

# *Events in the Programme Governance & Political Transformation*

Circular 9: Second Semester 2012

Faculty of the Humanities

## **Well done!**

Pictured below are some of the students who obtained their Masters Degrees in June this year.

The students who graduated are:

Mr T.S. Botlhoko  
Mr M.D. Diseko  
Mr M. Fisseha  
Mr M.F. Hadebe  
Mr M.W. Jonas  
Mr T.M. Magomane  
Rev. J. Maphephe  
Mr C.M. Maqoko  
Mr B.L. Mathae  
Mr N.G. Mlondobozi  
Mr B.N. Nazo  
Ms. P.N. Nkwezane  
Ms N.P. Wakaba



Pictured on the left are some of the students who obtained their Postgraduate Diplomas in the September graduation ceremony.

The students who obtained their diplomas are:

Mr P. Hlazo  
Ms. L.M. Lehobo  
Mr T.S.H. Mali  
Ms H.B. Maqubela  
Mr J.M. Mashori  
Mr V.P.G. Mdhului  
Mr M.N. Mkontwana

## BA Governance and Political Transformation Graduates

Seven students also obtained their BA in Governance and Political Transformation at the September graduation ceremony. Pictured on the right is Dr Tania Coetzee (Programme Director: Governance and Political Transformation) with Mr LI Mofubelu, one of the graduates. The other students who walked across the stage were:

AC Jordaan, CA Loganathan, N Mabena, TF Maphike, WJ Mgqaliso, and SN Silo.



### Governance and Political Transformation takes a closer look at research

Masters students in the Program Governance and Political Transformation and staff of the University of the Free State were invited to attend a research seminar at the end of July 2012. The students who attended came from the different provinces of South Africa and there were students from Namibia and Arizona (United States of America). The Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities Prof. Lucius Botes opened the seminar by indicating how important post graduate research is.

Students had the privilege to listen and interact with guest speakers. Dr. Koenane, Ph.D. in Governance and Political Transformation (UFS) from the University of South Africa gave a lecture with the topic: *Character ethics in public morality: Transforming governance in South Africa*.



Masters degree students and lecturers attending the seminar

He indicated that the government is not addressing the problems and challenges of the communities and are letting people down. The government has a specific moral obligation to address issues and concerns of the public. He referred to governance issues and the importance of governance in South Africa. Students found the information very stimulating and it motivated the students to continue with their studies and the writing of their mini-dissertations. The research topics are in the **fields** of Governance, Political Transformation, Political Environment, Ethics, Municipal and Public Governance, and Communication. During the second day of the seminar students had the opportunity to present their research and there were an open discussion on research. Comments and feedback were given by Dr. Tania Coetzee and Dr. Mojalefa Koenane. The students found the comments, critique and feedback on their research very valuable.

#### **Students were also addressed by the following academics on the day:**

**Dr Dr Sethulego Matebesi** (Departmental Chair: Department of Sociology, UFS)  
*Topic: The pitfalls of doing social research - personal reflections*

**Prof. André Wessels** (Senior Professor: Department of History, UFS)  
*Topic: Publications - the pinnacle of research*

**Dr A.S. Motsei** (Lecturer: Department of African Languages, UFS)  
*Topic: How to write a research proposal and research methodology*

**Rev. Maniraj Sukdaven** (Lecturer and Departmental Chair: Department of Religion Studies, UFS)  
*Topic: Instruments used in information gathering*

**Mr Pringle Cloete** (PhD Student: Governance and Political Transformation, UFS)  
*Topic: Approach and Challenges with Part-time studies*

## New modules presented in the Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation

The Programme has included two new modules to the elective list of the qualification.

**Religion, ethics and governance** - This module will investigate the relationship between **religion, ethics and governance**. This module will show that since religion and ethics are inseparable from each other, their influence on governance remains critical in our contemporary democratic South African society. Controversial issues such as religious authoritarianism versus religious pluralism will be discussed in the light of our increasingly democratizing society. The ethical issues regarding corruption will also be addressed.

**Municipal Governance** - This module will investigate the roles, structures, status and functions of **Municipalities in the South African** constitutional dispensation. Good governance principles (responsibility, accountability, effectiveness, efficiency) must be adhered to in Municipal governance. The module will focus on how good governance principles manifest in Municipalities. The working relationship between the three spheres of government will also be discussed. The importance of the ward committees as one of the mechanisms and structures of Municipalities will be attended to.

### *Masters students' research topics*

*The Masters degree students that graduated in 2012 did research on the following topics for their extended mini-dissertations:*

An investigation into the challenges faced by Ditsobotla Local Municipality in enhancing effective financial accountability.

Democratization in Namibia: Tendencies to one-party domination

Analysis of the role of United Nations led diplomatic efforts in the furtherance of peace and security on the horn of Africa: Case of the Ethiopian-Eritrean border dispute

Human capital investment in the transformation of Kwazulu Natal Department of Education

**Public participation as an approach towards effective governance in case of Mangaung Local Municipality**

A study of the implementation of the prevention of unfair discrimination Act 4 of 2000 with specific reference to the Department of Justice in Springbok and communities in the Nama Khoi Municipal area

**Comparative analysis on the role of electoral stakeholders in Eastern African communities**

The United States war on terrorism and its implications for conflict resolution in Somalia

The philosophy of development planning within a cooperative governance system with reference to municipal planning

The role of the judiciary as independent authority with specific reference to the constitutional court

Is corporate governance a tool for transformation in South Africa?

**Cooperative and intergovernmental relations in Fezile Dabi Municipality**

The role of democratic governance in the transformation of public institutions: Corporal punishment as a mechanism to instill discipline in schools

Dr Tania Coetzee, Programme Director of the Programme Governance and Political Transformation, published the following article along with Dr Jozet Müller:

Müller, J. & Coetzee, T. 2012. The Role of Social Capital in Socio-Economic Development. African Journal of Public Affairs. Vol. 5(1) June. IBSS indexed. ISSN 1997-7441



## GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

### The ideal qualification

This well-established Programme successfully brings 21st century politics to politicians and decision makers of today – nationally and internationally.

The aims of the qualifications are the advancement of political knowledge and the development of political management-orientated skills in an environment of rapid change. This Programme was created to satisfy the need for institutional capacity building, leadership development and the promotion of a value system which complements good governance and forms the basis of a democratic government.

### BA Governance and Political Transformation

Duration is 3 years full-time on the Main Campus. Main disciplines are Political Science, Public Management and Communication Science.

Admission requirements: National Senior Certificate. Application Point (AP) of 30. Achievement level 4 (50%) for language of instruction.

### Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation

Duration is one year, by completing eight (8) modules in areas that include, amongst others: Political Transformation and Management; Political Environment; Conflict Management; Cooperative Governance; Communication Management and Municipal Governance.

Admission requirements: B Degree or four year National Diploma (NQF level 7). Average mark of 60% or higher will be considered. Closing date for applications: 4 November 2011.

### Masters Degree in Governance and Political Transformation

Duration is one year, which includes examination on Research Methodology and the writing of an Extended Mini-dissertation.

Admission requirements: Postgraduate Diploma in Governance and Political Transformation or Honours qualification (NQF level 8). Average mark of 60% or higher will be considered. Closing date for applications: 2 November 2012.

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