

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

LEARNING AND TEACHING
MATTERS

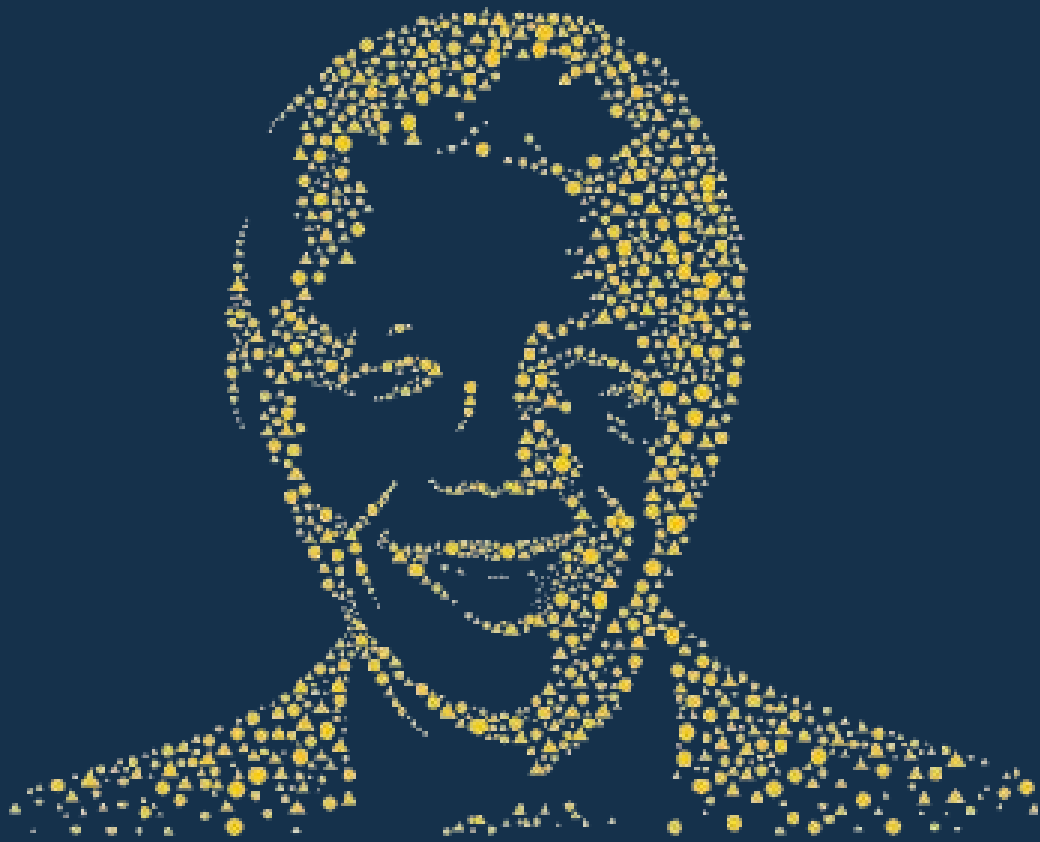


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WORD OF WELCOME FROM THE DEPUTY VICE- CHANCELLOR: LEARNING AND TEACHING

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Partners,

I warmly welcome you to the first edition of our *Learning and Teaching Newsletter, 2025*. This marks an important step in celebrating and strengthening the vibrant learning and teaching culture at Nelson Mandela University.

In 2025, we are called to reimagine learning and teaching and scholarship through humanising pedagogy—placing our students' experiences and potential at the centre of all we do. This approach drives us to transform our curricula and engagement with the intention to ensure student success.

This edition highlights inspiring innovations across faculties—from Africanising Science to advances in STEAM, Ocean Sciences, and Digital Literacy in rural schools—showcasing the creativity and resilience of our communities.

Our achievements reflect the dedication of academics, students, professional and administrative staff, collaborators and partners united by a shared vision for education as a catalyst for positive change.

May this newsletter remind us all of our collective power to build an inclusive, innovative, and socially just future. As you engage with this publication, I invite you to see it not only as a record of achievement, but as an invitation to deepen our shared commitment to excellent, inclusive, innovative, and socially just education that promotes student success.



Dr Muki Moeng

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching
Nelson Mandela University**

Beginning Your Journey: Academic Induction Fosters Cross-Faculty Engagement and Student-Centred Teaching

The **2025 BYJ academic induction** welcomed 39 participants from all faculties, with strong retention across its February and April sessions.

Discussions revealed a shared focus on student engagement as key to success, with new academics exploring practical

strategies to foster active learning. The programme not only supports professional development but also builds a cross-disciplinary community committed to enhancing student outcomes.



**Picture taken during the first leg of the BYJ academic induction programme*

Mentoring: Building Bridges for Success

Responding directly to Vision 2030 priorities, we've expanded our teaching development initiatives by developing a contextualised mentoring programme tailored specifically to individual faculty departments. This approach recognises that while academics are discipline experts with extensive knowledge to share, mentoring must align with specific faculty and departmental cultures, practices, processes, and policies.

Our pilot mentoring training workshop with the Law faculty marked an important milestone, with participation from the Deputy Dean highlighting leadership commitment to this initiative. We're now preparing to present this framework to

appropriate faculty committees for broader implementation.

This faculty-specific approach builds upon the foundation established by the previous CTLM mentoring programme while addressing the unique needs identified through faculty consultation. The intentional development of academics through targeted mentoring creates multiplier effects, strengthening teaching quality while fostering collegial support networks.

"Mentoring is not one-size-fits-all. To truly support our academics, we must align development with the unique cultures and practices of each faculty."

Curriculum Design and Development: Crafting Pathways to Learning

Our curriculum development initiatives have expanded significantly, with the LT Collab Academic Planning & Quality Advancement (APQA) Unit and Teaching Development (TD) Unit hosting a comprehensive workshop at George Campus on March 17, 2025. This session provided guidance on national and institutional curriculum processes, Academic Planning Committee requirements, and Quality Review procedures. In addition, focused consultations were particularly well-received, offering practical insights for faculties engaged in curriculum design and development.

In addition, we launched institutional workshops supporting the re-registration of HEQSF-aligned

qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework.

These sessions help programmes incorporate institutional changes and re-curriculation while meeting updated CHE and SAQA requirements. Our first workshop attracted participation from three faculties, with three additional sessions scheduled for May, June, and July.

This comprehensive approach enables the alignment of curriculum with national standards while reflecting institutional priorities and disciplinary innovations.

Building a Community of Scholarly Teachers: Early Career Academics Advancement Programme (ECAAP) Grows with Three Dynamic Cohorts

The Early Career Academic Advancement Programme (ECAAP) continues to grow as a vital platform for developing emerging academics. In 2025, the programme supports three active cohorts: 17 first-years, 18 second-years, and 16 third-years from all faculties. Participants engage in a three-year journey of workshops, peer learning, and reflective practice to strengthen their roles as scholarly teachers.

ECAAP's growing participation and reduced attrition highlight its impact. A certificate ceremony on 12 May 2025 will celebrate 14 academics from six faculties who have successfully completed the programme, marking the graduation of the third cohort. Full details will follow in the second-semester newsletter.



APQA and TDU Ensure Quality, Relevant, and Legally Compliant Academic Programmes

The Academic Planning and Quality Advancement Unit (APQA), in conjunction with the Teaching Development Unit (TDU), is mandated to ensure that programmes developed and offered by Nelson Mandela University are structured with clear learning pathways and outcomes, content is current, relevant, and aligned with the world of work requirements. Programmes designed should be such that student success is encouraged.

The Unit is further mandated to ensure that qualifications offered by the university are in legal good standing by getting cleared by the Department of Higher Education (DHET), accredited by Council on Higher Education (CHE), and registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Reregistration of HEQSF Aligned qualifications

The APQA unit, in collaboration with the Teaching Development Unit (TDU), is actively supporting Faculties in the national process of delinking and reregistering HEQSF-aligned qualifications, as mandated by CHE and SAQA. This includes sequential curriculum development to strengthen skills and knowledge progression.

Recognising that student success is shaped by multiple factors, APQA ensures that programme design aligns with quality standards and student-centred outcomes. The Unit aims to submit revised qualifications to SAQA via CHE by 31 July 2025

for peer review under the 2023 SAQA Guidelines. APQA remains committed to helping Faculties design programmes that meet accreditation requirements, reflect evolving industry needs, and embed access-with-success principles.

Orientation 2025 Kicks Off with Unity, Energy, and a Focus on Student Success

Nelson Mandela University launched its 2025 Orientation Week with a blended plenary on 31 January, linking George and Gqeberha campuses in a shared celebration. At the heart of the event was the buddies' pledge, reaffirming their commitment to guiding first-year students. The First-Year Success (FYS) team and 234 buddies drove a successful rollout of the Thrive Programme, with an initial 56% turnout (1,689 of 3,013 students), and rising attendance throughout the week.

Buddies also supported the Vice-Chancellor's Welcome and played key roles in academic, social, and online engagement ensuring a warm, inclusive start to university life.



Orientation 2025 Kicks Off with Unity, Energy, and a Focus on Student Success

During the Autumn graduation season, we had the privilege of seeing several of our FYS buddies from the Thrive programme successfully complete their academic journeys. These individuals brought exceptional commitment and empathy to their roles, consistently supporting first-year students through some of the most formative periods of their university experience.

Their graduation marks both a moment of pride and a moment of transition for the FYS team. The impact these buddies have made is tangible - seen in the trust they built with students, the

confidence they fostered in others and finally in their walk across the stage. As they move forward, we hope to build on the momentum they've helped create, using their stories as a model for future cohorts.

"As we celebrate the graduation of our remarkable FYS Thrive buddies, we honour not only their academic achievements but the legacy of empathy, resilience, and leadership they leave behind. Their journey continues to inspire us as we shape the next generation of student leaders."

Residence's Learning and Living Spaces invasion - the new launch of the project

Peer Collaborative Support has expanded into the university's Living and Learning residences, marking a significant step toward enhancing belonging and academic success. The new initiative, Elevating First-Year Success: Fostering Academic Growth Beyond the Classroom aims to empower students through residential tutoring and mentorship.

Training began in January 2025, reaching 45 student leaders in George and 52 mentors in Summerstrand. This collaborative effort ensures first-year students receive personalized, in-residence academic support while aligning with faculty efforts and broader student success initiatives.

The initiative recognises that student success is deeply connected to well-being, engagement, and accessible support structures. It brings

academic assistance directly to where students live, reducing barriers to help. Peer mentors not only guide academic progress but also help ease the emotional and social transition into university life. The approach is holistic, intentional, and student-centred. Regular feedback loops, mentor reflections, and cross-campus check-ins are built into the model. These efforts reinforce a culture of care and success that extends well beyond the classroom.

The Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS 3rd Years)

A long-standing partnership with the Medical Laboratory Sciences department exists, and we again supported their third-year students with a workshop on Presentations, as part of their department 'journal club' activities.

With the Coordinator of the Nursing students first years' some students were 'red-flagged', and we supported them with interventions. This will be ongoing support.

Pharmacy 4th Years

As part of their growth, a workshop was held covering the topic Conflict management. A total of 121 final year students attended the workshop, as they will work in an often-demanding environment, engaging diverse clients and thus the need for basic conflict handling skills.

Student Employability Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) Programme Collaboration

Student Academic Development in collaboration with the Student Employability Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) Programme, hosted a personal development plan for academic and career success workshop on 10 April 2025. The learning objective was framed within transformative learning in developing leadership attributes in producing enlightenment students as change agents.



Miss Ronelle Plaatjes in action

Student Success Coaching

Student Success Coaching continued to offer vital one-on-one support—both in person and online—across all faculties in Term 1 of 2025. Key efforts focused on assisting late-registered students and seniors facing academic progression challenges.

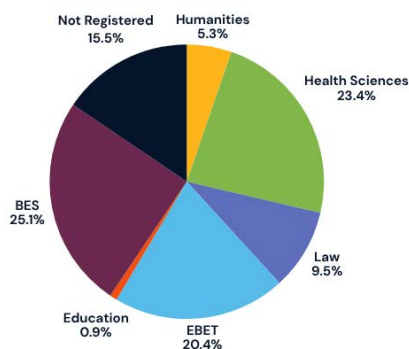
Through a safe, supportive space, the coaching programme empowers students to reflect, take ownership of their academic journey, and develop strategies for long-term success.

Faculty Interactions (N = 597)

Student Interactions (N = 889)

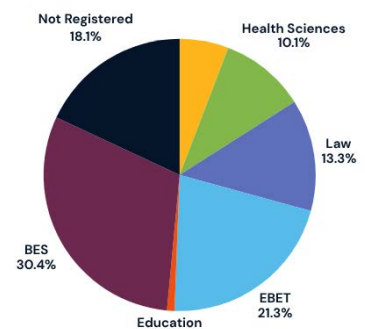
FACULTIES

- Humanities
- Law
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- BES
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- Science
- Not Registered



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Dietetics Coaching Workshop Held on Friday 14 March 2025

A Success Coaching Workshop was conducted with 3rd Year Dietetics students on Friday the 14th of March 2025 to assist students to acclimatise to their various Work Integrated Learning experience in hospitals and clinics in the Nelson Mandela Bay area whilst also assisting them to keep up with the demands of their academic programme. The following coaching areas were covered at the workshop:

- Time Management, Organisation and Planning
- Cultural Diversity in the Workplace
- Helpful Resources

This workshop followed an inaugural Coaching Workshop that was conducted in the 2024

academic year with the then 3rd Year cohort. 4th Year Dietetics students are currently placed in long term Work Integrated Learning placements across the country, and they have been invited to connect with coaches for one on one coaching and individualized support. The coaching workshops with the Dietetics Department are likely to remain an added feature to the 3rd and 4th year curricula.



Science Progression Group coaching session

The purpose of the student success targeted science progression group coaching project aligns with the Academic Progression and Re-admission policy which states furthermore, in accordance with sound educational practices related to

enhancing academic success, procedures need to be in place to regularly review the academic progress of students. Monitoring students' academic performance, psycho-social status and possible aggravating factors on an ongoing basis is a key strategy to enhance student success and

throughput.

The session held on the 5th of February 2025, strived to promote student access by creating awareness of the readmissions rules and relevant policies and ultimately promoting continuous support and resources, improve academic performance, enhance student engagement and assisting students in their journey to graduate.

More than 103 students were reached.

FIRST things FIRST HIV Campaign



Learning Development together with Student Health Services and many other Nelson Mandela Uni stakeholders and external stakeholders collaborated on the Student Annual First things First HIV campaign. The campaign was held in all Gqeberha campuses (2nd Avenue, Missionvale, North and South campus) from the 25 Feb -12 March 2025. The role of LD in the campaign was to create awareness of the LD student support

services offered in the institution and referring the students to resources that promote student engagement, retention, and student success. The Student Success Coaches that were on duty assisted students that needed advice on their progression planning, academic goal setting for the 2nd semester and learning strategies and follow up sessions were set for students that needed such support.



Anti-GBV Resource Exhibition

LD together with the Transformation office and many other Nelson Mandela Uni. stakeholders and external stakeholders collaborated on the Anti-GBV Resource Exhibition held at South campus on the 26 March 2025. This exhibition aimed to bring together various organizations and community groups working toward the eradication of GBV and to raise awareness about the resources available for supporting victims and survivors. The role of LD in the campaign was to create awareness of the LD student support services offered in the institution and how LD can support GBV survivors to promote student success.

By the end of the of campaign more than 300 students were reached.



Academic Literacies

Dr Lekwa Mokwana, Ghauderen Coetzee De Vos, and Linda Mostert from Learning Development (LD) have joined an international research group exploring the evolving nature of writing—from childhood through adulthood—under the project titled Writing Across the Lifespan.

Initiated by Sinead Harmey (University College London) and Sandra Abegglen (University of Calgary), the project investigates how external pressures, and the rise of AI tools impact writing development and academic integrity.

With AI increasingly used in writing, the group aims to answer pressing questions about the role of human authorship in education and knowledge creation.

The first meeting was held on 15 April 2025, marking the beginning of what is set to be a thought-provoking collaboration.

LxD Studio Expands Access Through Fully Online Short Learning Programmes



The Digital Learning Experience Design and Innovation (LxD) Studio, led by Elmien Waring, continues to drive innovation beyond the ongoing updates and redesigns of courses and templates for Moodle 4+. A major focus for the team has been the development of fully online Short Learning Programmes (SLPs), designed to broaden access to quality learning without the need for face-to-face instruction or formal assessments.

SLPs such as Coastal Maritime Spatial Planning and Clinical Skills for Hospital Pharmacists have recently been completed by the LXD team. The development of the Coastal Maritime Spatial

Planning SLP has been a lengthy collaborative effort between academic staff and the LxD Studio team, with Bendré Meyer leading the design process.

These fully online SLPs play a critical role in generating third-stream income for the institution. By ensuring that learning is carefully scaffolded and that activities are thoughtfully designed, the programmes offer opportunities for skills development and meaningful learning experiences, all within a flexible and accessible online environment.

New Cohort of Peer Helpers Trained in April 2025



ESW is pleased to announce that we have about 25 New Peer Helpers trained from 31 March -04 April 2025 and they are ready to increase ESW capacity by offering psycho-education workshops and webinars, including outreach programmes



ESW Management Strategic Visit to George Campus

The ESW Management team conducted a strategic visit to the George Campus, where they engaged with the Campus Principal and Residence Managers to collaboratively explore and develop tailored intervention strategies. This engagement was driven by a recognition of the critical importance of contextual relevance when designing and implementing psychological interventions. The team emphasised that understanding the unique dynamics, challenges, and needs of the George Campus is essential



to ensuring that any proposed interventions are both effective and sustainable. This collaborative approach underscores ESW Management's commitment to context.

Our strategic engagement at the George Campus reflects our unwavering commitment

to contextually grounded interventions. By listening to the unique needs of this campus, we ensure our psychological strategies are not only relevant but truly sustainable.

Staff Introduction: Ms Siphuxolo Bikwe

We warmly welcome Ms Siphuxolo Bikwe, who joined Emthonjeni Student Wellness on 1 February 2025 as a Counselling Psychologist at South Campus. A Rhodes University graduate with experience in student counselling and career support, she brings valuable expertise to our student wellness initiatives.





Acting Executive Dean of Science Professor Zenixole Tshentu

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Science section of the DVC Learning and Teaching Newsletter. As we navigate an era shaped by global uncertainty and rapid scientific advancement, our faculty remains steadfast in its pursuit of excellence, relevance, and transformative impact through science education, research, and innovation.

In alignment with Nelson Mandela University's Vision 2030, we continue to embed humanising pedagogies, sustainability science, and interdisciplinary collaboration into everything we do.

"Amid global uncertainty and rapid scientific change, the Faculty of Science remains committed to excellence, relevance, and transformative impact"

George Campus Drives Climate-Smart Forestry Innovation Through Forest21 Project



The Natural Resource Science & Management Cluster at George Campus played a key role in the EU-funded Forest21 project, a R20 million initiative (2019–2025) aimed at advancing climate-smart forestry education in South Africa. The project focused on curriculum reform, climate change adaptation, entrepreneurship, and innovative teaching.

Prof Jos Louw said Forest21 aligned well with the university's sustainability goals and helped position George Campus as a leader in sustainability science. With strong input from the Faculties of Science and Business, the campus is driving green economy innovation and interdisciplinary solutions to today's environmental and socio-economic challenges.



NMU Celebrates 25 Years of German Partnership Through Smart Cities & Education Workshop



Nelson Mandela University, in partnership with Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and joined by the University of Vechta, proudly hosted a three-day workshop titled “Resilience and Sustainability for Smart Cities and Education” from 11–13 March 2025 in Gqeberha. T

The event commemorated 25 years of academic collaboration and focused on advancing sustainable development, urban innovation, and educational resilience.

DAY 1: SMART HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

The opening day spotlighted smart health solutions aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3, featuring the uYilo Smart Microgrid energy project. Presentations explored the importance of low-tech, localised approaches to smart city development, alongside ethical governance of health data and empowering communities through open, inclusive technologies.

DAY 2: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN EDUCATION

The second day addressed the psychological well-being of learners, particularly those navigating socio-economic adversity. Discussions centred on the power of mentorship, social support systems, and practical interventions in fostering resilience within the education system.

DAY 3: INCLUSIVE DIGITAL FUTURES

The final day featured Prof. Jean Greyling’s Tangible Coding programme, a groundbreaking initiative promoting inclusive digital literacy in underserved communities. Special focus was placed on adapting coding tools for visually impaired learners, underscoring a commitment to accessibility and equity in tech education.

LOOKING AHEAD: A SHARED VISION FOR RESILIENT FUTURES

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to collaborative research and innovation. With over two decades of partnership, Nelson Mandela University and the University of Oldenburg reaffirmed their shared vision to drive smarter, more resilient communities through education, sustainability, and inclusive technology.



Executive Dean - Faculty of Education Professor Heloise Sathorar

I am particularly inspired by the ways in which our academic and support teams continue to walk alongside students—recognising that teaching is not only about knowledge transmission, but also about nurturing the whole human being. May the stories in this section serve as a reminder of our shared responsibility to co-create spaces of hope, justice, and lifelong learning.”

“Whether through academic outreach in under-resourced schools, staff development initiatives, or curriculum innovation, our goal remains clear: to prepare educators who not only teach, but lead with heart, care, and critical consciousness”

Faculty of Education Administrators Lead with Heart in Support of Zamokukhanya Primary School



Earlier this year, the Faculty of Education's Administrators Forum, led by Ms. Nondumiso Ntshangase and Ms. Jackie Hay, organized a donation drive for Zamokukhanya Primary School in Zwide, providing stationery and care items to support learners and staff.

Supported by Executive Dean Professor Heloise Sathorar, the initiative highlights the faculty's commitment to community and compassion. The school principal expressed deep gratitude, emphasizing the positive impact of this support on their dedicated staff and students.



International HETL Association Conference a resounding success

The HETL Conference, hosted by Nelson Mandela University from 2–4 October 2024, brought global scholars together to explore how universities can drive social innovation and sustainable futures. With strong input from the Faculties of Humanities and Education, the event featured keynotes by Prof Somadoda Fikeni, Dr Patrick Blessinger, Dr Nkemdilim Begho, and Dr Phylis Dawkins. Faculty of Education academics—Prof Mathabo



Khau, Prof Heloise Sathorar, Dr Marelize van Heerden, Dr Osiesi, Prof Blignaut, and Prof Athiemoolam made impactful contributions

through panels, papers, and workshops on curriculum humanisation and socially engaged teaching.

Visiting Professor Enhances Staff Research Development

Prof Martin Braund Boosts Research Capacity in Faculty of Education

In January 2025, Prof Martin Braund led a series of impactful workshops for Faculty of Education staff, focusing on research theory, arts-based methodologies, academic writing, and PhD support. He also provided individual feedback on draft publications.

The sessions, coordinated by Prof Logan Athiemoolam and Ms Gishma Daniels, were praised as enriching and essential. Prof Braund returns in 2026 to continue this work.





Executive Dean - Faculty of Law

Dr Lynn Biggs

This year, we continue to strengthen our curriculum with global perspectives, enhance student support, and build bridges between academia and legal practice.

From international collaborations to new mentoring initiatives, our work reflects a deep commitment to justice, innovation, and excellence. The Faculty of Law is not only a place of rigorous scholarship—it is a space for cultivating principled, ethical, and socially conscious legal professionals.

“This year, the Faculty of Law deepens its global outlook, strengthens student support, and bridges academia with legal practice. Through international partnerships and mentoring, we remain committed to justice, innovation, and the development of ethical, socially conscious legal professionals.”

Faculty of Law Strengthens Global Ties Through Teaching and Exchange

The Faculty of Law had the privilege of hosting a distinguished delegation from Maribor University, Slovenia, from 17–21 February 2025. Professors Kraljic, Rijavec, and Ivanc delivered a series of guest lectures to Mandela University law students, covering Family Law, Civil Procedure, and the Law of Evidence.

In her session, Prof Tjaša Ivanc provided deep insight into the Slovenian civil procedural system, including an overview of court structures and the influence of European Union law on national procedures. A follow-up lecture examined evidence systems in Slovenian courts, prompting engaging discussions and comparative analysis with South African legal practices.

As part of this enriching academic exchange, Prof

Elmarie Knoetze, Dr Razaana Denson, and Dr Marc Welgemoed from Mandela University will travel to Slovenia in May 2025, where they will lecture law students at Maribor University.



Labour Law Practice in Action

The Labour and Social Security Law Unit under the Department of Mercantile Law, led by Mr Thanduxolo Qotoyi, successfully hosted its Practical Labour Law Program in two block sessions in Gqeberha and East London. The sessions were co-facilitated by Mr Qotoyi and Adv Rasheed Keith-Bandath, a seasoned labour law practitioner, and offered participants practical exposure to legal processes and case simulations.

Celebrating 25 Years of International Collaboration

Adv Coetzee, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, represented the university at the 25th anniversary of Nelson Mandela University's partnership with St. Cloud State University. During the celebration, she shared insights into the Faculty's efforts to internationalise the LLB curriculum, highlighting both challenges and successful strategies in adapting legal education for a globalised world.

Mercantile Law Department Expands Focus in Labour Law and

The Department of Mercantile Law continues to place strategic emphasis on Labour Law across various academic levels. The LLB module, service modules, Postgraduate Diploma in Labour



Law, and LLM coursework are overseen by Mr Thando Qotoyi, Ms Tina Hokwana, and Ms Daphney Mnisi. Their collective efforts ensure that students are equipped with a comprehensive and practice-oriented understanding of Labour Law.

In addition to its core focus areas, the department is steadily expanding its footprint in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Law field. Adjunct Professor Sizwe Snail ka Mtuze, a leading figure in this space, continues to represent the university at key ICT seminars nationwide, including a recent engagement in East London. His active presence further elevates the department's standing in emerging legal areas such as cybersecurity, data protection, and digital governance.

HiveLaw Project: Digital Skills for Transformative Legal Practice

The HiveLaw Project, based in the Department of Criminal and Procedural Law, is now fully operational at the Nelson Mandela University Law Clinic. As part of the JJVV400 (Legal Practice) module, students receive weekly tutorials designed to develop their proficiency in using the system and applying digital tools in legal contexts.

This hands-on training enhances their preparedness for the evolving demands of legal practice and supports the university's vision for transformative legal education. By integrating legal tech into clinical training, the HiveLaw Project helps bridge the gap between traditional legal education and the dynamic, tech-driven realities of modern legal work.

The Faculty of Law is currently engaging in strategic discussions with its Adjunct Professors to integrate their specialist knowledge into the faculty's teaching and learning initiatives. As part of this ongoing effort, the Department of Mercantile Law is exploring ways to incorporate the previous research of Dr Eben Nel on Trust Law and Estate Planning into existing academic programmes.

These collaborative engagements aim to strengthen the curriculum by drawing from expert insight and practice-based knowledge, enriching the academic experience for both students and staff.

Student Academic & Support

To assist students affected by registration delays in Term 1, the faculty provided online academic support via Funda.

Recognising challenges among first-year LLB students in the Legal Interpretation (JJUV1001X0) module—particularly with lecture preparation and test-taking—the faculty introduced weekly study skills sessions.

These sessions, led by Ms Brenda Asiema and Ms Deborah Chombo, offer peer-based academic guidance in a group format. Attendance has been strong, and student feedback highlights increased confidence and improved study strategies. The initiative has fostered a supportive learning environment, encouraging collaboration and peer mentorship.

On 22 April, the Faculty of Law hosted its annual Student Achiever Awards, honouring outstanding academic performance. The Dean's List for 2024 was announced, celebrating undergraduate students, who achieved 75% or higher:

A special congratulations to Shatakane Smela and Eugenia Makova, who were awarded Group Honour Medals for graduating cum laude with their LLB degrees. Additionally, Mr Mahlubandile Ntontela, lecturer in the Department of Criminal and Procedural Law, received a BAAP grant to support the completion of his doctoral studies.

DEAN'S LIST

CINDI, DLAMINI, LETHOLE, LOMBARD, MAILE, MAKOVA, McKINNON, MOEPE, MTSI, MURRAY, NGWANE, SMELA, SOGAYISE, TEMBO,	THANDEKA DOUGLAS LAWRENCE ADRIAAN NALEDI EUGENIA SHARON MODIMO-ONTHATILE PHINDILE AMBER ASANDA SHATAKANE ESONA THEOPHILUS
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**Executive Dean - Engineering,
the Built Environment and Technology**
Professor Marshall Sheldon

In 2025, our faculty continues to respond to the evolving demands of industry and society through curriculum transformation, strategic partnerships, and cutting-edge research. From integrating Artificial Intelligence into our engineering programmes to strengthening community engagement through career expos and mentorship, EBET is positioning itself as a hub of technological advancement and impact-driven learning.

“In 2025, our faculty advances curriculum, partnerships, and research to meet evolving industry and societal needs. From AI-integrated engineering programmes to community-focused initiatives, EBET is shaping a future of innovation and impact-driven learning.”

First-Year Welcoming Ceremony

On 1 February 2025, the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology (EBET) hosted a warm and engaging First-Year Welcoming Ceremony. The event created a positive first impression for the incoming cohort, offering students an opportunity to connect with faculty leadership, meet peers, and gain valuable insights into the academic journey ahead.



ASAQS Student Chapter Launched at NMU

The Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS) officially launched its first Student Chapter at Nelson Mandela University. Key representatives present included Janita Stroebe, ASAQS Eastern Cape Chair; Mr Roy Cumberlege, Head of Quantity Surveying, and Ms Emma Ayesu-Koranteng, Head of Building and Human Settlement Development.

The chapter aims to bridge the gap between academia and the professional world, offering students access to mentorship, industry resources, and networking opportunities.



SAIMC Technical Talk: “How is Industry Responding to AI?”

On 20 March 2025, the School of Engineering within EBET hosted the SAIMC Technical Talk, exploring the theme “How is Industry Responding to AI?”

The event brought together industry leaders, academics, and students to discuss the integration of Artificial Intelligence into various engineering sectors, highlighting both challenges and emerging opportunities in the rapidly evolving technological landscape.



Newton Technical High School Career Expo

The School of Engineering and the School of Information Technology from Faculty Engineering the Built Environment and Technology had an awesome presence at Newton Technical High School’s recent Career Expo, showing students all the incredible opportunities in these fields.



iGems Learners Explore EBET Facilities



On 2 April 2025, the Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology (EBET) hosted 26 Grade 11 learners from schools across Gqeberha as part of Phase 1 of the Incubating Great Engineering Minds (iGems) programme.

The learners received an exclusive tour of the faculty's state-of-the-art labs and facilities. Staff members engaged them with insightful presentations on academic programmes, career pathways, and the exciting future that awaits in engineering, the built environment, and information technology.

AMTC Participates in Paterson High School's Centenary Career Day



The Advanced Mechatronic Technology Centre (AMTC) at Nelson Mandela University participated in the Paterson High School's Career Day on March 14, 2025, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the school.

The event offered students insights into diverse career opportunities, industries, and educational pathways.

"Connecting with learners at events like Paterson High's centenary is more than outreach—it's about planting seeds of possibility. By showcasing real-world pathways in science and technology, we inspire the next generation to dream beyond their current realities."
— Dr Muki Moeng, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Learning and Teaching

Dean's Award School of Architecture - Mr Bradley Wiehahn

▶ DEAN'S AWARD 2025

Mr. Bradley Wiehahn



Dean's Award School of Built Environment and Civil Engineering - Ms Karabo Lucas

▶ DEAN'S AWARD 2025

Ms. Karabo Lucas



Bradley Wiehahn as the 2024 recipient of the Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment in the School of Architecture. Bradley began his architectural journey in 2019 when he enrolled for the Bachelor of Architectural Studies at Nelson Mandela University.

With quiet determination and steady focus, he progressed through the programme, completing his Honours in 2023, and graduating cum laude with a Master of Architecture (Professional) in 2024.

Ms Karabo Lucas as the 2024 recipient of the Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment in the School of the Built Environment and Civil Engineering. After earning her Diploma in cum laude, Karabo continued to raise the bar by enrolling in the Advanced Diploma in Quantity Surveying—and once again, graduating cum laude with a phenomenal, weighted average of 81.8%

Her academic year was flawless, with distinctions in all seven modules—an extraordinary feat by any standard.

Dean's Award School of Engineering - Mr Dennis Els

Dean's Award School of Information Technology - Ms Majorie Masilela

▶ DEAN'S AWARD 2025

Mr. Dennis Els



▶ DEAN'S AWARD 2025

MS MAJORIE MASILELA



Mr Dennis Els as the 2024 recipient of the Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment in the School of Engineering. Dennis enrolled for the BEng Mechatronics degree in 2019 and graduated cum laude in 2023 with an impressive 81% average.

During his undergraduate journey, he achieved 33 distinctions and received multiple academic awards in recognition of his consistent high performance. In 2024, he completed his MEng in Mechatronics, graduating cum laude once again, with an overall average of 83%.

Majorie Masilela, recipient of the Dean's Award for Academic Accomplishment in the School of Information Technology. She performed exceptionally well during her academic studies, and the diploma: Dip Information Technology (Support Services), will be awarded Cum Laude on the 11th of April 2025 with an overall weighted average of 87%.

Majorie has managed to obtain a distinction in all the modules taken to date, additionally, the candidate is currently registered for the Advanced Diploma in Information Technology in the department of Network Engineering and the indication is that this pattern of achievement will continue.



Executive Dean - Business and Economic Sciences Professor Hendrik Lloyd

The Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences continues to build on its commitment to academic excellence, relevance, and student success through responsive teaching and learning strategies. Highlights this year include the successful rollout of the BDT x NMU Mentorship Programme, which connects postgraduate Financial Planning students with industry professionals to enhance their career readiness. economies.

“The Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences remains committed to academic excellence and student success. This year’s highlight is the BDT x NMU Mentorship Programme, connecting Financial Planning postgraduates with industry professionals to boost career readiness.”

Mandela University Students Participate in 12th International Week on Sustainability

From 24 to 28 March, students from the School of Management Sciences—including one from the George campus—took part in the 12th International Week on Sustainability (I-week). This marks the second year of Mandela University's participation. Hosted online by the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and facilitated in person by Prof Shelley Farrington and Dr Storm Watson, the week featured five interactive days of presentations, discussions,



and workshops. Students engaged with international peers, academics, sustainability experts, and CEOs. In total, 559 participants from 27 universities and 44 nationalities joined. [Facebook link to video.](#)

Nelson Mandela University Hosts Collaborative Visit from Strathmore University Family Business Expert

Dr Welcome Kupangwa, Prof Elmarie Venter and Prof Shelley Farrington (Nelson Mandela University Family Business Unit), hosted Mr Raymond Mutura, Director of the Centre for Research on Organisations, Work and Family, at Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya. Mr Mutura was in South Africa for a month to work on his PhD, and to engage with various family business stakeholders.



BDT x NMU Mentorship Programme Launch



Supporting Student Success: New Academic Advisor, Tutors, and Workshops Boost Learning welcoming the participants.

The Financial Planning team in the Business Management Department, in collaboration with the Black Distributors Trust (BDT), launched the BDT x NMU Mentorship Programme to connect Postgraduate Diploma students with experienced financial planners, bridging the gap between academia and industry. The launch event emphasized the power of mentorship and student initiative in professional growth.

Additionally, the Alumni in Action social media series showcases Honours graduates like Asiphumeze Nkula and Atlehang Nkotha, offering career insights and inspiration to current students.

Ms. Pfunzo Badane has been appointed academic advisor in the Department of Business Management, providing personalized support to students this semester.

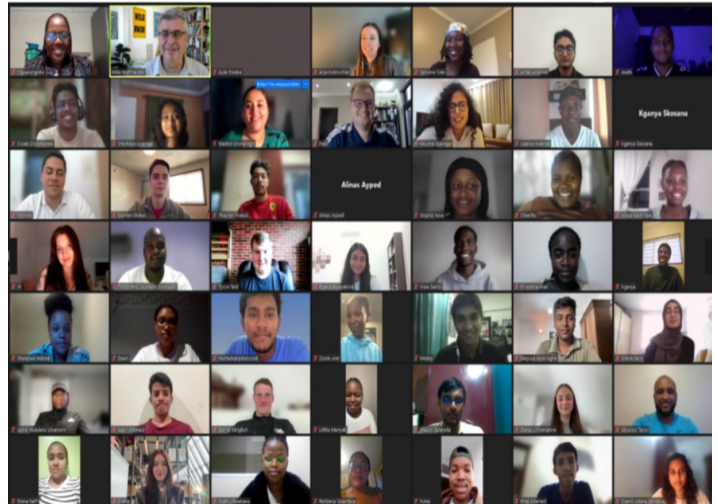
The department offered one-on-one consultations, targeted outreach, and workshops on study skills, time management, and financial aid. Nine tutors, supervised by Dr. Storm Watson, were also appointed to assist first and second-year students, and the Financial Planning cohort.

Intercultural Workshop

Some of the students and presenters who participated in the 9th IBO INTERCULTURAL BUSINESS ONLINE WORKSHOP relating to student opinion pertaining to Future Concerns, Leadership and Work.

The workshop took place on Saturday, 26th April 2025 in collaboration with the University of Ostfalia, with more than 80 Students participating from Europe, Sri Lanka, India and South Africa.

Dr Tandi Ngxukumeshe co-presented with Prof Mike Hoffmesister, from the University of Ostfalia.



Loyiso High school Teacher Workshop

The Department of Management Practice hosted a Staff Development programme for 45 teachers from Loyiso High School, Zwide, under the principal Dumi Raymond Mali, in equipping and empowering them on preparing high school pupils for university.

Two staff members guided the discussions and were presenters, namely, Shirley Ngcosini & Dr Tandi Ngxukumeshe. Our sincere appreciation goes to our HoD, Dr Paul Tai-Hing, for his support and for welcoming the participants.





Executive Dean - Health Sciences
Professor Zuki Zingela

It is an honour to welcome you to the Faculty of Health Sciences section of the DVC Learning and Teaching Newsletter. In a time when the call for compassionate, community-oriented healthcare has never been more urgent, our faculty stands firm in its mission to produce graduates who are clinically skilled, socially responsive, and emotionally intelligent.

"This year, we continue to respond to the complexities of the healthcare landscape through innovation in curriculum design, a renewed focus on interprofessional learning, and a strong commitment to student development and academic excellence"

Medical school 4th Year Oath Taking Ceremony

On the 28th of January 2025, the Medical School hosted the MBChB IV students at their Oath Taking Ceremony, a significant milestone in their medical journey. This ceremony marked the transition of Mandela future doctors into the clinical phase of their training, symbolising their deepening commitment to ethical medical practice and patient care.



Nursing Science Pledge of Service ceremony

The Department of Nursing Science hosted its annual Pledge of Service Ceremony, a symbolic rite of passage for newly qualified nurses, affirming their commitment to ethical and compassionate care.



Medical Laboratory Science Pledge of Service

The Department of Medical Laboratory Science held its annual Pledge and Awards Ceremony on 8 April 2025. First-year students pledged to uphold professional ethics, while top-performing 2024 students were honoured for academic excellence with certificates and awards.



Department of Social Work 4th year Pledge ceremony



On the 27th of March 2025, the Department of Social Work hosted the annual Pledge Ceremony for the final-year Bachelor of Social Work students. This significant event marked a pivotal moment in the professional journey of the Class of 2025, as they formally committed themselves to the core values and ethical principles of the social work profession.

BPharm Peer Mentors Ceremony

The Pharmacy Department hosted its annual Pharmacists Award and Oath Ceremony on the 15th of April 2025. Academic excellence was recognised through the presentation of various awards and prizes during the ceremony.



International Social Workday Career showcasing

In celebration of International Social Workday, the department hosted a vibrant Career Showcasing event on the 18th of March 2025. The event brought together various organizations, alumni, and professionals in the field of Social Work to engage with students and share insights into career pathways, internship opportunities, and the realities of working in the profession.



Medicine, Cultural and Religion and a Medicinal Garden Plant Hunt



World Down Syndrome Day Awareness Initiative 28 March 2025

In recognition of World Down Syndrome Day, Medical Laboratory Science students led a successful “Rock Your Socks” campaign, promoting inclusivity and raising funds for awareness initiatives.

Medicine, Culture, and Religion form part of the learning topics for the first-year module Theory and Practice of Medicine. Dr Yoshna Koooverjee decided to enhance the module by incorporating a practical component.

To facilitate this activity, she enlisted the support of two colleagues with expertise in this area, Mr. Thabo Sempe and Dr Mea van Huyssteen. Together, they developed and designed a unique learning experience aligned with the lecture’s learning outcomes, which included

Defining culture and cultural competence,

1

Understanding the impact of culture on healthcare,

2

Exploring cultural influences on health and healing in South Africa, and

3

Examining different systems of medicine encountered in South Africa, including traditional African medicine.

4



Executive Dean - Humanities
Professor Pamela Maseko

In 2025, our work is deeply aligned with Nelson Mandela University's Vision 2030—especially the call to revitalise the Humanities through Africanisation, interdisciplinarity, and the promotion of multilingualism. From launching innovative qualifications to advancing digital and creative scholarship, we are redefining the role of the Humanities in transforming society and empowering communities.

"In every project—from language policy to community arts—the Humanities affirm our shared dignity and belonging. Our students and staff inspire with their purposeful, creative, and compassionate leadership."

Introducing the Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Economics

We are proud to announce the official launch of a brand-new interdisciplinary qualification the Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Economics introduced by both the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences.

Approved in 2024 and officially offered from 2025, this innovative programme is the first qualification to be co-hosted by two faculties at Nelson Mandela

University. It aligns with our strategic goals around the Revitalisation of the Humanities, and promotes inter and transdisciplinary education.

Originally piloted in 2022, the programme was capped at 50 enrolments yet we are thrilled to report that we've already exceeded expectations with 53 students enrolled.

ADVANCING MULTILINGUALISM FOR ACCESS AND EQUITY

The Faculty of Humanities is leading the revision of Mandela University's Language Policy, placing multilingualism at the heart of epistemic access and knowledge acquisition across all disciplines. Unlike the current policy, the revised version recognises the value of language diversity in the learning process and promotes inclusive education through language. Supported by a R2.5 million DHET UCDP

grant, each Faculty, Division, or Unit can access up to R75,000 for implementation projects.

On 6 February 2025, the Faculty-led Language Working Group hosted a DHET Monitoring and Evaluation delegation, who praised the university's consultative process and the practical application of multilingualism across Faculties.

Social Consciousness and Sustainable Futures: A Core Focus

Another exciting development is the formal inclusion of the Social Consciousness and Sustainable Futures course in the Bachelor of Arts curriculum. First piloted in 2018, the course has now been approved as a credit-bearing, compulsory module starting from the second semester of 2025.

This course fosters critical engagement with core social values such as justice, fairness, freedom, dignity, and sustainability

themes that reflect the kind of socially conscious graduates we aim to develop.

What's more, the Faculty of Humanities is spearheading the institutionalisation of this course across other faculties, ensuring its impact reaches the wider university community.

Department of Music Launches Pre-Tertiary School to Empower Young Talent Through African Music and Choral Training

In 2025, the Department of Music launched a Pre-Tertiary Music School in partnership with the District Department of Education and the Faculty. This initiative targets talented learners and teachers from Quintile 1–3 schools, offering them access to music theory and instrument training they might not otherwise receive.

With a focus on choral conducting and African musical traditions, the programme supports the broader Revitalisation of the Humanities, while contributing to learning and teaching, research, and community engagement.

Sessions began this term with two schools, and a third has already shown interest with 20+ potential participants. The programme is driven by staff and senior students in the Department.



Eco-IKS Project Bridges Humanities and Science

As part of its interdisciplinary focus, the Eco-IKS Humanities-Science Project is preparing for the installation of plant beds at two participating schools. This phase marks a hands-on integration of ecological knowledge and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS).

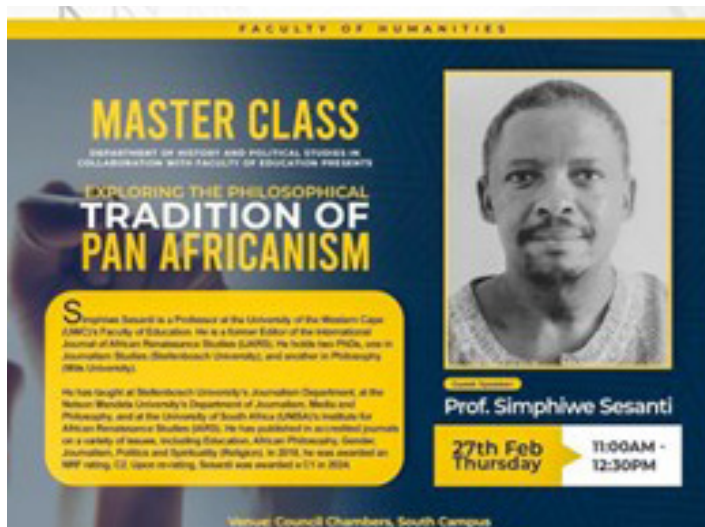
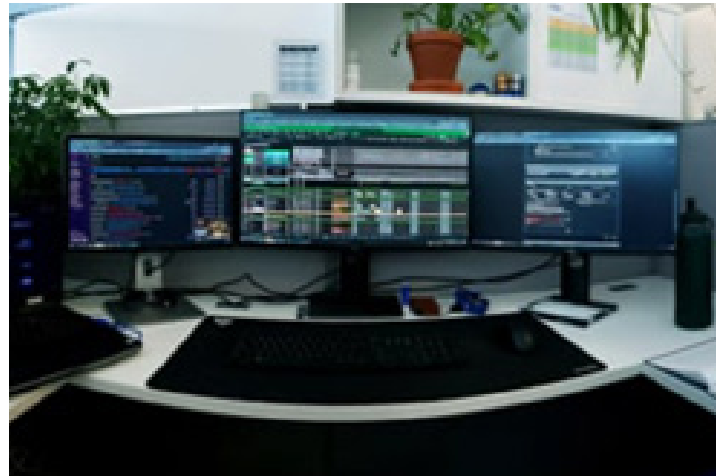
The next stage of the project will shift focus to community matters in Kouga and Gamtoos, expanding the initiative's engagement with local environmental and cultural sustainability.



Creative Media Lab Boosts Student Entrepreneurship

In partnership with the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), the Faculty is expanding support for Communication and Graphic Design students through bursaries and a new creative initiative. The upcoming Humanities Creative Media Lab, funded by MDDA, will launch in Term 3.

The student-led, staff-mentored media agency aims to provide real-world, industry-style experience, preparing students with skills for the creative economy.



Masterclass on Pan-Africanism and Sobukwe

The School of Governmental and Social Sciences hosted Professor Simphiwe Sesanti for a masterclass and seminar on Pan-Africanism and Robert Sobukwe on 27 February 2025.

The session offered senior students valuable insights into African political thought and leadership legacies.

Digital Humanities Hub Leads in Innovation and Collaboration

The Digital Humanities Hub continues to thrive as a space where the digital meets the humanities—transforming how we learn, research, collaborate, and engage.

Firmly rooted in Africanisation, revitalisation, and interdisciplinarity, the Hub explores the impact of digital technologies on society, culture, research, and education. It supports dynamic work in

areas like Indigenous Knowledge Systems, social justice, innovation, and digital archiving. Events hosted this semester have showcased diverse collaborations and critical engagement, reinforcing the Hub's role as a national leader in digital scholarship in the Humanities.

SWIP Workshop Champions African Languages Online

The SWIP Project—a collaboration between SADiLaR, Wikipedia, and PanSALB—took centre stage at a dynamic two-day workshop hosted by Nelson Mandela University's Departments of Languages and Literature and Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

Day One marked a significant step toward the digital preservation of African languages. The workshop brought together Wikimedians from across the continent, focusing on using digital platforms to safeguard and share African cultures, languages, and knowledge for future generations.





Dr Letta Mbulu

Dr Letta Mbulu was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Music in recognition of her extraordinary artistic achievements and her enduring role as a voice for freedom through music. Her legacy continues to shape South Africa's rich musical landscape.



Professor Dr Amina Mama

Professor Dr Amina Mama received an Honorary Doctorate in Sociology for her pioneering work in African feminist theory, gender studies, and development. Her scholarship continues to amplify African feminist voices globally.



During the April graduation staff member, Mr Francois du Plessis graduated with BAMCC Honours and Mr Kader Abullah received his Masters' degree in Fine Arts:



Mr. David Bester

Mr. David Bester won the 2025 Humanities and Social Science Award for Best Public Performance, presented by the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences.

Faculty Matters : Humanities

Collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Museum in Umtata, was undertaken under the guidance of Glenn Meyer. A short film with focus on historical sites associated with Mandela's life. One of our photography students, Okuhle Ntshweni, was closely involved in the making of the film.

The Faculty Achievers Awards took place during the April 2025 graduation period (04–24 April), celebrating 27 outstanding students and featuring inspiring journeys from newly awarded PhDs.



Mr. Muziwandile Gigaba continues his collaboration with the Museum of International Folk Arts and the International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is attending the market's 21st anniversary as a community creator, mentoring South African crafters. His work focuses on curriculum development for South African schools and exploring global trends in using art to empower marginalized communities through entrepreneurship and creative expression.



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Weaving Hearings: *Tejendo significados*
Telephone Arts Art: *Arts de comunicación telefónica*
From South Africa: *de Sudáfrica*

Opening November 12, 2024

FOLK ART

U.S. Core Team Members:

Elizabeth Perrill	Guest Curator
Carrie Hertz	In-House Curator
Lillia McEnaney	Assistant Curator
Lila Pickus	3D Design
Natalie Baca	2D Design
Kamely Gomez	Education Team Lead

South African Curatorial Team Members:

Community Curator and Lead Indigenous Knowledge Expert:
Muziwandile Gigaba

Indigenous Knowledge Experts:

Muziwandile Hadebe,
Ntuthuko Khuzwayo,
Ntombifuthi (Maphumulo) Mvimula



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