



Madiba paves the way

A PLETHORA of work exists on Mandela the individual – but there is still much to be unearthed about *Mandela*: as a social figure of justice.

This “excavation” of Mandela is what the three-day “Dalibhunga: This Time? That Mandela?” colloquium sought to explore.

“The colloquium fed into Mandela University’s work on entrenching its identity, following the new name’s launch in 2017.”

In Madiba’s footsteps

ROOTING commemorations in its academic project was the University’s contribution to honouring Nelson Mandela’s legacy in a year-long Centenary Celebrations Programme.

Critical Studies in Higher Education (CriSHET), the Chair for Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa (ISCIA) and the Centre for Philosophy in Africa.

“... Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.”

A “Dalibhunga: This Time? That Mandela?” colloquium, the inaugural Hubs of Convergence launch and a Gender Equity and Transformation conference are among activities rounding off the programme.

“Locating our programme in the academic enterprise resonates with the importance Mandela placed on education, illustrated so emphatically with his famous declaration that ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world’,” said Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa .

The programme has resulted in renewed energy for humanising pedagogy and a commitment to re-imagining engagement beyond the bounds of conventional university practices.

The programme saw Mandela University exploring the ethos of its new identity and bringing this focus into core teaching, learning, research and engagement.

Did you know?

A new biometric screening system is about to be introduced at all on-campus student residences as part of an on-going safety and security implementation plan.

The programme featured several faculty-driven events, research initiatives and launches of Chairs and centres.

These included the launch of the Chair for



Solar power soon a reality

THE two-hectare solar photovoltaics (PV) power plant next to the main building on Nelson Mandela University’s South Campus is planned to be operational from mid-April, with additional solar PV power plants possible for other campuses in future.

The solar plant will produce 1740 MWh of electricity annually during its 20-year lifespan, feeding directly into the South Campus grid.

The innovative R18-million green power plant will be producing just over 10% of the University’s electricity requirements and forms part

of the University’s overriding commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

According to the University’s Sustainability Engineer André Hefer, there will be a total of 4500 PV modules at the power plant which will generate energy from 8.30am to 4.30pm daily.

Two-thirds of these PV modules will be fixed-mounted, and a third will be mounted onto dual-axis trackers, which will swing to track the sun to maximise solar energy production.

The new plant is the result of a partnership be-



WORK towards the establishment of the Medical School at Missionvale Campus is continuing, particularly with regards to infrastructure and stakeholder engagement.

The majority of programmes offered at Missionvale Campus moved to the university’s North, South, Ocean and Second Avenue campuses this year to allow for key construction work to take place to

Construction of Medical School

transform laboratories, lecture facilities and offices in readiness for the first intake of medical students.

A number of final Government approvals are still required before the University can officially open application processes for its medical degree.

tween the University and renewable energies company, Tasol Solar.

Should the project and delivery model be a success, the possibility exists for additional solar PV power plants to be installed at some of the University’s other five campuses.

The University’s Photovoltaics Research Group (PVRG) is conducting research in this area, and has, for the past few years, been feeding solar energy generated by photovoltaics research systems located at their Outdoor Research Facility (ORF), into the University’s grid.



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Change the World

InTouch

A newsletter for friends of Nelson Mandela University

Transforming spaces and places

A NAMING and renaming project ensuring that our University buildings and areas recognise, respect and honour all peoples in ways that resonate with our namesake, is underway.

The project follows the launch of our new name in 2017 and addresses the need to pro-actively build social cohesion in the wake of the Fees Must Fall protests - and actively contributes to transformation.

The process will also offer us the opportunity to build and enhance the intellectual identity of our brand, and simultaneously celebrate Mandela’s centenary year.

Our staff, students and alumni have been encouraged to robustly engage in debate around the name choices as part of an open journey that seeks to build a future where everyone feels that they belong.

Social cohesion and inclusivity is the African institutional culture that we aspire to achieve at Mandela University, and the process – the collective naming and renaming of buildings, spaces, roads and other places – will help enhance and enable this.

Students lead way

In 2018 our students, guided by the new Naming Policy, engaged to seek names for their residences that resonated with our namesake



A BETTER FUTURE ... The Mandela Bench launched last year forms part of an ongoing public art project to honour the University’s namesake and visually articulate a changing institutional culture.

and would inspire generations of students to come.

The likes of Eastern Cape’s Sarah Baartman, whose resilience paints a painful picture of how women have been marginalised throughout history, and Lillian Ngoyi, who led the 1956 women’s march to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against the apartheid government’s pass laws, were among the names selected and approved.

Students were united in their desire to embrace

names that fostered a sense of pride and unity and which would serve as a powerful reminder of how far we, as a nation, have come.

Did you know?

Some 5 000 certificates, diplomas and degrees will be awarded at 16 Graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 3-13 April.

02 Honorary Doctorates

05 Our intellectual brand

06 Solar success

Honorary Doctorates 2019

For her contribution to intensifying the global call for inclusive economic growth and development, and for her scholarship and praxis of entrepreneurship and economic development, particularly in marginal rural economies, social entrepreneur and Chair of the Advisory Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture Dr Vuyo Mhlati (right), receives an honorary doctorate in Business Management.



Prof Morgan Chetty (right), is awarded his honorary doctorate in General Health Sciences for his contribution to upskilling doctors in South Africa, in leading 5000 primary care doctors and for the empowerment of patients in terms of their rights. He has been at the helm of family medicine for over 40 years, dedicating his life to promoting access to quality healthcare, with a focus on the poor, and being patient-centred.



CEO of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital Trust, Sibongile Mkhabela (right), is honoured for pioneering the establishment of a dedicated children's hospital in South Africa, with its educative aspect in improving the quality of paediatric care, research and training in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as for her work in development issues through the United Nations Education Programme in Southern



Well-known cleric and former political activist, Reverend Frank Chikane (right), is honoured for his contribution as a servant leader to the development and promotion of the African Renaissance and his involvement in conflict resolution processes in South Africa, during the transition period, in Lesotho, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. He receives an honorary doctorate in Political Studies.



Expanding our ocean footprint

OCEAN Sciences and Marine Engineering are significant growth areas for the University, expanding our continental and international footprint.

In 2018, the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology (Ebeit) launched a new three-year Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Marine Engineering (BEngTechMarEng) degree. The Faculty is further aiming to develop its naval architecture offering to master's degree level.

Several new SARCHI Chairs are based at the Ocean Sciences Campus, launched in 2017. One is the Faculty of Science's UK-SA Bilateral Chair in Ocean Science and Marine Food Security. The holder of this Chair is Professor Mike Roberts, and it is jointly hosted by Nelson Mandela University and the United Kingdom's leading marine science research and technology institutions: the University of Southampton (UoS) and

the Southampton-based National Oceanography Centre (NOC).

The Faculty of Law's Professor Patrick Vrancken, holder of the SARCHI Chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, co-edited an 800-page book published in 2017, titled The Law of the Sea – The African Union and its Member States. It is the first book to collate the legal aspects of ocean governance in African countries and includes chapters by young African scholars.

The Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy, FishFORCE, headed by the Faculty of Law's Professor Hennie van As, was launched in 2016 with funding from the Norwegian government. It is building fisheries law enforcement capacity and is actively training in South Africa, Indonesia, Kenya and Tanzania.

In March, Nelson Mandela University hosted two major international ocean sciences conferences.



IN line with Mandela University's vision to promote technology-enabled teaching and learning, first-time entering NSFAS-funded students were this year offered affordable, discounted laptops, financed from their annual financial aid allowances through R15-million bridging finance from Council. A total of 2628 registered students have already bought devices, which are paid off over two years and include several additional benefits. Phase 2 of the project will extend the offer to all registered students. For more information, visit <https://www.mandela.ac.za/Student-Device-Initiative>.

Building a dream

WALKING across the stage to receive his Diploma in Management is a dream literally built by Nelson Mandela University locksmith technician Siyabulela Dyasi, 37 (right).



Siyabulela was part of the team that manufactured the design of the steel ramp and stage, used by the thousands of graduates receiving their qualifications.

"All these years, my dream was to (someday) walk on that ramp, confidently, with my head held (up) high as a graduate," said Siyabulela.

In 2005, Siyabulela started working at the then NMMU as a

institution, attending classes two mornings a week, my part-time Management classes three to four evenings a week, and all while working my full-time job, doing building maintenance around six campuses. I have proven that time-management is the key," said Siyabulela.

"Graduating this year is a dream come true; I will walk on the stage I helped build. I would

"Graduating this year is a dream come true; I will walk on the stage I helped build."

carpenter assistant, helping artisans at the University, and in 2014 he began his graduation dream by enrolling for his Diploma in Management.

"My second year was very challenging. I spent it doing my trade at a locksmith trade

also like to encourage young and capable South Africans that no matter your background, you can make a change.

If the future is in our hands then every individual should commit to seek and strive for a better future for the country."



Medical Laboratory Science focus

FOURTEEN students of the first cohort of the four-year BHSc: Medical Laboratory Science (BHSc: MLS) professional degree are graduating this April.

Mandela University is only the second tertiary institution nationally to offer the BHSc: MLS professional degree.

Work opportunities for this degree are in pathology, medical and forensic laboratories, food industries and the medical research field.

Together with this group, one of their lecturers, Mariana Buckle (above), will be graduating with her Masters of Health Sciences in Medical Laboratory Science cum laude. Her research focused on the integration of blended learning technologies into Anatomy and Physiology.

Mariana's research, which coincided with limited classroom exposure during the #FeesMustFall (FMF) protest movement in 2016, illuminated many major issues:

- Connectivity
- E-readiness
- Unequal access to online learning
- Importance of security features for online summative assessments
- Usefulness of commercial, web-based learning programmes
- The confounding effect of the FMF movement during the case study period.

"Students are more than just a number, underpins my teaching philosophy," says Mariana, who was also the Health Sciences Faculty Excellent Teacher of the Year in 2018.

A red hartebeest cow and her calf in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.



New red hartebeest calf

WONDERFUL news for the University's nature reserve is the birth of the first red hartebeest calf in well over a decade.

The calf was probably born sometime in January, making it about four to five weeks old, and joining a few young springbuck around.

The calf is also one of only three red hartebeest in the reserve, the other two being the calf's mother and an old cow, who has been here for about 14 years. They have a life expectancy of about 19 years, says nature reserve ranger Craig Breedt.

"Unfortunately we have not managed to take a picture of the new arrival since the red hartebeest is notoriously difficult to photograph due to its tendency to flee as soon as it senses danger. It's Africa's fastest antelope (about 80km/h) and it runs for long distances," he says.

Helping hands

A DRAMATIC increase in depression and anxiety among students has highlighted the critical role played by Nelson Mandela University's Student Counselling Career and Development Centre (SCCDC).

"The statistics are sobering, and reflect a steep increase in the incidence of depression and anxiety. In 2018, 24% of students seen for counselling, sought help with depression- and anxiety-related symptoms and disorders compared with just 10% in 2014," says centre research psychologist Dalray Gradidge.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines mental disorders as encompassing a broad range of problems, generally combining symptoms that include abnormal thoughts,

emotions, behaviours and relationships with others.

"Each life story is unique and complex; it's impossible to isolate one main cause for the incidences of depression and anxiety," explains Gradidge.

"We find that there are always layers of complexity. Problematic academic performance is often the first manifestation of the underlying or contextual issues causing the internal psychological disruption."

Mandela University student Dorothy Aboagye (above, right) was among the many students to benefit from the SCCDC's counselling and support programmes.

The centre played a pivotal role in her difficult journey towards



graduating with her BCom in Accounting.

"So many students are dealing with depression, but use toxic coping mechanisms that end up getting in the way of academic success," says Dorothy.

"You would be surprised (by) how many students battle depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses (but) don't use these (support) facilities right here."

For help, visit www.counselling.mandela.ac.za. Suicide Emergency Line: 0800 567 567 or SMS 31393 for a call back.

Building inclusivity

THE end goal of our recently-launched graduation transformation process is to hold graduation ceremonies that build inclusivity, are uniquely our own and benefit the occasion.

Mandela University wishes to host ceremonies that honour its patron, Mandela, and ensure a special, memorable experience for both graduates and their guests.

Following a university-wide consultation process, the institution has made a number of

improvements to this end, including:

- The introduction of a student procession into the hall
- A cultural interlude at every ceremony
- The presence of a sign language interpreter in line with the university's commitment to access
- The addition of big screens to optimise viewing for all guests.

A ticketing system has also been introduced in line with new safety and security legislation.



Every story matters

"THERE is no greater pain than bearing an untold story inside you." - Maya Angelou.

The Mamela! Campaign, co-founded by graduate Lumka Cube (below) and her friend Onabo Bottoman, welcomes people to tell their life stories and encourages others to listen, believing 'every story matters'.

East London-born Lumka, 24, who will be receiving her Diploma in Management, started the campaign after her own journey with depression.

"I struggled to juggle my student leadership roles, studies and personal challenges, I sought help from the University's Department of Student Counselling and was later diagnosed with mild depression. I realised there was a great need for people to share their pain and feel heard," says Lumka.

Mamela, which is an isiXhosa word that translates to 'listen', directly pleads to those surrounding struggling students to start listening and paying attention to them. The campaign aims to aid individuals to lead mentally healthy lives to better equip them to succeed at university, explains Lumka.

"By listening to each other, we are already creating a platform to start the conversation about mental health and thus relieving the stigma behind seeking professional help."

Lumka, who currently works in the finance department at The Radisson Blu Hotel, was also awarded The Herald Citizen of the year 2017 in the Youth Category, for her non-profit organisation, Rising Sun Foundation.

The organisation offers charitable interventions aimed at alleviating difficulties faced by impoverished youth, providing holistic educational services to build responsible young adults who will in turn be able to respond to these difficulties.

One such intervention sees Education students from Nelson Mandela University volunteer as tutors, offering support to matric learners, with the aim to increase the matric pass rate in the Eastern Cape.

