



**One university,  
three campuses**

**Bult**

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



**Issue 1 • 2013**

Nuustydskrif | News magazine

## REDAKTEUR | EDITOR

Leatitia Pienaar

Division: Strategic Communication

Pienaarajl@ufs.ac.za

PO Box 339

Bloemfontein 9300

South Africa

www.ufs.ac.za

Tel: +27(0) 51 401 9188

Cell: +27(0) 83 677 6042

Fax: +27(0) 51 444 6393

## PRODUKSIE | PRODUCTION

### Ontwerp | Design

Chrysalis Advertising & Publishing

Tel: +27(0) 51 522 1695

www.chrysalis-advertising.co.za

Menings wat in die publikasie gelug word, weerspieël nie noodwendig die van die universiteit nie. Bult word onder oudstudee, donateurs, sake- en regeringsleiers, meningsvormers en Kopsievriende versprei. Artikels kan met die nodige erkenning elders gebruik word. Rig navrae hieroor aan die Redakteur.

Opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Editor, the division or the university. Bult is sent to alumni, donors, business and government leaders, opinion formers and Kopsie friends. Articles can be published elsewhere, with the necessary acknowledgement. Contact the Editor in this regard.



Front page: Qwaqwa Campus

Photo: Sonia Small

# Letter from the editor

The university celebrates its tenth year of multi-campus operation with festivities on the Qwaqwa Campus this year. The campus was incorporated with the UFS in 2013, followed by the South Campus in 2004.



The Qwaqwa Campus, previously the Uniqua Campus of the University of the North, is just outside the town of Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State. It is nestled in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains, and true to the winter landscape of the area, the "qwa" of the name refers to the white snow or frozen water.

The campus plays a pivotal role in the area in terms of education, research and community involvement. Some of the research has a direct impact on the

immediate area, others are of international importance. Student numbers more than doubled from 1 643 in 2003 to 3 759 by the end of 2012.

The leadership at the campus was strengthened with the appointment of Prof Prakash Naidoo and Dr Elsa Crause. We wish them a warm welcome. Read more about them in this issue.

You will read more about the activities on our South Campus in the next issue of *Bult*. This campus has grown in stature since becoming part of the UFS. In 2004 a total of 961 students registered there and by the end of 2012 it has grown to 5 850. Programmes are delivered to 51 satellite campuses and more than 60 schools.

The University of the Free State has extended its footprint in the region and beyond, true to its vision and mission.

- Net soos die Qwaqwa-kampus tien jaar as deel van die UV vier, so vier ek ook tien jaar by die universiteit en aan die einde van die jaar sê ek totsiens. Die huidige uitgawe is ook die laaste onder my redakteurskap. Ek het in die tien jaar baie oor die universiteit geleer en ek hoop ek kon 'n bietjie van hierdie instelling met die lesers deel. Die UV is 'n plek om op trots te wees.
- 'n Tweede uitgawe vir vanjaar verskyn in Oktober. **B**



UFSUV |



UFSweb |



UFSweb



# Content



## Nuus News

The UFS celebrates 10 years as a multi-campus system	2
Kardiologie dra by tot nuwe cholestrol-pil	4
Elsa Crause 'a strategic thinker and an asset'	5
'Qwaqwa Campus can reach the greatest heights'	5
Top legal minds fleshed out corruption in SA	6
UFS hosts transformation leaders of higher education in South Africa	7
International advisors visit the UFS	8
Kindervleuelprojek beoog om kapasiteit van neonatale diens te verbeter	8

## Navorsing Research

The cactus pear offers much more than fruit	10
Anita Venter is a 'warrior' for sustainable housing	12
Lecture commemorates life and legacy of Bram Fischer	13
Verneukery nie uniek aan menslike gedrag nie	14
Transformation at the UFS	15
Interlinear Bible one of only seven in the world	16
Navorsing kry sterker aanslag	17
Finding the perfect blend	18

## Personeel Staff

Experience the key to re-imaged education	20
UV bied 21ste eeu-mediese opleiding	22
Simulation provides a safe learning environment	22
Web, facebook visited from all over	24
Reuse-inspuiting vir UV-projekte	24

## Studente Sport

Captain Oupa carries the Shimla name high	26
Kovsie Tennis clinches straight sets	28
UFS101 students get closer to Basotho culture	30
Studente se advertensie-idees pryk wyd	31
UFS assists students in their pursuit of excellence	32
Passion, zeal and perseverance drives Wilhelm	33
Hier is 'n lekker vibe, sê Retief	34
Perceptions evaporate in cross-Atlantic discussion	35
Ringkoppe gee leiding aan studenteleiers	36
School gets a 'head start'	37

## Alumni

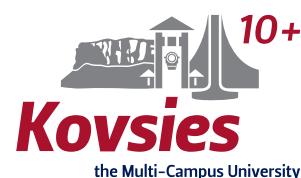
Ouma Laetitia onthou haar Vishuis-dae	38
From student leader to director general	40
UV skep ruimte vir almal wat hier wil wees	40

# The UFS celebrates a multi-campus

Separated by distance, but united as one

By Leatitia Pienaar

**T**he University of the Free State celebrates 10 years as a multi-campus system this year. In 2003, the Qwaqwa Campus in the Eastern Free State, which was part of the University of the North, joined the UFS. Shortly after that, in 2004, the South Campus in Bloemfontein, which was a satellite campus of Vista University, joined the university.



Both incorporations formed part of the restructuring of the South African higher education system.

The formal celebrations of the multi-campus system took place at the Qwaqwa Campus on 7 June 2013. It was a special moment as the university's Council meeting was held on the campus, affording all Council members an opportunity to be part of these celebrations. A highlight of the celebrations was the well-attended graduation ceremony in the packed Rolihlahla Mandela Hall.

"The three campuses give the UFS the opportunity to offer a well-blended mix of programmes and greater access to higher education. During the multi-campus system celebrations we will take a journey as a university, 'through memory lane', focusing on achievements and also noting the areas still in need of attention," says Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations.

Some of these achievements include the existence of strong leadership teams on all three campuses who have a clear vision for each campus, the strong sense of belonging among the staff and students of the three campuses, the continuous assessment of quality academic offerings and services as well as the improvement plans for the campuses, and the various infrastructure development projects to support the university's core business.

The Qwaqwa Campus plays a vital role in bringing higher education to a rural, poverty-stricken part of

**"The three campuses give the UFS the opportunity to offer a well-blended mix of programmes and greater access to higher education"**

South Africa. Tuition is offered in the faculties of the Humanities, Education, Economic and Management Sciences, and Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Much work has been done to ensure that the learning programmes, research, academic interventions and community service-learning opportunities are socially and educationally responsive to the region.

These programmes are underpinned by a strong research agenda that focuses on identifying the best possible strategies for creating jobs in impoverished rural areas and understanding how best to stimulate economic growth.

The South Campus has a footprint which stretches across South Africa with more than 50 satellite campuses. Programmes, such as the University Preparation Programme (UPP), opens higher education doors for people let down by the South African school system.

# 10 years as system

Photos: Hannes Pieterse



Celebrations on the Qwaqwa Campus in June 2013.

The extended programmes offered at the campus also enable students to successfully enter the main stream programmes, enabling them to become medical doctors, lawyers, teachers, etc.

Other programmes include the hugely successful ICTISE programme, which enables the university to broadcast Maths, Physical Science, Accounting, Life Science, Geography and Economics through satellite to over 60 schools in the Free State; AdvTech (Varsity College) in which the Faculty of Law will offer a four-year LLB qualification; the Advanced Certificate in Education that focuses primarily on the upgrading of the knowledge and

methodology of Science, Mathematics and Technology teachers in all the school phases; the Family Maths and Science programme aims to demystify mathematics and science in the early school years; the Vocational Directed Preparation Programme (VDPP) supports the FET Colleges in the Free State with research and development work pertaining to access with success; and the Extended Degree Programme (EMS) for students, who do meet mainstream university admission requirements, but have a lower admission score.

The fastest growth in the number of students at the UFS is on the South Campus. 



# Kardiologie dra by tot nuwe cholesterol-pil

**D**ie Kardiologie Kontraknavorsings-eenheid was in 'n groot mate betrokke by die evaluering van 'n middel wat 'n dramatiese verbetering in die waardes van 'n genetiese oordraagbare cholesterol meebring. Die middel is einde 2012 deur die Amerikaanse Federal Drug Administration (FDA) goedgekeur.



Prof Hennie Theron

Prof Hennie Theron, Medeprofessor in die Departement Kardiologie aan die UV en Hoof van die Kardiologie Kontraknavorsingseenheid, sê familiële homosigotiese hipercholesterolemie (HoFH) is 'n ernstige, seldsame genetiese siekte wat die funksie van die reseptor, wat verantwoordelik is vir die verwydering van lae-digtheid lipoproteïen cholesterol (LDL-C) ("slegte" cholesterol) uit die liggaam, aantast. Skade aan die LDL-reseptorfunksie lei tot uiters hoë bloedcholesterolvlakke.

HoFH-pasiënte ontwikkel dikwels voortydige en progressiewe aterosklerose, 'n vernouing of blokkering van die slagare. Prof Theron sê: "HoFH is 'n geneties-oordraagbare siekte en die ernstigste vorm van hipercholesterolemie. Pasiënte benodig dikwels voor die ouderdom van 20 jaar koronêre vatomleiding of/ en aortaklepvanging. Mortaliteit is uiters hoog en sterftes vind dikwels voor die ouderdom van 30 plaas. Bestaande konvensionele cholesterolverlagende medikasie is onsuksesvol om die teiken vir normale cholesterolwaardes in hierdie groep pasiënte te bereik.

"Die enigste modaliteit ten opsigte van behandeling is plasmaforese (soortgelyk aan dialise in pasiënte met nierversaking). Selfs met dié tipe terapie is die resultate relatief onbevredigend, aangesien dit uiters duur is en die plasmaforese op 'n gereelde basis uitgevoer moet word."

Die eenheid was betrokke by die evaluering van die middel Juxtapid (Iomitapide), wat deur die farmaseutiese

maatskappy Aegerion ontwikkel is en deur die FDA goedgekeur is. Evaluasies het ook in die VSA, Kanada en Italië plaasgevind.

Juxtapid funksioneer op 'n unieke wyse, wat dramatiese verbetering in cholesterolwaardes teweegbring, sê prof Theron. Geen bestaande middel is naastenby so doeltreffend nie.

"Die middel verteenwoordig 'n deurbraak in die behandeling van familiële homosigotiese hipercholesterolemie. Die feit dat dit deur die FDA goedgekeur is, verleen verdere stukrag aan die bevindings," sê hy. Verdere evaluering in ander vorms van hipercholesterolemie gaan gedoen word.

Volgens prof Theron bevestig die bevindings van die studie en die suksesvolle FDA-evaluering weer eens die feit dat die Kardiologie Kontraknavorsingseenheid puik werk lewer. Die eenheid was sedert sy totstandkoming in 1992 betrokke by meer as 60 multisentrum-, internasionale fase 2- en 3- geneesmiddelstudies. Verskeie van hierdie studies het die manier waarop kardiologie funksioneer, beïnvloed.

Die UV se Kardiologie Kontraknavorsingseenheid word nasionaal en internasionaal erken vir sy werk van hoogstaande gehalte en word deurentyd genader om by nuwe studies betrokke te raak. **B**

# Elsa Crause 'a strategic thinker and an asset'

By Thabo Kessah



She is described as a "strategic thinker capable of creating spaces and opportunities where none may have existed". She is also said to be "very loyal to this campus and its constituents". That is how Dr Elsa Crause is described by her former colleague Grey Magaiza in the Department of Sociology. Dr Crause is the new Campus Vice-Principal: Academic and Research on our Qwaqwa Campus.

This Pretoria-born, but Port Elizabeth-schooled academic is passionate about development, hence her involvement in various community-based organisations in her adoptive town of Kestell in the Eastern Free State. "I have served as a ward member in the municipality as well as the chairperson and organiser of the centenary celebrations of Kestell. "I

head the interdenominational ministry outreach programme aimed at supporting youth who were exposed to rape, prostitution and pornography in our area."

Her commitment to the development agenda is obvious in her recent study conducted among youth in three towns in the Western Cape. The study explored ways and means in which the out-of-school youth could be pulled back into experiencing what the study refers to as "education for life and work, and starting a productive working life, viewed within the current government policy".

As an academic of note, Dr Crause is also a member of various professional structures including the SA Sociological Association and the International Consortium for Social Development

(ICSD). Her expertise as an external reviewer is also utilised by journals like the *Development Southern Africa* and the *SA Review of Sociology*. She is also a member of the Montane Research Initiative on the Qwaqwa Campus. Her new position as the academic head will be "an asset to the Qwaqwa Campus because of her nurturing nature". This is according to her student and former Sociology colleague Rethabile Marumo.

How does this former prison social worker unwind? "My 14-year old daughter, Elmyrn, occasionally takes me out to my love – caravanning and outdoor adventures," Dr Crause said. **B**

## 'Qwaqwa Campus can reach the greatest heights'

By Thabo Kessah

Prof Prakash Naidoo was appointed as Principal of the Qwaqwa Campus and said at his welcoming "I am elated to join an institution that is serious about transformation. There is still a lot of work going forward in making this campus the best."

He said "A positive vibrancy exists here and all of us must begin to think about how we use the multiplying effect to make it even better. This year the campus is celebrating ten years as part of the University of the Free State.

"However, there is still a lot to do in the next ten years. We need

progressive change. Let us all look ahead, but never forget the past.

"Today's students live with greater complexities, like watching too much TV and reading less. They need more counselling and guidance. In my book, students come first. Academic business comes first."

Prof Naidoo expressed his optimism in working with all internal and external stakeholders. "I am a team player and we must all develop a working plan for this campus." The welcoming event was attended by members of the UFS Council and the Rectorate. **B**



# Top legal minds flesh out corruption in SA

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng

**H**ardly a day passes in South Africa without the word “corruption” being boldly emblazoned on the covers of newspapers, heard over the airwaves, or slips into coffee shop or dinner table talk. However, this rarely leads to solutions to this hotly debated topic. **Christiaan van der Merwe** reports on the International Symposium on Corruption held on the Bloemfontein Campus earlier this year.

The Faculty of Law brought the top legal minds in South Africa and abroad together to disseminate information and seek solutions to corruption. The symposium was held with the aim of achieving exactly what the armchair “legal experts” usually fail to do, that is to understand why corruption is so prevalent in South Africa and find ways to stop it.

The symposium featured an impressive list of speakers including the Chief Justice of South Africa, three Supreme Court of Appeal Judges, High Court Judges, prosecutors, advocates, journalists, as well as local and international legal academics.

The seriousness of the problems corruption poses to the social and economic fabric of South Africa was noted throughout, the majority of speakers referring to it as a “scourge”. A strong point that came through was that it is often the poor who suffer most due to the effects of corruption.

“There are many problems in civil society that impacts on the constitutional rights of especially the poor. One of the main reasons responsible for this is pervasive corruption,” said Judge Ian van der Merwe, the Chairperson of the UFS Council and current Supreme Court of Appeal Judge during the opening. These sentiments were echoed by Judge Van der Merwe’s predecessor, Judge Faan Hancke. Judge Hancke, also a Kopsie Alumnus, said the consequences of corruption are “substantive and far-reaching”, especially in regards to the poor.

Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng linked corruption to the spate of civil unrest and service delivery protests in the country. He noted that the implications of corruption can drive its victims to “boiling point”, warning that “we ignore corruption at the peril of our hard-fought constitutional democracy. When corruption becomes endemic in any given



country, the lifespan of a true constitutional democracy can no longer be guaranteed”.

The root causes of corruption are complex and difficult to discern, further complicated by South Africa’s unique and troubled history. Justice Mogoeng argued that a large part of the blame should be placed on the public sector. The “pursuit of populism, love of power and an addiction to being approved by the powerful in the public sector” drives corruption.

But what solutions were provided by the eminent speakers? The general consensus was that the situation is not hopeless, despite the serious state of affairs.

Willie Hofmeyer, head of the National Prosecuting Authority’s Asset Forfeiture Unit, suggested that the perpetrators of the “low risk/high gains” crime of corruption should be attacked where it hurts most – their pockets. “Asset forfeiture is one of the more powerful tools to fight corruption. Financial disruption is the most vulnerable area of organised crime and corruption,” he said.

The state should also play a more active role in the fight against corruption. Prof Leon Wessels, who was involved in the drafting of the constitution, said more pressure should be put on politicians since there seems to be no political will at the moment to combat corruption.

The Police Service is one of the biggest culprits when it comes to corrupt activities. Judge Leona Theron said SAPS is only trumped for this dubious honour by traffic officers. Another speaker at the symposium had first-hand experience of this. *Sunday Times* journalist Mzilikazi wa Afrika was arrested for exposing the corrupt dealings in the police lease scandal which eventually brought down former commissioner Bheki Cele. Wa Afrika said that the responsibility to fight corruption lies with all South Africans and should “start at home”. He criticised government’s “mixed messages” on the topic and also its failure to adequately protect whistle-blowers.

Justice Mogoeng called for a “well-coordinated war in the public and private sectors”. He stressed the state’s responsibility in this regard. In his opinion, the state must ensure that corruption-busting measures are implemented without bias and “only men and women of skill, integrity and solid character” are appointed to agencies.

Referring to the need to address corruption as a matter of urgency, Prof Wessels succinctly summarised it as follows: “We should exhaust all legitimate and peaceful means to combat corruption”. **B**

# UFS hosts transformation leaders of higher education in South Africa



Some of the delegates who attended the colloquium are, from the left: Prof Desmond Roberts, Special Assistant to the Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Western Cape; Prof Andre Keet, Director: Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, UFS; Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations, UFS; and Prof Gordon Zide, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Governance and Operations at Vaal University of Technology and Chairperson of the HESA Transformation Managers Forum. – Photo: Johan Roux

The university hosted about 100 delegates from all 23 South African universities for the Higher Education South Africa (HESA) transformation colloquium on the Bloemfontein Campus from 6 to 8 May 2013.

The theme of the colloquium was *New Directions: The Question of Knowledge and the Transformation of Higher Education in South Africa*. The delegates included 13 vice-chancellors, as well as the Ministerial Oversight Committee on Transformation in Higher Education. Transformation managers from all the universities participated and students also made contributions.

During the colloquium progress, challenges and new directions relating to the transformation of higher education were explored.

The colloquium was presented by the university’s Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice and the office of the Vice-Rector: External Relations, in cooperation with HESA. **B**

# International advisors visit the UFS



Prof Jonathan Jansen (front, second from the left), Vice-Chancellor and Rector, and Prof Teuns Verschoor (back, second from left) are here with Prof Alice Pell, Vice-Provost for International Relations, Cornell University in the USA; Ms Jane Evans, Director of Ntataise Early Child Development Network Support Programme in South Africa; Mr Gert Grobler, Ambassador of South Africa to Madagascar and alumnus of the UFS. At the back are: Prof Joel Samoff, Professor in African Studies, Stanford University in the USA; Prof Masafumi Nagao, Project Professor at the Graduate School for Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo; and Prof Akilagpa Sawyerr, former Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU), Ghana. Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of South Africa, was absent when the photo was taken. – Photo: Sonia Small

The UFS International Advisory Council (IAC) visited the university in March 2013 as part of its biennial meeting with the university leadership. The council consists of leading academics, business leaders and policy makers advises leadership on the UFS's performance against international benchmarks in research, teaching, service and transformation.

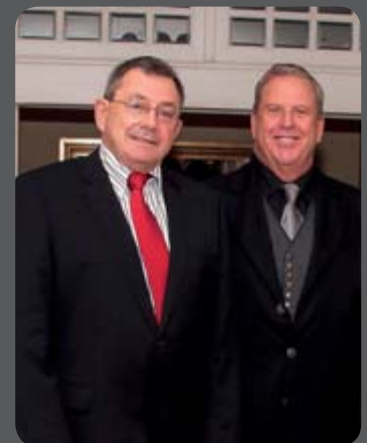
The council also acts as advocates for the university in their own spheres of influence. The appointment of the IAC is one of the strategies to advise and guide the UFS during the next phase of development and growth. The first meeting of the Council took place from 10-13 November 2010. **B**

## Kindervleuelprojek beoog om kapasiteit van neonatale diens te verbeter

Die Universiteit van die Vrystaat se Departement Pediatrie en Kinder-geondheid het sy Kindervleuelprojek bekend gestel tydens geselligheede wat in Johannesburg en Bloemfontein gehou is. Die projek is 'n verlengstuk van die Beds of Hope-veldtog, wat gesorg het vir noodsaaklike toerusting vir die doeltreffende werking van die pediatriese eenhede in die Universitas- en Pelonomi-hospitaal in Bloemfontein. Die departement beoog om deur middel van die Kindervleuelprojek toerusting te

koop wat die kapasiteit van neonatale dienstegeologie vir al die fasiliteite in die akademiese gesondheidskompleks van die Universitas-hospitaal, wat 'n diens aan pasiënte lewer, te verbeter. 'n Spesiale kinderafdeling sal uitendelik ook by die Universitas-hospitaal gevestig word. **B**

Mnr Harold Serebro, Nie-uitvoerende Direkteur van Altech (links), en prof Andre Venter, Hoof van die Departement Pediatrie en Kindergesondheid asook leier van die projek, by die bekendstelling in Johannesburg. – Foto: Sonia Small.





# Research



# The *cactus pear* offers much more than fruit

By René-Jean van der Berg



Dr Maryna de Wit

**F**or many South Africans the dry arid areas of the Karoo and Eastern Cape became synonymous with sights of cacti growing at random in the veld. For some a cactus pear, if chilled well, is a delicious snack on a hot summer's day. But few people actually know that this unassuming plant can be money literally growing wild in the South African veld.

While it is believed that an apple a day might keep the doctors away, researchers at the University of the Free State have now found that a cactus a day might be even better for you.

Dr Maryna de Wit and her team at the Department of Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology are researching the nutritional and – more importantly – the commercial, viable uses of the cactus pear.

## What makes the cactus so important?

Dr De Wit's team has found that cactus pears contain high levels of vitamin C (higher than that of apples, grapes, pears and bananas) which aid in staving off all kinds of diseases, improving the immune system, preventing inflammation, and generally supplying the body with chemicals.

Cactus pears also contain important minerals like iron, magnesium and calcium. Iron is necessary to make haemoglobin, the substance that carries oxygen through your blood to all the cells in your body while magnesium makes your muscles function and helps your body make protein. It also plays a role in normalising your blood sugar levels. Calcium is necessary for healthy teeth and bones.

The level of phosphorus in cactus pears can be compared to that of cherries, apricots and melons. Phosphorus, with calcium, helps to maintain healthy bones and tissue.

Cactus pears also have between 6% and 14% sugars, mainly in the form of glucose and fructose. Dr De Wit highlights that the fruit is high in fibre (3,15g per 110g) as well as the anti-oxidant betalains, which helps rid the body of waste.

## How can the cactus pear be put to use?

"In order to determine how much of these valuable nutrients is retained after processing, we have canned cactus pears, made syrup, jams and chutney, and even dried some of the fruit. We are analysing the results," explains Dr De Wit as fresh cactus pears are available for only a relatively short period in summer.

"If the nutrient levels are retained during processing, these products could become useful as health foods."

But it is not only the cactus pear's fruit that is being researched. The department is also trying to determine which cultivar produces the most seed oil. Cactus pear seed oil is most sought after by the cosmetic,





## Cactus pear or prickly pear?

The cactus pear, formerly known as the prickly pear, has long been valued in South Africa as cattle fodder and as a delicious, healthy fruit.

The term “prickly pear” is associated with the extremely spiny cultivars brought to South Africa in 1772. The prickly pear invaded huge areas of natural veld in the Karoo and Eastern Cape and had to be eradicated.

In 1914 the Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute imported 22 spineless Burbank (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) cultivars, principally as a drought-tolerant species for the arid Karoo regions. Since then 78 new varieties have been cultivated from the Burbank.

South Africa is the only country – including the countries of origin (the US and Mexico) – where the Burbank cultivars are still found.

pharmaceutical and food industries. It is the most expensive plant oil in the world, posing huge economic potential for South Africa.

The use of cactus pear leaf (cladode) flour in baking is a tasty part of the research project at the UFS.

The researches made cladode flour and already used it in baking confectionary items. “We’ve successfully replaced up to 25% of wheat flour with cladode flour in baking,” Dr De Wit says.

“Our carrot cake and crunchies were favourably received by the tasting panel. They couldn’t detect any difference in the taste, texture and appearance from conventionally baked cakes. The flour can also be used as a cereal and works well with sorghum meal, for instance. Cladode meal is very high in fibre and is valuable to people who are gluten intolerant.”

The team is also conducting research on possible uses for the mucilage, the gelatinous substance in the cladodes. These include, among others, as a thickening agent and emulsifier in mayonnaise, as a fat replacer and emulsifier in polony, and even to improve the adhesiveness of wall paint.

“The fact that it is an environmentally friendly and bio-degradable product adds to its appeal. It is a wonderful resource and should be seriously considered as an alternative crop for the semi-arid regions,” she says.

“Through our research, we want to demonstrate that the hardy, economical and versatile cactus pear can open up economic opportunities in drought-stricken areas in South Africa.” **B**



Anita Venter in Guatemala.



The start of the building project in December 2012.

# Anita Venter is a for sustainable

By Willemien Marais

**“Radical sustainable housing”** sounds almost revolutionary. And it is – in the sense of practical application as well as an attempt to create dramatic and far-reaching change. The academic behind this movement in South Africa is University of the Free State lecturer **Anita Venter**, who conducted research on sustainable settlements for her PhD.

“I see myself as an agent of change in the building environment,” explains Anita, a lecturer at the Centre for Development Support. Most of the research, strategies and applications regarding sustainable housing are focused on middle and high income groups. “Given the reality of poverty in South Africa and the housing shortage amongst the marginalised poor, there is a great need to find sustainable strategies that can be rolled out on a large scale. Housing sustainability in developing countries can only become a reality if implementation strategies are developed that embrace lower-income groups in poor residential areas. The aim of my sustainable-settlement research is to show that it is possible to develop low-income, innovative, affordable and implementable strategies to raise sustainable

awareness in the built environment.” Basically: how to build more environmentally conscious low-income housing (previously known as RDP housing).

Anita explains that very little is being done to come up with innovative new approaches to the construction of low income housing. “If we do not actively engage on a policy and community level, the low-income building environment will stay stuck in the same rut as the past two decades.”

She has also set herself a personal goal. “I am challenging myself to see how much an academic can influence policy and practice by using my knowledge to generate change in society. All my sustainable projects are driven by passion and commitment to lead by example.”

Over the years, Anita has volunteered a lot of her time to advise government and the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality on various matters. “This ‘non-academic’ time I spend in an advisory capacity is starting to pay off. My input is slowly but surely being taken seriously and being incorporated into policy.”

This has led to the establishment of the social initiative Qala Tala (Sesotho for “green start”), of which Anita is a co-founder. Together with Thabo Olivier, a councillor of the Mangaung Metro, they provide a platform for the testing of products and applications focused on environmental sustainability, including solar and wind energy products as well as irrigation, cultivation and recycling products and





Vegetables growing in the prototype garden.

# ‘warrior’ housing

methods. “We are combining Thabo’s political skills with my academic skills to achieve social change,” says Anita.

The main project at the moment is the Qala Tala prototype pilot low-income house being built in the backyard of Thabo’s property in Bayswater in Bloemfontein. “We have built a 60m<sup>2</sup> housing unit out of waste and sustainable materials in an upper class suburb. The total price will be less than the current government subsidised house price of R72 000.”

Earlier this year, Anita and Dr Francois Fourie from the Institute of Ground Water Studies spent three weeks in Guatemala, where they joined volunteers from all over the world to learn how to build a low-cost sustainable house from recycled material. “Between the volunteers and the crew from the Long Way Home organisation, we built a house for a family from start to finish within 15 working days. We also learnt building techniques from the leading sustainable building activist in the world, the ‘garbage warrior’, Michal Reynolds. This inspired me to establish something similar in South Africa.”

Anita is determined to make a difference. “We will keep on building until we find a sustainable low cost model that can be replicated and rolled out on scale, because the current practice of low-income housing development in South Africa is not sustainable. Realistically, this is a twenty-year commitment from my side, but to change perceptions and put more sustainable models in place you have to start somewhere.” **B**

## Lecture commemorates life and legacy of Bram Fischer

By Amanda Tongha



Attending the lecture were from left (front): Prof Pityana, Prof Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations, Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations, Ilse Wilson and Ruth Rice; back Prof Johan Henning and Peter Fischer. Photo: Stephen Collett

The university celebrated the life and legacy of the struggle icon Bram Fischer – a Kopsie alumnus who helped shape the landscape of South Africa – with the first Bram Fischer Memorial lecture. The well-known academic and human rights lawyer Prof Barney Pityana was the guest speaker.

The lecture was also attended by Bram Fischer’s daughters Ruth Rice and Ilse Wilson and his grandson Peter.

Prof Pityana highlighted Bram Fischer’s contribution in the struggle for justice, notably his role as lawyer in the “Rivonia Trial”. He gave a critical evaluation of South Africa’s legal system speaking at length about accessibility and transformation of the system.

Prof Johan Henning, Dean of the Faculty of Law, reminded the audience of the prominent role the Fischer family played in the history of the UFS. Fischer’s father, Adv Percy Fischer, was the very first law academic and founder of the faculty of law at the Grey University College, now the UFS. One of his very first students was former state president CR Swart, the first LLB graduate at the UFS. Fittingly, the inaugural lecture was hosted in the CR Swart Building, home to the Faculty of Law. **B**

Dr Le Roux bring tyd saam met die geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*) deur.

# Verneukery nie uniek aan menslike gedrag nie

'n Artikel onder leiding van dr Aliza le Roux van die Qwaqwa-kampus se Departement Dierkunde en Entomologie bevestig dat verneukery en misleiding nie net 'n menslike verskynsel is nie – dit word ook by nie-menslike diere aangetref.

Deur Thabo Kessah

Die artikel – *Evidence for tactical concealment in wild primate* – is op 12 Februarie 2013 in Nature.com gepubliseer.

Dr Le Roux het gesê: “Ons spesifieke studie het ontrouheid en straf by geladas ondersoek. Terwyl mense daarvoor bekend is dat hulle mekaar verneuk en dat die oortreders gestraf word as hulle uitgevang word, is dit in der waarheid baie vreemd om bewyse van hierdie soort gedrag by nie-menslikes te vind.

“Ons is nie seker of dit is omdat dit eie aan die mens is om ontrou te wees en of dit net is dat diere ontrouheid anders hanteer nie. Ons navorsing was dus die eerste om te bewys dat geladamannetjies en -wyfies hulle maats prober mislei as hulle ontrou is aan mekaar. Dit beteken dat hulle hul

ontrouheid probeer wegsteek.” Hierdie is gevolglik die eerste ondersoek wat taktiese misleiding by primate, wat in 'n natuurlike omgewing voorkom, dokumenteer.

“Ons het ook bewys dat die bedroë mannetjies dan die verneukers straf, maar kon nie vasstel of die straf die ontroues regtig laat ophou kul nie,” het dr Le Roux gesê.

Hierdie voortgesette en langtermynstudie gaan voort om die wilde geladabevolking in die Simienberg Nasionale Park in Ethiopië te bestudeer. Die studie doen navorsing oor die hormone, persepsie, genetica, sosiale gedrag en bewaring van primate en word uitgevoer in samewerking met die Universiteite van Michigan en Pennsilvanië. **B**

Vir verdere inligting: (<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v4/n2/full/ncomms2468.html>)

# Transformation at the UFS

**P**rof Andre Keet, Director of the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, has been appointed as member of the Oversight Committee on the Transformation of South African universities. He is one of seven committee members who were appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training to monitor progress on transformation in public universities. Bult asked him to share some thoughts on transformation at the UFS.



Prof Andre Keet

## The university's transformation project is unique on a few scores.

First, it is linked to the academic project which gives it a productive substance and complexity. Second, it is located in what we now call the 'human embrace'. As such it straddles a variety of initiatives and physical and social spaces within the university and society. Third, we have a clear picture of what we have to achieve and the challenges lying ahead. Fourth, interlinked programmes across the university are coming together in a transformation momentum that is not only driving the university forward in terms of national imperatives, but also gives new, vanguard meanings to the term.

This has and is paving the way for new ways of thinking and doing as far as our collective tasks at the university are concerned, especially our responsibility for and accountability towards our students.

Support for the transformation project, which includes the drive for scholarly excellence and academic quality, permeates our university landscapes and campuses. We are working on inclusive modelling for faculties, departments and units to take up this challenge, not simply to meet compliance standards, but because it makes social, intellectual, ethical and business sense. The university's sustainability and intellectual future rests on this commitment to inclusivity. *There is no-one outside of this project.*

The university, in general terms, is well-positioned. A range of discussions, seminars, colloquia and conferences across the university is stimulating an intellectual culture geared towards social justice. The same goes for the various research initiatives and the increasing focus on reflexive practices in relation to teaching and learning. Curriculum renewal processes are taking shape and students are becoming systematically involved in vibrant discussions around university transformation.

There certainly is, within our student body, the makings of the skilled, competent, informed and critical citizen: from the natural to the social sciences, across the faculties of medicine and law, and spanning economic and management sciences, theology and education. We are striving to match this potential with the kind of research, teaching and learning and community engagement that we are doing.

We, no doubt, have great challenges and our biggest advantage is our willingness to deal with this head on. Facilitating policies and other platforms are in place and innovative transformative programmes and projects abound. A greater sense of ownership for transformation and solidarities across divides will amplify our capacities to do well that which we are called upon to do by being associated with the university. There is no greater ethical responsibility. *We are all in this.* **B**



# Interlinear of only seven

By Igno van Niekerk

Prof Hermie van Zyl  
Photographer: Igno van Niekerk

**A**t the Word Festival in Stellenbosch in March, Prof Hermie van Zyl from the Faculty of Theology, one of the contributors to the newly translated Interlinear Bible (New Testament), was invited to participate in the launch discussion of this Bible.

The first question one thinks of in the age of *Google Translate* and other web services is: Why do we still need a team of people to translate anything? Followed by the second: Why would we need another translation of the Bible? It is when Prof Van Zyl starts explaining the nature of the Interlinear Bible that one is intrigued by the idea behind it and astounded by the challenges that were posed in the process.

The Interlinear Bible works as follows. There are three columns on every page. In the centre column, the reader is shown the original Greek text, then, underneath that, there is a transcription, showing how the Greek text would sound when transcribed into our normal alphabet. The third line consists of a word-by-word translation of the Greek text into Afrikaans. The left-hand column contains the direct translation of the Greek text which makes more sense than the word-by-word translation. On the right hand side is the 1983 Afrikaans translation of the Bible.

The three-column layout posed an immense challenge, as the Greek and Afrikaans words had to be aligned as closely as possible in order for the reader to make sense

of which word is being translated. Add to that the fact that the Greek alphabet contains letters which are not on the standard South African keyboard, and you can understand why the publisher, CUM Books, was at some stage unsure of whether they should continue with the process.

The benefit of the layout is that any reader can be brought as close as possible to accessing the original Greek text. This includes references to words which have more than one meaning when translated. The example used by Prof Van Zyl is the Greek word “pneuma” which might mean *wind* or *spirit*. In this Bible both words are given, allowing the reader to think about the meaning of the text within the context of the original language.

Not only were there the different meanings of words to consider, but the lay reader does not always understand that the original authors used a variety of grammatical constructs, as well as different dialects and versions of Greek. Not all the authors' mother tongues were Greek, and trying to interpret when translating is often uncertain and even dangerous territory. The Interlinear Bible now gives all of us access to the “uncensored” versions of these books,

# Bible one in the world



enlightening us, entertaining us and challenging us to review our views of biblical events and truths.

There are only six other languages in the world which have Interlinear Bibles, and Afrikaans, although a small language in the world context, can now boast to have the seventh one. The question that arises immediately is whether such a Bible is really necessary. Prof Van Zyl explains that this Bible is of tremendous benefit to ministers, as well as theological students who are often challenged by contextual questions in terms of biblical events and truths. There are also people who love to read the Bible comparatively, usually comparing different editions and translations. These people will now have the benefit of comparing the Afrikaans text with the original Greek.

According to Prof Van Zyl the Bibles have been selling well and most of the costs have been recovered. Taking into account that the Bible has been in bookstores since November 2012, this is no mean feat.

The UFS is proud that two of our lecturers, Prof Van Zyl and Prof Francois Tolmie, were contributors to this valuable addition to the religious community. **B**

## Navorsing kry sterker aanslag

Die aanstelling van prof Corli Witthuhn as Viserektor: Navorsing is 'n bevestiging van die erns waarmee die Universiteit van die Vrystaat navorsing bejeën. Die portefeulje van Viserektor: Navorsing is nuut en is geskep as deel van die universiteit se akademiese projek waardeur die instelling pogg om sy navorsingsaktiwiteite en -uitsette te verhoog.



Prof Corli Witthuhn

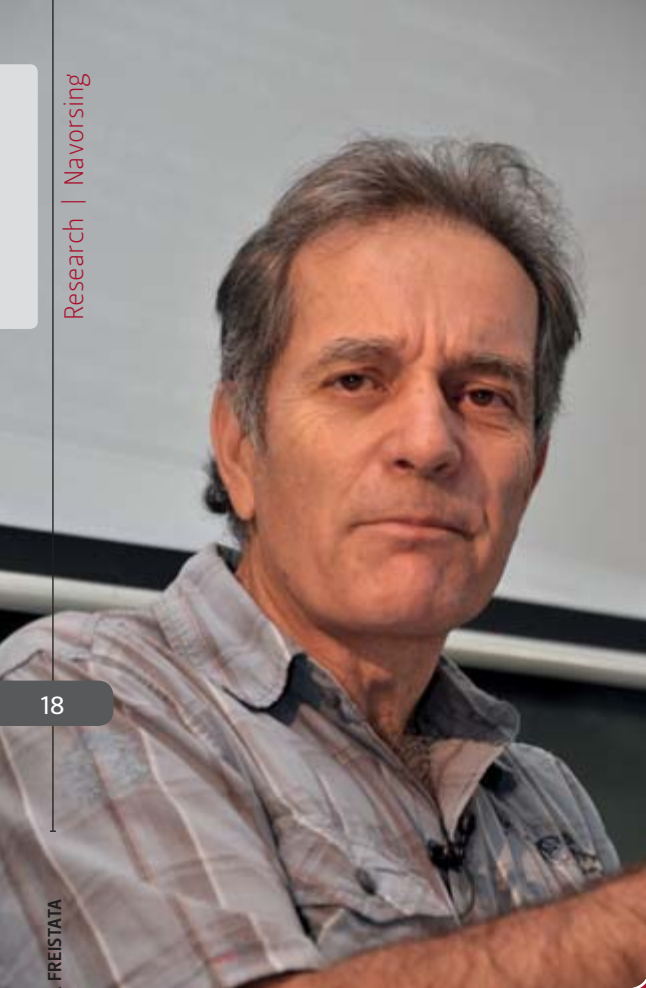
Prof Witthuhn was vanaf Augustus 2011 Visedekaan in die Fakulteit Natuur en Landbouwetenskappe. Sy het jarelange ondervinding van hoër onderwys, sowel as in wetenskaplike navorsing in senior bestuursposte in universiteitstrukture. Sy is een van die mededirekteure van die Visekanselier se Prestige-program vir Jong Navorsers, wat daarop gemik is om die loopbane van jong akademiese navorsers aan die UV te identifiseer en te ontwikkel. **B**

## Former Chancellor and Chairperson of Council honoured

Photo: Stephen Collett



Portraits of Dr Franklin Sonn, former Chancellor of the university, and Judge Faan Hancke, former Chairperson of Council, were unveiled during the first meeting of Council this year. Dr Sonn thanked the university for the honour, saying that the institution is a classic example of change and transformation. "The UFS is the most receptive of change of all the universities in South Africa. If you can read the time and move with the time. You can ride the wave. This university read its time for change well and acted upon it," he said. Dr Sonn also said it was an honour to work with Judge Hancke when the university went through a difficult period. In his message of appreciation Judge Hancke commended the university for always maintaining a firm standing about its academic standards. During the unveiling ceremony were, from the left: Dr Sonn; Judge Ian van der Merwe, current Chairperson of Council; Mr Edward Kieswetter, Vice-Chairperson of Council; and Judge Hancke.



# Finding the perfect blend

By Igno van Niekerk

Sometimes it is at the cutting edge, and sometimes it is at the bleeding edge. When people talk about technology in education, there are always a variety of opinions, heated debates and challenging questions. What cannot be disputed, however, is that when the use of technology is combined with community-based learning, you have a recipe for innovation and developmental growth.

One of the most passionate researchers on the topic of technology in education is Professor Johannes Cronje, dean of the faculty of Informatics and Design at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). When he was at the University of Pretoria Prof Cronje worked with Prof. Jonathan Jansen. The Blended Learning Research Project, the result of two years of consultation and Tiana van der Merwe's (CTL) hard work, has resulted in an opportunity for students at the UFS to benefit from Prof Cronje's experience. The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) and the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences are collaborating to co-host this project, which hold a number of benefits for students. As the themes of students' studies are often linked to each other, co-operation and teamwork will encourage interdependence and co-responsibility for the successful completion of research.

Prof Cronje has been appointed as Visiting Professor at the UFS, where he is leading this research project that involves seven PhD students from different faculties doing research on aspects of blended learning. The topics include leadership in educational technology; quality assurance of blended learning; blended learning implementation strategies, as well as the use of ambiguous learning environments.

Not only is Prof Cronje involved in guiding these students, but as part of enhancing capacity, he shares

his extensive knowledge of his field with study leaders in other disciplines. Other students and study leaders will also participate in the programme soon. Prof Cronje explains: "There is already incredible work taking place at the UFS. My role is not to build capacity, but to grow the capacity that is already there by sharing knowledge from my field of interest with others."

The principles followed by Prof Cronje are based on "community in practice". This means that people learn from other people and the process is usually facilitated by some kind of technology – which might be as simple as an old-fashioned blackboard. These days there is a myriad of tools that can facilitate learning and Prof Cronje uses programmes like Google Groups, Google Hangout, Dropbox and other free online services in his own research to facilitate students in understanding the use of technology.

The learning principles of Activity Theory are followed, ensuring that the learning process remains dynamic and interesting.

The CTL is looking forward to the expansion of this project, which is aimed at ensuring that the UFS remains at the cutting edge when it comes to the use of technology in education. **B**





# Personeel



# Experience the key to re-imaged education

**L**ecturer **Igno van Niekerk** took his MBA class to an exciting level and shared thoughts of the development of the education process in this article.

What a wonderful blessing it is to be a lecturer in changing times! I have the tremendous privilege of teaching at the UFS Business School, where a variety of lecturing options exist and can be exploited by the lecturing staff. Since I work mostly with adult learners, people who stand in the workplace and have to take leave in order to attend classes, I feel obliged to add value every time I am given the opportunity to teach. But how does one add value? Over the past few years, the content of what can be perceived as value has undergone some tremendous shifts.

A few years ago, the lecturer was still the person with the “information”. Retained knowledge was power.

Our model of education was built on these premises. Then several shifts happened. Search engines started remembering on our behalf. Wiki’s allowed anyone to participate in the creation of online information centres like Wikipedia. The fax machine got ditched as email and the internet was faster and more colourful. What you knew was suddenly obsolete as anyone could learn as much as you by finding the right sources on the web. There were no more academic islands as the world turned flatter and new solutions to newer challenges resulted in dramatic changes. Industries like the cellphone industry and the book industry were surprised to find new

competitors from different industries aggressively stealing their market share.

As change, globalisation and information sharing accelerated, the world of education was not unaffected. For years, chalk and talk was the most advanced way of teaching, and with an overhead projector or PowerPoint slapped onto the content, it became the standard. Suddenly the shift hit education. Video materials from other universities, “how to” videos on YouTube and a plethora of valuable information was suddenly one click away. When the first wave of e-learning happened, no one knew how to approach it, and sadly books were merely dumped onto computer screens to save trees. No one seemed to realise that e-learning demanded a whole new look at content development and instructional design. Many of those who did realise it avoided it due to “time constraints”. The march of boring knowledge transfer continued whilst the territory demanded a re-thinking, a re-working, or, to use Tom Peters’ term: “A Re-Imagining.”

When I talk about re-imagining, I am talking about the complete design of our classes. In the corporate world, *design thinking* has become a buzzword. You see, first there was the age of production. The lecturer produced materials and the students consumed. Then there was the age of service. The lecturer, the library and many others co-operated in bringing the learning materials together and the student consumed it. Now we are living in the age of the experience. Students can find information almost anywhere. They are coming to university for an experience.

They are coming to learn how to apply what they learn. They are not merely consumers. They come here to prepare for a future which we cannot foresee, but which, for sure, will require much more than the ability to learn and regurgitate information. A degree is now only a boarding pass to the bumpy ride into the future.

For my entire life, I have been questioning and investigating education. I have tried to find out what makes a class work, what happens that some students are engaged whilst other times the same class is taught, but the energy just doesn’t seem to flow. Every time students have raved about classes, I have tried to find out what the

Igno van Niekerk





MBA class on the lawns in front of the Main Building in Bloemfontein.

reason was. How does one add sizzle to substance and how does one ensure that the necessary learning takes place? What constitutes a great educational intervention?

Attention deficit disorder (ADD) is everywhere. Adult learners cannot avoid quick glimpses at vibrating cellphones or, they might even be sending, receiving and reading emails. As a lecturer you have to realise that you are not only responsible for a knowledge dump. You have to facilitate the complete process to ensure that the learning opportunity is optimised.

In a world where students are under tremendous pressure and stress, it has become essential for the lecturer to contextualise why what will be taught is important. If you do not motivate what will be taught, why would anyone listen? Students need to know how the content is going to benefit them, beyond the writing of the exam.

It doesn't stop with the motivation. It is crucial to involve much more than only the mind of the student in the classroom. We need to deliver holistic education. Our minds are cluttered as it is, there is just too much "noise" and sometimes the most valuable thing any lecturer can do, is to spend some time engaging more than the cognitive side of the student. Proven braingym strategies can rescue you from talking while others are sleeping, and very often students need to go outside and play an energising game.

Sounds absurd? In several of my classes on leadership and business strategy, I have reaped the benefits of renewed energy, rejuvenated minds and yes, re-engaged

imaginations. Sometimes the students will be challenged to build a quick puzzle in groups. The learning that takes place is the same as the fundamentals of strategy – the only difference is that the student is actively involved and allowed to participate. What has surprised me most is the fact that a walk through the garden with observant, open, but quiet minds, will lead to a circle on the lawn where the class work becomes a live and intriguing discussion. Sitting in an informal setting for a discussion is much more conducive to learning, interacting and rugged discussion, than sitting in structured rows in a classroom.

I often hear the complaints from lecturers: "But I don't have time for all this... my syllabus is too full already." My suggestion is that you revisit your syllabus. We are working with students who can find the information, what they need is guides to open up the world of the subject. People who can ignite a passion for research, growth and learning. We need lecturers who cut through complexity and allow true passionate learning to ensue.

The days of the dusty, chalky, monotonous classroom are over. We live in an era where being a lecturer is an exciting challenge of combining research skills, lecturing skills and article writing skills into the most exciting experience possible. It is indeed time to re-imagine. If we do not keep on doing that, the role of lecturers will become obsolete. We live in a world where there are multiple intelligences, multiple requirements and multiple challenges. It is time to join the colourful new world of turning education into an experience.

**Our students are waiting. B**

# UV bied 21<sup>ste</sup> eeu-mediese

*Deur René-Jean van der Berg*

**S**oos wat tegnologie alle velde van 'n moderne samelewing oorheers, so het die opleidingsbehoefte en -vereistes van studente in die 21ste eeu ook verander. Om hierby in te skakel het die Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe begin om pasiëntsimulasie vir die opleiding van verpleegkunde- en mediese studente te implementeer.

Die Skool vir Geneeskunde het sy nuwe Simulasie-eenheid vanjaar geopen. Simulasiepoppe van miljoene rand word ingespan in die opleiding van mediese studente. Kliniese vaardighede word ook voortdurend ingeoefen by die Skool vir Verpleegkunde se simulasie-afdeling, die Authentic Learning Space, wat in 2012 geopen is.

Dr Mathys Labuschagne, hoof van die Simulasie-eenheid aan die Skool vir Geneeskunde, vergelyk die belangrikheid van simulasie-opleiding met die opleiding

van 'n vlieënier. “ 'n Vlieënier moet eers 'n aantal simulasie-ure voltooi voordat 'n werklike vlug aangepak word. Net so het dit in mediese beroepe van uiterse belang geword om studente kliniese vaardighede te leer in 'n nie-intimiderende omgewing wat nie 'n gevaar skep vir die student óf pasiënt nie,” sê hy.

Geneeskunde se simulasie-eenheid is geskoei op geakkrediteerde eenhede in Amerika en Brittanje. Die eenheid is enig in sy soort in Afrika in die sin dat baie

## Simulation provides a learning

*By Anna-Marie Welman*

**T**he School of Nursing has implemented high-fidelity simulation (HFS) as a learning strategy for the acquisition of basic and advanced nursing competencies. This is regarded as a new practice and research on the effectiveness of its implementation was essential.

Third-year undergraduate nursing students were exposed to two high-fidelity simulation sessions. They were invited to participate in focus group interviews and both Afrikaans- and English-speaking students participated. The students were looking forward to being exposed to high-fidelity simulation as learning

experience. As most of the students fall within the Generation Y age group, they were excited to be exposed to the new technology available at the school.

The students described their learning experience as positive and identified several themes that highlighted



# opleiding

universiteite eenhede vir vaardigheidsontwikkeling het wat 'n bietjie simulاسie insluit.

“Universiteite word dikwels daarvan beskuldig dat hulle studente nie behoorlik vir hul beroepe voorberei nie. Ons weet ook dat studente vandag baie beter leer deur aktief aan aktiwiteite deel te neem,” het prof Driekie Hay, Vise-rektor: Akademies, met die opening van die Authentic Learning Space gesê. “Met toegang tot outentieke leerruimtes word studente in staat gestel om 'n beter begrip van 'n dissipline te kry en kan hulle begin om die ongeskrewe kennis van die praktyk wat dikwels op 'n daaglikse basis gebruik word, te verstaan.”

Die simulاسiepoppe by die twee skole word geprogrammeer om 'n sekere scenario na te boots. Die eenheid by die Skool vir Geneeskunde fokus op die aanleer van kliniese vaardighede terwyl die Authentic Learning Space pasiënt scenario's en pasiëntversorging naboots. **B**

## safe environment

the advantages and value of HFS as a learning strategy. These included the representation of reality during the scenario and through the high-technological features of the simulator, increased clinical competence, and the development of critical thinking abilities.

The students said that although the simulation felt real, it was safe for them to make mistakes and practise their skills in a controlled environment. Being exposed to team nursing and working within a group was identified as a positive aspect and the students felt that they were able to learn how to effectively communicate within a team.

They found that the different roles that they had to fulfil during the scenario added value to the learning experience and prepared them for when they would be exposed to a similar situation in the real world. **B**



# Web, facebook visited from all over

By Lelanie de Wet

What do the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Canada, India, Australia, Mauritius, Sweden, Spain, Finland, Egypt, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Iceland, Uzbekistan, El Salvador and many more countries have in common?



They are just a few of the 142 countries from where people visit our UFS website ([www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za)). The UFS website, its Facebook pages and Twitter is ever growing in popularity and have become important vehicles in carrying the UFS message to the world.



For the month of February 2013, the UFS home page received 553 473 \*visits, of which 153 441 were unique \*visitors. The average time visitors spent on the page was 4:19 minutes. New visits increased by a staggering 20,71% during this month only.




Research shows that visitors are enticed through the following means: search traffic – through a search engine (21,1%); referral traffic – through other websites and search engines (14,1%), direct traffic: [www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za) (64,79%) and campaigns (0.01%).

The most popular pages visited during February 2013 have been identified as: Vacancies, Students, Home page, Academic Divisions, 2013 Registration, Yearbooks, Contact Us and Tenders.

The UFS social media ports are also especially popular and we attract visits and likes from across the globe. At the time of going to print we already had more than 12 000 likes on the UFS Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/UFSUV](http://www.facebook.com/UFSUV)) and 3200 followers on Twitter.

We received a record number of 1 890 new likes on Facebook during February 2013. Of this, 1 344 came from mobile devices and 131 from Facebook advertisements.

The countries and the number of likes they generate are South Africa (7 722 likes); the USA (140 likes); Lesotho (115 likes); Namibia (87 likes); the United Kingdom (54 likes); Zimbabwe (36 likes); and Nigeria (26 likes). The language preference of people who like the page is: US English (6 171); UK English (2 176); Afrikaans (70); Dutch (23); French (18); and German (8). 

## How we have been reaching people through Facebook:

\* **Visit:** is when a user (visitor) accesses the site within a 30-minute session. If the webpage is inactive for a longer period of time, another session starts, counting as a new visit. Thus, any future session from the same

user during the selected time period is counted as an additional visit, but not as additional visitors. Therefore the **visitors** are the unique number of people who have accessed the website.

## Reuse-inspuiting vir UV-projekte

Drie projekte van die UV het 'n aansienlike finansiële hupstoot gekry met 'n skenking van R30 miljoen van Ou Mutual. Die borgskap sal deur die projekbestuursgroep Ilima Trust bestuur word. Een van die projekte, die *Family Maths and Family Science-projek*, is 'n drie-jaar-projek waar- deur die Skool vir Opleer ten doel het om wiskunde en wetenskap in die eerste skooljare te demistifiseer.


Dr Cobus van Breda, Direkteur van die Science for the Future-teenheid, het by die bekendstelling van hierdie program gesê die *Family Math and Family Science-projek* maak wetenskap en wiskunde toeganklik vir kinders en hulle ouers in die beginjare en beoog om positiewe gesindhede teenoor hierdie dikwels moeilike skoolvakke te ontwikkel.

“Die doel van die projek is om onderwysers, ouers en studentonderwysers te bemagtig

Dr Cobus van Breda

deur aan hulle ondersteuning en opleiding in deelnemende onderwysmetodiek te verskaf.” Afgesien van die *Family Maths and Family Science-projek*, sal die Skole-hernuwings-program en die Internetuitsendingsprogram ook by hierdie skenking baat vind.

Die Internetuitsendingsprogram het ten doel om gehalte-onderrig aan leerders in die landelike gebiede van die Vrystaat te verskaf. Matriekleerders by landelike skole skakel deur middel van oudiostroming in by 'n wiskunde-, rekeningkunde- of natuurwetenskap-onderwyser, wat die studiewerk aan hulle verduidelik. Al die toerusting word deur die UV verskaf.

Die Skolehernuwingsprogram fokus op die fisieke verbetering van die leerders se skoolomgewing. Deur middel van hierdie program word basiese hulpmiddels soos vensters, toilette en skoolbanke geïnstalleer of herstel. 



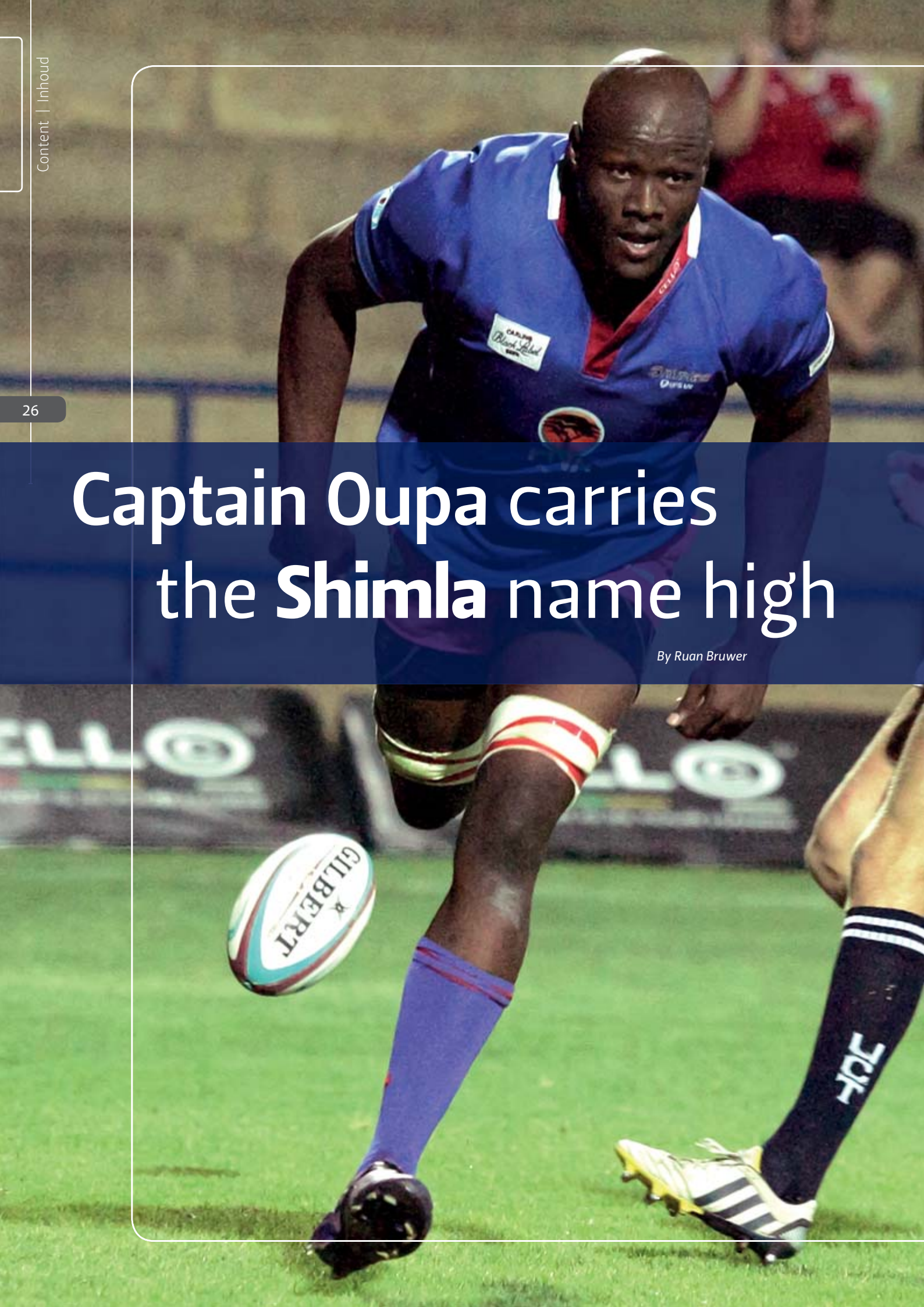


# Studente / Sport



# Captain Oupa carries the Shimla name high

By Ruan Bruwer





**A**lthough the Shimlas had a disappointing Varsity Cup campaign, there was one player that impressed immensely and deserved more success. He is Oupa Mohoje, captain of the Shimlas who received a huge accolade when he was named Player of the Tournament. He became the second Shimla player after Boom Prinsloo in 2010 to be named the best player of the Varsity Cup.

Mohoje impressed throughout, not only with his strong ball-carrying ability, but also with very good lineout jumps and very committed defence. He ended with four tries, three shy of the most in the tournament.

In Shimlas' 38-18 win over the Pukke, Mohoje was named the Player that Rocks. He started off at lock against Wits, a position he played at school. For the following six matches he was back at flank, a position he admits he feels more comfortable in.

The Human Movement Science student excelled through the ranks, representing the Free State at Craven Week in his matric year (2009) at HTS Louis Botha. In his first year out of school he already played for the Free State under-21 team.

Playing in his third Varsity Cup series, he feels this one was his best. "My form improved since 2011 and I grew physically and mentally. From here on my next goal would be to play for the Free State in the Currie Cup. If not this year, I should be ready next year. There is still time," he said. He turns 23 in August.

Mohoje was thrown in at the deep end when Shimlas coach, Michael Horak, asked him to captain the team, a responsibility totally new to him. In the process he made history, becoming the first black player to captain the Kovsie team. "That was an honour and a wonderful experience and the biggest achievement of my rugby career up to now. I became comfortable with the captaincy later on."

Horak had this to say about Mohoje, "He is a leader of men and has big potential as player and captain. He has a huge presence among the players. Oupa has a high work rate and is an excellent player."

According to Mohoje, who won the trophy as the Free State Rugby Union's Club Player of the Year in 2012, he got introduced to the game of rugby when he was in Grade 3 when he had to choose between extra classes and rugby practice. He described Juan Smith, former Springbok, Free State and Shimlas flanker as his rugby hero, even to this day.

Although his family refers to him as Teboho, in rugby circles he is known as Oupa. In his Grade 3 year at Fauna Primary his teacher struggled to pronounce his name. As he already had a few grey hair she decided to call him "Oupa" and the name stuck. On Facebook he refers to himself as "Oups Tebous".

### A couple of odd questions to Oupa:

**How often do you change your Facebook status update?**

Not very often, once or twice in a while. I rather tweet.

**What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?**

Open my eyes? Haha. Probably think what my day will look like.

**Can you remember when you first saw yourself playing rugby on television?**

It was the 2008 Craven Week in Pretoria.

**What is your biggest embarrassment on or off the rugby field?**

Being handed off by a smaller player... (Lucky no one really saw it.)

**Do you have any rituals before a match?**

I like to sit down, take my jersey, hold the badge in front, look at it, and just start talking to it. Note: there are stranger rituals around!

**Have you ever received a yellow or red card?**

Yes, a number of times for high and late tackles and for a spear tackle. **B**

The UFS tennis team continued its supremacy after winning gold at the national University Sports South Africa (USSA) championship in December 2012. The star-studded Kovsie team showed its pedigree. They stamped their authority on the 21 teams that represented the 20 universities which participated in the week-long event staged at the University of Pretoria.



# Kovsie Tennis

*By Teboho Setena*

The Kovies team's winning record to six in a row since 2007 constitutes a historic achievement. The UFS team has won the annual competition three times in different formats.

It was business as usual for the Kovies as they were unmatched, overcoming KwaZulu-Natal, the University of Johannesburg, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus). On the road to glory, the gutsy Kovies outclassed the University of Pretoria 8-2 in the semi-final and marched on to crush Stellenbosch University 8-0 in the final.

Triumphant Kovies's tennis team manager, Janine de Kock, whose involvement with the tennis team spans over seven years, attributes the team's success to a good synergy prevailing between the players and coaching technical team under the mentorship of highly experienced coach Marnus Kleinhans. "Marnus

is a brilliant coach. We make a good partnership and we understand each other and complement each other's work. The support we get from the university is very important in the team's achievement. Last year the varsity resurfaced the 18 courts, which cost a lot of money. The university also continues to provide bursaries to secure talented players," Janine said.

Janine said what was encouraging about the team's medal haul over the six years was organisation and teamwork that propelled both the men's and women's team to equally play a role in Kovies winning the USSA championship. Both the men's and women's team have won the national championship in different years. "There are a lot of factors which contribute to the team's success. Credit must also go to the players themselves for the effort they put into their training programmes. They have a positive attitude. They are disciplined, dedicated and play with passion. I do not remember





The winning team of 2012

# clinches *straight sets*

reminding or questioning any player why he or she did not train. The senior players lead by example. We are very lucky because we get newcomers who buy into the model of Kovsie tennis,” Janine said.

The victorious Kovsies’ sterling performance has been further rewarded with the inclusion of four star players and two officials in the national squad that will participate in preparatory trials and tournaments for the 2013 World Students Games in Russia. The selected players are Hendri Steyn, Duke Munro, Christi Potgieter and Elizna Barnard. The Kovsie duo – Janine and Marnus – were appointed team manager and coach respectively of the team chosen for the World Students Games.

In addition, both Janine and Duke have also been retained to serve USSA tennis nationally after being re-elected at the annual general meeting as chairperson

and technical advisor, respectively. This will be Janine’s second term in office nationally. “It is a great privilege to be involved in USSA tennis nationally,” Janine added. Kovsie’s team captain, Christi Potgieter, also earned her stripes following her election as the national vice-chairperson.

Janine believes the players’ ability to transfer experience gained in various tournaments benefits the Kovsie tennis team. In 2011 the trio of Duke, PW Holtzhausen and Willem Steenkamp were part of the team who represented South Africa at the World Students Games in China. Duke is still part of the winning Kovsie team.

“The Student Games was a great experience for the players because it was the first time that they competed internationally against professional tennis players,” Janine said. **B**

# UFS101 students get closer to Basotho culture

By Thabo Kessah

30

**T**he Basotho Cultural Village, which is nestled in the heart of the Qwaqwa Nature Park and part of the world-famous Golden Gate, played host to more than 130 first-entering Education students on the Qwaqwa Campus. This was as part of ground-breaking learning experiences offered in the UFS101 programme.

UFS101 is a core curriculum course aimed at creating different thought leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The culture walk followed an intense discussion around the topic *How do we become South Africans?*

The students, many of whom came from Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, were taught and taken for a walk down the pathway of time. They learnt about the history of the Basotho culture, their lifestyle and architecture from as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. They asked

engaging questions and it emphasised that South Africa is truly culturally integrated.

Xoliswa Jonase from Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal said: "Today's lesson taught me to respect cultures that are different from mine and appreciate the uniqueness of our land. As an educator, this type of exposure will surely make me a better and more informed teacher who will be able to properly guide and nurture the future generations of our beloved land." **B**



UFS101 students learn more about the Basotho cultural pathway.



# Studente se advertensie-idees pryk wyd

In die kursus BKT 214 vir die UV se Bemerkingskommunikasie-studente word 'n toegepaste benadering gevolg en as deel van studente se formele assessering. Hulle moet in groepe van drie of meer studente 'n advertensie vir radio- en gedrukte medium (tydskrif/buitelug-reklamebord) vir 'n bepaalde goeie saak in Suid-Afrika maak. Dit sluit organisasies soos die South African National Blood Service, die DBV, Cansa en Crime Line in.

Studente word geëvalueer deur 'n paneel van beoordelaars wat prof Angeliqué van Niekerk van die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands, Duits en Frans en twee ander persone, soos bv. 'n grafiese ontwerp kundige, insluit. Die drie tot vyf van die beste groepe kry dan die geleentheid om hul konsep met die hulp van professionele mense in die advertensiebedryf verder te verfyn.

Die UV se drie wengroepe het aan die Nasionale Loerie- en Pendorringadvertensiekompetisie in die studente-kategorie deelgeneem. Hierin het hulle meegeding met kopieskryfstudente van groot advertensieskole soos AAA en Vega. In 2011 het een van die damesgroepe in die kursus BKT 214 – Taryn Jacobs, Elizabeth Forson en Mafohlelaa Mahlatsi – 'n brons-Loerie-toekenning verower met 'n Engelse borskankeradvertensie wat baie slim met die konsep van selfoonboodskappe gespeel het.

Een van die inskrywings in 2012 oor die voorkoming van prostaatkanker was so treffend dat Cansa dit in sy advertensieveldtogte in die sosiale media en ander gedrukte media gebruik het. Die gedeelte van die opskrif *balls get cancer too* en die inspelings op die sokkerspeler met sy sokkerbal, het aandag getrek.



Prof Angeliqué van Niekerk (middel) en die vier studente. Van links is Moeletsi Lekhula, Thuto Ntuli, Eugene Ceba and Sylvester Senokoane.



Een van die advertensies

Die vier mansstudente wat met die Cansa-advertensie vorendag gekom het – Sylvester Senokoane, Eugene Ceba, Moeletsi Lekhula en Thuto Ntuli van wie een self ook die model in die Cansa-advertensie was – is baie trots op hul werk.

Angeliqué sê dié soort kompetisies hou baie voordele in: die organisasies waarvoor dit gemaak word, het beperkte begrotings en deur die advertensies word 'n diens aan die gemeenskap gelewer.

Groter uitdagings word ook aan die kreatiwiteit van die studente gestel omdat dit tradisioneel nie vir die gemiddelde student die *coolste* handelsname is nie. **B**

# UFS assists students in their pursuit of excellence

By Jerry Mokoroane

32



Roxy Stott (MBChB), Lebo Duiker (BSc Quantity Surveying), Boitumelo Tlhaole (MBChB) and Sinxolo Sam (BA Media Studies and Journalism)

The University of the Free State takes pride in its students who pursue academic excellence, despite their socio-economic or financial background.

Over the past few years, Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof Jonathan Jansen, visited large parts of South Africa to assist students who could not further their studies at higher education institutions. One of those selected on merit is Roxy Stott from Bergvliet High in Cape Town who passed her Grade 12 examinations with seven distinctions, but was not accepted at the tertiary institution of her choice to further her studies in Medicine. The UFS has given her the opportunity to study MBChB.

Boitumelo Tlhaole from Heatherdale Secondary School, Bloemfontein, also passed Grade 12 with seven distinctions. During her high school years she tutored, encouraged and mentored her fellow learners. "I believed that every one of them had the potential to become whatever they wished to become. That is why

I went all out to serve my peers," said Boitumelo. She gave extra mathematic classes every Tuesday afternoon, over weekends and during holidays. Boitumelo is studying MBChB.

Both Roxy and Boitumelo said they were thankful to Prof Jansen and the institution for granting them the opportunity to study at the UFS.

At the official opening ceremony of the UFS, Prof Jansen emphasised that "good is the enemy of great. Good is passing your degree with no distinctions whatsoever. Great is passing your degree with distinctions, regardless of the state of your socio-economic background or social status". This is why the UFS acknowledges and offers study opportunities to students who deserve it. More examples of this are Sinxolo Sam and Lebo Duiker, who also were academic achievers at school. Sinxolo is studying BA Media Studies and Journalism, and Lebo BSc Quantity Surveying. **R**



# Passion, zeal and perseverance drives Wilhelm

It is no easy task to track down Wilhelm van der Walt, aka Ty, the cousin of Gita (Jo da Silva) in the soapie *7de Laan*. When **Jerry Mokoane** eventually managed to corner him, Wilhelm was on campus rehearsing with the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts for the KKNK.

Wilhelm has always been passionate about anything related to drama and theatre arts. But fortunately all this passion of his was not spent in vain – shortly after he completed his honours in BA Drama at the UFS he landed himself a role in one of South Africa's most popular soapies, *7de Laan*.

Wilhelm began his studies at Kopsies in 2004. Initially he studied Psychology, but eventually his first love won him over. "It took me a year to discover the actual purpose of coming to study, and this transition from Psychology into Drama was one of the best transitions I ever took."

This alumnus mentions how his lecturers positively influenced his student years. "I remember lecturers like Gerben Kamper, Pieter Venter and Stephanie Brink who really inspired me to pursue my passion in acting and theatre production," says Wilhelm with a wide grin. He adds that the quality of lecturers he came across at the UFS "was amazing". "Lecturers I happened to come across melted right into the students, and made studying at this institution worthwhile."

"I believe every institution has its own unique strengths but there is just something at the UFS that makes me feel positive. The students and the lecturers are just incredible."

This 29-year old has featured in over 64 productions, playing roles such as Faktotum Fanie in *Rooikappie en die Wolf*, and gaining him the experience that landed him the *7de Laan* role.

"One of my most challenging roles was playing the character Frans in *Rooiland*. Being one of the key characters was an exciting, yet challenging experience which made me love drama and theatre even more."

Wilhelm can be seen on stage at the Vryfees on the Bloemfontein Campus in July this year.

"I would encourage students to work hard, follow your passion, fall in love with what you are studying and remember that passion, zeal and perseverance are the ultimate motivation. I'm pursuing a career in drama and theatre arts, and I truly love every moment."

Sage advice from Wilhelm van der Walt. **B**



# Hier is 'n lekker vibe,

**D**ie een is 'n 18-jarige Afrikaanssprekende jong man met 'n bietjie Zoeloe-kennis, die ander 'n 32-jarige Zoeloeman wat hier en daar 'n woord Afrikaans en Engels verstaan. Vir koshuiskamermaats Retief Potgieter en Themba Mazibuko, maak die ouderdomsverskil van meer as tien jaar en gebrek aan 'n gemeenskaplike taal nie veel saak nie.

34



Retief en Themba in die koshuis se portaal, en hy besig om te studeer. – Foto: Johan Roux.

Wat saak maak, is dat hulle daar is om mekaar te ondersteun want vir die volgende paar jaar sal die twee KwaZulu-Natallers saam hul weg op ons Bloemfontein-kampus moet vind. Die twee het saam vanjaar by ons universiteit begin en deel vir die volgende paar jaar 'n kamer in Huis ConLaurès, een van die twee nuwe koshuise op die Bloemfontein-kampus. Retief is hier om te studeer. Themba is hier om Retief, wat Larsen se sindroom het, fisies op kampus te help. Larsen se sindroomlyers sukkel gewoonlik met gewrigsontwrigting en rugstringprobleme en Themba neem Retief, wat 'n rolstoel gebruik, na klasse, help hom bad en aantrek en help ook met ander take.

Met hul gebrek aan 'n gemeenskaplike taal word daar maar meestal Fanagalô, 'n mengsel van Zoeloe, Engels en Afrikaans, in hul kamer gepraat, sê Retief. Themba, 'n pa van twee kinders, is hoofsaaklik Zoeloesprekend en verstaan net hier en daar 'n woord in Engels en Afrikaans – Sesotho nog minder. So wanneer medestudente Sesotho of Engels met hom praat is Retief die een wat vertaal na Fanagalô.

Retief, 'n Bemarking-eerstejaarstudent, sê hy het spesifiek na Kowsies gekom omdat die UV beter ingerig is vir gestremdes as ander universiteite. Fasiliteite by ander universiteite is te veel uitgesprei. By Kowsies vat dit hom vyf minute om by klasse uit te kom. Bloemfontein is ook minder besig as Pretoria of Johannesburg, sê Retief, wat op 'n plaas grootgeword het.

“Party van my gewrigte is ontwikkel, ander is nie. Dis maar net *one se luck*,” sê hy oor sy gestremdheid.

Wanneer mense staar, staar hy terug, sê die student wat op sy knieë stap. “Op kampus kyk hulle nie na jou nie, ek dink hulle is maar gewoond. In die



# sê Retief

Deur Amanda Tongha

“Toe ek klein was, het ek myself nooit as 'n gestremde gesien nie”

winkelsentrums of elders kyk die klein kinders, ek trek maar net gesigte terug.”

Studente moet hom nie anders behandel nie, laat hy hoor. “Hulle moet my maar net groet en sien dat ek hulle teruggroet en dat vriendskappe gebou word.”

“Ek is nog altyd aan mense blootgestel. Ek het geleer om myself nooit jammer te kry nie. Ek het ook geleer as jy wil hê mense moet jou aanvaar, moet jy deel van hulle word, jy moet doen wat hulle doen,” sê hy oor sy besige Kovsielewe. Retief is betrokke by sy koshuis se rugbyspan en is deel van die eerstejaarshuiskomitee. Hy het ook aansoek gedoen by KovsieFM en gaan skaak speel vir sy koshuis.

“Toe ek klein was, het ek myself nooit as 'n gestremde gesien nie. Ek was 'n woelige bliksem. Ek het van stoele en tafels afgespring en saam met ander kinders rugby gespeel.”

Anders as ander studente skryf hy eksamens by die Eenheid vir Studente met Gestremdhede. Dis egter nie 'n plek waar jy hom gereeld gaan raakloop nie. “Jy gaan daar as jy in die moeilikheid is, as jy iets wil hê. Ek skryf eksamen en goed daar, want daar is 'n *scribe*.”

“Ek kan skryf maar hulle wil ek moet 'n *scribe* kry sodat ek mooi kan skryf. As hulle 'n *scribe* wil reël dan moet hulle maar. As hulle sê die ou kan nie opdaag nie, sal ek seker self maar moet skryf.”

Die Kovsie-ervaring geniet hy. “Die universiteitslewe is lekker, jy kan laat slaap en daar is heelwat aktiwiteite om te doen.”

“Daar is 'n lekker *vibe* hier.” 

## Perceptions evaporate in cross-Atlantic discussion

By Leatitia Pienaar



Dr. Liezel Massyn


Cross-Atlantic perceptions were exchanged in an innovative “discussion” between students at our university and a group of students at the St Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Blackboard was used in the collaboration and Skype to deliver the panel discussion at a conference in the USA.

The UFS students were enrolled for a module in Perceptions and Decision Making as part of the degree programme in Management Leadership (BML) at the UFS Business School. Their US counterparts were enrolled for a history module focusing on various revolutions, amongst others the South African revolution (as they refer to it).

Dr. Liezel Massyn, a lecturer at the UFS Business School and one of the presenters of the panel discussion at a history conference in Austin in March 2013, said the collaboration identified stereotypes; created a safe way to deal with perceptions and gave students a sense of control of the learning process. Students also experienced a new way of interaction.

One of the participants, James Stewart, said “the experience made me far more aware of what is going on around me and to seek not necessarily answers, but definitely understanding”. Claudie Wood said: “(I) got a sense of an extended classroom in a flexible environment.”

Palesa LeJohn-Dhladla summed up her misperceptions about Americans: “I realised that some of the things we see or hear on television and read in newspapers about America is sometimes not a true reflection of Americans. For example, I thought that Americans were people who only have interests in rich oil African countries but the whole interaction changed my negative assumption.”

Dr. Massyn said the module on Perception and Decision Making is very theoretical and abstract and the challenge was to make it practical for students without being artificial. 

# Ringkoppe gee leiding aan studenteleiers

Deur Amanda Tongha.



Pioniers. Dit is wat Rudi Buys, Dekaan: Studentesake, 'n groep senior studente genoem het wat op die heel eerste Studenteleiersraad (SEC) aangestel is. Die raad, 'n adviserende studenteforum, sal die voortdurende ontwikkeling van studentebestuur aan die universiteit ondersteun. Die raad bestaan uit

senior studenteleiers van al drie die UV-kampusse, wat hulle dienstydpark voltooi het. Die SEC sal dien as 'n raadgevende forum vir die Studenteraad en ander studentestrukture. Busisiwe Madikizela is gekies as die eerste voorsitter van die raad. Mnr Buys verskyn heel regs op die foto. **B**



Some of the learners on the Bloemfontein Campus

## School gets a 'head start'

Learners in Grade 12 at the Headstart High School in Mangaung got the opportunity to improve their achievement in the core schools subjects and to prepare for university studies.

Prof Jansen teaches English at the school from 07:00–08:00, followed by Mr Brain Naidoo, an English specialist teacher. Additional mentors were appointed for Afrikaans, Economics, Business Studies, Life Sciences and Geography subjects.

The after-school Friday programmes brings the learners to the Bloemfontein Campus to motivate them for university life, provide career guidance, and enable them to interact with students on campus. In these programmes the learners are exposed to the campus, the computer labs, the arts, drama and theatre, as well as more effective teaching methods in the classroom.

The overall goal of the programme is to ensure that all the learners pass their Grade 12 year, but emphasis is also placed on their social and cultural lives. **B**





# Alumni



# Ouma Laetitia onthou haar Vishuis-dae

**L**elanie de Wet is deel van 'n familie waarvan drie geslagte hul voetspore op die Bloemfontein-kampus gelaat het. Sy vang haar ouma, **Laetitia Hattingh**, se herinneringe hier vas.

'n Agtienjarige meisie staan op die platform van Aliwal-Noord se treinstasie en talm. Emosies kolk deur haar: bang, onseker, opgewonde. Die platform is die drumpel na die onbekende. Net 'n handjievol studente klim saam met haar op die gitswart ysterperd. Die geklingel van melkkanne wat afgelaai word en die rumoer van studente wat op die trein stroom is soos 'n refrein op elke stasie. "Met ons aankoms op Bloemfontein se stasie was die trein stampvol studente – en daar was nie meer een melkkan in sig nie." Studente tuimel in busse en huurmotors op pad na die UKOVS-kampus. Die jaar: 1948.

Hierdie is een van die eerste herinnering van ouma Laetitia Hattingh (née Venter) wanneer sy terugdink aan haar Kowsie-studentejare.

In 1948 het die UV nog bekend gestaan as UKOVS (Universiteit Kollege van die Oranje-Vrystaat) – vandaar die term Kowsies, wat tot vandag toe nog trots gebruik word.

Ouma Laetitia was een van die eerste damestudente in Huis Abraham Fischer (Vishuis). Vishuis was voor 1948 'n manskoshuis, maar het van 1948–49 die skoner geslag gehuisves. Margot van der Walt was in 1948 die primaria en sy is later met Magnus Malan getroud. Dit is in die gange van Vishuis waar ouma Laetitia lewenslange bande met nuutgevonde vriendinne gesmee het. Sy, Elmie Lamprecht en Hettie Lambrechts klets nog gereeld.

In 1950 het Vishuis terugverander na 'n manskoshuis en ouma Laetitia moes na Kestell, die splinternuwe koshuis op kampus, verskuif.

Destyds was die kampus aansienlik kleiner – en baie stiller. In 1948 was daar net drie koshuise: Vishuis, President Steyn en Reitz-kamerwonings. Laasgenoemde se eetsaal moes die dames van Vishuis bedien.

"Daar was baie min voertuie en al die studente het met fietse gery." Ouma Laetitia onthou nog hoe hulle gespot het oor die fietsryery: "Ons het laan af gery dorp toe en





as jy te moeg was om terug te ry het jy jou fiets net daar in die dorp aan die naaste paal vasgemaak en dan met die bus laan op teruggery en dan môre weer jou fiets onder in die laan gaan haal.”

Ouma Laetitia vertel dat baie van die destydse kampus-tradisies die jare oorleef het. Dames en mans het daardie jare ook saans vir mekaar gaan sê. Hulle het reeds Intervarsity gehad en het met treine tussen Bloemfontein en Potchefstroom gery. “Dit het maar rof gegaan op daardie trein,” noem ouma Laetitia so terloops, maar die vonkel in haar helder blou oë is onmisbaar.

Ouma Laetitia het Vishuis se eeufeesvieringe in 2007 bygewoon. Sy was teleurstellend om so min alumni daar te sien, maar sê hulle het baie lekker gekuier en “onthou-jy-nog”-stories uitgeruil.

Een van hierdie stories waarin die groep hulle verkneukel het, was 'n affêre met 'n skilpad. Ouma Laetitia en Anna Minnaar was beide eerstejaars. Anna het 'n skilpad met die naam van Hoyibe in die koshuis se vierkant aangehou. Wanneer Anna klas toe ry op haar fiets dat haar blou baadjie sommer so punt in die wind staan, moes ouma Laetitia en haar vriendinne vir arme Hoyibe oppas.

Hulle het ook gesels oor prof Benedictus Kock wat Afrikaanse dosent was. Hy het vir sy studente – waarvan ouma Laetitia een was – kaartjies gereël om na Erna Sach, bekende koloratuursopraan uit Duitsland, te gaan kyk. Die bekende digter GA Watermeyer het saam met ouma Laetitia die universiteitsbanke gedeel. Essie Honiball (née Swart), bekende skryfster en ouma was ook saam-saam eerstejaartjies. Essie het toe later die knoop deurgehaak met T O Honiball (bekende spotprenttekenaar).

Ouma Laetitia se studentwees was die begin van drie geslagte wat by Kowsies studeer het. Sy het in 1951 haar graad in BA Tale (Afrikaans-Nederlands en Engels) verwerf. Haar skoondogter, Sandrie Hattingh (née du Plessis), was in 1974 'n eerstejaarstudent in NJ van der Merwe en het in 1977 'n Honneurs in BSoc Sc verwerf.

Twee kleindogters het die Kowsie-tradisie voortgesit. Hanli du Toit (née Hattingh) was in 1998 'n eerstejaarstudent in Huis Wag-'n-Bietjie en het in 2001 haar graad in BSc Biologiese Wetenskappe (Fisiologie en Chemie) verwerf en in 2002 haar BMed Sc Honneurs in Farmakologie verkry. Lelanie de Wet (née Hattingh) was in 2001 'n eerstejaarstudent in Huis Soetdoring en het in 2004 haar graad in BA geïntegreerde bemarking verwerf.

Ouma Laetitia het 'n spesiale boodskap aan die UV: “Die universiteit is steeds een van die mees behoudende universiteite wat daar in Suid-Afrika is. Ek sal van harte alle ouers aanraai om hul kinders na die UV te stuur. Dit was 'n belewenis om daar te wees!” **B**

Lelanie is deel van die afdeling  
Strategiese Kommunikasie.

## Letters | Briewe

### ‘Professors had last effect on my life’

**Prof. Tony Cubbin from  
Pietermaritzburg writes:**

I have been wanting to pen this letter for many years.

I want/need to express my deep appreciation to my Alma mater – ek's 'n Kowsie. I grew up English and completed my BA with distinction and certificate of merit in History in 1961. In 1974 I had the honour to sit for a BA Honours in History, which I received “met lof”. While working in education I completed a master's and doctorate.

From headmaster I, unsolicited, was appointed senior lecturer in History at the University of Zululand. I retired as Professor having the best working years of my life.

I feel deeply humbled that I have a real and profound knowledge of the English, Afrikaans and Zulu antecedents, i.e. I am a proud and balanced South African. This is in no small measure due to the excellent academic inspiration received from the erudite hands of Professors JJ Oberholster, MCE van Schoor, J Moll and H Marais. Their effects on my life have been lasting.

Currently retired in Pietermaritzburg, I am chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Heritage Society and past chairman of Lions River of Zululand, so I am still active in sharing our proud South African history. My last paper was at the Richmond AGM on “Retief's first visit to Dingane”, which was well received.

In conclusion I want to state, unequivocally, that the UFS has the best rector in South Africa. Cometh the time, cometh the man. **B**

### Three generations or more of Kowsies?

The University of the Free State is looking for families with a third or more than third generation history with the UFS. To qualify, one or both parents of a current or former student and at least one of his or her grandparents should have obtained a degree from the UFS.

For further information please contact Tharina Naude, UFS Marketing at +27 (0) 51 401 3829 or [naudehc@ufs.ac.za](mailto:naudehc@ufs.ac.za).

# From student leader to director general

By Jerry Mokoroane



Mr Mokoditloa Eliakim (Alec) Moemi

## We transform learners into leaders.

Mr Mokoditloa Eliakim (Alec) Moemi is a prime example of this transformation. Alec, who obtained a master's degree in Political Governance and Transformation, is the Director General of the Department of Sports and Recreation in South Africa. He has been involved extensively as a student leader on both the University of the Free State's Bloemfontein Campus and at the North-West University, where he held a SRC portfolio as President.

Alec served in organisations such as the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), the South African Student's Press Union (SASPU) and the South African Students' Congress (SASCO) during his student years. This Kowsie alumnus was also a member of the provincial executive committee of the Black Management Forum in the Free State. Not only has Alec been involved in student politics and leadership structures, but he also was, and is still, a successful entrepreneur having his own business in the services and retail sector. He was previously employed as the national administrator for the African National Congress in the Youth League Head Quarters.

His numerous achievements include having worked in the office of the Premier in the Free State Provincial Government as chief director, responsible for special programmes and inter-governmental relations. He also was the branch manager of the Bloemfontein region of Standard Bank.

The UFS stands proud of this alumnus. 

**D**ie wêreld van 'n gehoor-gestremde is dikwels 'n eensame wêreld. Dit is 'n wêreld waarin hul daaglikse struikelblokke ervaar en legio uitdagings deel van hul daaglikse bestaan is. Een so 'n oud-Kowsie, wat hierdie uitdagings met onderskeiding oorwin het, is Corlien Cloete.

Corlien is die dogter van prof Daan Pienaar, voormalige dosent in Bybelkunde aan die UV. As tweejarige peuter is sy na die De la Bat Skool vir Dowes in Worcester nadat haar ouers agterkom het dat sy, net soos haar ouer suster Elzabe, doof is. Corlien is die eerste leerder van die instelling wat matriek met universiteitstoelating geslaag het.


In 1983 begin sy haar eerste jaar as BSc-student aan die UV. Na al die jare weg van die huis was die UV die enigste plek waar sy wou wees. As lid van Huis Sonnedou neem sy aktief deel aan die studentelewe. By sêr-aande is sy die amptelike fotograaf en is lid van die trapkarspan en koerantredaksie.

Haar dosente in die departemente Geologie en Chemie was leiers in hul vakgebied en het haar toegerus met vaardighede vir haar beroepslewe. Dr Johan Loock het op sy energieke manier altyd vir haar 'n sitplek in die voorste ry gereserveer. Tydens geologie-toere het hy gesorg dat sy verstaan waarna hul kyk. Haar wiskunde-dosent, prof Gertjie Viljoen, het elke les vir haar in sy kantoor herhaal.

Sy het haar BSc-graad in 1986 met Geologie en Wiskunde en in 1987 haar BSc Honneurs met Geologie as hoofvak behaal.

Corlien is saam met haar man, dr Thinus Cloete, in diens van die Raad vir Geowetenskap in Pretoria waar sy as hoofwetenskaplike geologiese materiaal se samestellings met behulp van X-straal-fluoresensiepektrometrie (XRF) bepaal.

Haar dogter, Jana, het Kowsies ook haar tuiste gemaak waar sy argitektuur studeer.

Jare na Corlien se studies word hul steeds beïndruk met die UV se vriendelike dosente en hoë standaarde. 



# UV skep ruimte vir almal wat hier wil wees

*Deur Kathy Verwey*



Drie geslagte op die  
kampus: Jana en Corlien  
Cloete, met prof Daan  
Pienaar agter hulle. –  
Foto: Verskaf.





UNIVERSITY OF THE  
FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREISTATA



 UFSUV |  UFSweb |  UFSweb

University of the Free State | PO Box 339, Bloemfontein, 9300 | South Africa  
[www.ufs.ac.za](http://www.ufs.ac.za)