Student Organisations and University Experiences at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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A Research Report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Industrial Psychology. Johannesburg, 2011.
DECLARATION

I, Bafana Lesley Nhlapo, declare that this is my own unaided work. It is being submitted for the degree of Master of Arts in Industrial Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at this or any other University.

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_____day of _______________ 2011
ABSTRACT

The legacy of apartheid with regards to a poor education system continues to have negative effects on today’s students. Students in university, due to a number of reasons, continue to experience stress as in many other parts of the world. At the same time, sense of community conveys itself as a concept that is very influential and shows some positive characteristics when it comes to wellbeing. This study makes an effort to understand the experiences of students in student organisations with regards to their experiences of stress and sense of community. This is given the peculiarity of their experience and their involvement and participation in the university. Amongst other things, the study shows the benefits that are associated with active membership in student organisations, factors that contribute to stress amongst these students, their experiences of strain, their ways of dealing with stress and their sense of community towards the university community at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. This is an exploratory (non-experimental) study. As such, there are some inferences and generalisations that cannot be made. It is further recommended that more efforts be made to understand the student community and what contributes to student success, failure and wellbeing over and above the factors that are well known and well researched.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First I wish to thank God. The love you have for me continues to puzzle me. I do not deserve it. I shall continue trying to live my life to your satisfaction. Thank you for Calvary.

I wish to thank my supervisor Professor Karen Milner, who, through this journey, taught me a lot of things that I will continue to appreciate and use this as long as I contribute to the world.

I wish to thank the Department of Psychology under the leadership of Professor Andrew Thatcher. Your patience with me, motivation, inspiration and understanding will never be forgotten. I thank you all.

I wish to thank my family. My mother Duduzile Nhlapo and my brother Mahlomola Nhlapo in particular and the rest of my family in general, thank you for the continuous support. Through all the difficulties we experienced you were always there. I love you dearly. Through my achievements, I also wish to honour the memory of my late sister Simangele Nhlapo. Siyakukhumbula.

I also wish to thank Zongile Nomfundo Mthimkhulu. Comrade Kwality, your contribution in my life at this point is invaluable. You continue to give me reasons to live. I cannot thank you enough for all you have done for me and for us. This is, but one of the aspects your motivation has extended to.

I thank the organisations in the Mass Democratic Movement, specifically the organisations in the Progressive Youth Alliance at Wits and elsewhere. Comrades, I thank you for the confidence you show in me and the passion we share for transforming this country and the world.

I wish to thank the Student Representative Council of the academic year 2009/10. You too walked with me through this journey. Leading with you was an honour and continued to grow and develop me. YOUR SRC (STILL) CARES

I thank all students registered at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in 2009 and 2010. In leading you I have learned much and grew remarkably. You kept me on my toes and stretched my scope of thinking while motivating me at the same time.

Lastly, I thank all artists that continue to write motivation in their music and inspire ordinary people like me. Staying in a shack in Orange Farm, you reminded me that I could go far. Thanks everyone.
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