



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE
AND PUBLIC POLICY

GOOD GOVERNANCE BULLETIN

Message from the Director

It is a great honour and privilege to reflect again on the achievements of the School of Public Management, Governance, and Public Policy (SPMGPP) in this 2024 academic year. The year 2024 has been extremely exciting and rewarding in many aspects. In line with its vision, the SPMGPP continues to ensure academic service excellence, leading knowledge service provision, generating and transferring knowledge through teaching and learning, research, and community engagement.

Once again, thanks to the hard work and dedication of all our academic and administration staff members, SPMGPP exceeded all its 19 ambitious objectives in the 2024 academic year.

Among the many great achievements this year was hosting Deputy President Paul Mashatile on 19 April. The consistent excellent pass rate in all our modules is above 80% across all undergraduate and postgraduate modules. Our staff, students' and researchers' output which continues to outperform our sister schools in the College of Business and Economics (CBE), our staff's contribution to the CBE and UJ through their active participation in different committees, the multiple community engagement projects completed this year, the signing of multiple Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with other universities across the globe, and the significant role our staff plays in critically important forums such as the National Planning Commission (NPC), to name but a few.

All of this demonstrates what a great team we are as a School. Working together as a team, we achieved great results for our own professional development, the CBE, the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and most importantly our students, who must be trained to become capable, ethical and professional future leaders of our country, continent and world.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the School for giving it your all this year. Each and everyone's selfless work and individual and collective contributions have not gone



unnoticed. I want to specifically express my heartfelt gratitude to every member of the School, and especially the members of the SPMGPP Management Committee (SPMGPP MANCO) for your guidance in setting and executing strategic decisions. Our Charter remains the guiding principle for fair and equitable use of the School research funds, and our Teaching and Learning Quality Control Committees, under the leadership of Prof. Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad, our module coordinators and lecturers have done wonders in improving the quality of our teaching and learning in terms of the content we teach, and the quality and integrity of multiple assessment opportunities we provide. More specifically, I am proud of all our lecturers for demonstrating such a high level of commitment to ensuring the integrity of our assessments and thereby guaranteeing the integrity of our qualifications and a better future for our graduates.

As we confidently look forward to another successful academic year 2025, I wish you all and your families the best of the festive seasons.



The following are the highlights of the SPMGPP achievements in the 2024 academic year:

SPMGPP hosted the honourable Mr. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile, the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa

Among the School's notable achievements this year, was hosting the Deputy President, Mr. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile. This event took place on 9 April at the UJ Arts Theatre Centre in Auckland Park, Johannesburg. (Vice-Chancellor Message-12). The Special Distinguished Lecture, titled "An Inspiring Message for SA Youth and Young Adults to Excite Them about Their Future Prospects in SA", was organised by the SPMGPP, in partnership with the CBE. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the 30 Years of South Africa's Democracy, and the Deputy President Shipokosa Mashatile delivered the keynote address. We want take the opportunity to thank the UJ leadership, especially Prof. Lehlokwa Mpedi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the great University of Johannesburg, the entire Members of the Executive Council (MECs), the Executive Leadership Group (ELG), the Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr. Panyaza Lesufi, members of Cabinet and the Diplomatic Corps, and South Africans from all walks of life, UJ and especially SPMGPP students and staff

members who participated in this event. A special thanks to Ms. Jabu Mathekganye and the SPMGPP team for meticulously planning and executing this event in the most professional way possible. We thank Prof. Lungile Ntsalaze, the former Executive Dean for the CBE) for his financial support, the outgoing Acting Dean Prof. Benjamin Marx, and the Dean's office staff, especially Ms. Wendy Gertse, Dr. Ronel Torien, as well as the wonderful staff at the UJ Arts Theater, especially Ms. Leonie Ogle Brooks for their exceptional support during the planning and execution of this event. We are grateful to the PPS team and Colonel Nhlanhla Mkwana, station commander of the Brixton Police Station and his men and women in uniform as well as UJ's Protection Services for ensuring their outstanding service and the success of this event without an incident. In addition to this, the SPMGPP set 19 ambitious objectives and exceeded all of them.



Front row: Hon. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile, the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa (centre front). Hon. Mr. Lesufi Panyaza, the Premier of Gauteng Province (far right), Prof. Lehlokwa Mpedi, UJ VC (second from right), Prof. Mohammed Jahed and Prof. Ben Marx (left of DP Mashatile) with the proud staff members of the SPMGPP (back row).



Guests at Hon. Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile's distinguished guest lecture.

We are about achieving 100% of academic members with PhDs

Our qualifications are taught and supervised by a unique brand of highly qualified and extremely dedicated lecturers, supervisors, administrators, and tutors. The SPMGPP is supported by 14 permanent staff members, two permanent admin staff members at our Auckland Park (APK) Campus, and one temporary admin person at our Soweto (SWC) Campus. Thirteen of the 14 permanent lecturers have PhD qualifications. In fact, since 0,92857% of our academic staff have PhDs (2024) we are very close to achieving our objective of 100% of our academic staff members having PhDs as the remaining staff members are on the verge of submitting their PhD theses for external examinations. In addition, two of our three administrative staff members have Masters degrees. In addition, five SPMGPP staff members are National Research Foundation (NRF)-rated researchers and five of our academic colleagues

are full professors.

The high calibre of our admin and teaching staff has had a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning. But as they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. With a pass rate of more than 90% for both our undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students, 12 PhD graduates, over 30 MA students supervised to completion, and over 120 honours students expected to complete their studies in this 2024 academic year, the SPMGPP's contribution to the CBE/UJ success in many KPAs/KPIs is undeniably commendable. Target: Target to achieve 90% of academic staff with PhD qualifications in 2024. Achieved: All 13 out of 14 academic staff have PhD Qualifications. Achieved: 0,92857% Only one remains to achieve 100%. The remaining staff member is expected to submit for external examination in October 2024.



We achieved excellent throughput in Teaching and Learning

The SPMGPP offers a range of UG and PG programmes and qualifications. We offer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Public Management and Governance (PMG), with a strong focus on public management and governance (PMG) and public leadership and governance (PLG) at both our APK and SWC Campuses. Our qualifications include a Higher Certificate in Local Governance and Management (F3401O) and an Advanced Certificate in Local Governance and Management (C3401O) which are non-subsidised as both of them are fully offered online. Our focus is, however, on our traditional UG qualifications which include Bachelor of Public Management and Governance (BA in PMG), BA Honours in PMG, MA in PMG (coursework and a mini-dissertation), (MACW), and MA in PMG based on full dissertation (MARD), and PhD in Public Management and Governance (PhD in PMG).

We are our students and our students are us.

True to its vision of ensuring academic service excellence by being a leading knowledge service provider for transferring knowledge, the SPMGPP has done exceptionally well this year. Thanks to our lecturers' and tutors' hard work, dedication, professionalism, and willingness to go beyond the call of duty, the School has improved its performance in all aspects of teaching and learning, achieving a pass rate of between 90% and 100% in all seven UG modules. Several innovative initiatives such as the introduction of the Teaching and Learning (T&L) and Assessment Quality Control Committees, comprising teams of module lecturers and coordinators under the leadership of Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad played a vital role in improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. This initiative was complemented and strengthened by the involvement of all senior professors in the school fulfilling their academic duties to teach at UG level. Regular monitoring occurred and extra effort was put in to ensure that no one among the identified at-risk students were left behind. Thanks to our lecturers' extra effort in consultations, extra classes, and assessment opportunities, the pass rate of our UG and PG students increased exponentially.

We introduced the SPMGPP Quality Control Committee, and all Full Professors teach at UG level.

To cement our status in quality teaching and learning, we introduced the SPMGPP Teaching and Learning Quality Control Committees. This important initiative, spearheaded by Prof.

Vyas-Doorgapersad with the support of module coordinators and lectures significantly improved the quality of teaching and learning by ensuring that the content we teach students and the multiple assessment opportunities we provide to students, are aligned with international standards. In the words of Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad:

"T&L Qual-Control Committee meetings took place at the beginning of the semesters for all UG programmes through to Honours and MA CW modules". After the lecturers are reminded of their responsibilities for "Exam uploading to MAMS, marking allocation, IVT forms, capturing of marks, and releasing of marks" as explained in a memo titled "Lecturers Responsibilities to Ensure the Integrity of Examinations and Other Assessments" sent by the Director of the School on 20 May 2024. The deadline for uploading exam papers on SAPSS are also discussed in these meetings and the importance of ensuring that exam papers are internally and externally moderated before uploading on SAAPSS" is emphasised. Most importantly, lecturers and module coordinators are reminded that "change is not possible once uploaded" and that UJ policy requires that all "lecturers MARK and CAPTURE their own assessment marks on MAMS".

I take this opportunity to thank all lecturers and module coordinators for being playing a vital role in the School's efforts to remain one of the best schools of Public Administration, Public Management and Governance, and Public Policy in South Africa, Africa and globally. I also thank Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad for a job well done in ensuring the SPMGPP T&L Quality Control Committee functions effectively and efficiently.

We participated in multiple capacity building initiatives

To ensure quality teaching and learning as well as research and development, SPMGPP staff members are continuously engaged in capacity building initiatives. This year our staff attended multiple staff training sessions to sharpen their technological skills in both teaching and research. Among the many training opportunities provided to staff members were MOODLE for teaching and learning, and training on the use of AI tools in research provided by UJ Library. Our staff also attended training courses on T&L, assessment policy, assessment management, assessment processes, and assessment responsibilities which were conducted by the Centre for Academic Staff Development



(CASD) office. We are grateful for the support we received from our colleagues in other units of the university and for sharing their technical expertise with us. Finally, this academic year saw the successful completion of the Honours PMG programme review. A Task Team mainly comprising honours lecturers led by Prof. Danielle Nel-Sanders, who is also the Honours Programme Coordinator, did a great job.

We also take the opportunity to thank Mr. Mthuthuzeli Vongo from the UJ Academic Planning & Quality Promotion for his guidance in the programme review process. The following pages are dedicated to some of our super lecturers and colleagues engaging in different activities planned to improve our students' success rate in the School.



Dr. Carmen Joel and colleagues at the Soweto Campus during this year's Orientation Week for our first-year students.



Our first year students listening to important advice from Dr. Tasneem Majam (fourth from right, front row) and colleagues at the Soweto Campus during 2024.

Dr. Majam and Dr. Joel facilitated this first year session on 6 February. The duo was assisted by our highly talented administrator Mr. Mkululi (front row, left) and an army of super tutors and academics (see Dr. Victor Mlambo, second right, front row, next to Dr. Joel) at the SWC.



Postgraduate supervision: we strongly support and contribute to the National Development Plan (NDP) through our postgraduate supervision throughputs

The NDP 2030 envisages that “by 2030 over 25% of university enrolments should be at postgraduate level”. It also states that “international exchange partnerships should be pursued and encouraged”, and that “the target is to produce more than 100 doctoral graduates per million per year by 2030”. The NDP 2030 puts particular emphasis on the need to increase the number of African and women postgraduates, especially regarding PhDs, “to increase and improve research and innovation capacity and to make university staff more representative”.

It is heartwarming to report that the School continues to respond to the NDP in very significant ways. About 130 honours students, about 32 Masters graduates and 13 PhD students will graduate in 2024. The majority are black students, including a few from other African countries. To improve the PG capacity in the School, we have benefited from the support of our Post-Doctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs). I take this opportunity to thank every academic member in the School for their personal contribution to the PG student supervision. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Research, development and innovation: the School contributes more than 10% of the CBE Research and Development (RD) annual targets and all our staff members are engaged in research

While the School only has 13 academics and is the smallest in terms of the number of academic staff in the CBE and UJ, it produces more research output per capita across the CBE and UJ.

The School achieved a total of 40 research output units (ROUs) in 2020, 147 in 2023, and has already achieved 122 research outputs at the time of writing this newsletter on 29 November. We are undoubtedly well on our way to equal or exceed our 2023 ROUs achievement in 2024.

The super performance of this formidable School translates to approximately 10 research output units per capita and is arguably the highest in the entire university given the fact that the School’s academic staff component, which is the smallest at UJ.

Having produced over 122 ROUs at the point of writing this, and still counting, the School continues its tradition of

contributing more than 10% of the total CBE in terms of the annual ROUs targets.

This phenomenal achievement is credited to our academic staff, PG students, PDRFs, and Research Associates (RAs). In addition, in line with UJ’s stature as a leader in Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, over 20 units published in the School, and many postgraduate research topics, focus on 4IR technologies and their application in public service delivery. Furthermore, in line with the UJ Strategic Plan 2035, which puts a special emphasis on Societal Impact, all our research in the School covers one or more aspects of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Finally, at least 12 students’ (including 7 MA and five PhD graduates) research proposals focused on topics relating to 4IR and UN SDGs topics in 2024.



SPMGPP staff scoops many awards at the CBE 2024 Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony

This year, several staff members received awards at the CBE's - Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony. Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad received an award as the person with the highest number of research outputs in the SPMGPP, Dr. Eric Niyitunga won the top award for Masters Supervision in the CBE and Prof. Danielle Nel-Sanders was honoured as one of the Doctoral Supervisors who produced the most PhD graduates in the SPMGPP. The School had the highest number of staff members and Post-Doctoral Fellows winning awards in this year's CBE Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony. The following staff members were awarded certificates for being among the Top 20 researchers who produced most of the CBE's research output in 2024.

- Professor Dominique E. Uwizeyimana
- Professor Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad
- Professor Daniel F. Meyer
- Dr. Halalisani V Mlambo and
- Dr. Eric Niyitunga

Some of SPMGPP staff members at the CBE 2024 – Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony.



Prof. D.E. Uwizeyimana, CBE 2024 – Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony.



Dr. Victor Mlambo – CBE 2024 – Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony.



Photo 7: Prof. Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad – CBE 2024 – Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony.



Photo 8: Prof. Danie Meyer – CBE – Prestigious Research Awards Ceremony.

SPMGPP Post-Doctoral Research Fellows and Students win big at UJ award ceremony

The SPMGPP hosts about 30 external researchers (among others DPs, DVPs, VPs, PDRFs, SPDRFs and RAs). All of them have made significant contributions to the SPMGPP ROUs to date. More ROUs are expected before the end of the 2024 capturing season in 2025. In addition, many of our PDRFs have assisted in PG supervision to improve supervision capacity, throughput and the number of research topics, especially in the Honours Programme to provide students with more choices on the various topics. We are grateful for the contributions made by our DPs, DVPs, VPs, PDRFs, SPDRFs, RAs, and students in 2024. One of our PDRFs Dr. Kelechi Johnmary Ani won awards at UJ's Postgraduate Award Ceremony in recognition of his contributions to the School in 2024.



Picture right: Dr. K.J. Ani's award at the 2024 PDRF Award Ceremony.



Prof. D.E. Uwizeyimana receiving Dr. K.J. Ani's award on his behalf at the 2024 PDRF Award Ceremony.



The SPMGPP leads in the Pan-African and global partnerships project and International agenda

The SPMGPP has established the biggest footprint in UJ as well as the international and the African continents in the CBE. The School established and manages over 30 partnerships between UJ, and between the School and many universities in Africa, Asia, Europe and America. This year the School signed three MOUs and 20 researchers (12 new; 8 renewal). In addition, thanks to the efforts of our staff members and alumni, we will be signing quite a few MOUs which are currently at different stages of vetting and signed. I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Eric Niyitunga for spearheading the signing of the MOU with the University of Burundi, Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad for spearheading the MOU with the University of Mauritius, Prof. Dominique Uwizeyimana for spearheading the MOU with the Institute of Public Administration (Zambia) and Prof. Danie Meyer for spearheading the signing of agreements with Infrastructure South Africa (ISA) and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) during this year. At the time of writing this newsletter, Prof. Vyas-Doorgapersad is visiting the HSNL University in Mumbai, India, where she is expected to meet the Vice-Chancellor next week to establish partnerships.

As a result of the School's footprint on the African and global stage, the School received many international applications for PG studies and at least five international PG students were enrolled in 2024, including four PhD and one MA international students. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Jahed Mohammed for being a key role player in hosting the Deputy President Honorable Paul Mashatile earlier this year, but also for allowing the School to access and benefit from his extensive network. Commissioner **Prof. Mohammed Jahed** is a representative and member of the NDP Commissioner and has been serving in the CBE Senate Academic Freedom Committee (SAFC) since 2024. We thank and appreciate Prof. Jahed's wisdom and contribution to the School, and most importantly for raising the SPMGPP, CBE and UJ flag in several forums.



NPC Commissioner Prof. Mohammed Jahed, a senior member of the SPMGPP.



International and National conference attendance

The School is happy to report that almost every one of our 14 permanent academic staff members and temporary lecturers were supported by the School to attend national and international conferences in 2024. In total, SPMGPP staff members (and PDRFs) attended 24 national and international conferences this year. The large number of conferences attended this year highlights our commitment to provide opportunities for all our staff members, students and admin staff to gain international experience.

Among the many staff members who attended conferences was Mr. Sithomola Oriel who attended the International Conference on Accountability (Durban 2024), where he delivered a presentation focused on the theme of Public Sector Management, with particular emphasis on the state of ethics within the public sector. The conference convened experts and practitioners from diverse fields to explore the critical role of governance and accountability in enhancing the effectiveness of public and private sector institutions. In his presentation, Mr. Sithomola addressed key challenges related to ethical practices in public administration, discussing the difficulties faced by South Africa's public sector in maintaining integrity and transparency through the Kantian perspective. By applying Kantian ethics, which emphasises duty, moral law, and the importance of intention, the paper suggests that South Africa can develop more robust strategies that promote integrity and accountability. Dr. Onicah Motloun from our School presented a paper at the 23rd SAAPAM annual conference held in Sun City, Rustenburg (North-West) from 23 to 27 September. Dr. Ongopotse Madumo O presented a paper at the National Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences / South African BRICS Think Tank and the School of Management and Economics at the University of Limpopo. Our rising stars, Ms. Nthabiseng

Khoza and Mr. Christian Kayembe, attended and presented papers at the 23rd Annual SAAPAMSAAPAM annual conference in Sun City. The theme of the conference was "Post-Apartheid" South Africa at 30: Making Sense of the Past, Understanding the Present and Charting the Future of the Administration of the State". Ms. Khoza presented a paper on "Navigating the Seventh Administrative Governance: Future Prospects for Coalition Government in South Africa". Mr. Kayembe participated in the International Digital Dialogues Conference in Berlin, Germany, on 21 and 22 November. The conference was organised by the German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport. Mr. Kayembe provided the following feedback:

"As part of Working Group 2, which focused on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), I engaged in dynamic discussions and debates with experts and stakeholders. The diverse perspectives shared by individuals from countries like Mexico, India, Singapore, and Kenya, as well as industry leaders from organisations such as Wikimedia and Siemens, enriched my understanding of the global landscape of DPI. These conversations highlighted the critical role of cross-border collaboration in addressing shared challenges and harnessing opportunities in the digital realm."

In addition, Prof. Uwizeyimana, attended the ASPA's 2024 Annual Conference from 12 to 16 April in Minneapolis, USA; and both Prof. Uwizeyimana and Dr. Mlambo attended the 6th Vietnam Symposium on Leadership and Public Policy (VSLP-2024), which took place on 29 and 30 October in Hu Chi Mihn City (Saigon), Vietnam. In addition, Prof. Danielle Nel-Sanders and Prof. Jarbandhan, and Mr. Kayembe attended the IASIA 2024 Conference in Bloemfontein. Prof Vyas-Doorgapersad attended multiple international conferences including a visit to the HSNC University in Mumbai, India, on 2 November.



Some of the photos of our staff attending international conferences:



Prof. D.E. Uwizeyimana addressing delegates at the Gala Dinner at the 6th Vietnam Symposium on Leadership and Public Policy (VSLP-2024), that took place on 29 and 30 October in Hu Chi Mihn City (Saigon), Vietnam.



SPMGPP staff members and international delegates raising a glass to each's success at the Kimdo Royal Hotel after a successful conference in Hu Chi Mihn City (Saigon), Vietnam-2024.



Prof. Danielle Nel-Sanders and Prof. Vain Jarbandhan at the IASIA 2024 Conference – Bloemfontein, South Africa.



Mr. Sithomola Oriel attended the International Conference on Accountability in Durban 2024 (front row, behind the Welcome Sign).



Prof. Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad visiting the HSNC University in Mumbai, India to discuss the MoU of partnership.



Prof. Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad at the HSNL University in Mumbai, India.



Dr. Onicah Motloutse presented a paper at the 23rd SAAPAM annual conference in Sun City, North-West.



Dr. Ongopotse Madumo presented a paper at the National Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences/ South African BRICS Think Tank and the School of Management and Economics at the University of Limpopo.



Ms. Nthabiseng Khoza attended the 23rd Annual SAAPAM Conference in Sun City, North-West.



Mr. Christian Kayembe participates in the International Digital Dialogues Conference in Berlin, Germany.

SPMGPP in the media

In line with UJ's strategic objective of global excellence and stature, the School continues to extend its presence in the local and global media. This year, staff in the SPMGPP published about 50 opinion pieces, and were interviewed on TV and radio.

I am taking this opportunity to thank Prof. Meyer and other colleagues in the School for their contributions to the CBE and UJ's global excellence strategic objective.



Workshop on Virtual Evaluation held at the 9th Biennial SAMEA (South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association) Conference

Lesedi Matlala facilitated a workshop on Virtual Evaluation as part of the prestigious 9th Biennial SAMEA (South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association) Conference, held from 7–11 October in Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference, themed “*Vuca-Vuka! Catalysing Change Through Monitoring and Evaluation*”, emphasized the critical need for proactive responses to our world’s volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) nature. This theme highlighted the importance of adaptability, collaboration, and innovation in addressing the challenges posed by recent global and local uncertainties. The workshop on Virtual Evaluation aligned seamlessly with this theme, equipping participants with the tools and knowledge to embrace virtual methodologies in their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices. The session aimed to inspire participants to drive equitable and sustainable development in South Africa by fostering discussions around adaptability and technological advancements. Through this contribution, Matlala played a vital role in shaping conversations on leveraging innovative M&E approaches to address the complexities of our dynamic world.

In addition to facilitating the workshop, Lesedi Matlala organized and chaired a panel discussion on VE insights in South Africa, bringing together a diverse group of speakers who shared insights from various research papers. The panel provided a platform to explore the challenges and opportunities of implementing VE methodologies in South Africa. Beyond moderating the panel, Matlala presented two thought-provoking papers at the SAMEA Conference. The first paper, “*Exploring the Perspectives of South African Evaluators on Virtual Evaluation*,” examined evaluators’ attitudes, experiences, and challenges in

adopting VE. The second paper focused on *Emerging Evaluators (EEs)*, shedding light on their experiences and contributions within the South African M&E landscape. Both presentations showcased Lesedi’s commitment to advancing evaluation practices and fostering dialogue in the field. Notably, one of these papers has been published by the *African Evaluation Journal (AEJ)*, further solidifying his impact and thought leadership in the M&E community.





SPMGPP student achievements at global events

Our students continue to be the School's ambassadors on the international stage. Dr. Teddy Nalubega, a PhD graduate student under the supervision of Prof. Uwizeyimana was invited to Cairo, Egypt, to be part of the expert panelists at the OECD-African Union Artificial Intelligence dialogue 2.0 from 19 to 21 November, focusing on "AI in Africa: From Strategy to Implementation". During this conference, Dr. Nalubega, was part of a team of panelists who were tasked to explore "Responsible AI in Public Service Delivery" Dr. Nalubega shared practical case examples on where AI has been effectively deployed to enhance public service delivery, and proposed possible opportunity areas where countries can leverage AI to address public sector challenges; discussed how governments are addressing the challenge of developing AI skills within the public workforce, the needed robust digital infrastructure, and the anticipated impact of this technology on governance and citizen engagement; shared appropriate guardrails governments have established to ensure AI technologies are deployed not just effectively, but responsibly, centering on algorithmic transparency, using public procurement as a lever to ensure trustworthy AI, ensuring that the public sector develops competencies and capabilities to address the pressing challenges; shared strategies on how decision-makers have been persuaded to continue investing in AI technologies for the public sector, despite the challenges and failures to achieve the AI systems' intended outcomes; and presented insights on how the OECD is uniquely positioned to

explore AI use in the public sector across diverse contexts and geographies; and shared the interesting current trends in AI adoption among governments. Dr. Nalubega shared the stage with renowned panelists such as Sarah Handyside, Algorithmic Transparency Lead for the Responsible Technology Adoption Unit (RTA) at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), United Kingdom Prof. Hoda Baraka, Advisor to the Minister of ICT for Technological Talents and National Artificial Intelligence Lead, Egypt; Angela Hanson, Public Sector Innovation Lead, Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI), OECD; and Leila Elmergawi, Director Strategy and Senior Advisor for Critical and Emerging Technology, US Department of State. Finally, a SPMGPP doctoral student, Mr. Akwesi Acquah, under the supervision of Prof. Nel-Sanders, had the opportunity to participate in the CBT Doctoral Conference 2024 held at the University of Oxford Business School from 9 to 10 September. This prestigious event brought together 12 doctoral students from across the globe, where each student presented their research papers and received valuable feedback from peers and experts in the fields.

During the two-day conference, Mr. Akwesi presented his paper "The Politics of Robot Taxation: A Cross-National Perspective of Lawmakers in the United Kingdom and Switzerland" The feedback he received will be instrumental in refining his research and advancing the discourse on this important and timely topic. The SPMGPP is very proud of our alumni and students.



Dr. Teddy Nalubega (red outfit) at the Global Dialogue 2.0 in Egypt.



Dr. Teddy Nalubega with the Chair of OECD-AIGO-GAI.



Dr. Teddy Nalubega with Prof. Conrad Tucker of CMU-Africa.



Mr. Akwesi Acquah presenting his research at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom.



Community Engagement projects

SPMGPP students have been involved in several Community Engagement (CE) projects to give back to communities, and to apply their academic knowledge and practice what they learn in class. Mr. Kayembe is at the helm of the CE projects for the SPMGPP. This year alone, 95 of our students and staff members participated in six community engagement projects and over 700 UG and PG students participated in guest lectures in 2024. One of this year's flagship Community Engagement Projects is titled: **"What About the Boy Child?"** Workshop hosted on Saturday 8 June at Safe-Hub, Jabulani, Soweto, Johannesburg. SPMGPP students participate in a community project to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual, and other types of exploitation.

Project description

In June 2024, the SPMGPP's (and partners') activity on community engagement focused on SDG 5. SDG 5 aims to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual, and other types of exploitation. This activity targeted 30 boys from various different parts of Johannesburg. The intervention's main goal was to help boys to make life decisions that improve their ability to relate to women and girls. This will be accomplished through organised self-care, encouraging interactions with girls,

and increased involvement in the community.

The SPMGPP, together with partners such as Safe-Hub and Classroom Buddies, organised a workshop targeting young boys from grades 9 to 12. The workshop covered various topics presented by different speakers. The topics covered included male hygiene, gender-based violence (GBV), career guidance and entrepreneurship, mental health, youth involvement in active citizenship, and motivational talks. The speakers were experts in various fields, such as academia, youth activism and business.

Mr. Kayembe provided the following feedback:

"The workshop catered for 30 boys from various different parts of Johannesburg. At the end of the workshop, the participants received gift bags each containing hygienic products such as bath soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste, roll-on and body spray, body cream and face cloths. All the speakers were exclusively male, and each speaker was given a platform to address their assigned topics".

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Kayembe, Dr. Motloun, Dr. Joel and our students for ensuring that our students receive these opportunities to give back to society.

See photos of the SPMGPP students at the "What About the Boy Child?" Workshop below:







STAFF NEWS

Welcome

The School is happy to welcome Prof. Ntwanano H.E. Mathebula who will commence his duties on 1 January 2025.

Prof. Mathebula has made his mark in the discipline of Public Administration through his studies, research and in several publications, UG teaching and learning, and PG (honours, MA and PhD) supervision. Prof. Mathebula holds a Masters' Degree in Public Administration, and a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Limpopo. His MA dissertation focused on the "Assessment of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as a Management Planning Tool for Effective Service Delivery: A Case of Selected Municipalities in Mopani District Municipality; and his doctorate thesis focused on "Ethical Dilemmas and Clientelism in the Allocation of Low-Cost Housing in the Giyani Area, Limpopo Province".



Professor Ntwanano H.E. Mathebula.

Professorial Inauguration: Professor Vain Jarbandhan



Professor Vain Jarbandhan.

This year, Prof. Vain Jarbandhan delivered his inaugural address on 31 July. The title of his address was "Mission Impossible: Professionalizing the Public Service".



SPMGPP Tutors and Peer Mentors achievements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our tutors and peer mentors at APK and SWC for their dedication, hard work and professionalism in caring for our students. All our tutors attended tutor training as per the university's requirements. The tutors collectively assisted first year students in transitioning from secondary school to university. The tutors are responsible for facilitating practical sessions to assist students with the assignment writing process. We know that our tutoring system is effective due to this year's excellent pass rate, which is above the university average.

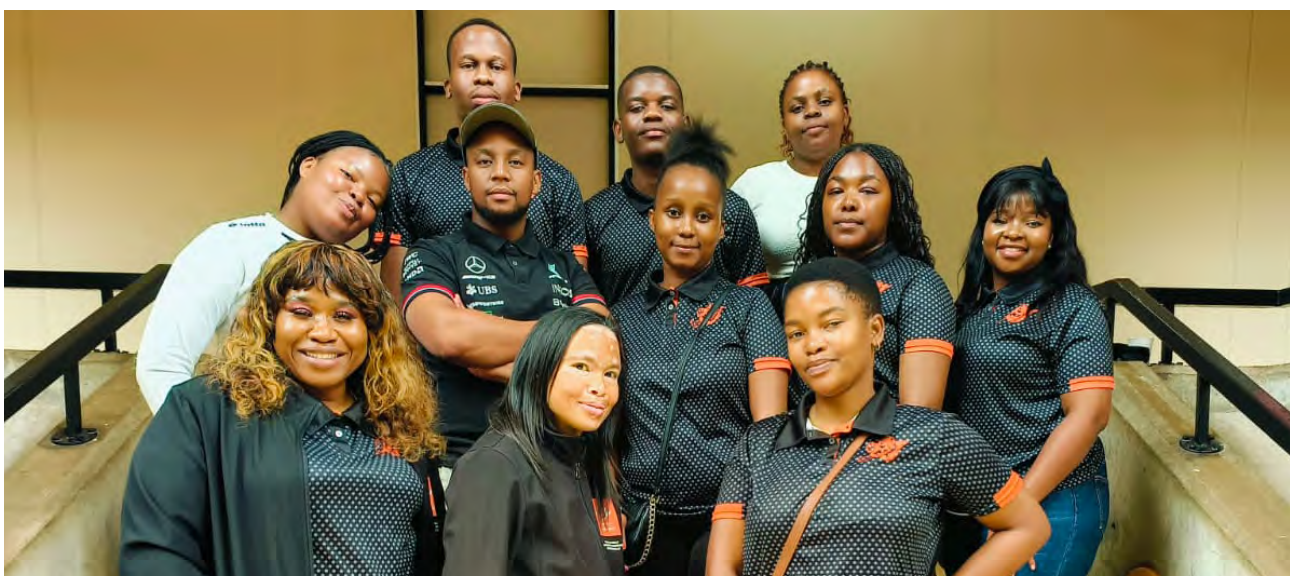
I take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Samuel Sekanka for winning the award as one of the best UJ tutors at the UJ Top Tutors' Award Ceremony 2024. I also thank Ms. Khoza and Dr. Joel for their support with our tutor programme. To celebrate the excellent work performed by our tutors, the School organised a farewell for all our tutors to celebrate their individual professional academic achievements, but also to thank them for being such a wonderful support team to our students and staff members.

In addition, 12 of our Peer Mentors were acknowledged at the CBE Peer Mentor Acknowledgment Ceremony that took place on 16 July at the Chinua Achebe Auditorium, Campus Library. The mission of "The College of Business and Economics' First Year Peer Mentor Programme", is to provide much-needed support to first year students, so that they can better adjust, settle in and make progress towards achieving their potential in UJ. The SPMGPP would once again like to thank our 2024 Peer Mentors for their invaluable contribution. Our teaching and learning programmes would not have been a success without their dedication, effort and zeal.



Mr. Samuel Sekanka posing with his mentor Ms. Ntabiseng Khoza at the UJ Top Tutors' Award Ceremony 2024.

Picture below: SPMGPP Tutors at this year's Fairwell Function.





The SPMGPP staff and tutors year end function

The School achieved all its set objectives due to the hard work dedication and professionalism of all our academic and administrative staff members, with the support of our tutors and peer mentors. This year has been an absolute success because of the combined efforts of everyone in the School. In recognition of the hard work and selflessness of our staff members, the School hosted a wonderful end of the Year Function in honour of all our staff members and tutors. At this event, the School Director, Prof. Uwizeyimana, thanked everyone for their efforts, and acknowledged that the School is like a choir, where everyone has different talents and has a specific voice or tune, and that the job of the choirmaster is to ensure everyone sings to the best of their ability.

While acknowledging that some individuals excel more in certain areas than others; the Director thanked everyone for using their individual God-given talents to make their contribution to the success of the School in a very special way. He acknowledged and thanked those who are excellent in research for producing most of the School's research output, which resulted in the School being the best in the CBE; those who are excellent and fine lecturers for their global standards in teaching our students, which explains the high success rate in all our UG and PG modules; and thanked the School's admin staff for going the extra mile to ensure that the School runs smoothly on daily basis. Prof. Uwizeyimana emphasised that the SPMGPP is not only our workplace, but also our home in his statement that "the SPMGPP is us and we are the SPMGPP".

Here are some of our precious staff members at the function:



SPMGPP staff members at the End of Year Function on 28 November 2024.



SPMGPP staff members at the End of Year Function on 28 November.

Going forward – 2025 and beyond

The year 2025 will be a year for consolidation of our achievements in research, teaching and learning, community engagement and Pan-African partnerships. Efforts will be made to streamline our certificate offerings. To do so, the current Higher Certificate in Local Governance and Management (F34010) (online) and the Advanced Certificate in Local Governance and Management (C34010) (online), will be aligned and fully integrated into the School's UG programmes. In doing so, the School will increase its teaching and lecturing capacity by drawing on the current and future SPMGPP academia, most of whom are internationally renowned. It will be easy for students who are completing the Advanced Certificate in Municipal Governance with 65% (with no historical debt) to take part in the Formal Degree Programmes, especially during the second year of Public Leadership and Governance at the SWC.

Most importantly, the year 2025 will see the introduction of a new PG Diploma at NQF level 8. In line with and as the School's contribution to "A National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector" adopted by the South African Government in October 2022, this non-subsided Continuous Education Programme (CEP) will assist in capacity building and the professionalisation of the public service. This non-subsided CEP will provide an opportunity for everyone

working in government to increase their management and governance capacity. It will also provide anyone with a bachelor's degree in any field of study or discipline who wants to understand the functioning of government to do so.

As a leading School in Public Management, Public Governance and Public Policy education in South Africa and Africa, the SPMGPP is likely to drive the process of establishing the envisaged UJ School of Public Affairs.

As we firmly and steadily forge ahead into the future, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the wisdom of the SPMGPP MANCO members, the resilience of our academic colleagues, the dedication and hard work of our administration staff and tutors, and most importantly, the tenacity and commitment of our UG and PG students.

You are individually and collectively the true heroes and champions in the SPMGPP's efforts to achieve the School's vision, and make significant and sustainable contributions to the strategic objectives of UJ and the CBE.

I wish you the best for the Festive Season and a prosperous new year 2025.

Ngiyabonga. Kea leboga. Murakoze. Thank you.



Miss Jabulile Mathekganye

SPMGPP Secretary
School of Public Management,
Governance and Public Policy
Master of Administration
Public Management and Governance, UJ
Telephone: 011 559 3225/011 559 2529
E-mail: jmathekganye@uj.ac.za



Mr. Mkululi Gacula

SPMGPP Administrator (APK)
School of Public Management,
Governance and Public Policy
Master of Administration
Public Management and Governance, UJ
Telephone: 0115592447
E-mail: mkululig@uj.ac.za



Ms Moepya, Ontiretse

SPMGPP Administrative Assistant (SWC)
SWC- School of Public Management,
Governance & Public Policy
Telephone: 0115593225.
Email: ontiretsem@uj.ac.za

