) is the Managing Director of Analyze Consulting Services.

**Alan Knott-Craig Jnr** ▶

(BCom Acc Hons 1999) is the CEO of an NGO called Project Isizwe, which is rolling out free Wi-Fi across Africa.



**Luvuyo Ishmael Booii** (BA 1998 and BMus Ed 2010) is an educator in the department of education at Nxanelwimfundo Junior Secondary in Motherwell.

# 1990s



**Janine Kim Myburgh** (BProc 1994) is the Managing Director of Myburgh Incorporated Attorneys

**Johan Landman** (BSc Hons Computer Science 1990) is employed at Gijima Holdings as the Business Manager of Infrastructure Support Services.



**Prof Madéle Tait** (nee Jacobs), (DCom 1996) is employed at NMMU as the Head of Department for Marketing Management.



**Jacques Pierre du Preez** (ND Civil Engineering 1997) is the Senior Systems and Desktop Administrator for the Department of Information Technology.



**Saadia Chapple** (nee Lagardien) (ND Analytical Chemistry 1991, MTech Chemistry 2007) is the head of Group Laboratory Services at Adcock Ingram Healthcare.

**Vusumzi Duma** (MA 1997) is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University of Fort Hare.



**Nkululeko Christopher Ndzengu**

(BA Law 1991 and LLB 1993) is the Senior Deputy Director/Regional Head: Eastern Cape Province for the Asset Forfeiture Unit (in the National Prosecution Authority of SA).

**Casey-Anne Isaacs** (nee Domingo) (Analytical Chemistry 1999 and BCom Acc 2008) is the Finance Manager for Axalta Plascon.

**Monwabisi Vumazonke** (BA Industrial/Organisational Psychology 1998) is the HR Operations Manager for Murray & Roberts Ltd in Johannesburg.



# 2000 - 2006

**Tenjiwe Martha Mzanywa** (NDip Human Resources Management 2001) is employed at the Department of Health: PE Hospital Complex as the Senior HR Practitioner.



**Chris Ettmayr** (MCom Economics 2002) is the Renewable Energy Sector Manager for the East London Industrial Development Zone.

**Zuko Mpondo** (ND Mechanical Eng 2003, BTech Quality 2008) is employed at Goodyear South Africa as the Staff Technical Engineer.



**Simthembile Pambuka** (MSc Biochemistry 2006, BTech Business Admin 2012) is the Senior Scientific Officer at the University of the Western Cape.



**Ruan Viljoen** (BCom Computer Science 2000) is the Vice President: Engineering for ACI Payment Systems.

**Phakama Qoboshiyana** (BTech Information Technology 2001) is employed at Standard Bank as an IT Project Manager.

**Siyabonga Gugu Nxiweni** (BCom 2001, BCom Hons 2002) is a partner at KPMG.



**Mandlenkosi Makeleni** (BTech Internal Auditing 2003) is the Credit Evaluation Manager: Business Banking for Standard Bank.

**Pelham Lessing** (MPhil Christian Studies 2003), is part of the academic staff at the South African Theological Seminary as well as a pastor at Crossover Community Church in Turffontein, Johannesburg.



**Pateka Momoza** (BTech Human Resources Management 2004) is employed at Bonoholdings (Pty) Ltd as the Group HR Manager.



**Zen Chetty** (BSc IT 2005) is employed at Volkswagen Group South Africa as the Technical SAP & Business Intelligence Supervisor.



**Nosiphiwe Zozo Tyatyaza** (nee Bango) (BCom Acc 2006) is a Senior Analyst for Vodacom.

**Madeleine Clare** (BA English and Psychology 2003) is the Faculty Librarian for Health Sciences and Music at NMMU.

**Zanozuko Magam** (ND Mech Eng 2001, BTech Quality 2008) is the Operations Manager for Transnet Engineering.

**Thembele Tsewu** (nee Ncana), (ND Commercial Administration 2003) is employed at NMMU as a departmental secretary.

**Vuyiwe Tsako** (nee Marambana) (MCom Labour Relations and HR 2006) is employed at the Ugu District Municipality as the Deputy Municipal Manager.



**Lukonga Lindunda** (BSc 2006) is the co-founder and Executive Director of BongoHive Technology and Innovation Hub.

**Stephen Chapple** (MTech Chemistry 2006) is a Senior Researcher for CSIR Polymers & Composites in Port Elizabeth.



**Mari Terblanche Landman** (MSc Computer Science & Information Systems 2006) is the Senior Business Analyst for Healthbridge.

**Dirk Kok** (MCom 2002) is Associate Director at The Cyst Corporation.

**Brendan van Zyl** (BSc Hons Computer Science 2005) is employed at ACI Worldwide, Cape Town in the payment-systems software department.



# 2007 - 2013



◀ **Unathi Mpoza** (BTech Quantity Surveying 2010) is the Candidate Quantity Surveyor for Eskom Holdings (SOC) Ltd.



◀ **Mhlali Portia Ntoni** (BTech Information Tech: Software Development 2012) works for EasyPay as the Junior Java Developer/ Database Administrator.



◀ **Enéz Nickall** (MSc Geology 2008) is the hydrogeologist for Knight Piésold Consulting.

▶ **Elana Hannington** (nee Carson) (LLB 2008) is an Associate at Norman, Wink & Stephens in Cape Town.



▶ **Brett Denton Harvey** (MTech Information Security 2007) is employed at Chameleon Information Management Services in Rickmansworth, UK as a senior technical support specialist.



▶ **Tracy Geraldine Beck** (MTech Cost and Management Accounting 2008) is employed at NMMU as a lecturer in the Department of Applied Accounting.



**Ryan Tebbutt Hill** (MCom Comp Sci & Information Systems 2009) is the Software Project Manager at Open Box Software.

**Andrew Knight** (PhD Botany 2008) is a Senior Lecturer at Imperial College, London and Editor-in-Chief of Conservation Letters.

**Sihle Cengimbo** (BCom 2009) is a Financial Manager at Standard Bank.

**Dr Klaudia Mund** (nee Jancosekova) (DTech Operations Management 2012) is the Lean Management Trainer for Lean Alliance GmbH in Germany.



◀ **Lincoln Lee Jansen** (BEd Intermediate Phase 2013) is based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia at the Advanced Generation School.



**Ntandokazi Mntuyedwa** (MA Development Studies 2013) is the Development Manager for the National Development Agency.

◀ **Yamkelani Ntsingila** (BCom Hons 2013) is employed at The South African Breweries (SAB) as a CA trainee.



◀ **Yoliswa Mqoboli** (BCom Hons Business Management 2011) is employed at the Johannesburg head office of PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. as the Reward Consultant.



▶ **Buntu Mjindi** (BCom 2010) is the Commercial Property Finance Specialist at First National Bank.



**Siyabonga Aggrey Makhangelana** (BTech Internal Auditing 2008) is working at Volkswagen South Africa (VWSA).

▶ **Sandra Pow Chong** (ND Journalism 2010) is Political Assistant to the DA Chief Whip for the Democratic Alliance, Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.



▶ **Tsitsi Ivyone** (nee Murewa) (BA Arts 2013) is employed at the Upper Room Ministries, as the Receptionist and Personal Assistant.



**Ryan Tebbutt Hill** (MCom Comp Sci & Information Systems 2009) is the Software Project Manager at Open Box Software.

**Athini Mziwabantu** (nee Mata) (BPharm 2012) is the Community Service Pharmacist at Ekombe District Hospital in KwaZulu Natal.

**Jonathan Mark Hoatson** (NDip Wood Tech, 2008) is the Director of Tekwani Sawmill in Mpumalanga.

**Philani Mnikathi** (NDip Forestry 2011) works for Sappi as a Harvesting Forester.



◀ **Dr Melissa Claire Gouws** (nee Schaefer) (DTech Chemistry 2008) is the General Laboratory and Quality Manager for InnoVenton at NMMU.

**Melvin Sandile Gwayi** (MA Public Admin 2011) is employed at the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development as the Environmental Affairs and Tourism Financial Administrator.

**Thembisile Glenrose Mkhize** (nee Ndwandwe) (BEd Hons 2012) is the Head of Department for the Department of Education at Mawombe High School.

**Eugene Nolan** (BSc Hons Microbiology 2011) works for Fresenius Kabi Manufacturing SA (Pty) Ltd as a microbiologist.



**Roxanne Jacobs** (nee Cornelius) (BCom Financial Planning 2008) is a Financial Planner at Standard Bank.

**Qukeza Sipesihle Mankahla** (BTech in Construction Management 2012) is the Project Coordinator for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in Gauteng.

▶ **Lesley Domingo** (BA Media, Communication and Culture 2010), is employed at the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber as the Events Coordinator.



▶ **Wendyll Coetzee** (ND Operations Management 2008) is employed at Welfit Oddy as the Production Superintendent.

**Roberto Brooks** (NDip Electrical Engineering 2013) is employed at Intersol as the Junior Electrical Designer.



◀ **Samantha Naicker** (nee Sebastian) (MA Counselling Psychology 2011) runs her own private practice and is also a lecturer at CTI Education Group, GM Foundation Project Coordinator of the Teacher Learner Care Project, an affiliate psychologist for ICAS and co-owner of training and development company, The Relation Shop.

**Tabo Langa** (BTech in Management 2013) is employed at Coega Development Corporation as an Intern in Quality Management.

**Justin Lotter** (NDip Industrial Engineering 2009) is a Production Engineer for BusinessPrint.



◀ **Karlien Estel Potgieter** (nee Swart) (Master of Architecture 2009) is a Professional Architect for BNM Architects.



◀ **Dr Antonio Fabbriani** (DPhil Human Rights and Politics 2010) is employed by the University of the Free State as a Research Associate in the Office of the Dean: Humanities.

**Sibulele Mtakati** (ND Electrical Engineering 2012) is a Designer Technician at Eskom.

**Mnqobi Zuma** (ND Forestry 2011) is Vice-Chairperson of the AgriSciences Student Association.

**Grant Atherton** (BTech Mechanical Engineering 2012) is employed at Lear EPMS, Port Elizabeth, as the Manufacturing Engineer.

**Dane Human** (BTech Industrial Engineering 2013) is employed at General Motors South Africa as a Production Supervisor.

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