

Launch of Student Readiness for Work Online Programme

Assessment Seminar 5 May

The alternative assessment seminar showcased assessment practices at the University of Pretoria. Professor Goddard illustrated the use of case studies at Veterinary Sciences that assessed higher order thinking skills across a range of disciplines. Professor Coetzee and Ms Schmulian demonstrated that authentic assessment aimed at simulating the work environment, where accountants work in teams, turns test-taking into a learning experience with almost immediate feedback and multiple opportunities to discuss answers and try again. Both case studies demonstrated that the application of learning is as much about dealing with people as it is about disciplinary knowledge. And they did all this while ensuring validity, reliability and integrity. Other papers dealt with assessing communication skills in dentistry (Dr Ayo-Yusuf and Dr V Mostert); online assessments in law (Professors Coetzee and Botha) and using NUMBAS, a free, web-based application, in EBIT (Dr Willemse). Most lecturers emphasized that they had developed their ground-breaking assessment strategies by working with the Department for Education Innovation.

Launch of Student Readiness for Work Online Programme

In March 2017 Enterprises at UP launched an ancillary, free, online programme designed to prepare students for the world of work <http://www.enterprises.up.ac.za/ready4work/>. The Professional Online Development (POD) programme includes a number of packages. Package 1 is Career Planning (five modules); 2 is Job Preparation (5 modules); 3 is Workplace Skills (4 modules). Package 4 is more specialized and students may select modules appropriate to their future workplace and pay a nominal fee to take the modules selected. Online data show that students are less active in *clickUP* during recess periods so this would be an ideal time to pack in some just-in-time learning that will give UP graduates the edge in the job market when they graduate. Staff and students may also take the introductory course to learning SeSotho sa Leboa free only with Enterprises as well. This POD was launched in 2016.

Academic Achievement

The awards for teaching and community engagement were handed over at the Achiever's Evening on 9 May. Each year there are two Teaching Excellence Laureates. For 2016/17 the individual Laureate was awarded to Professor Ernest Wolff of the Department of Philosophy, who works to keep human interaction central to teaching. The team Laureate went to Ms Corlia Joynt and Ms Madelyn Cloete of the Department of Accounting for the innovative ways in which they are engaging students in their discipline through embracing evidence-based hybrid methodologies. The Community Engagement Award went to Mr van Dijk of the Department of Civil Engineering for working to bring sustainable energy through hydropower to rural communities, building capacity in communities for the construction of dams for instance, skills that will be useful for individuals going forward, but also creating local expertise to make the running of the project sustainable.