

NELSON MANDELA  
UNIVERSITY  
Business School

Newsletter / April 2023



# REASONS TO BE PROUD

## Lazola Tutani

Quality Manager – SPS & LL  
RDSQ – Research and Development Strategy and Quality

In 2021, I was appointed into a senior management position at Continental Tyre, where I was entrusted to lead a business unit. During my first 90 days in the role, I relied heavily on my mentor who was a JSE listed Group CEO at the time to offer me guidance on how to successfully navigate the new challenge. This helped me a lot and our discussions triggered the hunger for business knowledge. I noticed that I was a very good technical leader, but I lacked the overall understanding of how the business worked and I figured that I needed to urgently close this gap by furthering my studies in business administration. This is when I discovered the PDBA programme, which was a gateway to the MBA programme which my mentor had completed in the 90s. I then began the process of trying to find academic institutions that offered this course and many of my colleagues recommended the Business School and I embarked on the lengthy application process. I was eventually accepted onto the course and I began my studies in 2022.

I had an amazing experience at the institute as the various lecturers offered very insightful lectures on the various elements of leading and managing a business. I was fortunate to be part of an excellent syndicate group (PDBAPE 22.1) and we worked very well together and as a result of our excellent team work, we managed to win the BEST SYNDICATE GROUP award for two consecutive trimesters.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience in the PDBA programme and the course content has allowed me to lead my team at Continental to winning an Award at the Continental Tyre Awards in November 2022. My team won the award based on an initiative we rolled out which was aimed at equipping line managers with the necessary training and tools to allow them to succeed in their first 90 days in their roles. This initiative was heavily influenced by my learnings in the PDBA programme as the course enabled me to have a broader view of the business and I was able to identify this as a big opportunity to strengthen my business unit. All these initiatives that I have been able to roll out at Continental Tyre South Africa have opened doors to a new opportunity to work in our headquarters in Hannover, Germany effective from the 20th of February 2023. I look forward to this new chapter in my career and I hope to make an impact and apply more of the learnings I have obtained on the PDBA programme and I hope to achieve my dream of enrolling for my MBA programme in the next few years as this will be the final step in preparing me to be a CEO one day.



Pictured Above: Lazola Tutani



Pictured Right: Lazola and his team during Continental Tyre Awards in November 2022

# Ryan Gallant- MBA (Cum Laude)

It took him two attempts, an unexpected retrenchment and moving his family to stay with his eldest daughter due to financial constraints for Nelson Mandela University graduate Ryan Gallant to complete his qualification. Despite all the challenges, the 48-year-old graduated with his MBA cum laude during NMU's summer graduation.

Ryan's first attempt at pursuing an MBA was in 2018 when he was promoted to engineering manager in the tyre industry. He however, had to drop out three months into his studies as he felt the MBA was too demanding to juggle with work. He said that at the time he'd had no formal training in strategic marketing and management accounting as a BTech (electrical engineering) graduate and it was too stressful to leave work in Kariega early to attend classes in Gqeberha in the late afternoon and as a result, he missed many classes. In January 2020, Gallant enrolled again to achieve his goal of finishing the MBA, however, the Covid-19 pandemic took over the world, changed the economy, and he was retrenched in August 2020.

"It was a difficult time for me and my family since I had no income, and I had enrolled in the MBA programme at the peak of the pandemic. I had to raise funds to finish the second year of my MBA. It was about prioritising and surviving" he said.



Above: Mr Ryan Gallant

## Dr Yusuf Adam- DBA

Dr Yusuf Adam obtained his DBA at the age of 70 from NMU Business School under the supervision of Dr Fraser, pictured to the left of Dr Adam.

He had his family with him at the graduation ceremony for support. A big **CONGRATULATIONS** to Dr Adam on his outstanding achievement.



Above: Dr Yusuf Adam and his supervisor Dr Jessica Fraser



From Left: Dr Jessica Fraser, Dr Sam February , Dr Yusuf Adam and Dr Nomtha Hadi

# Orientation and Amazing Race

The Business School welcomed our students back to campus with an exciting orientation weekend that was centered around 'the self', and the journey to personal growth and transformation during their journey with the Business School. The highlight of the orientation was the "Amazing Race" team building exercise at the Boardwalk Mall, where both students and staff could be involved in the fun.

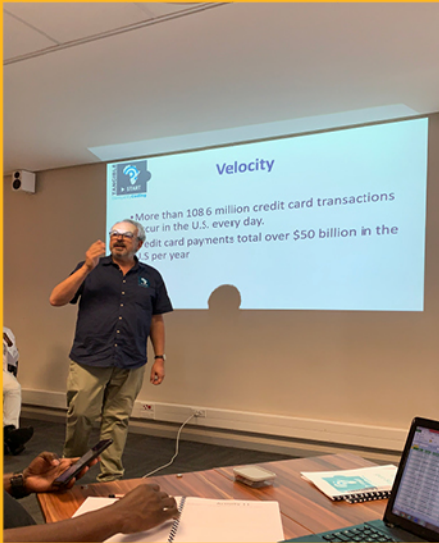


# Stationery Drive



The Nelson Mandela University Business School held a stationery drive where students and staff donated stationery along with office supplies to underprivileged schools around the Gqeberha area. The beneficiaries of our initiative were: Sancto Primary School, St Teresa's (RC) Primary School and St James (RC) S School. **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the success of this initiative.

# Coding and Big Data Workshop



The Business School students as well as staff attended a Coding and Big Data workshop. The workshop was around a mobile coding game project, developed at Nelson Mandela University and designed to teach computer programming to disadvantaged children and non coders. The workshop was co-ordinated by Prof Jean Greyling, a computing science Professor at the university.

Greyling said the original TANKS coding game app, developed by Nelson Mandela University postgraduate computing sciences student Byron Batteson, used image recognition and tangible tokens like puzzle pieces on a mobile device, thereby introducing basic coding concepts without the need for a computer.

It included 35 levels of increasing complexity which made it fun and enthralling for children. Two additional coding apps using the same concept had then been introduced — BOATS, which taught players about plastics in the ocean, and RANGERS, which had a game poaching theme.

# PDBA Community Garden Project



The Business School, PDBA Operations Management class embarked on an outing, as part of their sustainability drive. They visited Silinokuhle Early Learning Centre and Community Garden Project in Joe Slovo, Gqeberha. The center is a combination of being a early learning centre, food kitchen and local support beacon for the community. Staff and students were encouraged to donate R100 towards the purchasing of seedlings that would be planted during the visit. Bags of compost, spinach, carrots, onions, beetroot and cabbage seedlings were some of the items that were purchased with the funds that were raised. The 3 hours of gardening proved to be very impactful and a total of R4000 was raised.

# MMM Kick-off

Classes commenced in February 2023 as the Nelson Mandela University Business School welcomed aboard the first cohort in the Master of Maritime Management ( MMM) Qualification). The purpose of the Master of Maritime Management is to enhance specialised skills and experience in the maritime business and management arena. The qualification is designed to provide strategic business skills and knowledge for current maritime professionals working in the maritime sector and related supply chain industries, including offshore and land-based activities.



The Nelson Mandela University Business School held a Maritime Innovations workshop with colleagues from the Maritime University Szczecin, Poland (Prof. Bogus Wisnicki and Master Mariner Dr. Piotr Wolejsza). The workshop was targeted at maritime enterprises, researchers and industry players who have a keen interest in maritime sustainable transportation, computer science innovation and entrepreneurship. In the workshop, participants explored innovation in the maritime economy, the role of teams and innovations in tackling ideas and challenges and Value Proposition Design.



# A Message From the HOD

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The year truly started off with a big bang for the Business School. We welcomed our students back to the Business School with an exciting orientation weekend. Students visited the school for the first time since Covid. The highlight of the weekend was the teambuilding exercise at the Boardwalk, which was very entertaining for staff members and the students. The Orientation also had a focus area around “the self”, and the journey of personal transformation while at the Business School over 1 to 3 year period. Two weeks later we were honoured to welcome our first Master of Maritime Management cohort to campus which kicked off with an orientation weekend followed by the first block week of classes, a first for the Business School. We hosted international faculty members as part of the MMM orientation week. While all this was happening, we had the first block week for our ProDBA.

Our student intake for 2023 has been much smaller as a result of adhering to stricter entry requirements for both PDBA and MBA Programmes. Students from Gqeberha are attending face-to-face classes while, the block release students are attending online classes. Anticipated highlights for the year includes partnerships with local industries and communities, strategic conversations and the breakfast club.



**Dr Sam February**  
**Head of Department**