

Theetha

Alumni Magazine, December 2018

Trailblazing TRIO

Meet our all-women
leadership

SON OF OUR SOIL

Laduma's AmaXhosa

Walking the talk in town & gown partnership

Ocean Sciences campus brings waves of change

LIVING MANDELA

A feast of centenary celebrations



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Walking the talk

Nelson Mandela's life was one of profound words and deeds. He walked the talk and changed a nation.

This is what we, as the only university in the world named after him, wish to emulate in positively impacting the lives of those we serve. We seek to honour our namesake by living his legacy and, as we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of his birth, by leading our university into a new era of transformative innovation, development and change to benefit all.

This new-look magazine – *Thetha* – will endeavour to capture many of the projects, processes, events and interventions aimed at achieving this, while also highlighting the successes of our alumni – those who exemplify the values of Mandela wherever they are, and in whatever they are doing.

We have fashion icon Laduma Ngxokolo, creative sensation Stuart Townsend and Mandela Bay Business Chamber CEO Nomkhita Mona, all alumni who make us proud, not only for their talent and achievements, but for their ethos of giving back.

It is the same spirit of service that drives our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, ably supported by Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Chair of Council, Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill – the only all-women leadership trio in higher education in South Africa.

Read their stories and the many others that capture what we believe is an exciting new era of opportunity for Nelson Mandela University, and then discuss, share and talk to others, or *thetha*, to use the isiXhosa name of our new publication, to spread word of the good work underway.

But don't simply leave it as just talk. Like Madiba, we encourage you to join us, your alma mater, in walking the talk – by helping us put our plans, hopes and dreams into action to establish a world-class university of first choice.

We are mindful of the mantle we carry in walking the talk and, to quote Madiba, "we dare not linger", for much work lies ahead in redressing wrongs and living the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

We trust that you will enjoy the magazine and join us in co-creating a better future. Please get in touch with us, as we'd love to continue the conversation. Let's talk, let's *thetha*.

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TIMES OF CHANGE



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa

in the Summer of 2018

A warm South African greeting to you in the summer of 2018. It's almost the end of my first year in office, which can best be summed up as "no person can successfully lead alone." It is only when we work as a collective with all our stakeholders and role players that we can be truly successful.

To encourage this, over the past 11 months we have embarked on an extensive listening campaign with our staff, students and alumni. In May, as some of you know, we participated in a special meeting of the Alumni Association, to hear your views on how we can build an even greater university that honours every one of you and the legacy of our namesake, Nelson Mandela.

Mutual listening is the single most important quality in bringing us together to rise to the challenge of Vision 2020 and beyond, namely to be a dynamic African university, recognised for our leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge

for a sustainable future. Through our Alumni Association, online platforms and our national and international alumni engagements, we want to hear what you have to say, and to share with you what we are planning and doing, to strengthen our bond at this critical time.

The higher education sector nationally and globally is in a state of change, with transformation and diversity at the top of the agenda. As Nelson Mandela University we see this as a unique moment to define our trajectory and advance our name and scholarly reputation. As a starting point, it requires of us to revisit the fundamental question: what are universities for? This question has confronted higher education for

centuries and is particularly pressing for ourselves and all South African universities in the wake of the Fallist movement and the hard realities of our broader socio-economic, politico-cultural and environmental challenges.

The answer is closely linked to the stature of our namesake: universities exist for the expansion of human understanding; pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge, foregrounding mutual respect, including respect for human rights, human dignity and respect for the natural environment, all of which contribute to the well-being of our city, our province, our nation, our continent and our world. In short, the quest of Mandela University is for a more equal and socially just world.

As Nelson Mandela University, we see ourselves as a driver of change in Africa and the Global South. The challenge, and one that is facing all South African universities, is to develop a strong student and postgraduate pipeline. University first-time entrants in South Africa are often ill prepared for tertiary education, due to the generally poor schooling system. This requires of the university to strengthen our instructional support and foundational programmes, as well as enhancing our existing early warning systems to ensure that all our students are in a conducive environment to complete their qualifications on time.

As part of achieving this, the development of scholarship needs to include community agency and tapping into "the vast transformative reserves that knowledge holds, which needs to find institutional expression within our universities today", as

and diversity, as expressed by our Executive Dean of our Faculty of Science, Professor Azwinndini Muronga: "As a leader, I am addressing diversity from a positive angle, showing that there are better results from diverse opinions. Hence, I talk about diversity and inclusion in the broad sense – diverse opinions, diverse cultures and offerings of programmes that are coherent and relevant. At the same time, transformability means that we need to include 'sciencepreneurship' and innovation in the curriculum. Preparing our students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution includes preparing them for the jobs of the future, as many of the jobs they are being prepared for today will no longer exist by the time they graduate. Hence, research and the curriculum need to be reviewed in the context of this revolution."

The type of world that our graduates will enter must be foremost

committed to eliminating gender inequality once and for all.

All this is part of our Vision 2020 and beyond; a vision that includes new focus areas that will distinguish Nelson Mandela University nationally and internationally, such as our new Medical School with its four-pillar, integrated approach to medicine, including equal emphasis on disease prevention, health promotion, treatment and rehabilitative medicine; and our new Ocean Sciences Campus, the only one of its kind in Africa. All our faculties are part of this campus, pursuing diverse, transdisciplinary aspects of marine and maritime research and development.

Another example is our new SARChI Chair in Identities and Social Cohesion in Africa. The Chair's knowledge references range from the ancient traditions of philosophy and African poetic wisdoms to the post-structuralist 20th century philosophers, such as French philosopher, Jacques Derrida. The holder of the Chair, Professor Andrea Hurst, explains that Derrida's complexity thinking articulated new ways of thinking that are useful in understanding and exploring where we find ourselves in higher education and South Africa today. He strongly challenged binary thinking, where concepts such as freedom and security are posed as simple opposites. He argued that instead, they form paradoxes and, further, it is exactly when you uncover such paradoxical relations that you face true reality; for the world is uncertain and paradoxical by nature.

We want you to be part of new and alternative ways of thinking, and we want you to be part of the projects and plans we are working on; to share your expertise and ideas, and to contribute to our alumni giving campaign. Whether your contribution is small or large, it is about developing a lifelong culture of working together and giving together; it is about being part of a university that is claiming its place in the sun, and of which we can all be proud.

Professor Sibongile Muthwa
Vice-Chancellor

"We want you to be part of new and alternative ways of thinking and we want you to be part of the projects and plans we are working on"

expressed by Professor André Keet, our new Chair in Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET).

Many of the public discussions about diversity and decolonisation miss the point of the extraordinary opportunity we have right now to bring in innovative approaches and new knowledge, which includes reframing the relationship between science and the humanities, and working beyond disciplinary borders to evolve a scholarship that will truly *change the world*.

So many positive developments are to be gained from transformation

in our planning. To achieve this, we need to increasingly advance African research and partner with other leading universities, organisations and networks on our continent, in the Global South and Global North. As a university we are ramping up our research and innovation outputs and growing an exciting cohort of emerging and socially diverse academics who are able to rise to the developmental challenges facing our country and continent. We are committed to ensuring that young people experience the educational and economic opportunities they have been promised, and we are

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa and her team are breaking new ground in a bold step towards achieving Nelson Mandela's long-held wish: that South African women will one day be equal, in all respects, to men.

Significantly, Professor Muthwa, Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Chair of Council Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill took up their posts in this, the centenary year of the birth of Mandela, after whom the university was named in 2017.

Professor Muthwa has very clear goals and visions for her new role, and is acutely aware of its challenges. Growing up in rural Umbumbulu Mission in southern Kwazulu-Natal, she was taught to value good education, thanks to the sacrifices of her family.



TRAILBLAZERS

The appointment of three top-ranking women to the helm of Nelson Mandela University is a historic first for higher education in South Africa

From her early days at Sacred Heart Secondary School, she began a personal education journey spanning several decades. An experienced leader, strategist and internationalist, Prof Muthwa holds a PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, an MSc in Development Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and Political Science, a BA (SW) Honours (Wits), and a BA in Social Work (Fort Hare).

"My journey has inspired my commitment to contribute to changing the trajectory of every young person whose life I have the privilege to touch," she says.

"As a higher education institution, we need to be acutely attuned to the issues of our country, including poverty and inequality, and to be committed to improving the lives and educational opportunities of the marginalised in particular."

She has had a distinguished career both in South Africa and the United Kingdom, where she has worked in development and public sector institutions and academia. From 2010 to 2017 she was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Support at Nelson Mandela University.

Prof Muthwa previously served as Director General of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government from 2010 to 2014, and was also Director of the Fort Hare Institute of Government, at the University of Fort Hare for five years. In 2014 she was

appointed as a Commissioner of South Africa's Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), and in July 2017 appointed as its Deputy Chairperson.

A proactive advocate of free education for those unable to afford it, Prof Muthwa believes that anyone with academic ability should have the opportunity to attend university. She is committed to inspiring new generations of students, postgraduates and scholars to rise to the highest levels of achievement.

"Alongside our social justice agenda, we are securing our place in the global arena by driving innovations geared to solving current and future problems, including environmental degradation, food insecurity, rapid migration and global injustice. We see ourselves as a driver of change in Africa and the Global South."

There is no doubt that Mandela would have been proud of Prof Muthwa's vision. Often referred to as a "male feminist", at the opening of South Africa's first democratic parliament, in his capacity as first democratic president, Mandela famously announced:

Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. ... Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child.



Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Chancellor

"It's an honour to become Chancellor at Mandela's namesake university in his home province, the Eastern Cape, which is equally the birthplace of great women leaders like Albertina Sisulu," says Dr Fraser-Moleketi.

"Nelson Mandela University is contributing a unique leadership role in what is a largely rural province, by ensuring that male and female students from every context are given the opportunity to succeed at university and to contribute to a new knowledge base and improved economy. I will be playing my part alongside my colleagues at the university to advance its achievements, reputation and goals, in the province, in South Africa, on the continent and globally."

Dr Fraser-Moleketi holds a master's degree in Administration from the University of Pretoria, is a fellow of the Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and holds an honorary professorship at Stellenbosch University. In 2017 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Nelson Mandela University.

She has fought for democracy and equality for four decades. After a decade spent training with uMkhonto weSizwe in Angola and the Soviet Union, Dr Fraser-Moleketi returned to South Africa in 1990 and held several posts, including Minister of Welfare and Population Development and Minister of Public Service and Administration.

In her most recent position as the Special Envoy on Gender at the African Development Bank from 2013 to 2017, she significantly contributed to gender equality and woman empowerment in Africa.

Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill

Chair of Council

"Those who are ready to join hands can overcome the greatest challenges."

Ms Nozipho January-Bardill is a firm believer in this quote by Nelson Mandela because, for her, it aptly captures the ethos of the university.

"We have people of integrity, commitment and care – leaders who are driven by the same desires as our namesake."

As the university's first black African female to take up the position of Council Chair, Ms January-Bardill has extensive public, private, education and non-governmental sector experience, and is currently serving as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the United Nations Women's Organisation and UN Global Compact Local Network. Ms January-Bardill, who was appointed to Council by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in September 2016, says she feels particularly privileged to serve on the council of a university whose vision is both inspirational and aspirational and resonates with her own hope for a prosperous future for South Africa.

"I have a good understanding of the vision of the university. It is a vision that is aligned with my own sense of where higher education should be heading ... and an opportunity to live Madiba's values and build on his commitment to young people, in whose future he was so vested."



What's in a NAME?

A *Weekend Post* article (15 July, 2017) by Vice-Chancellor Sibongile Muthwa and Dr Denver Webb announced to the world our beloved institution's name change, heralding the launch of its new, modern brand – and a bright future.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University will formally become Nelson Mandela University on Thursday [20 July 2017]. It is a privilege that requires our university community and its public to pause and internalise the magnitude and symbolism of this honour. The re-branding of the university as Nelson Mandela University is the next logical step in its evolution into a great African university, in line with our vision and mission. The name change brings with it many opportunities, but also enjoins us with particular responsibilities and transformational obligations. By dropping the "metropolitan", the university will now be aligned to the name of our iconic statesman, a significant shift from the narrow geographical focus and alignment from which it has historically drawn its identity. As the SRC head of policy, Pedro Mzileni, pointed out in his thought-provoking opinion piece carried by *The Herald* on July 11 ("Student engagement contributes to varsity name change"), the new name, at the very least, reframes and streamlines our identity away from the cumbersome acronym, NMMU. The name change catapults Nelson Mandela University – Mandela for short – into the select few universities like Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge and Harvard that neither use acronyms nor abbreviate their names. Hopefully, in a few short years to come, when our alumni are asked, "Where did you study?", they can respond proudly, "I studied at Mandela". Our staff will be able to assess the quality of their own contribution to this great university in line with the ethos of Mandela the icon. What a privilege.

The name change provides an opportunity to both deepen transformation and reposition the university nationally, continentally and globally. The university as a whole has to live up to the values and ethos inherent in the Mandela name. The communications division conducted conversations with staff and students on the implications of the name change. The SRC contributed significantly to the process through its own consultative discussions. What has emerged is that the name change and re-branding are in themselves insufficient if change does not have a positive impact on the lived experience of students, staff and the broader university communities. Taking the university to the next level should also mean embracing innovation and transformation in all its manifestations. Extremely critical to this realisation is the capacity and will of the university to embed a distinctive knowledge paradigm that is truly Africanist and globally unapologetic, rooted both in its parlance and lexicon on social justice principles, on principles of the indivisibility of human rights, and of an inclusive world that foregrounds the sanctity of humanity. Notwithstanding what mainstream branding can achieve, as is the norm in corporate cultures, the lasting identity of this institution will be eternalised in the nature and identity of staff members who elect to serve at Nelson Mandela University.

It will become immortalised in the outstanding and unique attributes of graduates, who will champion social justice and human rights, among others, in posture and leadership tone, irrespective of their field of study at Nelson Mandela University. In recent years many have laid claim to the legacy of Nelson Mandela – often attempting to isolate one facet of his long and active life, to preserve it in political aspic, and trot it out

like some holy relic on the appropriate saint's day. This is to misunderstand and misrepresent the legacy of arguably one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century. His legacy needs to be commemorated in all its complexity. At different times he represented different things to different people: a child growing up in rural Eastern Cape; attending school away from family; a young man inculcated in traditional values at the great place; the first in his family to attend university; a rebel defying his family and regent to run away to Johannesburg seeking his fortune; an activist struggling for political, social and economic rights; a young radical firebrand challenging the established ANC elite; the first African law student at Wits University; founder, along with OR Tambo, of an independent African legal firm; a sportsman who enjoyed tennis and boxing; a founding member and commander of a guerrilla army; part of a broad leadership collective imprisoned for their ideals; international icon and symbol of the liberation struggle; first president of a democratic South Africa; dignified elder statesman; a father and a grandfather with unrivalled love for children. Clearly, the challenge of living up to the values and ethos of our namesake will rest in our ability to embrace and celebrate his legacy in all its manifestations, and in ways lasting, rather than fleeting.

Next year marks the centenary of the anniversary of his birth. This provides Nelson Mandela University with an opportunity to showcase the substance of the man, with a programme of active engagement and generous stewardship to ensure the impact of the name is experienced by workers, students and the broader university family. Ultimately, it is up to every one of us associated with Nelson Mandela University to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities the name change brings and to collectively ensure we live up to what this means. This rests on the framing of our scholarship – the classroom experience that transforms as it teaches – and on the way we relate to each other as students, staff and the broader university community.



The university's year-long Centenary Celebration Programme is rooted in Mandela's passionate support of learning.

Fifteen years ago, he famously declared: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Mandela University's Centenary Programme kicked off on 18 July this year – Madiba's birthday – and focuses on academic, scholarly and engagement enterprises as ideal contributions to preserving and nurturing his legacy.

In their inaugural addresses in April, both Chancellor Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa shared the university's commitment to having the institution reflect Mandela's values in its core business.

Celebrating a century of our beloved namesake

MADIBA MAGIC

Nelson Mandela University is the only university in the world to bear the name of the global icon – what better reason to celebrate 100 years of South Africa's greatest son?



"In this hundredth year of the birth of our namesake, it is also important that we – as the only university in the world bearing the name of Nelson Mandela – reflect on what it is that sets us apart from other institutions that carry his name," said Dr Fraser-Moleketi.

"What sets us apart is our commitment to reflect the values and ethos of Nelson Mandela in our learning and teaching, our

research and innovation, and in our engagement and internationalisation.

"What sets us apart is our commitment to place Africa at the centre of our scholarship in the service of society."

The centenary programme comprises a series of institution-wide activities, planned and championed by the seven faculties, along with other university roleplayers.

These events have predominantly taken the form of academic conferences, colloquia, public lectures and book launches, film festivals and exhibitions.

The country's Mandela Centenary Year has special significance for the institution, as it proudly celebrates the first anniversary of its new Nelson Mandela University name – officially launched on 20 July 2017.



Head of the Memory Programme at the Nelson Mandela Foundation's Centre of Memory and Dialogue Verne Harris shares his input with a student.

#ExploringMandela

A FEAST of film and books in celebration of the Mandela legacy is set to continue entertaining and educating audiences over the next few months.

Hosted by Nelson Mandela University, the "Excavating Mandela" festival focuses on several themes, including democracy, cultural memory, politics of the present and justice.

Running from September 2018 to July 2019, the event showcases films, books and documentaries about the legendary icon, exploring his timeless relevance in current social, political and economic times.

The festival is a collaborative project between several university stakeholders and external partners and is a supplement and complement to both the Centenary celebrations and the "Dalibhunga – This Time? That Mandela?" colloquium, says Arts, Culture and Heritage Department deputy director Michael Barry.

Film and book discussions and showings are organised monthly – one each per month – and tie in with national and international monthly themes, such as Human Rights, Africa, Youth, Women/Diversity and Heritage.

"Films and books [are] selected by a team consisting of people from the university and, possibly, other relevant parties," says Mr Barry. Additional films and books may be added to the table at the partners' discretion.

"The goal will be to have important discussions about [the film and literature]. Wherever possible, we identify writers, film producers and other high-profile individuals to be part of these."

New voices

In a bid to elevate and make the youth a more prominent contributor to policy, Nelson Mandela University launched the Annual Nelson Mandela Youth Convention in August.

The three-day convention, a vibrant feature of the Centenary Celebration Programme, was themed *Living in the Age and Hope of Madiba*, and zoomed in on issues relating to education, leadership, employability, entrepreneurship and health and wellness.

With higher education in South Africa and globally in transition, research and recent events show that the move towards more decolonised, equitable and inclusive institutions of higher learning has been slow.

Young people have been key participants in conversations about transformation of both the country and the academic sector, as witnessed during recent campaigns in the last few years.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa says the slow rate of change was due, in part, to the contextual complexities relating to the prevailing high levels of inequality, and "persistent divisions based largely on race, class and patriarchy which manifest in the fabric of the university and its functionalities".

The lifeblood of a student-centric university is its willingness to locate student voices in strategic platforms where engagements about student life take place, she said.

The annual convention aims to create and sustain a network of private, public or civic organisations and individuals that play in the youth development space, which should be connected to youth and be activated to support the ideas and projects of young people towards their own development.

It is expected to yield broad outcomes, including the development of a youth development index for annual publication to reflect progress made, and the establishment and sustenance of a youth research laboratory on youth development theory and practices.

The three-day event hosted a range of high-profile speakers, including Eastern Cape MEC for Finance, Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, Oscar Mabuyane, Mandela University's Dean of the Health Sciences Faculty, Prof Lungile Pepeta, and former Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas.



Newly launched CriSHET chair driving transformation

Transformation in South Africa generally, and higher education in particular, has progressed at a painfully slow pace. To address this, Nelson Mandela University has, for the last decade, been hard at work on deepening transformation at the institution through various initiatives, as well as contributing to the national conversation.

This work provided impetus for the establishment of the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET), launched on 24 July, to which transformation and social justice specialist Professor André Keet was appointed in 2017.

CriSHET is a strategic post introduced to drive the transformation agenda of the university by grounding it in critical studies and framing it within the concept of an African-purposed curriculum in view of the current decolonisation debates.

This includes being a strategic resource for various key stakeholders, internally and externally, and to support the leadership team, positioning Nelson Mandela University within the higher education sector for strategic impact.

Prof Keet is a leading figure in studying, being involved in and guiding transformation within Higher Education and brings to the CriSHET Chair a wealth of experience.

"Having collaborated in the Mandela University space for the past five years as an associate, visiting academic and intellectual friend, I found the conditions here for building the scholarly base of transformation work to be the most fertile of any of the universities I have encountered," says Prof Keet.

"People here have been working very hard over the past 10 years at deep transformation in the university space, and the idea and commitment to a transformative university is most pronounced."

For more information about the CriSHET team, please visit crishet.mandela.ac.za.

At the CriSHET launch (from left) Prof Andrew Leitch, Dr Denver Webb, Dr Laura Best, Prof Sibongile Muthwa, Verne Harris and Prof Andre Keet.



Be the change

"The power of education extends beyond the development of skills we need for economic success. It can contribute to nation-building and reconciliation."

– Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was a great champion of education as a weapon to transform and improve lives. His famed 2003 declaration - "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - was the subject of the Faculty of Education's colloquium on 19–20 July, which sought to interrogate the message as a means to understand its contextual relevance in the 21st century.

Mandela's stance on education has always found broad resonance within South African society, Africa



his personal and communal experiences, that education could be a tool for people to transform their lives and those of their children."

Nelson Mandela, and his contemporaries in South African and African leadership, moved from peasant and rural lives to become pioneers of society, nations and organisations, she said.

and globally. In a world faced with growing inequality, changing political landscapes, armed conflicts and racial and gender tensions, there is a need to explore a number of critical questions as they relate to Mandela's 2003 statement.

The colloquium, themed *Repositioning our Understanding of the "weapon" Education*, explored, inter alia, whether Mandela and his contemporaries would be satisfied that education is achieving its intended objective in the 21st century; or if the country has reached the stage where the understanding of the statement needs to be deconstructed and reconstructed, to speak to the challenges of the present.

Opening the colloquium with an address that doubly served as the official launching of the university's year-long Centenary Programme, Vice-Chancellor Prof Sibongile Muthwa said rooting the programme in the academic, scholarly and engagement enterprise was the best contribution the institution could make towards preserving and nurturing our namesake's legacy.

Mandela's insightful declarations about education reflected his "profound belief, arising from

Delegates at the colloquium – who fell under the categories of formal, informal and non-formal education sector – put forward a number of questions and possible solutions towards the repositioning of the understanding of the education "weapon" for meaningful development in the sector.

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, Dr Muki Moeng (pictured above), believes the colloquium achieved its primary objective of building coalition with an intent of having collective impact through shared mission among internal and external stakeholders.

"The commitment to move forward as a collective led to the establishment of a steering committee comprising representatives of all the stakeholders who were present at the colloquium.

"The steering committee was tasked to look at formalising a collective programme of action around the following five themes: multi-stakeholder collaboration; holistic development of a child; African-centred learning; language of teaching and learning; and education as a catalyst of transformation.

Self-Portraits





Key role for the arts in nurturing a new institutional culture

Setting the **benchmark**

A new public art programme seeks to honour the university's namesake in novel ways and visually articulate a changing culture, writes Debbie Derry.

A thoughtful Mandela sits on a bench with his back to the university's main tower block. Elsewhere, his trademark shirt stands tall before the same monolithic apartheid edifice. And everywhere, Nelson Mandela University students abound, all part of a new generation seeking a transformed future.

The positioning and presence of both public art works is deliberate. The new alongside the old.

Unlike Cape Town, where the statue of colonialist Cecil John Rhodes was felled by Fallist students in 2015 as part of the national outcry for transformation at universities, there could be no toppling of the iconic 18-storey symbol of the apartheid era. It was neither practical nor appropriate. Rather, the call for profound change offered the university an opportunity to drive a new narrative – one of inclusivity, and resonating with the founding principles of South Africa's democratic constitution.

And so today, the university is in the process of challenging the political and ideological origins of the former institutions that merged to make up the new university – not simply on paper or in the lecture halls and via new curricula, but also through the arts.

"We are seeking to contest and

“The positioning and presence of both public art works is deliberate. The new alongside the old.”

find ways of neutralizing our inherited apartheid architecture structures and the spatial planning legacy left behind by the apartheid planners," says head of the university's Arts, Culture and Heritage division, Michael Barry.

The need for a visual manifestation of Nelson Mandela was highlighted during the university's New Name Conversations in 2017, and again during the Vice-Chancellor's Listening Campaign early this year.

"We want to be visually reminded of the responsibility of living up to the name of Nelson Mandela" was the rallying cry of staff and students.

The process to "demythologise

and de-commission" the symbols of history that hold us back, as captured in the writings of African scholar Achille Mbembe, is ongoing.

The university's main building, built in the early 1970s, for example, was designed to represent apartheid's Christian National Education (CNE) ideology and to project nationalism and apartheid ideologues. Its design is that of a hawk (*valk*), an apartheid symbol of vigilance, strength and masculinity. It also includes a large cross on its original East West orientation.

"The challenge is to transform, disturb, and appropriate this building and many other powerful symbols of the past in our new vision and mission of becoming unapologetically a dynamic African university, not just in location but in spirit, intent and practice," says Barry.

So, enter the Madiba shirt and the Mandela Bench in the first phase of what is a 10-year legacy art project.

Both newcomers coexist alongside the cultural symbols of our painful, complex past. A bronze rendition of a young Nelson Mandela sits with his back to the apartheid past, with the tower block behind him, and his face towards the university's main library, contemplating a better future ahead. Similarly, the 2,8-m statue of his famous Madiba Shirt purposely counters the edifice behind it, with



Strike a pose

Be it the vice-chancellor, a student or foreign visitor, never a day passes without Nelson Mandela receiving guests. The new Mandela Bench has become the most photographed destination on campus.

Like the Madiba statue at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, the edifice in Nelson Mandela Square in Johannesburg or in London, the Madiba artworks are selfie magnets.

Those photos captured on the Mandela Bench at his namesake university invariably include the main tower block in the background – and will hopefully promote discussion and influence the making of shared meanings and new perspectives.

“We want – through these efforts – to ensure that all stakeholders truly feel they belong,” Mandela University Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa shared at the launch of the Mandela Bench as part of the university’s own Centenary Celebrations programme.

Quoting Achelle Mbembe’s cry to “demythologise and de-commission” the symbols of history in order to move forward, Prof Muthwa said the time was ripe to confront the origins of the institution.

“This negative legacy from the past, manifests in our public spaces, buildings, names, symbols and rituals, and continues to influence our institutional culture.

“Decolonising the university starts with the de-privatisation and rehabilitation of the public space – the rearrangement of spatial relations.

“Public art on campus is the physical embodiment of institutional missions and largely contributes to the creation and maintenance of places where the university community can learn, live and dialogue within an environment rich in meaning.”

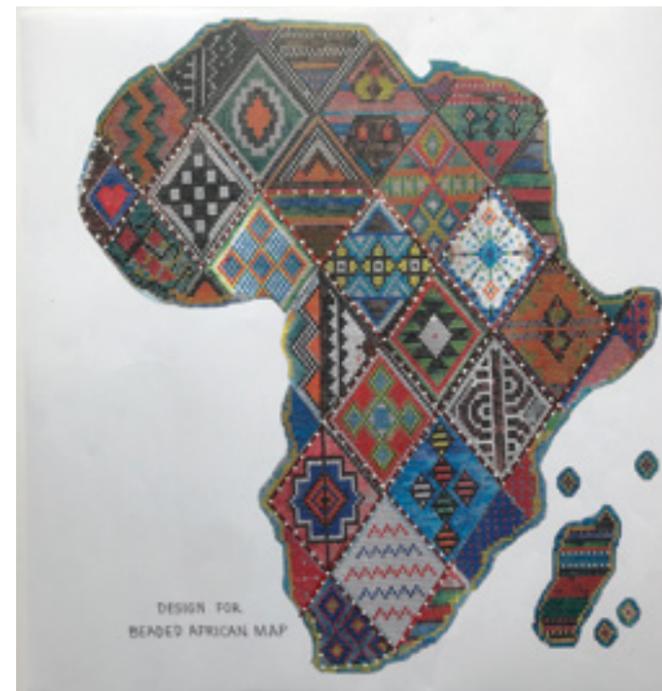
The Mandela Bench: fast facts

- Launched on Africa Day, 25 May 2018
- Second major university public art project
- Design: sculpture lecturer Andrieta Wentzel
- Concept: Mandela has earned his place in the sun and rests among the youth who study today because of his efforts
- Bench-end scrollwork: readiness to learn and build a wise, community-focused future from the past.

students milling around on its grass surrounds and in the adjacent Beyers Naude Garden of Contemplation.

“Public art plays an important role in the academic community, fostering critical thinking, inspiring creativity and pushing viewers to move past the tangible knowledge into that which can only be conceived through a deeper engagement and thought,” says Barry, himself an artist and arts activist.

The new artworks stand proudly alongside the old – offering a new narrative that seeks to neutralise its inherited apartheid structures and spatial legacy and write a new story of inclusivity and transformation.



This beaded map of Africa is situated under the bench, at Mandela’s feet.

Renaming places and spaces

A naming and renaming project is underway to ensure that all our university spaces and places recognise, respect and honour all peoples in ways that resonate with the values and ethos of our namesake Nelson Mandela.

The roll-out of a strategy that will offer all stakeholders a say in the names of buildings, rooms, roads and other components of the university follows the launch of our new name last year, and the need for the university to proactively build cohesion and transform.

It will offer the wider university community the opportunity to examine our new identity, enhancing the brand and signalling our intentions during the centenary year of the birth of our namesake.

In anticipation of the new policy, students have already been involved in discussion and are enthusiastic about what is projected to be a year-long process.

Guiding principles

The principles guiding the naming and renaming process will take the university’s vision, mission and values into consideration, along with compatibility with the constitution of South Africa and the ethos of our namesake.

The name changes are in line with the university’s transformation agenda and as a change agent towards creating a new inclusive institutional culture.

Alumni will also be invited to have their say as the project unfolds.



FASHION ICON: The famed Madiba Shirt was first worn by Nelson Mandela at the dress rehearsal of the 1994 Opening of Parliament and was designed by Desre Buirski. Our university version comprises hardy specialist metal (C3R12) underneath richly-coloured ceramic tiles spelling out our values, and was designed by the university’s Prof Mary Duker, with input from both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Former President Thabo Mbeki officially ‘launched’ the shirt in October 2015.



#Storyofmylife

In the midst of the frustration, anger and mayhem of the 2016 #FMF protests, life went on ... as poignantly captured by the university's official lensman, Leonette Bower, whose photographic documentary became her BTech thesis and has been exhibited nationally.

Seated in a Music Department practice room, music student Luvuyo Plum tells of how he serendipitously found a guitar in a ceiling ten years ago – and decided that it would be his first instrument. He was initially hesitant to pursue a degree in music, but, “ ... today, I am confident to say: never has the vision been more clear in [my] mind ... I am here to learn music! Yes, being versatile is important, but not at the cost of suppressing your dreams – what you really love. I am grateful for all the struggles I have [had] and [am] still to endure, because they become valuable lessons.”

Jenna-Leigh Greyling, watching sport with her dad, is a third-year student in tourism management. She shares in the written part of the documentary that she was troubled by not being able to help finance her studies. "I feel bad that I'm not helping my dad pay, but he said he'd rather have good marks than me working and not having time for my studies. He works very hard to make my dreams come true."



Postgraduate student and mother Gretchen Sudenie, pictured at her children's school prize-giving event, writes: "It is now 2016, and I am at the threshold of becoming an LLB graduate. I had never imagined this possibility, given my impoverished background and with the two children and a family to provide for!"



"They are all incredible, positive people surviving against all odds."

That was the verdict of Mandela University photographer Leonette Bower, who took herself – and her camera – behind the scenes of the #FeesMustFall movement in 2015 and 2016 to visually track the lives of some of its students.

It was former Vice-Chancellor Professor Derrick Swartz who urged Leonette to document the historic shifts in higher education. She did, but far away from the angry rock face of the protests. Instead, Leonette entered the lives and homes of eight students to offer us a gritty insight into their day-to-day realities.

"I wanted these students to play an active role in telling their stories – I did not want to be just the photographer moving into their space. It had to be a dialogue and therefore I asked them to write down their own stories, in their own handwriting, giving them voice."

The students had each faced difficulties, but were all committed to success and to making a difference. Leonette found the resolve to give back to their communities through, for example, tutoring and community service, very humbling.



Sakhumzi Dukwe (centre) recognised the sacrifices of his family in enabling him to fulfil his aspirations of qualifying as a psychology graduate. "I love my family: my mom and big sister mean the world to me. My mother has been my everything, since my father passed away in 2001 ... Because of her efforts working as a cleaner and selling different things to supplement her income to make sure me and my big sister go to school and there is food on the table."

Apart from her photographic documentary of each student, Leonette also produced a booklet – #storyofmylife – that includes arresting snapshots of real life: the students' own cellphone photographs, professional images of each student, handwritten accounts and a CD recording by music student Luvuyo Plum singing his own composition, talking and playing the guitar.

Leonette's exhibition has been shared in Port Elizabeth and Johannesburg.



Khakalomzi Gwabe is the youngest of six children, raised by a single parent dependent on a government grant. The former Diploma of Management student says, "The biggest challenge I faced was having limited resources to pursue my studies." This changed when the congregation of his church stepped in to help him financially and personally, culminating in his proud graduation in 2017, in a suit bought for him by his uncle.



Faith Moyo left the economic turmoil of Zimbabwe and had dreams of obtaining a university qualification. But growing student debt weighed heavily on her and she was concerned she would never receive her final results. "I would continue to talk about it amongst my friends and family. It was not until I thought of approaching my programming lecturer, Prof Jean Greyling (pictured with Faith), that my life would be turned around forever." After completing her BSc, Computing Science, Faith went on to do a postgraduate diploma in accounting as part of her journey towards "doing things that will make a difference in people's lives".

Dear Alumni

It's an exciting time to launch the new look Alumni magazine, which will become an essential communication vehicle to engage and keep in touch with the Alumni Community and Friends of the Nelson Mandela University.

The launch of the revamped magazine takes place in the year our country and university celebrate the centenary of former President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, and the year in which the university inaugurated Prof Sibongile Muthwa and Dr Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi as its vice-chancellor and chancellor respectively.

In 2017, two significant developments took place: the institution launched the new Nelson Mandela University name, identity and brand in July, and at the end of the year, the University Council elected Ambassador Nozipho January-Bardill and Siya Mhlaluka respectively as its new chairperson and deputy chairperson.

These developments, articulated with greater clarity during Prof Muthwa's inaugural lecture early this year, signal the new strategic direction and trajectory which have been deemed important to engage and communicate with internal and external stakeholders, including our Alumni community.

Through this new-format publication, the university, through its Alumni Relations Office, pledges to share a range of its significant learning, teaching, research and engagement activities, as well as to profile the achievements and strides made by members of the Alumni community in their respective fields.

A growing Alumni family

Nelson Mandela University and its predecessors awarded 144 481 qualifications to 108 910 alumni and the alumni family continues to grow with more than 6000 graduates per annum. You, our alumni, are our largest stakeholder group by far, and the torchbearers of our name throughout the world.

The total number of graduates from 2005 to date now constitutes

more than 50% of all graduates since the establishment of the founding institutions. This means that we have a large group of young, new generation alumni who join hands with our alumni from across the decades. You all play a pivotal role in the university's decision-making processes, with two elected members of the Alumni Association sitting on Council, but also in your many different roles and inputs.

As Nelson Mandela University we have a truly unique opportunity to come together and substantively

build on the university's national and international reputation and success. Adding to this is our new strategic focus, including the Ocean Sciences Campus and the Medical School, which further advances the university's contribution to scholarship, sustainability and human development.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sibongile Muthwa led a widely consultative process around the university's new institutional research themes. As Prof Muthwa puts it:

A New Era of Coming Together



NEW ALUMNI LEADERSHIP ... Alumni Relations Director Paul Geswindt with new members (from left) Institutional Forum representative to Council Khaya Matiso, Vice-President Michelle Mbaco, and Alumni President Khwezi Blose.

"They speak to what we have chosen to be and how we are positioning ourselves in terms of our research priorities in the higher education sector. As a university we have settled on the following organising themes to steer our differentiating scholarly contribution:

- Ocean and Coastal Sciences
- Social Justice and Democracy
- Environmental Stewardship and Sustainable Livelihoods
- Innovation and the Digital Economy

- Origins, Culture, Heritage and Memory, and
- Humanising Pedagogies."

Relationship-building drive

Our goal is for people worldwide to respond knowingly and admiringly when you say you are a graduate of Nelson Mandela University, and for each one of you to feel part of the university. The Alumni Relations Office and its governance structure, the Alumni Association, are at the centre of the institution's commitment to the

alumni relationship-building drive at all levels.

Over the coming months, we will be going all out to connect with our alumni and to bring you together to share your views, networks and abilities. We want all of you to feel very much part of the university in this new era; it's a wonderful moment in which to achieve this, and to come together to celebrate being part of the only university in the world to carry Nelson Mandela's name. We know that some of you feel estranged from your alma mater, but we want to change this and work together with you on any issues that you feel need addressing.

The role of the faculties and key departments, such as Student Affairs (Governance, Sport and Residences), the Office of International Education and Arts, Culture and Heritage will play an important part in connecting with alumni at the primary relationship level. They will be doing the same with prospective and existing students, who will be guided through an admissions process until formal student enrolment. This personal, positive interaction must be continued through to graduation and then to the postgraduate or alumni status.

The Computing Science Department is a model of this; it has great social interaction with its students and graduates, celebrating their achievements, engaging them for talks, bursaries and student employment and benefiting from their expertise in the marketplace and industry.

New alumni IT system

The development of an efficient alumni IT system, which will include updated contact details as well as key profile information, is a priority for relationship building. We will be making the most of technology to develop and grow our relationship with you, including leveraging communication platforms such as portals and social media to connect and share, and keep you up to date about institutional developments.

Alumni House new building plans

An Alumni House is the on-campus home of graduates who are welcomed

here whenever they visit. All the staff linked to alumni relations, as well as the executive of the Alumni Association, are normally based here. Currently, the Alumni Relations Office is operating from a small Alumni Relations Centre venue.

We are now looking at a special building development for Alumni House, which can itself become a sustainable business, such as offering a conference facility, social space, hot offices and a coffee shop for alumni and friends, visitors, university staff and business people.

We're looking at the 2nd Avenue Campus as the location, as it's central, the area is popular and there's a good link between the Business School and the Boardwalk. We are hoping to have the plans for the Alumni House building approved in 2019, and built by 2021.

Your representatives

Mr Khwezi Blose and Ms Michelle Mbaco are the new president and vice-president respectively of the Alumni Association. They also represent you in their capacity as members of Council.

Mr Blose is currently the CEO of the Masakeni Civil Construction Firm. His Mandela University qualifications include a BSc (Construction Economics) and BSc Hons QS. Ms Mbaco is currently the Manager for Strategic Operations for the ANC Parliamentary Caucus. Her Mandela qualifications include a BCom and MA, Development Studies.

Mr Blose assumed the position of president in line with the Alumni constitutional provisions when Dr Randall Jonas announced at the 2018 AGM that he would be ending his term of office early. The Association thanks Dr Jonas for his years of service to the Association and university in various governance roles. Ms Mbaco was subsequently elected as vice-president at an Executive Committee meeting.

Mr Khaya Matiso, current CEO of PE College and former Mandela University Missionvale Campus Director and Dean of Students, was also elected at the AGM as the Alumni Association representative on the Institutional Forum.

Our goal is for people worldwide to respond knowingly and admiringly when you say you are a graduate of Nelson Mandela University, and for each one of you to feel part of the university."

Mandela brand boost

In 2005 the Alumni Association invested in and established the University Shop as a commercial venture that strongly promotes the university brand. We price items reasonably and we offer a good range, including clothing and corporate gifts. The shop is a thriving operation today. In 2017 our turnover was R3 million; in 2018 our target is R5 million. Annually, the Association supports various university and student projects, including bursaries, using some of the shop surplus. Reinvestment in the development of the shop as a self-sustainable unit is also important.

It's been such a success that we are now expanding the range to celebrate the Mandela brand, and growing the shop, including online. We're adding a new range of leisure wear, which you have asked for, including creatively branded items such as hoodies. The shop is also involved in the supply of the uniforms for sports teams as well as the

uniforms for all our insourced staff. Several of our shop managers through the years have also been assistant sports coaches, as the university needed to supplement their income to attract good assistant coaches and coaches. The dual platform served their careers well. Two examples are Jody Paul, who is now coaching hockey for the England under-18 boys, is Assistant Coach for under-21 men for England Hockey and Head Hockey Coach at the University of Bath, and Baakier Abrahams, who is now a provincial coach for the South Western Districts Cricket Union.

Institutional Alumni Annual Fund

The VC has asked the Alumni Association to launch an institutional Alumni Annual Fund. In the past our alumni supported previous VC fund-raising projects, such as Professor Swartz's mountain climb campaigns to raise money for bursaries.

The Alumni Annual Fund is an innovative approach to giving and we hope that you think so too. To explain what we're doing, let me first explain that traditional universities internationally receive 90% of their funds from 5 to 10% of their alumni donors, who are obviously extremely wealthy. However, this would never work for us as a younger university – we receive generous donations, but not on this scale.

The VC therefore proposed that we rather encourage as many alumni as possible to give a small amount, of R100 a month or more if they can afford it. It is all about building the culture of giving over a lifetime with a regular gift.

Let us know what you think of this and share your thoughts about how we can all come together as proud alumni of Nelson Mandela University. We look forward to sending you updates on the Alumni Association's plans and programmes in upcoming newsletters and publications. In the meantime, please help us to update your details online using alumni.mandela.ac.za

Paul GG Geswindt
Director: Alumni Relations
Secretary: Alumni Association

ALUMNI EXECUTIVE



President: Khwezi Blose



Vice-President: Michelle Mbaco



Treasurer: Elmarie van de Merwe



Secretary/Director: Paul Geswindt



IF representative: Khaya Matiso



Elected: Ayanda Mhlatsa

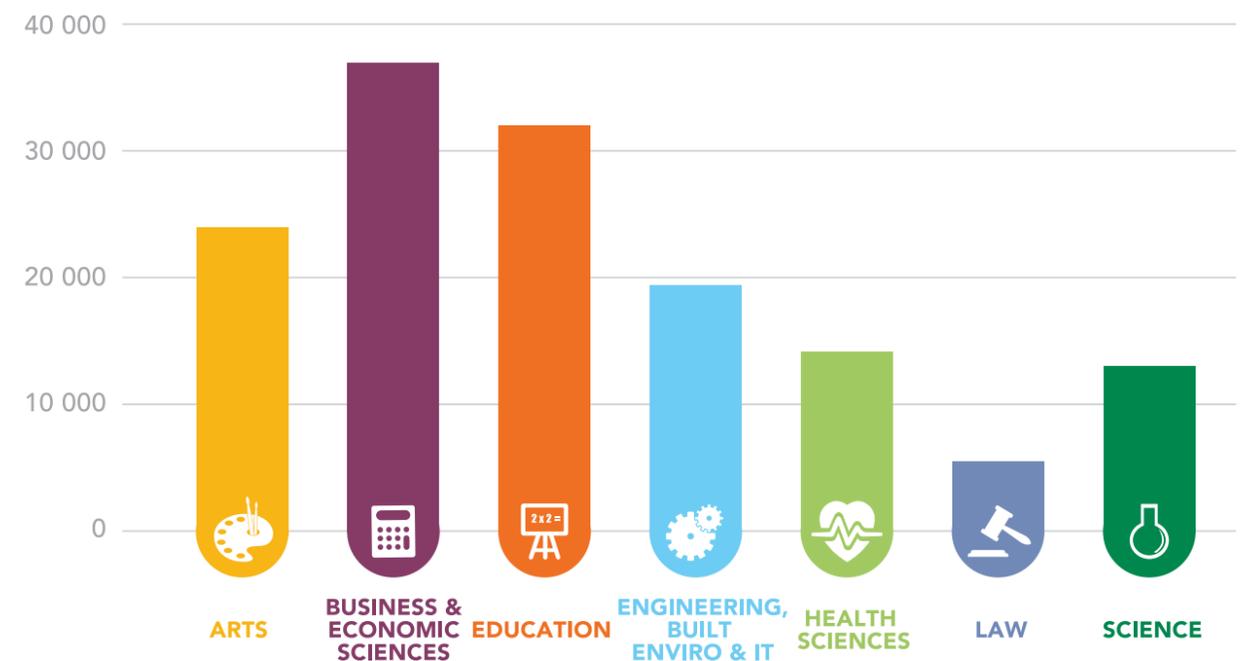


Elected: Welcome Kupangwa



Co-opted: Thomas Terblanche

TOTAL GRADUATES PER FACULTY



LIVING SPACES

Nelson Mandela University is pulling out all the stops to provide its students with additional on-campus residences, writes Zandile Mbabela.

South African universities are faced with the massive challenge of inadequate student accommodation on campuses; a problem that in recent years, has begun to gradually extend to the cities and towns in which the universities are situated.

This is normally highlighted at the beginning of the year, when universities are under pressure caused by a large number of students arriving there with inadequate funding, which contributes to the perennial issues around academic registration and residence admissions at the start of each year.

These numbers have grown significantly over the years as more students are drawn from poorer communities through continued efforts to widen access to higher education. This year the number of these students is even greater because of the December 2017 pronouncement of fee-free education for those coming from poor and working class backgrounds.

Supply and demand

The increase in student numbers has highlighted how the demand for tertiary education far outweighs the existing capacity, a phenomenon compounded by the fact that many South African universities, particularly the historically white institutions, were not geared for the massive influx of students. This is a challenge throughout the country, and forms part of the global move towards 'democratisation of education'.

On the accommodation front, the reality is that there are simply not enough on-campus residence facilities to meet the growing demand. To mitigate this, Nelson Mandela University secures and accredits off-campus accommodation sites that cater to students' needs for a safe, comfortable, secure and hygienic living environment that is conducive to learning.

This year, the university's Student Housing Office sought and secured about 3000 additional beds,

bringing the total number of off-campus beds to nearly 6000 at the end of April 2018. This is in addition to the existing 3250 beds at its Port Elizabeth and George on-campus residences.

As a long-term solution, the university is working on developing a new 2000-bed on-campus residence – broken up into 1800 beds in Port Elizabeth and 200 in George – which has received part funding from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

While government funding has made notable strides in widening access to higher education, particularly for students from historically disadvantaged communities, until very recently this had not been accompanied by the requisite infrastructure budget allocations.

Focus on the future

Higher Education and Training minister Naledi Pandor approved a R1.1-billion student housing grant for the country's 26 universities this year, with Mandela University receiving R50 million for the 2017/2018 year. The funds come in addition to prior efficiency funding allocations of R66.6 million and R75 million for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years respectively, which include a portion for residences.

Given the continued incremental demand for student accommodation and the equally important need for prudence and financial sustainability in the institution, Mandela University has opted not to use the funding allocations as they are, but to pool the cash to create a sustainable funding model towards the planned 2000-bed residence.

"What made us consider this model was the implementation of the fee-free education decision, so this will ensure a sustainable way of adding more beds on campus to meet the anticipated demand. This also means that we are keeping the money within the sector," says Mandela University's finance director, Michael Monaghan.



“The revenue to service the loan is guaranteed. We plan to develop the residence at scale and keep developing as we go along in a phased approach.”

The university plans to break ground on the first phase, with a 500-bed residence behind the Protea Residence at the Student Village, in January 2019. This will be followed by a 200-bed residence at the George Campus and a 300-bed building behind the new 500-bed residence at the Student Village.

The remaining 1000 beds will be rolled out as the loan funding is finalised, and will be built on the triangular piece of land between the North Campus main entrance and Admiralty Way.

The university has established a special accommodation working group, which includes its Finance, Student Housing, Estates and Facilities Management offices, as well as students, to drive the work towards this.

Mandela University Dean of Students, Luthando Jack, says the university is also engaging the metro about a student hub, which would create a “more enabling environment conducive to student living” – accommodation zones that include complementary amenities relevant to students.

ONWARDS & UPWARDS

Nelson Mandela University is constantly working on building and upgrading infrastructure to accommodate increased student numbers and position itself as a pioneering place of learning.

Apart from more residences for students, upgraded infrastructure is underway for the medical programme and numerous sustainability interventions.

In 2017, the university completed the second new Engineering building on North Campus, transformed the former CSIR building into the Ocean Sciences Campus, and revamped the lecturing auditorium on Second Avenue Campus.

The Engineering “Phase 2” building, which houses a 200-seater auditorium for teaching and learning purposes, is accommodating the six new engineering qualifications offered from this year.



The second new Engineering building



The Engineering “Phase 2” building



The entrance to the university's new Ocean Sciences Campus



Lecturing auditorium on 2nd Avenue Campus.



The new residence lounge for students

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Student housing with 1800 beds on North Campus and 200 beds on George Campus. Work on the Summerstrand site is set to begin early 2019.
- Work is currently underway towards upgrading infrastructure on Missionvale Campus to accommodate the medical programme.
- Work on the numerous sustainability infrastructure interventions has begun, with progress already made towards a solar farm on South Campus.
- Extensions to the Law Faculty floor in Embizweni on South Campus are nearing completion.
- Second phase of infrastructure upgrades to the Ocean Sciences Campus.
- A new water reservoir on George Campus.
- Upgrading the Felsted Building on Bird Street Campus.
- Development of the transport hub on the corner of Gomery Avenue and University Way.

This quotation by our former South African President sums up one of the key goals of Nelson Mandela University at a time when fee-free education has been introduced for students from households with a combined family income of less than R350 000 per year. We welcome this development and hope that the administrative processes around it that have been causing hardship for students can be speedily resolved.

The introduction of fee-free higher education for certain categories of students will significantly assist in broadening access to quality higher education for financially needy, academically deserving students. At the same time, however, we need to be financially prudent about the pressure it puts on our resources, as ensuring that there is access and success requires a number of additional interventions. Over and above this, our university also requires significant funding for key projects and focus areas in our bold new journey, including the new Ocean Sciences Campus and Medical School, and revitalising the humanities.

Engagement is another key focus area of our university as we cannot boast high-tech buildings and world-class infrastructure while ignoring poverty and inequality in society. It is part of our responsibility to raise funds for engagement projects, including projects that help to advance access to education from school level, and projects that work with communities to promote entrepreneurship and which generally assist communities with developing their own agency.

In her inaugural address in April 2018, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, outlined her vision of the university in the service of society. This included realigning engagement activities to address pressing challenges of society, and establishing Hubs of Convergence. These Hubs of Convergence are envisaged as physical spaces where the university meets with communities to engage on common platforms to find solutions to practical problems that affect our immediate communities. The first one is set to be established at the Bird Street Campus early next year.

In its many focus areas, the university needs to fund its development trajectory while maintaining financial sustainability in the medium- to long-term. To address all this, in 2014 Council asked the Vice-Chancellor to reimagine resource mobilisation at the university to ensure we remain



The Strategic Resource Mobilisation Unit (back from left) Buyiswa Yaya, Dr Denver Webb, Sithembele Tutuse, Tshidi Hashatse. (Front from left) Sheree Gerber, Dr Sibongile Sowazi and Jennilee Bezuidenhout.

Shaping the future

By Dr Denver Webb, Senior Director: Strategic Resource Mobilisation Unit

We in South Africa believe that all can learn – that there are more who are capable of learning, at the very highest levels of education, than are given the chance ... All institutions of higher education have the obligation to open the door more widely.

– Nelson Mandela, 12 May 2005

financially sustainable. The establishment of the Strategic Resource Mobilisation Office (SRMO) in the office of the Vice-Chancellor grew out of this initiative.

The SRMO is intended as a lean, agile office to coordinate strategic resource mobilisation initiatives across the university. At the same time, it is also required to deliver on specific functions, notably, raising funding for bursaries, scholarships, capital projects and engagement, as well as managing identified catalytic projects. It does so in conjunction with the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Executive Deans and other units at the university.

The SRMO also provides support to the resource mobilisation initiatives of the Nelson Mandela University Trust and the Nelson Mandela University Investment Company in terms of a service level agreement between the three parties. The Trust enjoys PBO status from SARS

and is able to issue Section 18A tax certificates for certain categories of donations which qualify for these.

The Nelson Mandela University Investment Company was recently established as an investment company to pursue certain strategic commercialisation projects to generate income in perpetuity. It is wholly owned by the Trust and has an independent board of Directors.

The Chair of its Board of Directors is businessman and friend of the university, Mark Williams, who is based in the metro. The first meeting of the directors was held in April 2017.

One of the first major projects of the company is the development of a Life Rights Complex on land owned by the university at its Second Avenue Campus in Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth. The idea is to develop a lifestyle complex that includes a retirement complex and an all age groups complex. Purchases in the complex will be open to members of the university and the general public.

In terms of its organisational structure, the SRMO comprises two sub-offices: Capital and Special Projects, and Bursaries and Scholarships.

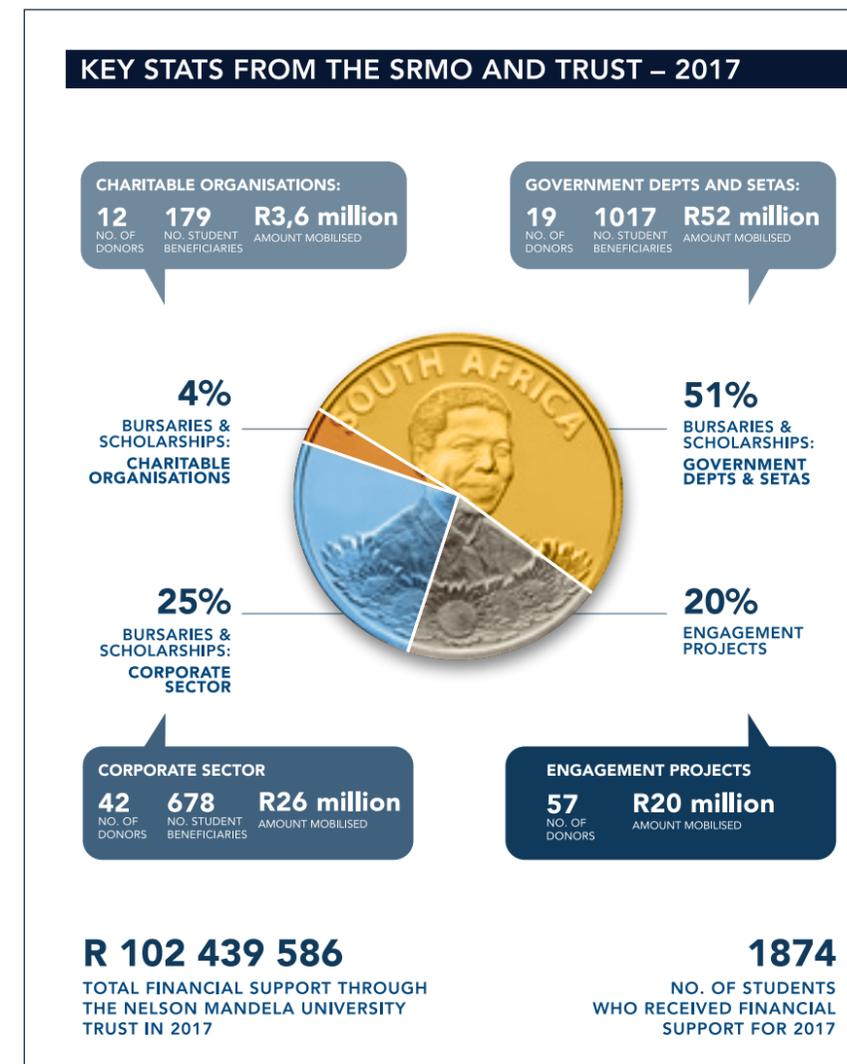
For Capital and Special Projects, we liaise with the relevant managers in the University to identify strategic capital funding needs, develop resource mobilisation proposals for identified capital projects and look at ways of securing funding for these and other operational aspects. This office is headed by Ms Tshidi Hashatse.

We are exploring various alternatives for non-traditional capital funding and identifying, building and managing relationships with donors and philanthropic organisations nationally and internationally. We have the advantage of being the only university in the world officially named after the world-famous icon, Nelson Mandela.

For Bursaries and Scholarships, the SRMO focuses on attracting funding from the private and public sectors for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Currently, most of the funding mobilised is for undergraduate financial support, but renewed focus is being placed on mobilising bursary funding for postgraduate bursaries and scholarships, particularly at the honours level, for which funding is relatively scarce. The Bursaries and Scholarships office is headed by Dr Sibongile Sowazi.

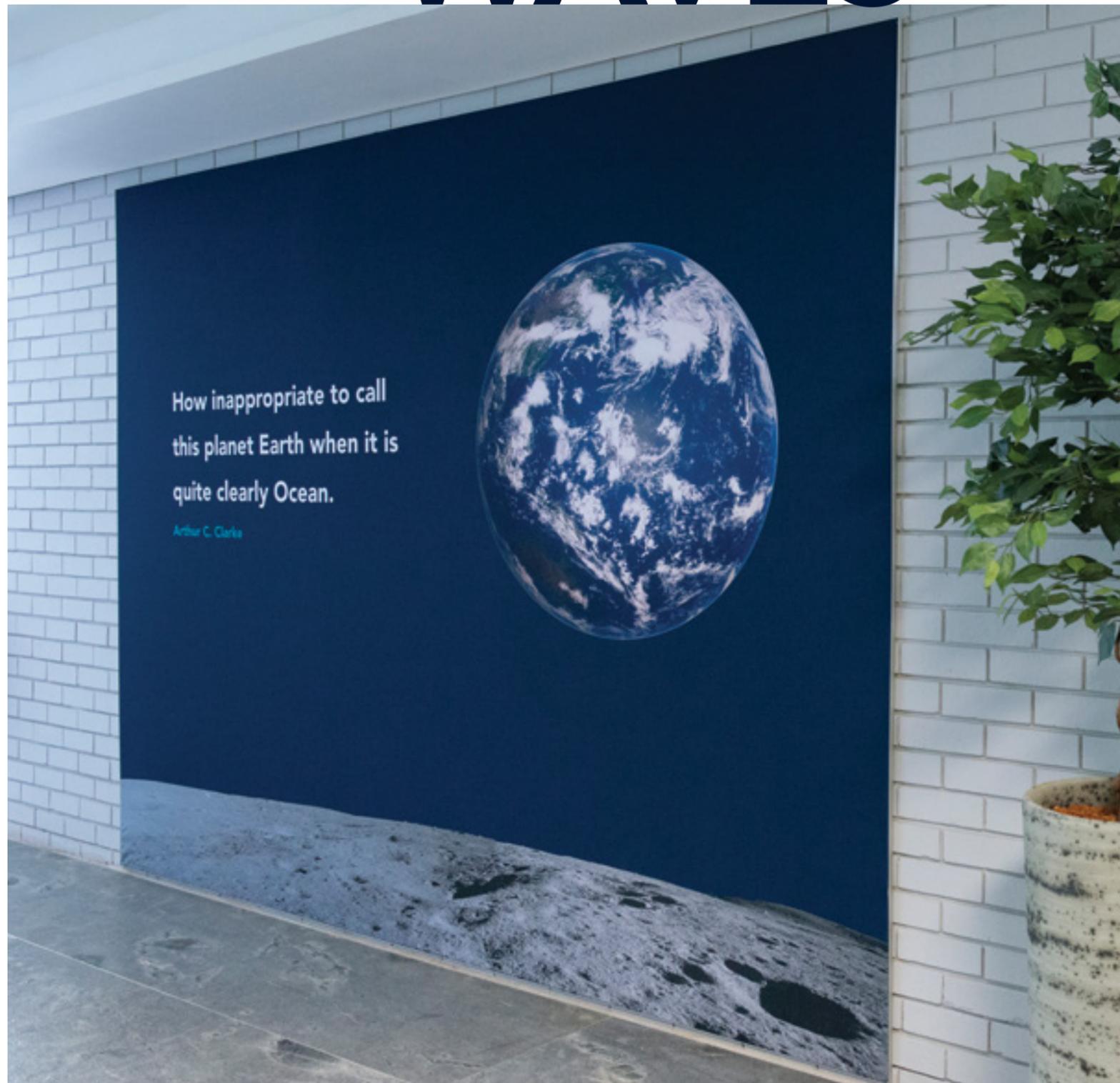
Overall, we are extremely pleased with the SRMO's performance to date and we are confident that we will show excellent year on year results. In recent years, we have significantly grown our income through the Trust. For example, in 2015 the total income from donations through the Trust was some R38 million. In 2016 it grew to about R56 million. In 2017 the income from donations was just over R102 million. This income was for both bursaries and scholarships, and also for engagement projects.

This improvement is largely due to improved coordination between the various role players in the university. We are extremely proud of the teamwork demonstrated across all the faculties to bring in this income. Encouragingly, we found that instead of the #FeesMustFall protests putting off donors, as some feared, it actually resulted in a generous outpouring of support from the public. It created a national awareness of the need to widen access to university for deserving students and people were very generous and forthcoming in supporting financially needy students. There is a realisation broadly in society that government alone cannot solve this problem and that we all need to play our part in advancing social justice and greater equality in our country.

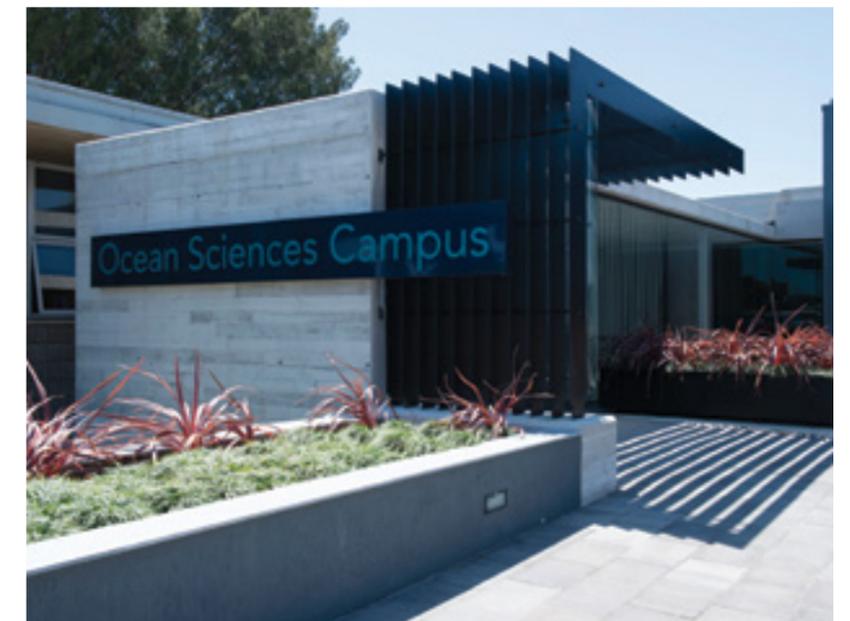


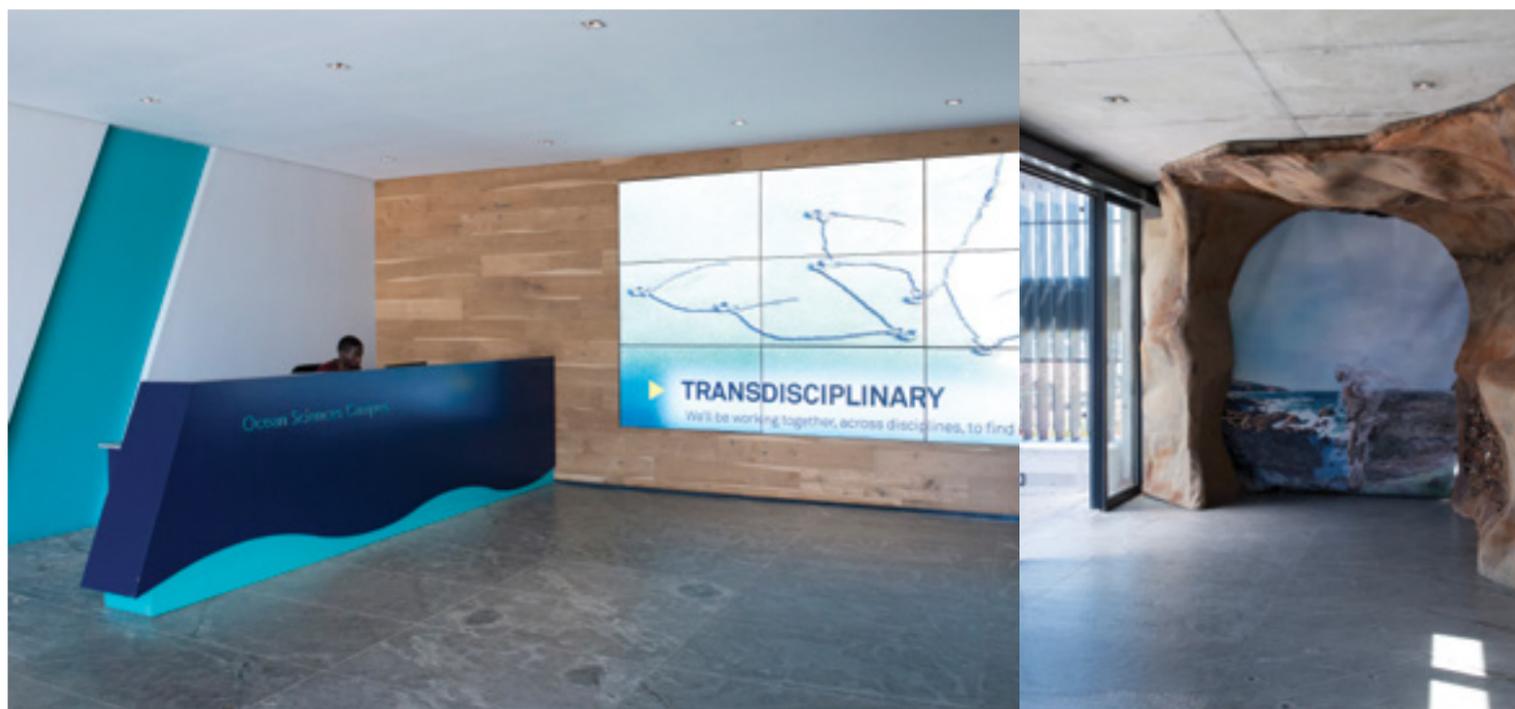
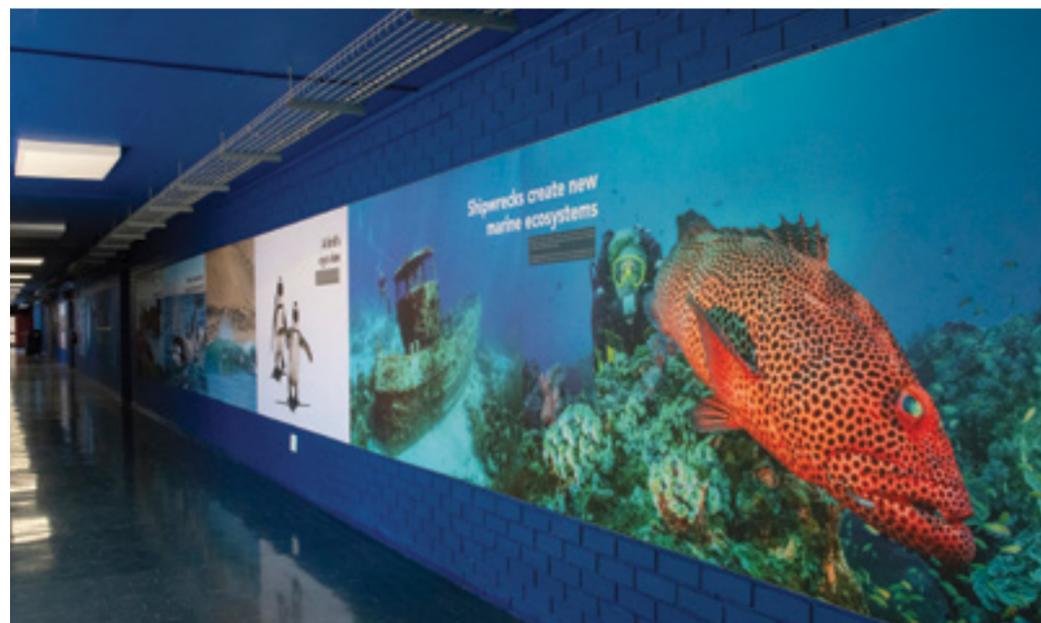
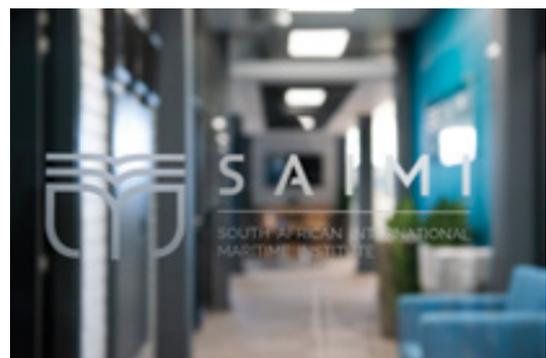
Home of SA's first
dedicated Ocean
Sciences Campus

WAVES OF CHANGE



As the only hub dedicated to the future growth of Ocean Sciences in South Africa, the university's new Ocean Sciences Campus "blue commons" approach will benefit us all.





disciplines, being far better than that of a sole expert maritime professor.

Strategically, this approach offers better options for both discovery research and that of solving real world problems arising from economic need, while always ensuring ecological sustainability.

Places and spaces that allow the “blue commons” to come together are all part of the ongoing infrastructure developments at the Summerstrand campus.

These physical changes are matched by the campus-specific design philosophy, and its prevalent overarching ocean science themes of oceans and culture; ocean governance and marine protection; oceans economy and ocean health and marine biodiversity.

Check out the Ocean Sciences website oceansciences.mandela.ac.za to view photographs and a virtual tour of the present campus and its future growth.

In place

The Ocean Sciences Campus is already home to:

- Four national research chairs (Shallow Water Ecosystems; Ocean Science and Marine Food Security; Marine Spatial Planning and the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa)
- South African Earth Observation Network (SAEON)
- The FishFORCE Academy
- Research Diving Unit with a new hyperbaric chamber facility to serve the diving community
- Facility for studying marine organisms and large marine animals
- The South African International Marine Institute (SAIMI)
- Researchers from Business and Management Sciences; African Earth Observatory Network (AEON); Coastal Marine Research and Engineering.

To come

To support the expansion of the campus, the following facilities are in the pipeline:

- A student commons for transdisciplinary engagement
- A cafeteria
- More laboratory extensions
- A science centre
- Multi-purpose ocean sciences conferencing, exhibition and engagement centre
- Facilities for spin-off companies and start-ups.

SAIMI headquarters launched in PE

Plans to grow the maritime economy depend on the availability of skilled people to implement them, along with the generation of knowledge and technological innovation to support a globally competitive maritime industry.

The South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) was established in 2014 – a direct outcome of the South African government’s Operation Phakisa – in response to the need for a national institute to coordinate and facilitate skills development to support the growth of the oceans economy.

SAIMI launched its national headquarters at Nelson Mandela University’s Ocean Sciences Campus on 25 June – coinciding with the International Day of the Seafarer. For the launch event, the team opted to mark the occasion by giving back to the seafaring community.

The blue economy is the next major contributor to South Africa’s gross domestic product, with the potential to create up to a million direct jobs and contribute R177-billion to the country’s economy by 2030.

The Institute facilitates input from the industry to ensure that necessary job-related skills and training are being offered and plays a linking role between industry, education and training institutions and government.

Since its establishment, successes include managing the National Cadet Programme, forging partnerships to expand training of seafaring cadets, coordinating Operation Phakisa Skills Working Groups and facilitating development of the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Management Roadmap for the maritime sector.

The university’s new Ocean Sciences campus has been intentionally designed and revamped to embrace a transdisciplinary way of working. It has been specifically branded to reflect its purpose – that of a dedicated creative and innovative hub for postgraduate teaching, research and engagement for Ocean Sciences – and its physical spaces revamped to allow scientists the opportunity to work as teams.

R60 million has been invested to date, and a further R75m will be spent over the next three years in upgrading the old CSIR buildings. The campus was launched as the university’s seventh campus in September last year.

The transdisciplinary research strategy crosses many disciplinary boundaries to create a holistic approach, and, in Mandela University’s case, does not stop with the academy. Instead, it also seeks to embrace blue economy or “blue commons” partnerships with the metro, local government, big business, civic society and other ocean-related organisations.

Why?

Simply because by doing so, all basic, formative and applied professional knowledge competencies in Ocean Sciences are brought together in novel ways. It’s a case of many heads, across many

The (virtual) REALITY OF DRONES

The benefits of drone technology across the globe are endless – and Nelson Mandela University science and engineering whizzkids are gaining ground fast.

Envisage a drone that is autonomously airborne in 15 to 20 seconds from the moment a crime scene or danger alarm is triggered. It steers itself to the scene and then hovers above it, taking live, high resolution footage for the police or security companies.

This is one of the drones that the Mandela University Autonomous Operations (MAO) Group is working on – it's science fiction fantasy made real.

Specialising in drones and gliders – or autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) – the group is developing them for a range of capabilities, including deep-sea scientific research, package deliveries to ships, autonomous crime scene imaging and wildlife monitoring, in support of research being conducted by the university's scientists and engineers.

Surrounded by flying parts in a warehouse of the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology, is MAO Group member and mechanical engineer, Damian Mooney. He is one of South Africa's few specialists in Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (drones and AUVs), and he has been a commercial pilot for 20 years.

"Drones and gliders are rapidly gaining ground globally because



Damian Mooney – one of South Africa's few specialists in drones and gliders.

of their diverse applications," says Mooney. "Drones can be fitted with multispectral cameras and data-collecting capacity to take 3D images of buildings for restoration, renovation or extension purposes, for marine science data capturing out at sea, and for marine and land surveys, such as dolphin, penguin, rhino and elephant surveys, or to monitor livestock and help prevent stock theft."

He explains that crime scene drones that take high quality footage have been used globally in the military and by security companies for years. "Our innovation is that instead of a person going to the hot spot and piloting the drone from there, it is completely automated from the time the alarm is triggered.

"It would naturally require permission from the authorities,

but for now we're developing the technology. One of our master's students in the MAO Group, Benjamin Nelson, is focusing his research on this and it should be ready by the end of this year."

Currently, it is the permit aspect in South Africa that is impeding the harnessing of the full potential of drones, not the technology, as the South African Civil Aviation Authority

(SACAA) stipulates that an RPAS Operating Certificate is required, together with certified drones and drone pilots.

No commercial drone permits have been granted to any university in South Africa or any company in the Eastern Cape, and MAO has applied to have Nelson Mandela University certified - but the process can take up to two years.

“Our innovation is that instead of a person going to the hot spot and piloting the drone from there, it is completely automated from the time the alarm is triggered.”



FrankenDrone

Mooney explains that drones are increasingly used for package deliveries to remote locations, replacing costly helicopters or aeroplanes. MAO master's student, James Sewell, is working on "FrankenDrone" – an autonomous aircraft that can deliver a package to the deck of moving ships out at sea, since these do not have the ability to stop easily. FrankenDrone uses stereographic cameras to determine how fast the ship is travelling, enabling an accurate "bomb drop". Sewell will complete his project at the end of this year.

"FrankenDrone, which spans four metres across and has both a fuel and electric motor, can be rapidly deployed, with a 5kg payload capacity," Mooney explains. "It was manufactured in 2017 by one of the exchange students in the EBEIT Faculty's Renewable Energy Lab - Sebastian Pietzka from Reutlingen University in Germany - and its flight potential is now being taken further.

"I named it FrankenDrone because there is a lot of mixing and matching of parts. Despite its looks, it's such a practical drone – each side is an independent aircraft with its own power, control surfaces and receiver modules. It's effectively two aircraft flying in tight formation, which means if there is a fault on one side, it can still fly the mission."

MAO and Marine Science

Moving on to gliders, or AUVs, the MAO Group is working with marine scientist, Professor Mike Roberts, who is leading a new research chair, called the UK-SA Bilateral Chair in Ocean Science and Marine Food Security, based at Nelson Mandela University's new Ocean Sciences Campus.

The joint hosts of the Chair are 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).

"Automated subsea gliders, which are about 3.5m long and weigh a few hundred kilograms, are currently

used to gather critical deep-sea ocean information, such as ocean physics and upwelling, which directly underpins marine food security," Mooney explains.

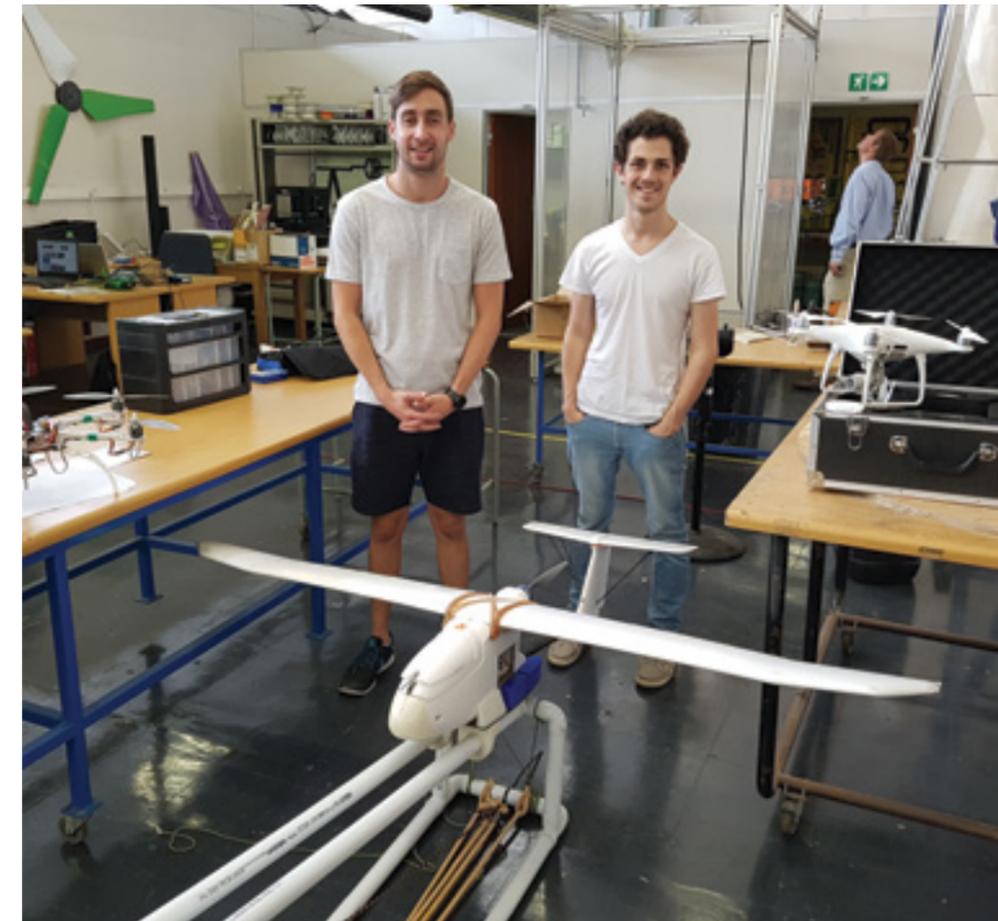
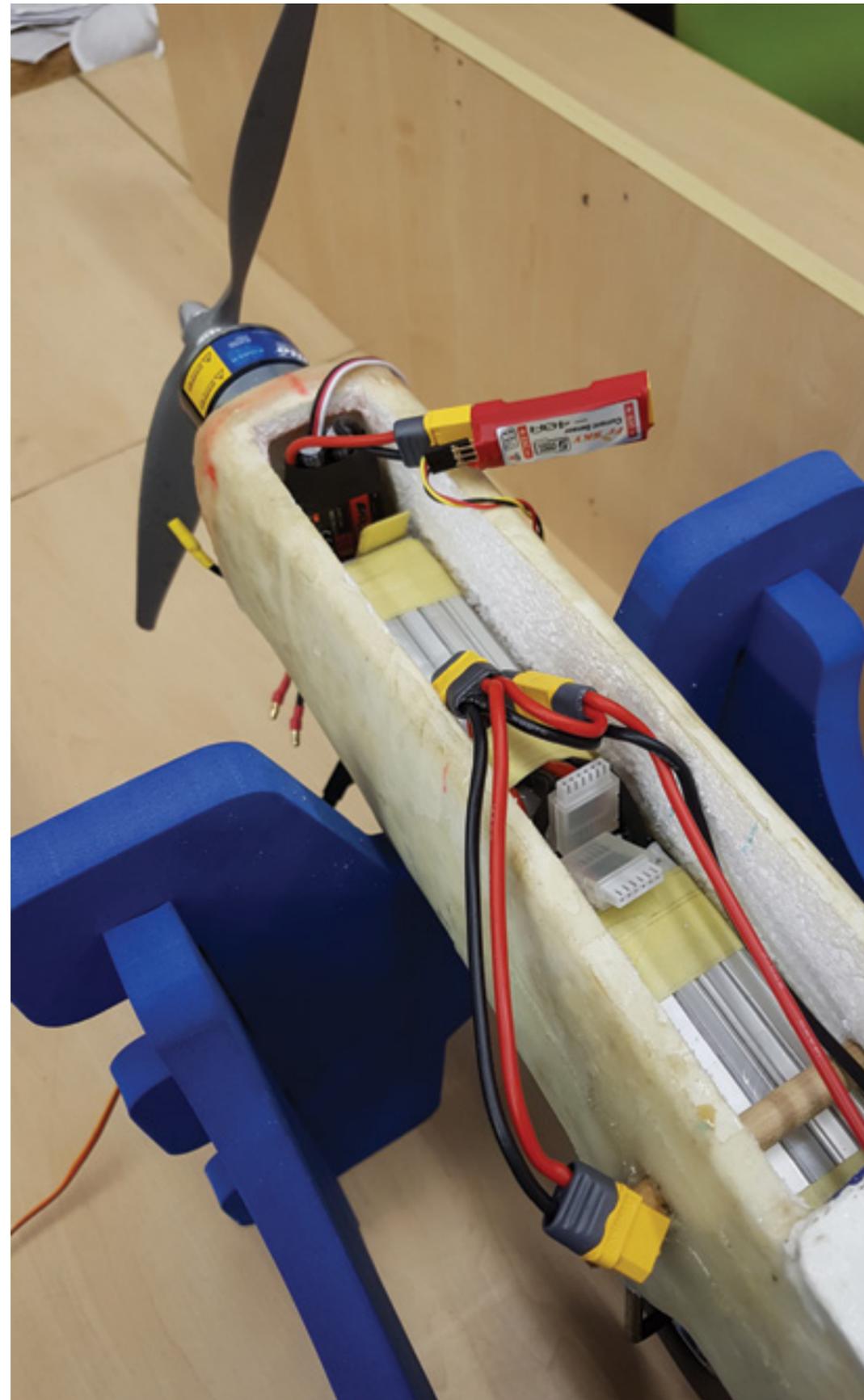
The most serious food security problem on the planet is in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO), which extends all the way up the eastern coast of Africa, including Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and the island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and Réunion.

"At present the data being captured is from gliders and sensors weighing anything from a few hundred kilograms to tons," says Mooney. "The logistics of getting these sensors out to sea often involves international research ship support, which is extremely costly and time consuming. Prof Roberts and his team have very limited access to research ships and gliders in South Africa and the WIO African coastal countries because of restricted budgets.

"Our goal is to come up with a lightweight alternative, with smaller sensors, that we can get out to sea without ships. We are using this as an opportunity to innovate a giant leap in technology, in a similar way that limited hardware telephone infrastructure led to African countries developing some of the world's most advanced cellphone networks.

"Instead of trying to get a few big sensors that do all the work out at sea from ships, our research is about deploying large numbers of lighter, smaller sensors that can be transported in packs and deployed by airborne drones or smaller autonomous surface vessels. Instead of one autonomous glider or heavy sensor bundle trying to gather multiple types of data, each small sensor will have one very focused task to keep it small and transportable."

The possibility of having drones (surface or airborne) that remain on task for days at a time and act as relays back to home stations means the small sensors would also not need to carry and power bulky satellite communication modules; they could have smaller, efficient WiFi-style



MAO Group's Master's students are working on a range of drones and gliders with unique applications.

modules and transmit much larger data packages back to base through the relay and bypass the satellite communications.

Mooney explains that a drone such as FrankenDrone can also operate as a relay station for the sea gliders, essentially acting as an airborne WiFi relay tower system: "Most gliders currently work on the iridium satellite system. When they go down to depths of 6000m, for example, there is no communication. When the glider returns to the surface, it has an antenna and it tries to make a link with the iridium satellite network, but it is not efficient, as this satellite system was developed in the 1970s; so it is a bit like an old-fashioned dial-up modem.

"Researchers are therefore not getting rapid information, or information in the detail they need,

and it is also very expensive, so our idea is the cost-effective WiFi type system – which can feed real-time information – with the glider being programmed to deliver bigger data packages far more frequently.

"One of our students is currently working on a solar-powered system where FrankenDrone's wings are solar-powered by day and battery operated by night so that it can serve as an airborne communication station for days at a time."

Mooney is confident about the team's contribution to this rapidly expanding technology field.

"Our ultimate goal at Nelson Mandela University is to support our researchers and partners in the marine sector by developing and making available gliders and sensors that are suited to South African and African challenges." **HD**



Unique degree builds university leaders

As universities work towards transforming their curricula, culture and other aspects foregrounded by the #FeesMustFall movement, along with global shifts in higher education, there is an urgent need for high-level administrators able to respond to such changes, writes Nicky Willemse.

In pursuit of finding the best leaders and game-changers on the road to transformation, Nelson Mandela University – in partnership with the University of Bath in England, and with funding from the Department of Higher Education and Training – is running South Africa’s first Doctor of Business Administration in Higher Education Management (DBA-HEM), with a student component comprising over 50 senior managers from 25 of the country’s 26 universities.

Among them is Mandela University’s Eunice “Champ” Champion, an Academic Staff Development Professional from the Centre for Teaching and Learning and Media (CTLM), who joined the DBA programme “to be exposed to the latest global trends and knowledge ... and empowered to deal with the latest issues in the higher education arena”.

Says Champion: “Globally, higher education is operating in a complex environment. There are expectations that higher education [should] improve access and student experience [and] increase performance and accountability, while [also] keeping pace with the dynamic changes of information and technology and preparing students for work [in a world] where employment patterns are changing drastically.

“These challenges and changes make the higher education landscape fluid and unpredictable.”



Top: GROWING LEADERS: Over 50 senior managers from 25 South African universities make up the two cohorts of students who are completing South Africa’s first Doctor of Business Administration in Higher Education Management (DBA-HEM), run by Nelson Mandela University in partnership with the University of Bath, England. The first graduates in the programme, which began in 2016, are expected in 2020. Leading the programme are Mandela University’s Prof Cheryl Foxcroft (front, second from right) and the University of Bath’s (front, from left) Jackie Dannatt, Prof Jurgen Enders, Prof Rajani Naidoo, and (front, right) Prof Robin Shields.

Insert: EMPOWERED: Eunice “Champ” Champion, an Academic Staff Development Professional from the Centre for Teaching and Learning and Media (CTLM), is one of three DBA-HEM students from Nelson Mandela University. The other two are Dr Ruby-Ann Levendal, Director of Transformation, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Prof Enaleen Draai, an Associate Professor within the Department of Public Management and Leadership.

Champion, who joined the programme in 2016 among the first of two cohorts of students, says the new DBA-HEM had equipped her with the mechanisms to respond to these challenges as a “reflexive transformative leader, willing and able to lead in a complex environment”.

The DBA-HEM is conducted online and via four week-long contact sessions – two delivered at the University of Bath and two delivered at Nelson Mandela University – which include: globalisation and higher education (HE) strategy, HE policy and management, HE and organisational change, and methods and methodology for HE research.

“The DBA-HEM is playing a key role in developing management capacity in the higher education sector in South Africa,” explains Nelson Mandela University’s Dean of Teaching and Learning, Prof Cheryl Foxcroft.

“The curriculum consists of core material taught on the DBA global programmes, but also includes specially designed sessions responding to local issues facing higher education in South Africa,” she says.

“The contact-session programmes also feature teambuilding and social events, which are particularly important in the South African programme to develop networks of leaders within the country. Both cohorts maintain active discussions between contact sessions via social media, and students have also organised interim webinars to discuss their assignments.”

The students are required to submit a thesis. For this, Champion has chosen to focus on looking at the students’ lived experiences regarding the assessment of their learning in the higher education context.

She chose this topic because she is “working with the academics on transforming their assessment practices. The students’ lived experiences will inform us about how to transform the assessment practice in a way that will be relevant and responsive to the students’ needs and higher education experience.”

According to Prof Rajani Naidoo, Chair in Higher Education in the University of Bath School of Management and Director of the International Centre for Higher Education Management, universities worldwide “are facing great challenges ... They are expected to contribute to science and social innovation and to solve some of the world’s greatest problems in a context where there are fewer resources and a changing student population. We need a new type of leader who is able to respond to such changes. The South African participants bring in a wealth of expertise and it is a privilege to work with Nelson Mandela University.”

The offering of the DBA-HEM programme to South African students was made possible due to R34m received in two tranches from a Teaching Development Grant, awarded to Mandela University by the DHET.

In addition to the DBA-HEM, the university is exploring the possibility of working with the University of Bath to jointly develop and deliver a master’s degree in Higher Education Management. Planning for this will begin later this year.



PICTURE PERFECT PARTNER: The University of Bath – located in the spa city of Bath, England, a World Heritage Site best known for its Roman-built baths – has partnered with Nelson Mandela University to offer South Africa’s first Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in Higher Education Management. The city of Bath has a distinctive look, with its impressive Georgian architecture, crafted from honey-coloured Bath stone (oolitic limestone).





Faculty focus on access for success

Executive Dean of Science Professor Azwinndini Muronga is dedicated to opening doors for maths and science students from all walks of life.

SCIENCE for ALL

“In my role as a physics researcher, maths and science educator, immediate past President and international liaison councillor of the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP), and Executive Dean of Science at Nelson Mandela University, I am extremely concerned about the state of maths and science education in South Africa,” says Professor Azwinndini Muronga.

He is one of several notable academics making significant strides in furthering the university’s commitment to access for success.

“As academics, we cannot sit back and watch our learners fail at school, fail to gain entrance to university or fail at university. We have therefore introduced several programmes to help change the state of maths and

science education in the Eastern and Southern Cape.”

Prior to joining Nelson Mandela University in 2016, Prof Muronga was the founder and director of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) Soweto Science Centre from 2010 to 2016. His team demonstrated that significant successes in high school maths and science are absolutely possible.

“From 2011 we offered focused maths and science mentoring and inspiration to approximately 1000

Grade 8 – 12 maths and science learners from Soweto and the surrounding areas,” he explains. “Many subsequently matriculated with distinctions in maths and science, contributing to the quality of passes in Soweto, boosting Gauteng’s performance by township schools and the number of university entrants.”

To achieve similar results in the Eastern and Southern Cape, the Faculty of Science at Nelson Mandela University has established its flagship Science Education,

Learner from Triomf Primary, Port Elizabeth, learning how to use a microscope with a physiology student from the Faculty of Science.



2018 National Science Week

During the 2018 National Science Week programme, the Faculty of Science hosted numerous schools from the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, the broader Eastern Cape and George in the Western Cape.

Grade 10 to 12 learners from these schools were invited to participate in a range of Science Week activities such as an InnoVenton campus tour, physics rocket build, organic chemistry lab tour, women in science event and an SA CERN virtual tour. These events highlight science as a potential career path for these learners and what Nelson Mandela University and the faculty offers in the field of science.

The faculty also visited the rural Eastern Cape community of Mvezo, birthplace of Nelson Mandela, and engaged with learners from the Mandela School of Science and Technology and several rural Eastern Cape schools. The faculty also visited schools in George and the surrounding townships.

Above: Faculty of Science learner engagement in the chemistry lab. **Right:** Geosciences student from the Faculty of Science teaching learners in Mvezo how to read maps. **Below:** 2018 National Science Week programme physics rocket build

Communication, and Outreach Programme (SECOP), which focuses on science education from Grade R learners to undergraduate university students, with outreach programmes for learners, teachers and communities across the Eastern Cape, starting with schools in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro and in the rural communities of Mvezo, Cala and Cofimvaba. This is part of the faculty's Engagement Strategy.

In its re-accrual and programme review, the Faculty of Science is focusing on ensuring that all students are able to access the diverse range of programmes offered and to articulate these into various career paths as necessitated by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. An example of this re-accrual is the expansion of the current BSc extended studies programme (four-year BSc degree) to

cover all the streams in the faculty in line with the three-year BSc degree programme.

At the final year BSc and postgraduate level, Prof Muronga, through the National Institute of Theoretical Physics Internship Programme (NITheP), runs workshops during the university holidays for final-year BSc students majoring in mathematical and physical sciences, and physics postgraduate students from throughout South Africa, many from rural areas.

These students will join the global science community.

The university, through the Faculty of Science, is now an affiliate of the International Undergraduate Awards, and the Faculty of Science is participating in the awards to encourage a culture of excellence in its undergraduate students.

Clever chess couple a match made in heaven

FIRST-YEAR BA Media Communications and Culture students Charlize van Zyl, 19, and Sahaj Grover, 23, may come from different sides of the globe – but their shared love for chess has brought them together.

The couple, who have been dating for over a year, are both formidable chess players, with Grover winning the University Sports South Africa (USSA) men's open in July this year, and Van Zyl coming second in the USSA women's open.

Born and raised in New Delhi, India, Grover is the highest-rated player in South Africa, having won the South African Open in 2017 and 2018. He is also the only Grandmaster – the highest title a chess player can attain – living in this country.

"My best achievement was getting a bronze medal in the World Junior Championships (under-20) in 2011," he says.

"My current goal is to increase my [skill-level] rating from 2511 to 2600." The reigning world champ, Norway's Magnus Carlsen, has a rating of 2839 points.

Van Zyl, who matriculated from Collegiate Girls' High School last year, was the top woman in the South African Open earlier this year – and was selected for the South African women's team competing in the 2018 World Olympiad Chess Championship held in Batumi, Georgia from 22 September to 5 October.

"This was one of my highest achievements as it is one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world."

Another major career highlight was in 2013, when she won the African Zonals 4.3 – and made history as the youngest South African to attain the title of Woman International Master.

"My goal is to become the best



Checkmate!

female player in South Africa."

The couple first met at the 2013 Commonwealth Chess Championships, held in Port Elizabeth.

"Sahaj moved here in December 2017. He helps me in my chess career and I help him in his academics since we are both studying for the same qualification. We plan on travelling to many more tournaments across the world in the future and, to me, it does not get any better than that," says Van Zyl.

Nelson Mandela University sport manager Melissa Awu said Madibaz Chess was typically placed among the top eight in the USSA chess tournaments. "This year, we were second, which was amazing. Charlize and Sahaj have definitely boosted the confidence of the players, and they also assist with the coaching."

Making all the right moves in varsity chess are Nelson Mandela University first-year students Sahaj Grover (above, left), from New Delhi, India, and Charlize van Zyl (right), from Nelson Mandela Bay.

LUXURY AFRICA

– MAXHOSA BY LADUMA

Living by design

Africa lives and breathes in the hypnotic designs of alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo and his iconic brand, writes Heather Dugmore.



Laduma Ngxokolo wearing his international African brand. © Laduma Ngxokolo

You can see the first light of day on the tips of the cattle's horns; hear the downtown hustle and chants of Xhosa ancestors; feel the rolling rhythms of the Eastern Cape; touch the pulse of the world: London, Paris, Milan, New York, Berlin, Amsterdam, Oslo, Tokyo, Cape Town, Joburg.

All this is experienced through the hypnotic garments and designs of MaXhosa by Laduma, the global African brand that alumnus Laduma Ngxokolo created in 2010 as a student in the School of Music, Art and Design (SoMAD). Six years later, he was attributed with having created "the most beautiful object in South Africa" at the 2016 Design Indaba Conference in Cape Town.

Today, he's a wanted man; the world desires a part of him, and his brand is on an unstoppable flightpath. Laduma's inspiration is his Xhosa lineage, which is why he keeps on producing from South African soil.

Homegrown hero

An Mpondo descendant, he grew up in Kwadwesi, a predominantly Xhosa township in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, where he recognised the uniqueness of Xhosa culture, and embarked on his creative journey of reimagining traditional Xhosa design into 21st century, high-trend wear. This happens from his downtown Joburg studio, which lies alongside the Nelson Mandela Bridge connecting Braamfontein to Newtown.

As a student, Laduma's inspiration for his business was his mother. "My mom was a knitwear designer in the eighties. I learnt from her and she was the main influence in everything that I do. Initially my range was all about survival as we had to make ends meet after my father left in 1990. Back then, it was difficult as a man to expose what I do, as there was a gender stigma about knitwear, but I needed to test my brand on myself and so I would fit the garments on myself and then wear them and see how people responded. Some people were surprised, but far more people were supportive."

He has always had an eye for design. "There is such beauty in this



© Trevor Stuurman

“Today, he's a wanted man; the world desires a part of him, and his international African brand is on an unstoppable flightpath.”

country. It hit me when I first saw traditional Xhosa beadwork from the 1800s. It spoke of what Africa is about – the traditional aesthetic, the pride, the flamboyance and extravagance. In Xhosa beadwork, it is reflected in the way that colours are used, the patterns and the spacing between.”

What pleases him is that the African aesthetic is increasingly becoming globally appealing. "It is completely possible for us to compete with other global aesthetics, and to have African design up there on the global map," he explains. "My team and I have worked hard to get to this level with my brand, and the pressure is huge to maintain our high standards, keep on top of our game and expand the platform for other top African brands."

The master at work

MaXhosa by Laduma personifies luxury and quality, and his collections are created by a core team of 30, including five master knitters working on industrial-scale machines, hand sewers, quality checkers, retailers, marketers and administrators.

"My team, which includes three of my siblings, works really hard at every level. You have to give your all to get somewhere, and young South Africans need to realise this. I haven't got free time, I haven't even got the time for a relationship, so I'm single and my social life revolves around my work and my team; we mostly attend shows and exhibitions together, sometimes in different parts of the country, and that's when we take a day off and make a weekend of it."

Apart from the Eastern Cape, Durban – and specifically KwaMashu – is his favourite destination. "It's interesting and unusual, I like the music, the dance and the culture there and I like the way that people present themselves," says Laduma, who listens to house music, which relaxes him while he works. Black Coffee and Heavy K are two of his favourites.

What stands out about Laduma, in addition to his talent, is his capacity for hard work: "When I was at the university, I would work on my courses seven days a week, making sure I got my money's worth, using the

computers there and learning as much as I could. Finance was very limited; I had a NSFAS loan and I lived at home with my late mom, who was a single parent," he explains.

It takes a village

Laduma regards the #FeesMustFall movement and fee-free higher education for students from



Recognising the uniqueness of his work, in 2012 Nelson Mandela University awarded Laduma the University Rising Star Award. The necessity of protecting his Intellectual Property (IP) was also recognised, with the Innovation Office filing design registrations for Laduma in 2011, which were transferred to him in 2015. The Innovation Office further helped him to develop his label through its entrepreneurial business incubator for the arts called the MAD Propella – a satellite of the university's technology and business incubator, Propella.

households earning less than R350 000 annually as “a great evolution for the country that should have been implemented years ago.”

He is confident that these developments will have a positive impact on black South African youth: “It all starts with resources, because with limited resources you can only do so much. Of course, there are people who have achieved a lot with nothing, but if we want to see substantive change amongst large numbers of students, then they need access to resources like transport or something to eat on a daily basis, or a budget to do their projects, or access to the internet.

“On top of this, they have to work hard and think entrepreneurially. South Africa has such a high unemployment rate that students need to think ahead about starting something of their own. I think entrepreneurialism should be a compulsory subject for every university student, irrespective of what they are studying.”



VIVA AFRICA!

Nelson Mandela University celebrated Africa Day on 25 May, with various departments presenting an African-inspired programme to educate, motivate and inspire staff, students and the public about our continent’s rich history – and future.

The Office for International Education (OIE) hosted its annual African Cultural Day and Market on South Campus.

Staff and students set up stalls to sell their own uniquely crafted African arts and crafts merchandise, including handbags, jewellery, ethnic clothing, hair and skin products.

The market provided young entrepreneurs with a platform on campus to display and market their small businesses.

Live performances by student artists entertained crowds with singing, dancing and poetry, while interactive drumming, facilitated by African Drumbeat, encouraged audience participation.

Colourful African flags and décor inside the Rendezvous Café and a lunch buffet menu consisting of a variety of traditional African dishes from various parts of the continent, complemented the day.

Growing the global footprint

Initially, MaXhosa garments were exclusively made from the Eastern Cape’s natural fibres - wool and mohair – but Laduma has since expanded into cotton, silk and printed polyester. “I don’t limit myself and I see myself ultimately building an African luxury group with other brands that are globally received and easy to commercialise, including Africa-inspired modern furniture and jewellery lines,” he explains.

He chose Joburg as the headquarters for MaXhosa by Laduma “because Joburg is the centre of Africa and my studio is part of a very creative downtown community that includes Braamfontein, Newtown and Maboneng. The diversity in Joburg is very important for my brand, as it reflects South African culture in its fullest capacity and is one of the best cities in the world for entrepreneurs, a city of opportunity.”

He adds that the vivid influences of many different African cultures

are omnipresent in Joburg, all contributing to its character. “What excites me is that over the past eight years I’ve seen significant growth in the arts, music and design in the African diaspora and within Africa. I travel to other African countries more often than I ever did – I’ve been to Cameroon, Rwanda, Morocco, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria, Lesotho, amongst others, mostly to do group fashion shows.

“The feeling of being in other African countries is an amazing eye opener. Our infrastructure in South Africa is far better, our diversity is dynamic and we have access to outstanding universities, products, services, opportunities, lifestyles and entertainment.”

Being an international design icon has not dimmed his love affair with his home country – in fact, quite the opposite.

“Travel makes me value being South African more than ever. You realise that this is such a special country in which to live.”



© Trevor Stuurman

SA animation studio is a rising star

The **TRIGGERFISH** effect

The story of local boy turned animation kingpin, Stuart Forrest's story is one of happenstance to Hollywood, writes Heather Dugmore.

"When I went for the aptitude test and interest questionnaire at the then PE Technikon, the result was pretty flat; it said I didn't have an aptitude for anything specific. Art came up slightly higher than anything else, and that's what I did." So began the journey of fine art alumnus Stuart Forrest (National Diploma Fine Art – Sculpture, 1995, BTech Fine Art, 1996).

Today, Forrest is the CEO of Africa's leading animation house – the Cape Town-based Triggerfish Animation Studios, www.triggerfish.com, which has produced two of South Africa's most globally successful films, *Adventures in Zambezia* (2012) and *Khumba* (2013).

"Hollywood is actually very small when you get to know how it works, as 80% of films are managed by six companies," says Forrest, whose team of over 100 computer animators, computer modellers, lighters, riggers, programmers and administrators are heads down creating feature animations for the world.

Triggerfish is booked up for the next five years, working on projects for both cinema and a string of TV series. Today, it's all part of a day's work to be talking to Sony, Warner Bros, Disney, Paramount and Universal in Hollywood, or the BBC.

"I didn't ever expect this path; it has a lot to do with right place, right time," says Forrest. "In 2006, the team at Triggerfish started developing our first feature film animation script. At the same time, the South African government recognised



Stick Man, produced by Triggerfish, Africa's leading animation studio. Photos supplied



Revolting Rhymes



Khumba

that animation was a fast-growing industry worldwide and wanted to invest in South African animation houses to grow the industry here. We were the most viable option as we had already raised money to produce some of our work, and the government was very good to us."

Right place, right time means nothing, however, without a special skill or product, combined with perseverance and persistence, as Forrest explains: "I try to convey this to younger people; if you can come up with at least one audacious goal and spend 20 years developing yourself single-mindedly in that direction, the odds are high that you will achieve a strong measure of success. I've followed this path and achieved far more than I could ever have imagined."

Workday web designer, after hours animator

Forrest discovered clay animation as a student. "It interested me because it was a combination of writing, photography, sculpture and storytelling," he explains. After graduating, he went overseas, got into IT, worked as a web developer and kept up his animation after hours. He returned to South Africa in 1998, moved to Cape Town and after winning a 30-second animation advert for a Multichoice competition, was offered a job by Triggerfish. This led to him becoming a partner in the company and taking over the running of it as CEO in 2004.

Fifteen years later, Triggerfish is dripping with awards, the latest being their 2018 International Emmy for their production of Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*, as well as an Oscar nomination for that show.

"We're getting a lot of recognition for our work, but it's been a long journey of building our name and reputation, and attending many, many meetings to secure funding and establish suitable partnerships and funding models. Triggerfish films have grossed over R1 billion worldwide, but we reinvest all profits into the development of the business and we have been in the red for a very long time. I think the business will finally be okay next year. We're excited because we're finally seeing the seeds bearing fruit after so many years of rigorous sowing.

"What has been crucial to our success is that our whole business is very much a team effort. We have fantastic people and everyone gives their all. We also have five hands-on business partners, as well as advisors in London and Los



Revolting Rhymes

Triggerfish is dripping with awards, the latest being their 2018 International Emmy and Oscar nomination for Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*"

Angeles and we carry each other in the tough times."

Forrest says the cinema-going audience for big feature films is not growing in size but it is growing in revenue as ticket prices go up, with 80% of the market in Europe and America, and some territory growth into China and Russia.



The Highway Rat



Stuart Forrest

Looking to the future of TV content distribution, he says non-traditional distribution models like Netflix are the way. "They are subscriber-based and targeting niche content, whereas the other traditional model channels are looking for the widest possible audience, as their programmes are ratings-driven, with ratings determining what you can charge for commercials."

African stories, African sensitivity

Currently, Triggerfish is developing African stories, rooted in African mythology or with a strong African sensitivity that they recreate in a contemporary way. "*Black Panther* has done a great deal for African filmmaking and we are riding its coat tails," he explains. "There is so much interest in Africa now, and what *Black Panther* did was to shift the narrative of Africa from a story about starvation and fighting to one in which Africa helps everyone else and is the hero of the day – it shifts socio-political thinking and opens enormous opportunity here in South Africa and throughout the continent."

In 2014, Triggerfish ran a competition on the continent in partnership with Disney, looking for storytelling talent. The entrants were required to submit African-focused content for a feature film or TV series, and they received nearly 1400 submissions from 42 countries. They chose eight, which are going into production over the next few years.

"We are constantly looking for the animators of tomorrow," says Forrest. "At the moment we are challenging anyone under the age of 20 who lives in Africa to create an animated story, post it on YouTube and send it to us. Every month we're showcasing the best beginner animations on our Facebook and YouTube channels, which offers great exposure and they can win prizes."

To contribute to developing the next generation of animators, Triggerfish has a non-profit component that stimulates an interest in animation for learners at under-resourced schools in Cape Town, and raises money for bursaries in animation. "There are so many incredibly talented kids who have no idea that they can make a good living out of animation, and we want to help young artists achieve this and access the digital economy."

Many of the schools do not have computers or software but Triggerfish overcomes this by getting kids to develop animation skills on smartphones. From 2019 the company will be providing free online materials that schools can use to teach animation.

Forrest believes that animation plays a socially influential role, especially for young people in the current political climate, as it brings together divergent groups through storytelling.

"We're at a stage in history where the need for intercultural empathy has become a big world problem. The need to connect with other cultures who have a different viewpoint is probably one of the most pressing political problems we have today.

"The time is right to leverage animation to address this, as diversity is resonating in the market today and animation is such a strong way to bring our diverse stories to the world."



AGE OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber
CEO Nomkhita Mona is a team player
with big ideas.

When Nomkhita Mona left Nelson Mandela University 18 years ago, armed with an

MA in Labour Relations and Human Resources, she was determined to leave meaningful footprints in both her community and beyond.

Her appointment as CEO of the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber in December 2017 was symbolic of what she wanted to achieve during this, her "age of significance."

That Mona is significant is beyond question. At only 52 years old, she has clocked up decades of business acumen. Her appointment is a coup for the region and its community.

"This 'age of significance' is partly linked to my years on planet earth, but it is more about my ability to add value at this stage of my career through all the experience I have gained," says Mona, who also holds a BA in Industrial Relations (Nelson Mandela University) and an MBA from

Rhodes University. Prior to this, she was the Group CEO of the South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL) in Gauteng. "After being away for five years, I returned to Port Elizabeth and found that, while a few good developments have taken place here, overall, the city or metro seems to have stagnated; it hasn't moved forward at the same pace as other South African cities."

Beset with burdensome bureaucracy and political power struggles, the city of Port Elizabeth, with everything that it has going for it, is not yet achieving anything near its potential. "All the different sectors and divisions in the city - from the municipality to state-owned companies, like Transnet, to the business sector - are largely doing their own thing without synergising, and therefore the centre cannot hold," Mona explains. "We need to bring it all together, and I would like to use my tenure here to achieve this, with the Business Chamber as catalyst for a new era for the city."

She is well acquainted with the metro and its needs, having served in years past as the Deputy President of the Nelson Mandela Bay Chamber of Commerce, former CEO of the Eastern

Cape Tourism Board and, more recently, the former CEO of Uitenhage Despatch Development Initiative (UDDI).

With over 700 member companies in the Chamber, she says the Board has strategically amended the Chamber's strategy to focus on the primary sectors that are essential to taking the city forward, namely, the automotive sector, light manufacturing, agro-processing, tourism, the blue economy and the creative industries.

"The Business Chamber strategy is based on the Triple Helix model - which depicts the relationship between government, academia and business. Towards this, we have signed an MOU with the city and Nelson Mandela University to collaborate at every level. This includes creating a one-stop shop for new business and investment promotion as, once again, there are far too many disparate departments and divisions involved in this process, which makes it complex, protracted and investor unfriendly."

She refers to the World Bank



Port Elizabeth then and now – the only city in South Africa with two ports

measure of Ease of Doing Business in any city, including, for example, how long it takes to have electricity connected, how long it takes to have building plans approved, and how easy it is to set up a business in the city.

"We applied the measures to Port Elizabeth and we did not look good. In response, the Business Chamber has set up a help desk for business and potential investors, and we facilitate the process with the metro. We are also recommending to the city management that they create pre-approved zones for business to make it easier for potential investors. And we are researching who owns all the buildings along the highway and why the basic bylaws of maintaining the buildings are not being enforced."

Sector-wise, Mona describes the automotive sector as the city's "backbone", and says it needs to be broadened and deepened by increasing the number of components that are locally produced and assembled, and responding proactively to the world's electric vehicle (EV) future and associated

"I was born in Port Elizabeth; it is where my umbilical cord is buried and I feel I am now at an 'age of significance' to make a tangible contribution to my city and its people."

industry.

As a motor manufacturing hub, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, which includes Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, is an ideal location for EV growth. EVs are not yet manufactured in South Africa and the supply chain for manufacturing needs to be developed. The global growth of electric vehicles includes the aligned demand for a crucial component: lithium-ion batteries. This would necessarily include the main global players in lithium-ion batteries, such as Panasonic, Samsung and LG.

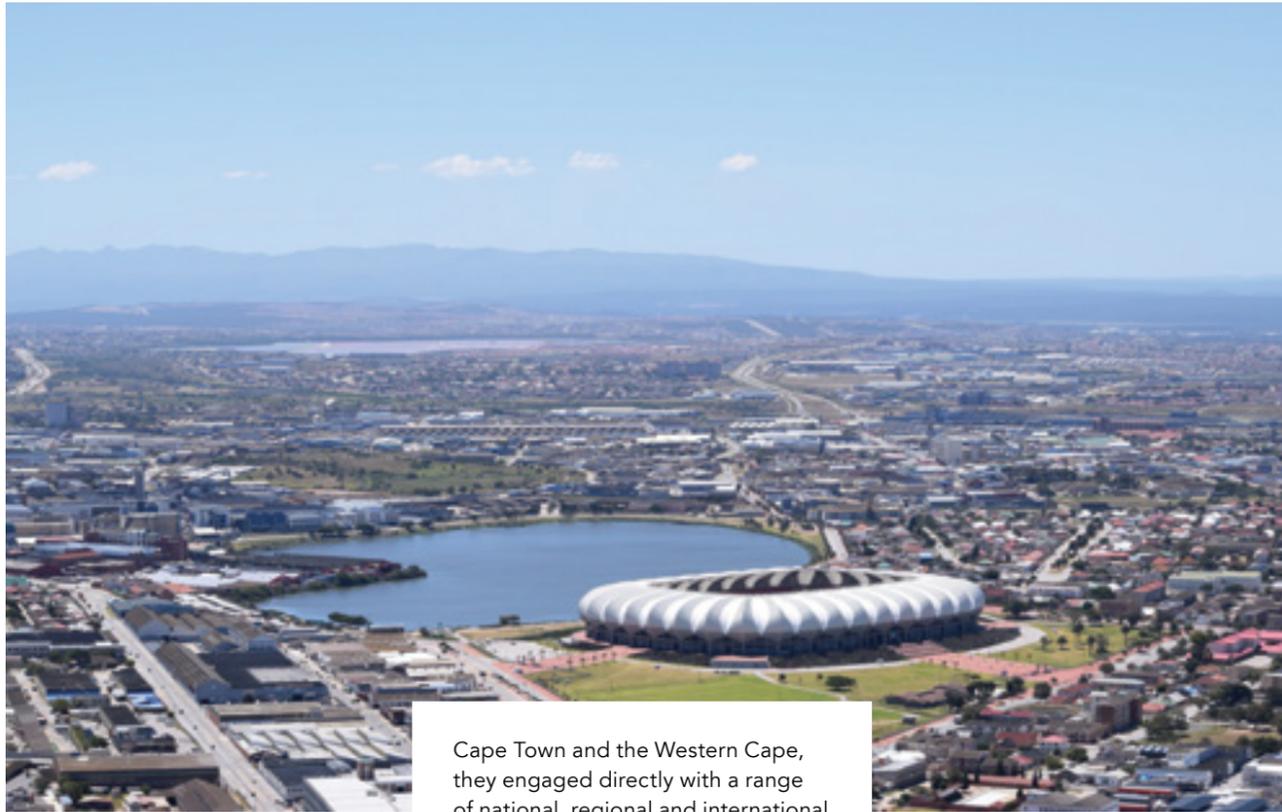
Africa's first internationally accredited testing facility for lithium-ion batteries is situated at Nelson Mandela University. This has been achieved through the uYilo eMobility Technology Innovation Programme, situated within the university's engineering, innovation and engagement entity, eNtsa, which spans a number of disciplines, including engineering, information technology and chemistry.



Nomkhita Mona



Photo supplied



Cape Town and the Western Cape, they engaged directly with a range of national, regional and international airlines to expand the number of flights landing in Cape Town. We are collaborating with Air Access – a division of Wesgro – in the same way, to open up our skies in Port Elizabeth.”

CITY OF OPPORTUNITY: featuring the 46 000-seater Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

Partners in progress

Mona emphasises the synergy with Nelson Mandela University in many of the Business Chamber’s key focus sectors, including the marine and maritime sector, with the launch of the new Ocean Sciences Campus in 2017, as well as the university’s tourism management programmes.

“We are prioritising tourism, as the city is well placed to step it up to the next level, and create more jobs in the quickest possible time.

“We are partnering with the university in tourism research, as well as doing our own internal research, to identify key tourism projects that could change the face of the city. We are looking at the city’s assets and capacity, to assist in marketing our city for conferences. This includes identifying the attractions the city and surrounding region offers, and addressing core challenges, such as ease of air access.

“For starters, we need more flights coming to Port Elizabeth. If you look at Wesgro, the official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency for

Fortunately, the metro also recognises the importance of having more flights into the city. To this end, a new MOU between the Business Chamber, Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism, Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) and the metro has been signed. This will govern the ‘air lift’ strategy for the city. It’s a fine concept but regrettably also a catch-22, as it is only when more flights start landing in Port Elizabeth that ACSA can release the capital required to develop and upgrade the airport, explains Mona.

The Bay’s new business boss is sensitive to the people of Port Elizabeth’s fatigue with the city’s endless plans and tourism talk but not enough action backing it, including the promise of the waterfront development, which never materialises. “I have been closely engaging with Coega and Transnet about the delay in this project and to identify why Transnet

“The city centre [has gone to] rack and ruin. We cannot simply accept this; we need a rejuvenation programme that includes tackling the crime and grime.”

has not prioritised the removal of the manganese, iron ore and oil tanks from the beachfront, which is required ahead of any new development.

“We are engaging with Transnet in a ‘cooperative confrontation’ manner. I feel the city needs to start agitating and making sure our voice is heard and that we are taken seriously at a national level. We are the only city in the country with two ports and we should be thriving with the associated businesses, including shipbuilding and ship repairs.

“We are simply not leveraging what we have, nor our name as the only metro in the world named after Nelson Mandela. I have travelled to six of the world’s seven continents and I have never come across anyone who does not recognise Nelson Mandela in a positive way. We are not making the best of this unique branding and marketing opportunity. We also need more Mandela-honouring attractions, such as a giant Nelson Mandela monument, akin to the Statue of Liberty. Tourists want this kind of attraction.”

Mona adds that people also need to know that Nelson Mandela University – the only university in the world to carry Mandela’s name – is in the city. “When I think of Nelson Mandela University I think of Harvard. I want people to dream of being able to attend Nelson Mandela University, and, as a city, we need to play our

part in promoting the stature of the university and what it offers,” she says.

A thriving university needs a thriving city and atmosphere, and a tangible sense of growth and opportunity. In order to grow business in the city and enhance job opportunities, the Business Chamber has recognised small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs) as a focus area.

“We are partnering with the Nelson Mandela Business School in our Enterprise Development Programme, with a range of small business owners undergoing training and development at the Business School.

“We are also partnering with the National Department of Trade and Industry in taking SMMEs on a trade mission to Lower Saxony, Germany, in a wide range of sectors, including clothing and textiles, agro-processing, engineering services, tourism, the blue economy, chemicals and related industries, information technology, film, TV and multimedia.

“This business growth drive is predominantly aimed at an exchange of ideas, business linkages and hopefully to establish export partnerships,” she explains.

“In another effort to support SMMEs, we invited a large number of incubators and development funding institutions in the City to present to our SMME task team. The list of

“As a motor manufacturing hub, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro ... is an ideal location for electric vehicle growth.”

incubators includes SEDA, SEFA, ABSA Enterprise Development, SED ICT (now NMB I-Hub) the National Youth Development Agency, AIDC EC Enterprise Development, Propella, Harambe, ECDC and Chemin.” Another major skills development area in the city is the artisan sector, including artisans for ship repairs and other marine and maritime industry skills, as well as plumbers, carpenters,



As a motor manufacturing hub, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, is an ideal location for Electric Vehicle (EV) growth, and the university’s uYilo Programme is working with industry and government to achieve this.



The Donkin Reserve, located in Port Elizabeth Central.

boilermakers, welders and electricians.

“These are vital skills and young people need to start seeing them as aspirational careers that can open up a whole lot of opportunities.”

A range of task teams have been appointed by the Business Chamber to manage its priority portfolios, including Strategic Resources (Water and Electricity), SMMEs, Roads and Stormwater and Transport and Logistics, she explains.

“The task teams are very vocal about what the city needs and they present well-conceived ideas to the metro on various matters and to the likes of Eskom on electricity-related matters. Water-wise, we have identified water as a critical resource both for business and life in general. Our goal is to influence the attitude to water utilisation, so as to ensure the city has water in the long-term.

“The municipality loses a lot of water through leakages and we cannot afford this – both in monetary terms as well as from a water scarcity perspective. We also take a keen interest in what happens at the city centre, which [has gone to] rack and

“**It's really a place where you can grow your investment, and get value for money wherever you live”**”

ruin. We cannot simply accept this; we need a rejuvenation programme that includes tackling the crime and grime.”

While the city centre is far from desirable in its current state, Nelson Mandela Bay Metro offers incredible, affordable homes and properties for a wide range of incomes. “It’s really a place where you can grow your investment, and get value for money wherever you live,” says Mona, who was born and bred in Kwazakhele and now lives in Summerstrand.

“I still visit Kwazakhele and I know many people from there who do not have formal education and have still achieved success in business and life. There are many avenues to achieve one’s goals, but from a young age I valued education.

“I recognised that it plays a huge role in opening doors for whatever you want to do in life, not only from an academic point of view but also to develop as a socially aware, conscious human being. I’m proud to be a graduate of what is now Nelson Mandela University. It has afforded me an incredible life journey.”



Laws needed on **RACIST SPEECH**

In an increasingly divided South African society, government must urgently enact legislation to address – and control – racist speech, says Dr Joanna Botha, Head of Public Law at Nelson Mandela University’s Faculty of Law. Botha, an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, wrote her LLD thesis, *Hate Speech as a Limitation to Freedom of Expression*, on this contentious, highly relevant topic.

Society is becoming increasingly polarised by racist speech. Fresh cases involving racial slurs occur weekly.

Kessie Nair recently used the “k-word” to label President Ramaphosa. Nair has been charged with *crimen injuria*. In August, Adam Catzavelos posted a Facebook video (strangely reminiscent of Penny Sparrow’s 2015 “beach monkey” post), using the “k-word” to describe the demographics of a Greek beach. Last week, a Hot91.9fm DJ, Sasha Martinego, was fired for referring to Julius Malema as a monkey during a broadcast. Martinego has apologised, but has since tweeted: “I’m sorry ... but ... Anyone, irrespective of their race ... who disrespects a woman is a monkey.” The EFF has retaliated. It will be pursuing a criminal case against Martinego, because “racists belong in jail”.

Most speakers face criminal charges or lose their jobs. Speakers generally apologise. Some do so unreservedly; others add the “I’m not a racist” rider. These apologies have little impact. The damage is done.

The public reaction has been interesting. We have witnessed widespread condemnation. This is indicative of a society maturing and beginning to appreciate the harm caused by racist speech – to the victims and to the constitutional vision of a united and diverse nation. We haven’t reached a stage, however, where public condemnation is sufficient to censor racist speech. A legal response is required.

Confusion is also a common reaction. Many people fail to appreciate that it is deeply offensive to refer to an African person as a “monkey”. Lack of exposure to sensitisation initiatives exacerbates the problem. The policymakers and the law are partly to blame. The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, 2000 (the Equality Act) contains a chapter obliging promotional and educational measures to overcome hate speech and discrimination. Government hasn’t enacted this chapter, despite calls for it to do so. Government should wait no longer.

Other people complain that only the white racists are exposed. They forget, however, that the SAHRC has referred BLF leader Andile Mngxitama’s use of slogans such as “land or death” to the Equality Court. Similarly, last week Velaphi Khumalo was found to have engaged in hate speech targeting Jewish people. Part of the problem may be that the media reports focus on racist slurs targeting African people. But context is an important factor here. The legacy of apartheid as a “racially charged present” cannot be ignored by those who complain that white racists face a raw deal. At the same time, the over-regulation of racist speech must not erode the guarantee to freedom of expression.

How should the law treat racist speech? The Constitutional Court has recently addressed two incidents,

where it condemned racism and undertook to eliminate this scourge. But, this is a reactionary role and is a limited legal response.

The first case involved the term “swart man”. According to the court the mere utterance of such words isn’t racist. The test is whether a reasonable, objective and informed person would consider the words to be racist. The court stressed, however, that it is incorrect to assume that terms such as “swart man” are automatically neutral as this fails to reflect the impact of apartheid’s legacy. We cannot allow the past’s predominant racist view to distort the objective enquiry. The court ultimately found that the words were used in a “derogatorily subordinating” sense

and not merely to identify an African person. So, the employee’s dismissal was confirmed – he had breached the disciplinary code and didn’t demonstrate remorse.

The other Constitutional Court case concerned the dismissal of workers for singing struggle songs during a strike. The lyrics included the line, “Climb on top of the roof and tell them that my mother is rejoicing when we hit the boer”. The CCMA arbitrator found that although the singing of the song was inappropriate, it was not racism, and that a dismissal was unfitting. She ordered a final written warning, reasoning that a distinction should be drawn between struggle songs and racist terms. The Constitutional Court held that the

arbitrator’s award was reasonable. She balanced the interests of both parties and considered the context.

Unfortunately, many media reports failed to explain the context in which these cases were decided. These inaccuracies included reports that the court had found that the “hit the boer” song wasn’t racially offensive, resulting in claims that the court treats white racists more severely. This is untrue. The court wasn’t asked to decide whether the song constituted racist speech. It was confined to the question of whether the arbitrator’s decision was reasonable.

These cases demonstrate the limited ambit in which the courts operate when confronted with racist speech. Courts must resolve disputes



“The legislature must recognise that South Africa doesn’t have an appropriate legal mechanism to regulate racist slurs and initiate legal reform.”

intention to harm the victim’s dignity is an element that is difficult to prove. This is why the Equality Act doesn’t require intention for discrimination and hate speech – the impact of the conduct is critical. Thirdly, it is debatable whether the criminal law should be used to regulate racist speech.

Crimen injuria wasn’t designed to overcome inter-group intolerance. An outdated (colonial) legal solution to fix a modern (African) problem won’t work. Precisely formulated laws regulating racist speech are needed. These create certainty. They inform us of the required behavioural standard and the consequences of infringement.

It is therefore unfortunate that the legislature has failed to enact the promised Prevention and Combatting of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill. It is even more worrying that the Bill contains a poorly drafted hate speech offence. This is aggravated by the failure to enact the promotional measures in the Equality Act. It’s true that the Equality Act prohibits hate speech as a human rights measure. This provision, however, is also imprecisely drafted. A prior draft of the Equality Act prohibited the use of specific forms of abusive language, including the “k-word”, as a type of racism. This prohibition wasn’t retained, but its reintroduction could be beneficial. If many European countries have laws banning holocaust denial, then it makes sense for South Africa to enact laws which regulate specific types of racist speech.

Finally, it’s alarming that despite an increase in racial slurs, and a polarisation of society, the legislature has remained inactive and left the problem to the courts without giving them the appropriate tools to resolve such disputes. Government must accept that the ongoing use of racial epithets in South Africa reinforces patterns of prejudice and harms the constitutional mandate. It must take charge by using the law to set the appropriate standard.

By Dr Joanna Botha
Faculty of Law

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The university bids farewell to four Council members as their terms ended recently. They were all recognised for their contribution and commitment to the institution.



Mr Monde Mawasha, Chief Information Officer and Executive for ICT, Economic Research and Strategy at the Coega Development Corporation, who represented the information technology sector.



Former speaker of the Nelson Mandela Bay Council, **Ms Charmaine Williams**.



Missionvale Campus Director, **Professor Phakama Ntshongwana**.



Former Engineering Dean, **Professor Hugh Jeffery**, who served as alumni representative.

Outgoing



New Council members welcomed into the fold were, chartered accountant, registered investment consultant and businessperson, **Ms Hawa Bibi Khan**, who joins council as a representative of Internationalisation in Africa.



Ms Michelle Mbaco, former educator and current Senior Manager: Outreach and Reporting for the ANC Parliamentary Caucus. Ms Mbaco is also the vice-president of the university's Alumni Association.



Dr Nondumiso Maphazi is a Commissioner on the Commission for Gender Equality and is very active on various civil society structures; she represents Engagement and Human Rights on the Council.



Chairperson of the Institutional Forum and current Construction Management academic is **Professor Winston Shakantu**.



Mr Donald MacLean, retired chartered accountant, financial planner and corporate governance specialist, represents the finance sector.



Advocate of the South African high court and tax specialist, **Adv Boitumelo Tlhakung**, serves on Council as a representative of Law and Human Rights.

Incoming

We wish them all well for their term of office.

Our Honorary Doctorates

2018

Three honorary doctorates were awarded to phenomenal women recognised as doyennes in their respective fields and whose work philosophy mirrors that of Nelson Mandela University – anchored in serving the community in a meaningful way.

Everyone has a story to tell, and Dr Gcina Mhlophe wants to hear it. Her calling is to bring out the storyteller in each of us – to talk about who we are and where we come from in a contemporary evocation of Africa’s ancient oral storytelling tradition.

In recognition of her worthy work, Dr Mhlophe received an Honorary Doctorate from Nelson Mandela University on 18 April this year at its graduation ceremony.

For Dr Mhlophe, the stories of the living and those who have passed, whether recently or thousands of years ago, are all part of the great circle of knowledge that must be protected. To facilitate this, she initiated the establishment of the Gcina Mhlophe Memory House – South Africa’s first public home of storytelling and an oral history museum, based in Durban.

“It will be a space where people from all walks of life can listen to the stories and histories of ordinary people, record their own stories, and view heritage films and documentaries in an inspiring environment that is home to all,” explains Mhlophe, who was born in Hammarsdale, KwaZulu-Natal, and has been writing for children and adults, and performing on stage and screen, for over 30 years.

The memory house is currently in development, but meanwhile, Mhlophe is hosting it from her home on the Bluff in Durban. “I am compelled to do this,” she says. “My people named me Gcinamasiko, which means the ‘keeper of heritage’. I wear this name like a blanket and I honour it with my being.”

Words and thoughts, she explains, whether spoken, written, performed, painted or made into beadwork, are magical things that create who we are. She learnt this through her paternal great-grandmother, Nozincwadi MaMchunu, whom her father said collected “a suitcase full of words”.

She was known to have “collected anything with words – books, articles, old Bibles, newspapers – and she kept them all in a suitcase. She told my father that these words were magical things that would speak to her one day.”

Dr Mhlophe never saw that suitcase, which was lost in time, but the power of the message spoke so strongly to her that she launched a literacy campaign in 2001 and has continued with it ever since. “Literacy,” she says, “is as much about reading and writing as it is about self-



concept, imagination, originality and using your voice. And in this country, we’ve got voices, baby!”

Since 2001, Dr Mhlophe has travelled throughout South Africa, visiting schools, doing performances, donating books and encouraging young South Africans to read. “We’ve been all over, and my goodness, we have a beautiful country!”

Several months after receiving her doctorate, Dr Mhlophe returned to Nelson Mandela University in September – Heritage Month – to deliver a public lecture titled *Bones of Memory: In pursuit of Cultural Heritage*. This was preceded by the university’s Heritage and Liberation Book Launch and Exhibition, which are all part of the university’s year-long Centenary Programme rooted in that academic project.

She hosts the annual Spirit of Light Festival to honour people from all walks of life and celebrate how they are shining a light in their community. This year, the festival takes place in Durban from 6–8 September and will host storytellers from Jamaica, Réunion, Zimbabwe, Botswana and West Africa, besides local storytellers.

With over 30 books to her name, and translations of these into German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Swahili and Japanese, Dr Mhlophe’s words are, indeed, magical things.

The torchbearer

Poet, playwright, actor, director, author and activist, Dr Gcina Mhlophe stands out as a leading light in Africa’s oral storytelling tradition

“The stories of the living and those who have passed are part of the great circle of knowledge that must be protected”



Let justice prevail

Justice Mandisa Maya, the first woman president of South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal, takes her role – and that of her fellow judges – very seriously.

In recognition of her critical contribution to the South African legal system, Nelson Mandela University conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Justice Mandisa Maya at its graduation ceremony on 18 April. She is the first woman to preside over the country's Supreme Court of Appeal since its inception in 1910 – a notable highlight of a remarkable career.

"The most challenging aspect of being a judge is the enormous responsibility you carry in resolving society's disputes and determining people's lives, including whether a person must go to prison for life," says Justice Maya.

The far-reaching consequences of the judiciary weigh heavily on all 25 judges in the Supreme Court of Appeal, who strive to make the right judgments and maintain their excellent reputation and record of delivery. With time and experience, judges get used to the gravity of their decisions, says Justice Maya – but it requires of them maximum application in each and every case, and a huge amount research and deliberation, given the diversity of appeals.

Justice Maya was born in the Transkei, and, during the Bloemfontein-based Supreme Court of Appeal's recess period, she spends most of the time on her family's small farm outside Mthatha. "My husband and I are very focused on healthy, sustainable living and are able to

eat organically because of the vegetables, [animals] and crops that we produce."

She actively encourages women in her home community to do the same, and her efforts are slowly bearing fruit.

Justice Maya is also a champion of gender transformation in the judiciary. In 2004, she founded the South African chapter of the International Association of Women Judges and remains an active member.

"There are still only six women judges out of 25 in the Supreme Court of Appeal and I am strongly recommending the appointment of more women judges, especially as several of our judges are coming up for retirement."

Gender equity in the judiciary needs to be addressed at graduate level, she explains, with no shortage of women law students – many of whom are the brightest in their classes. However, after graduation, opportunities are thin on the ground in a male-dominated profession.

"There aren't nearly enough younger women judges being appointed and it is not for lack of ability. Legislating gender equity in the judiciary and elsewhere might be a solution. Only when far greater numbers of accomplished women in this country are appointed as senior judges, CEOs and chairs of boards will this start to change, as women in senior positions will then become the norm."

Gender equity in the judiciary needs to be addressed at graduate level, with no shortage of women law students – many of whom are the brightest in their classes."

"As a black person it was extremely difficult to become a doctor in South Africa a century ago, when Nelson Mandela was born, as there were no facilities to study here. This meant finding a way to study abroad," says Prof Xaba-Mokoena, who lives in East London and turns 80 this year.

Nelson Mandela University awarded the professor an Honorary Doctorate at its graduation ceremony on 18 April in recognition of her sterling work in the field of lung disease.

Her father, the late Dr Rotoli Xaba, who qualified as a doctor in 1936, was the 23rd 'non-white' person to become a doctor in South Africa, each one of them qualifying abroad.

Prof Xaba-Mokoena received a scholarship to study medicine in Sweden and went on to specialise in lung diseases, becoming a pulmonologist.

The young doctor chose to specialise in lung disease after her husband, economist PE Mokoena, developed asthma. This led her to research and study lung conditions such as asbestosis, pneumonia and TB – a major cause of death in South Africa, compounded by HIV.

"I knew I could help people with these diseases and in 1980 I started working as a pulmonologist in the Transkei at Mthatha General Hospital." She was appointed as the hospital's Principal Specialist in 1982.

Prof Xaba-Mokoena also formed the Transkei National TB Association, local counterpart of the South African National Tuberculosis Association (SANTA), organising international conferences and ensuring the most effective TB drugs were made available in the Transkei.

"We saw such an encouraging decline in TB until the scourge of HIV hit and then it rose again. As we know, these diseases are compounded by socio-economic predicaments, which many people in our country face.

"On the positive side, many diseases are preventable at relatively low cost, and



The people's pulmonologist

Professor Marina Xaba-Mokoena, pulmonologist and pioneering health sciences academic, has committed her career to helping people in the rural Eastern Cape.

people must be educated about this. Many diseases are also treatable. An infection like TB, if caught early, can be cured."

This was why focusing on primary health care and disease prevention were key weapons in the fight against lung disease, she explains.

Prof Xaba-Mokoena ending her working career as Chief Physician and consulting Principal Specialist at East London Hospital Complex before retiring in 2013.

Still highly active, she is National President of the South African Medical Association, writes articles for the SA Medical Journal and has penned her memoir, *Dream Fulfilled*.

Her secret to healthy longevity is simple: "Determination and a healthy lifestyle." Exercise, hydrotherapy and avoiding sugar, fatty and fast foods all contribute towards a stronger, healthier body, she explains.

"This doesn't mean that I haven't had health issues – but I am still going strong."

Many diseases are preventable at relatively low cost, and people must be educated about this."



Africa's unique megaherbivores could potentially play a major role in mitigating climate change, writes Heather Dugmore.

ELEPHANTS, RHINOS, HIPPOS for climate change toolbox?

Africa's unique megaherbivores – elephants, rhinos and hippos – could potentially play a major role in mitigating climate change, says Distinguished Professor Graham Kerley, Director of the Centre for African Conservation Ecology at Nelson Mandela University.

He is one of six authors of a paper attracting global attention that was published on 22 October in the prestigious journal *Philosophical*

Transactions, which publishes leading scientific thought and discoveries. The paper is titled *Trophic rewilding as a climate mitigation strategy?* and Kerley's co-authors are from Sweden, South Africa, The Netherlands and New Mexico.

"The Nobel prize for economics has just been awarded to people who work on climate change as it is the biggest threat facing society – far bigger than global terrorism – and it will affect everyone," says Kerley.

"What we urgently need to do

worldwide is to find new ways in which we can intervene on a large scale, and it is obvious that these interventions should be put together in a broad frame.

"We already have various strategies and goals about carbon emission reduction and carbon sequestration, but what are the additional opportunities out there that can significantly contribute to the toolbox of climate change mitigation?"

"This study looks at an area that has not been addressed previously:

the role of large/megaherbivores in mitigating climate change."

Living laboratory

The study emanates from speculative discussion between scientists at a global level and proposes a fascinating approach, with Africa as the living laboratory. Unlike the rest of the world, we have not lost our megaherbivores, and are therefore perfectly placed to lead the world in understanding how these animals influence the landscape and climate.

"As a starting point, we need to understand that the megaherbivore communities globally have significantly changed over the last 15 000–20 000 years," Kerley explains.

"Before then, the world was dominated by megaherbivores, but since then, North America, South America and most of Eurasia have lost all their megaherbivores, including the mammoth, mastodon, gomphothere (four-tusk elephant), giant ground sloth, and woolly rhinoceros.

"This is a very recent extinction and the consequences have been profound in terms of how the climate has shifted due to the largescale loss of megaherbivores worldwide. Megaherbivores, which are hind gut fermenters that produce far less methane, have since largely been replaced with livestock, particularly

"The Nobel prize for economics has just been awarded to people who work on climate change as it is the biggest threat facing society -far bigger than global terrorism – and it will affect everyone"



sheep and cattle, which produce far more methane.

"Today, we define a megaherbivore as an animal weighing over 1000 kilograms. The prehistoric megaherbivores were far larger and heavier than the megaherbivores of today still found in Africa, where our elephants, for example, date back several million years. In South Africa, megaherbivores would have occurred just about everywhere except the very dry areas like the Kalahari, and the hippos would have inhabited the water course areas."

The reason that Africa is the only continent that has retained its megaherbivores and in sizeable numbers is attributed in some of the literature to humans and megaherbivores having co-evolved in Africa. The megaherbivores were



Global footprints?

Given the potential of megaherbivores as an option in support of climate change mitigation, it raises the interesting discussion of what it would mean to reintroduce megaherbivores into Eurasia, North America and South America, where they have been driven extinct by humans.

Prof Kerley says far more research needs to be done on this, with many questions to be answered. These include:

- In an equal biomass of elephants and cattle, what happens to respective landscapes when you have systems dominated by megaherbivores and wildlife versus systems dominated by domestic livestock?
- What are the implications for climate mitigation, land use and food security?
- Will the world need to create larger areas for megaherbivores and other wildlife?
- How are we managing our wildlife for climate change mitigation?
- What are the consequences of not having megaherbivores?

Distinguished Professor Graham Kerley, Director of the Centre for African Conservation Ecology

therefore more alert to human hunting, whereas when humans moved out of Africa, the megaherbivores were naïve to human hunting, and easy prey.

The rapid decline in megaherbivores is attributed to the slow life history of these big animals. Thus with their lengthy gestation period and slow growth, reproduction by megaherbivores could not keep up with the assault. In Africa, conservation initiatives were fortunately put in place before the megaherbivores were hunted to extinction, but the current poaching onslaught is expected to reverse the recent growth in their numbers.

The impact on the global climate as a result of the mass loss of megaherbivores in other parts of the world is finally being understood, and is explained in the paper in terms of what these animals contribute to climate change mitigation, as Kerley explains:

“The mega browsers (in Africa these are the black rhino and elephant) help to maintain the balance in savanna systems between trees and

grasslands, working in synergy with the mega grazers. Without the mega browsers, trees and bushes would take over the grasslands, and without the mega grazers, grasslands would take over the tree and forest areas.

“The importance of vast areas of grassland, in addition to their role as water production areas, is that they reflect the sunshine, and therefore reduce solar radiation. This might prove to be even more important in keeping the planet cool than dark areas, such as trees and forests, which absorb heat and carbon and play an important role in carbon sequestration (long-term carbon storage).

“The megaherbivores also play a major role in nutrient recycling, soil health and seed dispersal. Elephants, for example, contribute to the dispersal of the seeds for hardwood trees and are therefore essential to the growth of hardwoods that grow slowly and hold their carbon for long periods.”

The authors emphasise that the megaherbivore proposition is not a single solution; it is a contribution to the climate change mitigation strategy.

“The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) states that we have to do a lot more to keep the world from warming by more than 1.5°C and to reverse the changes to the atmosphere in order to avoid catastrophic climate consequences, including largescale extinction,” says Kerley.

He refers to an article in *The Conversation Africa* on 10 October 2018 by systems ecologist Professor Robert Scholes from Wits University’s Global Change Institute (GCI), who writes: *It seems inevitable that the planet will overshoot the 1.5°C global mark, and probably also the 2°C mark. Cooling the atmosphere later in the century would require the removal of up to a trillion tonnes of carbon dioxide. The world doesn’t yet have affordable, proven technology to do this at the required scale. The approach that is most commonly touted – mass tree-planting – is a non-starter in most of southern Africa, where the arable land and water resources are needed for food production, and the marginal land is too dry to grow forests.*

Organic and natural farming can beat climate change

FARMING for the future

“Uganda has two million organic farmers, 200 000 of whom are certified as organic producers, which qualifies them to sell and export their products as organic, and gain higher revenue. There is no reason why South Africa cannot achieve the same.”

This is the view of Professor Raymond Auerbach of the Agricultural Management Programme, School of Natural Resource Management at Mandela University’s George Campus.

A member of the trans-university Centre of Excellence for Food



Professor Raymond Auerbach



Security (CoE-FS), Prof Auerbach’s research over the past 45 years on organic farming and sustainable food systems research has established him as an international authority. He has doctoral students working in Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa.

“My twin passions are: how to address rural poverty in Africa, and to produce healthy food without degrading farmland and natural resources. The answer lies in agro-ecology, soil biology and organic or sustainable farming,” he explains.

“We need to accelerate the adoption of organic and natural, sustainable farming methods in South Africa for a number of reasons, including the development of new farmers and adapting to climate change, with the associated widespread reduction in rainfall.

“Climate change is not going away and we need to be far more proactive about improved soil health and more effective rain and water absorption in farming,” he says.

“You need ±500mm per season to grow rain-fed crops; consider that over the past 20 years, 18 municipalities in the Eastern Cape that previously had an average seasonal rainfall of ±550mm, have dropped to an average of ±450mm.”

For the past six years Prof Auerbach has been doing long-term organic comparative farming systems trials with his agroecology master’s research group at Mandela University’s George Campus.

“The research trials show the soils are changing under organic management and we have been able to close the yield gap between organic and conventional yields, so that the organic yields are as high as the conventional yields in dry years, and water use efficiency is better. Given the escalation of climate change and the rising cost of fertilisers and poisons, this is essential,” he explains.

The research and findings are attracting local and international interest and will be published in a book by Prof Auerbach titled *Organic Food Systems: Meeting the needs of Southern Africa*, to be released in 2019.

OUTDOOR LABORATORY

When it comes to location, few campuses can compete with Nelson Mandela's George Campus on the scenic Garden Route. No wonder it's become a destination for students set on saving the planet.

Be it forestry, agriculture, nature conservation, tourism or business studies, George Campus is embracing sustainability.

Its 1500 students, about 450 of whom now live on campus, walk the talk when it comes to going green with their recycling, renewable energy and use of grey water. They come from throughout South Africa, and from an increasing number of African countries, to study niche programmes on a campus that is ideally situated within an hour of five biomes.

"The campus has grown sustainably and steadily over the past decade and exerts a positive and empowering influence in our communities and in their sphere of expertise and influence," says acting George Campus principal David Alexander.

Among the key drivers in attracting students to the "outdoor laboratory" nestled at the foot of the Outeniqua mountains, amidst



indigenous vegetation and forest plantations, is the university's Sustainability Research Unit.

MSc and PhD studies within the unit – particularly in the sphere of the natural sciences – are researching the likes of small-scale organic farming; community participation/engagement; sustainability issues relating to the management of insect

pests in plantations; the future of the Cape vulture; mitigation plans for uncontrolled fires; climate change; adaptive co-management; water related research such as freshwater ecosystems, estuaries and water quality; evaluation of development initiatives and food security and management of invasive species, be they plants or insects.

Many of those who are lecturing and supervising students within the School of Natural Resource Management today are "homegrown", having studied on the campus before going into industry and then returning to their alma mater.

They have come back in recent years to a campus with new roads, water reticulation upgrades, a

new gymnasium and three new residences – and an ethos committed to sustainability through its rain water harvesting, permaculture and recycling, among other green initiatives, in line with the university's value of environmental stewardship.

And that's why you're as likely to see animals as you are students wandering this campus of natural plenty.



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

AT A GLANCE



SOUTH CAMPUS



NORTH CAMPUS



SECOND AVENUE CAMPUS



MISSIONVALE CAMPUS

WE OFFER

474 PROGRAMMES across **7 FACULTIES**
to equip **28 000-PLUS STUDENTS**
for careers in more than **130 BROAD FIELDS**

7 CAMPUSES
6 IN NELSON MANDELA BAY
AND 1 IN GEORGE



BIRD STREET CAMPUS



GEORGE CAMPUS

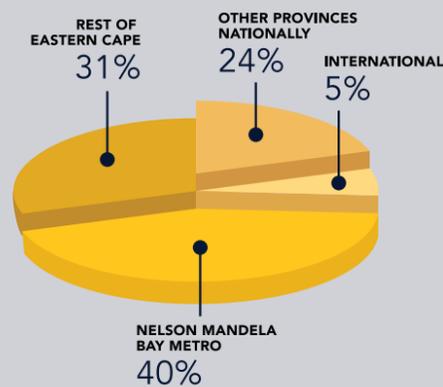


OCEAN SCIENCES CAMPUS

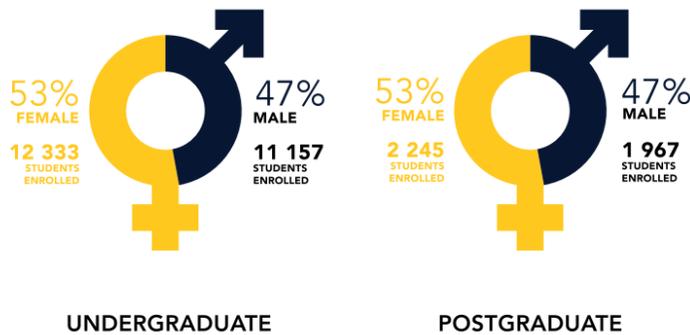
Nelson Mandela Bay campuses are in Summerstrand (four campuses) next to the ocean, in Bird Street in the heart of the city, and in Missionvale. Our North and South

campuses in Summerstrand are on a 830-hectare private nature reserve. The George Campus is situated on the Garden Route, at the foot of the Outeniqua Mountains.

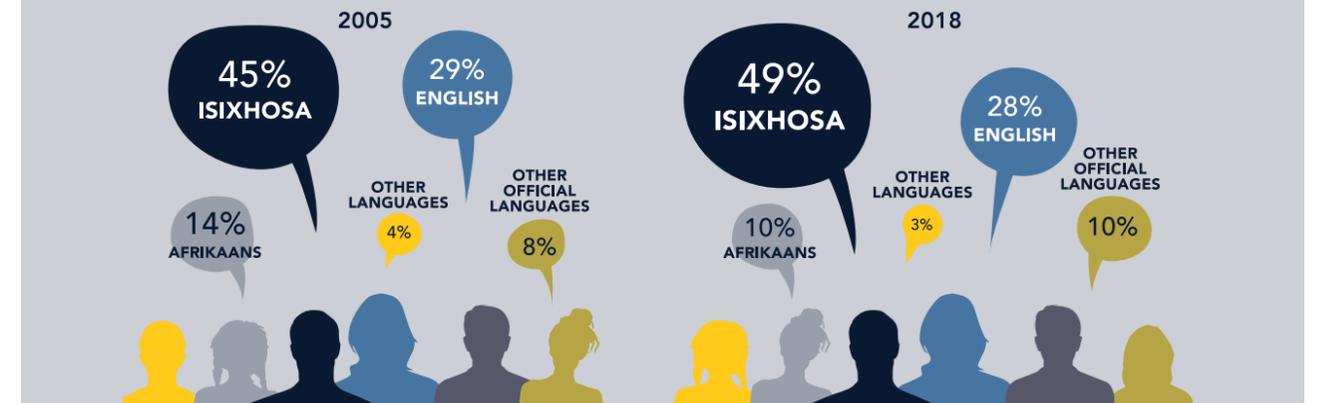
STUDENTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN



ENROLMENTS by gender distribution



HOME LANGUAGE of students



HOW WE GRADUATE

TOTAL GRADUATES IN 2017: 6 798



RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

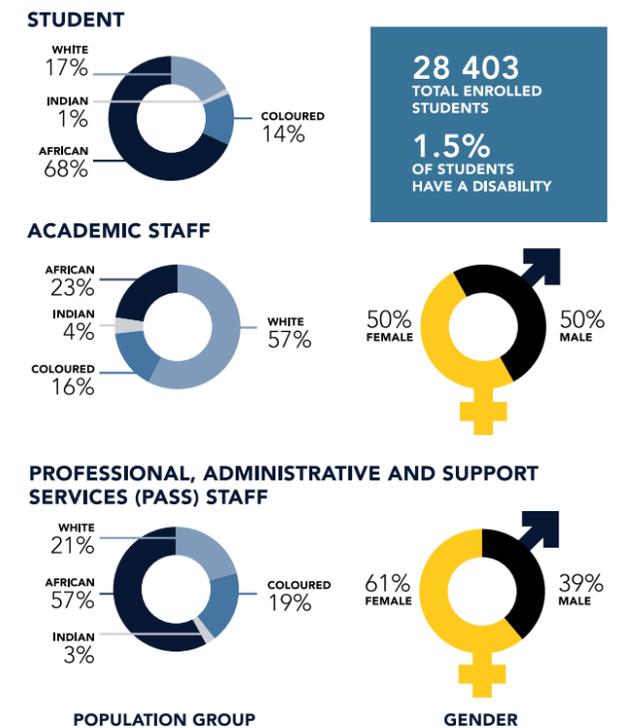
15 RESEARCH CHAIRS
27 RESEARCH ENTITIES
4 INSTITUTES

88 NRF-RATED RESEARCHERS
15 CENTRES
2 TECHNOLOGY STATIONS

278 ACADEMIC STAFF WITH DOCTORAL DEGREES
8 UNITS

Nelson Mandela University's programmes, research and services are responsive to community needs. The university has strong links with industry and businesses nationally and internationally, especially in Africa – and particularly within the automotive, IT, tourism and pharmaceutical industries. The university ranks among the top 10 South African universities, in terms of the number of researchers who have research ratings from the National Research Foundation (NRF).

STUDENT & STAFF DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE 2018



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



University Shop

The University Shop is your one stop shop for all your Nelson Mandela University branded clothing, corporate gifts, bags and memorabilia.

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