

# A glance at some highlights for 2015



Public Art Legacy launched

THE first phase of the NMMU public art legacy programme was launched on 30 October 2015 with the unveiling of the Madiba Shirt sculpture (above) which 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 brainchild 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.



Magubane's photos commemorate NMMU milestone

VICE-CHANCELLOR Prof. Derrick Swartz met renowned photojournalist Dr Peter Magubane at the opening of the "Madiba – Man of the People" exhibition held at the Archives and Exhibition Centre on Second Avenue Campus. The unique exhibition featuring photographs of the country's best-loved former leader, Nelson Mandela, by one of its best-known South African photojournalists, Dr Peter Magubane, was a fitting way to mark the 10th anniversary of the only university that bears Mandela's name. Picture: Dr Heidi Hattingsh



Mbeki Delivers Keynote Address

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-Racialism 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. The two choir members to his left are Akhona Nkumanda and Anathi Jindela and to his right are Luan Staphorst and choir conductor Junita van Dijk.



Climbing4NMMU

AS part of NMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Derrick Swartz's (left) personal commitment to the University's 10-year celebrations he climbed Mount Fuji in Japan, raising over R1 million, for the NMMU Trust Bursary Legacy Campaign, giving financially-needy and academically deserving students the opportunity to study at the university. The #climb4nmmu campaign gave Prof Swartz the opportunity to highlight the extent of the need for financial support for such students especially within the Eastern Cape, which is recognised as the poorest province. To support the Vice-Chancellor in his initiative, a number of events to raise both awareness and funds were held.

**Did you know?**  
**NMMU is connected**  
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**BOOSTING EDUCATION ...** The message of taking the University to the people was central at the opening of the new Foundation Phase Education building on Missionvale Campus. The R56m building tailor-made for BEd Foundation Phase teachers (Grade R to 3) – designed around a brand new curriculum and teaching philosophy – is how NMMU is hoping to grow more teachers in this critical first phase of a child's schooling. The re-curriculated Foundation Phase programme is a benchmark approach in South Africa's education. The building which accommodates 400 students, has been custom-designed to accommodate the Reggio Emilia philosophy of child development with its metaphor of "the hundred languages of children", that draws on drama, music, art and languages to help teachers tap into the full potential of the children they are teaching. "We have deliberately chosen Missionvale Campus as the location for the re-curriculated Foundation Phase programme, as it is situated close to a large number of primary schools in Zwide, Missionvale and New Brighton," says Education's Operations Manager Dr Tuli Morar.

## First dedicated study centre in the country with blue economy focus New ocean sciences campus

**NMMU will soon have a seventh campus and the country's first dedicated ocean sciences centre for research, teaching and learning.**

"Our strategy is to develop a whole new range of maritime and marine education and training, research, innovation and engagement programmes to support Africa's blue economy," 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 campuses. The meeting follows an earlier visit to Norway by Prof Swartz and senior University officials, to establish partnerships as well as promote academic and scholarly collaborations, in respect of the oceans economy.

## Medical school gets stamp of approval

**AFTER years of campaigning by the University for the creation of a second medical school in the Eastern Cape Province the Government has given formal approval for the establishment of South Africa's 10th Medical School at NMMU.**

"For the city and region, and indeed the country, it is a truly historic decision, after many years of clamouring by parents, students, doctors and other healthcare professionals in the province. So this is absolutely fantastic news," said Vice-Chancellor Prof. Derrick Swartz. In an early indication of its support, the Department of Higher Education in 2014 provided R72.3m over three years to NMMU to set up, among other things, new pre-medical programmes to allow for multi-entry-options towards the MBChB degree. These students may then qualify for third-year MBChB enrolment in 2020, which is also the target year for intake of NMMU's first year school-leavers for the same degree. Starting with an initial total intake of 50, the numbers will grow incrementally to 200 undergraduate students, as well as starting to introduce medical specialist training programmes.

"We assembled an expert group, consulted widely with healthcare professionals, looked at international best practices, and developed a 10-year Master Plan, entitled "Blueprint for a medical degree: transforming health science education to support equity in health," says Prof Swartz.

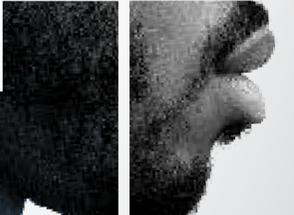
The Master Plan proposes "radical intervention to improve access, relevance, quality and transformative graduate attributes with a strong focus on increasing access to rural and poor youth linked to community and local economic development". Prof Vic Exner, Executive Dean of Health Sciences said, "the past four and a half years have been most exciting and challenging, transforming and re-aligning existing faculty structures and programmes, crafting new offerings, and promoting a bio-psycho-social approach to South Africa's healthcare and lifestyle management challenges.

This review is a condensed version of the Annual Report to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, which includes full financial statements and is available on request from Communication and Stakeholder Liaison and on the University website: [www.nmmu.ac.za/publications](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/publications)

- Communication and Stakeholder Liaison
- PO Box 77000 • Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Port Elizabeth • 6031 • South Africa
- [www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za) • [info@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:info@nmmu.ac.za)

**Did you know?**  
 Council approved the establishment of the following new units, centres, entities and institutes in 2015:

- South African International Marine Institute
- Centre for Coastal Paleoscience
- Centre for Broadband Communication
- Centre for Community Technologies



## Impact of #FeesMustFall movement

THE Eastern Cape is the second poorest province in South Africa, with the lowest matric pass rate of 65.4%. These factors significantly impact the context that informs the profile of our students, with approximately 79.5% of our students being resident in the Eastern Cape, some of whom face immense challenges, including financial, to sustain themselves. A total of R309 781 667 was available to assist 12 216 financially-needy and academically-deserving students during 2015. The major funding sources were notably the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) providing 59.8% of

# 'Moral imperative' to assist transformation

NELSON Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) is committed to creating a better tomorrow for its students.

That's the word of NMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Derrick Swartz who has been at the forefront of negotiations since the national student-led #FeesMustFall movement began at universities across South Africa from October 2015.

**Transformation goals are a top priority**

"Transformation goals are a top priority," says Prof Swartz. "We are committed to ensuring that no academically-deserving but financially struggling student is denied the opportunity to study further." Following an NMMU Council decision in November 2015, the University immediately:

- Introduced 2015 debt and 2016 down payment relief, thereby assisting 6 214 students who met the criteria, to the value of R21m.

the funding which supported 5 596 students. This translated into a year-on-year decrease of 4.7% in the total funding available, relative to R325 077 804 in 2014, which provided support to 12 623 students. The remaining 40.2% of financial support was derived from NMMU Council funding, government departmental bursaries/scholarships, national funding agencies such as the National Research Foundation (NRF) and other private

• Topped up the salaries of workers from contracted companies to a minimum of R5 000 cost to company, and committed to reintegrate them as NMMU employees.  
• Offered these 826 workers staff study benefits and access to the University's clinic services.  
• The University is also engaged with various student groups on matters of transformation within the academy, especially around decolonising the curriculum, as well as within sport. Sustainable solutions around food, accommodation and books are among the other challenges.  
• "We have a moral and social imperative to assist. It cannot be a situation where working class and poor students only have access to classrooms, but are marginalised from sporting facilities and activities, any more than education cannot be limited to the mind, but to the whole person," Prof Swartz wrote in an open letter to students.

sector contributions. With the demand for financial support significantly exceeding available funds, the provision of financial support remains an ongoing challenge to the Council and MANCO. Frequent and open communication with the Student Representative Council (SRC) have averted, to a large degree, student protests, finance-related or otherwise.

## Special graduation awards

### Imtiaz Sooliman

FOR his contribution to society through his incredible humanitarian work and his substantial contributions in advancing the frontiers of scholarly knowledge, both nationally and internationally, through social engagement in the form of health and education, Imtiaz Sooliman was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa).



The qualified medical doctor is the inspirational founder, director and visionary of Gift of the Givers, a South African NGO founded in 1992. He has been instrumental in changing the lives of millions of people in more than 41 countries around the world.

Gift of the Givers is the largest disaster response NGO of African origin, delivering lifesaving aid in the form of search and rescue teams, medical assistance, nutritional support, water and basic necessities. It is also the first such agency to be accredited by the Proudly South African foundation.

### Sharanjeet Shan

IN recognition of her contribution to pioneering work in Mathematics Education in South Africa, and tirelessly championing poor and marginalised communities,

**Did you know?**  
 A new award, the Chancellor's Medal, was introduced at Graduation in recognition of individuals who make a substantial contribution to both academic scholarship and society nationally. It is named in honour of the University's Chancellor, who is the titular head of NMMU.

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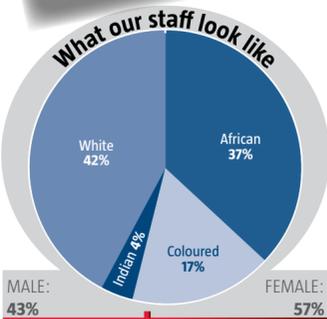
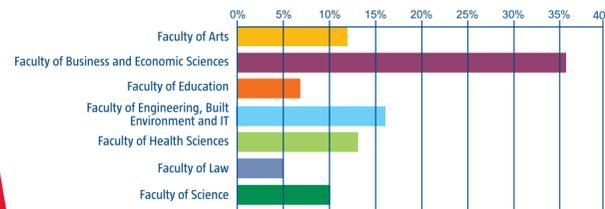


South Campus North Campus Bird Street Campus Missionvale Campus George Campus Second Avenue Campus

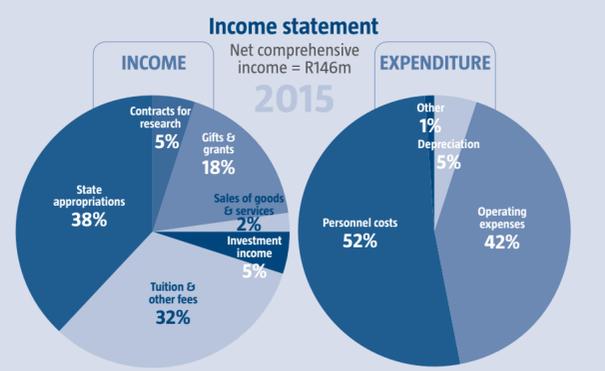
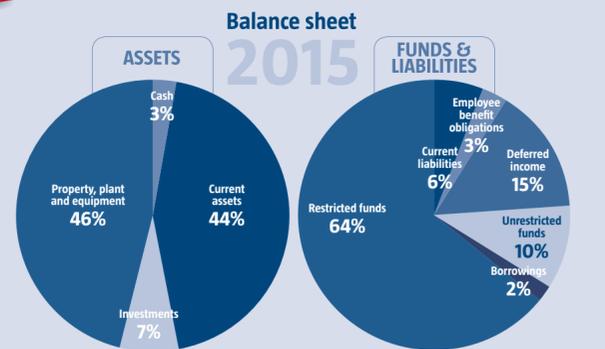
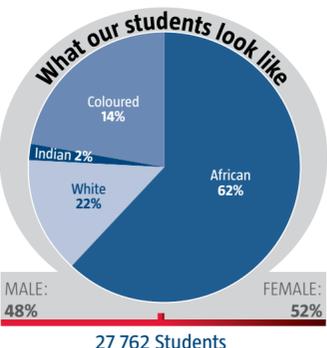
**Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University**  
for tomorrow

**OVER 27 000 STUDENTS, STUDYING ACROSS 475 PROGRAMMES IN 160 DIFFERENT CAREER FIELDS, ACROSS SIX DIFFERENT CAMPUSES, IN TWO DIFFERENT CITIES AND ONE DYNAMIC AFRICAN UNIVERSITY – NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**

**What we're studying\***



3 052 Staff: 30% Academic 70% Support



**Briefs**

**TOP DESIGN PRIZE**  
NMMU alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo (right) was the winner of the Most Beautiful Object in South Africa at the Design Indaba in Cape Town. South African designers, industry insiders, fashionistas and the general public voted for his shawl as the winner. "I feel extremely honoured as there are more than 100 000 designs being created yearly in South Africa and having mine singled out is the greatest honour of all," Laduma said before flying back to Italy to continue his design studies in Milan.



**ABE BAILEY WINNER**  
POLITICAL Sciences honours student, Samantha Beynon (right), was selected as an Abe Bailey Travel Bursary recipient for 2015. Only 18 student recipients from 18 different universities across South Africa were selected. These bursaries give university students and staff an opportunity to visit the United Kingdom, participating in educational tours.



**MASTER MIND**  
SECOND-YEAR BCom Accounting student, Jesse February, was recently named as the International Young Chess Player of the Year. She has also been included in the team to play in the International Olympiad in Azerbaijan.



**HEALTHY EATING** (Above) Second-year Agriculture students Pamela Mabiza (left) and Sandisiwe Mkhize with cabbages grown on North Campus for the Campus Health Services' nutrition project supporting over 500 students annually. The students grow carrots, beetroot, spinach, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, brinjals, butternut and patty pan squash which they donate. The project contributes to their practical marks and is used as a simulator to teach students the agriculture processes in crop production, from nursery to soil preparation, planting to harvest and then finally packing.



**TOP OF THE RANGE** ... The NMMU cheerleaders won the annual National Cheerleading Championships for the second year in succession. Arts and Culture's Nicki-Anne Rayepen is the NMMU team manager and head choreographer. The NMMU cheerleaders support the NMMU rugby team at all Varsity Cup games.

**Students support health train**  
NMMU an engagement pioneer of Phelophepa community project

MORE than 50 NMMU Health Sciences students worked alongside trained professionals to bring primary health care to 72 communities throughout South Africa aboard the Phelophepa health care train. NMMU has been part of the "miracle train" initiative since 2008, where students spend two weeks delivering primary health care to hundreds of underprivileged people in the area as part of the Transnet Foundation initiative. The nursing science students were followed by other fourth-year NMMU pharmacy and psychology students at different points of the Phelophepa's journey throughout the year. "NMMU has been a pioneer through its Trust and Community Development Unit and has always supported the project," says Health Transnet Foundation's senior manager Shamona Kandia. Apart from providing Health Sciences students, NMMU has assisted Transnet in developing a manual for a community mobilisation model and consistently provides strategic guidance and support for the project. The University also permanently engages with many of the communities served by the train. Phelophepa, which means "good, clean health" in Tswana and Sotho, has been in existence since 1994 with over 40 permanent staff and numerous volunteers. The train is more than a mobile hospital. It provides outreach and educational programmes and has reached over 23.5 million people thus far, making it the world's biggest mobile clinic. "The Phelophepa complements those services and aims to assist communities which cannot afford health care and often experience barriers to access public health services." About 50 pharmacy, dental, nursing, psychology and optometry students from various universities live and work in cabins on the trains for two-week rotation periods. Hospitality students also assist with meal preparation. In total, 1 300 students will assist on the train this year. NMMU students have always benefitted from the hands-on work. In 2015 the Phelophepa assisted more than 533 000 people of whom 72 000 were from the Eastern Cape alone.



**REACHING OUT** ... Nursing Science's lecturer Dr Maggie Williams (from left) with fourth-year nursing science students, Roxanne Jephtha, Tyler Blignaut, Kate Leistra and Ethel Tsopo who spent two weeks on the Phelophepa health train.

**Decolonising the curriculum**

THE #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall student campaigns foregrounded the need for change to occur in the academy. Decolonising of the curriculum across all programmes and disciplines, ensures that the programme design, pedagogies, content and assessment methodologies are humanising and relevant to the African context generally, and the South African context specifically, while remaining cognisant of the global factors and challenges prevalent in society at large. Ongoing projects to address these issues include:

- ▶ Continuing curriculum renewal, relevance of content, pedagogy, assessment, conducive teaching and learning environment.
- ▶ Conducting teaching and learning retreats to ensure the provision of an integrated and consistent approach to teaching and learning, where the quality and relevance is in alignment with V2020, our values and graduate attributes.
- ▶ Strengthening of the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committees through the inclusion of senior academics, to become a vibrant and generative space for discussing the critical issues that affects the Academy.
- ▶ Opening up the NMMU Teaching and Learning Committee spaces to engage interested staff and students in discussions and experimentation relating to the academic project.

Various initiatives have also been instituted to address the challenge of the aging academy with the following projects:

- ▶ Future scholars
- ▶ Emerging academics
- ▶ Mid-Career academics and leaders
- ▶ Senior academics and leaders
- ▶ Seniors approaching or post-retirement



**NEW SERVICE** ... Disability Unit's Estelle Broekhuizen (left) and Siphokazi Gunusa support blind students by converting course outlines, timetables and exam papers into braille. Infrastructural improvements, student support and advocacy and awareness are the focus of NMMU's Disability Unit for the current 391 students with disabilities on its campuses. The number of students on the Disability Unit database has grown by 29% compared to 2014. The Disability Unit also provides links and conversations with the library or other organisations to ensure e-book versions of study and library materials are available. They also use an orientation and mobility practitioner who provides mobility orientation on students' respective campuses as well as daily living skills.

**Local business support**

Newly launched Propella, assists and stimulates technology-based companies where Propella plays a role," says Director of Innovation at NMMU and CEO of Innovolve Jaci Barnett. NMMU is committed to producing graduates who are entrepreneurs - focused on finding solutions and creating jobs, rather than simply filling jobs. "We will focus on a model of incubate, accelerate and graduate," said EDD Managing Director Wayne Oosthuizen. "There is a real need to support and grow local manufacturing businesses." Propella situated in Walmer Boulevard also supports creative arts and textile entrepreneurs from a satellite incubator on Bird Street Campus, in the heart of Port Elizabeth's newly developing cultural precinct. Many of the challenges experienced by new creative arts businesses are the same as for manufacturing businesses. Businesses will go through a rigorous selection process to qualify for access to Propella and its support services, which include the provision of offices, mini assembly/manufacturing areas, comprehensive ICT infrastructure, accounting services, secretarial services and technical business support, Oosthuizen added. Funded by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) for the first three years of operation, Propella will also receive financial support from NMMU, EED and local corporates.

**Engagement Excellence Awards**

NMMU recognises and rewards staff who excel in integrating engagement into their teaching, learning and research activities.

**At the 2015 awards the following staff were honoured for their efforts:**

- Prof Hennie van As** – (Centre for Law in Action)
- Prof Christo Fabricius** – (Sustainability Research Unit, George Campus)
- Prof Frans Prinsloo and Elize Naudé** – (Accounting)
- Prof Johan van Niekerk** – (Centre for Research in Information & Cyber Security)
- Mary Duker and David Jones** – (Faculty of Arts)
- Dr Tim Pittaway** – (Agriculture and Game Management).

**University managers for tomorrow**

BUOYED by a R17m teaching development grant from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), NMMU will lead the process when it comes to transforming the role of capacity development among senior professional, administrative, management and support staff within the higher education sector. Initially, a DBA (Higher Education Management) will be offered by the University of Bath in the United Kingdom, followed by the prototype development and offering of a postgraduate diploma in Higher Education (Management) from 2019 spearheaded by NMMU with the assistance of a steering committee drawn from collaborating South African universities. The initial development grant will be followed by a further R17m in support of what is expected to mirror DHET's successful implementation of plans to grow the next generation of academics, via the nGAP programme. "The new programme aims to provide opportunities for senior professional, administrative and management staff to enhance their management, leadership, governance and technical abilities to offer the expertise needed for effective, transformed, modern universities in a dynamic national and global context," says Dean of Teaching and Learning Prof Cheryl Foxcroft. The University of Bath already offers an internationally recognised Doctorate in Business Administration (Higher Education Management).



**TOP ACHIEVERS** ... Among the 43 awards presented at the 2015 Research, Teaching and Engagement Awards for top academics in the fields of research, teaching, the creative and performing arts, innovation and engagement at the Boardwalk were, from left, Excellent Teachers of the Year, Applied Language Studies' Mukhtar Raban and School of ICT's Cheryl Schroder, Research Excellence Award winner Chemistry's Prof Zenixole Tshentu and Researcher of the Year, Zoology's Dr Pierre Pistorius.

**Groundbreaking marine research**

BIRD Island's gannets don't look for food, instead, they follow dolphins, other sea birds and even fishing boats, as they know these will lead them to a hearty meal of fish. This is just one of the unique discoveries made by Zoology's Dr Pierre Pistorius and his French research collaborators, who attached tiny video cameras to the birds, to understand their feeding patterns. Through sound captured on the cameras, Dr Pistorius and his team have also recently found that the gannets have a unique way of communicating while out at sea, with specific vocalisations used in different circumstances. For his cutting-edge research on these and other marine top predators, including penguins, dolphins, seals and sharks – in South Africa and as far afield as Marion Island and the Falklands – Dr Pistorius has taken top honours as NMMU's Researcher of the Year for 2015. 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". Bird Island's gannet population, at 90 000 breeding pairs, is the largest in the world. The research on their foraging (feeding) habits will help scientists understand what is contributing to their success, while gannet populations elsewhere are declining. In addition to the cameras, the birds are also fitted with GPS units and time depth recorders, so researchers can see where and at what depths they are finding food. Although much of Dr Pistorius's research focuses on the conservation needs of marine species, he also uses marine top predators as indicators of ecosystem health. "Changes in seabirds and seals can be monitored with relative ease, and if their behaviour or breeding success changes, this points to changes lower down the food chain".

**NRF honours NMMU researchers**



**Did you know?**  
NMMU had 80 NRF-rated researchers in 2015, up from 77 in 2014, to ensure it retained its place among the top ten South African universities in terms of NRF ratings. The NRF-rated researchers includes 13 black and 25 female rated researchers.

**GLOBALLY renowned vegetation ecologist and conservation scientist Botany's Professor Richard Cowling (left) 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 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: Brachyura) 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," said Prof Leitch.

**Award winners**

- ▶ **NMMU Researcher of the Year:** Dr Pierre Pistorius
- ▶ **Research Excellence Awards:** Prof Zenixole Tshentu and Prof Mark Watson
- ▶ **NMMU Excellent Teacher of the Year:** Mukhtar Raban and Cheryl Schroder
- ▶ **NMMU Teaching & Learning Excellence Team Awards:** Dr Hermien Johannes and the Blended Learning team
- ▶ **NMMU Engagement Excellence Awards:** Prof Hennie van As and the Sustainability Research Unit (Prof Christo Fabricius)
- ▶ **Faculty Researchers of the Year:** Prof Helize van Vuuren (Arts); Prof Elmarie Venter (Business); Prof Naydene de Lange (Education); Prof Darelle van Greunen (Engineering); Prof Ilse Truter (Health Sciences); Prof Avinash Govindjee (Law); Prof Nadine Strydom (Science)
- ▶ **Faculty Excellent Teachers of the Year:** Mukhtar Raban (Arts); Tracy Beck (Business); Dr Margie Childs and Prof Hugh Glover (Education); Cheryl Schroder (Engineering); Tanya Wagenaar (Law); Dr Pragashni Padayachee and Tiaan Pool (Science)
- ▶ **Faculty Emerging Researchers of the Year:** Dr Alethea de Villiers (Arts); Dr Mathabo Khau (Education); Dr Bertram Haskins (Engineering); Dr Maryna Baard (Health Sciences); Glynis van der Walt (Law); Dr Brenda Scholtz (Science)
- ▶ **Faculty Emerging Excellent Teachers of the Year:** Claudette Leppan (Arts); Bomikazi Zeka (Business); Deon Swartz (Education); Sharon Dent (Engineering); Ryan Raffan (Health Sciences); Shuaib Rahim (Law)

**ENGAGEMENT**

- NMMU ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE TEAM AWARD:
- ▶ **SoMAD Visual Arts Strategic Engagement:** Public Arts Partnerships (Mary Duker and David Jones)
- ▶ **NMMU Engagement Excellence Project Awards:** Centre for Research in Information and Cyber Security (Prof Johan van Niekerk) and School of Accounting (Prof Frans Prinsloo and Elize Naudé)
- ▶ **NMMU Emerging Engagement Excellence Award:** Dr Tim Pittaway
- INNOVATION**
- ▶ **Innovation Excellence Project Award:** Etienne Phillips
- ▶ **Emerging Innovation Excellence Award:** Dalray Gradidge
- PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS**
- ▶ **Visual Arts:** Dr Magda Minguzzi and Andrieta Wentzel