

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC
AWARD WINNERS



21 June 2019

Feather Market
Convention Centre

100

YEARS OF MANDELA

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

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.

Values

Diversity

Excellence

Ubuntu

Social justice
& equality

Integrity

Environmental
stewardship



MESSAGE FROM THE VC

Welcome to the 2019 Nelson Mandela University's annual Academic Awards Dinner where we celebrate our top academic student achievers together with their family and partners.

Excellence is one of the university's six values, which we believe 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.

As our finest academic achievers, you have made an important contribution to this endeavour. I also wish to acknowledge the hard work and time that you have devoted to your studies. A special thanks and appreciation to your families, the academic staff and your communities who have supported you in your academic success journey.

You are worthy ambassadors of the university which proudly bears the name of a great global leader. As you make your journey in the world, I urge you to continuously strive to live up to the values of the university and the essence of Nelson Mandela.

Live up to his challenge of being responsible and innovative, thinking of the needs of others and placing these at the centre. Continuously grow and adapt to the pursuit of knowledge towards a better life for all.

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements.

Professor Sibongile Muthwa

Vice-Chancellor



AWARDS

Faculty of Arts

First Degree Award

Mieke Struwig

A true top performer, Mieke has obtained 100%, 96% and 93% for various modules. Her average for her BMus Performing Arts was 90% and currently, she is studying for her MMus in Musicology at Stellenbosch University. She also obtained 94% for the Licentiate of Trinity College London exam. In 2014, she was both top matriculant and sportswoman of the year at Pearson High School. She is a three times SA Artistic Swimming representative and multiple SA champion. Mieke believes even our smallest actions can make a difference.



Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

First Diploma Award

Edwina Hendricks

A married mother of two sons, Edwina obtained 16 distinctions and an 80% average in her Diploma in Logistics. She matriculated from Bethelsdorp Senior Secondary School in 1999 and believes that she can rise above any adverse situation. Her future hope is that through her life and achievements, those who see her are impacted in such a way that they choose to follow suit. She likes reading, the outdoors and hiking.



AWARDS

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

First Degree Award

Chandré Chrysanthou

2014 Pearson High School, Head Girl and Accounting postgraduate student Chandré achieved an average of 85% in her BCom Rationum (Law) studies and more than 90% in Business Entities, Family and Labour Law in her final year. She also obtained first place in the Moot Court competition at Venda Intersivity (Law) and second place at the Kovies competition. Chandré participated in exchange programmes in Europe and the USA and runs the Children's Ministry at Crossroads Christian Fellowship. Her passion is working with children and she likes reading and baking.



Faculty of Education

First Degree Award

Shannon Carr

As a teacher, Shannon hopes to use education to truly change the lives of children. Achieving more than 90% for several modules, she obtained an 87% average for her BEd Foundation Phase. Shannon is from Plettenberg Bay and matriculated at Wittedrift High School with full academic colours, was a prefect and a hockey captain. She believes that you should embrace changes en route to your goals as opportunities for personal growth. She loves nature conservation, horse riding, mountain biking and hiking.



AWARDS

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment & IT

First-Year Undergraduate Award

Jessica Schoeman

Jessica scored an average of 91% for her first-year IT Software Development Diploma studies, with 96% for IT Skills and Development Software. She matriculated from Riebeek College Girls' High School in Uitenhage with an overall average of 90.5% and seven distinctions. Passionate about reading, Jessica also loves writing and is inspired by many authors. She would love to publish her own book or even a series of books. She enjoys digital design, being creative and playing computer games, and wants to design her own game. She is also a How2Buddy.



Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment & IT

First Diploma Award

Anathi Matshaya

Anathi matriculated at Khanyisa School for the visually impaired as the 2015 Eastern Cape top matric student with a disability. He now continues to excel, achieving 88% for his Diploma in IT Software Development. Anathi is from Motherwell and won first places for both the 2018 Iron Man Hackathon and Propella Man Hackathon and was Supplementary Instructor for Software Development. He also enjoys playing chess, debating and listening to music and would like to own the biggest software company in the world.



AWARDS

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment & IT

First Degree Award

James Beale

Deans Award 2019 recipient, James wants to complete his PhD before the age of 30. With 37 module distinctions, the highest mark in any year of study in 2019, 17 academic module awards and an 84% average, this seems highly possible. James is studying towards his BSc Honours Construction Management. As Eastern Province U19B water polo vice-captain and a past Pearson High School first team water polo and rugby player, he believes in a balanced lifestyle. He wants to study for his master's degree next year or gain experience in the construction industry overseas.



Faculty of Health Sciences

First Diploma Award

Taylor du Plessis

Taylor wants to run her own elite gymnastics academy one day. She has obtained her Sport Management Diploma cum laude with an average of 85% and a top mark of 98% for Sport Management Practice. She matriculated at Port Alfred High School where she was Deputy Head Girl, received honours in academics and had an 80% average in matric. She was also part of the 2017 university cheerleading squad that won the nationals and, apart from gymnastics, also loves water skiing.



AWARDS

Faculty of Health Sciences

First Degree Award

Ilse Nel

Ilse wants to research various medical conditions to make an impact on the treatment, management and diagnosis of diseases. With an average of 88% for her bachelor's degree in medical laboratory sciences, Ilse worked for 10 years before studying. She was top matriculant at Cillie High School in Port Elizabeth and won academic awards and colours from Grade 9 onwards. She believes you can achieve whatever you put your mind to if you are prepared to work hard enough. She enjoys baking, arts and crafts and reading challenging and thought-provoking literature.



Faculty of Law

First Degree Award

Khayakazi Thomas

With an average of 84% for her LLB degree, Khayakazi, who is from Addo in the Eastern Cape, is currently doing her articles in the Banking and Finance Department at Bowmans in Sandton, Johannesburg. She has consequently become interested in banking and wants to study further in this field. She aspires to be a partner in the firm or open her own practice in future. Khayakazi matriculated among the top five students of her class at Kirkwood High School and loves reading.



AWARDS

Faculty of Science

First-Year Undergraduate Award

Ludévin Parkinson

Programming, mathematics, computer games and literature are second-year BSc Computer Science student Ludévin's interests. Ludévin had an overall average of 98% for his first year and scored 100% in Mathematical Modelling, Probability and Discrete Distribution Theory and Programming Fundamentals. He achieved a first-class position in Grades 8, 9, 10 and 12 at Framesby High School and won the Moore Stephens trophy for best performance in mathematics in Grades 10 to 12. He hopes to become a software developer working for a variety of great companies.



Faculty of Science

First Diploma Award

S'Busisiwe Vilakazi

S'Busisiwe wants to pursue her master's degree in sustainable agriculture to provide the less fortunate with basic skills in agriculture and agribusiness to better support subsistence and emerging farmers and alleviate poverty. She achieved an 86% average for her Agricultural Management Diploma and wants to gain global experience in the industry. A top achiever and Deputy Head Girl at Harrismith High School, she is now a leader in the Agricultural Society and Madibaz Cheerleaders, a How2Buddy and tutor. She likes reading, writing, singing, dancing, arts and crafts, hockey, science and innovation.



AWARDS

Faculty of Science

First Degree Award

Themba Makubalo

Achieving 90% for Multimedia Systems and Econometric Models and 86% for User Interface Design, Themba obtained his BSc (Information Systems) with an average of 83%. As a Newton Technical High School matriculant, he was also best in debating and public speaking and a student assistant and tutor at university. His other interests include software development, reading, chess, film study and new technologies. Themba believes family and friends provide a good support structure, but you have to have inner motivation to succeed in life.



Bachelor of Technology Award

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Bachelor of Technology Graduate: Social Sciences and Humanities

Adrienne Johnson

Currently studying for her Honours in Public Administration, Adrienne wants to obtain her doctorate in the next four years. She loves sharing with, and gaining knowledge from, people from different backgrounds, history and cultures and wants to become a lecturer. Her overall average for her BTech degree in Public Management and Leadership was 80%. She received the university's first diploma award in Arts in 2018. Adrienne was also a How2Buddy and works as a secretary in a contract position at the university. She loves meeting new people, modelling, reading, dancing, hockey and singing.



AWARDS

Bachelor of Technology Award

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Bachelor of Technology Graduate: Science, Engineering and Technology

Nicole Blignaut

Nicole is studying for her Master's in Nature Conservation, focusing on invasive alien plants to aid the development of the ecosystems' natural resilience. She also plans a career in this field. Nicole achieved 88% for her BTech and 84% for her diploma studies. Matriculating from Strand High School in the Western Cape, she excelled in cross-country running at provincial level and wants to run a full marathon by 2021. She also loves canoeing, hiking, snorkelling, painting, reading and chess. Nicole volunteers at SAPREC (Seabird and Penguin Rehabilitation Centre) and the SPCA.



Honours Degree Award

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Honours Graduate: Social Sciences and Humanities

Luan Staphorst

Currently pursuing two master's degrees, one in Philosophy at the University of the Western Cape and another in Applied Language Studies at Mandela University, Luan obtained 88% for his BA Honours in Applied Language Studies. His research focuses on philosophy of, as and from language and he has presented papers at 10 international conferences. He also won the Derek Gray Memorial Award for Research Excellence in 2013, representing Africa at the Nobel Prize Ceremony. He has been Chairperson of the university choir since 2016. His interests are poetry, music, gardening, reading and debating.



AWARDS

Honours Degree Award

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Honours Graduate:
Science, Engineering and Technology

Kim Mitchell

Despite being a full-time employee at Aspen Pharmacare as a raw material chemist, and finding studying and working really challenging, Kim managed to obtain 89% for her BSc Honours in Formulation Science. She wants to continue with her master's and, later, doctorate in chemistry and venture into a career in lecturing one day. Her honours research focused on the reformulation of a problematic pharmaceutical tablet to decrease its tendency to break into pieces. She loves hiking and being outdoors in nature.



Master's Degree Award

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Master's Degree by
Coursework: Social Sciences and Humanities

Jean du Randt

The importance and effectiveness of talent management strategies and their impact on retention was the focus of Jean's Master's in Industrial and Organisational Psychology, for which she obtained 82%. She completed her earlier degrees 25 years ago, always working in Human Resources and ending up as HR Manager at both Coca-Cola Sabco and Mondelez. After her studies, she returned to Coke as an industrial psychology intern. She hopes to continue in corporate HR or in consulting as registered industrial psychologist. Jean is married with two sons and loves camping and travelling.



AWARDS

Master's Degree Award

Albert Wessels Trust Award for the best Master's Degree by Coursework: Science, Engineering and Technology

Matthew Hickson

Matthew's Master's degree in Nanoscience, for which he obtained 81%, focused on using peptide capped magnetite nanoparticles to target breast cancer cells. He hopes to head his own research group and wants to move into the field of catalysis, always having had a fascination with catalysts. He likes getting to know new things and is now learning how to code, using Python, as a valuable skill set. He currently lives in Jeffreys Bay, reads both fiction and non-fiction, and also enjoys playing the guitar.

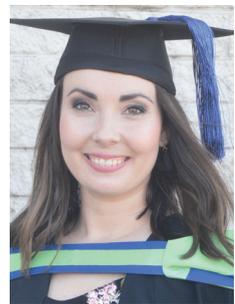


Master's Degree Award

Nelson Mandela University Council Award for the best Master's Degree by Dissertation: Social Sciences and Humanities

Melissa Landsberg

Melissa has obtained all her degrees cum laude and obtained 85% for her Master's degree in Psychology (Research) as well as various bursaries and scholarships for academic excellence. Her research focused on the relationship between an infant and its primary caregiver and the life of Ted Bundy, the serial killer, who murdered more than 30 young women. She hopes to publish her first journal article by the end of this year and start her PhD next year. Melissa is also passionate about domestic animal rescue; rehabilitation and adoption, environmental conservation and gardening.



AWARDS

Master's Degree Award

Ford Motor Company of Southern Africa Award for the best Master's Degree by Dissertation: Science, Engineering and Technology

Emily Jones

Emily, known as "the fern lady", focuses her research on invasion biology; particularly, alien ferns, their ecology and distribution globally. She obtained 89% for her master's in Nature Conservation and is from Wilderness, Western Cape. After multiple jobs in nature conservation, she realised that she is happiest in the world of research and academics. She wants her research to play an important role in understanding our planet and its biodiversity. Her dream world exists of writing, travelling and being close to her family on a farm with dogs. She also likes music and reading.



Master's Degree Award

Nelson Mandela University Council Award for the best Master's in Technology by Dissertation: Social Sciences and Humanities

Nishil Vaghmaria

Through his work, Nishil intends raising awareness about social issues and ways in which people are manipulated and coerced into conforming to dominant societal norms. Nishil obtained 78% for his Master of Technology Fine Art. His research involves the reworking of products and images from popular culture and the press. As a fine art illustrator, his work is also influenced by subversive sub-cultures, such as graffiti and street art. His other interests are graphic design, photography, drawing, painting and street art. He believes challenges are opportunities to grow as an individual.



AWARDS

Master's Degree Award

Nelson Mandela University Council Award for the best Master's in Technology by Dissertation: Science, Engineering and Technology

Ria Dreyer

Apart from obtaining 78% for her Master's degree in Agriculture, focusing on communal wool production, Ria is the first woman wool appraiser in South Africa, with nine years of experience in the wool industry. Employed at BKB, South Africa's largest wool brokering organisation, she hopes to make a unique contribution to the wool industry by completing her doctorate soon. She believes true success in life is about having a positive effect on the environment for a healthy and prosperous world. She also achieved Protea colours in equestrian sport in 2005.



Rupert Gesinstigting Award

Social Sciences and Humanities

Ntemesha Maseka

International humanitarian law, United Nations peacekeepers and sexual violence were the research focus areas of Ntemesha's Master's degree in Public Law, which she achieved with an average of 82%. She is from Lusaka, Zambia, and was a semi-finalist in the Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition held in Ohrid, Macedonia in 2018. At school, she excelled in computer science, English literature and sport. She plans to summit a mountain on each continent, having already done Mount Vodno in Macedonia and Table Mountain in the Western Cape, and has twice braved the Bloukrans Bridge bungee jump.



AWARDS

Rupert Gesinstigting Award

Science, Engineering and Technology

Emily Jones

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Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Academic Excellence

Four Vice-Chancellor’s Awards, to be announced, are made annually in the following categories:

Best first diplomate;

Best first degree;

Best postgraduate (Social Sciences and Humanities); and

Best postgraduate (Science, Engineering and Technology)

These recipients are selected from all the winners of academic awards from the year (excluding first year award recipients).

