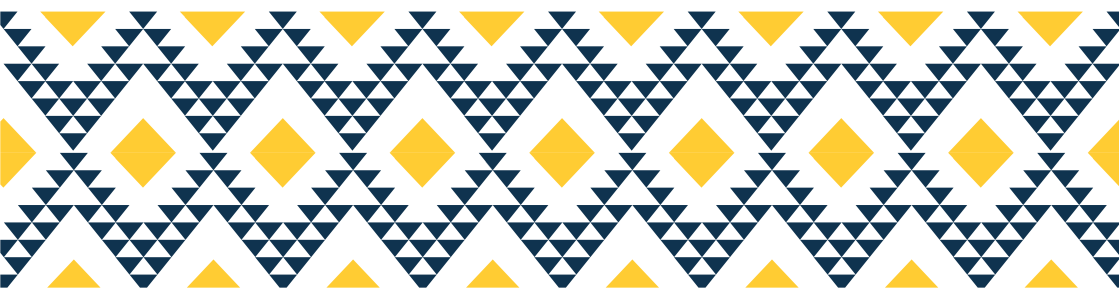


NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Excellence
Academic Achiever's Awards
And
Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards



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CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



Welcome to Nelson Mandela University's Celebrating Excellence Awards evening in which we will recognise those who subscribe to excellence. These are the student academic achievers and the staff, from all divisions of the institution, whose work as academics, researchers or professional, administrative and support service employees, is exceptional.

Excellence is one of the University's six values. It is core to achieving our vision to be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Those we celebrate in 2024 have surpassed our expectations.

You inspire us to do better! I wish to acknowledge the hard work and time that you have devoted to your studies and to your work, whichever your area of expertise. A special word of thanks and appreciation goes to your families, colleagues and communities, who have supported you in your journey. You do us proud as worthy ambassadors of Nelson Mandela University. Congratulations on your outstanding achievements.

Professor Sibongile Muthwa
Vice-Chancellor

"I wish to acknowledge the hard work and time that you have devoted to your studies and to your work, whichever your area of expertise."

FIRST-YEAR DIPLOMA AWARDS

First-Year Undergraduate Diploma and Degree
Study Awards

These awards are made to students registered
for their second year of study, on the grounds of
academic achievement in their first year.





Beuty Matsimela

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

With a top mark of 89% in her first-year Human Resource Management Diploma studies, Beuty plans to also study for her advanced diploma and open her own business. Her dream job is to work in HR for an engineering company and in a dynamic environment, using both her diploma skills, as well as her diesel mechanical engineering background. Beuty, who calls Limpopo home, obtained a Merit Award Certificate for academic excellence in 2023, and participated in a social responsibility project, where she gained hands-on experience, and communication, teamwork and time management skills.

***“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”-
Psalm 23:1***



Troy Palframan

Faculty of Science

"I am still exploring my options, but I want to apply my skills and passion in a role that embraces variety, critical thinking and problem solving", says Troy, who scored an average of 97% for Mathematics and an overall 93% for his first year BSc in Computer Science. He also obtained seven distinctions in matric and received the Grade 12 Advanced Programme Mathematics Award. Troy wants to continue learning, whether through formal studies or on his own, and likes to always pursue new challenges and knowledge.

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is continually fearing that you'll make one." - Elbert Hubbard

FIRST DIPLOMA AWARDS

These awards go to the best initial diploma
achiever in each faculty.





Yamkela Maxawulana

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Yamkela's dream job is to be chief logistics officer at Transnet, Mercedes Benz or Shoprite Holdings. He is from East London and achieved a final year average of 82% for his Diploma in Logistics. Currently, Yamkela works as a trainee administrator at Old Mutual Life Assurance. His goal is to become a logistics and supply chain analyst within the next five years, after studying for his Advanced and Postgraduate diplomas in Logistics and gaining experience in the logistics industry.

***"I will give you every place where you set your foot." -
Joshua 1:3***



Dillon Classen

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

With an average of 90%, Dillon has been the Top Diploma Student in Information Technology for his three years of study. He also received the Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment in his third year in IT (Communication Networks). His dream job is in cyber security and networking architecture at a reputable IT security company in Europe. Dillon is now studying for his Advanced Diploma in Communication Networks, and he plans to also obtain his Postgraduate Diploma in Cyber Security.

"The best preparation for tomorrow is to do your best today."



Zwivhuya Nethonze

Faculty of Humanities

“My dream job is to be a university lecturer to teach and mentor students or in a government agency or public sector organisation, to contribute to shaping and implementing public policy and improve public services,” says Zwivhuya, who calls Johannesburg home. He achieved 19 distinctions out of his 20 modules and graduated with an overall average of 81% for his Diploma in Public Management. Zwivhuya hopes to obtain a doctorate in Public Administration, deepening his understanding of complex public sector issues. Currently he is studying for his Advanced Diploma in Public Administration and Management and works as a tutor at the Department of Public Management and Leadership at the University.

“My dream job is to be a university lecturer to teach and mentor students or in a government agency or public sector organisation.”



Anesimo Mpisane

Faculty of Law

"I worked hard for all my achievements; this is no luck, I earned them", says Anesimo, who comes from KwaBhaca in the Eastern Cape. She obtained an average of 81% in her Diploma in Law Enforcement studies. Anesimo wants to study for her LLB and work at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment as a compliance officer. Her dream job, however, is to be a full-time author or lecturer. She was among the top three achievers at school in life sciences, physical sciences and English.

"It's unfortunate that there will be no evidence that we tried our best if we don't make it at all ..."



Tayla van Heerden

Faculty of Science

With an average of 92% for her Diploma in Nature Conservation Tayla's dream job is to be a researcher and publish scientific articles. She is currently studying for her Advanced Diploma at George Campus and hopes to study up to her doctorate, focusing on fungi and more specifically, ecosystem functions and services. She also works as a laboratory assistant. While she was completing her work-integrated learnership year, she was appointed as environmental monitor manager for AfriCarbon. The company restores degraded thicket through planting spekboom and uplifts local communities through job creation.

"Always remember to be kind to yourself, you can't expect to have everything figured out when it's your first time existing."

FIRST DEGREE AWARDS

These awards go to the graduate who had the best degree performance in each of the seven faculties.





Samuel Mountford

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Samuel, who is currently studying for his BCom Honours, aspires to continue to strive for excellence, support those around him and foster a mentality of Ubuntu. His dream job is to be the financial director of an agriculture company. Samuel, who calls Kidd's Beach home, scored a top a mark of 90% for Accounting (Financial Reporting) and plans to study for his master's in either taxation and estate planning or financial reporting. He would like to work with his family and thanks his University lecturers and many others for the support to graduate cum laude in accounting.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow; Learn as if you were to live forever." - Ghandi



Timothy Crail

Faculty of Education

"The main reason I started my education journey to become a teacher, was to make a difference. Today, I am living this dream as an educator at Westview Special School, says Timothy, who achieved an average of 89% for his Bachelor of Education. His dream job is to become a professor, teaching at a university. He also plans to obtain his honours in integrated technology and proceed to one day acquire his doctorate in education. "I hope to spread the love, joy and care that I have for life and learning, with all those whom I meet. I aspire to learn and grow daily and to always deliver my best whilst never losing sight of why I started", he says.

"No matter how dark, nor heavy the day might seem, joy comes in the morning. Hold on and persevere."



Stefan Hansen

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

Stefan's dream job is to become a software developer or cyber security specialist and work at Boeing, Airbus, NASA or SpaceX. He wants to continuously learn and gain valuable knowledge and experience, whether through formal education or in the working world. "I believe that learning is a lifelong journey, especially in the rapidly evolving field of information technology, where staying updated and adaptable is essential to success". Currently Stefan is exploring options for further studies and specifically completing a master's degree or another undergraduate degree in information technology.

"Everything you do, do it for yourself. Don't do it for the approval of others, but for your own fulfillment."



Monyane Mohlomi

Faculty of Health Sciences

"I am passionate about assisting others to attain their psychosocial and economic well-being and hope to contribute towards social policy reforms through my work", says Monyane, who hails from Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle. He passed his Bachelor of Social Work degree with an average of 84% overall, although he was initially concerned about whether he would be able to keep up with the strenuous academic workload, being older than the average student. He believes his family, friends and lecturers motivated him to persevere. Monyane is now studying for his master's degree and looking forward to completing it. He wants to follow a career at a development-focused and research-driven organisation.

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is continually fearing that you'll make one." - Elbert Hubbard



Siyamthanda Xotyeni

Faculty of Humanities

Siyamthanda is researching teaching methods of steelpan music, according to him a concept with scarce pedagogy. He is now studying for his master's degree in music and also working part-time at Mandela University. Siya obtained an average of 83% in his final year of the Bachelor of Music degree, and he plans to study for his doctorate to teach at a tertiary institution. His dream job is to be a lecturer at Mandela University or in the United States and own real estate property.

"If you start something, give your all and finish it RIGHT. Failing to plan is planning to fail."



Arno Meyer

Faculty of Law

With an average of 83% for his LLB, Arno is currently working at Lessing, Heyns & Van Der Bank Inc Attorneys and has been the top law student of the year for three consecutive years. He aspires to become a leading lawyer, a notary and maybe an advocate, excelling in all his cases through dedication, skill, and unwavering commitment to justice. "In pursuit of this goal, I am determined to balance professional success with a well-rounded and fulfilling personal life, ensuring continuous growth and integrity in all aspects of my career and life", Arno says. His dream job is to work at Webber Wentzel in Cape Town and to become a judge in the High Court or even in the Supreme Court of Appeal.

"Don't forget your purpose, no matter what level you reach there's a higher pedestal to stand on."



Tamaryn Wagner-Welsh

Faculty of Science

Tamaryn wants to be a high school educator to help teenagers to achieve their dreams and to give back to the community. She is presently studying for her BSc Honours in Computer Science and Information Systems and plans to obtain her PGCE to qualify as a high school educator. Her dream job is to be a librarian and working in education. Tamaryn also received the best First-Year Degree Award in 2022, and her top mark in her degree studies was 87%. She excelled in Advanced English and creative writing at school.

***“There isn’t a way things should be. There’s just what happens,
and what we do.” - ‘A Hat Full of Sky’ by Terry Pratchett***

HONOURS AWARDS

These awards go to the best honours graduate in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Ashley Eichstadt

Honours Award: Social Sciences and Humanities

"I want to be able to write, speak, educate, and counsel, which is why I chose psychology as a career", says Ashley, who plans to obtain her master's in counselling psychology and her doctorate. She has a "deep love" for academics and wants to collaborate with other professionals. Ashley also strives to become an expert in trauma and abuse counselling and advocacy, with a community approach, to be a voice for victims and for educating people on these topics. She has already presented her honours group research on cognitive behavioural therapy in chronic pain treatment, at an international conference in Prague. Ashley is currently studying theology to understand the relevance of religion and faith to counselling and mental healthcare.

"You can't wait until life isn't hard anymore before you decide to be happy"- Nightbird



Reece Tuck

Honours Award: Science, Engineering and Technology

“Synthetic chemistry is harder than it looks, and it doesn’t look easy”, says Reece, who plans to lecture and research the development of new medicinal therapies. He obtained an average of 91% for his BSc Honours in Chemistry and wants to change the world for the better by teaching further generations about the magic of chemistry. Reece dreams of studying at one of the top three universities in the world, such as Harvard. Currently, he is studying for his master’s in chemistry at Stellenbosch University, working on the *in silico* (using computer simulation) design, synthesis, and testing of new anti-malarial drugs. As malaria develops resistance to existing treatments, and new strains emerge, new solutions are urgent to prevent uncontrolled pandemics.

“It ain’t about how hard you hit. It’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward” - Rocky

MASTER'S DEGREE BY COURSEWORK AWARD

These awards go to the best master's degree by coursework graduates, inclusive of MTech candidates, in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Stacey Jameson

Master's Degree by Coursework: Social Sciences and Humanities

Stacey's master's research in clinical psychology focused on young people growing up in environments marked by violence, their challenges and how these experiences affect their mental health and development. Identifying these effects could work towards better support systems and interventions for those needing it the most, she says. Stacey plans to study for her doctorate, focusing on children and adolescents with mental health difficulties. Her dream job is to open a community clinic, giving access to mental health services for people in under-served areas. She wants to work in mental health care, specifically in a psychiatric hospital or community clinic, to make a difference in people's lives. Currently completing her community service year, Stacey is working as a clinical psychologist in the Department of Correctional Services in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

MASTER'S DEGREE BY DISSERTATION AWARDS

These awards go to the best master's degree by Dissertation graduates, inclusive of MTech candidates, in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Atlehang Nkotha

Master's Degree by Dissertation: Social Sciences and Humanities

Atlehang hopes to be a change maker in Africa, exploring diverse industries and solving problems, as well as studying for her PhD, focusing on women entrepreneurship in marginalised areas. She hails from Matatiele and her MCom in Business Management focused on increasing opportunity awareness and strategies to support student entrepreneurs beyond the business start-up phase. Atlehang's dream job is to be a strategy and management consultant at McKinsey and Company, PWC or Bain and Company. She is also the pioneering country representative for South Africa at the African Union Student Platform. She piloted the Student Women Empowerment Programme Chapter in South Africa as its first Chairperson at Mandela University.

"Do your best and God will do the rest."



Kade Tissink

Master's Degree by Dissertation: Science, Engineering and Technology

"My passion for AI drives me to contribute to innovative research and development that can transform industries and improve lives", Kade says. His dream job is to be an artificial intelligence researcher and to advance the frontiers of machine learning and artificial intelligence, as well as expanding into image and video generation. Kade obtained 95% for his master's research in computer science and information systems, focusing on leveraging machine learning to automate the translation of English sentences into first-order logic. This enables information retrieval and question answering through natural language communication with machines. Modern language models can perform similar tasks, but their outputs are not logically derived, which can result in inaccuracies, Kade says. His research has already been published in conference proceedings.

"Knowledge is power."

SOUTHERN AFRICA ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AWARD (S2A3)

This is awarded annually by each South African university and University of Technology to the most outstanding Master's Degree student in a scientific discipline.

The award is made in recognition of the perseverance and dedication of the successful Master's student in the application of scientific principles in original research and the presentation of a written dissertation required at Master's level.





| Thulisile Mkhwanazi

Thulisile is currently working as the research report lead on a national project advancing cyber security RDI in South Africa, based on her master's studies on cyber security policy guidelines for digitalisation in SA from a government policy perspective. She is a cyber security specialist and researcher at the CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and her doctorate in IT is her next goal. Her dream job is to be an expert specialist and chief researcher. "As an SA citizen, I am deeply concerned about the increasing cyber security risks from our digitalisation efforts", she says. While technology offers socioeconomic growth, it also threatens national security, and the current cybersecurity policy framework is inadequate. We need new guidelines tailored to our needs, based on global best practices, to ensure secure and sustainable digitalisation for a prosperous future, Thulisile says.

"Never underestimate the power and potential within you. Every challenge is an opportunity to discover your hidden potential."

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

These special awards go to the best graduates and diplomates of the year. These are awarded to the:

- Best first diploma student;
- Best first degree student;
- Best postgraduate (Science, Engineering and Technology) student; and
- Best postgraduate (Social Sciences and Humanities) student.

The recipients are selected from the winners already honoured in the various categories.



**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**



PROFESSIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF (PASS) AWARDS

Professional, Administrative and Support Staff (PASS) Awards

The People and Operations Division enables the institution to function with their foundational and support service to the academic project.

Individual Awards

These awards are presented to individuals who have excelled across the various Peromnes levels in terms of their performance in enhancing the success of the institution.





Gishma Daniels-Smith

Executive Secretary to the Deputy Dean of Education

Gishma is an exceptional and valued administrator, handling diverse tasks from programme administration to coordinating faculty events. She often leads major events due to her leadership skills and attention to detail. During a recent fire, she played a crucial role in evacuating buildings and even helped extinguish the flames, resulting in some burn injuries. She ensures a cohesive faculty culture, putting systems in place, supervising interns, and actively participating in administrative forums. Gishma also supports the Deputy Dean's office with professional assistance. Known for her warm personality, she guides students and colleagues alike, ensures clean classrooms and takes on extra responsibilities. She also works as part of the Sodla Sonke team providing food to needy students and working in the faculty thrift shop.

"My purpose leads and drives me to put in the hard work, attain excellence and make a positive impact."



Bernard Piater

Student Recruitment Marketing Collateral Specialist

Bernard manages the collateral function for undergraduate recruitment activities, ensuring that all information provided to the team, stakeholders, and student value chain, is accurate and meets high standards. He dedicates long hours, using his contacts and innovative thinking to align recruitment collateral, campaigns, and events with institutional strategic goals. In addition to his own responsibilities, Bernard is equipped to support events, marketing, and communication and digital communications, when needed. His creative problem-solving significantly improves team efficiency. As a collaborative leader, he values contributions from all team members and maintains open communication with peers and seniors. Bernard embodies a can-do attitude, always ready to assist others and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the marketing efforts. He lives the brand.

“Content creation is a passion-driven journey. Through collaboration and innovation, inspiring content helps stakeholders in making confident decisions.”



Pinkie Champ Champion

Senior Academic Developer

Champ's meticulous attention to detail and commitment to excellence have driven numerous successful teaching development initiatives, significantly enhancing learning and assessment at our institution. Her ability to manage complex projects while maintaining high standards, showcases her professional capabilities. Known for her innovation, she has contributed to the three-year Early Career Academic Advancement Programme and the Teaching Enhancement Short Learning Programmes, improving academic engagement and student outcomes. As a natural leader, Champ fosters teamwork and collaboration within the Teaching Development Unit, empowering colleagues to share ideas and skills. Her inclusive leadership and exceptional communication have created a motivated team that consistently achieves its goals. Highly regarded by her peers, she actively supports their development and contributes to the University's reputation in the broader academic community.

"The intentional, habitual excellence in every learning and teaching encounter shapes students into citizens capable of changing the world."

- Professional, Administrative and Support Award •
Peromnes level 5 to 7



Bonginkosi Dyantyi

Deputy Director: Risk Management and Ethics Advisory

Bonginkosi has excelled in managing the University's risk management and ethics advisory functions with minimal resources and no additional staff. Despite funding challenges, he delivered outstanding results and earned respect from various teams and MANCO members for his expertise. In 2023, he facilitated the annual risk assessment workshop for EMANCO members, receiving such positive feedback that he was invited to lead future sessions, a role typically outsourced to an audit firm. Collaborating with the Senior Director: Internal Audit, Bonginkosi developed a new integrated assurance framework, currently awaiting approval from the Audit and Risk Committee, to streamline risk management processes. As part of the Registrar's management team, Bonginkosi has successfully advanced projects, ensuring timely report submissions. His engaging training sessions effectively clarify complex risk concepts for diverse audiences, reinforcing the University's strong risk management reputation.

"All I ever want to do in life, is to make an impact, big or small, to those I meet."

- Professional, Administrative and Support Award •
Team award



Internal Audit

Internal Audit team

The Internal Audit team set seven performance targets approved by the Audit and Risk Committee, overachieving three, achieved three and partially achieved one by the end of the 2023 Financial Year. They also reported an execution rate of 86% for the Quality Assurance Improvement Plan and 83% for the Internal Audit Tactical Plan. The team is committed to quality and continuous improvement, effectively collaborating with clients to enhance

business processes. Based on an external quality review, internal stakeholders scored the internal audit function as 9 out of 10 for service excellence. Despite being understaffed, the team is recognised for its trustworthy practices, clear performance measures, and active participation in professional forums. The team members are Nimmesh Karamdeo, Fezeka Maweza, Siyasanga Pedi, Mohlale Tsetsewa and Odette van Zyl.

“We strive to be a trusted partner, providing independent value-adding assurance and advisory services to help the University excel.”

- Professional, Administrative and Support Award •
Team award



| Student Health Services

The Student Health Services staff not only exceed the daily norm for their number of consultations but also deal with the rising complexity of medical cases, including students on anti-retroviral therapy, anti-tuberculosis treatment and increasing pregnancies. The workload of the professional nurses, counsellors and front desk staff has substantially increased, yet the team also started “taking the services to the students” at on- and off-campus residences for HIV testing and sexual reproductive services. Ensuring that national guidelines are followed in treating and supporting students, the team

collaborates with the Department of Health for training, among others. Over and above, the team addresses student hunger by preparing and packing thousands of nutrition packs, also collaborating with internal and external stakeholders, including the SRC. The team members are Weidy Padayachee, Natasha Hatha, Nokulunga Ngwekazi, Sharon Jeneker, Emelda Lewis, Mziwoxolo Mbangi, Althea Hawkins, Zubrina Baartman, Mietjie Kock, Antoinette Piet, Nomatamba Pangwa, Nobatembu Mafanya, Pamela van Neel, Mandy Reid and Nozizwe Gali.

“We tirelessly adapt to complex needs, providing vital support and nutrition while collaborating for student well-being.”

CREATIVE OUTPUT AWARDS

Awards are given for exceptional creative research outputs emanating from the fields of fine arts and visual arts; theatre, performance and dance; design; film and television and literary arts.





David Bester

Performing Arts: Music

“For those who can’t sleep but still dream of dancing, captures the essence of my creative research,” says David, senior lecturer in music and performing arts. His work, co-composed and performed with Dizu Plaatjies and Matthijs van Dijk, explores innovative performance possibilities of the violin, uhadi, and umrhubhe. Conceived in response to the need for a platform showcasing the creativity, ingenuity, and expertise within the Southern African strings’ community, this work was premiered at the inaugural South African Strings Convention, hosted by Nelson Mandela University in collaboration with the South African Strings Foundation in March 2023. The simultaneous launch of the Journal of Southern African Strings explored how practice and scholarship could be brought into closer dialogue, says David.

“Through music, so much is revealed that ordinarily remains hidden; so much is said without saying a single word.”



Tarryn Rennie

Media and Design

The creative technique for *Interfaith Parenting with Love* is composed of simple, digital linear illustration renderings that provide just enough detailing to create images that are realistic, engaging and relatable. This intentional simplistic style needs to be inspirational and comprehensible to suit both adults and children. Also, the thoughtful colour palette is warm and inviting across the spreads in the booklet, says Tarryn, lecturer in media and communication. “I aimed to create evoking, emotionally driven images that tell a story alongside the text. Careful consideration regarding facial expressions, clothing and gestures are all important to engage with readers on all levels”, she says. Design elements, such as pattern, textures of painted brushstrokes, script-like fonts, linear details and consistent grid design in the layout, all contribute to unity and identity.

“Visual storytelling fuels my creativity where imagination and passion propel me to bring ideas to life.”

ENGAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Engagement awards are divided into individual projects and team awards.





Zikhona Tywabi-Ngeva and The Grade 12 Physical Science Education Project

Zikhona's ongoing project focuses on enhancing Grade 12 Physical Science education in the Eastern Cape through hands-on engagement activities, in collaboration with the Dr ZTN Foundation NPC and Uchumo Lwesizwe Foundation. It provides tutoring sessions to help students grasp challenging concepts, supplemented by practical experiments that bring theory to life and deepen understanding of scientific principles. This initiative addresses the

difficulties faced by students in rural high schools, where mastering physical science is crucial for future STEM careers but often challenging due to complex concepts. By offering additional support, through tutoring and hands-on experiments, the project seeks to improve comprehension, boost confidence, and enhance academic performance, while making science more accessible and relatable, particularly for those in under-resourced schools.

"Education begins with the individual, but its impact extends far beyond the individual."



Gletwyn Rubidge And The Science Literacy Project

Gletwyn has developed a series of innovative activities to enhance science literacy among school learners, aligning with the University's vision for community engagement and scientific understanding. Key initiatives include hands-on science shows where learners participate in practical experiments designed to demystify complex chemical concepts through interactive learning. He conducts some 15 chemistry shows annually, presenting at a variety of schools, including

Alexander Road, Mzondolelo, Walmer and Despatch high schools. Gletwyn also offers teacher training in chemistry demonstrations and actively participates in science fairs, such as the Eskom Science Expo and National Science Week, promoting creativity and collaboration. He complements these efforts with outreach programmes for underprivileged schools, bridging educational gaps. Through these activities, Gletwyn inspires future scientists and engages non-scientists.

“The most valuable item in the human toolbox is curiosity – fuel it.”



Ilse Truter And Her Pharmacy Leadership Engagement

Ilse, a member of the WHO International Working Group for Drug Statistics Methodology, has been re-elected to the South African Pharmacy Council for a second five-year term and has become vice-chairperson of the Cape Midlands Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA). Recognised as a Fellow for her exceptional contributions, she has previously served as PSSA chairperson and on the national executive committee. Additionally, she is a council member of the South African Association of Health

Educationalists (SAAHE) and chairperson of the Eastern Cape Chapter. In 2023, she became an NRF B-rated scientist, actively participating in key conferences and securing a national health data grant. Ilse also coordinates pharmacy student placements on the Transnet-Phelophepa Health Care Trains, serves as an associate editor for two international journals, and leads a pharmacist immunisation training programme. She collaborates with various healthcare organisations.

“Engagement is the golden thread that holds the kaleidoscope of activities I am involved in, together.”

• Engagement Excellence Project Award •
(Social Sciences and Humanities)



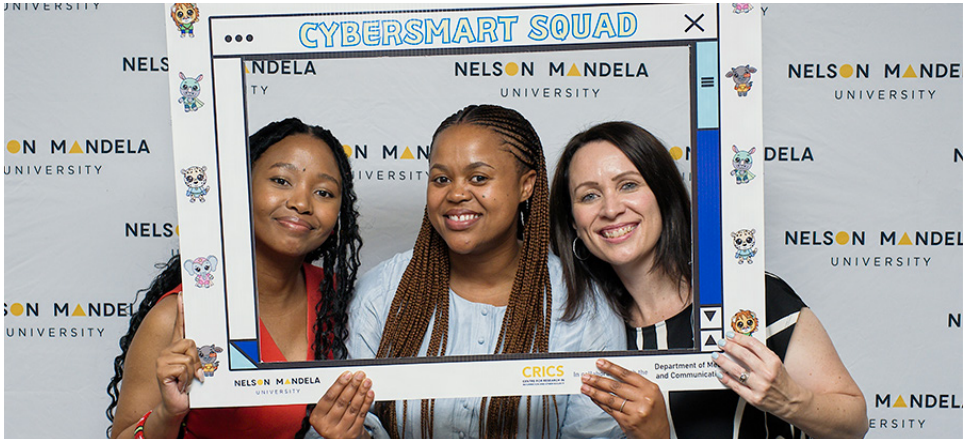
**The
HiveLaw
Project Team**

Dr Marc Welgemoed and the Hivelaw Project

The HiveLaw Project is currently being piloted at the University's Law Clinic on Missionvale Campus. This transdisciplinary initiative provides essential legal services to those who cannot afford representation. Built on SharePoint, HiveLaw is an innovative platform that allows academics, law clinic staff, and final year students to engage with technology used in modern legal practice. The project's goal is to enhance the clinic's ability to deliver

excellent legal services, setting it apart from other law clinics. HiveLaw also offers a unique educational experience, integrating teaching components to help law students develop crucial practice skills. By addressing access to justice, HiveLaw advances legal education in response to the rapidly changing world. The team includes Lindi Coetzee, Matilda Smith, Sikhulule Matshoba, Matthew Olivera, Nadeem Jansen and Mario de Jager.

"Hard work and dedication are the driving forces behind this team. What an incredible workforce!"



Nomfundo Khumalo-Zwane And The Cybersmart Squad

The CyberSmart Squad is a novel project designed to educate Grade R learners about cyber safety and responsible digital citizenship. This interdisciplinary initiative, developed by the Centre for Research Information and Cyber Security (CRICS) and the Media and Communications Department, features age-appropriate animated content inspired by local Big Five animals. The characters like Esihle the Elephant, Babalo the Buffalo, Lily the Leopard, Ryno the Rhino and Lethu the Lion, personify traits of Kindness,

Safety, Honesty, Respect and Courage, empowering children to navigate the digital world safely and protecting them against cyberbullying and other threats. Piloted at Beachwood Pre-primary, the project has shown promise to expand into local primary schools. The Department of Basic Education is interested in integrating the programme into the national Grade R curriculum. Noluxolo Gcaza and Kerry-Lynn Thomson are the other members of the team.

“Our passion is to empower the next generation to be responsible digital citizens who can protect themselves and their online community.”



Nomalanga Mkhize And The Transdisciplinary Eco-IKS Engagement

The Eco-IKS Engagement is a transdisciplinary collaboration between the Humanities Faculty School of Governmental and Social Sciences and the Science and Health Sciences faculties. This project, co-created with the Gamtoer Indigenous Community, youth activists, and local high schools in the Northern Areas of Gqeberha, spans 2023 and 2024. Its primary goal is to introduce young people to indigenous knowledge systems, particularly focusing on Khoi and San heritage, and to highlight their socio-cultural and scientific value. Using a framework of “relationality”, the

project emphasises collaboration between the University and the community. Through co-creation and consultation, activities emerge deep conversations and creative co-thinking between the partners to enrich the learning experience for youth and learners. The team includes Denver Davids, Qinisani Qwabe, Mea Van Huyssteen, Simangaliso Mashego, Melathisi Ncityana, Palesa Moss, Sesona Bonke, Mzuvukile Mapasa, Buhle Buzo and Nduduzo Ntshangase.

“Our team is driven by curiosity and the love of learning, valuing diverse perspectives and knowledge from everyone involved.”

INNOVATION AWARDS

These awards recognise innovation excellence during 2023 but which may also be the culmination of a period of sustained innovation excellence over a number of years.



James Jena and the Fibre Optics Research Group

The group has developed an early-warning device that detects potential collapses of tailings dams, structures, and land, significantly enhances population safety, while minimising costly repairs and disruptions to businesses and livelihoods. This optic fibre sensor device detects subtle ground vibrations and instabilities before failures occur, helping mitigate risks associated with bursting tailings dams and geo-hazards like landslides, sinkholes and earthquakes. By analysing part of the light transmitted through the

fibre, the device monitors environmental vibrations, detecting certain frequencies indicating structural instability. “The impact of optics on society, ensuring safety and sustainability for future generations and smart environments, is what drives innovation in our work at the Centre for Broadband Communication, says James. The other team members are Gaathier Mahed, Victor Chike, David Waswa, Francois Swanepoel, Sisipho Dlakiya, and Vela Shumane.

“Before the storm, we must listen to our surroundings to gather insights and take action to protect our environment and well-being.”



Jacqueline Crozier McClelland

As the solar energy sector grows in South Africa, the need for quality control of PV modules (solar panels) has also increased. The projects of Jacqueline Crozier McClelland, senior researcher in physics, have focused on the development of commercial PV module testing services through the University's spin-out company, PVinsight. These ensure that PV plants meet the expected performance and are free from defects that could cause early failure or safety concerns. Jacqueline also worked on developing testing procedures for end-of life modules focused on repair or reuse options. These can improve access to electricity, create job opportunities and minimise the waste generated by the solar industry. Solar energy is key to combating climate change, and ensuring PV module quality throughout their lifetime is essential.

“Dedicated to continuous improvement, I start with an initial version and refine it. Progress matters more than perfection.”



| Riaan Opperman

Riaan and the eNtsa team have developed and applied a rotary friction welding technique, qualified in partnership with Steinmüller, to address manufacturing challenges on steam headers for Eskom. The project involved repairing damaged components by applying a unique welding procedure for dissimilar metals. This innovation saved costs, reduced production time, and improved plant efficiency. By designing custom tools, retrofitting welding equipment, and training local staff, eNtsa ensured the process was repeatable and reliable. The project kept manufacturing jobs in South Africa, supported local artisans, and contributed to earlier power plant upgrades. As a result, it helps reduce the risk of load shedding, enhances GDP, and showcases eNtsa's commercial and technical expertise.

“Innovation is the bridge between challenges and opportunity, where bold ideas ignite progress and transform the future.”

FACULTY EMERGING EXCELLENT TEACHER AWARDS

These awards recognise excellence in the previous calendar year but acknowledge that excellence evolves. As such, lecturers with a record of ongoing progress are also considered and recognised in these awards.





Nonkululeko Khumalo

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Nonkululeko's student-centred teaching results in overcoming adversity, sharing knowledge, and promoting inclusivity wherein students take responsibility for their learning process. "My teaching philosophy is based on the pedagogy of compassion and care and the principles of the humanising pedagogy, where students can achieve self-actualisation, self-understanding, and self-realisation" she says. As a lecturer in business management, she agrees with Paulo Freire, who states that humanism is the ultimate goal of education: to achieve a state, in which actions of kindness and goodwill are performed in everyday life to benefit human society.

"We are all here to serve humanity; compassion and care are what make us more human."



Josh Jacobs

Faculty of Education

Josh, an associate lecturer in ICT, emphasises student-centred learning, technology integration, and continuous improvement, supported by insights from neuroscience. “I focus on creating learning environments that reflect how students naturally process information, helping them engage more effectively”, he says. By combining this with humanising pedagogy and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), he strives to offer diverse, accessible opportunities that meet individual needs, supporting students’ learning journey and creating learning in a constantly evolving digital world.

“With strength and support, we can reshape our minds and unlock new possibilities.”



Riëtte Kotzé

*Faculty of Engineering the Built,
Environment and Technology*

"I view myself not only as a teacher but also a fellow learner, continuously seeking new ideas and perspectives to enhance my teaching practice, says Riëtte, a senior lecturer in architecture. Her goal is to empower students to become independent learners, equipped with the skills, confidence, and curiosity to navigate the challenges of the ever-evolving field of architecture. By fostering a culture of respect, engagement, and lifelong learning, Riëtte hopes to inspire the architects of tomorrow to make meaningful contributions to society and the built environment.

"Keep the light in your eyes, be curious and always open to learn."



Philanathi Mabena

Faculty of Health Sciences

In facilitating learning, Philanathi uses a method similar to “scaffolding”. Interestingly, scaffolding is taken down when building construction is finished to allow the building to function independently. “As a result, via solid subject matter and knowledge, integrated pedagogical approaches, and current research, my teaching practices promote student-centred learning”, he says. To ensure that problem-solving abilities are mastered, Philanathi, a lecturer in physiology, also encourages critical thinking through problem-based activities. By doing this, he inspires his students to take responsibility for their education and develop empathy and compassion for others.

“This Too, Can Be Learned.”



Joastin Naidoo

Faculty of Health Sciences

Joastin, a lecturer in human anatomy believes in creating an environment, both in and outside the classroom, which is conducive to the holistic development of his learners while simultaneously inspiring critical thinking in them. This focuses on his students as individuals, acknowledging their diverse backgrounds and emphasises the common goal of advancing knowledge and skillsets. "My philosophy also recognises the need for a space for growth of character and opinion, which are core factors contributing to these individuals, and their academic success," Joastin says.

"Respect and transparency, when teaching, are of the utmost importance as no student suffers from feeling valued and being well informed."



Daphney Mnisi

Faculty of Law

"I bridge theory with real-world application, using a student-centred approach that encourages critical thinking and active participation. What makes my philosophy unique is my emphasis on experiential learning. I focus on making Labour Law practical and relevant," says Daphney says. As lecturer in mercantile law her aim is to produce students who see the value in championing justice and making a lasting impact on society's fairness and equity. She truly believes that this mindset will equip her students for real-world success.

"I strive to empower my students to excel with knowledge and integrity, fully prepared for every challenge they face."

FACULTY EXCELLENT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The recipients of these awards are recognised for their significant, sustained and rigorous commitment to teaching; their innovation, creativity and imagination and the positive and humanising impact of their teaching on students. In short, these teachers embody excellence of the profession and calling.





Hugh Bartis

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

“My teaching philosophy is different, because it is not only about imparting tourism knowledge and theory, but also about developing the student holistically against the backdrop of the University values, says Hugh, a principal lecturer in tourism. He incorporates practical and real-life experiences that his students can relate to and creates opportunities for learning beyond the classroom. Encouraging his students to take an interest in broadening their general knowledge and cultivate life-long learning, Hugh’s eclectic teaching approach is designed to cater for tourism students from different backgrounds. He merges several teaching philosophies, such as pragmatism, realism, humanism and collaboration.

“Take ownership of the good and the bad and give it your best shot.”



Lucky Maluleke

Faculty of Education

"I call my teaching philosophy 'beyond good teaching'. It goes beyond the mastery of content and basic writing and presentation requirements and is designed for not just the present learning needs, but for the lifelong mastery of knowledge and the art of knowing and doing", says Lucky, a lecturer in post-schooling education. It is content-and-student-centred, thereby putting the responsibility to learn on the students. His teaching fosters precision and competence in content, knowledge, reading and writing, and does not entertain mediocrity. This philosophy is unique because it fosters the creation of knowledge within the students, empowering them to be in charge of their futures, Lucky says.

"To teach is not to dazzle students with your textbook knowledge, but to inspire them to learn and know better."



Mark Brand

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

“If my teaching philosophy is different from anybody else’s, then perhaps it’s because I arrived here by a different path: a path steeped in independent learning. This has taught me the power of perseverance, as also the limits of working in isolation.” Mark, a senior lecturer in applied technologies believes his blended use of technology and preference for flipped classroom strategies is aimed at addressing both. Emphasising mastery through practice and personalised learning experiences, he strives to elevate engagement. Knowledge built through experiential learning is durable, and where real-world artefacts are unavailable, he employs interactive simulations to make abstract concepts concrete and relatable. It’s always a work-in-progress, and he actively pursues data upon which to reflect, and opportunities to refine, Mark says.

“Embrace the mistakes and the failures. That is where the learning substantially resides.”



Janet Barry

Faculty of Health Sciences

“By helping students identify and refine their personal learning styles and study skills, I strive to create a supportive environment for learning to take place”, says Janet, a lecturer in pharmacy. She continuously reminds her students of their goal to become pharmacists, offering encouragement even when challenges arise, to keep them focused and resilient in pursuit of their dreams. Her teaching revolves around enthusiasm for the subject matter and a strong sense of empathy, acknowledging the diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives of her students. Janet emphasises the importance of open communication, encouraging engagement both in class and directly in one-on-one meetings.

“Marks might have secured your entry, but only determination and drive will ensure you graduate.”



Vuyelwa Jacobs

Faculty of Humanities

The constantly changing environment requires dynamic and driven individuals, ready to co-create world-class innovations and shape digital futures. Excellence is a global expectation, yet many of our students come from backgrounds that reflect the challenges of South Africa, says Vuyelwa, a media and communication lecturer. “My role as a teacher, both in and beyond the classroom is to immerse our students in a culture of excellence. Excellent teaching combines developmental approaches to learning and teaching coupled with a commitment to humanising pedagogy. The philosophy of Ubuntu highlights the importance of “trust, fairness, shared understanding, dignity and harmony in relationships”, Vuyelwa says.

“An excellent teacher inspires learners to pursue their dreams through authentic leadership and by seizing opportunities for growth.”



Esther Gumboh

Faculty of Law

As a senior lecturer in criminal and procedural law, Esther embraces a humanising pedagogy, which places students and their experiences at the heart of learning and teaching, I promote student centredness and diversity. “My teaching seeks to promote an inclusive classroom, acknowledging students as knowers and participants. I build on relatable knowledge, which incorporates the lived experiences of my students. I also believe in the professionalisation of university teaching; it requires proper induction, learning and unlearning about good teaching.” Therefore, Esther actively pursues a scholarly and reflective approach to learning, teaching and assessment to enhance my attitude and practices as a university teacher.

“Every student can succeed in an inclusive environment that engenders effective learning and teaching for their potential to flourish.”

**DISTINGUISHED TEACHER
OF THE YEAR
AWARD**





Paul Tai-Hing

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

“Through education you can break the shackles of poverty,” says Paul, a lecturer in management practice. “Therefore, I ensure that our students are as marketable as possible at the end of their studies. Students are a brand, which needs to be polished and then marketed to the business world.” He believes it is his responsibility to not only teach module content, but also show his students how theory is applied in business. This excellence is not measured in throughput rates, but through the satisfaction that students express about their classroom experience. In his drive for excellence and professionalism through business leadership, Paul endeavours to ensure that students are grounded in the values of Ubuntuism through community projects during their first and second years of study.

“As business graduate, you have the power to effect positive change within the communities you operate.”

**LEARNING AND
TEACHING TEAM
AWARD**





The Inclusive Design Collaborators

The Inclusive Design Collaborators teaching philosophy focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration, critical thinking, and human-centred design, blending architecture and human movement science. This approach creates an environment where students can view design challenges from multiple perspectives, encouraging creativity and innovation. In our project, architecture students collaborate with human movement science students to design

therapeutic spaces for children with autism, as seen in our work on Merryvale School's Autism Wing. This collaboration fosters holistic problem-solving, addressing both the physical and sensory needs of the users while teaching students the value of co-creation and universal design principles. The team are Jean-Pierre Basson, Kim Harmse, Siphesihle Nogantshi, Siphesihle Nqwensio and Aayesha Kholvadia.

“Continuous self-reflection keeps our teaching methods relevant, ensuring success for today’s students and tomorrow’s graduates.”

FACULTY EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARDS

These awards seek to promote, recognise and rewards research excellence among new, emerging researchers across the faculties.





Simphiwe Dube

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Simphiwe, an associate lecturer in tourism, focuses on marketing for tourism, tourism curriculum development and the socio-economic impact of tourism in his research. His doctoral studies explore the challenges facing lecturers at universities and TVET colleges in KwaZulu-Natal. This research investigates and shares the impediments that hinder these lecturers from producing quality tourism graduates and will share the recommendations with the study participants.

“Research broadens the horizons of both the researcher and the curious reader”



William Zivanayi

Faculty of Education

William, in his research, contributed to community safety by creating an awareness and knowledge of the potential harmful exposures to human health, animals, and the environment, by using the indigenous plant (*S. incanum*) as a pesticide. He evaluated the knowledge, opinions, and attitudes of the vegetable farming community in Gweru, regarding their use of this plant and was critical for their safety. By examining the chemical components, the pesticidal activity of phytochemicals isolated from the root and fruit of the *S. incanum*, the plant's chemistry and its threats are better understood, William, a lecturer in education, says.

“Curiosity drives research; the more we explore, the more we understand, opening limitless opportunities for creativity and connection.”



Tapiwa Gundu

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

“My research focuses on developing innovative cyber security solutions that enhance resilience and awareness within organisations and society”, says Tapiwa, a senior lecturer in IT and governance. By integrating advanced strategies to manage risks associated with emerging technologies, his work strives to protect sensitive information, reduce vulnerabilities, and empower individuals and institutions to act securely online. Ultimately, this research contributes to a safer digital environment, which is crucial as our lives and economies increasingly depend on digital platforms, Tapiwa says.

“Creating a secure digital landscape where technology empowers rather than threatens individuals and communities.”



Siphesihle Nqweniso

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

“My goal is to create lasting healthy habits in children, improving their well-being and easing the burden on public health systems, ultimately contributing to a healthier society”, says Siphesihle, a lecturer in human movement science. Her research addresses the growing public health concerns around declining physical activity and the increasing prevalence of cardiovascular disease risk in children, particularly in marginalised communities. It highlights schools as key settings for promoting physical activity to improve children’s health. By collaborating with researchers, government, and communities, Siphesihle produces evidence-based research to influence policymakers to ensure access to quality physical education for all children, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

“Through collaborative research, I can create lasting change, ensuring every child has the opportunity to lead a healthy, active life.”



Kutu Ramolobe

Faculty of Humanities

“Various social issues, particularly those related to disability, education, and governance and government form the centre of my research. It significantly contributes to policies, theory, conceptual, and practice, says Kutu, an associate lecturer in public management and leadership. These policies, for example, promote inclusivity and ensure that persons with disabilities have equal opportunities to participate fully in society.

“The consistency of disciplined effort will transform small ideas into meaningful contribution.”



Razaana Denson

Faculty of Law

The research of Razaana, a senior lecturer in law, focuses on social inequality and injustice regarding the non-recognition of Muslim marriages. Her doctoral study investigated the recognition and regulation of Muslim marriages in South Africa as its non-recognition and non-regulation meant no legal regulatory framework to enforce any consequences that arise because of the marriage. Parties to a Muslim marriage were left without adequate legal protection when the marriage was dissolved, either by death or divorce. In the absence of legal recognition and regulation of their marriages, Muslims (particularly Muslim women) endured many hardships and challenges. This position has now been remedied with the enactment of the Divorce Amendment Act, which commenced on 14 May 2024 and granted legal recognition to Muslim marriages, Razaana says.

“The need to see that social inequality and injustices are addressed motivates me to do research.”



Neliswa Mama

Faculty of Science

“Our research group started few years ago with the aim of developing simple organic materials that can detect toxic ionic impurities onsite during water treatment processes,” says Neliswa, a senior lecturer in chemistry. Several compounds have been synthesised and successfully used in the selective recognition of metal ions from water samples collected from various dams in the Gqeberha area. By using computational programs, the group has gained valuable insights into how these compounds interact with analytes, which assists in understanding their selective interactions.

“Research builds strong relationships with students, encourages critical thinking, and promotes personal growth. My role is to support that development.”

FACULTY RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

These awards seek to recognise and reward the top researchers within each faculty for their research excellence in 2024.





Syden Mishi

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Syden's research mainly focuses on development economics, and he applies behavioural and experimental techniques to advance inquiry on pertinent issues, such as choice-making in environmental, labour, health and finance matters. Why and how economic actors make the choices they make, and what drives these - basically, a microeconomic analysis of these issues acknowledging and embracing diverse lines of thinking. As professor in economics, his recent projects include nudging for water bill payment, tax payment, behaviour modifications in health and littering challenges. Classical assumptions have failed to provide answers to all questions society has; neither had it fully supported implementation science. Behavioural insights are central to understanding how society functions and guide the development of highly effective policy and shaping sustainable practices.

"Society's thirst demands more than one well; collaboration, open access, and community science are essential for success."



Stephen Mago

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

“Problems cannot be fully understood or solved by a single field of study; research should be integrative. My research is centred on addressing societal challenges, such as poverty reduction, job creation, and sustainability, guided by ethical principles”, says Stephen, a professor in development studies. He focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and specifically how microfinance and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) can drive local economic development. By examining how financial inclusion and green business practices empower communities, Stephen’s work helps create sustainable livelihoods. He emphasises high ethical standards, safeguarding the dignity and welfare of the people and communities involved. This blend of ethics, economic empowerment, and sustainable practices, addresses society’s pressing needs while fostering responsible development.

“Research should be driven by the desire to empower communities through responsible, ethical strategies that create lasting economic and social impact.”



Sylvan Blignaut

Faculty of Education

Sylvan's research is a quest for meaning and understanding and explores the complexities of educational and curricular change in both the schooling and higher education sectors. His earlier research focused on how teachers understand and implement curriculum policy. "Curriculum policy and practice in any society are important as they reflect the aspirations or goals of society. A better understanding of how educational change happens or not, could contribute to debates that could lead to responsive policymaking and teaching", Sylvan, a professor in postgraduate studies, says. His recent research focus since the Rhodes and Fees Must Fall Movements has shifted to exploring the potential for decolonising the curriculum.

"I am drawn to research by an insatiable desire to better understand humanity and the world we are living in."



John Smallwood

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

“Construction, globally, not least in South Africa, generates a disproportionate number of fatalities, injuries, and occupational disease, which have a negative impact on the health and well-being of its participants, and contribute to the cost of construction and developments,” says John, a professor in construction management. Construction Health and Safety challenges persist, among others, when building and support work collapses. Although the academic imperative is to publish in scholarly publications, industry realities amplify the need for differing forms of knowledge transfer to professional associations, statutory councils, and built environment stakeholders in general, John says.

“Health and safety is a ‘life and death’ issue, and therefore, relevant related-research, and implementable recommendations do ‘make a difference.’”



Wilma ten Ham-Baloyi

Faculty of Health Sciences

Wilma, a lecturer in nursing science, focuses on improving healthcare, particularly for women and children, who are among the most vulnerable in our society. By developing and implementing evidence-based practices, she strives to ensure they receive the highest quality of care. This involves identifying effective healthcare strategies, creating evidence-based guidelines, educational interventions, strategies, and programmes, and ensuring these are applied in hospitals and clinics. Wilma's work addresses societal needs by improving maternal and child health outcomes, reducing healthcare disparities, and fostering safer, more effective care. Ultimately, it helps healthcare providers, specifically nurses, to make informed decisions, leading to better support for women and children's health and well-being.

"The beauty of research lays in empowering others through knowledge, innovation and mentorship to create lasting change."



Subeshini Moodley

Faculty of Humanities

“Gender, history, community, dialogue and storytelling have inspired what I refer to as a postcolonial feminist film practice. Based on the principle of ‘the scholar-as-activist’, it is a multifaceted approach that attempts to establish creative, expressive and resistant spaces for articulating the stories of marginal groups”, says Subeshini, associate professor in media and communication. What began as a study focused on films for, by and about women has developed into a filmmaking approach that is broadly applicable in a variety of contexts and disciplines. This theory-driven practice strives to decolonise representation and knowledge generation by applying scholarly innovation to social engagement contexts. It promotes social reparation, skills development, and co-creating narratives based on shared truths.

“Imagine your contribution to society and the world to be an open-ended narrative. A story ever ‘to be continued’...”



Patrick Vrancken

Faculty of Law

“My research focuses on the international law regime governing State Ocean jurisdiction, with a view to improved ocean governance for sustainable development. An analytical and systematic study of the legal authority of States in ocean-related matters provides a different lens with which to engage with the international-law-of-the-sea regime, says Patrick, professor and the SA Research Chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa. That lens makes it possible to approach the regime not as a combination of juxtaposed and largely monolithic maritime-zone regimes, as the separate 1958 Geneva conventions and the structure of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea suggest, but as the manifestation of an ocean-wide web of jurisdictions interacting with each other at different levels and in different ways spatially, Patrick says.

“Nothing is more fascinating than catching glimpses of the mind of God in human and natural creations.”



Mandy Lombard

Faculty of Science

“Healthy oceans underpin healthy societies, but we are pushing the boundaries of human influences and extractive activities further and further into the ocean. We take food and minerals out of the ocean, and we dump our pollution and global warming heat into the ocean”, says Mandy, professor and the SA Research Chair in Marine Spatial Planning. We overdo all of this. We need to act fast, and together, as a global community, to reverse the negative trends of these activities. We need to think ahead and make decisions that will deliver a functioning world for future humans, she says. Mandy’s research aims to provide decision makers with the support they need to make difficult decisions, and she trains students and young researchers from many different disciplines to collaborate in projects that tackle the complex and wicked problems that are impacting our oceans today.

“We must urgently act to reverse the damage we have caused to the ocean, instead of just talking about it.”

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

These awards go to those individuals whose research has positively impacted Nelson Mandela University and society over a sustained period of time.





Adeniyi Ogunlaja

Chemistry

“My research combines advanced chemistry with environmental science to develop technologies that can improve fuel quality while also addressing global warming through innovative CO₂ reduction methods”, says Adeniyi, senior lecturer in chemistry. Together, his research efforts aim to develop new, more efficient catalysts that work better and last longer, making fuel hydrotreatment processes, which help to remove impurities, like sulfur, from fossil fuels more sustainable. Developing special materials, called photocatalysts, are also developed that use sunlight to drive the conversion of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into beneficial products, such as methane or methanol, which can be used as fuels or raw materials for various industries.

“Every encounter is a chemical reaction, leaving both parties forever transformed.”



Rao Appadu

Applied Mathematics

Predator prey pursuit and evasion and the pattern formation in coral reefs in science, as well as biofilm formation in engineering, are among the applications that benefit from the quantitative, qualitative and numerical analysis of these models in Rao's research. "My research focuses on mathematical modelling, (fractional) partial differential equations and numerical methods. Rao, an associate professor in mathematics, mainly works with standard, composite, multisymplectic and nonstandard finite difference methods, as well as the analysis of numerical dispersion and dissipation in finite difference methods.

"Do your job to the best of your ability and stay focused, motivated."

**NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY EMERGING
TEACHER OF THE YEAR
AWARD**



**NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY EMERGING
RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR
AWARD**



**NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY TEACHER
OF THE YEAR
AWARD**



**NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER
OF THE YEAR
AWARD**



OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our vision and mission define our long-term aims and purpose for existence.

Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Mission

To offer a diverse range of quality education opportunities that will make a critical and constructive contribution to regional, national and global sustainability.

Diversity

Excellence

Ubuntu

Social Justice
& Equality

Integrity

Sustainable
Stewardship

PO Box 77000,
Nelson Mandela University
Gqeberha, 6031

info@mandela.ac.za



mandela.ac.za