

# Governance and Political Transformation Communiqué

Events in the Programme Governance & Political Transformation

***Hard work pays off! Governance & Political Transformation students obtain their Master's degrees at the July graduation ceremony on the Main Campus of the UFS***



The students who obtained their Master's degrees are:

Mr A.Z. Buyana,  
Mr W. Horn,  
Ms M. Machaya,  
Ms B.J. Makhanya,  
Mr T.D. Matshaba,  
Mr B. Mwadzitira,  
Ms B.P. Ndlela, and  
Mr T. Williams

**The mini-dissertation topics of the Master's degree graduates were:**

***ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL INFIGHTING ON GOOD GOVERNANCE: THE CASE STUDY OF KING SABATHA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPALITY***

POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION, SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN EVALUATION

***ANALYSIS OF ZANU-PF'S LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN THE JULY 2013 GENERAL ELECTIONS: EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES FOR POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN ZIMBABWE***

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TEAMS IN TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS INTO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: A CASE STUDY OF NYAKANA COMBINED PRIMARY SCHOOL

***AN EVALUATION OF SPECIFIC CORRECTIONAL SERVICES REHABILITATION POLICIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION***

ANALYSIS OF ZANU-PF LED GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO DRIVE ZIMBABWE'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

***THE ROLE OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIZATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH REFERENCE TO CEZA CIRCUIT***

ROLE OF SUPPORT STAFF IN TRANSFORMATION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING: CASE STUDY OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, FREE STATE

## BA Governance and Political Transformation students graduate

**The following students obtained their BA Governance and Political Transformation degrees at the September graduation ceremony:**

Hlwayi, Lindiwe Felicity  
Motjeane, Teboho  
Leboea, Gomolemo Thato  
Kitsa, Kamogelo Manana  
Motsohi, Mothusi  
Sibanyoni, Bongani Richard  
Mzazi, Sigoibo Yanga Lubabalo  
Mabusela, Sakuphumelela

# CONGRATULATIONS!

### ***Research Seminar in Governance and Political Transformation***

Master's Degree students in the Programme Governance and Political Transformation and staff of the University of the Free State were invited to attend a **research seminar** held by the Programme Governance and Political Transformation on 30 and 31 July 2015.

The Master's Degree students who attended, came from the different provinces of South Africa. Students had the privilege to listen and interact with guest speaker, **Prof. Pieter Fourie, Head of the Department Political Science, University of Stellenbosch.** He gave a lecture on issues which can go wrong in research and lessons to be learned from mistakes made during the research process. He also focused on valuable **principles to good research and gave practical advice in writing a good mini-dissertation.**

Other topics addressed during the seminar, were **research ethics, focus group research and qualitative and quantitative research.** The value of this research seminar lies in the knowledge and guidelines the students obtained for writing their mini-dissertations with success.

*Photo: Students and facilitators attend the second day of the seminar which took the form of a research workshop.*



**Photo:** From the left, Prof. Pieter Fourie (Department Political Science University of Stellenbosch); Dr Tania Coetzee (Programme Director Governance and Political Transformation) and Dr Asta Rau (Director for the Centre for Health Systems Research and Development).

### **The topics of the other speakers were:**

**Dr Asta Rau** (Director for the Centre for Health Systems Research and Development - UFS) *Arranging, managing and conducting focus group discussions;*

**Dr Katinka de Wet** (Senior Lecturer: Department of Sociology – UFS) *Some reflections on why ethics in social research matters;*

**Dr Lyndon du Plessis** (Head of Department: Department Public Administration and Management – UFS) *Writing your dissertation - Guidelines;*

**Mr Eben Coetzee** (Lecturer: Political Studies and Governance – UFS) *Theory as the organization of hope;*

**Ms Willemien Marais** (Lecturer: Department of Communication Sciences – UFS) *Curiosity killed the cat: Tips and tricks for surviving your research*



## **GOVE 3724 - SERVICE LEARNING - YEAR REPORT OF 2015 - Good governance practices in Brandwag, Bloemfontein**

The **service learning** module within the B.A. Governance and Political Transformation qualification is a unique experience for each student. This module provides a golden opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience on a **very practical level regarding governance issues within communities**. Students developed the skills to improve **good governance practices** at municipal level and especially at **ward level**. **Students must analyze, assess and learn how ward councillors implement good governance principles**. Principles of governance such as accountability, responsibility, transparency, public participation, effectiveness efficiency and leadership were applied and practiced within the ward. Students also obtained a better understanding of the **theoretical framework of GOVERNANCE**.

Theoretical knowledge of the Disciplines such as Political Science, Communication and Public Administration and Management were used and were linked to the practical issues and problems experienced by communities and councils regarding good governance. Students were able to identify the **basic principles of good governance** and could advise the community and councillors to implement good practices and improved service delivery. Different community's needs, problems and disputes were identified and discussed during interaction with the community members in the Ward. These matters were brought to the attention of the services sector (public servants in local government spheres). In the process the **accountability of public servants, particularly ward councillors, was ensured**. The community obtained a better understanding of the theoretical framework of Political Science and Political Management and the difficulties with implementing **decisions and policies**. Community members voiced their opinions and shared their dreams, concerns and needs in an open and transparent manner. Students were challenged in identifying problems and also had to develop strategies and **action plans to improve and sustain good governance practices** in the Ward. Students also had the opportunity to **present their research findings, experience and very important, their understanding of governance and political transformation** during a formal presentation to colleagues, students and the councillors of the wards. Students were asked to specifically present the action plans to improve and sustain good governance in the ward.

### ***Students' experience***

There was a positive attitude towards the service learning module. For the majority of students the value of the module was the fact that they were exposed to the empirical (real world). For the first time many students indicated in their reflection reports that it is only through this particular module that they understand theories and can apply the knowledge of the different modules to the issues facing the community. The module has opened up new ideas, new experiences, and new perspectives. They have also obtained new skills and will build on these new skills in future.

### ***Comments from the service providers (ward councillors)***

The two ward councillors indicated that they enjoyed interacting with the students and sharing their knowledge and experience. They are specifically proud of the contribution they could make in assisting the students in identifying community challenges and problems, as well as finding solutions for community. Both the councillors have received the University of the Free State Vice-Rectors evidence of honor during a function. They received it for outstanding work commitment as external partners in the Community Engagement and Service Learning Module in Governance and Political Transformation.

*Compiled by Dr Tania Coetzee, Programme Director Governance & Political Transformation, lecturer & coordinator for the Service Learning Module*



## **Students get opportunity to gain valuable experience**

The service learning module within the BA curriculum provides a golden opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience on a very practical level regarding governance issues within communities.

Students contribute to improve good governance practices at municipal level and especially at ward level. Students must analyse, assess and learn how ward councillors implement good governance

principles. The goal is to understand the practical issues and problems experienced by communities and councils regarding good governance.

**DURING THE SECOND SEMESTER OF 2015 DR TANIA COETZEE PRESENTED SEVERAL TRAINING SESSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS. THEY INCLUDE, AMONGST OTHERS:**



Training session on good governance practices to the Manager's Team as well as the regional staff of the Free State Gambling and Liquor Authority of the Free State (pictured on the left)

*Dr Coetzee also gave a presentation on community engagement and service learning to the departmental staff of the Department of Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch. The head of the department, Prof. Pieter Fourie, invited Dr Coetzee to do the presentation.*

Dr Coetzee was privileged to attend the SAAPS Regional Conference in October 2015 at the Vaal Triangle Campus of the North West University. Various members of the Department Political Studies and Governance attended.

There was a variety of topics which included Teaching and Learning, Political Development and Constitutionalism in South Africa, Service Delivery, Trends in African Political Development and International Relations. Dr Coetzee presented a paper with the topic: **TEACHING STRATEGY: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE**. Thank you to Dr Herman van der Elst and his team for a well-organized and successful regional conference.





## **What is Governance and Political Transformation?**

Governance and Political Transformation is the study of processes and the manner of formulating rules and decision-making for society in a changing environment. It includes government mechanisms, institutions (Legislative, Executive and Judiciary) and different actors (public-private partnerships) and networks functioning on different spheres (local, provincial and national).

The Value of a degree in Governance and Political Transformation lies in making a difference in the country. As citizens of South Africa we are aware of the difficulties and the challenges facing this country. Issues such as corruption, maladministration and poor governance (lack of accountability, responsibility and transparency) hamper the successful and prosperous country we can be. We as South Africans need to change our value system to good governance practices.

## **Career Opportunities**

Career Opportunities include the public service, media, party politics, political analysis, trade unions, legislature, local government and municipalities, research institutions, IEC, non-governmental organisations, international organisations (UN, AU).

### **Programme Contact Details:**

**Dr Tania Coetzee** (Programme Director)

Tel: 051 401 2271

E-mail: coetzeet@ufs.ac.za

**Fax nr:** 051 401 9351

**E-mail:** governance@ufs.ac.za

**Mrs. Juanita Potgieter** (Administrative Staff)

Tel: 051 401 9308

E-mail: potgieterjc@ufs.ac.za

**Mrs. Cathy de Lange** (Administrative Staff)

Tel: 051 401 2271

E-mail: delangeecs@ufs.ac.za

**The staff of the Programme Governance  
and Political Transformation would like  
to wish you a blessed festive season and  
a prosperous new year!**