



JUNE 2019

Top performing MBAs awarded



Prof Parsons' take on the elections

Three new PhDs from the Business School



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Top performing MBAs awarded

No fewer than 55 graduates recently obtained their MBA degrees from the North-West University's Business School. During a lavish occasion held in Potchefstroom, these students who took the bull by the horns, were honored for their hard work and perseverance.

Prof Fulu Netswera, the director of the Business School, thanked the graduates' spouses for their support and patience during the MBA journey. "I know it wasn't easy. It requires a lot of hard work into the night and many sacrifices have been made. Thank you for that. Also, to all the lecturers and supervisors. You have once again put in a lot of effort in order for these MBA graduates to successfully complete their studies" he said.

MBA Class of 2018.



Prof Ronnie Lotriet, the MBA program manager, congratulated the graduates and said that this course is only for the bravest. "In the current economic times, we need more economical scientists - MBA graduates like yourselves. We look forward to seeing where your MBA qualification will take you in your career. The world is your oyster, but is also an elective. So, choose well! We would also like to give great recognition to ABSA, PPS and the Aspen Group as our loyal award sponsors," he concluded.

Cornelia Hart was the receiver of this year's gold medal for being the best performing student. She received this medal from ABSA, which is made of nine carat gold and worth R10 000. Cornelia thanked her husband, family, supporters, lecturers and her study leader. "Without you all, I would not have made it through this journey. Thank you so much for encouraging and supporting me," she said.



Cornelia Hart (middle) was awarded with the ABSA gold medal for being the best performing MBA student. With her is Prof Sonia Swanepoel (Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences), Vincent Mothunyane (ABSA: Head Regional coverage), Anna-Lize (ABSA: Area manager NW) and Prof Daryl Balia (NWU Deputy Vice-Chancellor)





Prof Parsons' take on the elections

Prof Raymond Parsons, affiliated with the NWU Business School, shares his thoughts about the recent South African elections.

“The overall outcome so far of the 2019 elections has the potential, if present trends continue and policy promises are kept, to significantly lift business and investor confidence from their present low levels. A strong economic message coming from the election is the overwhelming need, apart from issues of good governance, to now focus on turning the economy around and putting it on a much higher growth path. The hope is that the 2019 elections will give President Cyril Ramaphosa room to make headway with structural reforms that will boost investment and growth.

The election campaign was a powerful reminder that the challenges of unemployment, poverty, and inequality still remain to be successfully addressed in the post-election period. The new political administration therefore needs to speedily translate its fresh mandate into pro-growth reform policies which in particular maximize the number of jobs created at any given growth rate.

Post-election there should therefore now be a clear and definitive economic direction

which reduces policy uncertainty, rebuilds business confidence, strengthens investor sentiment, and promotes economic recovery. It is essential that the government ‘stays on message’ about its future commitments. A key test will include the selection of a credible and streamlined Cabinet that also enjoys the confidence of business and the markets.

In addition, if SA wants to avoid an investment downgrade from Moody's later this year, early action is needed to demonstrate progress in certain urgent key problem areas, such as fiscal sustainability and Eskom. An unstable electricity grid needs radical remedies. There are therefore still tough and difficult economic decisions ahead that have to be successfully managed by the post-election ANC government, and which also require collaboration with key stakeholders, including business.

An enhanced government-business growth coalition is needed to strengthen mutual trust and expedite project implementation, especially regarding infrastructure development. Breaking out of SA's current ‘low growth trap’ of about 1% therefore demands urgent collective action sooner rather than later. A week may be a long time in politics but five years is incredibly short for delivery.”

What does our **alumni** say about us?



Cobus Conradie

“Internationally accredited, best minds, best facilities.”

- Cobus Conradie, Software Architect, Capitec Bank.



David Mavula

“The best university in South Africa, good facilities and very experienced lecturers”

- David Mavula Thimbi Jiyane, Department of Environmental Affairs.



Josh Flood

“Best university! Looking forward to my MBA with this auspicious institution.”

- Josh Flood, Founder & Chairman at Maarifa Theatrical Projects.



Marcelle van der Mescht

“Don’t miss out... Take on this awesome learning program... You will benefit greatly..”

- Marcelle van der Mescht, Agenbag Motor Group.



Siggino Khuboni

“Practical tailor-made designed experience that teaches on real business solutions.”

- Siggino Khuboni, Sasol Technology, R&D.

Our **Annual Report** for 2018

The NWU Business School's 2018 Annual Report was recently published. As a staff member, alumni or stakeholder, we encourage you to take a look at this and acquaint yourself with the recent research outputs, the positive growth of the Business School, our positive stakeholder relations, recent community engagement projects, etc.

To access the Annual Report,
please click on the link:

ANNUAL REPORT





Maria Sophocleous

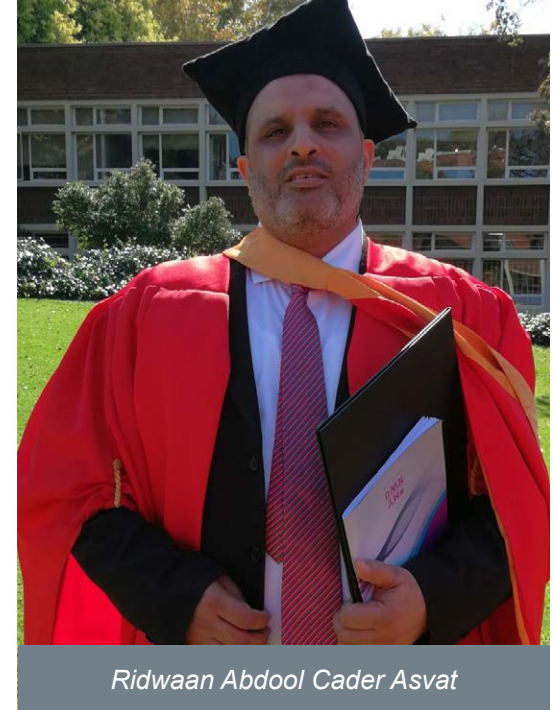
Three new PhDs from the Business School

It gives the Business School great pleasure to announce that three of our students have recently obtained their PhD degrees. Prof Christo Bisschoff was the promoter of Ridwaan Asvat, and Prof Ines Nel was the promotor of Antoinette Ngwenya and Maria Sophocleous.

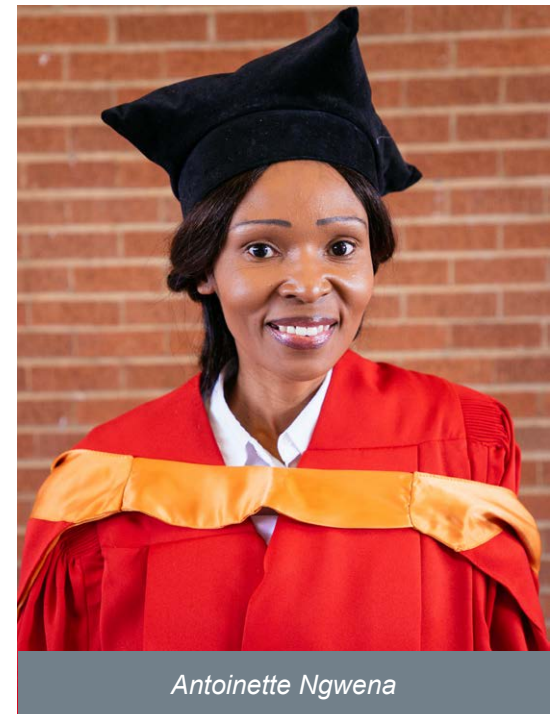
Ridwaan Abdool Cader Asvat has been involved in private higher education since 2009 in a management capacity. Originally a bookkeeper, he moved on to focus on community development and education across Southern Africa before he joined one of South Africa's latest clothing producers in positions ranging from finance, purchasing and supply chain and finally on the production line. After that Ridwaan joined Legal Aid South Africa as an administration manager before moving on to higher education where he is currently serving as the Director: Business Development and Operations of Regent Business School. He holds an MBA degree. Ridwaan has presented at various international forums on the African continent and is passionate

about the future of Africa. Ridwaan lives in Durban (South Africa) with his wife Shenaaz Docrat and two children Muhammad and Ammaarah Asvat. In his spare time, he explores his passion for the outdoors and classic movies.


In his thesis, "Developing a model to measure business performance for private business schools", he investigated the business performance measures that impact on private business schools in South Africa. Based on theoretical principles of business performance and models of public business schools, he identified antecedents relevant for private business schools. Ridwaan then empirically evaluated and tested these antecedents to constitute a validated business performance model that could be used to



Ridwaan Abdool Cader Asvat



Antoinette Ngwenya



measure business performance specifically at private business schools. In doing so, he contributed to assist private higher education institutions to assess their business performance using multiple criteria rather than the usual business performance methodology. Ridwaan has already published an article from the thesis in an accredited international journal while three articles are currently under review for publication.

Antoinette Rinky Ngwenya started her working career in 1996 as an accountant in the Ellisras Municipality (Lephalale) and joined Mogale City in 2001 as a chief accountant. She then worked as a chief financial officer for the period 2004 to 2018 at the following municipalities: Raymond Mhlaba (Nkonkobe), Lesedi, Alfred Duma (eMnambithi/Ladysmith), Tlokwe City Council (JB Marks), Merafong City Council, Mandeni Municipality as well as the South African Human Rights Commission. In July 2018, she joined the Gauteng Provincial Treasury as an Advisor: Municipal Financial Support Consultant until March 2019. She then joined the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) as a Governance Technical Advisor: Municipal Financial Management.

In her thesis, “Towards financial guidelines for

sustainable quality service delivery for B-Class municipalities in the West Rand, Gauteng”, she explored the state of financial management versus the provision of sustainable and quality municipal services in two West Rand municipalities, namely Mogale and Merafong City. She found that there is need to develop fair and equitable criteria and guidelines for financial resources’ allocation to secure sustainable service delivery and investment in wealth-creating infrastructure projects within the region. The outcome of the study enabled her to develop a guidelines-based framework for the fair allocation of financial resources aimed at the investment in and development of municipal infrastructure that can enable the mentioned municipalities specifically, but also municipalities in general, to meet their long-term goals.

Maria Sophocleous has worked at African Bank as credit policy and compliance specialist for the past nine years. Previously, she worked at Absa for 25 years in the areas of operations and credit, area manager at a retail bank, credit manager at head office, specialising in credit to small and medium businesses, and head of credit and collections for Micro-Enterprise Finance. For a limited period, she worked as a credit manager at Mercantile Head Office Credit. Her career started

as a teller at United Building Society, where she was given a credit granting mandate and promoted to credit manager dealing with all forms of credit.

In her thesis, “Access to credit for small business in South Africa towards a value-based decision framework”, she, based on experience, realised that providing credit to small businesses is problematic. Granting credit to established businesses is the norm; to small businesses, she states: “threw us off as credit managers”. In her study, she explores and develops a value-based decision framework with lending criteria, innovations and insights specifically aimed at supporting banks and government initiatives to enhance access to credit for small business customers. Research internationally indicates that small businesses are key drivers in economic development and job creation, and therefore it is essential that this ‘sector’ must have access to credit.

A huge congratulations goes to these students and their promotor. You make us proud!



The annual MBA Winter Study School is around the corner and will take place from 22-26 July. Taking place at the Elgro Hotel Conference Centre in Potchefstroom, organisers have prepared a stimulating programme for the week which all participants will find most rewarding and complementary in pursuit of management excellence.

Please take note that attendance of the study school in totality is compulsory, and attendance lists will be completed. The study school consists of five academic building blocks:

- Academic lectures;
- The highly-rated prestige day;
- Research methodology;
- Management skills workshops; and
- Company project presentations for the final-year students.

The prestige day is on Wednesday 24 July and has once again the business school secured top-notch speakers who will analyse and postulate scenarios for South Africa in the years to come after the recent elections. These speakers are:

- Mr Theo Venter - The 2019 elections - a political

game-changer for South Africa?

- Prof Raymond Parsons - Economic recovery or a low-growth trap for South Africa?
- Mr Wandile Shilobo - Agricultural and land reform - the way forward.
- Chris Lombaard - Management and leadership challenges in the post-election South Africa.

We have invited alumni, management of the University and business leaders to join us for the business seminar. This event will provide the platform to extend networking opportunities and fraternise with the speakers, business leaders and alumni.

As usual, some guest lecturers have been invited to the study school to share their knowledge. These lectures are module specific and comprise some concepts aimed at providing advanced managerial development to not only survive in the business jungle but to excel within the dynamic environment of management, leadership, and business. These concepts include personal development, practical business challenges, research, skills, and also direct MBA module tuition to enable a balanced growth in personal and professional careers.

We urge all participants to use the time to enjoy the wonderful world of management, bond with fellow students.

For more information about the Winter Study School, please contact Prof Christo Bisschoff at christo.bisschoff@nwu.ac.za

Message from the Chairman of the NWU Business School advisory board - Professor Raymond Parsons

On behalf of the NWU Business School's Advisory Board, it gives me great pleasure to invite all MBA students to this Winter Study School. The School prides itself not only on providing the highest level of teaching, learning and research to its students but in particular to empower its graduates to grasp the practicalities of good decision-making in business. In a rapidly changing business environment — both in South Africa and globally — it is more essential than ever before that Business Schools enlarge the toolbox of management solutions available to business decision-makers. This is what the NWU Business School seeks to provide.

For those who are interested in management, entrepreneurship and transformational leadership the NWU Business School's program will therefore undoubtedly add great value. Both through formal participation in the program — as well as informal networking — we hope that all participants will emerge from this experience with a much better understanding of the business environment and its challenges. More is expected now from business and management than ever before. Progressive management and leadership enrichment are the pillars upon which successful managers and executives can build confident responses to a dynamic business milieu.

It's published!

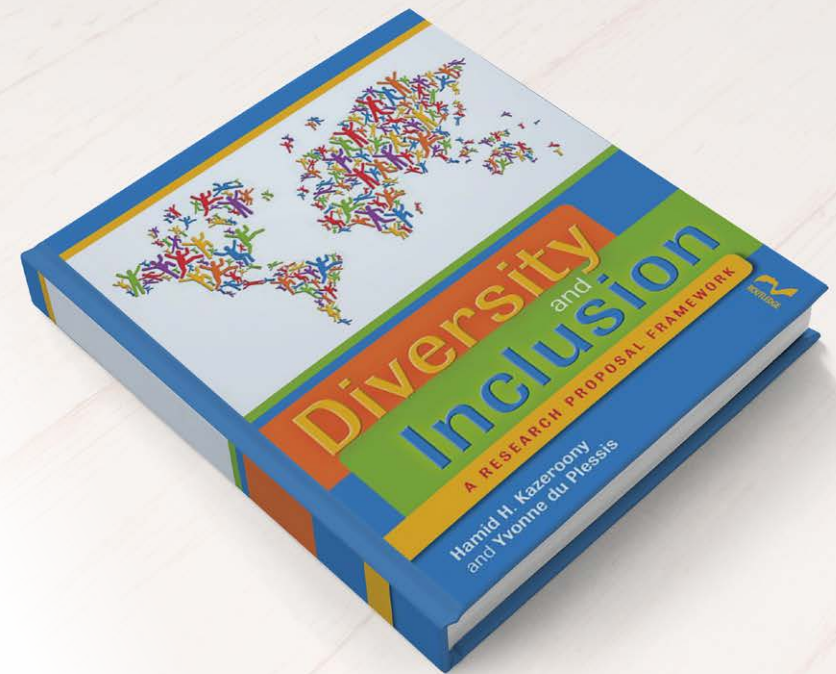
A huge congratulations to Prof Yvonne du Plessis for recently publishing her co-authored book: Diversity and Inclusion - A Research Proposal Framework. Prof du Plessis specialises in managing organisational behaviour, people and behavioural perspectives in project management, and culture and leadership in multiple cultural settings.

Aimed at assisting doctoral candidates and early-career researchers and their supervisors globally, this book is the first of its type to address the challenges faced by students when proposing new programs of research in the disciplines of gender, race, identity, indigeneity, and diversity within management and business. The problems researchers face derive from a lack of familiarity with the needed alignment of the methodology, conceptual framework, and the nature of epistemologies used in creating a coherent proposal. This results in project delays and unnecessary time in review as doctoral students and committees attempt to provide the required alignment.

Essential reading for students and faculty engaged in these fields of study, the book provides a practical guide on how to navigate through these challenges and to arrive at a workable proposal that meets the requirements of the academy. To assist doctoral students in conducting their research, the book

provides narratives that illustrate the complexities of researching gender, race, identity, indigeneity, and diversity in broad terms. It explains the importance of such research in creating positive social change and helping students identify the appropriate conceptual framework, align the problem statement with a purpose, construct the research question and the nature of the study, and identify the correct method to conduct the research.

An essential guide for students and doctoral researchers, this book explains the dominant and marginalized epistemological orientations to acquaint doctoral researchers with the effects of their selections on the outcomes of their research. It provides guidance as to the appropriateness of quantitative or qualitative methods based on the selected epistemology and the problem statement.



The book's co-author, Prof Hamid H. Kazeroony has taught in a variety of executive and international programs and is currently a contributing faculty at Walden University, PhD Management Program and is a Professor at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. He has published widely on issues relating to management education, research methods, and responsible management.

THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE HERE

Pro-growth reform policies needed sooner than later

– Prof Raymond Parsons



‘Although the rise in unemployment figures for 1Q 2019, the highest since late 2017, was widely expected, they remain a further wake-up call about the SA economy in the postelection period. Seasonal and temporary jobs apart, if ‘discouraged work seekers’ are included, this now puts the expanded unemployment level at 38%. Combining the latest unemployment trends with other high frequency 1Q 2019 economic data, it is likely that GDP growth in that quarter has been in negative territory.

The worsening unemployment situation owes much to the Eskom load-shedding and its negative impact on the economy in 1Q 2019 as well as to some extent a slowing global economy. The employment outlook now also invests new urgency in the commitments made at the Jobs Summit in October last year and particularly the role of the Presidential Jobs

Committee tasked with monitoring progress towards the target set of 275,000 jobs per year.

If that target is to remain credible, various components of the job creation strategy, such as the Youth Employment Service, need to be expedited and implemented. But previous well-intended strategies, approaches, and summits have usually fallen far short of the unemployment challenge. Unless overall growth prospects are greatly strengthened, all these useful micro-measures to intensify job creation will inevitably only have a minimal impact. SA must therefore break out of its current ‘low growth trap’ of about 1% and get on to a higher growth path sooner rather than later.

Hence the recent positive official emphasis on boosting investor confidence. Post-election pro-growth reform policies on key issues are now urgently needed to create a confidence-building environment for business and investment. These will help to stabilize unemployment and encourage job-rich growth. Economic recovery and structural reform will therefore need to be seriously prioritized by the new Cabinet and also dominate the state-of-the-nation address in June.’

Do you have what it takes to enter the proverbial leopard's lair and stand your ground as a young entrepreneur? If you do, the North-West University's (NWU's) popular Leopards Lair Competition is just for you!

This year marks the third rendition of the competition and will see students from across the NWU's geographical footprint – and their counterparts from the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), step up to the fore and pitch their entrepreneurial ideas in the hope of sharing in the R100 000 worth of prizes.

More about the competition

Heading-up the competition is the NWU's bhive EDC and the competition format is based on similar national and internationally business challenges such as Shark Tank and Dragon's Den. The competition will run over a period of two semesters to allow participants sufficient time to work on their business pitch whilst benefitting from several workshops aimed at strengthening both the academic and practical understanding of entrepreneurship.

The competition will be decided over several rounds during which the participants have the opportunity to view their scorecards in order for them to monitor their performance. The first round of the competition will see a total of 60 students – representative of all three of the NWU's campuses as well as VUT – being chosen to participate.

These participants will then submit their Idea to Concept proposal after which 40 students will be

A poster for the NWU Leopards Lair Competition. At the top, it features the NWU logo and 'bhive' branding, along with a small South African flag. The central image is a close-up of a leopard's face. Text on the poster includes: 'Open to students from VUT and NWU Mafikeng - Potchefstroom - and Vaal campus' in a red circle; 'Do not miss out on this brilliant opportunity!' in a red circle; 'NWU LEOPARDS LAIR COMPETITION' in large, bold letters; 'WHERE PREY BECOMES PREDATOR!' in smaller letters; 'DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS IDEA OR INVENTION? We are challenging all NWU and VUT students with a business idea or invention to enter the NWU's Leopards Lair competition.'; 'Pitch your idea and win big! Come and pitch your idea to the leopards and stand a chance to win your share of R100 000 in prizes that will be invested to fund your idea, business or invention.'; 'To register visit the competition webpage at <http://commerce.nwu.ac.za/bhive-EDC> or scan the QR Code'; a QR code; and 'For any queries contact us on bhive@nwu.ac.za Entries close 22 July 2019 before midnight' at the bottom.

NWU's Leopards Lair Competition: calling all young entrepreneurs

invited to take part in the Business Model Canvas phase of the competition. Twenty students will proceed to the next round during which they will have to produce a video pitch and face off against each other. From here twelve participants will face an independent panel of business owners, investors, successful entrepreneurs and members of academia to battle it out for a place on the winners' podium.

The value of entrepreneurship for young graduates

According to Johann Landsberg, Manager: bhive EDC, the NWU is actively promoting entrepreneurship as an innovative career alternative for graduates. While more private and public sectors have of late taken up the challenge to assist in promoting a more conducive environment for start-up entrepreneurs, many upcoming entrepreneurs still face a number of challenges.

"Through initiatives such as this competition, the NWU aims to address some of these challenges in a pro-active way," says Johann. He adds that empowered entrepreneurs will be able to make informed and creative decisions that will positively impact South Africa's strained economy. In short: an entrepreneurial mind-set will henceforth be a crucial commodity within the ever changing world of work.

Register for the competition

Interested students should visit the competition webpage or send an e-mail to bhive@nwu.ac.za Entries close on 22 July 2019.

Renowned **International visitor** addresses our students



Dr Hamid Kazeroony affiliated with the Walden University, Minnesota, USA, visited the NWU Business School in Mafikeng from 15-18 April 2019 to present a PhD Bridging workshop. A total of 28 prospective PhD candidates preliminary selected for Mafikeng, Vaal and Potchefstroom for 2019 attended and benefited from this workshop.

Due to many of our prospective PhDs not having done a full masters with research this workshop assists them to enter the world of PhD and prepares them to argue scholarly work, state research problem,

do literature syntheses and comprehend the importance of research methodology.

Dr Kazeroony is a keen visitor to Africa and enjoys the sun and spirit of Africa. He has been in research collaboration with Prof Yvonne du Plessis since 2010 and together they have published scholarly books and articles. Dr Hamid Kazeroony has been specialising in PhD thesis research and writing and currently is the PhD programme manager for Walden University. He presents PhD workshops and supervises many PhD students around the globe.

School Director attends the annual **AMBA Conference** in Istanbul



Photo: Prof Fulu Netswera, Director of the NWU Business School (third from left), attending the AMBA conference in Istanbul with other members of the South African Business Schools Association (SABSA) representing Milpark Business School (Dr Cobus Oosthuizen), UNISA School of Business Leadership (Dr Gavin Isaacs and Prof Roy Ramphal), Nelson Mandela Business School (Dr Randal Jonas) and Rhodes Business School (Prof Owen Skae).

Each year, the Association of MBAs (AMBA) Global Conference brings Business Schools Deans and Directors of accredited school together from all over the world. The conference provides business school leaders with a golden opportunity to network, exchange insights and listen to thought-provoking sessions relating to the governance, development of business schools, executive education and corporate interests, among other things.

Prof Fulu Netswera, North-West University's Business School Director participated at this AMBA conference between 13 and 15 May 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The NWU Business School is accredited by AMBA which in turn means increased international credibility and prestige. Also, the guarantee that business training will adhere to the supreme international standards.

AMBA accredits post-graduate business programmes at 260 Business Schools in more than 75 countries, with a philosophy focused on accreditation impact, employability and learning outcomes. They believe that accredited programmes should reflect changing trends and innovation in the postgraduate education sector and their process reflects their commitment to fostering innovation and challenges and encourages business schools to continuously perform at the highest level.

The Conference's programme kicked off with a cultural and networking excursion, where after various discussion topics enjoyed much attention. These included:

- Competitive strategies in turbulent business school environments;
- Innovating to transform business schools;
- Augmented intelligence and leadership in the machine age;



- The role of technology in necessitating and enabling transformation in business, leadership and executive education;
- Harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence in Business Schools;
- Saving our world together – the critical role of the education sector;
- How universities can build an entrepreneurship ecosystem;
- Technology and the future of management education.

According to Prof Fulu, this conference gave the platform and opportunity to learn and observe from some of the best in the world. “Many interesting topics and viewpoints were shared by business leaders and deans that jostle us into acting positively to develop the NWU Business School into an even greater institution.”

Renowned keynote and plenary speakers that took part in the conference included:

- Sanjay Advani, Senior Director of Intrepid, VitalSource | Intrepid;
- Zeynep Gürhan Canlı, Dean, Koç University Graduate School of Business;
- Claire Fox, Chief Operating Officer, UNICEF;
- Gerard George, Dean, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Lee Kong Chian Chair Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Singapore Management University;
- Ritika Israni, Vice President, ITPL Group of Companies and winner of the AMBA Student of the Year Award 2019;
- Kader Kaneye, President, CEO, ILIMI African Development University;
- Paul Mallette, Director of European Operations, Peregrine Academic Services;
- Rob McCargow, Director of Artificial Intelligence, PwC;
- Dr Olin Oedekoven, President and CEO, Peregrine Academic Services;
- Danica Purg, President, IEDC-Bled School of Management;
- Robert Ruiz, Vice President, Strategic Enrolment, Liaison International;
- Jeetendr Sedhev, leading commentator on celebrity culture, New York Times best-selling author, and Financial Times columnist;
- Andrea Sianesi, Dean, MIP Politecnico di Milano Graduate School of Business;
- Steef Van De Velde, Dean, Rotterdam School of Management;
- Francisco Veloso, Dean, Imperial College Business School;
- Stephanie Villemagne, Director of MBA Programmes, the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Business School;
- María Victoria Calabrese, Academic & Government Relations Director, Educational Testing Service (ETS), GRE
- Jane Armstrong, Senior Director, EMEA Higher Education Industry Solutions, Salesforce.org;
- Sara Strafino, Senior Market Development Manager, Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC);
- Israel Rosales, Channel Director, EMEA, D2L Europe Ltd;
- John Donovan, Vice President, Product and Marketing, McGraw-Hill;
- Salome Pretorius, Senior Lecturer and module Co-ordinator, Department of Business Management, University of Pretoria.

NWU honoured **Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman** for exceptional work



The North-West University's (NWU's) high standard for an honorary doctorate was recently met by an individual with extraordinary leadership traits who has made exceptional contributions towards cross-border and international cooperation. Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman's work speaks for itself and was awarded on 22 May 2019.

Dr Imtiaz Ismail Sooliman was born on 7 March 1962 in Potchefstroom in the North West province. He matriculated from Sastri College in Durban in 1978 and subsequently qualified as a medical practitioner at the University of Natal Medical School in 1984.

He started out in private practice in Pietermaritzburg. During 1994 he became engaged full-time in Gift of the Givers – a foundation he established on 6 August 1992. He developed the foundation into one of the world's most respected humanitarian organisations. Africa can proudly define Gift of the Givers as the largest disaster response agency of African origin on the continent.

This exceptional man has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the NWU to acknowledge his outstanding contributions. Dr Sooliman met the high standards set by the NWU for awarding such a degree, and is also honoured for his exceptional merit in general leadership, organisational leadership and people skills. His extraordinary contributions involve social justice not only in South Africa, but across the globe.

Dr Sooliman's name is honoured in the areas of disaster relief, basic services and medical services relief. He has also become renowned for the part he has played in blending business and leadership acumen with a zest for philanthropy.

Dr Sooliman has initiated 21 different categories of projects through Gift of the Givers, which has delivered R2,1 billion of aid to people in 43 countries, including South Africa.

He enriched his career by designing and developing the world's first and only containerised mobile hospital in 1993. It was deployed in Bosnia and appraised by

CNN as one of the best hospitals in Europe.

Gift of the Givers was the first foundation to receive R60 million from a government to put together and roll out 204 000 food parcels. Dr Sooliman's innovative groundnut-soya high-energy and protein supplement – a first globally – has played a major role in the treatment of HIV/Aids, TB, malnutrition, cancer and various other debilitating conditions. Africa's largest open-source computer lab was also developed by him in 2007.

His list of awards includes 121 individual and organisational awards, and his work has been recognised and mentioned in Parliament. The awards include four presidential awards.

Not only is it an honour for the NWU Business School to have nominated Dr Sooliman for an honorary doctorate for his contributions to civil society, but the university is proud to associate itself with Dr Sooliman as one of the biggest humanitarians of the 21st century.

New staff

Over the past few months, the NWU Business School has acquired the services of a few new staff members.



Elé Wessels is an assistant for the Postgraduate Diploma programme. She is an alumnus of the NWU, and is currently studying towards obtaining her MBA degree. She was born and bred in Bothaville and attended high school in Klerksdorp. Her parents and older brother are farmers just outside Bothaville. Elé says she wants to follow a career in lecturing at the Business School.



Yaseen Rassulmia is an assistant for the Postgraduate Diploma programme and is also an alumnus from the NWU and Wits. He has more than 20 years' experience in the financial sector and is busy with his MBA. He was brought up in Kwazulu-Natal and is looking forward to start lecturing in Mafikeng soon.



Lizanné Smit is working in an administrative position for the Small Business Advice Bureau and short course programmes and is also an alumnus of the NWU. She is currently studying towards her Post Graduate Diploma at the Business School. She was born in Potchefstroom where she matriculated from Gimnasium High School.



Christie Munro recently joined the Business School in the position of an administrative assistant for the MBA programme. She is not a new face to the NWU, as she has 12 years of service within the institution. Previously, she worked for the Department of People and Culture and before that, she was employed at the Potchefstroom Campus' School of Pharmacy. Christie is originally from Baberton and graduated from the Stellenbosch Boland College.



Moseme Tsholofelo Phajane has recently been appointed as a programme assistant at the NWU Business School in Mafikeng. She is currently studying towards a Masters of Commerce in Business Management at the NWU. She was born and raised in Mafikeng and studied BCom Marketing Management at the University of Johannesburg and BCom Honours in Business Management at the University of South Africa.



Aifani Tahulela has joined the Business School as a research assistant. She is originally from Limpopo and has obtained her Masters degree in Public Administration from CPUT. She recently registered with the NWU to study toward her PhD degree and wants to finish it in record time.