

# **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe Lefapha la Bomotho

# Message to staff of the Faculty of Humanities

May 2016

#### Dear Colleagues

It has been a while since my message in December 2015. As always, it is a pleasure to share with you important activities, accolades, achievements and recognition received by a number of our colleagues (and students), as well as the Faculty of Humanities itself. 2016 is proving to be another important, eventful and demanding year for all of us. As you embrace the year in your own way, please continue with your dedication, passion and care in respect of teaching and learning, research, supervision and community service. Beginning with this edition, I introduce a series called *Profile*, where we zoom in on a staff member.

#### Appointment of new Deputy Dean



Maxi Schoeman

The Faculty is pleased to welcome Prof MME (Maxi) Schoeman as Deputy Dean: Postgraduate Studies and Ethics in the Faculty of Humanities. She obtained an MA in Political Science at the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) (now the University of Johannesburg) and a PhD in International Relations at the University of Wales (Aberystwyth).

She was appointed as professor and Head of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria (UP) in November 2000. Since her appointment at UP, she has also held positions as Acting Head of the Department of Philosophy (from 2002 until 2004) and as Chair of the Core Social Sciences Cluster in the Faculty (until being appointed as Deputy Dean). She has been a member of the University Council since 2014. Prof Schoeman has supervised an impressive number of



master's and doctoral students to completion and her extensive publication record includes books, book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed journals.

I would like to congratulate Prof Schoeman on her appointment and wish her well in her future career as a Deputy Dean and a member of the Faculty's senior management team.

#### Faculty Student Advisor receives her master's degree

Thembi Barnabas, our Student Advisor, received her master's degree in Counselling Psychology at our Autumn graduation ceremony.

#### Wilma Da Gama promoted

Wilma Da Gama from our Human Resources Office was recently promoted to the position of HR Services Coordinator in the Faculty. She started her employment at the University on 1 November 2006 as a Senior HR Officer.

#### Faculty exceeded the 2016 target in the ratio of students

We are nearing our target of having a 50-50% ratio of white students to black students! For 2016 we exceeded our target (43%) by enrolling 49,33% first-year students of colour. The percentage of students of colour has been steadily growing, with 35,15% enrolled in 2012, 36,96% in 2013, 39,4% in 2014 and 41,92% in 2015.

Although our overall target for students of colour for 2016 has been exceeded, their distribution among the different programmes needs to be improved, especially in respect of selection programmes.

### First graduates for the MA programme, African-European Cultural Relations

Pamela Ayum Ganyi, Chané Joyce Rama Dahya and Sikho Yolokazi Siyotula graduated in this multi-disciplinary programme at the Autumn graduation ceremony on 19 April.

### Exceptional achievement for doctoral student

Dr Claude-Hélène Mayer received her third doctoral degree at the Autumn graduation ceremony: a PhD in Psychology (supervised by Prof David Maree) with her thesis titled 'A psychobiography of Paulo Coelho'. She also holds a doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany, and a PhD in Management (Faculty of Commerce) from Rhodes University in Grahamstown. She finalised her post-doctoral degree in Habilitation in Psychology with a focus on Work, Organisational and Cultural Psychology at the European University in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, in 2012.



#### NRF project on rock art

Dr Ndukuyakhe Ndlovu (Department of Anthropology and Archaeology) received a three-year grant from the NRF's African Origins Platform for research on Southern African rock art. The project, entitled 'Spatial distribution of rock art sites in South Africa: a review of the animal subjects', seeks to re-examine current shamanistic models, which have dominated southern African rock art for nearly a century. The total value of the grant is R920 000, and the project will run from 2016 to 2018.

#### New grants for Prof Dada



Prof Shakila Dada of the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC) has successfully applied to collaborate on a research project with Dr Santoshi Halder (University of Calcutta, India). A combined grant from South Africa's National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) and the Indian Council of Social Science Research has made possible this project, which focusses on exploring the perspectives of children with intellectual disabilities in a post-liberal South Africa. The grant of R 540 000 covers research costs, travel costs for hosting the international principal investigator, and bursaries for postgraduate students for a two-year period.

Another grant has been awarded to principal investigators Prof Dada and Prof Karina Huus for three years' funding under the Sweden-South Africa Science and Technology Research Collaboration. Dr Alecia Samuels (CAAC) is currently completing her post-doctoral fellowship at Jönkoping University in Sweden and will also be part of the project. The grant (R890 000) is intended to develop research collaboration among researchers, doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows at the two institutions.

Her Thuthuka NRF rating track application was also successful for the period 2016–2018, with Prof Dada as the principal investigator. The research focusses on the effectiveness of augmented input using mobile technologies with augmentative and alternative communication software in language learning. For its first year, the project is funded to the value of R107 000.

#### Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs visits UP

On 4 December 2015, we welcomed Professor Michael Ignatieff and Mr Devin Stewart, of the Carnegie Council, at a seminar held to mark the start of their visit to South Africa. The pair, hosted by the Department of Political Sciences, were in the country to conduct research for a global study on how societies that have experienced traumatic pasts are dealing with difference and diversity, and forging new narratives. The Department arranged meetings with academics, human rights lawyers, judges, police representatives, trade unionists, think tanks, economists, community activists, student leaders, politicians, journalists and faith leaders in order to get a sense of how South Africans see their past, their current state, and their shared future. The output of their research will take the form of a book to mark the centennial of the Carnegie Council.



The Carnegie family of foundations has played an important role in promoting important global causes, including education. The delegation also met with student leaders who had been involved in the #FeesMustFall campaign. Youth and student issues featured prominently in almost all the societies that formed part of their global study. They were impressed by the maturity and insight displayed by student leaders at UP.

Currently serving as Edward R Murrow Professor of Practice at the Harvard Kennedy School, Professor Ignatieff previously served in the Canadian Parliament. He was one of the authors of the 2001 *International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty* (ICISS) report, from which the core principles on the Responsibility to Protect emerged. He visited South Africa in 1997 as an observer at the Truth and Reconciliation hearings in Port Elizabeth.

Professor Sandy Africa (Current Acting Head) and Dr Gerhard Wolmarans, from the Department of Political Sciences, are both Ethics Fellows of the Carnegie Council and facilitated the arrangements for the visit.



Mr Devin Stewart, Senior Programme Director of the Carnegie Council; Prof Sandy Africa, Acting HOD: Political Sciences; Prof Maxi Schoeman, Deputy Dean: Humanities; Prof Michael Ignatieff; Dr Gerhard Wolmarans (Political Sciences); Prof Vasu Reddy, Dean: Faculty of Humanities; Prof Hennie Stander, Deputy Dean: Humanities



#### New Head of the Department of Music



Professor Alexander Johnson was appointed as Head of the Department of Music from 1 January 2016. He succeeds Prof Wim Viljoen, who retired at the end of 2015.

Since Prof Johnson's appointment at UP in 2001, he has been responsible for curriculum development and teaching of a large number of undergraduate courses in the Department while supervising a substantial number of postgraduate students in Musicology and Composition.

He enjoys considerable international recognition as a composer. In the past 25 years, his compositions have frequently been performed and broadcast in South Africa and abroad, in countries such as the UK, USA, France, Serbia, Croatia, Russia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, China, Poland, Trinidad and Tobago and Portugal. He has published more than 50 compositions, some of which have been prescribed for various national and international competitions and examination bodies such as Unisa and the UK's Trinity College of Music. One of his works was published in the *International Journal of Contemporary Compositions*.

A number of his compositions have been analysed at under- and postgraduate level and for journal articles. His *Niš Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* was the topic of a doctoral thesis at the University of Northern Texas. Several honours and master's dissertations have been written on his compositions over the past 20 years, and a second doctoral thesis was produced on a selection of his chamber works in 2014.

He is a founding board member of the Collegium of National Composers and the founder and director of the Stefans Grové National Composition Competition, which has as its main focus the promotion and upliftment of the classical music arts in South Africa.

#### New Head of the Department of Visual Arts



Raimi Gbadamosi

Prof Raimi Gbadamosi was appointed Head of the Department of Visual Arts at the beginning of February. He is an artist, writer and curator. He received his doctorate in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art, London, in 2001. He is a member of the Interdisciplinary Research Group 'Afroeuropeans' of the University of Leon, Spain, and of the 'Black Body' group at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Prof Gbadamosi is on the Editorial board of the *Journal of African Studies*, the *Open Arts Journal* and *SAVVY*, and is on the boards of *Elastic Residence*, *London*, and *Relational*, Bristol.

Recent national and international shows and events include *Cemetery*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa, 2014/2015; *Banquet*, South Hill Park Bracknell, UK, 2011; *Exchange mechanism*, Belfast Exposed, Northern Ireland, 2010; *Somewhere over the rainbow*, Galleri Garaget Sweden, 2009; Solo, CAF, Alexandria, Egypt, 2009; ARCO Madrid 2009; *Tentativa de* 



agotar un lugar Africano, CASM, Barcelona 2008; Human Cargo, Plymouth Museum & Art Gallery, Plymouth 2007; Port city, Arnolfini, Bristol 2007. He has worked in several mediums, including multiples, music, websites, writing and audience participation. His works create debate instead of representing preconceived concerns defined by specific social, cultural and political cant.

Recent essays he has written include: *What is this Afroeuropean?* (published as a chapter in a book), *Scuffles in the cathedral: of principalities and powers* (Tate Encounters), *Dancing in a space provided, or running amok* (Tate Liverpool), *Imagination hits reality: visualising the self in Imoinda* (Goldsmiths College, London), *The not-so new Europeans* (*Wasafiri,* UK); and *The delight of giant-slayers: or can artists commit their lives to paper?* (ArtMonitor, Sweden).

#### Two new Mellon grants for the Faculty of Humanities

#### Diversifying the professoriate

The Faculty is extremely pleased to announce its inclusion in the Mellon-funded supra-institutional project, 'Diversifying the professoriate' (R15 million). The faculty is one of seven in South Africa receiving a substantial grant in order to help universities achieve the goal of changing the racial demographics of their staff component. The project will focus specifically on preparing black South African staff members at the level of senior lecturer and associate professor for promotion in a projected cycle of 54 months. Interventions envisaged include buy-outs; allowing selected staff members time to complete publications; supervising postgraduate students; research and travel opportunities; mentoring; and writing retreats. The award also provides for a number of postgraduate scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships for participating staff members.

The project, which offers an exciting opportunity for the Faculty to diversify and grow its professoriate, will be embarked on soon. As Deputy Dean: Postgraduate Studies and Ethics, Prof Maxi Schoeman will be responsible for its implementation and will contact heads of department for more information. She will also conduct discussions with potential participants to determine their individual needs, and develop work packages for each participant.

#### Tangible Heritage Conservation

The Andrew W Mellon Foundation awarded a small planning grant for 2016, to the value of R2,1 million, toward developing a master's degree programme in Tangible Heritage Conservation (THC). TCH is the inclusive term for cultural objects of significance, including resources such archaeological artefacts, cultural handicrafts, religious objects, water-colour paintings, beadwork, baskets and sculptures. CH resources can be divided into moveable objects (usually found in museums and art galleries) and immovable objects (structures such as monuments or architecturally designed buildings, archaeological sites, and vernacular architecture). The envisioned academic programme will build the research capacity of a new generation of conservators and aid in diversifying the current demographics of the conservation profession. Although it is currently unclear what format the proposed master's programme will assume, or how general or specific it should be, it is clear that it will need to strike a balance between theoretical and practical components and be presented with blended learning strategies; short, intensive residential contact sessions and lectures; online deliveries and self-study; a research component; and internship.



#### Adelia Carstens to speak at prestigious conference on materials design in the UK

Professor Adelia Carstens (Unit for Academic Literacy) received a personal email from Brian Tomlinson (University of Leeds), a leading scholar in materials design and author of the widely used book *Materials development in language teaching*, to present a paper on 'Scaffolding L2 mastery in subject-specific academic literacy interventions for linguistically diverse student groups' at the MATSDA conference on Authenticity in Materials Design for L2 Language Teaching, to be held on 18 and 19 June 2016 at the University of Liverpool. Mr Tomlinson wrote: 'Many thanks for your very interesting abstract. I am pleased to be able to tell you that we are happy to accept it for a 40-minute parallel presentation.'

The paper will address the notion of 'scaffolding' and how it can be used to assist university students in mastering English as a scientific language, while accommodating their plural linguistic identities and their personal linguistic repertoires. A four-quadrant model resulting from the intersection of two continua (monolingual versus bi-/multilingual language pedagogy and monolingual versus bilingual lecturer), is offered as an overview of the notion of L2 scaffolding.

### Chris Broodryk completes doctorate

Dr Chris Broodryk (Department of Drama) graduated with a PhD in film studies at the University of Cape Town in December 2015. The study draws on film studies, critical theory and cultural studies. Titled *Absences, exclusivities and utopias: Afrikaans film as a cinema of political impotence, 1994–2014*, his thesis explores how Afrikaans cinema is located within the tensions of democratic post-transitional South African society and linked to the identity politics of being identified as 'Afrikaner' or 'Afrikaans speaking'. Using Thomas Elsaesser's studies of (New) German Cinema and Hollywood, Dr Broodryk identifies key notions such as double occupancy to inform his study's vocabulary, as well as Fredric Jameson's views on political cinema and the political failures of postmodernism. From this conceptual and theoretical framework, he postulates the problems arising from the neoliberal structures that guide much of Afrikaans film-making, and offers a historical overview of key moments and figures in South African (primarily Afrikaans) film-making to demonstrate that there is a precedent for political potency in Afrikaans cinema.

The study critically discusses two major figurations of political impotence: the vulgar cinema of Willie Esterhuizen and the 'Volkstaatfilm'. The study finds that contemporary Afrikaans cinema's attempts at representing a multicultural South Africa only highlight the cultural exclusivity in the majority of them, and that these films are often contemporary instances of the conservative Afrikaans cinema developed by Hans Rompel in the 1940s. In the vocabulary developed through this study, contemporary Afrikaans cinema is a cinema of forgetting, which sustains socio-cultural binaries and places market output above aesthetic value.

### Developing international qualification standards in sport coaching

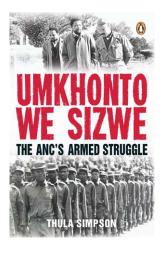
Over the last decade, professional sport coaching has seen vast growth world-wide. As a result, higher education institutions all over the world are starting to offer bachelor degree programmes in sport coaching. The International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE), through their International Degree Standards Group (ICDSG), produced a draft set of standards for



higher education bachelor degree programmes in sport coaching (the International Coaching Degree Standards). To complement the work of the ICDSG, the ICCE is convening an expert review group comprising more than one hundred world-renowned experts in sport coaching, university curriculum development and coach education.

Prof Anneliese Goslin from the Department of Sport and Leisure Studies was invited to serve as an expert reviewer for this international project.

## New history on the ANC's armed struggle



Written by Dr Thula Simpson (Department of Historical and Heritage Studies), *Umkhonto we Sizwe: the ANC's armed struggle* (Penguin, 2016) deals with the armed military component of the South African liberation struggle, to which the ANC and its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) made the greatest contribution. Beginning in the 1950s with the growing disillusionment among many in the ANC with the movement's non-violent policy, the manuscript details the progression of events that led to the political settlement of the 1990s, which gave birth to the new South Africa. The book offers the first comprehensive account of the four decades of warfare that connected these two historical landmarks. The work rests on a decade of research into the history of MK, conducted in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Swaziland, the UK and throughout South Africa. *Umkhonto we Sizwe: the ANC's armed struggle* is Dr Simpson's first sole-authored book. The Pretoria launch of the book took place in the Auditorium of the Merensky 2 Library on 18 April.

# ~ PROFILE : PROF MAGESHAN NAIDOO ~



Prof Naidoo, an associate professor at UP and Director for Jazz Studies in the Department of Music, comes from Chatsworth in KwaZulu-Natal. He has performed in the USA, UK, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Canada and Mexico (Puebla and Veracruz), Denmark and all over South Africa accompanying Joanne Brackeen, Mike Rossi (USA), Yuri Honing (Holland), Ronald Snijders (Suriname), Marco Pignataro (Italy), Oscar Stagnaro (Venezuela), Karin Bengjmark (Sweden), Feya Faku, Ladysmith Black Mambazo (South Africa) and African pop star Angelique Kidjo.

Highlights include the private birthday party of President Nelson Mandela and both the Commonwealth Heads of State and African Heads of State conferences.

Prof Naidoo made his debut recording on Canadian pianist/composer Carol Ann Weaver's *Dancing Rivers* (1999) and was also featured on Weaver's album *Every Three Children* (2008). He recorded his original compositions and arrangements with South African band Tonk in 2000, and on his album *Warwick Triangle* (2009).



As a US Fulbright Student, Prof Naidoo graduated with a doctorate of Musical Arts degree (Performance) from the University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles. He also holds an MM degree (Studio/Jazz Guitar Performance) from USC, an MMus Degree (Performance & Jazz Composition) cum laude, and a BMus degree (Jazz Studies) from the University of Natal. At USC, he studied guitar with the legendary Joe Diorio and had master classes with Pat Metheny, John Scofield, Mike Stern, Paul Jackson Jr and Kurt Rosenwinkel. Prof Naidoo has received numerous awards, including as winner of the Old Mutual Jazz Competition, in both the Composer and the Performance categories, and the USC's faculty award for Distinguished Scholarship and Leadership.

Prof Naidoo was the Director of the Centre for Jazz & Popular Music and Senior Lecturer and Acting Head of the School of Music at the University of KwaZulu-Natal from 2005 to 2011. He was also the Deputy Director in the Directorate of Music at the University of South Africa and served as editor of the academic journal *Musicus* from 2011 to 2015.

He is the President of the South African Association for Jazz Education (SAJE) and continues to serve many educational and professional music organizations, including SAMRO. SAJE is the only national professional body for jazz education in South Africa. Individual and institutional membership includes academics, all universities where jazz studies are offered, professional musicians, music teachers, music students, secondary schools and community music organisations.

Prof Naidoo has been invited to perform at the International JazzNL event, 'Gateway to Global Jazz' in Amersfoort, the Netherlands from 26 to 29 May 2016. Throughout the festival, he will perform South African jazz compositions with fellow South African musicians. He will also perform on 27 May in a concert titled 'A Dutch South African Jazz Night', featuring multiple South African artists. On 28 May, festival organisers have put together an international conference to connect South African jazz networks to the Dutch jazz network.

The South African band includes Mageshen Naidoo (guitar); legendary South African tenor saxophonist, McCoy Mrubata; Lindiwe Maxolo (voice); Concord Nkabinde (electric bass); Mandla Mhlangeni (trumpet); Karendra Devroop (alto saxophone); Marc Duby (upright bass); Roland Moses (piano) and Kevin Gibson (drums).

#### UP Camerata invited to World Symposium on Choral Music in Spain



In July 2017, the University of Pretoria Camerata will represent not only our institution, but our country (and quite possibly our continent), at the world's largest conference for choirs at the 11th World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona, Spain. The International Federation of Choral Music hosts this prestigious ten-day event every three years. Only 24 choirs are selected from across the globe to perform for literally thousands of conductors, singers, composers and choral enthusiasts. The choir will perform a programme that promotes the diversity of South African culture and our people and will fall beautifully under the banner of 'Peace', the theme of the symposium. The choir will do workshops to promote music from our country and Michael Barrett will



lecture on South African Music – both traditional and western. The choir will perform several concerts featuring two programmes: a Western programme of mainly South African composers and a traditional programme of completely South African material.

We are extremely proud of the choir for the amazing honour of having been invited to attend this prestigious international event. This is truly in line with the University's vision of gaining international exposure and promoting our diversity.

#### JazzUP Tshwane

On 21 April, the Faculty of Humanities held a donor event called JazzUP to celebrate UP's implementation of jazz studies into its music curriculum and to launch the JazzUP Tshwane Festival that will be held in October 2017. Vice-Chancellor Cheryl de la Rey said that this was an 'exciting milestone in the life of UP and an important component of our ongoing initiatives in curriculum transformation'. She went on to elaborate on the history of jazz and stated that it was 'intertwined with the struggle for freedom'.

At the event, there were performances by the Tshwane School of Music, CAFCA Music Ensemble, Moss Mogale Unit, and Vusi 'The Voice' Mahlasela whose work was an inspiration to many in the anti-apartheid movement. A documentary clip was screened, titled *Tshwane jazz: an African story*, which explored the history of jazz in Tshwane and the African roots of jazz music. There was also a viewing of the works of the South African poet, painter and pianist, Charles Sekano.

This was a timely event that put Tshwane, the capital of our country and a diplomatic and political hub, on the musical map. We are excited about the scheduled festival and hope to build on the momentum and support that was evident at JazzUP. At a time of competing priorities, the 'soft power' of music and culture should not be forgotten – music like jazz sometimes shapes us in ways we do not even realise.





#### Tempo 2016

Aligned to JazzUP 2016, *Tempo*, curated by Natalie Fossey (Department of Visual Arts) showcases work in various media by staff, independent artists and fourth-year students. The works exhibit social, political, theoretical and phenomenological views on the fast-paced experiences of time and life. 'Tempo' refers not only to pace and timing in musical composition, but also inspires ideas about rhythm, balance, sense perceptions of experiences in and of time. See http://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/95/ZP\_Resources/tempo2016web.zp87412.pdf

#### Dinner for exceptional academic achievers and NRF-rated researchers

Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, this event celebrated top academic achievements by UP scholars. Two categories of recognition are relevant for our Faculty: the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award and the recognition of new NRF-rated researchers.

#### Vice-Chancellor's Book Award



Prof Corinne Sandwith was this year's recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award for her book, *A world of letters: reading communities and cultural debates in early apartheid South Africa*. In her pioneering study, she recovers a rich historical tradition of public debate about literature and culture in South Africa that is particularly relevant to our troubled times. Prof Sandwith is an associate professor in the Department of English and joined UP in June 2014. Her research interests include the history of reading, criticism and public debate in early apartheid South Africa, focussing on marginal print cultures and the dissident press, with a special interest in questions of violence, crime and the body.

#### Newly NRF-rated researchers

Name	Department	Rating	Frequency of Rating
Prof Alexander Johnson	Music	C2	1 <sup>st</sup>
Prof Antoinette Lombard	Social Work and Criminology	C1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Prof Vasu Reddy	Dean's Office	B3	1 <sup>st</sup>
Prof DeWet Swanepoel	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology	B2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Prof Elsabe Taljaard	African Languages	C1	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Dr Kerstin Tönsing	Centre for Augmentative and Alternative	Y2	1 <sup>st</sup>
	Communication		
Dr Ronald van den Bergh	Ancient Languages and Cultures	Y1	1 <sup>st</sup>



#### Membership of International Advisory Board of SERFAC



Zitha Mokomane

Prof Zitha Mokomane of the Department of Sociology has been appointed to a five-year term as member of the International Advisory Board of the India-based Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, better known by its acronym SERFAC. Inaugurated in November 1986, SERFAC obtained special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of The United Nations in 1998. Currently functioning as a Global Research Centre on Family and Child Policy, it is one of the few organisations worldwide that focusses on the web of inter-relatedness of human development, socio-economic, political and technological institutions, democratic systems and effective governance.

#### Inaugural addresses for new Heads of Department

- Prof Molly Brown (Department of English) will deliver her inaugural address on 30 May. The title of her address is 'Children's literature matters (?)'.
- Prof Debby Bonnin (Department of Sociology) will deliver her inaugural address during the second semester.
- Prof Alexander Johnson (Department of Music) and Prof Raimi Gbadamosi (Department of Visual Arts) will have their turn in 2017.

#### Forthcoming important international events to be hosted

Look out for these important events taking place in the next couple of months:

- It's all about me: digital humanities and representations of self, 17 to 18 June, hosted by the Department of Visual Arts.
- Rethinking 'apartheid's golden age': South Africa, c 1966–1979', 20 June, hosted by the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies.
- International Symposium on Food Studies: Transnational Conversations, 22 to 23 July, hosted by the Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities, in conjunction with the University of the Western Cape and the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security.
- African and diasporan African literature: imaginings, modernities and visions, 5 to 6 October 2016, hosted by the Department of Afrikaans.

Finally, thank you to all colleagues who work tirelessly to ensure we meet the numerous competing demands on our professional and personal lives. I also offer my gratitude for all the effort many of you put in, both visible and behind the scenes, to ensure that the transformation agendas of both the Faculty and the University are addressed. I thank you for your ongoing support, advice and engagement. All the best as you move ahead with your teaching and other tasks.

Vasu Reddy

