



# Built



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## Letter from the **editor**

This issue of *Bult* is again packed with news of the University of the Free State, our staff, students, our achievements and also alumni that are carrying the UFS flag high in the world outside.



We can feel, see and almost taste the changes at the institution. There is a freshness and a new urgency in the air. We are moving fast and we have set our targets high: to be an institution to be reckoned with, not only in South Africa, but in the world. Emphases will shift, new challenges tackled and new achievements celebrated.

The UFS is a growing institution, not only in terms of its direction, but it is also bursting at its seams with about 30 000 students enrolled this year.

Die vorige *Bult* het vir baie wonderlike oomblikke as redakteur gesorg, wat my net weer laat besef het dat ons mense uitgehonger is vir positiewe nuus oor mense en gebeure by die universiteit.

Talle mense het my gebel direk nadat hulle *Bult* gelees het, met die blaai nog warm van die omblaai, om te sê dat hulle lekker gelees het en die publikasie nie kon neersit nie. Charles Engelbrecht het sommer daar uit die dokter se spreekkamer gebel. Hy het syne by die huis gekry, maar nog nie gelees nie, maar toe hy eers begin lees, kon hy nie neersit.

Hopelik het ek ook vir Gerhard Cilliers oortuig om die plastiese omhulsel af te haal en te begin lees.

Lekker lees!

**Leatitia Pienaar**

## *Bult* changes to subscription

With *Bult* comfortable in its widely welcomed new format and look since last year, we are now brave enough to change the distribution to a subscription base.

It will still mean that everyone interested in *Bult* will receive it free of charge, but they must "subscribe" to the publication.

Alumni and other interested people also get the opportunity to make a voluntary donation towards the subscription.

The changes will allow us, in the first instance, to update our database, and people will also have the opportunity to get an electronic copy, hot off the press, and without the hassle of a printed copy. It can go a long way towards saving a tree or two!

The changes will start with the next issue, due for September 2010.

Please complete the form on page 64 and return it to us as soon as possible.

# NUUS

# The UFS is on its way to become truly great

By Leatitia Pienaar

The wheels are rolling to position the University of the Free State (UFS) centre stage in the higher-education arena, both in South Africa and internationally.

The institution has set its vision on becoming a top South African and African university, and wants to be recognised as one of the top hundred universities in the world.

To achieve this, many actions and mechanisms are getting into place. Among them are actions to appoint the best academic and research staff available at the UFS and to improve the student success rate by providing the best programmes in an environment conducive to where students can achieve their potential and more.

A major international funding drive is also underway in which the UFS wants local and international donors to pour R145 million into projects at the institution. Big corporations and foundations around the globe will be encouraged to get involved at the UFS.

Whilst the main phrase on campus was the integration of the residences a year or two ago, the emphasis has shifted completely. Students have embraced the challenges and opportunities of integration in the residences, enabling our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, to remark that the UFS Main Campus in Bloemfontein is the most integrated campus in the country.

The emphasis is now on the strategies, actions and plans necessary to make the UFS a truly great university in global terms.

One of the steps that will take the UFS to centre stage will be to make the admission requirements stricter. That will not only allow the UFS to select students with a better chance of completing their studies successfully, but will also help the intuition to better prepare the students entrusted to it to become citizens that can make a difference in the world out there. (The UFS is bursting at its seams with almost 30 000 students this

year and facilities can hardly accommodate more.)

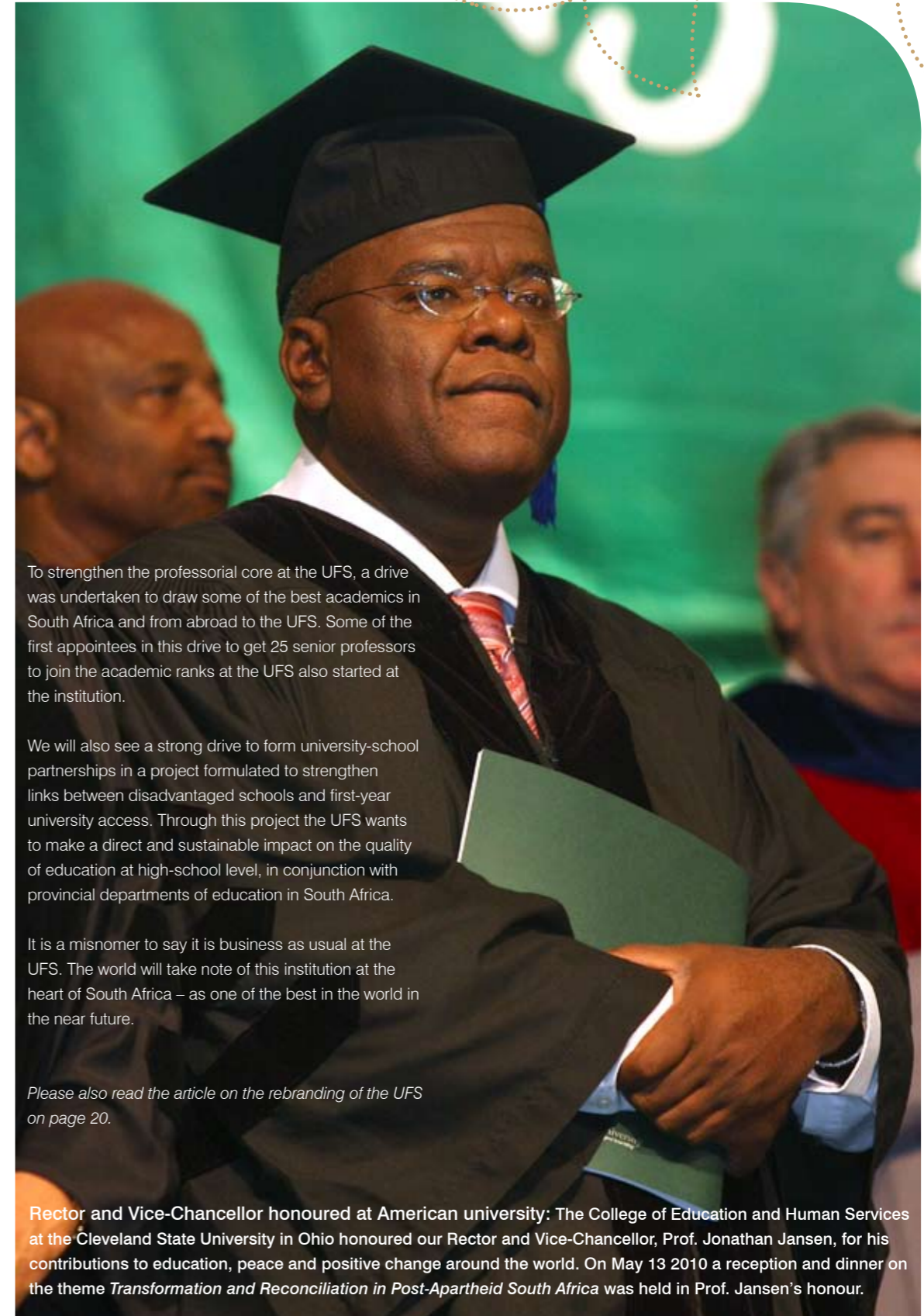
Linked to this is a drive to break the chains of isolation. A first group of first-year students will get the opportunity to study at a university in the USA later this year. That will broaden their vision and help them to embrace diversity.

The Vice-Chancellor's prestige scholarship programme will identify the 25 most promising young scholars (Ph.Ds, doctoral studies students) for intensive preparation to become the next generation of UFS professors. They will be placed in mentorship programmes alongside leading scholars in the world.

New schools and centres will be created to take the UFS forward. A Postgraduate School for the Advancement of Postgraduate Studies at the UFS is envisaged, and the International Institute for Studies in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice, that will be housed in the DF Malherbe House on the Main Campus, will be a premier national and international site for scholarship and research on the themes of race, reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice studies in the context of higher education. The new institute opens in August 2010. The Centre for Teaching and Learning will be dedicated to the development of scholarship of teaching and learning in higher education and the study and improvement of undergraduate study at the UFS.

The UFS is also working hard at its "currency" – its academic reputation. Academic and research excellence lies at the heart of the direction the UFS is taking into the future.

Research standards are raised and researchers reaching those targets will be well compensated in monetary terms and recognition. Researchers are encouraged to publish in high-profile national and international scientific journals.



To strengthen the professorial core at the UFS, a drive was undertaken to draw some of the best academics in South Africa and from abroad to the UFS. Some of the first appointees in this drive to get 25 senior professors to join the academic ranks at the UFS also started at the institution.

We will also see a strong drive to form university-school partnerships in a project formulated to strengthen links between disadvantaged schools and first-year university access. Through this project the UFS wants to make a direct and sustainable impact on the quality of education at high-school level, in conjunction with provincial departments of education in South Africa.

It is a misnomer to say it is business as usual at the UFS. The world will take note of this institution at the heart of South Africa – as one of the best in the world in the near future.

Please also read the article on the rebranding of the UFS on page 20.

**Rector and Vice-Chancellor honoured at American university:** The College of Education and Human Services at the Cleveland State University in Ohio honoured our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, for his contributions to education, peace and positive change around the world. On May 13 2010 a reception and dinner on the theme *Transformation and Reconciliation in Post-Apartheid South Africa* was held in Prof. Jansen's honour.

Photo: Cleveland State University

What is the worst possible hell that you can imagine? As I speak to Adv. Beatri Kruger, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminal and Medical Law and the Coordinator of the Human Trafficking Initiative at the Unit for Children's Rights at our university, I realised "hell" is a reality on our own doorstep in Bloemfontein – and much closer to home than what I would have liked to think.

## Human trafficking is a reality and it is on our doorstep

By Leonie Bolleurs

A woman pushed off a two-storey balcony, or burnt on a two plate stove because she did not reach the "income target" required by her trafficker are some of the realities the victims of human traffickers are facing on a daily basis.

So what is human trafficking? According to Prof. Susan Kreston, a visiting US expert on trafficking and former Fulbright Professor at our university, human trafficking is commonly referred to as modern-day slavery – the buying and selling of human beings as commodities. Internationally, human trafficking is technically defined by the United Nations Palermo Protocol as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by illicit means such as the use of force, threats or deception for the purpose of exploiting victims. Traffickers predominantly exploit their victims for sexual purposes; however, traffickers may also exploit people for body parts, forced marriages, adoption or crime, such as being used as drug couriers.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup (FWC) drew more attention to human trafficking. It was estimated that approximately 350 000 to 500 000 people from abroad visited South Africa and 20 million fans watched the games on big screens at fan parks across the country.

This large influx of people holds a lot of promising opportunities, amongst others, economic growth and infrastructure development for South Africa. There is, however, a definite down side to this event on our South African sports calendar: an increase in the demand for prostitution, sexual exploitation or cheap labour in and around the events; an escalation in organised crime and relaxed legislation all create potential opportunities for trafficking.

According to Beatri relaxed legislation may be promoting tourism and freer business travel, but it is not beneficial to possible victims of the trafficking trade. Relaxed laws related to alcohol use contribute to increasing the vulnerability of children and relaxed visa requirements at borders facilitates the entry of trafficked persons as visitors before they are taken to other cities or countries where they are exploited.

Another factor that may increase children's vulnerability is the fact that schools will be closed during the 2010 FWC. This will lead to a sharp increase in the number of unattended children. Together with street children and refugee children, unattended children were identified to be most at risk for being trafficked.

Although traffickers and recruiters tend to target areas where there is poverty, unemployment, and where people are looking for a better life/employment, unattended children are an easy target. The average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 14 years. Parents are advised to be very wary and cautious about allowing their children to be on their own without any adult supervision, especially during the FWC.

"Being unattended makes children vulnerable to either abduction or being lured away with promises of work or participation in the games. One of the new lures used by traffickers is the promise of employment at the World Cup, or even participation in the opening or closing ceremonies," said Prof. Susan.

Vulnerable groups can avoid falling prey to traffickers by being cautious about job opportunities offering a better life in a short time and by never handing over their personal identification documents or passports to



Prof. Susan Kreston.



Adv. Beatri Kruger.

Photo: Hannes Pieterse

another person. By being open to signs that might be displayed by a victim of human trafficking, the public can also help to combat this evil of society. "Traffickers regularly supply their victims with drugs and even force them to use it. Once the victims are dependent on drugs, they are more compliant and more easily controlled by their traffickers," said Beatri. Also be on the look out for signs of physical abuse and situations where children are accompanied against their will by someone not speaking their language.

Dealing with this problem is very difficult. To combat human trafficking effectively, measures are needed not only to prevent and prosecute this crime, but also to protect victims. South Africa recently signed and ratified the Palermo Protocol, which sets out international guidelines to fight trafficking. South Africa is now obliged to align its legislation with these international standards on how to prevent human trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect trafficked persons. "Currently the Criminal Law Amendment Act no 32 of 2007 is the only piece of legislation in force under which perpetrators can be charged on a crime of human trafficking. The problem is that this piece of transitional legislation prohibits trafficking for sexual purposes only, and not forced labour, the removal of body parts and

other forms of exploitation. When the comprehensive Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill 2009 is passed as legislation, this gap will be filled by prohibiting human trafficking not only for sexual exploitation, but for all other kinds of exploitation as well," Beatri said.

The lack of statistics with which to quantify the problem obstructs effective prevention as well as support mechanisms to deal with the current situation, or potential impacts resulting from the 2010 FWC.

"There is no doubt that human trafficking is an absolute reality in South Africa. We are receiving regular reports of trafficking. To be effective in addressing this problem all relevant role players need to work together. Our university is part of the joint efforts to combat this crime. The Unit for Children's Rights has already taken hands with international and national institutions such as Child Welfare, the International Organisation for Migration, NGOs, churches and government. Last year an Indaba on Human Trafficking was held where the Free State Human Trafficking Forum was established to be more effective in dealing with this issue.

"This forum is one of our success stories," said Beatri. 

# 'It's a real privilege



Prof. Dennis Francis

Photo: Stephen Collett

**"It's a space I am excited to be in. I am truly energised with the endless possibilities that lie ahead for us as a newly constituted faculty".**

The face of Prof. Dennis Francis, the newly appointed dean of our new Faculty of Education, lights up when he speaks about its future prospects.

**"Firstly, we want to build a research ethos and to be a pre-eminent producer of new knowledge both local and global in context,"** he says excitedly.

"Secondly, we want to promote excellence in teaching. Thirdly, we want to establish the new faculty as an institution of choice that produces well-educated, competent, sought-after graduates. Fourthly, we want to attract and retain academic and support staff of the highest calibre that recognise and understand their role in ensuring the success of our new faculty. Fifthly,

we want to establish and maintain efficient, effective management systems to meet internal and external needs in a pragmatic and flexible manner. And finally, we want to contribute, through knowledge, to prosperity, sustainability and nation-building in a manner that adds value and earns respect, admiration and trust of all communities."

This soft-spoken Durbanite exudes unparalleled passion when he speaks about his vision for this faculty.

**"I am a new dean, this is a new faculty, and that in itself is a huge challenge and most exciting,"** He says. **"I have to balance the need for change, and there will be changes, with the need to ensure the continuity of the wide range of programmes that our faculty offers.**

**"I see the faculty as an inescapable part of what is happening in schools. We bring to our work a keen**

# to be here'

By Mangaliso Radebe

interest in the local context, as the opportunity for exploring issues that are universal in education. We want to work closely with schools and other sites of education, and attempt to keep theory and practice in dialogue with each other."

His vision, he says, is to create a leading faculty that is contextually relevant and promotes excellence, equity and innovation through scholarship. He sees himself playing a key role in the broader transformation picture at our university.

**"Part of my responsibility is to ensure that this faculty provides a welcoming environment to all staff, regardless of their social identities. This means also opening up conversations about what makes it difficult for staff to shift, and to find ways of assisting staff to communicate across the existing divisions,"** he says.

**"For students, we need to create an administrative and teaching context in which they will be heard. We need to have in place models of effective communication across these divisions. One of the things that I will like to see happen at the UFS is more debate about how we deal with issues of privilege and social power; and how we collectively imagine the context we want."**

Lofty targets, one might remark. But none so for this former Head of School of the Social Science Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who, as a professor there, was one of the pioneers and developers of the Social Justice programme, which has since become a flagship programme in South Africa.

As if that was not an achievement high enough, he has also received large research funding from organisations like the Spencer Foundation, National Research Foundation and the Medical Research Council for his research work in the fields of sexuality, sexuality education and HIV/AIDS.

This happily married father of two derives inspiration from

the saying: **"Dance with the madness within you"**. The metaphor of dance is quite befitting, given that Prof. Dennis spent a sizeable part of his life studying ballet and getting paid for it, to boot.

**"When I was eight years old somebody saw me and asked if I would be interested in dance and I said I would be interested,"** he recalls. **"She invited me to join a ballet school for free. I did ballet for 15 years of my life and enjoyed it very much,"** much to the chagrin of his mother who wanted him to be a dentist because she could not fathom how one could earn a living by being a dancer.


Prof. Dennis was raised by a single parent and he does not have any siblings. All he had was his mother hence the strong bond that existed between mother and son.

While working for the Phenduka Dance Company as a dancer, Prof. Dennis was offered a job as a Drama teacher in one of the desegregated ex-model C schools where he taught for ten years.

**"I was one of the first people of colour to teach at such a school, so grapples with issues related to transformation started to resonate with me,"** he says. **"So I decided to do my master's degree in Social Justice and Transformation to explore and research issues of transformation in schools."**

It was after completing his master's degree in Education for Social Justice that he was offered a job as a lecturer at the University of Natal where he went on to do a Ph.D. in Transformation, Social Justice and Identity Studies.

He enjoys cooking in his spare time. **"I do all the cooking at home,"** he says. **"In fact, one of the things I am currently busy with is producing a vegetarian cook book."** He also reads a lot, paints with an art class and does yoga three times a week.

**"My wife, Emma, is a huge blessing in my life and my children, Cameron and Zoe, are an incredible part of my being."** 

# DiMTEC's reputation stretches deep into Africa

By Stefanie Naborn

With the horror of the Haiti earthquake and the effects thereof still fresh in our memories, it is not difficult to see the importance of disaster-risk reduction and management. We all live in a world at risk and the African continent is most definitely no exception. Disasters do not discriminate between rich and poor, or between developing nations and wealthy First-World nations. Population growth, uncontrolled development and global warming contribute towards the increased risk for disasters. If a country does not have measures of decreasing the risks or plans on how to react when disaster strikes it can be seen as a gamble with the lives of its people.

The Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) at our university is not sitting back, waiting for risks to turn into reality. DiMTEC's mission is to reduce the risk for disasters through education and training with the support of scientific research. Although they emphasise disaster-risk reduction, the trauma and impacts of disaster also receive the necessary attention in their programmes. They believe that humans have the capacity to prevent disasters from taking place or mitigate the impact thereof.

DiMTEC is situated in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. In 2002 it was established as



part of the Department of Agricultural Economics and became an independent centre in 2006. Today DiMTEC has the biggest master's degree programme in Disaster Management in Africa and attracts students from across the continent. Typically, students come from countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, the Congo, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Palestine, Israel, the Sudan, Mozambique, Lesotho and Namibia. The current class also includes students from Finland and Hawaii.

Researchers and students are updated about disasters all over the world. The offices are equipped with the Disaster Early Warning Research and Data Centre where two big-screen TVs and programmes like CNN, Sky News and Discovery Channel are available 24 hours a day. International conferencing and lecturing are possible through the new technology in the research centre.

Andries Jordaan is the Director of DiMTEC and has built himself a reputation as a specialist in risk reduction in Africa. Previously an Eastern Free State farmer and commandant of the Harrismith Commando, he developed an interest in the effects of disasters and the prevention thereof. Upon his return to Bloemfontein in 2001 he started with his M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and took DiMTEC from one highlight to the next. His expertise as well as his business and interpersonal skills, have led to the UFS being the first university in Africa to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the United Nations University (UNU). Andries negotiated with the UNU's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) to foster a relationship and combine their pool of resources for training in different aspects of disaster management. The MOU states that joint projects and research for specific projects will be conducted between the UNU-EHS and DiMTEC, lecturers will be exchanged for various courses and the UNU will help with external evaluation.

As a result of the MOU between the UFS and the UNU, the two universities have already combined their pool



Andries Jordaan (blue shirt) talking to farmers in the Sudan.


of resources by presenting a vulnerability course at the UFS and at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia, as well as paying a visit to the Republic of the Congo. Several high-level executives of the Republic of the Congo's capital Brazzaville were met with and field visits were carried out to the major vulnerable sites in the Brazzaville area. This area is unsafe to its inhabitants due to threats such as sedimentation, floods, storms, erosion, mud-slides and anarchic occupation. Although these threats are ever-present, there is currently no infrastructure in the city that deals with these environmental and societal problems, causing the land to slowly deteriorate.

The ultimate goal of this mission is to establish an integrated disaster-risk management and prevention system in Brazzaville that includes the creation of a disaster-risk management centre. This should ultimately lead to disaster-risk reduction in the Congo.

Another achievement for DiMTEC is the fact that the big non-governmental organisation World Vision International asked them to assist in the capacitating of development practitioners to implement disaster-risk

reduction activities in the communities where they work to ensure community resilience.

Other projects that DiMTEC are involved with include the €20 million flood-risk assessment of the Zambezi basin, the Richtersveld land claim and land reform projects and the Merowe Dam irrigation project in the Sudan where Andries Jordaan is contracted as agricultural specialist to advise the Sudanese government on drought strategies for the farmers near the Blue Nile River and the Dinder River.

DiMTEC is indeed true to its vision of becoming the leading research centre in supplying answers to Africa's disaster and disaster-risk reduction challenges. It is rapidly making a difference in the lives of Africans across the continent through the staff's statement that making a difference means: "To show the world that we can work together in Africa; disregarding any boundaries set by politics, economy, culture, race, gender, age and what-ever differences we have from one another; and to work in unity to make a difference in disaster-risk reduction in Africa." 

# Chemistry is **still making**

Our Department of Chemistry is one of the precious jewels in the UFS chest, today even more so than when the first students enrolled a century ago.

When our university started off as the Grey University College in 1904, students in Physics and Chemistry were taught by Dr J.S. Lyle, the first lecturer in Physics. In 1909 Physics and Chemistry parted ways, with Prof. W.A.D Rudge as professor in Physics and Prof. Max Rindl as professor in Chemistry and Geology. Chemistry and Physics became individual departments when the Faculty of Science was founded in 1918.

The first paper published by Chemistry was by Prof. Rindl in the *Journal of the Chemical Society* in 1913. Prof. Rindl guided the department until 1942. He was followed by Proff. F. Zweertz (1939-1951), Flippie Groenewoud (1949-1959), Louis Bok (1953-1980), Chris van der Merwe Brink (1959-1967), Dawie Roux (1968-1985), J.G. Leipoldt (1964-1994), Daneel Ferreira (1969-1998), S.S. Basson (1966-2006) and André Roodt since 2007.

Individuals who have put our Chemistry Department on the world map include, among others:

**Prof. Flippie Groenewoud (1949-1959)**, who was appointed from the Fuel Research Institute in Pretoria in 1942 and who later became rector and vice-chancellor of the University of the Orange Free State. The Flippie Groenewoud Building on the Main Campus was named after him.

**Louis Bok (1953-1980)**, who obtained his Ph.D. in Leipzig, Germany just before World War II, following visits to Cambridge in the United Kingdom in 1949-1950 initiated research in reaction kinetics, powder X-ray crystallography, cyanide chemistry and infrared spectroscopy.

**Chris van der Merwe Brink (1959-1967)**, professor in Organic Chemistry, who later became president of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

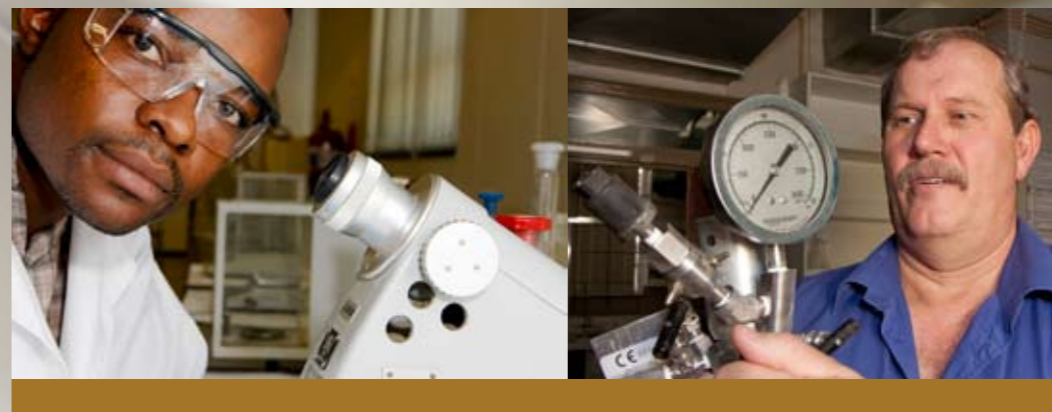
**Dawie Roux (1968-1985)**, from Grahamstown who was appointed in Organic Chemistry and who started the well-known natural product flavanoid research. (Flavanoid is a food chemical that helps limiting oxidative damage to body cells and protects against heart disease and cancer.) He was also one of the founders of the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), the National Research Foundation (NRF), and was the first FRD A-rated scientist in Chemistry at the UFS.

**Daneel Ferreira (1969-1998)**, the second A-rated chemist at the department, continued the flavanoid research, and retired from our university in 1998. He subsequently relocated to the University of Mississippi in the United States of America as professor in Pharmacognocny, and was awarded an honorary doctorate from our university in 2008 for his contributions to Chemistry.

Since 2005 the department underwent a revival sparked by new initiatives and efforts from especially Prof. Jannie Swarts and Prof. André Roodt and Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk (former dean of the faculty). This culminated in supporting investment by Sasol and the NRF, and ensured an upgrading of the Chemistry Building and infrastructure by about R100 million, to a world-class facility.


# magic after a century

By Lacea Loader



The department has acquired state-of-the-art equipment over the past five years, which enables it to extend its research to even higher international competitive levels in the disciplines of Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Polymer Science.

This research impetus is further achieved and will be extended under the UFS's academic research cluster initiative and specifically the clusters on materials and nanosciences and advanced bio-molecular research.

Prof. André Roodt says: "The department is proud of its history, and during the past couple of years we have made a renewed significant impact on research in chemistry worldwide. Our academics are publishing in some of the world's foremost chemistry journals and various presentations are made at leading international conferences. With the significant upgrading of our facilities we can continue building on our high quality research, ensuring that our students, trained on advanced equipment, can address the magnitude of challenges for scientists in pursuit of a greener environment and compete with the best in the world." 





## SAFEFE makes economic sense

Wealth distribution in South Africa is now even more unequal than it was a decade ago, indicates a report by die SA Institute for Race Relations. The unequal distribution is harmful to our young democracy that is still trying to settle itself in the midst of memories of inequality in the pre-1994 era. Many of us are troubled by the statistics, but only a few are stepping in to bring about change. Our university's SAFEFE team is not simply looking by and waiting for change to happen, they are creating change. **Stefanie Naborn** reports.

In 2007 SAFEFE (South African Foundation for Economic and Financial Education) was established through the enthusiasm of Prof. Klopper Oosthuizen, Executive Director of SAFEFE and professor at our Department of Agricultural Economics. According to him: "South Africa is in urgent need of efforts to improve the integration of black people into the market economy. An understanding of how markets work is one of the pillars of democracy. Equipping young people with economic understanding and skills will help empower them for responsible roles as individuals and citizens."

Prof. Klopper says to maintain the democracy, it is crucial that people are taught how to make good choices. "Economic education teaches people how to make these decisions and choices. It is from this philosophy that SAFEFE was born." SAFEFE is a section 21 company and is managed by a board of directors.

SAFEFE is based on a 60-year-old model that has developed in the USA as part of the Council of Economic Education's (CEE) mission to improve the quality of training of Economics teachers and lecturers across the world. In the 1990s the CEE expanded to the East Block countries and in the 2000s they started to focus on South Africa and South America. Our university and the Free State Department of

Agriculture were their first partners in Africa. Because of the programme's success in the Free State, it has expanded to a phase where SAFEFE is a truly national organisation with involvement of the National Department of Education as well as the Departments of Education of all nine provinces.

Since SAFEFE's inception in 2004, 200 trainers have been through intense four-week courses to form part of the SAFEFE network. It works on a "pay it forward" principle, or on the principle of the multiplying effect. These trainers have retrained more than 10 000 teachers countrywide through interactive lessons. All teachers have to be actively involved in the lessons and it focuses not only on curriculum content but also on teaching methodology. The teachers have to take this knowledge back to school to empower learners and to establish a healthy economic system in South Africa.

Evidence is there of the success of the programme: "Even though I don't have a lot, I have the chance to better my life because I can make a choice. But I know that it's not easy and that there are costs involved." Johanna Louw a community member of the Oppermans Grounds near Koffiefontein, is not the only one who has made this realisation.

Teachers, learners and regular citizens across the Free

State, Northern Cape and now also the rest of the country, have acquired the "economic way of thinking" through the help of passionate and compassionate individuals at our university. As Mr Nitia Mthikulu, a teacher at Holpan, puts it: "I never realised how much value there is in saving. If I can teach children only this, I have taught them a lot."

Although the initial focus was on teachers and facilitators, SAFEFE proves that no-one is too young or too old to become economically literate. Through the use of stories, children as young as six years old are taught economic principles. The team is also supported by ABSA in their mission to train community members. Financial training is given to people in the Northern Cape and Free State who do not have any academic education in order for these people to have control over their own finances. Power is given to individuals no matter how bad their living conditions

More than half of South Africa's 23 universities are part of the programme and almost 50 university lecturers have done the trainers courses. According to Elzmarie, cooperation between universities and schools is necessary for research to influence practice. SAFEFE in collaboration with CEE creates this opportunity through their Train the Trainers programmes.

In 2008 and 2009 15 projects were co-funded by the USA based CEE, SAFEFE and other funders. These include teacher training, the development of learning material and quizzes for learners. In the 2009 Economic Quiz 240 teams from six provinces, consisting of three learners per team, took part. Grade 7 and Grade 8 learners competed against one another and the final round, held in Bloemfontein in October this year.

The development of new learning material is high on



are. They are taught to make good choices so that they are equipped to change their circumstances.

Elzmarie Oosthuizen is the Director of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. She is also an alumnus of the Train the Trainer and Train the Writers programmes and a volunteer who busies herself with the implementation of SAFEFE's projects. To her the beauty of the initiative lies in the fact that it makes genuine changes to people's lives. "It gives people who never had an opportunity, the chance to be something and to mean something. It gives community members a sense of value because it teaches them to develop themselves. The further you develop your human capital, the more options you have available and the higher the value of your final choice," she says.

SAFEFE's agenda seeing that most of the material was developed in America. The material is now being "Africanised" by including South African examples and making it more user-friendly for a South African context. Basic economic principles are being translated to all eleven official South African languages to improve information transfer.

Prof. Klopper, Elzmarie and Ina Combrinck, Programme Coordinator and assistant at the Department of Agricultural Economics, are making an active contribution to changing the economic circumstances of people across the country by empowering them to make smart choices. They aim for SAFEFE to retrain 150 000 Economics teachers, reach 9 to 10 million learners and to assist in establishing an economically balanced democracy in South Africa. **B**

## Securing your future with

By Leonie Bolleurs

When it comes to financial matters we all need the professional with the best education. This is exactly what the Centre for Financial Planning Law (CFPL) at our Faculty of Law is doing. The centre educates financial planners who are theoretically and practically trained to serve the unique needs of each client.

According to Shirly Hyland from the CFPL, currently only nine percent of the employed South African population can afford to retire and maintain the standard of living prior to retirement. This is not due to bad employment, but rather to the lack of planning that takes place during the formative years of a person's life.

If a person only starts contributing to a retirement fund at the age of 30, it will take double the time to save retirement funds equal to a person who starts contributing at the age of 22. A generic retirement benefit fund is no longer adequate to ensure that a person will have a comfortable retirement. There are tax issues and costs that have to be taken into account and the manner in which the funds are invested is vital.

Furthermore, dependants are left to fend for themselves in the event of the breadwinner of a family passing away unexpectedly. Life insurance is not an effective solution to this situation. Tax and other costs eat away at the proceeds from the policy and thus the provisions that are available for those who are left behind are rarely sufficient. To worsen matters, funds are normally frozen upon the death of a person, which means that those who are left behind have no money what so ever to live off while the administration of the estate is being finalised.

"These are two of the main issues that South Africans are faced with on a daily basis and without the proper financial planning it might just be a reality for you," said Shirly.

The CFPL offers a solution to this matter with programmes designed to deliver some of this country's best financial-planning professionals. The CFPL offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning, an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Planning,

an LL.M. in Financial Planning Law or a B.Iuris. Complete any of these qualifications and soon you will breathe, sleep and talk about concepts like the time value of money, tax, economics, relevant legislation, estate planning, investment planning, retirement planning, risk management, business assurance, employee benefits, health benefits, and the regulatory environment in which financial planners operate.

With the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma students can specialise in employee benefits, estate planning, risk management or investment planning while the LL.M. allows students to specialise in law related matters. The B.Iuris. offers a unique combination of law and commerce modules with a major field of financial planning law.

With trainers such as Marius Botha, a leading private trainer in the financial planning industry; Anton Swanepoel, a compliance and investment planning specialist; Braam van den Berg, managing director of a renowned training institution and an investment specialist; and Johann Maree, South African leader and specialist in practice management, students can be assured to receive the best financial planning training in the country.

Furthermore, the Director of the CFPL, Adv. Wessel Oosthuizen, has sat on a number of international committees and task teams developing international standards for financial planners worldwide. This includes the Financial Planning Standards Board's Certification Committee tasked with developing standards for education, experience, assessment and practise. He was the chairperson of an international education working group who developed an international curriculum framework. He is also chairperson of the education board of the Financial

## financial planners from this centre



The staff at the CFPL are from the left, front: Sanet Crous, Adv. Wessel Oosthuizen and Sophia de Kock; back: Hestelle Praekelt, Jacqueline Badenhorst, Joyce Leeuw, Alida de Bruyn, Drina Labuschagne, Yolandi Clapton, Anelle Clapton, Shirly Hyland, Rika Snyman and Julia Molete.


Planning Institute of Southern Africa (FPI) and as such can ensure that the CFPL is always on the forefront with developments that are taking place in the financial services industry. He was also awarded one of the UFS's Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards in 2009.

The centre experienced many "firsts" and "onlys" since it came into existence in September 2001. The CFPL was, for five years, the only institution that offered the examination and education needed for the attainment of CFP® status. "Our centre is still the only institution to offer this via distance learning," said Shirly. The CFPL also offers financial planning programmes to the largest number of students who want to become Certified Financial Planners® (about 1 500 students per year).

The B.Iuris., with endorsement in Financial Planning law, is the first degree of its kind in South Africa and

was offered at our university in 2007 for the first time. This three-year degree comprises a combination of law and commerce modules, with the main modules being Financial Planning Law. "The emphasis on the legal aspects of financial planning cannot be found in any other qualification," said Shirly.

The CFPL is also the only institution in South Africa to offer specialisation programmes (the Advanced Diploma and the LL.M.) of this nature.

The centre originated from the relationship between ILPA (Insurance, Life and Pensions Association) and our university in which, by agreement, the university was the quality assurer and moderator of standards in the first-ever professional programmes for financial planners in South Africa. Our university fulfilled this role from 1986 to 1999. 

# We tune in to Big Band music

By Mangaliso Radebe

Since February 2009 our university has been dancing to the tunes of a new band, The Big Band.

The band, under the tutelage of Dr Paul Loeb van Zuilenburg, a senior lecturer in our Department of Music, is fifteen members strong and comprise mostly of music students. "I took what I thought at that stage players that were available and could play in a great Big Band and it became bigger than I thought it would be," Dr Paul explains.

Four of the fifteen members are from the Kimberley campus in the Northern Cape and the band gets together on a regular basis.

"In the Big Band we have five girls and ten guys," he says. "The brass players are mostly guys while two of the three saxophone players are girls. I think the physical challenge of playing the trumpet precludes many girls from playing it."

The Big Band has three trumpets, two trombones, two brasses, three saxophones and the rhythm section and plays traditional jazz music like the blues, funk, rock, Latin jazz and the World War II music.

Dr Paul says the whole idea behind this band is to expose kids to jazz. "We are always looking for ensembles here at the university," he explains. "Jazz is not big here. We have Noel Stockton who is the only one teaching jazz here, so we actually want to build that whole scene again."

"The biggest concert we played in was under the auspices of the Free State Symphony Orchestra (FSSO)," he says.

"We also did a concert with Brian Hogg, world renowned saxophonist, and some small ones in the township schools. There is a possibility of a concert

with the Soweto String Quartet."

The Big Band does generate some money from the few concerts that it plays in on top of getting financial support from the Department of Music and the FSSO. "It is a flagship project of the Department of Music at this stage. There is talk that the FSSO will also use it as a demonstration machine in small towns," he says.

This project is not part of the students' studies, in other words, they do not do it to get credits for their modules.


Our university and the University of Cape Town are the only universities in the country that boast music departments with good jazz bands. 



Photo: Gerhard Louw

# Reinventing a vibrant and relevant UFS

By Thebe Ikalafeng

Higher Education in South Africa has experienced rapid growth and change since the March 2000 release of the National Plan for Higher Education which provided a framework for the restructuring of the higher education. The restructuring led to the emergence of new higher-education mega-brands, and the rationalisation of programme development and delivery that changed the higher-education landscape forever.

For those comprehensive university giants such as the University of the Free State (UFS), Wits and Stellenbosch, whose structure was left relatively unchanged, it is no longer business as usual. They are challenged by the "newer" and aggressive comprehensive institutions such as the University of Johannesburg, which in theory at least, are not bound by tradition and institutional legacy. In the age of the consumer – the student – these traditional giants have to work harder to offer an enhanced institutional differentiation, relevance and customer orientation.

Warren Buffet once said: "it takes 20 years to build your reputation, but 5 minutes to destroy it." The Reitz incident has no doubt instantly compromised and threatened the 106 year reputation of the UFS brand. Another view is that it has given the university an urgent opportunity and challenge to rethink, differentiate and revitalise its brand within the context

of a transformed South Africa. Albeit spurred by unfortunate circumstances, the opportunity to reinvent itself among other traditional and new comprehensive institutions is a golden and rare opportunity for a storied institution with an impeccable and undisputed academic reputation.

In rethinking and re-inventing its brand and relevance in South Africa today, a new UFS brand must be based on a deep understanding of its stakeholder market and segments – students, alumni, parents, staff and donor, the higher education competitive set and the history of the institution. The brand vision or proposition must leverage its storied 106 year history, tell the story of a vibrant, relevant and transformed brand, and instantly signal the institution's vision of "an excellent, equitable and innovative" organisation that resonates with and engages all stakeholders, differentiates the brand, and guides and inspires institutional decisions and inspires performance.

As Tom Peters observed: "you are either distinct or extinct." Given its rich academic and cultural legacy, choice for UFS is clear. The mark of a great brand is not how it fares in good times, but how it rises to challenging times. It is time to rethink, renew, revitalise and retell a new UFS brand story.

## The brand journey

The UFS has begun a comprehensive and consultative brand revitalisation journey which will culminate with it re-emerging as a proud and transformed South African national asset, with a respected public image.

The process will be thorough, participative and consultative, using multiple methodologies, user-oriented techniques across a three-phase brand development process encompassing brand discovery, brand distinction and brand delivery.

The project is intended to be concluded with the launch of the new brand, which will coincide with the launch of the ground-breaking International Institute for Studies in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice at the beginning of the third quarter of 2010.

Thebe Ikalafeng is arguably Africa's foremost brand authority. He is founder of The Brand Leadership Group and the Brand Leadership Academy, and has been recognised as one of the Top 10 Thinkers in Marketing in an Ipsos Markinor survey among business decision makers. He has had a successful multi-industry brand consulting career. In higher education he has led the merger branding of UNISA (2005) and North West University (2007), the re-branding of University of Botswana (2008) and brand evolution of Wits Business School (2009).



## Windhondresies in die pylvak

Deur Leonie Bolleurs

Die Departement Handel en Nywerheid (DTI) het in 2009 'n navorsingsverslag laat saamstel oor die moontlike wettiging van honderesies, spesifiek windhondresies, in Suid-Afrika. Hierdie span het grootliks uit kundiges van die UV bestaan – 'n bewys van die kaliber van ons kundiges.

Die gesamentlike navorsingspan van die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid en die Hotelskool aan die Sentrale Universiteit vir Tegnologie (SUT) het bestaan uit proff. Elizabeth Snyman-Van Deventer van die Departement Handelsreg, Neels Swanepoel van die Departement Prosesreg en Bewysleer, adv. Jaco de Bruin van die Departement Romeinse Reg, Regsgeskiedenis en Regsvergelyking en adv. Manie Moolman van die SUT se Hotelskool.

Volgens prof. Elizabeth het die projek voortgespruit uit versoeke aan die DTI dat windhondresies gewettig moet word. "Daar is 'n algehele verbod op windhondresies in Suid-Afrika. Windhondresies het reeds in die laat 1920's in Suid-Afrika begin en was veral aan die Witwatersrand gewild. Drie bane het skares van 7 000 tot 10 000 gelok en in 1941 was die gemiddelde wins by die Wanderersbaan tussen £24 503 en £31 525 per week.

Die motivering vir die verbod op honderesies was die sogenaamde maatskaplike euwels wat daarmee gepaardgegaan het, en in die besonder dobbelary. Die ou Transvaal het honderesies reeds in 1949 verbied, waarna die ander provinsies gevolg het," sê prof. Elizabeth.



Alhoewel windhondresies tans onwettig is in Suid-Afrika, word hierdie aktiwiteit tog beoefen.

Die navorsing het hoofsaak gefokus op die geldigheid van die verbod, veral in die lig van die Suid-Afrikaanse Grondwet, sowel as die wettiging van dobbelary in Suid-Afrika. Die DTI se opdrag het ingesluit 'n totale oorsig oor die bedryf in Suid-Afrika, asook in die buiteland. Dit sluit in aspekte soos dierewelsyn, sosiale, ekonomiese en politieke kwessies en die wetlike raamwerk rakende windhondresies.

Die navorsingsprojek het ook 'n studie van honderesies in ander jurisdiksies vereis. Die navorsingspan het diereregte-organisasies in die VSA besoek en ook die jaarlikse vergadering van die wêreldorganisasie van lande waar windhondresies plaasvind, bygewoon. 'n Uitgebreide besoek is ook aan die windhondresiesbedryf in Australië gebring. Navorsers het met 27 organisasies en 63 individue in elf lande geskakel. Daarby kan ook gevoeg word die 501 mense wat die werksinkels bygewoon het. Die navorsers het dus baie wyd en met soveel moontlik van die belangegroep kontak gehad.

Die projekverslag moes so aangebied word dat dit ook van toepassing gemaak kan word op ander vorms van resies met diere. Om die openbare mening in te win is tien werksinkels in al die provinsies



## of nog nie uit die blokke?



Foto's: Hannes Pretorius

Adv. Manie Moolman, prof. Elizabeth Snyman-Van Deventer en adv. Jaco de Bruin.

gehou en plaaslike sowel as nasionale media het aandag daaraan gegee. Menings van voorstanders en teenstanders asook van dierewelsyn- en beskermingsgroepe is aangehoor.

Volgens prof. Elizabeth was die grootste probleem wat hulle ondervind het die emosie rondom die onderwerp. "Daar is duidelik twee groepe wat ewe sterk daarvoor voel. Aan die een kant is daar die windhondeienaars wat net graag wettig hul honde wil laat hardloop en aan die ander kant is die dierewelsyn- en diereregtegroepe wat geheel teen windhondresies gekant is weens veral die mishandeling wat mag volg asook onbepaalde aantel en vroe oor die versorging van die honde as hulle te oud is om te hardloop. Die kern van al die debatte was egter dat albei groepe die welstand en gesondheid van die honde voorop stel," sê sy.

"Wat uitstaan van die navorsing is dat mense steeds honde as die mens se beste vriend beskou!" sê prof. Elizabeth.

Alhoewel hierdie bedryf deur baie as 'n euwel in

ons samelewing gesien word, hou dit tog sekere voordele in, wat nie misgekyk kan word nie. Die windhondresiesbedryf kan werk verskaf en dit kan ook bydra tot die Suid-Afrikaanse toerismebedryf. Die geld wat dit mag genereer – deur beide die deelnemers in die bedryf sowel as deur die wedders – kan 'n inspuiting vir die Suid-Afrikaanse ekonomie wees. Die teenkant is dat dit ook 'n duur bedryf kan wees indien daar aandag gegee word aan die honde se welsyn en gesondheid deur onder meer verpligte dwelmtoetse, gereelde veeartsondersoeke asook die minimum standarde ten opsigte van die vervoer en versorging van die honde. Ook word die vraag gevra of 'n arm samelewing soos die in Suid-Afrika werklik nog 'n dobbelaktiwiteit kan bekostig.

Die verslag oor hierdie projek wat baie aandag in die media geniet het, is aan die DTI oorhandig, maar die uitslag is nog nie bekend nie. Is dit die pro-resies-kandidaat wat werk gaan skep vir 'n werklose persone of is dit die diereliefhebbers wat gaan sorg dat hierdie maatskaplike euwel van ons tyd in die kiem gesmoorsal word? **B**

# To tan or not to tan:

By Leatitia Pienaar

"Some evidence exists which implies that sunscreens could indeed be responsible for the dramatic rise in the incidence of melanoma over the past three decades, the period during which the use of sunscreens became very popular," says Prof. Werner Sinclair, Head of the Department of Dermatology at the University of the Free State. His inaugural lecture was on the topic *Sunscreens – Curse or Blessing?*

Prof. Sinclair says the use of sunscreen preparations is widely advocated as a measure to prevent acute sunburn, chronic sun damage and resultant premature skin aging as well as skin malignancies, including malignant melanoma. There is inconclusive evidence to prove that these preparations do indeed achieve all of these claims. The question is whether these preparations are doing more harm than good?

He says the incidence of skin cancer is rising dramatically and these tumours are induced mostly by the ultra-violet rays.

Of the UV light that reaches the earth 90-95% belongs to the UVA fraction. UVC is normally filtered out by the ozone layer. UVB leads to sunburn while UVA leads to pigmentation (tanning). Because frequent sunburn was often associated with skin cancer, UVB was assumed, naively, to be the culprit, he says.

Exposure to sunlight induces a sense of well-being, increases the libido, reduces appetite and induces the



Prof. Werner Sinclair, Head of the Department of Dermatology at the University of the Free State.

says the 17% increase in breast cancer from 1981 to 1991 parallels the vigorous use of sunscreens over the same period.

Among the risk factors for the development of tumours are a family history, tendency to freckle, more than three episodes of severe sunburn during childhood, and the use of artificial UV light tanning booths. He says it remains a question whether to tan or not. It was earlier believed that the main carcinogenic rays were

UVB and that UVA merely induced a tan. The increase in UVA exposure could have severe consequences.

Prof. Sinclair says the UV light used in artificial tanning

synthesis of large amounts of vitamin D, an essential nutritional factor. The use of sunscreen creams reduces vitamin D levels and low levels of vitamin D have been associated with breast and colon cancer. Prof. Sinclair

"Sunscreen preparations are not the magical answer in the fight against melanoma and the irresponsible use of these preparations can worsen the problem."

# a burning issue




booths consists mainly of pure UVA which are highly dangerous rays. It has been estimated that six per cent of all melanoma deaths in the UK can be directly attributed to the use of artificial tanning lights. The use of an artificial tanning booth will double the melanoma risk of a person. "UVA is solely responsible for solar skin aging and it is ironical that tanning addicts, who want to look beautiful, are inflicting accelerated ageing in the process," he says.

On the use of sunscreens he says it can prevent painful sunburn, but UVA-induced damage continues unnoticed. UVB blockers decrease vitamin D synthesis, which is a particular problem in the elderly. It also prevents the sunburn warning and therefore increases the UVA dosage that an individual receives. It creates a false sense of security which is the biggest problem associated with sunscreens.

Evidence obtained from the state of Queensland in Australia, where the heaviest and longest use of

sunscreens occurred, boasted the highest incidence of melanoma in the world. A huge study in Norway has shown a 350% increase in melanoma for men and 440% for women. This paralleled the increase in the use of UVB blocking sunscreens while there was no change in the ozone layer. It did however, occur during that time when tanning became fashionable in Norway and there was an increase especially in artificial tanning.

Prof. Sinclair says: "We believe that sunscreen use does not directly lead to melanoma, but UVA exposure does. The Melanoma Epidemic is a reality. Sunscreen preparations are not the magical answer in the fight against melanoma and the irresponsible use of these preparations can worsen the problem." 

# Esta – the persistent scientist

By Igno van Niekerk



Not the ordinary “classroom” for Prof. Esta van Heerden and Prof. Derek Litthauer.

As one enters Prof. Esta van Heerden’s office one become aware of an intriguing balance. Against the wall on the outside of her office there is a myriad of photos. All kinds, ranging from wedding pictures to traditional team-building snapshots and work-related memories. Against the wall inside the office, there is a poster exclaiming: *There is power in persistence.*

Just when one thinks you’ve got some hints as to who Prof. Esta really is, you become aware of *the other side*. Whiteboards! Three of them. Each with an interesting array of flowcharts, diagrams and formulas – interspersed with weird scientific terminology; a strange seesaw of a human side and a scientific side.

Prof. Esta is passionate about her team, about her students, about their research – and yes, about her institution – the University of the Free State. The passionate academic switches roles to a

compassionate lecturer as she starts explaining what their work entails. This is where it really gets exciting since it’s the work they have been doing that has brought her team international acclaim. They’ve been on BBC, National Geographic and Discovery Channel, and Esta was awarded the 2009 price for the Young Scientist of the Year by the Science Academy for Developing Countries. It was apparently the first time that the judges unanimously agreed on who the prestigious award should go to.

To summarise what the team is doing is not easy. So let’s backtrack to where it all started; a few years ago when NASA and the University of Princeton co-operated in an interesting project, finding signs of “life”. No, not all kinds of weird, alien stuff; but really substantial scientific research that has led to some really interesting and ground-breaking findings. Esta explains: “The new micro-organisms have great properties and

they could give us new products to combat antibiotic resistance, even help with viral infections, by giving us new drugs for the health sector. Usually environmental ‘influences’ are addressed by using chemistry but bacteria can save the day by cleaning up some of our legacies created by chemical and physical means through mining, industrial initiatives, etc.” But how does one know whether everything is “back to normal”?

She explains how the presence (or absence) of specific micro-organisms are often indicative of specific environmental conditions. Some conditions are not obvious to the naked eye, but could lead researchers to identifying dangers or opportunities that were previously not possible. It’s really interesting, if one looks at an unused mine, for instance. It might seem as if everything has been restored to a pre-mining-intervention state. Yet, if one looks at the micro-organisms, there often are signs that show the “invisible” reality. Once one starts studying micro-organisms – a new truth unfolds.

As Prof. Esta speaks, it becomes clear that she’s a no-nonsense manager, task focused and direct. But then, there are the pictures on the wall?

Prof. Esta answers my question with a quote from Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In essence, it’s about finding the balance, living a well-rounded life. She still participates in sports, keeps contact with her mom and dad, *and* makes time to have fun. And yes, she’s passionate about what she does – she compares the passion she feels for her research with Diane Fossey’s. She understands why the *Gorillas in the Mist* lady could become so involved.

As she talks, I try to imagine what her team would be like. Which side of the leader is reflected in their team spirit?

The answer becomes clear as Prof. Esta takes me through the labs. There’s warmth and dedication. Friendly greetings, but a sustained focus on the work. Yet, when they come along for the impromptu photo



Prof. Esta van Heerden deep down in a mine.


Photos: Africa Geographic

session, there’s an immediate relaxation, as if this team is able to switch between focus and fun in an instant. A relaxed camaraderie. The kind of atmosphere that marks greatness. It’s all there.

Vision, trust, fun and focus.

Back in her office Prof. Esta shows me more photographs. Magic moments. Tired team members who have just come out of hot mines. Friends at the mines. People who have turned from being day-to-day miners to becoming passionate observers. A team that sticks together in everything. Prof. Esta, Koos, Derek and Dirk have found a way to deal with all aspects – together.

Indeed a team that persists.

And, as the poster reminds Prof. Esta every day: *There is power in persistence.* 

# CDS is at the forefront of socio-economic research

By Lize du Plessis

When taking a walk through the Johannes Brill Building, you will immediately be struck by the silence. You can feel the hard work done in this building in the air. The Centre for Development Support (CDS) is situated in this building. The people working at the centre strive towards furthering human development, mainly in the Free State, but also in the rest of Southern Africa. Prof. Lochner Marais, Director of the centre, succeeds in creating a genial and non-hierarchical environment in which work satisfaction plays a major role.

It is impressive to see how this centre in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences has gone from strength to strength since its inception more than a decade ago. Today the centre produces approximately one third of the faculty's accredited research output.

Seeing that the centre is at the forefront of relevant socio-economic research at local, national and international level, it comes as no surprise that they are busy with major research projects. Jan Cloete, a junior researcher at the centre, explains: "We have been contracted by ABSA to investigate the economic impact of the Mangaung African Cultural Festival (Macufe) on the Bloemfontein environment."

On 9 and 10 October 2009 approximately 1 000 interviews were conducted with visitors to the festival. The visitors were, amongst others, asked what they spent money on during the festival. From preliminary figures it transpires that the festival brings approximately R20 million from outside to Bloemfontein.

More than 300 businesses formed part of the research. In 2008 the centre undertook a study on behalf of Grain SA and the branch of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI) at Bothaville. The main objective of this study was to determine the economic impact the Nampo Harvest Day has on Bothaville and surrounding towns. "The Nampo Harvest Day started in 1967 as an agricultural show," says Prof. Lochner. However, the show has grown incredibly during the past two decades and is currently also a general commercial show.

This study is of particular importance because it has facilitated strategic planning for at least the next ten years.

During the study, interviews were conducted with visitors to Nampo. Amongst others, the focus fell on the reasons for visiting Nampo, problems experienced during the show, the various exhibitions, and so forth.

The results of the study indicate that Nampo, which lasts four days in total, yields a spending of approximately R28 million at Bothaville and the surrounding area. However, the money is not the only advantage. Molefi Lenka, one of the researchers at the centre, states that, because Nampo creates approximately 500 employment opportunities, lowly schooled workers at Bothaville also benefit from the show.

The above research is impressive, but the CDS does not shrink away from hard work. Researchers at the



Prof. Lochner Marais (left) and his team.

centre are also busy with the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project. This project endeavours to analyse the socio-economic changes taking place during the planning of large radio telescopes in the Carnarvon and Williston areas.


The study is of extreme importance to the project, because it has to compete against Australia for the final world tender. "One of the criteria that must be met is the potential socio-economic impact of the said project," says Prof. Lochner.

Questionnaire surveys were done in 2007 and 2009 and comparisons are now drawn. "It transpires from the preliminary data that Carnarvon definitely benefits more from community-development projects," says Prof. Lochner. The main reason for this is probably that the Carnarvon community is better informed and can therefore utilise the benefits better.

The CDS's research extends much further than South Africa. It was approached by Global Development Network in India to determine the role urban agriculture plays in poverty in South Africa and Zambia. The project was managed in collaboration with the University of Zambia, the University of Otago in New Zealand and the University of New South Wales in Australia. More than 800 agriculturists in South Africa and Zambia were interviewed. The evidence of the study shows amongst others that approximately 10% of farmers receive a satisfactory income for their work.

To top everything, the CDS also offers a multi-disciplinary master's degree in Development Studies. More than 60% of the students registered for this programme come from countries outside South Africa. Lecturers from various departments at the UFS and other higher-education institutions are involved in the programme. The programme has specially been developed for individuals who are working in the developmental environment. The CDS also boasts fifteen Ph.D. students, of whom the first will complete their studies in 2010.

With such an impressive history, what can one look forward to in the future? Prof. Lochner singles out four aspects. The centre will eventually be able to pride itself upon more national and international publications and distinguished postgraduate programmes. Furthermore, the centre also now focuses on the development of a knowledge centre to bring about a larger degree of informed decision-making at regional level. "The emphasis here is on internationalisation and diversity," Prof. Lochner explains.

The Centre for Development Support is brimful with knowledge and passion. These people want to mean something to the community. They want to make a difference. Don't let the silence in the Johannes Brill Building fool you. This is the type of silence that becomes deafening as soon as you start to take a look at the work being done here. 



# Gemeenskappe leer om

Deur Leonie Bolleurs

Gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid moet oor leer gaan. Om betekenisvol te wees, moet gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid deur diens en leer gedryf word, sê Rektor en Visekanselier prof. Jonathan Jansen. Dit is dan ook hoe prof. Pieter Verster van die Departement Sendingwetenskap in ons Fakulteit Teologie die navorsingsprojek waarmee hy tans besig is, benader het.

Prof. Pieter is betrokke by 'n projek waarin navorsing oor die rol van die kerk in armoede-verligting in informele behuisingsgebiede gedoen word. "Die navorsing wil bepaal hoe die kerk geïnspireer kan word om 'n steeds groter rol in armoedeverligting te speel," vertel prof. Pieter.

Prof. Pieter is al reeds in 1992, toe hy as senior lektor by ons universiteit begin werk het, deur prof. Koos Smit, die destydse hoof van die Departement Sendingwetenskap, geïnspireer om navorsing in informele behuisingsgebiede te doen.

kerke van Afrika soos die Zion Christian Church of die Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika wat in hierdie gemeenskappe betrokke is. Hulle leef saam met mense op grondvlak. Hulle weet die beste wat mense se omstandighede is en hoe die omstandighede verlig kan word. Die kerk lewer 'n betekenisvolle bydrae tot die opbou en heling van mense in angsvallige nood."

Volgens prof. Pieter is die bedoeling dat die hele gemeenskap in 'n informele behuisingsgebied by die projek baat behoort te vind. "Dit is nie net die kerk wat geïnspireer moet word om meer by armes betrokke te raak nie. Armes self moet geïnspireer word om iets aan

"Dit is nie net die kerk wat geïnspireer moet word om meer by armes betrokke te raak nie. Armes self moet geïnspireer word om iets aan hulle omstandighede te doen."

"Ons doel met die projek is om eerstens te bepaal wat die omstandighede van mense in informele behuisingsgebiede in Mangaung en rondom Bloemfontein is. Daarnaas word bepaal wat die kerk reeds doen om die nood van mense te verlig. 'n Verdere stap is om te bepaal wat die kerk behoort te doen om die armoede verder te verlig en om dan aktief by mense in informele behuisingsgebiede betrokke te raak. Laastens word gekyk na die toekoms en hoe die gemeenskap 'n nuwe toekoms tegemoet kan gaan.

"Wat ek gevind het, is dat geen informele gebied sonder die kerk is nie. Dikwels is dit onafhanklike

hulle omstandighede te doen," sê prof. Pieter.

'n Sprekende voorbeeld hiervan is 'n gemeente van die NGK in Afrika wat self betrokke geraak het deur uit hulle eie beperkte vermoëns ander te help. Hierdie gemeente het inisiatief geneem en hulle eie lidmate genooi om by die kerk groente en ander voedsel af te lewer wat dan weer in die gemeenskap versprei word. "Die ywer van armes om ander armes te help is aangrypend," sê prof. Pieter.

Volgens hom vind die gemeenskap baat deurdat die beginsel om vir jou naaste om te gee, al beskik jy self oor min bronne, gevestig word. Hulp word dus nie

# self hoop te skep



Prof. Pieter Verster, Laurentina Setlaba, visekerkleier van die African First Apostolic Church in Southern Africa, en Tladi Maile, medenavorser en kerkleier van die NG Kerk in Afrika.

Foto: Hannes Pieterse

van buite ingebring nie, maar gemeenskappe word geleer om self hoop te skep deur onderling bymekaar betrokke te raak," verduidelik prof. Pieter.

Dit is prof. Pieter se hoop dat die projek gemeentes sal inspireer om self by die mense rondom hulle se nood betrokke te raak. "As daar oor twee jaar gemeentes van verskeie kerke kan wees wat steeds en meer aktief betrokke is by die armstes rondom hulle en hulle met hoop inspireer, het die projek suksesvol verloop."

"Ons universiteit het deurgaans die geleentheid tot navorsing ondersteun vir hierdie projek wat vanjaar ten einde loop." Hy het fondse gekry van die UV se strategiese kluster oor armoede-vermindering en in 2008 het die Nasionale Navorsingstigting (NNS) ook 'n toekening gemaak.

"Die UV het my ook vir die projek voorberei en doen dit nog steeds deur die geleentheid te skep om my

navorsingsmetodes op te skerp," sê prof. Pieter.

Gaan om te seën en jy word self geseën. Dit is male sonder tal die ondervinding van dié wat hulself beskikbaar gestel het om waarde toe te voeg tot die lewens van ander – op watter manier ook al. Net so het hierdie projek baie vir prof. Pieter beteken. "Die positiewe gesindheid wat mense in die informele gebiede openbaar en die kerk se bereidheid om te help al sou hulle tradisie van myne verskil, is uiters merkwaardig. Soms word daar in informele strukture, wat nie groter as 'n gewone kamer is nie, byeengekom en kom tussen twintig en dertig mense saam om te aanbid. Die ywer van die mense het my aangegryp.

"Die projek het my geleer dat die evangelie van Jesus Christus uitgeleef word in omstandighede wat mense sou dink die situasie mense wanhopig sou maak. Dit het my inspireer tot groter dankbaarheid en aksie," vertel prof. Pieter. **B**

## Navorsingspublikasie ter ere van Plantkunde uitgebring

Deur Lacea Loader

'n Navorsingspublikasie – *Navorsing van die Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein* – 'n *Eeu van Plantkunde aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, 1905-2005* – is verlede jaar deur ons Departement Plantwetenskappe bekend gestel.

In die publikasie word onder meer 'n oorsig van die beoefening van honderd jaar van plantkunde aan ons universiteit deur prof. Johan Grobbelaar, voormalige hoof van die Departement Plantkunde gegee.

Die vakkategorie Plantkunde word sedert 1905 met die aanstelling van Geo Potts, 'n Skotse immigrant, aan ons universiteit beoefen. Prof. Potts was vir 32 jaar departementshoof en het die UV se herbarium, wat vandag sy naam dra, gestig. Na sy aftrede is die departement gelei deur prof. W.J. Lütjeharms (1938-1962), E.M. van Zinderen Bakker (1963-1972), J.N. Eloff (1973-1983), J.G.C. Small (1984-1992), J.U. Grobbelaar (1993-2001) en Z.A. Pretorius (2002-2009). Prof. Johann du Preez is vanaf 2010 as departementshoof aangestel.

Prof. Lütjeharms het aanvanklik al die lesings gegee, hoofsaaklik planttaksonomie, plantfisiologie en mikologie. Oor die jare is nuwe studieveldes soos limnologie, sub-Antarktiese biologie, saadbiologie, palinologie, terrestriële ekologie, molekuleêre biologie en albiotegnologie bygevoeg. Prof. Van Zinderen Bakker, 'n Nederlander wat in 1947 aangestel is, het die departement se gerespekteerde stuifmeelprogram geïnisieer. Gedurende prof. Small se termyn is Plantkunde en Genetika gekombineer, maar Genetika is sedert 2007 'n volwaardige departement.

Plantkunde word sedert 1983 op die Qwaqwa-kampus, toe nog deel van die Universiteit van die Noorde, aangebied.



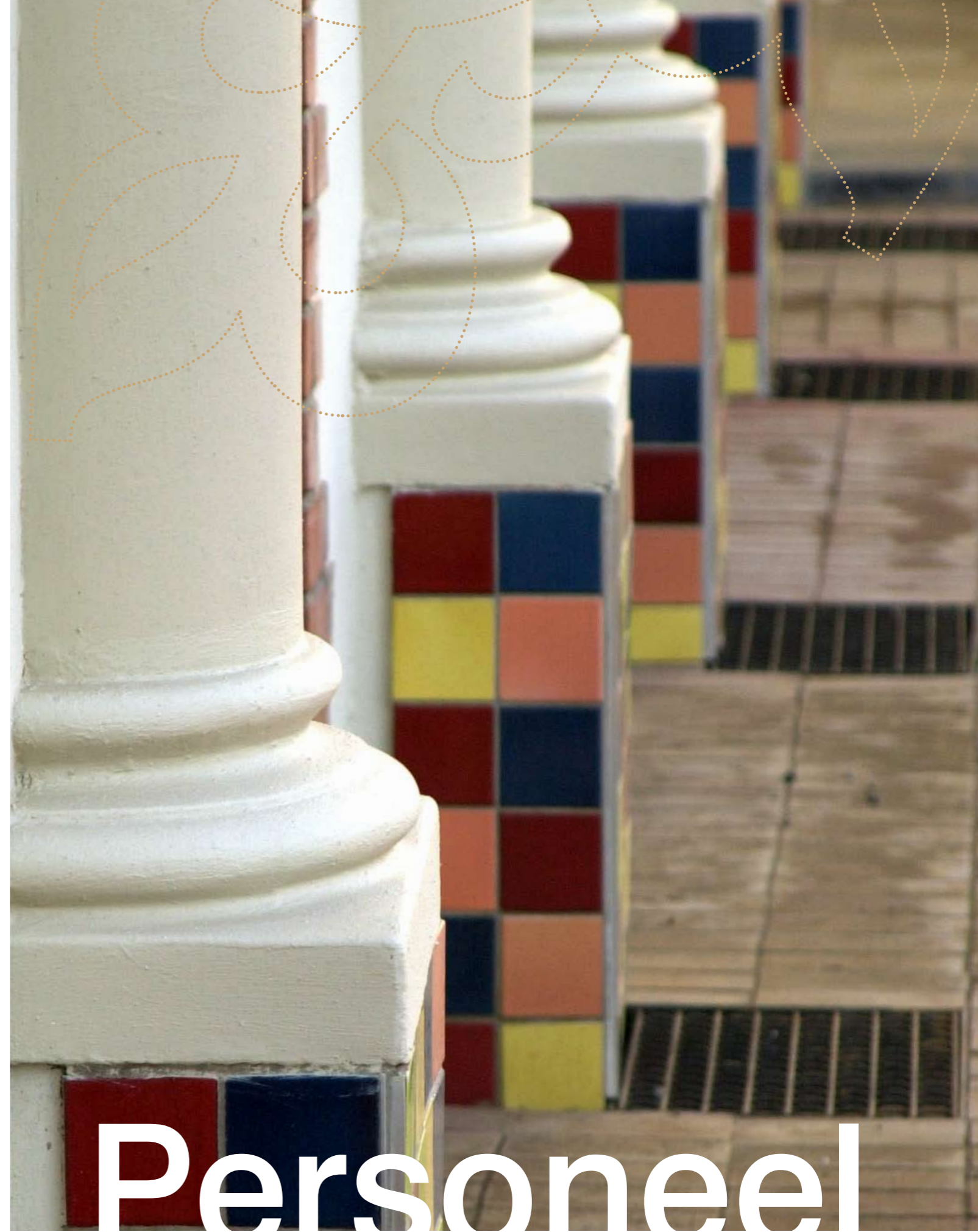
Foto: Stephen Collett

By die bekendstelling van die pragpublikasie is, van links: Prof. JN Eloff, voormalige Hoof van die Departement Plantkunde, Prof. Johan Grobbelaar, voormalige Hoof van die Departement Plantkunde en Genetika, en Prof. Zakkie Pretorius, Hoof van die Departement Plantwetenskappe.

Toe die Qwaqwa-kampus in 2003 'n satellietkampus van die UV word, het die Plantkunde-departement 'n afdeling van Plantwetenskappe geword.

Volgens prof. Zakkie Pretorius, wat verlede jaar as departementshoof uitgetree het, betree die departement 'n nuwe fase omdat daar 'n hele aantal personelede is wat binnekort aftree. "Een van die grootste uitdagings is die feit dat die departement sy momentum in hierdie oorgangsfase moet behou en sy bydrae tot die vakgebiede moet verstewig deur kundiges te soek om hulle by ons aan te sluit. Ons moet ook nie ons relevansie in die praktyk verloor nie en ons moet 'n gebalanseerde akademiese uitkyk behou," sê hy.

Dit is volgens prof. Pretorius uiters belangrik dat die departement tred moet hou met studies van byvoorbeeld biodiversiteit sodat die omgewing en bewaring daarvan beter verstaan kan word, asook op molekuleêre vlak om meer fundamentele navorsing in die plantwetenskappe te doen. "Omdat die departement ook dissiplines in die landbouwetenskap huisves, bly dit noodsaaklik dat die studieveldes van planteteelt en plantpatologie ook voortdurend uitgebou word," sê hy. **B**



# Personeel

# The undercover composer of music

By Elsabé Pepler

If he could have his life over, he would be a conductor of a symphony orchestra that plays his compositions.

Although he loves every minute of his work as a healer of sick, handicapped children and their distressed parents, he regularly departs to the world of music where he composes captivating melodies. Whilst Prof. André Venter excels in his chosen medical profession as Head of Paediatrics at the UFS's School of Medicine, he keeps on hearing the music. In 2009 he was nominated as Bloemfonteiner of the year and honoured by Kopsie-Alumni for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the UFS.

He is a spontaneous and animated teller of his own life story. He grew up in Lyttelton with one sister that he still adores, even though she lives in Minneapolis. He recalls how his father, a pharmacist, constantly administered medicine and warm advice to the ill. André believes that he carries that same healing and philanthropic gene.

He cannot recall a time when he had not been yearning to become a performer, even as a very young child. "All I wanted to do was to sing, dance, make music, act... But I was somewhat clumsy and big, and apparently not sufficiently handsome in my parent's view. My mother had this serious, tactful conversation with me to devise an alternative future and career plan. The family and I consequently decided on medicine – a decision I have never once regretted."

He confesses how lucky he has been throughout his life. "I did not have to do much to land up in the right place, again and again. The doors always opened even before I needed to think about the next step, and for that I am so thankful to God."

When I ask him what he believes his primary legacy will be and what people will most remember about him, he thinks deep, long, hard. "I'm not sure if all people will say this about me, but I hope that my strongest attributes are sincerity, honesty without any hidden agendas, and a deep caring for other human

beings, a real leader with passion. Above all, I hope to be remembered as an eternal optimist with a strong spirituality and holy respect for the wonders of the human brain."

He is an example of one of those rare perfectly-balanced left- and right-brained people. Although he loves the sciences and mathematics, he perpetually longs for the artistic worlds of drama, literature and music. He surrounds himself with books, music, art, documentaries and unforgettable films.

And here is the most interesting thing about this dynamic, world-famous developmental paediatrician: he composes music whenever he can. Several of his works have been performed by orchestras and individuals – so, this "alter-ego" vocation is a serious one. He adores modern composers such as Poulenc, Ravel and Shostakovich. He yearns to create the same type of music these composers became famous for. He did not really receive much formal musical training and only got a piano when he was seventeen, but he keeps hearing the music in his head, which he needs to get onto paper for other people to play.

Make no mistake: this man has serious musical aptitude. He took opera-singing lessons with the legendary soprano Joyce Barker and devoted his free time to singing in the State Opera Choir for PACT, as well as while studying in Canada during the early nineties. And he does ballroom dancing.

How does he recharge and shift the focus away from the heart-wrenching job of telling parents that their child is not well; possibly handicapped? "All the music in my head and on my piano and in CD players breathes new life into me. I'm passionate about good food, and I cook it, too. I do not watch television – I don't have time to waste! – and I prefer to spend my precious free hours with reading good biographies and autobiographies." He is currently immersed in *The*

*History of God*, written by Karen Armstrong, and the life story of T.S. Elliot.

He chuckles: "I call myself a benign dictator. I believe in democracy and its principles one hundred percent, but life needs firm control and management to realise its potential. For that, visionary leadership is all-important. I have in vision, faith and endless optimism. Especially optimism." His big, neatly arranged office and desk confirm his control and management traits.

Then he loves travelling. He and his best friend recently visited Turkey, where the ancient history kept him intrigued for days. He confesses to a deep longing to continually expand his mind space and transcend his own boundaries by exploration into other realms. That does not mean that he is not completely fulfilled and settled in Bloemfontein. Even though he received various prestigious offers elsewhere recently, this is where he wants to spend his life, by making a significant difference.

Suddenly he announces: "My most favourite piece of music, I remember now, is Richard Strauss's *Last Four Lieder for Soprano and Orchestra*." He sits back with his hands behind his head, totally chuffed with his eventual choice.

As I walk to my car after an hour well-spent talking to this fascinating man, I am amazed, once again, at the marvels of the multi-faceted human spirit and all the interesting things we do *not* know about the next person, such as Prof. André Venter. **B**

"All the music in my head and on my piano and in CD players breathes new life into me."



Photo: Stephen Collett

Prof. André Venter.



Mnr. Johān Loock.

## Oom Loock

Deur Willemien Marais

Op universiteitskampusse oor die wêreld heen is daar dikwels 'n paar fossiele wat halsstarrig vasklou aan 'n lessenaar. Op al die kampusse is daar ook lewende legendes van amper mitiese afmetings. By Geologie kan jy by 'n lewende legende oor fossiele leer.

Mnr. Johan Loock (71), wêreldbekende geoloog, geliefde dosent, navorsers, Anglo-Boereoorlog-kenner en liefhebber van 'n grappie en lekker lag, het in 2009 'n eredoktorsgraad van die UV ontvang vir sy bevordering van die wetenskappe en spesifiek geologie. "Dit gaan oor die oordra van kennis, nie oor my bydrae tot die wetenskap self nie," verduidelik oom Loock, soos almal hom noem. Dis nou dié wat hom nie Malume noem nie.

Nie dat sy navorsingsbydrae enigsins minder indrukwekkend is nie, maar dit is as mentor en ware leermeester dat hy hom onderskei het, soveel so dat sy studente van dertig jaar gelede hom steeds kom opsoek. En hy onthou die meeste van hulle. "Natuurlik nie almal nie, maar daar is altyd 'n paar wat uitstaan. Hulle was óf slim óf stout!"

Sy liefde vir die natuurlike wêreld kom van sy ouers, wat naby Graaff-Reinet in die Karoo geboer het. "My ma het 'n B.Sc.-graad gehad en saam met my pa het hulle vir my plante en klippe uitgewys. Ons het in die veld geloop en na fossiele gesoek." Dit was dus nie 'n verrassing toe die jong Johan ná 'n jaar by die Vloot-gimnasium na die Universiteit van Stellenbosch toe is nie. Dis ook hier waar hy as nagraadse student die geleentheid gekry het om Antarktika as waarnemer te besoek. "Ek was al op ses vastelande, ek kort nog net Suid-Amerika. Die meeste mense besoek ses vastelande, maar nooit die Suidpool nie. Ek het sommer daar begin!"

In 'n lewe vol hoogtepunte is dit moeilik om 'n paar uit te sonder, maar oom Loock noem eerste die werk

## se passie onblusbaar

wat hy in die Karoo gedoen het. Hy is een van die voorste kundiges op die gebied van sedimentologie en stratigrafie, veral met betrekking tot die Karoo-supergroep. "Kom ek vertel jou iets: groen heuwels en blou see raak die emosies; die woestyn stimuleer die intellek. Ek is vir meer as dertig jaar al besig met navorsing in die Karoo. Dit het vir my baie dinge laat verstaan."

Om dinge te verstaan, is die dryfkrag wat oom Loock laat voortstoom, selfs ses jaar ná sy aftrede. "Dit is vir my baie belangrik om my studente te laat verstaan dat alles verwant is. Ek gebruik maklik 'n veldslag uit die Anglo-Boereoorlog om die topografie van 'n gebied te verduidelik." Oom Loock is trouens ook 'n kundige op die gebied van dié oorlog en bied gereeld hieroor toere in die Vrystaat aan. Wat dan natuurlik met geologie en

nie net hierdie ouens hier op kampus nie, dis ook die toergroepe en ander mense met wie ek my kennis kan deel. Ek het 'n passie om dinge vir mense te verduidelik. Dis belangrik dat mense verstaan dat kennis nie losstaande goed is nie – alle feite wat jy leer, vorm 'n netwerk van kennis." Om by oom Loock klas te hê, is trouens iets waarmee studente op die kampus loop en spog! Dis min dosente wat dit regkry dat studente sy klas bywoon sonder dat hulle vir sy module geregistreer is.

Sedert sy aftrede is oom Loock éérs besig. Hy versamel antieke gewere en ammunisie. Buiten vir sy meer as 300 boeke oor gewere, versamel hy ook boeke oor veral Suid-Afrika se militêre geskiedenis en boeke en geskrifte van die ou trekboere. Dan is daar nog sy belangstelling in genealogie. 'n Kuier by hom ontaard sommer gou-gou in die uitlê van familie.

"Ek het 'n groot liefde vir my studente. Studente is nie net hierdie ouens hier op kampus nie, dis ook die toergroepe en ander mense met wie ek my kennis kan deel."

Tussenin doen hy steeds baie veldwerk. Hy hou sy hande op: "Lyk dit vir jou na 'n ou wat met 'n rekenaar werk?" Onlangs het twee studente spesiaal 'n afspraak met hom gemaak sodat hulle met hul eie oë kan sien dat daar werklik nie 'n rekenaar in sy kantoor is nie. Dan vertel hy hoe hy dit aanvanklik stil gehou het toe hy 'n paar

jaar gelede 'n selfoon gekry het. Hy lag lekker. "Ek wou nie hê die studente moet weet nie. Die skande is te groot, jy sien!"

Sy groot liefde bly egter geologie. "Daar is nog 'n paar fossiele wat ek soek," sê die man na wie twee Karoo-fossiele vernoem is. Die een was uit erkenning vir sy werk met visfossiele, terwyl hy en die Amerikaanse geoloog Paul Tash saamgewerk het om die *asmussia loockii* te ontdek.

Met só 'n bedrywige dagboek lyk dit nie of daardie trippie na Suid-Amerika binnekort gaan plaasvind nie. "Ek moet gaan. Ek wil die Andes-gebergtes sien en op Brasilië se grasvlaktes is daar minerale waarna ek nog moet gaan kyk."

geografie gekombineer word.

"Dis die beste ding wat ek ooit gedoen het," vertel hy oor so aanvaarding van 'n pos as dosent by Kovsies in 1971. Ná sy aftrede het hy vir 'n paar jaar nie klas gegee nie, maar dit het nie lank gehou nie. Deesdae gee hy weer klas vir eerstejaars en is ook by die UV se Sentrum vir Omgewingsbestuur betrokke. Sy oë blink: "Ek het vir die nagraadse studente vertel waar die koedoe aan sy naam gekom het. Toe loop ek 'n paar studente uit Afrika op die lughawe raak. Hulle het aangehardloop gekom en gevra dat ek gou weer die koedoe-storie moet vertel, want hulle wil seker maar hulle vertel dit presies reg by die huis oor!"

"Ek het 'n groot liefde vir my studente. Studente is

## Lorraine maak van optel en

Dis nou wat ware geesdrif en optimisme 'n aan mens doen: Binne 15 minute nadat ons ontmoet het, laat Lorraine Botha my iets hoogs ongewoon wens – dat ek weer op skool kan wees, en van alle plekke in die wiskundeklas sodat sy vir my die probleme wat tot vandag toe nog vir my Grieks is, kan help oplos.

Lorraine, wat 'n hoof- vakkundige beampte by die Sentrum vir Onderwysontwikkeling (SOO) is, laat die fynere kuns van somme maak soos kinderspeletjies lyk. Dit is ook presies wat Lorraine wil hoor, want deel van haar sukses as pedagoog is juis gebaseer op die gebruik van hulpmiddels soos speelgoed en boontjies, geldstukke en knope, en 'n reuse- veelkleurige kartonhond of twee, om wiskundige probleme op te los. Lorraine is veral betrokke by die Family Math-werksessies waar die fokus val op aktiwiteite wat gedoen word om wiskundige probleme onder die knie te kry.

Die 65-jarige Lorraine, wat 28 jaar skoolgehou het en alles van Wiskunde tot Rekenaarstudie en selfs 'n keer Latyn gegee het, verduidelik dat sy nog altyd dinge effe anders benader het. "Ek het ook anders skoolgehou. Ek het 'n ander idee gehad oor hoe dit moet wees. Jy moet onthou dat alles in daardie dae nog volgens 'n streng volgorde gedoen is. Ek is 'n bietjie aangespreek oor my manier van dinge doen, maar ek het gou besef dat die ou manier van skoolhou net vir 'n klein groepie kinders werk."

Volgens Lorraine moet kinders weet hoekom hulle iets moet leer, want wat is die punt om te leer as jy nie weet hoekom jy dit leer nie? Dit is die onderwyser se plig om juis dít vir hulle duidelik te maak. Verder, sê Lorraine, het sy ook gou agtergekem dat daar hoofsaaklik vir analitiese denkers skoolgehou word, en dat hierdie manier van skoolhou net vir 'n klein groepie kinders werk.

Lorraine sê met drif daar is talle kinders "wat alles

behalwe dom is", maar nie goeie toetskrywers is nie. Sy verduidelik dat analitiese denkers gewoonlik 'n goeie geheue het en dus goed vaar in toetse. Die tweede, groter groep is globale denkers en hulle sien, anders as die analitiese denkers wat kennis stap vir stap opbou, die groter prent, 'n geheelbeeld.

"Globale denkers wil ook weet hoekom hulle iets doen, en waar gaan hulle uitkom, en hulle moet 'n ding verstaan voordat hulle dit hulle eie maak." Sy sê die meeste leerders val in die tweede groep, wat meer "hands-on" is en ook geneig is om kreatief te soek vir oplossings. Hierdie bewuswording van haar het haar laat besef dat daar op 'n ander manier skoolgehou moet word om meer kinders vir wiskunde en wetenskap te wen.

Sy het dit haar missie gemaak om kinders te help wat sukkel sodat meer van hulle suksesvol kan wees. Dit is hierdie oortuiging van haar wat Lorraine 'n groot voorstander van uitkomsgerigte onderwys gemaak het. "UGO maak voorsiening vir die diversiteit wat daar in die klaskamer is en gee aan meer kinders die geleentheid om suksesvol te wees." Sy voeg by dat UGO baie teenstand gekry het en steeds kry, maar in skole waar dit reg toegepas word, "is kinders strate voor. Vir UGO om te slaag moet almal betrokke hulle ou koppe afskroef en dit met nuwe denke en 'n nuwe kop benader."

Lorraine sê UGO word dikwels in die media blameer vir kinders wat nie meer kan skryf en spel nie. Maar die eintlike probleem, sê sy, is dat kinders nie meer lees nie en "as jou verbale begrip nie goed is nie, kan jy


## aftrek kinderspeletjies Deur Margaret Linström

nie goed doen in enige vak nie – dis so eenvoudig soos dit!"

Gelukkig vir Lorraine kan sy ook haar voorliefde vir UGO in haar werk by die sentrum uitleef deur indiensopleiding van onderwysers, veral in UGO, aan te bied. Sy is ook betrokke by 'n verskeidenheid van projekte – dis nou wanneer sy nie modules ontwikkel of skryf aan al die leer materiaal vir die werksessies wat hulle aanbied nie.

Maar wat van die groot veelkleurige hond, Liesl, wat bo-op die boekrak in haar kantoor staan, met 'n piepklein hondjie, oftewel Starter Dog, neffens haar? Lorraine verduidelik gou dat "Liesl presies 18 keer groter is as Starter Dog". Sy gebruik die twee viervoetiges om buite-oppervlakke en volume in haar werksessies te verduidelik. Lorraine verduidelik dat sy die konstruktivistiese benadering in haar werksessies volg.

"Ons gee nie lesings nie; die mense moet aktiwiteite doen en daaruit ontwikkel hulle hul eie kennis. Ons sê 'create your own meaning'." Volgens Lorraine moet 'n mens 'n ervaring hê, en uit die ervaring verstaan jy 'n konsep, en as jy dít verstaan, moet jy leer om dit toe te pas. "Dan kan ons begin somme maak."

Oor wat haar opgewonde maak, sê sy dat daar vir haar niks lekkerder is nie as wanneer sy en ander SOO-personeel hul hulpmiddels en toerusting vir die werksessies in die rooi bussie pak en van skool na skool toer. En natuurlik haar huisie by Paradysstrand, en nuwe goed uitdink, en stap en tuinwerk, en die see, en lees, en, en, en... 'n Uur en 'n half is te gou verby, en ek voel meer as 'n bietjie jaloers op die gelukkiges wat saam met Lorraine speel-speel leer somme maak. 



Lorraine Botha.

Foto: Margaret Linström

# A man of many words

By Willemien Marais

Philemon Akach was appointed as the Head of the Department of South African Sign Language at the UFS. He spoke to **Willemien Marais** about his passion for Sign Language, his home in Kenya and his love for a good beer.

SOON after he had started working at the UFS, Philemon Akach came across one of the cleaners in the Flippie Groenewoud Building. "She greeted me in Sesotho, but of course my face was a blank. Then she tried Afrikaans, but still – blank. She probably went through all the official languages before clicking her tongue and moving off. I can just imagine how she went home to tell her family that there's a black man at the university who does not have a language!"

In fact, he has several languages. Growing up in Kenya, Akach, as he likes to be called, was not aware of his natural ability to pick up languages. "Which was a good thing," he explains, "because once one becomes aware of something it often inhibits you." This "lack of awareness" has led to him being able to speak nine Kenyan languages, Finnish, Swedish, Sesotho and a bit of Afrikaans; and of course Kenyan Sign Language and South African Sign Language.

His proficiency in Sign Language was purely accidental. "Back in Kenya, I was a teacher, and in 1975 one of the boys in my class went deaf. To me this was a rude awakening, because I was suddenly unable to communicate with him." After helping to get the boy into a school for the deaf, life went back to normal. But two years later an advertisement caught his eye: the government wanted to train teachers as teachers for the deaf.

"I underwent the training and started to work at a school for the deaf. At that stage, Kenyan policy dictated that deaf children had to be taught lip reading. However, I saw them use a form of sign language on the playground and realised that they were communicating much more proficiently in that way."

The children taught Akach their sign language, which ended in him not being allowed to teach any longer. "It was actually the spark I needed. I enrolled for a master's degree in linguistics at the University of Nairobi and went on to write the first Kenyan Sign Language dictionary. My master's dissertation focused on the grammar of Kenyan Sign Language. Despite all this research, the Kenyan government is only now starting to review the constitution. It is thirty years later and Sign Language is still not a medium of instruction."

Coming to South Africa in the early nineties as an interpreter for a delegation of the World Federation of the Deaf, Akach found South Africa to be much more accommodating in terms of recognising Sign Language as a language. "My first visit to South Africa led to me being appointed as Director of Sign Language and Interpreting Development by the Deaf Federation of South Africa." For the next three years Akach propagated Sign Language across South Africa. "I visited schools, universities, government departments; I spent more time in Parliament than most MPs!" He also wrote a curriculum for South African Sign Language up to tertiary level, as well as a curriculum for teaching Sign Language as a second language. "That curriculum is currently used at the University of the Free State."

In 1998 Akach was appointed to what is now the UFS's Unit for Language Management to pilot a programme for teaching Sign Language as an academic subject. "In terms of Sign Language, Kopsies is a pioneer – not only in South Africa, but on the African continent. It was the first university to start teaching Sign Language as an academic subject, and at the moment it is the fastest growing language at the UFS."

His department offers short courses to medical practitioners to enable them to establish basic communication with patients. "Even if you can just ask someone to tell you where it hurts, or ask if you should get an interpreter, it will make a difference." Akach and his colleagues also work with schools for the deaf in the Free State. "We've started several years ago and the teachers tell us that the children who've received their schooling via Sign Language perform on a par with learners in mainstream schools. As a teacher you need to 'unlock' the knowledge for a learner – and Sign Language is that key for deaf children."

With a career that takes him all over the world (for example, Akach also has a training programme in Spain and travels there at least twice a year), does he have any free time? "Well, my wife and children will tell you that I am married to my work!" he confesses. The couple has five children, four daughters and a son. One of the couple's daughters passed away in 1993.

"It seems none of our children are following in our footsteps," says Akach, whose wife is also a qualified teacher. "My daughters are into tourism and commerce. One of them is a medical doctor who graduated from Kopsies. And my only son, the youngest, is a first-year Kopsie." Akach is also the very proud grandfather of two grandchildren.

While they all have permanent resident status, Akach says the moment he retires they'll move back to Kenya. "My wife and I have built a beautiful home on a piece of land in the village where I grew up. I love it there – it is quiet and peaceful and I can have a beer without being disturbed." The beer, he says, is his only vice. "I love a good beer!"

But the rest of the time you'll find him in his study, focused on his true love: developing and promoting Sign Language. **B**



Photo: Willemien Marais

Philemon Akach.

## Afrikaans sung in French

By Mangaliso Radebe



"We did something that no one else thought about and, hopefully, brought some poetry, music and nostalgia into people's lives." The Afri-Frans project is probably the sweetest music to Prof. Naomi Morgan's ears in a very long time, as is clearly evident in her foregoing assertion.



Prof. Naomi Morgan.

Prof. Naomi of our Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French was responsible for the translation of well-known Afrikaans lyrics into French for the *Afri-Frans* CD that steals the hearts of people nationally and internationally. Since 2008 she worked tirelessly on translating Afrikaans songs into French. This was after her "good friend" Matthys Maree, a brilliant pianist, musical arranger and producer in his own right, enlisted her expertise. And the final product was a masterpiece.

"He selected 13 songs by various composers, which included folk songs and so-called 'luisterliedjies' for me to translate," explains Prof. Naomi.

"He re-arranged all the compositions in the French style, used the best instrumentalists he could find and signed up a singer by the name of Maude Myra (born Rakontondravohitra)." Maude Myra's father is from Madagascar and her mother is from Martinique. It is her celestial voice, complemented by brilliant instrumentalists like Mauritz Lots, Denis Lalouette, Vinne Henrico, Susan Mouton, Annake de Villiers and David Klassen, to name a few, that makes this project all the more worthwhile for Prof. Naomi.

"I feel that we have given a new identity to a certain number of songs in French and Afrikaans," she says with pride.

And the response, all around, has been phenomenal. "It is her beautiful, soothing voice which can now be heard on most South African radio stations," says Prof. Naomi. "Since it was launched early last year, the *Afri-Frans* CD has sold out in stores around the country. I have heard from old friends in Geneva, where I lived for seven years. I also taught French to members of the South African Embassy, and received messages from them for the first time in almost 20 years."

She lists, as her favourite song, track number four on the CD, "Le piano de Lisa" ("Lisa se klavier"). "It is a beautiful song about Cape Town," she says. This year (2010) Maude Myra visited South Africa for the *Afri-Frans* stage production and, as if that is not enough, Prof. Naomi is already spinning her magic again on translations for *Afri-Frans 2*. Plans are already afoot for an *Afri-Spaans* CD with Latino rhythms.

"What the *Afri-Frans* CD has meant to me personally is that it confirms that there is always a way of combining one's interests in a creative way, in this case, my love of the song genre, French and the art of translation," she explains.

"Working on a CD such as this one also brings one into contact with the talented and enthusiastic people of the performing arts world, and I have always thought that when one teaches literature and culture as I do, one should not only view things from one's ivory tower. "In my dreams, this CD is our gift to the French soccer team for 2010." **B**



# Students

# Oud-Kovsie Corrie van Zyl

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Ons universiteit het oor die jare al 'n paar nasionale afrigters opgelewer en sy nuutste toevoeging is 'n oud-Kovsie wat as afrigter van die nasionale krieketspan aangestel is. Corrie van Zyl het vanjaar die leisels van die Suid-Afrikaanse krieketspan oorgeneem en sal die span tot ná aanstaande jaar se Wêreldbeker-toernooi op die subkontinent slyp.

Van Zyl was aanvanklik net as tussentydse Protea-breier aangestel toe mnr. Mickey Arthur einde Januarie die land met sy skielike bedanking geskok het. Van Zyl se aanstelling is 'n maand later, ná afloop van die toer na Indië, bekragtig. Hier het hy 'n droombegin in sy eerste toets as hoofafrigter gehad deur Indië op sy agterplaas met 'n beurt en 6 lopies te vermorsel.

Sedertdien loop almal op die Kovsie-kampus breëbors rond, want nie net is Van Zyl 'n oud-student nie; hy was ook by die universiteit werksaam. Van Zyl het van 1980 tot 1983 B.A. Algemeen (met Wiskunde en Duits as hoofvakke) gestudeer. Hy het daarna vir 18 maande by sy alma mater, Grey-kollege in Bloemfontein, skoolgehou totdat krieket uiteindelik die oorhand gekry het.

“Krieket het in daardie jare stadigaan professioneel begin word – wat 'n geel wortel was. Dit het my laat besluit om 'n pos as krieketorganiseerder by die UV se Sportburo (vandag bekend as KovsieSport) te aanvaar.”

Van Zyl, wat volgende jaar 50 word, sê hy is nie goed met datums en jare nie, maar hy reken hy was so vier tot vyf jaar by die universiteit werksaam totdat krieket in die vroeë 1990's in Suid-Afrika professioneel en 'n voltydse beroep geword het.

Hy het as snelbouler en later veelsydige speler baie wedstryde vir die Vrystaat gespeel en is in 1992 met nasionale kleure beloon deur in twee internasionale eendagwedstryde vir Suid-Afrika teen die Wes-Indiese Eilande te speel.

Hy het in sy speeldae verskeie aanloklike aanbiedinge

gekry, maar het dit van die hand gewys.

“Ook as afrigter het ek nooit oorweeg om elders af te rig nie. My kinders was hier op skool en my vrou het 'n werk in Bloemfontein, so dit was nie maklik om sommer net hier pad te gee nie. Boonop is Vrystaters wonderlike spelers om mee te werk.”

“Ek het ook vroeër gevoel dat die tydsberekening nie reg was om hier weg te gaan nie. Ek dink egter ek is nou beter as ooit vantevore gerat vir die taak as nasionale afrigter. Die tydsberekening voel net reg,” verduidelik hy.


Volgens hom het hy nooit as 'n jong Vrystaatse seun, waar hy tellinghouer by die Ramblers-klub was, gedroom om eendag die nasionale krieketspan af te rig nie. “Ek wou maar net van jongs af vir die Vrystaat krieket speel. Toe ek in 1995 opgehou speel het, het ek krieket so baie geniet dat ek steeds by die spel betrokke wou bly.”

Volgens hom het hy in sy afrigtingsloopbaan van nagenoeg 15 jaar by verskeie afrigters wenke en idees versamel. “Eddie Barlow (destydse Vrystaatafrigter) was waarskynlik dié persoon by wie ek die meeste geleer het. Ook as Protea-hulpafrigter het ek baie by wyle Bob Woolmer, Graham Ford en Eric Simons wys geword.”

Daardie rol het Van Zyl van 1998 tot 2002 vervul voor hy vyf suksesvolle jare as breier van die Diamant-Arende gehad het. In dié tydperk het hulle ses titels gebuit.

Van Zyl is beskeie om oor sy sterk punte te praat, maar noem menseverhoudinge, werksetiek en fokus op spanverband as kenmerke van sy afrigtingstyl.

Hy was van April 2009 Krieket Suid-Afrika (KSA) se prestasiebestuurder by die Sentrum vir Uitnemendheid (HPC) in Pretoria.

Hoewel hy nou nóg minder by die huis gaan wees, beskou hy steeds Bloemfontein as sy tuiste. 

# gerat vir krieketsukses



“Ek wou maar net van jongs af vir die Vrystaat krieket speel.”

Corrie van Zyl.

Foto: Gallo Images



# Heinrich Brüssow, trotse baldraer vir UV

Deur Willem van den Berg

Hy is so beweeglik en gevaarlik soos 'n Jack Russel op die rugbyveld. Dit is ons Heinrich Brüssow, wat die land laat gons met sy kookwaterspel in die Springbok-rugbyspan.

Sy Jack Russel-houding op die rugbyveld en konstante gegrawe na die bal het vir hom groot lof in Suid-Afrikaanse geleedere en respek oor die wêreld heen besorg.

Hy is rektor Jonathan Jansen se gunstelingrugbyspeler, ondanks Jansen se stoere ondersteuning aan 'n blou spannetjie in die noorde. Hy is deur talle unies, komitees en verenigings aangewys as hul rugbyspeler van die jaar, maar steeds wil hy nie oor sy eie prestasies praat nie. Pure Vrystater en Kowsie.

Heinrich is in Bloemfontein gebore en was sy hele skoolloopbaan in Grey-kollege. Hy kan nie meer daardie eerste rugbywedstryd onthou nie. "Ek onthou net my ma het my gevat."

In die Brüssow-huishouding is Heinrich die middelkind en die enigste seun. "Ons is 'n gemaklike huis. My pa en ma is nie moeilike mense nie en almal kom lekker oor die weg. Ek was darem nie verkeerd stout as kind nie." Sy ouers, drs. Marcel en Saretha Brüssow, is albei verbonde aan die UV.

Dit is ook sy pa wat volgens hom die grootste rol gespeel het in sy vroeë rugbyloopbaan. "Hy het altyd na my wedstryde kom kyk en altyd raad gegee en kommentaar gelewer. Hy lewer steeds kommentaar..." Hy het B.Com. Ekonomie by Kowsies begin swot, maar net een helfte vir Shimlas gespeel. 'n Tweede helfte teen RAU. Hy was egter teen dié tyd reeds in die 0.19-Vrystaatgroep en besig om opgang te maak in die SA-sewes en die Vodacomliga. Die groot deurbraak het einde 2008 gekom. Heinrich het die geleentheid gekry om saam met die Springbokke na Europa te toer.

"Dis 'n ongelooflike gevoel as jou naam die eerste


keer as Springbok uitgelees word. Jy besef skielik jy verteenwoordig die hele Suid-Afrika. Dit is ook natuurlik 'n groot verantwoordelikheid. Ek was bly om saam met die Bokke te toer en ondervinding op te doen. Daardie vier minute op Twickenham was ongelooflik. Ons het 'n rekordtelling voor 80 000 mense aangeteken."

In die reeks teen die Britse en Ierse Leeus het die wêreld gegons oor Suid-Afrika se Jack Russel. Heinrich is skielik met name soos Richie McCaw en George Smith vergelyk. Toe hy sy kans kry om teen hulle in die Drienasiesreeks te speel was daar 'n senuagtigheid onder die Kiwi's en Aussies.

"Dit was lekker om teen die groot name te speel en jousef te vergelyk met die bestes. Jy weet van hulle op die veld, maar jy speel nie net teen McCaw of Smith nie. En jy is natuurlik ook nie alleen nie. Jy het jou ouens saam met jou."

Watter drome bly oor as jy op 23 reeds Springbok is? "Die grotes. Om 'n goeie man en pa te wees. Om goed te wees vir my familie. Dit is 'n groot uitdaging. Veral in vandag se tyd."

Hy weet rugbyspelers se loopbane eindig gouer as wat hulle daarvan hou en daarom het hy 'n ontwikkelingsbesigheid aan die gang gekry en bou hy huise in Bloemfontein. "Ek wil dit ook nie vir altyd doen nie, maar vir eers werk dit. Om eendag 'n plaas te hê sal lekker wees." Intussen gaan kuier hy graag op sy swaer se plaas naby Luckhoff.

Wat doen hy as hy 'n tydjie af het? "Ek vang vis. Ek is mal oor visvang. Jag ook, maar om vis te vang by die see bly die lekkerste. En om saam met my meisie te wees." 



Heinrich Brüssow.

Foto: Hannes Pretorius

# They learn gesellig **‘Die Taal’**

By Jamie Turlington

“Beste Mevrouw Ida, Dit is met groot plesier te praat met jou. Ek het die boodskaaap gekry. Ek kan nie wag nie te gaan die klas. Ek het die klas geweg. Ek sal sein jou by die klas volgende week op Woensdag. Ek hoop jy het vakansies gegeniet. Ek nie geniet nie my vakansies. Ek is besig met laboratorium werk. Ek wil te stoot my werk want ek wil vroeg te klaar. groete ”

This is an email from one of our foreign students in the Afrikaans acquisition course.

“I am able to speak a *bietjie* Afrikaans. I’m working at the library so now I can communicate with my clients. If you are living in South Africa you must be able to speak the indigenous languages. I highly recommend it.” These are the words of Abdurahman Beshir, an Ethiopian student who completed a new course to teach non-Afrikaans speakers the basics of the language.

The Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French has been presenting Afrikaans as a foreign language informally to small groups for more than ten years. Aspects of everyday life such as cuisine, modern Afrikaans music, and simple language jokes are among the themes used in teaching and learning the basic grammatical structure of Afrikaans and acquiring the necessary vocabulary and correct pronunciation.

Prof. Angelique van Niekerk from the department says the development of the *Gesellig Afrikaans* CD-ROM stems from an increase in demand from students to learn Afrikaans. International students are often interested in learning the cultures and languages here. New staff members also often arrive unable to speak Afrikaans and wanting at least to understand the language for social and informal interaction.

The melodic overtures of *Nkosi Sikeleli Afrika* accompany the introduction to the newly developed *Gesellig Afrikaans* CD-ROM. Thereafter, you are guided through nine themes to be completed in succession and e-mailed to a supervisor before your grasp of the basics of Afrikaans can be assessed in a classroom environment. To simplify matters, English is used as the medium of instruction. The CD-ROM was recently


upgraded to also include Sesotho (with English) as medium of instruction in this Afrikaans language acquisition course.

There are also weekly contact sessions along the way that you may attend – should your schedule allow, of course.

“Texts don’t normally recognise learners as adults. We wanted to focus on people as adult learners – the fact that you don’t know the language doesn’t make you a child,” says the woman who pioneered the idea, Prof. Angelique.

What gives this course the edge over text-based language acquisition courses, is the opportunity to engage with the language. In true Afrikaner spirit, you are treated to a simple language-themed joke and contemporary Afrikaans *treffers* from the likes of Laurika Rauch, Koos Kombuis and others during every theme. You can even pop the CD into a player and listen to the audio on the go.

According to Prof. Angelique, other common problems are also addressed: “Language acquisition courses are usually in book form which leads to pronunciation problems.” To prevent this, Drama students of the UFS were co-opted into making recordings that assist with pronunciation at the click of a mouse.

“After the CD-ROM there is definitely more interest in the course. I have a whole file of names of interested people,” says Prof. Angelique. A basic Afrikaans course generally runs in the first semester, with a more advanced course commencing in the second semester. Upon completion, learners will receive a certificate from the UFS. 



Mahiet S. Bekele (left) from Ethiopia and Prof. Angelique van Niekerk.

Photo: Leatitia Penneer

# Elzet bereik speel-speel

# die hoogste sport Deur Margaret Lijnström

Vir die 23-jarige Elzet Engelbrecht was 2009 'n voortreflike jaar. Nie net is dié lenige netbalspeler as Kovsies se senior sportvrou van die jaar gekroon nie, sy is ook in September 2009 gekies vir die senior Nasionale Netbalspan. Verder was sy kaptein van die Kovsies-netbalspan wat die silwermedalje in die nasionale universiteite-kampioenskapstoernooi verower het én sy was die onderkaptein van die Cheetahs wat die bronsmedalje in die nasionale kampioenskapstoernooi gewen het.

Enigiemand wat Elzet se loopbaan as sportvrou dopgehou het, sou kon voorspel dat sy die hoogste sport in netbal sou bereik. Sy is immers reeds as 'n 18-jarige skoolmeisie van die Hoërskool Sentraal in Bloemfontein gekies vir die Suid-Afrikaanse o.21-netbalspan. Vir Elzet, wat in Springs gebore is, in Klerksdorp grootgeword het en in graad 10 saam met haar ouers en tweelingsussie Bloemfontein toe verhuis het, was haar plek in die Nasionale Netbalspan die

begin van groot dinge. As sy nou terugdink aan daardie tyd sê sy dat om in die o.21-span ingesluit te word

nie toe al deel van haar planne was nie – tog was sy oorstelp toe dit gebeur het.

Wat dié eer op so 'n jong ouderdom nog meer merkwaardig gemaak het, was dat sy die enigste spanlid was wat nog op skool was. Elzet verduidelik dat sy in graad 10 'n keuse moes maak oor watter sport sy mee wou voortgaan, en haar keuse het op netbal geval. "Ek het dit gekies omdat dit 'n spansport is – die

span-ding is vir my lekker... en ek was nog nooit spyt oor my keuse nie."

Ná skool het Elzet 'n Kovsie geword, want "ek wou 'n graad agter my naam kry". Dié graad het nou twee geword met Elzet wat nou haar honneursgraad in Ondernemingsbestuur voltooi het. Sy het ook begin skoolhou by die Hoërskool Sand du Plessis, waar sy onder meer Besigheidstudies gee en ook netbal afrig. "Dis vir my baie lekker om met die kinders te werk. Ek sou nooit 'n werk kon doen waar ek heeldag in 'n kantoor moet sit nie – dit sou my mal gemaak het."

Maar die lewe bestaan tog seker uit meer as netbal, hard oefen en skoolhou? Elzet vertel met trots van haar hegte familie: Oor haar pa "wat vir homself werk" en haar ma wat "soos ek 'n onderwyser is" en haar "mooi blonde tweelingsussie", Rentia, wat 'n mediese tegnoloog is. "Ek en Rentia is baie na aan mekaar, en nee, ons praat glad nie oor netbal nie. Dis vir my lekker om, wanneer ons saam is, oor ander goed te praat." Die tweeling is lief daarvoor om die winkels in te vaar en Elzet erken ruitelik dat sy "kraai se kind is" en dat jy haar maar "kan omkoop met juwele". Verder is sy mal oor tydskrifte en haar boek van die jaar is *The Shack*.

Vra jy haar uit oor haar toekomsplanne, hoor jy gou van iemand spesiaal op Bethal. "Ons is al drie jaar in 'n verhouding." En waar sien sy haarself as sy die dag klaar netbal gespeel het? "Ek sou graag 'n netbal-akademie wou begin waar ek kinders kan afrig. Ek sou ook graag 'n netbalskeidsregter wou word."

As die 1,83-meter-lange Elzet opstaan om vriendelik te groet, weet jy dat sy al hierdie drome waarskynlik speel-speel gaan laat gebeur. **B**

**"Ek sou nooit 'n werk kon doen waar ek heeldag in 'n kantoor moet sit nie – dit sou my mal gemaak het."**



Elzet Engelbrecht.

Foto: Hannes Pieterse

# Preparing the next generation of

By Lacea Loader

Confidence, enthusiasm and unbelievable talent. These were my first thoughts as I watched our four SIFE students making their presentation early one morning to Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Jonathan Jansen and other senior managers of the UFS. I sat in awe looking at these young adults who looked as if they could conquer the world. And, with their innovative entrepreneurial ideas of how to help the community, they surely can.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is a global network that consists of business executives, university students and academic leaders. Its aim is to prepare the next generation of entrepreneurs and business leaders to create a better world for everyone.

Our SIFE team comprises eighty students from the Main and Qwaqwa Campuses who develop sustainable business models based in the community. These models are evaluated in terms of its entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business ethics, market economics, success skills, environmental awareness and sustainability.

"The students do academic outreach projects in communities and annually present the results of these projects at regional, national and international competitions. This gives them the opportunity not only to show the kind of entrepreneurial projects to their peers, but also teach them how to work in a team," says Tessa Ndlovu, Advisor of SIFE from our Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at the UFS.

The teams conduct projects that specifically meet each community's unique needs. These efforts assist aspiring entrepreneurs, struggling business owners, low-income families and children by teaching them how to succeed in a global market economy.

The SIFE project, which has been running since 2000, has been extremely successful at the UFS and the national competition has been won four times – in 2002, 2003 and 2004 and again in 2007. The team that made the presentation to Prof. Jansen and other members of senior management came second in 2008's national competition.

"The teams have the tremendous asset of learning

from business experts who serve on their business advisory boards. These people not only provide mentorship and guidance to them in terms of their projects, but also introduce them to other leaders in the community and give them access to needed resources," says Tessa.

The projects presented to Prof. Jansen varied considerably. In one of the projects the team targeted high-school learners, juvenile offenders and primary-school learners. The high-school learners were partnered with ABSA to introduce a savings competition; the juvenile offenders were partnered with our Department of Fine Arts to receive free training in various art forms; and an entrepreneurial competition was launched among the primary-school learners, presenting them with challenges covering all seven SIFE criteria. With this project the team complied with the success skills criteria.

Another project was the establishment of a student investment club. The club was formed in response to the need for financial literacy education and entrepreneurial development amongst students. "It was a huge success and over R8 000 was collected from the 22 members. The club members established seven businesses, which included a campus publication, a meter taxi business and a photography business," says Tessa.

To comply to the environmental awareness criteria the team established a community recycling business at REACH, a non-profit organisation in Heidedal, Mangaung. The team partnered with OFS Waste, who agreed to collect recyclable waste from REACH and pay them for it. REACH has also negotiated agreements with residences on the Main Campus to collect bottles and cans from them. "This project has

# entrepreneurs

generated an annual income of R3 576 for REACH," says a proud Tessa.

Another exciting project according to Tessa is the Matjhabeng Business Development Centre in Welkom, developed by Harmony Gold Mining. The SIFE team has committed itself to this cause by signing a memorandum of understanding with Harmony in which they will assist in identifying suitable entrepreneurs, develop programmes to ensure that the centre is competitive and will offer continuous training and support to the entrepreneurs at the centre.

"The success of SIFE can be attributed to the UFS's community service learning policy as it motivates students to get involved in academically grounded projects that

contribute to the well-being of the community," says Tessa.

Back to the morning of the presentation. My eyes jumped from the SIFE team who made the presentation to Prof. Jansen who sat there mesmerized by what he was seeing. After the presentation Prof. Jansen congratulated the team on their performance. "I'm proud of you. I appreciate your confidence, character and optimism – you are amazing," he said.


He is right, I thought afterwards. It's students like these – those with passion and commitment that we as a university can proudly send off into the working world. They will do us proud because it is young people like them who will become business leaders that can change the world. 



Photo: Stephen Collett

The Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team of the UFS who obtained a second place in the national competition held on the campus of the University of Johannesburg are, from the left: Christiaan Steenkamp, a second-year B.Sc. Zoology student; Malefa Bosiu, a first-year LL.B. student; Ms Tessa Ndlovu, Faculty Advisor: SIFE UFS; Zandi Mabizela, a second-year B.Com. Economics student; and Noeleen Thahane, a third-year B.Com. Tourism Management student. Mbulelo Mpfana, a third-year B.Com. Investment Management and Banking student, was absent when the photo was taken.

# SIFE-UFS is also making name **in Italy** By Lize du Plessis



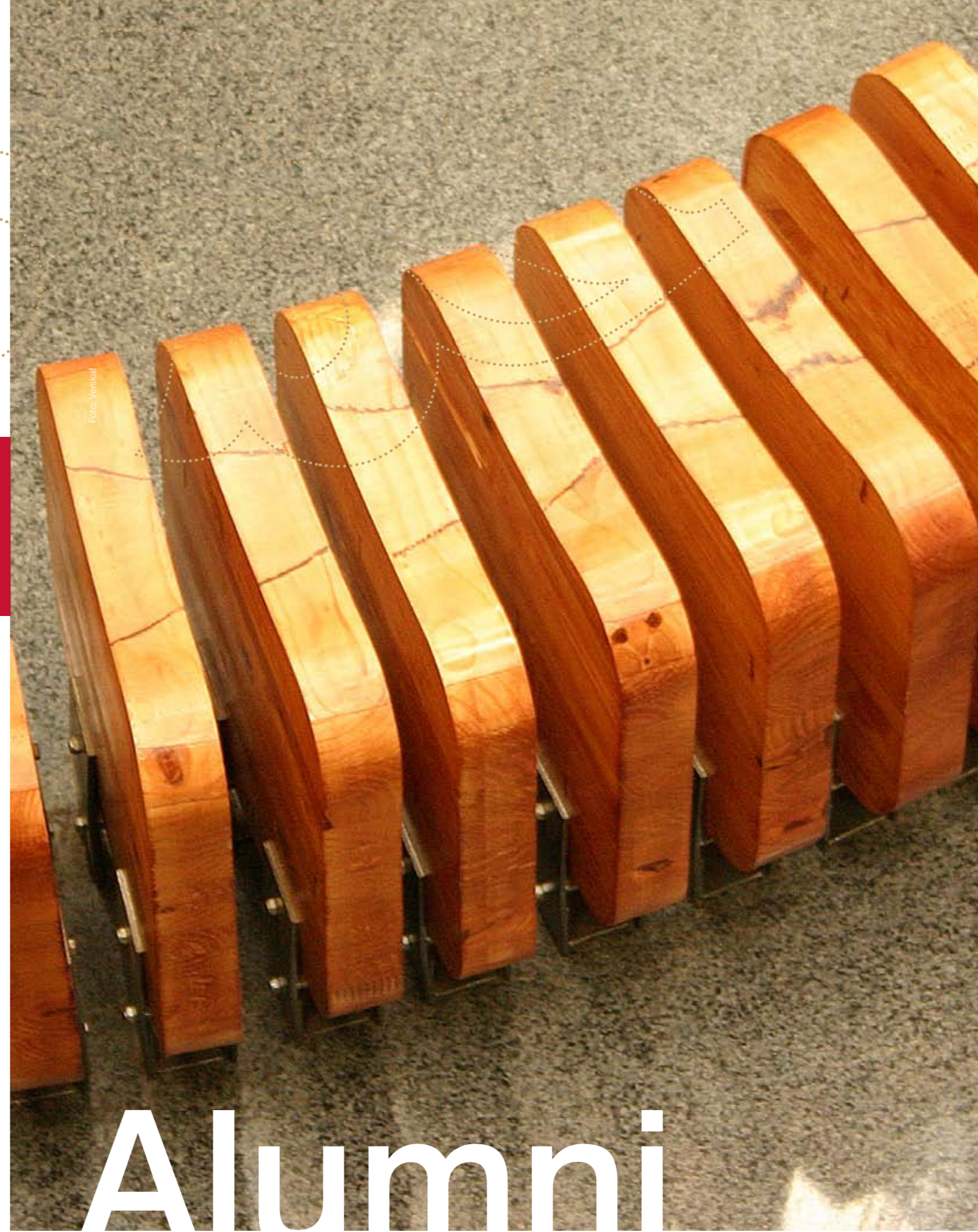
Photo: Stephen Collett

From the left are: Zandi Mabizela, a second-year B.Com. Economics student, Prof. Sergio Bortolani, Prof. Tienie Crous and Noeleen Thahane, a third-year B.Com. Tourism Management student.

During a visit of Prof. Tienie Crous, Dean of our Faculty Economic and Management Sciences, to the University of Turin last year, the president of their AEISEC union contacted him about the possibility of cooperation between student organisations in economic and management fields. AIESEC (Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales) is the world's largest student-run organisation and it aims to help young people discover and develop their potential to eventually have a positive impact on society.

The University of Turin doesn't have a SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) branch and SIFE-UFS obviously seemed to be the perfect answer to the AEISEC president's request. When Prof. Sergio Bortolani from the University of Turin visited the UFS at the beginning of this year, the members of SIFE-UFS had the opportunity to tell him more about their activities.

"The next step now is for SIFE-UFS and AEISEC to start talking about the nature and extent of their cooperation," says Prof. Tienie. **B**



# Alumni

# Neleen is living her dream in London

By Mangaliso Radebe

Neleen Strauss is a former Kopsie and now a successful businesswoman in London. She co-owns High Timber, a trendy wine-and-dine restaurant with her friends Gary and Kathy Jordan.

The idea of opening a restaurant came about while Neleen, Gary, Kathy and their other winemaking friends from Stellenbosch were sitting in a restaurant in Mersault, Burgundy. Three years later the idea came to life in the form of the launch of High Timber early in 2009.

High Timber, named after the street it sits on, is situated on the north bank of the Thames with stunning views of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Tate Modern Art Gallery and is seconds from the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral.

"We have enough tables for about 90 people, upstairs and in a private dining room below, and 35 000 bottles in two cellars," she says with pride. "Instead of presenting diners with a huge, complicated wine list we just take them downstairs to bond with the wine. The first thing I ask them is: 'Would you like to stay in South Africa, or go abroad?' It is mostly 1-0 to South Africa. Although we focus heavily on fantastic wines from the Cape; France, Italy and Spain are pretty well-represented too."

Neleen and company work with many boutique wineries and have a lot of the Cape Winemakers Guild auction wines. "And of course we sell a lot of Jordan Wines because they're very popular here," she says.

Meat is central to their menu and since day one they have had some wonderful reviews from the London and international press. "Our beef comes from a small farm in the Lake Districts and, being a Free Stater, I can say it is delicious. In England we measure body weight in 'stones'. Even having lived in London for eight years I'm

not sure exactly 'how much' a stone weighs; only that I think I must have gained a million of them since we opened."

She says she works with an exceptional team that includes her sister's youngest daughter, Christine, and an Italian waiter who is also a cheese specialist. "We have a walk-in cheese room with seasonal cheeses, biltong and droë wors," she says.


They also have staff from France, Portugal, Poland, Russia, Spain, Bulgaria, Canada and Germany.

Another major aspect of the success of the restaurant is the fact that they have an exceptional public relations company that looks after the restaurant image in the media, and also at a personal level. "The company is beyond professional and they deliver like Fedex on a good day," she says, almost boastfully.

"Working with South Africans cannot always be the easiest thing – especially when we get a bit 'windgat' about our sport. And they have not moaned once about constantly having to convert my South African English into British English.

"We're very fortunate in having probably the best customers you can wish for in a restaurant: accountants, lawyers, bankers and other suits. We've even had F.W. de Klerk here for lunch."

"I can't deny it, I'm living the dream."

Neleen completed her a B.A. degree in Drama and Theatre Arts at the UFS in 1987. 



Neleen Strauss and Justin Saunders, head chef at High Timber.

# Every day is a highlight for **Li-Fen Chien**

By Leonie Bolleurs

For the University of the Free State quality is about an absolute refusal to be complacent or to be satisfied with mediocrity. As Li-Fen Chien, a former law student, allows us to peak into her world of work and life I realise that just as the institution where she graduated she also will not settle for second best.

Li-Fen is working as a candidate attorney at Deney's Reitz Attorneys, a leading firm in Johannesburg, completing her mandatory two-year practice period in order to obtain admittance as a practising attorney.

"My responsibility is to assist the director which I am assigned to in running his/her practice. Obviously, there is a reciprocal duty on your director to teach you the necessary skills to run your own practice at the end of the two years of articles. I am also given a lot of freedom and independence to learn and to practise. Our directors have an 'open-door' policy, which is great and you never have to be afraid of asking a 'stupid question'. I am learning from the best. My colleagues are experts in their various fields.

"I love my career. Every day is a highlight. That is the excitement of working in the legal field and having the privilege of working for a big firm. You're always doing something different. You can for example be in court the one day and the next day you are dealing with the Provincial Heritage Association," says Li-Fen.

Li-Fen says the foundation for her legal education is at Kovies. "The LL.B. course is comprehensive, complete and well structured. The subjects taught are also of great value when preparing for the admission exams to qualify as an attorney. I believe that the curriculum for law students at Kovies definitely gives one an added advantage as these subjects are not taught at some of the other universities. The Faculty of Law also has some really good lecturers like Yu-Fang Wen, Thapi Matsaneng and Dr Neels Swanepoel who made the

classes worthwhile. They were always willing to listen and assist.

"Apart from the curriculum and lecturers at Kovies, I also formed great friendships. If I never went to study in Bloemfontein, I would never have had the chance to meet such wonderful, caring and interesting people," says Li-Fen.

But who is this successful, yet caring soon-to-be attorney? "I was born in Ping Tung, Taiwan, moved to South Africa when I was five years old and grew up in Kimberley. I feel very grateful for growing up in such a diverse country, as it has taught me to be a more open-minded person, and it has also made my circle of friends look like the diminutive version of the United Nations! I like to keep in touch with my friends, as it is important to have that support structure in times of chaos. My family and friends keep me grounded and help to keep perspective on what the important things are in life, like making time for others and looking after oneself."

Because Li-Fen's life is a testimony of hard work and achievements one can easily come to the conclusion that she is all about work and no play. On the contrary. "Balance is important in my life. I have never been competitive by nature, and I don't bother with living up to the expectations of others. I think that helps to diminish the level of stress which comes with my profession. I choose to do the best I can within my capacity, and as long as I am satisfied with my own work, I feel content. "It is also important for me to look



Photo: Tim Box

Li-Fen Chien.



after my health. My mom always reminds me that we rest not because we are lazy, but because we recharge our energies to continue on this path of life. This is so true, and I have seen how many people simply ignore what their bodies are telling them to push through deadlines," she says.

Although the life of a candidate attorney is very demanding, resting times are a priority for Li-Fen. "When there is free time, I make an effort to clear the balance on my 'sleep debt'! I try to spend as much time as I can with friends over the weekend, catching a movie, or just having a milkshake. "I also enjoy spending time by myself, whether it's shopping or cooking. It gives my mind time to reflect and put things into perspective. My days are pretty unpredictable, so cooking is about the only thing that maintains a degree of normality in my days. It also relaxes me. And although my cooking skills aren't great, I'm always keen to try out new things and to learn."

Perhaps this is Li-Fen's recipe for success: learning and trying out new things. So what is next on her agenda? "Studies in Environmental Law. That is where my passion lies. I think the environment is an important factor in everyone's life, and whether you like it or not, everything is connected and we need to learn to acknowledge this," she says. **B**

## Leef lig, gee ds. Anton raad

By Leonie Bolleurs

“Lewe lig. Moenie dat bagasie jou onnodig strem nie.” So sê ds. Anton Pienaar, oud-Kovsie wat in 2009 aangestel is as redakteur van die NG Kerk se publikasie *Kerkbode*. Hy sal die taak saam met sy verantwoordelikhede as leraar in die Stellastraat-gemeente in Suidoos-Pretoria uitvoer.

Hy het 'n B.Th-graad asook die Nagraadse Diploma In Teologie aan ons universiteit behaal.

“Die *Kerkbode*, wat elke tweede week verskyn, fokus daarop om dit wat in die NG Kerk gebeur as nuus vir almal aan te bied, om insig-artikels oor allerhande sake bymekaar te maak, en om kommentaar te lewer op alles wat in die samelewing gebeur. My werk is om stuurman te wees sodat die koerant kan verskyn,” vertel ds. Anton. Hy het ook twee jaar se joernalistieke ondervinding by die dagblad *Beeld* ingepas.

Hy is 'n Hoëvelder in murg en been. Ds. Anton is in Amersfoort, 'n klein plekkie op die suidoostelike Hoëveld gebore. “My wortels lê daar en ek was ook later vir elf jaar predikant in daardie gemeente. My pa was 'n inspekteur wat vir die Transvaalse Paaiedepartement gewerk het. Hy is dikwels verplaas. Ek het my laerskoolloopbaan op Ventersdorp voltooi en my hoërskoolloopbaan op Witrivier.”

“Maar sedert 1976, toe ek in matriek was, het ek eintlik aan niks anders gedink as om vir 'n predikant te gaan studeer nie,” vertel hy.

Dit is toe by Kovsies se Fakulteit Teologie waar ds. Anton aan die spreekwoordelike voete van Gamaliël gaan sit en leer het. Vandag sê hy dat hy met groot vrymoedigheid hierdie fakulteit vir ander studente sal aanbeveel. “Daar heers 'n gemoedelikheid op die Kovsiekampus wat 'n mens gou laat tuis voel. Ek dink dit is steeds 'n plek waar daar hoë standaarde

nagestreef word, en waar studente persoonlike aandag kry. En die dosente – van hulle is goeie vriende van my – doen uitstekende werk,” sê ds. Anton.

“My studies aan Kovsies het my baie goed vir die praktyk voorberei. Die praktiese klasse wat ons by dr. Dirk Kotze gehad het, het vir my baie beteken. Ek onthou ook dat die dosente baie toeganklik was. Jy kon aan enige deur kloep en daar is tyd gemaak vir jou. Soos baie ander mense is ek egter spyt dat ek nie meer van my geleenthede gemaak het nie.”

Maar vandag gryp ds. Anton elke oomblik met albei hande aan. “Die lewe in al sy fasette is vir my wonderlik. Dit is 'n gawe. Elke dag is 'n hoogtepunt. Saam met hoogtepunte in my lewe soos my troudag en die geboorte van elkeen van my kinders, staan die dag uit toe ek my eerste beroep gekry het.”

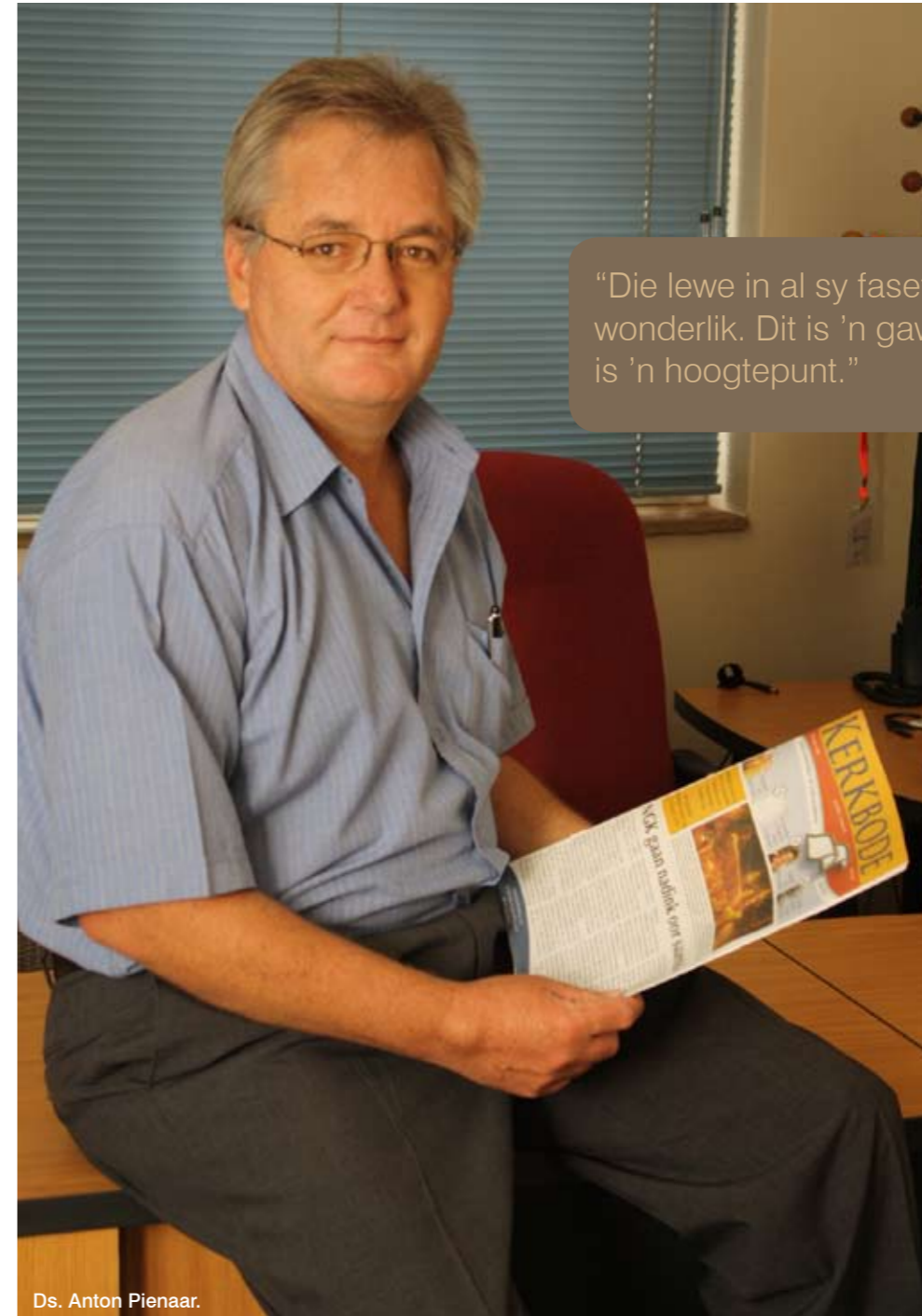
Dit is ook hierdie dinge wat saak maak in die lewe. Daar is geen tierlantyntjies in hierdie dominee se lewe nie. Hy wil 'n verskil in ander mense se lewens maak deur in eerlikheid en geregtigheid te leef en dit te verkondig.

Alles harde werk, maar ds. Anton hou ook van speel. As dit nie op die gholfbaan, tennisbaan of met 'n padwedloop is nie, sal jy hom met 'n goeie stuk letterkunde in die hand aantref.

'n Welverdiende stukkie speletyd vir iemand wat sy lewe gee om ander te dien.



Op besoek in Isreal.



“Die lewe in al sy fasette is vir my wonderlik. Dit is 'n gawe. Elke dag is 'n hoogtepunt.”

Ds. Anton Pienaar.

Foto: Tin Box



# Leave a legacy, says

By Willemien Marais

Jackie Ntshingila turns 50 in 2010. This is not that remarkable, but when you look at her impressive curriculum vitae, you start to wonder how it is possible for someone to fit so much into a mere five decades.

Jackie was named the MBA Alumni Top Achiever of 2009 in recognition of her achievements. This former learner of Mariasdal High School at Tweespruit in the Free State completed her MBA in 2003. "It was an eye-opener," she says about the degree. "Despite the challenges it went really well. We worked well as a group and the degree definitely opened doors for me." Jackie previously studied at the University of the North and at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North West University. "I hold the UFS in the highest regard. It is one of the best universities in the world."

The award came as quite shock. "I attended the ceremony as a nominee, but didn't expect anything. Halfway through reading the winner's CV I realised 'but this sounds like me!'"

**"As I've grown older I've realised that I like counselling people. Giving people hope is what inspires me, and therefore I would like to become more involved in that area."**


Jackie is the provincial manager of Seda (the Small Enterprise

Development Agency) in the Free State. She started the Free State chapter in 2006. She considers getting

Seda in the Free State of the ground as one of her proudest achievements. "There was nothing here, I was the only employee. Today we have eight branches and more than 50 people work for Seda in the Free State." She describes her job as fulfilling. "I love to make a difference, to serve people. When someone says 'I'm here because of Seda', I know we've been successful."

At home in Bloemfontein she's mother to three girls ranging in ages from 14 to 26 and has a grandson of five. "I spend a lot of time being Mom's Taxi, but I love being with my husband and children. And every minute spent with my grandson is interesting."

Although Seda is keeping her quite busy, Jackie says she has many more dreams to realise. "As I've grown older I've realised that I like counselling people. Giving people hope is what inspires me, and therefore I would like to become more involved in that area."

Jackie's advice to others has been her own motto from the start: "All of us have to ability to be achievers, but some of us take that ability to the grave. Why not use it and make something with that ability so that you can leave a legacy?" 

# MBA alumni's top achiever



Jackie Ntshingila.

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Angles and glimpses inside and outside buildings on the Main Campus of the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, as captured by various photographers.

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