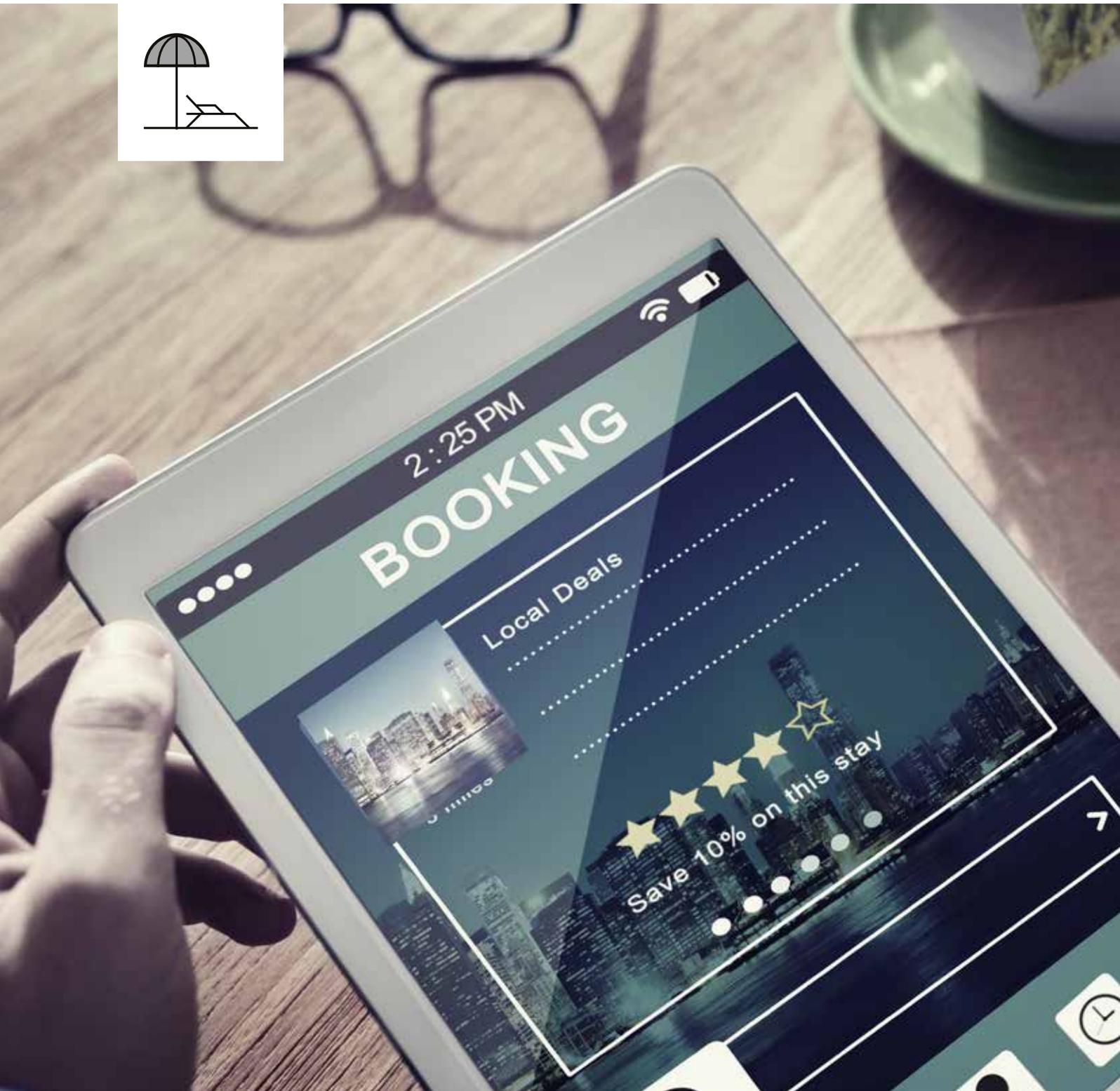
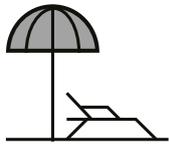


# School of Tourism and Hospitality





**DR DIANE ABRAHAMS**  
*Director: School of  
Tourism and Hospitality*

### OVERVIEW

2019 was no ordinary year for the School of Tourism and Hospitality (STH) as it coincided with the 50th anniversary of one of its legacy institutions – the Hotel School TWR – or the “Wits” (Witwatersrand) Hotel School as it was fondly known. The School’s celebration of this milestone, celebration of excellence in tourism and hospitality education, was among the many highlights of the 2019 academic year.

Master’s student and assistant lecturer won top prize at the Young Talents event at the World Tourism Forum in Lucerne, Switzerland (1).

Academic top achiever, Master of Tourism and Hospitality student and assistant lecturer for Tourism, Ms Refiloe Lekgau, won the prestigious Young Talent Award at the 6th World Tourism Forum (WTFL) Lucerne, Switzerland. Delegates from over 80 countries – including CEOs, ambassadors, investors, academics and young professionals – deliberated on key themes such as innovation, talent and diversity management. Of the 70 applications received for the WTFL Young Talent Programme, Ms Lekgau’s research paper titled ‘Perceived socioeconomic impacts of wildlife tourism’ was shortlisted into the top 12. She was ultimately selected one of three winners of the competition.

### STH REMAINS NUMBER ONE IN AFRICA AND PROGRESSED TO EIGHTEENTH POSITION IN THE WORLD

The STH remains a significant contributor to the College of Business and Economics research output, boasting more than 105 research output units in the 2019 academic year. In this year under review, the School continued its drive to grow its international research associates’ network – with more than 40 associates from 36 universities affiliated with the STH. The School further hosted an International Research Associates Conference, which attracted top tourism and hospitality scholars. The conference was focused on progressive tourism and hospitality. (2)

Finally, the STH maintained the number one ranking in Africa – in the QS Ranking for Hospitality and Leisure studies – and improved its Shanghai Global Ranking from 34th in 2017, 20th in 2018 and 18th in 2019.

### FERL TALKS 4IR AND TECHNOLOGY

On 17 October 2019, the Food Evolution Research Laboratory (FERL) collaborated with the National Society of South Africa (NSSA) to host a joint symposium titled, The Evolution of Diets: How will technology impact our eating habits? The symposium was held with a focus on the diet transition over the years and what was likely to come. Key topics covered included nutrition transition and the impact technology will have on diets, specifically linked to issues of obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (3).





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FERL Director and STH Senior Lecturer, Dr Hema Kesa (4), was appointed (by UNICEF) to work with UNICEF and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to assist in developing national nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold or provided in schools. This was to support the prevention and control of overweight and obesity and improved dietary diversity among

school children in South Africa. The objective of this initiative was to contribute to the improvement of all forms of malnutrition of school-going children by creating an enabling environment to address barriers to making healthy food choices and behaviours, which will contribute to improved learning and the overall health of school-going children. The outcome of this process will produce national school nutrition guidelines and a key message document for the various stakeholders.

**STH MARKS ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMER TECHNIKON WITWATERSRAND HOTEL SCHOOL TO THE CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG, SCHOOL OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

Reminisce. Rethink. Reimagine. This was the theme of the STH Alumni and Industry Stakeholder events hosted on 18 September 2019 in acknowledgment of the School's rich history in terms of tourism and hospitality education.



The events aptly took place during Tourism Month and incorporated dialogue sessions on contemporary matters, such as 4IR, sustainability and inclusive development with participation by key industry role-players, academia and alumni; a tour of the facilities, an endowment fundraising challenge; and celebratory networking evening. (5 and 6)





**THE STH KERZNER FACILITIES AWARDED  
4-STAR GRADING**



STH made history in 2019 by becoming the first institution to be awarded 4-star grading for its Meetings, Exhibitions and Special Events (MESE) venues by the Tourism Grading Council of South Africa. The commercial arm of the STH, trading under the name, The Kerzner@ UJ, boasts state-of-the-art conferencing, banqueting, function, coffee shop and restaurant facilities.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The STH is actively involved in the University's community engagement programmes. Second-year students and staff contributed to the tinned food collection and clothing donation drive. All contributions went to the Tsepang Orphanage Outreach Programme.