

# INSIGHT

Faculty of Education Insight Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

It is indeed an honour and a privilege to edit the inaugural edition of *Insight*. This newsletter was borne out of the need to showcase the wonderful achievements of both staff and students in the Faculty of Education.



The Faculty of Education has been transformed into a powerhouse of continuous activities, ranging from mini-conferences on research matters to community outreach programmes. Staff is committed to not only improving the ethos of teaching and learning, but also to intensifying research initiatives and reaching out to the surrounding communities.

This edition of *Insight* foregrounds the scholarship of teaching, community engagement, research activities and staff and student achievements. It is envisaged that *Insight* will become an integral part of the Faculty of Education.

**Dr Pravina Pillay**

## SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND LEARNING



**Professor Pauline Mudzielwana from the University of Venda.**

The Faculty of Education has initiated a project on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) entitled: *Scholarship of Teaching & Learning: Establishing Connections and Conversations Within and Across Faculties*. The need for such an initiative emanates from the increased focus on research endeavours to find ways of enhancing teaching and learning in institutions of Higher Learning nationwide. The overarching aim of the project is to assist all academics to become scholarly teachers, that is, to be knowledgeable in pedagogy and reflective about their teaching practices. Through this project, the Faculty of Education seeks to engage in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to improve the quality of teaching and learning on a continuous basis. To this end, the Faculty hosted a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning workshop, which was facilitated by Professor Pauline Mudzielwana from the University of Venda from 28-29 September 2017.

The Faculty considers it crucial that teaching and learning is scholarly examined so that the Faculty achieves the strategic goals of the University:

Goal 2: Create a quality teaching and learning environment as a comprehensive University.

Goal 3: Enhance research and innovation.

Goal 4: Enhance the quality and profile of UNIZULU graduates.

To achieve the identified goals, the Faculty of Education has applied for an all-encompassing ethical clearance, which has been granted by the relevant structure of the University, to allow academics in the Faculty to engage in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to improve teaching and to also create a 'community of practice' that will add to the body of knowledge about teaching and learning.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

The purpose of the newsletter is to share insights on Faculty activities and achievements of the university academic community in a number of areas on a quarterly basis, including research publications (books, chapters, and journal articles), conference presentation, teaching and learning activities, community engagement and collaborations. We expect that this newsletter will evolve as we gain more experience in preparing it. A lot of good things have been happening in the Faculty of Education but have not been reported. A case in point is the recent accreditation of four programmes in the Faculty by the Council on Higher Education. Periodically, we will include feature articles or matters of interest to the Faculty community as well as honours and awards received by the Faculty staff. We welcome your comments, ideas, and participation.



**Professor Mncedisi Maphalala**

**The Dean**  
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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (2017 GRADUATION AWARDS)



**Mondli Buthelezi was one of the top achievers.**

In May this year, the Faculty of Education celebrated the graduation of its BEd, PGCE, masters and doctoral students. Five students from the Faculty of Education received the Vice-Chancellor's Top Achiever Award for their outstanding academic performance at the graduation ceremony. They were selected from the five programme variants of the Bachelor of Education qualification. These top achievers were presented with a laptop from the Vice-Chancellor. The outstanding students are:

Name	Student No.	Qualification BEd	Course Duration	Avg.	Distinctions Attained
Mr M.N. Buthelezi	201309031	Further Education & Training: Accounting/ Business Management	4	69	14
Miss B.S. Shezi	201065936	Early Childhood Education	4	71	21
Miss P.S. Nkwanyana	201222337	Intermediate & Senior Phase MSTE	4	77	29
Miss N. Sihlangu	201305944	Intermediate & Senior Phase: History and Geography	4	75	24

## MISS ZULULAND



**Ms S. Ndbele was chosen as first princess in the Miss Zululand 2017 pageant.**

Ms Siduziwe Ndbele, a second-year Bachelor of Education student, participated in the Miss Zululand pageant. She was crowned the 'Face of Zululand' and first princess. Ms Ndbele found the entire experience, especially the community work that she participated in, enjoyable and enriching.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

### STAFF WHO ATTAINED DOCTORATES IN 2017



**From left to right – Dr B.B. Ndlovu, Dr H.R. Mhlongo, Dr E.A. Kok and Dr K.A. Gazu. Dr Mzimela was absent for the photo.**

Five staff members attained doctoral degrees in 2017:

- Dr B.B. Ndlovu received his PhD in Leadership Studies from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The title of his thesis is: *Strategic Leadership as an Approach to Promote Service Delivery by Local Government in South Africa: A Case Study of the uThungulu District Municipality.*
- Dr H.R. Mhlongo received her DEd degree from the University of Zululand. The title of her thesis is: *The Use of the Reading-Response Journal as a Strategy in Promoting Writing Skills in Further Education and Training Phase Schools.*
- Dr A.M. Mzimela received her D.Ed. degree from the University of Zululand. The title of her thesis is: *Evaluating the Implementation of HIV and AIDS Education in Schools.*
- Dr K. Gazu received his PhD from the University of Zululand. The title of his thesis is: *A Grounded Theory Study of English as a Second Language (ESL) Students' Experiences with Literacy Texts, with Reference to the University of Zululand.*
- Dr E.A. Kok received her PhD from the University of Johannesburg. The title of her thesis is: *Towards a Science Education Learning Environment for Student Teachers of the Foundation Phase.*

### STAFF WHO WERE PROMOTED IN 2017



**From left to right: Dr S. Govender, Dr S. Xulu; Professor A. Bayaga; Dr P. Pillay and Dr S. Kapueja.**

Five staff members were promoted in 2017:

- Professor Anass Bayaga – Associate Professor to Professor.
- Dr Pravina Pillay – Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr Samantha Govender – Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr Sibongile Kapueja – Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.
- Dr Smangele Xulu – Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.

### The Dean

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## PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



Professor Maphalala and Dr E.A. Kok with the delegation from ASU.

### VISIT BY APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) STAFF AND STUDENTS

In mid-January 2017, staff of ASU visited the Faculty of Education. Since then, two staff members of the Faculty began collaborating with staff of ASU. Professor A. Bayaga (UNIZULU) and Professor M. Bossé (ASU) are collaborating on a number of projects. Together, they have written six articles that are ready for submission to journals based in the US (already identified). Dr E.C.A. Kok (UNIZULU) and Mary-Beth Searcy (ASU) presented a paper on mathematical modelling in education at a conference in Stellenbosch in July 2017.

The Faculty hosted four final-year student teachers from ASU from April to May 2017. They started their teaching practice at Matshangule Primary in KwaDlangezwa, which they completed on 5 May. The staff of the school reported that they were very happy with the students' contribution to teaching and learning at the school. The visiting students embraced the school culture, eating with the learners, learning isiZulu words and phrases and running informal 'workshops', particularly for the introduction of physical education in the school curriculum. During the students' stay on campus, two ASU staff members visited the campus, (Bill Peacock, Director of Early Field Experience for International Student Teaching of Reich College of Education, and Monica Lambert, Associate Dean, College of Education) with the focus on checking the students' progress in their school placement and strengthening collaboration with the school for future placements.



### FACULTY OF EDUCATION ACADEMICS ATTEND THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE (4-6 OCTOBER 2017)

The Southern African Society of Education (SASE) hosted its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference at the Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Resort in Gaborone, Botswana from 4-6 October 2017. The theme of the conference was: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Implications for Education Policy and Practice. Seventeen academic staff members and five postgraduate students from the Faculty of Education attended the conference. They presented a total of 24 papers on a range of topics pertinent to the theme. Support from the Research Office and the Faculty of Education made it possible for staff members to attend. This is part of the initiative to promote a culture of research in the Faculty of Education. Papers presented by this team of academics were well received and generated robust debates. Team members found the experience enriching.

## EMERGING SCHOLARS

### SAIDE RESEARCH GRANT

At the end of February 2017, Prof. M.C. Maphalala was awarded a research grant by SAIDE to conduct research on a project entitled: *Lessons Learnt through Jikimfundo Programme in Managing School Curriculum in King Cetshwayo District: The Programme to Improve Learning Outcomes (PILO)*. This project forms the basis of a mentoring programme for two emerging scholars in the Faculty who participate as core researchers on the project. It is envisaged that participating in the project will expose the emerging scholars to project management and research skills necessary for them to develop into seasoned scholars. Workshop and information sharing sessions are held on a regular basis to share information and experiences with the group. Gender representation was taken into consideration when selecting the scholars.

### EMERGING SCHOLARS' WRITING WORKSHOP



Emerging scholars at work during the writing retreat.

A team of three senior academic staff members in the Faculty of Education (Professors Kutame, Maphalala and Nzima) conducted a research writing workshop that was attended by 15 academic staff members as part of the research capacity building programme for emerging scholars. It was a week-long research writing retreat held at Bonamanzi-Hlulwwe Game Reserve from 13-17 October 2017. The emerging scholars were very productive and were able to develop manuscripts from draft concept papers. These manuscripts will be ready for publication in accredited journals within three to six months of their attendance at the workshop. It was an exciting research workout that incorporated a two-hour team building exercise that was thoroughly enjoyed by the team members. The emerging scholars appreciated the knowledge they garnered, which enabled them to harvest papers from previously collected data and turn these into journal articles. At the end of the workshop, participants felt that such workshops should be conducted at least bi-annually to increase research output at both faculty and university levels.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Faculty of Education hosted a community engagement award ceremony to recognise and award 40 students and academics who participated in winter school and Saturday classes in 2017. Winter school classes took place from 3-8 July 2017. Saturday classes continued until 30 September 2017 as part of the Faculty of Education's community engagement project to improve the matric pass rate in schools in the King Cetshwayo district. Schools that form part of the project are Mbuyiseni, Isikhalasenkosi, Thambolini, Sikhulungemfundo, Emkhayideni, Ntongande and Qhakaza. Subjects that were taught during the winter classes included Accounting, Mathematics, Physical Science, English, Life Sciences and Geography. Principals and teachers from partner schools were also in attendance.



Student receiving a certificate from Professor Maphalala for participating in the Community Engagement Project.