



Alumni Achiever Awards and Rising Star Awards recipients back from left: Russell Raath (BCom Law 1995), Stuart Forrest (BTech Fine Art 1996), Lukonga Lindunda (BSc IT 2006), Nonkululeko Ntshona (ND Building 1999) (front from left), Ifedolapo Ojo (BPharm 2005) and Mandla Gagayi (BA 2001). Dr Gaathier Mahed (PhD 2012) and Tony Wenlock (MSc 1993) received their awards in absentia.

Benefits of showcasing our research

THE impact that research can have in benefitting society was effectively showcased during the successful hosting of Nelson Mandela University's first Research for Change event recently.

The novel two-day event offered an exciting glimpse of the depth and breadth of the University's research and engagement across research topics ranging from citizen science through to cyber space, ecological issues, educational challenges, and issues affecting both young and old.

"There is great work underway at Nelson Mandela University. Both our established and emerging researchers had the opportunity to share their work with those outside of their discipline. We all learnt a great deal about research that is having a positive impact on society," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Engagement, Prof Andrew Leitch.

Besides the 15-minute presentations and discussions, the Research for Change programme included a three-minute thesis contest for masters and doctoral students.

These emerging researchers had three minutes to showcase and share the benefits of their research to the audience, who then selected a People's Choice award in both the masters and doctoral categories.

Jamiellah Domingo, who is exploring new ways of writing for English second-language learners in Paterson, won the masters category, and Nehemiah Latolla the doctoral title for his presentation on his research around the indigenous *Cissampelos Capensis* or David's Root.

"Other benefits of this event included the networking, and the nurturing of relationships across disciplines. Nelson Mandela University believes a transdisciplinary approach to societal challenges is the way of the future, so we encourage such interaction," said Dr Nolunkwe Bomela from the University's Research Office. Dr Bomela, along with Prof Blanche Pretorius, was responsible for hosting the event.

"This was something of a pilot project towards introducing a fully-fledged Research Week going forward."

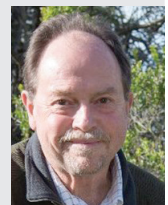
Did you know?

All Nelson Mandela University Service staff will be reintegrated by 2018

Briefs

Top honours

ZOOLOGY professor, and founding Director of the Centre for African Conservation Ecology (ACE), Prof Graham Kerley, has been awarded a fellowship of the Royal Society of South Africa.



Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have "done outstanding work in the furtherance of science in South Africa as evidenced by original publications", and must be nominated by four or more existing Fellows and then are elected by the body of all the Fellows.

WHO member

PHARMACY professor Ilse Truter, has been elected as a member of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Working Group for Drug Statistics Methodology.

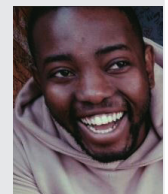


The WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology in Norway is responsible for developing and maintaining the ATC Codes and DDD for pharmaceutical products.

In this, they are supported and advised by a WHO-appointed expert working group, the International Working Group for Drug Statistics Methodology. She recently attended the ATC/DDD Working Group meeting in Oslo, Norway, along with 11 other expert members representing different parts of the world.

Winning entrepreneur

HR student and Enactus Brainwave Winner, Evans Zemba who owns WIC Designs, has been selected as one of the top 12 designers/fashion entrepreneurs in the country for the first Threads Stitched by Standard Bank programme.



Threads is a 12-week accelerator programme focused on the Business of Fashion that will boost the finalists' fashion business with courses in eCommerce, Logistics, Franchising, Store Development etc.

At the end of the programme, the panel of esteemed judges will select the best performing entrepreneur. One of the judges is our very own Laduma Ngxokolo, founder of MaXhosa knitwear.

Eco-car champions

NELSON Mandela University's Eco-Car team, made up of Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering students (from left) Lehlohonolo Sekere, Chris Abraham, Matthew Henry, Kahl Kritzinger, Nureen Hoosain (driver) and team leader Brett Steyn again became champions by retaining their title in the gasoline category in the recent 2017 Shell Eco-Marathon: South Africa held in Pretoria.



The competition saw participants from the African continent competing across three categories: gasoline, battery electric and hydrogen power to establish the furthest distance a custom-designed vehicle could travel on an effective 1 litre of standard pump-available petrol.

With a distance of 184.23 km per litre of fuel used, the Eco-Car team improved from last year by 45% setting a new event record - this was more than three times the distance achieved by their nearest competitor, a team from Nigeria.

New book reflects on 'transforming the culture'

DECOLONISING curricula and transforming universities have long been talking points at universities in this country – even more so with the arrival of the #FeesMustFall movement.

Five years ago, Nelson Mandela University became the first South African university to actively start the process of transforming its "institutional culture" as the first step towards changing the university into one that was better-positioned to respond to the needs of today's society and students.

Reflections on the five-year process are the subject of the newly-launched book "Deepening the Conversations: Practice reflections on the Institutional Culture Enlivening Process (ICEP) at Nelson Mandela University", penned by the lead facilitator of the process, Ilze Olckers, an independent legal and process consultant, specialising in

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transformation.

The book is an account of Olckers's personal reflections on the ICEP process, which ran from 2013 to 2017. It outlines the "new knowledge" created by the University, as it set out to do what no other higher education institution had yet attempted: which was essentially to live out a five-year "social experiment."

Underpinned by theory and social justice imperatives, the aim was to get staff to better understand themselves and their own deeply-



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Change the World

InTouch

A newsletter for friends of Nelson Mandela University

Farewell, hamba kakuhle, totsiens VC



VICE-CHANCELLOR Prof Derrick Swartz (left), will bid Nelson Mandela University farewell after a decade of service. The visionary leader opted not to renew his contract at the start of his third five-year term, and will leave at the end of the year. During his tenure, he anchored the University on a clear post-merger strategy, Vision 2020, and championed a number of academic, research, engagement and infrastructure improvements and advances. He was also personally instrumental in raising funds for students. For a full account of his legacy to Nelson Mandela University go to: <http://news.mandela.ac.za/News>

Did you know?

We have been officially renamed Nelson Mandela University, the only university in the world to carry the name of the iconic statesman.

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05 Alumni Awards

THE University's Council recently announced the appointment of Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill (from left) and Siya Mhlaluka as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, respectively, of the institution's highest decision-making body.

Their appointment, along with five other new members, was made at the October Council meeting, where Dr Sibongile Muthwa was unanimously selected as the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

January-Bardill's appointment as Council Chair is as momentous, as she too, is the University's first black African female to take up the position. She takes over from Judge Ronnie Pillay, who has served as Chairperson of Council with distinction for more than a decade.

Dr Claudia Beck-Reinhardt, Vuyo Mosana, Rev Madika "Dix" Sibeko and Simpiwe Somdyala are ministerial appointments to Council, while Maureen Manyama was appointed in accordance with the University statute.

Council welcomes new members



January-Bardill has extensive experience in the public, private, education and non-governmental sectors, and currently serves as a Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the United Nations Women's Organisation and UN Global Compact Local Network.

She also serves as a non-executive director on

the boards of a number of blue chip companies.

"Both Prof Derrick Swartz and Dr Muthwa have the kind of leadership skills and trust that are germane to realising the vision of the University, one that is steeped in the values espoused by Tata Nelson Mandela. The change of name to Nelson Mandela University was, says the new Chairperson, a "very wise decision" as it afforded the institution and the entire University community a new opportunity to align its identity and goals with the values of its iconic namesake"

Deputy Chair of Council Mhlaluka, a former teacher, is currently the General Manager of the Transnet Port Terminals in the Eastern Cape Region and boasts a record of experience in business development in the state enterprise sector. Mhlaluka had a two-year tenure as president of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber and remains a board member.

Fisheries crime unit officially launched

"FISHERIES crime and the illegal harvesting, processing and trading of fish and seafood globally is so huge that it is in effect a parallel economic system that is undermining sustainable economic growth. Countries are being deprived of taxes; citizens of jobs, food and income; and fisheries and environments are being destroyed."

So says Professor Hennie van As, Director of the Centre for Law in Action (CLA) and a professor of Public Law in the Faculty of Law. Towards addressing fisheries crime, a Fisheries Law Enforcement Academy called FishFORCE was established at Nelson Mandela University in 2016, with its official launch at the University's new Ocean Sciences Campus last month.

"FishFORCE's main purpose is to combat sea fisheries crime and related criminal activities"

It is a partnership between the University, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and South Africa's Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

"FishFORCE's main purpose is to combat sea fisheries crime and related criminal activities," says Prof van As. "We have started training Fisheries Control Officers (FCOs), police officers and prosecutors in South Africa, and we will be doing the same in other countries along the East African coastline. We are also assisting with training along the Indian Ocean Rim, including countries such as Indonesia."

Norway committed NOK 23-million (Norwegian Krone) over five years for the establishment of FishFORCE. Norwegian Ambassador, Ms Trine Skymo, and the University's incoming Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sibongile Muthwa, signed the agreement in June last year.

Since its establishment, FishFORCE has registered seven short learning programmes (SLPs) and hosted a total of 18 training sessions between August 2016 and October 2017.



The newly completed Engineering "Phase 2" building which houses a 200-seater auditorium for Teaching and Learning purposes will accommodate the six new Engineering qualifications offered from 2018. An exclusive space was created for flexible classroom/labs which can change from a twenty-five seater to a 100-seater space within seconds. A large four-sectioned lab will house a range of Engineering facilities and projects including Marine Engineering and Composites. Picture Johan Wasseman.

New Ocean Sciences campus attracts investment

NELSON Mandela University recently launched an Ocean Sciences Campus in Port Elizabeth, with the goal of becoming the leading ocean sciences institution in South Africa, Africa and the world.

The campus is attracting significant South African and international investment and partnerships.

It responds to national and global marine and maritime needs where new and innovative research is required for the oceans economy, ocean conservation, food security and maritime development. Nelson Mandela University has over 40 years of Ocean Sciences expertise and is well situated in Port Elizabeth, with its two major ports.

"South Africa has been very terrestrial in its focus to date, yet we have one of the largest maritime zones on the continent," says Professor Heather Nel, the Senior Director of Institutional Planning at Nelson Mandela University.

Prof Nel is a key driver of the Ocean Sciences Campus, initiated and led by the University's outgoing Vice-Chancellor Professor Derrick Swartz since 2010.

She explains that an analysis of South Africa's oceans economy as part of Operation Phakisa has the

potential to contribute an estimated R177 billion to the country's GDP and up to one million new jobs by 2033.

"Such ambitious targets cannot be realised without increasing the pool of skills available in the marine and maritime sector. Qualifications are needed across a wide range of disciplines and South Africa can learn from leading marine and maritime nations, such as our partners in the United Kingdom, France, Finland, Norway and Australia."

"South Africa has been very terrestrial in its focus to date, yet we have one of the largest maritime zones on the continent"

To house the new Oceans Sciences Campus, the DHET allocated R75.5million required to purchase the 11 000 sq metre former CSIR building opposite the University's North Campus adjoining Nelson Mandela University's Summerstrand Campus, and to refurbish and maintain it over three phases, between now and 2019.

Encouraged towards education dream

"My mom worked endlessly to put food on the table, so my siblings and I went door-to-door selling fruit and vegetables to assist," says Information Technology PhD graduate Noluxolo Gcaza (far right).

Noluxolo's financial struggle made her more determined to get educated, in order to support her family. And while her aspiration was to merely obtain a National Diploma, which she completed in 2010, she was encouraged by her lecturer to continue on to obtain her BTech degree.

In 2011, Noluxolo started her research journey when she approached Prof Rossouw Von Solms to supervise her BTech research project.

"At our first meeting, I presented some research ideas and he responded enthusiastically saying; 'Noluxolo, I like the way you think'. This meant the world to me, to hear someone of his calibre taking a liking to the way I think and it marked the beginning of our wonderful relationship as student and supervisor".

"Instead of exclusively shaping my academic work, Prof Von Solms also groomed me as a person, the confidence I received from working with him was evident in the marks I started receiving".

Noluxolo received her BTech degree cum laude, which led to the completion of her Masters degree also cum laude.

"Prof Von Solms persuaded me once more, this time to enrol for a PhD. By this time, I got married which changed the research journey somewhat. But, this time round, I did not question myself and

Twin sisters Samantha and Simone Mitchley (right), 24, both graduate with a degree in Education this December. Samantha specialised in Intermediate Phase - maths and science while Simone in Foundation Phase Education. "We share a passion for teaching and believe there is no better job than making a difference in a child's life through teaching."



agreed to take on this huge task. As a married student, life demanded much more from me, but with the support and encouragement I received from Prof and my family, I was able to continue towards my dream and in the process was able to deal with two pregnancies and mothering two beautiful children".

"Prof Von Solms went beyond the call of a typical supervisor. He did so by awakening a dream in me, encouraging me to believe in myself and to work diligently. He prayed for me and with me when the journey got tough. I was fortunate to have such an exceptional supervisor, an academic father. He is an example to other supervisors. But, it did not come easy and I played my part, I needed to be dedicated to my work and not allow my past to determine my future," says Noluxolo.

Grad transformation

Go to: www.mandela.ac.za/Students/Graduation to have your say!



2017 HONORARY DOCTORATE

FOR his "towering legal mind", his "commitment to fairness and justice" and as "a most independent-minded and imaginative jurist", Nelson Mandela University confers the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (*honoris causa*) on Justice Dikgang Ernest Moseneke (right) at the December graduation.

Moseneke is regarded as one of the strongest judges on South Africa's Constitutional Court and has made a significant contribution to South African property law. He penned the Constitutional Court's last three majority judgments on the Restitution of Land Rights Act and decided a leading case on expropriation in 2014.

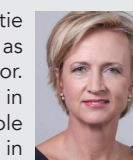
Before his judicial appointment, Moseneke had succeeded, as a litigant, in having South Africa's racially discriminatory system of estate administration declared constitutionally invalid. He retired from the Constitutional Court in May 2016.

Justice Moseneke has six honorary doctorates and numerous domestic and international awards of excellence including Global Jurist of the Year, 2015 under the auspices of the United Nations and Northwestern University, USA.

In 2006, he succeeded Justice Richard Goldstone as Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand. He was also named as an executor of the will of our namesake, Nelson Mandela, who died in late 2013.

Chancellor steps down

DYNAMIC businesswoman Santie Botha is ending her term of office as Nelson Mandela University's Chancellor. Appointed in 2010 and inaugurated in 2011, Ms Botha played a prominent role in raising its profile through her personal business connections, astute insights into an ever-changing world and her enthusiasm. She worked alongside Prof Derrick Swartz in her commitment towards making university accessible to as many academically deserving students as possible, even joining him on a fundraising climb of Machu Picchu.



Nelson Mandela University appoints new VC

DR Sibongile Muthwa has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Nelson Mandela University. Dr Muthwa, who has served as the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support for the past seven years, serves as the institution's first black African female Vice-Chancellor and brings to the post a wealth of experience from the public sector and academia, both nationally and abroad.



the United Kingdom. She spent many years, holding leadership positions, in development, public sector, and academic institutions and managing complex issues and situations with skill and enormous courage.

These skills have come in very handy in the last few years, when a myriad of challenges within the higher education sector were experienced.

"I've spent 30 years dedicated to public service, so this is one of the crowning moments of my career," she said.

"I am very much indebted to Prof Swartz for his sterling and visionary work, his inspirational leadership and for laying a firm foundation which has contributed to making the university what it has become".

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At a meeting of the University Council in October, Dr Muthwa was unanimously selected as the successful candidate. She has a distinguished career in both South Africa and

Dr Muthwa holds a PhD from the prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. Her other academic qualifications include an MSc in Development Policy and Planning (London School of Economics), a BA Honours (Wits) and a BA in Social Work (UFH).

"It is an exceedingly proud moment for us all. Dr Muthwa serves doubly as the first female Vice-Chancellor and first African female Vice-Chancellor in the history of the University, and without doubt will inspire new generations to rise to the highest levels of achievement. We are absolutely delighted with her appointment" Prof Derrick Swartz said.