

Women's Month Special Edition

AUGUST 2021



*“Lift up your hand,
be seen and be
counted”*

- Dr Anna Mokgokong



Shaping Executive Minds in Africa

INTRODUCING

NWU Business School African Bon-Bons Initiative



This month we celebrate National Women's Month with a special edition of the Bon-Bons e-magazine. We celebrate all women in South Africa and Africa by dedicating this edition as a platform to voice their expert opinions on business matters in Africa.

This edition is filled with courageous women featuring Dr Anna Mokgokong, Prof Susan Visser, Prof Kiveshnie Naidoo, Ms Mafusi Molefe, Prof Stella Nkoma, Prof Anet Smit, Prof Elmien du Plessis, Sandra Taljaard, Prof Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling and Chalotte Mokoena.

They are discussing crucial themes like women entrepreneurship, women in leadership and management, community development, custodianship, cybercrime and more.

We are honoured to have fearless women in our inner circle who lead us with grace and passion. This month we praise all of you!

“If you find yourself seeing what's not yet visible to others, don't be discouraged, for such is the burden and gift of leadership.”

~Thuli Madonsela
Public Protector of South
Africa 2009 - 2016



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH

Click below to listen to the special
messages from some of the NWU
Business School's women



Women's month by Prof Anet Smit



Women's month by Lungile Ntsizwane



Women's month by Simoné Laubscher



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Women entrepreneurship: “Africa can”

- Prof Yvonne du Plessis & Dr Anna Mokgokong

Dr Anna Mokgokong, the current Chancellor of the North-West University is a renowned South African businesswoman, who has not just contributed to Africa, but also globally due to her extraordinary entrepreneurial spirit and abilities.

She has received many prestigious awards and accolades, to mention one - she was inducted into the Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World. Dr Mokgokong is an absolute inspiration and African Business Icon (role model) not just to women, but to all genders in Africa.

In this Bon-Bon interview, the NWU Business School's Prof Yvonne du Plessis spoke to Dr Mokgokong about entrepreneurial success in Africa and what it is that should be done to change the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Africa to enable more Africans to succeed beyond micro-enterprises.



Prof Yvonne du Plessis



Dr Anna Mokgokong



Challenges women managers face on their way to the top in Africa

- Prof Kiveshnie Naidoo & Prof Christo Bisschoff

The African continent has various levels of women emancipation, and as such the role that women play in the economy differs vastly. What challenges do women face in South African workplace and also in Africa? How do they overcome these women-specific challenges to play their part at work and in the economy, and to what extent can their experiences help other women to overcome their challenges?

One woman who successfully started out and worked her way to the top is professor Kiveshnie Naidoo. Prof Naidoo is PhD Alumnus of the North-West University Business School and is currently employed as the Academic Director of probably the largest private higher education institution in Africa. Prof Naidoo speaks openly about her challenges as a woman in the business world, and how she negotiated these challenges. She passionately offers advice to other women who might experience challenges in their place of employment.



Prof Christo Bisschoff



Prof Kiveshnie Naidoo



African based community development

- Prof Hein Prinsloo & Ms Mafusi Molefe

In this interview, Prof Hein Prinsloo of the NWU Business School interviewed Ms Mafusi Molefe, about her role in African based community development.

She is a graduate from the University of Johannesburg (BA Hons) in development studies. Her primary interest focus on “positive change in rural communities” and was initially inspired by various volunteering opportunities with Food and Trees for Africa - Izindaba Zokudla and Sustainable community development at Waaipoort farm. Currently she focus her energy on permaculture. This knowledge is also applied in communities in her country of birth - Lesotho. Beside permaculture, she further focus on the ethics at the workplace (sustainable farming).

After the completion of a course on “Education for sustainable development” by Earth charter and UNESCO, this enabled her to establish a relationship with the community of Mautsi primary school (Rosendal). This relationship contribute to the establishing of a functioning school garden project.



Prof Hein Prinsloo



Ms Mafusi Molefe



Business Research excellence in Africa – What and How?

- Prof Yvonne du Plessis & Prof Stella Nkoma

Prof Stella Nkomo is an esteemed academic in Business and Management Sciences. She was the 1st President of the Africa Academy of Management and is known as an academic woman leader globally.

Through this interview, deeper insights were gained from Prof Nkomo on how academics and practitioners in business management can create new knowledge by doing relevant and impactful research in Africa. Her voice is clearly articulated in her publication of 2017, titled 'Time to look in the mirror: Producing management theory and knowledge for Africa', in the Africa Journal of Management. She stated: "The responsibility of scholars interested in management and organisations in Africa is to take up the complex challenges of producing management theory and knowledge for Africa. I argued that we have two major responsibilities." She also states that: One is to build a strong intellectual community association; and the second is to generate management theory and practice for the benefit of the continent".

This interview sheds light on how to think about and act on doing business research that can make a positive difference, by adding value to move forward and build a prosperous Africa.



Prof Yvonne du Plessis



Prof Stella Nkoma



Financing the sustainability development goals in Africa

- Prof Anet Smit & Prof Mohamed Amine

Progress so far on the implementation of the of the sustainability development goals (SDGs) has been uneven across countries in Africa. According to the Africa SDG Index, the best-ranked country in Africa is Mauritius. It has been argued that the financing of the sustainable development goals in Africa is a huge concern.

In this interview, the NWU Business School's Prof Anet Smit, speaks to Prof. Mohamed Amine from the ISSAMI Business School in Morocco about the debt situation in Africa and the consequences thereof.



Prof Anet Smit



Prof Mohammed Amine



The question of custodianship

- Prof Elmien du Plessis & Dr Piet Croucamp

Ownership and the notion of custodianship are contradictory principles as regards value chains and FDI. At least two dominant parties in the national legislature consider custodianship a means to enhance land reform.

In this Bon-Bon interview, the NWU Business School's Dr Piet Croucamp speaks to Prof Elmien du Plessis from the North-West University's Faculty of Law where they seek to unpack the operation implications of custodianship.



Dr Piet Croucamp



Prof Elmien du Plessis



Finance, accounting and sustainability in Africa

- Prof Anet Smit & Prof Mohamed Amine

According to David Woods-Hale, editor of AMBITION, the newsletter of The Association of MBA's, sustainability and climate change has to take its place at the core and forefront of business education in order to address an issue shared by all of us.

A survey done among more than 500 senior leaders at Business Schools across the world, 88% believe that their Business School has at least some responsibility to tackle climate change. However, only 3% are currently of the belief that their Business Schools' efforts in addressing climate change are adequate.

In this interview, the NWU Business School's Prof Anet Smit speaks to Prof. Mohamed Amine, from the ISSAMI Business School in Morocco. The main question is if whether Business Schools are doing enough to produce knowledgeable graduates who care actively about the environment.



Prof Anet Smit



Prof Mohamed Amine



Field-style challenge for ladies in the world of work

- Prof Rottie Lotriet & Ms Sandra Taljaard

First impressions are significant, and your personality is not the first things that people see. In this Bon-Bon interview, the NWU Business School's Prof Ronnie Lotriet speaks to Sandra-Noppe Taljaard where she inspires to dress for success in order to make a good impression in the world of work.



Prof Ronnie Lotriet



Ms Sandra Taljaard



Cyber crime and its effect on business

- Prof Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling & Dr Piet Croucamp

South Africa is described as the third most vulnerable ecology for cyber-attacks and crimes due to weak infrastructure and an inadequate regulatory regime. The recent collapse of the IT systems of Transnet is a very relevant example of the vulnerabilities of the state and the economy in South Africa, and more so in business. The purpose of this Bon-Bon interview is to unpack the presence and nature of cyber-attacks and crime in South Africa.

The NWU Business School's Dr Piet Croucamp speaks to Prof Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling from Stellenbosch University.



Dr Piet Croucamp



Prof Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling



Women in leadership

- Prof Susan Visser & Prof Jan van Romburgh

Pursuing an academic career once during a period in time where male domination was prevalent, Prof Susan Visser was able to climb the academic ladder at the North-West University for a period in excess of 46 years. She left her mark in the field of accounting education and received numerous awards for her role as a female leader in Africa.

This Bon-Bon interview aims to emphasize her role, the challenges she had to overcome and her advice to upcoming leaders as to the recipe for success whilst circumstances might not be that favourable. Prof Jan van Romburgh, chief director of the NWU Business School, interviewed her.



Prof Jan van Romburgh



Prof Susan Visser



The Challenges for Women in Management

- Prof Ronnie Lotriet & Ms Charlotte Mokoena

In this Bon-Bon interview, the NWU Business School's Prof Ronnie Lotriet speaks to Ms Charlotte Mokoena, Executive Vice-president of SASOL about the challenges that females are experiencing in the executive corporate world.

Then, a special inspirational quote for the ladies during Women's Month. And lastly, a very insightful opinion on the narrative of "intuition" or the so-called 6th sense in the context of the world of management!



Prof Ronnie Lotriet



Ms Charlotte Mokoena



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