



SOL PLAATJE  
UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2019

# e-BRIEF



## Dear SPU Community

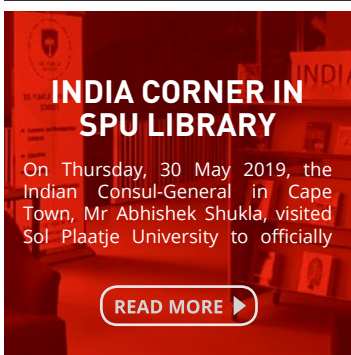
### "Graduateness" at SPU

The first five academic years in the life of our young University have seen SPU develop more than 400 graduates from our different qualifications.

These graduates have done very well – by a large margin, they surpassed the national higher education averages for student completion rate and for the proportion of students who complete in minimum time.

This level of performance is important for the sustainability of SPU and all our staff and students must hold firm in this commitment to the primacy of learning at our University.

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### INDIA CORNER IN SPU LIBRARY

On Thursday, 30 May 2019, the Indian Consul-General in Cape Town, Mr Abhishek Shukla, visited Sol Plaatje University to officially

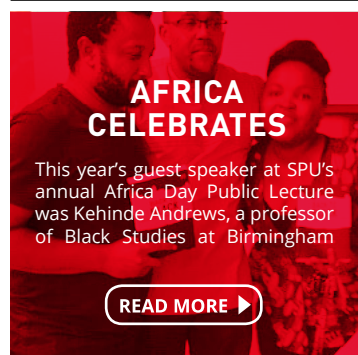
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### SPU DRAMA GROUP TO FEATURE AT NAF

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### AFRICA CELEBRATES

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### HUMANITIES LECTURER COMMEMORATES HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY

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### FRENCH ACCOLADE FOR SPU LIBERATION EXPERT

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### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - SPU AND CONTRACTORS

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### FOCUS ON RESEARCH: DR THOMAS MASVOSVE

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### DHET NEWS: TASK TEAM - SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has appointed a Task Team to advise on sexual harassment

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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 July 2019.

Editor: Kashini Maistry

SOL PLAATJE  
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## “GRADUATENESS” AT SPU

The first five academic years in the life of our young University have seen SPU develop more than 400 graduates from our different qualifications.

These graduates have done very well – by a large margin, they surpassed the national higher education averages for student completion rate and for the proportion of students who complete in minimum time.

This level of performance is important for the sustainability of SPU and all our staff and students must hold firm in this commitment to the primacy of learning at our University.

But what does it mean to be a graduate of SPU? Technically, it means that a student has passed all the modules in a particular qualification. But graduateness must mean more than simply an ability to pass exams – important as this may be.

To be an SPU graduate also requires that our students understand and imbibe the values that our University considers to be important – critical and respectful engagement with ideas; respect for diversity of opinion; commitment to life-long learning; able to positively respond to matters of social exclusion based on identity markers such as race, class, disability, gender or sexual orientation and a commitment to an ethical approach to all their activities.

*A SPU graduate cannot merely  
be a well-trained technocrat.  
We expect that our graduates  
will leave SPU as well-educated,  
critically engaged citizens who  
try hard to approach important  
questions of the human condition  
with understanding and empathy.*

We expect that the large proportion of our students will arrive at SPU with a range of prejudices or incomplete understandings, that were learnt in their home or community contexts. The SPU graduate is one who has had an opportunity to question these prejudices during the time of study and has learnt to see the world through the eyes of those who were considered as “the Other”. The SPU graduate should have developed the confidence to engage with the unfamiliar - but has also learnt to see the familiar in unfamiliar ways.

Much of the features of what I call “graduateness” happens outside of the classroom or formal learning opportunities.



Students develop these habits of mind in what we refer to as the “second curriculum”. This is the learning that happens in things like social interactions, debates, student clubs and societies activities, open lectures, sporting events and residence life.

But it is also in the so-called small things: the way that the campus is cleaned and our attitude to littering, the ways in which we speak to each other, our commitment to volunteerism and the way students support the learning of fellow students.

“Graduateness” requires a conscious effort from students and staff if our students are to leave as proud SPU graduates.

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

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## INDIA CORNER IN SPU LIBRARY



On Thursday, 30 May 2019, the Indian Consul-General in Cape Town, Mr Abhishek Shukla, visited Sol Plaatje University to officially unveil the India Corner in the SPU Library.

This is a selection of books donated by the Government of India for the creation of India Corners in the libraries of prestigious universities in host countries.

To date, the University of Cape Town and Sol Plaatje University have established India Corners in their libraries.

The donation aims to provide quality resource material on India to educational institutions for those who want to learn about India.

The books donated to the SPU Library cover a wide range of subjects on Indian culture, history, philosophy, tourism, geography, architecture, foreign policy, economics and folk stories.

It also contains the tome on the Indian Constitution, books on the emerging India story and Indian classics such as the Ramayan, Mahabharat and Bhagwadgita.

In his remarks over a luncheon with the Senior Management Team and senior SPU Library staff, Mr Shukla thanked the University for giving pride of place in its library to the India Corner.

He expressed a desire to facilitate a relationship between SPU and the Government of India since the latter was actively working on enhancing its relationship with African countries.

SPU Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Yunus Ballim, suggested that since SPU was similarly keen to develop relationships with sister institutions in Africa, "we could collaborate with the Government of India together with other institutions in neighbouring African countries".

### **Possible areas for future collaboration between Indian institutions and SPU include:**

- academic exchanges in public management programmes with an institution in Bangalore
- developing sister relationships with Indian institutions
- participation by SPU staff in the Indian government-funded ITEC programme for the upgrading of skills
- teacher education
- creative writing
- translation services since India has a rich tradition of translation approaches which are sensitive to cultural contexts.

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## SPU DRAMA GROUP TO FEATURE AT NAF

In 2019, the SPU Drama Group will feature at Makhanda's 45th National Arts Festival on the Fringe Programme with their play *Buried Seeds* by Thabo Gabogope and Mishka Tobias.



*Buried Seeds* is a dual language play in Tswana and English that questions the inheritance of political power.

It is set in a desolate community in Ipelegeng near Schweizer-Reneke which is home to shattered dreams and hopes. The central character is the Mayor who, in his search for justice for his mother, neglects his duties as a leader.

The community are left to fend for themselves and deal with the death of 10 young people that are killed in a stampede.

The cast comprises Wendy Appolis, Oratile Senokwane, Mamotse Tsinyane, Magasenna Damane, Keabaka Gasenmore, Oratile Mokwa and Keitumetse Makgolokwe, who are directed by Thabo Gabogope and Neo Mathbobisa. The Stage Managers are Fikile Sithole and Surita Jacobs.

*Buried Seeds* will be staged on 5 and 6 July 2019 in the Masonic Front theatre area.

The SPU Drama Group debuted in 2017 at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda when they performed *Lerothodi la sebukwabukwane* by Thabo Moshe.

The National Arts Festival is an annual festival of performing arts.

It is the largest arts festival on the African continent and was established in 1973. It consists of the main programme and a fringe festival, with a combined total of 350 events with over 1,200 performances.

Fringe productions that are innovative, original and creatively outstanding will receive the Standard Bank Ovation Awards.

The awards provide recognition, offers of extended tours, opportunities to perform internationally, increased funding opportunities and an invitation to submit a proposal for the following year's Arena programme.

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## AFRICA CELEBRATES

This year's guest speaker at SPU's annual Africa Day Public Lecture was Kehinde Andrews, a professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University in Birmingham, England.

Andrews' lecture, which was held at the Sol Plaatje University on 24 May 2019, was titled "The Black Revolution in Azania".

In his talk, he argued that South Africa's total freedom was tied to the rest of the continent and that since the decolonisation that saw African countries gain independence, lives of many Africans had not changed for the better because independence had not brought economic emancipation.

"Africa continues to be plundered by the West," he argued.

"Minerals leave Africa only for the Africans to buy many products made of their minerals from the West. These include oil, gold, diamonds, platinum and more."

He argued that Africa was the only continent that had all it needed and explained why it was colonised in the first place and why the West was still a major extractor of African minerals.

On a localised level, Andrews lamented the economic divide in post-apartheid South Africa.

"Connected to black poverty and white privilege is the issue of land and access to the means of production."

He added that ending economic injustice was very much to the advantage of white South Africans as it was to black South Africans.

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Andrews is the author of an acclaimed book [Back to Black: Retelling Black Radicalism for the 21st Century](#), which was on sale during the lecture.

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*Africa Day guest speaker, Prof Kehinde Andrews, with SPU's Mr Sello Mashibini (Sociology) and Ms Nokubonga Mazibuko-Ngidi (Anthropology).*

The annual Africa Day Public Lecture is a joint programme of the Sol Plaatje University and the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

During his visit to South Africa, Andrews visited the University of Johannesburg, University of the Free State and a poetry festival in Jankempdor, about 100km from Kimberley.

He was invited as a guest speaker at these locations and was interviewed by the local media such as the Northern Cape News Network, Solomon Star newspaper and Radio Teemaneng. He also paid a visit to Orania.

He was also invited to give a lecture to the Sociology Honours students at SPU.

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## HUMANITIES LECTURER COMMEMORATES HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY



Creative Writing Lecturer, Sabatampho Mokae, was invited to deliver the Beaconsfield Library's historic 130th anniversary speech.

Entitled "There Was a Word and the Word Was a Diamond", Mr Mokae provided an inspirational historical overview of Kimberley's evolution from mining town to cultural hub, including many important events that had been birthed in the town.

**He presented Kimberley as a city of firsts whose milestones include:**

- the first postal service in 1871
- the first drive-in bar in 1875
- the first professional training of nurses in 1877
- Kimberley was the first city in the southern hemisphere to have electric street lights in September 1882
- in 1883, Kimberley gave the country its first stock exchange
- the first to have a plane accident in 1913.

For the full transcript of the speech, go to <https://www.spu.ac.za/index.php/humanities-lecturer-in-130th-anniversary-for-historic-library/>

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## FRENCH ACCOLADE FOR SPU LIBERATION EXPERT

SPU's Head of Department of Heritage Studies, Dr Garth Benneyworth is part of an international team whose work has been included in a recently-published book, *Life in the Camp*.

The book covers issues of forced migration and internment of civilians, post the second world war.

Dr Benneyworth says the significance of his chapter, titled *Traces and Memory*, which was produced in English, sets the context for black concentration camps for the 20th-century and beyond.

The aim of the work is to provide a further understanding of the history and meaning of black concentration camps.

He explains that only in the last two decades has this issue been incorporated in the historiography of the war in the context of civilian wartime internment and forced wartime labour.

*The publication also includes findings from his archaeological project on the Kimberley and Dry Harts black concentration camps undertaken during 2001 - 2008, the first-ever archaeological surveys of such camps in South Africa.*

His specialisation is in war studies and the heritage of conflict with a focus on the armed struggle of the liberation movement and the South African War and in particular, the black concentration camps of that conflict.

Dr Benneyworth has published two books, four book chapters and 15 articles, aside from developing museum exhibitions in South Africa and France.

For further details of *Life in the Camp* which consists of 16 chapters, written by 48 authors, go to <http://bit.ly/215dM1v>



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## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

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Contractors and consultants, working on all the SPU infrastructure projects, came together on Wednesday, 22 May 2019 on South Campus, to network, talk about their goals for 2019 and to celebrate their joint efforts in building a university for the future.



The braai was hosted by Christine Paddon, Director of Physical Planning & Infrastructure at SPU and was funded by contributions from the contractors.

In addressing the gathering, Professor Jean Baxen, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, said that SPU was not just another infrastructure project but that everyone involved in the work were part of the vision in creating this new university which would become a beacon of light in Africa.

She reminded them “our new buildings will speak to a vision of a new democracy, to social justice and to equity and access.”

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**She also said that she was depending on them to create buildings and spaces that in 100 years from now will be judged as having realised “our founding ideals and that SPU must be an example for future universities”.**

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## FOCUS ON RESEARCH: DR THOMAS MASVOSVE

Dr Thomas Masvosve, Lecturer in Technology Learning, investigated opportunities to learn created for electrical engineering students at Northern Cape Urban TVET College, as part of his doctoral thesis awarded by the University of Free State.

The low throughput and high unemployment rates of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college graduates are cause for great concern globally and in South Africa.

Despite the well-meaning intentions the Department of Higher Education and Training to provide for effective practical training, TVET colleges are currently not succeeding in developing practical skills in Electrical Engineering Studies.

The study aimed to investigate opportunities-to-learn (OTL) created for electrical engineering students at the Northern Cape Urban TVET College.

The research focused on the OTL for students who enrolled for Electrical Trade Theory in the N1 programme.

The research reviewed the literature related to OTL and TVET, and obtained the perceptions of students and lecturers on the nature of OTL as created at a TVET college.

The study was conducted using questionnaires and interviews administered with students and the lecturer teaching the subject.

Document analysis was also employed to gather vital curriculum information for the N1 Electrical Trade Theory subject.

### The research resulted in several significant findings:

- **theory is taught but is not complemented by practice**
- **teaching methods and learning activities do not promote active participation on the part of students**
- **classes are composed of young and so-called mature students**
- **there are not enough assessment opportunities**
- **there are gaps in the academic staff's ability to teach technical and vocational subjects, such as electrical engineering**
- **instructional resources are inadequate.**



The research recommended that lecturers are appropriately skilled so that they are informed about teaching and learning methods that are suitable for classes with students of mixed abilities, ages and backgrounds.

Furthermore, academic staff should employ teaching methods that are learning-centred and result in students actively creating knowledge through their own experience.

It became clear that the more a lecturer practices this type of the teaching, and takes into consideration relevant contextual factors, the more a lecturer enhances the creation of OTL for electrical engineering at a TVET college.



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## DHET NEWS TASK TEAM TO FOCUS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has appointed a Task Team to advise on sexual harassment and gender-based violence in public universities in South Africa.

The nine-member team, who has been appointed for one year, are:

- Lisa Vetten
- Dr Babalwa Magoqwana
- Professor Jackie Dugard
- Professor Pumla Gqola
- Dr Robert Morrell
- Jerome September
- Professor Malehoko Tshoaedi
- Corinne Knowles
- A student representative nominated by the South African Union of Students (SAUS).

The appointment of the Ministerial Task Team is part of DHET's response to an open letter written by a group of academics to the Minister in March 2019.

Recently, DHET released the Policy Framework to address Gender-based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training sector for public comment.

Once in place, the policy framework will provide an essential frame for addressing many of the concerns that the academics raised.

The vision of the policy framework is that "everyone has the right to live, study and work freely and safely in PSET institutions without any fear of sexual/gender-based intimidation, harassment, abuse, rape or other forms of sexual/gender-based harm".



### The Ministerial Task Team on sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the university sector will advise the Minister and the Department on the following:

- the effective introduction and implementation of the policy framework to address gender-based violence, with a specific focus on universities
- a possible enquiry into sexual harassment, gender-based violence and gender-based harm in the university sector, considering work that has already been carried out
- measures to ensure that sexual offenders do not escape justice and repeat offences in other institutions
- appropriate levels of support to be put in place at public universities
- mechanisms and processes to report on sexual offences in the sector, in line with the policy framework, with a view of improving monitoring and reporting
- other possible interventions to improve institutional responses to gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

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**SPU FACTSHEET  
SPU COUNCIL**



**Judge Jennifer Yvonne Mokgoro**

Chair: Council, Exco and Remco

BJuris (NWU) LLB (NWU) LLM (NWU) LLM (UPenn)



**Jennifer Anne Glennie**

Deputy Chair: Council, Exco and Remco

BSc (Hons) (WITS) MA (London)



**Tshepo Macdonald Bloom**

NDip (HR Management) (VUT)  
Dip (Public Management and Governance) (NWU)  
BA Hons (Labour Law) (UFS)  
MPA (Public Administration) (UFS)  
Cert (Municipal Financial Management) (NWU)  
PhD (NWU) Current studies



**Mr Ralph Hollingworth Clarkson**

CA(SA)  
BCom (Rhodes)  
PG Dip in Taxation (Natal)  
PG Dip in Forensic Auditing and Criminal Justice (Natal)



**Abdul Latief Kimmie**

BCompt (UNISA)  
BCompt Hons (CTA) (UNISA)  
MBA (UFS)  
RGA (SAIGA)



**Abel Nyanyana Madonsela**

National Dip in Public Relations and Business Communication (TUT)  
BTech in Public Relations and Business Communication (TUT)  
MBA (NWU)



**Moria Antoinette Marais-Martin**

BA (UWC)  
Higher Diploma in Education (UWC)  
B.Ed (UWC)  
M.Ed (UWC)



**Andrew Conway Gaorekwe Molusi**

B.Journ (Rhodes University)  
MA (University of Notre Dame Ind. USA)



**Julius Jacob Mutyorauta**

BSc (University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland)  
MSc (Geophysics) (University of Zimbabwe)  
MSc (Mineral Exploration) (London)  
DIC (Mineral Exploration) (London)  
MBA (MANCOSA)



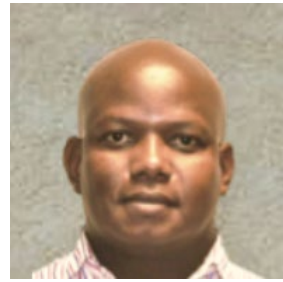
**Judge Mmathebe Violet Phatshoane**

BProc  
LLB  
LLM (UFS)



**Goolam Hoosain Akharwaray**

BProc (UCT)  
LLB (UFS)  
Certificate in Management (UCT)  
Certificate in Municipal Financial Management



**Harry Mandla Ndziilili**

Cert. Government Communications and Marketing and Public Service Management Dip. Journalism (TUT)  
B Tech Public Management (UCT)

**INTERNAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**



**Prof Yunus Ballim**

BSc (Civil Eng) (WITS)  
MSc (Eng) (WITS)  
PhD (WITS)



**Prof Jean Baxen**

Primary Teachers Diploma (Bechet College of Education)  
Bachelor of Arts (University of South Africa)  
Master of Education (Mathematics Education) (University of Leeds (United Kingdom))  
PhD (UCT)



**Prof Aifheli Calson Gelebe**

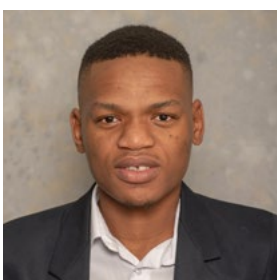
BSc Hons (University of Venda)  
MSc (Rhodes University)  
PhD (Rhodes University)



**Prof Jesmael Mataga**

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

**SRC COUNCIL MEMBERS**



**Thabo Moilwa**



**Thulile Ngema**

## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION



#### INSPIRATIONAL INSIGHTS OF NORDIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

As part of the South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) partnership to promote research and academic collaboration, SPU hosted an inspirational lecture that provided insight into transforming higher education curricula and in particular, the nexus between academia and society between researchers in South Africa and Sweden.

Prof Kerstin von Brömssen, Professor in Educational Science, University West, Sweden and Dr Signild Risenfors, Senior Lecturer in Educational Science, University West, Sweden presented the lecture which covered Sweden as part of the Nordic systems of education from three viewpoints:

- the ideology and structure of the Nordic school system
- education as a part of the welfare system past and present
- a view on the Swedish teacher education with some examples from University West, Sweden.

SPU colleagues involved the project are Dr Emma Barnett who is the University's collaborator, Dr Emma Groenewald, Dr Kevin Teise and Dr Boitumelo Moreeng.

The other four partner institutions from South Africa are the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela University, University of Western Cape and Walter Sisulu University.

Three Swedish universities which participate in SASUF include University West, Gothenburg University and Karlstad University.



At the SASUF lecture (from left): Dr Boitumelo Moreeng, Ms Mona Tynkkinen, Dr Getahun Abraham, Dr Emma Barnett, Dr Signild Risenfors and Prof Kerstin von Brömssen.

#### EDUCATION SCHOOL HEAD'S RESEARCH TACKLES TRICKY LANGUAGE DEBATE

Head of the School of Education, Dr Audrey Msimang, presented an exciting paper at the second School of Education seminar in May.

The paper, entitled "Talking Science: Teaching and Learning Science in South Africa", included a review on recent curriculum developments, diversity of the context, policy, evidence from the classrooms and language factors in the classrooms.

Her research and presentation aimed to create further understanding of the nature and role of classroom talk in the teaching and learning of science.

The study also drew on the findings from the development of the Language in Science Project, which took effect from 2014.

Her research was conducted from 2014 to 2018 in different phases in the East Gauteng District.

The data showed that out of 144 pre-service teachers, 70 did not agree with permitting home language in the classroom, 58 said they would allow it, and the remaining 16 had no opinion.

In the case of student teachers in their fourth year in educational studies, only 20 out of 74 preferred to be taught in their home language while 54 preferred the co-switching medium of instruction and teaching.

The discussions presented two schools of thought:

- Learners do well if they are taught in their mother tongue as a foundation in their early learning
- Learners must gain an understanding of English early in their education life so that they do not struggle at a later stage.

Teachers' perceptions on the use of language in the classroom indicated that they faced a complicated situation of using English and other languages in teaching maths and science while being cognisant that teaching in a mother tongue did have some benefits.

For example, in the Northern Cape's Namakwa District, where the vernacular of the province – Afrikaans - is the most used language of teaching, the district recorded the highest pass rate percentage of 83,7% in the province. It was also the fifth top performing district in the country.



Dr Audrey Msimang

## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (2)

### HUMANITIES



#### BENNEYWORTH NOTCHES UP ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW

Dr Garth Benneyworth has notched up another landmark book review in the internationally acclaimed North-West University journal, *New Contree*.

He reviewed the text of Rusty Bernstein, entitled *Memory against Forgetting*, which covers the remarkable man's memoir of a life in South African resistance politics from the late 1930s to the 1960s.

Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein was arrested at Liliesleaf Farm, Rivonia on 11 July 1963 and tried for sabotage, alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and other leaders of the African National Congress and Umkhonto we Sizwe in what came to be known as the Rivonia Trial.

He was acquitted in June 1964 but was immediately rearrested. After being released on bail, he fled with his wife into exile, followed soon afterwards by their family.

The book also includes a foreword by the former President Thabo Mbeki, who says of the book: "The memory so eloquently contained in this book tells especially the younger generations of South Africans who live in freedom that they should never forget that, indeed, that freedom was not free".

Benneyworth says that it is essential for academics to participate in book reviews because "it's part of academic citizenship and community engagement".

For more details on *Memory against Forgetting*, go <http://bit.ly/2MRVtSb>

**BOOK LAUNCH**



Wits University Press and Love Books have the pleasure of inviting you to the launch of the 2nd edition of Rusty Bernstein's memoir

**MEMORY AGAINST FORGETTING**  
Memoir of a Time in South African Politics 1938-1964  
WITH NEW FOREWORDS BY  
LORD JOEL JOFFE AND THABO MBEKI

Join us for a conversation with  
Toni Strasburg and Ronnie Kasrils

**WHEN**  
Monday 30th October 2017, 18h00 for 18h30  
**WHERE**  
Love Books, The Bamboo Centre,  
53 Rustenburg Road, Melville, Johannesburg  
**RSVP**  
by Friday 28 October to [info.witspress@wits.ac.za](mailto:info.witspress@wits.ac.za)

*The memory so eloquently contained in this book tells especially the younger generations of South Africans who live in freedom that they should never forget that, indeed, that freedom was not free.*  
Thabo Mbeki, anti-apartheid activist and former President of South Africa, 1994-2008

Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein was arrested at Liliesleaf Farm, Rivonia, on 11 July 1963 and tried for sabotage, alongside Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki and other leaders of the African National Congress. He was acquitted in June 1964, but was immediately rearrested. After being released on bail, he fled with his wife Hilda into exile, followed soon afterwards by their family.

Rusty Bernstein's memoirs provide one of the most revealing and readable accounts of the South African struggle, full of humour, wry irony and significant detail. It's a remarkable man's personal memoir of a life in South African resistance politics from the late 1930s to the 1960s. Bernstein died in 2002 and was posthumously awarded the Order of Luthuli (Gold) for his political activism.



### ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



#### B.COM ALUMNA SAYS EDUCATION CRITICAL FOR CAREER GROWTH

Sanlam's first new business intern in Kimberley and SPU B.Com graduate, Philander Webb, says that education is critical to career growth. Experience alone is not always enough.

And it's for this reason that she will pursue further studies which should serve as an encouragement for her brother who is studying engineering at the University of Johannesburg.

The former Redirile resident says she comes from humble beginnings.

"My mother is a cleaner and my father, who worked for the South African National Defence Force, passed away when I was 11 years old."

After just four months in the workplace, the young graduate already has her professional plans in place for the next five years.

She says that she wants "to advance in my career, after the internship. I want to continue working, get into a junior level position and from there, work my way up into management. Preferably, I would like to continue to work in Sanlam. I have seen many opportunities for growth and advancement. And I love the company".

So what are the most fulfilling aspects of her current role?

She explains that "everything about what I do is fulfilling. It is a learning process. I love how it is more practical than what I have learnt at university. I appreciate that I get to see all those things I have been learning in commerce for the past years come into play.

"I also love that I am not limited to any position; I get to learn from everyone in the organisation. I also love that the job is not predictable and that every day there is something new to do or learn."

She is also very enthusiastic about working for Sanlam, a top 100 employer which was established about 100 years ago.

"The company is client-centric. They care for their clients and give each one of them the best and most equal treatment. They also treat their employees and stakeholders well and care for the communities in which they operate."

And as for SPU? "SPU fosters a culture of pioneering within the campus. Students and staff are always encouraged to come up with new and exciting things (programmes, activities and sports, for example) to start on campus. So we need to carry that pioneering spirit with us everywhere we go."





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## NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (3)

### NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES



#### SPU TAKES SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

For the second time in a row, SPU's Dumela team has taken second prize in a national hackathon competition with a score of 82% from the judges.

Dumela was one of the three teams from Kimberley which which competed against 12 other teams from across the country in the Security Summit 2019 Hackathon (SS19Hack) which took place in Johannesburg.

The provincial invites to the hackathon are extended by the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) in collaboration with NCDev Ecosystem and Sol Plaatje University.

The aim of the competition is to help address the national crisis of a shortage of cyber security skills capacity in the country.

Its main objectives are to:

- Introduce young tech talent into information security.
- Get young talent to build with security in mind.
- Connect hackathon participants with the summit delegates.
- Identify and pursue InfoSec inclined tech talent for hire.
- Showcase and build skills capacity in the summit's climate.

This year's theme - Protecting the Digital Citizen in the 4th Industrial Revolution - encouraged participants to develop risk-mitigated solutions that address vulnerabilities found within cyberspace based on specific sectors such as the government, primary healthcare, home consumer solutions (IOT), enterprise building access, and digital education.

SPU's Dumela Team developed a highly secure messaging and file sharing application that will encrypt messages and data in transmission by embedding confidential information inside multimedia files, usage of the application is aimed at the government departments, academic institutions and national intelligence.



*(Left to right) SPU ICT diploma students take second place in national competition: Barrington Hulana (3rd year) and Melvin Kisten (3rd year), Siphosihle Belani (2nd year) and Letlhogonolo Kgaje (2nd year).*

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## STAFF APPOINTMENTS

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### SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

#### **Dr Karen Haire**

Associate Professor: English

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### SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

#### **Dr Colin Chibaya**

Senior Lecturer: Computer Science

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### ADMINISTRATION

#### **Mr Tshamiseka Mabunda**

Manager: Budget Control

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## SPU EVENTS & CALENDAR

16 June - Youth Day

Youth Day 2019

3 August - Open Day



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

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