



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomo

Message to staff of the Faculty of Humanities

July 2016

Dear colleagues

For all of us a new cycle in the academic rhythm has begun.

And, with that cycle hopefully comes a surge in positive energy. With the beginning of the semester comes a time that truly feels like a new start, a period where all things seem possible. I hope you are all rested, rejuvenated and ready for another productive semester. I thank all our faculty members and staff for your commitment and hard work and look forward to your renewed commitment, creativity and innovation as we commence the second semester. If time is a theme, then I cannot ignore the reality that I am approaching almost one year as your Dean. Indeed, I can confirm, a year later, that I have enjoyed every moment here, mainly because of the team and collegial spirit we are nurturing: listening to each other, exchanging ideas and, most importantly, keeping our focus intact on what *matters*. It is clear to me that our students, faculty, alumni, administrators, workers and staff stand out for their commitment to academic excellence, entrepreneurial spirit, diversity, vibrancy, and creative innovation. Colleagues, I am again happy to share with you the following message about people and events in our Faculty.

SHAKESPEARE/CERVANTES COMMEMORATION

To mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare and Cervantes, the Merensky Library, the Languages Cluster of the Faculty and the Drama Department organised a commemoration week from 18 to 22 April 2016.

Shakespeare films ranging from *Hamlet* to *Romeo and Juliet* were shown in the Merensky Auditorium, book displays were mounted in the library and students were encouraged to enter a Shakespeare writing competition. On 22 April, the so-called 'Death Day' was commemorated with a lively morning of talks and performances. Prof Molly Brown, from the Department of English, shared ten interesting facts about Shakespeare and gave a talk about African responses to his



work, while Prof Willie Burger from the Department of Afrikaans spoke about Cervantes' enduring influence. Postgraduate students, Ms Marguerite de Waal and Ms Kirsten Dey, described their research and Ms Angy Tembe read Cervantes in the original Spanish, followed by an English translation, of the extract. The programme concluded with performances by second-year drama students who had worked with Mr Morné Steyn and Ms Jessica Foli to produce vibrant South African re-workings of familiar Shakespeare scenes and characters. (Who would have guessed that Macbeth liked biltong?!)

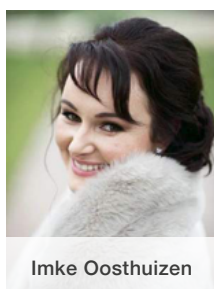


Molly Brown



Drama students performing Shakespeare

MESSAGE BANKING BRINGS HOPE TO PERSONS WITH MND



Imke Oosthuizen

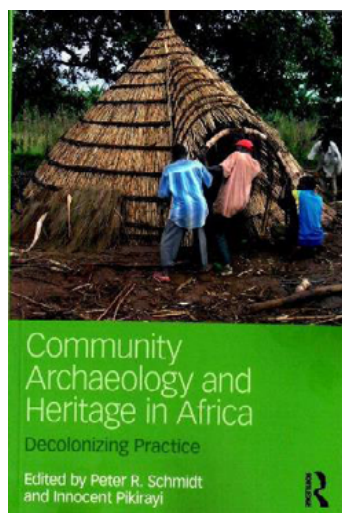
Facing the reality of a diagnosis of motor neuron disease (MND) and preparing for the possibility of losing one's ability to speak, is extremely challenging. However, recent research in the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication is set to simplify life for persons with MND.

Master's degree student Imke Oosthuizen conducted a study about message banking, a relatively new intervention strategy that could facilitate more effective communication for persons with MND, as it could allow social closeness to be sustained. It involves the digital recording and storing of words, phrases, sentences, personally meaningful sounds and stories, often referred to as 'legacy messages', by using a person's own voice, natural inflection and intonation before his/her intelligibility becomes significantly affected.

Prof Shakila Dada, Imke's research supervisor, says that message banking is an important early intervention strategy for people with MND. 'It is also a relatively low-technology strategy that can be learnt easily and quickly. It can be used with for example a smart phone.' The Centre hopes to continue with this line of research at the PhD level in the future.



ROUTLEDGE VOLUME ON COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PUBLISHED



Community archaeology and heritage in Africa: Decolonizing practice (2016), edited by Peter R Schmidt (University of Florida and Extraordinary Professor at UP) and Innocent Pikirayi (Professor and HOD of Anthropology and Archaeology, UP) was recently published by Routledge. The volume of essays provides new insights into the distinctive contributions that community archaeology and heritage make to the decolonisation of archaeological practice. Using innovative approaches, the contributors explore important initiatives that have protected and revitalised local heritage, initiatives that involved archaeologists as co-producers rather than leaders. These case studies underline the need to completely reshape archaeological practice, engaging local and indigenous communities in regular dialogue and recognising their distinctive needs, in order to break away from the top-down power relationships that have often characterised archaeology in Africa in the past.

The volume reflects a determined effort to change how archaeology is taught to future generations. Through community-based participatory approaches, archaeologists and heritage professionals can benefit from shared resources and local knowledge. By sharing decision-making with members of local communities, archaeological inquiry can enhance their way of life, ameliorate their human rights concerns, and meet their daily needs to build better futures. Exchanging traditional power structures for research design and implementation, the examples outlined in this volume demonstrate the discipline's exciting capacity to move forward to achieve its potential as a broader, more accessible, and more inclusive field.

NIHSS CATALYTIC GRANTS AWARDED TO FOUR HUMANITIES PROJECTS

At the end of 2015, the Faculty of Humanities submitted six applications to the Catalytic Research Programme coordinated by the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS). The NIHSS's catalytic projects are aimed at opening up new avenues of scholarship and establishing a network of researchers across universities in South Africa and the Global South. The research should be interdisciplinary, contribute to theoretical development of the chosen field of study, and raise the status of South African researchers in the global academic commons. We are delighted that four of our applicants were awarded grants.

Congratulations to the following:

BRICS peace and security cooperation: dreams and realities, challenges and opportunities

Deputy Dean Professor Maxi Schoeman and Professor Sandy Africa (Political Sciences) received a 12 to 18 month grant, valued at R661 500, for a research project focused on peace and security in BRICS.

The project will focus on a number of research questions aimed at interrogating the declared intention of the BRICS countries to increase cooperation in international peace and security. These include the prospects for a new power-sharing



arrangement in the United Nations Security Council, the challenges of reconciling different interests and norms among the BRICS countries, and the BRICS countries' potential to counter-balance the political and security influence of the major Western powers. It will be an exploratory study, the result of which will serve to catalyse research in peace and security studies by forming a nucleus of research experts and to develop a distinctly South African and broader BRICS approach to the study of global peace and security.

The Social Life of Waste/Art

Dr Detlev Krige (Anthropology) received a 12 month grant to the value of R300 000 for a Social Life of Waste/Art (SLOWart) project. SLOWart, funded primarily by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and a component of the Capital Cities Institutional Research Theme at UP, is a network of visual artists, writers, gardeners, filmmakers and performance artists who explore the nexus between waste, cities, food and art. The network has a regional dimension in that collaborators are drawn from Johannesburg and three capital cities in the region: Pretoria, Maputo and Harare. The network has held several workshops across the region, hosted an exhibition of art made from discarded material in Maputo in May 2016, and is working towards the publication of a book and the hosting of a symposium on waste. Dr Myer Taub from the UP's Drama Department, who is a research leader in SLOWart, is working on the question of performing waste, while Dr Euclides Gonçalves from Eduardo Mondlane University and Kaleidoscopio is exploring the market dynamics in discarded and crafted materials in Maputo. Later this year, SLOWart will be joined by post-doctoral researcher Dr MK Gayatri, whose most recent institutional affiliation is with Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. She will be based in the Drama Department at UP while activating her research project, 'Relocating cultures of breath and touch: a transpersonal and transcultural exploration of presence' with Dr Myer Taub.

The Berlin Mission Archive as a repository of African knowledge

Over the past five years various funding organisations in Germany have enabled a team of researchers from UP, UNISA and Humboldt University in Berlin to make a missionary collection with rich potential for the study of African knowledge production accessible to researchers. An online database was created, an annotated source book was published and Annekie Joubert from Humboldt University also produced a documentary film to introduce and contextualise the Hoffmann Collection of Cultural Knowledge. As seed funding, Professor Lize Kriel (Visual Arts) received a 12 month grant to the value of R300 000 to take the project further in order to continue the collaboration with other institutions and to build the capacity of South African postgraduate students to conduct further research on the existing material from the Berlin Mission Archives.

Besides learning to work with the digital database of the archived missionary records, missionary publications, illustrations and photographs, the students will also be encouraged to tap into the living archive of the descendants of the German and African Christians who were involved in the initial recording of the history and cultural practices of a number of Sepedi-speaking communities. Parallel to this renewed conversation in the present, the earlier conversation between the German missionaries and African interlocutors a century ago, will be revisited. Lize is very grateful to descendants from the Neitz, Hoffmann and Bopape families who are already assisting with sharing their memories of places, things and people. She hopes that the funding will assist the research team also to make contact with members of the Rakoma, Moloisi and Mogashwa families hailing from Masealama (the former Mphome-Kratzenstein Mission Station) and surroundings, who may assist in tracking the role of their grandparents and great-grandparents in capturing, remembering and reframing cultural performances in the wake of script and print culture's arrival in what is today Limpopo Province.



Rethinking twentieth century South Africa

Dr Thula Simpson (Historical and Heritage Studies) received 12 months' seed funding to the value of R132 500 (the amount is renewable for the same value in year 2). The project, which follows on his book *Umkhonto we Sizwe: The ANC's Armed Struggle* (Penguin, 2016; see Dean's Note, May 2016), will look at the history of South Africa from the end of the Anglo Boer War to the Marikana massacre and its aftermath (1902–2014). It will seek to trace the origins of the political, social, economic and cultural characteristics of the new South Africa. The specific project conditions to which the funding is tied are: research collaboration with colleagues at the universities of Cape Town, London and Oxford; capacity building among students at master's and doctoral level; and the coordination of colloquiums scheduled to be held at the universities of Pretoria and London in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION SILVER MEDAL FOR DE WET SWANEPOEL



Professor De Wet Swanepoel (Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology) was awarded the British Association Silver Medal on 18 May 2016 by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. This prestigious honour is bestowed on a scientist under the age of 40 who is actively engaged in scientific research, evidencing outstanding capability and achievement by way of publications, discoveries or special skills, in particular when measured against international scientific standards.

The British Association Medal is one of the highest awards to young scientists for original research in southern Africa. This medal has been awarded since 1932. Recipients have included professors DA McNamara, Ortrud Oerlermann, JSJ van Deventer and BM Herbst, JH Enslin, EH Mathews, Wayne Goddard, OC de Jager, and Dr SH Connell.

The ceremony was held on 18 May 2016 in the Sci-Enza auditorium, UP where Prof Swanepoel gave a public lecture entitled, 'Using technology and connectivity to fight a silent epidemic'.

HUMANITIES FEATURE IN THE 2016 M&G 200 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS SHOWCASE

The *Mail & Guardian* newspaper (M&G) showcases young South Africans who are shaping our country's future. 2016's accolades have a direct bearing on two individuals associated with the Faculty of Humanities.

Dr Nedine Moonsamy in the Education category

Nedine Moonsamy is a Senior Lecturer in the English Department and joined the Faculty of Humanities at the beginning of 2016. For the full details of her write-up, please go to <http://200ysa.mg.co.za/nedine-moonsamy/>

Anneli Groenewald in the Media and Film category

Anneli Groenewald completed her MA in Creative Writing under the supervision of Prof Willie Burger in 2015. She wrote a novel, *Die skaalmodel* and entered the manuscript in NB Publishers' Great Novel Competition where she won the prize



for best debut novel. The novel was published by Tafelberg in April 2016. It contains hilarious situations, moving stories, social commentary and philosophical reflection on memory, history, forgetting and death – all interwoven by her exceptional talent. Her mini dissertation focussed on the tension between aesthetic ideals and political engagement in Marlene van Niekerk's work based on Gumbrecht's theory on the 'production of presence' in literary texts.

Anneli is a journalist who specialised in economic journalism before becoming an editor at *Farmer's Weekly*. She travels widely and often writes about her travel experiences. For the full details of her write-up, please go to

<http://200ysa.mg.co.za/anneli-groenewald/>

PRESTIGIOUS DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR UP STUDENT SIKHO SIYOTULA

Ms Sikho Siyotula, who obtained her MA in African European Cultural Relations earlier this year and is currently employed part-time in the Department of Visual Arts and acting as co-ordinator of the Museum Studies programme, has been offered one of 12 positions in the Minor Cosmopolitanisms Doctoral Research Training Group at the University of Potsdam. This opportunity will enable her to spend the next three years working towards her doctorate while participating in the programme – all expenses paid. The scholarships are sponsored by the DFG (German Research Foundation).

The positions were advertised specifically in the participating countries: Canada, India, South Africa and Germany, and Sikho was selected as one of 20 finalists. She had a Skype interview with the selection panel in Berlin, which secured her place as one of the 12 recipients. The title of her research proposal is 'Visualising Southern African Late Iron Age Settlements in the Digital Age'.



Sikho holds a BA (Fine Arts) degree from UP. After obtaining work experience as an art curator, she returned to UP in 2013 to teach in the Department of Visual Arts. While working on her master's, Sikho also did courses in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies and two years of German in the Department of Modern European Languages.

Professors Lize Kriel, Department of Visual Arts, Benda Hofmeyr, Department of Philosophy, Ms Sikho Siyotula and Prof Stephan Mühr, Department of Modern European Languages. All three professors are involved in the MA specialising in African-European Cultural Relations



PROF MOLLY BROWN DELIVERED HER INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Congratulations to Prof Molly Brown, Head of the Department of English, on delivering her inaugural address, entitled 'Children's Literature Matters (?)', on 30 May.

Professors Anton Ströh, Vice-Principal, Molly Brown and Vasu Reddy, Dean.

DEGREES FOR UP SUPPORT STAFF

Congratulations to three of our support staff members, who obtained degrees during the Autumn graduation ceremonies. Nessa Augus (Psychology) obtained the BAdmin (Honours) in Public Administration and Management. Juanita Hough (Psychology) and Phillicia Ledwaba (Social Work and Criminology) obtained the BAdmin degree in Public Administration and Management.

CMA MAKES ITS MARK ON INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION

UP's Centre for Mediation in Africa (CMA), seated in the Faculty of Humanities, is an active role player in international mediation talks and research. The CMA hosted the annual meeting of the United Nations Academic Advisory Council on Mediation, of which CMA Director Prof Laurie Nathan is a member, as well as an international conference on mediation.

Prof Nathan recently completed research on mediation in African coups, commissioned by the Social Science Research Council in New York. The research indicates that the incidence of coups in Africa fell from an average of 1,5 per annum in the 1990s to an average of 0,93 per annum in the period 2000 to 2014. The percentage of coups resolved by democratic means rose from 80% in the 1990s to 100% in the 2000s.

The CMA's goal is to help make mediation efforts more effective throughout Africa. It does so by offering academic and practical courses in mediation, researching new and current best practices, and supporting organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union and those African governments involved in the mediation process.

LET'S TALK ... ABOUT IMPROVING THE LIVES OF FAMILIES AFFECTED BY HIV

Prof Maretha Visser of the Department of Psychology collaborated in the development of a family strengthening and HIV prevention programme for adolescents and caregivers. The programme aims at improving the relationships and mental health and reducing the HIV risk of adolescents affected and orphaned by HIV throughout South Africa.

The programme, called 'Let's talk', was initiated by Tulane International in response to the need identified in the population of orphans and vulnerable children. It was developed in collaboration with Dr Michelle Finestone of UP's Faculty of Education and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Tonya Thurman, Director of the Highly Vulnerable Children Research Center at Tulane University, asked a team of academics at UP to develop the programme. The request came as a result of their previous work in the Kgolo Mogo project, where they developed a caregiver-child intervention for HIV affected children between the ages of six and ten.



Training of group facilitators in KZN (October 2015)

The research done for the 'Let's talk' programme focusses on an important need in communities and can contribute to the wellbeing of a large number of caregivers and adolescents. The programme for caregivers helps parents/caregivers to cope with their own emotions, to develop skills, and to develop a relationship of understanding with the adolescents in their care. The parallel programme for adolescents assists them to cope with their emotions, communicate their needs, develop a healthy relationship with their caregivers and promote their good health.

The programme was piloted by seven community-based organisations in thirteen caregiver and adolescent groups during 2015. Because of the positive reaction it elicited, it has been included in the DREAMS programme to be implemented in ten sub-Saharan countries, funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

For Prof Visser, the goal of the research project is to make a difference in the lives of the people involved. Therefore, the next step in the research will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.

~ PROFILE : PROFESSOR ZITHA MOKOMANE ~



Zitha Mokomane

Zitha was born in Botswana to a Zimbabwean father and Motswana mother and often describes herself as a 'small town girl'. She attended Gaborone Secondary School and the University of Botswana graduating in 1994 with a BA (Demography and Economics). Thereafter she completed her master's and PhD, both in demography, at the Australian National University in Canberra. In April 2007 she moved to Pretoria (she now sees herself as 'a capital city girl!') to join the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) as a senior research specialist in the Child, Youth, Family and Social Development programme. This position gave her the opportunity to undertake policy-oriented research in her specialist field of family demography as well as in other fields of interest, including the work-family interface, poverty reduction, social protection, social policy and, to a lesser extent, HIV and AIDS evaluation.

She has, over the last nine years, undertaken commissioned research and provided expert advice on these issues to the governments of Botswana and South Africa, international organisations such as the United Nations Department of Economic



and Social Affairs (DESA), the African Union Commission, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as a number of non-governmental organisations and development agencies. She has an established, energetic and contextual local, regional and international research agenda with multi-and inter-disciplinary experience. Her research portfolio is diverse and involves both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, ranging from desk-top studies focussing on secondary data analysis to policy analysis and/or formation. The scope of her research varies from small, individual projects to large, collaborative, multi-country studies in the broad areas of family studies and social development.

As a result of her active research agenda, she has produced more than 30 accredited journal articles and books chapters, a number of conference papers and invited papers. In 2014 she edited a book titled *Work-family interface in sub-Saharan Africa: Challenges and responses* (see <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319012360>). She is currently editing another book with a former HSRC colleague, Mr Ben Roberts, on family cohesion, value strengthening and well-being in South Africa. With funding from the DST-National Research Foundation Centre of Excellence in Human Development she convened a workshop at the University of Pretoria in September 2015 to establish the African Research Network on Work-Family. She is the first elected coordinator of this network. The broad aim of the network is to strengthen and amplify African voices in the global work-family discourse.

She says that the work of her PhD supervisor, Professor Peter McDonald – one of the world's most renowned family demographers – and the support of her former graduate school when she had her first daughter while doing her PhD in Australia (alone and 12 000 km away from home) shaped her current primary research interest to a large extent. She is particularly interested in the development and implementation of policies that address the potential conflict that parents, in particular women, face in meeting the demands of paid work and caring for their children and other family members in need of care.

Zitha fondly recalls her parents Elias and Annetjie Dewah who instilled in her and her siblings values, virtues and a worldview that still influence her personal and professional life. Her father, an avid reader, emigrated from Zimbabwe to Botswana in the mid-1960s as a 24-year-old agricultural demonstrator – with a bicycle as his only possession – and rose up the ranks to retire in 2007 as the chief executive officer of the country's chamber of commerce. Due to a poor work-family balance her mother left her promising nursing career at a young age to take up a less paying but more 'mother-friendly' job as an administrator in government. She says this is a sacrifice many women across the world still make today. Unlike in the Global North however, this issue remains largely unexplored in academic and policy debates in our part of the world. Part of her interest in the work-family interface is to contribute to closing this research gap.

A constant theme in her parents' conversations with both her and her siblings was the importance of humility and hard work, as well as the value of personal relationships and friendships.

Her husband, Modisaotsile, and two daughters Ogaufi (13) and One (11) have over the years constantly provided a supportive family environment for her to fulfil her work commitments. She says she is grateful to the University of Pretoria for giving her the space and flexibility to spend more quality time with her family and to share their common love of nature. They particularly enjoy going away on weekend bush breaks. Besides hiking Zitha also enjoys reading and doing crossword puzzles.



When asked about what she still wants to achieve, Zitha says: 'I would like to contribute to the University of Pretoria's becoming a research-intensive university. I strongly believe in the need to nurture and build a cadre of young researchers who can undertake critical academic and policy-relevant social science research – naturally in the context of supportive family environments!'

PUBLIC LECTURE BY RENOWNED HERITAGE EXPERT



The Faculty recently hosted Mr Anupam Sah, a heritage practitioner and educator in India and the current consulting head of art conservation, research and training at the CSMVS Museum Art Conservation Centre in Mumbai, India. India and South Africa have many features in common in their socio-political, multilingual and colonial past, as well as similar diverse climatic conditions that impact on heritage preservation. Sah's agreeing to come to UP and share his experience with a view to developing a curriculum framework was an exciting result of his meeting earlier this year with professors Cheryl de la Rey (Vice-Chancellor and Principal) and Norman Duncan (Vice-Principal) at the UN Global Colloquium of University Presidents on 'Preservation of cultural heritage: Challenges and strategies, held at Yale University in the USA in April 2016.

The roundtable discussions held from 20 to 24 June 2016 resulted from national site visits throughout South Africa, and brought together 13 UP staff members from various disciplines and 12 external advisors from museums, libraries, archives, private institutions and conservators in private practice. The outcome of the round table is a workable curriculum framework for the proposed master's degree in Tangible Heritage Conservation, which is due for implementation in 2018. Isabelle McGinn, Museum Conservator in the Objects Conservation Laboratory at our Department of UP Arts, is playing a leading role in the development of the programme. The Faculty of Humanities is now working on the curriculum framework, assisted by both local and international conservators and conservation experts.

As part of the roundtable discussions and exchange of ideas, Sah presented a public lecture on 20 June titled 'Art conservation: A case study from India' that featured a number of conservation case studies from India. Each case featured revolved around the social responsibility of museums and conservation centres, where conservators and conservation managers utilise skilled artisans and craftsmen educating them in the techniques and materials used to conserve and preserve heritage and refining their manual skills. The case studies included rehabilitating ancient trade routes, stabilising exhibits in the vicinity of Mumbai airport, the rediscovery of lost mythology and intangible heritage, discourse between younger and older generations, and the repainting of a village that has led to government subsidies and service delivery in a previously disadvantaged community. These studies showed how the conservation of heritage from museum objects and collections, to the built environment, infrastructure and landscapes can have a profoundly positive effect on social upliftment, inclusion and cohesion, and translate into inspiration evidenced in the new curriculum framework with its emphasis on ethics and mindfulness of traditional belief systems, traditional modes of material manufacture, preservation and repair and a commitment to community engagement and education.



PUBLIC LECTURE: THE WAITING ROOM, BY PROF CATHERINE BURNS



During the public lecture, titled 'The waiting room', presented by Prof Catherine Burns on 21 June 2016, she focused on the new relationship that is opening up between research on sexualities and gender, and the emerging field of medical humanities. In Southern Africa the HIV AIDS experience and epidemic gives this a particular form and shape. Her presentation drew on scholarship about the African continent as being "in the waiting room of history", (politically, in class terms, institutionally, in terms of the demographic transition, together with expectations of sexual freedom, new gender relations, and the place of healing, medicine and clinical care). From the vantage point of the humanities she asks: is South Africa a waiting room itself?

NRF INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FOR PROF VINCK AND TEAM



Professor Bart Vinck and his vestibular research team received an NRF grant: Infrastructure funding instruments (NEP/NNEP). The funding is to be used to acquire a neuro-kinetics rotatory chair and video head impulse testing system. The NRF award amounts to R2 600 000 and UP will give another R1 900 000 to purchase the equipment.

The I-Portal® neuro-otologic/neuro-physiologic test platform integrated in the equipment sees disease that cannot be detected by current equipment. Using oculomotor, optokinetic and vestibular tests clinicians and researchers can detect and quantify balance and dizziness related pathologies, and also conduct important research on mTBI and concussion. I-Portal® enables a more precise and sensitive measurement of eye movements generated by the brain in response to specific test stimuli, thereby providing a non-invasive, multimodal diagnostic tool that can detect more medical conditions at lower cost.

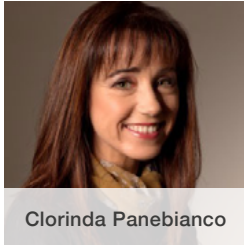
This equipment is also prepared for advanced interdisciplinary and future space research.

MUSIC AND BALLET MEET IN RESEARCH INVESTIGATION

A research interest in the concept of performer well-being has led Dr Clorinda Panebianco, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Music, to conduct a qualitative study among professional ballet dancers to investigate the role of music in their experience of flow.

Dr Panebianco explains that her study with ballet dancers started about four years ago. 'My daughter is a ballet dancer, and I, too, started ballet lessons as an adult beginner. I was intrigued by the movement to music timing of the standard ballet exercises and the varied musical interpretations, by the teacher and by other dancers. This led me to ask: 'What role does music training play in ballet dancers' experience of the art form, which is virtually completely dependent on responding to and interpreting music and timing?'





Clorinda Panebianco

She coupled this with the concept of flow, which is an optimal performance experience. She was curious as to how dancers with musical training experience this altered state of consciousness while processing complex physically embodied movement and music at the same time. Her curiosity is grounded in music psychology research – specifically music and neuroscience, psychology of performance, and talent development – which has shown that musical training over time alters the musician’s brain structurally and functionally.

The results of the study were presented at an international conference in Korea and published in a local journal. Dr Panebianco now plans to explore these findings in more depth by including a quantitative standardised flow scale, which she hopes to administer to local professional ballet dancers as well as dancers from leading international ballet companies. Furthermore, she wants to investigate the phenomenon of flow and its correlation with health behaviours in undergraduate music students.

UP TO HOST WORLD CHOIR GAMES

We are honoured and delighted to confirm that the 10th instalment of the world’s largest choral competition and festival will take place in Tshwane in July 2018. On Friday, 17 June 2016, Interkultur President Professor Ralf Eisenbeiss confirmed to the world that the World Choir Games – the Olympics of Choral Music – will be hosted on the African continent for the first time. From the year 2000 onwards, the biennial World Choir Games have brought together cultures and nations from all over the world to meet and sing together. In 2014, Riga, Latvia, hosted the most successful games to date with over 27 000 participants from 73 countries. Russia will host the games this year and then, in 2018, we welcome the world to our University and our beautiful city.

We can indeed be proud to host the festival at UP. You can watch the official announcement here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l19PCpMACYM>

Finally, as many of you know, we are entering a new planning cycle. I look forward to your advice, participation and support as we collectively create a road map for the next five years, for both our Faculty and our institution. We must remain attentive to our social context and our core mission as a Faculty and a University. We will continue to promote the value, quality and success of the Faculty to a wide range of audiences. Using our resources efficiently and identifying new resources – whether new learning opportunities, grants, contracts, or donors – will be critical for our future. As always, dear colleagues, I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Thank you

Vasu Reddy

