

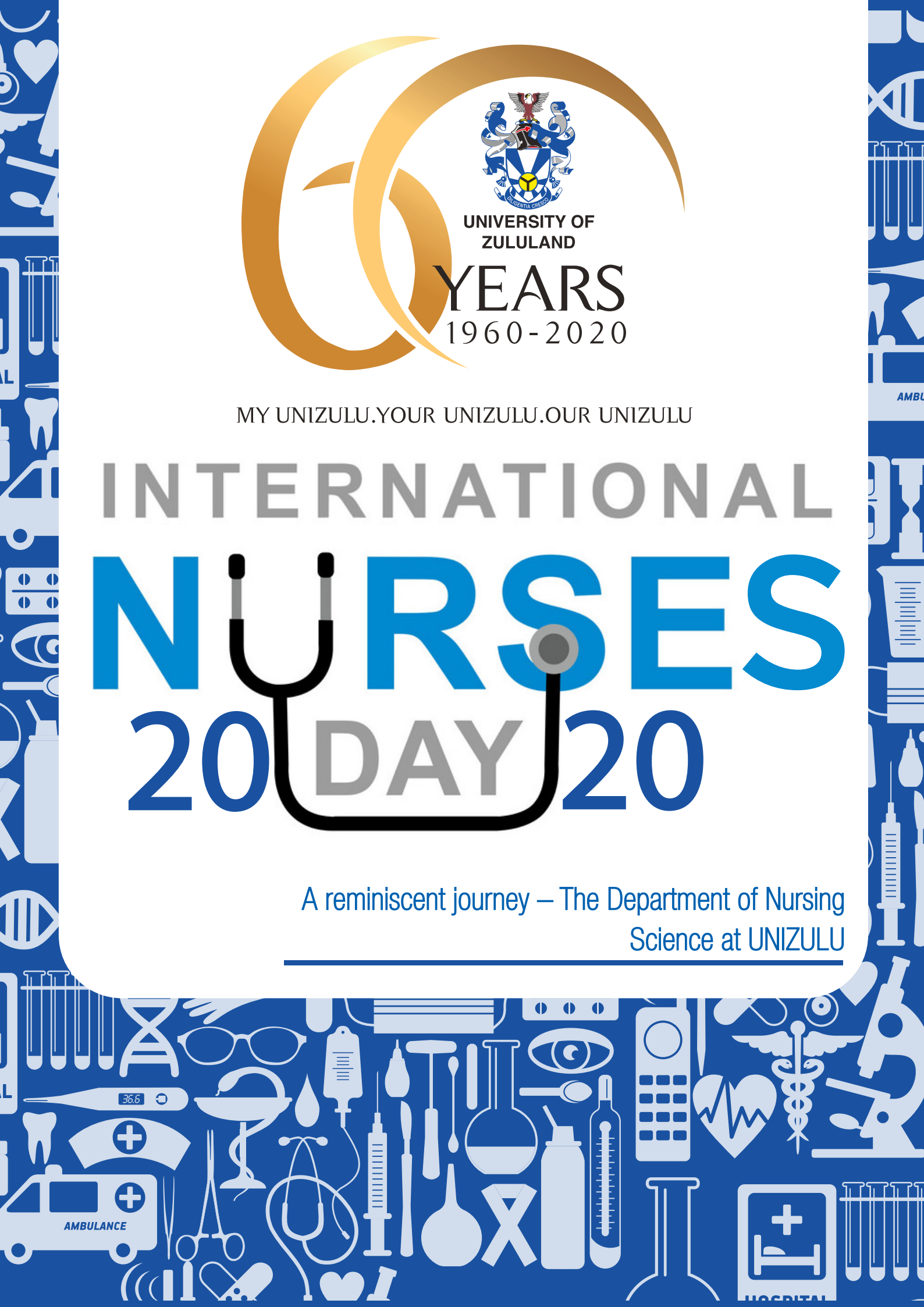


UNIVERSITY OF
ZULULAND
YEARS
1960-2020

MY UNIZULU.YOUR UNIZULU.OUR UNIZULU

INTERNATIONAL
NURSES
20 DAY 20

A reminiscent journey – The Department of Nursing
Science at UNIZULU



INTERNATIONAL NURSES 20 DAY 20

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

A reminiscent journey - The Department of Nursing Science

Annually, the 12th May is International Nurses day. The World Health Organization (WHO) decided that 2020 is to be the international year of the Nurse and Midwife. This decision has been made to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. T

The Department of Nursing Science, at the University of Zululand will celebrate the International Nurses day, and not only pay tribute to our colleagues at the coal face of the current Covid-19 pandemic in the King Cetshwayo District of KwaZulu-Natal where we are situated, but further commemorate the historical individuals who in one way or another contributed to continued existence of the Department of Nursing Science. As members of the "nursing community" and "UNIZULU Academic Employees we find it worthy to endorse the strides that have contributed to the current context and environment. Based on this view, we take this opportunity to reflect and take stock of how far the Department of Nursing Science has come and take the opportunity to predict, project and reroute the way forward. Firstly, we acknowledge that celebrating of International Nurses Day always comes with a strong

sense of the contribution made by Florence Nightingale. She is hailed internationally as the first recognized nurse. She came from a well off British Family and trained women of the same social standing as herself, to care for the ill. She and her nurses, came into their own during the Crimean War, which was fought between October 1853 to February 1856. It was during this war that Florence Nightingale was the first person to use statistics in health care. Not only was Florence Nightingale the "Lady with the Lamp" she was also the lady who carried out statistical analysis at a time when this was unheard of by women. She is one of the most prominent statisticians in history. Her statistical analyses were used to save the lives of soldiers during the Crimean war, and she carried out groundbreaking data visualization work that continues to be influential to this day.

WHO has proclaimed 2020 as the year of the "NURSE" and "MIDWIFE". Globally, South Africa and in the province of KwaZulu-Natal there much that can be said about nurses. However, the focus of this piece is directed at the nurses of the University of Zululand. This is due to the limitation on publishing space and page restrictions.

The Department of Nursing Science at the University of Zululand seizes this the opportunity to express and portray its current state, but to review its milestones,

breakthroughs and failures. This is done in order to capitalize and build on its strengths. This process involves revitalizing that which was about to be lost and reconstruct what has already been lost capitalizing on the current strengths, while taking cues from the nursing pioneers who have come to and left the Department of Nursing Science.

As a norm in human nature, there will be those who have left good footprints, while there will be others who left fuzzy footprints, while there are those who may left an untraceable mark. The few mentioned and referred to in this paper, are simply those that could be found in our search. Most of the current Department of Nursing Science staff is estimated to have been employed for five (5) years or less. Therefore, this paper should be viewed in this light.

• Historical trends in Community Engagement, collaboration and partnerships

Retrospectively, the Department of Nursing Science has not only progressed and transformed positively in shaping it for its future on the one hand, but on the other hand has had its misfortunes such as the closing of its extension of nursing site at the old Umlazi Campus of the University of Zululand. On the bright side, is the ability to work with colleague within and external to the University of Zululand Campus. We view forming such relationships as a strength,



enhancing and promoting social health and preserving mental health. The Department of Nursing Science delights in a few of these relationships, discussed in this paper. In no specific order, preference, or implication, the following were academics who were previously employed and contributed to the Department of Nursing Science:

Dr N.D. Luthuli obtained her Doctor of Philosophy [Nursing] (DPhil) in the Department of Nursing Science in 2005. Dr Luthuli commenced a community gardening project at Port Durnford in 2008. This project assisted the community in respect of correcting poor nutrition and increasing the income of community members. This project was registered and funded by the University of Zululand.

Dr. N. Mzimela: The late (may her soul rest in peace) obtained her Doctor of Philosophy [Nursing] as a student of the Department of Nursing Science and was actively involved in community engagement through a handbook project and donations to the community.

Prof TE Masango: currently a Professor at UNISA completed her Bachelor Curationis (Honors) [BCur Honors], Diploma in Nursing Management, Master of Arts Curationis [MACur] and Doctor of Philosophy [D Phil] all at the University of Zululand, Department of Nursing Science.

Prof Masango was a very active academic, involved in curriculum development and, she was in teaching Nurse Educators for the Department of Health.

Professor Zungu: who was a previous Head of the Department of Nursing Science, participated in the Department of Nursing Science Pledge of Service and Buttoning Ceremony in 2019 and shared with the staff and students a rich history of the Department of Nursing Science and how far the department has developed over time.

Professor Nzimakwe was responsible for the Umlazi Campus.

Prof TP Mhlongo was the Head of the Department of Nursing Science from 2010 until 2018 despite the challenges of staff shortages. The staff shortage is ascribed to increased student enrolments over time, in contrast to disproportional student staff ratios, which remain a challenge. The Department of Nursing Science expects that the student - staff ratio will change when the new R714 Nursing Curriculum commences.

We plan to introduce contemporary innovative teaching and learning strategies, which require fewer students per staff member, and such strategies are a dire need for effective learning for nursing and health science students.

Nurse Pioneers who made a mark on the University of Zululand and the Department of Nursing Science

Prof Vuyiswa Gumbi: Passed away on 25 December 2015 “may her soul rest in peace”. She contributed significantly to the Department of Nursing Science and to the University of Zululand as a whole. Prof Gumbi can be described as the epitome of the public service, a visionary, a true leader, a trail-blazing academic and former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prince Mshiyeni Memorial Hospital (PMMH). Her accolades further described her as:

The fifth Rector at the University of Zululand.

Prof. Gumbi’s achievements include acting as advisor to the World Health Organisation (WHO); chair of the Global Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery (the six regions of the world) and becoming the first Black President of the South African Nursing Council, a position she held from 1995 to 2003. Prof Gumbi worked in closely with the Department of Health between 1996 and 2003 where she was tasked with monitoring the application of the Equity Act, Human Resource Management Policy Parameters, Education and Training of Health Personnel (multidisciplinary, health profession liaison with Health Councils, professional associations, non-governmental organizations and employee organizations).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND THE MANAGING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SCIENCE

The undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing (SBSC60) and Bachelor Curationis (Education and Administration (SBSC61) programmes and postgraduate Master of Nursing (MN) and Doctor of Nursing Degree (DN) have been offered for some time in the Department of Nursing Science.

Recently, the Department of Nursing Science has worked on the New R174 Curriculum. Dr J. Kerr facilitated the curriculum development initially in 2017, prior to joining the University of Zululand and subsequent to her appointment as a Senior lecturer in May 2017. In November 2017, Dr. Kerr became the Acting Head of Department, and continues to lead the curriculum development. In respect of the day to day operational interventions, Dr. Kerr has formulated coordination portfolios in the Department of Nursing Science and has successfully chaired the Curriculum Committee.

Her leadership role has been instrumental in respect of the curriculum development, working with different staff, at different phases of the curricula development processes.

Mrs N. Makhoba the Department of Nursing Science Administrative Secretary works closely with the Acting Head of Department and plays a pivotal role in matters that relate to the communication of the Department of Nursing science and the professional body, The South African Nursing Council (SANC). The SANC communication and procedures occur across the year and include registration of new students as learners, completion documentation of completing students, community service registration of students with the National Department of Health, prior to students commencing their community service and many other tasks throughout the year. These tasks performed by Mrs Makhoba is in fact a full time task and impacts on the required assistance with operational Teaching and Learning and Research within the Department of Nursing Science. This remain a challenge that is yet to be resolved.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Clinical skills in nursing were practiced and performed, historically, wholly at the bedside, with patients as teaching aids. The profound change in professional education and health care systems had made this teaching method less effective. Currently, the clinical skills laboratory (CSL) is widely adopted as a strategy to support student development of clinical skills. The Department of Nursing Science has adopted the use of its clinical skills laboratory for demonstrating, practicing and assessment of clinical skills competencies of student nurses.

This clinical skills laboratory was built with the Grant support funding received from the Department of Higher Education (DHET) for the purpose of clinical teaching and learning of student nurses. This state of the art clinical skills laboratory facility consists of a classroom, where clinical lectures are held and a clinical ward, with various teaching aids, including high and low fidelity manikins, which are used by Clinical Instructors and student nurses for clinical teaching and learning of clinical skills.

The South African Nursing Council mandated all the Nursing Education Institutions to re-curriculate their curriculums in preparation for the movement of all nursing programs to be accredited with the Department of Higher Education. Among the requirements for the accreditation of these programs, all Nursing Education Institutions are required to have fully equipped and functional clinical skills laboratories for the purpose of effective clinical teaching and learning of student nurses.

The KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing affiliated with the University of Zululand, as a quality assurer institution for higher learning. In 2018, Greys' sub-Campus College of KwaZulu-Natal requested to send Nurse Educator delegates to the Department of Nursing Science, for the purpose of benchmarking with the clinical skills laboratory in preparation for accreditation of their new R171 (Staff Nurse) nursing program.

The benchmarking program included the welcoming and introduction by Dr J Kerr (Acting Head of Department). Dr ST Madlala (Clinical skills Co-ordinator), made a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of clinical skills laboratory. Mrs M Mkhwanazi assisted by Mrs G Ntombela (Clinical Instructors for Midwifery Nursing Science), presented, by demonstration, a midwifery delivery, using Sim-Mom, a high fidelity manikin. Mr N Mhlongo assisted by Mr S Ngomane (Clinical Instructors for General Nursing Science) presented a patient resuscitation, using the Sim-Man high fidelity manikin and Mr M Magoso (Fundamental Nursing Science Clinical Instructor) presented a demonstration of taking of vital signs using Sim-Man. A walkabout the clinical skills laboratory followed and culminated in a successful question and answer session from the delegates and the Department of Nursing Science academics.

Clinical teaching, learning and placement, is specifically structured when allocating Clinical Instructors. This strategy works well for clinical education. The administration of clinical education is co-ordinated by Dr. ST Madlala, who works hand in hand with the Teaching and Learning coordinator, DR NSB Linda, and the year level Academic coordinators. Four (4) clinical Instructors manage 400 nursing students clinical teaching.

The Department of Nursing Science appreciates the contribution of the Clinical Instructors, and in this year of Nurse and Midwife, we would

like to publicly acknowledge and give them a well-deserved complement. Clinical teaching involves accompaniment of nursing students, where the Clinical Instructor must join the nursing student, in whatever situation she or he finds the students doing in the wards/units and clinic, as teachable moments. The Clinical Instructors also carry out demonstrations and assessments of the clinical skills, which are planned and structured and are carried out in both the clinical skills laboratory and the real life hospital and clinic situations

Dr NS Linda is assigned to coordinate the Theory of Teaching and Learning. Her coordination duties include giving direction and instructions to students with regards to modification of modules, requests for module credits as well as any issues relating to academic structures.

The strategic coordination of Teaching Learning activities, both clinical (i.e. under Dr ST Madlala's portfolio) and Theory under Dr Linda's portfolio, has afforded the Department of Nursing Science, to not only internally review its programmes, but has allowed these coordinators to propose legitimate academic interventions, which has led to effecting a number of changes to be made through the Faculty Dean, and the UNIZULU Senate. Such changes and proposals have been made for improved departmental function and for the improved academic core business of the Department of Nursing Science.

In 2019 the Teaching and Learning coordinator arranged and implemented a "Teaching and Learning" and a "Research Supervision" Workshop, respectively. The workshops were executed as a contribution to the capacity building strategy of the Department of Nursing Science. External Workshop Facilitators include Prof NG Mtshali and Dr. Alexis Harerimana, who are our partners from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). The internal University of Zululand partners were Prof Vivier, Prof M Mabusela and Prof Kolanisi from different UNIZULU departments. The workshops received input from the University of Zululand Quality Office, Mrs. T. Ndimade, and the Teaching and Learning Centre, Mr RM Sibubashe. In the effort to transform and improve the staff capacity in the Department of Nursing Science, workshops were held on how to access and use eBooks, and Moodle Training were conducted and conducted by the Subject Librarian Mrs. B. Nkuhlu and Mr Paul Tawireyi, a computer science lecturer, respectively.

SOCIALISATION AND PROFESSIONALISATION OF NURSING STUDENTS

Despite the reality that Nursing students do not enjoy the free time to engage in extracurricular activities due to the volume of clinical learning hours required of them to complete of the programme, the Department of Nursing Science is pleased to acknowledge that in

2019 the nursing student football and netball teams both participated in a tournament with our partner, Ngwelezane Hospital nursing students. The Department of Nursing Science nursing students won the trophy, under guidance and leadership of Mr. M. Magoso who is a Clinical Instructor. The Trophy is kept in the Department of Nursing Science reception until the next tournament is held.

The nursing students are represented by the Nursing Society Chair Person, who is a nursing student selected by them. The Nursing Executive work hand in hand with the Faculty Representative Student Council on matters that are important to them. The previous Nursing Society Chair Person was introduced to a National Nursing Student body called the South African Nursing Student Association (SANSA). The President was supported, in the form of air tickets, transport and accommodation, by the Department of Nursing Science to attend the National Annual General Meeting in Pretoria.

In 2019 a level four (4) nursing student, who was a member of the UNIZULU Choir, visited Germany to participate in a choir competition. The Department of Nursing Science was not only in support of the student participating in the Choir, the lecturers concerned fully supported the student by rearranging assessment time schedules and learning activities for her. The aim was to ensure that the student's academic studies were not compromised.

In 2018 and 2019 the nursing students were introduced and socialized to DENOSA and Hospersa as unions representing nurses and alternatives for professional indemnity, which is a requirement for clinical placement as well as other benefits.

CONCLUSION

In line with World Organizations (WHO) request to nurses worldwide to participate in the **YEAR OF THE NURSE AND MIDWIFE.**

The Department of Nursing Science has been in discussion with its KwaZulu-Natal partners on how to collaboratively celebrate the YEAR OF THE NURSE AND MIDWIFE. These partners are the KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing (KZN CN), the KwaZulu-Natal Professional Practice, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Durban University of Technology (DUT).

The Department of Nursing Science has projected activities, including but not limited to, conducting Leadership and Management Workshops to KwaZulu-Natal Nurse Managers. This was to be the second workshop following one conducted in 2019. Dr. J. Kerr, Dr. ST. Madlala, Dr. SN Linda, Mrs. A. Joubert and Mrs. NF. Ngcobo. Mrs. T. Makhoba were very instrumental in the undertaking of the workshop and their prominent presence in the workshop very much was noticeable by active, engaging participation while executing the Workshop at Greys Nursing College in Pietermaritzburg on the 18th of July 2019. The workshop attendees expressed gratitude and made suggestions of further topics to include in subsequent workshops. They said that they were looking forward to other interventions in the near future with the Department of Nursing Science. Due to the scourge of COVID-19 and lock down the planned workshops could not continue, neither could the planned 2020 celebrations for the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

The Department of Nursing Science salutes its students, some of whom are studying and working full time during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We value the contribution you make to the pandemic, amidst the fear for the safety of yourselves and your families. Halala.

We are proud to be nurses and proud to be nurses working and studying in the Department of Nursing Science, in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, of the University of Zululand.

Authors:

Dr. NS Linda¹ (DNS lecturer; Teaching & Learning Coordinator)

Dr. J Kerr² (DNS Senior Lecturer; Acting Head of the Department)

Mrs. NF Ngcobo³ (Lecture and Mental Health Nursing Subject Specialist)

Dr ST Madlala⁴ (DNS Lecturer; Clinical Skills Coordinator)

Acknowledgements

Department of Nursing Employees including (i) academics / lecturers, (ii) support staff / Clinical Supervisors (iii) Clinical Skills Grant and Finance Administrators as well as the (vi) Skills Laboratory Technician are acknowledged and applauded for their continued support to the Department of Nursing Science.

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Anecdotal notes, observation by the authors.



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