



National green & sustainability awards

Nelson Mandela University won the runner-up award at the Higher Education Facilities Management Association of Southern Africa (HEFMA) awards in October. This award is granted solely on renewable energy initiatives implemented at any institution as well as the associated savings. Mandela University currently has the biggest on-campus solar power plant in the country and won the award for this newly commissioned one megawatt plant on South Campus. The plant spans two hectares and is equipped

with fixed and sun-tracking photovoltaic (PV) modules, consisting of 1200 panels across 30 dual-axis tracking systems and another 2 234 fixed PV panels. A converter transforms the energy captured from the sun's rays to electricity. The solar power plant is part of a five-year plan to replace 25% to 30% of the existing energy needs with renewable energy sources. Earlier this year Mandela Uni was also awarded the Greenest Campus in South Africa award at the 8th Annual Green Campus Conference

attended by 19 institutions of higher learning. The award was based on the University's green institutional infrastructure, green projects and Green Campus Initiative society (GCI) activities.

The Green Campus Initiative seeks to advocate and raise awareness on green living and measures to take in terms of sustaining green living on campuses. The University is also determined to significantly decrease its water consumption and landfill waste.

Did you know?

Over the past two years, the average recycling interventions applied at Nelson Mandela University, have resulted in 712m³ less waste per campus per month.

Naming and renaming project

The University has renamed eight of its student residences in Port Elizabeth as part of its ongoing Naming and renaming project towards creating a more inclusive environment for those who work, study and live at the institution.

Families and friends of those after whom the residences on North, South and Second

Avenue campuses have been named attended the May launch. Go to: <https://naming.mandela.ac.za/>

Faculties are presently engaged in discussions in seeking names that align with the ethos of Mandela and are of significance to those who are directly associated with the buildings concerned.

Expanding student housing

Another 2000 beds will be introduced on the University's George and Port Elizabeth campuses over the next 18 months in a bid to address the critical national housing shortage for students.

The University is using an innovative funding model to address the need for reasonably-priced accommodation, as more and more students seek tertiary qualifications in the higher education sector. The new approach, a pilot project for the sector, saw the University combine its infrastructure funding grants from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) (received every three years), and supplement it with loan funding to expedite the process of building a greater number of beds.

George Campus

Construction of a 198-bed residence for George Campus has reached the halfway stage. The R54m development which began early this year, is scheduled for completion by April next year. This will complement the 430 beds already available on the Garden Route campus, recognised for its niche sustainability programme offerings, like Nature Conservation, Forestry and Game Ranch Management.

Port Elizabeth campuses

Contractors for the 1800 beds to be built at two sites on North Campus were scheduled



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The new triple-storey residence for 198 beds, presently under construction on George Campus, is expected to be completed by April 2020

to be on site in November.

The three-phased building process with completion dates in brackets is as follows:

Phase 1 – 500 beds at Sanlam Student Village (May 2021)

Phase 2 – 300 beds at Sanlam Student Village (December 2021)

Phase 3 – 1000 beds opposite the large car park

(July 2022)

Off-campus accredited accommodation

Since 2015 the University has invested in fast-tracking its external off-campus accredited accommodation.

This year the number of accredited sites saw the bed numbers jump from 6000 to 9000. The University hopes to grow this number to 12 000 to support its students.

Change the World

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

December 2019

InTouch

A newsletter for friends of Nelson Mandela University

Medical School 'a catalyst for change'

Nelson Mandela University is confident that it has moved a step closer to establishing the country's 10th Medical School following the recent evaluation and approval visit of the Health Professions Council of South African (HPCSA) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE).

"The proceedings of the visit went well. The delegation was able to interact with our established faculty, systems, policies and governance," the University's Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Professor Lungile Pepeta, said.

The University must now await the official outcome of the professional bodies towards realising a long-held dream to offer a medical programme that is relevant to South Africa's health care needs.

The delegation engaged in an intensive five-day programme late in October to examine the University's readiness in terms of its curriculum, infrastructure, equipment, staff and student support in offering the new six-year MBChB degree at its Missionvale Campus.

The University believes the new medical school can serve as a catalyst for change in line with



Missionvale Campus is ideally suited to meet health care needs where it is most needed, with easy access to state hospitals, care centres and clinics and a hugely under-resourced community. The new Medical School on the campus can also serve as a catalyst for regeneration in the area.

its overriding mandate of being in service to society.

The University hopes to welcome its first cohort of medical students in 2021, but must receive official accreditation before it can open applications.

Did you know?

For more information on the new Medical School visit: <https://health.mandela.ac.za/medical-school>

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The University leadership (from left) Chair of Council Ambassador Nosipho January-Bardill, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa in their new office bearer gowns for Graduation, reflective of a dynamic African University.

Graduation transformation

Nelson Mandela University is on a transformation journey, ever seeking to advance social justice and equality and offer an inclusive institutional culture that is welcoming of all people.

Part of the transformation journey in creating this inclusive environment that honours our namesake and is reflective of our identity is that of examining what we celebrate and how we do it. Graduation is the pinnacle of all such celebrations.

The latest development in the ongoing process is that of the introduction of new office bearer gowns that are reflective of who we are as "a dynamic African university".

A new look, a ticketing system for safety reasons, a sign language interpreter, a cultural interlude, new gowns, big screens and a graduate procession have been introduced since a nine-month engagement process examining our event rituals, dress, entertainment, format and practices at the University began.

Student gowns, the use of language and the advantages offered by technology at big events is also being examined.



Computing Sciences Prof Jean Greyling teaching learners coding with TANKS which has reached more than 15 000 pupils by October.

TANKS teaches coding

An award-winning gaming app is spreading a strong educational message across the country thanks to the Computing Sciences Department at Nelson Mandela University.

Dubbed TANKS, the fun game introduces pupils to coding concepts in the hope of sparking their interest in software development as a career choice says the department's Professor Jean Greyling.

TANKS was conceptualised and developed by computer science honours student Byron Batteson.

Pupils work in teams as they compete against each other to link puzzle-piece instructions and guide a tank through obstacles to a

"There are 25 000 schools in South Africa and 16 000 of them don't have access to computer labs. We want to get to those kids who are never exposed to computers ... We want to build awareness of coding as a career option"

predetermined destination. Image recognition allows the puzzle-piece instructions to be executed on the phone.

"There are 25 000 schools in South Africa and 16 000 of them don't have access to computer labs. We want to get to those kids who are never exposed to computers ... We want to build awareness of coding as a career option," says Prof Greyling.

Greyling won the University's 2019 Innovation Excellence Award and has been nominated for several other awards. He was placed in the top 10 at the finals of the 2019 SAB Foundation Social Innovation Awards and won a R400,000 development award for TANKS.

By the end of October, the apps had reached more than 15,000 pupils, which Greyling hopes will be 100,000 by the time TANKS turns five years old.

Briefs

USAf appointment

Mandela University Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa (right), has been appointed as the new CEO of University's South Africa (USAf) from January 2020.

Prof Muthwa takes over the reins of the membership organisation, representative of all 26 South African public universities, from DUT's Prof Thandwa Mthembu.



Foundation head

Alumnus Judy Sikuza (right) is the new CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation (MRF).

The Psychology honours graduate was a Mandela Rhodes Scholar herself in 2007 and is now responsible for the Foundation's mandate of building exceptional leadership in Africa. She was also recognised with the Nelson Mandela University Alumni Rising Star award recently.



Silver celebrations

This year marks the 25th anniversary of South Africa's first multi-racial university choir - formed at the very start of this country's democracy - and celebrates a journey of excellence that has taken Nelson Mandela University's talented singers across the world. The internationally-acclaimed, award-winning choir recently celebrated their milestone with a reunion concert where all past and present members were invited to share in its celebrations. The University's arts and culture department, conductor Junita Lamprecht-van Dijk started the choir - and continues to lead them today. The choir's mix of African traditional, classical, Western European and Latin American songs have made them a favourite on world stages.



Mandela Rhodes Scholars

Mandela University final-year Law student Gamuchirai Mudehwe and Master's in Philosophy and Linguistics student Luan Staphorst have been selected as part of the 54 exceptional young African leaders to join The Mandela Rhodes Scholarship class of 2020.

This year's cohort come from 14 African countries and were selected from more than 5 000 applications.

Gamuchirai, a Sol Plaatje Residence Student Assistant (RSA), has been actively involved in student governance and development, serving on the Student Representative Council in 2018 as the Faculty of Law student representative. He founded and chaired the Law Students Council and also worked with the Law Students Society, the Black Lawyers Society and the International Law Students Society. He is a co-founder of the Toastmasters Society and served as its Deputy President. In April, he was awarded his faculty's "Leadership and Service Award".

Gamuchirai will continue his studies in the Master of Laws (Taxation) during his Scholarship year.

Luan is currently pursuing two master's degrees



Luan Staphorst



Gamuchirai Mudehwe

- one in Philosophy from the University of the Western Cape, which is almost complete, and one in Linguistics at Mandela University which he will focus on in his Scholarship year.

He has three qualifications from Mandela University - all conferred cum laude - and has published and presented papers within these fields across the world.

Luan was this year's recipient of the Rupert Family Trust Award for the Best Honours Graduate in Social Sciences and Humanities and will represent

Mandela University as an Abe Bailey Fellow in Ethiopia and Great Britain in November and December.

He is currently a research assistant at Mandela University's Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriShet). Beyond his academic pursuits, he has a passion for poetry and has been a member of the University Choir for six years - leading the choir as Executive Chairman for the past four years.

The Mandela Rhodes Scholarships programme is a combination of financial support for postgraduate studies and a high quality Leadership Development Programme, with the intention of building exceptional leadership capacity in Africa.

Doctorate after honours

Chemistry student Lize Greyling achieved an extraordinary accomplishment by obtaining her PhD in Chemistry only three years after completing her honours degree. Her Master's degree has been converted into a PhD, because of its superior quality. Her project is aimed at developing alternative methods that may solve current chemical processing problems in South Africa. These methods are more cost-effective, efficient and environmentally friendly.



Did you know?

The first group of BSc Hons Physiology students will be graduating at the Summer graduation ceremony.

Their research projects included the physiological effects of smoking e-cigarettes, regulation of the inflammatory response in diabetic mice and the effects of a medicinal plant on inflammation and the macrophage function.

Novel therapies for breast cancer, and the role of mothers' nutrition on the vulnerability of their children to develop neurological disorders, were also investigated.

Honorary doctorate

For his scholarly work, which resonates with the Constitutional paradigm and the University's value system, and for his advocacy towards the transformation of society and the elimination of racial oppression, Professor Charles R Lawrence III (right) receives the degree of Doctor of Law (honoris causa).

Professor Lawrence lectures in law at the William R Richardson School of Law in Hawaii.

He is best known for his exceptional and prolific scholarly work in critical race theory, anti-discrimination law, equal protection and racist hate speech.

