



Friday Feel-Good News FACULTY OF EDUCATION

30 June 2023

UNESCO chair launch

The official launch of the UNESCO Chair on Multimodal Learning and Open Educational Resources took place on 15 June 2023. This auspicious event commenced with the introduction of the new chairholder, Prof Dorothy Laubscher, at the meet-and-greet sessions convened at the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU during the morning. These sessions were attended by the UNESCO delegation, including members from the Ndebele Kingdom, officials from the Department of Higher Education, NWU top management, the member of the NWU UNESCO Exco and the SDL Exco. Apart from promoting the visibility of the UNESCO chair, these sessions also facilitated networking and the sharing of ideas with the hope of further collaboration in the future.

A celebratory luncheon was then held at the Roots Lifestyle Centre, where the principal and vice-chancellor, Prof Bismark Tyobeka, formally introduced Prof Dorothy Laubscher, associate professor of Mathematics Education (SMSTE), as the UNESCO chairholder.

Congratulatory messages were delivered by Prof Jeffrey Mphahele, deputy vice-chancellor for Research and Innovation, and Mr Carlton Mukwevho, secretary-general of the South African National Commission for UNESCO. Prof Lloyd Conley, FEDU executive dean, delivered the vote of thanks. The guests were entertained during the course of the meal by our fourth-year student, Ms Khayakazi Mdlala, with her melodious renditions of "African Dream", "Hero" by Mariah Carey, and the traditional "Ave Maria". An enjoyable time was had by all.

A special thanks is extended to the NWU organising committee, members of the VC's office, CRM and the FEDU Office of the Dean for their dedication and hard work, which ensured the success of this event.



Education Library opening

The newly renovated Education Library on the Potchefstroom Campus was officially opened on 23 June 2023. Prof Lloyd Conley (executive dean of the Faculty of Education) and other dignitaries and staff from the Faculty of Education and the Library and Information Services attended. Prof Robert Balfour (deputy vice-chancellor for Teaching and Learning) and Prof Jeffrey Mphahlele (deputy vice-chancellor for Research and Innovation) cut the ribbon on this long-awaited occasion.

The renovated original building houses the book collection and quiet study spaces. Collaborative learning space for 128 people - including six seminar rooms for four people each, which can be booked by students for academic purposes - is in the new section. A computer lab with space for 89 computers is situated on the first floor. Printers, copiers and a scanner are also available.

We would like to thank Prof Conley and all the staff of the Faculty of Education for their ongoing support and patience while waiting for the building project to be completed. The staff of the Education Library are looking forward to supporting the faculty from home soil again.



Dr Byron Bunt at SDL



On 7 June, Dr Byron Bunt and Mr Lanc Bunt made a presentation to members of the NWU Technology Transfer and Innovation Support Services team - people with a variety of backgrounds whose primary job is to assist inventors in the university with the development and commercialisation of their inventions and creations. The first objective of the presentation was to see a live “performance” of the game Dogs of War (a World War II card game), led by the creators, to get a good “feel” for the game and to understand all the thoughts and considerations that went into the concept and design. In addition, the technology transfer team wanted to understand the rules better, which will enable them to do quick demonstrations to interested parties and stakeholders when the creators are not available.

There is growing excitement internationally about the impact and value that innovation from the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) can bring to society, and the gamification of education is also becoming a hot topic.

We would like to see Dogs of War contributing to both those discussions. In addition, we hope to attract the attention of investors and publishers in this segment, which could lead to a licence to publish and distribute the game internationally. The game is also part of an ongoing research project within the Research Unit for Self-Directed Learning in the Faculty of Education.

Congratulations to the following Edu-HRight colleagues on their achievements



Prof EK Niemczyk
was elected as editor of
SARE (South African Review
of Education)

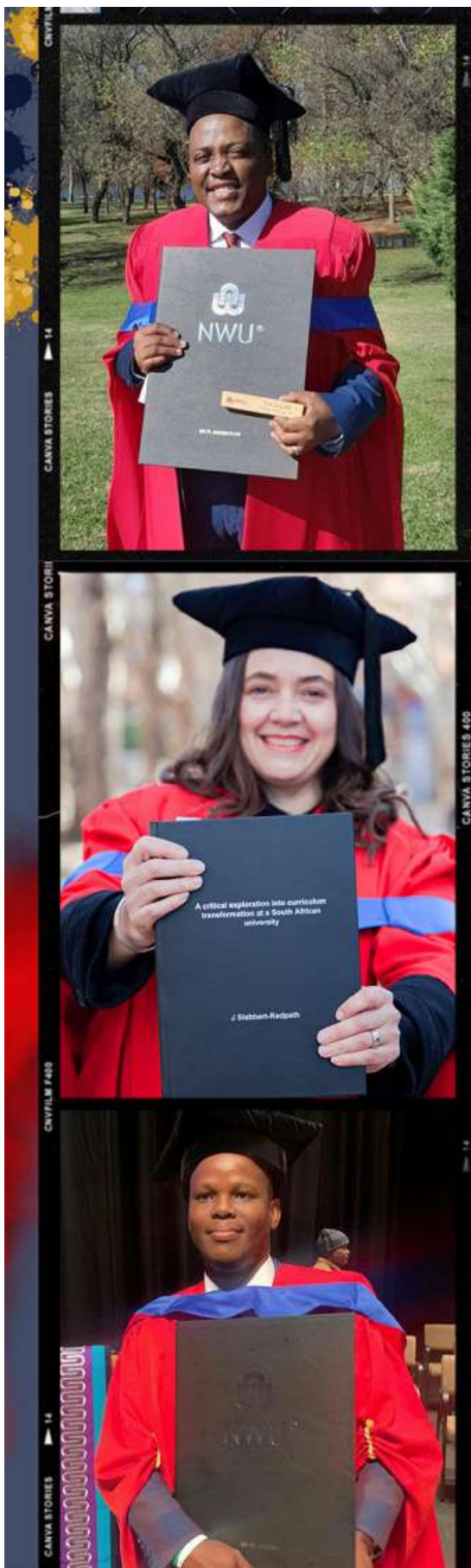


Prof SR Simmonds
was elected as editor-in-chief
of Transformation in
Higher Education



Dr ZL de Beer
was elected as co-editor
of SARE (South African
Review of Education)

NWU Graduations



NWU GRADUATIONS!

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Congratulate to all the Promoters / Co-Promoters & Supervisors on their excellent supervision of all graduates.

**Dr Phefo Mokgathe -
School of Professional
Studies in Education (ROE)**



**Dr Jackie Slabbert Redpath
Qualifications and
Academic Programme
Planning (QAPP) (SDL)**



**Dr Gordon Sekano
School of
Mathematics, Science
& Technology
Education (SDL)**

Storytelling for the holistic development of young children

Dr Hantie Theron believes that storytelling promotes brain development, allows children to experience different worlds, stimulates creative thinking skills, encourages language and emotional development and strengthens social skills. On Friday, 9 June, she visited the two centres in the Tlotanang project (funded by the NRF) to demonstrate how storytelling promotes the holistic development of young children. On Saturday, 10 June, practitioners from Fadimehang Day Care and Bohang Bana Pele Pre-School (Motheo district, Free State) attended a workshop where they could apply these principles of storytelling in a practical way. Practitioners also had the opportunity to make up their own stories using paper bag puppets. The focus of the session was specifically on ways to use storytelling as a medium for understanding the complexities in the lives of young children living with disabilities.

In addition, Dr Sekanse Ntsala (collaborator from the UFS) and Dr Seipati Baloyi-Mothibeli (collaborator from DBE Free State) explained how to use the art of digital storytelling in the early years.



Entrepreneurial Learning workshop presented on 6 June 2023

On Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 33 lecturers from the Faculty of Education attended the Entrepreneurial Learning workshop presented by the Education for Entrepreneurship and Employability Task Team (EEETT) from the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the E-Cubed (E3) team from the Department of Basic Education.

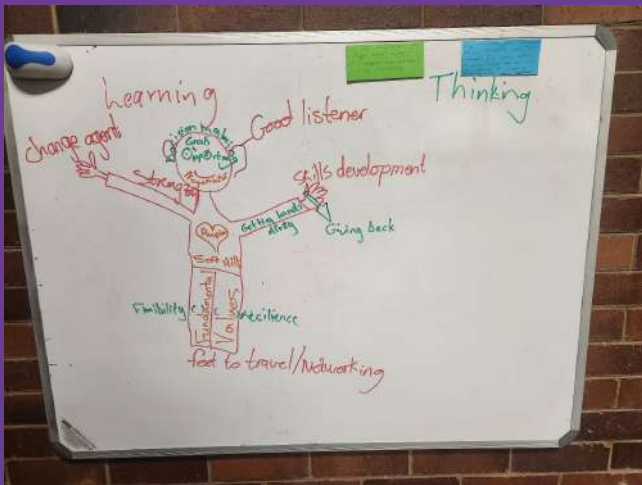
The purpose of the workshop was to contribute to a shared understanding of what entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial learning entail and to help lecturers think about how they can best prepare their students for the requirements of the DBE's Entrepreneurship in Schools (EiS) sector plan. Dr Ria de Villiers was the keynote presenter, and she presented the DBE-E3 vision on how to better prepare learners with skills and mindsets for a changing world, as well as the approach to embedding this in school practice. Information regarding the General Education Certificate (GEC) was also shared, as it is currently being piloted by the DBE.



Members of the FEDU EEET, Dr Merna Meyer, Mrs Linda Hesse, Mr Hendrik du Plessis, Dr Adri du Toit and Mrs Danél Kruger, shared how they have incorporated entrepreneurial learning in their respective disciplines and modules. An interactive activity among participants supported them in realising that entrepreneurship is not only about business creation and profit maximisation, but the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset that is solution-seeking and focused on adding value to the lives of others.

Participants reported that they enjoyed the workshop and obtained a variety of ideas on how to incorporate entrepreneurial learning in their modules, as this will aid in better preparing our future teachers for a fast-changing, volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world.

The resources from the Entrepreneurial Learning workshop can be accessed here: <https://nextcloud.nwu.ac.za/index.php/s/DmmWdrZSZZNYbdY>



Prof Liam Gearon (Oxford University) Extraordinary professor, Edu-HRight Academic visit 5-10 June 2023

6 June

Prestige online lecture to faculty:
“UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Religion, Education
and Cultural Materiality”

7 June

Edu-HRight Discourse
“Engineers of the Human Soul Revisited”
Citizenship and diverse contexts

8 and 9 June

Workshops with master’s-degree and doctoral students
One-on-one sessions between students and Prof Gearon



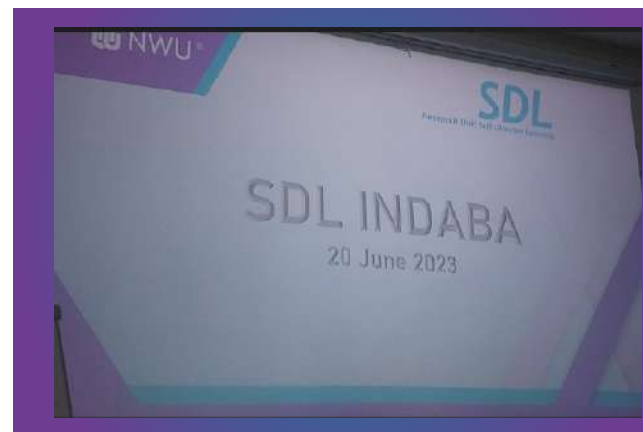
From Left: Prof Gearon, Prof Simmonds,
Prof Conley, Dr Postma,
Dr Visser & Prof Dudu



Exciting SDL Research Indaba at The Roots: fostering collaboration and innovation

The SDL research unit recently held its first Research Indaba at The Roots on 20 June and it was a resounding success, bringing together colleagues from various subareas for a productive day, providing a platform for researchers to meet face to face, exchange ideas and forge collaborations.

Kicking off the indaba was the unit’s annual meeting, which set the stage for the day’s activities. Colleagues gathered in anticipation, eager to connect with one another and delve into the exciting research projects that lay ahead. The atmosphere was abuzz with enthusiasm and anticipation, as everyone recognised the value of this in-person gathering.





Following the annual meeting, participants gathered around round tables organised by different subareas. This format ensured that each subarea had dedicated time to discuss specific research topics, challenges, and opportunities. The round-table discussions proved to be an invaluable platform for colleagues to engage with one another, exchange ideas and explore potential collaborations. Looking ahead, the unit is eager to build upon the momentum generated by the indaba.

Empowering students through self-directed learning: Prof Mentz's presentation in Paris

Prof Elsa Mentz recently delivered a compelling presentation at the EPF Engineering School in Paris, France, shedding light on the art of empowering students in their self-directed learning journeys.

