

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Greetings...

Who would have known that following the announcement of our first known case of the COVID-19 Corona Virus diagnosed on 5 March, 2020 that it would propel us into a totally different way of functioning, and bring about drastic changes to our lives. Amidst the challenges of such a colossal event we still have staff and students in CHS who excel and contribute to the improvement the HEALTH and WELLBEING of Society, a continuance of the vision of the FCHS.

As a faculty, staff responded rapidly to the need of adapting to emergency remote learning and teaching, thereby ensuring students have the opportunity to complete the 2020 academic year. Additionally, staff have been actively involved in much needed COVID-19 related scholarship activities, which included the submission of research proposals for ethical clearance and publishing in scholarly and non-scholarly spaces, facilitating the sharing of much needed knowledge of the pandemic during these unprecedented times. Our students also demonstrated their resilience by taking up the challenge of remote learning, and although more difficult for some, most students engaged with the offering of the academic project totally different to what they had envisaged when they registered at the start of 2020. To all staff including our professional support staff who keep systems going, often behind the scenes, I salute you all as we bring you our first newsletter for 2020. In doing so, we spare a thought to those who mourn the loss of love ones, as well as extend our appreciation to all our colleagues who continue to provide healthcare during these difficult times.

This newsletter further highlights our achievements in the areas of Learning and Teaching, Research and Community Engagement which we would like to share!

Prof Anthea Rhoda (FCHS dean)

Check out our new website:

<https://www.uwc.ac.za/study/faculties-and-programmes/faculty-of-community-and-health-sciences/overview>



Find us on:

<https://www.uwc.ac.za/Faculties/CHS/Pages/Home.aspx>



Faculty of Community
& Health Sciences



Faculty of Community
& Health Sciences

DEPUTY DEANS DESK

Research



In February 2020 I stepped into the Deputy Dean Research portfolio and in May 2020 the three-year tenure was made official. What a baptism of fire! COVID 19 accompanied me as I commenced in my new portfolio. While working remotely is not unfamiliar to us at UWC (#feesmustfall), working remotely without being able to meet with colleagues or students off campus is. As this pandemic continues to disrupt the lives of billions of people on the planet, it brings the very notion of science and research into sharp focus on a number of levels and compels us to reflect on practices that we take for granted.

Despite many distractions and disruptions our staff within the Faculty have managed to gather their forces to expeditiously produce some phenomenal research related outputs.

#Researchmatters is also demonstrated through a project initiated by UNESCO and JET Education Services in partnership with UWC as the driver in a research bootcamp activity focusing on Global Citizen education. This project is being conducted over 5 weeks and part of its thrust is to build capacity among new and emerging researchers (Frantz, Roman, Andipatin, Du Plessis and Smith).

What was fascinating and I guess not surprising was the speed at which requests came in for project registration and ethics approval for staff wanting to focus on COVID 19 research. This called for a co-ordinated strategy which we were able to implement due to the hard work and commitment from members on the Faculty Research and Ethics committees. Ethics amendments for projects became the order of the day as many who were able to continue with data collection had to do so in online spaces. As we continue to contemplate the way forward in our research endeavours, we realized that some of our ethical questions and our research dilemmas only time can answer. For example, when will it be reasonably safe for us and our informants to continue in-person observation or interviews? As we progress through this pandemic and we reach a 'new normal', how will we balance the ethical priority to care for, respect and protect our participants with the serious need for informed policy solutions? How do we guarantee that efforts to protect the most marginalised, both before and during the outbreak, do not result in their exclusion from important discussions about how to move forward as a society? As we all move forward into uncharted territory we recognise that things have changed and that we have to engage in many taken for granted activities with new insights and sensibilities.

Prof Michelle Andipatin (Research and Postgraduate studies)



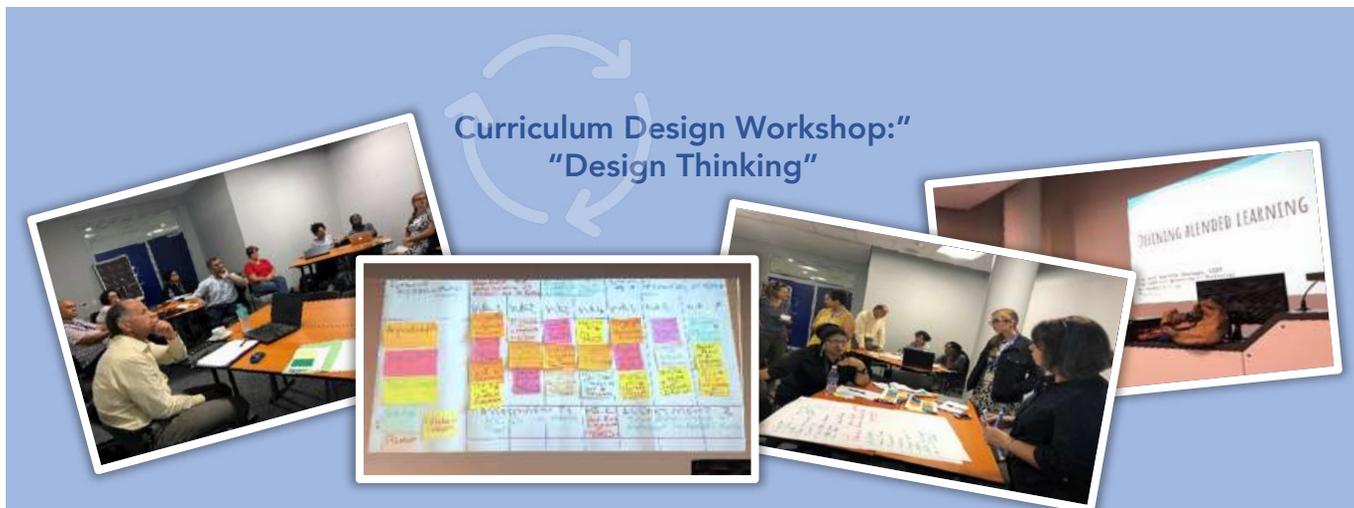
Learning and Teaching

At the start of 2020, as a result of COVID-19, all of us have had to set our learning and teaching goals to commit to for the year.



The learning and teaching journey has been quite a bumpy ride. Both staff and students experienced changes in their personal, professional and social lives. All of us were pushed outside of our comfort zones to think differently and how best to engage with colleagues and students. All staff have made tremendous efforts to connect with students via various platforms. Staff were in a constant state of planning, rethinking and innovating as we were all forced to switch from a blended learning approach to a fully online learning environment. At the end, it was not our goals that had to change, but the strategies to achieve them in order to move forward.

Prof Jo-Celene De Jongh (Learning and Teaching)



In March, Prof Jo-Celen de Jongh coordinated the first workshop on Curriculum Design facilitated by Prof Daniela Gachago (CPUT), together with Dr Simone Titus who introduced us to 6 types of (blended) learning and **Design Thinking** as an approach for powerful and collaborative curriculum design.

Acquisition:

Building knowledge through listening, reading, watching

Practice:

Applies knowledge, adapts actions, feedback from teachers and/or peers, self-reflection, improvement

Discussion:

Articulate ideas, respond to ideas, questions, challenges from teachers and/or peers

Investigation:

Learners explore, compare, critique & reflect

Collaboration:

Enhances discussion, practice, production, builds on investigations & acquisition

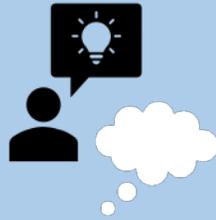
Production:

Learner consolidates their learning by articulating their current conceptual understanding & how they used it in practice

Assessment webinar

In June, Prof Rajendran Govender (Education) & Dr Samuel Lundie (Dentistry) held a helpful assessment webinar for CHS staff. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).





Curriculum Design Workshop: "Toolbox for brainwaves"



Curriculum Transformation and Renewal was identified as a priority learning and teaching goal for 2020. In October and November 2020, Prof Jo-Celene de Jongh coordinated a series of workshops led by SynNovation to a group of CHS lecturers in a series of creative thinking workshops online in order to tackle challenges faced in curriculum transformation. Lecturers were equipped with several creative thinking principles and tools that can be used, in collaborative small groups (with multiple and diverse stakeholders), to practically solve problems and generate novel solutions. Lecturers found these three workshops incredibly stimulating and beneficial to their curriculum design challenges (and beyond!)



UWC appeals for laptop and data donations
[#NoStudentWillBeLeftBehind.](https://www.backabuddy.co.za/charity/profile/uwc)
<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/charity/profile/uwc>



Clinical and Community Engagement

The Faculty continues its outreach in vulnerable communities during the lockdown.



The Interprofessional Education Unit's (IPEU) fieldwork coordinator, Mr Joseph Appolis, aka Joey, continues to work hand in hand with the community organisation, Friends of Genadendal to assist with the community's needs. During a time where members of the Genadendal community had concerns about where their next meal would come from, Joey & Friends of Genadendal attempted to ease this burden and selflessly assist the community through these unprecedented times. Genadendal is one of the CHS outreach sites where students and staff offer health and wellness services twice a year. This programme is part of the CHS faculty's community engagement strategy to make health care accessible to the most vulnerable and marginalised sectors of our society.

Early in 2020, the CHS faculty entered into a partnership with Friends of Genadendal with the aim to collaborate on addressing the health and socio-economic challenges of the Genadendal community.

Joey assisted in the gathering and distribution of face masks, COVID-19 information, as well as food items. Furthermore, bread and peanut butter were distributed to four different soup kitchens who then further distributed to those in need. These initiatives assist the most vulnerable community members and at the same time the community is kept informed on the COVID-19 pandemic. The community of Genadendal has expressed their sincere gratitude towards Joey and the work he has been doing despite the dangers of COVID-19 within the community.

Prof Firdouza Waggie (Clinical and Community Engagement)



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Prof Nicky Roman received the institutional award for most Established Resercher Awards



Dr Babatope Adebisi received the institutional award for the best PhD student.



Faculty emerging excellent lecturer award: **Ms Danelle Hess (PT)**.



Dr Simone Titus & Dr Portia Bimray (SoN) completed the The Sub-Saharan Africa-FAIMER Regional Institute (SAFRI) a two-year fellowship program for Health Professions Education.



School of Public Health: BEST FACULTY DEPARTMENT: 3rd Place for most units in terms of research output.

Faculty of Community and Health Sciences: BEST FACULTY: 3rd Place for most research output per capita.



DEPARTMENTAL NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Department of Social Work

The DoSW welcomed Mr Martin Coetzee as the administrator following the resignation of the previous administrator, as well as Ms Gadija Adams as the administrator for our ECP programme, shared with the School of Nursing.

Prof Van der Westhuizen did two online courses at international partner universities on behalf of DoSW, namely: Intercultural social work and the arts at the Evangelische Hochschule, Bochum in Germany, and, Colonialism, decolonialism and post-colonialism at the Hochschule Gent, Belgium.

A morbidity grant has been received from Karl De Grote Hogenschole to allow Mr Safodien to travel to Antwerp, Belgium for a short teaching and learning exchange. His invitation and successful selection for this program was strongly reliant on his proposed PhD topic regarding ' Social Work practice, Technology and the Fourth Industrial Revolution'.

The Proposed Community Development program offering has shown substantive progress and will be implementwd in 2021. Dr Hart is organising a stakeholder workshop to develop input regarding the draft Social Service Professions Bill, an event which will provide UWC with the appropriate branding and trend setting in the public space.

Department of Dietetics

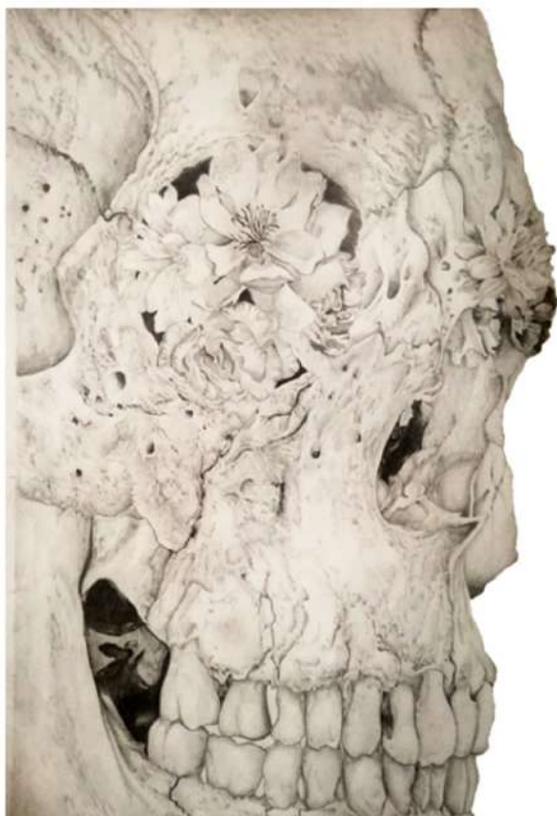
Dr Nasheetah Solomons was appointed on the Dietetics and Nutrition Professional Board of the HPCSA and will also serve on the Education and Training sub-committee. Ms Marieke Theron, one of our part-time staff members, was selected as the Chairperson of the Western Cape branch of the Nutrition Society of South Africa.

Department of Physiotherapy

One of our recent graduates, Jemma Houghton - who was previously acknowledged in the Dean's Merit lists for Top Achiever in both her third year (2019) and fourth year (2020) - has received the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship and applied to Oxford University to do a Masters in International Health and Tropical Medicine in 2021.

Sport, recreation and exercise science

One of our students, Cameron Narainsamy, entered his anatomy drawing of muscles to the Plexus Magazine/Newsletter of the International Federations of Associations of Anatomists and it was published recently.



School of Natural Medicine

A SoNM student won the 19th Chinese Bridge Language Competition on 7th May 2020. The South African finals were held online, by the University of the Western Cape, as one of event of 60-year UWC anniversary.

15 contestants from University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch university, University of Johannesburg, Rhodes University, Durban University of Technology participant the competition. In the opening speech, Prof Frantz, DVC research and innovation, highlighted "the fight against this Covid-19 remind us of the important of language and intercultural communication skills". Prof Dube, DVC for student development, said this event is a showcase of future country leaders. Consul General of China in Cape Town Mr Lin and Mr Ghaleeb Jeppie, Chie director of international relations at the DHET also addressed in the opening speech.



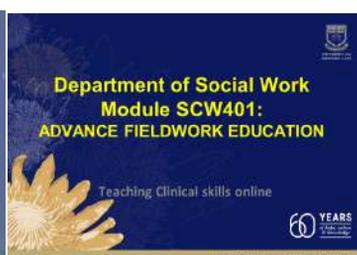
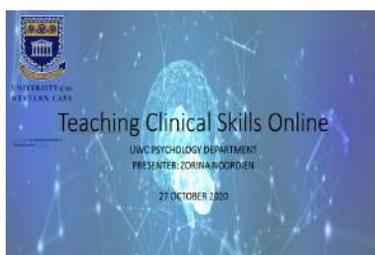
All contestants had the writing test of Chinese language, online presentation in Mandarin and performed Chinese Dancing and songs, Chinese Taichi. Shannah Rose Erasmus and Lauren Willenberg who are 5th year student in School of Natural Medicine won the competition. Two winners will go to China for the world final competition of Chinese bridge Language, in the end of this year.

EVENTS, CONFERENCES, WEBINARS

Online conferences & webinars

The First Online International Conference on Integrative Medicine and Clinical Practice was held on 30 May 2020. Dr Mujeeb Hoosen, coordinator of Unani Tibb at the **School of Natural Medicine** participated as a keynote speaker and as a scientific committee member to this event. He delivered an online oral presentation entitled, "Spiritual Care in CAM – Responding to the deeper needs of patients during COVID-19. This was a collaborative effort between Dr Hoosen, Prof M. Roman, and Dr Mthembu According to the Zoom statistics more than 1690 people from 31 countries participated in this event.

On 27 October 2020, the Interprofessional Education Unit (IPEU) hosted a webinar, "Teaching Clinical Skills Online". The aim of this webinar was to share the approaches various departments in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences used during the Covid-19 pandemic. Speakers, Ghaleelulah Achmat (Sports and Recreational Exercise Science), Ronel Davids (Social Work), Zorina Noordien (Psychology), and Megan Alexander (Occupational Therapy) shared the experiences amongst staff and students in their departments, the virtual platforms used for teaching and learning, the changes to assessment, and both challenges, successes and lessons learnt of their approaches.





Women's' Month Webinars



To celebrate women's month the faculty hosted a Dean's Women's Month Webinar Series which focussed on female academics showcasing their scholarship related to the pandemic. At this webinar Prof Taryn Young from the Centre for Evidence-Based Health Care and the Department of Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, presented on "COVID-19 response: Non-pharmaceutical interventions and behavioural science"

The Impact on Mental Health, was highlighted with speakers presenting on the following topics, Mental Health and the Nursing Profession, Prof Jennifer Chipps (Nursing), Impact of the pandemic on the mental health of students at UWC and the Department of Psychology's focus on the use of digital technologies to promote access to psychological services, Prof Anita Padmanabhanunni (Psychology), Impact of the pandemic on Rehabilitation Sciences Students, Prof Julie Phillips (Physiotherapy) and "How academics in health sciences cope with stress, including reflection on coping amidst the Covid 19 pandemic Dr Erica Munnik (Psychology). The "Impact of the pandemic on specific societal groups" was highlighted by the following presentations: "Impact of the pandemic wellbeing of family" Prof Nicolette Roman (CFS); "The lockdown: Mental health consequences and changes with respect to shopping, food preparation and consumption" Prof R Mchiza (School of Public Health), while Ms Ella Bust (Psychology) highlighted the "Impact of the pandemic on the ECD sector" and Dr Mckinney (ICSSD), shared on the "Impact of persons with disability - Impact on children"

The final webinar focused on "Covid-19: Higher Education and Health Professions Responses". Speakers included the DVC Research and Innovation Prof Frantz, who presented on the "Response of social media to the actions taken by the HE sector in response to COVID-19" while Prof J. De Jongh, presented on "Ethics and Duty to Care during a Pandemic" Prof M. Van Der Westhuizen and Ms R. Davids presented on "Social Work practice modules: Going online" during this webinar Prof Van Der Westhuizen also presented valuable insights on "Intercultural social work: Towards conviviality."

In October, Prof Helene Schneider, Prof Debra Jackson, Amde Woldekian and Dr Verona Mathews presented a workshop on "Online supervision"; and Dr Cornel Hart ended with a session on "2021: Staff and student research funding".



Research webinars



The Deputy Dean Research and Post Graduate Studies, Prof Andipatin, further coordinated a webinar series, where speakers shared varied topics, aiding the Post Graduate endeavour. Topics included in these webinars included, "Online Research Methodologies "Observational Research on Facebook" Messrs Jill Cupido and Nazeema, "Secret Focus Groups on Facebook", Ms Zaida Orth, "Online Interviews" Ms Pascal Richardson "Online Ethics" Messrs Lynn Hendricks, Shelley Vickerman, Kyle Jackson, Jill Cupido, Chloe Chen and Prof Michelle Andipatin; "Resilience and Engagement: Rural Youth" Prof Lisa Wegner, "Walking: A patron of well-being enhancing quality of life" Ms Janine Pekeur and "Accessing health care during COVID: Experiences of people with disabilities" Dr Emma Mckinney. Two further workshops concluded the series at the end of October.





Events

The Department of Social Work

- Dr Carelse organised a Child and Youth Wellbeing seminar with stakeholders in the Child and Youth Care field, and in collaboration with an international partner, Prof von Langsdorff of the Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt in Germany.
- Prof Van der Westhuizen and Ms Brey, in collaboration with Prof Van Kerckhoven from the Hochschule arranged an interactive discussion session with our fourth year students regarding understanding cultural identity when interpreting the global definition of social work.
- The staff of the department of Social Work participated in the virtual graduation of one of our long standing partners, Howard University. The contribution of DoSw at UWC was publicly acknowledged for making a significant input regarding internationalization.

The Department of Occupational Therapy was involved in organising and managing webinars in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Association of South Africa. Webinar 1 focused on Occupational Therapy and Higher Education and Webinar 2 focused on Occupational Therapy for the masses: An occupational science perspective. The above webinars were attended by more than 200 participants online.

In the **School of Nursing**, International Nurses Day was celebrated on 12 May 2020 and recognized by the School.



CHS in the news

- 3 March 2020.); Radio talk shows (McKinney, E. from ICCSD participated in a radio interview of Smile 90.4 radio station regarding disability and COVID-19);
- Newspaper and blog articles (Brady L, Notywala A, Ryklief A, Swartbooi N, van Ryneveld M and Whyte E; The power of people caring for those affected by Covid-19. Daily Maverick, 13 April 2020; Whyte E, van Rynveld M, Brady L and Radebe B. (2020). Sparks, flames and blazes: Epidemiological and social firefighting for Covid-19.
- Daily Maverick, 24 April 2020; Gilson L and Lehmann U., Reflections on COVID-19 from health systems perspectives: Digest 1&2&3. Collaboration for health systems analysis and innovation (CHESA), 21 April 2020.
- Dr Emma Mckinney (Interdisciplinary Centre for Sport Science and Development) highlighted the challenges experienced by persons with disabilities during pandemics in a co-authored Mail and Guardian publication titled 'Deciding whose lives really matter in a pandemic'
- Mr J Hoffman, from SoN did an interview on Cape Talk in his interview he highlighted the various roles that nurses play during a pandemic which includes caring for the psychological needs of society.
- Prof Daniels from Nursing wrote a piece for the School on Nurses Day. In her article titled "International Nurses Day and Year of the Nurse and Midwife amid the COVID-19 Pandemic" Prof Daniels highlighted that historically this day was founded to celebrate Florence Nightingale and how the current theme for 2020 "A Voice to Lead – Nursing the World to Health", demonstrates the importance of nurses in addressing global health challenges such as Covid-19. <https://www.uwc.ac.za/News/Pages/International-Nurses-Day-and-Year-of-the-Nurse-and-Midwife-amid-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.aspx>

We wish you all a safe and restful festive season, and a Happy New Year!