

Dr Cheryl Benn



Dr Cheryl Benn was born in Bloemfontein, to parents Peter and Ursula Emslie, and later moved to Natal, where she matriculated from Kingsway High in Amanzimtoti.

In 1978, she graduated with a Bachelor of Social Science (Nursing) degree from the University of Natal, and registered as a nurse and midwife. Passionate about midwifery, she then completed her honours degree in Advanced Midwifery, also at the University of Natal, while working as a research midwife at King Edward VIII hospital in Durban.

She then went to the United States and Japan for 18 months, where she studied and taught English and Bible Study, before returning to Bloemfontein, where she worked as a registered nurse in the Surgical ICU, followed by a stint in the labour ward, at Universitas Hospital.

In 1984, she took up a position lecturing midwifery at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), where she also completed a Diploma in Nursing Education, and an MCur in Midwifery.

In 1993, while completing her DCur degree, the family emigrated to New Zealand, where Dr Benn took up a position as a nursing lecturer at Massey University, Palmerston North.

She completed her DCur and went on to head up various programmes and committees, including being appointed to the Nursing Council of New Zealand by the then Minister of Health.

At Massey University, she was promoted to senior lecturer and then associate professor, before becoming Director of Midwifery programmes (Bachelors to Doctoral) from 2000 to 2007, after which she took voluntary redundancy. Since then, she has been working as a self-employed caseload midwife, and has been appointed as midwifery advisor to two district health boards.

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Dr. Colleen O'Brien

Dr Tillie Jantjies, one of 11 children, was born in George, to parents Jacobus and Louisa Aries, and grew up in the Pacaltsdorp settlement.

In 1973, she matriculated from George High, where she developed a love for music, and was also made Head Girl. A bitter-sweet memory of her school years was having to walk miles each day, past two former "whites only" schools, to reach her school.

She commenced her tertiary education at the University of the Western Cape in 1974, completing her BCur degree in 1978. She went on to obtain her BCur Hons (specialising in advanced midwifery and neonatal nursing science), MCur and DCur, along with diplomas in Nursing Education, Community Nursing Science and Nursing Administration at the former University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

She started her professional clinical career at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, after which she worked in the paediatric and maternity departments at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth. She then worked in nursing education until 2010, at Charlotte Searle Nursing College, UPE and NMMU. She is currently employed as a manager at Dora Nkomo Hospital in Port Elizabeth, where she is also involved with clinical research.

Looking to the future, she aims to play a more active role in collaborative clinical research, which she intends to continue after her retirement from full-time employment.



Dr. Janet Bell



Port Elizabeth-born Dr Janet Bell spent most of her childhood in East London, where she matriculated from Clarendon School for Girls, before studying nursing.

She completed her BCur at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) in 1991, before obtaining her BCur Hons (1993), MCur (cum laude) (2005) and Diploma in Nursing Education (cum laude) (2006) at Stellenbosch University. She is currently a PhD candidate at NMMU. After graduating from UPE, she moved to Cape Town, where she entered the world of critical care nursing and has lived out her nursing career in various guises ever since.

She completed postgraduate studies in intensive care nursing and then spent 10 years in various roles and hospitals in critical and emergency care environments, as a clinical nurse, unit manager and nurse educator.

She then entered the world of academia at Stellenbosch University, where her main focus for the next 10 years was guiding postgraduate students studying critical care nursing, as well as being a study supervisor for MCur students. Her other roles at Stellenbosch University included teaching general nursing and research, managing the Interactive Telematic Education platform, assisting international students, and being Acting Head of the Nursing Division. She remains actively involved in the Critical Care Society and the Critical Care Nurses Forum.

For the past two years, she has been self-employed. She has a particular interest in the unique space that nurses create and occupy in caring for people - and intends to find ways of exploring, revealing and using the nature of this space, so that those in the profession can become better able at speaking clearly and unequivocally about the depth and complexity of being a nurse who does "good" nursing.

Dr Bell is married and has two young boys. She enjoys cooking, reading and creating with her hands.

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Dr. Ruwayda Jacobs

Born and raised in Port Elizabeth, Dr Ruwayda Jacobs completed her school education at Gelvandale primary and high schools.

She went on to obtain five tertiary qualifications, four from the former University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), namely, a BA, majoring in psychology and sociology (1997), BCur (2001), MCur (2006) and PhD (2012), as well as a Nursing Diploma in Health Service Management and Health Service Education from North-West University (2014).

She has worked at Elizabeth Donkin Hospital (EDH) for the past 12 years as a psychiatric nurse.

She enjoys doing research and is currently involved in a number of collaborative research projects with NMMU's Prof Nita Stumpher and EDH's Prof Stoffel Grobler. She aims to continue developing her research skills, particularly in the field of psychiatry.

While working and studying, Dr Jacobs has also been raising her three children by herself, two girls and a boy, aged 17, 14 and 12.

Looking back at her life, Dr Jacobs says she is glad of the choices she made, because they have made her the person she is today.



Prof. Dalena van Rooyen



Prof Dalena van Rooyen was born in Uptington, to parents Gerhardus and Wilhelmina Wiese. She attended Outeniqua High School in George and then went on to study nursing at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE).

After completing her BCur degree in 1986, she went on to obtain a diploma with distinction in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nursing through the South African Nursing Council (SANC). She returned to UPE in 1990 to complete her diploma in nursing education, for which she obtained a distinction. She then completed her BA Cur (Hons) in Advanced General Nursing Science through UNISA, and then her MCur at UPE, passing once again with distinction. In 2002, she completed her PhD at UPE.

Prof Van Rooyen started her career in 1986 as a professional nurse in the Emergency Department at George Hospital. She then moved to Port Elizabeth, working in the ICU at Provincial Hospital. In 1995, she began her academic career as a junior lecturer in the Department of Nursing Science at UPE. Nine years later, she became a professor and a year later, in 2005, she became the HoD of the department.

In 2012, she moved into her current position as Director of the School of Clinical Care Sciences at NMMU. She is a professional editor for the journal Health SA Gesondheid and President of the Academy of Nursing for South Africa, as well as the Vice-Chairperson for the South African Nursing Education Association. Prof Van Rooyen has authored many publications and promoted numerous PhD and Master's students.

Regarding her future, she fully supports NMMU's goal of building a medical school by the year 2020. She is highly involved in the planning and preparation of this very challenging task. Prof Van Rooyen is married to Johan and they have one son, Niel, who is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts degree at NMMU.

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Prof. Portia Jordan

Prof. Portia Janine Jordan was born in Port Elizabeth (PE), completed her school career and joined the University of Port Elizabeth in 1990 as a student nurse. On completion of her nursing qualification as a professional nurse, she worked primarily in ICU for a period of ten years before joining the academic world. Prof. Jordan is an associate professor at the Department of Nursing Science, NMMU, where she teaches in the under- and postgraduate programmes. Her speciality fields are Critical Care Nursing and Nephrology Nursing Science. She is married and has two beautiful children.

Prof. Jordan achieved her BCur degree at the University of Port Elizabeth. She later returned to complete her MCur, which she obtained with distinction. Five years later she obtained her diploma in nursing education at the NMMU also with distinction followed by a diploma in nephrology nursing also at the NMMU. Prof. Jordan then went on to achieve her PhD in Nursing Science which she obtained in 2011. She is currently in the process of completing her MBA also through the NMMU.

Prof. Jordan started out her career as a student nurse in 1990 and upon qualifying went to work at the Renal Unit at the Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town for almost a year. She then returned to PE working at the Critical Care Unit at the Provincial Hospital for over eight years. She joined the teaching staff at the NMMU Department of Nursing Science in 2004 rising rapidly from lecturer, to senior lecturer and finally to her present position as associate professor in 2014.

Her future plans are related to her academic career pertaining to her research programme which focuses on her niche research area, namely: Improving nursing capacity care practise in high acuity units. Furthermore, she is also working towards becoming an NRF rated researcher which involves a very rigorous selection process.



Ms Nadine Rall



Ms Nadine Rall was born in Kroonstad in the Free State, where she lived until the age of 10, when her family relocated to Port Elizabeth.

Raised in a strong Christian environment, she was motivated from an early age to work hard to achieve a sound educational foundation.

After completing her schooling at DF Malherbe High School, she registered for her BCur degree in nursing at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. During her basic degree, she delivered her first neonate and felt drawn to midwifery, becoming very passionate about it. Thus, after completing her BCur degree in 2008, she went on to complete her MCur degree, specialising in the field of Advanced Midwifery and Neonatology. She has since registered for her PhD degree, with a focus on the training of midwifery students in South Africa. She also completed a Health

Science Education Diploma through North-West University, Potchefstroom in 2014.

Ms Rall began her career as a professional nurse in 2008, working at Dora Ngizwa Hospital, first completing her community service then working in maternity as a midwife. From 2010 to September 2011, she worked at the Port Elizabeth Central Maternity Obstetrical Unit, after which she began her current work as a lecturer.

Becoming an educator has allowed Ms Rall to share her ideas and experiences with her students, and to teach them about morals, ethics and community responsibility.

In addition to completing her PhD degree, Ms Rall's future plans include continuing to develop her academic career by registering for a post-doctoral degree and continuing research in the field of midwifery training.

She is married to Rudolf Rall and has a daughter, Haylee.

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Mr Israel Sonti

Mr Israel Sonti was born in Lesotho, where his parents, the late Rev Canon Garlic and Selina Sonti, sought refuge during the apartheid era. He was raised in a staunch Christian home that loved and believed in education.

After completing the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC) Examinations at Lesotho High School, he enrolled for an A-Level Diploma at Machabeng College to enable him entry to a degree qualification overseas and in South Africa. He had always wanted to become a medical doctor, but a lack of funds prevented this dream from coming true.

In 2003, he was admitted for the BCur degree at the former UPE. His passion for Midwifery and Neonatal Sciences led to his specialising in Advanced Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing Science, and he became the first male to obtain this degree at NMMU. He is currently completing his nursing education qualification through North-West University.

Mr Sonti started his career at Aliwal North Hospital in 2009, working in the medical, surgical and maternity wards. In 2010, he worked at Mercantile Hospital, before moving to Life Isivivana Hospital in Humansdorp in 2011, working in the medical and maternity wards.

Thereafter, he worked at Dora Ngizwa Hospital in maternity high care, and in the labour ward, as a shift leader. While still employed there, he began working as a mentor and contract lecturer at NMMU. This led to his appointment as a full-time lecturer in midwifery in 2014.

Mr Sonti plans to complete his PhD in nursing science, and aims to conduct additional research and engage in the publication of research articles in the field of midwifery.

He is married to Nobesuthu and has two children, Chuma and Israel Jnr. He enjoys spending quality time with his family, watching soccer and reading anything on maternal and neonatal well-being.



Prof. Silvia Pera



Professor Emeritus Silvia Pera, only daughter of Giuseppe and Esther Pera, was born in Pretoria in 1937, and schooled at Iona Convent in Pretoria, before embarking on a career in nursing.

She became a registered general nurse in 1959 and a registered midwife in 1959, before obtaining a Diploma in Orthopaedic Nursing (1961) and completing a course in Spinal Injury Nursing at Stoke Manderville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, England in 1966.

She went on to obtain a Diploma in Nursing education (1971) at the University of Pretoria, followed by a BCur (I et A) (1976) and MCur (cum laude) (1981). She obtained her DCur from the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) in 1985.

Her career achievements include presenting a post basic course in Orthopaedic Nursing and developing the curriculum for the Spinal Injury Nursing Certificate. She also initiated and played a pivotal role in establishing the Spinal Injuries Unit in Pretoria. She published a number of articles and co-authored publications in Nursing History, Ethos and Ethics.

In her career as a professional nurse, she rose in the ranks from Staff Nurse to Nurse Educator.

In 1976, she was appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Nursing Science at UNISA, and in 1981, promoted to Senior Lecturer. She became an Associate Professor in 1984 and a Professor in Nursing Science in 1988. She is currently Professor Emeritus.

She is enjoying her retirement and remains available to the profession as a Nursing Consultant.

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Prof. Cecil Rautenbach

Prof Cecil Rautenbach was the first male nurse to obtain a Doctorate in Nursing in South Africa.

Growing up, his father was a travelling man, which led to his attending some 13 schools, before matriculating at Hottentots Holland High in Somerset West. He went on to train as a nurse at Karl Bremer Hospital in Cape Town, and married a fellow trainee.

After training as a general nurse, he completed diplomas in Nursing Education and Nursing Administration. He then obtained his BCur (I et A) at the University of Pretoria, and then his MCur in Education at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), where he also completed his DCur, becoming South Africa's first male nurse to obtain such a degree.

He has also completed a course of studies on breast cancer, with Breast International, conducting extensive research into the cause of breast cancer, concentrating on the contribution of bras to breast cancer. He has presented papers on his research at a number of international congresses.

He was awarded the Florence Nightingale Bursary to study nursing in Europe.

In terms of his nursing career, after qualifying as a male nurse, he joined the Department of Prisons and was responsible for the implementation of nurse training (for prison personnel) and the upgrading of prison hospitals.

He then joined the staff of the Department of Nursing at UPE. His next appointment was to start a Department of Nursing at the University of Fort Hare, followed by a similar appointment at Venda University, where he was tasked with starting that university's Department of Nursing.

He then went on pension, and became CEO of the Helderberg Sports Academy in Somerset West. After going on pension for the second time, he accepted a position as a researcher for Breast international, which he currently holds.

His future plans are to continue with his research into the cause of breast cancer - and to enjoy his retirement.

Prof Rautenbach and his wife were blessed with four children. Sadly, they lost their eldest daughter in a horse-riding accident. The other three married - and have presented their parents with seven grandchildren.

Prof Rautenbach's hobby is to breed Koi fish.



Dr. Sharron Frood



Dr Sharron Frood hails from Plymouth, England. From 2002 to 2009, she lived in Port Elizabeth, completing several degrees and developing several ongoing projects in the township communities.

Dr Frood completed her training as a Qualified Paediatric Nurse (RGN/RSCN qualification) at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London. At NMMU, she obtained her BCur Honours (Advanced Primary Health Care) (cum laude), MCur (cum laude) and then her PhD, titled: "Strategies to provide care and support to children who are AIDS orphans living in township communities."

She began her nursing career in Paediatric Neurology at Great Ormond Street Hospital (1992-1993). After attending bible school in Horsham, England (1993-1994), she worked in Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania, Senegal and Lesotho. In 1998 and 2000, she worked as a volunteer at the House of Resurrection Haven in Port Elizabeth.

Dr Frood worked as a Paediatric Sister for physically-disabled and terminally-ill children in Sussex, UK, before spending a year as a Christian worker for Kingdom Faith Church. She then worked in Brighton, England (1996-2001), as a Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing Sister and then a Nursing Sister: Paediatric Ward with Oncology Specialty.

After coming to Port Elizabeth in 2002, she founded the Gogo Trust (www.gogotrust.org), an NGO supporting widows and orphans in township communities.

Her future plans include working for a Christian organisation in the development of social policy, influencing the care, support, protection and development of orphans and vulnerable children; and being involved in project development (and continuing existing research projects), which could improve the lives of widows, orphans and vulnerable children. She aims "to be a voice for the voiceless with words and deeds".

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Dr. Colleen O'Brien

Dr Colleen O'Brien was born in East London to parents Keith and Eileen Kayton. She completed her high school education at Sacred Heart Convent in King William's Town, and her nursing training at Frere College of Nursing in East London.

She obtained diplomas in General Nursing Science (1974) and Midwifery (1975). She then commenced a BA degree through UNISA (1980), majoring in English and History, followed by a BA (Hons) degree in History (1988), and then a BPhil degree (1995). She later completed her MCur (2005) at UPE and her PhD (2011) at NMMU. By then, she had developed a strong interest in research dealing with diabetes mellitus type 2, with both her Master's treatise and PhD thesis dealing with aspects of the management of this condition.

Dr O'Brien started work as a registered nurse at Provincial Hospital in 1975, followed by a period at Victoria Memorial Home. She then moved to what was St Joseph's Hospital, where she gained experience in surgical nursing. After spending time as a housewife after her elder son was born, she worked in the nurseries at Sandford, the maternity unit of Provincial Hospital. She later moved to the Gastric Clinic at Provincial Hospital, where she spent 10 years as a gastroenterology nurse.

She then worked in the Medical Library at Provincial Hospital, where she was able to assist with the research and training needs of students. On her return to nursing, she obtained a post at the Day Clinic/Gastroenterology Unit at Greenacres Hospital, where she is currently a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Her future plans include continuing to train staff in gastroenterology nursing. She also hopes to spend more time on research projects, as her retirement approaches.

Dr O'Brien has two sons, Sean and Neil. Her interests include genealogy, quilting, cross stitch embroidery, knitting, reading and travelling.



Ms Antoinette Goosen



Cape Town born Ms Antoinette Goosen moved to Port Elizabeth as a child, completing her schooling at Framesby High in 1978.

She believed she was born to be a nurse and followed this calling without ever giving it a second thought.

She obtained her BCur degree (1983) from UPE, later completing her Diploma in Community Health Nursing and Nursing Education (1991). Ten years later, she graduated with an MCur in Advanced Primary Health Care. While working as a Health Care Manager, she completed an Advanced Health Care Management Diploma through the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) and Yale University. In 2010, she was selected by her current employer (NMMU) to be part of the first NMMU Future Leaders Programme, and she completed with distinction a Management Development Diploma through NMMU's Business School.

Ms Goosen began her nursing career as a general nurse at St Joseph's Hospital. When she moved to the Galedon area, she worked in theatre, midwifery, primary health care and general nursing, as the rural areas of health care required nurses to be very versatile. This assisted her later when she lectured and accompanied midwifery students at Sharley Cribb Nursing College.

In 1994, she received the opportunity to start a Primary Health Care Clinic at UPE. It was the start of a 20-year career working with young people in higher education. This position grew from a one-woman, one-office clinic service to five clinics with 23 staff members.

She plans to serve the youth of the country within the higher education sector, until she retires. She would like to assist higher education institutions further by ensuring they continue to provide quality health care to all their student patients.

She has been married for 32 years, and has two sons. She loves the outdoors, camping, fabric painting and art classes.

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Ms Lungile Phakathi

Ms Lungile Maureen Phakathi was born in Volksrust, to parents Richard and Norma Phakathi. After completing her schooling at Sijamukela High School, Newcastle in 1990, having been selected to attend the school through the KwaZulu-Natal Education Enhancement Project (KEEP), she went on to complete her tertiary education at NMMU.

She loves nursing and had always wanted to be a nurse. She completed her BCur degree (1996), also receiving the Merit Award for Exceptional Growth in Professional Nursing, and her MCur degree (2005) at NMMU.

Ms Phakathi began her professional nursing career as a registered midwife at Margate Private Hospital in 1996. A year later, she returned to Port Elizabeth to work at Life St George's Hospital. She then spent six years as a psychiatric nurse at Life Huntersburg, before returning to Life St George's Hospital in 2008 as Acting Process Manager. Not long after taking up this role, she was appointed as Nurse Manager at Life St Mary's Hospital in Mthatha. In 2012, she began work as Nurse Manager at Life Roseacres Clinic in Johannesburg, until her promotion to her current position of Nursing Services and Quality Specialist at Life Esidimeni, Head Office, Johannesburg.

Ms Phakathi is passionate about empowering and mentoring young women and men in their careers. In her current position, she is able to positively influence and lead nurses to uphold professionalism and caring attitudes at all times when serving the community.

Her future plans include completing her PhD. She also aims to register her organisation, Destination Injongo-Purpose, as a non-profit company, dealing with equipping young women and men of high school age, with social skills and career guidance. She also plans to become more involved in professional organisations like the Forum for Professional Nurse Leaders.

She enjoys advancing her career by making use of all available opportunities.



Ms Michelle Elfick



Ms Michelle Elfick was born in Colesberg in the Karoo, and schooled in Bloemfontein, where she attended St Michael's School for Girls (where nursing pioneer Henrietta Stockdale once taught).

Ms Elfick completed her BCur degree at Stellenbosch University in 1994, followed by her MCur in Advanced Medical and Surgical Nursing at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) in 1999, under the tutelage of Prof Dalena van Rooyen. She obtained her Diploma in Nursing Education in 2012 at NMMU.

After graduating with her BCur degree, she worked in East London, before moving to Port Elizabeth in 1997. She spent four years working in ICU at Greenacres Hospital, before moving overseas with her husband. She is currently on contract at NMMU as a clinical facilitator.

She has two children, Hannah and Daniel, and says if nursing shifts were flexible enough to accommodate mothers, nursing in ICU would be her first choice.

In her current role of clinical facilitation, she is able to spend time in the wards with patients and students and in this way, transfer her knowledge and experience to the students and develop in them a passion and a love for the profession.

She tries to live a very healthy and active lifestyle and hopes that by her example, she can encourage others to do the same, especially the nursing students she accompanies each day in hospitals throughout Nelson Mandela Bay.

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Dr Willem Fourie

Pretoria born-and-raised Dr Willem Fourie, youngest son of Willem and Joan Fourie, matriculated from Pretoria North High School in 1974.

In 1978, following three years' work in the Prison Services, he was accepted to study towards a BCur degree at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), where he met his wife Louanne (nee Boyes), a fellow BCur student. Together, they received the Mary Mellish trophy for academic achievement in 1982.

After obtaining his BCur (1982), he went on to achieve his MCur degree from the University of Fort Hare (1987). He then obtained his Diploma in Nursing Education from UPE (1989) and his Diploma in Nursing Administration from UNSA (1990). He obtained his PhD from the University of the Free State in 1995.

Dr Fourie worked as an Occupational Health Nurse at Nissan (Pty LTD), after which he joined the University of Fort Hare, where he was lecturer, senior lecturer and then HoD.

In 2000, he relocated with his family to Auckland, New Zealand, where he works at the Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT). He has occupied successive roles as Programme Leader for the Bachelor of Nursing degree, Research Leader, Deputy HoD and is currently Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Studies.

His immediate plans are to expand the faculty's programme portfolio in Allied Health. Future plans include developing entrepreneurial income streams with a strong business focus, through consultancy work, industry training programmes and governmental tenders.

He believes his leadership role is to facilitate, enable and encourage people to grow in confidence and to develop their leadership potential.

Dr Fourie has three children, Willie, 30, Monique, 27, and Chante, 18. He enjoys participating in long distance cycling events. He also enjoys photography, and takes photos of just about everything, but nature in particular.



Ms Marina Barnard



Port Elizabeth-born Ms Marina Barnard completed her schooling at Framesby High in 1986 and went on to study towards a BCur degree at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE). After completing her degree in 1990, she got married and relocated to Klerksdorp, where she worked at the Anncron Hospital as a professional nurse.

In 1992, she returned to Port Elizabeth, and worked for the Department of Health (DoH) as a Community Psychiatric Nurse. For 20 years, she acted as an advocate for vulnerable psychiatric clients and grew in her professional abilities. Since 2010, she has been the Director of the Non-Communicable Diseases Clinical Programme in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal Health District.

In addition to her BCur degree, Ms Barnard achieved a Higher Certificate in Management through the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD) in 2014, graduating as the top student with an average of 92%. She is considering further studies in health management, as well as short courses in her programme field.

Her future plans include addressing the challenges surrounding chronic condition management – up-skilling nursing staff, improving the management of conditions as well as acting as an advocate for the community and the service provider at community level. Building relationships of co-responsibility will be her main focus on the road ahead.

She has two daughters, one studying Pharmacy at NMMU and the other completing Grade 12. She has a special interest in community projects and is involved with the ATKV and Uitenhage Concentration Camp Trust.

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Ms Hester Venter

Ms Hester Elizabeth Venter was born and raised in Port Elizabeth, where she attended Cotswold Preparatory and Primary School and matriculated from Andrew Rabie High School in 1977.

She obtained her BCur degree in 1982 from the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE). She later returned to UPE to complete her MCur in Advanced Psychiatry in 1990.

After the completion of her studies, she was employed for several years at Elizabeth Donkin Hospital and then Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, until her family relocated to Durban. There, she assisted Prof Leana Uys at the University of Natal, on a part-time basis with the accompaniment of nursing students doing their practical work in psychiatry.

In 1999, the family relocated to Cradock, where Ms Venter worked for several years as a professional nurse at a local clinic. In 2005, she joined the Department of Health as a dedicated psychiatric nurse serving the community of Inxuba Yethemba Sub-District. Currently, she is coordinating the non-communicable disease (NCD) programme.

Her future endeavours include taking nursing care to an optimal level in her current role, serving the community of Inxuba Yethemba Sub-District.

Ms Venter is married to an attorney, who is practising in Cradock. She has two children, a son, who is an optometrist in Port Elizabeth, and a daughter, who is a fourth-year nursing student at the University of the Free State. As a result of her busy schedule, she struggles to pursue her interest in sewing.



Ms Candice Bowers



Ms Candice Bowers was born in 1978 in Port Elizabeth, to parents, Dolores and Preston Bowers. She completed her BCur (2000) at the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) and her MCur (2013) at NMMU. Her other qualifications include a Certificate in Elementary Critical Care through Netcare Education, Greenacres Hospital, which she passed with honours in 2008.

She also has a Diploma in Nursing Education (2014) from Stellenbosch University, which she also passed with honours. Her awards while studying included the South African Nursing Association Henrietta Stockdale Floating Trophy, which she received from UPE in 2000, for the highest level of professional maturity during the programme for the BCur degree. She also received a floating trophy in 2008 from Netcare, Greenacres Hospital for attaining the highest marks in the Elementary Critical Care Course.

She started her nursing career in Amsterdam, Holland in 2000, working as a professional nurse in the Thoracic Ward at the Free University Academic Hospital. From 2001 to 2003, she worked at Flora Clinic, Florida, Johannesburg as a shift leader in the Cardiothoracic Ward. She then spent three years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, where she worked as a professional nurse in the Medical Ward and then at the VIP Float Pool, where her work included caring for an elderly Sheikh. From 2006 to 2007, she worked in Greenacres Hospital's Cardiothoracic Ward, before shifting to the hospital's ICU department from 2007 to 2012.

Her future plans include completing her PhD in Nursing Science.

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Ms Mariana Spagadoros

Born and raised in Port Elizabeth, Ms Mariana Spagadoros completed her schooling at Collegiate and Victoria Park High.

She has firm ties with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), having completed her undergraduate nursing degree there, and later her master's degree in advanced medical and surgical nursing science, along with her Diploma in Nursing Education. She has a passion for people and the nursing profession as a whole, as well as educating the next generation of nurses.

After graduating with her undergraduate degree in 2005, Ms Spagadoros worked at Life St Georges Hospital. Later that year, she left for the United Kingdom, taking on various home care job opportunities through the Nightingale Nursing Agency.

Between 2006 and 2007, having returned to South Africa, she worked at various private and public institutions in Nelson Mandela Bay. Between 2007 and 2008, she was employed as a mentor and was engaged in the clinical accompaniment of nursing students at NMMU. Since January 2008, she has worked as a lecturer in NMMU's Nursing Science Department.

Her future plans include pursuing a PhD, writing journal articles for peer-reviewed journals and continuing to add to the knowledge base of the nursing profession.



Prof. Sally van Tonder



Professor Emeritus Sally van Tonder, daughter of Mr and Mrs GFJ van Tonder, and her twin sister were born in Pretoria in 1937. She has two other sisters. She completed her schooling at Langenhoven High School in Pretoria, before becoming a nurse, a vocation she had picked at a young age, and a profession which she strove to advance throughout her career. She became a registered general nurse in 1958, and a registered midwife in 1960, before obtaining diplomas in Orthopaedic Nursing (1963) and Intensive Care Nursing in 1972.

She obtained a Diploma in Nursing Administration (1973) at the University of Pretoria, followed by her BCur (I et A) in 1978. She completed her BA Cur (Hons) (1982) and MA Cur (1984) through UNISA, and her DCur through the then University of Port Elizabeth (UPE).

She has published many articles, both in English and Afrikaans, in various nursing publications. She has also co-authored various nursing books.

In her career, she occupied various roles from Staff Nurse to Senior Matron. In 1977, she became a lecturer in the Department of Nursing Science at UNISA, and then was promoted to Senior Lecturer (1984) and Associate Professor (1988). She is currently a Professor Emeritus. She plans to enjoy her retirement further and also find time to practice her hobbies.

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Dr. Thembi Norushe

East London-born Dr Thembi Norushe obtained a BA Cur degree at UNISA, and then a Master's degree in Health and Welfare and a DCur at UPE.

She also has several diplomas, including a Postgraduate Diploma: Advanced Nursing Science (Nursing Administration) from UNISA, a Diploma in Psychiatry from Frere Hospital and diplomas in Midwifery and General Nursing, both obtained at Tshepong Hospital, Klerksdorp.

Dr Norushe began her career as a Professional Nurse at Katutura Hospital (Windhoek, Namibia). She was then a Preceptor at Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, before fulfilling roles as a Professional Nurse, Senior Professional Nurse and Chief Professional Nurse for the then East London Municipality (now Buffalo City Municipality).

What followed was a career highlight, when she established the Research and Policy Unit at Buffalo City Municipality in 2005, having been appointed as Manager: Research and Policy, with the additional function of Knowledge Management added to her mandate. Her current role is Head: Information and Knowledge Management, Research and Policy.

Thanks to her efforts, Buffalo City became the first municipality in the country to undertake basic Knowledge Management Training for Councilors of the institution. This training was identified by the South African Cities Network (SACN), the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), the National Department of Cooperative Governance (COGTA) and member cities of SACN, as a best practice initiative, with COGTA eager to replicate such training for all Councilors in South Africa.

She also facilitates access to the municipality by postgraduate students from institutions across the country, for the purposes of collecting data for their research studies.

Dr Norushe is looking forward to undertaking consultative work after retirement.

Her daughter is a BTEch Chemical Engineering graduate and her son, a BSc. IT Hons graduate. She also has a granddaughter. She enjoys reading, travelling and keeping up with current affairs and politics.

