

routes

Alumni Newsletter



Nelson Mandela
Metropolitan
University

for tomorrow

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Bright future

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for NMMU

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Staying connected

WELCOME to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's third edition of *Routes*. Yes, we're that young but know that many of you have connections stretching back as many as four decades, like the students-turned-academics who have never left us. Or, the PR and photographic graduates whose very jobs ensure they remain in touch with each other and often their alma mater too.

We know that NMMU has a bright future. We've a new leader and a new focus. Our student numbers are growing (now 24 000, of whom about 10 per cent are international students), along with our research and commitment to serve society.

We consider you, as one of our 60 000 alumni, to be part of this bright future.

Routes editor: Debbie Derry

Message from NMMU Alumni Relations Office

ALUMNI are often referred to as the only "permanent stakeholder" of a university. Management, staff and external stakeholders change, but alumni remain connected for life. Whether or not you have a great affinity toward your alma mater, there will always be a connection in a database, on a CV, in a picture or a certificate proudly displayed on a wall.

The greatest of all these connections are the experiences - the friendships, knowledge and skills gained during your time at university.

The Alumni Relations Office at NMMU is in its infancy, but we want to get the relationship principles right. Alumni must continue to contribute in the development of an even greater NMMU so that we can all benefit from our relationship. As alumni we must be proud of the achievements of our alma mater and our alma mater must celebrate and benefit from the achievements of alumni.

We have an alumni base operating from the ABSA Alumni Centre on North Campus in Port Elizabeth. The office deals with all sorts of alumni enquiries including information updates, academic records, postgraduate studies and even venue bookings. With more than 60 000 alumni, there is much to be done.



▲ Paul Geswindt

Another alumni project, the University Shop, continues to be a great brand promotion tool with increased sales and our Student Alumni Society is growing its numbers and projects. Internally, we are forming partnerships with academic departments, the Office for International Education, the NMMU Sport Bureau and the NMMU Trust.

We have introduced a career portal to help you find that perfect job. We have set up chapters in East London and London and are working on other

SA and international chapters. Alumni are involved in the NMMU Vision 2020 strategic planning process and participated in the Higher Education Quality Committee audit of NMMU.

Having secured financial support from Council, we are able to increase our newsletter's print run, to update our databases, develop marketing and brand material, increase the number of relationship-building events and kick-start projects to add value for NMMU.

Nationally, our vision for alumni relations and projects has also been recognised. NMMU is chairing the first elected executive of the Southern African Higher Education Alumni Consortium and will host the 2009 AGM and conference. We need alumni who are interested in building a great NMMU alumni network locally and globally to come forward and share their support. Your ideas and contributions are always welcome. Feel free to contact me.

May you all continue to prosper and be great NMMU ambassadors.

Warm regards

Paul

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Contact us



Santosh Ramadu is NMMU's new Alumni Relations Officer.

We want to hear from you!
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Dates to diarise

February: PE alumni event
March: George & Cape Town alumni events
15 - 24 April: Graduation 2009 dates – welcoming of new alumni
27 May: Alumni & Convocation AGM
June: Johannesburg alumni event
July: London alumni event
August: East London alumni event
November: Alumni executive breakfast

The exact dates for the gatherings will be advertised on the alumni website and in local media closer to the time.



▲ FONDFAREWELL... NMMU Alumni Association president Randall Jonas wishes alumni stalwart Beverley Erickson well after 20 years of service on the alumni executive committee. Bev (NDip PR 1986) is the electronic communication manager at NMMU.

Meet the man at the top

Swartz' arrival ushers in a new era

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University has a new leader whose drive, values and his commitment to transformation have already made a positive impact within, and well beyond the university.

Prof Derrick Swartz, 48, who was inaugurated as the new vice-chancellor in April, has brought to the university a fresh impetus and new direction. His arrival also effectively ends the merger period when the former University of Port Elizabeth, PE Technikon and the Port Elizabeth campus of Vista were brought together to form the new NMMU in 2005.

Prof Swartz at a glance

Background: Originally from Port Elizabeth where he was a high school teacher, a community activist and civil society leader during the 1980s, until he went into exile in the United Kingdom in 1987.

Qualifications: BA degree from the University of the Western Cape, MA and PhD degrees in sociology from Essex University; and in 2008 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Human Rights Law from Essex University;

Career: Joined University of Fort Hare in 1995 and started the Fort Hare Institute of Government turning it into a leading public management institute. He secured major funding for the university. He rose through the ranks to become Vice-Chancellor in 1999 and served in that capacity until 2007.

His desire to make a difference was made clear during his inaugural speech when he highlighted the need to bring into focus the role of the university in empowering, through education, poorer and marginalised communities to gain access to higher education, and giving high quality education to students from all walks of all life wishing to build their dreams at NMMU.

"I am hopeful that we will hold ourselves to the promise of truly serving all our people to the best of our abilities, so that they can see their hopes, their dreams and their finest aspirations realised in what we do," said Prof Swartz.

His appointment has been well received, with everyone from the province's former premier to his colleagues in higher education applauding the solid values, foresight and experience he brings to the role of leading NMMU into a new era.

It's a hands-on approach that has seen him actively seek out the opinion of others, within and outside of the university, in order to get a better idea for plotting the way forward for NMMU.

This process has now been formalised into Vision 2020, a project to plot the long-term sustainability of NMMU (see page 9).

At his inauguration Prof Swartz highlighted his hopes of improving research, elevating the status of teaching and of expanding community engagement so that what is achieved



▲ NMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz.

"I am hopeful that we will hold ourselves to the promise of truly serving all our people to the best of our abilities ..."

within the university benefits those living and working beyond its gates.

Other challenges included defining NMMU's academic purpose, its sustainability, its social responsiveness

and transformation objectives.

During his first year he has been involved in a number of initiatives to this end, including round-table discussions with business and civic leaders, supporting local arts and culture, introducing a new Public Lectures series, the formation of a new Institute for the Study of Non-Racialism and Democracy, embarking on a new fundraising drive for the university and supporting students and staff in making NMMU the institution of first choice.

Message from the VC

GREETINGS to all our alumni! It gives me great pleasure to invite you to read *Routes*, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's newsletter dedicated to our many alumni throughout the world.

NMMU is about making a difference; making a difference in the lives of all our diverse communities and individuals who want to build a better world. Our core business is education – the production and distribution of knowledge through teaching, research and engagement – with the aim of improving the quality of life, contributing to the economy and society, and self-actualisation; in other words, making a difference in your life.

Established in 2005, NMMU boasts six campuses (five in Nelson Mandela Bay and one in George), over 24 000 students and well over 3 000 staff

members. We offer cutting edge qualifications right across the knowledge spectrum – from classical training in humanities and arts, music and design, architecture and computer science, pharmacy and nursing, business studies, tourism and engineering sciences – to be a truly comprehensive university. We aim at giving our students the highest quality education to help them to become full and effective citizens in the world of tomorrow.

We call upon our alumni – those generations who were supported by others before them – to plough back into NMMU; to give back in order to help the next generation. Through your contribution to our Alumni Fund, you can make a huge difference in the life of someone, in fact, change his or her destiny forever. Remember that any contribution

makes a difference, no matter how modest you might perceive this to be. The great philanthropic societies of America – such as the Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie Foundations who today support millions of students in that country to gain university education – all started with a "giving back" campaign led by John Rockefeller, Henry Ford and Andrew Carnegie.

You can begin our very own philanthropic tradition at NMMU today.

Warm regards

Derrick Swartz
Vice-Chancellor

The students who never left ...

NMMU can't be a bad place to study or work if the feedback of close to 40 academics, who studied at the former NMMU institutions and with a service record of more than 20 years with the university, are still here today. Here's news from some of them:



▲ **OLD GUARD ...** Among those who studied and are still working at NMMU are (from left) **Prof Chris Hoelsen, Prof Frans Bezuidenhout, Dr Otto Terblanche, Theresa Hardman, Prof Derek du Preez, Prof Miemie Struwig, Prof Nico Groenewald, Pierre de Wet and Prof Jannie Neethling.**

Prof Janet Wesson (BCom Hons Computer Science 1979; MCom 1981) is now HoD Computer Science & Information Systems.

Prof Wesson is "BPC", since she studied Computer Science prior to PCs and had to submit her programmes using card readers.

"We would go for coffee and come back two hours later to see our results. Our current students get frustrated if their Internet access is slow! Also, I remember when male students had to wear ties to write tests in the evening; now we are lucky if they wear shoes!"

Prof Paul Webb (BSc Zoology Hons; MSc) is Director of the Faculty of Education's Research, Technology and Innovation Unit.

Prof Webb who started the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (SMATE) well remembers working in Bird Street and the friendships he formed there. One friend, Dr Paddy Lynch, a retired professor from Australia marvelled at the lifestyle. "Paul, you know, PE really is the friendly city! When I walk to Westees (in Western Road) at lunchtime many of the young ladies smile and greet me. They are so nice!" And he meant it.

Prof Andre Venter (BSc, BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD) is an Associate Professor in Physics.

Prof Venter well remembers the fuss of his "diamond-smuggling" PhD project. He had developed a system for growing thin diamond layers to be used primarily in electronic applications. Soon after assembling the growth reactor, diamond layers were successfully deposited (grown) on silicon substrates.

At the time, it was considered the first successful effort of its kind reported in South Africa. Methane and hydrogen were used as the growth precursors. However, news that diamonds had been grown successfully in a laboratory at the then UPE was grossly misinterpreted. The press release accompanied a scanning electron microscope photo of the diamond layer revealing a huge particle, which in actual fact were only a millionth of a metre in size.

The diamond smuggling unit of the SA police, not realising the minute size of these particles, arrived at the lab the next morning

wanting to know if we had a license to manufacture and deal in diamonds!

Dr Hilda Thomas (MA French 1974) HoD French, German and Classics.

"The first year I was a junior lecturer I had to invigilate at what is now Nelson Mandela Bay Art Museum. As I walked in one of the other invigilators told me to take a seat at a desk and make sure I was in the correct row. Unfortunately, I now do that to younger lecturers myself."

"I remember when male students had to wear ties to write tests in the evening; now we are lucky if they wear shoes."

Prof Miemie Struwig – Director of the School of Management Sciences.

Prof Struwig remembers that Building 35 opened during her time as a student. "We used to call it the Hypermarket as it was so far away from the other buildings then."

Prof Struwig who started her working career at Vista University (today's Missionvale Campus) as a junior lecturer, served on the SRC during the turbulent early 1980s. "I remember the first time I entered floor 18 to have talks with the VC as a student. It was quite a frightening experience. I still laugh at it today – that I could be so scared of professors."

Dr Gideon Rossouw (PhD) Acting head Zoology Department.

Zoology legend Dr Rossouw says he has many fond memories of NMMU but his proudest was when his son obtained

BSc Hons *cum laude* last year. "My special memories are all my zoology students of the past 31 years and the field excursions."

Sue Petratos – Senior Lecturer Applied Informatics.

Sue well remembers the days when courses were offered in English and Afrikaans and when she was a young lecturer – just four years older than some of her students. "I got a wolf whistle on my first day at work from a student who was walking behind me. He spent the rest of the session with his face buried in his hands."

Prof Jan Neethling – Physics.

Prof Neethling who is involved in nuclear research remembers being called "old side show" by his fellow student while doing his PhD because the then HoD of Physics often posed next to the electron microscope with him sitting behind the instrument and looking through the viewing screen.

"Man they don't work in the mornings and in the afternoons they're not there"

Theresa Hardman (BBldg Arts 1984, BArch 1986, MArch, 1992) – Senior Lecturer in Architecture.

Theresa started off as a part-time studio assistant and now, as a senior lecturer, is completing a DPhil – this after being told by a male colleague that she'd never get her master's completed.

"It's weird that people who were my lecturers once are now my colleagues!" said Theresa who married her student love, Mark, who is also an NMMU staff

member.

"I think the most amazing thing has been the students, some of whom I am still in contact with even though they are spread across the globe."

Jonty Hansford (NDip Art and Design - Graphic Design 1973) - Senior Lecturer in Photography.

"I have dozens of funny and memorable moments from my almost 33 years here. Many of the more colourful ones will, however, possibly get me into trouble if I divulge them. But the annual ritual of initiation of the first years and the subsequent presentation of a 'token' gift to the then rector, SD van der Merwe will always remain with me."

Prof Nico Groenewald (BSc 1969, MSc 1971) – Professor in Mathematics.

Prof Groenewald recalled the presence of Oom Sample who was in charge of cleaning and maintenance at the Bird Street Campus in the 1970s. His stock response whenever someone was looking for someone in the Maths Department: "Man they don't work in the mornings and in the afternoons they're not there."

Prof Japie Engelbrecht – HoD Physics.

Young Japie joined the former UPE in 1966 when there were only five subjects from which to choose.

One of this favourite stories (though not in the Science Faculty) was that of a lecturer who forgot to zip his pants. As the class squirmed in their seats, the lecturer noticing their unrest commented: "Daar is 'n lelke ding wat sy kop uitsteek hier in die klas".

And then there were the philosophy of science lectures during which one very boring lecturer told a weak joke.

They're still here today



▲ **Dr Gideon Rossouw**
(from page 4)

Unbeknown to him some unknown prankster had written in white chalk "don't feed the lecturer".

Prof Derek du Preez – Director of the School of Environmental Sciences.

"When I first started at UPE it was as an MSc student. One PhD student was very keen that I help her with what she was doing because she thought that I already had a PhD – my initials are DR and she thought I was Dr Du Preez. She was not very happy to find out that she was being helped (very successfully) by someone junior to her!"

Pierre de Wet (MSc 1987) – Lecturer in Anatomy.

Pierre is the longest-served staff member in the Pharmacy Department and well remembers moving "just about my whole lab" from Russell Road to North Campus (the old PE Technikon) bit by bit. Then there was a caretaker who wooed the pharmacy students to concoct peppermint liqueur for him and the mad scramble to find documentation to prove that he qualified for his 35-year long-service award.

Prof Frans Bezuidenhout – Professor in Group Dynamics.

"Just before my first 'walk' in the academic procession as a newly-appointed junior lecturer, an ex-professor of my undergraduate years in whose subject I did not do well, mentioned that this was the place of academics and that I should sit in the audience. I have never mentioned this incident to anyone before, but this lesson will always remain with me. I still am not sure if I have made the grade."

Di Ayliff (BAHons 1982) – HoD Applied Language Studies.

"I remember a sense of new-found openness and joy when the university began to transform from a solidly conservative institution, to one which welcomed all races. The sea of white faces I had been teaching began to change to a warm kaleidoscope of colours."



▲ **Jonty Hansford**

Other alumni you'll remember and who have never left:

Danie Venter (BSc Hons 1984, MSc 2005) started at the former UPE in 1981 and is now lecturing in the Department of Statistics.

Prof Ilse Truter started as a BCom student in 1983 and has since acquired seven degrees. She is in the Pharmacy Department.

Dr Otto Terblanche (MA 1974, DPhil 1993) started out as a history lecturer at the old UPE in 1976 and is still in the same department as a senior lecturer in history.

"The sea of white faces I had been teaching began to change to a warm kaleidoscope of colours."

Prof Henk Pauw – (BA Honours, MA and DPhil 1987) has been a staff member since 1973. He now heads the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.



▲ **Prof Paul Webb**



▲ **Prof Andre Venter**



▲ **Prof Janet Wesson**



▲ **Prof Ilse Truter**



▲ **Prof Andrew Leitch**

Prof Iona Wannenburg (Nursing) went through the ranks from lecturer through to full professor, adding that this particular period had been her "happiest" years at the university.

Prof Andrew Leitch who studied at the former UPE from 1975 to 1983, and started working on 1 January 1982, is now Faculty of Science Dean.

Prof Bert Olivier who studied at the former UPE in the late 1960s has been working at the institution in the Philosophy Department since October 1970.

Prof Eileen Campbell (BSc Hons 1983) started working at UPE after finishing her PhD and has lectured at the institution ever since.

Prof Andre Calitz. "I started studying

here in 1978 and working in 1982. I now have my own UPE/NMMU barcode on my arm!"

Dr Lynn Slogrove, who is a senior lecturer & sport psychologist (HMS), completed her BA Hons (Phys Ed) degree in 1979, the same year she started lecturing. Since then she has completed her MA and DPhil in Psychology and MA in Counselling Psychology.

Marinda Roux (BCur letA) started lecturing in April 1985 and went on to complete her MCur and was a lecturer at the date of her retirement. She's now back at NMMU on contract.

Prof Chris Hoelsen (DPhil Clinical Psychology 1982) worked his way up from a tutor and part-time lecturer to that of professor in the Psychology Department.

Christo's still climbing NMMU's ladder

NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic **Professor**

Christo van Loggerenberg epitomises what it's like to climb the higher education institution's ladder.

In 1970, the young Van Loggerenberg enrolled at the former University of Port Elizabeth as a first year law student. After graduating, he was immediately appointed as a lecturer in Law. He continued studying towards his LLB while lecturing and finished it in 1975. He eventually became a professor, then the youngest-ever dean of a faculty at UPE and was the dean until his appointment as deputy vice-chancellor. This probably makes him UPE's longest-running dean, and now he's the deputy vice-chancellor.

Like so many of his colleagues, he has never left the university.

LEGACY CONTINUES ... NMMU Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Christo van Loggerenberg caps his son Conrad at graduation, 38 years after he joined the university as a first-year law student. ▶



An alumnus's personal story of reconciliation

The importance of saying sorry

By Pitout Horn:
(BSc 1976)

1972 – 1976 were some big years in my life. 1969 saw Armstrong set foot on the moon; 1970 saw me finish matric; in 1971 I did compulsory foot-stomping in the army and in 1972 I enrolled at UPE as a BSc student.

Life at varsity was one highlight. Initiation of us first-years entailed doing hilariously funny stuff - such as our night at the movies. Guys and girls were paired off so that the shortest guys escorted the tallest girls and vice versa. We had to dress up in our Sunday best which, in those days implied suit and tie for the guys, and church dresses with hats for our partners. The guys had to go without shirts and socks though, and had to drag along suitcases containing small change for sound effects. Transport was by bus and we were all herded into the 20th Century in Strand Street for a Sammy Davis Jnr movie. With a suitcase on your lap and church hats blocking the screen, the movie was a lost cause. At interval the guys were marched to the

nearest café for half a loaf of bread, and one raw carrot but, no beverages. Above the din of carrot chomping, loose change clanging, and laughter, old Sammy stood no chance whatsoever.

Other memorable moments were the Everything-that-floats-events, especially the

event; the Friday evening all-nighters to finish our motorised floats for the procession through town; the touch rugby played before supper; the weekend that a few of us carried a car into the dining room or the weekend that we stripped someone's bicycle down to some 1500 parts. It



▲ *Pitout Horn as he was and is today*

year that the NSRI had to bail us out just south of China following a strong westerly; Intervarsities against Rhodes, especially the year four of us slept in the very spacious Mini of roommate Jacques; the year Unitas and Veritas got married and had their first-born Babytas (represented by the hairiest guy on campus in just a diaper) christened in a very pompous

was fun and games yes, but there was discipline too – a tie and jacket dress code, a hair code for my mates studying Law, and during the evenings a study silence curfew was upheld, except from 22h00 - 22h30 when it was coffee time and the pranks would continue.

After all this fun came 1976 – my year of anger. It was my final year at UPE and,

according to instructions, I left my bedding on the bed as I vacated residence for the last time. Then came a "Dear Sir, we regret to inform you that you have forfeited your R20 deposit for failing to hand in your bedding" (A fortune then – a CSIR bursary of "just" R600 paid for all class and residence fees, books, petrol and pocket money). I was innocent and felt aggrieved. A letter of appeal and protest followed, to no avail. I lost my R20.

1976 became the year "the system" treated me unfairly. 1976 was also the year that others somewhere remotely protested against an unfair system. That year Hector Pietersen forfeited his life, I forfeited my R20.

The years moved on. I taught Physical Science and Mathematics for some eight years before being headhunted by the CSIR, a research organisation where I am still employed. My eldest daughter Seugnet enrolled in Human Movement Science and I became involved with campus life yet again. The hurt of some 30 years ago returned – NMMU was after all

still the entity that doubted my integrity as a person and who, in essence, labelled me a "thief". I still felt a need for someone, on behalf of NMMU, to listen and believe in my innocence. Another letter followed, addressed to Paul Geswindt, Deputy Director: Marketing and Alumni Relations. He responded in a most caring fashion. An emotional (for me) meeting of "restitution" and healing followed to clear the air.

After 32 years I finally had a letter from NMMU saying that my Alma Mater has accepted my bona fides and that the matter was closed. Thanks for your intervention Paul.

Hector, I never had the privilege of knowing you other than through the photograph taken by Sam Nzima on June 16. 1976 was unfair to us both my brother, more to you than to me. I spoke out and was heard, I know there are many speaking out on your behalf even today. I began to understand some of your pain, rejection, anger and humiliation. If only you could be refunded your life and I my R20, I really would have liked to buy us a beer and talk about that eventful year when we both were angry young men protesting a just cause ...



University SHOP

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For more information visit www.nmmu.ac.za/shop or e-mail: shop@nmmu.ac.za or contact us on tel: +27 41 504 4371



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for tomorrow

www.nmmu.ac.za/shop



▲ West Coast series 5 by **Ian Difford**, who works in Johannesburg directing film commercials.



▲ Red Location by **Graham Thompson**, who is still lecturing photography students at NMMU.

Snapshot of photographic brilliance

A visual tribute to the international standard of NMMU's photography students down the decades formed a highlight of the Annual Vice-Chancellor's Art and Culture Evening at the Nelson Mandela Bay Art Museum (the former King George IV Art Gallery).

The event, which last year served as a fitting farewell to former NMMU Vice-Chancellor Dr Rolf Stumpf, is part of the university's initiative to highlight the critical role of arts and culture in society today.

The photographic work of alumni from London to New York was exhibited.



▲ Bascule Bridge, Wapping, London (2002) by **Michael Boutall**, who once ran the Photographic Department and lives in the English capital today.



▲ Smithsonian Portrait Gallery by **Harry de Zitter**, who lives in United States of America.



▲ Valiant by **Johan Wilke**, who specialises in advertising photography in Cape Town.



▲ Welcome to Grahamstown (2008) by **Roxane van Wyk**, who is working as a lab technician at NMMU's Photography Department.



▲ Kolmanskop, Luderitz, Namibia (2003), by **Waldemar Bussiahn**, who is a photographic lecturer at Tswane University of Technology in Pretoria.

Unprecedented building progress

The Kraal is as was, Goldfields and the Unitas /Veritas Clubhouse too; the ghost still wanders around Pampoenkraal at George and Heinz Betz continues to pack students in, be it for parties or exams. But there have been some changes, some big changes ...

NOT since the University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) or the Port Elizabeth Technikon were built in the 1960s and 1970s respectively, has Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University experienced such building progress.

That's what happens when the country's Department of Education sees fit to invest R301m in your institution for various initiatives.

Since early last year NMMU, with its five campuses in Port Elizabeth and one in George, has been awash with building activity, all set to improve its infrastructure and teaching and learning facilities.

These improvements include:

- ▶ A new link road between North Campus (former PE Technikon) and South Campus (former UPE) near the postgraduate village on Protea Road.

- ▶ A new campus entrance, labs, a greenhouse, a library and library conversion for

Missionvale Campus (former PE campus of Vista University)

- ▶ Two new lecture halls for South Campus (close to Building 35) and

- ▶ Two new lecture halls, a computer lab and a library for George Campus (Saasveld).

"People are talking about a recession, but there's no sign of a recession at NMMU," says the university's planning and project's director Stuart Blignaut, himself an alumnus.

The merger has not only brought unprecedented building progress, but has meant a change of venues for several disciplines. Nursing, for example, is no longer on South Campus. They're now in J Block at North Campus.

The architectural technology and interior design students have moved from North to South, while construction management and quantity surveying moved from South to join their fellow built environment colleagues on North Campus.



▲ **AS IT WAS ...** An aerial shot of the new Port Elizabeth Technikon in the late 1970s, is stark comparison to the NMMU North Campus of today with its lush, mainly indigenous gardens and extra buildings.



◀ **NEW SURROUNDS ...** The ancient oak tree opposite the original Saasveld house, Pampoenkraal, is getting some new neighbours in the form of 200- and 280-seater lecture halls, a 450-seater computer lab and a library to accommodate the School of Business and Social Science from 2009.



▲ **LONDON LINKS ...** NMMU's vice-chancellor **Prof Derrick Swartz** (centre) was introduced to the newly-formed London Alumni Chapter as well as (from left) **Paul Geswindt** of Alumni Relations, **Krynauw Kruger**, **Celia Geyer** (both London alumni chapter coordinators, and **Kotie Grove** of the NMMU Trust.



▲ **RENEWING FRIENDSHIPS ...** **Mark Groch** (from left), **Jacqueline King**, **Craig Comforth** and **Grant Jack** also attended the successful London reunion in July. Another will be held next year.



▲ **PEOPLE SKILLS ...** **Rene de Reuck**, owner of Top Personnel, was the guest speaker at a function organised by NMMU's HR academic **Dr Paul Poisat** (right) in cooperation with the Alumni Relations Office, represented by Alumni Association President **Randall Jonas** who also addressed the audience.

2008 highlights

2008 has been an exceptionally busy year for NMMU, starting with the arrival of its new vice-chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz in January, the launch of several new facilities, visits by a number of top speakers, including former president Thabo Mbeki and several new initiatives.

The university also protested against racism and xenophobia, and celebrated a string of successes among its students and staff.

Highlights include:

- ▶ The launch of Vision 2020, a project to capture the long-term dreams for NMMU, and then transform them into reality.

- ▶ Prof Danie Hattingh of the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Research (IAMER) is the first staff member of NMMU to have been selected as one of the five finalists for the National Science and Technology Forum Awards (category B). He and his Friction Stir Welding (FSW) research team received a new process development system valued at close to R7m from the United States which will greatly enhance their research in conjunction with industry.

- ▶ NMMU and the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Company have signed a research enabling agreement for continued research on the nuclear fuel to be used in the first demonstration pebble bed modular reactor.

- ▶ The Institute for Chemical

Technology and its Downstream Chemicals Technology Station (InnoVenton) will be upgrading its facilities with R7m to research and test biodiesel and associated products. A further R13m will be spent in the next two years to increase its research and development capability in serving South Africa's chemical industry.

- ▶ International expert in plant conservation Prof Richard Cowling is one of only three South Africans to have been made a member of the prestigious National Academy of Science of the USA.

- ▶ Funding of more than R3m from the European Union will see NMMU strive to test 10 000 people for HIV infection by May 2009.

- ▶ The university will commercialise a range of insect repellent products, Repelox, from 2009.

- ▶ Senior scientist and researcher Prof Janine Adams has been appointed at chairperson of the Water Research Commission Board, the country's water-centred knowledge hub.



▶ **GO-GETTER ...** Head of NMMU's Centre for African Conservation Ecology **Prof Graham Kerley** (right), along with his team organised The Society for Conservation Biology's annual conference attended by more than 1 600 delegates from around the world late in 2007. Prof Kerley is advising the government on a new policy for managing South Africa's elephants.



▶ **GREEN TYRES ...** PhD Chemistry student **Robert Bosch** won R300 000 as winner of the Innovation Fund's National Innovation Competition for his environmentally-friendly rubber nano products liquid activation system which replaces the toxic zinc oxide in vulcanised rubber. The product is set to revolutionise tyre manufacturing.



▶ **BACK HOME ...** NMMU alumnus **Prof Vivienne Lawack-Davids** returned to Port Elizabeth from Pretoria to become the new Executive Dean of Law at NMMU, and the first black female dean of law in South Africa.



▶ **NEW LEADER ...** **Prof Piet Naudé** who is nationally and internationally recognised for his expertise in business ethics, and a past dean of arts at the former UPE, was appointed director of NMMU's Business School from October.

▶ **PAYING TRIBUTE ...** Former president **Thabo Mbeki** seen here with Prof Derrick Swartz was the speaker at the inaugural Raymond Mhlaba annual memorial lecture in August, and one of many top dignitaries to visit NMMU in 2008.

▶ **SPEAKING OUT ...** NMMU staff and students marched against racism in March with the vice-chancellor leading the way. "There is only one race: the human race. ... We were born equal, but society made us unequal," Prof Swartz told protesters.



Inside the heads of politicians



▲ Prof Aubrey Immelman

EVER shaken your head in amazement at the actions or words of one politician or another?

Not content with just wondering what makes politicians tick, **Prof Aubrey Immelman** has developed a system for constructing personality profiles of world leaders and presidential candidates, and predicting their leadership behaviour – and he's received international recognition for it.

Immelman, whose studies at NMMU culminated in a DPhil in psychology in 1991, is an associate professor of psychology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Minnesota, US, where he recently received The Linda Mealey Teacher-Scholar Award, in recognition of his teaching and scholarship.

During the 2000 US presidential elections, Immelman and his students won two "Page One" awards from the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for their in-depth reporting, "based on our psychological profiles of candidates".

Immelman has also been involved in consulting work with the US government and NATO allies on national security issues.

His work has been widely-publicised in the US and abroad.

"My time at the old UPE coincided with landmark events in South Africa, including the Soweto uprising of 1976, the death of Steve Biko, and the State of Emergency of the 1980s. As an opponent of apartheid, I had occasional run-ins with the old Broederbond-dominated university administration; however, it ultimately served not only to strengthen my capacity for independent thought ... but also shaped my interest in the psychology of politics, which subsequently became the centrepiece of my professional career."

Alumni in

Staying positive, staying put

ALAN Knott-Craig is not packing for Perth.

While he recognises South Africa is not perfect, he's chosen to see the positive opportunities available here. It's an attitude that – quite inadvertently – has spiralled into a best-selling book called *Don't Panic!*

Knott-Craig, who graduated from NMMU with BCom (Hons) in 1999, is the managing director of wireless broadband provider iBurst. His unintentional journey to bestselling author started with an email sent to his staff at the start of the year – amidst interest rate hikes, power cuts and ongoing crime – encouraging them not to lose sight of the inevitable silver lining on a temporary black cloud.

The email spread like wildfire – picked up by *Radio 702*, *Carte Blanche*, *You and Huisgenoot* – and it wasn't long before Penguin approached Knott-Craig with the intention of expanding it into a book, eliciting contributions from other South Africans. He received a good dose of hate mail too.



"I don't think we're living in a perfect country. If we don't get it right, things could go wrong. But I believe we will get it right."

▲ BROAD REACH ... Alan Knott-Craig.

Did he expect this reaction? "In a word, no!" said Knott-Craig. "Most of the reaction has been very good. A lot of people want to be positive. And I know of one or two people who have

even changed their minds about leaving the country."

Knott-Craig has also been bombarded by requests for motivational talks – all this in between trying to do his day job.

Scientist nabs top award

Her wholehearted passion for physics saw materials scientist **Christiané Heiligers**, known as Tina, scooping one of two prestigious L'Oreal-Unesco South African Women in Science Fellowships for 2008.

Heiligers, a researcher at Element Six – the world's largest maker of synthetic diamonds – studied science at NMMU, collaborating with the University of the Witwatersrand for her master's degree in physics and subsequent PhD, which she earned last year.

Her master's involved the study of ceramic-metal materials, used in cutting tool applications, while her doctoral work, funded with a bursary from Element Six, focused on the properties and structures



▲ ULTRA TOUGH ... Dr Tina Heiligers's work with ultrahard metals has been recognised.

of ultrahard materials – research work that is likely to have an array of applications in technology.

It is as a result of this work that Heiligers received the L'Oreal-Unesco fellowship.

"I've always enjoyed physics – the

practical aspects, the cleanliness (of the laws of physics) and the methodologies one uses," said Heiligers.

Because Element Six's Diamond Research Laboratory is based in Springs, Heiligers and her husband, Marc, who studied Computer Science at NMMU, had to relocate from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg – but she ensures she keeps close ties with the university, which she regards as family.

"The physics department was fantastic. It really had a family feel, and was conducive to creative thinking. I still work with them quite closely." Heiligers is currently collaborating with NMMU's physics and chemistry departments for research Element Six is outsourcing.

the news

‘Ace’ comes up trumps



▲ **TOP GEAR ... Ace Majija** is making a name for himself as a business investment strategist.

“HARD work never killed anyone, it only produces good results.”

So says 24-year-old **Achumile ‘Ace’ Majija**, whose irrepressible drive for success has resulted in doors flung wide open in the world of business.

This 2005 BCom graduate works for Sanlam Investment Management (SIM) as an investment operations strategist – a position the company tailor-made for Majija to “be in line with his career aspirations”. It was while he was completing the graduate programme for Old Mutual that SIM recognised his potential and approached him – and he hasn’t looked back.

But this is only one of many achievements. Majija was also the first chairperson of the Black Management Forum’s young professionals’ desk in the Western Cape. He has also served on the provincial committee of the BMF, and the advisory board of Aiesec UCT. And he’s started an investment holdings company.

While he is certainly going places, he is also determined to make a difference in the lives of others. Majija is one of the co-founders of a bursary trust “to help pay for students at my old high school, who can’t afford their education”. He also does motivational speaking at schools and prisons. “The ability to make a difference in someone’s life is by far the greatest achievement.”

While studying at NMMU, he was selected to go on a student exchange programme to Germany. He was also selected to attend the UN World Youth Congress, and was awarded the Abe Bailey Travel Scholarship to the UK.

Swahili-teaching Texan

HE MAY have been raised in Texas, but a lifelong interest in Afrikaans and the indigenous languages of Southern Africa saw **George Stanley** enrolling for a linguistics doctorate at the then University of Port Elizabeth in the early 70s.

For Stanley, it was a decision that “formed” him. “My decision to attend UPE was one of the best decisions – maybe the best decision – I have ever made in my life. I credit UPE with everything I have achieved.”

And he has achieved a great deal. Stanley, now a professor of African and Middle-Eastern Languages and Linguistics at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, teaches Swahili, Arabic and Persian/Farsi, and tutors Dari, Pashto, Somali and Urdu. He has published over 200 short stories and linguistics



▲ **HOWDY ... George Stanley**

articles, and close to 100 children’s books.

His doctoral thesis “Relative/Identical Semantic Structuralisation – Implications for the Teaching of Afrikaans and English to Xhosa students in the Transkei”, was published in 1976, and for a time, was used by the University of Cape Town in their teacher training programme.

Soon after completing his doctorate, Stanley received a Fulbright scholarship to teach at the University of N’Djamena in Chad – it was there that he started writing fiction. Listening to the BBC on his short-wave radio led to his writing radio plays for the programme World Service Short Story. Returning to the US, he continued to write and publish stories, many set in Africa.

Networking their way around the globe

If you want to find someone, ask a PR graduate ... they're just so connected, and living around the world. Routes caught up with some of them.

"Public Relations is the deliberate, planned and sustained effort to ... blah, blah, blah". Anyone who studied PR at NMMU (or at the former PE Technikon) remembers this well along with lecturers Dr Brian Norris, Dr Betsie Ferreira and Beulah van Rooyen. Beulah is still teaching while Betsie and Brian have moved on.

As, indeed, have our PR graduates who are living and working around the globe:

Chris Fitzgerald (1985) is Communications Director at Illovo Sugar in Natal.

Gillian Roffe (1986) owns her own travel agency, Uniglobe, in Port Elizabeth.

Marian Lucouw who qualified as a physiotherapist, married and had children, before completing her NDip PR in 1988, is the project manager of the Port Elizabeth Opera House. "I loved the way my fellow students received me, this much older woman, as a friend and not as a 'tannie'".



Neil Bisseker (NDip 1988) is well-known in the Eastern Cape as a sports broadcaster with AlgoaFM. He edits a national monthly golf publication and in September launched

a new monthly sports newspaper *Sport Elizabeth* for local sports fans. "I was one of only two males in my PR class and loved it," recalls Neil, adding that it cost just "10 bucks to fill my mini 1275 GT with petrol!"

Andre Bothma (1989) is general manager of a hospital in Pretoria.



Samantha Smith (1991) went off in a slightly different direction to most PR graduates and followed journalism. It paid off as she's now executive editor of The

Herald and Weekend Post. As for her student days, the new mother so misses "those free afternoons!"

Denise van Huysteen (1993) is the Communications Manager at General Motors SA.

Madie Venter (Koekemoer) is the centre manager for Summerstrand Village Shopping Centre and well misses the free time between lectures when they "baked in the sun like dassies".



Linda Strydom (1997) works in Cape Town as a senior public consultant for a public relations agency with clients who include Durbanville Hills, Klipdrift Gold, Nederburg,



▲ OLD GUARD ... PR lecturers *Dr Betsie Ferreira, Dr Brian Norris and Beulah van Rooyen*

Savanna, Burchell and Du Toitskloof Wines.

Brennan Holder (1999) is in Dubai and is now an actor and singer and doing very well for himself!



Marinda Oosthuizen (2001) has been in London town for the last five years and works at the Local Government Association within the Adult Social Care policy area. She has great memories of

her days at the old PE Technikon, declaring that the arrival of Steers in the cafeteria was sheer genius!



Jacqui Gilchrist (2001) is based in Cape Town, but travelling countrywide, with her training and coaching consultancy, FULLIFE, and is a partner in another company that assists people with interacting with the media.



Michelle Kobliske (2002) is part of the Jupiter Drawing Room Advertising agency in Cape Town working on interesting and challenging accounts. "I have fond memories including our confronting

a landlord who had just kicked out one of our Botswana students."



Dianne Mckay (2003) owns an events management company called Metro Events. "During summer we used to sit out on the grass in front of J-Block and drink ice cold Coca Cola, eat junk food, soak up the

sun like dassies while speaking nonsense to anyone that would listen! Life was good..."

Lynne Krige (2003) is in advertising at Boomtown in Port Elizabeth.



▶ **Sharon Davies**

(2004) lives and works in London in the Business Centre at the Institute of Directors. "I think back very fondly to my old PE Tech days. Strong friendships were formed with both students and lecturers."

Allison Kingma (2004) is now the campus events coordinator in Marketing & Corporate Relations at NMMU. "I think the most memorable thing is the friends that I made, and how we all 'grew' together. I always treasure those special times together."



▶ **Patience Mathambo**

(2004) teaches PR to first and second year students at the University of Botswana. She is also doing her master's in Global Media Communication through the University of Melbourne, Australia.

"My lecturers, Dr Elizabeth Ferreira and Ms Toni Gennrich, inspired me. Their diligence and commitment inspired me to always strive to become better, which is something that I carry with me".



▶ **Thabisa Nondzube**

(2005) who is studying towards her MTech in Strategic Communication, is now a lecturer in PR at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

If you'd like to make contact with any of your old PR friends, please contact **Bev Erickson** (1986) on erickson@nmmu.ac.za

Where are they today?

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

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

1960s

Prof Michael De Jongh (BA Hons 1966, MA Anthropology 1968) is an anthropology lecturer at UNISA in Pretoria.

1970s



Prof Brian Bredenkamp (NDip Forestry 1970) who is a professor of forestry management at the University of Stellenbosch, released an anecdotal book about the forestry industry in both English and Afrikaans

during the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the Saasveld Campus, NMMU's George Campus.



Jan Ferreira (BA 1979) who was a Xanadu resident, is currently a records and knowledge manager at Rand Water in Glenvista, south of Johannesburg.

Christopher Bennett

(BSc Hons 1971) lives in Cape Town where he runs his own Textile company, CB Tex Distributors. He has been married for 29 years and has three daughters. He was previously employed by SA Nylon Spinners in Cape Town.



Trevor Kok retired after 40 year's service with Ford SA. He started his career as a trainee at Ford SA's former Neave plant, and worked his way up to as the company's vice-president.



Prof Colleen Crangle (BSc 1973) went on to obtain her PhD in Logic, Philosophy of Language and Philosophy of Science, at Stanford University in the USA, where she has settled. She was the principal author of Language and Logic for Robots, covering 10 years of research at Stanford. Since 1997, she has run a small business focusing on computer methods for understanding biomedical language. "The studies I undertook in Computer Science, Mathematics and English (at NMMU) turned out to define the rest of my academic career."

Leonie Grondel (nee Birck) (BA 1976) is the Sports Communication & Projects Administrator of the SA Tennis Association in Johannesburg; **Johan van Zyl** (NDip

Electrical Engineering 1976) is a high voltage plant manager with Eskom Transmission; **Jutta Rohwer** (BA Hons 1971, NDip Education 1972, MA 1977) is a self-employed teacher/translator in PE; **Barry Probert** (BSc Quantity Surveying 1975) works at Rousseau Probert Elliot as a professional quantity surveyor in PE; **Graeme Russell** (BCom 1973) is a manager at First National Bank; **Prof Lawrence Hunter** (MSc 1969, PhD 1974) is the head of the Textile Science Department at NMMU; **Alfred Denyer** (BEd 1976) is a retired school headmaster in East London. **Lynne Howse (Abel)** (MA 1976) is a retired psychologist in PE; **Estelle Willis** (BA Education 1979) teaches at the Curro Private School in Cape Town; **Peter Gilbert** (NDip Pharmacy 1971) is a retired pharmacist in PE;

Michelle Brown (NDip 1976) celebrated 21 years of her own successful PR company in Port Elizabeth this year. **Esta-Marie Le Roex** (BCom Education 1979) works in Knysna as a director at Garden Route Trusses; **Charl de Beer** (BA Hons 1979) is a member of the Provincial legislature in the Northern Cape; **Byers Joubert** (BCom Hons 1978) is an audit partner for Deloitte & Touche in Pretoria; **James Hay** (BA 1979, BEd 1988) is presently an educator at Linkside High School in PE.

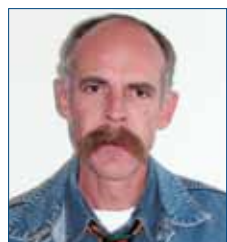


Michelle Brown (NDip 1976) celebrated 21 years of her own successful PR company in Port Elizabeth this year. **Esta-Marie Le Roex** (BCom Education 1979) works in Knysna as a director at

1980s



Ralph Humphrey (BArch 1983) greets her majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the opening of the up market King Edward Court in February this year, which his company London & Associated Properties designed.



Prof Gideon Smith (BSc 1983) is the Director at the SA National Biodiversity Institute in Pretoria. He is involved in more than 25 international research thrusts, committees and

organisations and works actively in Africa, particularly the southern Africa sub region. He initiated the African Plant Checklist and Database project, the Angolan plant diversity survey, and has arranged several international meetings across the globe. Prof Smith has received wide recognition, both nationally and internationally, for his research and leadership activities. He currently counts 13 medals and prizes among his achievements, from as far a field as the US and Monaco. He finds time to cultivate a large collection of Mexican Agave species and aloe plants and derives great enjoyment from an extensive private music collection.

Adv Patrick Scott (BJuris 1980, LLB 1982) is an advocate in PE.



Sean Harrison (NDip Marketing and Sales Management 1989) is the managing director of tyre retailer Hi-Q Automotive, a subsidiary of Goodyear South Africa, and the former marketing director of PG-Glass. "NMMU had a marked impact on my career path. Having been exposed to the science and

art of marketing, I realised this was my future." His advice to current marketing students: "Ensure that you believe in it (your product, business plan, etc) before trying to convince others." **Kevin Robertson** (BSc Hons 2002) runs his own civil engineering contracting business, Compaction King, which has branches throughout the Eastern and Southern Cape. **Albert Schultz** (BBuild Arts 1984, BArch 1986) is a self-employed architect and biologist in PE; **Conroy Fourie** (BCom Hons 1987) works for Toyota Tsusho Africa as a general manager responsible for the distributor management team in Pretoria; **Judith Exley (nee Rodger)** (BA 1982) is a family advocate for the Department of Justice in East London; **Gregory Dawson** (BA Hons 1980) works for GMSA in PE and is responsible for planning new model launches; **Dr Alfred Brunsdon** (BA Theology 1989) is a minister at the Dutch Reformed Church; **Quentin Mace** (BCom 1987) is a disbursement auditor for GMSA in PE; **Gert Smith** (NDip Nursing Administration & Community Nursing Science 1982) is a retired assistant nursing director and lives in PE; **Cornelia van Eck (nee van Rooyen)** (NDip Specialised Education 1987) is a head of department at Kabega Primary School in PE; **Mattheus Louw** (BA 1983) is a lecturer at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.

Where are they today?

1990s



▲ **Dr Andre Trollip** (MTech Biomedical 1998) is Managing Director of Biotec Laboratories SA in Cape Town.



◀ **Nomakula Deli** (NDip Marketing & Sales Management 1993) is the proud owner of Masiye Mzantsi Travel Agency in Port Elizabeth.



▲ **Dumisani Mbebe** (BA 1998) is a director at Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.



◀ **Jacqui Lück** (MPhil 1997) is a language lecturer at NMMU. **Isabelle du Toit (nee Demay)** (BFA, 1993), an artist who signs herself 'Rouaud', has had her work

displayed in galleries across the US. "My meticulous depictions of mostly solitary animals ask the viewer to consider the plight of nature in the face of man's encroachment." **Luvuyo Macanda** (NDip Public Management & Administration 1999) is a senior admin clerk for Lonwabo Primary School in PE; **Thomas**

Nel (BTech Information Technology 1997) is employed by Knowledge Net as their data integration consultant in PE; **Bandile Jack** (NDip Electrical Engineering 1992) works at Eskom as a programme manager; **Thembela Boo!** (NDip Fine Arts 1998) is an artist in King William's Town; **Songezo Mfazwe** (BTech Chemistry 1998) is a senior analyst for Aspen Pharmacare in PE; **Paul North** (BCom 1990) is joint Managing Director for ProLoss In Cape Town; **Cindy Thompson (nee Branford)** (BSc Hons Biochemistry 1998) is a specification evaluator at Aspen Pharmacare; **Kerry Winterburn (nee Brouard)** (NDip Information Technology 1998) works for Hybrid Development, a subsidiary of KFML Holdings, as an IT buyer in PE; **Andrew Booyens** (BTech Quantity Surveying 1998) is a senior quantity surveyor at Roberts Bros Construction in East London; **Lester Cunningham** (BSc Hons 1996) is a Maths teacher and HoD at John Walton High School in Uitenhage and serves on the NMMU Alumni Executive Committee. **Barry Radloff** (NDip



Information Technology 1996) is in Cape Town working as an architect/analyst programmer for MagmaTec; **Aleta Pienaar** (DSE Remedial Education 1995) works as

an educator at Tiny Tots Pre-Primary School in PE; **Alberton Murray** (NDip Mechanical Engineering 1997) is a designer engineer for Joy Mining Machinery in Johannesburg;

Dr Adriaan Lombard (BA 1986, HDE 1987, BEd Hons 1992, MEd 1994, DEd 1999) lectures at the East Cape Education Department in PE; **Tracy Hirst (nee Geard)** (BCom 1997) works for Allan Gray in Cape Town as the marketing manager; **Gerhard Schoeman** (BJuris 1998) is the owner of Rebel Catering in PE; **Michael Terblanche** (BJuris 1991) is a portfolio manager for Guardrisk Life Limited in PE; **Sherylin Schneider (nee van der Berg)** (BA 1994) is an educator at Gelvandale Park Primary School in PE; **Vusumzi Duma** (MA Sociology 1997) is a lecturer at the University of Fort Hare; **Nicola Green** (BCom 1992) is in London working at Hanover Housing Association as a procurement manager; **Taryn Alt (nee Knoetze)** (BEd 1999) teaches at Balmoral Primary School in Queenstown; **Salli Luen (nee Branford)** (BPrim Ed 1998) is a special needs teacher at Abbotsford Christian School in East London; **Andrew Alt** (BCom Rat 1997, BCom Hons CA (SA) 1998) is a partner at Charteris & Barnes, Queenstown; **Melinda Vosloo** (BCom Accounting 1998) has her own business, Doyspring Business Consultants in PE; **Bonnie McCay** (BJuris 1994) is the estate administrator for FNB Trust Information in PE; **Gavin Bantam** (BCom Hons 1995) works for Nedcor Securities as an Industrial Analyst in PE; **Gaye Galatalis** (NDip Executive Security 1991) is a short-term broker at D&D Brokers in PE; **Ansunet Moore (nee Muller)** (BCom 1990) works at VWSA in Uitenhage as a system analyst; **Catherine van der**

Wolf (nee Maberly) (NDip Architecture 1994) lives in Cape Town; **Anthony Sparg** (BA 1994, HDE 1995) is a lecturer at Buffalo City College; **Colleen Irvings (nee Momberg)** (BCom Law 1996, LLB 1998) is a professional assistant at Onris Baker & Associates in PE; **Angela Baxter** (BCur 1996) is a senior registered nurse at St George's Hospital; **Robert O'Flacherty** (BCom 1991) is a Financial Aid Director at New World; **Prof Lynette Louw (nee Marais)** (DCom 1999) is a professor at Rhodes University, Grahamstown; **Saskia Weitsz** (BCom Hons 1997) works for Umicore Catalyst in PE as a cost analyst; **Tracy Thomas** (BA 1996) is a payroll administrator at HR Focus in East London; **Neil Gary** (BCom 1992) works for Gardener Asphalt as a director in Information Technology; **Lise Claassen** (BCom Hons 1992) is employed by Deloitte & Touche, PE; **Jacobus Lombard** (BBdg Art 1995, BArch 1997) works for Brinkman Ndayi McAll Architects as an architect in Uitenhage; **Jane Aston** (NDip Fashion Design 1991) owns Mignonette Bridal Shop in the United Kingdom; **Christian du Preez** (HDE s/t 1993), is an accounting teacher at Bertram Secondary School in Port Elizabeth, and was assistant referee during the Super14 Rugby tournament.



◀ **Jeanne Horak** studied law in the mid 90s. She is a trained criminal advocate, lectured commercial law to non-legal students at NMMU and moonlighted at a software company as a proposals writer and legal advisor. Eight years ago she relocated to London

where she temped as a PA at a large soft-drink company and now works in a law firm in a knowledge management role. On the side-line she writes under the name of "Cook Sister" on her own foodie blog site – www.cooksister.com



▲ **Lance du Plessis** (BA 1992, NDip Education 1993) who started his radio career at Radio Uppie in the early 1990s, has been with AlgoaFM for 15 years. Thanks to social networks like Facebook, he's stayed in touch with many of his old university friends and lecturers. His impressions of NMMU today are that of a diverse, multicultural institution with a great vibe. His wife Amanda is currently studying towards her master's in Music at NMMU.

Where are they today?

2000s

Mpumzi Mkhusele Mntwini (MA Development Studies 2007) works for the Coega Development Corporation as an investor service manager in Port Elizabeth.

Nomboniso Mntwini (MA Development Studies 2007) was a strategic manager for Great Kei Municipality, before she was recently appointed as a Senior Manager: Planning for the Provincial Department of Housing.

Makabongwe Siziba (NDip Information Technology 2005) is Deputy Director in Information Communication Technology for the Western Cape Education Department.

Sibulele Madlingozi (BCom 2006) is a motor industry development programme advisor for KPMG in PE.

Pelham Lessing (MPhil Christian Studies 2003) is a senior staff member at the South African Theological Seminary (SATS) in Rivonia, north of Johannesburg where he lectures, training adjunct academic members, tutors and assesses master's research projects. He is currently completing his PhD in Systematic Theology and Ethics at the University of Pretoria with his dissertation entitled: An Ethical Observation on Genetic Engineering – A Decision Making Model.

Zukisa Ngcamlela (NDip Mechanical Engineering 1997, MDP 2001) is a fleet maintenance manager for Transnet Rail Engineering in PE. **Gerrit Crafford** (MSc Quantity Surveying, PhD Construction Economics 2007) who previously spent four years in Dublin/Ireland working for Rogerson Reddan & Associates as a quantity surveyor, has returned home to NMMU where he is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Building and Quantity Surveying.

Akhona Nqakula (NDip Human Resources 2001) is an HR officer at Continental Tyre in PE. **Ian Laing** (BCom Accounting 2006) is a trainee at Ernst & Young in Johannesburg. **Jacqueline Jonker** (BA Human Resources 2002) is a franchise consultant for Yum Restaurants International (KFC) in PE.



Joyce Motala (BCom C3 Accounting 2003) is the financial accountant at Centriq Insurance.

JP Roodt (BA MCC 2004) was appointed as account manager at the Marcus Brewster Publicity (MBP) head office in Cape Town. His client portfolio includes real estate group Re/

Max, weekly financial magazine Finweek, FHM, Universal Music/Island Records, Rezidor Hotel Group, creative agency Saatchi & Saatchi, Aegis Media and NB Music Records.



Onkgopotse JJ Tabane (MPhil 2005) is the Group Executive: Corporate Affairs at multimedia and electronics company Altron in Johannesburg. He is also the director of the Gauteng Tourism Authority, Johannesburg Tourism Company, and chairman of the Indalo Yethu

Environmental Campaign, and the Youth Development Forum.



Clayton Morar (NDip-Journ 2005) is a writer at tvplus magazine, where he writes about TV stars and celebrities. He hopes to set a world record with his vast collection of autographs of the world's rich and famous, which currently stands at 4350.



David Meinie (BCom 2008) was selected as a participant in the Trent Lott Leadership Programme, in which 18 postgraduate candidates from NMMU, the University of Mississippi, US,

and the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, participated in a leadership exchange, travelling extensively across the US, Northern Ireland and South Africa.



James Boshoff (BTech IT Technical Appl. 2005) and **Riekert du Preez** (MTech IT 2007) own independent software vendor Imagitech in Port Elizabeth, which develops software solutions for small to medium enterprises. They have released their first commercial software package, Orwin Lite. Imagitech has been certified by Microsoft Certified Partners to run on Microsoft-based infrastructure.

Michael Dippenaar (BCom C3 2003, BCom Accounting 2004) works for KPMG as an accountant in PE; **Leigh-Ann Rose** (BTech Interior Design 2005) is an interior designer for Stauch Vorster Architects in PE; **Lezelle Oosthuizen (nee van Rooyen)** (BCom Law 1998, LLB 2000) works as an associate lawyer for Boqwana Loon & Connellan in PE; **Justin Smith** (BCom Accounting 2005) is a senior accountant at Tian Incorporated in PE; **Mzwakhe Sokutu** (BTech Education Management 2000) is a teacher at Phakama Primary School in PE; **Werner Olivier** (BTech Marketing 2006) owns Pro Launch Events Company in Despatch; **Lizelle Knott (nee Gribble)** (NDip Cost and Management Accounting 2003) works at ARCUS Gibb Consulting Engineers as a project coordinator in East London. She is married to **Warren Knott** (BCom 2000), owner of Data Afrique Telecoms; **Onke Ngcuka** (NDip Civil Engineering 2005) is a senior trainee technician for Arcus Gibb

Consulting Engineers in Umtata. **Melissa Hudek** (BCur 2002, NDip Nursing 2006) is a professional nurse at Life Healthcare in PE; **Zamiwonga Pambuka** (BSc 2004) works for Biotech Laboratories as a medical representative in Cape Town; **Tanya Heynsen** (BA Hons Labour Relations and Human Resources 2004) is an employee relations officer for Edcon in PE; **Janice Möller (nee Tait)** (NDip Management 2005) is a corporate service manager for NMMU's Business School; **Karin Fivaz (nee Pienaar)** (BSc Hons Zoology 2000) is an aquarist for the South African Association for Marine Biological Research in Durban; **Zandisile Masebe** (BPharm 2002) is a distribution centre manager for Pharmaceutical Healthcare Distributors in PE. **Nkosinathi Vika** (BA Hons 2002) is the Ethiopian Charismatic Church Presiding Bishop in PE; **Emlyn Gallant** (NDip Sport Management 2001) works as an administrator for the Eastern Province Amateur Cricket Board; **Gideon Botha** (BCom Accounting Hons 2006) works as an auditing clerk for Ernst & Young in Johannesburg; **Robyn Hargreaves** (BA Hons 2003, MA Clinical Psychology 2007) works at the Kimberley Hospital Complex as a clinical psychologist; **Gary Murray** (BTech Graphic Design 2004) works at SMG Africa in East London as their creative director; **Deeren Pillay** (BCom Hons 2003) is a senior associate for investment management at PricewaterhouseCoopers in PE; **Kelly Lachenicht** (BSc 2002) is a section rock engineer at Anglo Platinum in Johannesburg; **Maritsa van Loggerenberg** (MA Social Work 2003) works as a spiritual worker at St Albans Correctional Services in PE; **Baakier Abrahams** (BCom 2007) has a coaching post at Kampong Cricket Club in Utrecht, Holland. **Lee-Anne Jones (nee Durham)** (NDip Human Resources 2004) works at Standard Bank SA in PE as a learning and development coordinator; **Gabrielle Davidson** (BA Hons Psychology 2005, MA Clinical Psychology 2007) is a clinical psychology intern at the Elizabeth Donkin Hospital in PE; **Rozina Namponya** (BA Hons Labour Relations and Human Resources 2002) is an HR officer /training administrator at the Algoa Bus Company; **Philippa Field (nee Richardson)** (BTech Cost and Management Accounting 2003) is a regional lead buyer for Ford Motor Company of SA in Pretoria; **Kathryn Pook (nee McGillivray)** (NDip Clothing Design 2003) is a lecturer at the Buffalo City Public FET College in East London; **Tracey Brann** (BCom Marketing and Economics 2005) works as a marketing/brand coordinator for Aca Joe under the Platinum Group Company in PE; **Jacobus Bosch** (BCom Rat 2002, BCom Hons Accounting 2003) is employed by KPMG in Johannesburg as a consultant; **Johnathan Dillon** (BCom Hons Accounting 2004) is a NMMU lecturer at the School of Accounting;

Simon Dobbin (BCom C5+IS 2005) works at Accenture SA as a business consultant in PE; **Tessa de Jager** (BED IP 2003) is a teacher at Paddock School in London; **Alfred Qotoyi** (MPA 2004) works in Umtata for the Department of Safety and Security as a chief workstudy officer;

Anita Ballantyne (MSc 2003) works as an editorial assistant at Wolters Kluwer Health in New Zealand; **Jason Lloyd** (NDip Journalism 2003) is the spokesman for MEC Christian Martin of the East Cape Department of Public Works; **Sonwabo Hoyi** (NDip Human

Where are they today?

2000s Continued...

Resources 1999, BA Hons 2006) works for NMMU as an operations manager at Missionvale Campus. **Adv Werner Calitz** (BJuris 1998, LLB 2000) works for the Department of Justice in George as a senior family advocate; **Vicky Knoetze (nee Coetzee)** (LLB 2005) is a fleet controller for Toyota Forklift in PE; **Devendra Raga** (BTech Mechanical Engineering 2001) owns Raga's Motor Spares in PE; **Margaret Barlow** (MMus 2006) is a music teacher at Herschel Girls School in Cape Town; **Pumzile Qwayiza** (BA Hons 2005) works as a senior admin officer- employee relations for the Department of Health in PE; **Raewynne Goeda** (BA Hons Human Resources and Labour Relations 2006) is an HR assistant for Dorbyl Automotive Systems in PE; **Carien de Swardt** (BCur 2003) works at the UCT Private Hospital as a clinical facilitator. **Anthea Fortuin** (BTech Education 2000) is a teacher at Elliot High School; **Hendrick Schoeman** (BCom Hons 2001) is a financial manager at Bluekay Trust in PE; **Inge Notley** (BA 2005) works at the James Cook University in Australia as a communication officer; **Mark Reeves** (NDip Electrical Engineering 2000) is a business partner for Global Earthmoving Solutions in PE; **Angelique Goossens** (MSc Geology 2002) is a section geologist for Anglo Platinum; **Nicola Taylor** (BTech Management 2006) works as a secretary at Research Management at NMMU; **Roelof du Preez**

(BA Building Architecture 2001, MA Architecture 2004) works for Stauch Voster Architects; **Sanel van Wyk** (BCom Hons Accounting 2006) works as an article clerk at PricewaterhouseCoopers in PE; **Cobus Barnard** (NDip Mechanical Engineering 2005) works as an engineer for VWSA Racing in Despatch; **Melissa Smith (nee Bester)** (NDip Radiographer 2002) is a radiographer for Dr Visser, Erasmus, Vawda and Partners in Uitenhage.



◀ **Ateeqa Hoosain** (LLB 2002) is a lawyer at the firm of Boqwana Loon & Connellan in PE and serves on the NMMU Alumni Executive Committee. **Zunene Marshall (nee Kemp)** (BCom Accounting 2005) works as an accountant for Francis Reed & Co in PE;

Bradley Erasmus (MBA 2007) is a product planner at VWSA; **Muhammad Brey** (BCom Hons 2000, CA SA 2003) works at Nedbank, Johannesburg as a corporate finance consultant; **Rev Maureen Lamb** (MPhil 2002) works as a chaplain and bereavement coordinator for the St Francis Hospice in PE; **Cheryl Classen (nee Engelbrecht)** (BProc 2000) works for Boqwana Loon & Connellan as a conveyance paralegal/ article clerk in PE; **Sean Johnson** (LLB 2001) owns Sean Johnson

Attorneys in PE; **Beverley Groener** (BCom Rat 2006) is a customer service clerk for ABSA Bank in PE; **Lizanne de Hart** (MA Sociology Group Dynamics 2005) is a training officer at Continental Tyre in Despatch. **Kwakhona Nkonki** (NDip Biomedical Technology 2005) is a medical technician at National Health Services in East London; **Renaldo Nell** (BSc Hons 2004) works as a water pollution control officer for the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry in Despatch; **Timothy Clarke** (NDip HR 2006) works for Tavcor Motors as a pre-delivery inspection assistant in PE; **Meenakshi Misri** (BCom Hons 2006) works as accountant at Standard Bank in Johannesburg; **Vuyokazi Mokoena (nee Matshikiza)** (NDip Journalism 2003) is Brand Manager for CT Media – Soccer Laduma in Johannesburg; **Alan Millard** (BCom 2001) works at Dorbyl Automotive as National Sales and Marketing Manager in PE; **André Marais** (BCom 1981, BProc 1984, LLB 2005) is an attorney for HW Smith & Marais Attorneys in Vereeniging; **Amèlia Laubscher (nee Maritz)** (BCur 1992, BA Hons Psychology 1996, MA Sociology Group Dynamics 2005) is the owner of Trigon Consulting; **Elias Mvenselwa Masango** (MPhil 2004) works as a diplomat for the Department of Foreign Affairs; **Anton Vorster** (BCom 1983, MBA 2002) is CEO of GBS Mutual Bank; **Ntombi Baart** (MPA 2001) is the Makana Municipality manager in Grahamstown; **Fabian Newton** (BCom Hons Accounting 2005) is a CA at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

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