

Centres launched to meet needs

Centre for Community Technologies (CCT)

THE Centre for Community Technologies' (CCT), under the leadership of director Prof Darelle van Greunen, responds to the immediate needs of the Eastern Cape and ultimately those of the larger South Africa.

The centre, which has already made great strides with specific projects, launched in September. Health is one of the areas in which the use of technology to improve school healthcare is making a significant difference. The primary objective is to use mobile devices with specific applications to improve access to school healthcare and health education based on the needs of the schools in the rural Eastern Cape.

In addition, Prof Van Greunen was instrumental in setting up an ICT resources centre, supported by a solar charging station for laptops, tablet PCs and mobile phones among the deep rural villages in the Willowvale area of the former Transkei. This project supports the vision of Chief Ngwenyathi Dumalisile of Shixini Great Place, a leader within the Xhosa Royal Kingdom and of the Amajingqi Traditional Council. His visionary plan is for "rural-based industrialisation".

There are currently some 27 postgraduate students working on research projects that support the aims and objectives of the CCT.

High Performance Complex (HPC)

The new R34m building (the HPC hub) launched in September with exhibition races starring some of South Africa's top sprinters offers academic programmes and services in the field of Human Movement Science and Dietetics. Their Biokinetics and Sport Science Unit (BSSU) offers professional health promotion, restorative and rehabilitative services (biokinetics-related) as well as performance enhancement and other sport-related services (sport science related) to both the community and elite athletes.

The HPC hub is made up of a new double-storey Human Movement Science centre, with two gymnasiums, laboratories, lecture halls, biokineticist's consultation rooms, a dietetics wing and research sprint facility.

The labs are furnished with state-of-the-art



RECENTLY LAUNCHED ... NMMU's new High Performance Complex (HPC) comprising a R34-million building (pictured) that will serve as its "hub".

2015 marks NMMU's first successful decade as a new generation university, it also celebrates the launch of three new centres which make a significant difference within the institution and the community it serves.

equipment further supporting athletes or patients. The facility is also a functioning Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registered practice, offering students supervised work and an integrated learning site within the university. These labs also house the country's only 90m fully-enclosed indoor tartan track which includes a state-of-the-art integrated system for research.

Centre of Research and Information in Cyber Security (CRICS)

Six researchers, all staff members in the NMMU School of ICT, established the 'security group', officially called the Centre for Research in Information and Cyber security (CRICS), which was launched at NMMU on 30 October.

In addition to their numerous research outputs, the members of CRICS have responded to the world-wide concern of cyber-crime and are involved in a number of community engagement projects.

CRICS promotes cyber safety among scholars and includes talks at schools about the development of cyber safety awareness material.

The Centre is one of the founding partners of the South African Cyber Security Academic Alliance (SACSAA). This alliance between researchers from the University of South Africa, University of Johannesburg, and NMMU fostering collaboration between researchers.

A group of senior citizens of the Laubscher Park East Retirement Village in Walmer, for example, benefited from a research and social outreach project on how to use internet-related services in a secure, user-friendly manner. CRICS Director Prof Rossouw von Solms and a former student Devon Dawson placed a desktop computer, linked to the Internet via an ADSL line at the retirement village. User accounts were created for residents and they were taught how to use e-mail, Skype, Google Wikipedia and Facebook.



TOP ACHIEVER ... Zoology's Dr Pierre Pistorius (left) was awarded top honours as NMMU's Researcher of the Year for 2015. This was among the 43 awards presented at this year's Research, Teaching and Engagement Awards for top academics in the fields of research, teaching, the creative and performing arts, innovation and engagement. Dr Pistorius' cutting-edge research focuses on Bird Island's gannets and other marine predators, including penguins, dolphins, seals and sharks – in South Africa and as far afield as Marion Island and the Falklands. His research ties in with the shift by NMMU in offering solutions around the potential of the blue economy by establishing itself as a future marine and maritime sciences destination of choice. Dr Pistorius said he is passionate about his research on marine top predators – and how it "can be used to enable better management of marine resources and understand the impacts of climate change on our oceans".

First dedicated study centre in the country with blue economy focus

New maritime studies' campus

NMMU will soon have a seventh campus and the country's first dedicated maritime studies centre of excellence.

"Marine spatial planning and ocean governance are crucial areas on which this university will be focusing over the next few years. With that in mind ... we're in the process of acquiring a new campus.

"We're finalising the negotiations right now," Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz told a high-profile Norwegian delegation which came to cement relationships with NMMU.

The university has signed an offer to buy the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) buildings near North and South Campus.

The meeting follows an earlier visit by Prof Swartz and senior university officials, to Norway to establish partnerships as well as promote academic and scholarly collaborations, in respect of the oceans economy.



BLUE ECONOMY TALKS ... Norway's ambassador Trine Skymo (from left) together with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement Prof Andrew Leitch and Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz at the meeting with a high-profile Norwegian delegation, maritime, marine and business partners in NMMU's quest to become the country's first dedicated maritime studies centre of excellence.

"Blue growth for a green future" is the Norwegian Government's Maritime Strategy strapline – very apt for a small country with an extremely long coastline, depending on its ocean economy.

The university's focus on marine and maritime studies

coincides with the government's blue economy drive, Operation Phakisa, aimed at optimising economic benefits from the country's vast coastline.

A 2013 Department of Environmental Affairs study estimated that the country's oceans have the potential to contribute an additional R177-billion to the GDP, and an additional 800 000 to one million jobs by 2033.

The university would also focus on maritime tourism. The discussion also included potential maritime and marine partners such as Coega, provincial Economic Development and Transport departments, the business sector and the Nelson Mandela Bay Maritime Cluster as organised by the metro's Business Chamber.

SAIMI, the South African International Marine Institute, established in the metro last year, was also actively involved in the discussion as part of its vision of coordinating quality post-school education, training and research with partner institutions across South Africa and internationally.

INTouch

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NMMU committed to a more socially just society for all

#FeesMustFall changes HE landscape

A MORE socially just future for both students from financially needy families and formerly outsourced workers at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, are among the positive changes moving forward in the wake of the national #FeesMustFall movement.

The latter, which began at Wits University in mid-October, has seen a dramatic shift in the higher education landscape. Demands for further changes are also expected in the New Year.

At NMMU there have been a series of meetings between students and staff, with the express purpose of finding mutually beneficial ways of meeting both the short- and long-term demands of students and outsourced workers at NMMU.

At a special NMMU Council meeting, the unfair practices surrounding outsourced workers and debt-relief for students were addressed.

Council committed the University to ending outsourcing of service workers as this practice leads to exploitation of labour and unethical practices not in line with NMMU's core values.

As the process of preparing for in-sourcing of service labour is underway, and as a measure of goodwill, the following immediate relief measures have been put in place: ▶across the board minimum wage guaranteed to each service worker of R5000 a month cost to company ▶The new minimum wage level came into effect on 1 December 2015 until service workers in key sectors are in-sourced



CELEBRATING ... Former South African president Thabo Mbeki, enjoyed the performance of NMMU's choir when he delivered the keynote address on "conscious leadership" at the University's South Campus Auditorium. His talk, the final Beyers Naudé Memorial Lecture, was followed by a panel discussion, marking the culmination of a three-year relationship between the Kagiso Trust and NMMU's Centre for the Advancement of Non-Racism and Democracy (CANRAD). Mr Mbeki's visit coincided with the launch of NMMU's public art legacy programme and opening of the Beyers Naudé Garden of Contemplation.

▶During the university shut-down period, such workers will continue to receive the same level of pay and benefits ▶Study benefits currently available to NMMU permanent staff will be available to all service workers employed in outsourced companies ▶These staff will also have access to to university clinic services for medical treatment.

Council committed the University management to immediately work with representatives of organised labour, students and workers employed in outsourced companies at NMMU on a process towards in-sourcing contracts of service workers.

Turning to student debt demands, Council

immediately introduced the following: ▶debt relief for all NSFAS students with no-EFC (expected family contributions) ▶debt relief for all NSFAS-eligible students with outstanding balances ▶debt relief for academically deserving students falling in the 'missing middle' income brackets ▶removal of the upfront payment for students falling in the 'missing middle' income bracket and ▶to lift the threshold of qualification for financial assistance.

The Council also called on Government to ensure an effective and adequate system for debt relief for students from financially-disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure access of the poor to University education.

3 AWARDS: Achievers

5 LAUNCHED: New centres

6 DEVELOPMENT: Maritime campus

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
for tomorrow

2005-2015



UNVEILED ... THE first phase of the NMMU public art legacy programme launched on 30 October 2015 with the unveiling of the Madiba Shirt sculpture and coincided with the official opening of the Beyers Naudé Garden of Contemplation. The sculpture is a tribute to Nelson Mandela, whose name the University proudly bears. The design was the brain-child of Mary Duker, the Director of the School of Music, Art and Design. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students were involved in creating its final form which stands 2.8 metres high, on a concrete plinth. The basic structure is made out of C3R12, a hardy specialist metal. Hundreds of glazed ceramic tiles, suspended in a patterned wirework of squares, make-up the "fabric" of the shirt. The blue and white tiles spell out NMMU's value words in a series of horizontal and vertical bands. The sculpture, which took many months to complete, is located on a large open grass area opposite the east entrance to the main building on South Campus. Other projects in the ongoing public art legacy programme, include a statue of Nelson Mandela to be erected near the South Campus library and a "Voices of Africa" bench project for Missionvale Campus.

Cost-effective training for medical subspecialists

Pioneering doctorate

AT A TIME when tuition fees in tertiary education are of major concern, well-known retired reproductive subspecialist Dr Paul Dalmeyer's (right) thesis could save the government some money.

Graduating with a PhD in Business Management at only NMMU's second Summer graduation in December, his thesis titled "A business model for medical subspecialty training" in South Africa, developed a model to train subspecialists in South Africa.

Where finance is a problem, his model suggests how to develop Public Private Partnerships (PPP) to ensure the training of specialists, removing the government as financiers of this expensive training.

His proposed business model suits a developing country where the focus is on primary healthcare, with financial and capacity constraints. It will also assist in addressing the public outcry against tuition fees in tertiary institutions, as subspecialty training can, to a large extent, be removed from the national medical budget, and



taken up by the private sector.

The pilot programme to date has produced three PhDs, seven Master's degrees in embryology and seven fellowships in the field of reproductive medicine.

"Paul Dalmeyer is an astute businessman and this achievement perfected his contribution to the medical field and business," said his promoter Prof Miemie Struwig from NMMU's Department of Business Management. Prof Thinus Kruger from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Stellenbosch University co-promoted.

Dr Dalmeyer practised in Port Elizabeth as an obstetrician and gynaecologist with a focus on reproductive medicine for 30 years. He is internationally known for his fertility work and Fembryo (The Dalmeyer Fertility Unit) – only fertility clinic in Port Elizabeth – is named after him.

Dr Dalmeyer currently lives in Cape Town and is involved in medical education at both Cape medical schools. He has been involved in the hospital business for many years and has served on the Life Healthcare Holdings Board.



HONoured ... Alumni (back, from left) Ruan Viljoen, Nicholas Graham, Prof Lennox Ngqubela Ruxwana, Gugu Nxiweni, Songezo Zibi, Patrick Upton, Kevin Hustler (front, from left), Andrew Hannington, Michelle Brown and Zola Yeye's significant contributions to their specialist fields and roles in the development and well-being of society at local, provincial, national or international levels - were acknowledged at the recent NMMU Alumni Awards. Information on all the award recipients can be found on <http://alumni.nmmu.ac.za>

Briefs

First for NMMU



NMMU Alumnus Judy Sikuza (left) made history as the first Mandela Rhodes Scholar to hold a senior position in the Mandela Rhodes Foundation where she was recently appointed as Programme Director.

Judy holds a BA in Psychology (*cum laude*) from NMMU as well as an Honours degree in Industrial/Organisational Psychology and was a Mandela Rhodes Scholar in the Class of 2007.

She also holds an MA in Organisational Psychology (with distinction) from Columbia University in New York City, which she completed as a Fulbright Scholar.

Miss SA finalists



BOTH Luyolo Mngonyama, a third-year Psychology and Sociology student (left) and Mikaela Oosthuizen, a second year BA MCC student (right) have been selected as Miss South Africa finalists for 2016. They were selected as part of the Top 12 and will now prepare for the 2016 pageant which takes place at Carnival City on 19 March.

SUMMER GRADUATION
Graduates from all seven faculties will be capped at NMMU's second Summer Graduation on 10 and 11 December. Four faculties were added, since the successful pilot graduation last year.



SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS ... Top achievers in both academic and sport were recognised at the annual Achievers' Awards Dinner recently. Development Studies master's degree student Mzoliszi Ngcamango (from left) and third-year Economics Diploma student Ibanathi Nonkenezwa won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Leadership. The 2015 Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year are South African hockey player Ignatius Malgraff and SA senior ladies waterpolo team player Delaine Christian.

Entrepreneur Fellowship launched

AS HAS become apparent during the student protests, many young people are crippled by study debt. In addition, many struggle to find capital to start their own businesses once leaving university. This means that there is very little incentive for would-be entrepreneurs to complete postgraduate studies.

Aimed at promoting postgraduate studies and entrepreneurship in ICT, NMMU and Happimo NPC announced the launch of the Mandela Bay Entrepreneurship Fellowship in Port Elizabeth.

The fellowship will be available to Masters and PhD graduates from the Department of Computing Sciences and the School of ICT at NMMU.

The winner of the fellowship will receive a minimum of R100 000 to be used for their start-up initiative.

Neither Happimo NPC, a non-profit company that focuses on software that solves government problems, nor NMMU will have any financial stake in the venture at a later stage, irrespective of its success. The fellowship is underwritten by Alan Knott-Craig, serial entrepreneur, and founder of Project Iziswe and Happimo NPC.

"I studied to be a Chartered Accountant, but I did two years of computer science as voluntary courses at NMMU. I believe we need more postgrads in computer science, and that these individuals should start businesses rather than get jobs. The fellowship is an incentive for students to finish their Masters or PhD and then to become an entrepreneur," said Knott-Craig.

"One of the deciding factors in choosing NMMU is that it has the most diverse postgrad student programme in South Africa. We need more black and female tech entrepreneurs. I believe NMMU can produce them."

Learning spaces will embrace a new creative, child-centred philosophy of teaching

A new building for new times

NMMU'S flagship Foundation Phase programme (FPP) starts its new life on Missionvale Campus next year in a building that has been specifically designed to accommodate its new curriculum – and the philosophy behind it.

The FPP for 2016 will see third and fourth-year students attending lectures in the new building on Missionvale Campus, while all Foundation Phase students will shift to Missionvale Campus from 2017.

The students will learn in a brand new R54m building – which architect Neal Fisher has designed specifically to accommodate the FPP, and the pioneering teaching philosophy on which it is based.

The Emilio Reggio philosophy of child development with its "Theory of the hundred languages" draws on drama, music, art and languages to help teachers tap into the full potential of the children they are teaching.

The new building features inviting, versatile learning spaces with movable furniture that can be used for lectures or music, drama and meeting rooms. They can also be utilised for afterschool programmes such as literacy development.

Postgraduate facilities have been included to encourage greater numbers of students to conduct postgraduate research in Foundation Phase. Several Masters and PhD students are already enrolled.

NRF honours NMMU researchers

GLOBALLY renowned vegetation ecologist and conservation scientist, Botany's Professor Richard Cowling (right) recently received a National Research Foundation (NRF) A-rating for the fourth time.



In addition, the brilliant pre-doctoral work done by Zoology student Nasreen Peer (left) earned her the 2015 NRF Research Excellence Award for Outstanding Doctoral Candidates (Next Generation Researchers). Her research interest is focused on the diversity and ecology of true crabs (*Crustacea: Brachy-*

ura) in the St Lucia Estuary. On the basis of her outstanding performance, Nasreen was granted an upgrade from an MSc to a PhD. Both awards were acknowledged by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch.

"These awards are due recognition of the significant contributions our researchers are making to the creation of cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future. Their research is ground breaking and highly relevant for South Africa at a time when so much of our natural environment inheritance is under threat".



WORK IN PROGRESS ... Education's Dr Tulusi Morar (from left), Prof Alette Delpont, Executive Dean Dr Muki Moeng and Dr Deidre Geduld at the building which is nearing completion and which will be ready for occupation from January 2016. Inset an artist impression of the completed building.

The Resource Centre on Missionvale Campus complements the needs of FPP students, by offering access to key materials that accommodate their teacher-educator needs. This includes a variety of literature, tools, models, posters and other teaching materials.

The Resource Centre that will be part of the BEd Foundation Phase building will complement the needs of FPP students by offering access to key materials that accommodate their teacher-educator needs. These will include a variety of literature tools, models, posters and other teaching materials.

The Resource Centre will be technology-enabled and offer students access to wifi, the internet, computer, printing and other facilities that can assist with their academic preparation. It also features an exhibition space

to showcase the work the students have produced.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Derrick Swartz, calls the Resource Centre the "Resource Commons" because it serves as a common area where students of the Faculty of Education share resources and have combined ownership of a specially designed space. It reflects the calibre of education that Foundation Phase students receive at NMMU and what their ideal teaching environment would be.



DANCE EXPRESSION ... Research and Development Officer for the Department of Arts & Culture and the Faculty of Arts, Aarti Narotam (left) welcomed guests with an invocatory, cleanse dance to the Vice-Chancellor's Cultural Evening on 30 September. The event, themed *Our Voices – izimvo: Looking back, looking forward*, also marked the opening of the new Institutional Art Gallery at the new-look Bird Street Campus and celebrated NMMU's School of Music Art and Design's (SoMAD) return to the area. SoMAD's postgraduate programmes have moved from NMMU's North Campus in Summerstrand to Bird Street. SoMAD's roots can be traced back to the Port Elizabeth Art School which first opened its doors in 1852 – making SoMAD the oldest surviving school of arts in the country. Comedian and NMMU alumnus, Donovan Goliath, was the evening's MC. Performances included dance, music, and visual art in celebration of NMMU's 10-year anniversary.

Briefs

Innovation recognised

NMMU'S Innovation Office held their first Innovators' Evening to honour and celebrate NMMU's innovators and inventors. Staff and students who have invented, developed or commercialised innovations were recognised for their contributions and the positive impact they have on society. The Innovation Office highlighted projects at the University which they are actively involved in and which distinguish NMMU's innovative capability nationally. Innovations that have been commercialised were also noted for their social and economic impact locally and nationally.

Women's career development

A GROUNDBREAKING book looking at career development patterns among women aged 45 to 65 across the globe is challenging perspectives about women in the work place. "We felt that career theory and career measurement were too male-dominated," said Professor of Psychology Mark Watson (above), one of the book's three joint editors, who is also the winner of one of two NMMU Research Excellence Awards. Published earlier this year under the title, "Women's career development throughout the lifespan: An international exploration", it is one of three career-focused books with which Prof Watson has recently been involved.

