



HELDERBERG COLLEGE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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YOUR CHRISTIAN VARSITY OF EXCELLENCE

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been over a year since our students were sent home due to COVID-19 protocols. Subsequently, teaching and learning under Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT) immediately came into action. The College has faced many challenges during this time, but has managed, by the grace of God, to overcome them. We thank God for being with us throughout these difficult times.

Our current enrolment is 284 students, with 49 students staying in the two College residences. The rest of the student body participate in ERT from their homes despite challenges around Covid-19, its vicious mutations, and lockdown. We started our academic year on the 8th of March, and the final first semester examinations took place from 21 June to 6 July 2021.

Even though our students are attending all their classes online, lecturers remain determined to deliver the highest level of Christ-centred teaching that Helderberg College of Higher Education is known for. Despite attending classes virtually and being separated physically, all over South Africa and outside our borders, our students still receive the individual attention from our lecturing staff they would have received were they on campus.

Our Academic Support and Administrative Staff have also made every effort to ensure the continued success of our students.

We are looking forward to the second semester of 2021 which will commence on the 4th of August, and pray that the year will once again be a successful academic year which will culminate in our graduation on the 12th of December. We value all the prayers and support that we have received since the beginning of the pandemic, and remain resolute to make even this difficult time reflect the value of Christ-centred education, vital now more than ever.

Tankiso Letseli, DLitt et Phil



A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SERVICES

At Helderberg College of Higher Education, students engage in a rigorous Christ-centred academic programme that necessitates that they spend a large part of their time reading, discussing, studying, and practising. However, in line with our wholistic view of education, at HCHE, we believe that it is fundamentally important not to neglect the body and soul while developing the mind. During the pandemic, with increased confinement indoors, decreased social interaction and fewer opportunities for exercise, it has become more important than ever to care for our physical and psychological well-being.

Every year HCHE has two week-long events, one is “Week of Spiritual Emphasis” (WOSE) and the other is “Wellness Week”. These events make explicit our commitment to the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual capacities of our students. Under normal circumstances, these events would be held in person and filled with interactive activities and presentations. This year we had to adhere to COVID-19 regulations, meaning only some students were able to participate in all the activities in person, so we made use of the power of the internet and live-streamed all the talks and programmes on our Facebook page.

This year WOSE was held from the 11th to 17th April, featuring Pastor Nhlanhla Buthelezi, an HCHE alumnus. Meetings were held twice a day (morning and evening) for 7 days in a row, a real marathon of inspirational and informative topics that challenged students to form their relationship with God, the God of youth who will stand by us through every trial. Students were actively involved in the programme, and the programmes received positive comments online, and many students came forward for a special prayer of dedication to stand for God whatever comes. All Pastor Nhlanhla Buthelezi’s talks can be watched [here](#)

Wellness Week was held from the 17th to the 21st of May and was focused on the physical and psychological aspects of life, particularly those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with regulations put in place to restrict its spread. The theme for the week was: “Your Body, God’s Temple, Our Worship”, emphasising that our bodies are not our own they are God’s temple and that following His principles of health not only gives us physical benefits but is our expected spiritual worship. Ps. Poswa shared a very personal message related to sugar and a lifestyle of fresh and whole foods. His practical advice for eating healthy on a budget, and “eating to the Lord” while we educate ourselves about how to make appetising, whole, healthy, traditional foods, was much appreciated. Psychologist Alta Kibi, another HCHE alumnus, encouraged students to build and appreciate their social support base, keeping our minds clear of the pandemonium, and how to take control of our thoughts to ensure we focus on that which is good, pure, and of good report. Prof. Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya shared some of the cutting-edge epidemiological research she has been involved in, which shifted our understanding of the risks of the pandemic, particularly for young Black women in South Africa. Finally, Dr Luyanda Mbanga shared some of his insights gained from working as a physician at Groote Schuur Hospital. Staff and students enjoyed the beautiful song services, the warm soup and refreshments from the cafeteria on the cold winter night’s following the meetings. Students also received gifts to remind them of the messages and enjoyed some games and activities in the gym to get the blood and laughter flowing. The presentations can be watched by clicking [here](#), as they were live-streamed to our HCHE Facebook page.

HCHE remains committed to preparing students for not only this life, but for the life to come, and as far as possible, provide them with the tools that will enable them to successfully navigate the challenges of this life, and help others to do likewise, all the while following the example of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

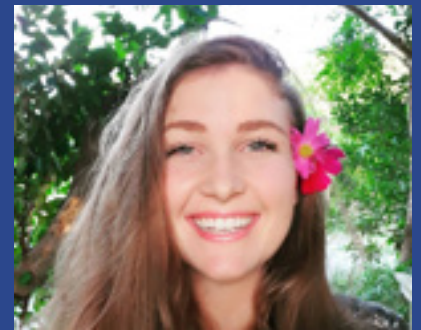
Professor Conrad S Zygmont, PhD
Acting Director: Student Services

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & EDUCATION EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In the second semester, 2021, the FOSSE team will warmly welcome two new full-time staff members to lecture within the Education Department.

Xan-Lee Fraser (BEd Foundation Phase Teaching; Hons BEd in Education Management) currently worked at Taipei Adventist American School as the First Grade teacher, and is studying her Master's in Education through the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. She is majoring in both Curriculum and Instruction, as well as Educational Administration. Xan-Lee articulated the following: "Although I enjoy my previous occupation and location fully, I am looking forward to this new chapter in my life at HCHE. A new challenge awaits in the form of being a junior lecturer. It will definitely be a change of scenery to teach adults instead of bouncy, excitable first graders. Even so, I am happy to embark on the journey that God has prepared for me. The most humbling and awesome part of the job that I can think of is that I am blessed enough to form part of the team that will touch the lives of teachers in the making. Wow! What an honour!"



Thobekile Tshuma (BEd Foundation Phase Teaching; Hons Ed in Inclusive Education; MEd in Curriculum Studies) is looking forward to teaching within the Education Department. She has been working with primary school learners for close to twenty years and is in the process of registering for a PhD, with a focus on the teaching of Mathematics and languages in primary schools. Thobekile shared that "It is indeed a privilege to be afforded an opportunity to join the HCHE family. Currently, I am I look forward to meeting, interacting with and building long-lasting relations with both students and fellow colleagues. It is my hope that the students and I will grow academically as we share knowledge and skills and as we embark on various research interests. I am confident that joining the HCHE will contribute to my spiritual growth."



FACULTY OF BUSINESS

MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Refilwe Khumatake (BCom, MBA) is a lecturer who understands that beyond delivery of the subject content, the most important thing to understand about teaching and learning is the students themselves. As part of HCHE community, she will be responsible for lecturing Business Strategy, International Management, Work Integrated Learning, Supply & Purchase Management, as well as Office Management in the Faculty of Business. Refilwe is a highly self-motivated individual, who perceive life's difficulties as challenges and tools for self-knowledge. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Business Administration at Vaal University of Technology and her research focus is on Investigating the Resilience of South African Small Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME's) amid the Corona Virus Disease Pandemic (Covid-19).



Mrs Khumatake will also be the Program Coordinator for the BBA management program

NEW HCHE GENERATOR

Since the 1990s reports to Government have warned of an impending energy crisis in South Africa. As predicted, chronic power shortages began late in 2007 and lasted into May 2008, and was repeated again in 2014-2015, and 2019-2020, and again since May this year. The revolving load-shedding schedules have had a negative impact on the economy of the country and directly impacted on teaching and learning activities across the country. Since 2020, with the move to ERT, load-shedding has had a very acute and negative impact on teaching and learning with lecturers and students on campus not being able to engage in their teaching and learning activities while the power was off. This also had implications for the IT infrastructure and management on campus. In order to ensure that the College could effectively maintain online teaching activities despite repeated load-shedding, HCHE has purchased a generator to ensure the lights stay on at the College and teaching can continue irrespective of whether Eskom is providing power or not. This will allow students to continue using the computer lab and other facilities, and for lecturers to continue with classes, despite future load-shedding schedules.



PROGRAMMES OFFERED

BCom (Accounting)
BA (Communication)
BA (Psychology)
BA (Theology)

BA (Psychology)
BBA (Management)
BEd (Foundation Phase Teaching)
HCert (Office Management)

Foundation Year:

National Senior Certificate without minimum requirements for admission to degree studies, join our one-year, Foundation Year Programme, which will allow for admission to degree studies.

CONTACT US

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Helderberg College of Higher Education is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution in terms of Section 54(1)(c) of the Higher Education Act,