



SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY

SEPT 2019

e-BRIEF



Dear SPU Community

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS OF SPU

Over the past year or so, the SPU Senior Management Team has been working hard to develop the Strategic Plan for the next five years of SPU, from 2020 to 2024.

The previous Strategic Plan for the period 2015 to 2019 was approved by Council in 2014 and provided a very good guide to the development of our University - at a time of much uncertainty about the path of our development and the likely obstacles that we would encounter as we implemented the idea of a Sol Plaatje University in the Northern Cape. We have navigated this first phase reasonably well and it is now time to think

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OPEN DAY SUCCESS
2019

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SPU PUTS BEST FOOT FORWARD WITH NSW LAUNCH

The University put its best foot forward by partnering with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) together with

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BIG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

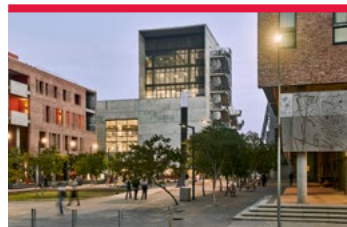
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LIBRARY EXPANDS TO INCLUDE BETTER ACCESS

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DHET NEWS: REVISED LANGUAGE POLICY GOES TO CHE

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, referred the revised

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FOCUS ON RESEARCH: DR MALVIN NKOMO RECEIVES DOCTORATE

Data Science Lecturer Dr Malvin Nkomo, who was recently awarded his doctorate from the University of Johannesburg,

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Mr Frank Komati and Dr Temba Tshabalala from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences represented SPU

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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

The next edition is due out in October 2019.

Editor: Kashini Maistry

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PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS OF SPU



Over the past year or so, the SPU Senior Management Team has been working hard to develop the Strategic Plan for the next five years of SPU, from 2020 to 2024.

The previous Strategic Plan for the period 2015 to 2019 was approved by Council in 2014 and provided a very good guide to the development of our University - at a time of much uncertainty about the path of our development and the likely obstacles that we would encounter as we implemented the idea of a Sol Plaatje University in the Northern Cape. We have navigated this first phase reasonably well and it is now time to think about the next part of our journey as a university.

The draft 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has four important strategic goals: to strengthen research activities; to consolidate and sustain our focus on good quality teaching and learning; to develop SPU as a digitally empowered university and, lastly, to ensure that SPU is financially sustainable into the future.

We plan to be able to enrol just over 7,000 students by 2024 and we are expecting that SPU will be self-sufficient on the current state funding arrangements for higher education by 2025.

Deriving from the draft Strategic Plan for 2020 to 2024, we have also prepared a draft Academic Plan and a draft Sustainability Plan.

The Academic Plan envisages that we will continue with the current four Schools (or Faculties) and mainly grow in postgraduate studies in the existing academic programmes.

We expect to introduce a few new undergraduate programmes, particularly programmes in Agricultural Sciences in the School of Natural & Applied Sciences.

The Academic Plan also proposes areas and disciplines for focused research development, that draws on our current research and academic strengths and matches our plans for growth in postgraduate studies.

The draft Sustainability Plan envisages a total staff growth to 520 by 2024, with academic staff growing to 200 members. This is a constrained growth of staff at SPU but is necessary if we are to ensure that SPU is financially sustainable.

It also means that SPU has to become increasingly effective in its teaching and research activities and in its student progression and graduation rates. Of course, all the growth depends on parallel growth of infrastructure and facilities to support the planned size of SPU.

The three draft Plans have been circulated within the SPU community for discussion and comment.

I would like to encourage all in the SPU community to read the documents carefully and to engage with issues of concern by providing comment through their School, Division or student structures. This is important if we are to adopt plans for the next five years that draw on the general support of our University.

Prof Yunus Ballim
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

OPEN DAY SUCCESS



On 3 August 2019, SPU held its Open Day which was attended by hundreds of prospective students, their parents and many teachers.

The first activity of the day was a breakfast hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof Yunus Ballim for School Principals from our feeder-schools.

In his opening remarks to the School Principals, Prof Ballim said that Kimberley's long tradition of excellent schooling needs to be reinvigorated so that the students who arrive at SPU from our feeder schools have been imbued with the habits of mind to be critical thinkers.

"It is our task to unlock their intellectual ability when they get here and we have enjoyed noteworthy success in this regard as can be attested to by our through-put and graduation rates which are significantly higher than the national averages."

Prof Ballim invited the School Principals to engage with SPU as their own university and to help to produce good graduates so that we are "creating a rising tide that lifts all the ships."

The main activity of the day took place in the Exam Hall on Central Campus in which the four schools (Education, Humanities, Economic & Management Sciences and Natural & Applied Sciences) and a number of support departments such as Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Sports and Residence Life, disseminated information and answered questions from excited learners and anxious parents. Each school boasted artfully branded stands.

A favourite activity of the day was the campus tours given by students from the Heritage Studies Department. Prospective students were given a tour of the Moroka Hall of Residence, the Science building and the award-winning Library and Resource Centre.

The tour also included the viewing of a video message, from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Prof Jean Baxen, in which she said that SPU is spearheading a quiet revolution in the Northern Cape and is becoming a major player on the higher education landscape so it should be their institution of choice for a tertiary education.

She emphasised that:

Sol Plaatje University offers students a vibrant social life

It has a Student Affairs Department that will ensure students have a well- rounded holistic experience here. It offers over 17 sports codes which are each doing very well.

There are state of the art residences and other facilities and each first-year student has access to unlimited wi-fi and receives a laptop upon arrival – so that they have the resources to succeed.





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SPU PUTS BEST FOOT FORWARD WITH NSW LAUNCH

The University put its best foot forward by partnering with the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) together with the Northern Cape Department of Education to launch the 2019 National Science Week in Kimberley on Saturday, 27 July 2019.

SABC's Weekend Live carried live interviews and performances during its official programming, profiling SPU academics, students and the SPU award-winning choir.

Over 2,000 learners from Northern Cape schools visited more than 100 exhibits by over 80 organisations who followed the 'Facing the harsh realities of climate change' theme.

The School of Natural and Applied Sciences' (NAS) Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) was given an opportunity through a live interview on SABC to speak about Data Science and its role in climate change. Dr Alfred Mwanza defined what data science was and explained why this unique field of study is important. He also explained its role in climate change.

Exhibitors comprised science centres, higher education institutions, science councils, government agencies, and indigenous knowledge and ICT organisations.

Popular exhibits included those of Arcelor Mittal Science Centre, Lab Northern Cape, IKUSASA Technology Solutions, SPU School of Natural and Applied Science – Data Science, CSIR, SANBI and SKA.

During the launch event, learners, teachers, parents and dignitaries heard from budding scientists Nicole Paulsen and Kgotso Loggenberg who participated in the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists 2018.

Dr Tendai Musvuugwa, from NAS, gave an informative talk on the effects of climate change which was so well received that Minister Blade Nzimande will use the content in his future speeches about the harsh realities of climate change.



Top: Hundreds of students from the Northern Cape visited SPU during National Science Week.

Below: Minister Blade Nzimande visits one of the SPU exhibitions

Professor Yunus Ballim (Vice-Chancellor and Principal of SPU), informed the audience that "you need a fine mind and warm heart to produce good science which pursues the truth".

He also told learners that as they plan to inherit the world, they must cultivate their minds.

Minister Blade Nzimande, explained to hundreds of students that the government was committed to funding young people to study at SPU.

He also congratulated Professor Ballim on leading SPU to become a beacon of light in Africa.

◀ GO BACK

BIG SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

The International Youth Day Celebration hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and Sol Plaatje University (SPU) on Monday, 12 August 2019 attracted some high profile participants and a diverse audience of youth from the greater Kimberley area.

Over 300 people attended the symposium which was held in the SPU Library Auditorium, where the Premier of the Northern Cape Province, Dr Zamani Saul, and the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Alvin Botes, addressed the audience.

Both the Premier and the Deputy Minister also participated in a panel discussion on Economic Opportunities for Young People, together with Mr Sfiso Mtshweni of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Ms Gail Motlhaudi, a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship at SPU.

In welcoming everyone to the symposium, Professor Jean Baxen, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic at SPU, asked the youth to imagine the University as a space in which they can grow and realise their dreams in a new democratic landscape that was defined by principles of social justice and equity.

She described SPU as a bridge for the youth between their today and tomorrow.

Professor Baxen also affirmed to the Premier that SPU was willing to work with him and his administration to create a better world for our youth.

In his opening remarks, the Premier said that young people of the 21st century have to deal with significantly more challenges than those of the 20th century, because the world was so interconnected that it had crystallised into a global village and our youth had to operate in a complicated (or complex) world that was defined by four features.

“These being: countries were moving away from idealism and towards pragmatism in which they sought only what is their own best interests; that we lived in a VUCA world in which the global environment was volatile, uncertain, chaotic and ambiguous; the emphasis of global politics has changed to be more about cohesive power, resource power, and cultural dominance; and that global governance has moved away from multilateralism and towards bilateralism.”



Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Alvin Botes and Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul, in conversation.

He emphasised that SPU must be able to produce graduates who can successfully compete with their global neighbours.

The Deputy Minister in his keynote address challenged the youth to continually question the status quo.

He talked about the national crisis in South Africa with regard to unemployed youth and the relationship with our geopolitical position.

He stated that South African foreign policy must look to what is in our best interests and that addressing youth unemployment should be at the forefront of that policy.

He mentioned our participation in the proposed African free trade agreement and South-South solidarity as a means to help South Africa become a prosperous society.

During the panel discussion, Mr Mtshweni from the NYDA said that the youth should be part of decision-making processes and enjoy full participation in the economy.

He called for greater youth representation in government. Ms Motlhaudi from SPU encourage the youth to change their mindset to become more positive about their abilities, to collaborate with those who had more experience than them, and to invest in the right education since this was the path that opened the most doors.

There was a robust question and answer session that touched on topics such as: a relevant curriculum, how black youth can successfully compete in the global environment if they are continually disadvantaged, the functioning of the NYDA, how to best compete in the fourth industrial revolution if the majority of the youth lived in conditions reminiscent of the second industrial revolution, and how to bolster the economic development of the youth.

In closing, Professor Baxen reminded the audience that a university was a place in which they nurtured young minds to be critical thinkers, and in which they developed the youth to follow the precepts of social justice and equality.

These would give them the tools to be effective global citizens in a world in which governments created environments that facilitated their opportunities for success.

LIBRARY EXPANDS TO INCLUDE BETTER ACCESS



SPU Library staff members.

New developments in the SPU Library and Information Services are ensuring that the SPU Library functions optimally, improves ease of access to resources and are aligned with SPU's vision of a 21st-century university library.

With effect from 1 April 2019, the SPU Library became part of the Committee of Higher Education Libraries of South Africa (CHELSA).

CHELSA ensures that the higher education sector has optimal access to information for learning, teaching, research and community development.

The benefit for SPU is that staff and postgraduate students can physically gain access and use some of the resources of all 26 public university libraries in South Africa and the National Library of South Africa at no cost.

The SPU Library became a member of the Resource Sharing Consortium by subscribing to the ReQuest Interlending Service.

This service allows SPU to request articles and books from other university libraries and research institutions such as the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Human Science Research Council.

To request an article or book, email library@spu.ac.za

To enable off-campus access to subscribed resources, SPU has subscribed for RemoteXs.

This tool allows for off-campus access to the SPU electronic resources through a proxy server. Off-campus access has been available from the beginning of the second semester.

Staff and students will authenticate, using their assigned credentials and access the library's electronic resources from anywhere as long as there is internet connectivity.

The Library Management System (Sierra), was implemented on 1 May 2019 and is used for the circulation of books.

Email reminders for overdue books are being set up. Library fines for overdue books have also been introduced. Library users will be charged for the cost of replacing the lost books.

Currently, the SPU Library subscribes to five databases:

- EBSCO
- JSTOR
- Sabinet African Journals
- LexisNexus
- PressReader

Training on how to use the databases, how to reference using Mendeley Reference Software or how to conduct a literature search can be organised by emailing jabu.radebe@spu.ac.za

Exciting developments already introduced include:

- The launch of the Library Webpage
- Trials for Taylor and Francis Journals and ProQuest Databases
- A trial for Springer Nature Database during August 2019
- A trial for Emerald Database during September 2019.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SPU'S LIBRARY



The Sol Plaatje University Library and Resource Centre, on Central Campus, has won an international architecture award at this year's 14th edition of the 2019 International Architecture Awards.

The Sol Plaatje University Library and Resource Centre, on Central Campus, has won an international architecture award at this year's 14th edition of the 2019 International Architecture Awards.

Founded in 2005, the International Architecture Awards is one of the oldest annual public celebrations of global architecture and is dedicated to public education concerning architecture and industrial design.

This year saw a record number of international submissions and was shortlisted to a total of 350 projects (120 buildings from 41 nations).

The projects on the shortlist were judged against a range of criteria, including design vision, innovation and originality, capacity to stimulate, engage and delight occupants and visitors, accessibility and sustainability, how to fit the building is for its purpose and the level of client satisfaction.

SPU's architects, Designworkshop, were successful in conceptualising and delivering a Library and Resource Centre as the functional and physical centrepiece of university life, including a state of the art library, teaching, study and social space.

It is a social place where people make themselves available to wide-ranging incidental and planned interchanges in the course of daily life, both in the physical space and online, with and

without books, collectively and in solitude, directed and enabled by mentors and among themselves.

The Chicago Athenaeum, together with the Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, organises the Awards annually. Christian Narkiewicz-Laine, Museum President, congratulated this year's winners for their hard work and commitment, adding that "the 120 buildings are what the best, new architecture looks like today".

*The awards are regarded internationally
as the world's most important global
mark of excellence recognising the best
international architecture projects which
find answers to complex problems of
environment, social context, improving
quality of life and sustainability.*

Awarded under the category "Schools and Universities" SPU's Library and Resource Centre is now recognised as one of the world's foremost architectural sites.



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DHET NEWS REVISED HE LANGUAGE POLICY GOES TO CHE

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, referred the revised Language Policy for Higher Education to the Council on Higher Education (CHE) for advice before finalisation.

"The purpose of the policy is, amongst others, to provide a framework for the development and strengthening of all eleven official languages, with a particular focus on the development of African languages as languages of scholarships, teaching, learning and communication at universities," said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande further said that this policy will contribute to transformation in the Post-School Education and Training sector as a whole by enhancing the status and roles of previously marginalised languages. The policy will also foster institutional inclusivity and social cohesion.

In terms of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997, upon approval by the Minister, the final version of the Language Policy will be published in the Government Gazette for implementation by all universities.

Minister Nzimande also welcomes the various initiatives already being undertaken by a number of our universities in the promotion, development and use of African languages as mediums of instruction, science and communications.

"This policy will also assist in supporting and strengthening these initiatives, as well creating a better environment for the holistic development of all our languages in the post-school education and training sector."



Where it is reasonably practicable, the language of teaching and learning at Post-School Education and Training institutions will be received in the official language or languages of persons receiving the education," emphasised the Minister.

Minister Nzimande further called on all universities to join into the effort of the development of African languages in particular.

Minister Nzimande said that the government will ensure that institutions of higher learning perform their role to promote and create conditions for the development of all South Africa languages, including the Khoi, Nama, San Languages as well as sign language.

Minister Nzimande said that post-school education and training institutions have the role to prepare sufficient language teachers, interpreters, translators and other language practitioners to serve the needs of South African's multilingual society.

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FOCUS ON RESEARCH: DR MALVIN NKOMO RECEIVES DOCTORATE

Data Science Lecturer, Dr Malvin Nkomo, was recently awarded his doctorate from the University of Johannesburg, where he pursued research in electrical and electronic engineering, focusing on advanced wireless sensor networks (WSN) for applications in Internet of Things (IoR) applications.

Traditionally, the deployment of sensor nodes in a WSN is application specific. It causes redundant deployment of sensor nodes which becomes a costly exercise, considering the scale and ubiquity of future sensor networks.

Dr Nkomo's thesis, "Virtualised Overlay Wireless Sensor Networks for Heterogeneous Internet of Things Applications", proposed and tested a new framework that leverages on the successes of virtualisation and overlaid networks to introduce near-cloud computing capabilities to sensor networks.

This method yielded improved energy usage, network congestion and communication latencies.

He says that this is a positive step towards provisioning of sensor-as-a-service for users that cannot afford the IoT infrastructure as it will be the case with millions of people.

Dr Nkomo plans to explore the use of machine learning and deep learning in virtualised and overlay wireless sensor networks.



DR MALVIN NKOMO
Data Science Lecturer, SPU



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His research interests are in WSN, artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning and entrepreneurship in the technology space because it provides opportunities to solve community challenges by creating employment and growing local capacity to cope with the fast changes of the fourth industrial revolution.

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SPU PUTS THE X-FACTOR IN TECHno X



Mr Frank Komati and Dr Temba Tshabalala from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences represented SPU at the popular Sasol TECHNO X career exhibition which took place in Secunda from 27 July to 2 August 2019.

For the past 19 years, Sasol has hosted the exhibition which aims to promote sustainable socio-economic development through education.

It mainly promotes STEM education at schools to enable access to tertiary education and ultimately boosts the pool of technical, vocational and STEM-related skills among the youth of South Africa. The exhibition targets high school learners.

Mr Komati and Dr Tshabalala worked tirelessly through the duration of the expo to promote SPU and their efforts were rewarded with a 2nd place finish in the exhibitor's competition universities category. They came second to Wits and UNISA which once again proves that SPU can punch above its weight.



Mr Komati (left) and Dr Tshabalala (right).

◀ GO BACK

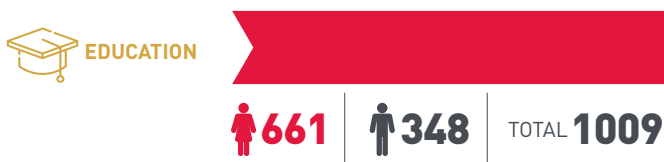
SPU FACTSHEET ENROLMENT STATS + EMPLOYEE PROFILE

ENROLMENT: UNDERGRADUATE

As at 10 June 2019

TOTAL
UNDERGRADUATES

1895



ENROLMENT: POSTGRADUATE

As at 10 June 2019

TOTAL
POSTGRADUATES

92

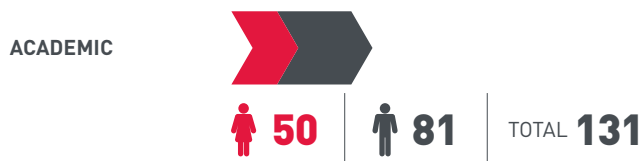
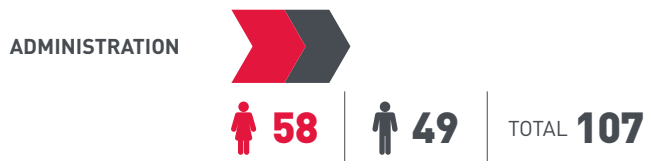


EMPLOYEE PROFILE

As at 12 July 2019

TOTAL EMPLOYEES

412



TOTAL 201

TOTAL 211

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



SCHOOL TAKES EMS PROGRAMMES TO GALESHEWE HIGH SCHOOLS

The School of Economic and Management Sciences participated in the National Empowerment Fund "Take a Girl to Work" programme which took place in Kimberley in July.

The SoEMS team, which comprised Isaac Patsa and Gail Motlhaudi, presented to the top achievers of high schools in the greater Galeshewe area.

They distributed information on qualifications on offer at SPU and engaged in lively interactions with the learners which created a positive atmosphere at the event.

Other stakeholders who participated included the Northern Cape Provincial Government, South African Defence Force, Jessey Chakane Foundation and SEDA.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP DOCTORATE FOR LECTURER

Dr Johann van der Spuy was awarded his Doctorate in Philosophy in Entrepreneurship from the University of Pretoria. He will graduate in September.

"The purpose of Dr Van der Spuy's study was to investigate business incubation selection methodologies within emerging markets.

The best practice incubator models and the current international spectrum of selection practices were investigated and analysed using basic research.

A best practice selection framework was designed. It consisted of two distinct pillars of selection.

Firstly, selection according to the personal qualities of the entrepreneur.

Secondly, the selection was based on the state of the business case.

Data was gathered using a semi-structured interview protocol as the study was explorative and qualitative by design.



TEAM WORK, DREAM WORK

The SoEMS, held a workshop on 17 August 2019 at New Rush Outdoor Entertainment which was led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, Professor Jean Baxen.

The workshop purposed to engage colleagues in a dialogue regarding the university statute, its governance structures and its legal institutional arrangements.

After the workshop, participants engaged in several fun team-building activities which were defined by the wise words of Bang Gee: "Team work makes the dream work." The activities included a shooting range, rope jumping, volleyball, quad biking and zip lining.

It was truly an exciting, reviving and refreshing day that solidified the team working spirit within the school.



SPU STUDENT FINALIST IN INTERVARSITY ENTREPREURSHIP COMPETITION

Thato Sethibe from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences has made it to the national finals of the EDHE Student Entrepreneurship Intersivity Competition which is to take place in September.

Another student Sharney Hunter (School of Economic and Management Sciences) made the regional finals which included the Central University of Technology, University of the Free State and Sol Plaatje University.



Thato with School of Economic and Management Sciences' Lecturer Gail Motlhaudi.

EDUCATION



SPU TO HOST EASA IN 2020

Sol Plaatje University will host the **Education Association of South Africa (EASA)** 2020 annual conference which will take place from 12 to 15 January 2020.

The theme for the conference will take a closer look at "Big holes and black holes: Metaphors for researching education. The first call for papers has been made and presentations should cover the following sub-themes for the conference:

BASIC EDUCATION

- Inclusive education
- Early childhood education
- Educational management
- Diversity education

TEACHER EDUCATION

- Curriculum design
- Current issues
- Teaching, learning and assessment
- Teaching practice

HIGHER EDUCATION

- TVET education
- Current issues shaping higher education
- Adult, community education and training
- Educational research

DIGITAL EDUCATION

- Education and the new media
- Educational technology
- Fourth industrial revolution

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN EDUCATION

- Youth violence
- Gender and sexual diversity
- Language
- Race
- Class
- Decolonisation
- Indigenous knowledge systems

For more details contact Dr Anthony Mpsi, senior academic coordinator and members of the organising committee (email) tony.mpsi@spu.ac.za or (telephone) 053 491 0151.

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (2)

HUMANITIES



BENNEYWORTH PUBLISHES AGAIN

Dr Garth Benneyworth's article, *Reconstructing the Raid*, in the 80th edition of *The Thinker* provides further insight into the historic Liliesleaf farm raid in the 1960s.

Dr Benneyworth says that the raid was "certainly not a police solo strike. Rather there are more complex ways in which the combined security services used a range of techniques and tactics to destroy armed opposition to apartheid."

He also raises some interesting points such as the possibility that the notebook, which was hidden in a car which had taken Nelson Mandela to Liliesleaf, may have been found and used to backtrack his activities in South Africa after his return from Ethiopia and where his first place of residence was Liliesleaf.

He also mentions the use of a ten-year old informant who had access to the farm.

Volume 80 marks a milestone for the publication as ownership passes from the Dr Essop Pahad, a struggle stalwart, and is to be handed to the University of Johannesburg.

An electronic copy can be downloaded here:
http://www.thethinker.co.za/resources/Thinker_80/80%20Thinker%20magazine.pdf



SECOND SEMINAR SERIES LAUNCHED

The School of Humanities has launched its second seminar series for 2019. The series aims to promote robust academic engagement across the University community.

It comprises nine seminars which began on 7 August 2019 with Professor David Shinn from George Washington University with a presentation on "China and the US in Africa: Competition or Cooperation."

It will run until 31 October 2019 and end with Dr Crispin Chinguno from Sol Plaatje University and his presentation on "Activism in liminal space: Critical reflections from the #Feesmustfall movement".

THE REMAINING EVENTS ARE:

- 4 September 2019:** Understanding Daily Parenting Stresses in the Caring of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Ayanda Simelane, Sol Plaatje University
- 27 September 2019:** The Contested Meaning of Black in Black Consciousness, Sella Mashibini, Sol Plaatje University
- 11 October 2019:** Using a spoken language to teach sign language to hearing students, Dr Marga Stander, Sol Plaatje University
- 18 October 2019:** Mapping of feminist womanist resistance within student movements across the African continent, NT Shange, University of the Free State
- 31 October 2019:** Activism in liminal space: Critical reflections from the #Feesmustfall movement, Dr Crispin Chinguno, Sol Plaatje University



The African Centre for the Study of the United States and Sol Plaatje University School of Humanities invite you to a talk by:

Dr David Shinn

China and the US in Africa: Competition or Cooperation?

US Ambassador David Shinn was the first seminar to take place in this series.

For more details about the enquiries about the seminars, please contact Dr Crispin Chinguno on (email) chrispen.chinguno@spu.ac.za or (telephone) 053 491 0298.

SPU REMEMBERS FEMALE FREEDOM FIGHTER



Early in August, the SPU community gathered to honour and remember Nokuthula Simelane through an exhibition on her life put together by the heritage study students and to hear her story.

The narration was done by her sister Thembi Simelane-Nkadimeng, Executive Mayor of the Polokwane Local Municipality and the President of the SA Local Government Association.

In her welcome, Professor Jean Baxen, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Academic, mentioned that the stories of the many women, who sacrificed so much in the struggle against apartheid, were seldom told.

She also encouraged the young women present to exercise their agency through having self-respect and being respected. For the men present, she urged them to have agency through restraint and to respect all the women in their lives.

Dr Sibongile Masuku, a Lecturer in Heritage Studies at SPU and a friend of Nokuthula, gave a powerful performance of a poem about "a sister who ceased to exist."

Thembi Simelane-Nkadimeng related the story of Nokuthula Simelane, a 22-year old Umkhonto we Sizwe operative. She was about to graduate from university in 1983 when she was abducted by the Apartheid police, tortured and then disappeared. She travelled from Swaziland to South Africa to buy her graduation gown but her movements were revealed by a spy in her unit.

She was intercepted at the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg, taken to the police facility and kept there for one week. She was interrogated and tortured in an attempt to turn her into a double agent.

She was later moved to the notorious Vlakplaas where she was subjected to vicious torture. She was never seen again.

Her family has established that she was kept there for about six

to eight weeks. Testament to Nokuthula's strength and courage is that she endured being brutalised for about 52 days.

Thembi Simelane was nine years old when her sister disappeared – she remembers as a child the story in the family about a missing child. Her family has searched in earnest for Nokuthula from the time that those in exile began to return to South Africa and they realised that she was not amongst them. In 1996, they opened a case of disappearance.

The matter was then referred to the TRC who gave Nokuthula's torturers amnesty for her abduction and kidnapping but not for the torture. The case of murder was referred to the NPA for further investigation.

Eventually, the family and those of other families still searching for their disappeared children or spouses were forced to take legal action against the government for not following through on the referrals from the TRC.

Four members of the Soweto special branch of the apartheid police service were then charged and will be prosecuted for Nokuthula's disappearance. The family agreed to their bail during which time one of the accused has died.

An interim order on the presumption of her death was issued and the court insisted that the accused in Nokuthula's disappearance be given an opportunity to object. On 8 August 2019, on the eve of Women's Day, the final order was to be made on the presumption of death of Nokuthula Simelane.

Thembi says that in every war there are casualties but every soldier is dignified.

For Nokuthula's family, for her mother and her surviving siblings, they need the closure that comes from performing the rituals for the dead – they need to find her remains.

But, they have resigned themselves to never getting that measure of respect for Nokuthula.

NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (3)

HUMANITIES



ARCHAEOLOGISTS MEET AT SPU

The 2019 Biennial Conference of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA 2019), was hosted jointly by Sol Plaatje University and the McGregor Museum in Kimberley on 3-5 July 2019.

The international mix of 250 delegates included archaeologists from throughout Southern Africa and researchers active in the sub-continent from Australia, Europe and North America, as well East Africa.

The opening plenary, following a welcome by Vice-Chancellor Prof Yunus Ballim, included a performance of the new PAST physical theatre production called "I see You", and keynote addresses by guest speakers Dr Freda Nkirote M'Mbogori of the East Africa Institute, Prof Paul Lane of Cambridge University and Prof George Abungu, past Director-General of the Kenya National Museum.

These opening talks all addressed in one way or another the conference theme of "Motho ke Motho ka Batho (I am because we are): indigenous heritage in African archaeology."

In her address ASAPA chairperson Prof Sarah Wurz spoke on "Modern human origins and decolonization in South Africa."

Prof Emeritus Heinz Ruther's plenary contribution on "Digital spatial heritage documentation", gave a sense of the wealth of heritage sites in the continent and the digital technologies available to document and to showcase them.

The wide spectrum of topics discussed in up to four parallel sessions over the three days of the conference, frequently reflected on the conference theme, gave account of an intertwined multiplicity (A.M. Jones's felicitous phrase) of work, theoretical and scientific, and covering the span of Africa's past from early hominin times to within a stone's throw of the present.

In all, there were 172 oral presentations and about 50 poster presentations, making this the biggest ASAPA conference to date.

Delegates who attended have described it inter alia as a "constructive and instructive meeting" (Prof Simon Hall).

One of the younger generation of professionals believed it was a "wonderful networking environment with countless learning opportunities...in a welcoming collective atmosphere" (Dr Matt Lotter).

A colleague from Kenya appreciated the way the conference, with its significant subsidisation for students and researchers within and beyond South Africa, enabled research to be made visible in this international forum (Dr Ngalla Jillani).

The official three-day post-conference excursion took in Wildebeest Kuil, Canteen Kopje, Wonderwerk Cave, Moffat Mission, the Ga-Mohana Shelter and rock engravings, Kathu, Pleistocene and rock engraving localities at Tswalu (with game viewing along the road), and the Ga-Masepa hill from which could be viewed the field of battle in the Langeberg where Kgosi Luka Jantjie was killed in 1897.

Two of the conference's keynote speakers joined the excursion with 21 conference delegates.

The route highlighted issues of heritage management and development as much as it did active research in the Northern Cape: science in action was showcased with active research teams ensconced or speaking about recent work at eight of the eleven sites visited.

The ASAPA Biennial General Meeting voted for the next conference to be hosted in Lesotho.

The Planning Team for ASAPA 2019 (with portfolios): Dr Garth Bennetworth (Chairperson), Dr Lourenço Pinto (Vice-Chairperson), Dr David Morris (Secretary, assisted by Abenicia Henderson and Jani Louw), Dr Foreman Bandama & Dr Joseph Chikumbirike (ASAPA Council members and conference Treasurer), Nyebe Mohale (Students), Itumeleng Masiteng & Dr Joseph Chikumbirike (Transport), Dr David Morris (Academic programme and Excursion), Dr Lourenço Pinto (Public relations and branding), Talisa Pieterse (SPU Student member on LOC). Glaudin Kruger of Kruger and Associates was Conference Co-ordinator.

SAARTJIE BAARTMAN HONOURED

Sol Plaatje University and wider-Kimberley community came together to honour Saartjie Baartman as part of SPU's Women's Month commemorations.

The SPU Choir and Ms Sisca Julius, shared some of her personal poetry, gave powerful and emotional performances.

It set the stage for Ms Diana Ferrus, a writer, poet and storyteller of Khoisan heritage, to convey the story of Saartjie Baartman's life in a moving performance of prose, poetry song and personal reflection.

The story of Saartjie Baartman is one of pain, humiliation, objectification, subjugation and mutilation.

She was taken from South Africa, more than 200 years ago, and paraded in England as the "Hottentot Venus".

William Dunlop offered her up as a curiosity of nature and charged one shilling for a viewing and a bit more for the pleasure of touching her buttocks.

When his pockets were lined with the ill-gotten gains from Saartjie's exploitation Dunlop took her to France and in Paris, she was sold to an animal handler.

She returned in 2002 and her remains were finally returned to the Gamtoos Valley in the Eastern Cape and her modest grave in Hankey is now a heritage site.



Top to bottom: ASAPA Opening Plenary Session. Nyebe Mohale Itumeleng Masiteng and Peter McKuchane from South African National Convention Beaurau thanking our sponsors. Itumeleng Masiteng and Nicky Oppenheimer thanking our sponsor.



Top to bottom: The SPU Choir. Ms Diana Ferrus, a writer, poet and storyteller of Khoisan heritage, conveyed the story of Saartjie Baartman's life in a moving performance of prose, poetry song and personal reflection.



NEWS FROM ACADEMIC SCHOOLS (4)

NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES



DOCTORATE FOR NAS ACADEMIC

Tshepo Mogorosi received his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Applied Mathematics at North-West University.

His work focused on symmetry classification and conservation laws for some nonlinear partial differential equations.

In his thesis "symmetry classification and conservation laws for some nonlinear partial differential equations", he studied some nonlinear partial differential equations which appear in several physical phenomena of the real world.

Exact solutions and conservation laws were obtained for such equations using various methods.



DR TSHEPO MOGOROSI
Dr of Philosophy (PhD), Applied Mathematics



NAS APPOINTS TWO ICT ACADEMICS

The School of Natural and Applied Sciences' Department of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT) welcomes Dr Michael Olusanya who has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer and Dr Silas Verkijika as a Lecturer.

Dr Michael Olusanya holds a PhD and MSc in Computer Science. His areas of research include computational intelligence and application of meta-heuristics techniques to solve real-life optimisation problem, data mining and big data and ICT/Computer application & computer education.

He will teach the multimedia foundations II, project management III and advanced development software modules.

Dr Silas Verkijika holds a PhD, MSc, BSc Hons and BSc (UFS).

His areas of research include human-computer interaction, information security, e-government, e-commerce, ICT4D, human-centred artificial intelligence and human-centred machine learning.

He will teach the ICT elective III, and software engineering and design modules.



Dr Michael Olusanya.



Dr Silas Verkijika.

NAS PARTICIPATES IN FOURTH VACWORK

The School of Natural and Applied Sciences participated in the fourth annual Youth ICT and Business VacWork programme which took place at the Carnarvon High School in Carnarvon.

This year's event, which included 56 students, is a collaboration between the Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Geekulcha (a platform which has over 11,200 techies and innovators across Africa) and Sol Plaatje University. Support for this year came from SqwidNet, MapIT (with Tom Tom), GKSS- and the NCDDev Ecosystem.

Three SPU lecturers joined 11 others from GKSS, NCDDev Ecosystem and Geekulcha to mentor 16 teams who focused on issues of tourism, IoT, space, social activism and budget data.

Encouragingly, four of the teams have shown interest in setting up the projects as start-ups and SPU will be assisting the teams.

The top three teams have gone forward to the national competition which takes place at the end of November.

SPU will continue its presence through the involvement of Paballo Monareng.

For more on these exciting projects,

[VIEW THE TEAMS](https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEBa2mC)

(<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEBa2mC>)

[THE WEEK OF CODES AND START-UPS](https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEB8MEem)

(<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEB8MEem>)

[AS WELL AS THE FINALE](https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEBBbL6)

(<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmEBBbL6>)

[THE EXCITEMENT OF THE TEAM PROJECTS
CAN BE VIEWED ON YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmQ-AqWKlIK4EzAXIUfsQ0ygaarsQdcv3)

(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmQ-AqWKlIK4EzAXIUfsQ0ygaarsQdcv3>)

WHERE DID THE KAMFERS DAM'S FLAMINGOS GO?

Dr Doug Harebottle, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Biological and Agricultural Sciences Department, is collaborating with John Werth from PAAZA (Pan-African Association of Zoos and Aquaria) in monitoring the movements of hand-reared Lesser Flamingos that were released back into Kamfers Dam, outside Kimberley, after they were fitted with GPS transmitters.

Twenty birds have been fitted with these units to track their movements post-release.

These birds form part of the almost 2,000 chicks that were rescued earlier this year from the dam when their parents supposedly abandoned their nests as a result of the nests being exposed due to receding water levels during a prolonged summer drought.

Of the 2,000 chicks that were sent to approved rehabilitation facilities around South Africa, about 600 birds survived and were returned to Kimberley in preparation for their release back into the dam where they were born.

All the birds at the Kimberley quarantine facility were fitted with yellow leg bands which are inscribed with a black four-digit numeric code and a metal SAFRING ring so that they could be easily identified in the field. Almost 420 birds have been released to date.

There have been some impressive results since the first release on 8 May.

One bird (non-tracker bird), arrived in Lüderitz, Namibia, a straight line distance of almost 1,000 km! Another bird, which is fitted with a tracker unit, ended up at a pan near Chrissiesmeer in Mpumalanga and travelled nearly 630 km.

Two tracker birds have selected some small local wetlands at which to feed, while five others are still at Kamfers Dam, which as of 1 June probably supports over 40,000 flamingos!





SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY

SEPT 2019

e-BRIEF

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

1 JULY 2019

Dr Sandile Mthimkhulu

Senior Lecturer: Agriculture

Dr Siyanda Mthembu

Lecturer: Organic Chemistry

1 AUGUST 2019

Dr Michael Olusanya

Senior Lecturer: Computer Science and Information Technology

Dr Silas Verkijika

Lecturer: Computer Science and Information Technology

Mr Ishmael Gopane

Lecturer: Physics

TERMINATIONS

31 May 2019

Prof Collins Miruka

Head of School: School of Economic and Management Sciences

Mr Lawrence Blanckenberg

Director: Facilities

Ms Chante Tlhole

Cleaner

July 2019

Ms Michelle Norman

Control Room Operator

Mr Mark Blennies

Security Officer

Mrs Marietjie Grobbelaar

Senior Manager: Administration

Mr Salim Latib

Lecturer: Public and Development Management

[◀ GO BACK](#)

SPU EXCELS IN SPORTS ARENA



VARSITY ACCOLADES
Tlotlo Mokgeledi was nominated to the UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA DREAM TEAM for 2019.



THEY'RE GETTING **PROVINCIAL COLOURS**
Delano Hendry and Sello Medupi made it to the final PROVINCIAL VOLLEYBALL TEAM.

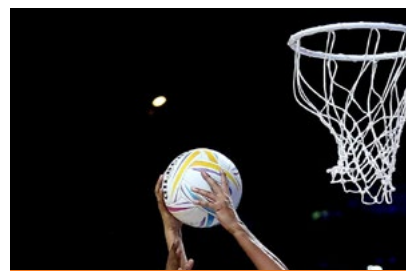
MOVING UP



All SPU golfers are now OFFICIALLY REGISTERED golf players and have HANDICAPS.



The soccer team has been promoted to the highly contested REGIONAL SAB LEAGUE for the coming season.



SPU netball ladies team are ranked fourth place overall in the Frances Baard league on the local netball league log.



HOORAY! A NEW SPORTING CODE!

CHEERLEADING is the University's latest sporting code and has supported several football, rugby, chess and rugby games. THE COACH IS AN EXPERIENCED FORMER UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG AND BLUE BULLS CHEERLEADER.



PAYING IT FORWARD

The chess, volleyball and netball continues with its outreach chess programme and DOING GREAT WORK IN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

— NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS —



Two athletes, **Christopher Mphawana** (9th position) and **Aubakwe Kaudi** (5th position) performed well at the INTER-PROVINCIAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS.



SPU's **basketball team** participated in a USSA PLAY-OFF WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE AND CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY FREE STATE for a position in the upcoming USSA national tournaments.

For the first time, SPU's **rugby team** featured in the UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA RUGBY TOURNAMENT at the University of Stellenbosch a 15-man squad.

At the recent Frances Baard selections, four volleyball players were nominated for **Frances Baard teams - Confidence Mtlhukwa, Delano Hendry, Nospho Mgala, Sello Medupi and Henleo Louw**. About 160 SPU students participated at the intervarsity games in football men, dance sport, volleyball ladies and men, rugby, chess, netball, tennis, drama and debating codes which took place in Bloemfontein.



Six SPU sporting codes participated in the recent USSA Winter Student Weeks: Netball, volleyball (men and women), hockey (men and women), rugby, and golf and dance sport.

REPRESENTATION AS OFFICIALS



Current **cricket coach, Mr A Mabuya** has been nominated as an additional member for the FRANCES BAARD CRICKET ASSOCIATION.



Elfreda Lyte was nominated to be the PROVINCIAL HEAD COACH FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN NETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS. She was also nominated as a UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA NETBALL SELECTOR.



Chess coach Mr A Pesa was nominated as VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR CHESS SOUTH AFRICA.

PODIUM FINISH

SPU student **Bongani Mthembu** won the recent KwaZulu-Natal tournament and took second place at the Free State tournament.

At a recent national tournament in Kimberley, SPU student **Thapelo Mogosi** finished in the Top 10.

SPU's **football men's team** is now officially the champion of the local football association.

SP's **golfing team** finished second out of six teams in the C section of the USSA championships in 2019.

The **Dance Sport team** made the USSA Dance Sport (level 2) ballroom made the ballroom finals, another couple (level 3) made the Latin American finals; and a further couple of (level 1) made the semi-finals.

