



Prof. Das Steyn

# Department of Urban and Regional Planning

## Overview

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning has embarked upon a process in the master's degree programme in terms of which students can specialise in sustainable rural development, tourism and development, planning for communities or integrated development planning. In this way students can do more work that is region and community-related. For instance, if students are working in rural areas of the Eastern Cape, the problems experienced in their immediate vicinity could influence their choice of topic.

The first student has completed the new master's degree programme and 32 students have enrolled for the first time for the honours degree. In total the department had 77 students enrolled for the various graduate programmes in 2007. One of the Ph.D. students, Mr Henk Theron, successfully finished his thesis entitled: *Lessons from the strategic management of integrated development planning in KwaZulu-Natal from 1994 to 2006*.

Two staff members, Dr Marlène Campbell and Ms Denie Steenkamp, are actively involved in the university's strategic cluster for "New frontiers in poverty reduction and sustainable development" with a focus on local development and resource-poor environments. Dr Campbell is supervising a project on homelessness while Ms Steenkamp conducted research on the acceptability of dry alternatives to water-borne sewerage in the Karoo area. The department has decided to focus on arid areas in their research with students for the next couple of years because a large proportion of the Free State, Eastern and Northern Cape fall under this description.

Staff members were also actively involved with professional institutions. The department hosted the annual general meeting of the South African Planning Institution (SAPI), where the president of the South African Council of Planners (SACPLAN) was the guest speaker. The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) visited the department in a benchmarking exercise for the eleven schools of planning in South Africa.

Students were taken to Pretoria as part of their practical training programme, to gain an understanding of how the city of Tswane approached and executed their integrated development programme. Several shorter tours to local development sites in Bloemfontein were also undertaken as a large number of pro-

jects are in different phases of development due to the upswing in the economy.

The department is also home to the only accredited journal in planning, known as *Stads- en Steekbeplanning/Town and Regional Planning/Mesalo ya Detoropo le Mabatowa*. Prof Das Steyn, Departmental Chairperson, is the editor of this multi-lingual journal which was started in Stellenbosch in 1974. In collaboration with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) a special edition was published on Integrated Planning in South Africa. The department was also actively involved in another accredited journal *Acta Structilia*, published by the Department of Quantity Surveying and Construction Management at the UFS.

Community service is encouraged by the offering of three postgraduate programmes in urban and regional planning for full time, part time and compact learning students. Through the compact learning programme, senior students who are in town planning positions, varying from assistant town planners to directors in planning as well as a few private practitioners, come to the department, where they attend the classes which are a duplication of the full time lectures, but where they do the work of one term in one week. In this way students who have positions in planning, but who may not have the correct qualifications, are empowered to do the jobs they are paid for.



Students in front of the Union Buildings during a visit to Tswane.



*Ms Denie Steenkamp and students in Hanover busy with fieldwork on the arid areas project.*



*The department celebrated World Planning Day with a lecture by Prof. Martin Drake, a retired professor from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). In his lecture, Prof. Drake discussed the development of urban planning and the need for planning, with a focus on Africa. Some of the guests at the lecture are, from the left, front: Mr Jacques Janse van Rensburg, student, Prof. Peter Bikam, Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Venda, and Prof. Drake; back: Mr J.J. Pienaar, student, and Prof. Das Steyn, Departmental Chairperson.*

## Staff

**Professor:** Prof. Das Steyn

**Senior Lecturer:** Dr Marlène Campbell

**Lecturers:** Mr Pieter Potgieter, Ms Lize Barclay

**Part-time Lecturers:** Prof. Wynand Senekal, Dr Henning Stapelberg, Messrs Neil Devenish, Schalk Grobbelaar, Danie Krynauw, George Masuabi, Ms Erika van der Westhuizen

**Senior Professional Officer:** Ms Denie Steenkamp

**Typist/Clerk:** Ms Riana Hugo

**Assistant Officer:** Ms Antoinette Nel

## Contact details

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# Research outputs

## Research articles

**Campbell, M.M., De Kock, J. & Van der Westhuizen, T.** 2007. Secure tenure for the urban poor: Lessons from community based land tenure approach in Windhoek, Namibia. *Town and Regional Planning* 52: 7-16.

**Steyn, J.J. & Du Plessis, R.** 2007. A case study of four small-scale job-creation project in Philippolis and lessons for local economic development projects in small towns. *Town and Regional Planning* 51: 60-66.

## Conference contributions

**Barclay, E.** 2007. *The spatial integration of a segregated post-apartheid community: Case study of BaPhalaborwa Municipality, Limpopo Province, South Africa.* Paper presented at the Regional Studies Association Winter Conference: Transport, Mobility and Regional Development, London, UK. 23 November.

**Campbell, M.M.** 2007. *Land management and informal settlement regulation: The case of Mangaung.* Paper presented at the Land Man-

agement and Informal Settlement Conference, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. 13 Augustus.

**Campbell, M.M.** 2007. *The impact of major sporting events on the economy and the people of a developing region: The case of South Africa.* Paper presented at the International Regions in Focus Conference of the Regional Studies Association, Lisbon, Portugal. 2-5 April.

**Potgieter, P.J. & Steyn, J.J.** 2007. *How the city of Bloemfontein did the tango alone in the Inner City Renewal Project.* Paper presented at the 43rd International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) International Conference, Antwerp, Belgium. 19-23 September.

**Potgieter, P.J. & Steyn, J.J.** 2007. *How the city of Bloemfontein did the tango alone in the Inner City Renewal Project.* Proceedings of the 43rd International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) International Conference, Antwerp, Belgium. 19-23 September. [Electronic].

**Steenkamp, G.M.** 2007. *From a paper base to e-learning module.* Paper presented at the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of South Africa (HELTASA) Conference, Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 19-21 November.

**Steyn, J.J.** 2007. *New uses in old shapes: Africa meets the west in Bloemfontein's central business district.* Paper presented at the 14th International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF), Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. 28 Augustus - 1 September.

**Steyn, J.J.** 2007. *New uses in old shapes: Africa meets the west in Bloemfontein's central business district.* Proceedings of the 14th International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF), Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. 28 Augustus - 1 September. [Electronic].

**Steyn, J.J.** 2007. *Town and regional planning: A scarce skill in the new South Africa.* Paper presented at the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA) Free State Conference, Bloemfontein, South Africa. 6-7 September.

