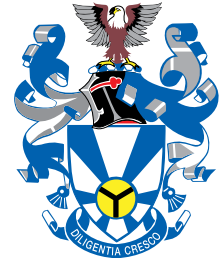


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RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND

# DEVELOPING STAFF TO STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC POOL



The University Staff Capacity Development Programme (USDP) partners during their first workshop in 2018.

The Faculty of Education at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) is enthusiastically gearing up for its upcoming two-week workshop at the Penn State University in the United States of America where it hopes to gain a wealth of knowledge regarding international research and supervision practices.

The training, scheduled to take place in June 2019, comes as a result of a partnership the faculty has formed with the American institution, Rhodes University and the Durban University of Technology (DUT) to implement the four-year University Staff Capacity Development Programme (USDP) which is set to develop the academic cohort in the country and ultimately benefit postgraduate students.

An initiative of the national Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET), USDP is aimed at increasing the number of academics with doctoral degrees in South Africa (SA), in line with the National Development Plan of 2030.

DHET advertised a call in 2017 for SA universities to partner with an American institution of higher learning on an extensive

programme aimed at capacitating ten scholars currently enrolled for doctoral degrees. A major requirement of the programme was the inclusion of a historically disadvantaged university and a historically advantaged institution in the partnership. The historically advantaged institution, together with the American institution, would offer guidance to its SA counterpart. Rhodes University and Penn State University were specifically approached by UNIZULU based on their track record in research and the cohort supervision (supervision of students by more than one supervisor) system they employ.

The ten candidates (five from UNIZULU, three from Rhodes University and two from DUT) are receiving ongoing mentorship from identified mentors in the partner universities as well as through periodic weeklong workshops (doctoral weeks) organised by the partner institutions.

According to Professor Mncedisi Maphalala, Dean of the Faculty of Education, the programme is designed to fast-track the candidates' studies. "When we are at these

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Legal Services Department



Meet new DVC of Teaching and Learning



Academic publishes BRICS book



Department of Public Admin Profile



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workshops, candidates get an opportunity to present their studies and the feedback from colleagues then helps strengthen their work," he said.

Three educational doctoral weeks have been held since the commencement of the programme in June 2018. The workshop in America promises to be just as informative. Prof Azwidohwi Kutame, a professor in the Department of Social Sciences in the Faculty of Education, said he anticipates that the candidates will gain invaluable knowledge concerning research methodology and supervision practices during the upcoming training. He added that the visit will offer the

participants a great platform for networking and collaboration. This would subsequently promote internationalisation, where local academics would learn about successful research and supervision practices which can be implemented in SA.

Both Prof Maphalala and Prof Kutame expressed delight at the progress of the programme so far. "Once academics have PhDs, it means we have capacity to supervise master's and PhD students, capacity to conduct research and capacity to improve teaching and learning," Prof Maphalala reckoned.

– Naledi Hlefané

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The year 2019 has started amidst a lot of action on campus. We welcome the class of 2019 and we encourage them to be zealous in their pursuit of a brighter future. We affirm them of the good choice they have made in choosing the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) as the engine that will propel them to reach new heights.



**Gcina Nhleko**  
Director: Communications and Marketing

The University has a number of programmes in place aimed at ensuring the overall wellbeing of students. These include the First-Year Experience that seeks to assist students to easily transition from the high school to tertiary environment and the Campus Health Clinic which is open every day.

The academic activities at UNIZULU resumed on Monday, 4 March 2019 after abrupt closure following student demonstrations. The University actively searched for additional financial resources to support academically deserving students and to ensure that they make a success of the year 2019. We commend this action from the University Management because it shows pride in knowing that the majority of our students are looking forward to fulfil their academic dream and the University, in return, is committed to servicing these students, hence providing this highly beneficial financial relief.

In the coming months we are looking forward to the University graduation ceremonies which are an important period in the University calendar. The Convocation AGM and elections is also taking place this month on 27 March. We support the Convocation structure as it is an important platform for alma mater reflection and providing a sound, credible voice on behalf of the Institution.

We congratulate our seasoned academic, Professor Godfrey Zharare, who presented his inaugural lecture on Thursday, 7 March. The lecture was entitled "Contributions to the body of knowledge of groundnut fructification, calcium nutrition and its major pest, the groundnut leaf miner". It highlighted the contributions the academic has made to the body of knowledge regarding groundnut fructification, its calcium nutrition and the groundnut leaf miner while suggesting the aspects that research on these three areas should focus on.

On a lighter and jovial note, the University choir has released its long awaited debut album. Information on promotional tours will be shared in the usual University platforms. To all employees who have recently joined the University, we extend a warm welcome to you. You have made a good choice in making UNIZULU your "home away from home".

Till the next edition, keep the UNIZULU positive spirit alive. "MY UNIZULU, YOUR UNIZULU, OUR UNIZULU!"

## LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



The Legal Services Department is a newly restructured unit that provides support for all University of Zululand (UNIZULU) related legal issues. It falls under the Registrar's portfolio.

Still in its infancy, the department has been operational for approximately a year. It is situated adjacent to the Human Resources Department, opposite the Administration Building. It currently comprises three staff members: Advocate Shabnum Ameer, Director; Deochund Mothilall, Manager; and Thembi Mthembu, Secretary. Advocate Ameer and Mothilall are also part of the legal committee together with Vishnu Naidoo, Head of Financial Aid Bureau; Dr Kanagie Naidoo, Head of the Department of Law; Dewald Janse Van Rensburg, Registrar and Pieter Du Plessis, Chief Financial Officer.

Both Advocate Ameer and Mothilall have extensive legal experience as they are both former magistrates. The two employees' backgrounds allow them to effectively deal with a variety of legal matters which include lawsuits against the institution; perusal of university contracts and policy support as well as the management of student disciplinary proceedings in accordance

with code of conduct and disciplinary rules for students. The department also handles the development and updating of the code of conduct and disciplinary rules for students; the provision of legal advice on compliance with legislation and institutional policies as well as the provision of legal services to the University's Executive Management, academic and support service departments. In addition, the department takes investigations on student related matters that are handed over by the Protective Services Department and proceeds with the necessary process of charging the students.

For assistance with any of the abovementioned matters, kindly email Advocate Ameer at AmeerS@unizulu.ac.za or Deochund Mothilall at mothilallD@unizulu.ac.za or Mthembu at MthembuA@unizulu.ac.za. Alternatively, you may reach the office via telephone by dialling the extension number 6180.

Please note that the department does not provide legal advice or representation to individual university employees or students on their personal matters.

– Precious Shamase

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Excitement following a recent meeting between representatives of Independent Newspapers and select members of the Communications and Marketing Division, Human Resources Department, Registrar's Office and Institutional Support Unit. The meeting gave way to a promising stakeholder relationship going forward.

## MATHS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS SEMINAR



The University, through its Communications and Marketing Division, recently held the second Maths and Science Teachers seminar. The event took place at the UNIZULU Science Centre and was geared towards imparting new knowledge to maths and science teachers from high schools situated within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality. With the knowledge and skills educators acquired during the two-day seminar, it is hoped that they will be able to help improve their learners' understanding and love for mathematics and science.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL LECTURE



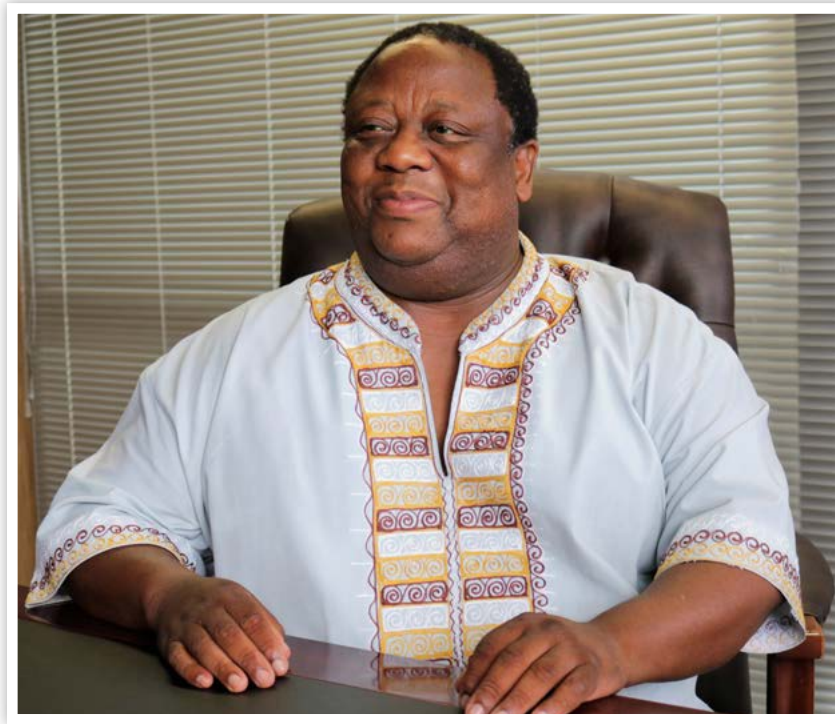
Professor Godfrey Zharare during his inaugural lecture on the "Contributions to the body of knowledge of groundnut fructification, calcium nutrition and its major pest, the groundnut leaf miner." The lecture was delivered last week Thursday at the Council Chambers, KwaDlangezwa Campus.

## EMPLOYEE RELATIONS FORUM



The University's employee relations section hosted the Higher Education Sector Employee Relations Forum meeting last week Thursday and Friday. Made up of employee relations (ER) managers from all South African public universities, the forum provides a platform for engagement amongst employee relations practitioners in the public higher education sector to discuss ER matters, developments in the field while also sharing best practices.

# MEET THE NEW DVC FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING



Professor Sechaba Mahlomaholo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Teaching and Learning.

The University of Zululand (UNIZULU) is delighted to welcome Professor Sechaba Mahlomaholo, the newly appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Teaching and Learning.

Prof Mahlomaholo's career in the higher education sector spans over 20 years. From 1996 to 1999, he served as the head of the Department of Educational Psychology and deputy dean of the Faculty of Education at the then QwaQwa Campus of the University of North. Prof Mahlomaholo went on to assume the role of head of the Education Studies Department at Vista University, where he was tasked with overseeing its nine campuses until 2001. Between 2001 and 2004, he was appointed Professor and Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the then Medical University of Southern Africa, now called Sefako Makgato University. Thereafter, Prof Mahlomaholo worked as the dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of the Free State (UFS) from January 2015 until December 2016. Before joining UNIZULU in January 2019, he occupied the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research at Walter Sisulu University (WSU).

His work ethic is a testament of the many accolades and achievements he has acquired in his career in higher education. Prof Mahlomaholo has a C3 National Research Foundation (NRF) rating and currently leads a NRF sponsored research team of academics from UNIZULU, UFS, WSU, the Sol Plaatjie University (SPU) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). In 2016, Prof Mahlomaholo was among ten finalists who competed for the Kader Asmal Category in the National Teacher's Awards. Over the past 10 years, he has guest edited a total of 10 different, accredited education research journals in South Africa and has been guest and invited

speaker at national and international conferences. In addition to his achievements, Prof Mahlomaholo has successfully supervised over 33 PhD and 37 Master's students from five different universities.

The academic strongly believes in cultivating educator change agents who can motivate young academics and researchers in discovering their true potential. "My leadership and managerial philosophy is to encourage participation of all in an inclusive manner that is transformational. I believe in creating opportunities for all to succeed. I strongly believe that all of us have the potential to become whomever we want to be," he said.

In his new portfolio, Prof Mahlomaholo aims to prioritise on the increase of the use of technology (e-learning) by students and staff; professionalising teaching by academics; implementing blended learning and the use of ICTs therein; facilitating and strengthening the use of data analytics and providing operational and strategic leadership to the Teaching and Learning practices. He also plans to provide support and strategic leadership to faculty deans, support the cultivation of an excellent profile of personal academic and professional achievements as well as prepare and embrace the advances of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the betterment of teaching and learning.

When the DVC of Teaching and Learning is not diligently working on creating sustainable learning environments or assisting in the promotion of digital learning in lecture halls, he enjoys walking on the beach, listening to good music and occasionally watching really good movies. These past time activities assist him to reflect as he contributes to the meaningful advancement for humanity.

– Hlumelo Nyikana

# ACADEMIC PUBLISHES BOOK ON BRICS



Dr Maxwell Zakhele Shamase with his newly published book on BRICS Administrative policies.

One of University of Zululand's leading scholars in Contemporary Political History Dr Maxwell Zakhele Shamase has written a one-of-its-kind, academic book which analyses the effectiveness of BRICS administrative policies.

BRICS is an acronym of initials of five emerging countries namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The term BRIC was coined in 2001 by then chairman of Goldman Sachs Economist Jim O'Neill, who predicted that much of the world's economic growth would soon be generated by the influential emerging markets of Brazil, Russia, India and China. O'Neill suggested a unification of these rising economic states who had survived the massive world economic recession of 2008.

In 2009, leaders from the four countries held their first meeting in Russia and vowed to enhance economic cooperation. A year later, South Africa's application was accepted, and an S was added to the club's name, making it BRICS.

The objective of BRICS is to provide economic growth, promote trade and provide an alternative to the G7. Apart from economic and financial cooperation, BRICS members also work closely in a host of issues such as climate change, UN security reform and fighting poverty.

Dr Shamase's academic book entitled "BRICS Administrative Law" was published in December 2018 by Inqanawe Publishers from Richards Bay and Pietermaritzburg. As the title suggests, the book focuses largely on the administrative law (which deals with the governance, functions and operations of government organisations in any country) of BRICS member states.

"The BRICS countries saw themselves as economic power blocks that assist developing countries against threats that could cause the collapse of the world market which is dominated by America. The group hoped to bring about a new balance of power. Therefore, function of BRICS is quite diverse," explained Dr Shamase, adding that his book therefore analyses the current BRICS administrative law and how member states should monitor and operate from a legal perspective.

Dr Shamase evaluated each of the administrative laws applicable to the five BRICS countries. These included implementation policies; administrative acts that focus on the betterment of civil society; the intricate rule of law and judiciary; the indicators of economic development and the current state of commercial crime prevalent in these states as well as audit reporting of these crimes, among other topics.

According to the author, BRICS member states can only be effective if they commit themselves to providing transparent governance that is globally multilateral, supported by collective cooperation based on a mutually accepted rule of law. In this way, civil societies from BRICS countries and lesser developed countries will become the sole beneficiaries of current political, social and economic opportunities.

Dr Shamase lectures postgraduate studies in Contemporary Political History in the Department of History. He has written on party politics, African traditions, belief and cultural systems. He has read papers at international conferences, published history books, articles, biographies on BRICS and some key figures in South Africa.

– Hlumelo Nyikana

## DEPARTMENT PROFILE

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Public Administration Department staff after a night of notable victories during the 2018 UNIZULU Research and Innovation Awards.

The Department of Public Administration is one of five departments under the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law at the University of Zululand (UNIZULU). It is comprised of a team (three young and energetic academics and one support staff member) that is guided by the department's mission to provide quality education that helps build in students the characteristics of high intellect, moral integrity, responsible leadership, enlightened citizenship and human solidarity. At the core of the department's objectives is enriching the minds of its students with the most developed analytical and critical thinking approaches that transform them into leaders in the service of the community and essential interlocutors.

The study of public administration entails implementation of government policy and prepares civil servants for employment in the public service. The job opportunities for graduates of this programme are vast as the course provides background for careers in government at the local, provincial and national levels; non-governmental organisations, international organisations; political campaigns; interest groups and lobbying organisations.

The department offers teaching and learning through updated and responsive curricula, fostering a culture of innovative research and promoting internal and external collaboration in the field of public administration.

In 2018, two seminars were held for undergraduate students.

Specialists from local municipalities were invited to address students on two burning issues in the field: public accountability, public ethics and professionalism within the field of public administration as well as the hindrances of public financial management and accountability in South Africa. In line with one of the objectives listed in the strategic goals of the University, which entails creating a quality teaching and learning environment for a comprehensive university, the department takes its undergraduate students on annual trips to provincial or national parliament where they engage on topical issues.

Another highlight of the department's is its collaboration with Mangosuthu University of Technology, the office of the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Administration and Law as well as the UNIZULU Business Management Department in publishing a special edition of the Journal of Public Administration. Three SAPSE accredited articles were published in this issue and three other papers are still under review.

The department continued to shine in 2018, walking away with three awards at the 2018 UNIZULU Research and Innovation Awards. It was the second runner up for the highly coveted Research Department of the Year award. It also scooped the Productive Research Department (minimum of 1.5 units) and Productive Postgraduate Department (minimum of 2 units) awards.

– Precious Shamase