

60 YEARS OF GEOGRAPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND



A. HEADS OF DEPARTMENT



*Mr. Matthys Swart
The First HOD: 1961-1984*



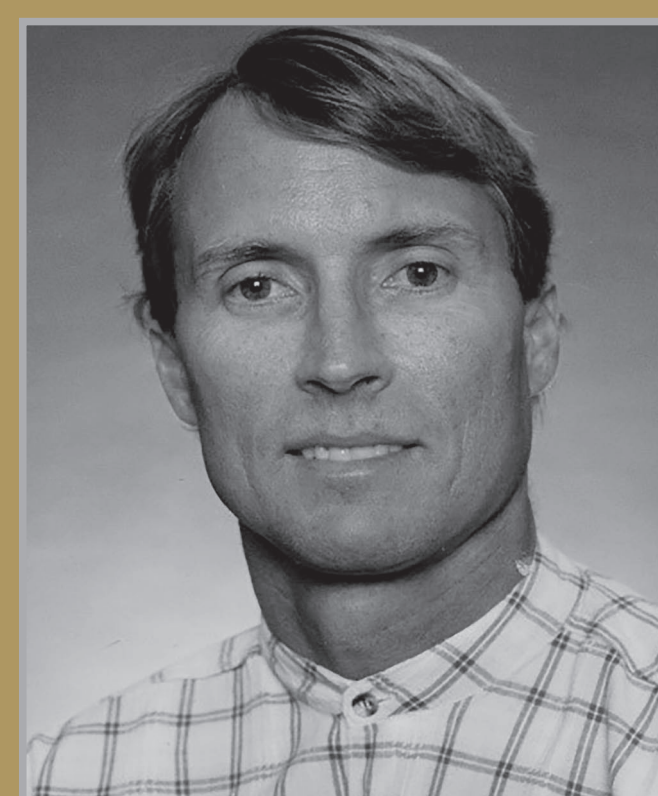
*Dr. C. Lewis
HOD: 1984-1987*



*Professor Lindisizwe Magi
1st PhD candidate in the
Department of Geography
1st Black person to obtain a
Geography PhD from a South
African University
Acting HOD 1987-1990
HOD:1990-1996*



*Professor Edward Makhanya
Professor & Custodian of the
Geography Department,
Umlazi Campus, Durban
1st Black Professor in the
Geography Department at
UNIZULU*



*Professor Mark Jury
HOD: 1997-2006*



*Professor Themba Dube
HOD: 2006-2007*



*Mr. Thembinkosi Mthembu
Acting HOD: 2007-2020*



*Dr. Innocent Moyo
HOD: 2020 & Beyond*

B. HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Established : 1961

- First Head of Department: Mr Matthys Swart (a Stellenbosch Graduate)
- First Black Professor: Professor Edward Makhanya
- First student to complete a Honours Degree in Geography at the University of Zululand Lindisizwe Magi (1974)
- First Black student to obtain a Geography PhD in South Africa: Lindisizwe Magi (1987)
- In the 1960's - 70's majority of the students came from the former Transvaal
- The Department of Geography through Mr Kobus Jordaan and The Water Research Commission realised a need for black hydrologist which resulted in the establishment of the Hydrology Department.
- In the 1980s the Department launched an internal publication 'Zululand Geographer' to assist with the effective teaching of high school geography. It later became a discussion space where Geographers began to discuss the relevance of Geography research in addressing socio-political issues.
- In 1994 the Department under the leadership of Prof Magi introduced a coursework Masters in Recreation and Tourism (MRT) and a post graduate diploma in Recreation and Tourism (PDRT). MRT became on the most popular Masters programmes at the university. Its popularity necessitated an establishment of a Department of Recreation and Tourism in 1999.
- In 1997 Prof Mark Jury (a meteorologist and oceanographer) joined the Department and recruited both Masters and PhD students. He established relationships with weather services across the African continent. Prof Jury is known for his distinct publications in his field and remain one of the most productive research fellows at the university of Zululand
- In 1997 the Department of Geography became the only academic department to have its own server, computers for staff and post graduate students and internet accessible to all academic staff, and a computer technician on site.
- In 2001 the Department introduced three programmes: BSc Earth and Atmospheric Science, BSc Environmental Management and BA Environmental Planning and Development. All three programmes were very popular.
- Prof Dube, Mr Mthembu and Prof Chikoore facilitated the relationship between Geography and SAWS which saw a number of Geography students who specialised in Earth and Atmospheric Science obtaining financial support and employment in within SAWS.
- In 2008 the university adopted the dual major programmes which saw Geography discontinuing Environmental Management and Earth and Atmospheric Science degrees
- Our graduates work as scientists at various institutions within the country and overseas, some have established businesses either as consultants or entrepreneurs.
- In 2016 the Department was joined by hard working specialists: Dr Moyo, a keen Urban Geographer and a cross border migration specialist who has an excellent publication record and Dr Mbatha, an atmospheric physicist who is passionate about the matters of the atmosphere and programming.
- In 2018 the Department was joined by Dr M.L. Mdoka a Climatologist.
- In 2019 Dr Xulu, a remote sensing specialist completed his publication based PhD. His work resulted into five publications and he also worked with his own Honours students to produce two publications.

C. NOTABLE ALUMNI

Ms Gugulethu Favourite Nyanda: General Manager: Corporate Services at Mintek
Mr Bonginkosi Makhathini: Chairperson the SABC Board
Miss Nqobile: Department of Mineral Resources: Specialist in Mining Environmental Law and , admitted advocate and a speciality in notaries
Mr Sihle Ngcamu: Manager TIK
Dr Andile Biyela: Lecturer UKZN
Senior Strategic Urban Planner in the Planning and Development Unit

D. AWARDS

The Department of Geography received research awards in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019.

E. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through visits by high school learners, the department is able to assist teacher and learners with map skills and projections, basic GIS concepts, demonstration of the manual weather station and career orientation.

F. GEOGRAPHY COLLOQUIA AND GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Dr Andile Biyela- BA Environmental Planning and Development: Scope and possibilities
2. Prof Maharaj- Historically black universities and the future of Geographies
3. Prof Mark Jury
4. Prof Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni
5. Internal speakers: Dr Mdoka/ Mbatha/Moyo/Xulu S/ Mthembu/Xulu N/

G. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS/ DEBATES

1. Climate change and food security
2. Renewable energy in South Africa: an impossible possibility or possible possibility

H. WORKSHOPS

Remote sensing and GIS