

# STUDENT VOLUNTEERISM

## The Department of Student Governance and Development

The Department of Student Governance is divided into a number of different areas: Student Life and Events, SRC, Radio Station and Leadership Training and Development. Each of these areas is involved in student engagement overseen by the different staff members.

### Leadership Training and Development:

#### **67 Hours**

The 67 Hours programme falls under Leadership Training and Development and is a co-curricular activity designed to enhance student learning, encourage critical thinking and help students develop as confident, contributing citizens and leaders. The objectives of the 67 Hour programme are to:

- provide student volunteers to assist NMMU staff within their departments/faculties/units
- service communities in need
- provide student volunteers with practical learning experiences, training, and contacts to benefit their future
- enhance the image of the NMMU within the communities where the students volunteer
- grow engaged and responsible citizens for the future

Working from the principle of the name of the institution “Nelson Mandela” and expanding on 67 minutes held annually across the country, the students are encouraged to accomplish 67 hours of volunteer service, within two years.

67 Hours began in 2013 where students were required to submit a hardcopy portfolio which contained a log sheet, reflections and signed proof of evidence of (a minimum) of 67 hours completed from the relevant beneficiaries. In 2015 the decision was made to pilot an online system using Moodle. Students who participate in the 67 Hours programme are required to sign up via the 67 Hours Moodle site. They follow the process as outlined on the Moodle site. This involves recording and tracking their volunteer hours, completing an online reflective journal, and uploading forms indicating hours of service signed off by beneficiaries, before submitting for approval on their Co-Curricular Record.

Students can be part of a structured volunteer programme or students can source their own sites. They can do all 67 hours of volunteer service at one beneficiary or they can assist at any number of sites. They are able to choose and/or find their own area of service, and are regularly emailed any opportunities as the requests are received from beneficiaries. Students can complete their hours over a period of two years. Beneficiaries range from schools, clinics, to impact days, clean-ups, helping at sports events. The impact depends entirely on the different sites and the activity carried out.



Some students specifically choose a volunteer opportunity, which connects to their field of study. For example: if an IT student volunteers his time, he is able to put into practice the necessary soft skills he will require in his work experience; yet, at the same time s/he can expand on his/her IT knowledge.

In 2015, 48 students signed up to pilot the 67 Hours Moodle site. Throughout the year a number of face to face meetings were held with students to discuss the ease of use of the site and any other considerations the students had identified. At the end of 2015 a list of recommendations were compiled and a meeting was held with Simon Goldstone to implement the suggested recommendations. Valuable input was gained from the pilot programme and it has assisted in providing a better product for the students in 2016. It is clear that many students are challenged when it comes to using the Moodle site and it is evident that training needs to be included as part of the programme.

### **Business Women's Association (BWA) Grade 12 Workshop**

Annually, 14 BtC students assist at the BWA/Grade 12 workshop facilitating a table of 10 learners from 10 different schools. Feedback received is positive with many students keeping in contact through WhatsApp with their learners. Interestingly, two students who facilitated in 2015 had both attended the BWA Grade 12 workshop when they were at school. They both said they had found it so motivating when they were at school, that they wanted to volunteer to facilitate this year.

### **Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme (BtC)**

Beyond the Classroom Leadership Programme (BtC) falls under Leadership Training and Development. BtC classes were held on North, South, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave campuses and a class at the Athenaeum in the suburb of Central in Port Elizabeth.

All BtC students are required to complete 20 hours of community service, with many students committing more than the required 20 hours. At a minimum, 227 students x 20 hours (minimum) = **4540** hours. Students could undertake their community outreach within their faculties, societies or in the broader community environment. Students are not allowed to receive payment or academic credit for their work. Volunteer work ranged from tutoring at their previous school, helping at a crèche or assisting at old-aged homes or volunteer with their churches. All volunteer work is signed off by the relevant beneficiary. A number of students assisted at the NMMU Open Day and helped marshal at the NMMU Sports Department fun runs. With contacts formed with Vodacom and Zsports, students also signed up and volunteered at the Iron Man, the Colour Run, Muck Run, Urban Run, Great Train Race and the Human Race. Many students complete far more than the required 20 hours.

### **The Sweethearts Foundation**

The Sweethearts foundation is a non-profit organization that collaborates with companies like Interwaste, The Polystyrene Recycling Company and Zibo in order to recycle plastic tags (and bottle tops). In exchange for 50kg bread-tags or 150kg bottle tops, the Sweethearts gets a wheelchair, which they then hand over to a disabled person. BtC students collected bread tags throughout the year and over 10kgs were handed over to the Sweet Hearts Foundation on Monday 28 September. The hand over was featured on the NMMU webpage <https://www.facebook.com/NMMU4U/photos/pb.136889286362813.-2207520000.1448101291./969805939737806/?type=3&theater> and the Sweet Hearts Foundation page. <https://www.facebook.com/sweetheartsfoundation> The Foundation has set a challenge to donate 180 wheelchairs by January 2016



Bread tag handover to the Sweetheart Foundation

### **NMMU/UinA Student Volunteer Programme (SVP) with Unity in Africa Foundation**

Two six week programmes are run, one in the first semester and one in the second. Students go out to a number of beneficiaries every day Monday to Thursday. In 2015 a total of 285 students volunteered a total of **4804** hours towards the Unity in Africa Foundation programmes. 1332 hours of intervention were committed during the first semester's 6 week programme and 1086 hours during the second semester. Students volunteered at Walmer Homework Club, Maranatha, EP Children's Home, Lovestory, Endangered Species, Mama Joyce, Ikamva, Heatherbank and Zanethemba. Student volunteers assisted with homework, mathematics, English literacy, computers, and played and assisted with general needs at the beneficiaries.

Other outreach interventions included marketing at pop up campaigns on campus, marketing the Steps to Educate Trail Run at running clubs, beach clean-ups, a conservation walk with Hermitage House, assisting and marshalling at both the PwC Great Zuurberg Trek and the Stonehouse Capital Zuurberg Challenge and assisting Zanethemba to move premises. A total of 2386 hours were clocked during various impact days.

### **Student Representative Council**

#### **Operation Sangena**

During the July recess, the SRC embarked on a journey to travel the rural Eastern Cape for Operation Sangena. Operation Sangena is a community outreach project aimed at providing information to school learners as well as assisting and equipping them with the application process. The project was expanded to include general students who carried the same mandate in their own communities. The areas covered areas in the Eastern Cape such as (but not limited to) Fort Beaufort, Middledrift, Alice, King Williamstown, Sterkspruit, Aliwal North, Qumbu and the Tsolo district.



### **The Alice Award**

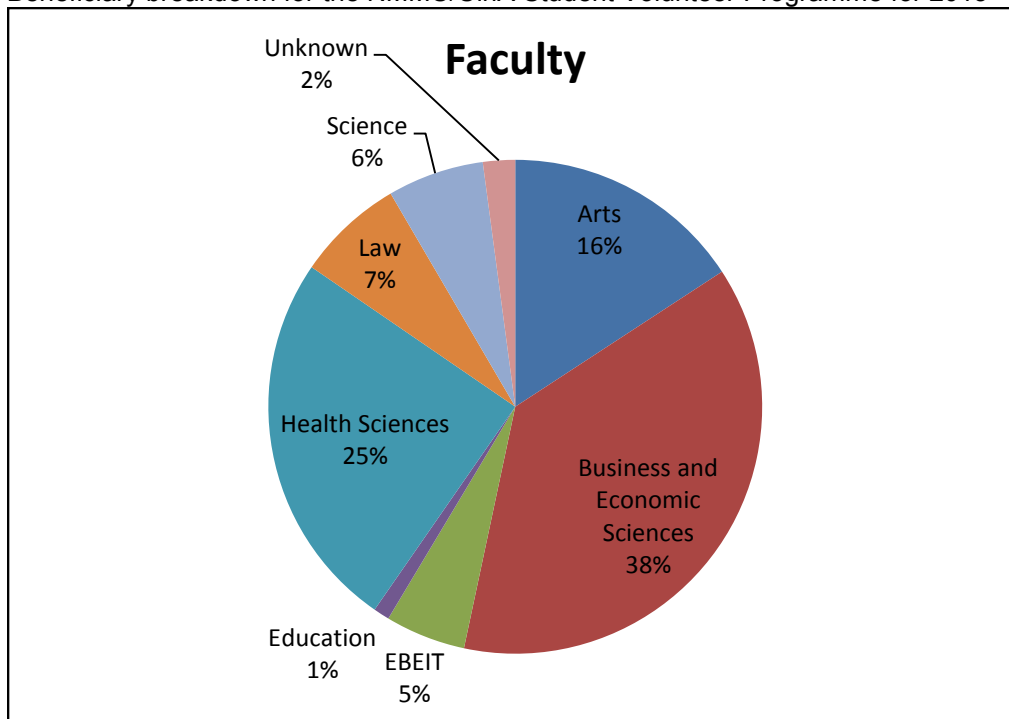
<http://news.nmmu.ac.za/News/Students-making-a-difference>

Each year, a special award is made to a BtC student or students who goes/go way beyond what is expected of them in their volunteer work. This year, the ALICE Award (A Little Involvement Changes Everything) the first recipient was Pamela Mabiza a 2nd year, Agricultural Management Diploma student. Pamela spent her time sorting donations of clothing and helped with general administrative assistance at the Hospice Shop, realising that with the little she could do, it could help raise funds for those who needed care. Taking it further and using what she had learnt through her studies to help others, she also volunteered at the ToCH Charity Shop in central and helped set up their agricultural garden. The second recipient was Lumka Makeka, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year Public Relations Diploma student. Lumka was a lead facilitator at the Reading Space Club in Masibambane Senior Secondary School in KwaZakhele, working with the Unako Community Based Movement. She spent her Saturday mornings assisting learners in Grade 8 and 9 with reading skills.

Lumka says: "When I started, my objective was to complete the BtC minimum required hours of volunteering. Little did I know that I would fall in love with the reading space, I just could not stop".



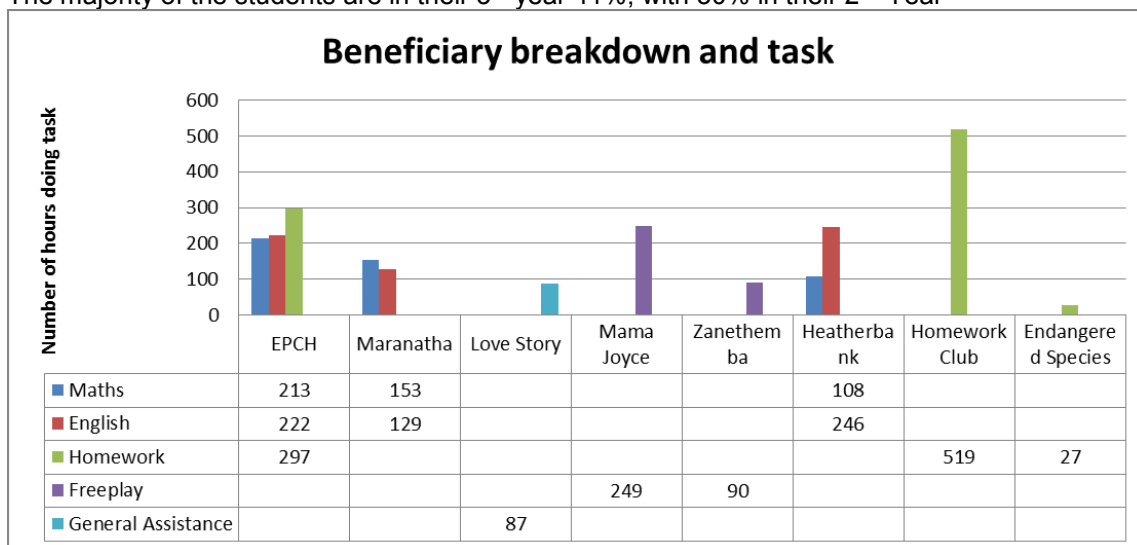
Beneficiary breakdown for the NMMU/UinA Student Volunteer Programme for 2015



The biggest complement of volunteers 38% come from the Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences and the second biggest complement from the Faculty of Health Sciences 25%.

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1st Year<br>17% | 2nd Year<br>30% | 3rd Year<br>41% | 4th Year<br>7% | Honours<br>3% | Masters<br>2% |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|

The majority of the students are in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year 41%, with 30% in their 2<sup>nd</sup> Year



## Student Life and Events

### Student Societies

Student Societies fall under Student Life and Events and in 2015 there were 74 recognised student societies operating on the different campuses. 35% were Academic based, 32% Religious, 27% Developmental and 5% Political. Each society is encouraged to have at least one outreach project/event for the year.

| SOCIETIES COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2015 |  |                             |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Name of society   | Brief Description of project   | Duration/ Date              |
| Logistics Society   | The Society collected tinned food during the month of May and June and distributed the proceeds to a charitable organisation.  | May – June 2015             |
| Law Students Society  | LSS Charity Sports day. The aim of this program was to allow members the opportunity to give back to the community and allow the children the opportunity to experience something that they weren't likely to experience without outside assistance. | 11 April 2015- Annual event |
|   | CANSA Shavathon. The aim of this project was to raise funds for CANSA Shavathon South Africa. Students, staff and other individuals paid for a shave, spray or full spray to show support for this worthy cause.                                     | 4 March 2015-Annual event   |

|                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
|                             | <p>Law Student Society Green week was held on 31 August to 4 September to create a greener or greener conscious campus between the faculties on south campus. Green waste bins were distributed at all the faculties.</p> <p>Law Students Society charity Golf day was held on 1 August 2015 at Wedgewood golf club. All proceeds from the golf day were donated to St Francis Hospice. Approximately 60 people participated in the event.</p>  | <p>31 August to 4 September</p> <p>1 August 2015</p>             |
| 20 Twenty Destiny           | <p>Crèche for Africa project: This project prepares children (that come from impoverished communities) for school. The project focuses on helping the school, teachers and children. 20Twenty Destiny has reached out to the Kwazakhele community and was involved at the Dorothy Tomlinson Pre-primary school. The society also assisted with uplifting the premises (revamping in 2014). This is an on-going projects as the Society plans to visit the site and provide assistance where needed.</p> <p>Residence outreaches: In 2014 20Twenty Destiny identified a need in that NSFAS students were not able to pay for their meals or accommodation, due to the delay of funding. The society reached out to needy students in Laboria and assisted with food packs which were able to sustain them for a month.</p>   | <p>2015</p> <p>2015</p>  |
| SuperEd                     | SuperEd held a blanket drive for the Khayaletu Youth Centre Project.  | 2015   |
| Green Campus Initiative     | <p>SPCA project – The GCI society visited the SPCA to deliver clothing and assist with cleaning after a fire took place and damaged the building.</p> <p>GCI visited the Samrec rehabilitation and education centre to volunteer with cleaning the rescued penguins.</p>  | 2015   |
| Golden Key                  | <p>The Golden Key society partnered with the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) on their Maths-science and English flagship programme. The role of the society was to provide Coega with tutors and facilitate sessions as an auxiliary to the programme they already have in existence. Students also assisted with facilitation of the Coega Winter School during the June/July holiday. The Golden Key Society provided students as tutors to present classes for two weeks at Kwazakhele and Masiphathisane High School during the holiday, every day focussing on grade 12 Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting. From 07:45-14:00. 10 Tutors assisted daily and 60 Scholars on average combined attended on each day.</p> <p>The society provided Maths and Physical science tutors to three schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay area namely. Phaphami High School (Kwanobuhle), Ithembelihle High School (Zwide) and Loyiso High School (Walmer township). The Golden Key Members tutored on Saturday mornings. 15 tutors each Saturday.</p> | 29 June – 10 July  |
| Muslim Students Association | The MSA Society ran a tin food collection drive. The drive happened from 1 <sup>st</sup> June and continued until the 11 <sup>th</sup> July. The society worked in collaboration with IFM Radio especially with   | <p>1 June- 11 July collection</p> <p>12-17 July distribution</p> |

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|  | regards to advertising of the drive. Distribution of foods was done from the 12-17 July. All foods were handed out to people who have been identified as poor / needy families throughout PE area. On Friday 4 September the Muslim Student's Association visited the Malabar Old Age home. The volunteers harvested and planted a vegetable garden for the Old Age home. The garden is being maintained by the MSA.                   | Friday 4 September           |
| Construction Management Student Society Golf Day | In support of the Charles Duna Initiative: a cause with the objectives of raising funds and providing aid for Charles Duna Primary School in the New Brighton Township, the CMSS had several events planned for the year with the aim of raising enough funds to procure materials for renovations/improvements of the school including paint for walls, new swings for the swing structure and outdoor benches using storage pallets. | 30 April at PE golf club     |
| Family Christian Fellowship                      | Visited the organisation that feed children who are orphans and from disadvantaged backgrounds and brought food parcels  | 05 May 2015                  |
| SASCO  | Operation Sofunda Sonke. From 28th June to 2 July 2015, SASCO students did community outreach at various schools in the rural Eastern Cape, covering High schools in the following areas: Queenstown, Mthatha, Idutywa, Cofimvaba, Gcuwa, Tsomo and Ncobo. The purpose was to expose Grade 12 learners to programmes offered by NMMU and to assist learners with the application process.  | 28th June to 2 July 2015     |
| Amnesty International                            | The society spent time with the children in a home for orphaned children with various games and activities that kept them engaged and entertained.   | 09 May 2015                  |
| Psychology Society                               | <b>Cheshire Home Outreach.</b> Society members as well as non-members volunteered at Cheshire Home. The programme ran for 5 weeks from 3 August to 4 September 2015. Students were required to feed the patients either during breakfast or lunch. This was a wonderful experience for Psychology students, because they learned to interact with others and give back to the community. + - 80 students participated in this project. | 3 August to 4 September 2015 |
| Science Society                                  | The society visited the Ubuntu Education Foundation located in Port Elizabeth, Zwide on 18 August 2015. The purpose of the visit was to have dialogues with High School learners. Learners were exposed to scientific experiments. Students shared their university experiences with the 32 learners who were in attendance. The main aim was to create an interest in Science as a field of study to the learners.                    | 18 August 2015               |
| Agriculture Society                              | On 28 August 2015 they engaged in a Garden project in Korsten.   | 28 August 2015               |
| ABASA  | Tutoring took place every Saturday from 09:00-14:00 at Khumbulani High School. Grade 12 Learners were tutored by 15 ABASA members who assisted learners with problem school subjects, such as Mathematics.   | 2015                         |
| Masifunde  | Masifunde Society school painting project in collaboration with the Masifunde NGO and the Walmer Township community painted the Walmer High School classrooms. This was done in  | 16th- 18 July 2015           |



|                             |  |                       |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|                             | commemoration of Mandela Day.  |                       |
| Accounting Society          | Accounting Society visited the West End Primary School in the Northern Areas to do need analysis as to how they could assist the school and assisted the school with a Mathematics tutoring program.                         | 22nd June             |
| SDASM                       | SDASM Winter school was held for Grade 12 learners from 24 June – 5 July 2015 at Bethel College in Butterworth to prepare Grade 12 learners for their final exams. Tutoring was done from 08:00 – 16:00 throughout the week. | 24 June – 5 July 2015 |
| Peer Helpers Society        | Peer Helpers Society donated stationery worth R1 100 on 30 July to Maranatha Children's Home in Walmer.  | 30 July               |
| Amnesty International       | Amnesty International Society hosted a bus party to raise funds for Noah's Ark Day Care Center in Wells Estate (Motherwell area).  | September 2015        |
| Embo Black Movement Society | Tutoring was provided for Grade 12 learners in schools surrounding the Missionvale area.   | 2015                  |

#### **Madibaz Radio Station**

| Name of event            | Brief Description of project  | Duration/ Date             |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Madibaz Radio Dream Galz | As part of the Women's month celebrations the station undertook an initiative called Madibaz Radio Dream Galz. The station hosted 8 girls from Qaphelani High School and Paterson High School. The girls were taken through the functioning of a radio station and exposed to the different career choices involved in radio. | 10 August 2015             |
| SaniTeens Campaign       | As part of the Women's month celebrations the station ran a campaign to collect sanitary towels that were donated 140 girls from two Primary schools (Missionvale & Gelvandale) grade 7 learners.<br>The station is playing its role in trying to curb the loss of school days by girls from underprivileged areas.           | Started 3 August - ongoing |