ALASA NEWS LETTER

UMBIKO KA-ALASA

ALASA NUUSBRIEF

Newsletter No. 7  October 2014  Professor Sihawukele Ngubane
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1. EDITORIAL

This is the first volume in 2014 as part of the continued bulletin for ALASA. The newsletter is published once a year due to the scarcity of current news and some members of ALASA are not keen to share their accomplishment. I wish to encourage the membership to share joys and grief as part of the African Philosophy of Ubuntu. As members of ALASA we are somehow a family and we want to practise that. This decision is subject to change once we have established a positive response from colleagues.

On behalf of the ALASA team we wish to convey our sincere gratitude to Dr Hoza and her team for the 18th Interim Conference of the African Languages Association of Southern Africa, “Reclaiming our Heritage through Language”. Nangamso!

It is my great pleasure to share with you the latest news of our colleagues in the African Languages Departments. As we are all aware that the deadline for submission of news was the end of September, we could not wait further for other colleagues to submit. I do believe that in the next issue we will have more interesting news.

Enjoy reading.

Message from the Editor:
Professor Sihawukele Ngubane
Deputy Chairperson: ALASA
“African Languages Association of Southern Africa is committed towards
2. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA: DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES

2.1 Bereavement

It is with sadness that the African Languages fraternity took note of the passing of Prof. JA Louw, founder member of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) in 1979; and honorary member since 1989. Prof. Louw was associated with the Department for more than 30 years. Please see the obituary below.

2.2 Staff matters

The staff component of the Department of African Languages, UNISA currently comprises 28 permanent academics, 3 academics on contract and 1 postgraduate research assistant.

*Academic qualifications achieved:*
Ms KY Ladzani graduates with a DLitt et Phil on 10 September 2014

2.3 Promotions

Prof. CD Ntuli (associate professor)
Mr JO Nene (lecturer)
Ms TM Monyakane (lecturer)

*New academic appointments during the past year:*
Ms C Khoza (Xitsonga)
Dr I Kock (Sesotho)
Ms M Mahwasane (Tshivenda) – postgraduate research assistant
Ms NJ Malele (isiNdebele)
Ms JN Malobola-Ndlovu (isiNdebele)
Ms LR Mfazwe-Mojapelo (isiXhosa)
Mr OJ Mokakale (Setswana)
2.4 Retirement
At the end of June 2014, the Department took leave of Dr TN Ranamane, who retired after 34 years of service at UNISA.

Editorial assistant:
UNISA’s Research Directorate financed the re-appointment of an editorial assistant, Ms Mariette Harcombe, to support the Scientific Editor of the South African Journal of African Languages (SAJAL), Prof. Inge Kosch. Ms Harcombe continues creating plagiarism awareness by checking all submitted articles with the Turnitin academic plagiarism checker technology.

2.5 Tuition matters
The Department of African Languages, UNISA, is proud to announce that it has become the only department in the country to offer undergraduate tuition in ALL nine of the official African languages, namely isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Sesotho sa Leboa (Sepedi), Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga.

2.6 Awards

- The Commonwealth of Learning (CoL) Award for Excellence for Distance Education Materials was awarded for a module in the Dept. of African Languages, namely Language through an African lens, which forms part of the Bachelor of Arts Programme offered by the College of Human Sciences. This award was developed to recognise significant achievements by institutions throughout the commonwealth for their innovative and effective application of appropriate learning technologies. UNISA was one of three commonwealth institutions selected for this award and received it during the Seventh Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF7) held in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2013. Dr Jurie Le Roux, module coordinator, received the award on behalf of the Department.
• **Prof TM Sengani** was recently awarded the 2014 Linguistics Prize at the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) conference in Umtata. The title of his winning article is *Controversies around the So-called Alliterative Concord in African Languages: A Critical Language Awareness on Communicative Competence with Specific Reference to Tshivenda*. The article appeared in Vol. 33(2) 2013 of the ‘South African Journal of African Languages’.

Prof. Sengani said that winning the award will allow most African scholars to see the importance of merging theories of grammar and theories of languages. He further explained that when scholars deal with African languages in a broader context, they immediately see the importance of language in business, law, politics and journalism.


2.7 Conferences

2.7.1 **African Wordnets at the Global Wordnet Conference in Tartu, Estonia**

The biennial Global Wordnet Conferences aim to bring together linguists, computer linguists and language technologists who are interested in the connections of language and computers. The 7th Global Wordnet Conference (http://gwc2014.ut.ee) was recently held at the University of Tartu in Estonia. It was an invaluable learning and networking opportunity for members of the African Wordnet Project, funded by UNISA’s Women in Research Fund. Three of the project team members – Dr Mampaka Mojaeplo (linguist), Prof. Sonja Bosch (project leader) and Ms Marissa Griesel (project manager) had the privilege of discussing problems and challenges faced in this...
relatively new project with international experts such as Prof. Christiane Fellbaum (Princeton Wordnet), Prof. Piek Vossen (Dutch Wordnet) and Prof. Zygmunt Vetulani (Polish Wordnet). These discussions around a steaming pot of soup in the icy winter weather not only confirmed the relevance of the African Wordnet project to human language technology (HLT) in South Africa and for the African languages, but also brought new insights with regard to the best methods for developing wordnets and for creating a resource of international standard.

Two papers dealing with the African wordnets were also delivered. Dr Mojapelo's paper dealt with unique linguistic challenges encountered while working on the Northern Sotho (Sepedi or Sesotho sa Leboa) wordnet and was entitled Morphosyntactic discrepancies in representing the adjective equivalent in African WordNet with reference to Northern Sotho. This paper was met with great enthusiasm, especially since it gave a clear account of some of the unique aspects of an African language. The second paper was presented by Prof. Bosch and Ms Griesel and aimed at reflecting on the past 5 years of development in this project. The paper, entitled Taking stock of the African Wordnet project: 5 years of development, highlighted some of the decisions made and experiments done to ensure a culturally relevant, but internationally accepted resource. Many other smaller, less resourced languages were also represented at the conference and the team received valuable feedback from other attendees who had overcome similar challenges.

Furthermore, Prof. Bosch who had been invited to serve as member of the programme committee also participated in an international panel discussion on Cross-Language Mapping Semantics by making a contribution on challenges experienced with cross-lingual mapping in the African Wordnet. The panel was moderated by Prof. Mustafa Jarrar (Birziet University) and sponsored by the SIERA project (EU-FP7 No. 295006).

Apart from the serious conference business, our hosts ensured that each participant had the opportunity to experience Estonian hospitality and culture during our stay in the university city of Tartu. We were first welcomed with a pair of woollen socks to keep the feet happy in -20°C weather, and the social programme included a guided walking tour of Tartu followed by a traditional meal in an old gun powder cellar. This dinner also showcased traditional Estonian music and dancing, in which conference goers eagerly participated.
Ms Marissa Griesel, Prof Sonja Bosch, Prof Christiane Fellbaum & Dr Mampaka Mojapelo

Prof J A LOUW

13 February 1923 – 9 April 2014
Tribute

We give thanks for a life dedicated to ascend insurmountable heights, a giant who left an unsurpassed legacy as a person and as an academic. We treasure the memory of Prof. JA Louw, mentor, pioneer, role-player and leader who was an inspiration to many.

His former colleagues at the University of South Africa (Unisa), where he served as Head of the Department of African Languages from 1973 until 1987, echo the sentiments expressed by staff members on receiving the news that Prof Louw had passed away:

If there was any scholar whose life deserves to be celebrated by the Unisa academicians for dedicating his whole life to the development of African Languages, it should be Professor Louw. A man who lived his convictions to the full, a determined researcher, particularly of the intricate isiXhosa word tonal patterns and an epitome of single-mindedness. May his soul rest in peace. (Kholisa Podile)

A brutally honest, sincere and loving friend – Prof Louw was very much his own person. When I joined Unisa in January 1974 as the only woman in the Department of African Languages, I became Prof Louw's unofficial wife and comrade! Our times together both socially and academically were always special. His departure has certainly left a void which will be difficult to fill.

(Rosalie Finlayson)

Of his many achievements only a few are singled out here:

MA degree (1948) with Prof B.I.C. van Eeden as supervisor; Doctoral degree (1963) with Prof D. Ziervogel as promoter; publication of a Xhosa handbook (1964); active participation in the Khoisan Special Interest group (1975-1987); numerous publications in journals and chapters in books and Festschrifts on inter alia syntax, nomenclature, phonetics, phonology and tonology in Zulu, Xhosa and Tsonga in particular; supervision of many postgraduate students.
During his tenure as Head of the Department of African Languages he gave the department an international visibility by inviting renowned scholars from abroad to share their expertise with colleagues and students. He also visited international conferences and universities where he delivered papers or did research. It was a matter of great importance to him to introduce the use of the computer in the department. After his retirement in 1988 he continued working unabated on a grammar and dictionary of Xhosa on which research is currently being done in the department.

Prof Louw will be remembered not only as an astute academic but also as a mover and shaker: after a long struggle by him and his predecessor, Prof Ziervogel, he succeeded in formalising academic status for Black staff members; he was instrumental in founding the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) in 1979 that went from strength to strength in the past 35 years, with its own accredited journal, the South African Journal of African Languages (SAJAL). In 1989 honorary membership of ALASA was conferred on Prof Louw.

3. PROFESSOR NHLANHLA MAAKE

Nhlanhla Maake’s novel, *Letters to my Sister* (Ekaam Books, 2012), translated by himself from the Sesotho, *Mangolo a Nnake* (Heinemann, 1995), was awarded the Literary Translators Award (2013) by the South African Literary Awards (SALA). The previous year his novel, *Manong a Lapile* (Ekaam Books, 2012), was awarded both the MNET Book Prize (Sesotho) and the Sello K. Duiker Memorial award.

Nhlanhla has been appointed research fellow at Unisa in the School of Social Sciences since January 2013. He is currently guest Professor in the Drama Department at the University of Pretoria. He has been serving on the Arts, Culture, National Heritage and Environment Distribution Agency of the National Lottery Board.
In September 2013 Maake delivered keynote a address and ran a workshop with Grade 12 Sesotho literature teachers at the Macufe Wordfest in Bloemfontein, and a keynote address at a Unisa Arts Conference. The address was entitled: ‘Archetypes and stereotypes in the humanistic aesthetics: The Arts as the centre [essence] of human consciousness.’


4. NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

Dr. RAPHAEL MOTLALEPULA THUUBE, has acquired a PhD degree in Language & Linguistics at the National University of Lesotho. The degree was conferred in 2012. My research specifically focused on the relationship between linguistic problems and healthcare outcomes in cross-linguistic medical encounters in Lesotho hospitals. We wish to congratulate Dr Thuube on the attainment of a PhD degree.

5. UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The discipline of African Languages has rolled out isiZulu to the University for the first time in 2014 as per Senate decision to make isiZulu compulsory. Although we have experienced teething problems the move has resulted in both student and staff growth. First years mother-tongue students have grown from 100 to 500 for the Introduction to IsiZulu module and the Basic Course has over one thousand students in all five campuses. We welcome new staff members to the School: Ms Phindile Dlamini and Mlungisi Nzama. Mr Rajab Chipila has joined the School last year and introduced Kiswahili and we are proud to announce that the response is positive.
5.1 Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa

On the positive note Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, Dean of Teaching and Learning in the College of Humanities, Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the prestigious International Congress of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) from 2014 to 2017. ICOS is an international scholarly body which deals with the study of names, naming and naming systems. The elections took place at the 25th ICOS that was held at the University of Glasgow in August. Hlongwa is the only onomastic scholar outside North America and Europe who was elected to the board. She is an ambassador of the African continent on the board. Hlongwa follows in the footsteps of Professor Adrian Koopman, who was the first scholar elected to serve on the ICOS Board of Directors. Hlongwa is also the Editorial Secretary of Nomina Africana Journal.

5.2 Professor Mathonsi has been elected as the new NSA President and I wish to congratulate him on this achievement.

5.3 Professor Ngubane has been elected to DALRO Executive Board as from September, 2014. Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation (DALRO) is a copyright asset management agency. It was established in 1967 and administers various aspects of copyright on behalf of authors, artists and publishers. DALRO has been supporting ALASA financially over many years and Prof Ngubane feels his presence there will sustain our partnership. He has also become a member of the International Authors Forum that discusses and shares knowledge on various issues relevant to authors across the world. Professor Ngubane has presented papers at the following conferences in 2014:

1. 18th Interim Conference of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) at Walter Sisulu University, uMthatha on 30th June – 2nd July, 2014.

5.4 Prof. AM Maphumulo

It has been a busy year in terms of conference attendance this year. The following are the conferences I attended:

1. Attended the 12th International Conference on New Directions in Humanities at CEU San Pablo University, Madrid, Spain on 11 – 13 June, 2014. Delivered a paper titled:
   “Mazisi Kunene and his legacy as “IMbongi Yesizwe” as reflected in his isiZulu poetry”.

2. Attended the 18th Interim Conference of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA) at Walter Sisulu University, uMthatha on 30th June – 2nd July, 2014. Delivered a paper titled:
   “The singing of the dragon: The poetic features of isiZulu haiku written by ZLM Khumalo and JJ Thwala”.

3. Attended the International Conference on African Languages and Literatures in the 21st Century, at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya on 6 – 8 August. Delivered a paper titled:
   “A sociolinguistic analysis of a contemporary tsotsitaal poem titled, “Ek honeni” by Siyabonga Sikhakhane”.

4. Attended the International Translation Day Celebration 2014 organized by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Language services, held at Ulundi Legislative Assembly, Ulundi on 2 – 3 October, 2014. Delivered a paper titled:
   “Some aspects of editing official, academic and creative writing”.
On a sad note note one of our staff members, Dr Bonisiwe Zungu has left us for the University of Fort Hare with effect from November, 2014. We wish her well in the new position.

Mr Msawakhe “Mashasha” who is one of our members from Pietermaritzburg for many years has passed on. May his soul rest in peace.

6. ALASA CONFERENCE: UNIVERSITY OF WALTER SISULU

ALASA held a successful Conference in the Eastern Cape which was well attended. The theme was: Reclaiming our Heritage through Language. The Key-note speakers were: Ms Sindiwe Magona and Professor Kwesi Kwa Prah. Brief notes about our Key-note speakers:

6.1 Professor Kwesi Prah

Kwesi Kwaa Prah is the Director of the Africa-wide Centre for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS) based in Cape Town, South Africa. He has worked extensively across Africa, Europe and Asia researching and teaching Sociology and Anthropology in various universities including Makerere University, Uganda; University of Botswana and Swaziland; University of Juba, Sudan; Cape Coast University, Ghana; National University of Lesotho; University of Namibia; University of the Western Cape, South Africa; University of Heidelberg, Germany; the Amsterdam Municipal University, in the Netherlands and The Institute for West Asian and African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in China. Kwesi Kwaa Prah has also been a Visiting Nuffield Foundation Fellow and Associate at the Centre for African Studies, and Darwin College, Cambridge University.

Promoting African Languages in a multilingual society of Southern Africa

(2006), *Anthropological Prisms* (2009) and *Soundings* (2010). Some of these books have been translated into French, Chinese and Arabic.
Dr Sindiwe Magona

Dr Sindiwe Magona is a graduate of Columbia University and the official biographer of Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane. She is an author, poet, playwright, story-teller, actor, and inspirational speaker. Retired from the United Nations, where she worked in the Anti-Apartheid Radio Programmes till June 1994, and for the UN till her retirement, end of 2003. After twenty-five years in New York, Magona relocated to her home country, South Africa. She is currently Writer-in-Residence at the University of the Western Cape.

Her published Works include: Two autobiographical books: To My Children’s Children and Forced to Grow; two collections of short stories: Living, Loving, and Lying Awake at Night (Voted one of Africa’s 100 Best Books); Push-Push and Other Stories; two novels: Mother to Mother, which has been optioned by Universal Studios for a film on the life of Amy Biehl and Beauty’s Gift, shortlisted for the 2009 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize and received The White Ribbon Award from Women Demand Dignity. Both To My Children’s Children and Mother to Mother have been shortlisted for numerous awards. Please, take photographs! a book of poetry, Modjaji Books (2009), and Awam Ngqo, a book of short stories published by NASOU (2009) and prescribed for Grade 8, 2011.

Children’s Books she has published: Magona has written over a 100 children’s books, 40 available in all eleven official languages. The Best Meal Ever and Life is a hard but beautiful thing; available in English, Afrikaans, and isiXhosa; and the first real children’s series in isiXhosa – SIGALELEKILE as well as many of the books in another series, SIYAKHULA. Magona has written several Radio plays in both English and isiXhosa, which have been broadcast.

Compilation: You Pay For The View – Maskew Miller Longman (2009)

**VUKANI!** An Aids play has been performed in Colleges, Churches, and theatres in the United States, at the Masque Theatre and Artscape, in Cape Town; has been published in isiXhosa.

*Mother to Mother* – the stage play, was performed at the Baxter Theatre, September 2009

*Beauty’s Gift* – has been adapted to a musical.

### 6.2 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS
7. DEVELOPMENTS AT NISC

7.1. New Premises
Much has changed over the past 12 months at NISC. At the end of December 2013 we moved into our new long term home at 4 Speke Street. This was the culmination of months of searching for suitable premises and we were very fortunate to find a property that suited our needs with business rights, a dedicated dispatch area, room for future growth and a conducive environment in which to work. On 28 March we held an official launch for our new building.

7.2. Rebranding NISC
In 2014 we also began a new rebranding process which involved a redesign of the NISC Logo and all stationary. We have opened new social media pages on Twitter (@NISC_Pub), Facebook, Linkedin and Google Plus. Please alert us to any of your own social media pages so that we can follow each other and keep up to date with current happenings. We are currently putting the finishing touches on our new NISC website which aims among other things to give prospective authors a more informative user-friendly experience. There will be a dedicated mobile version of the site once the standard one is launched.

7.3 Taylor & Francis and other collaborations
Our publishing collaboration with Taylor & Francis continues to be mutually beneficial and our journals have benefited from involvement in their programs. In October 2013 we participated in the Taylor & Francis Editorial Indaba held in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The themes of these indabas were:

- Metrics, Marketing and Media
- The role of the Editor and the Learned Society or Professional Association
- Open Access

The next Editorial Indaba series is planned for the first quarter of 2015. We hope to bring the Indabas to Durban as well next year to give editors there an opportunity to attend as well as involving more stakeholders from the research administration environment. We are excited by several other collaboration opportunities that are currently being finalised and we expect to add several new journals to our list in the coming months.
7.4 Subscriptions and Accessibility

7.4.1. Society member subscriptions

The total number of society members increased substantially in 2013, we are hopeful that the Societies are able to sustain this growth.

ALASA SA 114 136
ALASA African 8 15
ALASA RoW 5 7
TOTAL 127 158

7.5 Core subscriptions

Core subscribers are those individuals or institutions that subscribe directly to the journal through NISC or Taylor & Francis (as opposed to a part of a journal collections – see below). Maintaining these subscriptions is quite a challenge as many libraries are cancelling single title subscriptions in favour of accessing large collections of journals.

SA Institution 20 13
African Institution 1 1
RoW institution 7 7
SA Individual 2
TOTAL 28 23

7.6 Access through journal collections

Many librarians are choosing to subscribe to large collections of journals through consortium deals where they get each journal subscription at a fraction of the regular price but subscribe to a lot more journals than they would ordinarily. We are constantly looking for creative ways of packaging our journals to make them available through journal collections.

Institutions with access via journal T&F collections: 2015
The journal is also available on EBSCOHost. EBSCO journal databases provide an alternative route for accessing journal content. Over 6000 institutions access journals through this route. However, many of these are smaller institutions that are less focused on research (such as community colleges) and not every institution has access to the whole EBSCO journal collection. In addition, the journal is available free of charge in over 3 500 libraries through philanthropic initiatives such as Research4Life and INASP. The journal is also available free of charge in low income regions through AJOL who currently have more than 150 000 registered users.

7.7 Open Access

The Open Access movement is slowly gaining traction around the world but is currently mostly driven by librarians and not researchers. Nevertheless, NISC has embraced these changes and was the first South African publisher to offer a Gold Open Access option on our subscription-based journals. Gold Open Access enables authors to publish their articles Open Access in any of our subscription journals for a set fee. Discounted fees are available for African authors. Further details are available on the NISC website:


We also have a comprehensive Green Open Access option. This enables Authors to post certain versions of their article on an institutional repository or personal website. Further details are available here:

http://www.nisc.co.za/Posting%20to%20Institutional%20Repositories.pdf

7.8 Marketing

Both NISC and T&F run several targeted marketing campaigns every year to attract the attention of relevant researchers from around the world. Every year we promote selected articles with windows of free access. Promotions are also run at certain times of the year offering researchers the opportunity to log onto the journals online home and register for 14 days free access to the journal. Articles from the journal were included in the ‘What’s Trending in Language & Linguistics?’ campaign which featured the most popular and highly cited articles from our Language and Linguistic Studies journals.
This promotion resulted in 73 full-text downloads from the journal. A number of articles from the journal have also been included in a collection on Language in Africa which was launched in November 2013. T&F have promoted the journal as widely as possible using their online communication channels. These include a bimonthly bulletin that they recently included a link to the journal from social media and adverts on journal homepages. South African Journal of African Languages is included in our free access promotion in which users are offered 14 days free online access to the previous 2 volumes of the journal. This promotion was offered last year and printed postcards were sent to conferences. We have renewed this for 2014.

8. NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Members who have graduated:

Dr Rethabile Possa received her Doctorate at UNISA in October 2013.

Staff members who are tying knots:

Mr. Zukile Jama tied the knot during the month of September 2014.

Members on sabbatical leave: Dr Tessa Dowling (July-December 2014)

New Course Introduced:

Sesotho Communication has now been extended to 2nd year for the first time in 21 years. We hope that this is the beginning of a new major.
Research activities where ALASA members are participating:

Associate Professor Abner Nyamende at Shandong Jiaotong University, China, with his hosts. From left to right: Professor Xu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Associate Professor Abner Nyamende; Professor Zeng, Deputy Dean of the Language Faculty.

Associate Professor Abner Nyamende and Mr Zukile Jama have been appointed to serve as members of the Pan South African Language Board.

Nomination to folklore panel

The Department of Basic Education nominated Rethabile Possa to the panel of experts working on the implementation of Folklore in Grade 12, as part of that department's commitment to the development of a national catalogue for Grade 12 Folklore anthologies.

Dr Possa has also been active in providing some comments and feedback regarding cultural misinterpretation or misrepresentation. One of the highlights is her response to the famous “Minister’s buttocks remark not literal” where she pointed out that “To fight with her buttocks wasn’t literally what Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane meant, but that doesn’t mean she wasn’t being inappropriate”. For further discussion and comments on this issue follow the link below:

Samsung mobile innovation lab hosts unique African language Apps

Professor Jean-Paul Van Belle (Commerce) and Dr Tessa Dowling (Humanities) test the apps outside the Samsung Mobile Innovation Lab located on upper campus. - See more at: http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/news/samsung-mobile-innovation-lab-hosts-unique-african-language-apps#sthash.xWVcJLdr.dpuf

Experience–enriching conference attendance

This year the UCT team travelled with 4 Postgraduate students to give them an opportunity and exposure to engage and share with the experts in the field. This was a memorable event for all of us and we look forward to the next ALASA Conference
Publications for 2013/2014


Deyi, S. 2014. Second language repertoires: Reflecting on teaching isiXhosa to medical students. US-CHINA English Teaching ISSN 1539-8080 11(3) (Serial Number 123); David Publishing.


9. NEWS FROM RHODES UNIVERSITY

9.1 Conferences and Travels

The African Language Studies Section in the School of Languages in collaboration with the NRF SARChI Chair in the Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education recently hosted the International Conference of the Southern African Folklore Society and AGM. The theme of the conference was *“I think what I am”: Heritage, Identity and Social Cohesion.* It was a wonderful, relaxed, intellectually stimulating and fun conference with excellent Keynote Addresses by Professor Ruth Finnegan (Open University, UK) and Professor Ekkehard Wolff (Leipzig, Germany). It is envisaged that a selection of papers presented will be collated into a special edition of the Journal. Professor George Mugovhani from TUT was elected as the incoming Chairperson of SAFOS.

As you can see from the photos below it was an exciting and fun conference!

- Prof. Ruth Finnegan thanking the imbongi (Dumisa Mphupha) who sang her praises.
- Dr. Maseko and Prof. Wolff doing the jig.

Prof Ruth Finnegan thanking the imbongi (Dumisa Mphupha) who sang her praises.
Dr Pamela Maseko and colleagues also attended the **ALASA Conference at WSU** in July and papers were presented by most colleagues and senior students, including Hleze Kunju, Zakeera Docrat, Kea Seshoka, Dr Mhlobo Jadezweni and Prof Russell Kaschula.

Prof Kaschula and Hleze Kunju also travelled to the **Ivory Coast** where they attended the biennial **International Society for Oral Literature in Africa (ISOLA) conference**. They are presently preparing their papers for publication. As you can see below the conference was “serious business”!
Further selected conferences attended by colleagues from Rhodes included the following:


2014: (Kaschula) Keynote Address. ‘Multilingualism in Higher Education: Reading the change.’ 12-14 September. 9th annual Reading Association of South Africa conference, Rhodes University.


9.2 RHODES LAUNCHES REVISED LANGUAGE POLICY AT ANNUAL MULTILINGUALISM COLLOQUIUM

Colleagues from African Language Studies and the Rhodes Language Committee helped to revise the University Language Policy which was launched at the Annual Multilingualism Awareness Colloquium hosted by the Rhodes Language Committee, chaired by Prof Kaschula. The colloquium was addressed by Professor Wolff who spoke about the challenges facing universities across the continent in terms of effectively harnessing multilingualism as a resource to be used in the lecture halls. The multilingualism creative writing competition was won by Zion Eyes Onceya for his poem on Eastern Cape Heroes: Past and Present. He performed a praise poem in honour of Nelson Mandela and other Eastern Cape leaders.

In essence the revised Language Policy highlights the following in relation to Rhodes University as indicated in the Preamble to the Policy:

**PREAMBLE**

This review of the policy is based on a campus-wide survey and the recommendations of the Language Committee in 2013.
In line with Section 6 of the Constitution of 1996, with the 2012 Use of Official Languages Act and with the guidelines laid down by the Council on Higher Education, this Policy is concerned with the development and promotion of respect for all languages used by South Africans, and in particular, with the equitable use of the official provincial languages at Rhodes University.

The policy recognises that South Africa is a multilingual country and that Rhodes University reflects this multilingual diversity. It also recognises that language has the potential to contribute to transformation in various ways. The policy therefore seeks to facilitate exploring the ways this could occur at Rhodes through dynamic, collaborative partnerships and approaches to language use and the awareness of language issues in higher education.

The policy supports English as the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) but is also committed to simultaneously promoting multilingualism, a possible paradox that has to be carefully managed.

The policy is committed to the intellectualisation of African languages and creating the conditions for the use of particularly isiXhosa as a language of learning and eventually also teaching.

This policy is intended to be a living document which continually responds to the University language needs and may require regular revision.

POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY DECLARATION:

The Language Policy of Rhodes University is predicated on the following principles. The University is committed:

- To according equal esteem to all official languages and developing and promoting all official languages in South Africa;
- To ensuring that language should not act as a barrier to equity of access, opportunity and success;
- To promoting multilingualism and the intellectualisation of African languages, and
• To creating the conditions for the use of particularly isiXhosa as a language of learning and eventually also teaching;
• To widely distributing this policy to all members of the University community, and including it in appropriate form in the University Calendar and on the University website. Deans and Heads of Departments, Schools, Centres, Institutes and Units and Administrative Divisions will be required to discuss the policy with academic and support staff.

The University will seek to adopt a wide range of strategies that will enhance its multilingual character.

In the light of historical conditions and contemporary realities, in the foreseeable future:
• The University's language of Learning and Teaching will be English (except in academic departments where languages other than English are taught as subjects);
• The University official business will be conducted in English;
• The official language of record at Rhodes University will be English;
• Selected signage on campus will be trilingual in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa.

9. 3 PUBLICATIONS, THESES AND NEWS FROM STAFF

Professor Ekkehard Wolff from Leipzig University is presently a visiting professor with the NRF SARChI Chair in the African Language Studies Section of the School of Languages. Prof Wolff is with us for 6 months and he is working with senior students and has presented a number of papers at Rhodes: These include a Keynote Address at the SAFOS Conference, the Annual Multilingualism Awareness Lecture as well as a Humanities Lecture. The aim of these presentations is to create a consciousness around multilingualism at Rhodes and other universities. Profs Wolff and Kaschula are also in the final stages of editing a book on Additional Language Teaching in Africa. It is hoped that the book will appear in 2015.

Prof Kaschula presented papers at CPUT and UJ and related experiences from Rhodes regarding multilingualism and the revising of the University Language Policy. He also published, together with Andre Mostert (our Research Associate from the UK) the following article:

**Dr Pam Maseko** published a chapter entitled “Multilingualism at work in South African Higher Education: From Policy to Practice” in Hibbert and van der Walt’s recent work: *Multilingual Universities in South Africa* published by Multilingual Matters. **Prof Kaschula** published a chapter on scholarship at South African universities in a book edited by Wolff and Altmayer entitled *Africa: Challenges of Multilingualism* published by Peter Lang in Germany. **Dr Dion Nkomo** contributed and edited a book in honour of the work of Professor Rufus Gouws and he was part of the AFRILEX Conference Organising Committee for 2014 as well as 2015, while **Ntosh Mazwi** published an article on SEK Mqhayi in *SAJAL*. **Dr Jadezweni** awaits publication of a number of articles from his PhD thesis. **Mrs Bulelwa Nosilela** is working on her PhD. **Hleze Kunju** is working on his PhD and he has a number of articles submitted for publication. **Msindisi Sam** is working on a book which deals with ICT terminology creation in isiXhosa.

Finally, the following senior students graduated earlier this year:


Thank you for sharing with us: Mrs Bulelwa Nosilela (Subject Head); Prof Russell Kaschula (NRF SARChI Chair); Drs Mhlobo Jadezweni Dion Nkomo & Pamela Maseko (Senior Lecturers); Ntosh Mazwi, Msindisi Sam and Hleze Kunju (Lecturers).
10. BREAKING NEWS

“CAPE PENINSULA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IS HOSTING ALASA CONFERENCE LAST WEEK OF JUNE, 2015. WE WISH DR MONWABISI RALARALA ALL THE BEST IN MAKING THE CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS”

THE END.