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# Bult

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FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA  
FREESTATA



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**Front page:** Judith Mason, *The quest (detail)* (2005/6), Oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm, UFS Art Collection.

**Back page:** Centenary Gallery, Centenary Complex Exhibition on Bloemfontein Campus: *Living together in the aftermath of historical trauma, works for the UFS Art Collection*. Curated by Angela de Jesus.

# Brief van die redakteur



Die universiteit het onlangs 'n persepsie-ouditstudie tussen eksterne en interne belanghebbendes laat doen en ons is baie opgewonde oor die terugvoer wat ons ontvang het. "Ek het vertroue in die vaardighedsbasis, die universiteit is in goeie en bekwame hande", "Dankie vir die uitstekende diens wat ons as ouers ontvang. Julle kommunikasie, universiteit en diens is van topgehalte!", "n Goeie universiteit, waar daar humor en hoop is, dit is waar ek nuttige en invloedryke mense sal vind", en "Tot dusver glo ek beslis dat die hele visie my hart aangeraak het en ek is bly om 'n Kovsky te wees." is

slegs enkele uittreksels uit die verslag wat ontvang is. Dit weerspieël die sienings van ons studente, voornemende studente, skoolhoofde, lede van die regering, personeel en alumni.

Die studie deur 'n eksterne groep navorsers is gedoen in opdrag van die universiteit se Departement Kommunikasie en Handelsmerkbestuur. Buiten die positiewe terugvoer, het die studie ook aan dié departement die Jake Wittmer-navorsingstoekenning van die International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) besorg. Die Jake Wittmer-toekenning is deur die IABC Navorsingstigting in die lewe geroep om erkenning te gee aan uitnemende navorsing wat gedoen is in opdrag van, of ontwikkel is deur 'n organisatoriese kommunikeerde. Lees gerus meer hieroor op bl 2 van hierdie uitgawe.

'n Verdere weerspieëling van ons strewe na uitnemendheid, is die suksesse van die UV se Internet-uitsaiprojek wat vanaf ons Suid-kampus in Bloemfontein bedryf word. Afgesien daarvan dat hulle daagliks 'n baie groot rol speel in die verbetering van die Vrystaat se Graad 12-matriekuitslae, word Sarietjie Musgrave en haar span se harde werk ook internasionaal erken. Hulle het in April vanjaar die eerste plek behaal in die Rich Media Awards in Minnesota in die VSA. Universiteite en instansies van regoor die wereld het aan die kompetisie deelgeneem. Die UV, in samewerking met die Departement van Onderwys se Internet-uitsaiprojek, is as die wenner in die Innovering-kategorie aangewys. Lees meer oor die projek op bl 4 en 5.

Hierdie is slegs twee van die projekte waарoor ons by die UV baie trots is. Die uitgawe is tjok en blok gevul met nuus oor projekte – van nuwe infrastruktuurontwikkeling op ons kampusse tot die Instituut vir Grondwaterstudies wat hande gevat het met SAOG-lande om steun te verskaf met verskeie projekte in dié lande. Lees ook oor Kgotsi Schoeman en Henry Madlala, twee van ons raadslede.

Groete tot volgende keer  
Leonie

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Bult 2014

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### Naasbestaandes van oorlede Alumni:

Stel ons asseblief in kennis wanneer een van ons Alumni-lede oorlede is sodat ons dit so op ons databasis kan aanteken. Ons sal dit opreg waardeer as u ons heermee kan help.  
Stuur asseblief u kennisgiving na [alumni@ufs.ac.za](mailto:alumni@ufs.ac.za) of faks na: +27(0)86 606 9817.  
Institutionele Bevordering: Alumni

### Family members of deceased Alumni:

Please inform us when one of our Alumni passes away in order for us to note it on our database. We will truly appreciate your help in this regard.  
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Institutional Advancement: Alumni

# University receives international recognition for uniqueness of study and research model

By Lacea Loader

**R**esults from a perception audit commissioned by the University of the Free State (UFS) in February 2014, indicate that 86,14% of its internal and external stakeholders agree with the institution's stated vision, while an average of 81,99% of stakeholders endorse its values and 81,28% agree with its goals.

The study was commissioned by the university's Department of Communication and Brand Management and conducted by an external firm of independent researchers. It was aimed at determining internal and external stakeholder understanding and endorsement of university strategy, as well as tracking core reputational indicators and perceptions.

"I am thrilled to see in the results of the perception audit the enormous pay-off to the hard work of my staff and students at changing fundamentally the perception of the UFS as a prime destination for a degree that meets the highest standards in education and for a place of higher learning where human relations matter more and more," says Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS.

"One of the objectives of the study has been to reinforce the university's commitment to stakeholder engagement and to its core values of academic excellence and human reconciliation. Findings from the study also provide the institution an opportunity to determine the communication and engagement needs of stakeholders," says Lacea Loader, Director: Communication and Brand Management at the UFS.

In terms of reputational indicators, ethics of leadership, academic staff and support personnel ranked the highest at 79,97%, while employability of UFS graduates

in terms of perceived value of a UFS qualification, and leadership qualities, life skills and institutional leadership effectiveness in terms of vision, visibility and consultation, both rate at more than 79%.

In terms of the stated values of the University of the Free State, high academic standards were ranked by 90,11% of stakeholders as the most important ranking value of the UFS, while student leadership was ranked second at 82,07%.

Transformation and inclusion, as two of the strategic goals of the UFS, was rated at 77,47% and 78,33% respectively, while the overall reputation index perceived by stakeholders, is 77,82%.

In terms of contributory reputational variables, ethics of leadership, academic staff and support personnel ranked the highest at 79,97%, while employability of UFS graduates in terms of perceived value of a UFS qualification, and leadership qualities, life skills, as well as institutional leadership effectiveness in terms of vision, visibility and consultation both rate at more than 79%.

Stakeholders rate the visual appeal of the university's campus environment and infrastructure at 86,97%, accessibility at 83,40%, sporting facilities at 79,56%, and safety on all three campuses at 75,69%.

## Comparing perception audits of 2005, 2008 and 2014.

Similar variable	2005 External Perception Audit	2008 Repositioning Study	2014 Stakeholder Perception Audit
Leadership	71.96%	47%	79.07%
Campus	63.63%	-	80.13%
Community services	65.15%	58%	78.25%
Academic excellence	64.5%	75.2%	77.35%
Employability of UFS students	71.2%	-	79.57%
Reputational indice	66%	42%	77.82%
Communication		51%	76.33%
Living the values	65.90	53%	71.27%
Corporate identity/brand	56%	44%	84.69%
Trust/ethics	71.96	-	77.82%

"Two similar audits were conducted in the last ten years; in 2005 and 2008 after the Reitz incident. Although a direct comparison of findings would not be psychometrically rigorous due to differing research modelling and sampling methods, there is a strong indication that the perception of our stakeholders has shifted," says Loader.

Reputational indices measured in 2005, indicated a 66% confidence level in the university's reputational indicators. In 2008, this level dropped to 42%, while it has reached 77,82% in the 2014 study.

In 2005, academic excellence measured 64,51%, in 2008 a similar variable measured 75,2%. In the 2014 study this dimension has been tracked at 77,35%.

The study was conducted among a representative sample of 23 stakeholder groupings. Quantitative and qualitative methodology was used in the survey construct, while the research was administered electronically through two customised research websites. The actual returns numbered 2 381. Over 600 pages of open-ended comments were received in the qualitative methodology, indicating a high level of stakeholder engagement with the institution.

Rigorous research modelling set a benchmark of 75% and above as the standard for advocacy for the university, indicating understanding of and support for each variable tested," says Loader.

The uniqueness of the study and the research model developed for the project has recently received international recognition from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). The prestigious Jack Whittmer Research Award was presented to the university on 9 June 2014 during the Excellence Awards Gala of the association's world conference held in Toronto, Canada.

### What our stakeholders said:

*It's just an appreciation, thanks for trying to make Qwaqwa Campus a liveable space, now we have new buildings in process and got a new entrance.*

*The university is an adventure and a work in progress!*

*The UFS remains one of the best institutions of higher learning, based on the culture of teaching and research.*

*My son is the breathing, living essence of happiness since joining the UFS. He is inspired.*

The UFS will be the first tertiary institution in Africa to receive this prestigious award.

"It is a great honour to be recognised by our international peers for the communication programmes initiated to position one of the oldest and most respected higher education institutions in South Africa among its stakeholders," she says.

"I am not surprised, therefore, that the Department of Communication and Brand Management would win this prestigious international award for its world-class efforts at measuring stakeholder perception in the very demanding world and pressing challenges facing universities today," says Prof Jansen.

The Jack Whittmer Award is made to an entry into the association's Gold Quill Awards that reflected outstanding research commissioned or developed by a communicator and was instrumental in ensuring the success of a communication programme. **B**



# UFS Internet Broadcast Project

## receives international acknowledgment

By Mamosa Makaya

The Internet Broadcast Project (IBP) was launched in 2011 as a collaborative project between the Free State Department of Education (FSDoE) and the ICTISE (ICT Innovation in School Education) unit of the university. The project provides daily expert curriculum support to teachers and learners using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

In April this year, the ICTISE received international recognition when they were awarded the first place at the Rich Media Awards in Minnesota, USA. Universities and other training institutions from across the world compete and the Internet Broadcast Project was the overall winner in the Innovation category, which recognises outstanding innovation and unique accomplishments in rich media, including online integration and content creation and pedagogy.

Broadcasting from the South Campus studio in Bloemfontein, teachers use specialised web-casting technology to present lessons that reach all centres simultaneously via Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite technology. Lessons covering a range of subjects are broadcast in real time to teachers and learners from Grades 8 to 12 at 68 education centres, covering 40 Free State towns, including the most rural areas.

Head of the South-Campus based ICT Innovation in School Education (ICTISE) Project, Sarietjie Musgrave, said: "Each participating school is equipped with 24/7 uncapped internet access, an all-in-one computer (computer, data projector and sound system), a document camera and a printer – the same equipment used in the studio by the expert teachers. The technology provided allows learners to communicate with the expert teacher in the studio during a broadcast to the school or learner at no cost. Lessons can be

downloaded on to various devices and re-used during teaching time, shared with neighbouring schools, or taken home by learners to help with homework or for revision. To date, the IBP catalogue contains over 2 000 video lessons and during 2013 alone, the 68 schools accessed and used these videos 69 305 times. The project has the potential to reach more than 40 000 learners and 1 765 teachers every week."

Innovation and sustainability form the backbone of this project. Support is provided to teachers and learners in Mathematics, Maths Literacy, Physical Science, Life Science, Geography, English, Accounting, Economics and Business Studies.

Although most training is done via the broadcast platform, a blended model is used to build capacity and ownership within the school. Site visits to the school provide an opportunity for the school to receive individual, school-specific support dealing with project management and administration, technical know-how, teacher and learner support and ICT integration into the classroom. This is paired with the principal, teachers and learners from all participating schools receiving face-to-face training at the UFS. The sessions allow these key role players to share their best practices in making use of the video content and equipment in their specific subject areas, as well as to receive end-user ICT skills development and feedback regarding usage.



From the left, front: Mamiki Maboya, Chief Director Curriculum Management, Free State Department of Education; Tate Makgoe, MEC Free State Department of Education; Sarietjie Musgrave, Head-ICTISE UFS; back: Edward Musgrave, Tshidi Rahla, Glynis Jaeschke, Barbara Sitwayi, Thakane Nteko and Frank Booysen – all from ICTISE UFS.

The ICTISE has a dedicated technical team to support schools. During broadcasts there is a dedicated helpline and on-site technical support, even in the remotest areas. Every school's participation is analysed and feedback is provided to the Department of Education. The project is geared to accommodate up to 1 000 schools and more will be added in the 2014 academic year.

Although the IBP is one of the flagship projects of the ICTISE, it is not the only example of where they make a difference in the community. Through their various projects, they believe that when ICT training is conducted and support is given to schools, it should immediately be meaningful to teachers in the classroom, the principal in his office and the subject advisors offering daily support to teachers. The focus should be to guide educators through a process where they understand that they are using computers to teach, learn, manage, communicate, care and extend this all beyond the classroom walls; they are not simply learning to use computers.

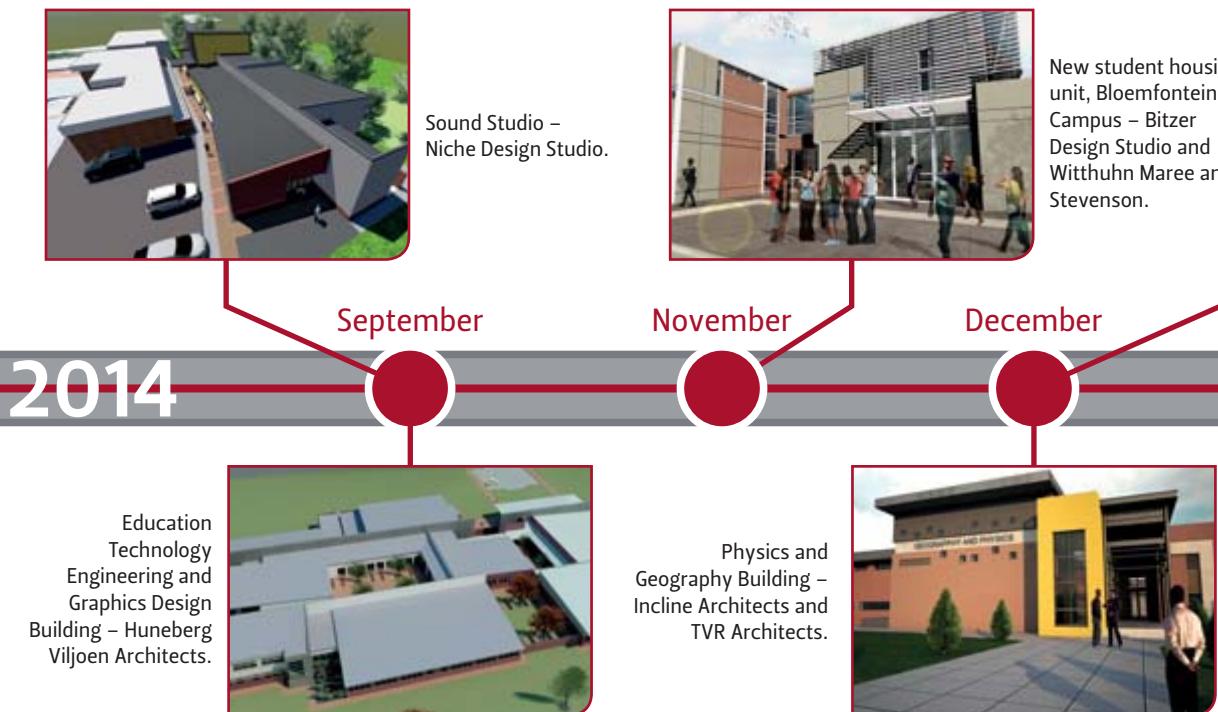
Sarietjie said: "An old maxim states, 'People don't buy a drill bit because they want a drill bit; they buy them because they want a hole.' The same can be said about the use of technology in teaching and learning. The ICTISE suggests schools should not integrate technology because we want to see them integrate technology, but rather that they use technology where it can improve and extend the learning taking place. The support or advice offered to the individual school, learner or parent therefore needs to be personalised – whether it is a first-time (beginner) user wanting to learn where to switch on a computer or a more experienced ICT-integrated educator who needs support, ideas or inspiration when he or she wants to bring the world into the classroom and take the work of the class to the world." **B**

The Internet Broadcast Project has the potential to reach more than 40 000 learners and 1 765 teachers every week.



# New student accommodation, lecture add value to

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**T**he three campuses of the University of the Free State will receive a boost in infrastructure development during the 2014/2015 financial year. According to Maureen Khati from the Department of Physical Planning, staff and students can look forward to new student housing units and lecture rooms as well as some other developments on all three campuses.

The infrastructural development projects will be funded by both the UFS and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). The allocation received from the DHET is for infrastructure development in designated fields. The university will meet this funding with a contribution from its budget.

Work on a new student housing unit started in October last year and this 13-month project on the Bloemfontein Campus will be completed in November this year. The unit will be situated next to the recently completed student residences, Outeniqua and ConLaurêts. Both male and female students will be accommodated in this 250-bed student residence. According to Nico Janse van

Rensburg from the Department of Physical Planning, Block C is developed for senior students on campus, mainly PhD and master's students.

Postgraduate students studying at the Qwaqwa Campus of the UFS can look forward to a first for this campus: a 250-bed residence where postgraduate together with undergraduate students will be accommodated. The project comprises a Block A and B for postgraduates, Block C and D for male students and Block E and F for female students. This project will be completed in blocks.

Students and staff on the Qwaqwa Campus can also look forward to a new Department of Physics and Geography

# rooms and upgrades to existing buildings UFS campuses

By Leonie Bolleurs



Lecture halls on South Campus – Incline Architects and Typology Architects.



Visitor's Centre – Typology Architects.

2015

January

February

Dissection Hall –  
Cube Architects and  
Y10 Consortium of  
Consultants.



Student housing on  
Qwaqwa Campus –  
Roodt Partnership  
Architects.



Building. This building will be erected next to and linked with the current Science Building. This 12-month project started in November 2013 and is expected to be completed by December 2014.

A new addition to the existing Physics Building is currently under construction on the Bloemfontein Campus. According to Janse van Rensburg “this is a very complex project, as it is essential for the new building to link to the existing one to maximise usage of facilities”. Work on this project started in March 2014 and the expected date of completion is February 2015.

Six more lecture rooms will also be built on the South Campus. This building will form an integral part of the universal access to link the higher and lower part of the campus and include a lift inside the building. This project started in December 2013 and is expected to be completed by December 2014. A lift will also be added to the Administration Building on the South Campus and some minor changes will be made to ensure universal access.

In January this year work commenced on a building for Education, Technology, Engineering and Graphics Design. This project is expected to be completed in September

2014 and will be situated behind the new Education Building on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Next to Pellies Park on the Bloemfontein Campus, work to the Sound Studio is expected to be completed by September 2014. This building is joining an existing structure, which will be incorporated into this building.

Another project for the Bloemfontein Campus is a dissection hall joining the Francois Retief Building. This project will be completed by January 2015.

A building for Genetics as well as the renovations of the existing Biotechnology Building on the Bloemfontein Campus, including minor additions, is in the planning phase and building will soon commence.

A number of buildings on the Bloemfontein Campus are also undergoing upgrades. This includes the offices of the Department of Finance in the George du Toit Administration Building, the Academic Space in the Benedictus Kok Building, the external façade of the Flippie Groenewoud Building, additions to the Physical Planning Building and the third phase of the UFS Sasol Library. **B**

# Health Sciences expand their training platform to Trompsburg

By René-Jean van der Berg

**M**ore students at the UFS who wish to obtain a qualification in the medical profession will soon also be accommodated in the Trompsburg area, a hitherto unexplored primary health-care district where students will receive practical community-based education.

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The Faculty of Health Sciences, the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Free State Department of Health recently signed an agreement allocating about R28 million to the university for setting up two new Health Sciences facilities.

It is through this agreement that the Faculty of Health Sciences recently bought the Midway Hotel in Trompsburg in order to expand their training opportunities platform for students in the faculty. Two other facilities are currently being negotiated for Kimberley and the Eastern Free State.

Prof Gert van Zyl, Dean of the faculty, said their training platform at the Universitas Academic Hospital (including Universitas Hospital, the National District Hospital, Pelonomi Hospital, the Free State Psychiatric Hospital and 3 Military Hospital) is saturated.

"We cannot accommodate additional students without compromising the quality of practical training. We are forced to expand the training platform to other good primary health facilities that will be accredited by the Health Professions Council – in this case the new Trompsburg facility," Prof van Zyl said.

He went on to say that the necessary infrastructure had to be put in place before student numbers could be increased. Some of the plans include:

- Furnished accommodation in Trompsburg for about 50 students from the School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions and the School of Nursing.
- Administrative and academic support points, including office space for administrative and other essential learning areas.
- Equipment and facilities for e-learning. **B**



Photo: Supplied



Midway Hotel, Trompsburg.  
Photo: Prof Philippe Burger

# Henry het 'n passie om lewens te verander

Deur Ilse Smallberger

William Arthur Ward het gesê: "Die middelmatige onderwyser vertel. Die goeie onderwyser verduidelik. Die uitsonderlike onderwyser demonstreer. Die uitmuntende onderwyser inspireer."

'n Onderwyser kan egter net uitmuntend wees en inspiereer indien onderwys vir hom 'n passie en 'n roeping is.

Dit is wel die geval by die raadslid van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, Henry Dumisani Madlala. Henry is die skoolhoof van New Horizon-kollege, 'n privaatskool in Harrismith.

"New Horizon-kollege is 'n onafhanklike, nierassige onderwysinstelling wat poog om hoë onderwysstandaarde te handhaaf en om gehalte onderrig aan almal beskikbaar te maak. Sedert ek skoolhoof geword het, het ons die afgelope ses jaar elke jaar 'n 100% matriek-slaagsyfer behaal. My resep is eenvoudig: onderwysers moet onderrig en leerlinge moet leer," sê hy.

Henry is 'n gebore KwaZulu-Nataler wat aan Amazulu Hoërskool gematrikuleer het. Hy het daarna 'n BSc-graad in Wiskunde en Fisika aan die Universiteit van die Noorde se Qwaqwa-kampus voltooi.

Sy groot droom was egter altyd om 'n onderwyser te wees en kort daarna het hy by New Horizon aangesluit, waar hy in 2008 die skoolhoof geword het.

"Daar is drie belangrike bestuursbeginsels wat ek as skoolhoof volg: deleger, beheer en vertrou. Ek gee verantwoordelikheid aan mense, ek maak seker dat hulle weet wat ek van hulle verwag, en uiteindelik vertrou ek hulle om hul verantwoordelikhede uit te voer."

Sy loopbaan as onderwyser en skoolhoof is vol hoogtepunte waarna hy met genoegdoening terugkyk. In 2006 het hy die sewende Internasionale Konferensie vir die Onderrig van Statistiek (ICOTS) in Salvador, Brasilië bygewoon. Hy was een van twee onderwysers in sy provinsie wat gekies is om Suid-Afrika by hierdie geleentheid te verteenwoordig. Nog 'n hoogtepunt was die Studente vir die Bevordering van Wêreldwye Entrepreneurskap (SAGE)-wêreldbeker in Buffalo City, New York in die VSA.

"My skool het Suid-Afrika in die wêreldbeker verteenwoordig en ons het die vierde plek in die wêreld behaal!"



Foto: John Roux

Henry Dumisani Madlala.

Henry dien sedert 2010 op die UV-raad en sedert 2011 is hy deel van Kovsie Alumni se dagbestuur. Hy is trots om op hierdie manier ook iets in die universiteit terug te ploeg.

"Om 'n Kovsie-alumnus te wees beteken vir my trots, respek, dissipline en lojaliteit. Eenmaal 'n Kovsie, altyd 'n Kovsie!" Juis daarom glo Henry dat die UV nog lank 'n groot en belangrike rol in die land en in hoëronderwys sal speel.

"Die UV is al meer as 'n honderd jaar oud en sal ongetwyfeld vir nog honderd jaar, en selfs langer voortbestaan. Ons is immers een van die vooraanstaande universiteite in die land wanneer dit kom by transformasie en akademiese uitnemendheid. Die UV se voortbestaan is nie 'n droom nie, maar 'n realiteit."

Henry is sportmal en sport is ook sy gunsteling manier om te ontspan. Hy is 'n stoere Sharks- en Kaizer Chiefs-ondersteuner en is ook lief vir fietsry. Hy het vanjaar selfs aan die Cape Argus-fietstoer deelgeneem.

Sy grootste passie bly egter die onderwys, ondanks die feit dat dit ook nie altyd 'n maklike beroep is nie.

"Ongedissiplineerde kinders maak 'n mens partykeer moedeloos. Die onderwys bied egter 'n kans om 'n verskil in iemand se lewe te maak. En dit sal altyd my passie bly!" **B**

# Kgotso Schoeman:

## I'm not afraid of challenges

by Ilse Smallberger

It's not often that someone is asked a favour by the MEC of Education. However, when it does happen, it is a sign that he has full confidence in you and your abilities. This is exactly what happened to Kgotso Schoeman, one of the Council members of the University of the Free State.

Kgotso was approached by the MEC of Education in the Free State, Tate Makgoe, to serve on the UFS Council. He has been involved with the Kagiso Trust for the past 18 years, and served as CEO of the trust for the past 10 years.

The Kagiso Trust was established in May 1985 by anti-apartheid activists such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Beyers Naudé and Prof Jakes Gerwel, in order to channel funds for the promotion of the struggle against apartheid and for the upliftment and empowerment of communities. Today, education plays a leading role in the activities of the trust.

The Beyers Naudé Schools Development Programme strives to improve the quality and confidence of teachers in rural areas and the Eric Molobi Scholarship Programme offers an opportunity to disadvantaged learners to obtain a tertiary qualification.

The trust also operates a programme for the promotion of rural development and wealth creation that was established with the help of the Kellogg Foundation in America.



Kgotso Schoeman.

About his new role as board member of the university, Kgotso is very excited.

"I have a deep, deep passion for education. I am convinced of the fact that the poverty cycle in families and in the community can only be broken through education. I also believe that universities are still not playing the role they should be playing in society. I am therefore looking forward to the challenges the UFS will provide me and hope that I will be able to add value to the university."

It is particularly the role that universities can play in the quality of teaching in schools that is of interest to him.

"Universities often complain that they do not get good quality learners from schools, but solutions should rather be found for the problem of weak learners. Higher education institutions can make a significant contribution to the way in which education is managed and operated in the community."

Kgotso is looking forward to learning more about the inner workings of the UFS. He would like to learn more about the UFS's transformation programme and how the university is going about to be really representative of the rainbow nation.

Because of his educational and business background – he has a degree in Economics and a diploma in Advanced Financial Management – he is also interested in how universities are funded and he would like to know more about this in his role as board member.

When it comes to hobbies, Kgotso loves reading. However, it is not fiction that interests him, but rather books on leadership and the changes experienced by the society of today.

"In one of the educational programmes we offer, there are opportunities for people to discuss complicated topics, such as transformation. I find it fascinating to see how people can change their point of view in the course of these discussions." **B**

Jacques Fuller, *Bwana*  
(detail) (2004/5),  
Yellow copper and  
brass, 80 x 55 x 55 cm,  
UFS Art Collection.

# Research

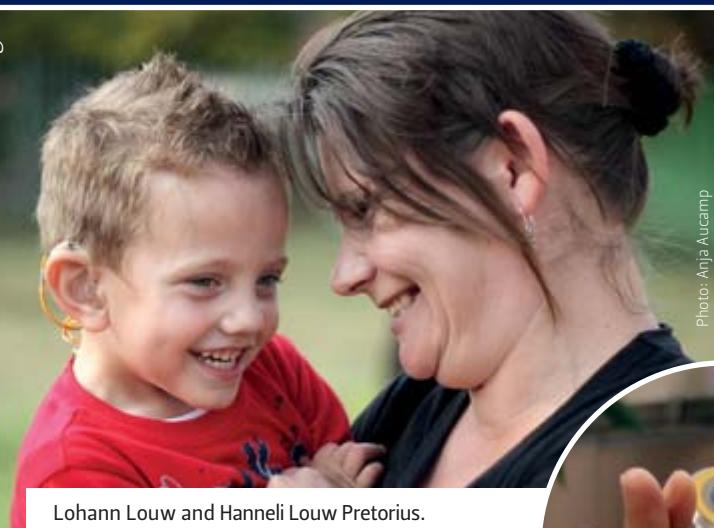


Photo: René-Jean van der Berg

Prof André Claassen.

# Cochlear Implantation Programme offers help in central South Africa

By René-Jean van der Berg

Hanneli Louw Pretorius remembers the day she and her husband heard that their miracle baby was deaf. She also remembers the day they received the good news that a group of medical specialists could help little Lohann to hear.

After Lohann was declared dead in the womb at 32 weeks of pregnancy, Hanneli's gynaecologist decided to induce labour and have a womb scrape done. However, baby Lohann surprised them at birth by being alive. After his miracle birth, Lohann suffered severe health compli-

cations and needed a lot of medical attention. As a result he lost his hearing.

"We did not know that there might be something wrong with his hearing. After a very long road of visiting medical specialists and having tests done, doctors discovered that he was deaf," Hanneli said.

Lohann had just turned two and Hanneli was not sure what the future for her deaf son would be like. They started exploring their options and came into contact

# Film en Visuele Media binnekort by die UV

Deur Stefan Lotter

with a team of dedicated medical specialists running the Bloemfontein Cochlear Implantation Programme (BCIP), right on their doorstep.

Andile Jantjies (18) remembers when he could suddenly not hear people talk. He had contracted bacterial meningitis and suffered hearing loss as a result.

"It felt as if I was living in outer space where nobody talked," he describes the feeling of deafness.

For Andile, it seemed like the end of his life as he knew it, as his high school refused to have him enrolled due to him being deaf.

Andile, like Lohann, was also referred to the BCIP.

This programme, run by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the University of the Free State, assists in the funding and implantation of a cochlear device for children in need of one. It was started in 2003 by Prof André Claassen, a well-respected otologist and neurologist. He saw the need for the establishment of a cochlear implant programme in central South Africa. This programme is now headed by Dr Iain Butler from the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the UFS.

"These devices cost about R200 000 each. Many medical aid schemes do not cover a cochlear implantation fully. It is through this programme that we managed to help a lot of patients," said Dr Butler.

Both Hanneli and Andile have high regard for Dr Butler and his team, who managed to change their lives.

"At first there was no reaction. During those first days he got upset by 'hearing' sound and was crying," Hanneli says about the day when the device was first switched on.

Andile also recalls being scared when he initially heard his voice for the first time in about 18 months. Dr Butler explained that it was normal for this to happen and for children to react in this way as sound would suddenly become very scary.

A year after receiving their cochlear implants (Lohann in August 2013 and Andile in October 2013) both boys could return to doing the things they love most. ■

Three, two, one ... action! Daar heers groot opwinding by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) oor 'n moontlike nuwe nagraadse program in film en visuele media wat deur die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe aangebied gaan word.

Nadat die internasionaal-erkende film- en mediakundige, prof Annie van der Oever as buitengewone professor by die universiteit verwelkom is, word haar kennis ingespan vir die ontwerp en ontwikkeling van die film- en visuele-media-program. Hierdie nuwe nagraadse program word verder ook ontwikkel in samewerking met die Departemente Kunsgeskiedenis en Visuele Kultuurstudie, Drama- en Teaterkuns, asook Afrikaans en Engels, Nederlands.

Prof Suzanne Human, Hoof van die Departement Kunsgeskiedenis sê hierdie sal 'n interdissiplinêre film- en visuele program wees. Hiervolgens sal daar dan 'n sterk teoreties-filosofiese basis in die opleiding wees, sowel as praktiese ondervinding vir studente. Dus word praktyk en teorie ten sterkste bymekaar gebring. Die UV sal die enigste universiteit in Suid-Afrika wees waar die hermeneutiese, historiese en teoretiese soveel klem kry by 'n praktiese aanbieding van die filmmaakproses.

"Die meestersgraad is reeds deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Kwalifikasieowerheid goedgekeur. Dit beteken uitruilgeleenthede vir studente na die Universiteit van Groningen in Nederland, sowel as opleiding vir dosente, blootstelling en 'n hele netwerk van internasionale akademici in die filmwetenskap," sê prof Human.

"Ons hoop om vanjaar te begin adverteer, sodra ons ook goedkeuring vir die honneursprogram kry, en dan van 2015 af die eerste studente in te neem. Slegs sowat 10 tot 20 studente sal aanvanklik toegelaat kan word. Dit kombineer die bestudering van die interpretasie, geskiedenis en teorie van die bewegende beeld met praktiese opleiding in die maak van kort films," sê prof Human.

Prof Van den Oever sal by hierdie program ook dien as gasdosent, studieleier vir sommige studente en eksterne moderator. ■



Foto: Stephen Collett

Prof Annie van der Oever.

# Institute for Groundwater Studies (IGS)

## secures massive collaboration with SADC and World Bank

14

An international collaboration has just been brokered – with its effects to reverberate across the African continent. And the UFS's Institute for Groundwater Studies (IGS) is at the centre of it all.

Our IGS is joining hands with SADC Member States and the World Bank in a five-year project to build sustainable groundwater management in the region. "A few years ago, SADC decided to establish a trans-boundary aquifer institute," said Prof Danie Vermeulen, Head of the IGS. Applications to establish this SADC Groundwater Management Institute (GMI) streamed in from across Africa, but the UFS's submission towered above the rest. Not only is the UFS going to run the entire operation, but the SADC GMI offices are also being set up in our IGS building on the Bloemfontein Campus.

"We will provide the SADC GMI with expertise and support them to operate several projects in the SADC region," said Prof Vermeulen. "Some of my staff will move into SADC and, in turn, people from SADC will come to our university for continual training."

### Groundwater under threat

It is estimated that the population of southern Africa will double over the next 25 years. Over a third of the SADC's population lives in drought-prone areas across south-western Africa, with groundwater often the only source of water to bridge dry and rainy seasons. Research shows that groundwater is a primary source of water for more than 70% of the 250 million people living in the SADC region.

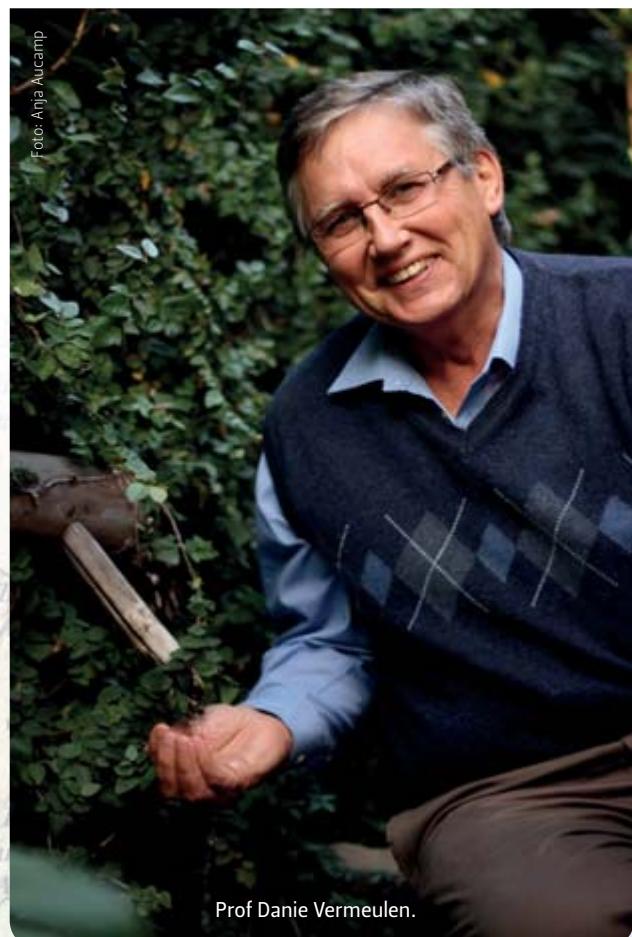
### Turning the tide

This ground-breaking collaborative effort will not only enable greater cooperation between SADC Member States, but also advance research, share knowledge and build capacity across the region. Strategies to meet these threats to groundwater include interventions ranging from remote sensing for mapping to the establishment of groundwater protection areas backed up by legislation.

#### Karoo Sedimentary Aquifer

The development of groundwater infrastructure will include the design, construction and testing of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and water buffering schemes

By Michelle Nothling



Prof Danie Vermeulen.

– which will also improve drought preparedness. Cost-effective well drilling will be implemented, as well as methods to reduce pumping costs, and even early warning systems for droughts or floods.

In addition to spearheading the project, the university's Institute for Groundwater Studies will play a fundamental role in establishing a central database for groundwater information in the SADC region. This will consolidate research and knowledge in the field into one accessible place.

"This project is about the amount of students we can train. It is about distributing knowledge across the SADC region," Prof Vermeulen said. "It is important for the university to extend into Africa. This official collaboration between us, the World Bank and SADC enables us to realise that goal." **B**

# Student teachers now more open to working in schools in rural areas

By Dr Dipane Hlalele,  
Faculty of Education on the UFS Qwaqwa Campus

**R**ecent reports indicate that just over half of South Africa's children (54%) live in rural households. This translates into almost 10 million children. In South Africa these children are made vulnerable by the fact that service provision and resources in rural areas lag far behind urban areas.

Access to education suffers the same fate as access to other services in rural areas. Children living in rural areas on farms are less likely to attend school than children living in urban areas. Attendance in the commercial farming areas is 14% lower than attendance by children in urban formal areas. Access is more problematic in rural areas because children in these areas are often subject to multiple vulnerabilities and deprivations.

We have also received feedback from our graduate students employed at rural and farm schools, indicating that our programmes do not prepare them adequately for teaching in rural contexts. It is partly against this background that I have developed an interest in teaching and learning and subsequently coined a research niche area (RNA) titled *Sustainable rural learning ecologies*. This RNA is couched within Barron's *learning ecology* framework and observes the fact that learning takes place within, between and across contexts and is characterised by reciprocity.

Sustainable rural learning ecologies (SuRLEc) signify a break from predominant deficit discourses that tend to imbue rural education research. Guided by the Critical Emancipatory Research paradigm, it seeks to view rural people as empowered and employs methodologies that place the participants at the centre of research as co-researchers and/or co-explorers.

Guided by the research question, *How do we create sustainable rural learning ecologies*, we embarked on a

number of initiatives. We hosted two successful colloquia on the Qwaqwa Campus and intend hosting the next one from 29 to 31 October 2014.

Another initiative focused on undergraduate students by promoting their adaptive capabilities through a school-initiated community engagement initiative. Benefits generated from the interaction included students' ability to improvise in order to attend to the needs of the school and their ability to go out and seek information from other schools, the university and experienced teachers. Introducing student teachers to teaching on farm schools three years ago has not only exposed them to incentives for working in rural schools but has further contributed to a more welcoming attitude to the idea of working there.

Postgraduate students also conduct studies within the RNA and their studies seek to contribute to the creation of sustainable rural learning ecologies. I was invited to be a panellist at the International Rural Network World Forum in Whyalla, Australia in 2012 to present on rural education in Southern Africa and was further accorded a Nordic Africa Institute Scholarship award tenable at the institute in Sweden in 2013. I will undertake a study visit to the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education in Beijing, China later in 2014 with a view to understanding how research conducted at the centre contributes to the amelioration of rural livelihoods. SuRLEc research initiatives are further grounded in concepts such as social justice, rural development, rural resilience and sovereignty. ■

Photo: Leonie Bolleure



# Unieke program in Regeerkunde en Transformasie by UV aangebied

Deur Liezl Keyter

Die Program Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie in die Departement Politieke Studie en Regeerkunde is uniek aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) en fokus op regeerkunde (regeringsbestuur) en politieke transformasie.

"Ons leef in 'n era waar daar, namate die samelewing verander, 'n behoefte aan verandering in die regering is," vertel dr Tania Coetzee, programdirekteur van Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie.

"Daar is gefokus om planne te maak om by die voortdurend veranderende omgewing aan te pas om beter 'n beter diens aan die publiek te lewer. Dit is duidelik dat Suid-Afrika uitdagings in die gesig staar wat deur die Suid-Afrikaanse regering aangespreek moet word."

"Slegs deur goeie regeerkundepraktyke (verantwoordelikheid, verantwoordbaarheid, deursigtigheid en openbare deelname) sal die regering in staat wees om diensleweringsprobleme op munisipale vlak te kan aanspreek, asook korruptie en xenofobie te verminder."

"Met wetenskaplike kennis, analitiese vaardighede, strategiese bestuur en 'n algemene agtergrond van regeerkunde en politieke transformasie word studente voorberei om in die openbare en privaatsektore te kan werk en 'n verskil te kan maak. Daarom is daar met hierdie program begin om aan studente 'n geleentheid te bied om op 'n transformerende manier regeerkunde toe te pas," vertel dr Coetzee.

Die doel van die kwalifikasie is die verwerving van politieke kennis en die ontwikkeling van polities-georiënteerde vaardighede in 'n veranderende samelewing. Die program is deur spesialiste op die gebied soos dr Coetzee ontwerp om die behoefte aan

institusionele kapasiteit, leierskapsontwikkeling en die opbou van goeie waardestelsels wat goeie regeerkunde en demokrasie bevorder te bevredig.

Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie is aanvanklik slegs as 'n magistergraad en 'n nagraadse diploma aangebied, maar het soveel goeie terugvoer en resultate ontvang dat dit vandag ook voorgraads (BA Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie) aangebied word. Daar is die verdere opsie van 'n nagraadse diploma – wat gelykstaande aan 'n honneurs- en dan 'n magistergraad (MA) is. 'n Daaropvolgende doktersgraad (PhD) is ook 'n moontlikheid.

Tot op hede het daar al 179 voorgraadse studente, 164 nagraadse diplomastudente en 198 magisterstudente hierdie program voltooi en gegradeer. Dr Coetzee voeg met trots by dat vier studente hul PhD behaal het waarin die verhouding tussen politieke transformasie en korruptie in navorsing aangespreek is.

Hierdie interdissiplinêre program is baie gewild en Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie bied 'n navorsingseminaar aan waar bekendes soos dr Piet Croucamp deel van die paneel uitmaak wat studente met hulle navorsing help. Thabo Diseko, 'n huidige PhD-student in regeerkunde, sal in September vanjaar 'n somerskool oor Federalisme, Desentralisering en Konflikoplossing by die Universiteit van Fribourg in Switserland bywoon. Die huidige SR-president van die Bloemfontein-kampus, Phiwe Mathe, tel ook onder die UV se regeekundestudente.

Tot op hede het daar al 179 voorgraadse studente, 164 nagraadse diplomastudente en 198 magisterstudente die Program in Regeerkunde en Politieke Transformasie voltooi en gegradeer. ■



Foto: Verskaf

# UFS alumnus pursues doctoral studies in Japan

The university's mission to become one of the top research and teaching universities in South Africa is already paying dividends and Nthatisi Molefe is proof of this!

This young and aspiring researcher is currently at Hokkaido University in Japan where she is undergoing intensive language training before she transfers to Obihiro University to pursue her PhD studies in Veterinary Parasitology.

When asked how it feels to be studying so far from home, she says, "It is great; and more like an adventure. But I do miss everyone at home."

"Language is a problem here as no one speaks English. This includes university staff, doctors, nurses and shopkeepers. I happened to catch some flu and I almost lost my mind when I had to wait for an interpreter to finally make it to the doctor I was seeing."

"However, the Japanese are very peaceful people. They are warm to each other and I have noticed that they use 'I am sorry' and 'thank you' quite frequently," says Nthatisi.

Her research for her Honours and Master's of Science degrees focused on the use of medicinal plants in treating parasitic round worms in animals. "My research was on gastrointestinal nematodes that are a widespread and important class of parasites in livestock. These pose a real threat as they cause productivity loss due to their ability to disrupt nutrient utilisation of the livestock, thus leading to hunger and malnutrition."

"What was of crucial importance from this research was that it confirmed an old-age usage of plant species like *lengala*, *seletjane*, *koena* and *tsebe ya pela* as a way of

By Thabo Kessah



managing parasites by the Basotho in the Qwaqwa area where I come from. I have therefore found that our own indigenous plants are an important feature of modern scientific research. This means the gap between science and our indigenous knowledge systems is rapidly closing. Our forebears are knowledgeable and must therefore be afforded the respect they deserve even in modern science.

"I am determined to localise scientific research so that it benefits those around me. I am also determined to learn Japanese and succeed," says Nthatisi. ■

**Nthatisi Molefe with the departmental head: Zoology and Entomology, Dr Aliza Le Roux, and her mentor, Prof Oriel Thekisoe.**

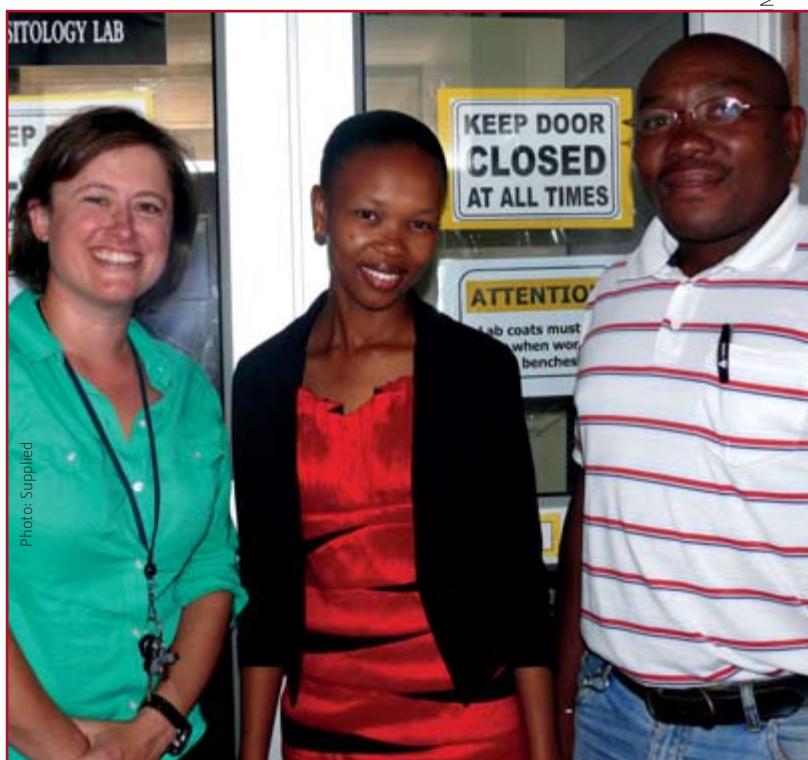
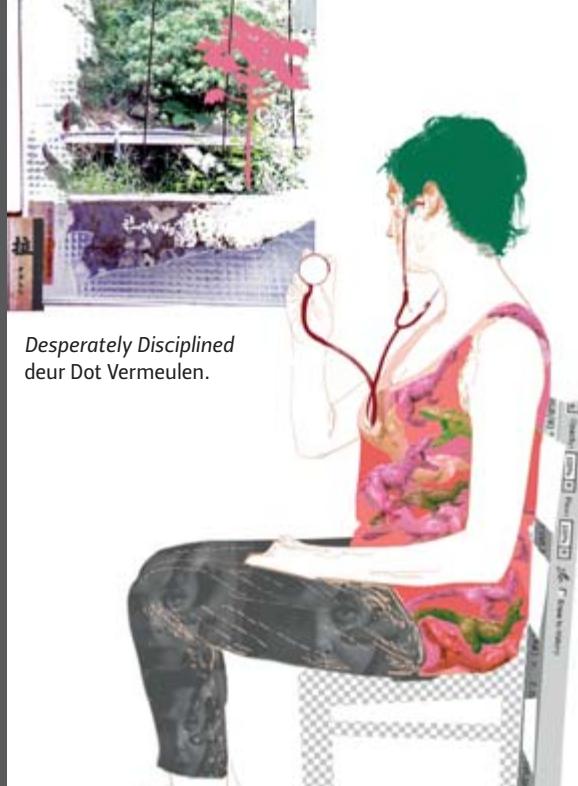


Photo: Supplied

Besonderhede van Elrie Joubert se werk.



Die huweliksaansoek deur Pauline Gutter.



*Desperately Disciplined*  
deur Dot Vermeulen.

# UV se beeldende kunstenaars presteer nasionaal en internasionaal

Deur Igno van Niekerk

Harde werk, deursettingsvermoë, kreatiwiteit en vasberadenheid. Hierdie is volgens Ben Botma, hoof van die Departement Beeldende Kunste, die eienskappe wat bygedra het om studente en dosente van die departement oor die afgelope paar jaar uitsonderlike prestasies te laat behaal.

Dit was geen verrassing toe Elrie Joubert in 2012 met die ABSA L'Atelier-prys bekroon is nie. Elrie het oorspronklik die kuns en wetenskap "versoen" deur aan knope "wetenskaplike" name te gee. Die idee het geleid tot die daarstelling van 'n kunswerk oor baie klein onderwerpies, waar Elrie klein dieretiese se geraamtes deur mikrobes laat skoonvreet het. Daarmee saam is 'n mikroskoop en projeksietegnieke ingespan, en het 'n unieke kunswerk ontstaan wat herinner aan die Renaissance-praktyk om 'n rariteitskabinet te hê. Nie alleen was die daarstelling van die kunswerk 'n tydsame kreatiewe proses nie, dit het ook insig, ontwerptegniek en 'n kreatiewe oog gevverg. Vir die eerste keer is die ABSA L'Atelier-prys aan 'n Vrystaatse kunstenaar toegeken.

In 2013 gebeur dit vir 'n tweede keer.

Die gesogte L'Atelier-prys word hierdie keer toegeken aan nog 'n oudstudent van die UV, Pauline Gutter. Pauline se werk, "Die Huweliksaansoek," sluit die kombinasie van 'n outydse telefoon, Gerben Camper se stem en 'n verrassende "Boer soek vrou"-tema met 'n stoetbul in. Die werk ondersoek die verhouding tussen veeboerdery, grondieenaarskap en die nageslag in die Afrikaner boeretradsie. Pauline het haar graad cum laude aan die UV se Departement Beeldende

Kunste behaal, en is ook 'n boorling van die Vrystaat. Sy is reeds voorheen bekroon met die Helgaard Steyn-toekenning vir verf (2011), sowel as die Mail&Guardian se Jong Suid-Afrikaner-toekenning.

Na afloop van hierdie prestasies was dit nog 'n veertjie in die hoed van die Departement Beeldende Kunste toe Dot Vermeulen, 'n deeltydse dosent in die departement, bekroon is met die Sasol Nuwe Handtekeninge-prys. In Dot se wenwerk, "Desperately Disciplined", word geeksperimenteer met animasie, skilderkuns en digitale tegnologie. Die beoordelaars het die werk beskou as 'n stil gesprek tussen die digitale wêreld en die tradisionele werk op doek. Vermeulen het in 2007 haar graad in visuele kuns aan die UV verwerf.

Een van die redes wat aangevoer word vir die sukses wat hierdie kunstenaars te beurt gevall het, is die feit dat die Departement Beeldende Kunste aan hulle studente die geleentheid gun om as individue te ontwikkel. Volgens Botma is die verhouding tussen die studente en dosente een van 'n span wat saamwerk om die meeste te maak van die potensiaal waaraan elke kunstenaar beskik.

Dit is wanneer mens kyk na die verskeidenheid, uniekheid en besondersheid van die wenners se kunswerke dat jy besef dat die span se samewerking inderdaad vir elke individu die geleentheid gee om hulself as kunstenaars in eie reg uit te leef. Juis daarom is dit geen verrassing dat Vrystaatse kunstenaars die koppe in die kunswêreld laat draai nie! □



George Thejane Ramagaga,  
*Landless people in the land aplenty*  
(detail) (2001), Wild olive wood,  
80 x 53 x 44 cm, UFS Art Collection.

# Personnel

# The Free State

## through a



"Visiting literally every single town in the Free State you come to know its soul, the humanity of its people. You come to know the different ways ordinary people make not just a living, but also a life. Making a life is not always easy, but people are quite resilient – even in the poorest of communities there are little spaza shops and hairdressers operating from shacks. Driving through the Free State you learn that people have a wonderful way of organising themselves. For instance, there is a street in Kwakwatsi, the township of Koppies, with more than 15 churches, one next to the other. You find beauty and hope in the smiles of all the children that want their photo taken, but you also find despair in the horrendous living conditions in mine hostels such as the Lusaka compound in Sasolburg's Zamdela township."

# camera lens

By Mamosa Makaya



Foto's: Prof Philippe Burger

This is the soulful mix that Philippe Burger, Head of Department and Professor of Economics, and his friend Dr Jan van der Merwe, an anthropologist working for the Mangaung Municipality, tried to capture in their photos.

They undertook a photo tour of all 85 towns in the Free State. The tour had its origin in Jan's book that covers the origin, history and stories of every town in the Free State. Jan needed photos for the book and hence their photo project was born. From the thousands of photos they both took, they selected about 50 photos for exhibition purposes. These photos were exhibited at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in February this year.

Originally planned for a month-long exhibition, the exhibition period was extended by another month.

In 2013 they also exhibited the photos at the William Humphreys Art Gallery in Kimberley and next year the collection will travel to Ghent, Belgium for exhibition during May/June.

Four of the photos are also on permanent exhibition at the UFS Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice. The Free State project has a follow-up in the Northern Cape project, which they undertook during December 2013, covering every single town in the Northern Cape.

"Visiting literally every single town in the Free State you come to know its soul, the humanity of its people," said Prof Burger about his joint photo project of Free State towns with Dr Van der Merwe. ■

Fotograaf: Chris Marais (www.karoospace.co.za) en Igno van Niekerk

# Karoo Parlement, 'n voorbeeld van wat leiers kan saai om die land om te draai

Deur Igno van Niekerk



Wanneer jy die eerste keer hoor van die "Karoo Parlement," kan jou eerste indruk dalk wees dat die Karoo nou genoeg gehad het van hidrobreking, droogtes en drama, en besluit het om 'n eie parlement daar te stel. Maar gesels bietjie met prof Doreen Atkinson, Professor in die Sentrum vir Ontwikkelingsteun, en jy kom agter dat die Karoo Parlement 'n besonderse inisiatief is wat nie alleen twee universiteite (die Universiteit van die Vrystaat en die Universiteit van Pretoria) betrek nie, maar ook besigheidsmense en, natuurlik, die mense van die Karoo wat by hierdie unieke projek baat vind. Dié inisiatief is huis ook die breinkind van prof Atkinson. Genoemde dinamika is natuurlik ideaal vir 'n kombinasie van navorsingsmoontlikhede en sosiale betrokkenheid.

Met die eerste byeenkoms van die Karoo Parlement op Philipstown was die ideaal om verteenwoordigers vanuit die hele spektrum van Karoo-dorpies bymekaar te bring, om uit mekaar se ervaring te leer ten einde innoverende dinge te doen, samewerking te bevorder, en 'n verskil te maak in die lewens van die mense van die Karoo. Een van die doelwitte van die byeenkoms van die Karoo Parlement was om te verseker dat die silo's wat te danke aan politieke en munisipale grense ontstaan het, af te breek. So dikwels sien mens die einde van 'n munisipale grens waar die netjiese teerpad ophou en die slaggate begin. Met beter samewerking kan die silo's afgebreek word, 'n gesamentlike poging aangewend word, en die

mense van die Karoo kan baat vind by die natuurlike uitvloeisels van 'n suksesvolle gemeenskap.

Anders as met die meeste nuwe inisiatiewe, was die Karoo Parlement uit die staanspoor 'n sukses met die 120 mense – uit al vier provinsies waарoor die Karoo strek – wat dit bygewoon het. Daar was verteenwoordigers van die Noord-Kaap (Philipstown, De Aar, Vanderkloof, Richmond, Williston, Colesberg, Carnarvon, Hopetown, Petrusville, Loxton en Orania), die Wes-Kaap (Laingsburg, Prins Albert), die Oos-Kaap (Cradock, Graaff-Reinet, Middelburg, New Betesda), en die Vrystaat (Philippolis, Jagersfontein, Jacobsdal, Smithfield). Gesprekke het gewissel van



Prof Doreen Atkinson.



Die 'n draadkar Grand Prix in volle gees.

knelpunte tot suksesverhale, en die eerste "sitting" van die Karoo Parlement was 'n uiters geslaagde eksperiment in die voordele van gemeenskapsgesprekvoering. Kwessies wat bespreek is, het gewissel van idees vir toerisme, handwerk en entrepreneurskap tot landboumoontlikhede en die ontwikkeling van sonenergie. Hoewel die media dikwels berig oor sukkelende munisipaliteite, was daar twee munisipaliteite wat hulle suksesverhale kon deel. Uit die suksesverhale van die Pixley ka Seme Distrikmunisipaliteit en die Laingsburg Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, was daar vir elke "parlementariër" iets om te leer.

Uit die verskeidenheid aanbiedings was een van die treffendste aanbiedings dié van Hanlie Snyman van Carnarvon. Sy het gesels oor die impak van Fetale Alkoholsindroom op die gemeenskap. Weens die feit dat daar geen strategie uit enige oord in plek is nie, is die risiko van fetale alkoholsindroom 'n gevaaarlig wat nie eers meer flikker nie, maar aanhou skyn, veral gegewe die feit dat kinders wat met fetale alkoholsindroom gebore word weinig of geen kans op herstel het nie. Hanlie se aanbieding het almal bewus gemaak van die dringendheid daarvan om fetale alkoholsindroom aan te spreek, aangesien dit besig is om 'n sosiaal-maatskaplike probleem te word wat rampspoedige gevolge vir die ontwikkeling van die Karoo kan hê. Een van die onvoorsiene uitvloeisels van die Karoo Parlement was die feit dat die onderwerpe wat bespreek is ook heelwat mediadekking (op televisie en in koerante) gekry het,

wat 'n verdere bydrae gelewer het om die agendapunte ook op nasionale vlak sigbaar te maak.

Tussen die kritiese gesprekspunte was daar natuurlik die prettige oomblikke en inisiatiewe wat mens met die gasvryheid en kreatiwiteit van Karoo-mense verwag. Daar was 'n filmfees, potjiekos, 'n spitbraai en, om die kroon op alles te span – 'n draadkar Grand Prix!

Die resultaat van die eerste sitting van die Karoo Parlement was dat nuwe vriendskappe gesmee is, geleenthede geskep is, lesse geleer is, en planne gemaak is om die dorre Karoo te omskep in 'n oase van hoop, samewerking en geleentheidskepping. Die UV is trots om met hierdie inisiatief geassosieer te word, nie alleen omdat dit die geleentheid vir nuwe navorsingsmoontlikhede skep nie, maar ook omdat dit op nasionale vlak 'n verskil maak in ons land se toekoms. Wanneer gemeenskappe bymekaarkom, silo's afbreek en suksesresepte deel, word nuwe hoop en 'n nuwe visie gevorm. Is dit nie wat elke parlement veronderstel is om te doen nie?

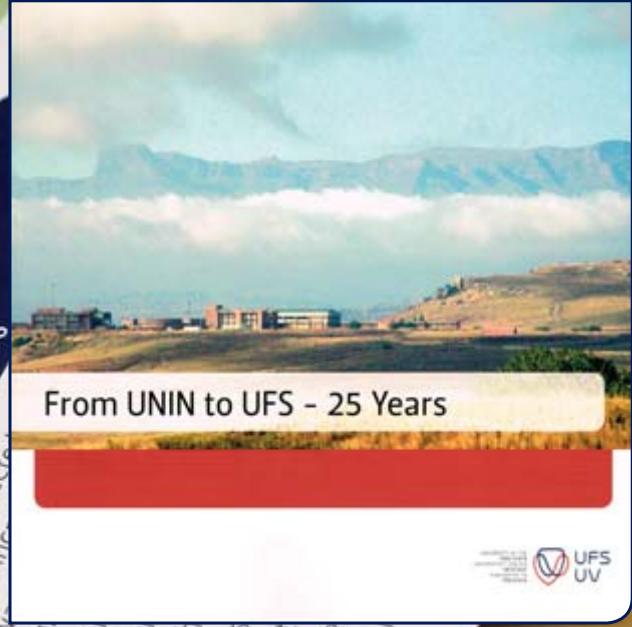
Dalk, net dalk, is die Karoo Parlement 'n voorbeeld van wat elke streek in die land moet doen om die leiers te help saai wat die land kan omdraai.

Vir meer inligting oor die Karoo Parlement kan die webwerf [www.karofoundation.co.za](http://www.karofoundation.co.za) besoek word. B

# Qwaqwa Campus history book is a trip down memory lane for author Rodney Moffett

By Thabo Kessah

The Qwaqwa Campus will soon launch a book documenting the first 25 years of the campus. The book titled, *From UNIN to UFS – 25 years*, was written by Prof Rodney Moffett, a former senior staff member and currently an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Plant Sciences. This book, with the foreword written by the former Campus Principal, Dr Nyefolo Malete, gives a detailed account of where the campus comes from.





"Prof Moffett has given a full account of the campus's history, including most of the ups and some of the downs," Dr Malete writes in the foreword.

The book also features messages of support from Prof Teuns Verschoor, former Vice-Rector: Institutional Affairs, and former Chief Minister of the Qwaqwa Government, Dr TK Mopeli. Prof Verschoor encouraged the campus community to "keep on building and expanding the potential of this campus for the next 25 years to become a jewel in the crown of higher education in South Africa". Dr Mopeli gave detailed background information on the thinking behind the establishment of the campus in his message. "The intention was to have a polytechnic university which, in the years to come, would ensure that attention would be given not only to degree courses, but also to practice-oriented diploma courses," Dr Mopeli said.

About the process of writing this book, Prof Moffett himself said, "Having been part of the campus from very close to its inception, and also part of the senior management, compiling the history was a trip down memory lane, bringing back pleasant times, especially at the campus in the mountains above Poelong."

The biggest challenge in compiling the history was sourcing the information. Despite a plea to senior staff to submit material, most were too busy to participate and he had to rely on documents such as committee meeting minutes and the annual yearbooks.

An important source of information and especially early photographs was an album belonging to the Director, Prof Werner Mödinger, kept up to date by his secretary, Mrs de Haas.

*From UNIN to UFS – 25 years* has eight chapters, with the first two focusing on the background of the area and the establishment of the university at Lere la Tshepe in Tseki in 1982–1987. Then the focus shifts to the Bluegumbosch Campus from 1988–2006, as well as on research, students and the Library and Information Services over the years. The Bluegumbosch Campus is the current location.

Please contact Stoffel Kock to order a copy of the book: [kockcj@ufs.ac.za](mailto:kockcj@ufs.ac.za) or (+27) 058 718 5221 

# Special United Nations award for leadership communication campaign



Photo: Johan Roux

The university's 'Talk to me' leadership communication campaign received a special United Nations (UN) Award from the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) as the campaign that best supports human development in line with the UN objectives. The award forms part of the Golden Awards of IPRA. In support of the university's Human Project, the campaign provides opportunity to staff and students to regularly interact face-to-face with Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector, on the university's three campuses. Attending the handing-over ceremony, were, from the left: Prof Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations, Johanna McDowell, 2012 IPRA President, Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations, and Lacea Loader, Director: Communication and Brand Management.. 



Prof Martin Ntwaeborwa.

# Size does matter, says nanoscientist at the UFS

By Leonie Bolleurs

**S**ize matters. Did you know that the properties of materials change when the particle sizes of the materials are made smaller? The colour of gold, for example, will change to red when the particles' sizes become smaller.

Nano-sized particles of carbon are extremely strong – to such an extent that modern-age bullet-proof vests are made out of carbon nanotubes. Nano-sized particles of iron react more readily with the chemicals in ground water than bigger iron particles. Therefore they are most effective in cleaning ground water.

And the list is almost endless ... This is not only interesting, but life-changing information that scientists in nanotechnology are dealing with on a daily basis. Prof Martin Ntwaeborwa in the Department of Physics is such a researcher.

"The focus of my research is on the study of the preparation and evaluation of light-emitting materials with particle sizes on a nano-scale. I am evaluating their applications in light-emitting devices of different types (e.g. colour TV screens, computer screens, fluorescent lamps, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), energy-efficiency (solar cells), oncology (treatment of cancer cells)," he said.

Prof Ntwaeborwa is a full professor in the Department of Physics at the University of the Free State, where he teaches and conducts research.

Hard work paid off and Prof Ntwaeborwa obtained his doctoral degree in 2006. Since his career started at the UFS, he has been promoted three times: from a lecturer to full professor within five years.

Other highlights in his career include:

- Initiating and sustaining nanoscience research in the Department of Physics at the UFS.

- Winning the young investigator awards from the South African National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) and the American Vacuum Society (AVS) in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Prof Ntwaeborwa not only delivers quality work at the UFS; he also serves on a number of boards where he provides significant inputs. Among others he is the director of the UNESCO-TWAS Centre of Excellence and a member of the adjudication panel of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) award for 2013–2014.

Prof Ntwaeborwa developed his passion for Physics during his studies at the North-West University. "My mentor was Prof Dan Kgwadi, the current Vice-Chancellor of the North-West University. He taught me Physics from my first year (1993) through to my master's degree (1999). I also have a lot of respect for Prof Paul Holloway of the University of Florida for his knowledge of science and excellent mentorship," Prof Ntwaeborwa said.

Not only is nanotechnology a very interesting science, it also has a huge impact on the life of the man on the street. In the health industry drugs are developed to treat cancer with fewer side effects. Water could be cleaned more effectively and the cost of electricity could be reduced by converting solar energy into electrical energy cost effectively.

It is also in these industries where Prof Ntwaeborwa sees himself in five years. "I would like to see myself establishing a start-up company that manufactures and sells nanotechnology products for drug delivery, cleaning water, and solar cells," he said. ■

# Van kokkerot tot Kanna

Deur Stefan Lotter

Vir die eerste keer in 20 jaar het 'n Vrystaatse akteur die nasionale Kanna-toekenning as beste manlike akteur gewen.

Gerben Kamper, wat die toekenning vir sy vertolking van Gregor Samsa in Willem Anker se *Samsamasjien* ontvang het, is ook 'n dosent in die UV se Departement Drama- en Teaterkuns. "Uiterraard is dié toekenning die hoogtepunt van my loopbaan van meer as veertig jaar in die teater," sê Kamper.

*Samsamasjien* handel oor 'n afgetrede skoolhoof wat aan demensia ly en wat homself deur die loop van die stuk stelselmatig van die werklikheid afsny. In sy eie verbeeldde wêreld verander hy in 'n kokkerot. "Dit is dus 'n uiters komplekse karakter wat met diepe delwing in die psige van die mens gepaardgaan – en fisies en emosioneel geweldige eise aan die akteur stel."

Tydens vanjaar se Vryfees speel Kamper ook in die moordriller *Nag van die Hiëna*. Dit vertel die verhaal van tweelingbroers wat met versekeringsbedrog en afpersing probeer wegkom. Kamper speel die prokureur. "Ek speel die rol van 'n eksentriek oujongkêrel-prokureur met 'n oog vir 'n mooi nooi. Ek hou daarvan om ook kleiner of



Gerben Kamper.

kameerolle te vertolk. Soos die gesegde lui: 'There are no small parts, only small actors', " vertel Kamper.

Prof Nico Luwes, Hoof van die Departement Drama aan die UV, het die teks geskryf en is ook die regisseur. – Stefan Lotter ■

## Kanna en 'n CD vir Odeion-strykkwartet

Deur Stefan Lotter

Die Odeion-strykkwartet het in Mei vanjaar hul nuwe CD, *Bits and Pieces*, op die Bloemfontein-kampus bekendgestel.

Hulle CD bestaan uit lekkerluister-werke uit die klassieke repertorium. Die kwartet is ook onlangs met 'n Kanna-toekenning vir *Bits and Pieces* bekroon as die beste klassieke musiekuitvoering.

Die kwartet sal op vanjaar se Vryfees te sien wees met lewende uitvoerings van *Bits and Pieces*. Die kwartet bestaan uit Samson Diamond, Sharon de Kock, Jeanne-Louise Moolman en Anmari van der Westhuizen. ■



Samson Diamond, Jeanne-Louise Moolman en Anmari van der Westhuizen.

# Walking for a cause has become a lesson

*Four volunteers embark on a 1 000 km stride to create awareness for food insecurity on campus.*

Photo: Hannes Pieterse



After 33 days the group arrived in Cape Town, welcomed by a big group of supporters.

They took up a 1 000 km journey on foot to do something for food insecure students. Five weeks later, after successfully completing the journey, the team of four hikers feels this very cause has meant so much more to them.

Adele van Aswegen, Ntokozo Nkabinde, Ronél Warner and Nico Pietd left Bloemfontein on 1 May 2014 for Cape Town on foot, to create awareness for food insecure students. The walk was completed on 3 June 2014 at a welcoming function held at the St George's Cathedral in Cape Town.

A recent study by the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of the Free State found that as many as 60% of students can be considered as food insecure. These are often students with strong academic records, but without adequate funding to sustain themselves with a regular meal.

In 2011, Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the university, together with Rudi Buys, Dean: Student Affairs, established the No Student Hungry (NSH) bursary programme to provide modest food bursaries to students.



The four hikers at Beaufort West.

What was, at the start the cause of this walk, has later become the lesson for our hikers.

"Your first reason to walk this journey, is because you want to help someone in need. During the endless hours on the road, I realised that this journey isn't about myself or anybody else. You take on this journey in honour of something bigger," Ntokozo reflects.

Adéle van Aswegen, concerned with raising external funds for students, says she is faced on a daily basis with the negative effects of financial need on the academic achievement of students. "The financial need goes beyond tuition and residence fees. Funding for meals is often excluded from bursaries and the UFS had to plan accordingly. This walk has brought to mind the well-known saying: To walk a mile in someone else's or in this case, our food insecure student's shoes." □

Angus Taylor, *Dis net 'n vrou, dis net 'n donkie, dis net 'n vrou op 'n donkie* (2005), Mixed media, 42 x 17 x 36.5 cm, UFS Art Collection.

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# Studente / Sport

# FEED the hungry planet

By Stefan Lotter



Lisa Coetze.

Photo: Anja Aucamp

**M**ost students focus on finishing their studies, enjoying time at university and eventually finding a job.

However, for Lisa Coetze, an MSc student in Plant Pathology in the Department of Plant Sciences, student life became more than the “just”. Along with a junior lecturer at Plant Sciences, Marguerite Westcott, they started the student association known as FEED.

FEED is an acronym for the Forum of Education, Empowerment and Development. According to Lisa, these keywords are vital to the solution to poverty. Hunger is an issue which is found in our own homes. One in every four South Africans is food insecure. Hunger kills more people every year than Aids, malaria and TB combined.

“FEED is a platform for discussion on feeding a hungry planet and sustaining our home,” says Lisa. “This forum allows awareness to be raised about the hunger situation

locally and globally. FEED will not only talk about hunger, but assist in reducing it by reaching out to communities in need.”

Lisa and FEED underwrite what former president Nelson Mandela said, “Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, but it is an act of justice ... It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”

“FEED is the generation that is going to make a difference in eradicating hunger,” Lisa continues. “We want students to think about how they can feed the hungry through what they are studying. We are planning to have a summit on campus later this year and work closely with the *No Student Hungry* initiative.”

Her philosophy regarding relieving hunger and increasing food safety is to increase the efficiency of crop production, ensure crop security and reduce mycotoxins in the food we eat. Furthermore, she also feels she is a voice for “farming women” of South Africa, as 43% of the globe’s farmers are women.

## Where did FEED come from?

The global 4-H Youth Ag-summit in August 2013 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada was an initiative sponsored and hosted by Bayer CropScience and 4-H Canada.

Applicants were called upon to share ideas and develop a plan of action on how to feed a hungry planet. Lisa heard about the summit from her professor, Neal McLaren, who was directly informed by Bayer CropScience (SA).

Each delegate who attended the summit had to take home three actions to undertake in their communities. These actions should be S.M.A.R.T.: *specific, measurable, actionable, realistic and timely*.

Lisa’s three actions were to (1) start a forum at her university to raise awareness about feeding a hungry planet and sustaining our home the planet, (2) to start a volunteer group who reaches out to the local community and (3) to promote international exchange. **B**

# Innovation is here with TedX UFS

By Stefan Lotter

Photo: Anja Auamp

**T**wo students from the University of the Free State have been doing their part in creating a space for ideas to spread on campus. Bonginkosi Leeuw (chairperson) and Lerothodi Molete (vice-chair) have started our very own TEDx UFS organisation and even acquired the necessary TEDx licence along with it. Now the UFS joins the global TED in shaping a university which delivers innovative thinkers.



From the left: Bonginkosi Leeuw (chairperson) and Lerothodi Molete (vice-chair).

TED is a well-known non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). It began as a conference in 1984 where Technology, Entertainment and Design all converged into one event. Today TED covers almost all topics, whether science, business or global issues, and this in more than 100 languages ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)). Meanwhile, where independently run, like at the UFS, TEDx events help to share ideas in communities around the world.

"TEDx UFS will organise all TEDx events on campus from this year forth. We want to really make the events world-class as well. Our aim is to create a student environment with real innovative thinking," said Bonginkosi, a third-year student in BCom Economics.

The main TEDx UFS event for 2014 will take place on the Bloemfontein Campus later this year. Acquiring the licence was an achievement and quite a process in itself, which took a lot of vision and motivation.

"Regarding the TEDx UFS-licence, we first had to fill out an application form providing information about our vision about the TEDx event we would like to host. We had to substantiate why we thought it was necessary for a TEDx event to be hosted at the UFS," says Lerothodi, who is a final-year student in BSc Soil Sciences and Irrigation Sciences.

"We also had to motivate why our event will be a success. To prove this, we were given a task to organise pre-events called TEDx UFS salons, which have been hosted successfully."

Thus the achievement of the licence. And why exactly TED?

"We wanted to feel part of the global movement," Bonginkosi adds.

"When coming up with something new and innovative, legitimacy can always be a problem. TED is already established and already something big and well-known worldwide to work forth from," he said. ■

# Danél Prinsloo staan vir niks terug nie

Deur Liezl Keyter

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Danél Prinsloo.

**K**ovsies spog nog altyd met uitstekende sporttalent en Danél Prinsloo wyk ook glad nie van hierdie tendens af nie. Gebore en getoë in Bloemfontein, is Danél 'n regte Vrystater met haar voete stewig op die aarde geplant. Egter nie so stewig dat sy nie soos blits haar mededingers op die atletiekveld stof in die oë sal skop nie. Danél is 'n 800 m- en 1500 m-naelloopatleet en 'n aanwins vir Kovsky-atletiek.

Danél het verlede jaar (2013) die tweede plek in die Suid-Afrikaanse seniors atletiek in die 1500 m behaal met 'n tyd van 4:16.9. Sy is ook in Mei verlede jaar by die SA ope as Suid-Afrika se tweede-vinnigste 800 m-atleet vir 2013 gekroon, met 'n tyd van 2:0.4.7 minute. In universiteite-atletiek het sy die 1500 m in Stellenbosch, en die 800 m in Johannesburg sowel as Pretoria gewen.

Danél is tans besig met haar honneursstudie in BREk by die UV en het by vanjaar se herfsgradeplegtigheid haar BREk-graad met lof ontvang. Sy sê sy was nog altyd gemotiveerd om dit wat sy aanpak na die beste van haar vermoë te voltooi en dat prestasie in alles wat sy doen altyd haar doel is.

Danél het in 2010 haar skoolloopbaan by Eunice in Bloemfontein voltooi, en was op skool al bedrywig met sport en ander buitemuurse aktiwiteite wat haar

akademiese prestasies aangevul het. Sy het in haar graad 10-skooljaar (2008) vir die eerste keer aan 'n Suid-Afrikaanse atletiekbyeenkoms deelgeneem.

"Al sou 'n mens dink dis my pa (DB Prinsloo) wat my gekry het om aan atletiek te begin deelneem, was dit eintlik my ma. My ma is 'n professionele atleet en het my saamgenooi om te gaan draf. Dit is toe dat die goggas my byt. Ek het daarna met professionele afrigting by my pa begin," vertel Danél.

Wanneer daar vir haar gevra word wat haar toekomstplanne is, glimlag Danél breed. Sy wil haar graad goed voltooi, aanhou presteer op die atletiekveld, die wêreld sien en elke geleentheid wat hom voorndoen met altwee hande aangryp. "Ek sal altyd daarna streef om my heel beste te gee: in besigheid, atletiek en wat ook al ek aanpak," sê sy. ■

# Gideon Trotter, so vinnig soos blits

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Saterdag 12 April 2014 is 'n dag wat die naelloper van Kovsies, Gideon Trotter, nie maklik sal vergeet nie. Op dié dag het hy by die senior nasionale atletiekkampioenskap in Pretoria sy beste tye in sowel die 100 m en 200 m behaal, naamlik onderskeidelik 10,23 en 20,49.

En hy was in 'n geskiedkundige wedloop – die eindstryd van die 100 m – betrokke waarin Simon Magakwe die eerste Suid-Afrikaner geword het om deur die droomgrens van 10 sekondes te breek. Trotter het vierde geëindig. Volgens hom was dit die mees besondere wedloop waaraan hy nog deelgeneem het. Dit was ook die derde keer in 2014 wat hy sy persoonlike beste tyd in die 100 m verbeter het.

"Die weersomstandighede was net perfek en ja, ek was goed voorbereid en vol vertroue. Die jaar is tot dusver my beste een nog," het hy gesê.

Trotter sonder ook 'n wedloop in Port Elizabeth drie weke vantevore uit as een wat hy lank sal onthou. Dit was die eerste Varsitysport-atletiekbyeenkoms van die jaar waar hy goud in die 100 m verower het en sy persoonlike beste tyd (langs die kus nogal) van 10,24 gehardloop het. In die derde van dié studentebyeenkomste was hy nogmaals in die 100 m baas.

Sy vorm in 2014 toon telkens 'n opwaartse kurwe, want in Februarie op die Vrystaatse senior atletiekbyeenkoms was hy in die 100 m onkeerbaar deur met 10,34 te wen, wat toe ook sy beste tyd was.

Die 22-jarige Trotter wat hom in 2012 by Kovsies vir 'n graad in Menslike Bewegingskunde ingeskryf het, het 'n stil eerste jaar gehad weens 'n geskeurde dyspierbesering wat hom lank van die baan gedwing het.

Verlede jaar het hy van afrigter verwissel en word sedertdien deur die legendariese Ans Botha geslyp. Hy was in 2013 'n lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse span na die Wêreld-studentespele in Rusland wat vir hom 'n openbaring was.

"Dit was interessant om jou teen internasionale atlete te meet en daar het ek besef 'n ou moet jou standaarde lig as jy die beste wil wees."

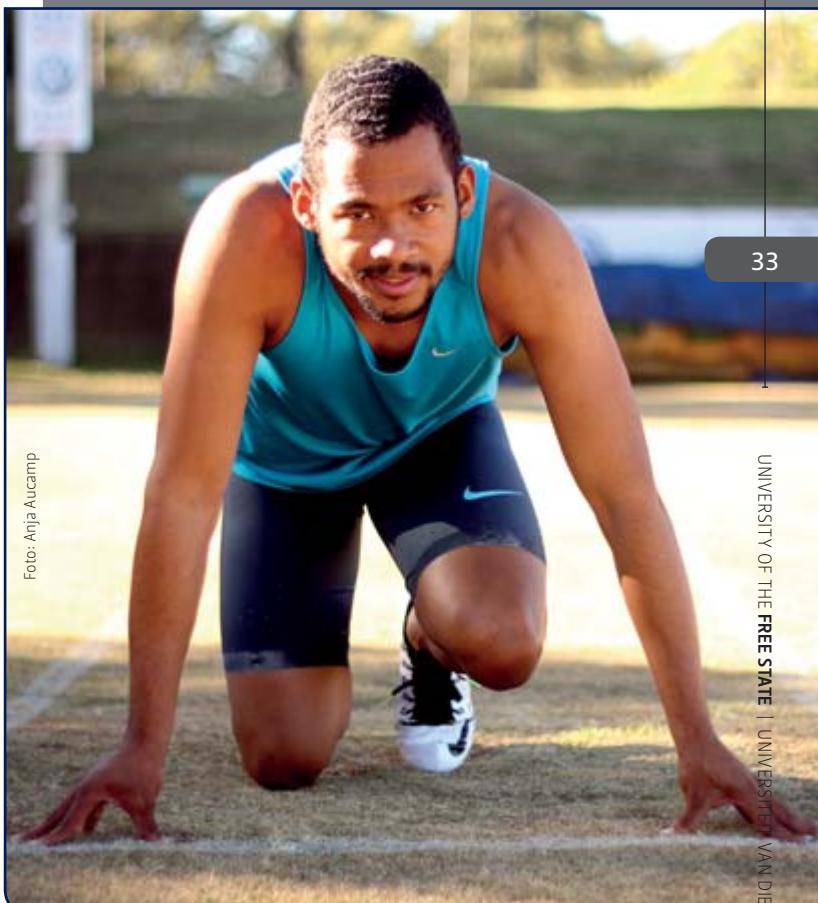


Foto: Alja Aucamp

Gideon Trotter.

Hy geniet om albei die 100 m en 200 m te hardloop, maar noem hy begin tog stadigaan meer op die korter een fokus.

Die Statebondspele is sy onmiddellike doelwit en hy beplan nie om in die wintermaande stil te sit nie. Trotter is reeds vir 'n paar Europese wedlope ingeskryf.

Trotter het atletiekkenners vir die eerste keer in 2009 regop laat begin sit toe hy op die Motheo-streekatletiekbyeenkoms vir hoërskole die 100 m vir seuns o.17 soos weerlig in 10,89 afgeblits het.

Nie lank daarna nie is hy as nasionale juniorkampioen in die 100 m gekroon, wat aan hom insluiting in die Suid-Afrikaanse atletiekspan na die wêreldjeugkampioenskap in Italië besorg het. ■

# KovsieHokkie blom nasional

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Hokkie by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat beleef 'n bloeitydperk soos selde vantevore, veral wat verteenwoordiging in nasionale spanne betref. Toe die Suid-Afrikaanse mans- en vrouehokkiespan aan die einde van Februarie na Mar del Plata in Argentinië vir 'n toetsreeks teen die Argentyne gevlieg het, was twee huidige studente, Jaco Fourie en Tanya Britz, op daardie vliegtuig.

Nie net is hierdie 'n merkwaardige prestasie vir Kovsies se hokkie nie; Fourie is boonop die eerste Vrystater in die Suid-Afrikaanse manshokkiespan sedert die land se terugkeer tot die internasionale sport-area.

Britz is op 20-jarige ouderdom reeds 'n instelling in Protea-geledere en het as 'n 17-jarige haar buiging in die seniorspan gemaak. Sy was die naasjongste speler in die land om vir die span te speel. Britz het in haar matriekjaar (2011) al getoon sy is vir groot dinge op die hokkieveld bestem. Dié doelskieter is reeds toe as voorste SA o.18-vrouehokkiespeler van die Jaar gekroon en vir die Suid-Afrikaanse skolespan gekies. Ná afloop van daardie jaar se provinsiale vroue-hokkietoernooi is Britz as die belowendste speler van die toernooi aangewys.

Britz se eerste ervaring in die groen en goud was 'n aangename een. Die Proteas het in 2011 die Afrikabekertoernooi in Bulawayo gewen deur Kenia in die eindstryd te klop. Die Proteas het einde verlede jaar in Kenia daardie titel as Afrika-kampioen suksesvol verdedig deur Ghana in die eindstryd te klop. Britz het die wendoel aan die einde aangeteken en só hul plek in die Wêreldbekertoernooi aan die einde van Mei vanjaar in Nederland bespreek.



Tanya Britz.

Foto: Verskaf

Sy studeer BA kunste.

Fourie (23), met vier toetse op sy kerfstok, se opgang het 'n goeie hupstoot in 2011 gekry toe hy as Suid-Afrika se beste o.21-manshokkiespeler aangewys is. In 2013 het hy en sy mede-Kovsies, Luke Sanan, die nasionale Studentespan in Rusland op die Wêreldstudentespele verteenwoordig.

Hy sien positiewe vooruitsigte vir manshokkie in die Vrystaat. "Ons het as 'n groep hard gewerk om die kultuur by Vrystaathokkie te verander en het dit reggekry, danksy die spelers en bestuur. Ek dink Vrystaatspelers het in die verlede nie die erkenning gekry wat hulle verdien het nie. Ek glo ons sal meer Protea-spelers uit die provinsie sien kom," sê hy.

Hy sit nou alles in om die span na die Wêreldbeker te haal.

"Ek het vandat ek op skool is nog altyd gedroom om vir die Proteas te speel. Daar was baie tye in my loopbaan wat ek gedink het dit nie moontlik is nie. Ek het voordurend vir myself gesê daar is 'n kans," sê hy.

Ofskoon die Suid-Afrikaners 4-0 slae in Argentinië gekry het, was die ervaring vir Fourie, wat 'n nagraadse kursus in finansiële beplanning doen, van groot waarde en het hy geleer hoe om sy tekortkominge te oorbrug. ■



Jaco Fourie.

Foto: Anja Aucamp



Jaco Spies (in collaboration with  
Dina Grobler & the Tshiamo Art  
Project), Philosophers' circle,  
Mosaic, 550 x 420 x 90 cm, UFS  
Art Collection.

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Dr Marcus Ingram.



The UFS Schools Partnership Project introduces and implements an innovative organisational leadership model in 23 dysfunctional and disadvantaged high schools around the province, providing for the direct mentorship of principals and teachers, as well as offering subject matter competence in Accountancy, Physical Sciences and Mathematics.

The Department of Institutional Advancement formally established in early 2014, is keen on making a difference in more ways than one. With functional areas primarily devoted to alumni affairs and development and fund raising, the directorate aims to align with international good practice in the work of advancement and thus helps to position the university for investment.

Through intentional university fund-raising initiatives, approximately R130 million has been raised since 2011, including a large endowment fund established in 2013 for the SANRAL Chair in Science and Mathematics Education. Dividends from this endowment will be used to fund the academic position and accompanying work of the SANRAL Chair.

According to Dr Marcus Ingram, head of the department, "Institutional Advancement will seek to increase and diversify the UFS donor base in line with the strategic intentions of the institution." In the light of the Academic and Human Projects, the university's commitment to influencing the quality of education and growing access positively will continue to receive attention. Current related initiatives include the UFS Schools Partnership Project and the First-Generation Student Programme, both of which focus on enhancing education in a community context.

The university has achieved great success in both of these initiatives. The UFS Schools Partnership Project aims to turn around learner performance in the last three grades of high school leading to the senior certificate examination. This project introduces and implements an innovative organisational leadership model in 23 dysfunctional and disadvantaged high schools around the province, providing for the direct mentorship of principals and teachers, as well as offering subject matter competence in Accountancy, Physical Science and Mathematics. This unique, empowering approach to intervention enables teacher testing and support, principal development, and on-site support of management, leadership and pedagogy.

There is already evidence of significant gains in learning achievement across the schools. In fact, Motloung, the Mathematics educator at Lefikeng Secondary School in Botshabelo, earned the first prize in the Botshabelo

# where it matters

By Leonie Bolleurs

Photos: Johan Roux and Leonie Bolleurs



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and Thaba 'Nchu clusters for his 2013 matric class' achievements. With an average of 57% and a 97% pass rate, four of Motloung's learners received distinctions in Mathematics. The second prize also went to a teacher and school in the project, Senakangwedi, which achieved a 55% average, a 100% pass rate and two distinctions. The project's schools exceeded the national pass rate (85% versus 78,2%), and the majority of the schools showed dramatic improvement from prior years.

Phil Mnisi (National Director: Curriculum Innovation & e-Learning) wants to visit the Project Schools. He has been impressed by the School Partnership Project and has suggested that it should be used as a model all over South Africa.

The project not only has a positive impact on learners; teachers are also influenced. According to Dr Peet Venter who heads the programme, teacher absenteeism was significantly lower during the first term of 2014 than in the first term of 2013. "The educators also started teaching earlier than in 2013," he said.

The UFS has invested and is investing in providing and widening access to higher education for deserving school leavers. One of the best ways to break the cycle of poverty in South African families is to ensure that talented first-generation university students (that is, students whose parents or siblings did not have the opportunity to study at a university) receive high-quality degree training. With the First-Generation Student Programme, Grade 10 students are selected and placed in first-year Accounting, Chemistry, Psychology or Law classes. The students attend university classes over weekends and during



**One of the best ways to break the cycle of poverty in South African families is to ensure that talented first-generation university students receive high-quality degree training.**

vacations as if they were first-year students. In addition to being exposed to content-based knowledge at university level, participants are able to experience elements of university life in context, which increases the probability of a smooth transition from school into the first year of higher education and subsequent success.

The UFS Schools Partnership Project and the First-Generation Student Programme are only two of the university's leading initiatives that benefit from the institution's fund-raising efforts now led by the Directorate for Institutional Advancement. Similar to these two ventures, each of the university's established priorities for support (financial and otherwise) endeavour to reflect the ideals and intentions of the University of the Free State. **B**

# Trotse Kovskye dra die kroon

Deur Ruan Bruwer



Rolene Strauss kuier saam met die Kovskye Young Guns.

**“Ek is baie bly ek kon my universiteit trots maak.”**



Rolene Strauss en Phiwe Mathe, SR-Voorsitter op die Bloemfontein-kampus.

akademiese uitnemendheid en openbare plig in een persoon verenig kan word om 'n kragtige platform te bied vir die transformasie van gemeenskappe in nood wat andersins onsigbaar sou gebly het as dit nie was vir so 'n wonderlike jong rolmodel nie," het hy gesê.

Oor die jaar wat voorlê, het Rolene gesê: "Dit sal 'n jaar wees waarin ek gaan teruggee, gaan dankie sê en waar ek 'n goeie voorbeeld gaan wees vir die potensiaal wat veral vroue en Suid-Afrikaners in ons land kan hê."

Sy studeer sedert 2011 medies aan die UV en was tydens haar eerste jaar as Mej Shimla-Varsity-beker gekroon. Om al haar verpligte as Mej Suid-Afrika na te kom, moes sy haar studies staak. Sy benadruk dit egter dat dit net tydelik is. "Ek kan ongelukkig nie studeer en Mej Suid-Afrika wees nie. Maar ek sal my mediese graad kry," sê sy vasberade.

Die motivering het sy van haar rolmodel, Jo-Ann Struass gekry wat in 2000 ook haar studies moes staak nadat sy as Mej Suid-Afrika gekroon is. Jo-Ann, toe 'n student aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch, was besig met haar BComgraad. "Sy het na haar jaar in die tuig teruggegaan om haar studies te voltooi. Ek wil dieselfde doen."

So sê Rolene Strauss, die eerste Mej Suid-Afrika in 40 jaar wat die Vrystaat opgelewer het. Vanuit die staanspoor is sy baie trots daarop om haarself 'n Kovskye te noem. Oorspronklik van Volksrust in Mpumalanga is Rolene die UV se eerste suksesvolle proefbuisbaba.

In haar aanvaardingstoespraak het Rolene gesê dat sy baie lief is vir Suid-Afrika. "Hier kan ek vrylik leef, praat, leer en liefhê. Hier word my drome bewaarheid. Ek is baie trots op ons land en sal altyd hier 'n doel hê," sê Rolene.

Rolene het gesê dat prof Jonathan Jansen, die Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV, haar inspireer. "Hy staan op vir dit waarin hy glo en hy geniet dit wat hy doen. Hy wil die beste vir sy studente hê en ondersteun hulle in alles wat hulle doen," sê sy.

Die universiteitsgemeenskap is baie trots op Rolene, en dit word deur prof Jansen beaam. "Ek is baie trots op Rolene Strauss, want sy het bewys dat fisiese skoonheid,

Rolene het op 22 April haar 22ste verjaarsdag gevier. In haar vrye tyd speel sy graag 'n potjie gholf. **B**

# Kovsies kuier soos net Kovsies kan

Deur Ilse Smallberger

Alumni



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Oud-Kovsies het nog nooit 'n rede nodig gehad om lekker saam te kuier nie. Koppel egter die belofte van opwindende Varsitybeker-rugby aan 'n reünie-uitnodiging, en daar is geen keer aan die Kovsies nie!

Vanjaar is drie reünies saam met drie van die Shimlas se Varsitybeker-wedstryde aangebied. Die opkoms was goed, met meer as 300 Kovsies wat in Bloemfontein, Pretoria en Stellenbosch weer ou vriendskapsbande opgetel en vasgeknoop het.

Op 3 Februarie het Kovsies in die Shimla-kamer by Xerox Shimla-park saamgekuier voor die Varsitybeker-wedstryd teen Wits. Die eertydse hoof van Kovsiesport, Ewie Cronjé, was die gasspreker tydens die geleentheid en hy het waarskynlik 'n bietjie van daardie spesiale Cronjé-toorkrag saamgebring, want die Shimlas het Wits later oortuigend met 31 punte teenoor 15 in hulle wedstryd geklop.

Twee weke later het die oud-Kovsies in Pretoria saamgekuier voordat die Shimlas en Tukkies mekaar gepak het. Die ondervorsitter van die Kovsie-Alumni Trust, Rian Moolman, was

Van links is Danie Liebenberg, Kathy Verwey en Lourens Erasmus.

die gasspreker. Shimlas het die wedstryd ongelukkig verloor, maar die sowat 120 oud-Kovsies wat die geleentheid bygewoon het, het steeds elke oomblik geniet!

Die laaste reünie was op 3 Maart in die hartjie van die wynland. Pieter du Toit, voorsitter van Kovsie Alumni, het met die Kaapse oud-Kovsies gesels voor die Shimlas se wedstryd teen Maties, wat later 13 elk gelykop geëindig het.

Dus, 'n wen-, 'n verloor- en 'n gelykop-uitslag vir die Shimlas. Die oud-Kovsies wat die reünies bygewoon het, is dit egter eens; sonder twyfel drie wengeleenthede! **B**

## UV kry 1-gradering van Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Geoktrooieerde Rekenmeesters

Deur Kobus Swanepoel

Die Universiteit van die Vrystaat beskik oor 'n 1-gradering by die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Geoktrooieerde Rekenmeesters (SAIGR) vir die SAICA-geakkrediteerde programme wat die Sentrum vir Rekeningkunde (SVR) aanbied. Die studente van die SVR handhaaf oor die afgelope vyf jaar 'n gemiddelde slaagsyfer van 75% in die aanvanklike toets van bevoegdheidsekseen (ITC) van SAICA. Vanjaar het Marco Pinheiro die besondere prestasie behaal deur die derde plek in Suid-Afrika in die ITC-eksamen in te neem.

Vanweë kleiner klasse is persoonlike kontak met dosente een van die SVR se sterk punte. Die gefokusde aandag en noue kontak met studente maak die onderrigmodel en die leerervaring by

die UV uniek. Die onderrigmodel word ook ondersteun deur aanlynmateriaal en selfassesserings wat op die UV-webblad vir studente ter insae is. Tutorklasse word vir alle rekeningkunde-modules aangebied, waar studente stapsgewys geleer word om probleme op te los en hul eksamentegnieke te verbeter.

Die dosente dien op verskeie professionele komitees en rade. Die meerderheid dosente is outeurs en mede-outeurs van rekeningkunde- en belastinghandboeke wat landswyd deur universiteite voorgeskryf word. Dosente bied ook nasionaal en internasionaal opdateringseminare en -kursusse vir rekenmeesterspraktisyne aan en is derhalwe heeltyd op die voorpunt van nuwe ontwikkelinge in die praktyk. **B**

# Parasitology alumni reminisce over years gone by

By Thabo Kessah

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Photo: Supplied



The Parasitology Research Programme's alumni during their recent reunion.

The Qwaqwa Campus Parasitology Research Programme (PRP) recently hosted its second reunion where friends and former colleagues met.

"Our recent reunion was themed *Yesterday+Today+Tomorrow*, as it was aimed at looking back over the years whilst also focusing on what the programme is currently doing and then mapping the way forward into the future," said an alumnus of the PRP and convenor, Prof Oriel Thekisoee.

The reunion paid tribute to the late Prof Olesegun Dipeolu, who was one of the forebears of the programme. He was also the Campus Principal from 1996–1999.

"Outstanding academics and researchers like Prof Dipeolu planted this seed in us and we cannot forget that. We must also acknowledge the leadership displayed by the current University of Venda Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof Peter Amunga Mbati, who was also the Campus Principal from 2003–2006," said Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo, who was the first MSc graduate at the Qwaqwa Campus. Dr Hlatshwayo is now a Ministerial Counsellor: Fisheries and Aquaculture in the SADC region.

Dr Hlatshwayo also paid tribute to Dr Sibusiso Mtshali, who was the PRP's research leader from 2005–2007. He is now Senior Researcher at the National Zoological Gardens.

The PRP has produced over 50 BSc Honours degrees, 15 MSc, nine PhDs as well as three medical doctors since its 15 years of existence. One PhD, three MSc and four BSc Honours students graduated this year.

The reunion also discussed the role that the alumni could play in advancing research. "We must commit ourselves to more cutting-edge research, new methods and to continue mentoring young scientists. We must also work harder to develop drugs and vaccines, as well as contributing immensely to the research pool in our area of expertise. We must also enhance project connections for our young scientists."

"We have recently sent one of our young scientists, Nthatisi Molefe, to study for a PhD in Japan. It is such connections that will advance our course. The plan is to also explore the idea of establishing a Zoology Alumnus Trust Fund where we can make meaningful financial contributions to help young researchers with their basic needs," said Prof Thekisoee. □

# “Die tyd by **Kovsies** was die beste jare van my lewe,”

## sê Springbokstut

Deur Stefan Lotter



Foto: Stefan Lotter

Jannie du Plessis.

Die boerseun van Bethlehem het gedurende sy 31 jaar op aarde ons universiteit se naam op en af van die rugbyveld omhoog gehou.

Jannie du Plessis het nie net al meer as 50 wedstryde in die groen en goud gespeel nie, maar hy is ook 'n oud-mediese student van Kovsies. Sy graad hang ook nie net aan sy sitkamermuur nie, maar so tussendeur al die dryfmaalbewegings red hy ook lewens.

Jannie was ook al die spreker by die universiteit se 2013-gradeplegtigheid toe daardie jaar se mediese studente hulle grade ontvang het. *Stefan Lotter* het hier 'n kans gekry om met die skrumdokter te gesels ...

### Vertel ons bietjie van jou tyd as 'n Kovsie?

“Ek was in Grey Kollege op skool en dit was vanself-sprekend dat ek Kovsies toe sou kom. My ma het gesê ek moet iets swot en kan nie terugkom plaas toe sonder 'n graad nie, maar ek het nie geweet wat ek wil swot nie.

“Op daardie stadium het my pa baie siek geraak met Parkinson se siekte. Ek het toe besluit om mediese te studeer en het genadiglik keuring by die UV gekry – die beste mediese fakulteit in die land.

“Verder was oom Tat Botha ook 'n groot legende wat 'n rol in my lewe gespeel het by Kovsies, maar nie net in rugby nie. Hy het 'n gawe om mense te motiveer en goed te laat voel.

“In Reitz-kamerwonings was my kamermaat Dennis Shone gewees en hy het ook medies geswot. Saam het ons die beste van tye gehad. Hy is nou amper 'n chirurg.

“Studentwees gaan ook oor lekker tye en nie net leer nie. Ek het ook nie gedink ek sal ooit 'n lewe maak uit rugby nie. Ek wou maar swot en net aanhou rugby speel daar mee saam.

“My tyd by die UV was die beste jare van my lewe.”

### Hoe het dit gevoel om jou Springbokdebuut in 2007 saam met jou broer Bismarck te maak?

“Dit is snaaks hoe die Here werk. Ek het die Vrydag nog deurgery nadat ek in die hospitaal in Bloemfontein gewerk het. Ons het almal verwag dat Bismarck sy debuut sou maak. Toe is ek ook gekies vir die oorsese toer en skielik ook sommer in die beginspan. Dit was wonderlik toe Bismarck van die bank afkom en op die veld draf om by my te kom aansluit. Op die 7de dag van die 7de maand van 2007...

“Die volgende Saterdag, op my pa se verjaardag, het ek en Bismarck saam teen Nieu-Seeland in die beginspan uitgedraf.

### Van die operasietafel na wêreldbeker-kampioen. September/Oktobre 2007 was 'n besige tyd in jou lewe ...

“Dit is 'n wonderwerk ... met wie gebeur sulke goed?

“Wie opereer die Sondagaand en speel dan die volgende Saterdag in die wêreldbeker?

“Die beste van alles was dat, omdat ek later eers die oproep gekry het om by die wêreldbekerspan in Frankryk te gaan aansluit, kon ek nog my graad op tyd klaargemaak het. My beker het oorgeloop en ek het eenvoudig net die seën van die Here geniet.” **B**



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