

INSIGHT

Faculty of Education Insight Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND



FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The *raison d' entrée* for this second edition of *InSight* newsletter is to acknowledge and highlight the numerous achievements of both staff and students in the Faculty of Education for the 2018 academic year. Staff and students have excelled in the domains of Research, Teaching and Learning, Community Engagement and University Service. One of the greatest achievements of the Faculty this year was its staff member, Ms Nontobeko Khumalo from the Department of Arts and Languages Education, winning the Vice-Chancellor's Teacher Excellence Award in Teaching and Learning in the Emerging category. This edition has a very inspiring message from Ms Khumalo. Other notable achievements in the Faculty include: staff members attaining Doctoral and Masters degrees; the Faculty graduating a record number of Masters and Doctoral candidates (32 Masters and 10 Doctoral); undergraduate top achievers in the 2018 graduation ceremonies; an invitation from Umalusi for Professor Maphalala to serve on the Research Forum and a myriad activities to promote staff and student development and many community engagement projects in which students and staff participate.



I would like to offer my immense gratitude to the Dean of the Faculty, Professor Maphalala, contributors, Mr Mfundo Manyoni for taking the photographs and the newly appointed editorial board for their support of the newsletter and its mission: to showcase the achievements of staff and students in the Faculty of Education.

Dr Pravina Pillay

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE



From L-R: Dr K.A. Gazu; Ms N. Maluleke; Dr P. Pillay and Mr J.F. Magwaza.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all the staff and students in the Faculty of Education for the contributions they have made in the current academic year. They are the heartbeat of the Faculty. This newsletter highlights the



Faculty's activities in the areas of Teaching and Learning, Community Engagement, Research and Collaborations. One of the key highlights in 2018 was the introduction of four newly accredited programmes: Postgraduate Certificate in Education (FET), Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Senior and FET), B.Ed. Foundation Phase and B.Ed. Intermediate Phase. This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of academics during the re-circulation process of these programmes. Re-circulation is an ongoing process and the Faculty looks forward to its B.Ed. honours programmes also being accredited through relevant external bodies. I wish to congratulate the three staff members in the Faculty of Education who graduated with Doctoral and Masters degrees. Lastly, I wish to extend a word of gratitude to the newsletter's editor-in-chief and the editing team for ensuring that we continue to highlight good things that are happening in the Faculty.

Professor M.C. Maphalala

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STUDENT GRADUATIONS

Students who attained Masters and Doctoral Degrees in 2018



From L-R: Dr Chinaza Uleanya, Dr Sunday Olaniram and Dr Bheki Mthembu.

The Faculty of Education graduated a record number of Masters and Doctoral candidates in the 2018 graduation ceremonies. A total number of 32 students graduated with Masters degrees and 10 students with Doctoral degrees across various disciplines in the Faculty. We are very proud of this milestone! Congratulations to these students, their supervisors, the Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation and the members of the Faculty's Higher Degrees and Ethics Committees.

Undergraduate Student Achievements (2018 Graduation Awards)



From L-R: Professor Xoliswa Mtose – Vice-Chancellor, Khanyisile Majola – top achiever in the Faculty of Education and Professor Mncedisi Maphalala – Dean of the Faculty of Education.

In May this year, the Faculty of Education celebrated the graduation of its B.Ed., PGCE, Masters and Doctoral students. At the graduation ceremony, five undergraduate students from the Faculty of Education received the Vice-Chancellor's top achiever awards for their outstanding academic performance. They were selected from the five-programme variants of the Bachelor of Education qualification. These top achievers were each presented with a laptop from the Vice-Chancellor. The students who performed outstandingly are as follows:

| Name of Candidate and Student Number | Programme Name | Average Mark | Average Mark on Final Year Modules Only |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|
| Dlamini, N.G. | B.Ed. (FET EMS & Language) | 79 | 82 |
| Kweyama, M.M. | B.Ed. (FET Accounting & Business Management) | 74 | 80 |
| Majola, K. | B.Ed. (Intermediate & Senior Phase Maths, Science & Technology) | 80 | 83 |
| Ngema, B.P. | B.Ed. (Early Childhood Education) | 79 | 81 |
| Ngqulunga, B. | B.Ed. (Intermediate & Senior Phase Life Orientation & EMS) | 78 | 79 |

STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Staff who attained Masters and Doctoral Degrees in 2018

Three staff members in the Faculty of Education recently graduated with Doctoral and Masters degrees:

- Dr L.O. Makhonza received her D.Ed. Degree in Educational Psychology (Faculty of Education – Department of Educational Psychology) from the University of Zululand. The title of her thesis is: **Resilience among Orphans and Vulnerable Children in KwaZulu-Natal Schools: Towards a Psychosocial Model of Intervention.**



Ms LL Bele who attained her Master's degree *cum laude*.

- Dr T.P. Mngomezulu received his PhD in Psychology from the University of Zululand (Faculty of Arts – Department of Psychology). The title of his thesis is: **The Prevalence and Effects of Abuse against Men in the Three Tribal Authorities in Ingwavuma District in KwaZulu-Natal.**
- Ms L.L. Bele received her M.Ed. degree from the University of Zululand (Faculty of Education – Department of Curriculum Studies). The title of her dissertation is: **Perceptions of the University of Zululand Academics towards Science Shops.** (She obtained her degree *cum laude*).

Staff who were promoted in 2018



Professor M.M. Hlongwane.

Professor Mandla Morris Hlongwane, the Head of the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education, was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor. The Faculty of Education congratulates him on this milestone achievement.

Message from the Winner of the 2018 Teacher Excellence Award in the Emerging Scholar's category

I was nominated by a colleague, Mrs Thandiwe Ngema, for this prestigious award. I felt very honoured as it meant that my colleague acknowledged and recognised my good practices in teaching.

I would like to thank God for placing me at UNIZULU, an institution that promotes and rewards academics for displaying excellence in their key performance areas. My special thanks go to all colleagues in the Faculty of Education; the Department of Arts and Languages Education (DALE) for their ongoing support; and especially my Head of Department, Dr Pravina Pillay, for creating a conducive environment within DALE that allows "each person to be the best lecturer he or she can be".

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Teaching and Learning Centre for the support they gave us as nominees. They arranged a workshop for us where we were taken through the Portfolio development process, which I discovered was very difficult and challenging.

I recall that before going to the workshop, I did not have a portfolio nor a teaching philosophy. I know now that teaching, at least to me, is more than just imparting knowledge; it is planting a seed in my students' psyche that will grow and, in time, make them productive people who will make a meaningful contribution to their communities, society and the country at large. An extract from my philosophy states that, "Teaching without constantly equipping oneself is like taking the fruit from the tree without watering it. It is only a matter of time before the fruit dries up and there is nothing left to harvest".

Writing a Teaching and Learning Portfolio was a difficult and an emotional journey for me as it required a great deal of reflection, and that meant I had to put myself in the spotlight and question what the literature, colleagues and students say about my practices and whatever I said had to be supported with scholarly evidence.



Ms Nontobeko Prudence Khumalo



The Faculty of Education has developed a pattern of producing women who are focused and of a high calibre such as the following: Vice-Chancellor Professor Mtsoe is the former Dean of Education, Professor D.C. Sibaya was the previous Acting Dean of Education; last year's winner of the VC's Award for Teaching Excellence was Dr M.S. Mabusela, who is also the current Acting Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning and there are five women HODs in the Faculty. Need I say more?

Currently, the Faculty is under the leadership of Professor Maphalala, who is a dedicated, disciplined, hardworking and visionary person. He is driving towards excellence in all facets of the Faculty.

I hope that next year's winner of the VC Awards will once again come from the Faculty as we continue to prove to the world that teaching is indeed the mother of all professions.

Professor M.C. Maphalala invited to serve on Umalusi's Research Forum



Professor M.C. Maphalala

Umalusi, the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training, has invited Professor Maphalala to serve on the Umalusi Research Forum, a sub-committee of Council. This forum forms the bedrock of uMalusi's research mandate and plays an advisory role in steering and shaping the academic underpinnings

of Umalusi's work. Umalusi will tap into his knowledge and expertise as a member of this important forum. The term of the Research Forum spans four years, in line with the terms of the Umalusi Council officials. As a member of this forum, he will, from time to time, meet with Umalusi's researchers to discuss individual projects of mutual interest and of strategic importance.

Among other measures, the mandate is carried out through the Statistical Information and Research (SIR) unit, conducting various types of research in areas that relate to the key functions of Umalusi. The findings that flow from such research contribute significantly to finding ways of continually improving the quality of education in the General and Further Education and Training (GENFET) sector and in also creating the theoretical basis for all the professional work in which Umalusi engages. Equally important, the findings are used to inform critical policy decisions that relate to Umalusi's mandate. The work of the SIR unit also includes establishing and maintaining databases to lead statistical research and analysis, and to inform and provide statistical support for the work in other units.

Dr M.S. Mabusela Appointed as Adjudicator for Annual National Teaching



Dr M.S. Mabusela, Acting Deputy Dean of Teaching and Learning, was selected as an adjudicator for the Department of Basic Education's Annual National Teaching Awards for the period 2017-2019. Dr Mabusela has been a previous recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Teaching and Learning in the Established category.

Dr Pravina Pillay invited as discussant at the Arts Faculty Seminar on Decolonisation



From L-R: Professor D.N. Ocholla, Dr A. Akpome, Dr B. Ntombela and Dr P. Pillay)

Dr Pravina Pillay, Acting Head of the Department of Arts and Languages, was invited by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Arts to be the discussant in a much needed discourse on 'Decolonising Education and the Language Question: Practical Considerations'. Dr Ntombela, the Head of the Department of English, presented a paper on the aforementioned topic. Dr Aghogho Akpome, the organiser of the seminar, intimated that what stood out for him was Dr Pravina Pillay's suggestions concerning curricular changes in subjects such as Literature and Philosophy and Dr Berrington Ntombela's view that the kind of fundamental changes required will most likely be a push from the bottom up.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Writing Retreat for Emerging and Established Scholars



Emerging and Established Scholars at the Writing Retreat in Zinkwazi.

A writing retreat for emerging and established scholars took place from 25-29 June 2017 at the idyllic Zinkwazi Hotel. Researchers worked in a spatial and temporal setting that was conducive to writing research papers for publication. They were given ample support on academic writing, research strategies and most importantly, encouragement and advice from the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor M.C. Maphalala, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, Professor D.R. Nzima and Senior Researcher, Professor Kutame. Academics also gave their peers an overview of their research articles. Academics found the experience enriching and expressed the desire to have another writing retreat before the end of the year. Papers from Mrs Mthethwa, Dr H.R. Mhlongo and Ms N.P. Khumalo (Nontobeko) have already been published in accredited journals. The initiative part of a larger project, Vision 2020, spearheaded by the Dean's office.

Teaching and Learning Indaba



Staff at the Indaba.

The Faculty of Education hosted a Teaching and Learning Indaba from 22-24 May 2018 at the Protea Hotel, Empangeni. The overarching purpose of this Indaba was to engage academics in the Faculty of Education on a wide range of issues relating to Teaching and Learning in the Faculty to enhance the academic enterprise. The Indaba was funded by the Teaching and Learning Centre.

Academics had the platform to engage on issues in the following areas:

- The nature and scope of teaching and learning
- Best practices in online teaching
- Assessment and quality assurance
- Developing a teaching portfolio
- Exploring strategies for teaching large classes
- Student support (tutoring and consultations)
- Improving the implementation of e-learning
- The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- Values underpinning teacher education
- Service learning
- Procedures for submissions to formal structures of the University

Roundtable Discussion



Stakeholders listening to a presentation from a guest speaker.

On 14 May 2018, the Faculty of Education convened a roundtable discussion on the theme: Transforming Higher Education Curricula: The Nexus between Academia and Society. Two guest speakers, namely Prof. Francis (UNIVEN) and Dr Madondo (District Director: Ilembe District) were invited. Executive committee members of the convocation, Mr Zwane and Mr Mchunu, who are both school principals, made presentations during the discussion.

The roundtable discussion provided a forum for 48 different stakeholders such as academics, school teachers, principals and students to discuss the teacher education elements and practices that need to be strengthened, revised and adopted in the 21st century to enhance responsiveness, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability and respect of human rights in the higher education sector.

The roundtable discussion focused predominately on issues relating to transformation of curricula in higher education. The main aim was to listen to the voices of students, academics and school community stakeholders on issues pertaining to transformation in Higher Education. Issues emanating from these discussions will inform the Faculty's programme design and research agenda.

Staff members attend a Professional Editing Course at Witwatersrand Language School



From L-R: Dr K.A. Gazu; Ms N. Maluleke and Mr M.V. Nzama.

Three staff members (Dr K.A. Gazu, Ms K. Maluleke and Mr M.V. Nzama) attended an editing course at the Witwatersrand Language School in June 2017. The course empowered them with text editing and proofreading skills. They were also required to do assessments that comprised two assignments and a four-hour online examination. They enjoyed the course and are now ready to assist the Faculty with editing documents!

Postgraduate Research Workshop



Participants listening to a presentation from Mr Admire Chibisa.

The Faculty of Education convened a Postgraduate Research Workshop from the 9-13 July 2018 at the Premier Hotel, Richards Bay. This workshop was funded by the NRF and a total of 87 Masters and Doctoral students attended. Some students defended their proposals while others who were drafting their proposals sought further guidance.

Facilitators comprised scholars from other institutions (University of Venda and University of Free State) as well as UNIZULU. Visiting facilitators were as follows: Prof. T.S. Mashau (UNIVEN), Dr C. Tsotetsi (UFS) and Prof. N.P. Mudzielwana (UNIVEN); UNIZULU was represented by Prof. D.R. Nzima, Prof. A.P. Kutame, Dr S. Govender, Dr K.A. Gazu, Dr B.T. Gamede, Dr H.R. Mhlongo, Dr I.C. Mulaudzi, Mr Sibugashe, Mrs M.J. Muthivhi, Ms J.F. Mthethwa, Ms F. Kunene, and Mr A. Chibisa. Students were represented by Mr D.S. Chonco, Ms F.J. Mthethwa and Mrs M.J. Muthivhi. There were presentations on the following topics: Research Proposal and Ethical Clearance Application; Academic Writing Skills; Research Journey and Emotional Support Research Design and Methodology; and a selection of other issues pertinent to research.

Research Niche Area (RNA) Development



Members of the RNA panel.

An imperative from the Department of Higher Education is that all faculties at the University of Zululand identify and establish a Research Niche Area (RNA) in alignment with the institutional strategic objectives. The prime objective of the proposed policy is to prepare the University of Zululand for the development and implementation of the selected RNAs. In order to meet this imperative, all departments in the Faculty of Education had to identify niche areas and prepare proposals accordingly. Thereafter, academics from the Faculty, namely Professors M.C. Maphalala, D.R. Nzima, P.A. Kutame and M.M. Nkoane; Drs P. Pillay, E.C.A. Kok and N. Maluleke worked together on all submissions from the different departments to formulate one RNA for the entire Faculty that will serve as a guideline for research and community engagement projects. In its current developmental stage, the Faculty of Education's RNA is themed 'Teacher Education for Rural Settings' and embraces four pillars, namely: Rurality; Indigenous Knowledge systems (IKS); Information Communication and Technology (ICT); and Language and Literacies. The RNAs prime goal is for the Faculty of Education to respond to the local, regional and global imperatives through its research and community engagement activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES



Ms N.M. Chalufu conducting a presentation on Dr Martin Luther King to students from Banzana High school.

The collaboration between the Department of Social Sciences and Banzana High School in Nongoma dates back to 2014 when the first group of students was hosted by the department. This partnership emanated from the request by two former National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE) students in the Department of Social Sciences, Mr Zulu and Mr Nxumalo, who are teachers of History at Banzana High school. They requested that the department present a lecture to their Grade 12 History students on the theme selected for their annual project.

This collaboration has now become an annual event. The nature of the presentation includes a Powerpoint presentation and a question and answer session. Ms N.M. Chalufu generally conducts the presentation and should she not be available then the presentation is done by Mr Dube from the Department of Social Sciences.

Students Philemseni Ndwandwe and Ndlela Fanelesibonga found the presentation very useful and interactive. When the school visited the University on 13 August 2018, they were welcomed by Professors Maphalala, Kutame and Dr Gamede.

Education for Sustainable Development

A UNESCO flagship programme on climate change and sustainable development among the SADEC teacher education institutions has been embraced by the Community Engagement wing of the Faculty of Education. Anchored on Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), the UNIZULU Change Project's key objectives are as follows: to build capacities of future educators on the global imperative of sustainable development by adopting transformative and socially orientated frameworks and to blend quality education and community engagement towards the attainment of sustainable, resilient and safe human settlements. Selected students have been earmarked for the roll-out of workshops that will empower future educators. Dr K.A. Gazu is the project coordinator.



PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS



Staff involved in the Jika iMfundo Project.

In 2017, Professor M.C. Maphalala was awarded a research grant by SAIDE to conduct research on a research project entitled: 'Lessons Learnt through Jika iMfundo Programme in Managing School Curriculum in King Cetshwayo District: The Programme to Improve Learning Outcomes (PILO)'. The study targeted eight primary schools involved in the Jika iMfundo Programme in the King Cetshwayo District. Data was collected from eight principals, four deputy principals, 11 heads of departments and 16 teachers.

The research sought to examine the theme of curriculum management, specifically focussing on the views of participants in a sample of rural schools in the King Cetshwayo District, on the impact of the Jika iMfundo intervention to improve the quality of teaching and learning. In this project, Professor Maphalala worked with six academics, namely: Ms Nontobeko Khumalo, Dr A.B. Buthelezi, Dr M.S. Mabusela, Dr B.T. Gamede, Professors D.C. Sibaya and D.R. Nzima.

The research findings show the generally positive response of teachers, HODs and principals to the systematic approach to curriculum coverage that Jika iMfundo brought into schools. Indeed, responses suggest that prior to this, there was little systematic curriculum planning in these schools, with teachers often making individual choices about what and when to teach. The introduction of planners and trackers as hands-on guides to planning and recording curriculum coverage meant that teachers received much needed practical assistance in planning and monitoring their coverage of the CAPS curriculum. The aim of the Jika iMfundo Programme is to develop strong curriculum management skills for the support and implementation of curriculum by teachers, HODs, SMTs and principals. The reports from teachers who participated in this research study indicated that Jika iMfundo has come at the right time.

The research team has produced a scholarly book chapter that has been published in a book entitled: Learning about Sustainable Change in Education in South Africa: The Jika iMfundo Campaign 2013-2017. A colloquium was held in Durban to share the findings of the project with other research teams in KwaZulu-Natal.

UNIVERSITY STAFF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (USDP)

A DHET funded UCDP collaborative initiative between the Faculty of Education (UNIZULU), Durban University of Technology (DUT), Rhodes, and Penn State University

Project Leaders:

Prof A.P. Kutame | Prof M.C. Maphalala



The UNIZULU-led partnership Team: Phakhamisa USDP

At the apex of the USDP is the attainment of quality, equity and success, as envisioned by the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP). The programme is a collaborative partnership comprising local institutions and one international institution. This partnership of universities has an innovative, high impact and transformative programme that will see 30, predominantly African (80%) teacher educators in the South African universities, participating. The programme hopes to achieve its objectives by releasing the selected candidates from weighty teaching responsibilities and offering mentorship support, thus ensuring their timely completion of their PhDs and Doctorates.

In this partnership UNIZULU participates in two programmes (a UNIZULU and a UKZN led programme). The UNIZULU led partnership comprises the Durban University of Technology (DUT), Rhodes University and Penn State University. The UKZN led partnership comprises UNIZULU, DUT, and Iowa University in the United States of America. This intensive four-year programme has as its foci the following: supporting academics to complete their doctoral studies; supervising capacity development and the generation of high impact research. It is envisaged that the recipients of this programme will in return contribute in the enhancement of teaching and learning; to postgraduate supervision and to the research output of their respective institutions. This programme has commenced in the 2018 academic year and will run continuously for four years. The first three years of the programme will focus on PhD and Doctoral completion and the final year on the generation of scholarly publications.

Appalachian State University



Students from Appalachian University with UNIZULU staff.

The Faculty of Education hosted five student teachers from Appalachian State University who did their teaching practice in two local schools, namely Mantshangule Primary School and Dlangezwa High School.

COLLABORATION WITH ILEMBE AND KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICTS OF BASIC EDUCATION



An Undergraduate Bachelor of Education student teaching Grade 12 learners during the winter recess.

The Faculty of Education has, since January, initiated considerable collaborations with education stakeholders. The Faculty has entered into collaborations with the Ilembe and King Cetshwayo districts of Basic Education. As part of the collaboration, the Faculty organises workshops to promote the quality of education in the districts by capacitating teachers on subject content knowledge, ethical conduct as professionals, learner discipline, and learner life skills. Capacity building is also extended to the School Management teams and School Governing Body members on how they can lead and manage their schools in a way that promotes quality teaching and learning.

The support offered to Grade 12 learners is in the form of Saturday and Winter classes. The volunteering students and staff assist learners in identified subjects, which include Mathematics, Economics, Life and Physical Sciences, Accounting and Geography. This is a Community Engagement project of the National Research Foundation (NRF), which also capacitates staff in research activities while increasing the Faculty and University research output.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION ACADEMICS

PRESENT PAPERS AT CONFERENCES IN 2018



Staff members at the SASE conference.

Five academics from the Faculty of Education presented papers at conferences in 2017. Dr Pravina Pillay presented a paper at the 1st International Conference on Teaching and Learning through Languages in the 21st Century; Ms Zandile Hlatshwayo, Ms Thulisile Mngomezulu and Ms Nkenkani Maluleke presented individual papers at the 5th International Conference on Language, Education and Literacy at Wits University, and Mr Johannes Magwaza presented a paper at the Southern African Folklore Society International Conference. In addition, a record number of academics from the Faculty of Education presented papers at the SASE conference convened at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology from 2-5 October 2018. Academics found the conference exhilarating and are eagerly looking forward to the SASE conference for 2019!