

# News

Faculty of Education

## CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR SUCCESSFULLY!

### A message from the Executive Dean

Dear Staff and Students

**W**e have come to the end of the 2024 Academic Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication during this year and to congratulate all those who have completed the academic year successfully. A special congratulations to all those who graduated during the summer graduation ceremony and especially to our five new Doctors (Dr Campbell, Dr Jansen, Dr Majola, Dr Majwala and Dr Zinn).

We had an eventful second semester that featured several academic and social highlights. We were involved in the hosting of two International Conferences. We co-hosted the Higher Education Teaching and Learning (HETL) Conference with the Faculty of Humanities from 2-4 October at the Boardwalk Convention Centre; where several colleagues presented papers. We also hosted the International Society of Educational Planning (ISEP) Conference from 7-10 October with the theme: *Re-imagining Education through Engagement: Planning to unlock the full potential of individuals and communities*. The Centre for the Community School also hosted the HoPES Symposium that focused



on developing and sustaining collaborative relationships between the University and the community we serve.

The Faculty also hosted Prof Sigamoney Naicker for the launch of his book: *Education and the Working Class: Is there hope for an inclusive approach?* Several research workshops were facilitated during this semester, including a supervision workshop, M & D Symposium and an article review workshop. Dr Simayi and her SSE Team commemorated heritage day at Sakhisizwe High School through a Science exposition that focused on celebrating Indigenous Knowledge. The SSE Team also arranged a writing clinic facilitated by Prof Crain Soudien to assist them with their research outputs. The annual TVET student journal symposium was hosted by Dr Maluleke. The focus of this symposium is to enhance the academic writing skills of the Advance Diploma TVET students.

Another highlight was when the Faculty under the leadership of Prof Mdzanga launched an Autism Niche area. Two Short Learning Programmes (SLPs) have been developed in this area and we look forward to offering these programmes in next year. We are also busy preparing for a CHE Review of our Teacher Education Programmes, and I would like to thank all those who have engaged in Module reviews and who have set-up their SharePoint sites.

On the social front we had a very successful Colour Picnic in September, to welcome Spring. This was an event that was enjoyed by all those who participated and is sure to become a standing item on our Faculty Calendar. Our Faculty Future Teachers Choir held their annual concert at the end of November and as usual wowed the audience with their beautiful choral items. In November we also celebrated and thanked our partner schools for hosting

our students for School Based Learning during the year.

Several International scholars visited our Faculty including 8 Norwegian teacher education students who were here to do teaching practice at two of our local schools as part of the ITENSA project. Seven staff and seven students also travelled to Oldenburg to participate in the DAAD funded Dimensions of Diversity project Winter School that took place from 18-22 November.

We celebrated Academic Excellence at the Vice Chancellors Excellence Awards where the following colleagues received awards:

- Ms Gishma Daniels-Smith – PASS Excellence Award,
- Mr Joshua Jacobs – Faculty Emerging Excellent Teacher Award
- Dr Lucky Maluleke – Faculty Excellent Teacher Award
- Dr William Zivanayi – Faculty Emerging Researcher Award
- Prof Sylvan Blignaut – Faculty Researcher Award
- Dr Lucky Maluleke was also our biggest winner of the evening as he walked away with the Institutional Excellent Teacher Award.

Congratulations colleagues! We are super proud of you.

I am happy to announce that Prof Shervani Pillay was appointed as Deputy Dean of the Faculty for the next five years. We wish her everything of the best for the important role that she now takes up in the Faculty. We also congratulate Prof Pillay for successfully completing the USAf HELM Women in Leadership programme.

We bid farewell to several colleagues during the year including Dr Marongwe, Dr Lovemore and Prof Mdzanga who will be leaving the employ of Nelson Mandela University at the end of this year to take up positions

at other universities. We wish them well in their new ventures. Prof Sylvan Blignaut will be retiring at the end of 2024, and we wish him a blessed retirement. Prof Blignaut will continue his affiliation with the Faculty as an Emeritus Professor.

We welcomed Mr Lukhanyo Boligello and Mrs Siyasanga Manakele to the Faculty in November and we wish them both many happy and productive years in the Faculty. We also look forward to welcoming several new colleagues in the new year.

As we plan for 2025, I would like to highlight the following:

We will be hosting Prof Martin Braund in the week of 20 January to offer various research workshops to staff including supporting staff with article writing.

Please also diarise the following dates:

- 24 January – Assessment Workshop
- 30 January – Staff Wellness Workshop
- 1 February – VC's Welcoming Function
- 3 February – Faculty Welcome Tea
- 10 February – Start of Lectures

You have toiled and you have reaped the success of your labour...now it is time to rest...Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the Faculty.

Have a restful summer break. Use the break to spend quality time with family and to engage in activities that will revitalize you.

To those who celebrate Christmas...Have a Blessed Christmas.

May 2025 be a good year for all of us.

Take care and see you in January 2025.



# ISEP 2024 CONFERENCE

Nelson Mandela University and the Faculty of Education recently co-hosted with St Cloud State University and Niagara University the International Society for Educational Planning (ISEP) 2024 Conference at the Business School Auditorium from 7-10 October 2024.

The conference themed, *Reimagining Education Through Engagement: Planning to Unlock the Full Potential of Individuals and Communities* offered participants the opportunity to present, and attend, virtually or in person. There were 65 presentations over the four days.

The Nelson Mandela University members were excited to present Prof Lesley le Grange, Distinguished Professor from Stellenbosch University, as the Keynote Speaker of the David N. Wilson memorial lecture. His lecture on

*Reimagining Education in the Posthuman Condition* was extremely well received.

The Faculty of Education's PR Officer, Mr Thato Moshesh, treated delegates to a campus tour of Nelson Mandela University's South, North and Ocean Sciences Campuses. They particularly enjoyed that we are so close to nature with both the nature reserve and ocean being so close by.

The ISEP Board and Organising Committee expressed a wish to engage with local initiatives that target upskilling and uplifting communities. With this in mind, we(faculty) arranged that the delegates' conference bags were produced by the Craft & Skills Centre at the Missionvale Care Centre. These bags were individually made from four different types of shwe-shwe material and beautifully

embroidered with the details of the conference.

On day two of the programme, delegates were treated to a performance by the Faculty of Education's *Future Teachers Choir*. The choir is student led with a final year B Ed IP student as their conductor and choreographer. The ISEP Board donated to their society which will help towards their new performance outfits.

In line with their philosophy, ISEP also donated towards the Sodla Sonke student initiative in the Faculty of Education. This initiative is run by faculty administrators who oversee a 2nd hand thrift shop with all proceeds going towards the purchase of food and toiletry items for unfunded Education students.



Some of the delegates who attended the ISEP 2024 Conference along with several of the organising committee members, 7-10 October 2024



Local Organising Committee members, from left Dr Robert Johnson (Chairperson ISEP Conference Committee), Dr John McKenna, Dr Caitlin Riegel (ISEP and Niagara University), Ms Jackie Smith, Prof Heloise Sathorar (Nelson Mandela University Faculty of Education) and Dr Angel Ford (ISEP and University of Albany). Missing from photo: Prof Shahzad Ahmad (St Cloud State University) and Dr Muki Moeng (DVC LT, Nelson Mandela University)



# ISEP 2024 CONFERENCE





# Professional Administrative Day

The Faculty of Education celebrated Professional Administrative Day on September 4, 2024. Faculty administrators and support staff were acknowledged for the vital roles they contribute to the success of academic projects. The Executive Dean and HOD's highlighted each one's contributions, showing heartfelt appreciation for their hard work. A big thank you to the colleagues for all the work they do for the Faculty! 'Behind every successful team, there's a strong and dedicated administrator.'





# Honouring Our First-Year Peer Helpers: A HEARTFELT THANK YOU



As we reflect on a successful year, the Faculty of Education extends its deepest gratitude to our first-year peer helpers for their incredible dedication and support. From offering guidance and advice to sharing personal experiences, each of you has been instrumental in helping first-year students transition smoothly into university life.

Your contributions have fostered a warm, welcoming environment across all streams:

**Senior Phase (SPFET):** Zenzo Nkosi, Camila Petersen, Mvuyelwa Stuurman, Thokozile Langman

**Intermediate Phase (IP):** Chelsea Ruiters, Liyabona Mzoyi, Bulumko Ntwanambi, Mhlali Gaiza

**Foundation Phase (FP):** Caroline Boshoff, Liyabona Ngqungwana, Loyiso Mtati, Bongiwe Danster

Thank you for the kindness and empathy you've shown. We're proud to have you as part of our faculty and grateful for your lasting impact!



# A Book Bonanza!

The NMU Library and Information Services recently donated five boxes of new English and isiXhosa language children's books to the Education Faculty's Resource Centres. Mrs Virginia Bussy and Suzette Share made this donation on behalf of the Library and Information Systems.

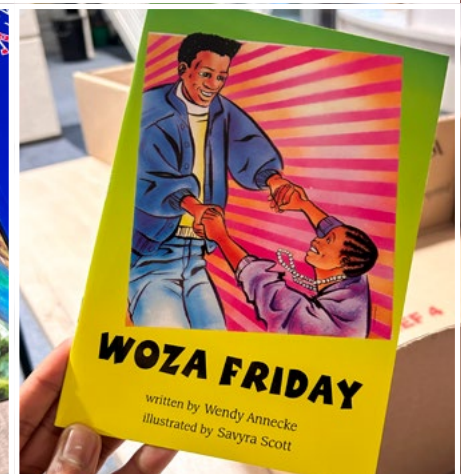
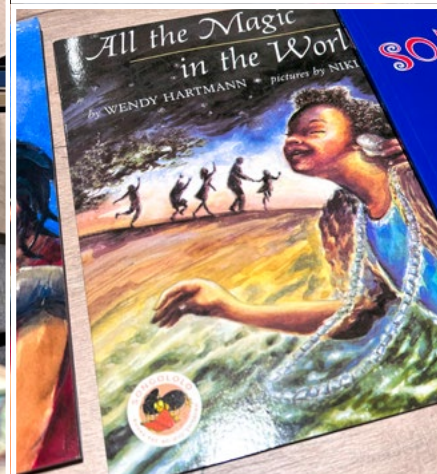
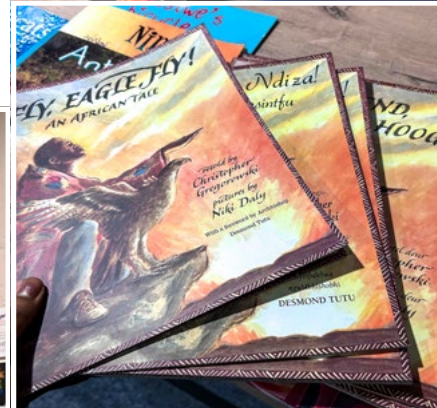
The treasure trove of books suitable for readers aged six to ten was handed over to the Resource Centre Manager, Ms Nozuko Rhayi. The books will be shared between the

two Resource Centres located on South and Missionvale Campuses for students to use for various purposes such as lesson presentations, assignments, and leisurely reading.

The Education Faculty is extremely thankful for this generous donation which will be of great use for its students.

*Dr Dewald Koen*

*Faculty of Education Library and Information  
Services Committee Representative*





# Bursary Advocacy Drive FUNDZA

The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDOE) has launched an impactful bursary advocacy campaign aimed at recruiting unemployed youth aged 18-35 from the region. This initiative encourages South African citizens to apply for the Matthew Goniwe Bursary and Funza Lushaka bursaries, which support full-time studies at registered public higher education institutions across South Africa. By focusing on the potential of the younger generation, the campaign seeks to uplift communities and enhance educational access in the Eastern Cape.

Representatives from the Faculty of Education, including Ms. Muriel Geswint, the Bursary Administrator, and Mr. Thato Moshoeshoe, the Public Relations Officer, have been actively engaging with prospective students during sessions held in Gqeberha and Uitenhage. Alongside interns Izavuyo Mehlomane and Zikhona Nogoboka, they have been sharing valuable information about the bursary opportunities and the diverse academic offerings available at Nelson Mandela University.





# THINKING ALOUD: what happens when children read for pleasure in classroom clubs

*By Dr Eileen Scheckle, Senior Lecturer in Education  
Published in The Conversation on 11 July*

Every five years, the international Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) provides an assessment of how well grade 4 learners around the world read for meaning. And every time South Africa participates, the results are shocking. In the 2021 survey, more than 80% of South African fourth-graders weren't able to make sense of what they were reading in the test.

Policymakers have focused attention on developing literacy in the foundation phase (grades 1-3), because the skills developed during these early years will form the basis for learning in the higher grades.

But that's not the only way to approach reading.

In addition to school literacy and reading to learn, children need opportunities to read for pleasure and enjoyment. If children's school experiences of reading only involve chanting together, or reading aloud for an oral mark, or reading a text for a comprehension test, then they are missing the pleasure of delving into a story.

To be fair, teachers have to follow the national curriculum. Some also lack reading material. According to a 2023 report by South Africa's Department of Basic Education, 75% of public schools do not have libraries, and where there are libraries, many are not well stocked.

If learners do not have access to a variety of texts, then they cannot develop reading "muscles".

Whatever the reading material, learners need to have

opportunities to develop their own response, at any level, and share their understandings. This can happen through a classroom reading club: a space for children to talk among themselves about what they have read purely for pleasure. Through talking, children begin to develop a critical voice and begin to capture their thinking in a more concrete form to share with their friends.

As someone who studies literacy development, I wanted to learn more about how children in poorly resourced South African settings can benefit from reading clubs. I did a study of grade 8 learners in reading clubs at their school, to understand their interactions with books and each other in small groups.

What emerged from my observations was the diversity of learner voices talking to each other about books. By being shared, their ideas were extended, refined and challenged. The children's understanding grew on each other's contributions. Talking showed what they were thinking and what their interpretations were based on. Talking to their peers was also a safe space to offer tentative responses that were not evaluated for assessment but a stepping stone in appreciation.

The reading clubs looked like a useful and fun way to build reading comprehension – something other schools can try too. I've suggested some tips below.

Talking about books....

....Continues

[Read the full story here](#)





# Color Picnic

There was no better way to end the 3rd teaching cycle than with a vibrant 'Color Party'! The staff went above and beyond, dipping into their own means to organize a color picnic, where everyone was randomly grouped as per their colors.

The day was fun-filled, away from the hustle of academics, celebrating the end of the teaching cycle and welcoming the beautiful month of spring! IT'S A NEW SEASON!!!!

A huge shoutout to the social working group for coordinating this event, and a big thank you to all our generous sponsors!!



## Achiever Awards

Watch: <https://www.instagram.com/share/BAAZbKq50o>



The faculty held a remarkable event to celebrate the achievements of the graduates for the year 2024 on the 16th of April at the prestigious South End Museum. It was an occasion filled with pride and recognition for the hard work and dedication of the graduating class.

Prof. Heloise Sathorar, along with the respective Heads of Departments, took the stage to personally recognize and congratulate each recipient. The awards served as a testament to the graduates' outstanding academic performance, and contributions to their respective departments.

Professor Enaleen Draai, an expert in public policy implementation and gender equity in higher education, graced the event as a special guest speaker. With her inspiring words of wisdom, she left the graduates motivated and empowered. One unforgettable quote from her speech: "Never say never!"

Once again, congratulations to all the 2024 graduates



## School Based Learning (SBL) Appreciation ceremony



## VC Excellence Awards



*Have a restful summer break.  
Use the break to spend quality time with family  
and to engage in activities that will revitalize you.*



# The Trials and Tribulations of a PHD Journey

By Henry Majwala

My journey into academia was sparked by the desire to study abroad, while growing up in a remote village in Uganda with my grandmother who nick-named me “Kiva ebulaya”, literally meaning someone who has gone abroad and come back more learned than before. This old woman never went to school, but knew the importance of studies, so I promised her that I would go abroad someday to study and come back as a learned person.

This has come to pass since I was able to pursue my second masters’ degree at the *Western Theological Seminary* in the United States of America, and now have been able to complete my PhD successfully in the Faculty of Education at the Nelson Mandela University in South Africa - miles away from my small village where I once lived with my grandmother. May her soul rest in peace!

My research focused on the prevalence and correlates of sickness presenteeism

among secondary school teachers in the Bukedi region of *Eastern Uganda*. This topic was significant since many teachers and other employees continue going to work even when they are sick. Personally, during a certain period in my life, I had the same experience, which affected my life and family. Not only does it affect the individual, but it also affects their performance, and it has a major impact on their colleagues who have to support them at work, while they are ill.

The study adopted a pragmatic philosophy and a sequential explanatory mixed methods design targeting 433 secondary school teachers in the Bukedi sub- region of Eastern Uganda. The schools were stratified by district first and then each district was stratified by ownership. Simple random sampling was used to sample half the number of schools per stratum and the teachers.

The research journey was not without its hurdles. During my journey I confronted numerous setbacks, the major challenge was when I completed collecting my data my laptop, hard copy of my questionnaires, audio-recorder and other valuable information was stolen, which meant that I had to return to the field to collect data all over again. The other major challenge was financial, since I had to pay for my studies in addition to balancing research with teaching responsibilities, church work and family among, other significant

challenges. There were moments when I felt overwhelmed and wanted to give up, but my promoter urged me to continue and not to relinquish hope. However, these experiences taught me resilience and the importance of time management.

Throughout my PhD journey I evolved both personally, emotionally, and academically. I honed my research skills, learning how to analyse data effectively, and to present my findings confidently. More importantly, my perspective on collaboration shifted to a more holistic approach, since I learnt how to address challenges from multiple perspectives of reality.

I could not have navigated this journey on my own. My supervisor, Professor *Logamurthie Athiemoolam* provided invaluable guidance and encouragement, while my colleagues at work became a source of inspiration. My family supported me through long nights and stressful deadlines, reminding me of my passion and purpose.

Reflecting on my PhD experience, I am grateful for the challenges and triumphs that served to shape my life. This journey taught me the importance of perseverance and passion in achieving my goals and that if you set your mind to something anything is possible. I will always cherish the wise words of wisdom echoed by Nelson Mandela who rightfully pointed out, ‘*It seems impossible until it’s done*’.





# DAAD (Dimensions of Diversity)

The DAAD Winter / Summer school occurred from 18 – 22 November 2024 at the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg, Germany. Seven students and seven staff members from the faculty participated in this Winter school, together with staff and students from the Carl von Ossietzky University (Oldenburg, Germany), NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands), and the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). The Winter School was an empowering, eye-opening, enriching event, where our students fully immersed themselves in the conversations, critical discussions, and collaboration with students from the partnering universities. Furthermore, the students participated in the Teaching Across Borders (TAB) programme where they engaged with students from The Netherlands and Oldenburg in creating lesson plans. They shared these lesson plans with everyone present at the Winter School.

The theme of this year's Winter School was Empowering teachers, empowering students, with the topics of languages, inclusion and arts-base approaches in education as the focus. Social justice was the golden thread throughout all presentations.

## Staff and students presented and engaged in two panel discussions:

- Teaching with heart: Empowering teachers to apply a humanizing pedagogy to create experiences of dignity. and
- Insider / Outsider: Authentic experiences of becoming.

Both these two presentations were very well received by the audience. Our students shared their own experiences and were

authentically themselves.

Some of our students, shared their experiences of the DAAD Winter School as follows:

*The DAAD Winter school was an experience of a lifetime. although I initially felt anxious and hesitant, I soon realized that I needed to make the most of the opportunity. The environment was incredibly inspiring and stimulating, fostering critical thinking, reflection, and thought-provoking discussions. Beyond the academic aspect, I also built meaningful friendships, where we shared our stories, learned about each other's experiences, and explored different cultures. Overall, this experience enriched my personal growth and stimulated me intellectually and*

*allowed me to form cross cultural connections.*

– Astrid Campodonico

*My experience going to Oldenburg for DAAD was an eye opening that there is a lot to learn from out there. And there are opportunities to explore the world and the easiest key to access that is through education.*

– Lwazi Nochubela

*There was no way of knowing exactly what I would gain from this experience, but I can confidently say that the winter school exceeded all of my expectations. I will treasure every encounter, conversation, and shared perspective from the winter school. It has truly changed the trajectory of my life.*

– Amy Joggom

*The DAAD Winter School was an immersion in new perspectives to teaching and learning. This experience has deepened my appreciation for the role of culture and language in fostering inclusive education.*

*Being a participant in the winter school has ignited a spark to broaden my academic horizons and explore more international academic learning experiences as a 21st century educator.*

– Simamkele Tinana

*From a personal/individual perspective, attending the 2024 DAAD academic conference was an incredible highlight, as it allowed me to present and engage in discussions about the rich diversity and unique aspects of our cultures. This experience broadened my global perspective, fostered meaningful connections, and deepened my appreciation for intercultural dialogue. It was a transformative journey that reinforced the value of diversity and its role in fostering understanding and collaboration in education.*

*I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity that I was granted to not just represent NMU, but also to immerse myself in a new/foreign academic and cultural environment.*

Danke Schön!

– Kirwan Frieslaar





# SUMMER GRADUATION

SUMMER GRADUATION 2024 || @mandelauniversity

Congratulations to all the graduates!!! We wish you everything of the best with your future endeavors! Keep upholding the Mandela University banner up high. Halala.

Please click the links to watch the vidoes 

► GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS

► THE DEANS CONGRATULATIONS MESSAGE

## PHD GRADUATES:

► THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION)  
**LINCOLN LEE JANSEN**

Supervisor: Dr EMA Scheckle

► THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION)  
**HENRY MAJWALA**

Supervisor: Prof L Athiemoolam

► THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION)  
**PAMÉLA OLIVE ZINN**

Supervisor: Dr T Morar

Co-supervisor: Prof SE van Rensburg

► THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION)  
**SYDNEY SAMUEL CAMPBELL**

Supervisor: Prof SE Blignaut

Co-supervisors: Dr O Koopman

Dr R van de Venter

► THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (EDUCATION)  
**EZEKIEL MAJOLA**

Supervisor: Prof LJ Powell

Co-supervisor: Dr CAG Jordaan





# HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION at Sakhisizwe High School

In a vibrant homage to Heritage Month, the Secondary School Education department, represented by HOD Dr. Ayanda Simayi and lecturer Ms. Makhosi Madibame, hosted an exciting week of festivities at Sakhisizwe High School in Zwide from September 9th to 13th. This event aimed to intertwine cultural heritage with educational enrichment, showcasing the dynamic relationship between Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and STEM education.

Dr. Simayi captivated the learners with a deep dive into the scientific principles of fermentation, illustrating how these concepts are rooted in Xhosa Indigenous Knowledge. This exploration not only highlighted the scientific processes involved but also emphasized the importance of preserving and recognizing traditional practices that contribute to contemporary science.

Meanwhile, Ms. Madibame engaged students through tra-

ditional Sesotho games, seamlessly integrating mathematics into the festivities. This interactive approach not only made learning enjoyable but also reinforced the notion that cultural heritage plays a crucial role in shaping educational methodologies. Learners also volunteered to play some of the games Ms Madimabe was using as illustrations.

The event proved to be an enlightening experience for the learners, as school leaders, staff, and School Governing Body members participated enthusiastically, donning traditional attire to celebrate their rich heritage. The principal (Name of the principal) expressed her gratitude on behalf of the school that they have been chosen to participate in this research work.

Overall, the Heritage Month celebration at Sakhisizwe High School was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all participants and reinforcing the significance of integrating cultural heritage into education.







# Inagural Lecture of Prof Athemolam

On July 20, 2024, Professor Logamurthie Athiemoolam from the Faculty of Education delivered a powerful lecture titled, "Re-thinking our pedagogical approaches in teacher education to subvert the neoliberal stronghold on higher education." The lecture critically examined the pervasive influence of neoliberalism, which prioritizes market-driven values like competition and individualism, over the university's traditional role of nurturing critical, democratic

citizens. Professor Athiemoolam challenged the current neoliberal-driven, positivistic teaching methods and advocated for transformative, culturally responsive, and arts-based pedagogies. These alternative approaches foster collaboration, critical thinking, and reflective practice, ultimately aiming to cultivate more critically engaged citizens in higher education...Read More

[Read the full story here](#)







## CONGRATULATIONS Mr. Joshua Jacobs

**H**uge congratulations to Mr. Joshua Jacobs on graduating with a Master's degree in Information Technology from the University of Johannesburg!

We wish you a transformative journey as you integrate technology to enhance learning

Your hard work and dedication has led you to this remarkable achievement, and we can't wait to see what amazing things you accomplish next.

Here's to your bright future!

#UJGrad #MastersGraduate #AchievementUnlocked #ProudMoment  
#DoctorateLoading

## TAKE TIME

Take time to think;  
it is the source of power.

Take time to read;  
it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to play;  
it is the secret of staying young.

Take time to be quiet;  
it is the opportunity to see God.

Take time to be aware;  
it is the opportunity to help others.

Take time to love and be loved;  
it is God's greatest gift.

Take time to laugh;  
it is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly;  
it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream;  
it is what the future is made of.

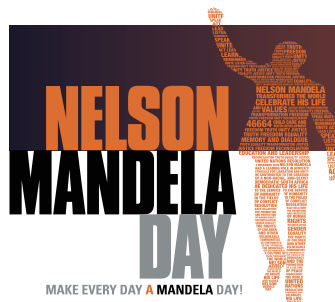
Take time to pray;  
it is the greatest power on earth.

(Unknown)



**T**angible Africa, in partnership with Nelson Mandela University's computer science department, hosted the Mandela Day coding tournament at the Boardwalk Mall and with another site at the Ocean Science Campus in Gqeberha. This event was a vibrant celebration of the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The Faculty of Education joined forces with Tangible Africa to bring this electrifying event to life. At the Faculty Stall, the dynamic STEM team, consisting of Dr Tarryn Lovemore, Mr Josh Jacobs, and Dr Rochell Thorne, took turns answering all the learners' inquiries about admissions at Nelson Mandela University.



Learners from various schools across the country, including five African countries, enthusiastically participated in the coding tournament. This competition provided a platform for learners to master coding skills through the use of a captivating mobile app called "Rangers."

Let us always remember to make every day a Mandela Day, as we continue to honor the extraordinary legacy of this iconic leader.



# MANDELA DAY

**T**he Faculty also answered the call to participate in Mandela Week activities at Zamukukhanya Primary School that started From July 15-18, 2024 , organized by Nelson Mandela University, alongside the Nelson Mandela Foundation, PE Community Chest, and Zwile Development Forum, came together to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy.

The literacy team represented by Dr. Eileen Scheckle and Mrs Nozuko Rhayi,

spent the day engaging young minds with stories and donating books to foster a love for reading. The smiles and curiosity of the children reminded us of the power of education to inspire change.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day impactful and memorable.

#internationalmandeladay  
#ItIsInYourHands #inspirechange





# Norwegian students teach in Motherwell

As part of the ITENSA student mobility project between the University of Tromsø and the Faculty of education at Nelson Mandela University, we recently welcomed 10 Norwegian students who had come to Geberha for their teaching practice. Five students who teach grades 1 to 7 went to Machiu Primary school in Bethelsdorp, and the students who teach grades 5 to 10 were hosted by Vulumzi Senior secondary School in Motherwell. This was an enriching experience for both students and teachers and the learners too, were excited by the novelty. Motherwell teachers shared how the students' use of games and play made them think differently about how they had been teaching and the students shared how their South African experience has strengthened them as teachers who can now teach a class of fifty learners without fancy technology!

In addition to teaching, students were excited to attend the international football match between South Africa and Congo Brazzaville at the NMU stadium. They were joined by some of the South African students who had visited Norway earlier in the year. Other highlights were attending a COSAFA women's match at the Wolfson stadium in KwaZakele, observing elephants in the Addo bush, and surfing at Jeffries Bay. Some also visited the SANCOB penguin sanctuary and were so moved about the dangers facing the penguins that one of the Norwegians, Nora, adopted a penguin.

Students who attended the Faculty choir event were blown away by the energy and enthusiasm of both the performers and the audience. It was also an opportunity to reconnect with their South African counterparts. They have returned to Norway enriched and empowered as future educators.





# Pam goes to Prague

I recently had the opportunity to do a poster presentation at the 33rd International Congress of Psychology 2024 (ICP 2024). The ICP conference, which is convened once every 4 years, took place in Prague from 21 July to 26 July 2024. The conference was well attended, offering presentations relating to research in a variety of different areas of Psychology. The title of my presentation was "Subject Choice Influences for High School Learners". I am grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to attend this conference.



## Service Learning for PSBL400 at Schauderville Day-care Centre

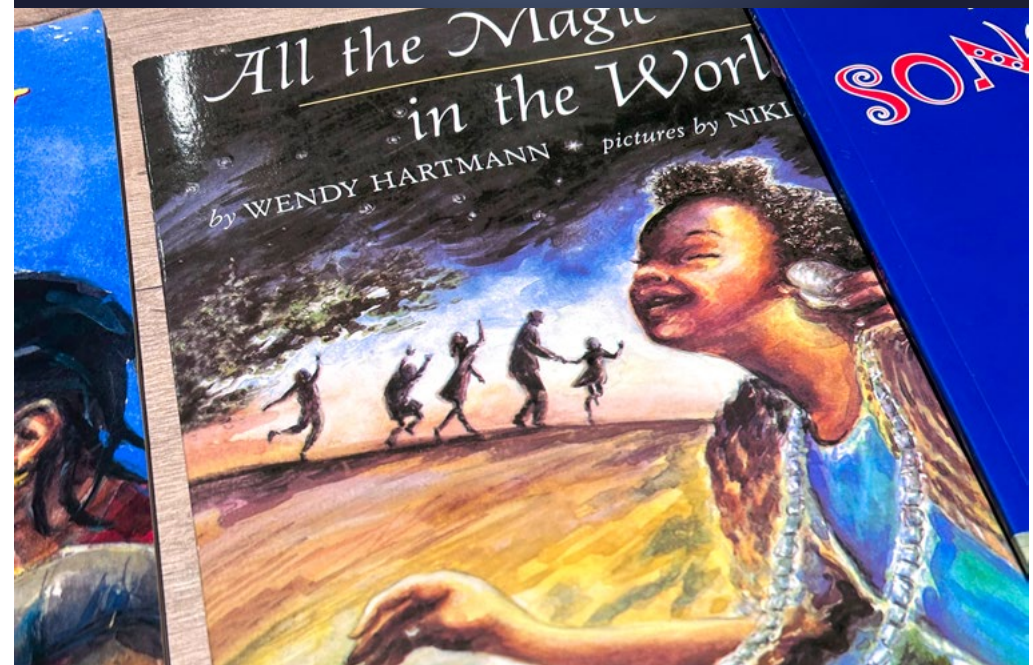
In a remarkable display of community engagement, six fourth-year students from Nelson Mandela University's Faculty of Education have launched a donation drive to support KidCave Academy, a daycare in Schauderville. As part of their Community Practice module, the students are collecting clothing, books, toys, and food to help the daycare recover after a recent robbery left it vulnerable.

With support from local businesses like Teleperformance, the drive is gaining momentum, but more help is needed. The Faculty is proud of its students for making a real impact, showcasing the service and leadership values NMU strives to instill.

[Read More...](#)



[Watch the video](#)



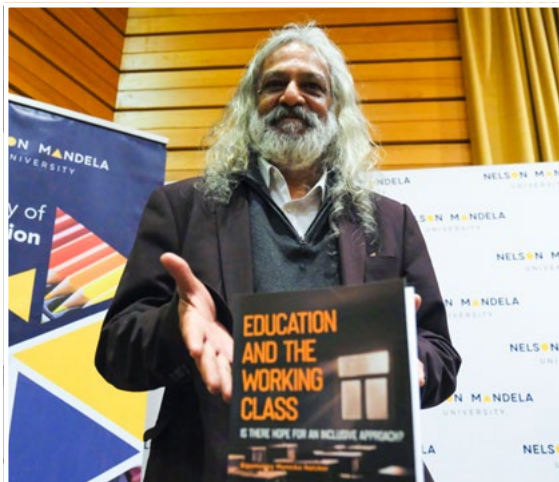


# Faculty of Education Collaborates with Professor Sigamoney Naicker for Book Launch

26th August 2024

The Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University is proud to collaborate with Professor Sigamoney Naicker for the launch of his insightful book, *Education and the Working Class: Is There Hope for an Inclusive Approach?* This significant work addresses critical issues in inclusive education and reinforces our shared commitment to advocating for a more equitable educational system for all.

Through this collaboration, the Faculty highlights the importance of exploring the challenges faced by vulnerable learners and the need for transformative changes within educational practices. Professor Naicker's book serves as a vital resource for understanding the complexities of inclusive education and emphasizes the potential for education to positively impact individuals and communities.







## Saarmste Highlights

**R**eflecting on the immense success of the SAARMSTE Research School 2024, hosted at Nelson Mandela University's Faculty of Education!

From June 25th to 28th, participants gathered both in-person at the beautiful Pine Lodge in Gqeberha and online, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere for our PhD students, early career scholars, and facilitators. The hybrid format allowed for a rich exchange of ideas and collaboration across disciplines in Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Research.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to SAARMSTE for the collaboration and co-hosting this event. The interactive workshop-style sessions on proposal writing, literature review data analysis and publication were particularly well-received, empowering attendees to enhance their PhD journeys.







## A heartfelt farewell

The Faculty of Education hosted a heartfelt farewell for Foundation Phase lecturer Dr. Obakeng Kagola and post graduate administrator Dr. Ntombxolo Yamile.

As they embark on new professional journeys, we extend our best wishes for their future endeavors. Their hard work and dedication have made a lasting impact on our Faculty. Each has contributed distinct talents and insights, greatly enriching our academic community.

Although their departure is bittersweet, we are excited for the new opportunities that lie ahead for them



## Mageba Maths takes over YouTube

**K**hethukuthula Zulu, a dedicated fourth-year Education student from Newcastle, KZN, has taken a unique approach to math education through his successful YouTube channel, Mageba Maths. Currently doing is SBL at Alexander Road High School, Zulu discovered his passion for teaching math during the COVID-19 pandemic while working as a student assistant. His journey has been fuelled by a commitment to evolving teaching methods in line with the digital age, as he aims to inspire confidence and engagement in his students.

Mageba Maths serves as a platform where high school learners can experience math in a more approachable and

enjoyable way. Despite facing initial challenges in video production, Zulu's determination led him to invest in better recording equipment and digital tools, enhancing the quality of his content. His emphasis on understanding over memorization, consistent practice, and a positive mindset resonates with his audience, encouraging them to embrace their mathematical journeys.

Through Mageba Maths, Khethukuthula Zulu not only enriches the educational landscape but also serves as an inspiring role model for students in the Faculty of Education. MAGEBSA Maths can be seen on the YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@khethukuthulaZulu27>







NELSON MANDALA UNIVERSITY



PO Box 77000, Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, 6031.

**T** +27 41 504 1111 (Port Elizabeth) **T** +27 44 801 5111 (George)

**E** [info@mandela.ac.za](mailto:info@mandela.ac.za) **W** [mandela.ac.za](http://mandela.ac.za)

**Change the World**