

## Dear SPU Community

We enter 2019 with two important markers of our growth and maturity as a university – we were obliged to host two graduation ceremonies at the end of 2018 because there were too many graduates to fit into our Examinations Hall and, secondly, we enrol the first postgraduate students at SPU this year.

These are promising signs and they show that our plans to consolidate the teaching and learning in our academic programmes over 2017 and 2018 have had significant impact.

It is with this sense of excitement about an ambitiously growing SPU that I welcome all our staff and students to the 2019 academic year. I hope that those of you who are returning to SPU have had a good and restful break and that those of you who are newly joining us in 2019 will enjoy a successful and a fulfilling time at SPU.

I intend to use 2019 as an opportunity to increase our focus on the learning and psycho-social support that we give to our students.

SPU has marked itself as a university where learning matters and our students have generally responded well to the

rigorous but caring environment that we provide for them.

However, the increasing instances of students with mental health concerns, the violent interactions between students, particularly those associated with gender relations and the sense of geographical, linguistic or ethnic marginalisation experienced by some of our students should be of serious concern to all of us.

Of course, this is a consequence of the growth in staff, students and institutional complexity at our university. But this simply means that we have to become smarter at identifying the problems and ensuring that we provide positive responses.

There are already a number of initiatives and offices at SPU that are dealing with matters of support for our students and these include the SRC and student leadership in our residences.

We will look to increasing the impact of these initiatives, strengthening our advocacy campaigns for student support and ensuring that we sustain an institutional culture that is unhesitant about the educational support of our students.



**I look forward to working with you at creating an academically exciting 2019 at SPU.**

**Prof Yunus Ballim**  
Vice-Chancellor



### SPU WELCOMES BIGGEST FIRST-ENTERING CLASS

On Saturday, 2 February Sol Plaatje University (SPU) welcomed over six hundred first-entering students and their families - its biggest group ever

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### GRADUATION 2018 ROUND-UP

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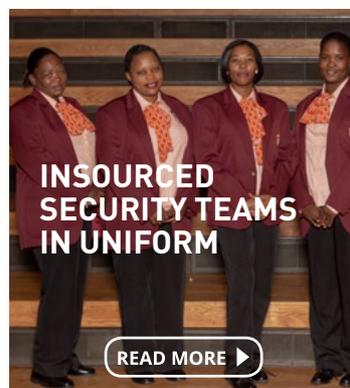
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### HISTORIC SOD-TURNING MARKS FURTHER SPU DEVELOPMENT

On 12 December 2018 a historic sod-turning event symbolised a major milestone in the ongoing development of SPU.

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### GET LINKED AND TELL THE SPU STORY

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## DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS SPU

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### PCHET MEETS WITH KEY UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENCIES

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### NSFAS APPROVES MORE SOCIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

On an ongoing basis NSFAS has been reviewing rejected applicants following the instruction issued by the NSFAS Administrator in December 2018. NSFAS has now validated and approved for

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### DHET SETS OUT UNIVERSITY GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

An extract from the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor's statement on the Class of 2018 in the Post-School Education and Training System on 8 January 2019.

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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 these can be sent to [comms@spu.ac.za](mailto:comms@spu.ac.za)

The next edition is due out in March 2019.

Interim editor: Prof Patrick FitzGerald

## SPU WELCOMES BIGGEST FIRST-ENTERING CLASS



On Saturday, 2 February Sol Plaatje University (SPU) welcomed over six hundred first-entering students and their families - its biggest group ever of new students as SPU begins its sixth year of existence.

The rapid growth of SPU will have a positive impact on the social and economic life of Kimberley and it is a strong indication of the University's successful trajectory towards a compliment of 7500 students in 2025.

In her welcoming remarks the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jean Baxen told the new students and their parents that SPU has high standards for which it makes no apology. It does not settle for mediocrity or the lowest common denominator. The goal of the staff is to walk this academic journey with the students and create conducive and discursive spaces that will cultivate them into some of the finest young minds in South Africa.

The Deputy President of the SRC, Ms Nomathamsanqa Qiza, welcomed the new students and their families. She encouraged the students to become the principal authors of the next chapter of their lives.

She left them with three main messages: firstly, to take responsibility for their learning by ensuring that they fulfil their academic commitments and to seek help when they need it, from friends, peers and to use the student support services available to them.

Her second message was for them to make the most of their time at SPU; and thirdly, to embrace the diversity that they will encounter at the University. She advised that their journey would be daunting and exciting but also empowering.

*The First-Entering Students in 2019 come from all nine provinces in South Africa and are registered across the full bouquet of programmes offered by the University.*



## GRADUATION 2018 ROUND-UP

**209** 2018  
GRADUATES

  
**84** MALE

  
**125** FEMALE



SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC  
& MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

**32**

**15**  
BCom generic

  
**3** MALE

  
**12** FEMALE

**17**  
Diploma in Retail  
Business Management

  
**7** MALE

  
**10** FEMALE



SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES

**47**

**25**  
Bachelor of Arts

  
**8** MALE

  
**8** FEMALE

**22**  
Higher Certificate in  
Heritage Studies

  
**1** MALE

  
**21** FEMALE



SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION

**86**

**32**  
BEd  
(Intermediate Phase)

  
**11** MALE

  
**21** FEMALE

**54**  
BEd  
(Senior Phase)

  
**20** MALE

  
**34** FEMALE



SCHOOL OF NATURAL &  
APPLIED SCIENCES

**53**

**8**  
BSc

  
**5** MALE

  
**3** FEMALE

**15**  
BSc (Data Science)

  
**8** MALE

  
**7** FEMALE

**30**  
Diploma in ICT  
(Applications  
Development)

  
**21** MALE

  
**9** FEMALE

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## TOP AWARDS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE



SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC  
& MANAGEMENT  
SCIENCES

### GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION (Bachelor of Commerce)

Annique Delia Berend

### BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (Bachelor of Commerce)

Annique Delia Berend

### GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION (Diploma in Retail Business Management)

Gerald Lehlohonolo Williams

### BEST "WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING" STUDENT (Diploma in Retail Business Management)

Angelene Maxcene Abelene Maxwell



SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES

### TOP STUDENT

Mamoosa Nobuhle Gcabashe (BA)

### VAN SCHAIK AWARD Top Achievers in the BA and Higher Certificate in Heritage Studies programmes

Mamoosa Nobuhle Gcabashe (BA)

Magdalena Petronela Lukas (HS)

### BEST STUDENT IN SETSWANA at Third Year

Lebogang Matthews Mphetsheng (BA)

### RUNNER-UP: BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY at Third Year

Atlholang Frans Chwi (BA)

### RUNNER-UP: BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY at Third Year

Precious Nonjabuloo Ngcobo (BA)

### BEST PERFORMING STUDENT IN ATHROPOLOGY at Third Year

Mamoosa Nobuhle Gcabashe (BA)



SCHOOL OF NATURAL &  
APPLIED SCIENCES

### BEST OVERALL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (Floating Trophy) Trophy Performance in BSc (Data Science)

Terrence Noko

### BEST PERFORMANCE IN DIPL. (ICT) (Applications Development)

Phenyo Victor Jacobs



SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION

### DEGREES CONFERRED WITH DISTINCTION BEd (Intermediate Phase)

Tsatsi Baitshepi

Tshepe Tshepiso

### BEd (Senior Phase)

Bianca Mathane

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## SPU APPOINTS DR AUDREY MSIMANGA AS HEAD OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Dr Audrey Msimanga has been appointed as the new Head of the SPU School of Education. She holds a PhD in Science Education from the University of the Witwatersrand as well as an MSc in Zoology; BSc Hons in Biological Science and a BSc in General Botany and Zoology.

Her most recent position was Academic Head, Postgraduate, School of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand.

A prolific researcher, Dr Msimanga has a wealth of international experience as a visiting researcher at the University of Warwick, UK; the University of Georgia, USA; the Royal Museum of Central Africa, Belgium and the National History Museum in Paris, France.

**AS AN ACTIVE LEADER IN HER FIELD, DR MSIMANGA HAS HELD LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE POSITIONS WHICH INCLUDE:**

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Member, National Doctoral review committee, CHE, South Africa

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SAARMSTE executive (Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education)

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Acting Head - Maths, Environment & Natural Sciences, Solusi University 2004

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Acting Regional Director, National Museums & Monuments, Western region 2001

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

### EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2019

**Delport Onvlee**

Senior Manager ICT

**Clint Adam**

Senior Manager Finance

### EFFECTIVE 1 FEBRUARY 2019

**Kashini Maistry**

Senior Manager Communications and Marketing (effective 15 January 2019). A graduate of Wellesley College in the USA and Wits University, she brings a wealth of experience gained over 25 years in higher education. She cut her professional teeth in public affairs which led to various executive support positions in higher education and the public service. She has worked at Harvard, Wits, UJ, the Independent Institute of Education and most recently at UCT where she was a senior academic administrator.



#### SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCES

**Medson Mapuya**

Lecturer: Accounting Teaching

**Dr Emmanuel Mabugu**

Professor: Economics

#### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Dr Edwin de Klerk**

Senior Lecturer: Philosophy in Education

#### SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

**Dr Lynette Masuku**

Lecturer: Museum and Heritage Studies

#### SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

**Dladlu Nosipho**

Lecturer: Computer Science and Information Technology

**Dr Marietjie Landman**

Senior Lecturer: Zoology

**Dr Meenakshi Devi**

Senior Lecturer: Pure Mathematics

**Albert Antwil**

Lecturer: Statistics and Operations Research

#### OTHER DEPARTMENTS

**Bontleng Thembu**

Senior Administrative Assistant: Learning Technology Support (Audio Visual)

**Amanda Masana**

Laboratory Technician: Geography

**Dipholo Modise**

Officer: Safety

**Tokelo Sefatsa**

Laboratory Technician: Sciences

**Veronica Baaitjies**

Officer: Sections

**Charmell Cardoso**

School Registrar

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SOL PLAATJE  
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## e-BRIEF

# HISTORIC SOD-TURNING MARKS FURTHER SPU DEVELOPMENT

On 12 December 2018 a historic sod-turning event symbolised a major milestone in the ongoing development of SPU.

In 2014, the University purchased a property, close to Central Campus, later designated as South Campus; a site which is to be developed primarily for students combining sports activities, student support facilities and student residences.

In 2016, a funding application was submitted by the SPU to the National Lottery Commission (NLC) for funding to establish sporting facilities on South Campus and improve the existing field on Central Campus. The amount granted over three tranches amounts to R25,911,24.

The grant is a welcome addition to the planned SPU infrastructure growth as the grant will support the development of facilities for all the student sporting codes.

*This project significantly contributes to the National Sports, Arts and Culture Department's priority to provide high quality sporting facilities for all South African communities and the NC NLC will have created a wonderful legacy as SPU students return to their communities with the skills to develop disadvantaged sporting clubs.*

The NLC funding provides for state-of-the-art sports facilities which include a combination field providing for cricket, rugby and soccer, an astro turf hockey field and a series of combination hard courts providing for tennis, netball, volleyball, five-a-side, for example, on South Campus and an upgrade of the existing Central Campus Cricket field.

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY (SPU) WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2014. SINCE THEN THE UNIVERSITY HAS UNDERGONE AN EXTENSIVE BUILDING PROGRAMME WITH CLASSROOMS, AUDITORIA AND LABORATORIES, STUDENT RESIDENCES, STUDENT SUPPORT FACILITIES, ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE BEING CONSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT THE PLANNED STUDENT ENROLMENT FOR 8,400 STUDENTS BY 2028.

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## INSOURCED SECURITY TEAMS IN UNIFORM

The newly-appointed security teams, which have boosted employee numbers, kick off the year in style as they step out in their new uniforms.



## WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE SCHOOLS



### SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

#### 2018 MARKED A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL AND OF SPU

2018 marked a milestone in the history of the School and of SPU.

The year marked our fifth anniversary, and also came with the first inaugural graduates from our BA degree, with commendable throughput rates. These existing milestones have ushered us into another milestone in our growth as a school.

Our three postgraduate Honours programmes were accredited and in 2019, we are offering our inaugural BA honours in Sociology programme. We are excited about hosting our first postgraduate students and look forward to hosting more students in future.

A key performance area of 2019 will be to support career path development of our early career, emerging and established academics; consolidate the School's research niches and create more spaces for more public engagement programmes by building on the partnerships that we have created over the past few years.

We also look forward to improving on our operational efficiency in academic administration for the benefit of our growing student numbers. We will be hosting the biggest conference that SPU has ever held - The Southern African Association of Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA 2019) Bi-Annual Conference in July 2019.

All these events planned for the year signify growth and expansion at many levels for the school, and for the University.



Prof. Jesmael Mataga



### SCHOOL OF NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES

"We exhibit and are committed to professionalism, integrity and high work ethics at all times. We produce high calibre students who are innovative and independent thinkers through excellent teaching. We provide a friendly working environment which promotes life-long learning. We are committed to achieve common goals through collaboration, listening to each other and sharing information. We always strive to do what is best for our students, thereby ensuring success to every student that is committed to learning. Student success is our success".

The statement above describes the values that the School of Natural and Applied Sciences prescribes to. The School's Top Three Goals for 2019 are guided by these values, and they are:

**(a) Developing a Research Plan**

The School of NAS recognizes and hold in high esteem the expertise and experience of its academics across all disciplines. The three categories of researchers – emerging, early career and established-mid career researchers as classified by the University, are fully recognized and each group is expected to contribute to the enhancement of research culture in the School.

**(b) Programme Development and Consolidation of New Programmes**

The focus on programme development is now concentrating on the postgraduate programmes. There are at least two new Bachelor of Science Honours programmes that are on course to commence in 2020. The consolidation of the BSc Honours in Data Science which was introduced in 2019 also takes priority. The development of these postgraduate programmes lay the foundation to the research capacity building which tie in with the School's Research Plan.

**(c) Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations**

The School has a number of partnerships and collaboration agreements with stakeholders in industry and other institutions of higher learning. This is critical in enhancing quality into our programmes, increasing credibility and growing the School's brand.



Professor Aijheli Gelebe



### SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC & MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

#### THREE BROAD GOALS FOR 2019

In line with the specific set goals of the University, the School of Economic and Management Sciences (SoEMS) has deliberately chosen to pursue three major goals in 2019, which will have major impact on its future position and performance.

Firstly, the School will build capacity in curriculum design, programme development and delivery. New programmes are gradually being introduced in the School, the most recent being the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management which will be offered in the second quarter of the year. As a result, there will be emphasis on careful design of curriculum and development of relevant academic programmes.

Secondly, in furtherance of the School's commitment to ensuring quality teaching and learning competencies, concerted efforts will be geared towards developing human capital by strengthening teaching and scholarly capacity of academics within the School. As the SoEMS moves towards more postgraduate teaching, it has become pertinent to enhance staff development and ensure that adequate teaching, research and supervision capacity exists within the School.

Lastly, the School intends to establish research thrusts based on the research interests of academics as well as identified niches in relevant fields, that give impetus to increased research collaborations and peer reviewed journal publications. It is anticipated that embarking on these goals will further position the SoEMS as a scholarly engaged school.



Prof. Collins Miruka



### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

2018 marked an exciting year for the School of Education. Two of our academic staff members, Maseeng Papashane, and Emma Groenewald, obtained their PhDs. We saw numerous of our staff members' writing published in accredited journals and the drive towards developing long-term research niches has started.

2019 marks the start of a new journey for us all, with the regrettable retirement of the former HoS, Prof. Gawie du Toit, but, at the same time, the much anticipated appointment of Dr. Audrey Msimanga as new HoS. It is our goal this year to take the school to new levels of excellence, not only with regards to our teaching and learning successes, but also to continue building on the strong research foundation built by our existing staff members. We look forward to achieving this under the leadership of Dr. Msimanga.

Other anticipated highlights for the year include the continuation of the Eskom Science Expo project and the Northern Cape SASOL Inzalo project, more information for which can be found in the Partnerships section of our website.



Dr. Audrey Msimanga



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# e-BRIEF

## GET LINKED AND TELL THE SPU STORY

The University has opened its LinkedIn account.

As the University's official page, the intention of this platform is to "talk" to a different group of stakeholders, beyond Facebook which targets largely students.

Academics and other non-academic staff are encouraged follow the account, comment on posts while keeping their LinkedIn profiles updated.

"The account means to build the reputation of SPU with stakeholders. We have a good story to tell in terms of our academic milestones and the high calibre of our staff by highlighting their achievements, amongst others," says Kashini Maistry who manages the University's social media.



CURRENTLY, THE SPU  
FACEBOOK HAS OVER  
**10,000 LIKES +  
10,000  
FOLLOWERS**

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## DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS SPU



Sol Plaatje University was honoured to host the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Buti Manamela and his personal staff on Wednesday, 23 January 2019.

The purpose of Mr Manamela's visit was to undertake a readiness check on our arrangements for Registration which begins on Monday, 28 January 2019.

Professor Mary Jean Baxen, the Acting Vice-Chancellor, provided a context within which our Registration should be assessed, that is, in terms of the University's growing enrolment and student profile, its core values, its academic vision and its evolving academic plan.

*SRC members assured and confirmed to the Deputy Minister the University's level and degree of readiness.*

*"The University is ready," they added.*

The SRC voiced their concerns about the possible changes to the funding available from SETAs and whether the NSFAS readiness would work as well in practice as intended.

Other concerns expressed were around matters of clearing the backlog of late applications and funding for those who had applied late.

The effectiveness of the current Central Applications Clearing House and the future Central Applications Service were also discussed.

Members of NEHAWU expressed their desire to be part of wider University processes.

The Deputy Minister was invited to return for a comprehensive tour of our campuses.

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## PCHET MEETS WITH KEY UNIVERSITY CONSTITUENCIES



Earlier this year, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training (PCHET), led by its Chair, Connie September, undertook an oversight visit to Sol Plaatje University to receive reports on: the 2019 registration process, the 2018 academic performance, the administration of NSFAS bursaries, the programme for 2019 academic year and infrastructure development.

The programme included a site inspection of the central campus, presentations from the SRC, NEHAWU, and the University Council and Management as well as robust engagement with the PCHET.

Regional Secretary of NEHAWU, Thami Mkhila, gave a critical assessment of the union's relationship with the SPU management and was encouraged by the PCHET to engage with management through their full participation in the various university structures and processes.

Deputy President of the SRC, Nomathamsanqa Qiza, gave a presentation on how to develop responsible students who can be productive assets to society, who are nurtured in a teaching and learning environment that is supported by the necessary facilities.

Deputy Chair of Council, Jenny Glennie, and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jean Baxen gave a joint presentation on the development of SPU as a "quiet revolution in the Northern Cape".

Ms Glennie assured the PCHET that SPU has an engaged Council that is passionate about making this new university a success. For this purpose, the Council has strong expertise in law, finance,

auditing, human resources and higher education governance.

Prof Baxen explained to the PCHET that SPU's project was one of social justice which focuses on human development, equitable access to all students, equitable access to emerging academics, inclusion, and a determination to work productively within diversity.

She briefed them about the deliberate choice that the University has made in terms of not offering bridging courses, the SPU higher certificates and diplomas which provide a conduit to degree entry and the emergence of carefully developed and well-articulated research niches.

She mentioned that SPU has a large and ambitious infrastructure project. Its buildings were completed on time and without incident. An achievement for which SPU is very proud.

**The PCHET commended SPU on its beautiful buildings, peaceful campus, innovative ideas in terms of access and articulation initiatives, and the calibre of its staff and students.**

## OTHER NEWS

### SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

#### HUMANITIES KICKS OFF 2019 WITH SCHOOL OF WRITING

Sol Plaatje University and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) held its third annual Summer School of Writing on 6 January 2019.

The Summer School of Writing follows in the tradition of its earlier writing festivals where SSW participants were selected from aspirant writers from all districts of the Northern Cape who showed the potential of becoming great writers.

The facilitators are generally well-seasoned, well-travelled and award-laden writers. Last year's fiction facilitator was novelist and short story writer Niq Mhlongo whose books include *Dog Eat Dog* and *After Tears*.

The nonfiction facilitator was well-known arts writer Bongani Madondo who is an award-winning journalist and has done extensive work on Brenda Fassie.

His latest book is titled *Sigh the Beloved Country*.

The 2018 poetry facilitator was Cape Town-based poet Primrose Mrwebi who had graced many stages including the National Parliament.

The intention of the SSW is to match aspirant writers with seasoned wordsmiths so that they can learn from them.

*During the week-long programme, participants were required to write every day and share what they have written with others. One-on-one sessions between the aspirant writers and facilitators were also offered. Participants also enjoyed daily classes.*

The 2018 SSW also featured the launch of Mhlongo's latest book, a collection of short stories titled *Soweto Under the Apricot Tree*.

The launch took place at the SPU and all members of the community were invited to attend. The book launch was jointly hosted with the DSAC's library services.

The SSW is co-ordinated by Sabata-mpho Mokae, a novelist and creative writing lecturer at SPU.

*Top to bottom:  
Award-winning Bongani Madondo.  
Niq Mhlongo with his book, Soweto under the Apricot Tree.  
Cape Town based poet Primrose Mrwebi with a fellow artist.  
Soweto under the Apricot Tree.*



### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

#### EDUCATION CAPTURES ITS FAREWELLS TO SCHOOL STALWARTS

The School bade farewell to two senior members of the team in December and January.

In late December, the School said farewell to its Head of School, Prof Gawie du Toit. This followed by Prof Erna du Toit who left the University at the end of January 2019.



### SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

#### NAS HOLDS FIRST WETLANDS EVENT AT SPU

Under the auspices of the Northern Cape Wetland Forum, Sol Plaatje University in conjunction with South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) Arid Node, based in Kimberley, hosted a successful World Wetlands Day event on Friday 1 February. Over 30 people attended the celebration with a large proportion of the audience coming from outside Sol Plaatje University.

Dr Doug Harebottle, who is also chair of the Northern Cape Wetlands Forum, opened the meeting giving a background to World Wetlands Day, the importance and threats to wetlands, and how ordinary citizens can make a difference for wetlands and their conservation.

The theme for World Wetlands Day 2019 was wetlands and climate change and Dr Harebottle spoke a little on how global warming and long-term climate change has the potential to change wetland structure and function in the future.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr Betsie Milne, a wetland ecologist from SAEON, who shared her post-doctoral work on the pan system of the Northern Cape.

She has found some really interesting small crustaceans in the mud and crust of these pans which can stay dry for more than 50 years before receiving any rainfall.

She emphasised how these pan systems are under threat from farming, mining and climate change.

This was the first World Wetland Day event held at SPU which raised importance awareness of wetlands in the Northern Cape and the importance of conserving these diverse and dynamic ecosystems.



**Dam nie maklik 'n bewaringsgebied**

**Charné Kemp**

Die voortbestaan van die kleinflamink op die Kamfersdam buite Kimberley kan verseker word indien dit tot bewaringsgebied verklaar kan word.

"Baie water moet egter nog in die pan loop," sê dr. Doug Harebottle, hoof van die departement biologiese en landbouwetenskap van die Sol Plaatje-Universiteit (SPU) en voorsitter van die Noord-Kaapse Vleiland-forum.

Meer as 2 000 kleinflamink-kuike is gered nadat warm weers-toestande die pan laat opdroog het.

Die Sol Plaatje-munisipaliteit pomp weens verstopte riool-toevoerpepe nie meer gesuiwerde rioolwater van sy rioolaanleg in die pan nie.

Die kuikens is deur onder meer die Dierbeskermingsvereniging (DBV), Saam Staan Kimberley, die Ekapa-myn en Mike Bolhuis, private ondersoeker en voël-liefhebber, gered.

Daar is nog duisende eiers in neste op die pan.

"Die unieke reddingsoptrede is vinnig gedoen," sê Harebottle.

"Dit is goed dat soveel vrywilligers gehelp het, hoewel ek bekommerd is dat die voëls hul vrees vir mense en roofdiere kan verloor. Dit bemoedig hervestiging in natuurlike gebiede.

"Ons moet nou inligting versamel vir 'n toekomstige operasionele reddingsplan wat op ondervinding en navorsing gegrond is.

"Weens die veranderende klimaat is die kans goed dat dit weer kan gebeur.

"Suid-Afrika, en veral die Noord-Kaap, beleef 'n El Niño-verskynsel wat beteken reënval word onvoorspelbaar of is laer as gemiddeld. Dit is nie goeie nuus vir die voortbestaan van die hoogs bedreigde spesie wat net vier broeiplekke in Afrika suid van die Sahara gebruik nie."

Die Kamfersdam is eintlik 'n soutpan, wat nie geskik is vir kleinflamink nie. Reënwater, vloedwater en gesuiwerde rioolwater skep toestande waarin die alge groei waaraan die flamink vreet. Die flamink se voortbestaan is afhanklik van die deuropende invloed van water.

"Ons moet die broeiplek beskerm. Indien betrokke spesie die grondeienaar, myne, munisipaliteit en staatsdepartemente saamwerk, kan dit tot bewaringsgebied verklaar word. Dit is egter 'n moeisame proses."

Die eiland wat jare gelede gebou is om as broeiplek te dien, is ongeskik omdat daar nie meer modder is waarmee neste gebou word nie.

Harebottle meen nog 'n moontlikheid is om die eiland te herbou. Die Kamfersdam is reeds deur Voëllewe Suid-Afrika as 'n belangrike watervoelhabitat geïdentifiseer. Harebottle meen indien die Kamfersdam by die Ramsar-konvensie vir veilende van internasionale belang geregistreer kan word, kan dit die flamink se voortbestaan bevorder.

Lande soos Suid-Afrika wat dit onderteken het, moet die betrokke voorskryfte gebruik om die habitat met 'n bestuurplan te bewaar.

**Dr. Doug Harebottle** Foto: Charné Kemp



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## NSFAS APPROVES MORE SOCIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

On an ongoing basis NSFAS has been reviewing rejected applicants following the instruction issued by the NSFAS Administrator in December 2018. NSFAS has now validated and approved for funding an additional 11,613 social grant beneficiaries.

These students will become fully funded pending registration at a public university for an approved qualification. For the 2019 academic year this brings the total number of social grants NSFAS approved students to about 60,000, their financial eligibility status is now "confirmed and approved" subject to registration. This completes the processing of the majority of social grants applicants.

*This review has now reduced the number of  
ineligible students from the initial 109,000  
in December 2018 to 58,000. Further work is  
being done through the appeals process.*

The review of students who were rejected for other reasons are ongoing and the outcome will be communicated soon. All students are urged to check their latest funding status on MyNSFAS.

**NSFAS urges all NSFAS-approved students to complete registration for approved qualifications at a public university or TVET college as soon as possible.**



ADDITIONAL  
**11,613**  
GRANTS  
APPROVED

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## DHET SETS OUT UNIVERSITY GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

*An extract from the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor's statement on the Class of 2018 in the Post-School Education and Training System on 8 January 2019.*

Many of those who have met the entrance requirements for university study will pursue degrees, diplomas and higher certificates at one of our 26 public universities.

Recent changes in the policy on Minimum Admission Requirements for Higher Certificate, Diploma and Bachelor's Degree requiring a National Senior Certificate have enabled entry into a Bachelor's degree on the basis of any four 20 credit National Senior Certificate (NSC) subjects with an achievement of four (50 – 59%) or higher, as well as at least 30% in the language of learning and teaching at the higher education institution.

This has enabled a wider range of 20 credit subjects to be recognised for Bachelor entry. The minimum achievement in the language has not changed.

It is important to realise that entrance requirement into university studies is linked to academic achievements in the National Senior Certificate (NSC). While the minimum requirement to achieve a bachelor's, diploma, or higher certificate pass in the NSC is set in policy, individual institutions and programmes set specific entrance requirements. This means that a person with a Bachelor's pass does not necessarily meet the requirement for entry into any Bachelor Degree programme.

**In 2019, our 26 public universities will provide access to approximately 210 801 new entrants wishing to pursue their studies across all general, technical and professional fields including business and management, science, engineering, agriculture and technology, humanities, social sciences, the arts and education.**

The mid-term review of the enrolment plan was completed early in 2017. All universities were required to consider their enrolments in terms of the fiscal realities and constraints, and to plan realistically, making sure that the enrolment numbers targeted resulted in the optimum number of new students entering the system for the first time in 2018 and 2019, being fully supported through available infrastructure and sufficient qualified lecturers and academics.

The enrolment plan provides details of the enrolment targets for all fields of study, and specifically for those scarce skills fields that support our country's growth, such as engineering sciences, life and physical sciences, animal and human health sciences, and teacher education.

**IN 2019, OF THE  
210,800 NEW ENTRANTS,  
APPROXIMATELY 69,776  
STUDENTS WILL ENROL IN  
THESE AREAS:**

**17,028**  
ENGINEERING PROGRAMMES

**14,356**  
LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
PROGRAMMES

**11,510**  
HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH  
PROGRAMMES

**819** ANIMAL SCIENCES  
PROGRAMMES

**10,507** HUMAN HEALTH  
PROGRAMMES

**184** VETERINARY SCIENCES  
PROGRAMMES

**6,882**  
INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION  
PROGRAMMES

*Universities have been requested not to over-enrol in 2019 as this could lead to overcrowding, poor quality of teaching and learning, and unsustainability within the university system.*

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