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Welcome back to campus as we embark upon a new academic year. I hope that you are all well rested and ready to tackle 2021.

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**COVID-19
HAS HURT SOME
MORE THAN OTHERS**



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BOOK LANDS ON
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LONGLIST &
IS PUBLISHED
IN THE UK**

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Contributions, comments and suggestions are welcome and these can be sent to mosima.mehlape@spu.ac.za.

The next edition is due out in March 2021.

Editor: Mosima Mehlape

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NAVIGATING SHIFTING SANDS



Welcome back to campus as we embark upon a new academic year. I hope that you are all well rested and ready to tackle 2021. This year will however still be dictated by the challenges we encountered in 2020 in the higher education sector, and as a university, resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

We pulled together as a community last year to ensure the success of the academic year and should be proud that we were one of only ten universities in the country to complete the academic year in 2020. Thank you for your commitment to the SPU project and for your sustained hard work.

We have clear plans in place for the success of the 2021 academic year and to ensure that we have a smooth start. Our plans though must be flexible to allow us to navigate the shifting sands of this difficult era. You will be called upon again to be resilient, adaptable, and patient; but we will do this together.

*I wish you well in achieving
your personal, professional,
and academic goals this year.*

— Please use the various university
support mechanisms available
to you so that you can achieve
these objectives. —

My office is arranging for me to meet staff in various administrative departments and academic schools and these engagements will continue throughout the 2021.

I look forward to connecting with
all of you personally this year.

◀ GO BACK



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COVID-19 HAS HURT SOME MORE THAN OTHERS: SOUTH AFRICA NEEDS POLICIES THAT REFLECT THIS

Professor Ramos Emmanuel Mabugu and academic colleagues from the University of Pretoria and Université Le Havre Normandie penned an article that appeared in The Conversation on 28 Jan 2021.

The authors posit that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and the policy measures to combat it, are having profound effects on the economic and social lives of citizens. They are threatening employment as well as the long-term livelihoods and well-being of millions around the world.

This article focuses on providing results from applied economic analysis on the sectoral winners and losers during the pandemic.

They identify the people who have been affected the most and evaluate the South African government's policy response to minimise its effects.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.



Waldo Swiegers/Bloomberg via Getty Images

◀ GO BACK

SPU ACADEMICS' BOOK LANDS ON HSS AWARDS LONGLIST AND IS PUBLISHED IN THE UK

Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration, edited by SPU academics Sabata-mpho Mokae and Professor Brian Willan, was placed on the long list for the 2021 Human and Social Sciences (HSS) Awards alongside seasoned contributors such as Zakes Mda, Antjie Krog and Laurence Wright.

The annual HSS awards are hosted by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) aimed at recognising outstanding writers, contributors and publishing houses that enhance and advance the fields of Human Social Sciences. Mokae and Willan are listed in the best non-fiction edited volume category. The award ceremony will be held on 31 March 2021 at a venue still to be confirmed.

Following this achievement, their book was also published by Boydell & Brewer, a specialised academic publisher in the United Kingdom.

Boydell & Brewer is an independent academic press based in England specializing in the publication of historical and critical works that are distributed across the humanities, including history, literature, music and the arts. They serve academics, specialists and institutions around the world and include long-standing imprints such as James Currey, Tamesis and Camden House.

ABOUT SOL PLAATJE'S MHUDI: HISTORY, CRITICISM, CELEBRATION

Launched in November 2020, *Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration* is a collection of academic essays marking hundred years of Sol Plaatje's novel *Mhudi* and incorporates a distinguished cast of contributors that explore the circumstances in which *Mhudi* was both written and published, what the critics have made of it and why it remains so relevant today. Two of these contributors are SPU's Creative Writing lecturer Sizakele Mokhele and Associate Professor, Professor Karen Haire.

Chapters in this book look at the eponymous feminist heroine of the novel and what she symbolizes, the role of history and oral tradition, the contentious question of language, the linguistic and stylistic choices that Plaatje made. In keeping with *Mhudi*'s capacity to inspire, this book also includes a poem and short story, specially written to pay tribute to both the book and its author.

The UK edition of *Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: History, Criticism, Celebration* focuses on the non-Africa readership, which includes the Americas and Europe that exemplifies the working intergenerational relationship between academics in which both, Professor Willan and Mr Mokae share an extraordinary interest in one of Africa's most important literary works.



SPU wishes the editors all the best at this year's HSS Awards and is proud to see its academics make a mark in international publishing.

EDUCATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY: VICE CHANCELLOR SPEAKS ABOUT THE TWO BIG PROJECTS FOR 2021

SPU's Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Andrew Crouch, will dedicate a lot of his time this year to raising funds for two projects that are close to his heart.

The first is to give rural youth in the Northern Cape Province an opportunity to study further after completing matric.

The Talent Pipeline Programme aims to identify the top ten performing high school learners in grades 10, 11 and 12 from a broad range of rural schools.

These learners will be accommodated at SPU during their school holidays and will participate in a psycho-social educational enrichment curriculum programme that consists of secondary and tertiary subjects. This programme will be extremely successful in creating a pipeline of excellent learners who enter university, graduate and return to their hometowns where they will give back to their communities.

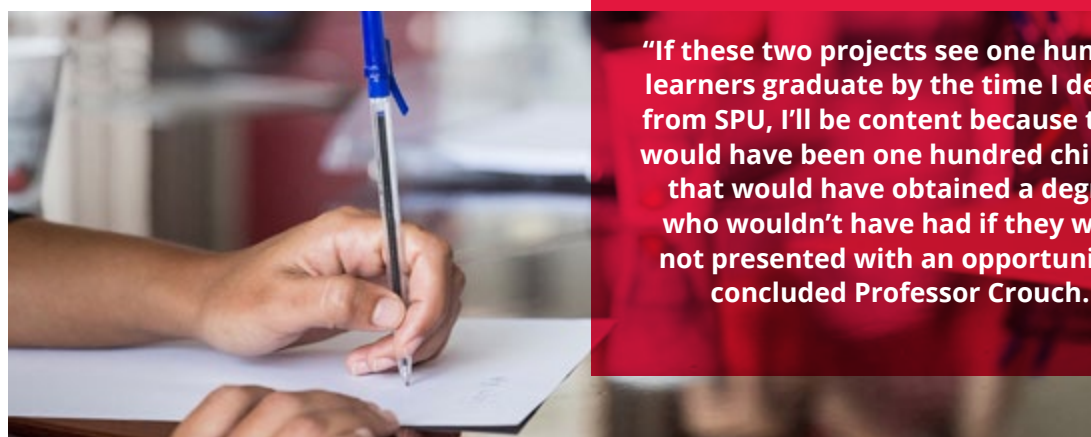
The Talent Pipeline Project not only aims to upskill Grade 12 learners so that SPU has a broader pool of students to select from but to also have University-ready matriculants who are better positioned to succeed at a higher education institutions.

Having had gone through University supported by bursaries himself, Professor Crouch says that SPU needs to create study opportunities for the untapped talent of the rural learners in the province. Such opportunities will ensure that learners from remote regions can one day participate in the economic and social upliftment of this province.

"All our children need is an opportunity and the reassurance that they too can do it. I have seen the results of being given an opportunity in my own life by looking at the friends I grew up with; those that were presented with an opportunity succeeded and those that were not afforded an opportunity remained behind. Education is the only real chance that the youth have to be competitive in the future economy of the country", says Professor Crouch.

His second project is the creation of an **Endowment Fund** to raise money to fund learners absorbed through the Talent Pipeline but who do not have the financial means to pay their university tuition or who do not qualify for financial aid through NSFAS. These are generally the children of teachers, nurses, or police officers.

This Fund aims to connect these middle-class deserving students to funding.



"If these two projects see one hundred learners graduate by the time I depart from SPU, I'll be content because there would have been one hundred children that would have obtained a degree who wouldn't have had if they were not presented with an opportunity", concluded Professor Crouch.

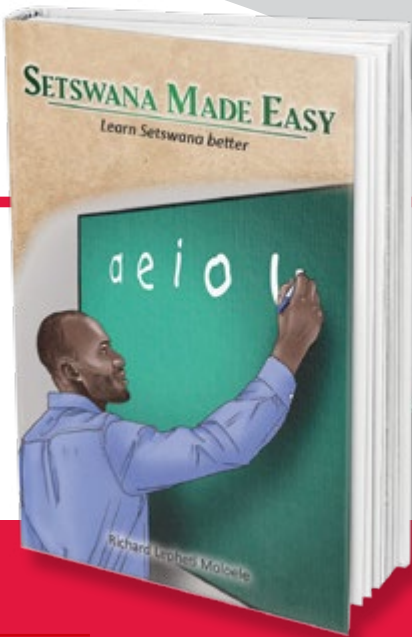
SETSWANA MADE EASY

Having taught Setswana for over a decade, SPU’s Setswana lecturer, Dr Richard Moloele has written a beginners guide to learning Setswana titled *Setswana made Easy* for new learners in Setswana who have little or no exposure to the language.

Although anyone can benefit from reading this book, university students in particular will find this guide useful when learning Setswana Conversational Language or Setswana Communication as the book introduces the reader to various Setswana words that are provided with English equivalents to enhance full understanding.

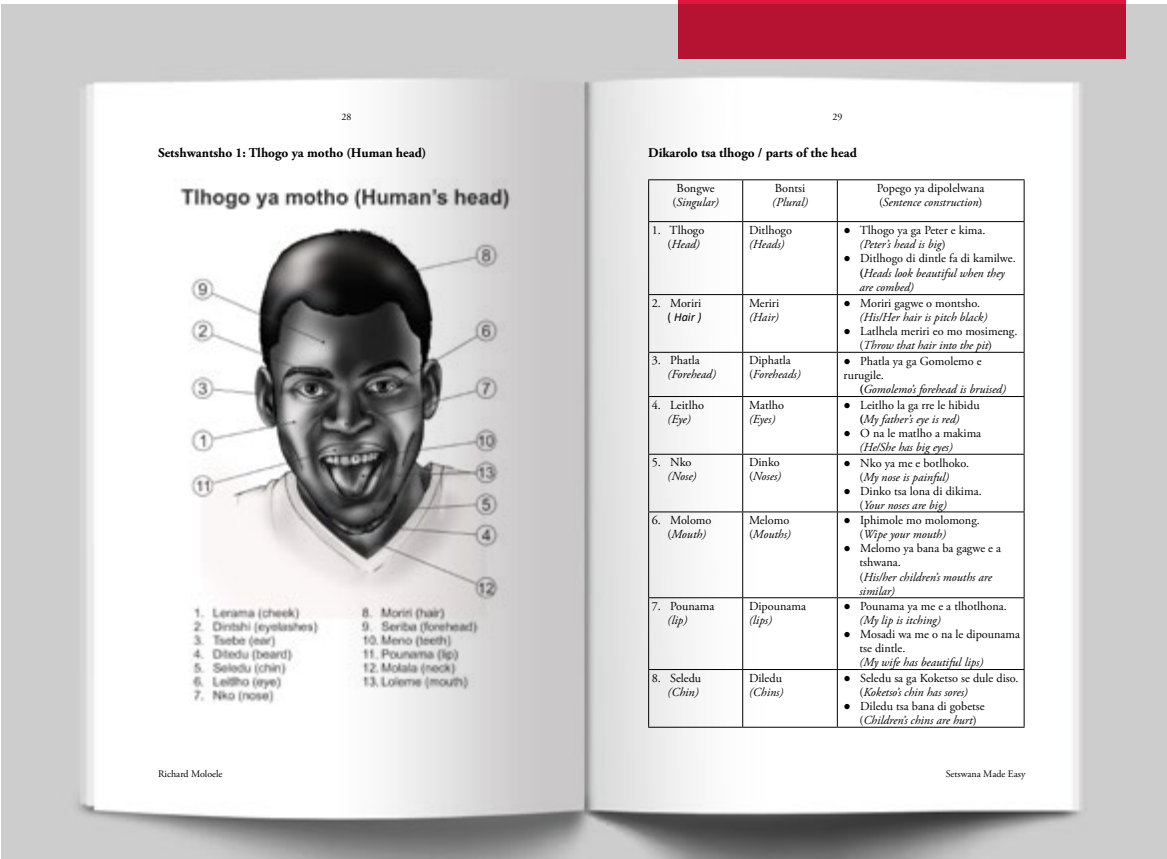
“Students struggle with basic Setswana such as a greeting or asking for a pen. With South Africa being a country rich in culture and diversity, I also hope to encourage non-Setswana speakers to learn to speak basic Setswana which is one of the several marginalised languages in our country, and the second most spoken language of the Northern Cape province”, noted Dr Moloele.

Prior to this book Dr Moloele authored *Rumo la ntlha, Kgetse ya tsie, Itlho le le losi, Morokotso and Intshwareleng*.



The book is structured in a way that the Setswana words precede sentences in the two languages which will help readers to develop requisite vocabulary to learn and speak the language with confidence.

SETSWANA MADE EASY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC IN MARCH 2021.





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PROFESSOR NHAMO CHAUKURA ELECTED TO EDITORIAL BOARD

In December 2020, Professor Nhamo Chaukura was elected into the Editorial Board of The Journal of Environmental Technology & Innovation.

Published by Elsevier, with an impact factor of 3.356, the journal takes on a challenge-oriented approach to solutions, which strengthen the development and application of sustainable technologies for environmental improvement.

Its focus areas include soil, air, water and food in both rural and urban environments.

Working with the editorial team and the editorial board, Professor Chaukura works directly with authors and reviewers in reviewing submitted manuscripts, advising on journal policy and scope, guest editing special issues, attracting new authors and submissions, promoting the journal to colleagues and peers, and assisting the editor/s in decision making.



SPU congratulates Professor Chaukura on this achievement, we wish him the best of luck during his tenure.

◀ GO BACK

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR QUALIFICATION!

Dr Medson Mapuya obtained his PhD in Accounting Education from the Central University of Technology.

In his doctoral study, Dr Mapuya explored the learning experiences of first year accounting student teachers and the implications such learning experiences have on curriculum implementation. He explored these learning experiences and the realities in the learning environment from a student perspective, informed by the assumptions of multiple intelligences, guided instruction and social constructivism.

Premised on the study findings, Dr Mapuya developed a model called the Curriculum Implementation and Attainment of Learning Objectives Model. The model is an embodiment and illustration of curriculum implementation which is anchored on a mirage of social constructivist learning pedagogies.



It is envisaged that this model will contribute towards the realisation of multiple intelligences and the cognitive learning objectives enshrined in the revised Bloom taxonomy.



Dr Lukhanyo Makhenyane graduated from Rhodes in December 2020.

Dr Makhenyane's study, *Uthelekiso lweLizwi leMbongi kwisiHobe sikaZolani Mkiva noMzwakhe Mbuli (A Comparative Study of the Voice of Imbongi in Zolani Mkiva and Mzwakhe Mbuli's Poetry)*, compares the voice of two prominent South African imbongi (poets), Zolani Mkiva and Mzwakhe Mbuli. Their poems address socio-politico-economic and cultural issues in the post-apartheid South Africa.

The study is guided by three ideologies – protest, patriotism and revolutionary to unpack, critique, analyse and compare the voice of imbongi in their poetry, as they respond to some critical issues in post-apartheid South Africa.

In comparing Mkiva and Mbuli's poetry in post-apartheid South Africa, Makhenyane notes that in their protest and revolutionary ideology, they express the theme of disillusionment. They speak against corruption in leadership while they question those who violate children and women's right to life. Furthermore, they introduce neo-revolution in their poetry by showing how the struggle for freedom still continues as freedom without economic freedom falls short. The study recommends that African scholars should use the comparative method more in the study of African poetry, to continue to redefine African poetry in different eras. Furthermore, it recommends that the poetry of Mkiva and Mbuli should be included in the curriculum for basic education, as it deals with socio-politico-economic and cultural issues in contemporary South Africa.

SPU ALUMNI CROWNED MISS KIMBERLEY 2021

Sharon Van Staden's life will never be the same. The 22-year-old from Roodepan, Kimberley, achieved her lifelong dream when she was crowned Miss Kimberley 2021 on 19 December 2020 at the Northern Cape Theatre.

Mr and Miss Kimberley is an annual pageant that aims to build and empower the youth of Kimberley, grooming them into young men and women of good stature.

Van Staden, a 2017 Bachelor of Education graduate from SPU, believes she won the pageant due to her pure intentions of giving back to the people of Kimberley. "I knew why I entered the competition; I knew why I wanted to win. I have honest intentions of wanting to serve, build, and motivate people in Kimberley. The judges knew that if I won, I would indeed go all out to give back to my community," said Van Staden.

Sharon feels privileged to be granted this opportunity to serve the sparkling city of Kimberley as it will enable her to live her passion of working closely with the community and working with young people, which are passions that were instilled in her by her grandparents and aunt.

"I was raised by selfless grandparents and an aunt. They played a major role in the woman I have become as the principles they instilled in me moulded me into a caring and compassionate young lady," stated Van Staden.

Her goals during her time as Miss Kimberley include, amongst other things, raising money for disadvantaged communities, assisting at old age homes and playing a part in minimizing gender-based violence through engaging with young men.



STAFF APPOINTMENTS

ACADEMIC



Dr Glynnis Daries

Senior Lecturer: Foundation Phase Teaching

Dr Glynnis Daries obtained a PhD in Early Childhood Education from the University of the Free State. She has extensive experience in Foundation Phase pre-service teacher training at Higher Education level. She taught for 8 years at a primary school. Dr Daries is an active member of the South African Association for Early Childhood Education and the Coordinator of the Family Maths (Grade 3) Project - an inter-university research collaboration with the University of the Free State as the lead university. Dr Daries has published several peer reviewed articles in accredited journals and is the co-author of two book chapters on Early Childhood Development. She has presented her work at several local-and international conferences.



Koena Mabotja

Lecturer: Mathematics (Education)

Koena Mabotja hails from Moletjie Ga-Matamanyane village outside Polokwane in the Limpopo province. He holds a Bachelor of Education degree, Bachelor of Education honours degree and a Master of Education degree in Mathematics Education all obtained from the University of Limpopo. Mabotja is currently a PhD (Mathematics Education) student at the North-West University. Over the past 7 years he has taught mathematics at both public and private schools, and mathematics education related modules at the University of Limpopo and the University of South Africa. In addition, he attended Utrecht University Mathematics Education Summer School in 2019 at the Utrecht University, in the Netherlands. As a mathematics education lecturer at SPU, he intends on providing student teachers with a stimulating, challenging, and healthy learning environment that will allow them to become active participants in their journey of becoming effective mathematics educators.



Dr Ibidun Obagbuwa

Senior Lecturer: Computer Science (Natural and Applied Sciences)

Dr. Ibidun Christiana Obagbuwa obtained a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). She has her master's degree in computer science from the University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria and a bachelor's degree honours in computer science from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. She further obtained a teaching qualification in computer science and mathematics from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. Dr Obagbuwa started her teaching career at Lagos State University, Nigeria as a lecturer in the Department of Computer Science in 2006. She carried out her teaching and research roles and served as an acting head of department. She also served as a curriculum development and accreditation committee member.



Edward Matabane

Lecturer: Mathematics Teaching (Education)

Edward Matabane is a Mathematics Educator with a Bachelor of Science (Pure and Applied Mathematics) from the University of Venda, an MSc (Mathematics, Point-free topology) University of Limpopo, PGCE from University of South Africa, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education from Rhodes University. He spent five years as a high school mathematics teacher at the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA) and has taught mathematics at several South African universities for ten years. After completing a Post graduate Diploma in higher education at Rhodes University and completing a course on "Writings is Disciplines", he developed an interest in mathematical writing. He is now studying towards a PhD focusing on students mathematical writing and the epistemological injustices in the teaching of mathematics.



Dr Kagiso Given Shadung (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

Senior Lecturer: Agriculture

Dr Shadung was born in Zebediela, Limpopo. He holds a PhD (Plant Production), MSc Agric (Plant Protection), BSc Agric (Horticulture) from the University of Limpopo. He also has certificates in Project Management and Nematology from the North West University and ISO22000:2005 (Food Safety Management Systems Requirements and Compliance Auditing) from the South African Bureau of Standards. Prior to joining SPU, Shadung worked as a Project Coordinator at Limpopo Agro-Food Technology Station and was a part-time lecturer within the Department of Plant Production, Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering both at the University of Limpopo. He taught in the fields of horticultural science and plant production. He has supervised and graduated several honours and master's students.



Kudakwashe Madzima

Lecturer: Computer Science

Kudakwashe Madzima holds an MSc in Computer Science from NUST (Zimbabwe), a BSc in Mathematics & Computer Science from Enrique Jose Varona (Cuba) and a PGDip (HE) from Rhodes University. Prior to joining SPU, he worked at the University of Venda. He has extensive lecturing experience having taught at various institutions of higher learning such as the University of Venda, University of Swaziland, Umutara Polytechnic in Rwanda and NUST in Zimbabwe. He is also a Certified Huawei Routing & Switching Instructor for Huawei Technologies, a Certified Instructor for Data Carpentries at Carpentries.org and an Accredited City & Guilds Quality Assessor for City & Guilds International.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS ...continued

ACADEMIC



Professor Mohamed Ahmed

Associate Professor: Geography

An Associate Professor in Geography, Prof Ahmed obtained his MSc in Environmental engineering (Arid Land Hydrology) and PhD degree Bio-environmental Science at Tottori University in Japan. His MSc and PhD research focused on land degradation processes in arid and semi-arid environments as he was part of the Arid Land Research Center at Tottori University. He specifically worked on the application of geospatial technologies to monitor and understand the impact of rainfall characteristics on soil erosion as an important source of sediment and sediment associated pollutants in both agricultural and hillslope lands. Before joining SPU, he was Senior/Specialist Researcher at the Agricultural Research Council Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, Geoinformation Division since February 2015.



Dr Obed Shirinda

Senior Lecturer: Physics

Dr Obed Shirinda was born in Tshikhudini Village, Limpopo. He holds MSc and PhD degrees in theoretical nuclear physics from the University of the Western Cape; BSc Honours (Physics) and BSc (Physics and Chemistry) degrees from the University of Venda. After completing his PhD degree in 2011, he was appointed as a post-doctoral fellow researcher at iThemba LABS. In 2014 he became a research staff member at iThemba LABS with research focusing on nuclear structure studies. Currently, he holds a Y2 NRF research rating, awarded in 2016 and is a registered professional physicist with the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP). He's also a registered professional natural scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP).



Professor Gilbert Pwiti

Professor: Heritage Studies

Professor Gilbert Pwiti is a Professor of Archaeology and Heritage Studies with a BA Honours (History and an African Language) from the University of Zimbabwe, an MPhil (Archaeology) from the University of Cambridge, England and a PhD (Archaeology) from Uppsala University in Sweden. Prof Pwiti has been teaching Archaeology, Prehistory and Cultural Heritage Management at the University of Zimbabwe, the Institute of Archaeology, University College (London) and the University of Botswana.

He's also been involved in archaeological research on prehistoric farming communities and the development of complex societies in southern Africa as well as conducted research on cultural heritage management and published widely in accredited journals and monographs. He has served on various international professional bodies including being appointed as an Executive Secretary of the PanAfrican Association for Prehistory and Related Studies, and the President of the World Archaeological Congress. Prof Pwiti has served as a member of the Advisory Boards for the World Archaeology, African Archaeological Review and Zimbabwea journals. He also served as a Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, a member of the Board of Directors of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.



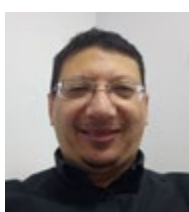
Dr Simbarashe Gukurume

Senior Lecturer: Sociology

Dr Simbarashe Gukurume is a Social Scientist with training in, and working, at the intersections of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Prior to joining SPU, Dr Simbarashe was a lecturer and faculty research chairperson at the Great Zimbabwe University. He holds a PhD from the University of Cape Town, a Masters in Sociology and Social Anthropology, as well as a BSc in Sociology obtained from the University of Zimbabwe. Dr Simbarashe's research interests focus broadly on the sociology of youth, informality and livelihoods, displacements, ethnography of money, politics and social movements and Pentecostalism.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS ...continued

ADMINISTRATION



Jerimy Jerome Bantam

Senior Officer: Organisational Development

Originally from Somerset East in the Eastern Cape, Jerimy moved to Kimberley in 2018 after working in HR for the South African Police Services for nine years and the Department of Justice & Constitutional Development for 8 years. He obtained his B-Tech degree in Human Resource Management at Central University of Technology and completed his Postgraduate Diploma in Business Management in 2020 with MANCOSA. Before taking up the position of Senior Officer: Organisational Development at SPU, Jerimy worked in HR operations and occasionally assisted the development section. He is married and a father to a son.



Adonis Shikwambana

Manager: Residence

Adonis was born in Nkowankowa in Limpopo. In 2013 Adonis moved to Port Elizabeth to further his studies at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. He completed his qualification in Economics there and in 2019 enrolled for a BA degree in Human Settlements with UNISA. In his academic journey at the Nelson Mandela University, he was involved in student societies and in 2014 Adonis was accepted in the Peer Helping Programme under the Student Counselling and Career Development unit. In 2015 Adonis joined the Student Representative Council under Student Governance and Development where he served his two terms as the Accommodation and Catering Officer. After his term of office, he was then absorbed by the Student Housing Off Campus Housing and Vacation Accommodation office at the university from 2017 to 2018 as a Student Liaison Officer for off campus accredited residences.



Lerato Sekonyela

Programme Manager: Student Academic Support

Lerato Sekonyela worked at the University of the Free State for more than eight years as a Lecturer in the Industrial Psychology department, as well as was a Programme Director for Extended Curriculum Programmes in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. He completed a M.Soc.Sc (Industrial Psychology), B.Soc.Sc (Honours: Industrial Psychology) and B.Soc.Sc at University of the Free State. His specialisation in the field of Industrial Psychology led to him to teach in other departments at the university, which includes the Business School, the Department of Agricultural Economics and the School of Open Learning. He is passionate about supporting students to achieve their academic objectives. Sekonyela's research interest is in higher education specifically organisational behaviour and wellbeing, human capital development, ethical behaviour and performance management in leadership.



Jemimah Monokoane

Unified Call Desk Operator

Born and raised in Kroonstad, Jemimah studied at the Northern Cape Urban FET college and obtained a National Diploma in Management Assistant in 2012. She is hardworking, reliable, friendly and compassionate. Jemimah looks at each day as an opportunity to learn something new and exciting. She is open-minded and willing to solve whatever problem is put before her. She states that she is truly blessed to be part of the University.



Monono Sello

Officer: Safety

Monono Sello was born and raised in Pampierstad. She studied Safety Management at UNISA and completed her B-tech degree in 2018. She worked for Transnet Freight Rail as a safety officer, then moved to Eskom under Atvance Empowerment Risk Management as a safety Advisor. Monono loves working with people from different backgrounds and skills because she believes we can all learn from one another. She believes in respecting people from all walks of life and listening to different point of views.



Patience Mabule

Senior School Administrator

Prior to joining SPU, Patience Mabule was an Administrative Assistant at the University of Mpumalanga in the School of Education. With over five years' administrative experience in Higher Education, her educational background includes an honours and bachelor's degree in Public Administration both obtained from the University of Limpopo. She is all for working diligently while creating worthwhile memories with her team.

RETIREMENTS

Pitso Bogacwi - Driver
Steve Twyford - Senior Manager: Systems Administration
Elfreda Luyt - Coach: Netball

RESIGNATIONS

Alida Lochner - Scor Junior Lecturer
Valetta Williams - Scor Junior Lecturer
Veronica Chetty - Scor Lecturer
Adean van Dyk - Lecturer: Afrikaans (Education)
Boitumelo Moreeng - Senior Lecturer: History (Education)
Nkagisang Ditira - Officer: HR Development
Mr Shaun Petersen - Security Officer services
Prof Audrey Msimanga - Head of School Education
Dr Adekunle Adebawale -Senior Lecturer: Botany

CONTRACTS EXPIRED

Mr Peter Olukanmi - Lecturer: Computer Science and Information Technology (NAS)
Elamo Chibaya - Part Time Lecturer: Education
Riana van Merwe - Part Time Junior Lecturer: Hum
Kgosi Lotlhare - Part Time Junior Lecturer: Education
Dr Sihlobosenkosi Mpofu - Part Time Lecturer: Education
Gilbert Isaka - Part Time Junior Lecturer: Hum
Ms Mpho Makaleng - Part Time Lecturer: EMS
Mr Risimati Khosa - Part Time Lecturer: EMS
Mr Jefferson James Dirks-Korkee - Part time Junior Lecturer Education
Mr Marthinus Roodt - Part Time Teaching Assistant Education
Sello Mashibini - Part Time Lecturer Hum
Gilbert Makanda - Part Time Senior Lecturer NAS
Siphiwe Thwala - Part Time Lecturer Education
Haruma Maama - Part Time Lecturer EMS
Mr Jonathan Damon - Part Time: Junior Lecturer: EMS



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MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

School of Economic and Management Sciences

Our School was devastated by the news last year that the two new BCom programmes that were approved by the DHET and submitted to CHE for accreditation, did not serve at their last meeting of the year and will therefore not be introduced in 2021.

We had to regroup and adjust our strategy and plans for the year accordingly. The lessons learned last year during the rapid transition to online learning will be applied this year and it is hoped that a blended/hybrid teaching model will be introduced, depending on the severity of the pandemic. Emphasis will be placed on online assessments, especially development of skills to develop innovative assessments and ensuring integrity. The School is introducing the Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship this year and will closely monitor the uptake and progress of students. As entrepreneurship is one of the niche areas in the School, this year will see the establishment of a Centre for Entrepreneurship as well as the absorption of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Rapid Incubator in Uptington.

In terms of programme development, a master's degree in Public Management will be developed as well as honours degrees in Accounting and Economics. Other programmes will be considered in terms of the strategic plan of the School whilst the Diploma in Retail Business Management will be reviewed. Research remains a priority and we are confident that we will improve on the outputs achieved last year.



Lastly the School will focus on increasing its visibility by entering into partnerships/agreements with various institutions and organisations, building on the current collaborations with the HSRC, PSETA, National School of Government, W&RSETA and the University Technology in Malaysia. It will be a bumper year despite the lack of new undergraduate programmes and the School is ready to grow!

*Prof Pierre Joubert,
Head of the School of Economic
and Management Sciences*

The first cohort students of the PG Diploma in Public Management should complete their research projects this year under supervision of academics from the School while Cohort 2 will finalise their proposals.



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MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

School of Education

A new pedagogy reconsidered. The way we teach, and research has been triggered by the unexpected engagement of online learning in higher education because of COVID-19.

The innovative technologies increase elasticity in, and access to knowledge including exploring the insinuations of these developments for programme and course delivery past the pandemic.

As the School of Education, we highlight several key developments in online learning and how they impact our understanding of pedagogy, among them, the continuing development of new knowledge, making it demanding to condense all students' need to know within the narrow time of a course.

We will endeavour, to the best of our ability, to assist students to accomplish knowledge - how to discover, analyse, assess, and apply knowledge as it continually swings and grows in the knowledge-based society.

Given the enduring momenta in digital technologies, social media, and mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, we will permit our students much more control over access to and the creation and sharing of knowledge.

This will empower our students and lecturers to creatively search for ways to leverage this heightened student control to augment their motivation and engagement in knowledge practices. The flicked classroom will see a new pedagogy in which lecturers will record lectures and/or provide access to videos, readings, open education resources, quizzes, and other resources which students work through in the comfort of wherever they reside.



Online interface among students and with the lecturers, whether through discussion, problem-solving, case studies, practical exercises, or lab work will be included as the mode of delivery, among others. Teaching models for both classroom and online delivery will be reviewed and attuned in response to new technological capacities available in the school.

*Prof Amasa Ndafirepi,
Acting Head of the School of Education*



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MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

School of Humanities

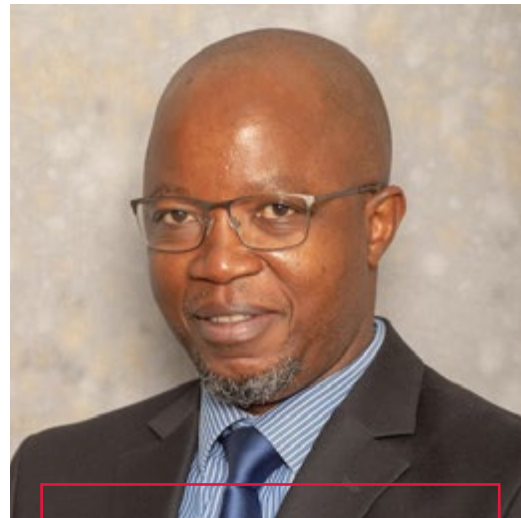
New Year, New Hope!
COVID-19 has affected humanity physically, emotionally, financially and psychologically. Yet human resilience and the robustness and spirit of resolve in our structures and systems has enabled us to weather the storm of COVID-19.

Thus, in spite of the challenges, we look to 2021 with a lot of hope and anticipation.

SPU has consolidated its support for online teaching and our academics and students did an excellent job in 2020, managing to successfully complete the academic year. As we start the new year, at school level, at the beginning of the year we have welcomed new academic and administrative staff. We are boosting administrative support at Departmental level, and school committees as conversations and consultations on our transition into faculties shape up in 2021. We are excited at these prospects of growth and maturity.

We are launching our revised and exciting BA in the first semester of 2021. We are excited about the full accreditation of our MA by research rolling out 2 disciplines (Sociology and History).

This is historic as this is the first MA to be rolled out at SPU. We are also expanding our BA honours offerings.



While we have faced challenges around the throughput rates in our Honours programmes, we are working in enhancing capacity for supervision and the improvement of our structures and working methods in postgraduate studies. Other exciting plans for 2021 include the accreditation of our PhD programme and work on the laying foundations for the SPU Centre for Creative Writing in African Languages.
Puuula!!!!

*Prof Prof Jesmael Matanga,
Head of the School of Humanities*



MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

School of Natural and Applied Sciences

As we start the 2021 academic year, NAS has a number of goals to achieve that are lying in its path.

A few of them are outlined below.

Meeting our target enrolment: First priority of the year is making sure that all nine programmes offered by the School, both undergraduate and postgraduate, are fully enrolled. Initial processing of applications points to the possibility of achieving this goal.

New Instruction Models: COVID-19 has accelerated our transition from face to face to online teaching. Even if the educational situation returns to the normal that existed before this pandemic, it is highly unlikely that we will return to face-to-face teaching. The school is therefore looking at improving academic skills in blended learning enhanced by smart teaching.

Consolidation and Expanding Postgraduate programmes: Two new Honours programmes will be introduced in the 2021 academic year, this, in addition to the other three programmes that are in the second and third years of implementation. The School envisage enrolling a total of forty students across these five Honours programmes.

Quality Assurance of our programmes: Offering a bouquet of relevant programmes means that the School needs to strengthen the teaching capacity of staff and consolidate its quality assurance practices. To this end, NAS is in the process of recruiting senior academic staff, and the preparations are underway for programme reviews of the three undergraduate programmes.

Brand Image: Marketing and Branding of NAS has been identified as one area that requires immense attention. Partnership and collaborations with external stakeholders is therefore a key priority.



The School of Natural and Applied Sciences looks forward to a successful and fruitful academic year 2021.

*Prof Aijheli Gelebe,
Head of the School of Natural and Applied Sciences*

This year will see the establishment of a research Centre in the School in collaboration with Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and National Research Foundation (NRF) – The Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre (RSVC). This will amongst others, provide opportunity to expand on our research and postgraduate training.