Dumisani Ndaba Award 2023



"The award to recognise a Planeteer who, like Dumisani himself, has made an exceptional contribution to the Habitable Planet Programme over a prolonged period of time."

2023 Award to be presented at the HPW Leadership Training Events:

Saturday 18th March @ 7pm

(click on link to join via Teams)

Forward by Dr Carl Palmer - ACCESS Education and Training Manager

It is with immense pleasure that I bring to you the nominations for this year's Dumisani Ndaba Award (DNA). Named after Dumisani, an esteemed Planeteer from HPW8, the DNA is our programme's excellence award. The award was established in 2016 in his honour and has been presented annually since 2017 to someone who, "like Dumisani himself, has made an exceptional contribution to the Habitable Planet Programme over a prolonged period of time". I had the privilege of knowing Dumisani and appreciating his many contributions to the programme. I am sure he would be proud to know that his namesake award is still going strong and continues to recognize outstanding individuals who have dedicated themselves to the cause.

As always, it has been an absolute joy to write up the nominations for the DNA. The stories and achievements of those nominated fill me with admiration and pride; I am honoured to be part of such a wonderful team. Please take the time to read the nominations; I guarantee you will be inspired. I also want to draw your attention to the range of institutions represented here. Eight separate institutions are represented from five different provinces. No institution has more than 2 nominees. This shows how HPW really is a truly national collaborative effort.

It is my sincere hope that the DNA committee (composed of past winners) is able to pick a worthy winner. To assist them in their difficult task, the committee has been provided with several tools. Each nomination is accompanied by a star rating which indicates the depth and breadth of each candidate's HPW involvement. This is meant only to offer insight into the quantity, rather than quality of contributions. Additionally, a brief summary of each candidate's achievements is included, as well as motivations from the nominators. These provide valuable insight into the experiences of their peers at HPW, and offer compelling cases for why each is deserving of the award.

I am eager to see who will be selected as this year's recipient of the DNA. I hope that you, too, will be inspired by the achievements of the nominees, and I look forward to announcing the winner!

HPW Awards Evening and DNA Presentation Ceremony Programme

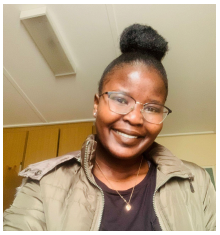
Time	Programme Item
19:00	Welcome and background - Thulisile Pretty Nkosi (CSIR/ACCESS)
19:10	Introducing the RNA Awards and Nominees- Noxolo Mdedewa
19:20	Announcement of the top 5 DNA Nominees - chaired by DC ● Nonjabulo Ndaba (Dumisani's Sister) ● Weliswa Kunene (2020 Winner) ● Peter Schapp (Vula YD) ● Xivutiso Maluleke (Last year's winner) ● Carl Palmer (ACCESS)
19:45	Dinner Served
20:30	Mike Lucas Award and Hall of Fame Winners Entry for 2023 announced
20:45	RNA & DNA Winner Announced
21:00	Student leadership elections
21:30	Close

2023 Nominee list in Overview

(Click link to view details)



Karabo Thema (University of Limpopo)



Kwanele Siyengo (RU)



Tshiamo Moleele (UWC)



Noxolo Mdedelwa (SU)



Mendy Shozi (UKZN)



Frederick Mashao (University of Limpopo)



Blessing Nkosi (VUT)



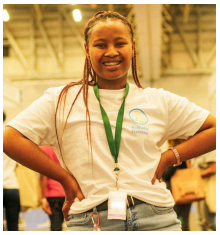
Aaliyah Shah (UKZN)



Thathai Mosikili (VUT)



Putuma Balintulo (RU)



Sihle Mlonyeni (CPUT)



Nomvula Masinga (University of Zululand)

Nominee profile: Noxolo Mdedelwa

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	Coming soon!?
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	Coming soon!?
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐⭐⭐⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Noxolo has been one of the most enthusiastic and vibrant Planeteers of recent years. She came to the programme via the online course, which she completed in both 2018 and 2019. She was then part of the HPW mini-schools program in the Eastern Cape in 2018, 2019 and 2020. On top of this, she was the secretary of the Eastern Cape schools program in 2020. She then used the lockdown period to attend the HPW FAST program in 2020. The same year she was part of the organising team and event chair for HPW Women in Science webinar. She was part of the Planeteers Representative Committee (PRC) in 2020 having the role of being the social media officer, and was secretary of the organising committee for the HPW Perspectives on Climate Change conference. Amazingly up to this point she had never actually attended an on site HPW! She finally attended HPW32 in December 2020. In March 2021 she was elected as chair of the Planeteers student representative committee and in the role was instrumental in delivering a series of seminars for science month. Following moving to Cape Town last year Noxolo got involved in starting the first mini-HPW schools programme in the city for many years. She also assisted in the planning and delivery of HPW38 in the mother city in December 2022. Noxolo was recently part of the delegation who attended the DSI/NRF 5th Annual Global Change meeting in January 2023. This time last year Noxolo won the inaugural RNA award, is this year her time to step up to the big prize?

Favourite HPW moment

Noxolo says "My favourite story about HPW would be when Wandile Maya explained to us what is HPW, I won't lie I did annoy him with questions but what I loved about that day is how he explained it and left a spark in my mind. As I then went home and started viewing all HPW platforms available on the internet and I got to see that it brings together young and active scientists or students and teaches them more about ESS in peer-to-peer learning".

The Nomination says…

- Noxolo's time at ACCESS was highlighted in 2021 when she became the chair of the planeteers comm [PRC]. For then, she has been very engaged in the leadership side of things. My first encounter with her was during the FAST workshops where she was energetic and enthusiastic about the program. She was one of the people leading the 2020 global change conference that was hosted by access. She led with the HPW37 LOC and delivered one of the best workshops. Her team work in the LOC was very good, especially at the beginning of the preparations. Although virtually, she made things happen and that is a good skill to have. She was also part of the Cape two nini schools in 2022 and a GCC delegate in 2023. Her

achievements saw her win the RNA award in 2022 and that speaks volumes to her short term contributions to the programme. Now it's the DNA time for her.

Nomination profile: Tshiamo Moleele - University of the Western Cape

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	Coming soon!



Overview of contribution…..

Tshiamo started as a Planeteer at HPW24 in Pietermaritzburg (2017). In 2018, she attended the core lecturer training in Cape Town and the same year she was elected the Western Cape Representative of the Planeteers National Executive Committee. Not to be held back by national barriers, she attended HPW27, the first ever workshop in Zimbabwe(!), as a Core Lecturer. In both 2019 and 2020 she was part of the leadership team at the Core Lecture Training. In 2020 she led an LOC team who were competitively selected to host an HPW workshop at the University of the Western Cape, which sadly had to be postponed till 2021 due to the pandemic. Tshiamo was undeterred by this setback however, and she still contributed in many ways to HPW in 2020. Firstly in taking a leadership role in moderating a Lockdown live panel discussion on "Life after Covid-19: How will South Africa be different in the new normal". On top of this she was a core lecturer and a host (GP5), on the first HPW FAST programme. Tshiamo convened a new LOC team in the summer of 2021 and set about trying to organise HPW34 in the middle of the global pandemic. As the workshop coincided with the end of the 3rd wave of infections, it had to be postponed by a couple of weeks. Tshiamo was instrumental in moving all the service providers and bookings to ensure that change happened as smoothly as possible. Moreover, the postponement meant that Dr Carl would now be unavailable for the first 5 days of the workshop - she and her team therefore also had to take on many of his tasks too. This made them the first ever team to start the workshop without Dr Carl; they seem to cope a little bit too well, receiving the highest average feedback score (9.7/10) for any HPW ever (at the time)! Following the success at HPW34 Tshiamo went on to host the first ever SWAP-FAST workshop - linking students in West and South Africa around the HPW content. Tshiamo's on screen talents do not only extend to science lecture as she showed when she was the star of a HPW promotional video made in 2021, to apply for funding from the Kellog Foundation. She was also one of the planeteers showcasing ACCESS at the 8th Biennial CSIR Conference in November 2022. In 2023, Tshiamo represented HPW at the DSI Global Change Meeting as the chair of the HPW Review Side Event.

Favourite HPW moment

Tshiamo notes that her favourite HPW story comes from her first ever workshop HPW24, when the organisers surprised her with a little birthday celebration and everyone participated.

The Nominations say…..

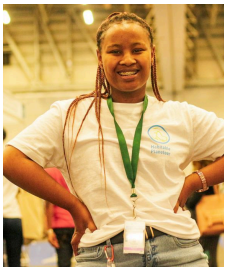
- Tshiamo has been affiliated with ACCESS since 2017 when she started as a planeteer. Its 2023 now and her track record precedes her. She hosted one of the most successful HPWs to date and she has also been a moderator for one the covid panel discussions towards a healthier road hosting activities at ACCESS. She has hosted a few fast 5 HPWs and lectured on them. She's sat on the panel that selects core lectures. She's chaired and hosted an HPW. She's core

lectured in person workshops. She's been on the NEC as the WP rep. She's assisted in promoting HPW at universities and CSIR. She was a panellist and a presenter at the virtual GCC. She's also chaired a full session at the a 5th GCC on behalf of HPW. With this, not only does she deserve this award, but I believe it is long overdue.

- Tshiamo has been a good asset to HPW, since I met her in the HPW24 if I'm not mistaken in KZN she's been doing great work with HPW. Like Dumisani I have worked with her during our term of office in 2020 and hosting the HPW GCC remotely I have seen her hard work. I believe and trust that she deserves to be the DNA winner.
- She's served for 6 years now. She deserves it.

Nominee profile: Sihle Mlonyeni

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Sihle actually started out her HPW journey a few years before her first workshop, when she attended the 2016 online course, but did not qualify for the full workshop that time around. Not to be deterred she tried again with the 2018 online course, where she excelled and was accepted to attend HPW28 in Polokwane. It seems that Sihle learned two things from these early experiences - she loves the online course and Limpopo! In 2019 she went on to take the online course for a third time and then, having trained as a core lecturer in 2020, her first choice of workshop to core lecture was HPW33 in Limpopo! At the leadership training in 2020, Sihle was elected as the Western Cape Representative on the Planeteers Representative Committee (PRC). Sihle was part of the organising committee for the HPW Perspectives on Climate Change conference and was the Cape Town Node Leader. In the same year she was part of the organising team and event chair for the HPW women in Science webinar. In 2021 she was both a core lecturer (HPW33) in Limpopo and LOC for the HPW34 in Cape Town. Sihle has also been one of the most active Planeteers in delivering core talks, having lectured on the SWAP-FAST (2021). In 2022 was the co-chair of the first mini-HPW schools programme to run in Cape Town! She was then elected as the chair of the HPW38 LOC who successfully hosted the workshop in Cape Town in December that year. In January 2023 she represented HPW at the DSI 5th conference on Global Change. Sihle is currently the chair of the 2023 mini-HPW Cape Town team.

Favourite HPW moment

Sihle says “Having to choose just one favourite moment of my HPW experience is very difficult. This is because every single moment I have experienced has been great in its own unique way. But I cannot get over the feeling I had when I received the confirmation of my acceptance to attend HPW28 in Limpopo. I was going to get on a plane for the first time, I was so excited. It was that moment when I realised that anything is possible, if you work hard. HPW has opened many opportunities for me. I was able to get out of my comfort zone and gain confidence. Most importantly I grew as an individual and made great friends in SA and beyond.”

The Nomination says…..

- If I could give a nomination for ‘best HPW promoter’ it would go to Sihle. I also joined HPW through her and I'm sure everyone from CPUT joined because of her. Every chance she gets she invites people to join HPW because she believes that the program has helped her self confidence. She's always involved in HPW events when she's available. Sihle is a hard worker

and has proved it in her dedication to the program. She always assists whenever she can. I nominate her for this award and believe that she has done and will continue doing many things for HPW.

Nominee profile: Aaliyah Shah

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ ⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Aaliyah first joined HPW in the middle of the pandemic and turned out to be just the sort of masked hero HPW needed! She attended the first post COVID workshop, HPW32 held in her hometown, Pietermaritzburg, in December 2020. In 2021, she was the LOC Chair for HPW35 in KZN Midlands. The following year she was the KZN Provincial Representative 2022/23 and the PRC Deputy Chair 2022/23. Aaliyah qualified for Core Lecture training in 2022 and graduated with distinction, earning herself a place in the Core Lecturer's Hall of Fame in the process! She then became a core lecturer at HPW37 in the Eastern Cape in July 2022. Aaliyah chaired and designed the first ever HPW intervarsity quiz and chaired the online webinar for the HPW Online Course 2022. Aaliyah was then asked to represent HPW in the Parliament of RSA to the Parliamentary Committees of the Department of Science and Innovation where she co-presented all about HPW with last year's DNA winner. Following this, at the end of 2022 Aaliyah was a representative at the ACCESS HPW stall at the World Science Forum (pictured above) and worked as the lead researcher on the Planeteerium project - sending out a survey and compiling valuable monitoring and evaluation data about HPW. Aaliyah has also been a guest at UniVen and CPUT mini-Schools, a guest speaker on HPW Twitter Spaces, and the HPW39 LOC Chair in KZN in St Lucia.. Already, in 2023 she represented HPW at the Global Change Conference where she presented the findings of the Planeteerium project. Aaliyah is currently coordinating the Vula Fundraising Efforts for the schools programme and part of the leadership team delivering the 2023 Leadership Training. This impressive list of achievements is certainly worthy of nomination for the coveted DNA.

Favourite HPW moment

It's impossible for me to choose a single moment. All the people I've met, and the experiences I got to share with them together with the opportunities I've been afforded are a collection of events that have shaped me into the person I am. I'll always be grateful for it all. That being said, picking the worst moment is easy. In the planning of HPW39 we had to stay over in St Lucia, where I discovered that a large frog shaped ornament in my hotel room…… was actually a large real live frog! This will never make it to the HPW adverts(!?), but forcing myself to sleep in a room with the frog was perhaps the most personal growth I've ever experienced in one night!

The Nominations says…

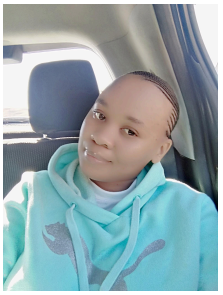
- Meeting Aaliyah during an Hpw workshop in KZN in 2020, she was not only an enthusiastic learner but showed the capability of doing more for hpw as a planeteer. She has grown to become an integral part of the Hpw team, working closely with Carl and Peter on various

projects, core trainings, webinars and recently running her own hpw workshop 39 as the chair. Being ever so helpful, kind and contributing to the fun of teaching science to our young students, is what she is passionate about and indeed a testimony of what Dumisani's legacy encompasses.

- Aaliyah Shah graduated HPW 32 in 2020. She then chaired the LOC of HPW35 in kzn midlands. She applied for core lecturing and graduated with a distinction , being the top core lecturer of 2022 core lecturing class. She then core lectured at HPW37 which was hosted at Rhodes University. Not only is she best at core lecturing but in leadership skills also. She is the KZN HPW Representative as well as the PRC deputy chair for 2022/2023. She has also been on the selection committee for HPW33/34 and HPW36/37. In 2022, she represented HPW in the parliament of South Africa and worked at the ACCESS stall at the world science forum in Capetown during HPW38. She chaired and designed the first ever HPW intervarsity quiz and chaired the online webinar for the 2022 online course and has been a guest speaker for HPW online events. She also authored the famous HPW blog. She is the upcoming LOC chair for HPW39 and presenting about HPW at the Global change conference.
- Aaliyah I see her as a motivation for me in this HPW Program she's been featured in almost all HPW achievements. I think she deserves this award. She has achieved this through the years since joining HPW33.
    - Graduated from HPW32 (2020)
    - Marked applications several times
    - LOC Chair for HPW35 in KZN Midlands (2021)
    - Graduated with distinction and top of the class of 2022 Core Lecturers
    - KZN Provincial Representative 2022/23
    - PRC Deputy Chair 2022/23
    - Core lecturer at HPW37
    - Chaired and designed first ever HPW intervarsity quiz
    - Chair of the online webinar for the HPW Online Course 2022
    - Represented HPW in the Parliament of RSA to the Parliamentary Committees of the Department of Science and Innovation as well the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
    - Representative at the ACCESS HPW stall at the World Science Forum
    - Worked as the HPW Researcher and Author on the Monitoring and Evaluation Project
    - Represented HPW at the Global Change Conference and presented about HPW at the Conference
    - Also been a guest at UniVen and CPUT mini-Schools
    - Guest speaker on HPW Twitter Spaces
    - HPW39 LOC Chair in KZN in St Lucia

Nominee profile: Thathai Mosikili - VUT

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	None yet...
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	None yet...



Overview of contribution…..

Thathai started her Habitable Planet journey in 2017 at HPW24 and, of the several students nominated this year who were her classmates, it would at first appear she was the least likely to end up on this list. That she is on it (again!), is testament to the fact that she has grown tremendously in the last few years; from being a relatively shy Planeteer at HPW24 to a confident and highly effective student leader now. Thathai graduated from the Core Lecture training in January 2018 with merit and went on to attend HPW28 as a core lecturer. Here she excelled in facilitating and engaging the students, as well as taking personal responsibility for the Planeteers arriving safely on the first day (no easy task). She was also elected by the national student body as the Planeteers' Free State representative in January 2018. As one of the first VUT Planeteers, she has been instrumental in ensuring the constant presence of VUT students at the HPWs, a group of students have been consistently represented ever since Thathai joined the programme. 2019 was perhaps when she was the most active of all, core lecturing at HPW29, taking a lead role on stage representing HPW at the Nation Science week event at the CSIR in Pretoria and also attended a meeting to held refine the process of hosting HPWs. Somehow amongst all of this she also found the time to lead a proposal to host HPW in the Eastern Free State in 2020. That proposal was unsuccessful, but she and her team tried again after the pandemic, submitting a proposal to host HPW in Qwaqwa, which ultimately led her to be the chair of the HPW36 LOC. That workshop was one of the most well rated ever, mostly thanks to her leadership in managing to steer a relatively inexperienced team through some of the most difficult challenges we've met at HPW - including regular power and water cuts! These achievements surely make Thai a strong contender for this year's award.

Favourite HPW moment…

My favorite HPW moment would have to be when we visited the highest water fall in the world which is Tugela falls, it was a very challenging journey to get to the top of Drakensberg Mountain, but yet an exciting experience that I got share with Planeteers.

The Nomination says…..

- The journey of Thai started back in 2017 when she attended HPW24, ever since then she has devoted her time in making an effort to introduce this program to young people she meets, she has attended 4 workshops, core-lectured in 3 workshops, recently she was a chair of LOC team that delivered HPW36 which was hosted at UFS (Qwaqwa campus) the workshop turned out to be a huge success. I am nominating Thai because I've seen the passion she has

for the program, she believes in it, and she makes sure everywhere she goes people knows about it. I was introduced to the programme by Thai and finally got an opportunity to work with her, she is a great leader to the LOC team, she was always honest to the team, selflessness and always willing to be corrected in order to learn from others, she made the experience of being part of the LOC team to be a great one. I admire the strength she posses, Thai was responsible for every event that took place at the workshop, although some things didn't go according to plan, she always kept her calm and kept the team motivated, I have learned a lot from her since the planning of the workshop through the process of delivering the workshop, I therefore nominate her the DNA award because I truly believe she is deserving of the award

Nomination profile: Blessing Nkosi - VUT

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	Coming soon!



Overview of contribution…..

Blessing is an enthusiastic, articulate and knowledgeable planeteer who made a huge contribution to the HPW32 core lecture team. Not only is he an excellent lecturer, he is a responsible pair of hands to give any task to and, perhaps most importantly, a charming and kind person when interacting with others. Blessing, is one of the newcomers to the DNA nominees, in part at least because he only graduated as a Planeteer in 2019, from HPW30 in East London. He was so excited by the programme he joined the leadership team for the online course a month later and organised the live events at VUT. Following this, he quickly completed the Core Lecture training in 2020 and went on to lecture at the only workshop that year, HPW32 in Pietermaritzburg. At this workshop he was responsible for looking after the students (Student rep), a role in which he clearly excelled. Before this however, and whilst we were locked down, he did not rest on his laurels, contributing to the HPW lockdown videos. Post pandemic Blessing was part of the LOC team that planned and delivered HPW36 in the Eastern Free State. His main role in this committee was planning the field trips and these were some of the best ever - the trip to Tugela Falls will live long in the memory of all who went on it, and returned! Blessing remains one of the longest serving and most engaging Planeteers out there as well as being a really nice guy. But does the nice guy win the prize? We will see in March!

Favourite HPW moment…

Blessing can always tell a good story and when asked about his favourite HPW moment he didn't disappoint. I'm not sure if this counts as his favourite moment, a naughty secret or a complaint about the length of the assignment. Anyway, here is what he wrote " On how 30 at Hogsback we had a competition. We were supposed to find 4 items and take selfies next to them. Me and my group were the first to find the first one which was called "the maze". When we saw that the other groups were also coming we then thought of taking a shortcut to the three remaining items. We made sure no one saw us so that they would not follow on our shortcut 😂 and it worked no one followed 😁

The next item was called "the big tree". We thought ohh this is simple we will just take a picture next to the biggest tree we find. But there were a lot of big trees 🙈 so we took selfies next to all the big trees we found. Until after a long time we realized there was one specific tree called the big tree then we asked around and got directions.

We finally found the tree then left for the third item on the list which was the "madonna and child waterfall". We got to it but the sun had already sat and it was dark so the selfie was ugly🙈😎. We thought ok let's get back to the hotel because we don't even know where to find the forth item.

We got lost because it was dark and after wondering around we finally found the hotel but when we got there everyone had bathed and they had been back for some while. The sad thing was that

someone had helped himself on our food which we left in the bus. So we were late, hungry, had ugly selfies, and also had not completed the competition 🙈🙈

We all promised never to say this story 😂😂😂”

The Nomination says…..

- Blessing is a good example of an awesome core lecturer and a great LOC member, through out his journey of HPW Blessing sincerely devoted his time on being part of most events that took place in the programe, recently he was part of the LOC team that delivered a very successful HPW36. Blessing was responsible for all the fun field trips we had during the workshop, he made sure everyone had fun during the workshop even when things didn't go according to plan, he was also responsible for the games night which was a great success, Blessing was an enthusiastic, articulate knowledgeable core-lecture who made the workshop to be absolutely a great place to study about the impacts of climate change, he was very hands on during the workshop, his charming and kind personality made him a very good asset to the LOC Team.

Nominee profile: Frederick Mashao

Workshops attended:	⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	Next year?
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Anyone who has been to a HPW in the last few years would have noticed that there is a growing contingent of University of Limpopo students attending the workshops. In fact, pre-pandemic, it was rare to have any UoL student attend at all. The main reason for this change is Frederick Mashao! Frederick joined HPW as the staff member as part of the LOC team for the HPW36 workshop held at UoL in June 2021. He offered the team really exceptional support, joining the workshop from beginning to end and giving a lecture on his research. Following this, Fredrick has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that University of Limpopo students apply for HPW. More often than not he has also been able to assist them with funding to cover their travel too! Doing this has really put the university on the HPW map for the first time in years. Sadly, there are no stars available for these behind the scenes roles, but they really make a difference (and this is why you are reading this and not just checking out his stars!). He does however get stars for going on to represent HPW at the CSIR conference and the 5th annual Global Change Conference in 2022 and 2023 respectively. In 2023 Fredrick is now the staff member for a brand new and exciting mini-HPW schools programme. We are very much looking forward to all the exciting work that will come out of that. What a great contribution Fredrick has made in just a few years and congrats to him on a very well deserved DNA nomination!

Favourite HPW moment

My favorite moment at HPW, was at HPW 33 when we created music with Boom whackers. To me, the musical tones through vibrations in the instrument when struck against planeteers' hands, have created melodies I've never heard in my entire life, which brought me joy and relaxation. Coming to think of the vibrations of the boom whackers resemble waves in physics, the whole activity taught me a lot of things including teamwork (Planeteers), Passion (Our Conductor Peter), listening, and responding. Listening to people is vital, but responding with empathy and understanding to them deepens the experience. As a lecturer, I applaud the HPW educational model which integrates science and performing art, which not only educates but life long-lasting memories.

The Nominations says…

- I've know Mr Mashao as my Lecturer who has been hands on with getting HPW bookings for the university of Limpopo students to be able to get to the workshop as in partnership with ACCESS since 2021. He was also part of the LOC and he even presented a research just to inspire the planeteers about careers and research in science. He really puts his best foot forward in encouraging and making sure that students from disadvantaged universities such

as in Limpopo get to grab such opportunities to learn about Earth sciences and make connections, and that is why I believe he is the best candidate for the DNA award.

Nominee profile: Karabo Thema

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	Not yet!
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Many of the past DNA winners started at HPW24 in 2017. Karabo by contrast nearly started at HPW24, missing out on selection by just a few marks! Luckily she tired again in 2019 and Karabo has achieved remarkable success since. She took part in the HPW29 undergraduate workshop, and was then part of the LOC team who planned and delivered the HPW33 workshop in her home province of Limpopo in 2021. Further success followed in 2022 when she did her core lecturing training and lectured in the HPW 37 in Makhanda in July. In October 2022, she was featured in the planeteers podcast as a guest host in episode 4. The following year, in January 2023, Karabo represented ACCESS at the 5th DSI Global Change Meeting. She is now set to chair a mini-HPW schools programme this year (2023). Alongside Fredrick Mashao, who is also nominated, Karabo has also done a lot of work behind the scenes in helping University of Limpopo students access HPW opportunities. Karabo's dedication and hard work is truly commendable and certainly deserving of recognition.

Favourite HPW moment

My favourite HPW moment was a "bitter-sweet" one when I deputy chaining & planning of the HPW 33. The experience was stressful yet one of the my life highlights. I learned to push beyond boarders of my capabilities. The long phone calls and meetings with my team coupled with a few tears in between brought the greatest joy and a milestone in my life. When I got to see planeeters and the entire leadership team joint in one place, I had the biggest smile and one of the proudest moment of my life.
HPW is home✨❤️

The Nomination says…

- Karabo:
    - She took part in the main HPW29
    - She was an LOC at the HPW33 as vice chair
    - She did her core lecturing training in 2022
    - She lectured in 2022 HPW 37 in Makhanda
    - She was featured in the planeteers podcast in episode 4
    - She undertook the initiative of chairing mini schools 2022

Nominee profile: Kwanele Siyengo

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	She planned it..
LOC:	⭐⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Kwanele has demonstrated her commitment to excellence, having joined the Habitable Planet Programme in 2020 at the HPW32 in Pietermartizburg. She then volunteered to help with admin in the ACCESS offices and helped plan the 2021 leadership training and FIG throughout 2021. In 2021, Kwanele also participated in HPW33 as a member of the LOC. She further demonstrated her leadership potential when she attended HPW training in March 2022 in Cape Town to become a core lecturer, as well as a committee member of the Mini-HPW school in Makhanda. She was then a core lecturer at the Free State HPW36 workshop in June 2022. Kwanele then displayed her commitment to excellence again by chairing the LOC that proposed, planned and delivered HPW37 held in the Eastern Cape in July 2022. To cap it all off, Kwanele completed the mini-schools programme in 2022.

Favourite HPW moment

My favourite HPW moment, without a doubt, was at the HPW37 closing event where me and the team stood at the front to reflect back on the workshop and saw just how happy the Planeteers were. That brought such joy and emission to my heart because you stand there and know that YOU did that that. You delivered a workshop were people were happy, where people got value and where people made friendships. That is my favourite HPW moment. I will cherish that moment for ever.

The Nominations says…

- I wholeheartedly believe that Kwanele deserves the RNA award because she has made a remarkable and significant contribution to ACCESS. In 2020, Kwanele attended the HPW Plateneer workshop in PMB, which marked the beginning of her lovely journey in ACCESS. After her workshop, she volunteered to help Dr. Carl with administrative tasks because she was passionate about ACCESS and its goals. She supported Dr. Carl, for instance, when he needed to schedule flights. In 2021, she participated in HPW 33 as a member of the LOC for Limpopo. She attended a training in March 2022 in Cape Town to become a core lecturer and also to become a committee of the Mini-HPW school in Makhanda. She was a core lecturer at the Free State HPW 36 workshop and did a fantastic job. One of, if not the best, core lecturers at the workshop, her presentation received outstanding marks from workshop participants. Additionally, she was planning to hold her HPW workshop in Makhanda around this time. She served as the LOC's chairperson for the Makhanda-based HPW 37. She showed her authentic leadership abilities throughout the planning, organization, and implementation stage. She gave her team a lot of support. She was extremely responsible and dedicated throughout the entire procedure. Because of this, HPW 37 was a big success, coming in second place out of the 37 workshops that have taken place. In addition, she served as

treasurer in the Mini-HPW committee and was doing a great job interacting with the learners. Without a doubt, Kwanele has demonstrated that she is a valuable asset to ACCESS, and this award will undoubtedly serve as encouragement and gratitude for her outstanding contributions to ACCESS.

- Kwanele has been an exceptional planeteer, and her work is s testimony to this. After completing her 1st workshop, she made it a point that she steps up for leadership positions. Her leadership skills and dedication to the HPW growth has been significant. She has shown love and dedication and shared her skills with us on HPW through various programmes. These include, core lecturing, LOC, and Mini schools. She also assisted in the planning of the SWAP workshops. Kwanele is a planeteers person. I remember hiw HPW37 students could not close their mouths about Kwanels leadership- kind, consistent and full of energy. I, myself as Putuma, also can never express it enough. As the chair of the LOC, she showed so much wisdom and knowledge of the programme and it is no doubt she wants it to be bigger. As the treasure of the mini schools, Kwanele works so nicely and diligently with the learners. I really commend how she's able to keep learners engaged and how she contributed in making the curriculum digestible to learners in grade 9. I have no doubt she did similar and more on HPW36, I saw her in the pictures participating cheerfully on the hikes, game drives as well as the academic programs. This versatile leadership is what sets her aside and makes her shine even brighter. She deserves the DNA.

Nominee profile: Putuma Balintulo

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Putuma has been an impressive student since she first attended HPW in 2017, graduating through the online programme and then attending HPW25 in December 2017 at the CSIR in Cape Town. In January 2019, she attended Core Lecture training and her specialist lecture topic was climate change. She then went on to Core Lecture at HPW31 in Cape Town later that year. In December 2020, she presented at the HPW Perspectives on Global Change Conference, lecturing on SWAP-FAST in winter 2021. In March 2022, Putuma contributed significantly, sharing her leadership and core lecturing skills when she was part of the Core lectures training. Later, in 2022, Putuma won funding for and chaired the team running a mini-HPW schools programme in Makhanda for the very first time. In the same year she was part of the HPW37 LOC that brought the workshop back to Rhodes University for the first time in a decade! Finally, in January 2023, she represented ACCESS at the 5th GCC Conference. Putuma is an ambitious student with a sassy character and a life goal of winning Miss South Africa(!), and her dedication to HPW alongside these extracurricular activities make her a very impressive candidate for this excellence award.

Favourite HPW moment

The professional and personal development I have received at HPW is immeasurable. The opportunity to organize, host and facilitate the workshop for West African Universities remain the highlight. Shaping young minds in the Mini Schools is the closest thing to my heart. The same way HPW helped me, I shall make sure I carry that to other too, it's a pledge 🤞🏾

It's difficult to think of just one moment. But I guess it would be bringing the programe to Makhanda in 2022, both HPW37 and the mini schools

The Nominations says…

- Putuma started as a planeteer and from there she kept on collecting the stars in HPW leadership. Our Miss SA, has shown a lot of potential and has never ceases an opportunity to assist ACCESS whenever needed
- Putuma took the 1st step of her access journey in 2017. She graduated in the undergraduate online workshop in September 2017 and attended the HPW 25 at CSIR in Cape Town in December of the same year. At time, Putuma was the youngest in the cohort, but was inspired by the like of Buntu Fanteso who was part of the core lectures to consider doing postgraduate research and become a core lecturer. In deed, she attended the core lectures training in January 2019 and became a Climate Change core lecture. This is a topic Putuma is very passionate about as she believes that Climate change, in Africa, specifically is one of the

understudied topic regardless of its importance. For her, the opportunity to give the talk of Climate change opened her mind more broadly, highlighting the human impact of it. It also gives her the change to teach others, something she's also become fond of. She went on to core lecture/facilitate HPW36 in Cape Town, December 2019. This is where her leadership skills became refined and developed. Facilitating discussions and debates is one of the duties Putuma enjoyed during the workshop. She enjoyed working closely with DC in some of the administrative duties too as this was a new skill she'd been developing. In the year where all was locked and down, Putuma heard to the call for virtual workshops. She became the host for the FAST, and delivered her Climate change lecture in a few of the FAST groups. Being a leaders and host in a virtual space shows how dedicated Putuma is in the work done by ACCESS. She is more delighted by the opportunity to have been part of the transformation in the country because she sees the transition to virtual learning a turning point in the educational system of the country. In December 2020, Putuma participated in the Global Change Conference where she presented her Masters Research. As much as she began ACCESS as an undergraduate, she was delighted to share her Postgraduates research with other planeteers. Her love, passion and advocacy for environmental education and dedication to the ACCESS mandate, saw Putuma Balintulo being one of the planneteers trusted with organizing, hosting and facilitating the 1st ever, SWAP-FAST workshop in 2021. Being trusted with such responsibilities is both an honor and privilege for Putuma became it's speaks volumes on the kind of leader she has grown to be in access. In 2022, Putuma, with her team, took the workshop to Makanda as she became the LOC for HPW37 as the treasurer. This is an experience that defines Putumas journey beyond ACCESS. Hosting an event/workshop of that magnitude, successfully so is nothing to be take for granted. Putuma also became the chair person of the Makhanda Mini Schools Project. Closest to her heart because she gets the opportunity to share and learn the Earth Systems Science with learners. Providing mentorship and role modelling to the learning is the most beautiful thing about the schools programme. Recently, she was a delegate of access in the global change conference, and had significant contributions on how the programme can be sustained. With all these involvements achievements, Putuma has worked and showed beyond reasonable doubt that she embodies what being a Planeteer is. She's basically been through most of the access programs as a participant and leader. Her contributions are also very impactful and have left a marks on most planeteers too. It's planeteers like her that kind of reflect Dumisani Ndabas work in the programme. With that said, I'd like to nominate Putuma Balintulo for the Dumisani Ndaba award.

Nominee profile: Mendy Shozi

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Mendy has often noted to me that the things she does with HPW are often not the ones that get easily recognised with things like stars in the box above. Given this observation, the sheer number of stars she has is very impressive! The second thing to note here is that whoever did the nomination for Mendy did a stunning job making it very difficult for me to add anything important here. As they note Mendy joined the programme nearly ten years ago when she joined the first ever online workshop, qualifying for the Cape Town based HPW16 (December 2014) in 10th position with a score of 80% (see I found something the nominator didn't know! ha!). Mendy went on to train as a core lecturer in January of the following year and core lecturer at HPW17 in her home province of KZN. Since then, Mendy has consistently remained involved in HPW in a series of senior leadership roles, many of which, as noted, did not have a formal title but were important nonetheless. These roles have included advising access management, giving research lectures and helping various LOCs with their work. She was part of the team that planned and delivered the HPW Virtually Virtual conference during COVID and most recently part of the HPW delegation attending the 5th DSI/NRF Conference on Global Change (UFS, January 2023). Mendy is currently part of the planning team for HPW39 to be held in St Lucia in June 2023. All in all this is an impressive HPW CV and a really extended length of time over which she has led the programme, making Mendy a great candidate for the 2023 DNA.

Favourite HPW moment

It's not one moment, but more a series of them. Still being a part of HPW after all these years, in such important roles, has been both humbling and exciting. I have watched it transition over the years to fit the current educational environment and I can't wait to see what comes next.

The Nominations says…

- Mendy Shozi is currently working as a Research Scientist at the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Research & Development (R&D) Centre, UKZN (Chemical Engineering department). She deserves to be selected as this year's DNA winner due to her involvement in the HPW program over the years. Mendy joined HPW as a student in HPW16 student (September - December 2014) - Cape Town – first cohort of the online version. She than participated in HPW Core Science lecturer training (have experience in Biogeochemical Cycles, Biogeochemical Feedbacks, Light & Air) (January 2015) - Cape Town. She was part of the HPW PRC– Secretary (January 2015 – March 2016). She gave a core lecture in HPW17 (June/July 2015) - UKZN & UniZulu. She hosted the HPW 10th Birthday Celebration, at CSIR Durban (January 2018). Was part of the ACCESS Education Steering Committee Meeting

2017/18 (March 2018). Participated in the HPW Lockdown video series participant (April 2020) - YouTube as well as the Habitable Planet Live Online Panel Discussion as panel member, "What happens after COVID-19?", with Gcobani and Alex (June 2020) - online via ZOOM. Mendy also participated in ACCESS 1st FAST Programme planning team/ Focus Group (April - May 2020), ACCESS 1st FAST core science lecturer (June 2020) and ACCESS 1st HP SWAP-FAST Workshop on Special Lecturing Team (September - November 2021) - online via ZOOM. Mendy was also part of the "Perspectives on Global Change" Conference participant for ACCESS and Facilitator of welcome panel with the Minister (December 2020) - Virtual and Pietermaritzburg. She has been a key lecturer in HPW35 (December 2021) - Durban and is an ACCESS Senior Member on Advisory Board (July 2015 – present) - various requests from ACCESS, which involves when needed, being a professional during the Habitable Planet Speed Careers Evenings. Mendy recently was part of ACCESS delegation at 5th National Global Change Conference, University of Free State, Bloemfontein, February 2023. All the abovemakes Mendy the perfect candidate for the 2023 DNA spot.

Nominee profile: Nomvula Masinga

Workshops attended:	⭐⭐⭐	**Workshops lectured at:**	⭐⭐
Senior Leadership Roles:	⭐⭐⭐⭐	**Online/FAST Lectures:**	⭐⭐
LOC:	⭐⭐	**mini-HPWs:**	⭐⭐



Overview of contribution…..

Nomvula Masinga has been nominated for the DNA Award due to her impressive contributions to HPW. Her journey started when she attended HPW25 held in Cape Town in 2017. After a little break she returned to HPW in 2020 as part of the University of Zululand schools team and to train as a core lecturer. It was in the latter that she really excelled to the highest levels. She has delivered amazing lectures, such as "Not too Hot not too Cold,", which earned her a place in the inaugural CL Hall of Fame. In addition, she went on to serve as Deputy Chair of HPW Schools Programme (mini HPW) for two years and was part of the LOC for HPW35 in PMB. Nomvula also spoke on Twitter Spaces about her Master's Research, which broke the record for most listeners and was part of the team representing HPW at the 5th DSI/NRF Conference Global Change in Bloemfontein, January 2023. Here Nomvula gave a personal testimony on her HPW experiences. Currently she is part of the LOC planning to host HPW39 in KZN this June. Nomvula's research looks at the effects of climate change on farm animals, and her methods always result in a happy ending for the animals involved. Will these impressive achievements be enough to ensure her quest for the DNA also has a happy ending? We'll find out in March!

Favourite HPW moment

Yho! It's not easy to pick just one moment hey. HPW has made an immense change in my life; growth, focus, determination, friendships kuningi. The one moment I'd say was a highlight for me was my very first HPW in 2017, I thought I was going on vacation but little did I know that it would change my life in 360. That workshop is the reason I'm still with HPW till this day, I love seeing the growth in me and fellow Planeteers, learning about different cultures and engaging in science (and some non science conversations 😬) with people that come every year is amazing. HPW is not just about science and climate but it's about unity, it's family ❤️

The Nominations says…

- I nominated Nomvula Masinga because of the amazing work she has done at HPW, not only the amazing work but also the amazing person she is. She excels in all she does, I remember her with her core lecture "Not too Hot not too Cold" which she delivered amazingly and therefore received a Hall of Fame place for it. This shows that she dedicates herself in all she does, she also delivered Amazing Water which she also did "amazingly", what stood out the most for me was that she made sure she uses real life examples so that people could understand. She also served as Deputy Chair of HPW Schools Programme (mini HPW)for 2 years and that shows how passionate she is about having an impact and giving back to HPW. Nomvula also served as LOC in HPW35 which was held in PMB. In 2022 Nomvula was part of

the guest speakers on Twitter spaces talking about her Master's Research and motivating others who are in research, you'd be pleased to know that the space she was part of broke the record and had more than 900 listeners (recordings included) which then makes the space the most listened to! Haybo round of applause lapho! She also recently went to Bloemfontein to represent HPW at the GCC5 where she also gave a testimonial about her HPW journey in the ACCESS HPW session. This shows that Nomvula loves HPW and really wants to see it grow therefore deserves to win DNA!

What do the stars mean?

Workshops attended	One star awarded for each workshop the Planeteer has attended in full
Workshops lectured at	One start awarded for each workshop the Planeteer has given a core/key lecture at
Senior leadership roles	One start awarded for each of the following positions the Planeteer has held: ● Chair of an LOC ● Chair of a school programme ● Elected onto the PRC ● Chair/Senior Panellist for of another HPW activity ● Attended HPW Education Committee meeting
Online/FAST lectures	One start awarded for each online workshop the Planeteer has given a core/key lecture at
LOC	One star awarded for each LOC the Planeteer has been a part of.
Mini-HPW	One star awarded for each mini-HPW team the Planeteer has been a part of