



SOL PLAATJE
UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2021

e-BRIEF



WELCOME TO OUR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS!

As the Matric Class of 2020 you were confronted with unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your successful admission to university is a testament to your hard work and dedication to your education.

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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 September 2021.

Editor: Mosima Mehlape

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WELCOME TO OUR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS!



As the Matric Class of 2020 you were confronted with unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your successful admission to university is a testament to your hard work and dedication to your education.

You must draw on those strengths as you navigate being a university student in this new era of online learning, social distancing, and closer adherence to health and safety protocols. You will also have to be adaptable to dynamic social and academic environments as we work with you to chart a course for your tertiary education.

The traditional student activities and rites of passage which university students took for granted are now put on hold or changed in fundamental ways. As we ride out successive waves of the pandemic, we hope that the lessons we learn will help to develop a transformed student experience that will talk more clearly to your academic and social needs, prepare you to become successful graduates, and actively engaged and socially conscious citizens.

Your immediate environment may seem restrictive, but the measures have been put in place for your own health and safety while you are in our care. We will have to endure periods of separation or isolation now so that we can all eventually come together again.

Your academic career has just begun so it is important that it is not de-railed at this early stage. You must therefore work with your residence team, lecturers, student support staff, health care professionals and other university administrators to ensure that SPU is a safe place for everyone.

I wish you every success at SPU.

Professor Andrew M Crouch
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

◀ GO BACK



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MR DAVID F KANGUWE APPOINTED AS SPU'S COO

Mr David F Kanguwe has been appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SPU as from 1 March 2021.

He takes over from the previous COO, Mr Raymond Olander, who retired after six years of serving as SPU's COO.

Born and bred in Kimberley, Mr Kanguwe joins SPU as an accomplished executive with more than 15 years in the private sector where he held various senior management and executive positions in operations and business management. He holds an MBA from Regenesys Business School, a Master of Science degree from the University of Leeds (West Yorkshire, England), a BSc Honours degree and BSc degree from the University of Cape Town.

The COO is a member of the Senior Management Team and has a central role in the development and implementation of the University's Strategic Plan, responsible for key corporate functions across Physical Planning and Infrastructure, Facilities and Services, Security Services and Human Resources.



"I am delighted to be joining the University. I look forward to working with students and colleagues to help SPU make an even bigger impact in the city of Kimberley, the Northern Cape Province, and South Africa as a whole," said Mr Kanguwe.

SPU welcomes this son of Kimberley to Sol Plaatje University and wishes him great success during his tenure.

◀ GO BACK

CAMPUS ABUZZ DURING THE 2021 REGISTRATION

This year, SPU went completely digital with all application and registration processes being done fully online, for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

First-time entering students were assisted with their online registration in a controlled environment on campus through a swift and efficient process.

It was great to see our campus abuzz with movement. We snapped some photos of our newbies as they registered to be part of the #MySPU community. Here is what they had to say about their 2021 Online Registration experience:

Byron Mathane a first year Bachelor of Education student chose #MySPU because he wanted to go to a place where he would be able to express himself.

He says that SPU is a place close to his heart and that his registration experience was a good one. According to Byron, he anticipated a lengthy process but was surprised about how quick and well organized the entire process was. He noted that staff were very helpful in assisting with all his queries, were patient and ensured that he understood all the procedures. Byron wants to master the art of teaching, to learn different methods of teaching and ways of engaging with diverse people. He furthermore added that if he was to take one book to a deserted island, it would be Tsotsi by Athol Fugard.



Utlwile Seochwareng opted to come to SPU because it is the closest university to her home, and it was recommended to her by a friend.

The aspiring educator found the staff to be very approachable and welcoming during the registration period which she noted was a short, easy and simple process. She hopes to acquire time management skills to effectively prioritize her time at university and if she could only take two books along with her, it would be Rich Dad Poor Dad and The Alchemist.

Dourne Vaarland arrived at SPU on 08 March 2021, where she received helpful assistance from staff and was impressed by a security officer's effort in assisting her with the necessary support to ensure a smooth registration process.

Dourne is registered for the Higher Certificate in Heritage Studies and is eager to kick-off her academic journey. She described the registration process as okay and quick, with the only challenge not being notified timeously that she needs to do a home-based assessment to be considered for a place in a campus residence. She hopes to acquire the skill of multi-tasking and would read any book by Bishop T.D Jakes.



We look forward to watching you
prosper on this new academic journey.

SPU'S FIRST-TIME ENTERING STUDENTS 2021

AS AT 18 JUNE 2021

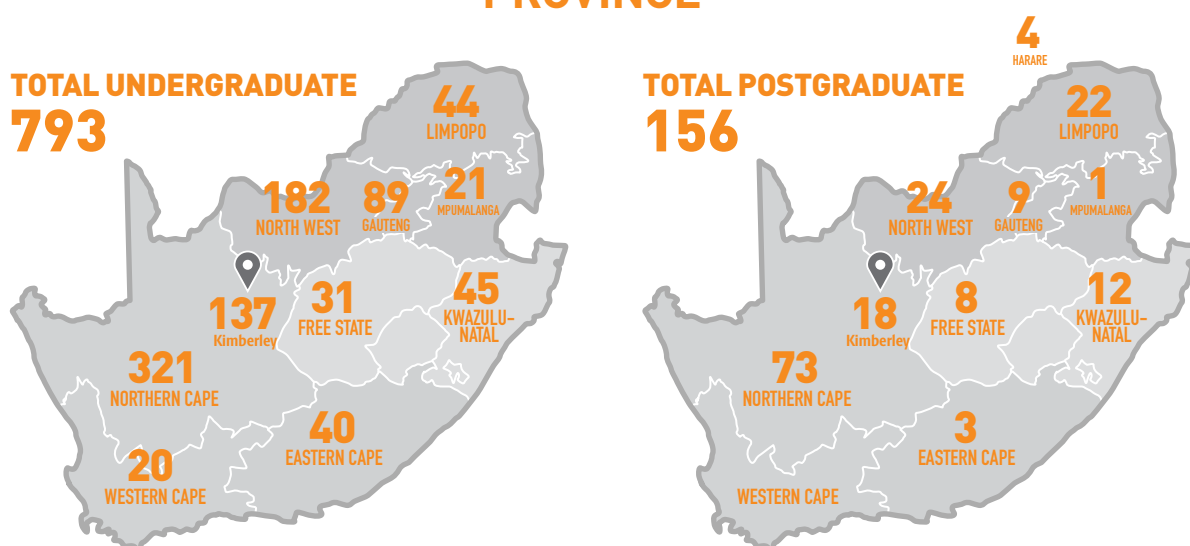
GENDER



RACE

UNDERGRADUATE					POSTGRADUATE				
AFRICAN	COLOURED	INDIAN	WHITE	TOTAL	AFRICAN	COLOURED	INDIAN	WHITE	TOTAL
654	126	3	10	793	129	24	0	3	156

PROVINCE



KIMBERLEY RESIDENTS



TOP 5 OVERALL FEEDER SCHOOLS

in Kimberley

1. St Boniface Intermediate School
2. Vuyolwethu Secondary School
3. William Pescod High School
4. Kimberley Girls High School
5. Northern Cape High School

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES WITH HIGHEST ENROLEMENT

Bachelor of Education	274
Bachelor of Arts (General)	154
Diploma in ICT (Applications Development)	104
Diploma in Retail Business Management	82

ACADEMIC ORIENTATION 2021

The Academic Orientation Week kicked off from 8 to 12 March 2021 for first-time entering students and was presented by the Student Academic Support Unit of the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Programme Development (CTLPD).

The aim of the academic orientation was to develop students' computer literacy skills and introduce them to the teaching and learning methodologies applied at the University such as the basic operations of a laptop and introduce them to the Learning Management Systems.

A blended-learning approach was used where sessions were presented online (through Microsoft Teams) and live streamed in specific venues on campus to accommodate and provide individual support by Orientation Tutors as and when required. Students were provided with an in-depth demonstration on navigating Moodle and accessing computer and academic literacies through online resources accessible from the SPU Library and Resource Centre. Senior students formed part of the programme where they shared and reflected on their experiences regarding online learning, the challenges experienced and the various strategies they have used to overcome these challenges and concluded with a discussion on the available student academic support resources at CTLPD such as the tutorship programme.

The outcome was to ensure that students familiarize themselves with the resources provided to them to ensure effective teaching and learning and, to bring across a positive mind-set for self-directed learning and effective study skills.

A majority of students attended and participated in the academic orientation sessions through the online platform, by logging on either from their residence rooms or at home, thereby taking advantage of the flexibility brought by online learning.

The Academic Orientation evoked an immediate positive reaction from students which has contributed positively towards SPU's commitment in ensuring that students experience a seamless transition from high school to higher education.





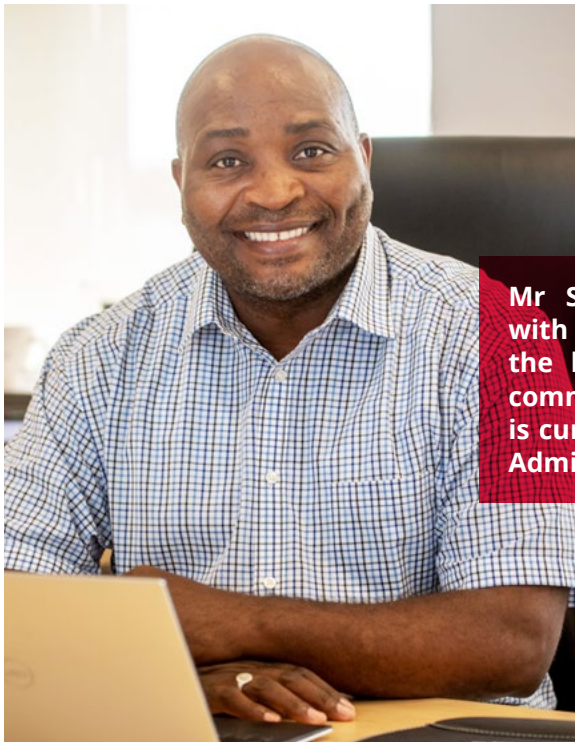
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WELCOME TO THE DIRECTOR FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor welcomed its new Director for Institutional Advancement, Mr Qondakele Sompondo, on 1 March 2021.



Mr Sompondo joins SPU from Rhodes University (RU) where he was employed as a Development and Fundraising Manager in the Communications and Advancement Division. He served as a Development and Fundraising Manager at RU for ten years, in charge of both the Alumni Relations and Fundraising portfolios. He is credited for overseeing the growth of the RU's Annual Fund and the conceptualization of the University's most ambitious Student Financial Aid Campaign, the Isivivane Fund.

Mr Sompondo is an experienced fundraiser with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education sector. He is a strong community and social services professional, and is currently completing his Masters in Business Administration at the Rhodes Business School.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in Corporate Communications from the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) and postgraduate certificates in resource mobilisation and advancement obtained at the Rhodes Business School.

Prior to his stint at RU, Mr Sompondo was the External Relations Director at Ubuntu Pathways for nine years where he was in charge of a portfolio that encompassed Fundraising, Marketing and Stakeholder engagement. He led the South African office's fundraising efforts and was the member of the fundraising team that raised funds for the iconic Ubuntu Centre in Zwile Township, Port Elizabeth.

At SPU he is putting in place foundations of an Institutional Advancement Department whose mandate is to lead the University's positioning and resource mobilization endeavours. He will oversee the SPU strategy in Communications, Marketing, Fundraising, Alumni Affairs and Community Engagement.

Mr Sompondo is excited to join SPU and looks forward to working with the SPU community to advance the mission and goals of the University.

◀ GO BACK

SPU LAUNCHES DONATING TO SPU

Sol Plaatje University is pleased to announce the launch of the 'Donating to SPU' web page, which went live on the SPU website on Monday, 31 May 2021.

The purpose of the page is to create a central home dedicated to raising funds for various University initiatives that will make it simple for internal and external stakeholders to convert to donors. Whether big or small, funding plays a significant role in maintaining excellence in research and student support.

"We are thrilled to launch the 'Donating to SPU' web page, which is a one-stop-shop for philanthropic giving to SPU," says Mr Qondakele Sompondo, Director for Institutional Advancement. "As an institution, we believe that our students and our research have the potential to change the world; therefore, their stories must be shared with the whole world".

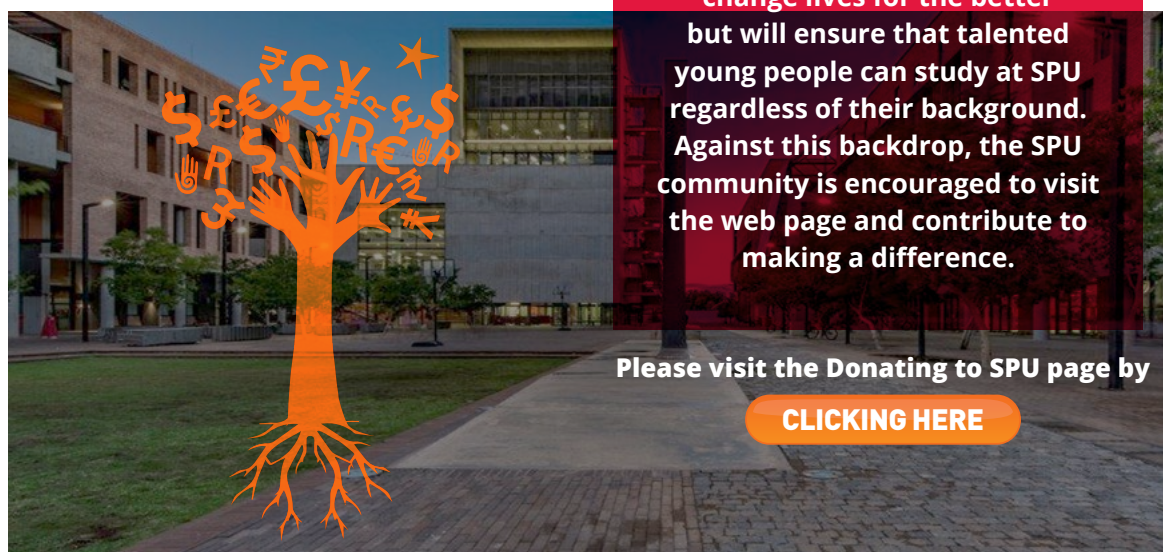
The web page is structured to allow a seamless user experience with an easy-to-navigate homepage with a recognisable Donating to SPU design, in line with the SPU brand. Here, visitors are welcomed by a call-to-action from SPU's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Andrew Crouch, prompting donors to make a difference. There is also information on current appeals requiring funding, fundraising projects, success stories, and a 'ways to donate' tab where donors can donate online or make direct EFT payments into the University's bank account.

The Donating to SPU web page is a critical element in garnering financial support for scholarships and research programmes that will not only change lives for the better

but will ensure that talented young people can study at SPU regardless of their background. Against this backdrop, the SPU community is encouraged to visit the web page and contribute to making a difference.

Please visit the Donating to SPU page by

CLICKING HERE



2021 STUDENT LEADERS

The Student Affairs department is a non-academic support and student development service. Each year, they send out a call for applications from senior students for student leader positions to aid in enriching the lives of students.



Student leaders also received training on digital learning and information literacy so that they can aid any student experiencing difficulties in these areas.

The student leaders arrived early in March to undergo training provided by various departments within the University, as well as from external partners. They were warmly welcomed by the Acting Senior Manager of Student Affairs, Ms Nthabiseng Afrika and were addressed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary-Jean Baxen who discussed with them, the SPU vision and mission and provided a brief account of the remarkable growth the University has achieved since its inception.

All student leaders were trained on how and when to refer students' that need help or advice. They received training on security protocols and green routes; COVID-19 protocols and induction on the facilities and dining hall rules. They also received information on how to have a positive presence on social media, and to communicate effectively inside the University.

The Student Affairs department presented their different portfolios and explained how they serve and assist students at SPU. Their core focus was around issues of confidentiality, professional interaction with fellow students, consent, and issues around gender-based violence (GBV) within the SPU community.

Of the health related topics presented, the main paradigm was on mental health resilience and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through exercise, healthy eating and the use of condoms at all times.

STUDENT LEADERS IN STUDENT AFFAIRS COMPRISE:

Peer Mentors

These are senior students assigned to assist and guide first-time entering students through their first-year at university. The aim is to ensure a smooth transition into the university community. Every first-year student is allocated to a peer mentor following their registration at #MySPU.

Peer Educators

This group of student leaders are trained to educate their peers in health and psycho-social issues, on campus and in residences. They will be focussing on health matters centred around the youth such as, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's)/ HIV and unintended pregnancies.

Sub-Wardens

These are students that assist the wardens in residences and serve as a liaison with fellow students.

Student Affairs is grateful to all departments in SPU who played a role in the training of the student leaders and would like to thank their external partners, Lifeline and Barefoot Campaign for being part of this training to ensure that the student leaders are well equipped to execute their duties in 2021.



FISHBOWLS, BEANS, FAKE MONEY, MUM, DAD, GOGO AND MATHEMATICS

What do these have to do with mathematics? In this case, everything.

The University of Free State's (UFS) Family Math initiative is a programme, funded by SANRAL and developed by the Science-for-the-Future (S4F) employees at UFS. Dr Cobus van Breda, Programme Director for Science-for-the-Future, and his team established the S4F programme and SPU is one of the partner universities.

The development of this programme considers the enormous challenges encountered by South African teachers which include, among others, a lack of resources, inadequate parental involvement and the challenge of discrepancies between the language of teaching and learning, and learners' home language. The Family Math programme aims to address these issues by not only involving teachers, but also involves learners and their parents.

SPU was invited to collaborate on this project and Grade 3 teachers in the Warrenton and Jan Kempdorp areas attended hands-on learning sessions conducted by Dr Glynnis Daries, Head of Education Studies and Dr Tracey Herman, Lecturer for Psychology in Education in the School of Education. These sessions took place at the Andalusia Primary School in Jan Kempdorp. In attendance were 29 teachers from 10 local schools as well as the Chief Education Specialist for Foundation Phase, Mrs Mosadie Kruger, and the subject advisor for Foundation Phase in the Francis Baard area, Mrs Ntoaki Mosinki.

The sessions allowed teachers to explore and 'play' with concrete materials such as paper fish and fishbowls to understand problem solving approaches, beans and a number-line to encourage mental math and fraction cards. All these activities are aligned to CAPS and can be used to facilitate various topics in mathematics.



Left to right: Dr Glynnis Daries, Dr Tracey Herman, Ms Mosadie Kruger and Ms Ntoaki Mosinki

The teachers then held parent workshops at their respective schools where parents sat with their children and together worked through the activities. This enabled parents (and in many cases grandparents, aunts, uncles or older siblings) to use the resources at home to assist learners to consolidate work done in class. This initiative was a huge success as parents became involved in their children's mathematics education.



SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES SIGNS MOU WITH UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

The School of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Malaysia which will pave the way for the promotion and collaboration on international academic and research matters, specifically in the field of Accounting.

The MOU between SPU and UiTM was initiated by Professor MD.Humayun Kabir, Associate Professor in the School, as a culmination of his existing collaborative efforts with the Faculty of Accountancy at UiTM.

EMS will collaborate with the UiTM by receiving support in the following areas:

- Develop new programmes in the accounting discipline at SPU and obtain accreditation from international accounting and auditing professional bodies.
- Undergraduate and postgraduate students' mobility between the two institutions through an exchange programme.
- Accounting research collaboration in the areas of mutual interest to both parties.
- Exchange of academic materials which are made available by both parties.
- Exchange of academic scholars during academic development.
- Sponsorship of joint seminars, workshops, and other academic meetings on matters of mutual interest in areas of accounting.
- Consolidate expertise and resources in organizing accounting workshops and conferences.

The main goals of this partnership are to strengthen, promote and develop international academic and accounting research co-operation between the two universities in the training programmes, student and staff exchange programmes, and organizing and hosting international accounting conferences at both SPU and UiTM.





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STUDENTPRENEUR ELECTED AS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

In March 2021, the 3rd annual Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) Kick-Off took place online across 3 days, with a key focus on encouraging entrepreneurship against all odds.

Final year SPU BCom student, Chad Lucas, a former SPU EDHE intervarsity regional candidate joined this online event that included champions for entrepreneurship development across South African universities.

This platform was used to reflect on the EDHE and presented the opportunity to elect new leadership to serve on the national Studentpreneurs Community of Practice (CoP). Its purpose is to leverage and build support structures that may aid small businesses owned by students and thus serve as a mouthpiece for student entrepreneurship by identifying the challenges faced as well as the opportunities for student entrepreneurs at higher education institutions.

At this event, Mr Lucas was officially elected as Deputy Chairperson of the national EDHE Studentpreneur CoP. He will be guided by Ms Gail Motlhaudi, Lecturer in the School of Economic and Management Sciences, who is a standing member of the national EDHE CoP for Student Entrepreneurship (staff) and will be working closely alongside Ms Phetha Mchunu from the University of the Witwatersrand, who was also elected as Chairperson.



We wish Mr Lucas the very best as he takes on this new and exciting position as an ambassador of Sol Plaatje University.

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PROFILE: SPU'S FULL PROFESSORS

Over the next few months we will profile SPU's Full Professors, whose appointment represents a significant growth milestone for the University.

PROFESSOR RAMOS EMMANUEL MABUGU

Ramos Emmanuel Mabugu is currently Professor in Economics in the School of Economic and Management Sciences. He is also currently a Research Fellow at Stellenbosch University in South Africa.

Professor Mabugu earned his PhD in economics from Gothenburg University in Sweden at the age of 29. At Sol Plaatje University, Professor Mabugu teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Public Development Economics. He actively participates in continuous learning through conferences and professional research and strongly believes in students' abilities to learn and become knowledgeable within the right environment.

The role of full Professor at SPU is a very interesting one for Professor Mabugu. A professor in a relatively young university needs to be personable, supportive, but also at times stubborn. For example, Professor Mabugu mediates staff issues, interacts with students, parents, friends and potential donors. In those interactions, Professor Mabugu is conscious and fully supportive of the goals of the School and the University, and hopes to create an enabling workplace environment, where colleagues and students feel appreciated for the contributions that they make, and where they shine and take pride in being associated with this university.

Professor Mabugu holds his ground as colleagues in the Senate Research Committee will attest, especially when it comes to quality expectations. Professor Mabugu is best known in academia for his work which pioneered construction and application of applied general equilibrium coupled with microsimulation models to policy analysis in Africa. He has written widely on economics and economic policy in leading academic economic journals, books and popular press.



Interesting facts about Professor Mabugu are that he started his career as an enthusiastic bank economist, but quickly returned to university after completing his banking probation upon realizing that he was probably going to be better at economics than banking in the long run! He is a father of twins (a boy and a girl) and shares the same birth date with his wife.

He has been invited on several occasions as a keynote speaker at leading academic conferences and was awarded a visiting fellowship award from Curtin University in Australia in recognition of his contributions to intergovernmental fiscal relations modelling.

He has consulted widely on internationally funded projects, including for the Forum of Federations (Canada), IDRC (Canada), Sida (Sweden), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and many African governments. Prior to joining SPU, Professor Mabugu headed the research

and policy division at the Financial and Fiscal Commission, a position equivalent to a Deputy Director General. Before that, he was at the University of Pretoria and the University of Zimbabwe. While at the University of Pretoria, he was instrumental in setting up a collaborative environmental economics M.Sc. and Ph.D.

Professor Mabugu was twice invited to be part of a five-member international team of resource persons to run an international applied general equilibrium course at the prestigious Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Miramare-Trieste, Italy.

ALUMNAE ON THE MOVE

Ms Tshegofatso Andries, a B.Ed student who was recently awarded her degree at SPU's 2021 Virtual Graduation Ceremony, was appointed as a Core Lecturer for the Habitable Planet Workshop (HPW).

This programme run by the Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems Science (ACCESS), employs innovative curriculum using South Africa's globally unique physical, biological, and cultural landscapes to introduce 3rd and 4th year students to the concept of Earth System Science. The purpose of the Core Lecture Programme is to train teachers for the highly successful ACCESS/ DST Habitable Planet Programme that is run 3-4 times a year across Southern Africa, aimed at developing participants general presentation skills, as well as developing skills in researching and presenting on a specialist topic.

According to Tshegofatso her interest in this programme peaked when she attended a public lecture in her first year at SPU, whereafter she applied to be a participant. She progressed to being a pioneer and now an official HPW alumni. She credits the inaugural Emerging Student Leaders Programme at SPU as her helm which gave her the inspiration to step out of her shell and believes this was a stepping stone in developing her leadership potential and has assisted her in becoming the leader she was meant to be. As a Core Lecturer, Tshegofatso takes up leadership positions on the planning committee for these workshops.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic HPW hosted its first online workshop in August 2020 for participants from Africa and India where Tshegofatso co-presented alongside a PhD student. The workshop also featured a keynote lecture by an Astro-Biologist Professor from the University of Florida in the United States. Following strict health and safety regulations, Tshegofatso also presented a face-to-face workshop at the HPW32 in Pietermaritzburg, hosted by UKZN that was highly rated by the participants.



Reflecting on her own journey, Tshegofatso advises students to never shy away from seeking help and encourages them to engage with their peers and to know that there is help available at the University. She stated that students should not limit themselves only to their respective field of study or to succumb to peer pressure. She advocates the use of fear, failure, and disappointment to serve as a driver to reach and attain goals and to be actively involved in the SPU community.

Tshegofatso disclosed that as an epileptic patient, she was consistently reminded by medical professionals of how rare it is for anyone in her condition to have completed matric in record time. Despite challenges faced at university, due to the unconscious bias of some people, she remained inspired to push herself beyond that which society thought she was capable of doing.

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CONGRATS ON YOUR QUALIFICATION!

Ms Theresa Zengeya obtained her Master of Education degree with a specialisation in Education Management from the University of the Free State.

Her research, entitled Considerations of Talent Management in Retention of Academics: A case of the National University of Lesotho, aimed to investigate the contribution of talent management practices at the National University of Lesotho in the retention of talented academics.

The study was informed by Pierre Bourdieu's social theory and Michael Armstrong's equity theory. Bourdieu's theory was used to offer insight on the various capitals, and how these could be instrumental in the design and implementation of talent management practices to increase retention of talent at universities. To further understand talent management narratives, an overview of talent management practices was done followed by a discussion on the current possible challenges that could affect the implementation of successful talent management practices meant to retain talented academics.



Ms Natalie Smith graduated from the University of Free State with a Master of Education degree.

Her study looked at the influence of current assessment practices on learner performance, because the way learners perform, informs decision-making in classrooms and the curriculum.

Learners' performance tells a story of what is happening in schools, and whether, and to what extent, learning takes place. Assessment outcomes pave the way for planning and give an indication if change and support are needed.

The aim of the study was to determine if formative assessment had an influence on the language proficiency of Grade 9 Afrikaans home language learners at one school.

By looking at the problem from a complexity theory viewpoint, Ms Smith tried to understand why change is necessary from time to time – perhaps also in relation to assessment strategies.

congrats



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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT

3rd annual EDHE Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity Competition

The Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme is hosting, together with the 26 public universities, the third annual national Entrepreneurship Intersvarsity Competition.

For the third consecutive year, SPU will participate in the Intersvarsity competition, supported by the School of Economic and Management Sciences. In 2020, third-year BCom student, Ms Pako Ramogogane was placed in the Top 28 (out of thousands of students across the country) and participated in the final round of the competition. This was a proud moment for Sol Plaatje University.

Organiser: School of Economic and Management Sciences

#EDHEIntersvarsity2021

Date: Ongoing from March to October 2021

SEMINAR

Concept towards Centre for Entrepreneurship

Organiser: School of Economic
and Management Sciences

23 June 2021

SEMINAR

Organisational identification among academics in a higher education institution in South Africa: Effects of age, work experience and job grade levels

Organiser: School of Economic and
Management Sciences

25 August 2021

SEMINAR

An International Comparative Analysis of Tax Transparency and Exchange of Information

Organiser: School of Economic and
Management Sciences

22 September 2021



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Welcome!

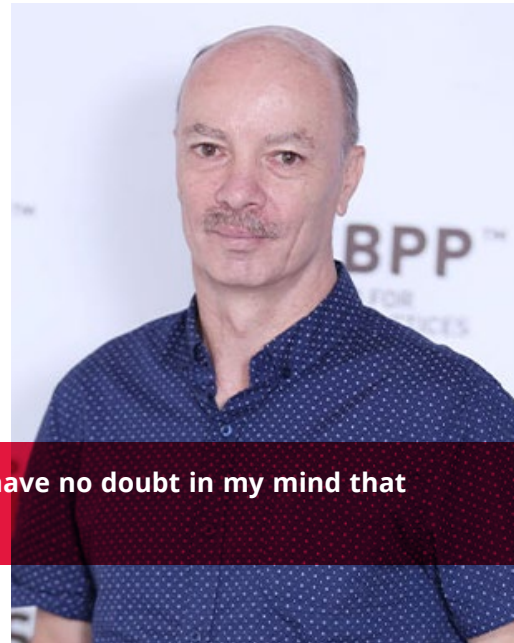


A warm welcome to all new students **School of Economic and Management Sciences**

You are joining SPU at a time when the world is still in the grips of a pandemic and where the way in which we live has changed forever.

Similarly, higher education will not be the same as in the past and you will be exposed to new ways of learning, of assessment and of interacting with people. This might scare you, but it is also exciting as you will learn new skills that will prepare you for the world of work and to be productive members of your communities.

I wish you well on this exciting journey and have no doubt in my mind that you will succeed!



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

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SOL PLAATJE
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Welcome!



Welcome to SPU's School of Education School of Education

We live in exciting times, and it is our privilege to share these times with you.

We will endeavour, to the best of our ability, to assist you with accomplishing knowledge creation – how to discover, analyse, assess, and apply knowledge as it continually swings and grows in this knowledge-based society. Given the enduring progress in digital technologies, social media, and mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, we will permit you much more control over, access to, and the creation and sharing of knowledge than in previous years, especially in the context of a Learning and Teaching environment that is becoming increasingly online-based.

This will empower both you and the lecturers to creatively search for ways to leverage this heightened control to augment your motivation and engagement in knowledge practices.

We have high expectations of you and are confident in your potential to become great teachers one day.



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



SOL PLAATJE
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Welcome!

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Carpe Diem: A word for the Class of 2021

School of Humanities

When I started at university as a first year, many eons ago, I was anxious, even fearful, and felt intimidated by the space that was a university.

As we were orientated into the tertiary institution, its forms of engagement and its bravado about intellect and rigor made me feel a little out of place. Thus, as we welcome our class of 2021, I would like to say that the university can be quite intimidating for first time entrants, but it is also a place to see the world differently and to engage in activities that will change your life.

At SPU, we are new, fresh and swanky like that. We are small, warm, personal and fashionably welcoming. We will however demand accountability, responsibility and ethical behaviour as you live in this community of diverse people and diverse ideas. We expect you to take full control of your academic and social life while here. You will be challenged, but you will also be exposed to, and learn new things. More importantly, you will also expand your ideas or worldviews as you meet and engage with new people and other ideas and worldviews.

Our two Higher Certificate programmes and our newly revised BA are deliberately designed to equip you with skills to be an adaptable, creative 21st century professional. You will develop into a creative, flexible, critically engaged and culturally rooted global citizen who has the emotional intelligence and academic excellence to communicate and engage with diverse forms of knowledge, ideas and ways of knowing. You will be able to analyse, and solve problems, and take on your role as a lifelong learner and be a change agent for where you come from.



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

Career wise, our graduates are equipped to become researchers or practitioners in a variety of professional domains such as museums, tourism, heritage organizations, language based professions; teaching, communication, journalism, research, creative writing, media work, community development, the diplomatic service and many others. Our administrative structures, academic staff and the community of senior students are all here to make your journey as exciting and as productive as possible.

**Carpe Diem - (seize the moment)
- Grow! Learn! Engage! Challenge
yourself and reach for the stars!!!!**



Welcome!



Welcome to the NAS family School of Natural and Applied Sciences

On behalf of the entire staff from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences (NAS), I welcome each one of the first-time entering students who are registered in the School: Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Data Science, and Diploma in ICT in Applications Development.

As I welcome you all, I do so with acknowledgement of the pandemic that has caused devastating heart-breaking situations in many individuals and families. COVID-19 continues to dictate how we conduct ourselves on a daily basis in this "new world" that suddenly emerged during the past year.

Your presence here at SPU and NAS in particular, mark a significant step in your career preparation. By virtue of being selected into one of the programmes mentioned above, consider yourself as part of the small number of students from the Matric Class of 2020 gaining access to higher education. It is an opportunity that you must grab with both hands and make it worthwhile because this one will definitely change your life in a positive way.

Your success is central to our mission – you are encouraged to take advantage of the many services and resources available in the School and the University at large to help you achieve your full potential. Reach out to us when necessary. The staff in NAS are truly remarkable. Both the administrative and academic staff, are dedicated and committed in creating a conducive environment for you to perform at your optimum in your studies.



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

I am confident that the year ahead will be full of rewarding experiences. I welcome you to the membership of our family and wish you a unique NAS experience in the three-year journey of your undergraduate studies.

WE WELCOME THESE NEW EMPLOYEES TO THE SPU COMMUNITY

ACADEMIC



Dr Frederick Botha

Lecturer: Afrikaans

Dr Frederick Botha holds a PhD degree in Afrikaans & Dutch literature from the North West University where he also obtained his BA in Humanities. He completed his Honours and Master's in Afrikaans (both cum laude) at the University of Johannesburg. He is currently enrolled for a Master's degree in Creative Writing at Stellenbosch University, working on a manuscript of short stories.

Dr Botha started his professional career as a high school Afrikaans teacher before joining a community newspaper in his hometown, Heidelberg, as a journalist. In 2013 he joined the University of Johannesburg as a Junior Lecturer in Afrikaans. At the end of 2015 he was offered a position on the writing team of the kykNET soapie, Getroud met Rugby, and moved to Cape Town where he worked as a scriptwriter for five years. During this time, he also lectured Afrikaans part-time at the University of the Western Cape. Several of his short stories have been published, and in 2016 he was shortlisted for the PEN International New Voices Award. Since 2013 he also serves on the judging panel for the UJ prizes for Afrikaans. His research interests include contemporary Afrikaans literature with the focus on novels and short stories. He has published two journal articles, presented several conference papers, and has written many book reviews.



Ms Elri de Meillon

Lecturer: Material Sciences

Ms Elri de Meillon was born in Umtata and studied at the University of Port Elizabeth, now Nelson Mandela (NMU). She majored in Mathematics and went on to do a Master of Science degree in Oceanography (i.e. physics and chemistry of the ocean). When she realized that her future would be far from the sea, she completed her HDE Cum Laude and has been teaching ever since. She has taught Physical Science at various high schools in Kimberley. She has also been involved in training science teachers through the Azaliah College in conjunction with NMU.



Ms Hazel Van der Westhuizen

Lecturer: Sign Language

Ms Hazel van der Westhuizen holds a Master's degree from the University of the Free State (UFS) in South African Sign Language and Deaf studies, done interdisciplinary with the Department of Sociology. Her dissertation focussed on the role of Cochlear Implants On Deaf Culture and utilized a sociological perspective to study the influence of cochlear implants on deaf cultural membership and deaf identity. She started her career as a sign language interpreter at UFS in 2016 and continued as one of the University's free-lance interpreters. After completion of her inter-disciplinary Master's degree, she started her academic career at the Department of Sociology at UFS as a Sociology Learning Facilitator.

She has been appointed at SPU to lecture an introductory course in Conversational Sign Language that will focus on basic terminology, an understanding of the culture and history of the deaf and the linguistics of sign language.



Ms Elamo Chibaya

Lecturer: Mathematics

Ms Elamo Chibaya obtained her Licentiate Degree (Mathematics and Computer Science) from Enrique Jose Varona in Cuba. She also studied undergraduate statistics modules at UNISA and Rhodes University (RU) for non-degree purposes. She holds a BSc honours and an MSc degree in Mathematical Statistics from RU.

She has extensive experience in teaching mathematics in high schools and TVET colleges. She also worked as a contract lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Edgewood campus, and is currently working on her PhD studies focusing on using mobile technologies in the teaching and learning of mathematics.



Dr Sihlobosenkosi Mpofu

Senior Lecturer: Mathematics

Dr Sihlobosenkosi Mpofu is an Educationist and an Academic, having worked in education since 1995. Dr Mpofu obtained his PhD in Mathematics Education from the University of Kwazulu-Natal, and his MSc and BSc honours degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. He is a member of the Golden Key Society for academic achievement. He has worked as an Academic Manager at Pearson Institute for Higher Learning and worked in teacher and school development for nine years. He also had a stint in Publishing as a Mathematics Content Specialist.



Mr Jefferson Dirks-Korkee

Junior Lecturer: Education

Mr Jefferson J. Dirks-Korkee is a progressive Theatre-Maker and an Academic. He participates in Arts Education as a conceptualiser, writer and reviewer of national learner guides, study-guides and training manuals for schools, institutions, organisations, and universities. He is the Executive Producer of PENM Productions, and the Artistic Director of the WillowFees. He serves on the board of Opening Act NPC and he was part of the artistic committee of the Vrystaat Arts Festival.

Mr Dirks-Korkee is currently serving on the selection committee for the International Bibu Festival, Sweden. He is the technical head for the indigenous theatre and dance festival, CAMAGU. He also serves as the dramaturg of the indigenous multi-disciplinary festival M.O.S.S.A. and as an Arts Education Facilitator at AssitejSA.



Ms Nadia Jankowitz

Junior Lecturer: Education

Ms Nadia Jankowitz who is originally from Johannesburg has been residing in Kimberley for the past 12 years. She completed her BSc honours degree at the North West University. She has worked as an Occupational Hygiene Assistant, Laboratory Technician and Laboratory Equipment Representative. She has been an educator in Kimberley for the past 9 years. She hopes to inspire and set alight a flame for science in students attending the ENST 62012 and EICN 53008 courses.



Dr Lindiwe Mokotjo

Senior Lecturer: Mathematics Education

Dr Lindiwe Mokotjo holds a PhD in Mathematics Education from the University of the Free State (UFS), a Masters and BEd honours degree in Curriculum Studies from the same university, and a BSc honours degree in Mathematics from Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom. She has vast experience in higher education and the private financial sector. She has worked at, among other organisations, the University of Pretoria, UFS, several financial companies in the UK and non-governmental organisations.



Dr Zoleka Ntshuntshe

Lecturer: Inclusive Education

Dr Ntshuntshe was born in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. She holds a PhD with a special focus in Inclusive Education from the University of Fort Hare (UFH); a Postgraduate Diploma in HIV/AIDS Management from Stellenbosch University; a certificate in Early Childhood Development from Wheelock College, Massachusetts, and a Senior Primary Teacher's Diploma from Rubusana College of Education.

She has extensive experience teaching in junior and senior primary schools as well as high schools as a Head of Department. She has spent the last four years lecturing at UFS in East London during which she contributed to several peer reviewed book chapters for publication in national and international book projects. Her research interest is in psychosocial support of learners including Early Childhood Development, where she hopes to use her expertise in pre-service teacher education.



Dr Tracey Nowell

Lecturer: Botany

Dr Tracey Nowell comes from a small town in west Wales in the United Kingdom. She gradually shifted eastwards and ended up at Reading University in England where she completed her BSc honours degree in Botany in 1997. She graduated later with an MSc in conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resources from the University of Birmingham. She later moved to Cape Town and followed a convoluted path to graduating with a PhD (Botany) from the University of Cape Town in 2008. Her thesis was on the molecular phylogenetics of a group of southern African succulent plants. She has since remained immersed in things botanical and this has taken her to a Postdoctoral at the Kirstenbosch Research Centre, SANBI, doing field work in amazing places all over South Africa and beyond, including a lectureship in the Botany Department at Rhodes University, Makhanda. Currently, she is delighted to be lecturing at SPU for this semester's 3rd year BAS botany course.

WE WELCOME THESE NEW EMPLOYEES TO THE SPU COMMUNITY ...continued

ADMINISTRATION



Mr Ntsikelelo Nkunkwana

Officer: Facilities and Services

Born and bred in the beautiful diamond city, Mr Ntsikelelo Nkunkwana lives in Vergenoeg. He holds a BCom degree in Human Resource Management from the University of the Free State obtained in 2012.

Prior to joining SPU, he worked for seven years at the Northern Cape Department of Education (at the IK Nkoane Education House) as an Administration Officer in the Security Management Directorate. Mr Nkunkwana looks forward to a great journey ahead with the SPU family.



Ms Babalwa Ma-awu

Senior School Administrator: Natural and Applied Sciences

Babalwa Ma-awu was born in the Eastern Cape, Lady Frere, but was raised in Cape Town, Khayelitsha. She holds a National Diploma in Financial Management and a BTech degree in Financial Information Systems from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She was previously employed at False Bay College, Khayelitsha campus, as an Administrative Clerk for Student Finances.



Ms Thulisile Dladla

Officer: Secretariat

Ms Thulisile Dladla hails from Mariannhill, a suburb on the outskirts of Durban in KwaZulu Natal. She joins SPU as a member of the Secretariat Division in the Office of the University Registrar. Besides working in higher education, she previously worked in the pharmaceutical manufacturing, health, and tourism sectors. She is very passionate about governance and is equally excited about her new assignment at SPU.



Ms Genevieve Makoko

School Administrator: Humanities

Born and raised in Kimberley, Ntshepeng Genevieve Makoko has a BTech Public Management degree which she obtained from the Central University of Technology. She is currently enrolled for a postgraduate Diploma in Public Management at SPU.

Shortly after graduating in 2018, she was invited by the EDTP SETA to start an internship with SPU in the School of Education for two and a half years, serving as an Administrative Assistant in the Teaching Practice Office. She is now appointed in the School of Humanities as a School Administrator.



Ms Phumza Zelda Nqandeka

Senior School Administrator: Economic and Management Sciences

Originally from Krugersdorp, in Gauteng, Ms Phumza Zelda Nqandeka attended Thuto Pele Secondary School and enrolled at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in 2013. She holds a National Diploma in Office Management and Technology and a BTech degree in Business Administration both obtained from the same institution. She then worked for TUT for five years in various departments as a part-time administrative staff member. She loved her job and knows that no one is more cherished in the working environment than someone who lessens the burden of another; and administrative staff are employed to do just that.

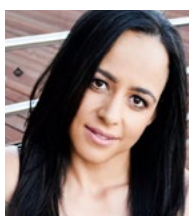
She has always been passionate about working with people; and meeting different personalities everyday gives her great pleasure. Ms Nqandeka is excited and honoured that SPU chose her to be part of the family and looks forward to many more fruitful years with the School of Economic and Management Sciences.



Ms Zipho Msimango

Administrator: Student Affairs

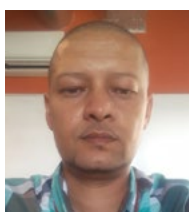
Ms Zipho Msimango is a born and bred Durbanite. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human and Social Science majoring in Public Administration and Communication Facilitation from UNISA. She is currently completing a BA honours degree in Integrated Organisational Communication from the same institution. She has worked as a Call Centre Agent in various sectors in customer services and was also employed at UNISA as an Admin Assistant in the Tuition and Facilitation of Learning department. Prior to being at SPU, she was employed at the Management School of South Africa (MACOSA) as a Pre-Assessments Coordinator.



Ms Claire Malander

Officer: Legal

Ms Claire Malander is originally from Kimberley and studied BCom Law at UNISA. She worked for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for five years and then for the Frances Baard District Municipality for another five years. She is excited to be at this reputable institution and looks forward to working with everyone at SPU.



Mr Lyle Mather

Administrator: Residences

Mr Lyle Mather hails from Mafikeng. He worked at the North West University (NWU) for about 7 years as a Residence Officer and during this time, obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Governance and Policing. Has also worked in diverse fields such as construction, manufacturing, maintenance, and emergency medical rescue. He recently joined SPU as a Residence Administrator.



Ms Lorato Mayeng

Administrator: Residences

Ms Lorato, who hails from Kimberley, obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Free State and further completed a postgraduate qualification in Labour law in 2021. She worked at SPU as an intern in the Student Affairs Department and is now part of the Residence team. She says that it is an honour and privilege to be part of the SPU community.



Mr Melvin Kisten

Junior Developer: ICT

Mr Melvin Kisten's passion for software development saw him enrol for a Diploma and an Advanced Diploma in Information and Communication Technology at SPU. During his studies, he participated in several hackathon events and developed several projects which were designed to meet current IT trends. He also acquired certifications from IBM. Mr Kisten is currently registered for a Data Science degree with Johns Hopkins University.