

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI AWARDS

Ceremony 2021

PROGRAMME

Nelson Mandela University Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have gone the distance and beyond in their various fields, to the benefit of society at local, provincial, national and international level. A number of outstanding nominations were received by the Alumni Association Executive Committee and in the spirit of the University's values, it is proud to present its 2021 recipients.

TUESDAY, 07 DECEMBER 2021 18:00 SSAT

Online awards ceremony



ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

MR PAUL GESWINDT (DIRECTOR: ALUMNI RELATIONS)

WELCOME BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

MR KHWEZI BLOSE

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

PROFESSOR SIBONGILE MUTHWA

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- RISING STAR AWARDS
- SPECIAL AWARD
- ACHIEVER AWARDS

VOTE OF THANKS BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION VICE-PRESIDENT

MS MICHELLE MBACO

<http://alumni.mandela.ac.za>
email: alumni@mandela.ac.za
<http://alumni.connect.mandela.ac.za>
<http://onlineshop.mandela.ac.za>
email: onlineshop@mandela.ac.za

RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Thembinkosi Josopu

Thembinkosi Josopu has been working to uplift society for the past 17 years, serving mainly in the youth development, legislative and policy development space. He holds a BA Honours degree in Development Studies from Nelson Mandela University, and is currently working in Corporate Governance, serving in some of the country's most notable governance structures. His roles include chairing the Capacity Building and Governance sub-committee of the National Skills Authority, heading up the Economic Governance and Management Stream within the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and chairing the Labour Activation Programme of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). He is also a member of various committees in the National Economic Development Labour Council, including the Presidential Working Committee on Jobs. Thembinkosi is a former board member of the Quality Council on Trade and Occupations. He previously worked as the Service Delivery Manager for Early Warning Systems at Siyakha Isizwe Trading – a role which saw him tackling municipal water-related issues. He also worked in the Department of Trade and Industry, as head of office for the Deputy Minister. In his home community of Zwide, Gqeberha, he drives community development through his personal foundation and local soccer team.

Delaine Mentoor



During the Tokyo 2020 Olympics held earlier this year, Delaine Mentoor made history as the first ever female coach of an Olympic water polo team. She was head coach of the South African women's water polo team, who were also the first women's water polo team to represent the African continent at the Olympics. Not surprisingly, she was named Coach of the Year at the Momentum GSport Awards 2021 – and she managed all this while being a mother to a busy one-year-old. Delaine also coaches the South African women's under-20 water polo team, Nelson Mandela University's women's water polo first team as well as the girls' water polo first team at Gqeberha's Pearson High, where she is also the head of aquatics and sport administrator. Prior to this, she coached South Africa's under-18, under-17 and under-16 girls' water polo teams – and played for the South African women's water polo team herself, participating in a number of world championship events. Delaine obtained her degree in Human Movement Science from Nelson Mandela University in 2019 and uses her knowledge from her studies not just to provide water polo coaching, but overall health and fitness advice, to develop strong and healthy athletes.

RISING STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr Mark Nasila

Johannesburg-based data, analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) expert Dr Mark Nasila is the Chief Data and Analytics Officer of FirstRand's Risk Office, and a member of the South African Faculty of the global Singularity University. He is also a steering committee member of the National Institute for Theoretical Physics and Computational Sciences. At FirstRand, he ensures that digital technologies introduced to manage risks are at the leading edge of banking, both locally and internationally, and is the developer and brain behind Manila, an AI system FNB has harnessed to reimagine its risk management and forensic due diligence processes. Mark, who obtained his Honours, Masters and PhD degrees in Mathematical Statistics from Nelson Mandela University, manages a team of analytics experts, quantitative analysts, data scientists and business heads. Their core function is to champion the use of data to drive innovation and client impact across FNB's businesses. Mark has presented at local and international conferences, including South Africa's Business-Tech Digital Banking Conference; Chief Data and Analytics Officer forums in South Africa and the UK; and the European Simulation and Modelling Conference. He is widely published in Business Day, Mail & Guardian, TechCentral, Daily Maverick, CIO.com and other media.



Anrich Nortje

South African cricketer Anrich Nortje obtained his BCom degree and postgraduate diploma in Financial Planning at Nelson Mandela University while pursuing his cricket dream – proving that it's possible to combine sporting and academic excellence. Anrich, who has been playing cricket for the Proteas since 2019, is currently the fastest bowler in world cricket. He also plays for Cape Town Blitz in the Mzansi Super League, and the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL). In the 2020 edition of the IPL, he took 22 wickets, which made him the fourth-leading wicket taker of the tournament. He and team-mate Kagiso Rabada were also the best fast-bowling duo, together taking a total of 52 wickets. Over the 2020/2021 cricket season, he was recognised as Cricket South Africa's Player of the Year. His career best test innings figures are 6 for 56 against Sri Lanka earlier this year. Since 2016, Anrich has played for Eastern Province Cricket's Warriors franchise, and during his studies, also played for the university team Madibaz, representing the university with distinction at all tournaments, including University Sports South Africa (USSA), Varsity Sport and the Cricket South Africa (CSA) Club Champs. He was named Cricketer of the Year at the Madibaz Cricket Prize Giving Ceremony in 2016.

SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENT



Kantilal (Ken) Ramjee

Ken Ramjee has been a proud ambassador for Nelson Mandela University since 1980, when he embarked on his studies in electrical engineering, while at the same time managing a career and caring for a family. With a passion for engineering, he became a mentor to students, a moderator, a stand-in lecturer and a member of the university's advisory committee. Employed by the South African Broadcast Corporation (SABC) for 27 years, he contributed significantly to his field, gaining the respect of leaders in the industry. Although he is now in his 80s, Ken continues to serve on a number of engineering organisations and structures, nationally and internationally, including the Institute of Professional Engineering Technologists (IPET), the Engineering Council of SA (ECSA), the Engineering Technology Association (ETA) in the USA and the Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) in the UK, where he is currently a registered professional incorporated engineer fellow. Ken obtained his National Diploma in Electrical Engineering from Nelson Mandela University in 1985 and, in 1998, obtained his BTech in both Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. He served on the university's alumni executive committee for several years, and, throughout his retirement, has been a familiar face on campus, with regular visits to the Alumni Relations Office, the University Shop and various university departments.

ALUMNI ACHIEVER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Michael (Mike) Abel

Mike Abel is recognised as one of Africa's leading marketing, advertising and communications specialists. Born and raised in Gqeberha and now based in Cape Town, Mike graduated with a National Diploma in Marketing and Sales Management at Nelson Mandela University in 1989. During his 30 years in the advertising industry, he co-led Ogilvy South Africa, the largest communications group in Africa, and ran the prestigious M&C Saatchi Group in Australia, the country's largest agency. In 2010, he co-founded M&C Saatchi Abel, which was recognised by Finweek as the Breakthrough Agency in South Africa and named Agency of the Year by Financial Mail just five years after opening. Mike is also CEO of M&C Saatchi Group South Africa, a group of seven companies listed among the top five creative agencies in South Africa, with an impressive list of clients including Standard Bank, Takealot, Nando's and Lexus. Under Mike's leadership, M&C Saatchi Abel is involved in various social impact initiatives, including the Street Store, the world's first free "pop-up clothing store" for the homeless. With a keen personal interest in driving entrepreneurship, he has supported and consulted to many NGOs and political parties in South Africa, helping to build the economy and tackle corruption. In his 2020 book, "Willing and Abel", he shares lessons he has learned over the past 30 years.

Dr Michael Ferreira



Based in Georgia in the United States, automotive executive and advisor Dr Michael Ferreira is the Senior Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at Donlen Corporation, a global fleet leasing and management company, previously owned by Hertz. Michael completed his undergraduate studies in Marketing and Business Management at Nelson Mandela University in 1987, and obtained his MBA and Doctorate in Business Management in the UK. Able to speak Dutch, Portuguese and German, he has worked all over the world, notching up 30 years of marketing and financial services experience in the fleet and mobility industries across five continents. From 1990 to 2001, he was National Sales and Marketing Manager, and Managing Director of the Avis Fleet Services subsidiaries in Southern Africa, before moving on to become Commercial Sales Leader at GE Capital Australia and New Zealand. From 2004 to 2017, he worked for the Porsche Automotive Group, first as Country Manager for the Sales Finance Division of Porsche Cars Australia and New Zealand, and then as Vice-President of Marketing and Sales Finance for Porsche, Bentley, Lamborghini and Bugatti in North America. During this time, he took on additional roles in Germany and was also appointed Head of Special Projects for Volkswagen Financial Services in Brazil.

ALUMNI ACHIEVER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Prof Vivienne Lawack

Professor Vivienne Lawack is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at the University of the Western Cape, where she is also a Professor of Law. She holds a BJuris cum laude, an LLB cum laude and an LLM from Nelson Mandela University. She also holds an LLD and is an admitted, non-practising advocate of the High Court of South Africa. Vivienne began her legal career as an academic at Vista University and the former University of Port Elizabeth, before working at the South African Reserve Bank in various capacities, including senior legal counsel for South Africa's central securities depository. In 2008, she served as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Law at Nelson Mandela University. She joined UWC in 2015. Vivienne is an expert in law, economics and the intersection of the two fields, and has published extensively, including two books and numerous articles. She is highly engaged in her community, participating in various committees in the legal, financial and education sectors. Her latest book, *Stemme van Clarkson*, tells the story of the community from which she hails, namely, the Moravian mission station at Clarkson. She is a former chair of the Moravian Church Trust, a member of the South African Judicial Education Institute Council and a member of the Kepler Institute Board and Kepler College Board in Rwanda.

Hilda Kabushenga Kragha



Uganda-born executive Hilda Kabushenga Kragha is tackling Africa's unemployment challenges, by bringing transparency to labour markets and improving productivity in the workplace. Based in Lagos, Nigeria, she is Managing Director for ROAM Africa Jobs, where she leads recruitment teams across several countries, including Jobberman in Nigeria and Ghana, and Brighter Monday in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Prior to this, she was CEO at Jobberman, Nigeria's leading online recruitment platform, where she partnered with the Mastercard Foundation to train five million job seekers and place three million in employment within five years. This initiative aimed to address the challenges many young Nigerian graduates face, of getting qualifications that don't necessarily equip them with the skills demanded by the labour market. Hilda obtained her LLB law degree at Nelson Mandela University in 2011. Before blazing a trail in the recruitment industry, she worked as an Engagement Manager in McKinsey & Company's Nigeria office, serving private and public sector clients in the areas of strategy, human capital, talent management, change management and organisational behaviour. And before that, she worked as a transfer pricing expert with KPMG East Africa. Hilda blogs on Instagram about motherhood and finding balance as a working African mother.

Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future

Mission

To offer a diverse range of life-changing education experiences for a better world

Values

Excellence
Diversity
Ubuntu
Social justice and equality
Integrity
Environmental stewardship

Diversity

Excellence

Ubuntu

**Social justice
and equality**

Integrity

**Environmental
stewardship**