



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

# e-BRIEF



## Dear SPU Community

### SPU and Kimberley: "Town and Gown"

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The university offers opportunities to the city that would otherwise not be possible and, for its part, the city contributes support to the staff, students and academic activities of the university.

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### POWER-PACKED PRESENTATIONS FOR INAUGURAL RESEARCH DAY

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[READ MORE ►](#)

### DHET NEWS: TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PSET SYSTEM

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[READ MORE ►](#)

### SPU FACTSHEET: SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

[READ MORE ►](#)



### NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

[READ MORE ►](#)



### STAFF APPOINTMENTS

[READ MORE ►](#)



### EVENTS & CALENDAR

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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 [kashini.maistry@spu.ac.za](mailto:kashini.maistry@spu.ac.za)  
The next edition is due out in June 2019.

Editor: Kashini Maistry

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e-BRIEF

## SPU AND KIMBERLEY: “TOWN AND GOWN”

It is characteristic of all inner-city universities in the world that they have to pay attention to the relationships between the university, the social institutions in the city and the citizens themselves.

The university offers opportunities to the city that would otherwise not be possible and, for its part, the city contributes support to the staff, students and academic activities of the university.

*It was our founding intention that a Sol Plaatje University would be centrally located in Kimberley city and that it would contribute to the intellectual, cultural, political and economic life of the city – and we have already done this in many ways. There are presently around 1,500 staff and students at SPU who would not have been in the city but for SPU.*

They contribute to the income base of the city, create business opportunities and add to the cosmopolitan life of a city that started - and has sustained itself over the years - through attracting outsiders to its exciting opportunities.

Our interactions with the city authorities and the Provincial government have been mutually supportive, positive and have shown benefit in both directions.

Outside of the Government, SPU is currently the largest employer in the region, we are one of the largest landowners in the city and our new buildings are setting the trend for architecture in a future city that takes beautiful spaces seriously. Kimberley should not think of itself as a future “university town”. It is better that we think of Kimberley as an exciting future city that happens to also have a good university.

For inner-city universities in the world, this is referred to as the “Town and Gown” relationships. We should build these relationships so that all citizens feel a sense of pride, belonging and ownership of the idea of a good SPU in their city. We now have to turn our focus to the general citizens in the city – the people who live and work in the city; the taxi drivers; the young



people seeking exciting intellectual stimulation; the marginal and vulnerable who live precarious lives in the city; the small business owners and the street vendors. All of them matter in the life of an SPU that wants to be a positively contribute as a social partner to the development of the city and the region.

**This will demand a willingness for critical and respectful interactions from all of us. As we interact in our studies, socially and economically with community members in Kimberley, we must keep in mind that all of us are a part of SPU's ambition to be a positive social force in our city.**

**Prof Yunus Ballim**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

◀ GO BACK



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## POWER-PACKED PRESENTATIONS FOR INAUGURAL RESEARCH DAY

With over 100 attendees and 17 power-packed presentations, Sol Plaatje University's inaugural research day was opened by the University's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Yunus Ballim, on 7 May 2019.

## RESEARCH DAY 7 MAY 2019

In collaboration with



South Africa  
Sweden  
University Forum



The satellite event was part of a nationwide South African Sweden University Forum collaboration.

The keynote presentations, which centred on the dawn of the fourth industrial revolution, were delivered by Prof Leif Kirsebom from Uppsala University who talked about the individual's role in the transfer of knowledge.

This was followed by the second keynote presentation by Prof Francesco Petruccione of the University of KwaZulu-Natal who presented on the "spooky" technologies of the fourth industrial revolution.

**The research day was undertaken under the auspices of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Programme Development. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Professor Jean Baxen, served as the Programme Director for the day.**

The day's first themed session addressed "education for a sustainable society and social transformation through change" and was chaired by the Head of the School of Education, Dr Audrey Msimanga and Humanities' Head of School, Prof Jesmael Mataga.

The afternoon session, which focused on digital technology, cybersecurity, big data, climate change, natural resources and sustainability, was chaired by the Head of Department for Applied

Mathematics in the School of Natural and Applied Sciences (NAS) Dr Stephen Sikwila.

Acting Head of the School of Economic and Management Sciences Mr Leonard Ndlovu chaired the third session which unpacked sustainable urbanisation, travel and tourism in the 21st century.

Commenting on the day, NAS Senior Lecturer Dr Shale Sefadi explained the speakers had done an outstanding job sharing valuable knowledge, insight and experiences on how to address the socio-economic challenges facing the world through research and innovation agenda.

*It was reiterated that the sustainable development goals should be people-centred and that universal human development capital, sustainable collaboration and massive funding networks should be sustainable and a priority.*

The event also provided attendees with the opportunity to view several book store exhibitors' publications. These exhibitors also generously provided gifts to the keynote speakers.

◀ GO BACK



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## FIRST DATA SCIENCE HONOURS CLASS FOR SPU

The School introduced its honours in data science programme this year, successfully enrolling six students, all of whom had completed their BSc in Data Science at the University last year.

The popular programme covers modules which include High-Performance Computing, Computer Systems for Big Data, Large Scale Optimisation, Advanced Machine Learning, Data Exploration and Visualisation, Special Topics in Data Science, Data Security and Cryptographic Systems.

Head of Department: Computer Science and Information Technology, Mr Tumo Baitshenyetsi says this honours degree provides access to students of the Northern Cape to an advanced area of study.

"What's more, it is in a critical contemporary discipline for which there is a dire skills shortage."

He explains the programme is carefully designed to focus on computing structures that support large-scale computing challenges.

The qualification is also an important part of the evolving academic plan of the University and provides vertical progression for BSc Data Science students.

*"Graduates will contribute immensely to solving analytically complex problems in real life settings such as in industry, the government and other organisations at national and international level."*

As part of the programme, students are expected to present their completed work at the end of 2019.

Lecturers and project supervisors for the Data Science honours course are Dr Moeketsi Mosia, Mr Albert Whata, Dr Stephen Sikwila, Dr Alfred Mwanza, Dr Gardner Mwanza and Dr Tapiwa Gundu.

### The research work includes:

- A survey of clustering algorithms
- Cluster modelling for inhomogeneous spatial big data
- Modelling the case of HIV/Aids
- Performing sentimental analysis on Twitter data using machine learning algorithms
- Integration extreme value theory and support vector machines in modelling extreme prices
- Applying machine learning methods in diagnosing heart disease for diabetic patients.



BSc Data Science Honours Class of 2019: (from left) Atsile Itumeleng, Akinlaja Olatomiwa, Vernon Kok, Kudzai Sibanda, Mangope Omphemetse.

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SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## INAUGURAL INTAKE OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The first intake of students into the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management, offered by the School of Economic and Management Sciences, arrived at SPU on Saturday, 6 April 2019 for their Orientation Programme.



The Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management is a qualification directed at enabling individuals to apply relevant skills, knowledge and principals to execute management functions required in the public and non-governmental sectors.

It seeks to develop individuals who have the capacity to competently and ethically add public value and function within public domain organisations.

Students will graduate having acquired knowledge and skills in governance, policy-making and analysis, public and development economics, strategy and innovation, public finance and human resource management.

**The qualification takes one year full-time or two years part-time to complete and is offered part-time, full-time or by block release.**

This inaugural intake is a dynamic and diverse group that mainly comprises students working in different spheres of the public service. The average age of this class is in the early 30s and are

mostly women. The programme is facilitated by Salim Latib, a Governance and Development Lecturer and Caroline Hoorn, a registered Industrial Psychologist.

Students are divided into one of six syndicate groups for the duration of their study.

On the last day of the Orientation Programme, each group performed a song/poem of three verses, accompanied by a dance/mime feature that introduced the syndicate members and the syndicate's hopes, dreams and aspirations.

The groups included The A Team, The Game Changers, Revival, The Trendsetters, Sol Plaatje Diamonds and the Pathfinders.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic Professor Jean Baxen encouraged this inaugural cohort to set the standard of postgraduate studies at SPU and to join the University in creating an academic culture that consists of learning communities which are committed to success.

She exhorted them to become trailblazers in their spheres of influence.

◀ GO BACK



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UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## XOLANI TAKES GOLD AT TOP CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

School of Education 4th year student Xolani Mathebula took a top 10 place at the competitive two-day Ethekewini Open Chess Championship earlier this year.



More than 100 players competed in the A-section with another 90 players in the B-section.

He says that the Durban championship has gained popularity in recent years as players from across South Africa and neighbouring countries meet to play the game of kings.

"Two easy wins and a draw on the first day put me in an enviable position with a 2,5 score out of 3," said Xolani.

"Day 2 also started well for me with a hard-fought win against a strong opponent and a protracted struggle. This was followed by

a loss against the national master and SA Chess Olympiad team member Moseithe Kgaugelo."

In another game, local Durban player Majola Zenzele blundered with his "Rook and Knight" leading to a win by Xolani.

**At the end of the championships, Xolani's final score was 4,5 points out of a total of 6 and an overall position of 9th as a result of an 8th position tie.**

Xolani is a previous SPU sportsman of the year.

◀ GO BACK



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## EXCITING SAFETY WEEK PLANNED

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“Sol Plaatje University, together with the Student Representative Council, is planning to host a safety week to help improve safety on the campus and build a positive relationship with the community,” says Assistant Director of Campus Security Mr Lucky Khumela.

This follows on from a number of initiatives which the Directorate has undertaken to help improve students’ understanding of campus security, and in particular, the services which it offers to keep students safe.

Mr Khumela explains that during the safety week, students will be provided with an opportunity to provide suggestions on how to improve safety.

The University has also invited the South African Police Service to discuss its role in protecting SPU students and the Kimberley community.

**One of the improvements which will be discussed in the more detail during the week is the Green Route Project.**

He explains that this is principally a “safety corridor” which has been securitised by SPU Security who patrol the route between residences and campus.

Lucky reiterates that students need to be vigilant about the areas which they use.

During the safety week, he says, critical issues like harassment in lecture rooms, campus robbery and date rape drugs will be addressed.

*“It is the responsibility of every individual to ensure their personal safety and security, and make the University safer,” ends Lucky.*

◀ GO BACK

## SPU INFRASTRUCTURE BUILD HELPS BLACK CONTRACTORS EXCEL

A cornerstone of the Sol Plaatje University ethos is to facilitate the development of local or black-owned companies and is operationalised through its Policy on Supply Chain Management for Goods and Services.



In addition, SPU is also part of the Purchasing Consortium of Higher Education Sector in Southern Africa, known as PURCO, which allows the University to gain the maximum benefit from collaborative purchase and purchasing support.

Since the establishment of SPU and largely through its infrastructure construction, SPU has assisted eight Kimberley-based B-BBEE companies to grow, not only in skill but also profitability. We take a closer look:

### Poppy Mabilo, Shebang Construction (now CIDB GB4)

**PDI status:** Black female  
**SPU projects:** Moroko Hall of Residence, Natural Sciences Laboratory & South Campus  
**Role:** Brick laying, rubble removal and earthworks  
**Other:** Participated SPU Phase 1 Emerging Contractors Incubation Project

**MILESTONES:** Improved CIDB grading from GB 1 to GB 4 mid-year 2018, won tender as an independent contractor for the SPU Small Works Framework Contract; Shebang Construction now in the process of updating its CIDB grade to a GB 6.

### Matlakala Radebe, Reign Construction (now CIDB GB 7)

**PDI status:** Black female  
**SPU projects:** Repair and refurbishment of three residences  
**Role:** Quantity Surveyor which included pricing work, appointing subcontractors, obtaining quotes, managing the delivery of building supplies timeously for site, inspecting work for quality assurance purposes and measuring work for the contractor's claims, major contractor; with joint venture, awarded medium and refurbishment works framework contract

**MILESTONES:** Matlakala registered as a black female-owned construction with a CIDB 6 grading; as part of a JV with Kimkaho, it was registered as a CIDB Grade 7 contractor.

### Chaucke TR Construction (now CIDB GB 2)

**PDI status:** 100% black-owned construction company  
**SPU projects:** First and second phases of SPU construction  
**Role:** General building  
**Other:** Participated in SPU's First Phase Emerging Contractors Incubation Project

**MILESTONES:** Updating its CIDB Grading to GB 4.

### OIK Construction (upgrading to CIDB GB 4)

**PDI status:** 100% black-owned construction company  
**SPU projects:** First phase of SPU's construction (Academic Building & Library Project)  
**Role:** Site housekeeping, bricklaying and additional trades, formwork and concrete casting  
**Other:** Participated in the SPU's First Phase Emerging Contractors Incubation Project

**MILESTONES:** Company has worked in joint ventures for the Sol Plaatje Municipality; it's increased its CIDB Grading to GB 4.

### MAJ Management (CIDB GB 1)

**PDI status:** Black-owned construction company  
**SPU projects:** First phase of SPU building  
**Role:** Steel fixer  
**Other:** Participated in the first phase of construction

**MILESTONES:** On recommendation, the company has worked on another two major projects; Company has again been appointed as a subcontractor to major works contractors in the second phase of construction at SPU.

### Phemelo Semoa, Ipopeng Construction (CIDB GB 2)

**PDI status:** Black female  
**SPU projects:** Second phase of construction: building services, building & Tauana Warden's apartment  
**Role:** Bricklayer, subcontractor to major works contractor

**MILESTONES:** Company upgrading CIDB grading to GB 4.

### Mountain Front Building Contractors (CIDB GB 1)

**PDI status:** Black male-owned bricklaying construction company  
**SPU projects:** Three first phase building projects; appointed for second phase  
**Role:** Subcontractor to major contractor

**MILESTONES:** Increased annual turnover in anticipation of upgrading its CIDB ranking.

Emerging business incubated by SPU's Facilities and Services Department

### Gordon Bickle, HHBC Small Loads

**PDI status:** 100% black-owned company  
**Role:** Waste collector who removes waste on a daily basis to manage the University's waste

**MILESTONES:** Department helped Gordon Bickle to form a waste management company and assisted with compliance regulations for managing a business; it is fully registered on the CSD.





SOL PLAATJE  
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MAY 2019

e-BRIEF

## FOCUS ON RESEARCH: DR TRACEY HERMAN - RESEARCH STUDY FOR PHD

### The development of reading for cross-curricular learning at a special school: A Community of Practice approach

This study explored the use of a Community of Practice (CoP) approach to in-service teacher development in the domain of reading for cross-curricular learning at a special school.

#### The study focused on:

- The influence of a teaching philosophy on the implementation of reading for cross-curricular learning
- Factors that sway the establishment and maintenance of a CoP
- Advantages and disadvantages of a CoP approach to teachers' professional learning
- Teachers' perceptions of a CoP approach to professional learning and reading for cross-curricular learning at a special school.

The findings revealed that teachers need to understand why and how a constructivist approach to teaching and learning benefits learners' growth and development within a democratic environment. If teachers experience the value of a constructivist approach to teaching and learning, they may be more likely to embrace this approach to facilitate the learning process.

A CoP can become a support network to teachers as they attempt to support learners who experience barriers to learning such as reading difficulties.

This bodes well for its practice in inclusive education. It should be noted though, that the support of the school principal is fundamental for the establishment and maintenance of a CoP.

Teacher autonomy can be strengthened and reliance on so-called experts can be diminished through participation in a CoP.

In this study, the CoP was effective in offering context-specific, school-based, teacher-led professional development for reading for cross-curricular learning.



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## DHET NEWS TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS FOR PSET SYSTEM

The Department of Higher Education and Training released its annual Statistics on Post-School Education and Training in South Africa. It lists 10 milestones for the 2017 year:

- 1** IN 2017, THERE WERE:
  - 26** public Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
  - 125** private Higher Education Institutions
  - 50** Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges
  - 268** registered private colleges
  - 9** Community Education and Training (CET) colleges.
- 2** PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEIS ENROLLED **1,2 MILLION STUDENTS**, THE MAJORITY IN PUBLIC HEIS.  
Enrolment in TVETs reached **688,028**, 2.5% lower than 2016.  
In CET colleges, **258,199 students** enrolled, 5.6% lower while enrolment in private colleges was **187,354**, 10.9% up when compared to the previous year.
- 3** THE **210,931 GRADUATES** IN PUBLIC HEIS SHOWS A 3.9% INCREASE.  
The majority were in **Science, Engineering and Technology** followed by **Business and Management, Humanities and Education**.
- 4** **UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES COMPRISED 45.6%**, FOLLOWED BY **UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS (26.3%)**.  
Postgraduate below Master's level comprised 20.6% while **Doctoral degrees** were 9.3% higher.
- 5** **GRADUATES IN PRIVATE HEIS TOTALLED 35,922**, A 9.5% DECREASE.  
The majority of private HEI students graduated with **Bachelor's degrees (31.6%)**, followed by **Higher Certificates (28.9%)**.
- 6** **NSFAS ALLOCATED R14,1 BILLION**, 3.8% HIGHER.  
Students allocated NSFAS funding totalled **460,341**, a 2.0% increase.  
**Public HEIs received 56.5%** and **TVETs 43.5%**.
- 7** **FUNZA LUSHAKA BURSARIES OF R1,1 BILLION** WERE AWARDED TO **14,899 STUDENTS** FOR THE EDUCATION FIELD, A 5.4% INCREASE.
- 8** **THE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEVY FUND DISBURSED R16,2 BILLION**, A LARGER PROPORTION TO THE SETAS WHILE THE **NATIONAL SKILLS FUND (NSF) RECEIVED R3.2 BILLION**.  
Of the R13.0 billion for SETAs, **R8.0 billion** was spent on discretionary grants, **R3.2 billion** on mandatory grants and **R1.7 billion** on administration costs.
- 9** THE NSF SUPPORTED **173 PROJECTS, 57,238 BENEFICIARIES** TOTTALLING **R6,9 BILLION**.
- 10** **PUBLIC FUNDING** FOR POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND TRAINING TOTALLED **R40,5 BILLION**, AN 11.0% INCREASE.  
The majority funding was allocated to **public HEIs**. **TVET and CET sectors** were allocated **16,7%** and **5,3%** respectively.

## SPU FACTSHEET SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Prof Yunus Ballim**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

*BSc (Civil Eng) (Wits), MSc (Eng) (Wits), PhD (Wits)*



**Prof Jean Baxen**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

*Primary Teachers Diploma (Bechet College of Education), Bachelor of Arts (Unisa), Master of Education (Mathematics Education) (University of Leeds, UK), PhD (UCT)*



**Raymond Olander**  
Chief Operating Officer

*BCompt (Unisa)*



**Annalene Marais**  
Chief Financial Officer

*CA (SA) BAcc (UFS), Certificate in Theoretical Accounting (UFS), Certificate in Municipal Finance and Supply Chain Management – Part 1 and 2 (Wits)*



**Rathnum Naidoo**  
University Registrar

*BA (Unisa) BEd (Rhodes)*



**Prof Patrick FitzGerald**  
Executive Director: Special Projects

*BA (Philosophy, Politics) (Wits)*



**Prof Aifheli Gelebe**  
School of Natural and Applied Sciences  
BSc Hons (University of Venda) MSc (Rhodes University) PhD (Rhodes University)



**Dr Audrey Msimanga**  
School of Education

*BSc (Wits) BSc Hons (Wits), MSc (Wits) PhD (Wits)*



**Professor Jesmael Mataga**  
School of Humanities

*BA Hons (University of Zimbabwe) MA (University of Zimbabwe) PhD (UCT)*



**Leonard Ndlovu (Acting)**  
School of Economic and Management Sciences

*MBA (Finance) (ZOU) BCompt (Hons) Man Acc (Unisa) ACMA (CIMA, UK), MIRMSA*

## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION



#### TWO DOCTORATES ACHIEVED

The School of Education celebrated the awarding of doctorates to Thomas Masosve and Tracey Herman.

Dr Masosve completed his PhD in Education at the University of Free State. His study investigated the opportunities for learning in electrical engineering at the Northern Cape Urban TVET college.

Dr Herman's PhD in Education was awarded by the University of the Free State and focused on the development of reading for cross-curricular learning at a special school. In particular, it looked at the community of practice approach.

It was a bitter-sweet moment for Dr Herman whose supervisor Prof Willy Nel passed away in mid-April.



Dr Thomas Masosve & Dr Tracey Herman.

### ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



#### EMERGING ENTREPRENEURS GET TIME TO SHOW OFF

Would-be entrepreneurs from every SPU School got a taste of doing business through the School of EMS's market day at the end of April.

The purpose of the market day was to grow a University-wide culture of entrepreneurship by providing existing, emerging and potential student entrepreneurs with a platform to exhibit and sell their products.

The products included sweet treats and cupcakes while others sold hand-made crafts and jewellery.

There was a hive of activity as the SPU community showed up in numbers to support the entrepreneurs which resulted in the initiative being an overwhelming success.

The School says that it is looking forward to next year's annual event and is planning to make some improvements.

"The day proved that the University is helping to cultivate students who will become job creators and not merely job seekers," says Acting Head of School Leonard Ndlovu.



SPU entrepreneurs get down to business.

### SCHOOL WALKS THE TALK

About 1,000 high school learners from Kimberley's William Pescod High School and the Tetlano High School joined the School for a morning and were exposed to the career possibilities offered in the marketing management field.

Management Sciences Lecturer, Mr Isaac Patsa, who led the successful "Walk the Talk" initiative, says it helped to build a University-school relationship by providing the learners with valuable information about the University's BCom and its streams of specialisation.

Isaac adds that the School encourages SPU students and staff to build University-community relationships so that "we cultivate students that go on to become great ambassadors for SPU in the private and public sector".

## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS CONTINUED

### HUMANITIES



#### GIVING DIRECTION ON NORTHERN CAPE LINGUISTICS

University of the Western Cape's Dr Lorato Mokwena presented a highly-entertaining seminar on how individuals in the Northern Cape draw on alternative semiotic resources for providing travellers with specific directions to destinations.

Dr Mokwena says her paper, "Okay, dit is mos nou uit hier en dan draai ek regs, links, weer regs, links, straight af": Route directions and the invention of street names in the linguistic landscapes of rural Northern Cape", is based on her interest in how residents in rural environments creatively incorporate natural, non-tangible and non-linguistic elements into their narration of space to compensate for the lack of smart navigation tools and visible, written signage.

She explained that about 4,5 million South African households are without formal street addresses, especially in rural areas. Her research explores how residents of rural areas invent streets and name them based on place memory and aesthetic features for navigation and nostalgia purposes.

She argued that her research aims to contribute to the understanding of the navigation practices in rural semiotic landscapes from an African and global South perspective.

Dr Mokwena's seminar was part of the School of Humanities' First Semester Seminar series. The series continues until June. The line-up for the second seminar series will be announced soon.

More details on the series are available from Facebook.



*"Okay, dit is mos nou uit hier en dan draai ek regs, links, weer regs, links, straight af"*

#### Route directions and the invention of street names in the linguistic landscapes of the rural Northern Cape



**By Dr Lorato Mokwena**

Linguistics Department, University of the Western Cape

**Date** Tuesday, 30 April 2019

**Time** 15h30

**Venue** C113, Humanities Building, Central Campus

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Light from Africa for Humanity • Lesedi la Afrika go Batho • Lig uit Afrika vir die Mensdom

#### HUMANITIES' DR BENNEYWORTH PRESENTS ON LIBERATION STRUGGLE

Dr Garth Benneyworth, a notable authority on the liberation struggle, presented his paper, Reconstructing the Raid, to a conference which brought together veterans from the 1960s era and seven international academics who engaged in a two-day conversation on that era of the liberation struggle.

Dr Benneyworth's paper was based on his pioneering and original research done on Liliesleaf and the papers published in 2017. Liliesleaf Farm, located in Johannesburg, was a farm used secretly by African National Congress activists in the 1960's.

The conference, "The Rivonia Generation and the Turn to Armed Struggle in South Africa", was hosted by the Liliesleaf A Place of Liberation, Rivonia in Johannesburg in March this year.

The keynote speaker on the day was General Siphwe Nyanda.



Sharing a moment of camaraderie: Garth Benneyworth, Nicolas Wolpe and Mac Maharaj.

### NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES



#### SCHOOL WELCOMES DR MARTINS ARASOMWAN

The School welcomes Dr Martins Akugbe Arasomwan as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT). He teaches four modules:

- Information Systems III (NINS631): Third-year ICT module
- Professional Practice & Ethics in Software Development (NPPD731): Third-year BSc Data Science students
- Advanced Data Analysis and Visualisation (NDAV741): Advance Diploma ICT.

Dr Arasomwan holds a PhD in Computer Science, MSc in Computer Science, BSc Computer Science and Diploma (Data Processing).

His areas of research include global optimisation, data science/big data, neural networks, machine learning and deep learning.

Dr Arasomwan brings a great wealth of knowledge in data science and ICT.



#### UP PARTNERSHIP FOR DATA SCIENCE HONOURS CLASS

The School has partnered with University of Pretoria's Faculty of Natural and Agriculture Sciences (Department of Statistics).

The partnership creates supervisory capacity between SPU and the University of Pretoria for the BSc Hons Data Science, Mathematical Sciences and Statistics programmes.

#### BOTANY, ZOOLOGY STUDENTS TAKE TO THE FIELD

Over 50 second and third-year students together with academics took to exploring one of SANPark's newest parks, Mokala National Park.

The trip, which took place in April, formed part of the student's practical component for their subjects.

After settling in following their 80km trip to the park, the group took time to refresh and relax after supper at the Mofele Lodge with an inspiring BBC Earth movie.

The next two days were an adrenalin rush as team facilitators Dr Doug Harebottle, Mr Refilwe Modiba and Dr Amanda Landman helped students discover first-hand bird-ringing, anthrod diversity, mammal habitat use (based on dung and vegetation analysis), camera-trapping at water points and bio mapping.

This annual trip for the eclectic group of BSc and BEd students was also a first for the three-year students who joined their second-year counterparts.





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MAY 2019

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

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### NEW APPOINTMENTS

**Dr Munyaradzi Manjoro**

Senior Lecturer: Physical Geography

**John Tshipi**

Lecturer: Physics

**Tshepo Mogorosi**

Lecturer: Applied Mathematics

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### TERMINATIONS

**Dr Nhlanhla Mpofu**

Director: Teaching Learning and Programme Development

[◀ GO BACK](#)



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## SPU EVENTS & CALENDAR

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### ENERGY MONTH & AFRICA MONTH MAY 2019

**31 May: 14:00 Humanities Seminar**

Lesego Mgatitswe, SPU

"Pink and Black but Neva Broken":

The intersection of race and gender in an online breast cancer group.



**24 May: 18:00 The Black Revolution in Azania**

Prof Kehinde Andrews:

Professor of Black Studies, Birmingham City University

RSVP by 22 May 2019 to Ms Bali Maeneche by  
(telephone) 053 491 0389, (mobile) 082 488 9285  
or (email) bali.maeneche@spu.ac.za



PLEASE CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES AND MORE EVENTS WHICH ARE HELD AT SPU.

◀ GO BACK