

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONS

2018 issue

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the departmental newsletter. The end of the year presents us with an opportunity to look back and to reflect on the year. 2018 has been an extremely busy year for the Department of Social Development Professions with the presentation of the 1st year of the restructured BSW curriculum that was designed with the broader debates on decolonisation in mind and with the purpose to develop graduates who understand the structural context within which societal problems exist. Staff members worked tirelessly in ensuring that these intended outcomes are met in the design and offering of the new BSW programme. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the team for their continued commitment. As SDP, we value closer collaborations and authentic engagements with our students and our internal & external partners as we believe that the success of the programme depends on the active participation, mutual respect and openness to learn from all partners. As such, we are looking forward to strengthen these partnerships in 2019.

This year, we have noted the success of student-led engagements facilitated by the social work student society and the language development mentoring offered by a group of third year social work peer mentors – well done to the students who are living up the vision of the department of being a vibrant, authentic, engaged department; recognised for the training and development of well-rounded, contextually relevant social development practitioners; responsive to diverse needs, and who can facilitate meaningful change and enhance well-being of people!

In 2018 we have seen improved research outputs in the form of publications and improvement of academic qualifications among SDP staff. The academic staff and students continue to make meaningful contribution in the form of successful community engagement activities presented in 2018 – you will get an opportunity to read more about these achievements and activities in this issue.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

The Vision of the Department of Social Development

Professions is: To be a vibrant, authentic, engaged department; recognized for the training and development of well-rounded, contextually relevant social development practitioners; responsive to diverse needs, and who can facilitate meaningful change and enhance well-being of people.

We give effect to this Vision through our Mission by:

Engaging in student-centred teaching and generating indigenous knowledge through research that is responsive to community needs; informing social work practice; underpinned by theories of social work, social and human sciences within a social development paradigm.

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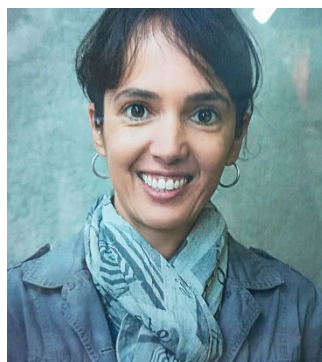
Staff News

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONS STAFF



Ms. Razia Lagardien

NGI



Ms. Natalie Mansvelt

Lecturer



Dr. Annaline Keet

Senior Lecturer



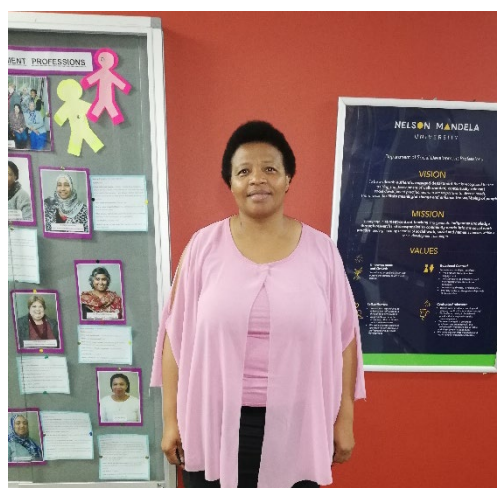
Dr. Aldene Luck

Lecturer



Ms. Zukiswa Gwam

Lecturer



Prof. Zoleka Soji

HOD/Associate Professor



Dr. Nevashnee Perumal

Lecturer



Dr. Veonna Goliath

Senior Lecturer



Ms. Zurina Abdulla

Lecturer



Ms. Josie Coetzee

Secretary

ACADEMIC NEWS

PLEDGE CEREMONY

The Pledge Ceremony was held on the 20th of July 2018 at the South Campus Auditorium. This ceremony is an annual prestigious event that sees the 4th years taking a pledge. This years event was attended by students, lecturers, as well as special guests.

The welcoming speech was made by the head of department, Professor Zoleka Soji which was followed by a lovely music item from Lesego Mkhwanazi.

The address was made by Mrs Nombulelo Sume who is the principal at Charles Duna Primary School which is situated in New Brighton, Mrs Desira Davids who is an ex Social Work Student, as well as Ms Langi Malamba from the Registrar of the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP).

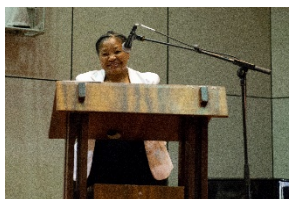
After the guest speakers, the presentation of students and the reading of the pledge followed. It was read in three languages, namely English by Ms Razia Lagardien, isiXhosa by Ms Zukiswa Gwam and Dr. Veonna Goliath in Afrikaans.

Dr. Nevashnee Perumal thanked everyone for taking time out their busy schedules to be part of this prestigious event. Guests were invited to share in some refreshments after the ceremony.

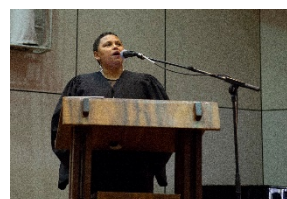


SDP Lecturers and Guests L –R: Ms Razia Lagardien, Ms Zukiswa Gwam, Ms Natalie Mansvelt,

Dr.Veona Goliath, Dr.Annaline Keet, Mrs Desira Davids, Ms Langi Malamba, Mrs Nombulelo Sume, Ms Louise Stroud and Dr. Aldene Luck



Mrs Nombulelo Sume



Mrs Desira Davids



Ms Langi Malamba



Fourth year Social Work Students taking their pledge

SIGNING OF MoU SOCIAL WORK INTERNS: CCS AND SDP

The 11th of October 2018 marked the official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre for Community Schools and Social Work interns. The MoU took place in Building 7, First Floor, at the Dean's Boardroom. In attendance was Professor Pepeta (Dean of Health Sciences), Professor Soji (Head of Department of the Social Development Professions), Dr. Moeng (Dean of Faculty of Education), Dr. Goliath (Senior lecturer at SDP Department), Dr. Damons (Director of CCS), as well as the Social Work interns.

Inga Gule, a Social Work intern, was the program director for the day. Malwande Nkalitshana, also a social work intern, welcomed guests and informed them about the program for the day. The purpose of the MoU is to outline the terms of reference of social work interns (SWI) placed in the Centre for the Community Schools (CCS) in Missionvale Campus of the Nelson Mandela University. These interns are unemployed social work graduates, they are placed through services SETA and coordinated by the Graduate placement office at Nelson Mandela University, was facilitated by the Department of Social Development Professions at Nelson Mandela University.

Zethu Mbarane, also a social work intern, presented the MoU. The working conditions of the interns include 5 days per week/45 hours per week, 3 days research (outside operation office) and 2 days meetings, consultations and admin work. The SWI's will report directly to the Director of the CCS or a person delegated by the director. After the presentation, Malwande led the engagement session, where guests could ask questions if they needed clarity on anything.

Once everyone was happy, Prof Pepeta as well as Dr. Moeng gave their messages of support. One thing that stuck out and was greatly accepted by the SWI interns is when Dr. Moeng announced that funding was sourced and the salaries of the SWI will be increased for the duration of their internship. The program ended with Silindile Malangeni thanking everyone for attending.



Back L – R: Dr. Belinda Du Plooy, Prof. Zoleka Soji, Dr. Bruce Damons, Dr. Veonna Goliath, Ms. Slindile Malangeni, Mr. Inga Gule and Mr. Malwande Nkalitshana

Front L – R: Prof. Lungile Pepeta, Dr. Muki Moeng and Ms. Xolisa Salazi

SOCIAL WORK SOCIETY: STUDENT DIALOGUE

Why do most students choose to suffer in silence about student hunger and why are they ashamed about this matter? These were the number one prevailing questions that was raised during the social work dialogue. On Friday, the 17th of August 2018, The Social Work Society held a student dialogue titled *“The role of social work students and the prevalence of student hunger in the university context”* at The South Campus Auditorium. This was open to all social work students, students at large, as well as lecturers. Also in attendance, were representatives from The University of Walter Sisulu and The University of Fort Hare.

A lulutho Xanywa, who is the chairperson for the Social Work Society welcomed all students, lecturers as well as the visitors from the two universities in attendance; she also informed everyone what the purpose of the dialogue is. Miss Xanywa said that “Student hunger is one of the major factors that hinder the student learning process. The importance of us having this dialogue on student hunger is because our profession is about helping individuals and our profession in the university contexts is not quite making a difference amongst us students; we are taught to make a difference outside of the university context but we don’t deal with the challenges faced inside of the university”. She then introduced the two facilitators of the dialogue who

were namely Miss Viwe Ndzuzo who is the society’s treasurer, as well as Mr Aphiwe Ntloko who is currently a master’s student at Nelson Mandela University.

This dialogue was in accordance with Mr Ntloko’s thesis on student hunger. Being someone who suffered from student hunger in university, he felt that this was an important issue to unpack as it’s still an ongoing factor. He highlighted that there is also a metaphoric definition which is the hunger for success and academic thirst to become something. The co-facilitator went on to highlight that unemployment, coming from small villages and race are just a few factors that contribute to student hunger.

As this was an open and interactive dialogue, the audience was also given an opportunity to voice out their opinions on particular issues. One student said “The focus is more on hunger of the stomach but not of the brain. We are not educated on what one must do when they are hungry. We concentrate more on academics; how can a person concentrate on academics on an empty stomach?”. Another student went on to say we should practice *Ubuntu*; if you see a student suffering from student hunger, offer them what you can, even if it’s something small”.

A couple of recommendations were also made on how to combat student hunger in universities:

- Universities need to regulate student hunger.
- Student hunger must be prioritized. Functions like Mr and Miss NMU spend thousands of rands every year; even if a portion of those funds were to be used on student hunger, it would go a long way.
- Fees must fall campaigns must not only focus on fees, but factors like student hunger too.
- We must not wait for entities to combat student hunger, we as students must assist one another.
- Universities must stop outsourcing but hire students within the university, which will alleviate student hunger.
- There should be a social work fund that provides funding to students in situations like these.

In the dialogue, it was also noted that students also play a factor in the increased numbers of student hunger. There have been many cases whereby students receive money from back home or through their bursaries but instead of buying necessities like food, they rather spend that money on luxuries like weaves and constantly going clubbing. It is also the responsibility of students not to misuse funds.

Mr Mzwabantu Mpiyane, who is the social work co-ordinator for placement of Fort Hare University, was the last person in the audience who expressed his opinion about the topic at large, he stated “this is more than a dialogue because we are advocating for

students. One should not be ashamed that they come from poor backgrounds but they need to work towards making a change for their children. We as social workers have the responsibility, a part from papers stating that we are social workers, what are we doing further?”.

The dialogue closed off with Alulutho thanking everyone for supporting this initiative. Although more numbers of attendees were anticipated, the dialogue was a success as there was an active engagement amongst everyone present. Students must not be afraid to ask for help because at the end of the day, one can’t be helped unless they ask for help.



Ms Alulutho Xanywa



L-R: Ms Viwe Ndzuzo Mr. Aphiwe Ntloko

SOCIAL WORK SOCIETY: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the 18th of October 2018, the Social Work Society held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the SRC Chambers. The AGM was attended by social work students from all the respective years; as well as in attendance was Mrs Natalie Mansvelt who is the lecturer in charge of the society. Tafadzwa Chikohora, who is the vice chairperson of the society, welcomed everyone in attendance and let them know of the program of the day.

Alulutho Xanywa, who is the chairperson of the society further welcomed the guests and briefly informed them of the events that took place in the society this year as well as the challenges that they were faced with. One challenge that they faced is that they were given expectations what the society should do as a society, but there was not participation from them. She further mentioned to the incoming exec, they need to be united as a society and be equally active in the society.

Karabo Mabila, who is the deputy secretary, read out what has happened in the society this year. The society started at the beginning of the year by going out and letting people know about the society; the response to this was great as they managed to recruit 120 new members.

As this was an interactive session, members of the audience were also given an opportunity to raise any questions, comments or any suggestions. One student said “We as social work students don’t focus on social issues around us but only our academics, we are passive to social issues in our society”. Another student went on to suggest “The society needs to be more visible to the students. Emails don’t work because most students don’t look at their emails. The only time we look at emails is when we are on campus because of Wi-Fi. Perhaps the society should consider putting up posters around campus when events will be held”.

Viwe Ndzuzo, who is the treasurer then went on to give the society’s financial report. Commenting on the report, a student suggested that “for next year, the society should ask for donations for catering. Spar Summerbreezz should be one of the places we ask as many of our students shop there. To try prevent wasting food and catering for a larger number whereas a lower number attends, we should make use of RSVPing for functions then based on that amount, estimate roughly how many should be catered for”.

After the report had been read, it was now time for what everybody was waiting for, picking a new executive. The room was filled with anticipation. Alulutho introduced the different portfolios as well as their roles. There are 5 portfolios and they are, chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer, secretary as well as the the PRO (public relations officer) role. Athenkosi Bangushe explained the election process and when everyone understood, it was time to vote. The students were very pleased with the results and Alulutho wished the new executive well for next year.

NEW SOCIAL WORK SOCIETY EXECUTIVE



Secretary: Gershwin Holtzhausen



**Community Outreach Officer:
Ongezwa Mkonde**



PRO: Nathaniel Nigel



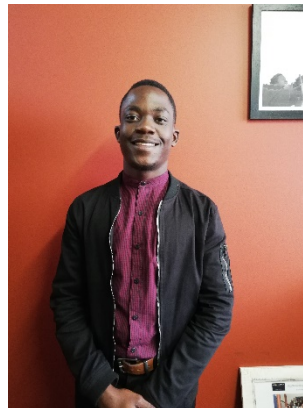
CHAIRPERSON: KARABO MABILA



**Vice-chairperson:
Siphokazi Samela**



Treasurer: Mphokazi Skhosana



Deputy Secretary: Remember Shibambu

INTERVIEW WITH 2018 SOCIAL WORK SOCIETY CHAIRPERSON: ALULUTHO XANYWA

1) How has your term of office been and what are some of your highs?

It has been both good and bad. When I say good; I was part of the people that were involved in the revival of the society and I could see the society growing in terms of numbers as well as the activities we participated in. It was also good because we got to host other universities because we wanted to start a provisional task team which lead to both a provincial then a national body; and these body will be discussing any things that students face, challenges like student hunger for example and methods to overcome that. I could just say we were an active society and not one that just existed. When it came to the bad side, we had other commitments so at times it became very difficult to juggle everything.

2) What are some of the things that you as a society did this year?

- There was a recruit drive where we recruited students to join the society
- We launched the society on Social Work Day
- In April for graduation, we always have a procession from the shuttle stop. All social work students join, we do this because not everyone has their family on graduation day
- A student dialogue and we spoke about student hunger
- We hosted a provincial body after the student dialogue

3) What challenges did you face as the chairperson and how did you overcome them?

The challenge of being a chairperson was trying to put everything together and trying to put fire back into the exec members when they don't want to show up for meetings or submit any work. I had to remind them of our responsibilities as an exec and try re-light the fire back in them.

4) What is one occasion/event that sticks out to you while in the term of office and why?

The provisional structure that we started is one thing that stood out for me. To me this is the beginning of something great! We are giving our profession dignity in some sense. We will be liaising with the SDP Department as well as the Department of Social Development on a national level.



**Alulutho Xanywa at the
recruitment drive**

FOURTH YEAR RESEARCH YEAR END EVENT



On the 5th of November 2018, the SDP Department held a year end event for the 4th year research students at the Senate Chambers in South Campus. The purpose of this event was for research students to present their research to fellow research students, and there was also an opportunity for engagement. Students were happy about this initiative by the department, they even suggested that this should be done on a yearly basis.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS

SCHOOL @ HOME PROGRAMME

On the 31st of October 2018, Varsity College held their PR presentations for their 2nd year PR students. The students were tasked with working with an NGO of their choice and help with developing their means of communication as well as assisting with any concerns they had. Upon arrival, the supervisors of the NGOs were welcomed by Ilse Roelofse, who is their lecturer, supervisors were invited to join the presentations. Once proceedings had formally began, the different NGOs that the students worked with were introduced and they are namely: Ithemba lethu, School@Home, CHOC, Role Models Foundation, Love Story, Yokhuselo Haven, Aurora Special Care Centre and Nkosinathi Foundation.

Benecia Jacobs was the student who worked with The School@Home. The School@Home was founded by Ben Jacobs, Margaret De Jager, as well as Dr. Veonna Goliath in 2012 and they offer academic assistance to

learners in the different schools in the Northern Areas with subjects such as Mathematics and Physical Science. The reason why Benecia chose to work with The School@Home is because when she was in Grade 11, she attended The S@H and they assisted her in the subjects she struggled with and she too wanted to assist those struggling with certain subjects and make a difference where she can. When asked how it has been working with the learners, Benecia said “It was an amazing feeling just meeting the kids. I was even more pleased to know that they want to improve their knowledge”.

Once all the students had finished their presentations, Ilse thanked the supervisors for taking time out their busy schedules to attend the presentation; each supervisor of the NGOs were gifted with something small as a thank you for attending.



SDP STAFF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2018

Ms. Zukiswa Gwam

Guest speaker at Sisonke Community Centre, Zwide, Port Elizabeth on the 26th of May 2018

Purpose of the event: To address this challenge and to empower communities (parents and youth)

Attendees: Relevant stakeholders, who have a direct impact and influence on the 'well-being' of people residing in Zwide

The aims of the events:

- Work hand in hand with different stakeholders in addressing challenges facing our communities.
- Find a possible solution or strategies to fight drug abuse

Dr. Aldene Luck

Partnership with the Centre of Community of Schools

Purpose:

- To create standard guidelines for placing students at practicum
- To detect what works and what doesn't in order to decide on what to be involved in
- To create consistency at schools where second year students are placed and increase the chances of placing fourth year students in the same schools
- Interaction with organizations where fourth year students are placed in order to maintain relations and to provide orientation and training.

Dr. Veonna Goliath

- March Overcomers Aftercare weekend Camp with 15 young adult males in recovery from addictions (co-facilitated by SW from Nicro and Community radio station manager)
- 19 April SACENDU collaboration with stakeholders in field of addiction training
- 19 May Launch of Jeffreysbay Overcomers Aftercare group for young adults and families in recovery from addictions: 126 people (Presentation on Co-dependency in addiction: role of parents and family)
- 13 June 2018: Uitenhage Uniting reformed church Family Week: presentation on Children as key members of the family unit (85 people)
- 20 June and 25-29 June: School @ Home Winter school Programme with 4 fourth year Social Work students and 2 SW graduates + 6 Psychology Masters students + 93 learners (gr 10-12)
- 20 June 2018 @ South End Museum: Panelist @ Launch of NAPEDIA Repository: 60 people in attendance
- 16/07/2018: Ebenezer Church, Algoa Park @ Women's Conference Church invitation – Signs; symptoms of over the counter drug use + treatment (approx. 120 women)
- 23/07/2018 Christian Addiction Ministries Support group meeting: Do's and Don'ts in motivational interviewing
- 03/09/2018 What's your story: Focus group reflection on the value of the programme with Heartline foundation representative; 4 community organizations and 4 SW students
- Overcomers aftercare support group with educational input – every 2nd Sunday
- 2 days Alternative to Violence Training with Overcomers Aftercare group young adult males (following the camp) (14 members)
- 24 March 2018 Let's make Ubuntu Youth Exchange: training on reflections and journaling experience: 15 German youth and 15 SA youth with the Dept. of Arts, Culture and Heritage and NPO SADRAT
- 02; July 2018 Launch of Substance Abuse interest group: 6 NPOs and DSD staff –meet every 2nd -3rd week crafting responses to substance abuse prevention and treatment (23 July; 13 August; 03 Sept)
- CCS and SDP Collaboration: Meetings 18 June 2018; and Workshops 20 August; 13 September
- 07-08 September Addiction Training of 19 Roman Catholic priests –Third stream income training

STAFF NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS

In July 2018, The SDP Department welcomed 3 Interns. These interns will be with us till June 2019! Welcome ladies!

Ms. Anelisa Pezisa

**Bachelor of Social Work
graduate**

Social Work Intern



Ms. Likhona Nqunqa

**Bachelor of Social
Work graduate**

Social Work Intern



Ms. Ziphozonke Moyikwa

**BA Media, Communication
and Culture graduate**

Public Relations Intern



SDP STAFF CELEBRATES HERITAGE DAY



... More staff news

Ms. Zurina Abdulla



This is a photo of Ms. Abdulla and Prof Leach, DVC Research and Engagement, is from when Ms. Abdulla received the NMU engagement excellence project award for her PhD research project titled "A co-constructed practice model for supporting parents of children in conflict with the law" on 20 September 2018.

She also presented the findings of the research at three conferences as follows:

- Organised by The North West University, hosted in Cape Town, Durbanville hosted the symposium on 15 March 2018. It is an annual event and this year's theme was "Strengthening families in the face of adversity"
- The Nelson Mandela University Faculty of Health Sciences research Conference on 12 September 2018.
- The 2nd International Conference on Growing Trends in Practical and Academic Research on November 16-17, 2018 in Dubai hosted by Vertex research society.

On a personal level, She is looking forward to finishing her PhD this year and resume lecturing next year



Anelisa will be graduating for the second time in December! She has just obtained her Honours in Development studies. Congratulations, Nozulu!



Likhona will be graduating for the second time in December! She has just obtained her Honours in Development studies. Congratulations, MaSukude!

SDP END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION



This newsletter issue was
written and compiled by
Ziphozonke Moyikwa