



Welcome to the School of Public Leadership (SPL)

**FORWARD**

Goal 5 of the 20 Sustainable Development Goals speaks to achieving gender equality, and empowering all women and girls. This goal is in agreement with Section 9 of the Bill of Rights of the South African Constitution and the National Development Plan.

This Second Edition of our SPL Newsletter commemorates women's month (in September nogal) as part of Stellenbosch University's #WOMENOFSSU campaign. Please visit the webpage dedicated ([Click here](#)) to women's month. In this Newsletter, we feature two (2) articles and two (2) stories based on powerful and inspiring women within the SPL Network. Women who are alumni, current staff, and students.



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Our first article is a short piece written by an Alumni Dr Patience Mbava, who holds a PhD in Public and Development Management. Dr Patience Mbava, commemorates women's month, by highlighting the importance of educating women and young girls, and expressing how SPL has assisted her in strengthening her academic voice to fulfill the role she plays in the South African society. We would like to thank her for this wonderful contribution.

Our second article, written by Mrs Melissa Botha, a Junior Lecturer at SPL. Mrs Botha shares her inspiring journey of progression, from being a student, to an intern, to Coordinating the Minimum Municipal Competency Certificate, and to initially stepping into the position as Junior Lecturer. Mrs Botha is currently representing the Stellenbosch University (SPL) at the African Women Leadership Training Programme hosted by the Egyptian Agency of Partnerships and Development. We wish her all the best with the programme.

The third and fourth articles, cover the stories of two students Ms Lindelwa Mahlalela and Ms Sheba Kashiri. Ms Mahlalela, is a former Diploma in Sustainable Development student, who has recently won the **Motsepe Foundation's** Golden Circle competition for the social exploits of her online business **LeeConnect**, a initiative which she started in a public library in 2018. Read more of her inspiring story below.

Ms Sheba Kashiri, recently attended a Summer School at Kühne Logistics University in Hamburg, Germany. In this article Ms Kashiri, who is in her second year of studying towards a Diploma in Sustainable Development at SPL, shares her experience and the exciting journey that lies ahead.

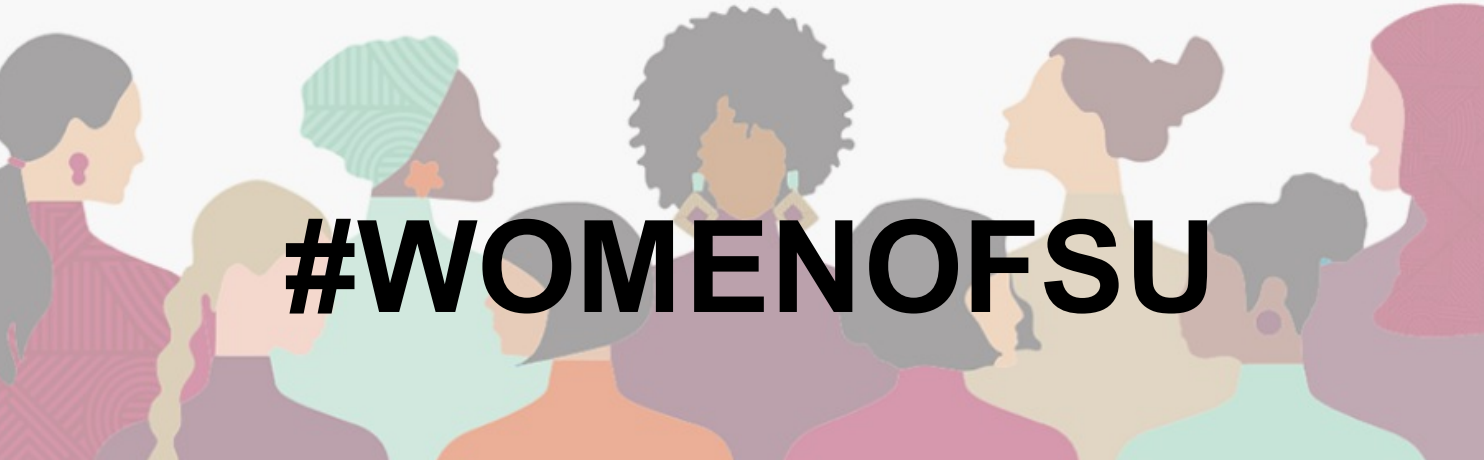
As we commemorate Women's month, we pay homage to those women who laid the foundation for our democracy and we thank them for their contribution.

This Newsletter also provides easy access to our Formal and Executive Short courses.

We hope you enjoy the read and look forward to keeping you informed of the exciting events and activities at SPL.

**ONLINE OPEN DAY:**  
**Advanced Diploma in Sustainable Development**  
**Wednesday**  
**21 September 2022**  
**17:30 - 18:30**  
 Join us online to learn about this brand new offering.

[Register Here](#)



**Educating girls and providing access to women remains the tried and tested method to true liberation.**

By Dr Patience N. Mbava  
2022-09-15

This women's month, we remember the gallant women of 1956 who marched to Pretoria to demand change. Now, as we continue to assess the gains made by women in South Africa since 1994, we recognise the systemic weaknesses that continue to impede gender equality in South Africa. We need to remove historical, structural, institutional, and cultural barriers to the realisation of gender equality in South Africa.



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**Just keep swimming and you will get there**

By Melissa Botha  
2022-09-07

"If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you are always in the same place." -Nora Roberts. This is something I had to learn on my way to becoming a female academic. Fear of the unknown can often lead to two very different outcomes, either you can decide to not attempt because of fear of failure or you can leap, knock you head once or twice, trip over a few things and stumble across the finish line with stars in your eyes glistening with excitement. My journey entails a bit of both.

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**Young alumnus wins competition for entrepreneurs.**

By Daniel Bugan  
2022-09-14

Former Diploma in Sustainable Development student in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Lindelwa Mahlalela, has the world at her feet. She was recently crowned the winner of the Motsepe Foundation's inaugural Golden Circle competition for the social exploits of her online business LeeConnect. She started the business from a public library in 2018.



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**Kühne Summer School presented great opportunities**

By Daniel Bugan  
2022-08-16

Sheba Kashiri has not only developed a renewed appreciation for her studies at Stellenbosch University but also a better understanding of her future career roles in her field after attending the Kühne Summer School in Sustainability in Germany recently.

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**SPL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES**

- [SPL Formal Academic Courses](#)
- [SPL Executive Short Courses](#)

Visit our SPL Centre for Local Governance to read more on events and research conducted within the local government sphere.

