Honorary doctorate conferred on Prof Ojelanki Ngwenyama
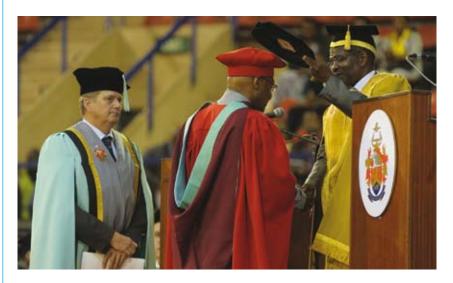
In 2009, the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology conferred an honorary doctorate on Prof Ojelanki Ngwenyama. Prof Ngwenyama is recognised in the international information systems community as one of the pioneers of the subject, especially with his contributions towards the establishment of sound research methods and methodologies.

In 1996, the late Prof Dewald Roode, former head of the Department of Informatics at the University of Pretoria (UP), issued an invitation to Prof Ngwenyama to visit the department, and since then he has been a regular visiting professor at UP. During his stay in the country, he presented courses and acted as an external examiner for doctoral degrees in the department. His valuable comments, excellent teaching style and the extreme thoroughness with which he does his job make him an excellent role model for both lecturers and students. Prof Ngwenyama has not only worked in Canada, but also has strong links with the USA, Europe, Asia and Australia, making him a world leader in his field.

Prof Ngwenyama was born in Guyana in July 1953, and grew up in New Amsterdam. After graduating from high school, he enrolled in a civil engineering diploma course at the Government Technical Institute. In 1974, he immigrated to Canada, and studied economics and political science by correspondence. In 1980, he enrolled in a 12-month diploma course in computer science. He went on to further studies at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where he

earned a BSc in computer science and an MSc in information systems in 1983. From 1983 to 1985, he completed his MBA at the Whitman School of Management, Syracuse University. In September 1985, he went to study with the late Prof Heinz K Klein at the Thomas J Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, State University of New York – Binghamton. In 1986, he was a scholar of the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada. In July 1987, he defended his PhD thesis, a foundational work on critical social theory and information systems. He then went on to teach at various educational institutions. ⊖

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