March 2023

Faculty of Education **News**



wish you a prosperous 2023! Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful festive season and could spend quality time with your family and loved ones.

2023 marks the beginning of yet another journey. The Covid-19 virus forced us to teach online in 2021 and 2022. In 2022, whilst most lectures were online, several were presented face to face. In 2023 all our students will be back in Ggeberha, and several of our large classes will have an online plenary lecture followed by a face-to-face tutorial. In addition, all our smaller classes will be face-to-face. For some of our students, it will be the first time they will be in face-to-face lectures and, therefore, may require more assistance and guidance to navigate the shift from online lectures. We need to be ready for our students.

Our congratulations are extended to our executive Dean, Dr Muki Moeng, who has taken up her new post as the Acting DVC Learning and Teaching. With her moving into the acting DVC role, several changes had to be made in the faculty; Dr Heloise Sathorar will be Acting Deputy Dean, and Dr Marelize Van Heerden will be the Acting Senior Secondary School HoD. The Acting HoD of the Post Graduate Department is Dr Eileen Scheckle. The position of FP HoD is in the process of being finalised by HR. To all our colleagues in their acting positions, we wish them all the best, and I am confident you will give them your support.

Kindly note that Dr Dave Edley will be the SBL coordinator, Dr Ntomboxolo Yamile will be the Program Administrator in the Post Graduate Department, and Ms Nondumiso Ntshangase will be the SBL Administrator.

We welcome back Profs Sylvan Blignaut and Mathabo Khau from

their sabbaticals. On sabbatical in 2023 are Associate Prof Nokhanyo Mdzanga for the year and Ms Kholisa Papu for the first semester. We wish them well on their sabbatical.

We welcome two of our Alumni to the Intermediate Phase Department; Ms Tarryn Lovemore and Mr Joshua Jacobs. Ms Lovemore is a mathematics educator, and Mr Jacobs is an ICT educator. We are delighted that they have decided to join the Faculty of Education family, and we wish them a wonderful and fulfilling career with us.

Mr Dewald Koen will graduate with his PhD from Fort Hare University in March. We are looking forward to congratulating him on his achievement. To those who are still working on finishing off their qualifications, we wish them all the best.

Congratulations to Tobeka for completing the Teaching Advancement at universities (TAU) course.

We will continue with our Brown Bag Thursdays and the Writing Retreats in 2023. Congratulations to Dr Muki Moeng, who was informed in December 2022 that an article she worked on at the writing retreat in October 2022 had been published in the Journal of Contemporary Issues in Education.

Once more, welcome back. May you have a blessed and prosperous 2023.

Take care and stay safe.

Regards



Academic Welcoming Events



On the 4th of February, Nelson Mandela University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sibongile Muthwa, welcomed all first year students and gave them an assurance that the institution was well on track to receive students for the 2023 academic year and to render the necessary support to make their academic careers a success.

The event was a huge success with nearly over 2000 students who were present at fist in-person welcome address in almost 3 years. Outlining the various forms of support available to students towards their overall access and success, Professor Muthwa told how the University's approach aimed to ensure that "no one is left behind".

In the attempt to inspire first year students; our Alumnus and public relation officer, Mr Thato Moshoeshoe was request by the VC's office to be the programme director for the day. Moshoeshoe shared his

success story on how he was able to overcome his academic challenges through determination, hard word and prayer. This is a proud moment for our Faculty.

Orientation sessions were also held for different academic programmes within our faculty namely, The IP/FP AND SP/FET meet and greet followed by the PGCE orientation session. The faculty welcome events were hosted to give our students an assurance that they made the right decision and choosing the Nelson Mandela University as your university of choice. We cannot wait to hear all about your dreams, hopes and determinations and hopefully we can equip them well enough to go out into the real world and make a difference in the realm of teaching and learning.





Academic Welcoming Events



Academic Welcoming Events



Welcome to our New Staff

Joshua Jacobs

eet Joshua Jacobs, an Associate Lecturer in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) from the picturesque town of Kariega. He is a proud alumnus of Nelson Mandela University, having completed both his undergraduate and postgraduate education qualifications there. Prior to his current position, Josh held the role of Lecturer and Technology Enhanced Learning Coordinator at STADIO Higher Education, where he made significant contributions to the institution's educational programs, most notably in staff development and their Advanced Diploma in



Technical and Vocational Teaching's CHE and DHET accreditation processes.

Currently, Josh is a Master's candidate in Education ICT at the University of Johannesburg, with skills in educational ICT policy development, contemporary learning design theories and frameworks, framing assessment within 21st-century contexts, and current and emerging issues in digital learning. His research interests lie in Chronotopes and Time-and Space configurations in Hybrid learning contexts.

Dr Tarryn Lovemore

As an alumnus, completing her BEd in 2015, Tarryn is happy to be back to lecture Intermediate Phase Mathematics, among other modules. After qualifying as an intermediate phase teacher, Tarryn taught at Woodridge Preparatory and Nanaga Primary School. In 2020 she started lecturing as an Independent Contractor at The IIE Varsity College Nelson Mandela Bay Campus.

While teaching, she completed her BEd Honours in Educational Support through Stellenbosch University and her MEd through Rhodes University. Tarryn has just completed her PhD in Mathematics Education through Rhodes University



and will graduate in March. Her study involved designing and trialing ways to integrate music and mathematics to support the teaching and learning of fractions. Tarryn's interest in how music can be used in mathematics classrooms stems from her interest in music, as she is a violinist.

Tarryn has been a SAARMSTE Research and Capacity Building Committee student representative since 2021. She is also an AMESA Learning and Teaching Mathematics Editorial Board member. Tarryn is passionate about nature and conservation and volunteers as a SANParks Honorary Ranger in the Addo Region.

DAAD - Dimensions of Diversity Project



Six staff members and six students visited Carl Von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg as part of the DAAD Dimensions of Diversity project to participate in a Winter School in November 2022.

Students Receiving Certificates for Participation

DAAD Winter School Participants

Writing a Journal Article

The faculty's hosted Professor Martin Braund from the Department of Education at University of York UK in February. Amongst other engagements, Prof Braund facilitated a workshop for faculty academics and post graduate students on "Writing a journal article: a workshop for post graduate students and their supervisors"







aculty of Education Intermediate phase 1st year student, Jabu Mathebula secured the coveted spot in the top 10 of the Mr South Africa competition which was live streamed on the Mr South Africa Website from Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg.

Even though Jabulani did not win the ultimate tittle, we're so proud that he was able to represent our university and province on the runway. This has been an incredible journey that brough the much-needed exposure for Jabulani's modelling career.

"On 10th of December 2022 I walked the Biggest stage in Male Pageantry in the country, representing every boy from eKasi who never felt they were good enough, and every girl who was told they'll never amount to anything.

Mine was to show that with hard work and determination, it is possible." – Jabulani

Latest Update: Jabulani has just been informed that he is now part of the top 10 in the Mr Africa competition for 2023 representing South Africa. We are so proud and cannot wait to see this journey unfold.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?comment_ id=222915223474150&v=761678595381816¬if_ id=1677836249174221¬if_t=comment_mention&ref=notif

The outcome of your Gentleness

Sani Sanelisiwe English Methodology, 2023

My classroom or yours?

Deeno Raubenheimer, Patience Jack, Hannah Reid, Mekyle Solomon, Ajay Ah Shene Group work poem; English methodology, 2023

Be gentle on my mind, my very first request; Oh! How very kind, You were the best. You took your time, moulding me, every lesson, you let me be.

You pulled me aside, Whenever I felt the rope pull tight, and in that way, Little did I know, you were paving my way.

You saw my light,
When all in sight for me was black.
You did go gentle
and so slow,
Now look! It's all so bright
No more looking back.
So please be so kind,
Never stop being Gentle.

The theme of the poems are on teaching and learning and were written during one of my T1 lectures. They align well to the humanising pedagogy in terms of where our PGCE students see themselves in their future roles as English teachers.

Prof Logan Athiemoolam

The building blocks to my class Are based on knowledge overall. For knowledge is key after all, My taste for the world, Gives me the regard for people. My love of literature almost Makes me a buff in culture.

If knowledge is key, But also the root of all evil Then my skill for feeling and seeing Rounds me off.

I speak in the tongues my kids understand, My patience virtuous as I hold and guide,

Their eyes, hearts, minds, and hands. Empathy guides my classroom,

Unlike the way the marker guides my hand.

So, I ask my classroom or yours?

Does your knowledge of the children know no bounds?

Does your heart lay bare on the ground?

Do your words command their minds?

Does your presence command the room?

Does your empathy entomb them in understanding?

Does your skilful words carry their understanding?

This time I beg,

My classroom or yours:

Are you accountable to chaos or a slave to order?

Do you exude positivity or greet with a giant smile.

Do you trace their broken hearts or patch their cracks with sympathy?

Begotten son of man

Forget not the wounds that you wear

Forget not the trauma cracks you bear.

My classroom given not through familiarity but, my heart's understanding.

My knowledge, skills, and demeanour, forged through the depths of Tartarus,

And salvaged through an angels' hand.

I see you understand the question at hand.

My classroom or yours?

For knowledge is power, through people, culture, and spoken word.

Skills are abundant through thought, emotion, speech, and time.

And finally through attitude and interaction we sympathise,

empathise, remain friends, and find positive accountability.

So to you out there where the fourth wall is bare,

I ask my classroom or yours? Or do you think we should compare

A new year for the faculty FYEP!

Our fantastic Mamzo and some of the group of student peer tutors who work on the faculty First (and Second) Year Experience Programme.

Back Row: Caroline Boshoff, Zenzo Nkosi, Thokozile Langman, Nadiyaa Senekal Front Row: Camilla Peterson, Jackie Smith, Nozuko Rhayi (Mamzo) and Amahle Wayise

The faculty's First Year Experience Programme (FYEP) seeks to create a seamless transition for our first-year students to adjust to university space and the pressures of higher learning. The programme acknowledges that, amongst other challenges, the culture shock experienced by most first year students in the first few weeks of joining university can contribute to poor academic performance and dropout.

Whilst the university has generic programmes to orient and support first years, these do not address faculty or programme specific challenges. The faculty FYEP programme aims to *complement* these existing programme(s) by providing Education students with relevant information and peer support to ease their transition and assimilation/adaptation into the faculty, their department, and their programme.

Peer mentors provide experienced, practical, and functional ways for 1st years to adjust to this new environment. Areas of support include academic, psycho-social, financial/ funding, accommodation, etc and support is offered in a variety of modes (face-to-face, online, whatsapp, group vs individual, etc). All support is multilingual (English-isiXhosa-Afrikaans) as we recognise that a fair percentage of challenges can be linked to language barriers.

In modules which historically have high failure and repeat rates, peer tutors assist students academically by decoding difficult concepts through holding discussion and tutorial sessions (online and in person) and being available to answer questions related to module content, requirements and assessments. Note that they do not supply answers or do assessments on behalf of students but offer guidance/clarity on

the nature of assessments and rubrics.

Peer tutors who are approached for psycho-social assistance liaise directly with Ms Rhayi on these cases, and institutional support departments are engaged with to resolve or assist.

Our peer tutors are academically excellent students themselves who have been identified as leaders able to give of their time, knowledge and experience to ensure 1st years have as smooth an introduction to Faculty of Education and Mandela University as possible. We are so proud of them!

If you have a concern or question, please feel free to email Nozuko and engage with the FYEP Team – this is a faculty resource aimed at optimising our student access and retention.



International teaching exchange programme:

aries





The Faculty also places a strong emphasis on in-service teacher education, offering a range of programmes to build capacity, the international teaching exchange programmes act as an endeavour to ensure students success by exposing our students to multicultural teaching context and education systems.

Last month we hosted Stefan Blumenstein and Cyrill Sonderegger from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Northwestern Switzerland for their School Based Learning Program. They spent over 4 weeks in South Africa doing their internship at Charles Duna Primary School, in New Brighton under the mentorship of the school principal; Mrs Nombulelo Sume and our alumnus; Jarren Gangiah.

The two students and lecturers visiting our faculty have regarded this as a life changing experience which will bring a rewarding opportunity when students enter the labour market.

Top Left: Stefan Blumenstein, Cyrill Sonderegger, Mrs Nombulelo Sume, Dr Tulsi Morar, Dr Tobeka Maphasa, Mr Jarren Ganghiah

All other pictures: Learners at Charlse Duna Primary School



Visiting the University of Groningen in the Netherlands



Students Presenting their Teaching Across Borders (TAB) Lessons



Certification Ceremony:

The faculty's Short Learning Programme, Women in Leadership, which is offered in partnership with HELM celebrated a 3rd cohort of graduates in February 2023. This certification ceremony was held at the Nelson Mandela University and was the first one in the programme to be held in person.

Attended by almost the full cohort of participants, the ceremony was directed by co-faciliator, Prof Denise Zinn, with an inspiring motivational message delivered by NMU Acting DVC LT Dr Muki

Moeng. Director of HELM, Prof Oliver Searle spoke of the way forward and offered thanks to various stakeholders and participants over these first years of the programme.

The programme was interspersed with live music pieces and poetry written by the participants as part of the programme, and wrapped up with an apt poem by John O'Donohue.

A truly celebratory and joyous event. Congratulations! Halala!



Certification Ceremony:

Women in Leadership 2022















Reading and handing out the certificates, **Dr Tulsi Morar** (Acting Dean of Faculty of Education) and **Dr Muki Moeng** (Acting DVC LT)

Right (from left to right):

Prof Denise Zinn, programme co-facilitator
Dr Heloise Sathorar, Acting Deputy Dean for Faculty of Education
and WiL alumni proposes a Toast in celebration
Prof Oliver Searle spoke of the way forward and

offered a vote of thanks

Dr Muki Moeng, Acting DVC LT delivering motivational message





My Dorp

Kenan Davids, a third-year education student, entered a poetry competition hosted by the Heritage Travel magazine. The theme was "My town/ My dorp" and could've been written in any poetry form and in either English or Afrikaans. His poem got selected to be published in the magazine and a video of him reciting the poem will be played at this year's Suidooster festival where the magazine will be launched.

My dorp is meer as net 'n dorp vir my...

Dis waar ek leer fietsry het, my vriende ontmoet en leer vloek het.

(Badseep werk vir vuil monde)

Waar ons tok-tokkie tot laat in die aande kon speel, die antie langsaan se change vat en met 'n slipper in lettergrepe geslaan was.

Waar ek my eerste soen gekry het, Gelos was omdat ek nie haar passenger princess kon maak nie en geleer het wat ek werklik verdien.

My dorp is waar bejaardes die kinders bymekaar versamel het en toeka se stories vertel. Dit is waar ons broers en susters al moes herdenk het met blomme en dwelms soos lekkers te koop is, maar hier bly die mense, jóú mense.

My dorp is meer as net 'n dorp. Dit het gehelp skaaf aan die mens wat ek is vandag. Dit is waar my hart die beste klop.

©Kenan Davids



Implementation of School Improvement Plans

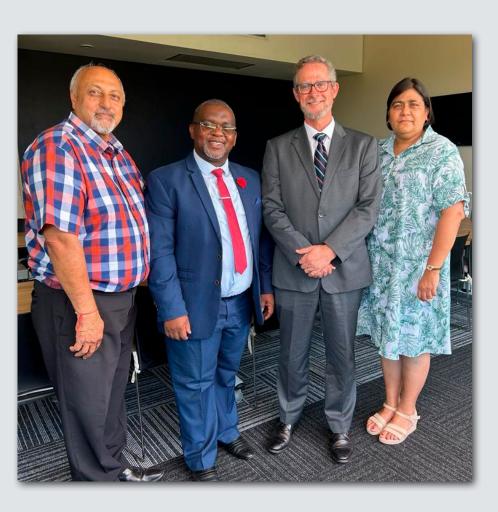
Developing a systemswide leadership approach to supporting school development

or the Sakhingomso schools in Cala, ineffective committee structures and non-functioning school leadership and management are problems of the past. For the past five years, CCS has worked tirelessly to create a strong foundation for effective school governance. This intervention has focused on developing a systems-wide leadership approach to support school development to achieve an optimal levesl of functionality in the rural context. Schools were given the opportunity to jointly create their School Improvement Plans between the SGB and SMT and come up with an implementation plan and strategy to encourage collaboration between the School Governing Body and the School Management Team in the developing and implementation of a SIP. During this process, the participants complemented each another, worked in cohesion, and had a sense of ownership. CCS committed to providing schools seed funding to start implementing a project of their choice based on the Department's nine whole school focus areas.

Right: SGB and SMT Members from Batandwa, Cala Village, Guata and Mxe



Faculty Leadership Meeting the Leadership of the South African Principals' Association (SAPA)



Faculty Writing Retreat at Cape St Francis Resort – March 2023







Top

Miss Hlubikazi Ntshobane demonstrating to stakeholders how the cup is used

Bottom:

Mr Kene, Cala Circuit Manager expresses his gratitude to the Mina Foundation

Menstrual Cup for Schools in Cala: Rural Context

N elson Mandela University is collaborating with the Mina Foundation to raise awareness about menstrual health, end period poverty, and using the Mina Cup. On February 24-25, 2023, they visited Cala in Sakhisizwe Municipality to meet with key stakeholders representing the wider community, including parents, community leaders, and other government departments. CCS led the entire process to ensure that prior to distributing menstrual cups to learners, it is important to educate the community through an extensive collaborative process. This strategy had given all relevant parties the forum they needed to discuss the issue, have their questions answered, and then agree on the best course of action. The Mina Foundation explained and demonstrated body, land and the community expressed a desire to intervene in more schools and with more students in grades 8 to 12. The second day was teaching and distribution to Grade 8 learners at Batandwa Ndondo and Cala Village, where parents also attended. Both boys; and girls; present showed acceptance and gratitude for the introduction of the Mina menstrual cup in their community. Girls received instruction in menstrual health and hygiene, while boys discussed the transition from childhood to adulthood, which included health and hygiene. Chivalry was the focus of our men of tomorrow. at the end the engagement was a success, and all parties welcomed the idea of learners.





Top:

Ms. Seipati Masokoane giving a lesson to boys

Rotton

Girls receiving instructions on how to use the Mina cup

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

The Bookery builds active libraries that encourage a love of reading

CS is delighted to have The Bookery as a partner in establishing libraries for learners in various schools. They managed to seek funding to set up four new libraries in these schools.

- 1. Mnxe Primary School Cala
- 2. James Ndulula Primary School Uitenhage
- 3. Limekhaya High School Uitenhage
- 4. Sapphire Rd Primary school PE, Northern Areas

On the 24th of February, CCS was invited by The Bookery to attend a school library launch that took place at Arron Gqadu Primary school in Kwazakhele. The launch was supported by Masinyusane, Bookery and Spar and It was well attended by all stakeholder, which included Government Departments, Social Development, SAPS, parents, and learners

There was also an awareness programme conducted by the Social Workers and Police Officers to educate parents and learners about social issues affecting the community. And an emphasise was made to the parents that they should take ownership of the library to promote safety and security and to support their children at home with reading and writing in order to improve literacy development

The community members and the learners were extremely excited about the launch, they promised that they will look after the library, so that it could benefits generations to come.









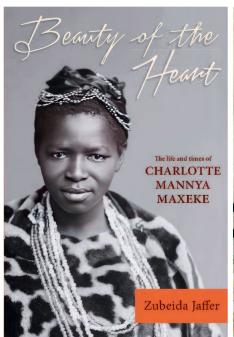
LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Book donation to schools by an awardwinning journalist Zubeida Jaffer

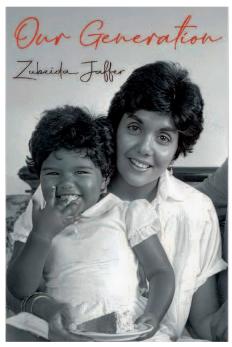
Number10Publishers with the support of Old Mutual has donated 30 sets of books (90) for distribution to schools within our network. Zubeida Jaffer has written all three books that span 130 years of South African history. The story starts in 1871 with the birth of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke chronicled in Beauty of the Heart, The Life and Times of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke. The second story. Love in the Time of Treason tells the story of Ayesha Dawood who faced treason charges with Madiba in 1956. The third story is her memoir, Our Generation, which brings the South African story to 2001.

This initiative is aimed at introducing learners, and educators to the stories of three strong South African women from diverse backgrounds who, despite their circumstances, were able to make a difference while still in their youth.

Right: CCS facilitated the handover where all 10 schools met at Soqhayisa High School in Motherwell on the 2nd of March 2023 to collect their books.











LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Book Bag Project follow up after covid 19

Paul Sutherland, the Chairman of the Utopia Foundation, contacted Nelson Mandela University to offer the bookbag project commenced in April 2020 when the country was affected by Covid-19.

The Utopia Foundation donated around ten thousand (10,000) primary school children, from the thirteen (13) Manyano Schools and three primary schools in Cala- who work with the Centre for Community Schools (CCS), Faculty of Education, with the following learning materials:

These books were provided in both English and isiXhosa. The project was launched and is aligned with Nelson Mandela University's quest to be a university in the service of society. Paul Sutherland visited Gqeberha on the 20th of February 2023 to meet the principals of the schools and children who received books (Book Bag Project). All Manyano schools principals including high schools attended the meeting which was aimed at strengthening the collaboration between Utopia Foundation, CCS, and the schools and also to follow up on the book bag project that Utopia Foundation implemented in 2020.

Part of the program involved reflections from parents, educators, and learners showcasing their reading skills by telling stories they have read and expressing their excitement to have met the author.







Digitalisation and E-Portfolio Development

In preparation for the CHE Programme Review later this year we had a Digitalisation and E-Portfolio workshop presented by Dr Badroen Ismail.



SBL is going Digital

Dr Dave Edley was appointed as the SBL Co-ordinator for 2023 and briefed staff on the SBL Guidelines for the year. The main change for SBL this year is that all students will be assessed online at least once for each of their specialisations.



Sign Language Workshop

In the efforts to create awareness and incorporate sign language into our curriculum, the Reasonable Accommodations Committee together with The Universal Accessibility and Disability, Services hosted a sign language workshop earlier this year. This workshop also aims to address the lack of skilled sign language teachers within the deaf community. Sign language can enhance the learning process by bringing visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic feedback to help reach all students.

The faculty representative of the Reasonable Accommodations Committee, Sanet Deysel highlighted the need for student teachers to be trained well enough to teach learners in deaf schools. The plan is to incorporate the sign language methods into the 3rd year curriculum, the success of the plan is highly dependant on lecturer's knowledge of the language hence it was important to firstly provide training for them.

Phakama Maceba (Sign Language Interpreter) and Siwe Nare (Student Access Coordinator) helped facilitate the workshop where 11 staff members were taught the basics of sign language. The two representatives from the Universal Accessibility and Disability Services emphasised how sign language is as important as any other language and that student teachers need to at least understand the fundamental basics, in order to accommodate leaners with hearing difficulties.

We are so excited for this ongoing relationship between our faculty and the UADS.







Watch highlights of the sign language workshop https://www.instagram.com/reel/Co8_EQ2InPi/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

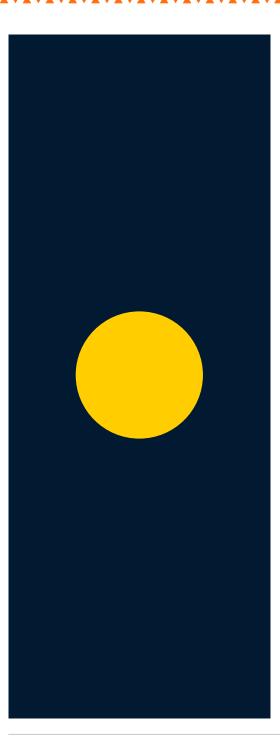
Education students going to Norway!

Eight students from Intermediate and Senior Phase will be travelling to Norway for a month next week as part of the ITENSA Project collaboration between Faculty of Education at Nelson

Mandela University and the University of Tromso in Norway. We look forward to hearing all about their SBL experiences in the schools in Norway on their return!



Yongama Mjiwu, Meghan Noble, Silindokuhle Magubane, Zizipho Lokwe, Runique Pedro, Tayla Calver, Zene van Brouwershaven, Yibanathi Faaltein



Neuro-cognitive STEM enhancement & human-computer interactions Research Group



Recruitment opportunities

Post-doctoral researchers, research fellows, and Doctoral candidates

We are currently recruiting highly motivated and qualified post-doctoral researchers, research fellows, and doctoral candidates in one or multiple of these areas. Access our website for further details: https://stemvirtual.mandela.ac.za/

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Neuro-cognitive mathematics (STEM)

- . Mathematics and computational cognition
- . STEM cognition
- . Cognitive computing and modelling

STEM cognitive enhancement via human-computer interaction

- . Metaverse-powered Smart STEM Education in the Industry 4.0
- . Mobile-computing (M-learning or E-learning)
- . Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Digital Education
- . Virtual learning environments (VLEs)
- . Computer aided assessment (CAS)
- . Application of bio-sensing technologies for teaching and learning
- Machine learning
- Digital technology applications (Sketchpad, GIS, SmartPLS, MATLAB, Geogebra, Blockchain, JAWS, VR,AR, MR, Metaverse, IoT, Robotics).
- Information security in e-learning (m-learning) platforms

Predictive/mathematical modelling

- . Actuarial analysis and modelling (AMOS and Basys)
- . Stochastic partial differential equations & modelling (Matlab)

SPECIAL ISSUES

We are also accepting calls for the following SPECIAL ISSUES:

Special issue topic 1

Integrating Fundamental Digital -Technology Solutions in Africa's Higher Education Practices and theories for sustainability

Journal: South Africa Journal of Higher Education

Special issue topic 2

Mathematical Modeling and Cognitive Computing

Journal: Mathematics

Special issue topic 3

Digital Education and Curriculum Innovation: Global Perspectives

Journal: Education sciences

For details, see https://stemvirtual.mandela.ac.za/Guest-Editors-of-Journals

For more information, contact any of the members via the link below:

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