



UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Schedule of Tuesday Lectures February to June 2026

Venue RJM Hall, Randjes Estate

6 Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North 26.14S 28.09E

Website <http://www.u3ajoburgeast.co.za>

U3A Lectures are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month.
Tea and coffee are served from 9:20 – 9:50. The lecture starts promptly at 10:00. The registration and attendance tables close at 9:50. Guests are most welcome.

DATE Tuesday 10 February 2026
SPEAKER Professor Kathy Munroe
TOPIC Sir Herbert Baker

Kathy Munro was dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management at Wits. Having retired in 2011, she is now an honorary professor in the School of Architecture and Planning. She is well known in the heritage world as a writer and speaker.

Kathy will be discussing the work of Sir Herbert Baker, the architect who defined our nation's civic grandeur. The Union Buildings in Pretoria is one of his most famous works.

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DATE Tuesday 10 March 2026
SPEAKERS Rohan Quince and Jillian Vigrass Gorton
TOPIC Writers Bear Witness:
South African English Literature 1948 – 1976

Rohan and Gillian presented a series of Writers Bear Witness lectures at UCT Summer School this year. They have also lectured in Europe.

In 1948, as the National Party took power in South Africa, Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved Country* was achieving international success. The 1950s saw the imposition of strict segregation – and an explosion of writing, critical of the new order, from novelists such as Nadine Gordimer.

The 1960s saw more oppressive segregation. Alex La Guma conveyed it in stories.

In the 1970s, poet Oswald Mtshali published *Sounds of a Cowhide Drum* and Gordimer won the Booker Prize for *The Conservationist*.

In this presentation Rohan and Gillian will tell the story of these years and perform excerpts, showing how writers illuminated our complicated history.

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DATE Tuesday 14 April 2026

SPEAKER Philip Wood

TOPIC Ancient Art meets Modern Art in South Africa

Ficksburg High School in the Free State has an art gallery that was completed in 1922 as one of very few government school halls built at the time. South African artist, Jacob Pierneef, was contracted to paint a series of murals that highlighted San/Bushman paintings. This project launched Pierneef as a commercial artist.

The presentation highlights personalities of the time, the dilemma regarding deterioration of San art throughout South Africa, as well as how the Ficksburg School Hall has become a treasure trove of art donated to the school by matric pupils over the past 104 years.

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DATE Tuesday 12 May 2026

SPEAKER Alastair Meredith

TOPIC Art Auctions in South Africa

Alastair is the Head of Strauss & Company's Johannesburg Art Department. He is a skilled communicator and delivers numerous lectures. He has a BA in Art History and English Literature from Edinburgh, and his Master's and Doctoral degree from Cambridge University. It was his PhD research into the life of Cape Town-born painter Jan Juta that brought Alastair to the attention of Straus & Co's Managing Director, Stephen Weltz.

Alastair conducts many of the auctions. He returns to our podium with current news from the art world and information about forthcoming art auctions.

He will have details of how we can view the art on auction at the Houghton offices.

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DATE Tuesday 9 June

SPEAKER Professor Lee Rusznyak

TOPIC Why do Teachers Go to University Now?

Teaching has always been a practical profession. Formerly, teachers were successfully trained in colleges. So why do universities now offer teacher preparation?

Professor Lee Rusznyak considers what has changed in teaching and why practical training alone is no longer enough. Drawing on examples from her experiences and research, Lee explains what universities offer that extends practical experience, better preparing teachers for a career shaped by ongoing change. She will show how universities play a crucial role in helping future teachers think about learning, knowledge, and diverse children, in rapidly changing classrooms.

The talk argues that combining the wisdom of practice with academic depth gives future teachers the best chance of meeting the challenges of their classrooms.

About the speaker:

Lee Rusznyak's research on teacher education is widely used in South Africa and internationally. She has led several national research projects and played a key role in developing South Africa's Professional Teaching Standards.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when student teachers were unable to complete school-based teaching practice, Lee developed an innovative online alternative for practical learning. To date, it has been completed by more than 70 000 pre-service teachers across 24 South African universities.

Over the past decade, Lee has held a range of leadership roles in the Wits School of Education. She is currently working with the Department of Basic Education to develop a national induction programme for new teachers.

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