



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

Winter Edition

Dear Colleagues

Since my last note we have had more to celebrate in terms of student and staff successes. We are all proud of the achievements of our students and especially staff who are increasingly raising the bar on a number of fronts to drive the academic project and intellectual work.

The semester is virtually done and I am aware you are hard at work preparing our students for the looming examinations. There is much activity on the social and political landscape that also occupy our daily conversations and which should also compel us in our various ways to engage the complexities of the moment.

There is also clear evidence of great creativity in this Faculty, displayed in the various ways you show enthusiasm for the essential values that we promote in students and the public through our teaching and research in our fields of knowledge. The role of a university in these times is also worth recalling. Sarah Churchwell, professor of American literature at the University of East Anglia, who has written in defence of the humanities in *Times Higher Education* says: 'Universities are one of the custodians of centuries of knowledge, curiosity, inspiration. That education is not a commodity, it's a qualitative transformation. You can't sell it. You can't simply transfer it'. In the months ahead we will continue with our efforts in concrete discussions to address, for example, curriculum change, as well as rededicate energy toward purposeful knowledge-creation that combines with the development of confident and creative graduates.

In this bumper edition we share stories of success, profile some of our current colleagues and remember a colleague who once spent time with us in this Faculty.



## AUTUMN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

We recently had three successful graduation ceremonies. Beyond the successes of our students, we congratulate all staff who graduated. We acknowledge their achievement and dedication, but mention only those who received doctoral degrees in this letter.

### Department of Ancient Languages

Dr Jo-Mari Schäder, DLitt in Semitic Languages

### Department of Psychology

Prof David Maree, DPhil in Philosophy

Dr Benny Moteleng, DPhil in Psychology

### Department of Social Work and Criminology

Dr Poppy Masinga, DPhil in Social Work

### Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Dr Salome Geertsema, DPhil in Communication Pathology

Dr Mia le Roux, DPhil in Linguistics

Dr Talita le Roux, DPhil in Communication Pathology

## UP MAPUNGUBWE GOLD COLLECTION SHINES ON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN THE UK

The University of Pretoria Museums as part of UP Arts participated in a major international exhibition held at the British Museum from 27 October 2016 until 26 February 2017. *South Africa: the art of a nation* was the first major exhibition in the United Kingdom on South African art that explored 100 000 years of history through archaeological, historical and contemporary artworks. The University of Pretoria's treasured Mapungubwe Collection was one of the most iconic museum collections loaned from South Africa and accompanied an additional 200 objects from other institutions and collections arranged chronologically across seven key episodes from prehistory to the present. To have had the Mapungubwe Collection is significant in a contemporary South African context, not only as evidence of a complex reflection on historical societies long before the arrival of European settlers, but since the gold rhino is also the symbol of the National Order of Mapungubwe, first presented in 2002 to Nelson Mandela, and recognised today as the highest honour in South Africa. The British Museum's loan request dates back to 2015 and took approximately 14 months of intensive curatorial





The UP Mapungubwe Collection in the British Museum

planning and negotiation, as the agreement focussed on artefacts which are declared national heritage objects. This was also the first time in history that the Mapungubwe Collection left South African borders. The original gold rhino, gold sceptre, gold vessel and two other gold animal figurines from the collection were key choices by the curators of the British Museum, along with an artwork from the UP Art Collection by J Pierneef, *Wild Fig Tree*, which also accompanied the collection. 'Working with the British Museum exhibition team was both a professional honour and a personal pleasure,' says Sian Tiley-Nel, Chief Curator of the Mapungubwe Collection, who has been curating the gold treasures for over 17 years. For the University to be part of a major international exhibition and collaboration with the British Museum is rewarding in itself — it is

London's most popular attraction, drawing more than 6.5 million visitors a year. Permissions for export from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), logistics, terms and conditions, strict curatorial negotiations of displays, transport, conservation needs and other requirements took months of painstaking planning. The exhibition was covered extensively in international media and included a beautifully illustrated exhibition catalogue and British Museum postcards featuring the gold rhino. The *South Africa: the art of a nation* exhibition celebrated the importance of South African art and provided the opportunity to speak to new audiences about the importance of Mapungubwe, the pre-colonial past and the significant place that museum heritage continues to play in contemporary South Africa.

<http://www.thesouthafrican.com/british-museum-to-showcase-100000-years-of-south-african-art/>

<http://www.thebritishblacklist.com/african-treasures-denied-apartheid-regime-star-british-museums-celebration-100000-years-art/>

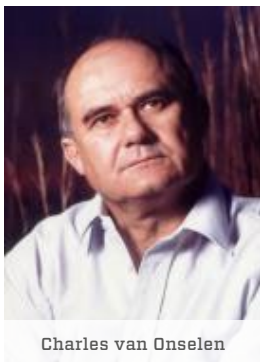
<http://igniteafrica.tv/south-africas-golden-rhino-to-star-in-british-museum-exhibition/>

## **COLLECTION BY PROFESSOR DAVID MEDALIE SELECTED FOR EXCLUSIVE BOOKS HOMEBRU 2017**

*Recognition: An Anthology of South African Short Stories*, by Professor David Medalie (Department of English) has been selected as part of the Exclusive Books Homebru 2017. The Homebru campaign celebrates great South African authors and books throughout the month of June.



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS' AWARDS 2017



Charles van Onselen

Congratulations to Professor Charles van Onselen (Centre for Advanced Scholarship and affiliation to the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies) on being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Book Award. The award for the Humanities and Social Sciences was made for Professor van Onselen's book titled *Showdown at the Red Lion: the life and Times of Jack McLoughlin*. The citation for the award states:

*Showdown at the Red Lion is much more than the life story of Jack McLoughlin. It is a history of a critical period in nineteenth century Johannesburg and an exhaustive investigation that covers the length and breadth of Britain's imperialist adventures, from William Blake's "dark Satanic Mills" of the 1850s industrial Manchester to the Australian outback via the goldfields of the Witwatersrand. This is a history which foregrounds uncanny, if not disquieting, parallels between the past and the present.*



Ernst Wolff

Congratulations also to Professor Ernst Wolff (Department of Philosophy) who received a Teaching Excellence Award. Prof Wolff is an NRF B-rated researcher and an alumnus of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung. His background is in phenomenology and hermeneutics, and he has actively expanded his scholarly competence to include aspects of the Frankfurt School, African philosophy and social theory. The heart of his work consists of studying the complexities of the meaning of human interaction. This is explored in his research and teaching.

## UP SHINES AT ATKV/SA ACADEMY PRIZES FOR 2016

Four of the six articles published in Afrikaans scholarly journals in 2015 and which in 2016 were awarded prizes by the Afrikaans Language and Culture Association (ATKV) and the SA Academy for Science and Art in their annual competition, were authored by academics from the University of Pretoria (UP).

The ATKV annually awards prizes to the value of R60 000 for six academic articles (R10 000 per article) written in Afrikaans and published in accredited journals in a given year. Four prizes are awarded for articles published in the humanities and two for articles in the natural sciences. The SA Academy for Science and Art is responsible for the selection process. Congratulations to four of our colleagues who are amongst the recipients.

In the natural sciences category, one of the two awards went to Prof Peet du Toit, **Dr Nicoleen Coetzee (Psychology)**, Prof William Fraser, Prof Ronél Ferreira, Ms Evangeline Nortje and the late **Prof Ernst Krüger (Sport and Leisure Studies)** from UP for their article titled 'Kardiovaskulêre gesondheidsrisiko onder universiteitstudente in Suid-Afrika' ('Cardiovascular health risk among university students in South Africa'), which was written in collaboration with Ms Elizabeth Rudolph and Prof Yvonne Joubert from Unisa and published in the *SA Tydskrif vir Natuurwetenskap en Tegnologie (SA Journal for Natural Science and Technology)*, 34 (1).



In the humanities category, **Prof Nerina Bosman** from the **Department of Afrikaans** was awarded for her article 'EET en DRINK in Afrikaans – 'n leksikaal-semantiese ondersoek' ('EAT and DRINK in Afrikaans – a lexical-semantic investigation'), that appeared in the *Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe (Journal of Humanities)*, 55 (1) in March 2015.

**Prof Willie Burger**, Head of the **Department of Afrikaans** was awarded for his article 'Historiese korrektheid en historiese fiksie: 'n respons' ('Historical correctness and historical fiction: a response') that appeared in the *Tydskrif vir Letterkunde (Journal for Literature)*, 52 (2), 2015.

## **PROF JAMES OGUDE APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR: CENTRE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP**



Congratulations to Professor James Ogude (affiliated to the Department of English), who has been appointed as the new Director of the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship (CAS) with effect from 1 January 2017. Professor Ogude, who is currently a professor and senior research fellow, has been the Deputy Director of the Centre since May 2013.

He was awarded a PhD in African Literature by the University of the Witwatersrand and also holds a master's degree in Literature and a BEd(Hons) in Literature, English and Education from the University of Nairobi.

Prof Ogude, who holds a B-rating from the NRF, is the author of five books and one anthology of African stories. He has also published more than 50 articles on African literature and popular culture in Africa in local and international peer-reviewed journals. His research interests include the African novel and the postcolonial experience in Africa. More recently, his research focus has shifted to popular cultures and literature in Africa, with a special focus on African cities and the role of the arts in the making of identities. He is currently the Principal Investigator of a University of Pretoria research project on the African philosophy of Ubuntu, which attracted major funding from the Templeton World Charity Foundation.

He is an acclaimed academic with wide-ranging international research networks and a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Modern Language Association of America. He has served on boards of statutory bodies, including the National English Literary Museum (NELM). He also sits on the editorial boards of leading international journals such as *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*.



## AHMED RIAZ MOHAMED SELECTED FOR VRIJE UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM DESMOND TUTU DOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FROM 2017



Ahmed Riaz Mohamed

Congratulations to Mr Ahmed Riaz Mohamed of the Department of Psychology who is one of five candidates selected for the Vrije University Amsterdam Desmond Tutu Doctoral Training Programme from 2017.

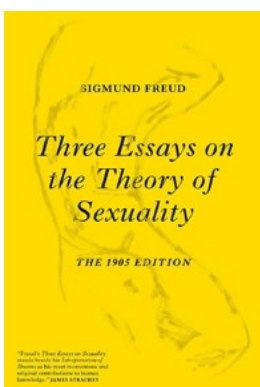
## POST-DOCTORAL BURSARY FOR FAMILY QUALITY OF LIFE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Liezl Schlebusch

Dr Liezl Schlebusch from the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, has been awarded a post-doctoral bursary from the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development. Dr Schlebusch is interested in questions about the measurement of 'doing well and living well'. Her research efforts focus on examining the quality of life of vulnerable populations, specifically family members of persons with disability and particularly those with low literacy levels. The value of the bursary is R200 000 per annum.

## COLLOQUIUM ON SEXUALITIES: TRANS(LATIONS), FICTIONS AND ID(ENTITIES)



On 8 and 9 March the Faculty of Humanities, together with the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender, co-hosted a two day colloquium *Sexualities-Trans(lations), fictions, fantasies and Id(entities)*.

The study of human sexuality is a crucial area of social, medical, scientific, historical, legal, philosophical, policy, and educational research.

The recent publication of a new scholarly translation of Sigmund Freud's influential 1905 *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* has occasioned renewed debate about his theories of sexuality and their psychological, social and biological dimensions. One of the authors of this new translations is Professor Ulrike Kistner, based in the Department of Philosophy at the University. Together with her two internationally-based co-authors, Philippe Van Haute and Herman Westerink, she introduced the context and significance of this book on the opening day, and this was followed by a launch of the book, now available in SA for the first time at the University book shop.







From Left: Philippe Van Haute, Zaheera Seedat, Susan Van Zyl, Mary Crewe, Naledi Mokoena, Gary Dowsett, Ekua Yankah, Vasu Reddy, Herman Westerink, Rebecca Hodes and Ulrike Kistner.



Prof Ulrike Kistner, UP Department of Philosophy, with Mary Crewe, Director: CSA&G

The first day considered the significance and relevance of Freud in Africa, and the shaping influence of his work across the past century in fields such as psychology, medicine and nursing, social work, law, education and the wider social sciences and humanities. Researchers and experts from universities in Australia, Germany, Ghana and the Netherlands and colleagues from Wits, UFS, UCT, Rhodes and Unisa, were joined by staff from NGOs, activists, civil sector representatives (schools and health entities) for the two-day gathering. Together with academics, graduate students and counselling staff at UP, participants deliberated on the significance and challenges raised by this new translation and interpretation.

These sessions were followed by rich and detailed presentations from a range of vantage points on the monumental report *Diversity in Human Sexuality — Implications for Policy in Africa* by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a ground-breaking study by a team of globally recognised researchers, making definitive findings based on African and global research. Drawn from medical and scientific disciplines in the main the report is only now being taken up in scholarly circles.

The purpose of this gathering, and the papers and debates and presentations that animated discussions in each session, was to bring deep and thoughtful reflection to bear on all issues related to human sexual identity and expression; to the range of human sexualities; and to prevailing and radical interpretations of sexualities



and sexual expression. The colloquium facilitated the sharing of current local, as well as international, scholarly research into these crucial areas of human life. Presenters from the disciplines of psychology, law, history, sociology, anthropology, literature, philosophy, education, medicine and public health were drawn together for engaged discussions. Cross and inter disciplinary scholarship and debate is a huge undertaking, and necessary for such a complex field of study. Understandably there were some heated exchanges and issues of accountability in research and the relative value and purpose of different disciplinary fields endeavouring to explain, explore and understand sexualities now and across time and human class, gender and cultural divides with differing methodologies and foci, were contested.



Dr Rebecca Fasselt and David Nnanna Ikpo signs his book *Fimisile Forever*

While the South African Constitution protects the sexual orientation of its citizens, participants heard from researchers based in other countries on our continent about the struggle to make sexual diversity a right, as well as the ongoing *de facto* challenges to bring sexual rights into everyday life in this society.

The gathering explored the linguistic and cultural registers of sexuality in presentations by staff working with youth from leading NGOs, and the literary dimension of sexuality was included in the launch of a second book, a coming of age novel set in Nigeria, by author and UP PhD candidate in Human Rights, David Nnanna Ikpo, titled *Fimisile Forever*.

The last session considered ways that the insights gleaned from research and activism could be mobilised in policy and in engaging the wider public and it was agreed to take the findings from the gathering forward with an ongoing series of talks and lectures, as well as shared scholarly materials and research projects led by the CSA&G. In the second half of 2017 Prof Philippe Van Haute will offer a course on Freud in the Department of Philosophy at UP in his capacity as a visiting honorary Professor from the Netherlands. Images from the two days:



Prof Melissa Steyn (Wits), Geoffrey Ogwaro (CHR, UP), Prof Frans Viljoen (CHR, UP), Jabu Pereira (IRANTI) and Neville Gabriel (Other Foundation) discuss implications of the ASSAf Diversity in Human Sexuality Report







Pierre Brouard, Co Director of the CSA&G with Prof Gary Dowsett, La Trobe University, chairing a panel on the 2015 ASSAf report: Diversity in Human Sexuality - Implications for Policy in Africa.



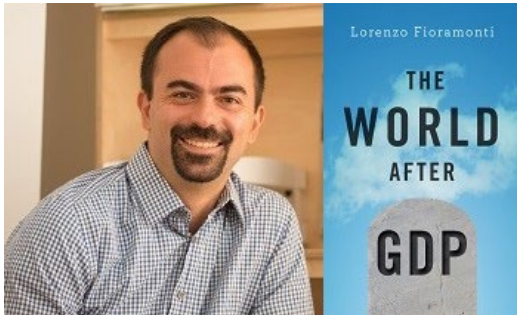
Prof Catherine Burns (CSA&G) chairing a panel on 'Freud in Africa'. Panellists included Prof Susan van Zyl (Wits), Dr Rebecca Hodes (UCT), Stephan van Wyk (Unisa), Justin Duncan (Unisa), Naledi Mokoena (Wits) and Zaheera Seedat (Wits).



Dr Ekua Yankah (consultant to CSA&G) chairing a session on 'Youthful Desires' with Prof Catriona MacCleod from Rhodes University.

## NEW BOOK BY PROFESSOR LORENZO FIORAMONTI

Professor Lorenzo from the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation is the author of a book titled *The World After GDP: Economics, Politics and International Relations in the Post-Growth Era*, which was recently published by Polity Books.



Prof Fioramonti with his book cover

When asked to briefly summarise the contents, Professor Fioramonti said: 'In the book I argue that taking a different approach to economic growth and following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals may have radical impacts on contemporary governance, changing global dynamics (with the demise of neoliberalism) and the role of civil society, and reframing globalisation with the emergence of new forms of (bio)regionalism. I believe this is the best antidote against the various Trumpisms emerging around the world. In many ways, the book condenses most of my work in the field of governance

innovation carried out over the past five years at GovInn. The book targets a broad audience, but would be of interest to specialists of governance, institutional and ecological economics, sustainable development, participatory and deliberative democracy, and international affairs, especially those interested in sustainable forms of post-globalisation integration (this is what I call "bioregionalism").'

Some notable voices have praised the book's important intellectual contributions:

*'An original, comprehensive and compelling analysis of the problems with GDP and how to make the world better without it.'* Robert Costanza, Australian National University and Editor-in-Chief of *Solutions*

*'Fioramonti has provided a well-written and persuasive explanation of how to change the world by moving beyond the current narrow focus on GDP.'* Herman Daly, founder of Ecological Economics and emeritus professor at the University of Maryland

*'What governments don't track today is often far more important than what they do, because what we measure changes how we behave – and how we think. And changing what we think is essential if we are to build a more sustainable economic system. Read this fascinating and well-written book – and change the way you think!'* Graeme Maxton, Secretary General of the Club of Rome and bestselling author of *The End of Progress*.

More info can be found here: <http://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9781509511341>



**Prof Leonhard Praeg, newly appointed Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy**



Leonhard Praeg

I was born and raised in Pretoria. After matriculating in 1983, I elected to do my compulsory national service before commencing with my university degree. Today, when students ask me if I am not embarrassed to admit that I once was a soldier in the apartheid defence force, I always have the same answer: In the world in which I grew up the idea of refusing to do national service at the risk of facing exile or imprisonment was not even a logical or conceptual possibility; it was simply and literally unthinkable. The success of any oppressive system depends on the extent to which it can present a contingent number of options as the only possible options.

Once I had realised this – at the end of my first year at Stellenbosch University – I became a conscientious objector and joined the End Conscription Campaign. This first intimate revolt was followed, six years later, by a master's degree in Philosophy in which I deconstructed Afrikaner nationalism.

The following year I took up a lecturing post in the Department of the Philosophy of Education at UWC, where I briefly worked alongside three giants of the South African academic landscape – Tony Holiday, Wally Morrow and Peter Vale. In 1995 I was offered a post in the Department of Philosophy at Fort Hare, for which I will forever be grateful as the two and a half years I spent there caused me to fundamentally rethink the place of philosophy in the postcolony.

While completing my master's thesis on Afrikaner nationalism, I had come to understand something of the emancipatory potential of philosophy, and when I arrived at Fort Hare I was passionately committed to sparking that experience in my own students. Alas, by the beginning of 1997 I had to acknowledge that I was a spectacular failure: either I was terrible at teaching philosophy or my students were terrible at learning it. It was only towards the end of 1997 that it dawned on me that the curriculum I had been trying to teach at Fort Hare was the same one I had been taught at Stellenbosch – a curriculum that was radically at odds with the world my students lived in. I suddenly understood that a philosophy that is not self-reflectively and critically aware of the sociology that necessitates and sustains it, will have very little to offer its students. In the fashionable language of African philosophy, which I would only discover much later, I realised that all philosophy is grounded in the political, and that every people, culture or civilisation has a philosophy born of the sociology of their own experiences. When I arrived at that insight, I knew I had found my PhD research question: What are the conditions for the possibility of an African philosophy?

I resigned from Fort Hare in 1998. What followed was an intellectual epiphany during which, based on the almost three years' experience at Fort Hare and my reflection on it, and writing for ten hours a day six days a week, I completed my PhD in eight months. In 2000 it was published in book form by Editions Rodopi in Amsterdam under the title *African philosophy and the quest for autonomy: a philosophical investigation*.



By the time I accepted a full-time senior lectureship at Rhodes in 2003, I had become suspicious of and frustrated with the extent to which identity politics had come to dominate the conversation in African philosophy. Identity politics is an indispensable requirement for epistemological revision. It is only because some people with a specific identity fail to recognise themselves in the kind of knowledge that is being produced and disseminated in the world they share with others, that a revision or transformation of knowledge production becomes necessary. However, such a revision can become exclusionary when, instead of expanding epistemological diversity, it threatens to become exclusionary through a kind of applied nationalism. To advocate the former while guarding against the latter will always be the challenge of any process of curriculum transformation. After I had completed my PhD, my response to this tension consisted of withdrawing from the meta-debate on African philosophy and finding my own way of making the Western-centric education I had received work in the postcolonial context in which I found myself.

My first 'enquiry-based' exercise of this nature led me into the domain of violence and resulted in the publication of *The Geometry of Violence*, as well as a subsequent essay that appeared in the critical legal studies journal *Law and Critique* and dealt with the Rwandan genocide and is now globally recognised as the first-ever philosophical attempt at making sense of that tragic event. After that came the Ubuntu project. I was determined to show that there is much post-neoliberal potential in the African conception of subjectivity implicit in Ubuntu that had been glossed over by the sentimental discourse of our early rainbow nationalism. Along the way, in 2011, I conceived and, together with several colleagues in the Department of Political and International Studies at Rhodes, launched the *Thinking Africa* project as vehicle for the exploration and publication of our various research interests. Since its inception its associated book series – of which I am the series editor – has published six volumes. The *Thinking Africa* project came to UP with me and I am looking forward to conversations with my colleagues about how to situate the project in the Department and Faculty.

### **Professor Mpume Zondi, newly appointed Associate Professor and Head of the Department of African Languages**



Nompumelelo Zondi, or Mpume as she prefers to be called, was born and bred in the rural village of KwaNdebeqheke (KwaMadlala Mission) in the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg. She completed her high school education at Montebello High School and the Sacred Heart Secondary School in Oakford. She registered for a Secondary Teachers' Diploma at the Eshowe College of Education and graduated with distinction. Thereafter she furthered her education at the University of Natal, where she completed a BA degree with English and IsiZulu as her majors before continuing her studies for a BA(Hons) and a master's degree at the same institution. Her master's research focused on the protest poetry of the acclaimed Zulu scholar BW Vilakazi. In this study, she emphasised the significance of such works as one of the powerful forms of activism during the apartheid regime. Her desire to better understand people within the work environment led Mpume to enrol for a two-year part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resources Management at the University of Natal in 2001. This diploma course, she maintains, opened her



eyes to a number of social issues of which she had previously been unaware. Between 2002 and 2003 she undertook graduate studies in the Department of African Studies at the State University of New York, USA while simultaneously teaching some aspects of South African history and Zulu language and culture at the same university.

Besides renewing her commitment to academia, this opportunity exposed her to gender issues, an area about which she became passionate and in which she has also published. She uses this platform to engage with literary works to highlight the significance of this much-needed discipline. On her return to South Africa she continued her studies and in 2008 she successfully completed her PhD. The focus of her study was gender and power as represented by contemporary women's songs. She was promoted to senior lecturer in 2009. Between 2009 and 2011 she served as an academic coordinator (equivalent to HOD) in the department of isiZulu Language and Literature. After 17 years at the University of Natal, which later became the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she joined the University of Zululand as an associate professor in the Department of African Languages and Culture in 2012. During the second half of the same year she was invited to act as HOD in the Department of Creative Arts – a position she held until an HOD was appointed in 2013.

Mpume has travelled extensively – both locally and internationally – on research-related pursuits and has delivered a number of keynote addresses at community-related events. She joined the University of Pretoria as the Head of the Department of African Languages at the beginning of this year. She believes that her Department, which offers programmes in four African languages to both mother-tongue and non-mother-tongue students, can only achieve greater heights. She also feels motivated by the fact that the members of the senior staff, who have done extensive research in their respective fields, offer a knowledge bank from which she will be able to draw whenever she needs help. She is excited to be joining such a vibrant department and hopes to walk the academic road with junior staff so that together they can continue to make a meaningful contribution. She said:

*'Lo amogetswe, Le amogetšwe, Siyanamukela in the Department of African Languages, where anyone who hungers for knowledge of what it means to be an African will find a home. The four languages taught by the Department are Sepedi, Setswana, isiNdebele and isiZulu. Built on the values and beliefs of Africanism with Ubuntu as the epitome, we view our Department not only as politically correct or additive, but rather as an important cultural asset in which we all have a stake. In this sense multilingualism, which plays such an important role in our transforming country, is being promoted. As a Department of African Languages we promote and advocate African languages as an asset in the broader context of multilingualism and in the context of UP as an institution reflecting diversity. We believe in the intersection between theory, practice and learning, which results in collaborative initiatives where research, teaching and community engagement with an Afrocentric touch become a collective effort. In this sense the Department highlights the inter- and transdisciplinary nature of the humanities of which we are part. We thus envisage co-publications, co-teaching and co-supervision as something that will bring vibrancy to our Faculty, which will be spread nationally, to the rest of continent and internationally. As the Department of African Languages we embrace UP's 2025 vision and believe the time is now; therefore we endeavour to think innovatively about our new generation of scholars. To this end we will contribute to the training and development of a new cohort of young scholars as a way of ensuring the vibrancy*



*of the Department of African Languages in this institution, which should be seen to grow from strength to strength. We are committed to supporting our students in their studies and to ensuring that their degrees (both undergraduate and postgraduate) are completed within the minimum time. The staff pledges to continually give only our best to all associated with the Department in any way. In the Department of African Languages you are at home. Zizwe usekhaya!’*

### **Professor Siphamandla Zondi, professor and newly appointed Head of the Department of Political Sciences**



Siphamandla Zondi

Siphamandla Zondi is a professor and Head of the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He is also responsible for overseeing the work of the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs (ISPA), the Centre for Governance Innovation (GovInn) and the Centre for Mediation in Africa. He previously served as the head of the Institute for Global Dialogue associated with Unisa, and as a researcher at the Africa Institute of South Africa. He is a commissioner responsible for regional and international partnerships on the National Planning Commission and a councillor on the SA Council on International Relations. He also serves on the Council of the SA Association for Political Science (SAAPS). He writes on global dialogue and transformation, Global South agency, African agency in world affairs, decolonisation of knowledge, and foreign policy and diplomacy. He explains:

*‘I am a purpose-driven, vision-guided and critical global citizen, committed to coaching young people to pursue their purposes in life. I love soccer, salsa dancing, reading African fiction and listening to Afrosoul music. I am blessed with a wonderful wife, Nomusa, and two beautiful daughters, Thando and Enhle.*

*‘I see that the Department puts into practice the idea of a decolonised, transformed and diversified education in its teaching and research programmes, placing students’ interests at the centre of all of this while building a dynamic team of young and older scholars committed to excellent scholarship (teaching and engaged research) with strong profiles beyond South Africa. We will improve our undergraduate and postgraduate output and facilitate international exchanges and research collaborations while attracting good, diverse postdoctoral and other funded fellowships, inter alia through international exchanges. We will work towards hosting an NRF research chair, or co-hosting a Centre of Excellence with another university to advance comprehensive and innovative research in this regard.’*





## Professor Catherine Burns, Associate Professor at the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender



Catherine Burns

Catherine Burns was educated at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. After obtaining an honours degree, she was awarded a scholarship to study the history of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. She has been employed by Khanya College and has been involved in adult education at the Funda Centre in Soweto and the Alexandra Health Clinic. After conducting fieldwork in the Eastern Cape and in archives, she registered for PhD studies at the Northwestern University in the USA, focusing on reproductive health in Southern Africa between 1860 and 1960. While pursuing her PhD, she produced research papers in the subfields of anthropology, gender studies and reproductive medicine. Her research interests continue to focus on the history of gender in Africa; medical and health history; the history and ethnography of reproduction and sex; ethics in biomedical research; and the history of women and gender in southern Africa and its relevance to wider policymaking and clinical research.

Catherine has been involved in gender and education activism since she was an undergraduate at Wits, where she co-formed STEP, a teaching programme for underprepared high school students, and worked in the NGO, The Women's Health Project. Over the past 30 years she has developed new curricula for courses and degrees inside universities, and has organised many events, workshops and programmes designed to draw workers, educators, civil servants and non-governmental activists together.

She was based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal from 1995–2009, and from 1999–2002 she headed the interdisciplinary Programme of Gender Studies, which involved working with colleagues and students to develop several key pedagogical and activist interventions in the wake of the HIV pandemic in the region and the ubiquitous experience of gender-based violence against women and lesbian, gay and bisexual people. In 2005 she was appointed as an associate professor and Head of History at the UKZN. This was followed by her appointment in 2010 as Senior Technical Adviser for HIV Research at a large Durban research and activist entity, Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health (MATCH), which is linked to the University of the Witwatersrand. While she was at MATCH, Catherine focused on gender and health; childhood and vulnerability in the historical and social contexts; and interdisciplinary research on HIV, youth sexuality and health rights. She taught courses for nurses and medical students; ran a programme on the importance of social science and humanities research in clinical work and trials; served on the Board of a Medical Ethics consortium governing HIV-related trials; and researched the histories of two large health institutions in the KZN region.

In January 2012, Catherine joined the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER), where she was in charge of the Mellon-funded Medical Humanities in Africa Project. Over the next five years she worked to develop courses, research hubs and projects across three faculties. Her work was showcased at two international gatherings: 'Body knowledge: medicine and the humanities in conversation' and 'Bios, techné and the manufacture of happiness'. The goal of these events was to raise questions that are fundamental to contemporary clinical, aesthetic, philosophical, political, literary, ethnographic and ethical inquiry, and



encouraged renewed dialogue among the disciplines about ‘what it means to be human’. The events brought together international and local speakers, medical doctors, clinical workers, social theorists, economists, public health scholars and artists from African and global universities to address these themes.

In January 2017 Catherine was appointed at the University of Pretoria as an associate professor of History in the Department of History and Heritage Studies, and in the Centre for Sexualities, AIDS and Gender, where she is based. Catherine brings to UP her passion for gender equality and work on sexuality, health and rights, and her experience as a teacher of history, medicine and gender studies. She has supervised more than 40 master's and doctoral students across several disciplines. Her own research focus for the next five years will be on women and medicine in South Africa, and the history of sex in the region. She is the joint editor of the interdisciplinary journal *African Studies*, which was established in 1922 and is the oldest continually produced academic journal in Africa. Catherine is also finalising a biography of a renowned herbalist and midwife who was born in the Eastern Cape and lived and practised in South Africa from 1880 to 1940.

#### **Professor Karen Harris, newly appointed Head of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies**



Professor Harris has excellent credentials. She completed her BA, BA(Hons) and MA degrees in History, all cum laude, as well as a Higher Diploma in Education, at Stellenbosch University, and a DLitt et Phil at Unisa. Prof Harris has an extensive teaching record and is highly regarded as a teacher and supervisor. Her supervision record is exemplary. She has a solid record of producing high-quality teaching and educational materials in her subject area. She also has excellent international linkages that include both teaching and research collaboration in the field of overseas Chinese studies and, more recently, heritage tourism. She has an excellent record of peer-reviewed published research and has plans in place to develop this further. Furthermore, Professor Harris has excellent management, leadership and administrative experience, including her position as coordinator of the National Department of Tourism research project, her role in the Faculty's Research Ethics Committee, and her current position as Director of the UP Archive. Her leadership position in the latter has been exemplary and she has taken the archives to another level, which the University is very proud to recognise.

According to Prof Harris, the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies, as one of the founding departments of the former Transvaal University College (1908), has transformed to become one of the leading departments in the Faculty, not only in terms of its staff, but also with regard to its course offerings and research output. Her vision is to build on this foundation and to position the Department as an even more inventive teaching entity and productive research unit that embraces the needs of the student body, as well as the expectations of the broader Southern African community. This should include tangible outputs in terms of skilling the Department's graduates in a holistic manner so as to equip them to make a contribution in their future work spaces and communities. The Department teaches students of History, Heritage and Cultural Tourism as well as Education, all of which she believes can make a fundamental contribution to society at large. For the



immediate future she believes that specific attention needs to be given to further facilitating improved undergraduate teaching, the growing of the postgraduate cohort and the development of collaborative research projects to make the expertise and innovation generated within the Department palpable within the broader community. With regard to the University's three-pronged requirements of research, teaching and community service, she believes that research should be undertaken to augment teaching, and that teaching is in essence community service.

## BLIND CRICKETER AND FORMER MUSIC STUDENT REPRESENTS SOUTH AFRICA



Blind cricketer Kenneth Mabela, who used to dream about representing his country on the international stage, was selected to represent Blind Cricket South Africa at the World Cup. South Africa competed alongside teams from Sri Lanka, England, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia and Pakistan. Mabela stays in a small dorm just outside the University of Pretoria. He recently completed his degree in music and has been balancing his studies with cricket practise to ensure that he stays in form for the national team. Dressed in an African-print shirt, Kenny, as he likes to be called, easily navigates his way around his residence without any assistance. Despite having performed well in a provincial match, he says he couldn't believe it when he received a national call-up. 'I was so shocked man,' he said. 'We had a horrible run in Cape Town last year, but we did come close to winning the last game. I think that's why I was chosen.'



Kenneth Mabela with fellow UP blind cricketers



## UP Drama Department Alumni Scoop up 2016 SATmag Awards

In 2016, *The South African Theatre Magazine (SATMag)* decided to honour theatrical excellence via a public voting system. All South African productions that were staged in South Africa between 1 December 2015 and 30 November 2016 were eligible for nomination. *SATMag* received hundreds of nominations and the top four nominees were selected as the Final Nominees for the 2016 *SATMag* Awards. The public then voted for the winners. Note that the dates that appear in brackets after the names of individuals indicate the years in which they graduated.



Daniella Brews (2016)

Actor and director Gopala Davies (2014) and his production of *Les Cencei: A Story About Artaud*, was nominated in four categories. Davies won the award for best set design, and well-known actress Fiona Ramsay won the award for the best supporting actress in a play for her role in Davies' *Les Cencei*. The cast included alumni Cassius Davids (2016), Macmillan Mabaleka (2014) and Charles Bouguenon (a former student who did not graduate as he was offered wonderful professional opportunities at the end of his second year).

The award for the best musical production went to *Altyd in my Drome*, directed by Neels Clasen (1999). Clasen, who is also an actor and singer, won the award for the best director of a musical production.

Actor Grant Towers (2011) and actress Michelle Botha (1999) won awards for best supporting actor and best supporting actress in a musical production (*Altyd in my Drome*).

Tiaan Slabbert (2015) won the award for best supporting actor in a play (*Porselein*).

Their success follows on the successes of other alumni, including Tarryn Louch (2006) and Nico Scheepers (a student until 2010, who could not complete his degree due to financial problems) and Gretha Pietersen (2011). As a matter of interest, Nico and producer Hennie van Greunen also received R100 000 from UFS to develop a play based on the book *Pleisters vir die Dooies*, which had been chosen as the best debut production at the Vryfees in 2016. Louch, a Naledi Award nominee, business woman, radio presenter and actress also won The Next Big Thing award at the SA Style Awards in 2016.

Scheepers, who won the Fiesta award for the best set design at the awards ceremony held in 2016, designed the sets for the production *Die dag is bros* (starring veteran actress and Drama Department alumna Sandra Prinsloo), as well as those for his own production *Amper Vrystaat*.

Pietersen won the Fiësta award for the best actress in a supporting role for her role in *Son.Maan.Sterre*.

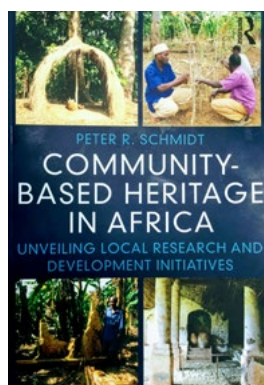


These young theatre stars follow in the footsteps of veteran actress and alumna Amanda Strydom, who scooped up the Fiësta for best performance in a music production.

This year promises as much excitement as 2016. Scheepers has been nominated for three Fiësta awards, namely best director (*Rooivalk*), best production of 2016 (*Rooivalk*) and best new Afrikaans production (*Rooivalk*). He will also be responsible for part of the entertainment at the forthcoming Fiësta Awards Ceremony.

Alumnus Wessel Pretorius (2011) has also been nominated in the category for the best new Afrikaans production (*Die Ontelbare 28*); veteran actor Tobie Cronje (1976) for his roles in *Heidi and Kul*; Sandra Prinsloo (1967) for her role in *So ry Miss Daisy*; Ilse Klink (1989) for her role in *Kristalvlakte*; and Amanda Strydom (1978) for the best music-driven production, *'n Rugsak vol Robyne*.

### **NEW BOOK: PETER R SCHMIDT. COMMUNITY-BASED HERITAGE RESEARCH IN AFRICA: UNVEILING LOCAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**



*Community-based heritage research in Africa: unveiling local research and development initiatives* (Routledge, 2017), written by Peter R Schmidt, extraordinary professor in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Pretoria, offers a powerful alternative to the Western paradigms that have governed archaeological inquiry and heritage studies in Africa. It shifts the focus away from top-down community engagements, usually instigated by elite academic and heritage institutions, to examine locally initiated projects. In this context, and focusing on the Haya people of north-western Tanzania, the author explores how and why local research initiatives, which are often motivated by rapid culture change caused by globalisation, arose. The volume reveals that the trauma of HIV/AIDS in particular had resulted in the loss of elders who had been responsible for performing the two most recognised forms of heritage among the Haya, namely oral traditions and rituals at sacred places.

Drawing upon his experiences as an archaeologist/anthropologist, Peter Schmidt – who had been invited to collaborate with the Haya and was subsequently tasked with the responsibilities of a community elder – recounts the successes, conflicts and failures that punctuated participatory community research efforts. The book gives credence to local community voices and focuses attention on the unique and important contributions that can be made to the preservation of regional and local histories by archaeologies and anthropologies of serious engagement. The book thus offers an alternative approach to practising archaeology in Africa, and in the process defines African archaeology for the present and the future. The volume provides critical new insights into the decolonisation of archaeology and curriculum transformation at African universities.



## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UP AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

In early January this year, a group of twenty-six students and two professors from the University of Delaware (UD) were welcomed at the University of Pretoria (UP) by Professor Alois Mlambo, outgoing Head of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies.

The visit was the result of the firm international relationship between UP and UD through the Service-Learning Study Abroad Programme. The University of Delaware has been sponsoring a Study Abroad Programme during its annual four-week January Winter session since 1996. Approximately 450 students have participated in the programme. The distinguishing aspect of this Study Abroad Programme is its emphasis on 'service-learning'. In addition to academic courses, students engage in service-learning placements at various sites, including primary schools and orphanages/child-care facilities in townships around Pretoria.

Since the inception of the programme in 1996, Prof Karen Harris, professor in the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies and Director of the UP Archives, has been teaching the History of South Africa course, which is always exceptionally well received by the international students. Students also enrol for additional courses, which are taught by the two visiting UD professors. The programme also includes various cultural excursions, such as tours of Johannesburg and Soweto, the Hector Pieterse Memorial and Museum, the Apartheid Museum, Constitution Hill and the Madikwe Game Reserve.

Dr Lana Harrison, professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at UD, has been co-director of the programme since 2009, and 2017 marks her fifth visit to UP. 'It has been my pleasure to be on your campus several times since 2009. It is such a beautiful campus and we are incredibly appreciative of the relationship we have with UP,' she said, and added that she was particularly pleased that UD students do not only participate in the winter programme, but also often come to spend a semester at UP during their regular school year, while students from UP are in turn welcomed at UD as part of an exchange relationship. She expressed the hope that the relationship between UP and UD would continue for a long time. 'My students gained so much from their time there, they learnt so much about your country and also about their own country by comparing the two,' she added.



Front, from left to right: Dr Lana Harrison, Mr Hannes Engelbrecht), Prof Karen Harris, Prof Alois Mlambo and Dr Robert Nelson. Back: Students participating in this year's programme

Dr Robert Nelson, associate professor of Hospitality Business Management at UD calls himself 'the new kid on the block' and also thoroughly enjoyed his visit to UP. He is responsible for the Ecotourism Management course, while Dr Harrison teaches the HIV/AIDS and Crime in South Africa course at UD.

After the conclusion of the programme at UP, it will move to Cape Town where there will be more opportunities for cultural exchanges.





## **TOSHIBA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AWARDS A RESEARCH GRANT TO PROFS CG HARTELL AND MG STEYN**

Professor Cycil Hartell (Centre for Japanese Studies) and Professor Steyn (Early Childhood Education, Faculty of Education) were awarded a small grant (USD 14 600) from the Toshiba Foundation for developing a comparative understanding of the formation of the professional identity of novice teachers who are teaching in the first three years of schooling (Early Childhood Education) in the context of several Asian (including Japanese) and African universities. In order to gather relevant data, both qualitative and quantitative approaches are being followed in three phases. The first phase (2013–2015) focused on qualitative research on teacher identity within participating countries. The second phase (2015–2016) focused on a qualitative comparative analysis of the professional, political and social contexts of novice teachers in Early Childhood Education. All participants used the same interview schedule to allow for a comparative analysis. Workshops were held at Hiroshima University, Japan and Universiti Saints Malaysia, Malaysia. The third phase (2016–2018) is a quantitative comparative analysis on ECE teacher development and identity in Africa and Asia. In June 2017 participating universities will conduct a workshop at Hiroshima University to continue the discussion of both qualitative and quantitative data analysis and the publication of articles. Participants will collect 300 questionnaires from early childhood education teachers in their respective countries. They use the same questionnaire to allow comparative analysis. Several publications based on the analysis of the shared data will be planned for 2017–2018.

## **FIRST DIGITAL HUMANITIES MODULES OFFERED IN 2016**

In 2016, the Division for Visual Culture Studies of the Department of Visual Arts presented two modules in Digital Humanities. This is probably a first in South Africa and on the African continent. The two modules that form part of the BA(Hons) in Visual Studies package are Cross-media visual and digital scholarship (VKK 756) and Visual archiving and curating (VKK 757).

The modules have two complementary aims. The first is to assist students in gaining digital skills through hands-on, small-scale exercises that require experimentation with digital humanities tools available on the open-access digital platform Scalar, hosted by The Alliance for Networking Visual Culture (USC). The goal is not to gain technical mastery, but to learn enough about the technologies to think about their concepts and to discover which tools might be useful for future research.

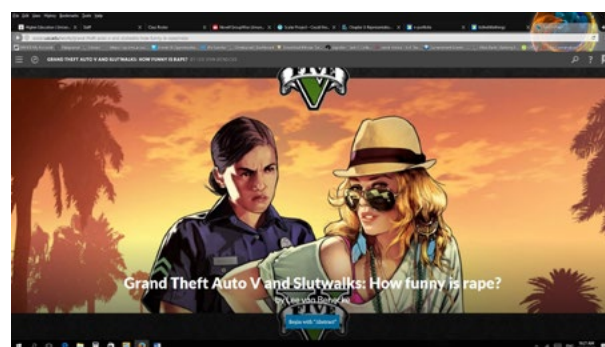
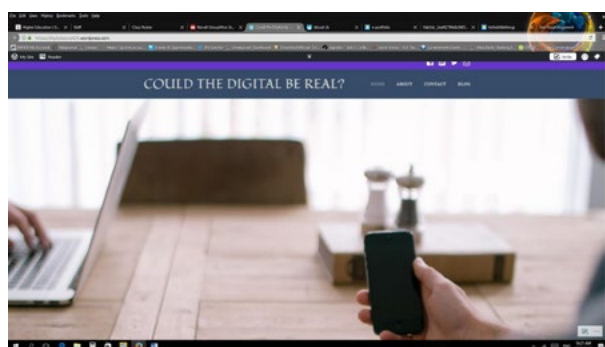
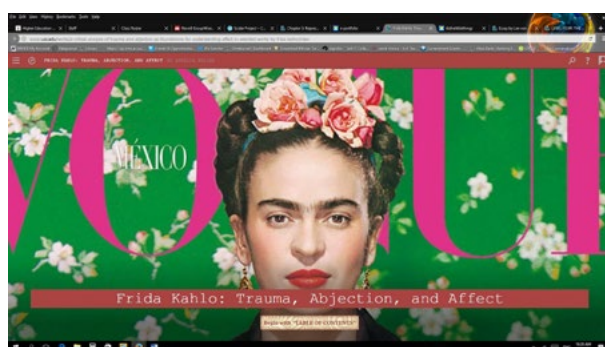
The experience gained feeds directly into the second aim of the modules, which is to deal with several topics within digital humanities scholarship that pertain to the study of visual culture. The focus falls on the fact that digital technology changes both the ontologies and epistemologies of undertaking research today. The following important issues are explored: How do we research the visual by thinking through resources that are natively digital versus those that are digitised? What are the options for visual archiving and curating



when images become the argument? What does it mean when searching the web and digital media becomes research? How do we use the methods embedded in the digital and available on online devices to do critical digital humanities?

For their examination, students were required to submit an e-portfolio in which all the projects completed were showcased, eg Photo Essays and Therapeutic Spaces, Visual Archiving and Argumentation, Senses of Place and the Scalar Research Project. The e-portfolio is presented as a website and online CV for prospective employers to assess students' skills and accomplishments.

The development of the modules in Digital Humanities at the honours level forms part of a broader strategy to develop postgraduate qualifications in the field. In 2016, Prof Amanda du Preez was awarded funding from DHET to develop the first digitally borne MA in Digital Humanities. The project is in the planning phase of international and national consultation and will hopefully roll out in 2018.



Examples of e-portfolios and Scalar projects

## TOURISM TRAINING AND RESEARCH

The National Department of Tourism has requested the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies to extend the MoU they signed in 2012 in order to continue their research collaboration. Under the leadership of Professor Karen Harris and research colleagues Charlene Herselman, Hannes Engelbrecht, Alida Green, Richard Wyllie and Jane Dewah the one research project focused on cross-border tourist guiding within the southern African region.



The Department was then tasked to develop and roll-out an on-line course for the SADC region, starting with a pilot for the Namibian-South African corridor. This course will commence in May 2017 in collaboration with Enterprises, University of Pretoria (Pty) Ltd – Training Solutions. Besides the development and roll-out of the Cross-border Tourist Guiding Training course for the entire SADC region, the Department will take on another research project on film tourism. The NDT has also requested the extension of the current MoU. This involves an amount of R840 000, which includes R100 000 for bursaries for students working in the relevant area of research.

Professor Karen Harris was recently invited to present this research at two international events. The first, The Sharing of Tourism Best Practice Workshop held in Kruger National Park from 27 February to 1 March with the theme ‘Destination without boundaries: cross-border tourism’, was attended by representatives from more than 20 African countries who showed an interest in becoming involved in this initiative. She also addressed the International Tourist Guides’ Celebrations Day held on Robben Island, which took place on 2 and 3 March 2017. The event hosted government officials, including the former Minister of Tourism, Mr Derek Hanekom, and more than 300 tourism industry stakeholders. The theme of the two-day conference was ‘Peace and development through guiding’. The Director-General of the National Department of Tourism, Mr Victor Tharage, indicated that he saw this as ‘our first step towards the vision of a regional training hub for tourist guiding’.

## REMEMBERING PROFESSOR ELAINE SALO



Elaine Salo

The Faculty of Humanities learnt with great sadness of the passing of Prof Elaine Salo, former Director of the Institute for Women’s and Gender Studies in the Faculty of Humanities, on Saturday, 13 August 2016. She had been treated for breast cancer in the past and when it returned last year radiation treatment was unsuccessful.

At UP, where she was well known in the Faculty, and at several institutions where she was based, Elaine became a friend, colleague, mentor and support to many. She was feisty, truly passionate and a powerful African feminist and thinker. Beyond her pursuits as an academic, activist and intellectual, Elaine was in essence someone who fully understood the meaning of being human. She displayed these qualities and attributes in all that she did. In the days since her death, tributes to her life and work have steadily conveyed a common theme. As one message declared, Elaine was a ‘kind force of nature for humanity’, and ‘like a comet, she drew many into her orbit where people felt her force’.

Those of us in the academic world who worked with Elaine in various capacities knew her as an ardent and passionate mentor, deeply concerned about people and her students. We exchanged emails about her request for assistance for a UP student who she knew. My question to her last year about how she was doing was left unanswered. In her usual style she was generous in her closing words: ‘Bless your heart, Vasu. Thanks so much for just being so supportive, with love’. Those words defined Elaine and Professor Salo.



Professor Elaine Rosa Salo was born on 20 June 1962 in the Northern Cape. She studied at the University of Cape Town from 1980 to 1984, completing a Bachelor of Social Sciences and a BA(Hons) in African Studies. At Clark University in Massachusetts (1984 – 1986) she completed an MA in International Development (Women's Studies) with a dissertation titled 'Invisible Lives: Filipina au pair workers in an Italian City'. In 2004 she graduated from Emory University's Department of Anthropology with a dissertation entitled 'Respectable mothers, tough men and good daughters: making persons in Mannenberg Township, South Africa'.

In her work, Elaine's was concerned mainly with achieving social and gender justice. She worked as a research officer at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town (1986–1987). Between 1988 and 1998 she was a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of the Western Cape. She also served as a director of the Gender Equity Unit at the University of the Western Cape (1998–1999). In 2000 she was appointed as a senior lecturer in the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town, where she remained until her appointment by the University of Pretoria as associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology and Director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies (2009–2013). Elaine was a passionate teacher and mentor. She taught courses on women's movements, gender and development, citizenship and the anthropology of gender and sexualities.

She left UP at the end of 2013 and in 2014 she joined the University of Delaware as associate professor in Political Science and International Relations, with a joint appointment in Women and Gender Studies. At Delaware she taught classes in water politics in the Global South, politics of transitional societies, and gender and politics.

On 4 June 2014 she presented a lecture at the Nordic Africa Institute titled 'Who is a moral person in South African township communities?' <http://www.nai.uu.se/news/articles/2014/06/04/160927/index.xml>

Until shortly before her death Elaine had led a very active life – a life well spent and enjoyed, with many happy times. In another tribute she was described as 'brilliant, beautiful, kind, with a wicked sense of humour and sharp commentary'.

Colleagues at the University of Delaware held a symposium earlier this year to discuss her role in and contributions to feminism and activism while drawing parallels between Salo's two homes: South Africa and the United States.

<http://udreview.com/salos-legacy-activism-in-the-united-states-and-south-africa/>

Elaine Salo's passing has left a void. Her commitment and academic revolutionary zeal combined with her humility and commitment to gender justice is a powerful reminder of the work yet to be done. Her contributions and life's work should serve as an inspiration to many of us.



## DR ENGELA VAN DER KLASHORST WINS ISSA GRADUATE PAPER AWARD (GPA)



Dr Engela van der Klashorst (Department of Sport and Leisure Studies) has won The International Sport Sociology Association (ISSA) Graduate Paper Award (GPA). The International Sport Sociology Association (ISSA) is the international scientific association for scholars in the field of sport sociology and seeks to contribute to our understanding of sport and also to inform policy that will make the sports experience less wasteful of lives and resources. The sociology of sport, while grounded in sociology, has always been much more of a social science of sport. In addition to sociology, work in the field encompasses history, political science, human geography, anthropology, social psychology and economics. The new off-shoots of sociology, such as cultural studies, media studies and gender studies, are also well represented in the field. The sociology of sport also seeks to critically examine common-sense views about the role, function and meaning of sports in different societies. By challenging 'natural' and taken-for-granted views about sport, sociologists seek to provide a more social and scientifically adequate account that can inform both the decisions and actions of people and the policy of governments, NGOs and sports organisations.

In the context of sport sciences, sociologists of sport seek to generate knowledge that will contribute to 'human development' as opposed to 'performance efficiency'. That is, they seek to critically examine the costs, benefits, limits and possibilities of modern sports for all those involved, rather than focus on the performance efficiency of elite athletes. Sociologists working with sociology departments examine sports in the same way they would examine religion, law or medicine – to highlight aspects of the general human condition.

### Graduate Paper Award (GPA)

The aim of the International Sociology of Sport Association's (ISSA) Graduate Paper Award is to recognise the scholarship of outstanding graduate students in the international sociology of sports community. The award is granted for a scholarly paper written by a graduate student, which is deemed by a panel of judges to demonstrate considerable originality, critical and analytical ability, and is deemed to be best of all the papers submitted. The topic of the paper must be of interest to the international sociology of sports community.

Dr Engela van der Klashorst is currently enrolled for a second PhD degree in Sport Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. Her paper titled 'Employment through sport: disregarding the socio-economic rights of youth leaders working in sport for development initiatives on grass-root level in South Africa' was awarded an A by a panel of six international sociology of sports scholars and was one of only two essays that went through to the final round of evaluation. Dr Van der Klashorst was declared the winner of the 2016 ISSA Graduate Paper Award. As part of her prize she will deliver her paper at the 2017 ISSA World Congress in Taiwan in June 2017, hold a press release in Taiwan and receive a book prize of £150.



## MAKING 'AFRICAN LANGUAGE' CONNECTIONS WITH AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

Professor Mpume Zondi (Head: African Languages) recently welcomed and hosted a group of seven senior students and Dr Joy Coates, Academic Specialist in African-American and African Studies (Michigan State University), who spent two weeks at the University of Pretoria. The connections between African Languages at UP and African-American and African Studies at Michigan State University was made possible by Thando Songwevu (Cultural Heritage Ambassador for South Africa, appointed by the Minister of Arts and Culture). During their stay students were exposed to African languages, translation and interpretation, and an exciting crash course in the isiZulu language, culture and literature, which was presented by members of the Department. Dr Coates expressed her appreciation of the warm welcome received by her group at UP and indicated that she was excited about sustaining the links and anticipated bringing a larger cohort of students to UP in 2018. Ungadinwa nangomuso!



ABOVE: Students and staff of the Department with the visitors of Michigan State University

RIGHT (from left to right): Dr Joy Coates, Professor Mpume Zondi, Thando Songwevu and Professor Vasu Reddy





## PROFESSOR RADA TIRVASSEN SERVES ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Professor Rada Tirvassen (HOD, Modern European Languages) was nominated by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie to serve on a scientific committee tasked with conducting a worldwide survey on the French language. The twelve leading Francophone sociolinguists who will serve on this committee will share their expertise in theoretical and methodological issues related to the assessment of the language. A report on the survey will be compiled and published in the form of a book to be made available to all tertiary institutions and governments of Francophone countries. This nomination is for a period of two to three years and nominees will attend and participate in regular scientific meetings.

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*Finally, as we wrap up the first semester, I would like to wish everyone in our Faculty the best and thank them for their commitment. If you are embarking on a winter break (including conferences), I hope that you will return rejuvenated for the spring.*

Thank you

*Vasu Reddy*

