

## **The Postgraduate Associate (PgA) Programme**

As part of the faculty's transformation strategy linked to research, the faculty offers a Postgraduate Associate (PgA) Leadership Programme, formally introduced by the Dean in 2017 and headed by the Deputy Dean of the Faculty, Dr Lynn Biggs. The PgAs are all master's or doctoral candidates (LLM and LLD's). The faculty appointed nine Postgraduate Associates (PgAs) in 2017, 15 in 2018, and 22 for 2019 (with 12 of the PgAs from 2018 remaining with the faculty for a second, final year).

In addition to enhancing the students' qualifications and employability, the increase in the number of students obtaining postgraduate qualifications assists in increasing the pool of candidates for filling academic vacancies, predominantly with outstanding black and female South Africans.

PgAs receive a market-related salary and contribute to lectures on the diploma courses, run tutorials and assist with marking. At the same time, they are given a solid amount of time to focus on their LLM or LLD studies.

A growing number of PgAs have secured articles at reputable law firms or have joined the Bar while still registered for their postgraduate qualification. The vast majority of PgAs are South African, with a few originating from other African countries, notably Zimbabwe and Zambia.

## **The Leadership Programme**

The Dean and Deputy Dean developed the Leadership Programme and started it in 2017 for the PgAs, as well as for the candidate attorneys at Mandela University's Law Clinic, and any interested students and staff members.

Once a month on Fridays, the faculty invites business professionals. Legal specialists and notable, successful individuals from a range of professions to provide insights on pressing issues, including the impact of politics on the law of South Africa (such as how land expropriation without compensation impacts the economy and the country); what it is like to practise as an attorney or advocate; how to budget and plan financially (many of the PgAs and candidate attorneys are receiving a salary for the first time); how to market themselves and see themselves and the faculty as a brand; and what impacts positively and negatively on this, including the do's and don'ts of social media.

## **Research Hub**

Embarking on postgraduate research for the first time can be a daunting endeavour, but with support it can be an inspiring, exciting time. The faculty's Professor Patrick Vrancken, the incumbent of the SARChI Chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, leads monthly 90-minute lunchtime research hub sessions and everyone pursuing postgraduate research is welcome to attend. Postgraduates use the opportunity to ask questions about any research areas with which they are grappling and benefit from sharing in a collegial research journey.

Staff members, including the Executive Dean, senior and junior staff members engaged with research, frequently attend and participate in these useful sessions, offering their perspectives on the topics under discussion.