

NEWS



Upcoming Events

Alumni & Joint Events

- UK London Social
15 August
- Alumni Achiever Awards
25 October
- Alumni Exec Breakfast
16 November

Alumni Exec Meetings

- 02 August
- 08 November

Reunions

- Tennis Reunion
12 October
- SRC Reunion
19 October
- Residence Reunion
29 November

NMMU Trust Legacy Events

- Pretoria Cocktail
19 July
- Bloemfontein Cocktail
10 August
- Gauteng Golf Day
07 September
- Pietermaritzburg Cocktail
20 September

New secure NMMU online alumni donation system Alumni donate on-line



GIVING BACK ... Vernon Naidoo, NMMU Alumni Association Treasurer, had the privilege of being the first NMMU Alumni Fund on-line donor and testing the new Alumni and friends on-line giving platform. Trust CEO Dr Garth van Gensen and Alumni Director Paul Geswindt were the second and third on-line donors.

ALUMNI, staff and friends of NMMU can now donate money to NMMU safely and with ease via the new on-line giving platform.

Director: Alumni Relations, Paul Geswindt, said that they have developed the Alumni Relations function over the past two years and promoted various roles

alumni can play including giving back to their alma mater in cash and kind.

“It is our responsibility to ensure that we develop systems that will ensure ease of

giving back and acknowledge and record such donations.”

The GivenGain on-line donation platform used by NMMU is a cost effective way for

alumni locally and internationally to donate money to their alma mater.

Information about alumni, NMMU and the various projects that require funding can be found on our

website. Please visit <http://nmmualumni.givengain.org> to make your donation. The link can also be found on the alumni website <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>.

“It is our responsibility to ensure that we develop systems that will ensure ease of giving back ...”

NMMU welcomes new Association

ON 21 May 2012 members present at the Annual General Meetings of Convocation and the Alumni Association unanimously adopted a constitution for a new Alumni Association structure.

At the 23 May 2011 annual meetings of Convocation and the Alumni Association both structures unanimously supported the establishment of a single structure mainly due to unnecessary duplication of goals.

There was also a need for a focused strategy to target member categories to support the University.

The Registrar and Director: Alumni Relations were requested to work with a Convocation Committee to submit a draft constitution for discussion and approval at the 2011 meeting.

The members believe that the establishment of an inclusive single Alumni Association structure can only benefit a new generation university like NMMU.

The duplication of administrative support, programmes and activities will be avoided and members will receive communication from a single structure. An extensive consultation process was followed in drafting and



WELCOMED OPENLY ... Alumni Association President, Randall Jonas and NMMU Registrar Hugo Grimbeek were very involved with finalizing the constitution for the new Alumni Association Structure.

finalising the new constitution.

Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt says that the new structure elects members to serve on Council and the Institutional Forum and includes new categories of members that were formerly part of Convocation. Alumni are normally the biggest and only permanent stakeholder of a university and can play a meaningful role in advancing the interests of its alma mater.

With more than 80 000 alumni around the world, NMMU alumni can help the institution grow in its many endeavours.



Note from the editor

GREETINGS from Alumni Relations, many exciting things are happening in and around our office.

Four successful Alumni events and socials have taken place and a new constitution was adopted for a new Alumni Association structure.

Please keep an eye on our:

- ◆ new website
- ◆ Facebook page
- ◆ free application fee benefit for alumni and their children
- ◆ upcoming events, nationally and internationally to be a part

of the growing alumni family.

In this edition you will find:

- ◆ Up-to-date alumni news and happenings
- ◆ Alumni success stories
- ◆ Alumni event gallery
- ◆ University shop events

Have you updated your details? We would love to stay in touch with you.

We are proud of our alumni who keep the NMMU flag flying high. Warm regards
Liscka Hendricks



Alumni Relations

Connect & stay in touch...

Liscka Hendricks @ 041 504 3935 (f) 041 504 1417
alumni@nmmu.ac.za

or visit our website @ <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>

& Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/NMMU-Alumni-incl-ex-PE-Technikon-ex-UPE-old-students/104106786333440>

University Shop @ Sanlam Student Village

Baakier Abrahams @ 041 504 4371
(f) 041 504 1851

shop@nmmu.ac.za or

visit our website @ www.nmmu.ac.za/shop

Missionvale University Shop

@ 041 504 1369

shopmv@nmmu.ac.za

Alumnus paves his way to success

FORMER Mr South Africa finalist and BCom Law graduate Bennum Van Jaarsveld is now Communications Manager at one of South Africa's top paint companies.

Although pure luck played into his hands, hard work, dedication, passion and experience within the media field played a major role in his appointment.

"I started out as brand manager at Dulux and because there was an identifiable need for one person to take charge of the entire media and communications function, my experience regarding the media and advertising strategy allowed me the opportunity to head this new challenge - building the company image across all media platforms."

Bennum graduated from the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) in 1996 with a BCom Law degree and has since held a variety of positions across many career platforms.

Some of his noteworthy achievements include starting his own business called Ukubamba Consulting, specialising in marketing, advertising and promotions, being a category winner in Businessman Of The Year 2009, Top 5 Finalist: Mr South Africa 2009 and Chairman of Femrock Body Corporate since 2004.

He still works as an MC and does occasional modeling jobs.

Looking back on his varsity years, Bennum recalls this to be one of the most daunting adjustments in his life but an integral part in shaping him for his future.

"I soon found my groove. Staff and lecturers added that special community feel to my experience at UPE which was such an important stepping stone in my prepa-



COLOURFUL PICTURE ... NMMU BCom graduate and alumnus Bennum Van Jaarsveld is now the Communications Manager at one of South Africa's top paint companies.

ration and development."

Bennum was a member of the then University of Port Elizabeth's Student Representative Council (SRC), where events like RAG and raft building were highlights. Then there were the coffee, doughnut and slap chips dates that made student life so memorable.

He says his degree helped him mould his career to what he is today.

"It has played an integral part in discovering my true passions and strengths. With my BCom Law degree I can apply my legal knowledge in everyday life. Nothing is ever wasted."

Bennum's "never a dull moment" life-

style is attributed to making what you want happen and not just waiting for it to happen.

His advice to others ...

"Believe in yourself, try all avenues but find your niche and hone in on it, up-skill in the areas where you lack but focus on your talents, strengths, natural abilities and have fun."

With my BCom Law degree I can apply my legal knowledge in my career but in everyday life too, so nothing is ever wasted...



5227 graduates join alumni family



Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University awarded 5227 diplomas and degrees at its 13 graduation ceremonies during April. Of these, 60 doctoral degrees were awarded. Honorary doctoral degrees were awarded to Ethiopian Episcopal Church Bishop and activist Reverend Malusi Mpumlwana, educationalist Catherine Odora Hoppers, human rights activist and Greenpeace Executive Director Kumi Naidoo and world-renowned paleoanthropologist Phillip Tobias (not in picture), who died this month. NMMU Chancellor, Santie Botha, Judge Ronnie Pillay and Vice Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz are pictured here with them.

Social work graduate's long wait finally over

AFTER 14 years, a Port Elizabeth woman graduated with a social work degree.

Nozuko Monde, 37, of Zwide, who now works as a social worker at the Child and Family Welfare Society in Uitenhage, says her journey to success had not been an easy one.

Monde, passed grade 12 in 1994 with university exemption but had to wait more than a decade before enrolling to pursue her dream.

"I could not further my studies after Grade 12 because no one was working at home. I didn't know about bursaries."

Monde's father died when she was 10, while her mother earned a mere R62 a month to support their family. To help her

family, Monde worked as a shop teller and then helped her mother run a crèche at their village. She then received training and a certificate in early childhood development.

While helping Grade R pupils at Zanolwazi Primary School, she was encouraged by principal Norman Fumba to follow a career in social work.

Fumba and his wife Nolundi, who works at NMMU's examination department, assisted her in applying for a bursary that covered her registration and tuition fees.

"I was very excited when I received a letter from NMMU saying I should come and register for my degree because at home no one is a graduate."

Disaster struck between 2001 and 2008 when she lost her older sister, brother, mother, aunt and cousin, and found herself caring for four children who are not her own.



FINALLY ... Nozuko Monde from Zwide finally graduated from NMMU with her social work degree after waiting 14 years to pursue her dream.

"There were so many ups and downs. If it wasn't for the church I don't know where I would be," she said.

“There were so many ups and downs, if it wasn't for the church I don't know where I would be...”

Winner receives Masters degree

IN 2007 he received the Sepp Blatter Scholarship, was the first person to complete the FIFA/CIES certificate offered at ten universities worldwide, graduated with distinction from the FIFA Master Class in Switzerland, and completed a year-long internship at FIFA in Zurich.

Today, Solomon Mudege, 30, is recipient of a master's degree cum laude in Human Movement Sciences from NMMU.

The Zimbabwean-born student completed his BCom in Sport and Recreation Management and a BCom honours degree in Business Management at NMMU and then went on to graduate top of the class in the FIFA/CIES/NMMU certificate in Sport Management programme in 2008. He now works for FIFA as its Marketing Alliances Manager.

"I hope that my journey from NMMU to FIFA provides further evidence of the positive impact of the numerous programmes and partnerships that FIFA has established worldwide. I am also indebted to the



CELEBRATIONS ... Solomon Mudege, the recipient of the Sepp Blatter Scholarship in 2007 graduated with his Masters degree in Human Movement Sciences from NMMU.

opportunities and international linkages that are available at NMMU," says Solomon.

Alumnus beats great odds to succeed



MTECH Biomedical Technology graduate Siphokazi Tili overcame great odds to graduate in April.

Tili, who lost her mother, grandfather and grandmother, during her study period starting in 2006 was left caring for a toddler and siblings, during which time she also married and had another baby.

This set her back by nine months of research but she continued to pray and persevered.

"My mother's words were education is the key and I realized that I was a role model to my children," she said.

As a result, she worked at night and through holidays to beat various deadlines.

"Success does not come easy, there will always be distractions, losses and obstacles that cause you to lose focus."

Tili is an Associate Lecturer in the Biomed, Biomedical Tech & Radiography department at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

News Briefs

Audi scores with BCom boss

BCOM graduate Johan de Nysschen, has been appointed as the new the senior vice president of Nissan at Infiniti Worldwide in Hong Kong.

De Nysschen, worked as president of Audi in America, and was also at the forefront of turning Audi into a top luxury brand that is now mentioned in the same breath as BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

South Africa's top student

BCOM Hons graduate Martin Marx obtained the highest mark in the national Financial Planning board examinations beating 650 others to be named South Africa's top student.

Marx, a financial planner, completed his postgraduate diploma in financial planning cum laude in 2011 before sitting for the grueling four-and-a-half-hour annual Certified Financial Planner examinations late last year.

He obtained 83%, while more than a third of the students failed the examination. He is currently working for Persisto Bluestar Financial Services in Port Elizabeth.

Alumnus runs Comrades

NMMU professor and 16-time Comrades Marathon participant, Sylvan Blignaut, will contribute sponsorships from his last run to his former high school.

Blignaut accepted donations and sponsorships ahead of the Comrades event – the proceeds of which will be given to his alma mater, Gelvandale High School which is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

He completed his 16th Comrades Marathon and finished 1272 in his category and his overall position being 10074.

The education faculty professor has been attached to over 30 different marathons around the country to date.

MADE IT ... Siphokazi Tili, graduated with her MTech Biomedical Technology degree.

NMMU ALUMNI RISING STAR AWARDS



2011 ACHIEVERS ... NMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz and Alumni Achiever Leon Crouse, current Chief Financial Officer at Remgro Ltd and also a NMMU Trust trustee at last year's awards ceremony.

IN 2010 the Alumni Association introduced the NMMU Alumni Achiever Awards to recognise alumni (graduates and diplomates) who have gone the distance and beyond in their specialist fields, to the benefit of society at local, provincial, national and international levels.

This year, a new category will be added, the Rising Star Awards.

The purpose of this award is to recognise alumni (graduates and diplomates), aged 45 years old or younger, who have made great progress in their career fields or made significant contributions to any other area such as community development, nature conservation, sport, arts and culture and show great promise to make even greater future contributions in any of those areas.

Nominations are currently open for candidates for both the Alumni Achiever Awards as well as the Alumni Rising Star Awards. Closing date for nominations are Wednesday 25 July 2012.

More information and nomination documents are available on the alumni website main page www.alumni.nmmu.ac.za.

Our office can also be contacted on +27 41 504 3935 or email alumni@nmmu.ac.za.



ARTISTIC ALUMNI ... NMMU's Robert Pearce and Alan Zinn (pic 1) were among the attendees of the art exhibition. Michael Barry (from left) with Marilyn Barry, Este van der Merwe and Evert Knoesen (pic 2) enjoyed the art exhibition, "Expressions 2012" hosted by Art Gallery in Central. 15 of the artists are alumni of NMMU.

Alumni social success

CLOSE to 100 alumni and friends attended the Johannesburg Alumni Chapter social recently.

The event was held at the Johannesburg Country Club and gave alumni the opportunity to network, build friendships and be kept updated on the Alumni Relations Office.

The Johannesburg social forms part of the many other social events that have taken place nationally to bring about awareness surrounding the Alumni Relations Office and its functioning as well as benefits for alumni and their children.

Alumni are also informed about developments at NMMU and how they can contribute to their *alma mater*.

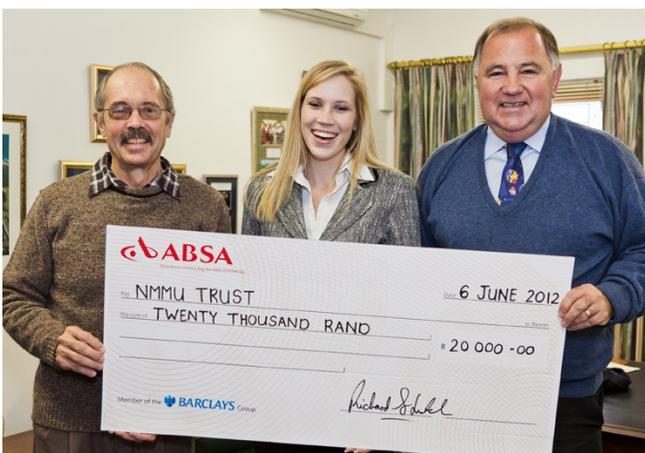
The Computer Science Department was part of the Johannesburg Alumni programme and informed guests about its achievements and programme. Professor Janet Wesson and Charmain Cilliers represented the department.



ATTENDED ... Alumni who attended the Johannesburg Alumni Chapter Social were Chris Khonkwane (from left) and Desmond Linder.



YOUNG ALUMNI ... Faith Kobo (back, from left), Siya Mbolekwa, Jono Dicks, Janet Sharp, Baakier Abrahams, Walter Masekoameng (front, from left), Jess Clarke and Mxolisi Nhlapo, attended an Alumni Dinner held recently in Johannesburg. The aim of the dinner was to create awareness surrounding alumni and to start building relationships with the younger alumni of NMMU.



DONATIONS ... Dr Richard Stretch (far left) from the Sport Bureau hands over a cheque to NMMU Trust Legacies Director, Prof Kotie Grove and Sheree van Rooyen. The donation is in support of the legacy programmes for bursaries for cricket, rugby, hockey, athletics and soccer legacy.

DONATE ... NMMU Trust recently held their Annual Trust Luncheon which aims at thanking current donors and inviting potential donors to support NMMU. Present at the luncheon were Kevin Hustler (from left), Nozipho January-Bardill (new trustee), Dr Garth van Gensen (Trust CEO), Dr Xolani Mkhwanazi (Trust Chairman), Mark Muller.

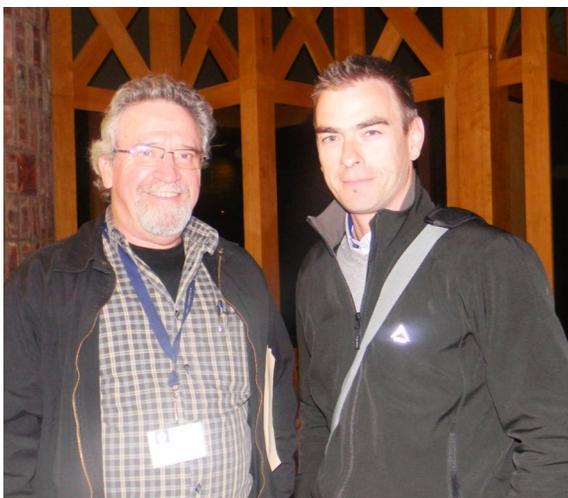


KEPT ENTERTAINED ... Director: Alumni Relations Paul Geswindt along with alumni Kerryn Lloyd, Max Mfazwe and Leonie Beckett enjoyed the Jazz Concert held at NMMU recently featuring Cape Town Jazz Vocalist Jazz Vocalist Melanie Scholtz in concert with The John Edwards Quartet.

JAZZ FANS ... Alumni Mapaseka Adel Klaas and Manelisi Klaas attended the Jazz event hosted by the Department of Music recently.



ALUMNI RE-UNITE ... Nearly 100 alumni and friends gathered at the Johannesburg Country Club recently to attend an NMMU Alumni Johannesburg social. Among those who attended were: Nkhen Sani Zitha (back, front left), Kwhezi Blose, Zuko Ncemane and SonwabileXwayi, Thobeka Tubela (front, from left), Ncumisa Kepe-Mahlalutye, Nwabisa Klaas and Celeka Dlali-Bixa (photo 1), John Coetzee and Sandy Degroeve (photo 2) and Nathan Harris, Charmain Cilliers, Marian Wagener and Janet Wesson (photo 3). Cilliers and Wesson represented the NMMU Computer Science Department.



AGM ATTENDEES ... Attending the Alumni AGM and Convocation meetings were Danie Venter, Director: Unit of Statical Consultation and alumnus Hubert Sieg.

NEW ASSOCIATION ... PE Alumni Chapter member Thembisa Ngxale and Alumni Executive member and Ambassador Elmari van de Merwe attended the recent Convocation and Alumni AGM.



JOYFUL CELEBRATIONS ... Some of the 2012 graduate who expressed their happiness on their graduation ceremonies were Khanyisa Fondini (from left), Dane Schaffer and Shabeerah Ramkhlawon (photo 1), Liesl Van Niekerk (from left) and Leze Hurter (photo 2) and Mulo Mufamadi (from left), Angel Shozi and Mariska De Lange (photo 3).

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

