BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.

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NAME: Mhlanga, Fortune Solani

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): fsmhlanga

POSITION TITLE: Dean of the School of Applied Computational Sciences and Professor of Computer Science and Data Science

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE *(if applicable)*	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Harding University, Searcy, AR	B.S	08/1984	Computer Science
New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ	M.S.	05/1989	Computer Science
New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ	PhD	05/1993	Computer Science

A. Personal Statement

I have the expertise, leadership, training, and motivation necessary to successfully lead the Data Science training components on research projects. My 35 years of teaching supplemented with 7 years as chair of computer sciences, 5 years as director of an informatics and electronics R&D institute, a total of 8 years as executive director of a school of computing and technology, 5 years as a dean of a college of computing and technology, and now as dean of a school of applied computational sciences and professor of computer science and data science have afforded me with a unique perspective and an opportunity to collaborate with research scientists and to help students from underrepresented groups attain a rich educational experience that serves them for a lifetime. This has provided me with valuable insights and broader perspective from which to develop administrative, teaching, research, and service commitments and goals. I have maintained an active and productive research program for more than 20 years in computer science, data science, and Information Technology. Consequently, I believe that this background will assist me greatly as I work toward fulfilling the integration of data science instruction on NIH-funded projects.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

2021 – Present	Dean, School of Applied Computational Sciences; Professor of Computer Science and Data Science, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN
2020 – 2021	Executive Director, Data Science Institute; Professor of Computer Science and Data Science, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN
2014 - 2020	Dean, College of Computing and Technology, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN
2011 - 2014	Executive Director, School of Computing and Informatics, Lipscomb University, Nashville, TN
2010 - 2011	Director, School of Information Technology and Computing, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
2007 - 2010	Professor, School of Information Technology and Computing, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
2004 - 2007	Chair and Professor, Department of Computer Sciences, Faulkner University, Montgomery, AL
2002 - 2004	Associate Professor, College of Business, Faulkner University, Montgomery, AL

1998 - 2002	Director, Informatics and Electronics Institute, Scientific & Industrial Research & Development Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe
1994 - 1997	Chair and Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
1993 - 1994	Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
1985 - 1986	Systems Analyst & Training Officer, Realtime Computer Systems, Harare, Zimbabwe

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2014 - Present	ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) Computer Science Program Evaluator
2014 - Present	Information and Telecommunications Education and Research Association (ITERA)
2013 - Present	Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS)
2013 - Present	Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS)
2013 - 2016	Member, Nashville Technology Council (NTC) Board
2009 - Present	Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP)
2009 - 2011	Senior Advisor, International Federation of Multimedia Associations (FIAM), Senior Advisor on African Digital Media (International)
2003 - Present	International Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)
2003 - Present	Institute for Electrical & Electronic Engineering (IEEE)
2001	Member, Commonwealth Expert Group on Information Technology for the Commonwealth High Level Review Group, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, UK

Honors

2014   Distinguished Paper Award given by the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) on paper entitled "*On Adapting a War-Gaming Discrete Event Simulator with Big Data and Geospatial Modeling Toward a Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence*".

2009   Meritorious Award given by the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) on paper entitled "*Towards an Abstract Model for Academia and Information Technology Sector Collaborative Partnerships: Responding to the 'West Texas Coalition for Innovation and Commercialization' Initiative*".

2009   Invited lecture on Multimedia Software Development. The 5th World Summit on Internet and Multimedia, Sponsored by UNCTAD (the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), Shenyang, China.

C. Contribution to Science (*Relevant to Data Science*)

1. **Mhlanga, F.**, Perry, E. L., Noonan, E., Cantrell, W. A., Killian, K., et. al. (2018). Efforts toward a Feasibility Study to Identify Key Factors in Public Perception of Boko Haram Activities in Nigeria. 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 5 - 8.

2. **Mhlanga, F.**, Perry, E.L., Noonan, E. K., Cantrell, W. A., Killian, K., Ifeyinwa Ajah, Emeka Agwu, Joseph Igwe, Ebonyi State University, Nigeria Robert Kirchner (2017). Towards a Feasibility Study to Identify Key Factors in Public Perception of Boko Haram Activities in Nigeria. 2017 Alabama Simulation International Conference. October 24 – 26.

3. Perry, E.L., **Mhlanga, F. S.**, and Kirchner, R. (2017). Factors Affecting County Violence in the State of Texas. *SpringSim: 2017 Spring Simulation Multi-Conference*, Virginia Beach, VA, April 23 – 26.

4. **Mhlanga, F.** (2016). Socially Responsible Big Data and Analytics in a Thin Talent Pool.   INFORMS International Conference, Waikoloa, Hawaii, June 12 – 15.

5. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., and Kirchner, R. (2015). On Adapting a Military Combat Discrete Event Simulation with Big Data and Geospatial Modeling toward a Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence. *Journal of Information Systems Applied Research (JISAR), 8 (1), 42 - 55*. (http://jisar.org/2015-8/ ISSN: 1946-1836).

6. Perry, E.L., **Mhlanga, F. S.**, and Kirchner, R. (2015). A Stochastic Model for the Spread of Measles. *2015 Summer Simulation Multi-Conference*, Chicago, IL, July 26 – 29.

7. Perry, E.L., **Mhlanga, F. S.**, and Kirchner, R. (2015). Combined Linear Regression Models. *2015 Spring Simulation Multi-Conference*, Alexandria, VA, April 12 – 15.

8. Perry, E.L., **Mhlanga, F. S.**, and Kirchner, R. (2015). A Study of Interpersonal Violence in the State of Texas Using Linear Regression. *95th Annual Texas Section Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America*, San Antonio, TX, April 9 – 11.

9. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., and Kirchner, R. (2014). On Adapting a War-Gaming Discrete Event Simulator with Big Data and Geospatial Modeling toward a Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence. *Conference on Information Systems Applied Research (CONISAR)*, Baltimore, MD, November 6 – 8.

10. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., and Kirchner, R. (2014). Towards a Framework for Predictive Models of Socio-Economic Interactions of Autonomous Population Units: A Case Study on Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence. *SHARP 2014: Symposium on Healthcare and Analytics in Research and Practice*, Chattanooga, TN, October 16 – 17.

11. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., and Kirchner, R. (2014). Toward a Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence. *2014 Summer Simulation Multi-Conference*, Monterey, CA, July 6 – 10.

12. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., Hodza, P., Bassett, G., Nix, R., Randrianasolo, A., Ribeiro, D., Borera, E., Simmons, C., and Kirchner, R. (2014). On a Big Data and Geospatilly-Enabled Predictive Model Ecosystem for Interpersonal Violence. *2014 AlaSim International Conference and Exposition*, Huntsville, AL, May 6-7.

13. **Mhlanga, F. S.**, Perry, E. L., Wei, C., & Ng, P. A. (2013). Towards a Predictive Model Architecture for Current or Emergent Pandemic Situations. *2013 Summer Simulation Multi-Conference*, Toronto, Canada, July.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1NlUh8kll1bAsy/bibliography/public/

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

2017   Carnegie African Development Fellow, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria. Capacity Building: Curriculum co-development; Data Science Research; Graduate teaching; Training and mentoring. Funded by the Carnegie Foundation.

2010   Capacity Building through Temporary Return of Lecturers to Zimbabwe. Curriculum co-development; Research; Graduate teaching; Training and mentoring. Funded by the International Organization for Migration.

2009   Developed commercial software *rDNA: reporting Development Network Africa,* an on-line platform for Pan-Africa journalists to showcase best practices in telling Africa's development story, for Highway Africa (Rhodes University, South Africa). Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2007   Developed commercial software *JILS: Joint Immersive Learning Simulation* for Northrop Grumman, Montgomery AL. Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense.