

# Solar farm in progress



The area adjacent to the main intersection in front of the South Campus main tower building will soon boast a new solar farm to supply the institution with green electricity into the future. It will also serve academic units as a 'technology park'. Apart from signalling the importance of sustainability for the university, this location is near the existing substation to connect to the internal electricity grid.

## Award-winning researcher focuses on top predators

MARINE top predators like seals, penguins and other seabirds are often referred to as the sentinels of the sea, as their behaviour provides important insights into the state of our oceans.

If there are changes in their diet – or the distances they travel to find food – researchers are alerted to critical shifts in the water, such as rising sea temperatures, or the depletion of certain species.

For zoology Professor Pierre Pistorius (right) – recently awarded Mandela University's top Researcher of the Year award for 2018 – monitoring the behaviour of these relatively-accessible sea predators helps fuel his curiosity to discover the many "unknowns" associated with the marine environment.

"I use my work on marine top predators to better understand ecosystem changes. A lot of seabirds are threatened because of their interaction with fisheries. They are often in competition with humans for food – and are among the world's most threatened animals," says Prof Pistorius, who heads up the university's Marine Apex Predator Research Unit (MAPRU), which is gaining recognition as a national and international hub for marine predator research.

Much of his research takes place in near-pristine environments, like the remote sub-Antarctic Prince Edward Islands in the Southern Indian Ocean. Here, he and his team of postgraduate students gain important insights into how marine ecosystems work in areas relatively undisturbed by human activity.

This allows them to better manage ecosystems and conservation efforts in areas impacted by human pressure.



### Did you know?



A special plant species believed to be extinct has been found on our nature reserve, confirming Mandela University's status as an important conservation area. *Aspalathus cliffortiifolia* is a critically endangered and strictly endemic plant, closely related to the rooibos tea plant.

# More beds to be added

NELSON Mandela University will soon be adding an extra 2000 beds for students on campus as part of its efforts to address a national student accommodation shortage challenge.

Similarly, it has extended its off-campus accredited residence numbers to 7000 beds – from 6000 in April this year - in an ongoing bid to meet the increasing demand for decent, value-for-money accommodation.

These interventions are in addition to the 3250 beds available on the Port Elizabeth and George campuses.

In an innovative step to address the challenge, the university will be pooling funding received from the Department of Higher Education and Training to create a sustainable financial model.

"We need to ensure a sustainable way of



adding more beds. The revenue to service the loan is guaranteed. We plan to develop the residence at scale and keep developing in a phased approach," says Mandela University's finance director Michael Monaghan.

Next year, the university plans to break ground

on the first phase, with a 500-bed residence on South Campus, followed by a 200-bed residence on George Campus and then another 300-bed residence behind the Student Village.

The remaining 1000 beds on North Campus will be rolled out as the loan funding is finalised.

THE journey towards the establishment of the country's 10th medical school at Nelson Mandela University is gaining momentum.

Refurbishment of some buildings on Missionvale Campus has begun for the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) accreditation visit in March 2019.

**"We chose Missionvale for this reason. We need to be socially accountable..."**

If this accreditation support and approvals are given timeously, the university hopes to

## Medical school - breaking ground

welcome its first 100 medical students in 2020. As a result of the revamps, several academic programmes offered at Missionvale Campus are moving to other city campuses in 2019. However, those that serve the immediate community, will remain at Missionvale.

### Meeting SA's needs

In seeking to honour Mandela's legacy and be relevant in a South African context, the medical programme will have a primary health care focus and use a collaborative practice approach.

The innovative interprofessional education (IPE)

model will see medical health professionals work and study together towards a more holistic approach to health prevention and care.

"We want to offer relevant programmes. We chose Missionvale for this reason. We need to be socially accountable and serve our communities," says Executive Dean of Health Sciences, Professor Lungile Pepeta.

He says technology will also play a key role in the distributive model. It will connect trainee doctors on a virtual platform, regardless of where in the province they are training.



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Change the World

# InTouch

A newsletter for friends of Nelson Mandela University

## The pen is mightier...

THE university's own year-long Centenary Celebration Programme is embedded in the academic project.

Rather than hosting a myriad events, Mandela University intentionally chose to put the spotlight on academic, scholarly and engagement enterprises as the best way of preserving and nurturing the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

After all, it was Mandela himself who said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

Given the commitment by the university leadership to "centre our scholarship in the service of society", the university has hosted a number of events, championed by our seven faculties and other role players.

They include:

- The Faculty of Education's colloquium (19-20 July), interrogating Mandela's famous education quote above.
- A public lecture by Advocate Thuli Madonsela titled 'Social Justice Gap: Is the Constitution responsible?' (20 July).



Mandela University's Eco-Car Team scooped their third win in a row in their category at the 2018 Shell Eco-Marathon: South Africa at Zwartkops Raceway, Gauteng. Competing against 21 African universities, they set a new event record of 220 km/l for a petrol engine vehicle - a 73% improvement on their first attempt in 2016.

- The launch of the new Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education (CriSHET) on 24 July.
- An annual Nelson Mandela Youth Convention to elevate and make the youth a more prominent contributor to policy was launched in August.
- A film and books festival, 'Excavating

Mandela', was launched in September, focusing on democracy, cultural memory, politics and justice, and will continue with regular screenings in 2019.

Next year, the *Ah Dalibhunga* colloquium will interrogate the intellectual expression of Mandela.

02 Honorary Doctorate

04 Alumni Achievers

06 Medical School



## Judy Dlamini - Honorary Doctorate

"I have learnt so many things. It starts with having an ambition, pursuing excellence through investing in your education, staying focused and working hard," says entrepreneur, author and philanthropist, Judy Dlamini (left),

**"... Ethical and servant leadership is what the world needs to close the gaps that exist in societies."**

who is awarded an honorary degree for her passion in creating and adding value to society and humanity.

Dlamini's childhood dream was to become a doctor. "Failures are there to teach you

something; learn from them. Giving up on your dreams is not an option. Achieving one dream is only a start; create more dreams and work hard at achieving them," she says..

Dlamini obtained her medical degree from the then University of Natal while married and raising her first-born child. She started her career as a medical family practitioner and later obtained a Diploma in Occupational Health, but the business bug bit and she decided to build her business career, completing an MBA in her 40s.

Now a successful businesswoman with numerous awards and accolades to her name, she stands by her philosophy: "...Never sell your soul for anything; nothing and no one is worth it. Ethical and servant leadership is what the world needs to close the gaps that exist in societies".



At the launch of the digital storytelling laboratory, *Common Good First*, from left, Mandela University Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa, Glasgow Caledonian University Vice-Chancellor Professor Pamela Gillies, Mandela University Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Mandela University Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill.

## Stories of the voiceless

IN a first for South Africa, the university recently launched a digital storytelling laboratory, *Common Good First*, at Bird Street Campus, to tell the stories of the voiceless and provide opportunities for effective and targeted partnerships to deal with social problems in communities.

The programme, to be introduced at other universities soon, links community projects to each other and to higher education institutions around the world using a web-based knowledge bank and innovative digital storytelling.

**"Innovation flourishes when people from diverse backgrounds come together to find solutions to problems."**

The developer of the project and its primary coordinator is Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow, Scotland, with Mandela University being the lead SA partner and coordinator.

"Innovation flourishes when people from diverse backgrounds come together to find solutions to

problems," said Mandela University's community for social technology director Professor Darelle van Greunen.

*Common Good First* is funded by EU programme Erasmus+, a funding stream for education. The programme identifies community projects, works with them to promote their objectives online, and investigates how the academic network can fashion innovative approaches to social change in response to challenges facing the projects.

The project is already working in five of SA's nine provinces and is being developed for use on mobile phones to build a cohort of up to 90 community projects.

Mandela University Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa said: "The stories we will aim to tell will highlight challenges in communities so that those who can help will be able to respond."

Music superstar Annie Lennox, who is also the Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University, pledged her support in a video message.

Mandela University chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said she was honoured to be part of this important event.

## Addressing global societal challenges

HONOURED for her contribution in using ICT to address societal challenges not only in South Africa, but also in low-income countries globally, Professor Darelle van Greunen, Centre for Community Technologies Director at Nelson Mandela University, recently received an Honorary Professorship from Amity University, India's top research university.

Prof Van Greunen (below) met with prominent NGOs and is investigating a "game-changing solution" to address TB in South Africa.

"The success rate of what we have seen visiting the slums is no less than 89%. With modifications it has potential," she says.

Prof Van Greunen last year won a R1-million Discovery Foundation Rural Fellowship to boost her development of a mobile application to reduce the high drug-resistant TB burden in Nelson Mandela Bay.

Her research also includes the European Union-funded mHealth4Afrika project, a mobile, electronic management system for patient/client data in public clinics and hospitals in South Africa, Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia.



Alumni Award recipients (from left) Solomon Mudege, Kurt Pakendorf, Dr Randall Jonas, Amanda Antony, Prof Hugh Jeffery, Hiten Parmar and Kurt Kannemeyer. David Brown received his award in absentia.

## Special Alumni honoured

AWARD-WINNING Afro-Soul singer Amanda Black, FIFA Senior Development Manager Solomon Mudege and the Director of South Africa's national uYilo e-Mobility Technology Innovation Programme Hiten Parmar were lauded as rising stars at the University's annual Alumni Awards.

Amazon's Vice-President, Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2), David Brown, Haitian American Cultural and Social Organization Inc Executive Director Kurt Kannemeyer and Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel for Face IT Limited (London, UK, and California, USA) Kurt Pakendorf were recognised in the achiever category.

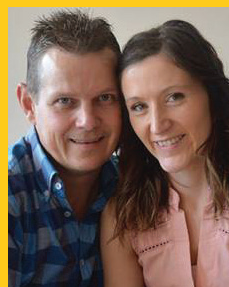
The prestigious awards, which are a flagship event on the Alumni Association calendar, celebrate the local and international success stories of graduates who have not just climbed the ladder in their respective fields, but have become inspiring leaders and change agents across various parts of the world. The six award recipients are living the

### Did you know?

The first group of about 17 students will be graduating in the degree programme of the Bachelor of Radiography in Diagnostics introduced four years ago. The four-year degree programme replaced the previous three-year diploma programme.

**INDUSTRIAL Engineering lecturer**

**Cobus Joubert and his wife Zandra (right), professional administrator for Mechatronics, are both graduating at the Summer graduation. Cobus will be receiving his MBA while Zandra receives an honours in Corporate Communications. "Time management was the most challenging. Balancing work commitments, family responsibilities and meeting study deadlines. It wasn't always easy and you learn a whole new definition for the word tired," said Zandra.**



## Briefs

### TVET Diploma a first

WE are the first South African university to offer the Advanced Diploma in Technical and Vocational Teaching (Adv Dip TVT).

The diploma fills a much-needed gap, with government setting a target of 2.5-million student enrolments in TVET colleges by 2030.

Currently, half of the 10 000 lecturers at 50 TVET colleges are unqualified, says Executive Dean of Education, Dr Muki Moeng.

### Student entrepreneurship

EXPONENTIAL growth in the country's money-spinning hospitality and tourism industries demands exceptional management.

Mandela University Tourism department's BCom degree in Hospitality Management addresses this need, with 40 students enrolled for 2019.

Prominent hotel and business groups fully support the financial and strategic management-focused degree, says Acting Dean of Business and Economic Sciences, Prof Hendrik Lloyd.

### National President

THE South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) recently appointed Nelson Mandela University Business School Director Dr Randall Jonas as its President.

The body represents offerings from all South African business schools, including accredited MBA programmes. Dr Jonas this year represented emerging economies at the Association of MBAs' (AMBA) Global Deans and Directors Conference in Stockholm.

## Moving with the times

VIBRANT entertainment, a graduate procession and the introduction of sign language interpretation are among exciting new changes being introduced at the December Graduation sessions.

These improvements are part of the university's ongoing commitment to transformation that resonates with our new identity as Nelson Mandela University and reflect findings from staff, students, alumni and an online survey.

Other changes, including a university song, student pledge and new academic attire for office bearers, will follow at future ceremonies, together with improved technology to allow wider inclusion.

### Procession

All graduating students will enter the hall in a procession, led by new doctorates in their distinctive red gowns – a fitting reflection of this milestone event.

### African flavour

Music, entertainment and décor reflecting our diversity as a "dynamic African university" will also gradually be introduced.

### Sign language interpreter

In line with the university's commitment to access, a sign language interpreter will share the VC's address and other important information. Signing will also be live-streamed.

### Ticketing system

This new system is in line with public safety



requirements for all major events. Each graduate received four guest tickets to the hall. Additional guests have the option of watching live-streaming of the ceremony in an alternative venue.

### Did you know?

A consultative naming and renaming project will run in 2019 as part of the university's transformative processes to build cohesion for a better future.