



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho

Message to staff of the Faculty of Humanities

06 November 2015

Dear Colleagues

Much has taken place in recent weeks to forever change the business of Higher Education in our country. There might be several possible readings about the campaign, but central to the campaign it seems, is the broader democratisation project in Higher Education. I am sure you might be asking how we are engaging this in our Faculty. Over and above conversations that are already taking place, we will have the opportunity to find ways to reflect on this as a Faculty in an on-going way. As always, it is also a great pleasure to share with you important activities, achievements and recognition that a number of our colleagues have received.

A Choral Journey with UP Camerata



Saturday, 24 October 2015 was an evening to remember as UP Camerata took an audience of over 600 people on an epic musical journey. Pretoria Boys High School hosted this annual event due to the closure of the University amidst national student protests across the country.

From the onset the loyal patrons were taken on a journey as the performance commenced with 74 choristers encircling the audience with the traditional hymn *Nearer my God to Thee*. This set the mood beautifully and spiritually, with the hymn being sung simultaneously in the three official languages of the University, namely English, Afrikaans and Sepedi. This was clearly an introduction to the performance as the choir then proceeded to take the audience on a historic choral voyage, performing music from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, and Romantic periods. A special addition to the programme was the composition, *Absalom, my son* composed by the choir's conductor, Michael Barrett. Absalom, the son of



King David, was brutally murdered and this composition captured the emotional turmoil experienced by a grieving father, ending in a monumental climax. The work is filled with beauty, obscurity and drama. The audience was in awe as 600 people rose to their feet in applause at the end of the work. Alumni of Camerata later joined current choir members to perform the traditional *Irish Blessing* as is customary at the annual gala concert.

Tuks Camerata is going from strength to strength and it is not surprising that they were crowned World Champions at the 8th World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia last year. What was most noticeable and impressive, however, was the varied programme performed by such a diverse group of singers. The pure ecstasy and enjoyment on their faces was evident of a choir in good stead.

Women and Job Creation

The Centre for Sexualities, AIDS & Gender (CSA&G) hosted the release of new gender research and an accompanying publication at a seminar on 6 November 2015. The seminar titled, 'The Expanded Public Works Programme in the social sector: Valuing or de-valuing "women's work"?', showcased research on the under-studied area of women in government's short-term job creation plan called the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). Little if any research exists on whether women benefit and gender equality is advanced by the jobs created. The Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF) commissioned the research, which was led by Cape Town-based gender specialists Penny Parenzee and Debbie Budlender. HBF and CSA&G co-funded the seminar, organised by Prof Christi van der Westhuizen from the CSA&G. The event was attended by Deputy Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeremy Cronin. Lisa Vetten from the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research analysed post-rape services in the EPWP, Ms Parenzee discussed early childhood development in the EPWP and Prof Van der Westhuizen sketched the policy context from the Reconstruction and Development Programme to the National Development Plan. Prof Andries Bezuidenhout from Sociology served as discussant. The primary findings are that the EPWP, as it currently is conceptualised and operationalised, legitimises precarious work as black poor women's work, and black poor women's work as undervalued work. Gender equality is undermined as the EPWP reinforces the notion that care work is 'women's work', while simultaneously attributing low value to especially poor black 'women's work'. The CSA&G and HBF are disseminating the publication through their extended networks and follow-up research on this neglected area is already in the pipeline.

Excellent NRF Ratings for our Colleagues

Congratulations to the following staff who were recently rated by the NRF: Prof Antoinette Lombard (Social Work and Criminology) received a C1 rating (previous rating C2); Prof De Wet Swanepoel received a B2 rating (up from a P rating); Dr Ronald van der Berg (Ancient Languages and Cultures) received a Y1 rating.

- A B rating indicates researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition among their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.
- A C rating indicates established researchers with a sustained recent record of productivity in the field who are recognised by their peers as having either produced a body of quality work, the core of which has coherence and



attests to ongoing engagement with the field and/or having demonstrated the ability to conceptualise problems and apply research methods to investigating them.

- A Y rating refers to a young researcher (40 years or younger who, within five years of completing a PhD) is recognised by all reviewers as having the potential (demonstrated by research products) to establish him-/herself as a researcher with some recipients indicating that they have the potential to become future leaders in their fields.

International Recognition for a Student in Political Science



Ms Ruth Murambadoro, a PhD student in the Department of Political Sciences, received recognition from the African Studies Centre, Leiden for her master's work, which was shortlisted for the Africa Thesis Award 2015. The award recognises outstanding work of young scholars in a master's dissertation based on independent empirical research related to Sub-Saharan Africa on matters of inter alia religion, politics, history and economics. The announcement appears at the following link: <http://www.ascleiden.nl/news/winner-africa-thesis-award-2015-merel-van-t-wout-entrepreneurs-grace-god-life-and-work>

Ms Murambadoro was also awarded the African Studies Association (ASA) Presidential Fellowship 2015. The fellowship brings young African scholars and practitioners to the United States to attend the ASA Annual Meeting, visit institutions of higher learning, engage with academics working on Africa-related issues, take courses and explore opportunities for collaborative ventures. During November Ms Murambadoro will be hosted by the University of Louisville, Kentucky and attend the 58th ASA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. More details about the fellowship can be found at <http://www.africanstudies.org/awards-prizes/asa-presidential-fellows-program>

Inaugural Fellow of the TYRLP

Dr Francois Steyn, a senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work and Criminology, was selected as an inaugural fellow of the Tuks Young Research Leader Programme (TYRLP). The programme is a new initiative of UP in partnership with the Africa Science Leadership Programme (ASLP), KnowInnovation and the Robert Bosch Stiftung. TYRLP aims to grow academics at UP in the areas of thought leadership, team development, engagement and collaboration. The programme brings together like-minded researchers who possess qualities that will contribute to UP becoming a leading research intensive University, as stated in the UP 2025 vision.

Marth Munro Receives Lessac Leadership award for 2016

Prof Marth Munro, Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Drama and Chairperson of the Research Committee of the Lessac Institute, received the news that she is the 2016 recipient of the Lessac Leadership award 'for years of service towards the growth and direction of the Lessac Institute'. The official handing over of the award will take place in January



2016 at the International Lessac Conference in Denver, USA. In July 2015, Prof Munro was recognised by the Master Teacher Council of the Lessac Kinesensics Research and Training Institute as ‘a new Master Teacher in Lessac Kinesensic Training’. Training towards Master teachership is by invitation of the Institute only. The training comprised two years’ intensive training and engagement with existing Master Teachers. During her training she taught at three intensive workshops — two in South Africa and one in the United States, and also presented two shorter workshops for actors and teachers in South Africa. She has mentored six students who have become Lessac Practitioners, and three of them are now pursuing certification. She is the 6th Master Teacher recognised by the Institute and the only one outside the USA.

Drama lecturers short-listed for ImpACT Achievement Awards

Bailey Snyman (a Lecturer in the Drama Department and Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winner 2012) and Nicola Haskins (Drama alumna, part-time lecturer in the Drama Department and Standard Bank Ovation Award Winner) were recently short-listed for the ImpACT Achievement awards for their continued education in dance and physical theatre. Their company, Matchbox Theatre Collective, recently had their UP accredited dance work, *If these bodies could speak*, accepted for performance at the Prague Fringe Festival in May 2016. The Arts & Culture Trust (ACT) presents the ImpACT Achievement awards annually in recognition and celebration of excellence in the arts, culture and creativity in South Africa.

International Accolade for Dr Frederick Brownell



Frederick Brownell was awarded his doctoral thesis in the Department of History and Heritage Studies during the spring graduation ceremony in September 2015. As a result of his study, entitled ‘Convergence and unification: The national flag of South Africa (1994) in historical perspective’, he was awarded a Vexillon for his ‘important contribution to Vexillology’ by the international Fédération Internationale de Associations Vexillologiques at the twenty-sixth International Congress of Vexillology held in Sydney in September 2015. This is the first award of its kind. He was also named a Laureate of the Federation. Fred designed the new South African flag and received the Order for Meritorious Service, Silver, from former President Nelson Mandela.



Prof Vollie Spies Crowned as TuksSport Administrator of the Year



Professor Vollie Spies (Department of Social Work and Criminology) was named TuksSport Administrator of the Year. She has been involved at the TuksAthletics Club for the past 19 years, and has been serving as Chairperson of the TuksRoadRunning Committee since 2008. She was instrumental in the establishment of the annual Bestmed-Tuks Race, that has been named by all involved as one of the best organised road races on the annual calendar, with well over 10 000 runners participating. As Chairperson of the TuksRoadRunning Committee, she played a vital role in the growth of the club membership while spending much of her free time assisting the TuksAthletics Club. As a runner she has won numerous age group titles in major road races in South Africa.

HPCSA Appointment for Part-time Lecturer at CAAC

Dr Sadna Balton, current Head of the Department of Speech Therapy at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, completed her master's in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and PhD in Communication Pathology at the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC).

She is also a part-time lecturer at CAAC. She has been appointed Chairperson of the Professional Board of Speech, Language and Hearing of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). In an article published on the CAAC website, she indicates that she loves sharing her passion for ECI and that her part-time appointment at the CAAC provides her with an excellent platform to inspire others in the field. Read the article at http://www.up.ac.za/en/centre-for-augmentative-alternative-communication/news/post_2183573-dr.sadna-balton-appointed-chairperson-of-the-professional-board-of-speech-language-and-hearing-of-the-hpcsa

Green Campus Tour by Honours Students in Heritage and Cultural Tourism

On 2 October, the UP Campus Tours 2015 Team conducted a Green Tour of UP's Hatfield Campus. The tour included an early morning guided walk along the rainwater harvesting system, the Manie van der Schijff Botanical Gardens and a selection of unique trees on Campus. Guests were also treated to a healthy brown-bag breakfast and a gift: seeds of indigenous plants.

The event was a great success and the UP Campus Tours 2015 Team, who are honours students in Heritage and Cultural Tourism, did splendid work in organising and leading the tour, and giving well-informed commentary. The event was found to be both educational and entertaining and was acclaimed by one guest as 'one of the finest tours I have been on for a



long time, including a couple abroad. Organised, friendly, efficient, competent ... and properly focused around its particular theme and set of issues.'

One of the highlights was guest speaker Jason Sampson, Curator of the Manie van der Schijff Botanical Gardens, who explained the University's rainwater harvesting system, an impressive technological advancement in water management initiated on the Hatfield Campus.

Dr Assie Gildenhuys Re-elected to the Board of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP)

Congratulations to Dr Assie Gildenhuys (a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology) who was re-elected to the Board of the International Association for Group Psychotherapy and Group Processes (IAGP) at the Association's 19th International Congress in Rovinj, Croatia. He also participated in two panel discussions: 'From despair to hope: group dynamics in different cultural settings' and 'How does the psychic heritage of "exploitation colonialism" enter into groups and how do we understand that analytically?' He described his participation in the congress as 'a very meaningful experience' and said he felt gratified about his contribution on the board and at the conference.

Finally, all the best to our colleagues who are finalising undergraduate teaching, marking of tests and examinations and preparing our students for the looming examinations. A big thank you to colleagues who, also as a result of the recent student protests, have so generously given of their time and other forms of support to assist students in a variety of ways.

I have requested a meeting with all staff on 13 November 2015 to provide some feedback on the recent student protests in relation to the Fees Must Fall Campaign. I look forward to seeing you then.

A special thank you to Kyle Rath and Fatima Cassim of the Department of Visual Arts for their creative input in designing the new look for the Message.

Kind regards,

Vasu Reddy

