

An example of a return-effluent water reservoir.

R20-million reclaimed water project

Nelson Mandela University is spearheading a R20-million project to increase the amount of return-effluent water it uses to irrigate its sports fields, as one of several on-campus initiatives to save water.

university will also be saving money.

"Potable water costs around R18 per kilolitre, while return effluent water costs in the region of R2.20 per kilolitre."

The Cape Recife Waste Water Treatment Works already pumps around 30 kilolitres of return effluent water to the university each month, but this could soon be increased to around 900 kilolitres per week.

This project has also sparked the start of an investigation into the possible use of "new water" on campus, where return-effluent water is cleaned to a high-quality standard for domestic use and is safe to drink.

"Cities like Windhoek in Namibia and Beaufort West already supplement their water supply with 'new water' to meet their cities' water needs."

The university is also researching the possibility of sinking additional boreholes on campus. There is one existing borehole on North Campus and one on Ocean Sciences Campus, which is currently not in use.

All these initiatives are being run by the university's water task team, which includes management as well as academic and administrative staff, and is also running on-campus campaigns to encourage students and staff to use less water.

Did you know?

#YongaAmanzi is a social media campaign encouraging staff and students, to be part of the water crisis solution, by sharing tips and ideas.

The non-potable water needs of Sanlam Student Village (SSV) residences and the Ocean Sciences Campus will also be addressed.

"The water will be purely for irrigation," said Andre. In addition to saving potable water, the

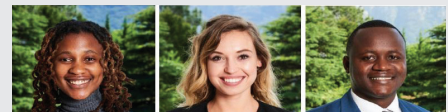
Briefs

Top job

Alumnus David Brown, BCom Honours graduate (2001), has been promoted to Vice-President, Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) at Amazon in the USA. David is currently leading the various EC2 Compute, Networking and Load Balancing teams, building and maintaining cloud-based services used by several of the Internet's largest global domains, including many that are accessed by millions on a daily basis. Amazon is an international online shopping store which was founded by Jeff Bezos in 1995. It recorded a fourth quarter turnover of \$60.5bn on 1 February 2018.



Mandela Rhodes Scholarship



Two of our recent Alumni have been awarded the prestigious Mandela Rhodes Scholarship for their 2018 postgraduate studies. Zanele Mkele (left) will pursue an Honours In Development Studies at UCT and Mikaela Oosthuizen (centre) will be doing a Master's in Media Studies at Wits. Odwour Midigo (right) from Kenya, will be joining Nelson Mandela University to pursue a Master's degree in Dietetics. The trio went through a rigorous selection process that saw thousands whittled down to only 71 students from all over the African continent.

Prestigious publication

Centre for HRTEM's Dr Jaco Olivier (above, right) and Prof Jan Neethling recently published a paper in the prestigious *Nature Materials*. The paper has caused quite a stir in the scientific community, with a commentary in *Nature Materials* news & views and more than one thousand views on LinkedIn. The paper, entitled "Imaging the atomic structure and local chemistry of platelets in natural type Ia diamond", is the result of collaboration between scientists at the Centre for HRTEM and scientists at the University of the Free State, Wits University, Oxford University, JEOL UK and the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Germany.



Nelson Mandela University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof Sibongile Muthwa, awarded the 2018 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships to 25 new recipients at a gala function recently. The scholarship, which is in its ninth year, recognises those who have excelled academically in their Grade 12 final exams and aims to attract academic talent from around South Africa to pursue their studies at our university.

Ethos of Mandela echoed in reintegration process

In November 2015, the University Council committed to ending outsourcing. Council deemed this the right thing to do, an act to ensure service level employees enjoy permanency, job security and substantially improved benefits. And, that it is done in ways that will enable the University to meet its social and financial sustainability objectives.

The last of about 900 previously outsourced staff finally became official employees in January this year, making Nelson Mandela University the first institution to reintegrate all of the previously outsourced service functions - gardening, sports field maintenance, cleaning, security and catering - within the Higher Education sector.

The process has not been without its challenges, not least that of off-setting the financial impact of taking on additional

"We are pleased that the ending of outsourcing and reintegration of the service functions and all associated service level employees has transformed into an empowering project ..."

employees, but has now reached another exciting phase with the implementation of a new business model and the establishment of enterprise development options.

The new business model incorporates a shared service for these service functions as a long-term cost-saving mechanism based on the increased use of technology to drive efficiencies and implementation of comprehensive training and development that will empower staff, raise

this skill and educational levels, and improve performance and productivity.

Going forward, staff will, for example, have the opportunity of training for other positions, as well as establishing entrepreneurial businesses in conjunction with the university, such as catering or providing security for external events.

"We are pleased that the ending of outsourcing and reintegration of the service functions and all associated service level employees has transformed into an empowering project. This has the potential of not only significantly improving the work situation and life of service level employees, and assist in getting them out of the poverty trap, as well as contributing to the long-term sustainability of the institution," said project champion and acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Support, Lebogang Hashatse.



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Change the World

InTouch

A newsletter for friends of Nelson Mandela University

A new era

The inauguration of two dynamic African women – Prof Sibongile Muthwa as Vice-Chancellor and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University – continues to usher in an exciting new era for the institution.

"The appointment of these outstanding leaders signals an important moment of history-making in the South African higher education system. It will be the first time that the three most senior leadership and governance positions at any of our universities will be occupied by women" - Universities South Africa



New leadership taking Nelson Mandela University into a new era are (from left) Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa

Their investiture follows the appointment late last year of Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill as the University's new Chair of Council, who will jointly share the responsibility of leading the only university in the world to carry the name of the iconic statesman, Nelson Mandela.

Their historic appointment takes place less than a year since the university was relaunched as Nelson Mandela University, and fittingly during the anniversary year of the birth of our namesake.

Under their leadership, the University is poised to build on the strong foundations of its Vision

2020 strategy, which included the establishment of the country's first dedicated Ocean Sciences campus last year and the development of a ground-breaking teaching model for health sciences.

Both projects have the potential to substantially position Nelson Mandela University as a university of choice, and respond to the needs of South Africa.

Prof Muthwa began her tenure this year with a commitment to listen to staff and students to

get a better understanding of the challenges, towards taking the university forward.

Did you know?

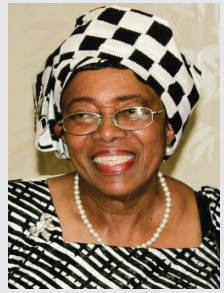
Over 6 500 certificates, diplomas and degrees will be awarded at 13 Graduation ceremonies in Port Elizabeth and George from 13 to 24 April.

Well-known South African freedom fighter, activist, actor, storyteller, poet, playwright, director and author Gcina Mhlophe (right) receives a Doctor of Literature (*honoris causa*). Storytelling is a deeply traditional activity in Africa and Mhlophe one of the few woman storytellers in a country dominated by males. She does her most important work through charismatic performances, working to preserve storytelling as a means of keeping history alive and encouraging South African children to read. She tells her stories in four of South Africa's languages: English, Afrikaans, Zulu and Xhosa.



Honorary Doctorates 2018

For her incredible advocacy in involving communities in the training of health practitioners that will later serve them and addressing inequalities in our society, Dr Marina Xaba-Mokoena (right) receives a Doctor of Philosophy (*honoris causa*). As the founding Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Walter Sisulu University (formerly the University of the Transkei), Dr Xaba-Mokoena established the country's 8th medical school with her new ideas and policies of community orientated and community based medical education with emphasis on primary health care.



Justice Mandisa Maya (right) receives a Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) for her significant contribution to the development of law in South Africa, the promotion of constitutional democracy and the protection of human rights. As the first woman President of the Supreme Court of Appeal, she has throughout her career, demonstrated a clear commitment to transformation and to the promotion of gender equality – taking active steps to promote gender transformation in the judiciary and in the broader legal profession. She has become an important role-player in the promotion of cultural and gender rights.



Support equals success

2016, what was meant to be 24-year-old Thobani Mkananda's (right) final year of his BA Psychology degree, turned into the most traumatic year of his life when he suffered a sudden stroke.



After the stroke, Thobani, now 26, could not speak coherently or walk. He lost the use of his hand and his face froze on the affected side, leading him to miss examinations.

An MRI scan revealed a blocked artery in the left hemisphere of the brain, which is what doctors suspect caused the stroke. After his two-week hospital stay, Thobani's church community, Oxygen Life, hosted him in their homes and helped with his medical recovery process. His family who lives in Lusikisiki could not assist, due to financial constraints.

"I thank Nelson Mandela University with all its resources, they were readily there"

After months of intensive therapies, Thobani is well on his way to recovery. He needed speech therapy, physiotherapy to help with the mobility of his lower limbs and occupational therapy to assist him with his hand.

"I also attended psychotherapy to help me process the trauma, and to assist in the readjustment of my outlook on life. Even though I still only have the use of one hand, I thank God that I can now almost do all that I could do before the stroke, even if not perfectly," said Thobani.

"I also thank Nelson Mandela University with all its resources, they were readily there. I thank my faculty for their patience and support, Student Counselling, and the Disability Unit, which was ready to assist with anything I would need. It was not easy, but with all their help I've done it," said Thobani, who is currently studying for his Postgraduate Diploma in Maritime Studies.

Disability no hindrance to ability

"Yes, at times I find life difficult and depressing, but there is so much to live for. I was dealt this hand of cards, now I have to play it to the best of my ability," says Ciské Faber (right), who receives her BA degree majoring in Psychology and Sociology, this April.



22-year old Ciské lives with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP), a rare disorder in which muscle tissue and connective tissue such as tendons and ligaments are gradually replaced by bone (ossified), forming bone outside the skeleton and which restrains movement.

It's estimated that FOP affects about 3 300 people worldwide or approximately one in two million people. Although FOP is not fatal, most die young, starving to death after their jaws freeze shut or suffocating when new bone develops, making it impossible to breathe.

Ciské, who was diagnosed with FOP in 2011, at the age of 15-years old, spends every six weeks in the hospital for a week at a time. Her pain flairs up so badly and the medication she takes affects her Type 1, trauma-induced diabetes, which she developed when she was diagnosed with FOP.

"I've been in hospital 60 times in the last seven years. When you are in the hospital you see many people who are far worse off than you are. I hate it when people pity me, I was normal before this, I was Ciské then and I'm still Ciské, it's just that my body is failing me, severely failing me."

Ciské, who is determined to live life to the fullest, was nominated to lead the FOP awareness and support group in South Africa and along with 11 others from the group, is raising funds to attend a conference in Brazil this August.

In addition to now concentrating on her BA Human Resources, in hopes of pursuing a qualification in Industrial Psychology, Ciské also writes poetry to express herself and gives motivational talks to encourage others.

"I came to study here because it has the best disability unit and they go the extra mile for their students. I also have a great friendship circle which forms part of my wonderful family support system and helps with living away from home," said Ciské, who moved away from her family in East London, to study at Nelson Mandela University.

Joint celebration

ICT Services Ryno Boshoff and his wife Hildegard, faculty administrator for Engineering, the Built Environment and IT, are both graduating in Business Administration at the April graduation. Ryno will be receiving his DBA researching an adaptive internet management model for higher education institutions in South Africa. His study leaders where Computing Sciences' Prof Andre Calitz and Business School's Prof Margaret Cullen. Prof Cullen also supervised Hildegard, whose MBA treatise focussed on factors affecting female students studying engineering at a higher education institution. "Studying while working was not easy, but we supported one another physically and emotionally, making the experience more pleasant, said Ryno.



Legal sibling success

Brother and sister duo Jessica, 25, and Jonathan Roux, 23, both graduate with a Bachelor of Law degree cum laude. This is their second time graduating from Nelson Mandela University together. In 2016, they completed their BCom Law degrees. The siblings will be completing their articles of clerkship at two of the "Big Five" law firms in South Africa, both of which are in Johannesburg. "Jess and I are naturally very competitive so, at first, studying together wasn't easy. However, after we realised that helping each other was far more beneficial than trying to beat each other, we ended up enjoying our studies and improved our academic performances".



Brothers Osabuohien, 25, (right) and Frederick Uwuoruya, 27, from Nigeria, will be graduating together this April.

Brothers achieve against the odds

Brothers Osabuohien, 25, (above right) and Frederick Uwuoruya, 27, from Nigeria, will be graduating together this April and describe their journey towards Graduation as a miracle.

Osabuohien receives his Masters in Sociology and Frederick a Masters in Development Studies. They both completed their first degrees in Nigeria and came to South Africa in 2015 starting with their honours degrees.

Due to financial constraints and personal challenges, the journey towards completing their degrees has not been an easy one.

"We have faced many challenges in our personal lives, but we always focused on our studies," said Osabuohien, who aside from relying on Research Capacity Development (RCD) funding worked several odd jobs to finance their education.

"I have had to work numerous odd jobs like being a cashier, waiter, cleaner and selling goods in a container at Missionvale Campus. However, I was more than happy to do these because of the goal I had in mind. With our Dad being unemployed, we didn't want to put any extra strain on him," said Osabuohien.

In April last year, Osabuohien sustained a bad leg injury while playing football for the Postgraduate Student Village soccer team at the University's Res league. He broke both bones in his right shin and had surgery the next day to place a metal rod inside a bone in his leg.

During the next six months, besides healing from his injury and trying to complete his dissertation by December, he was in a constant battle with his medical aid provider to cover the full cost of the surgery.

"There was no way I could cover the costs on my own, and the hospital kept threatening to sue me. Eventually, my medical aid paid out the full cost which amounted to about R80 000.

"Frankly, finishing my Master's degree with all the challenges is nothing short of a miracle," said Osabuohien, who has been provisionally accepted for a PhD in Sociology and intends to continue in academia.

Osabuohien also recently converted to Christianity, which he accredits for helping him overcome a drug addiction which he'd been struggling with for many years.

First Accounting PhD

Managerial accountant, in the automotive industry, Arthur Reynolds (right) will be the recipient of the first PhD in Accounting since the merger and establishment of Nelson Mandela University. Arthur who is employed at Eberspacher SA, has 19 years' experience as a cost and management accounting in various industries and is also a part-time tutor and lecturer. His thesis, supervised by Accounting's Prof Houdini Fourie, focused on an integrated balanced scorecard approach for time-driven activity-based costing for small to medium manufacturing enterprises, which could contribute to extending the survival of small to medium manufacturing enterprises in South Africa



Dream becomes reality

Despite the challenges of an impoverished childhood, raising three children (two with special needs) and supporting a husband battling cancer, 52-year-old Zenobia Olivier (below) has fulfilled her life-long dream of studying further and eventually graduating.



"I always had a dream of studying but my parents could not afford to send me to university," said Zenobia.

Zenobia has three sons Waldo, 30, and twin boys Jacques and Heinrich, 25, who are both quadriplegic with cerebral palsy and need 24-hour care. "They cannot talk, but when they smile everything is worthwhile," says Zenobia.

"I always had to work to support my family and started working in the accounting department of a big insurance company. In 2002, I enrolled in the accounting field. However, due to the twins' ill health,

"Never give up on your dreams, work hard and you will receive the rewards"

I had to stop my studies. When the boys turned 20, ten years after I first enrolled, I resumed my studies".

Zenobia started a National Diploma Internal Auditing part-time and enrolled in as many subjects as she could manage, aiming to finish before she turned 50. However, in 2014, their lives changed again, when Zenobia's husband was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, an incurable cancer, with endless chemo sessions and despite a stem cell transplant, the cancer returned after three months and chemo started again.

Zenobia was forced to slow down her studies as the twins and her husband needed her care.

"I struggled to pay my fees as the boys care and all the medical bills for my husband was a big financial burden. Nevertheless by God's grace, we did it," said Zenobia.

Her next step is to do her SAIPA board exams, to register as a Professional Accountant.

"Never give up on your dreams, work hard and you will receive the rewards," is Zenobia's advice to other aspiring graduates.

EMC students make history

Nelson Mandela University's Faculty of Health Sciences' first cohort of 15 Emergency Medical Care (EMC) students are set to enter into the health professions service of the Eastern Cape as they graduate in April.

The "pioneer" students, who completed the tough four-year degree, underwent the gruelling course, which requires both mental and physical endurance as preparation for the realities ahead.

They will now work throughout the province as

part of their bursary commitment.

The introduction of the EMC degree to meet a dire need for more health professionals is another building block toward the establishment of the country's 10th medical school by Nelson Mandela University.

It follows the establishment of recent new qualifications for pharmacy technicians and assistants, and the four-year dietetics degree.

"Make us proud. You are our pioneers. Live our values," appealed EMC Head of Department Nico Louw, who was instrumental in establishing the high-end paramedic qualification.

New qualifications

Apart from the new EMC graduates, the University is also celebrating the first graduates from the following programmes:

- Bachelor of Visual Arts,
- Human Settlement Development
- Advanced Diploma in Analytical Chemistry



Third-year Emergency Medical Care students Duncan Swart (left) and Keneiloe Mazomba in action.

Did you know?



About 1 700 first-time entering students have qualified to benefit from the new Government bursary scheme.