

NELSON ● M▲NDELA
UNIVERSITY

Celebrating Excellence

with the

Academic Achiever's Awards

and

*Vice-Chancellor's Excellence
Awards*



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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Welcome to Nelson Mandela University's Celebrating Excellence Awards evening in which we will recognise those who subscribe to excellence.



These are the student academic achievers and the staff, from all divisions of the institution, whose work as academics, researchers or professional, administrative and support service employees, is exceptional.

Excellence is one of the University's six values. It is core to achieving our vision to be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Those we celebrate in 2022 – after a very trying period in the history of Mandela University and indeed, the world - have surpassed standards of expectations.

You inspire us to do better!

I wish to acknowledge the hard work and time that you have devoted to your studies and to your work, whichever your area of expertise.

A special word of thanks and appreciation goes to your families, colleagues and communities, who have supported you in your journey.

You do us proud as worthy ambassadors of Nelson Mandela University.

Congratulations on your outstanding achievements.

Professor Sibongile Muthwa
Vice-Chancellor

"I wish to acknowledge the hard work and time that you have devoted to your studies and to your work, whichever your area of expertise."

ACADEMIC AWARDS

First-Year Undergraduate Diploma and Degree Study Awards

These awards are made to students registered for their second year of study, on the grounds of academic achievement in their first year.





Dillon Classen

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

Dillon, who aims to pursue a career in cyber security, was the Top Diploma First-Year Student for Information Technology, with an average of 93%. He is now in his second year of IT Communication Networks studies. Dillon passed all seven matric subjects at Alexander Road High School with distinctions, completed the IEB Advanced Programme Mathematics subject from Grade 9 to 12 and received academic honours awards.

"The best preparation for tomorrow is to do your best today."

"Perfection has to do with the end product, but excellence has to do with the process."



Tamaryn Wagner-Welsh

Faculty of Science

"I want to make other people's lives better through my actions," says Tamaryn, who obtained an average of 91.8% for her first year of Bachelor of Science (General) studies. She was the winner of several awards at Collegiate Girls' High School, including the highest marks in English and Advanced Programme English for Grade 12, as well as the Senior Creative Writing Competition, Photographer of the Year and several academic honours awards.

"There isn't a way things should be. There's just what happens, and what we do."

- Terry Pratchett

"Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinary well."

FIRST DIPLOMA AWARDS

These awards go to the best initial diploma achiever in
each faculty.





Chantell Vögts

Faculty of Business and Economic
Sciences

To be disciplined and work hard every day, is Chantell's recipe for success, obtaining 90% and above in Operations Management, Logistics and Purchasing, in her Diploma in Logistics studies. Her ideal job is to become a business owner. She currently works as an administrative assistant in the Department of Logistics at the University.

*"Success is the result
of nothing more than a
few simple disciplines,
practiced every day."*

– Jim Rohn

***"Passion is the secret ingredient that
drives hard work and excellence."***



Stefanus Bekker

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

Working at COMPRSA, a software development company in Gqeberha, Stefan is at the right place to fulfil his wish to learn and understand how to create software so that he can increase his knowledge of the industry. The DF Malherbe High School alumnus, scored an average of 86% for his Diploma in Information Technology (Software Development).

"It is not your business to succeed, but to do right; when you have done so, the rest lies with God." - CS Lewis

"Excellence is a better teacher than mediocrity."



Zubenathi Daca

Faculty of Humanities

Zubenathi wants to become a reputable public relations practitioner and communications specialist and would love to own a public relations firm. Having obtained 80% overall for the Diploma in Public Relations Management, Zubenathi is studying for the Advanced Diploma in Public Relations Management. She also works at the University's Student Governance and Development department as a social media manager for SEED, a department in the Entrepreneurship Office. Zubenathi matriculated at Inkwenkwezi Secondary School in Cape Town, receiving top achiever prizes for English and IsiXhosa.

"Representation matters."

***"Productivity is the result of a
commitment to excellence."***



Bongiwwe Mtshali

Faculty of Law

Bongiwwe was one of the first group of Diploma in Law Enforcement students to graduate from this course, introduced at Mandela University in 2021. She attained an average of 77%. She is from Tonga View, Nkomazi (Mbombela), and matriculated at Beacon College in Malelane. She is currently studying for her LLB and aspires to become a lawyer dedicated to helping people who have been wrongfully convicted. She also hopes to venture into human rights advocacy. At high school she was the top achiever for Computer Applications Technology.

“Discipline will take you further, way more than motivation ever will.”

“Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better.”



Hanro van Rooyen

Faculty of Science

Hanro, who passed his Diploma in Game Ranch Management with a 92% average, sees his future as a key figure in the game ranching industry in the Western Cape. He believes in restoring degraded agricultural land back to natural vegetation to promote the introduction of a broad spectrum of fauna. This will contribute to biodiversity preservation and ecotourism in the Western Cape. Currently, Hanro is working at Indalu Game Reserve in Mossel Bay. He was the dux learner and deputy head boy at Oakdale Agricultural High School in Riversdale.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

“Excellence endures and sustains.”

FIRST DEGREE AWARDS

These awards go to the graduate who had the best degree performance in each of the seven faculties.





Kaylin Bouwer

Faculty of Business and Economic
Sciences

Pearson High dux learner Kaylin who achieved seven distinctions in her matric year and played tennis for South Africa, averaged 83% for her BCom Accounting degree. She is currently undertaking her Certificate in Theory of Accounting at Mandela University and hopes to successfully complete her article internship as a Chartered Accountant, before deciding what career path to pursue.

*"Where feet may fail and fear
surrounds me, you've never failed
and you won't start now."*

- Oceans, Hillsong United

***"The noblest search is the search for
excellence."***



Kayla Delpport

Faculty of Education

“Teaching is a calling, it becomes part of every fiber of your being. I am a born teacher. It is a privilege, honour and responsibility to shape the minds of the future; everything stems from your education,” says Kayla, who obtained an average of 87% for her BEd Intermediate Phase: Maths and Science. She also scored 100% in Curriculum Studies: Mathematics-Data Handling. Kayla is now teaching at College Hill Preparatory School in Kariega and studying for her honours degree in special needs education at North-West University. She is also interested in researching about learners with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, the correlation between learners’ mental wellbeing and learners’ academic capabilities.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” – Proverbs 16:3

“Excellence shows the spiritual worth of the world.”

Kirsten Manthe

Faculty of Health Sciences



Kirsten wants to work in a job that inspires her, in a place that brings her happiness, and to do so surrounded by loved ones. She obtained her BA in Psychology with several modules above 90% and is currently studying for her honours degree in Psychology. She was head girl at Pearson High School, an Eastern Cape Athletics Team 800m track runner at the SA championships in 2017 and in the Academic Top 5 in her matric year. She believes that the phrase “heir gaat ons nou weer” (here we go again) can get a person through just about anything.

“[The] best moment is yet to come.”

– BTS (The Bangtan Boys), South Korean boy band

“When a team learns team confidence, excellence becomes a reality.”



Andrea Weldrick

Faculty of Humanities

My “best sparks of creativity” come when I feel like I have hit rock bottom. Pushing through and working hard always pays off, says Andrea, who is currently completing her honours degree in Philosophy. She obtained an average of 83% for her BA General. Andrea lectures part-time at the University and is a tutor for One2Tutor. She believes that knowledge is truly accessible anywhere and it is just a matter of finding the right place to look for it. She wants to live a holistic life that includes building intentional relationships, extending a hand to those who need it and taking advantage of opportunities that allow her to travel and explore.

“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing.”

“There are no shortcuts to true excellence.”



Nicholas Else

Faculty of Law

With 93% for Constitutional Law and 91% for Criminal Procedure in his BA Law degree studies, Nicholas wants to use his knowledge to make a difference to the people around him, and the law as a whole. He believes that the pandemic has affected all our lives inefably. "We have come through it, not without loss or hardship, but we have," he says. Nicholas believes his work has benefitted from the insights gained through the time he has been through. He is from Kariega and won various academic awards at Muir College Boys' High. He is currently studying for his LLB.

*"It's not worth doing something
unless someone, somewhere, would
much rather you weren't doing it."*

- Terry Pratchett

***"Remain steadfast in your pursuit of
excellence."***



Erich du Plessis

Faculty of Science

"I hope to increase my technical knowledge while providing solutions and improvements to problems faced in industry and which have an impact on our lives," says Erich. He passed his Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physics and Applied Mathematics, with a 90% average. He also achieved a top mark of 97% in his final year for Partial Differential Equations. Erich, who is from Humansdorp, hopes to become a data science and analysis specialist and to contribute significantly to this field to improve the lives of many people. He is currently studying towards his BSc honours in Applied Mathematics. He was awarded the Flip Potgieter Excellence Award for Best Student in Mathematics I and Mathematics II.

"I work today to improve my life tomorrow."

"If we chase perfection, we can catch excellence."

POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

Bachelor of Technology Award

These awards go to the best BTech graduate in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Phinda Runeli

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Bachelor of Technology Graduate: Science, Engineering and Technology

"I want to open a cyber security company that will help bring South Africa up to speed with the rest of the world," and also improve the cyber security state of the entire world, says Phinda. Currently, he works at S4 Integration, an Industrial equipment supplier in Gqeberha as an embedded software developer. He obtained 91% on average for his BTech in Electrical Engineering. Phinda, who attended St George's College in Gqeberha, won a silver medal at the International Science Fair and two gold medals at the regional Science Expo, as well as a distinction and first in class for Computer Applications Technology.

"Expect the best but prepare for the worst."

"Excellent requires constant change and improvement."

HONOURS AWARDS

These awards go to the best honours graduate in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Stefan van der Poel

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Honours Graduate: Social Sciences and Humanities

Stefan, who obtained 84% for his BCom Honours in Business Management, is currently pursuing two masters' degrees in International Management. The one is at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business and the other at the Coalition of European Management Schools. He will also attend the Rotterdam School of Management in the Netherlands from January 2023. He hopes his studies will help him to establish the international career of which he has always dreamt. He believes that in academia we are always so focused on becoming more knowledgeable, but knowledge in isolation is useless, if we do not have the wisdom to understand how to use our knowledge to achieve our desired outcomes.

"It is ok not to be ok. It is ok not to know. It is NOT ok to do nothing."

"True excellence is a product of synergy."



Bouwer Botha

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Honours Graduate: Science, Engineering and Technology

Bouwer's research produced during his honours degree studies was published in the South African Conference for Artificial Intelligence Research (SACAIR) 2021 proceedings. He scored 89% on average for his BSc Honours in Computer Science and Information Systems. Currently, he says home is the Robotics lab on South Campus, where he does his research as a master's student. He wants to produce research that is meaningful to himself, his supervisor and the broader scientific community. Bouwer also lectures at the University.

"I didn't fail the test. I just found 100 ways to do it wrong." – Benjamin Franklin

"Next to excellence is the appreciation of it."

MASTER'S BY COURSEWORK AWARDS

These awards go to the best master's degree by coursework graduates, inclusive of MTech candidates, in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Siphile Hlwatika

Rupert Family Trust Award for the best Master's Degree by Coursework: Social Sciences and Humanities

Siphile's research for his Master of Laws in Labour Law identified a gap in our employment law, which needs some development and certainty in light of various conflicting decisions from our courts. His research proposes some solutions to the problems identified, which he incorporates to the practical and legal advice provided to corporate clients. It has practically assisted him in his workplace, ENSafrica, with their day-to-day litigious matters. He believes practising employment law prior to conducting his research contributed to his success. His aspiration is to become a seasoned employment law expert in the foreseeable future. Siphile now lives and works in Cape Town.

"Fortis fortuna adiuvat (Fortune favours the brave)."

"It doesn't get easier, you just get stronger."



Daniel Fouché

Nelson Mandela University Council
Award for the best Master's Degree by
Coursework: Science, Engineering and
Technology

The exploration of our local expressions, textiles, patterns, technologies and character, can start to inform a playful, yet incredibly meaningful and relevant architecture, says Daniel, who obtained her master's degree in Architecture and now works for SAOTA Architects in Cape Town. The idea of architecture responding to the unique fantasies and cultural identities of people and creating an entity to develop and transform specific socio-economic aspects from a personal foundation, excites her. "I have a passion for eccentric postmodern architecture and want to explore its relevance in a very specific South African context, similar to the UK collective Archigram, which emphasises architecture as a human sensual experience, with extreme colour, sub-cultures of industry, entertainment and hyper-consumerism," Daniel says.

*"Everybody thinks they know, but
no one really knows."*

***"Excellence is a continuous process
and not an accident."***

MASTER'S BY DISSERTATION AWARDS

These awards go to the best master's by research dissertation degree graduates in the broad fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, and within Science, Engineering and Technology.





Luan Staphorst

Nelson Mandela University Council
Award for the best Master's Degree
by Dissertation: Social Sciences and
Humanities

Luan obtained 85% for his MA in Linguistics from Mandela University, his second of three masters' degrees (all *cum laude*). His most recent master's degree is from Oxford University, where he won the Kirk-Greene Prize for Best Overall Performance. Luan hopes to continue working in academia, specifically in a research space, such as Mandela University's Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation (CriSHET), where intellectual rigour intersects with the social. He is currently applying for PhD programmes, both in South Africa and abroad, and works as a Research Associate within CriSHET. He has also produced more than a dozen peer-reviewed research publications.

*"Life/research is an ever-continuing unfolding.
To live is to re-live, to re-search what we thought
we had forgotten, to re-member the un-
forgettability of being."*

***"Excellence is not a skill; it is an
attitude."***



Eleesha Annear

Albert Wessels Trust Award for the best Master's Degree by Dissertation: Science, Engineering and Technology

Eleesha researched cheetah and lion and their preference of prey for her master's degree in Zoology, and discovered that cheetahs shift their diet seasonally. Cheetahs kill neonate and juvenile prey during the wet season and adult prey during the dry season. This shift in their diet is reflected in the seasonal synchronisation of cheetah reproduction with the breeding season of their prey, she says. Eleesha, who obtained 90% for her master's degree, currently lives in Belgium and is applying for PhDs in Europe. She hopes to remain in academia, however, and continue research into wildlife ecology and conservation. She says home is, and always will be, South Africa.

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us."

"Autograph your work with excellence."

RUPERT GESINSTIGTING AWARDS

These awards are given to exceptional students who have obtained their degrees *cum laude*, are currently enrolled for doctoral studies at Nelson Mandela University and who are applying their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of South Africa.

The study bursary of R150 000 from the Rupert Family Trust is divided among top master's students in the Social Sciences and Humanities field and within the Science, Engineering and Technology disciplines.





Riyaad Ismail

Social Sciences and Humanities

Teaching and researching entrepreneurship and developing practical business support initiatives, such as entrepreneurship centres, incubators, and accelerator programmes, is Riyaad's aim with his PhD studies in Business Management. He obtained 80% for his MCom in 2021. Riyaad is also a researcher at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. His research identified best practices in providing student entrepreneurship support at South African public universities and was shared at several national conferences, as well as the 2022 annual Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Lekgotla. He also developed a Student Entrepreneurship Assessment Tool available to all public universities in South Africa, to create awareness, gain insights into and assess the student entrepreneurship support, offered at their universities.

“Maintain a positive mindset. With self-belief, effort, and patience, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.”

“Excellence is not being the best; it is doing your best.”



Jacques Welgemoed

Science, Engineering and Technology

As a PhD student in Mechatronics, Jacques is focusing on multirobot systems or swarm robotics and wants to continue working in aerial robotics and develop new and useful machines for the future. Jacques obtained his master's in Mechatronics with an average of 80%. Swarm robotics seeks to mimic the synergistic behaviour of swarms or flocks in nature. Jacques is trying to create a robotics framework to enable swarming behaviour in multi-robot systems, both heterogenous and homogeneous. By developing a generic framework instead of an application specific swarm, they could potentially be applied to a variety of applications, such as search and rescue work, firefighting and gas leak detection.

“If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?”

– Albert Einstein

“Perfection is not attainable but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

These special awards go to the best graduates and diplomates of the year. These are awarded to the:

- Best first diploma student;
- Best first degree student;
- Best postgraduate (Science, Engineering and Technology) student; and
- Best postgraduate (Social Sciences and Humanities) student.

The recipients are selected from the winners already honoured in the various categories.



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Professional, Administrative and Support Service Staff (PASS) Awards

The People and Operations Division enables the institution to function with their foundational and support service to the academic project.

Individual Awards

These awards are presented to individuals who have excelled across the various Peromnes levels in terms of their performance in enhancing the success of the institution.



- Professional, Administrative and Support Service Excellence Award •
Peromnes level 10 to 12



Nozuko Rhayi

Education Resource Centre/First Year
Success Coordinator

The Education Faculty's Resource Centre has become a hub of activity under Nozuko's leadership which she manages with dedication and enthusiasm. She has been innovative and creative and took on the additional responsibility as first-year-experience coordinator, leading many activities in the Centre. Nozuko firmly believes in a team effort for success and surrounds herself with both students and staff for her projects. She provides leadership and guidance to her teams, who respect and admire her for her enthusiasm and passion. She has raised the profile of the Education Faculty and the University in multiple ways. Students speak fondly of Nozuko as she nurtures them through their experiences.

*"Be the person you longed for growing up,
then let that person make the life-changing
difference to others in need."*

"I never lose. I either win or learn."

- Nelson Mandela

- Professional, Administrative and Support Service Excellence Award •
Peromnes level 10 to 12



Megan Fensham

Lab Technician: Human Physiology

Megan always gives her best, even under trying circumstances, and often goes beyond to assist where needed. Her work is meticulous, and she was one of the first staff members to train on Moodle to assist academic staff, often offering support after hours. She researches different ways to present practicals, with online videos and software programmes to support the student online learning experience and training for in-person practicals. She demonstrates excellent leadership and management skills, in her interactions with demonstrators, tutors, students and colleagues. She ensures that the labs run smoothly and consistently implements improvements for more efficient workflow. Megan lives the values of Mandela, in her work ethic and her interactions with students and colleagues.

“Even in trying situations, treat everyone who crosses your path with respect and kindness.”

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”

- Nelson Mandela

- Professional, Administrative and Support Service Excellence Award •
Peromnes level 8 to 9



Dalene Harris

Personal Assistant: Executive Director
Finance

Performing her responsibilities and tasks consistently at a very high level, Dalene represents the values of Mandela University and is an asset to the University. She carries out her work in an organised and efficient way. Dalene also took on the extra responsibility of typing and editing the University's Consolidated Annual Financial Statements under timeline pressures, being updated with required changes en route through the University governance processes until final Council approval. She had to work over and above normal working hours and over weekends to ensure deadlines were met. Dalene has taken on this challenging job with the utmost dedication and commitment, putting the finance directorate and University first.

"Striving for excellence is not to be perfect. I have to use my talents and skills to achieve my goals and a little extra."

***"A winner is a dreamer who never gives up."
- Nelson Mandela***

- Professional, Administrative and Support Service Excellence Award •
Peromnes level 8 to 9



Kina Muller

Lab Technician: Chemistry

Kina's work in organic chemistry focuses on the maintenance of instrumentation valued in the multi-million Rand range, crucial for teaching students as well as for research. She provides technical support and in-depth training of its correct use to students as well as external stakeholders. Kina also sources consumables as well as equipment for teaching and research, liaising with company representatives, analysing quotations for their best value-for-money performance and diligently handles the procurement chain. This requires consistent record-keeping and frequent updating. Kina always goes out of her way to obtain the best equipment at the most reasonable price with superhuman patience and conciseness. She also assists in lecturing first-year students with perfect live demonstrations.

"Life is too short to rehash what could have been."

***"When you let your own light shine, you
unconsciously give others permission to do
the same."***

- Nelson Mandela

- Professional, Administrative and Support Service Excellence Award •
Peromnes level 5 to 7



Lee-Anne Groener

Legal Advisor in Legal Services

Disciplinary case hearings, litigation and legal advisory, all form part of Legal Advisor Lee-Anne's responsibility. With online academic assessments, hearings increased by more than 60%, she had to find innovative solutions for adapted processes. Lee-Anne also had to lead the way to create systems to deal with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) university-wide, one of the most comprehensive and risky statutes, including POPI audits, new governance structures, new policies and staff training. In addition, she deals with emergency legal advice daily, resulting in long hours of research, which she does with dedication. She has also assisted with Procurement Law, a key risk area and served as an assessor to Judge Van Zyl (Deputy Judge President) in the High Court in several tax cases.

"There are many problems to lose oneself in, but I just try and find the solution to each of those problems."

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

- Nelson Mandela

TEAM AWARD

Similarly, teams that are innovative, creative, effective and efficient in working together to advance the work of Nelson Mandela University, are acknowledged for their exceptional contribution.





Occupational Health and Wellness Team

The COVID-19 pandemic brought positive changes within the Occupational Health and Wellness team, such as an increase in staff members and a demand for more services to other campuses including Missionvale, Second Avenue and George. The team also assisted with the Institutional Legal compliance by increasing the medical surveillance of high-risk employees. They applied a

different approach to employee wellness events in conjunction with external and internal stakeholders. A dedicated emergency response team was formed by expanding the service to include COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Above all, the team scored 92% in an audit by the Occupational Health and Safety professional body.

“With hard work, perseverance, and resilience, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to.”

CREATIVE OUTPUT AWARDS

Awards are given for exceptional creative research outputs emanating from the fields of fine arts and visual arts; music; theatre, performance and dance; design; film and television and literary arts.





Tarryn Rennie

Community Engagement and Illustration Design

The *Parenting with Love* project created by Tarryn, a lecturer in Media and Communication, is unique as the books are designed to reach demographically diverse parents and caregivers. Most self-help parenting books are inaccessible in terms of cost, availability and levels of understanding. Her illustrations, design and layout, accompanying the text are simple, to create a reading experience that facilitates emotional and intellectual engagement. The colour and line art capture the emotions and sentiments in an appropriate and easily identifiable manner. Even if the text is not immediately understood, the images anchor the meaning. This type of work opens many doors for new and innovative research into producing accessible and cost-effective educational materials for diverse audiences on topics that deserve importance and expressive space.

"We are all born creative. It is how we apply our creativity to reality that really makes a difference."

"The unrelenting pursuit of your goal and a commitment to excellence leads to success."



Upasna Maharaj

Visual Autobiography and Storytelling

"A Little Woman Hanging is an experimental take on autobiographical events of medical trauma that have shaped my identity," says Upasna, a lecturer in Media and Communication. In her photo-essay she positions herself as "once-victim-now-owner-of-my-past" documentarian, and visual artist, drawing on the notion of "art as catharsis". Here, art provides a non-invasive method through which she delves into issues of time, space, place, memory and identity. The photo essay offers insight into the often ignored and underrepresented issues of disability and chronic illness in a way that gives agency back to "victims" of trauma. It contributes to reclaim differently abled and neurodivergent identity from ableist media by recognising the lived experiences of disenfranchised groups - an act of power and protest.

"Always strive to be and see good in everything you do."

"To achieve excellence in big things, develop the habit in little things."



Ulagh Williams

Musical Direction, Conducting and Performance

Music is a powerful tool for transformation, says Ulagh of Arts, Culture and Heritage, who is also the University Choir Conductor. It is her goal to create spaces where individuals are encouraged to embrace their unique sound, musical traditions and skills, regardless of their academic or cultural background. The documentation of new, collaborative artistic work not only empowers those who create it, but also contributes to a living archive that serves to educate and inspire others. Her work as music practitioner and researcher is to challenge social and academic master narratives and structures that continue to exclude, divide, constrain and marginalise individuals in the world of music-making.

“Every voice tells a story, and every song is a vehicle for change.”

“The secret of joy in work is contained in one word - excellence.”



Jessica Staple

Materiality of Art and Diversities of Printmaking

“As an artist, I find inspiration everywhere and in unexpected places. I like matter. I like machines. I like reading, history and stories. I like drawing people and I also like objects. I value skills, practice, tradition and craft, as well as mistakes, chance, honesty and invention,” says Jessica, a lecturer in Fine Arts (Printmaking). Every artwork is a journey, and every exhibition is unique, a coming together of guided accidents never to be repeated. Jessica believes that good art gives more than it takes. It distances us from the bitterness of the world while giving us the strength to face it. It puts us in touch with ourselves and other people, reminding us that we are human, she says.

“Feel before you think. Think before you speak. Speak what you do.”

“Be a yardstick of quality.”

INNOVATION TEAM AWARDS

These awards recognise innovation excellence during 2021 but which may also be the culmination of a period of sustained innovation excellence over a number of years.





Andre du Plessis and the Digital Suitcase team

The Education Faculty's "Digital Suitcase" innovation team aims to implement and reduce the real cost of accessing educational content digitally. Their innovation, after a decade of research, is based on using a Raspberry Pi, a low-cost, credit-card-sized mini-computer with a WiFi hotspot, to deliver educational, digital content to any WiFi-enabled device within range. It would provide access within

a disconnected classroom with no data costs. The educational content is fully customisable to enable teachers and learners to transform from information consumers to knowledge producers by uploading their own content. This is a form of "internet" experience in the hands of a digitally minded teacher, with no internet access at school. The innovation has been piloted for some time at Charles Duna Primary School.

"Creating meaningful teaching and learning experiences for non-connected classrooms by providing access to a rich internet type of learning experience for all."



Percy Hlangothi and the Centre for Rubber Science and Technology team

The Centre for Rubber Science and Technology (CRST) team regularly provides scientific support to start-up and small companies. They have assisted AET AFRICA, a small national award-winning company in Dimbaza (Eastern Cape), with their energy saving geyser sleeve invention, in the various production processes. The team also helped Ibhayi Dental Solution in Kariega to develop an innovative polymer-based mouth guard as

dental protection in sporting activities. Fault-finding analytics, failure analysis, and technical support (materials and processing) are among the services that the team provides for the automotive sector, including tyres, conveyor belts, cables and rubber linings. Their research and development focus on breaking scientific hinderances for effective recycling of waste materials, such as tyres, plastics, and biomass.

“Rubber is elastic by nature, but it also has its stress limits beyond which permanent deformation occurs. Know your limits!”



Russell Phillips and the Lab E7 Team (Renewable Energy Research Group and Mandela Autonomous Operations Group)

An aircraft/drone that can take off from a confined area, travel a reasonable distance in a short time and land in a confined area, is currently a worldwide “grand challenge,” says Russell and the Lab E7 Team. Their research group has taken up the challenge and brain-stormed concepts to address this. Their Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) aircraft

leverages the advantages of two different types of motors and uses them in a unique manner, which has been patented. Their first two prototypes demonstrate that autonomous, unmanned flights to and from confined areas over distances of 100km with payloads as high as 100kg, will soon be feasible.

“Arranging a few simple ideas in just the right way can solve seemingly impossible engineering challenges!”

FACULTY EMERGING EXCELLENT TEACHER AWARDS

These awards recognise excellence in the previous calendar year but acknowledge that excellence evolves. As such, lecturers with a record of ongoing progress are also considered and recognised in these awards.



Andrea Govender

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences



"I have often wanted to pinch myself, realising that I am living my dream, which so few have had the privilege of doing," says Andrea, a lecturer in Applied Accounting. Her teaching philosophy ensures that she is always a kind and energetic lecturer, who lives the *Ubuntu* value. She believes in learning by doing and ensuring that the negative perceptions that may surround modules are tackled. *Ubuntu* for her, is essential in holistic development. This means identifying needs in the community and trying to meet them with charity drives, initiatives, determination and solidarity to help our fellow man.

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind, it will always be the best decision of your life."

"Excellence is not an act, but a habit."



Ayanda Simayi

Faculty of Education

Teaching science with Indigenised Teaching strategies removes the fear of science in diverse students, Ayanda, an Education lecturer in the Method of Natural Science, believes. For example, to test for oxygen, she introduces a lesson with a traditional practice where an aunt brings a burning log to a container with *umqomboti* (beer) to test for the state of readiness of the fermentation process. Cultural Science indicates that if the log burns brighter, then fermentation is finished. Similarly, Western Science tests for oxygen by introducing a burning splint through a test tube. If the flame burns brighter, the gas is oxygen. Grounding abstract science on cultural knowledge scaffolds learning, accommodates diversity and improves achievement.

“Grinding maize on stone with stone and kneeling on stone. Nolali, a time comes when you will grind no more.”

“Consistency is what transforms average into excellence.”

FACULTY EXCELLENT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The recipients of these awards are recognised for their significant, sustained and rigorous commitment to teaching; their innovation, creativity and imagination and the positive and humanising impact of their teaching on students. In short, these teachers embody excellence of the profession and calling.





Dewald Koen

Faculty of Education

As an education lecturer and former secondary school teacher, Dewald acknowledges South Africa's need for excellent teachers. "I always knew that I wanted to teach – to inspire learners and students to become productive citizens and most importantly, good human beings," he says. Through education, every person can contribute to bringing about positive change to address the various challenges we as a society face. The essence of a good teacher ultimately lies in a holistic approach. Dewald's passion for teaching and seeing students flourish academically, personally, and spiritually, is what motivates him to always pursue excellence, fun and creativity in his classroom.

"Learning and teaching shape the first words to many a great life."

"It is in your hands to make a better world for all."

- Nelson Mandela

Amina Jakoet-Salie

Faculty of Humanities



“My graduates should be strong, independent and confident individuals, who will contribute to sustainability and be that strong swimmer in a pool of many swimmers, determined to stay afloat and never sink,” says Amina, a lecturer in Public Management and Leadership. With learning and teaching spaces changing over the past two and a half years, she was determined to ensure that all her students were going to swim and not sink. She aims to produce critical thinkers and graduates who can contribute to improving society and become change agents in their communities, inculcating values of respect for diversity and excellence. Lecturers should be mentors too. “When students hear my journey, I hope that it can be both inspiring and valuable,” she says.

“Too much hatred in the world, so learn to listen and listen to learn. Too much negativity, so communicate to co-operate.”

“The harder you work for something the better you will feel when you achieve it.”

Marc Welgemoed

Faculty of Law



Clinical Legal Education (CLE) combines a sound theoretical basis with practical training, says Marc, a lecturer in Criminal and Procedural Law. He believes that with this approach his students are better prepared for the working world that they will enter after graduation. Students need to be made aware of the importance of theory, as well as putting such theory in motion by applying it to practical scenarios, he says. Marc focuses on the practical skills that students will acquire after studying a piece of work, as well as the graduate attributes that they need when entering the workplace. He incorporates CLE in all his modules, including Unjustified Enrichment, Law of Evidence, Civil Procedure and Legal Practice.

*“Always be the star that you are.
Perform to the best of your potential
and always make a difference.”*

***“Mindset is what separates the best from
the rest.”***

Richard Betz

Faculty of Science



“Modern Teaching” has to deal with a global society that sees its knowledge doubling in ever shorter intervals, says Richard, a senior lecturer in Chemistry. As a result, we need to step back, slow down, pause and allow to time to ponder, demonstrate on a real-life scale and experience touchable and feelable entities. Identifying patterns and focusing on concepts and rules, are what shrinks thousands of pages of information into several lines of manageable take-home messages. As educators, we need to equip students with the ability to fix future problems by following the maxim of “Less is More”. And this also applies to technology, which has evolved faster than its creators, providing access to knowledge creation. Accepting this fact is not an admission of defeat as it offers great potential for the future of teaching. Truly “Modern Teaching”.

*“Breathe in ... breathe out ... relax ... repeat
- life is good! A statement valid for students
and lecturers alike.”*

***“Two things you are in total control of your
life are your attitude and your effort.”***

LEARNING AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE TEAM AWARD

This award is made in recognition of the team that positively and significantly impacts student learning and practice through their combined and intentional efforts to enhance learning for the benefit of all parties.





Yebo Physics Team

Solving Physics and other STEM problems alone without help can indeed be daunting. The Yebo Physics Team has created a unique online support service for our University's students. Learners can now connect via YouTube voice call-ins and chat. The YEBO Tutor livestream channel runs daily, offering free education of the highest quality. YEBO Physics connects learners to tutors for real time interactive help –

anywhere, anytime. Much like the Uber of online education, YEBO Physics puts a tutor in your pocket. Through developing innovative micro-studios for their broadcasts, YEBO Physics has a fresh and vibrant vibe. The impact of the initiative extends far beyond our University, with learners and viewers from all over the world subscribing and joining their channel, they say.

"Alone each star twinkled gently, together they illuminated the night sky."

FACULTY EMERGING EXCELLENT RESEARCHER AWARDS

These awards seek to promote, recognise and rewards research excellence among new, emerging researchers across the faculties.





Ayanda Deliwe

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

Quality education and improvement, motivated by the need to make education change the world, is the research focus of Ayanda, a lecturer in Business Management. Her personal belief is in providing and administering academic empowerment, which facilitates personal growth and development. In as much as charity begins at home, those being assisted end up being dependent and she aspires for independence and self-realisation. Improved education can address poverty, one of the major societal challenges.

“Change your mindset and stop asking yourself who am I to ... rather ask who I am not to ...?”

***“Your greatness is not what you have.
It’s what you give.”***



Emma Ayesu-Koranteng

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

"I am passionate about low-income housing provision and the environment, mass timber construction, construction health and safety, sustainable construction and construction contractor development," says Emma, a senior lecturer and head of the Department of Building and Human Settlements Development. She reviews how timber can be used in the built environment without leaving carbon footprints in line with sustainable development goals. Emma is researching mass timber at doctoral level as well as using sustainable materials for affordable housing. She co-leads the Department's learning and teaching engagement unit and serves as project leader on timber research projects at the University. She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Building.

"This is my race, my journey, my life. I simply want to better the person I was yesterday."

"Strength lies in differences; not in similarities."

- Stephen Covey



Obakeng Kagola

Faculty of Education

The involvement of men in the learning and teaching of young children can contribute towards developing a different form of masculinity that is caring and pro-femininity, says Obakeng, a lecturer in Early Childhood Education. He explores the notion that foundation phase teaching is socially constructed as a career only suitable for women in his research. Obakeng works together with School Governing Bodies (SGBs) as leaders and community members, to think of ways they can foster change through disrupting gendered ideas, such as foundation phase teaching as only suitable for women and not a profession commendable for everyone.

"In our actions we work towards our destinations; through acts of kindness, we forge paths to changing the world for the better."

"Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in, day out."



Fouzia Munir

Faculty of Humanities

Many of us are living lives of oppression, adversity and deprivation, says Fouzia, a lecturer in Applied Languages. Her research has addressed social justice issues and skills development. She believes we can all play our part in uplifting our society, helping the vulnerable and fighting for the rights of those who cannot fight for themselves. In a world beset with human suffering, multidisciplinary research is needed in pursuing the vision of a society that is based on the principles of equality and justice for all.

“Research is growth. Researchers have the power to drive change and create a better tomorrow for everyone.”

“Success does not come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently.”



Amanda Spies

Faculty of Law

The research of Amanda, an associate professor in Public Law, questions law and social change and how strategic litigation can be used to change the law to benefit women. A distinct focal point is her interrogation of seemingly procedural aspects of litigation and adjudication, how arguments are framed, how facts and experiences are presented to courts and how they are perceived and weighed in judicial deliberation. She believes that her research has benefited from her prior experience as strategic litigator around women's rights, providing her with insight into the different ways in which law and justice are framed and constructed, thereby unmasking the partisanship of law, and suggesting room for reform.

"Always strive for excellence."

"Big things often have small beginnings."



Anina Coetzee

Faculty of Science

Fynbos, a habitat type in the Cape, contains more than 300 plant species that depend on sunbirds to visit them so that they can produce seeds. The research of Anina of Natural Resource Management helps us to understand these species better and to conserve them so that society can benefit from their beauty and the healthy environment they produce. Sunbirds are highly dependent on the sugar water produced in these plants' flowers. Because sunbirds and these plants depend on each other so strongly, they affect each other's survival and evolution and therefore must be conserved together.

"Create little pockets of heaven in your own community."

***"Don't decrease the goal.
Increase the effort."***

FACULTY RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

These awards seek to recognise and reward the top researchers within each faculty for their research excellence in 2021.





Andrew Phiri

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

The research of Andrew, a professor in Economics, is interdisciplinary in nature and does not prescribe to any specific school of economic thought but allows data to “speak for itself”. His research focuses on identifying and applying analytical tools, which have the mathematical accuracy to draw precise inferences from real world data. In unveiling “hidden facts” on key economic issues, his research enhances our ability to evaluate which competing theories best explain these facts and which existing economic policies are (un) likely to work. The research also suggests new policy framework designs, which have a higher probability of improving people’s welfare.

“As is the case with mankind, it is really doubtful that any economy can truly prosper without being highly sacrificial.”

“Where focus goes, energy flows.”



John Smallwood

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology

Construction globally generates a disproportionate number of fatalities, injuries and occupational disease, with a negative impact on participants and their families' health and well-being, also contributing to the cost of construction and development. John, a professor in Construction Management, conducts personal health and safety (H&S)-related research and his student research has contributed to change through practitioners across the construction industry. To date, these studies have addressed strategies, tactics, and interventions at industry, organisation, and project level, to improve H&S performance over three decades. However, the advent of Industry 4.0 and its related technologies, constitutes a further opportunity to contribute to improving H&S performance, requiring related research and the development of frameworks and models.

"Given that health and safety is a 'life and death' issue, meaningful research relative thereto, and implementable recommendations have the potential to 'make a difference.'"

"Work hard, dream big and never give up."



Anass Bayaga

Faculty of Education

Increasingly, developed and developing nations require urgent improvement in students' cognitive engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Access to and the implementation of computer application technologies toward enhanced human-computer interface (HCI), are increasingly limited in all socioeconomic statuses in Africa. In response, Anass, an associate professor in Education, focuses on augmenting information processing (computational cognition) via adaptive technologies. Transdisciplinary research assists in STEM cognitive enhancement with a thrust on neuro (cognitive) mathematics, computational cognition and decision making. Unlike existing research, the mathematics/STEM connections linking pattern recognition, spatial visualisation/perception, and information processing, are examined to apply and enhance computational decision-making and processes through 4IR technologies.

*"Because Creation or Nature is easily expressed
in mathematical language, I doubt it if the
Creator isn't a Mathematician."*

"Achievement is talent plus preparation."



Ilse Truter

Faculty of Health Sciences

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 3 aspires to ensure health and well-being for all, and this is the research focus of Ilse, a professor in Pharmacy. One cannot manage if you cannot measure and her research into the prescribing and usage patterns of medicine aims to measure, so that we can better manage our scarce healthcare resources. It involves surveys with consumers, patients and healthcare professionals, to working with "Big Data", analysing millions of health records. Both clinical and cost factors are considered. Ultimately, a healthy population can lead to the economic well-being of a country. She also researches headaches/migraine, ADHD, vaccines, pharmacy services, and health systems management.

"Be curious. Be courageous. Enjoy the journey towards your dream ... how you travel is as important as to what you are travelling towards."

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."



Babalwa Magoqwana

Faculty of Humanities

Despite the black feminist thought and its interventions through 'intersectionality- race, class and gender' in understanding the postcolonial gender relations today, African societies tend to use indigenous languages to articulate and conceptualise issues differently as opposed to the global North, says Babalwa, a senior lecturer in Sociology and Anthropology. Her research on Maternal Legacies of Knowledge: Towards a Woman-Centred Vernacular Sociology in South Africa is supported by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Science. The essence of this project is to re-historicise and reconnect the language and sociology to the matriarchal roots and "woman-centered vernacular theory" of the African continent. The project hopes to contribute to towards multi-cultural and pluralistic knowledge beyond the biases around the 'fathers' only.

"I still believe that ... great scholarship comes when one starts taking their own context seriously."

"Fall in love with the process of becoming the very best version of yourself."



Joanna Botha

Faculty of Law

Joanna, a professor in Public Law, believes in the premise that inter-group hostility is linked to social hierarchies and the power dynamics between marginalised communities and those with 'in-group' status. Her research uses a contextually sensitive and people-orientated approach for the development of a regulatory framework for hate crimes and hate speech. South Africa's Constitution also plays a prominent role in Joanna's research, with the rights to substantive equality, human dignity and freedom of expression being key. "I aim to use engaged research to enhance law's capacity to construct meaningful change and development in an inclusive, socially just South Africa, she says.

"Be curious, be brave, believe in your work and you will inspire change."

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."



Janine Adams

Faculty of Science

Our research ensures that science assists to both conserve coastal habitats like estuaries, but also transcends to policy, which is widely implemented to protect the country's estuaries, says Janine, a professor in Botany. Innovative methods for water quality improvement are identified to ensure healthy estuaries, ecological and societal benefits, such as recreation and subsistence use. Her research is aligned with the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and priority sites for action which have been identified. Janine's research outputs are used in global studies to understand the response of coastal wetlands to climate change including sea level rise and extreme events. South Africa's diverse coastline is a privilege to study, offering rich opportunities to explore the habitats where people live, work and play, she says.

"My passion is making a difference and ensuring that knowledge is transferred across the science, policy, management spectrum."

"Work to become, not to acquire."

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS

These awards go to those individuals whose research has positively impacted Nelson Mandela University and society over a sustained period of time.





Pierre Pistorius

Zoology

The ecology and conservation of marine predators such as seabirds, seals and dolphins, underpin much of the research conducted by Pierre, a professor in Zoology. Focal to his research is the impact of climate change and human activities on marine ecosystems and the development of novel means to better manage these systems. Marine top predators serve as important ecological indicators that are used for marine ecosystem-based management and spatial planning. His research involves wide international collaboration with researchers from France, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, the UK, Seychelles and the Falkland Islands. Prof Pistorius has published over 150 peer-reviewed scientific papers and communicates much of this research to the public through various media outlets.

“An absolute fascination with the oceans, and a deep yearning to better understand her magic, motivates my ongoing research on her beasties and her shores.”

“It’s a beautiful day to go after your dreams.”



Anass Bayaga

Education

Increasingly, developed and developing nations require urgent improvement in students' cognitive engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Access to and the implementation of computer application technologies toward enhanced human-computer interface (HCI), are increasingly limited in all socioeconomic statuses in Africa. In response, Anass, an associate professor in Education, focuses on augmenting information processing (computational cognition) via adaptive technologies. Transdisciplinary research assists in STEM cognitive enhancement with a thrust on neuro (cognitive) mathematics, computational cognition and decision making. Unlike existing research, the mathematics/STEM connections linking pattern recognition, spatial visualisation/perception, and information processing, are examined to apply and enhance computational decision-making and processes through 4IR technologies.

"Because Creation or Nature is easily expressed in mathematical language, I doubt it if the Creator isn't a Mathematician."

"If the plan does not work, change the plan but never the goal."

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

These awards go to those individuals who demonstrate expertise and excellence in all aspects of teaching, including curriculum development and learning design, facilitation and assessment, ongoing development, leadership and a commitment to scholarship. Additionally, the recipient has had a broader impact within and beyond the institution.





Bertram Haskins

Information Technology

Bertram, an associate professor in Information Technology, is passionate about instilling a sense of transformational learning in his students and believes that the best teachers are those most willing to never stop learning. Challenging an individual student to critically reflect on solutions, will awaken them to be the innovators of tomorrow; the leaders which drive the future advancement of society. He prescribes to the notion that technology is a tool for a teacher to aid a student in constructing a bridge, which provides support and guidance to traverse the divide between the novice and the critically thinking practitioner.

“A passionate teacher is the transformational spark which ignites others into life-long learners.”

“Education is not preparation for life; it is life itself.”



Shawn Gouws

Chemistry

As chemical process operator skills are scarce in South Africa, it is critical to establish in our society, a foundation of knowledge for students, who are trained to solve problems, says Shawn, a senior lecturer in Chemistry. He teaches technology and industrial chemistry and exposes his students to simulations and practical experiments that enable them to understand the principles of the task. In line with humanising pedagogy, he has a student-centred approach, discussing topics to ensure understanding. "It is a joy for me to pass my knowledge onto my students, to instil a work ethic and prepare them for the challenges industry bring" he says.

"Creating wonder and curiosity, passing on knowledge, instilling a work ethic that prepares my students for their careers, that's what it's all about."

"The only thing in your control is effort and that's all and everything."

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY EMERGING TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The recipient of this award is selected from the Faculty Emerging Teacher of the Year winners and is announced at the event.



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY EMERGING RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The recipient of this award is selected from the Faculty Emerging Researcher of the Year winners and is announced at the event.



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This individual, selected from the faculty winners, is the most highly regarded in terms of the positive impact they have had on their students and profession.

The winner is announced at the event.



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This individual, selected from the faculty winners, is the most highly recognised in relation to the impact that their outstanding research has had for Nelson Mandela University and society more broadly.

The winner is announced at the event.



NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented to individuals who have given exceptional, impactful and loyal service to Nelson Mandela University.

The recipient is announced at the event.



Our vision and mission

Our vision and mission define our long-term aims and purpose for existence.

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 quality education opportunities that will make a critical and constructive contribution to regional, national and global sustainability.




Diversity



Excellence



Ubuntu



Social justice
& equality



Integrity



Environmental
stewardship

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