

MADIBAZNews

News for the students, by the students

THE CAMPUS IS YOUR OYSTER



Picture: unsplash.com

By Luyanda Mkhize

Nelson Mandela University is literally your oyster if you take the chances provided to you by all the different societies on campus - be it career targeted or for character building and social interactions, there are plenty of options.

Being part of other activities at the University is valuable for your own development and your future. Employers will not just simply look at your grades, but will lean towards people who have been involved in activities outside the classroom.

Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter or Science Society are two of the Academic societies you could join, so you are able to interact with others who are on the same journey as you are therefore able to advise and guide you.

Societies are not limited to just Academia but there are societies which target Development, Politics and Religious aspects. The best option is to attend highways to byways and ask a lot of questions so you align yourself with the society that represents your interests best.

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PROMOTION

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Not only a new year, but a new decade is upon us.

Here at MadibazNews we are embracing this season of change by making a few changes of our own. As is mostly the case, a new year means losing some team members, which also opens up opportunities for others. As we embark on new journeys and roles and experiences, we invite you come along for the ride. Because as much as things are changing, some things never change, including our mission - we are still here to bring you news that is fun, relevant and informative. We look forward to an exciting year with you!

AMY WARD**FIRST YEAR SURVIVAL GUIDE**

Picture: pexels.com

By Ioanna Haritos

It's another year, and the start of a new chapter for our first years. As a second-year student, I still remember how excited I was this time last year. After a year of successfully navigating university, I feel as though I'm properly equipped to share some tips I learnt along the way. I hope these help our first years (and possibly even some of our senior students)

1. Don't choose 7:45am lectures. Many have fallen into the trap of thinking that early morning lectures are good idea. "I did it for school every day, so it'll be easy to wake up right?" Wrong. You no longer have your parents nagging you to get out of bed in the morning, and the choice between lectures and your warm duvet is a no-brainer. So, if you can help it, choose lecture slots that are at a realistic time.
2. Stay on top of your work. This seems obvious, but if you are anything like me studying for a module you don't like feels like slave labour and is something you put off to the very last second. But this only ends up with you being sleep deprived and stressed. Do as much as you can during the day so you can get a good amount of sleep in. Don't waste the breaks you have between lectures, take a trip to the library or Rendezvous and get as much done as possible before you go home.
3. Disconnect from studying. University can be hectic; it is easy to get consumed by the workload. Avoiding burnout during test weeks and exams is crucial to you getting good marks. Remember to take breaks. Get some fresh air and sunlight and do something relaxing.
4. Don't skip lectures (or skip as few as possible). Lecturers often give out added information that isn't emailed to you or added tips for a test or assignment. But if you're going to skip, make sure you have one of your friends there to fill you in on what was said.
5. Joining societies or sports teams is a great way to get away from the boring routine of lectures. It is an easy way to do things you really enjoy that maybe aren't in your degree/ diploma. It is also a great opportunity to make new friends now that a lot of your school friends have moved away to other universities. Extra-curriculars are a nice way to make uni more enjoyable.

I think the most important thing to remember is that uni is supposed to be enjoyable. It sounds cheesy, but these really the best years of our lives, before taxes and mortgages hit.

Remember to grab every opportunity you are given and have fun!

SCIENCE FACULTY WELCOMING CEREMONY



Photo: Lesedi Sipuka

By Ntsondwa Asithandile

First year students were welcomed with open arms by the Vice Chancellor (Prof. Sibongile Muthwa), staff members and assisting students on 27 January 2020. The main focus of the welcoming ceremony was to officially introduce first year students to the Nelson Mandela University family and for them to become familiar with the various leadership structures.

The Dean of Science (Prof. Azwindini Muronga) did his part in welcoming the first year Science students to the University. He introduced them to the different schools that the Science faculty has to offer, including their respective Heads of Departments and other faculty members. He further gave tips to students on how to succeed as students at Nelson Mandela University by explaining terms such as pre-requisites - how they work and what happens when a student does not pass all of the pre-required modules.

"We want to produce graduates that have in depth experience, students that are socially aware, students that are adaptable to any job industry and finally students that are creative and innovative," were the wise words by Prof. Muronga. It is no secret that Science students are not known for participating in on campus activities such as joining societies and programmes – for example, there were only six Science students involved in the How2Buddy programme. The Dean urged students to be more socially aware and to participate in activities outside of the faculty in order to build on their adaptability.

Further, terms such as credits, term modules, semester modules, diplomas and extended programmes were explained on the day of pre-registration which took place on 29 January.

Best wishes to all students for the year ahead!

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Please find the application form at madibaznews.mandela.ac.za/Recruitment select the position you are applying for and complete the form.

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For more information contact MadibazNews Administrator at:

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK SPEEDED UP SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

By Sanele Thwala

The coronavirus outbreak has caught the global community by shock after it has been declared a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organisation (WHO) recently

Coronavirus has hit pandemic proportions with a fast-global spread of the virus. A professional has expressed his confusion as to if science can keep it from becoming a disastrous global occurrence. Express News reported that the new coronavirus strain has spread rapidly across the world, infections now confirmed in 25 countries, including two in the United Kingdom. In all, at least 20,600 individuals became infected with the virus, resulting in 427 deaths since it emerged in December.

The disease in vast areas of the World is a pandemic, at least in general in the whole world. Ambassador Lin Songtian of China to South Africa talking to News24 says action is underway to ensure that suspected mortal coronaviruses do not spread to South Africa.

The outbreak of the virus scares South African students to grab opportunities abroad since a number of South African students have been selected to Teach English in China and are now scared to go and those who are already participating in the program are fearing for their lives.

However, the Minister of Health in South Africa, Mr Zweli Mkhize assured the citizens that even though no cases of the deadly virus have been confirmed in the country, but the country is ready to tackle it

Photo: khaleejtimes.com

MADIBAZ SETS EYES ON VARSITY CUP PROMOTION

By Gina Cossavella

Follow FNB Madibaz to see if they get promoted from Varsity Cup to Varsity Shield

Prior to the 2019 season, Nelson Mandela played in the Varsity Cup tournament but were relegated to Varsity Shield after a dismal 2018 performance. An outstanding performance this year could see them returning to the premier university rugby league.

Playing in Varsity Shield for the first time served as a motivator for Madibaz and resulted in them making it to the finals but losing to Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). Prior to their loss in the final, they had won all their matches in the 2020 season but 2018 saw them lose all their eight Varsity Cup matches, which resulted in their relegation.

Every second year is a promotion / relegation year, with this year being that year. The Varsity Cup team that has the lowest combined points over the last two years will automatically be relegated to the Varsity Shield and likewise, the highest point earning team will be promoted. With them being the 2020 runner-ups, Madibaz stands a solid chance of earning this promotion – so long as they can keep up their fighting spirit.

Madibaz captain Luvo Claasen is determined that his side will lift the trophy and get promoted. "The main goal is definitely to get back into the Varsity Cup and to do so, we have to accumulate all points offered on the log," he outlined the simple plan. Simple but not easy.

Photo: Michael Sheehan

The tenth year of Varsity Shield will see matches being played on Fridays to maximize attendance and viewership. FNB Madibaz will play their first match at 19:00 against FNB UKZN at Madibaz Stadium on 14 February with their next match also being on home turf on 21 February against FNB WSU at 19:15. This second match will be televised on Super Sport, so make sure you come out and support your boys in your Madibaz best. Following this, Madibaz will visit Grahamstown to take on Rhodes in their round 3 match on 28 February at 19:00. Following that, Nelson Mandela University will have a rematch against CPUT, this time on their home turf. Will they best their Cape Town counterparts like their first encounter last year or will CPUT be victorious over Nelson Mandela University reminiscent of the 2019 Varsity Cup final? Find out on 6 March at 19:00.

The final two round robin matches will both be played away at the oppositions' home stadium: the first against FNB TUT on 20 March at 19:00 and the second at 17:00 on 27 March against FNB UFH. Following these pool stages, the four teams that accumulated the highest points move on to the semi-finals with the winners of each of the two semi-final matches playing each other in the finals.

Back your boys and find out whether they will smash their goals and get promoted to Varsity Cup this year or must fight it out for another two years in Varsity Shield.