



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

NOV 2018

# e-BRIEF



## Dear SPU Community

This is the first of our internal SPU e-briefs that aim to provide a channel for information and communication for staff on activities and developments across our University.

It arrives at the time when we are nearing the end of the fifth academic year in the life of a young SPU that has grown significantly and now requires a more systematic approach to the channels of communication within our institution.

You will be pleased to know that the SPU website is currently being overhauled

with a fresh design, updated information and some added features to showcase our significant achievements. This will be completed in December and will be proactively managed to ensure our new website remains updated and interesting.

I expect that you will see more of these forms of communication over 2019 and we will appreciate your comments and contributions as we progressively improve the usefulness of the e-brief.

Enjoy!

**Prof Yunus Ballim**  
Vice-Chancellor



## ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES ON THEIR WAY

The programmes confirmed for implementation in 2019 are:

- Advanced Diploma in Management
- Bachelor of Science Honours in Data

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## HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMOTE TRANSFORMATION

Transformation means more than numbers, more than race says Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor.

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SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH OUTLINES ITS PROGRESS FOR 2017/18, HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

Get your free copy here:

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## GRADUATION DAY 15.12.18

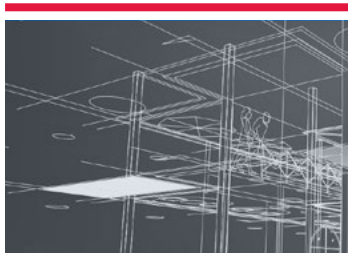
THE FOURTH GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE NEWLY-FLEDGED SPU WILL TAKE PLACE ON SAT, 15 DECEMBER 2018



## SPU MAKES PSC PLEDGE

Recently, Vice-Chancellor Professor Yunus Ballim signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Service Commission (PSC).

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

More buildings on their way. SPU is on its way to preparing new buildings for 2020 and 2021.

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## EXCITING CROWD SOURCING INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS

Launched in June 2017, FeenixTM, enables all South Africans to get involved in solving the tertiary education funding crisis and is a community-

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## STAFF

### SALARY NEGOTIATIONS

Salary negotiations with the University's two trade unions began on 23 October 2018. The University team is led by Chief Operations Officer Raymond Olander.

### STAFF APPOINTMENTS

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### NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

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THE SPU E-BRIEF IS PRODUCED BY THE SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES.

Contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome and can be sent, no later than 20 November, by (email) antoinette@mediaEQ.co.za or (mobile) 083 419 8939 or (email)angiechurch@icloud.com or (mobile) 082 371 2948

The next edition is due out in the first of week of December 2018.

Interim editor: Prof Patrick FitzGerald

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## ACADEMIC POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES ON THEIR WAY

### PROGRAMMES CONFIRMED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN 2019 ARE:

Advanced Diploma in Management

Bachelor of Science Honours in Data Science

Another eight programmes are under review for possible implementation from 2020:

Advanced Diploma in ICT - Software Development

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Languages

Bachelor of Social Science Honours in Heritage Studies

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Social Sciences

Postgraduate Diploma - Language Education

Bachelor of Commerce Honours

Postgraduate Diploma in Education - Mathematics Education

Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship

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## HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROMOTE TRANSFORMATION

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Transformation means more than numbers, more than race says Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor.

Talking to delegates who attended the colloquium on Transformation on Higher Education at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park earlier this week, Minister Pandor explains that there is clear evidence of a continued significant dissatisfaction with higher education's efforts at transformation.

"For some, the changes that have been made are described as symbolic compliance rather than a genuine attempt to effect fundamental change." Minister Pandor says.

Listing the challenges to be addressed, Minister Pandor says there is a need to bring more women into leadership, especially as higher education leaders.

She says the second challenge is to nurture and develop more senior black and women academics who are competent and comfortable in their craft.

The third challenge is to work really hard at successfully converting improved access, into successful transformation.

*"More black and women students should access and succeed in critical fields of study such as engineering, information technology, medicine and complex economics." Minister Pandor ends.*

The colloquium was attended by stakeholders in the sector, including the Ministry; Departmental officials; representatives of University South Africa (USAf), the Council on Higher Education (CHE); the South African Union of Students (SAUS), the Transformation Study Group (TSG); the Transformation Managers Forum (TMF); the Higher Education Transformation Network (HETN); the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), and the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) as well as institutional representatives.

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## EXCITING CROWD SOURCING INITIATIVE FOR STUDENTS

Launched in June 2017, Feenix™, enables all South Africans to get involved in solving the tertiary education funding crisis and is a community-assisted fundraising solution with tax-based incentives (Section 18A) for both individuals and businesses.

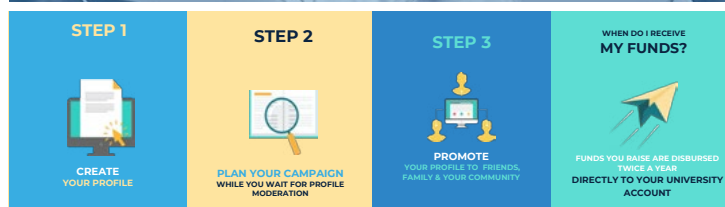
Feenix™ provides a unique opportunity for students to take their higher education funding goals into their own hands by raising the funds they require through their immediate networks and communities, while also providing funders with a tax-deductible donation structure (Section 18A) and the potential to maximise their B-BBEE scorecard.

Feenix™ offers B-BBEE points in the SED (socio-economic) and SD (skills development) sectors.

Feenix.org is a crowdfunding platform and thus funding is not guaranteed and the more active a student is in promoting and sharing their profile the more likely they are to receive assistance from their network or community.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 1 Students register** on the platform and **create a student profile** to motivate for funding.
- 2 Businesses and individuals register** to create a funder profile.
- 3 Funders can then search for students** they would like to fund.
- 4 Funders are able to donate** either the full or partial amount outstanding **for a specific student or contribute to the Feenix™ pool fund** that is distributed to students that meet specific B-BBEE socio-economic criteria.



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## INFRASTRUCTURE - MORE BUILDINGS ON THEIR WAY

### SPU IS ON ITS WAY TO PREPARING NEW BUILDINGS FOR 2020 AND 2021.

#### Nine contractors selected

In response to the local community call to be involved in the capital development projects, SPU has procured nine contractors: Major Works, Medium and Refurbishment Works, Small Works and Civil Works.

#### Six local contractors appointed

This has provided for six local contractors to be involved.

#### Main contractor projects

The main contractors appointed will complete buildings on the Science and Education precincts on Central Campus, the Bulk Services Building and a Student Canteen on South Campus.

#### NAS academic building on Central Campus

Planned on Central Campus for occupation at the beginning of 2020 is the NAS Academic Office Building which includes a 165 seater raked auditorium and offices for the Head of School and Heads of Departments.

It is expected that by mid-2020, the NAS Applied Sciences Building will be available. This building contains on the ground and first floor, two 320 seater raked auditoriums, two 180 seater raked auditoriums and four 90 seater classrooms which will increase the generic classroom options substantially.

#### Student Dining Rooms to be built

Once the contractor has completed this building, he will proceed to a Student Dining Room which will be open from 07:00 until 21:30 in order to provide meals for those in Student Housing in South Campus and adjacent properties.



#### Arts Block to be ready in the middle of 2020

Also expected to be ready in the middle of 2020 is the Arts Block, designed for both Humanities and Education.

This building includes facilities for the Education Foundation Phase and Humanities Heritage Programmes.

South Campus will see the building of an iconic concrete building, housing all the bulk storage water requirements, potable water, fire water, grey-water and associated filtration and pumping systems.

Also included are the standby-generator, LV Metering and the chillers for TABS (Thermal Activated Building System).

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## SPU MAKES PSC PLEDGE

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Recently, Vice-Chancellor Professor Yunus Ballim signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The MOU is part of the University's overall commitment towards partnerships and engagement with the broader community and stakeholders in the province and across the country.

Professor Ballim emphasises that SPU efforts in public management seek to make a difference and thereby ensure that "we build a cadre of ethical, capable and motivated individuals for effective delivery of service and to deepen development interventions in the province and across the country."

The University also pledges to uphold and promote the values and principles embodied in the Constitution as it relates to the work of public institutions and individual public officials.

*The University is also committed to working  
with the PSC on deepening research on  
service delivery challenges in the province  
and enhancing debates on the performance  
of public institutions for more effective and  
responsive delivery and impact.*

The MOU will open opportunities for academics and students to make a difference through research and more active community engagement initiatives.

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Former SPU Education Lecturer **Malesela Maepa** has been appointed as the University's **Student Affairs Senior Manager**.

**Zekhaya Shozi**, a nGap Lecturer in Discrete Mathematics, joined the **School of Natural and Applied Sciences** on 1 October 2018.

**Mogomane Digashu**, a Lab Technician, joined the **School of Natural and Applied Sciences** on 1 August 2018.

**Thembelihle Lobi** has been appointed as a nGAP Lecturer for **Psychology in the School of Humanities**



*Malesela Maepa, newly appointed Student Affairs Senior Manager.*

### SPU has appointed Insourced **Security Officials** as from 1 October 2018:

Kebitseng Jessie Kaweng	Mateas Joseph Mathetsa
Thabo Ssmith Legobate	Mannapula John Matlapeng
James Louw	Thembakazi Vumazonke
Amogelang anna Kgwele	Daniel Thatho
Kgosimang Steph Kgwele	Frank Gekamang Phirisi
Martin Godfrey Kgabada	Mark Curtis Blennies
Dimakatso Jochum	Mothibeli Given Lesole
Denise Paulinah Garage	Sello Eliase Mokoena
Zola Feyi	Arnold Serame Mahoko
Lesego Martin Mone	Siqhamo Juicy Nqeketo
Lebogang Vincent Magano	Perseverance Dineo Pheko
Gordon Mosalagae Madito	Malebogo Iris Seleke
Roseline Bok	Ngwako Gift Mabutha
Dimakatso Rachel Bingwane	Kenneth Van Der Merwe
Vaughan Shaun Moima	Thabo Elvin Lane
Gaebolae Benjamin Rapelang	Patience Gladys Mathee
Joseph Katleho Ralethohlane	Kealogece Iris Mbele
Lance Owen Shaw	Kelebogile Patricia Setlhabi
Ntsekiseng Jane Tsoenyane	Kegomodicwe Cynthia Mosala
Reginah Monemang Setlhabi	Thuso Gavin Motse
Tebogo Sylvia Sebata	Mac Donald Mogweng
James Lentikile Seleko	Maleho Zacharia Mosikare
Ramano Ryno Klein	Bulelani Mahashi
Martina Lorato Shokhoe	Isaac Modupe Malangabi
Keitumetse Ellen Riet	Mzukisi Mvelo
Lebogang Joel Shuping	Thapelo Ronald Mocwiri
Marry Kedibonye Senye	Ntesang Evelyn Moshounyane
Shawn Clifton Daries	Abraham Dion More
Irene Burger	Keobusitse Gideon Mabilo
Bothata Samuel Bessie	Olebogeng Vincent Morake
Hayne Vincent Du Toit	Molayeng Adrie Mojaki
Christopher Mangelengele Dada	Olebogeng Victor Riet
Grant Auston Paul Bezuidenhout	Molatlhegi Joseph Mogwase
Steven Boikanyo Mpokocho	Boitumelo Yvonne Maroke
Olebogeng Sam Boitsemang	Peter Obakeng Makoti
Shaun Jeffrey Petersen	Elrico Smeer
Elisa Siena Post	Motseothata Joseph Morweng



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## PEOPLE ACHIEVEMENTS

### CARINA TRUYTS LEADS KIMBERLEY LEG OF \$1-MILLION RESEARCH PROJECT

Humanities' anthropology lecturer Carina Truys is part of a team that applied for, and won, a \$1- million IDRC research grant for a three-year project titled 'Nourishing Spaces'.

This project is investigating the link between non-communicable disease (such as diabetes) and food systems in six African cities: Nairobi and Kisumu in Kenya, Windhoek and Oshakati in Namibia, and Cape Town and Kimberley in South Africa.

Carina is leading the Kimberley research.

She is currently conducting interviews in Galeshewe that ask about lifelong food experiences and will continue with ethnographic immersion and analysis over the next year.

The project runs for three years and aims to create links between communities, the university and other stakeholders such as provincial health.



### EDUCATION'S EMMA GROENEWALD TELLS THE STORY OF IDENTITY IN PHD

An interest in the way Namaqualand learners from different backgrounds, cultures and communities create identities led to Dr Emma Groenewald's research in identity construction of students at a University.

Emma, who was born in Petrus Steyn, joined SPU in November 2014 after which she started her PhD through the University of Free State.

She says that she is humbled and inspired by the stories of the participants.

"They have enriched my perspective on the meaning of identity and otherness beyond what I could have imagined.

*"It has been a pleasant surprise that the students' stories have part of me. When listening to their stories of challenge and how they have navigated in a new context, I realised that I have a lot for which to be thankful."*

She completed her PhD at the end of 2017 and plans to conduct a follow-up project to bring a deeper understanding of how the same students are influenced by higher education in terms of reviewing and rewriting their narrative identities.



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## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

### NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

#### SPU GRADUATES TO BENEFIT WITH ACCENTURE

SPU and Accenture South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 10 October 2018 to launch the internship programme during a groundbreaking MoU signing ceremony.

Accenture is a global management consulting and professional services firm that provides strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations services.

The signed MoU will create opportunities for ICT graduates from SPU to join and be part of the first University-based Accenture Internship programme.



### EDUCATION

#### SPU SASOL INZALO PROJECT TAKES SCIENCE TO SCHOOLS

SPU's Inzalo Project is an outreach to Northern Cape schools to promote science education sponsored by Sasol.

The project, which has been operating for a year, aims to identify and interact with schools where there is a need for support and for building capacity in the field of science education.

SPU, together with the Northern Cape Department of Basic Education (NCDoBE) and the Sasol Inzalo Foundation seeks to establish collaborative partnerships with schools in the Northern Cape in an effort to improve the quality of science education by providing these schools with educational resources which they otherwise lack or infrastructural or human resource challenges they may experience.

The project is also geared towards the facilitation of science-related experiments and demonstrations at participating schools as well as providing guidance to science educators.

**The aim of the project is:**

- To provide training opportunities to facilitators from SPU and NCDoBE in the use of the mobile laboratory.
- To travel to underperforming schools with the mobile laboratory in order to support, improve and develop the necessary skills and knowledge needed in the performance of science-related practical work such as experiments and demonstrations.
- To expose learners to the values and use of science-related technologies in a real-life context.

The pilot project highlighted the need for some form of intervention on behalf of science educators within the Frances Baard District.

Four high schools were selected: Emmanuel Secondary, Tshireleco Secondary, St Boniface Secondary, Homevale Secondary and one primary school, Herlear Primary.

The focus of the 2018 project was on Grade 10: Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) and Life Sciences & Grade 6: Natural Science-Intermediate Phase.

During the advocacy week, school visits to participating schools also focused on school lab inspection/availability of resources and equipment/school and teachers' timetables.

SPU Project Co-ordinator Luchmen Poonawassy witnessed the first visit of the mobile lab to Emmanuel Secondary for Life Science demonstration.

Subsequent visits were made to the other participating schools for the Life Science demonstrations. Senior science students' participation was incorporated into the school visit presentations, under the guidance of their respective lecturer (co-presenter).

Intermediate students at Grade 6 level for Natural Sciences were also assisted. Information was gathered on the progress of the project through feedback from lecturers and science educators who are participating in the project and an ETDP-SETA intern was appointed to SPU as a lab assistant.



## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

### ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

#### STUDENTS GET ENTREPRENEURSHIP GROOMING

The Student Entrepreneurship Week (SEW) 2018 is a key project in the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme, a partnership between the Department of Higher Education and Training, and Universities South Africa (USAf).

This project aims to raise student awareness of entrepreneurship as a career and a means to participate in the mainstream economy, while creating much-needed jobs.

SEW 2018, as a month-long event throughout August, was hosted at various universities and TVET colleges throughout the country.

As part of SPU's entrepreneurship initiatives, Senior Lecturer in the Chair for Entrepreneurship at the University of Pretoria, Prof Alex Antonites presented a workshop.

Prof Antonites is also a senior lecturer at the Gordon Institute of Business. He started and heads the UP Business Incubator that is currently developing a number of new innovative start-ups.



*Dr Edward Dakora (left) handing over a gift of thanks to Norah Clarke from Universities South Africa.*



*Feroza Nooroodien thanks helpers for their contribution during SEW 2018.*

### HUMANITIES

#### CARNEGIE FUNDS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT SPU

SPU's School of Humanities received funding from the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship Program to host Prof Jean-Jacques Ngor Sène.



*Prof Jean-Jacques Ngor Sène*

Prof Sène is an Associate Professor of History; Cultural Studies; Conflict Studies and Global Focus Coordinator from Chatham University in the United States.

While at SPU, he worked with colleagues from the School of Humanities to develop a programme in Conflict Management & Peace Studies.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between Chatham and SPU is underway for the development of collaborative research projects, organisation of joint academic and scientific activities such as courses, conferences, seminars, symposia and lectures, the exchange of research and teaching personnel, the exchange of publications and other materials of common interest and the exchange of students.





## SPORTS NEWS

### SPU DANCES ITS WAY INTO SECOND PLACE

The SPU Dance sport team came second out of 13 institutions. Two couples also made it to the ballroom and Latin American finals with fourth place in ballroom and fifth in Latin American.

The team is busy preparing for the International Dance Festival called Rumba in the Jungle held at the Sun City Superbowl.



### 2018 BELONGED TO MEN'S FOOTBALL

The men's football team did exceptionally well this year winning five games and finishing top of their pool in the recent USSA national tournament but finally losing 1-0 to Mangosuthu University.

At the end of the tournament, the team took second place and the silver medal.

The team brought home the player of the tournament (Captain Jethro Setholo) and team manager of the tournament (Tebogo Takane) accolades.

The team also finished second in the Sol Plaatje Local Football league.



### GOOD PERFORMANCE BY THE LADY FOOTBALLERS

At the USSA week, the team was in Group B and played against the University of Mpumalanga which they won 3-1.

This was followed by a loss against Rhodes University and a draw against UWC. The team was placed fifth out of nine teams.

