

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**05 March 2008**

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### **BOOKJOL ADDRESSES READING CULTURE AMONG WOMEN**

The spotlight falls on women and reading this Friday (07 March 2008) at a seminar hosted by the University of Pretoria's Institute for Women and Gender Studies.

The seminar is one of the activities lined up for BookJol (a book festival aimed at celebrating reading and writing of books as a way of life in the academic environment). The festival starts on Wednesday and ends on Saturday.

The Friday's seminar starts at 08:30 in the morning and ends 13:30

The first session of the morning focuses on, among others, "Women and a culture of reading; and "Possible histories of the print culture in Africa". These would be led by Prof Archie Dick of the University of Pretoria and Prof Isabel Hofmeyer of Wits University respectively.

The second session is about the gender dynamics of knowledge production and consumption in Southern Africa and will include talks by Dr Francis Galloway, Rebone Gcabo and Dr Amanda Du Preez on:

- Women in publishing, the national scope.
- Exploring the challenges and opportunities in academic publication: A reflection from a black academic woman perspective.
- Exploring the dungeons and dragons in the process of writing.

The seminar programme is available at <http://www.bookjol.up.ac.za/gender.htm>.

According to Ujala Satgoor, Deputy Director at the University's Department of Library Services, the Bookjol is aimed at fostering a culture of reading and wishes to illustrate the slogan, "Leading minds read".

The Bookjol is targeted at any person who loves reading – in short any bookworm! This is the first time that the University of Pretoria is staging this event.

A website has been created for the BookJol: [www.bookjol.up.ac.za](http://www.bookjol.up.ac.za).

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For more media information, please contact:

Gilbert Mokwatedi  
University of Pretoria  
012 420-3023  
083-713-4478 or 078-337-1170  
Gilbert.mokwatedi@up.ac.za

Or

Stella du Plessis  
University of Pretoria  
Tel: 012 420-2250  
082-452-2701 or 078-736-1988

For more information on the Bookjol, please contact  
Ms Ujala Satgoor  
Deputy Director: Specialist Units Department of Library Services  
University of Pretoria  
Tel. No.: + 27 12 420-2565  
E-mail: [ujala.satgoor@up.ac.za](mailto:ujala.satgoor@up.ac.za)

Or

Monica Hammes  
Coordinator: UP BookJol  
University of Pretoria  
Telephone: +27 12 420-2845  
Mobile: +084-545-0323  
E-mail: monica.hammes@up.ac.za