

In 1999, **Karien Brits** enrolled at the former PU for CHE and became a resident of Vergeet-my-nie Women's Residence. Student life (and fun) and studies on the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University prepared her for taking her place in a **multilingual** society. She was an active participant in organised student life: Wapad, Besembos, EC member of the SRC: Marketing and Public Relations, subject societies for German and French, and residence activities. It is something that she will always be grateful for – and something that she does not want to begrudge future generations of students. In 2002 she received the four-year degree in business communication, in 2003 an honours degree in Setswana (cum laude), and in 2006 her master's degree in Setswana (cum laude).

From 2002 to 2006 she worked as publication officer at the Marketing and Communication Department on the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University. She was responsible for publications (in Afrikaans, English and Setswana) as well as electronic publications (e-newsletters) and the web.

She moved to Poland in 2006 where she was a **senior lecturer** at the Department of Dutch and South African Studies at the Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznan. She taught the subjects Afrikaans (language acquisition), South African English, History of Afrikaans, Cultural Studies, Setswana and English (writing course for MA students).

In 2010 she returned to South Africa to join the North-West University **as language practitioner** in the Language Directorate. During this time she was privileged to be part of a multilingual reading programme (Afrikaans, English, Setswana) at six primary schools in the area. She also remained involved with Polish students of Afrikaans and their liaison with the NWU and played an important role in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the NWU and AMU.

Since August 2013 she is **manager: language affairs** at the ATKV where she is responsible for the language service, language marketing and the multilingual focus. (Afrikaans-in-Soweto Project, and Setswana and isiZulu classes at the ATKV head office.) She is also a **part-time lecturer** at the University of Johannesburg's Linguistics Department where she teaches *Language in Practice* (honours classes).

Karien has a passion for academia, languages, multilingualism and mother tongue education, and she would embrace an opportunity to direct this passion for the benefit of the NWU and students.